

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
www.dorsheitzedek.org office@dorsheitzedek.org

Shavat 5764

February 2004



The Challenges of Diversity

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

In the seven years that I have been with Dorshei Tzedek, the congregation has become increasingly, and wonderfully, diverse. Our membership includes all types of households and family configurations, Jews of all backgrounds as well as non-Jews, and people of varying socio-economic status. While it would be nice to have more elders in our community, we are also diversifying age-wise as younger members join and more members become empty-nesters.

Diversity is one of our core values as a community, and has been consciously nurtured and promoted. Yet it is not an uncomplicated value, for a number of reasons. One of the main things that draws people to join Dorshei Tzedek is a strong sense of community. The attraction of community is a sense of belonging. Fundamental to belonging are feelings of safety and acceptance, which we usually experience in surroundings that are familiar and comfortable. Yet the reality of diversity is often uncomfortable. To be in community with people who are truly different than I am can be challenging, in a variety of ways.

I am often struck by how many people at Dorshei Tzedek consider themselves to be on the margins of a supposed norm within our community. Whether we are wealthy or low-income, Jewishly observant or relatively unknowledgeable, older or younger, many of us assume that we are in the minority and that there is some majority "out there" which does not include us. And there is also the tendency on the other side to assume that everyone in the community is like me—that everyone lives in Newton, or owns a house, or is politically left-of-center.

To reap the true benefits of being members of a diverse community, we need to find a happy medium between these two extremes. We need to remember that each of us is in some way unique, and that there is no real majority or norm against which everything is measured. At the same time, it is more than likely that if you feel marginal in some way, there are others who feel exactly the same for similar reasons! We need to remember that things we might take for granted—our economic status, our political opinion, our Jewish practice—shouldn't be assumed about others in the community. Just as

the neighborhood I live in may or may not tell you much about my financial security, my ability to chant from the Torah may or may not tell you much else about my Jewish practice or beliefs.

Ideally, the diversity of our community is an opportunity for all of us to challenge ourselves and to grow in healthy ways. Economic diversity is a little talked about reality of the society in which we live. How can we acknowledge the differences among us while not making judgments about one another? How can those of us who are privileged in certain ways work to become more aware of that privilege?

Religious diversity is another fruitful area for discussion and exploration. It is a challenge for a congregation to be Jewishly diverse, to include members who observe Shabbat and kashrut (keeping kosher) and other Jewish practices, alongside members for whom such practices feel alien if not alienating. How do we help support one another in our Jewish journeys, no matter where we are in those journeys? How do we make welcome those who are not Jewish but happy to be members of a Jewish community? The blessing of diversity allows us to teach and learn from one another in a myriad of ways.

This winter and spring we are engaging in a project of "Community Conversations," an opportunity for CDT members to talk one-to-one with other members about each of our Jewish journeys and about our visions and hopes for our congregation. These conversations will be a wonderful way in which to explore and celebrate our diversity, and to move us all forward in achieving our goals as a community and as individuals. I am excited that we are beginning this process (one that we are undertaking with the guidance and support of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization), and equally excited to continue to build with you a vibrant and diverse congregation committed to learning, to caring, and to making a difference in the world.

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Notes from the Board

January 11, 2004

Ellie Goldberg, Secretary

The Board met on January 11 and began its meeting by welcoming new Secretary Ellie Goldberg. Laurie Gould, Vice President for Finance, reported that the Finance Committee will be working over the next month or so to develop an accurate forecast for the rest of the year. Budgeting for next year will begin in the early spring and be completed by May.

The Board voted overwhelmingly to join the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). Wendy Gedanken will serve as board representative for the Tikkun Olam Committee. She reported that Paul Hattis and a group of CDT members have already become quite involved in a GBIO initiative to advocate for the rights of Haitian immigrants who work in area nursing homes. A GBIO action on this issue is planned for February 10 and members are encouraged to attend.

Michael White reported on behalf of the Ritual Committee that they are considering the issue of ritual diversity in our Congregation. Members have been invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee on January 29 to express their opinions about this issue.

Andrew Compaine introduced the new Community Conversations initiative, in which a group of members will visit with other members one-on-one as a community building effort. The conversations will seek to build bonds among members and with the community, to learn more about individuals' passions and concerns, in relation to CDT as well as other aspects of their lives, and to find out what members feel that they can offer to the community. Approximately 45 households will be contacted each year, and a group of 10 to 15 members are being trained to facilitate these conversations.

The annual Nadiv Lev fundraising campaign will get underway in February. The Board has set a goal of \$75,000 this year, which is needed to cover operating expenses. Members will receive a letter introducing the campaign and every household will be contacted by telephone.

Erica Streit reported for Membership Outreach that we now have 159 member households, in line with projections. Judy Hersh reported for Membership Outreach that a committee has been formed to plan the June member retreat. Other activities include potlucks, a Superbowl party and a night of Israeli dancing.

Janet Boguslaw reported for the Youth Education committee that the Youth program has made great strides under the leadership of our Education Director, Cindy Shulak-Rome. The youth group has met several times and a professional leader has been hired for Junior Congregation. The committee is meeting to address the issue of children's behavior on the High Holidays and what our expectations should be of them.

Ora Gladstone reported that the Sabbatical Committee is continuing to meet and is awaiting responses to its ads. Ellie Goldberg is liaison to the New England JRF Shabbaton, to be held April 23-25 in Attleboro. She also reported on the plan to create an annual special adult education event as a memorial to her late husband, Efrem Goldberg.

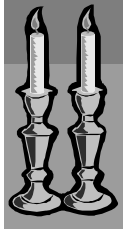
The next Board meeting will be Sunday evening, February 8.

Sabbatical Committee

The Sabbatical Committee has begun meeting to ensure a smooth transition when Rabbi Spitzer begins her Sabbatical after the Fall 2004 High Holydays. Our tasks and goals include contacting other/similar congregations who have had experience with rabbinic sabbaticals; identifying all areas that will require rabbinic or increased lay oversight; making sure all financial needs are prepared for and addressed; and working in a timely manner so that we find the right person for the needs of the community for the 11 months that Rabbi Spitzer will be gone.

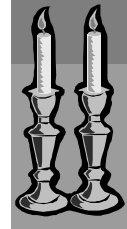
We are aware of the extent to which many within CDT identify the congregation with Rabbi Spitzer and we know that there may be concerns about the sabbatical and the process of finding a temporary "replacement." Therefore, we all welcome hearing from CDT members who would like to have input, or who simply want to express their concerns. If you would like to speak with one of us, feel free to call or e-mail:

- **Andrew Schiff** (617-239-2523, manschiff@aol.com)
- **Cindy Shulak-Rome** (617-965-5722, cbsrome@comcast.net)
- **John Holohan** (617-244-4773, jholohan@mathworks.com)
- **Louise Enoch** (617-926-0836, lpenoch@aol.com)
- **Mark Bronstein** (617-332-8424, mark@bronsteinlaw.com)
- **Ora Gladstone** (617-630-9050, gladston@brandeis.edu)



Shabbat Programs

*All Shabbat services are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space
in the Second Church of Newton,
60 Highland Street in West Newton.*



Chesed Shabbat

Saturday, January 31

Please join us for a Chesed-sponsored Shabbat service and kiddush lunch on January 31. There will be a special *aliyah* to honor all of you who have so generously given your time and energy to help members of the Dorshei Tzedek community in times of need.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services

Dates: February 13, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 11, 6 pm – 7 pm

Join us on the first Friday of each month for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat.

Erev Shabbat Services

Dates: February 6 (Tubishvat Seder, see below), March 19, April 16, and May 21, 8 pm – 9:30 pm

Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection—please join us!

Chanting and Meditation Service

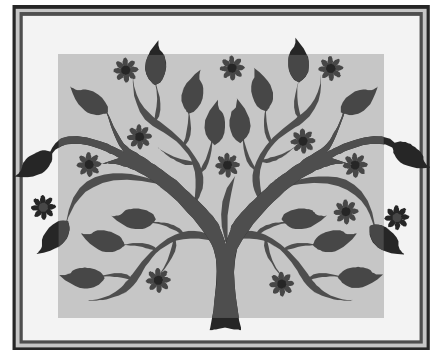
Shabbat morning, February 28, 9:45 am

Join us for a contemplative Shabbat morning service, including silent meditation, chanting, and Torah study (no meditation experience necessary!)

Tubishvat

*Friday, February 6, 7-9 pm, First Unitarian Society,
1326 Washington Street, West Newton Square
(**NOT** at our regular prayer space)*

Tubishvat, the Jewish “New Year of the Trees,” is an opportunity to celebrate the environment, connect to the special fruits and grains of the land of Israel, and study teachings from the Jewish mystical tradition. In place of our monthly 8 pm Erev Shabbat service, we will celebrate Tubishvat with a special program of food, song, and study.



We will begin at 7 pm with candle lighting and welcoming Shabbat, followed by a Tubishvat *seder*, including readings, eating special fruits associated with the holiday, and some study and discussion. This program is appropriate for adults and older kids.

At 8 pm we will enjoy a potluck dinner. In order to prepare for both the *seder* and the meal, we ask that you RSVP to Lisa Schneier ASAP at lisa.schneier@umb.edu or 617-591-1931. Let us know how many are coming and what kind of a dish you would like to bring (main dish, salad, dessert). A Tubishvat tradition is to eat foods using one or more of the seven agricultural species associated with the land of Israel – wheat, barley, figs, dates, olives, grapes, and pomegranates. So if you can, make a dish with one or more of these ingredients! Last year we had one dish that used them all!

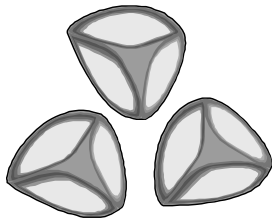
Bat Mitzvah Celebration

Jolie Liebling Demuth

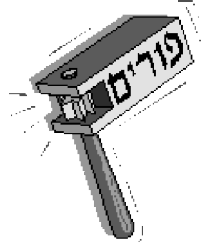
Please join us on **February 14, 2004** as we celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Jolie Liebling Demuth.

Jolie Demuth will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat *Yitro*, Saturday the 14th of February. The 14th (as we all know) is also Valentine's Day. Jolie could not believe her good fortune when she realized that her actual 13th birthday fell on Shabbat and that she could become a Bat Mitzvah on her big day. Jolie (as you could imagine) loves all things with hearts! And she herself has a lot of heart—she is growing up to be a real mensch! She is currently a seventh grader at the Park School in Brookline where she especially enjoys studying French. She is also a member of Dorshei Tzedek's Kitah Zayin. Jolie will be the third generation of Liebling women to read from the Torah. We are immensely proud of Jolie and delighted to share this simcha with our wonderful Dorshei Tzedek community. We hope you will join us for the Shabbat morning service followed by kiddush. — *Linette Liebling and Peter Demuth*

Purim



Purim is coming! Save the date—our Purim extravaganza will be held on Saturday evening, March 6th, at 7:00 pm. Costume parade, prizes, songs, and *megillah* reading, and, of course, the not-to-be-missed Annual Dorshei Tzedek Purim Spiel! Fun for all ages, so be there or be a *hamentasch*...



Shabbat Tapes Available

Sung by Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Dorshei Tzedek has available audio tapes of: (1) the Friday evening Family Service and (2) our regular Shabbat morning service. To order either or both tapes, please send payment of \$6/tape (includes shipping) to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

Don't miss the online music sample available at <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/rabbi-music.htm>



High Holyday Talks

Rabbi Spitzer's High Holyday talks are now available on the Dorshei Tzedek website at <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei.htm>, or from the Dorshei Tzedek home page, click on Shabbat & Holidays, then Divrei Torah.

Contacting Rabbi Spitzer: Rabbi Toba Spitzer does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. Please call her directly to make an appointment at 617-965-0330. Rabbi Spitzer's office is at the Second Church, 60 Highland Street, in West Newton.

Adult Education

*All Adult Education programs are held at
60 Highland Street.*

Shabbat Morning Study

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am with Rabbi Spitzer

Dates: February 7, March 20, April 3, May 8, and June 12

Join us once a month at 8:45 am for a closer look at the weekly Torah portion with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, seen through the lenses of commentaries both ancient and modern. No text study experience required (although you may want to read the weekly Torah portion in advance).

Mishnah in the Morning

Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am with Rabbi Spitzer

While most of us are familiar with the Torah as Judaism's foundational text, fewer know that in fact it's the Mishnah, a rabbinic document composed in 200 CE, that shaped the Judaism we know today. In this class, we will take a closer look at this text and its approach to law, life, and being a Jew in a time of tumult and change. We will look at the text in both English and Hebrew, but no Hebrew knowledge (or text study experience) is required. Bring your own coffee or tea!

Sunday Morning Workshop Series:

The Psalms

Sunday mornings, 10 am – noon

Dates: February 1 and 8

*Free for members, \$10 suggested contribution per class
for non-members*

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PARKING: Please do NOT park in the Second Church parking lot on Sunday morning, but on Highland Street or other nearby streets.

In the remaining sessions of this three-part series, we will explore different aspects of the Book of Psalms. One of the most beautiful books of the Bible, the Psalms contains poems composed over 2,000 years ago that explore all aspects of the human condition. Join us for one or all of these exciting classes!

Music of the Psalms

Sunday, February 1, with Cantor Charles Osborne

This session will explore the many ways in which Psalms have been set to music and integrated into our liturgy. Charles Osborne is the cantor at Temple Emmanuel in Newton and Visiting Instructor of Nusach at Hebrew College.

The Psalms as a Path to Healing

Sunday, February 8, with Rabbi Samuel Chiel

Rabbi Chiel will lead text study and discussion of some of the most beautiful Psalms dealing with healing, with a focus on how we can apply some of the teachings of the Psalmist to our own lives.

Samuel Chiel is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emmanuel in Newton, and the author of *For Thou Art With Me: The Healing Power of Psalms*.

The End of Life: A Practical and Spiritual Guide

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Nicky Silver

Wednesday evenings, February 25, March 3, 10, 17

7:30–9:15 pm

60 Highland Street

While death and dying are topics that often make us uncomfortable, the opportunity to reflect and make plans—for ourselves, for our loved ones—is extremely important. Judaism provides guidance for dealing with death, mourning and grieving in ways that comfort both the dying and the mourners. It is during moments of loss that we most need the support and comfort of those in our community to help us through. By learning about these rituals and exploring together our own discomforts and fears, we can begin to both individually and communally explore this natural part of life. Through a combination of text study and discussion, we will study Jewish approaches to end-of-life decisions, burial and mourning practices, and what it means to care for ourselves and others at times of grief. The classes will be co-facilitated by Rabbi Spitzer and Nicky Silver, a new Dorshei Tzedek member who developed and chaired the *Chevra Kadisha* (Jewish Burial Society) of the Jewish Community of Amherst.



Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Miriam and Andrew Baumel

*In gratitude to our friends and family and
he beautiful sound of our children's laughter*

Andrew Compaine and John Dubrow

*In honor of the marriage of
Josh Herzig-Marx and Carla Naumburg
In honor of all the new members
who have joined CDT this year
In honor of Debbie Waber's steadfast leadership
In honor of Rabbi Toba's continued inspirations*

Sue Fischlowitz and David Roberts

*In memory of Bill Spitzer and in honor of the marriage of
Josh Herzig-Marx and Carla Naumburg*

Tom and Willa Kuh

*In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Miranda Phillips, and
Wendy Gedanken*

Ruth and Aaron Seidman

In honor of our daughter-in-law, Ilana Mainelli

Tamar H. Small

*In honor of Elias and Chloe becoming B'nei Mitzvah,
with love from Aunt Tamar, Uncle Jonathan, Jesse, Leah,
and Aubrey*

Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steven Siegel

*In honor of Stuart Snyder in celebration of his
40th birthday*

Debbie Waber

*In honor of Ed Bruckner's speedy recovery
and good health
In honor of the marriage of
Josh Herzig-Marx and Carla Naumburg*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael Jablon and Eileen Morrison

In memory of David H. Jablon

Paula Kaplan

*In memory of my husband, Marty Bresnick, at the time of
his yahrzeit, 29 Tevet, January 23*

Holy Book Fund

Elaine and Anna Bresnick

In honor of David Adler on his 83rd birthday

Amy Brodesky, Rex Flynn, Emily Flynn, and Annalisa Flynn

In memory of Kayla Ellen Flynn and of Ellen Brodesky

C. Anthony Broh and Jennifer L Hochschild *Congratulations to Raphe Broh on his bar mitzvah*

Roberta and Paul Carson

In honor of our sons, Jacob and Zachary

Andrew Compaine

*In memory of Daniel R. Compaine and
Norma S. Compaine*

Wendy and Charles Frankston

In honor of Naomi Frankston's Bat Mitzvah

Allison and Ezra Hausman

*In honor of Miranda Phillips, Cindy Shulak-Rome, and
Rabbi Toba Spitzer.*

Linette Liebling

In honor of Elaine Pollack and Cindy Shulak-Rome

Dinah Britton Moeller

In honor of this vibrant community

Lisa Samelson

*In honor of my loving husband, Paul Hattis
In honor of Joey Hattis becoming a bar mitzvah
in August 2004*

Mei See Sandson

In memory of Thomas A. Sandson and John I. Sandson.

Leeann Simons and the Huenemoerder Family

*In honor of our sons Seth Simons and
Jeffrey Huenemoerder*

Michael White

*In memory of Alison Hausman's father, Robert Daskal, and
Marc Steinberg's grandmother, Esther Katz*

Building Fund School Fund



Chesed



If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617-965-0330) or **Susan Manheim** of the Chesed Committee (781-449-2984).

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to dtnews@yahoogroups.com.

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call Rabbi Toba at 617-965-0330 x2.

Marshall, storytellers. Laura Katz did a bang-up job organizing and running activities for the older kids, with contributions from Julie Fox, Jackie Bloomberg, Peter Gittleman, Tim Rosa, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, and Laya Steinberg, while Diana Fisher-Gomberg ran the show for the little kids and helped with overall coordination. Thanks also to Susannah Zisk for planning and dinner coordination, and to Marc Steinberg for overseeing yet another joyful holiday celebration. And last but not least, our dedicated set-up/clean-up crew as well as all of you who pitched in at the end.

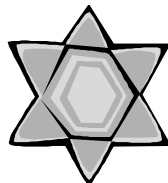
To William and Gish Small, grandparents of Eli and Chloe Kuh, for their lovely gift of a set of candlesticks to the congregation.

A huge thanks to new member Doron Gan, computer maestro, for putting together the updated membership list!

Condolences

To Michael Jablon and his family, on the death of Michael's father, David H. Jablon.

To Jacqui Bloomberg and her family, on the death of Jacqui's grandfather, Victor Bloomberg.



Mazel Tov

To Chloe Kuh, Eli Kuh, and Joey Ives—and to their families—on becoming bat/bar mitzvah!

Yasher koach to CDT member Emily Sper, whose children's book, *The Passover Seder*, was selected as a Notable Book for Younger Readers by the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Todah Rabah

A big thanks to all who helped make our wonderful Chanuka celebration a success: the fearless latke crew, headed by Jerry Zolit and including Ilene Spiro, Dani Krasa, Barbara Zolit, and Ethan Zolit; Ingrid Neuman and Abby Cohen who provided craft activities for the kids; Hara Klein on decorations; and Rachel Greenberg and Cindy

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Francis Greenberg** and **Lisa Samelson**. May healing and comfort come to you and those who care for you.

Community Resources

Jewish Family and Children's Service offers a variety of support services, including groups for those who have experienced pregnancy loss, support groups for new parents and interfaith families, and a social/spiritual/cultural group for Jewish adults with psychiatric conditions. For more information, call 617-227-6641 or visit their website at <http://www.jfcsboston.org>.

The **Jewish Recovery Network of Massachusetts** is a volunteer membership organization concerned with Jews who suffer from the disease of addiction. Meetings occur at 7:30 pm on the second, fourth, and fifth Wednesdays of each month at Temple Sinai in Brookline (Sewall Ave and Charles in Coolidge Corner). Visit their website at <http://www.jewsinrecovery.org>.

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. Donations can also be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. These additional contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Tikkun Olam

CDT Extends Efforts to the Central African Republic

by Eric Berman

I was truly heartened by the recent outpouring of support for my ongoing work in the Central African Republic (CAR) and would like to let everyone know how the nearly \$500 was spent. I am pleased to report that our contributions went to a Sudanese refugee family, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that assists street children, and a village outside the capital that has been particularly hard-hit by the recent political unrest.



CAR is one of the world's poorest and most isolated countries, with a particularly troubled history. Since 1996 CAR has experienced several army mutinies and coup attempts, and been host to tens of thousands of soldiers and rebel groups fleeing wars in neighboring Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. AIDS is rampant and growing. The country's democratically-elected government was overthrown in March 2003. The circulation of small arms and ammunition, a growing problem for the country, has led to establishment of a local disarmament committee, which explains my involvement in CAR.

Thomas Taban Agrey fled Sudan in 1990, seven years into that country's civil war, after his father had been murdered. He spent several years at the Mboki refugee camp in southeastern CAR, before moving to the country's capital, Bangui, because of insecurity in the camp. Thomas is married and has a five-year-old son. Recently, he was robbed and beaten. We helped him recover his belongings, which he plans to sell to raise money while he continues to look for work.

Voix de Coeur (Voices of the Heart) is the only Central African NGO whose sole mission is to help street children. Its new facility can house 30 children, but it provides meals and medical care for many more. Given that there are perhaps 4,000 street children in Bangui, the need for its services is great. We bought new clothing (40 shirts and pants) for the children.

Our purchases of crafts from a women's cooperative in the village of Begoua helped to support that community, which

has witnessed particular violence during the failed coup attempts of 2001 and 2002, and the coup in 2003.

Please call 781-648-4714 or e-mail eric_berman@brown.edu to RSVP or if you would like further information on disarmament or relief efforts in CAR.

Mark and Sharon Bloome Jewish Environmental Leadership Institute

February 22-24, 2004

This is a great opportunity to attend the Coalition for the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)'s annual gathering of environmental activists, Jewish educators, rabbis, community leaders, and student organizers committed to protecting our environment. During the three-day program in Boston, participants will learn about innovative environmental sustainability campaigns and opportunities for involvement; develop skills to become more effective Jewish environmental advocates, educators, and policy-makers; explore the connections between Judaism and pursuing social and environmental justice in the present political climate; and shape the Jewish community's environmental agenda for 2004. To find out more and register online, please go to www.coejl.org/bloome2004, or email institute@coejl.org.

Family Table Volunteer Drivers Needed

Sunday, February 8, 2004

Temple Kehillath Israel (Harvard St., Brookline)

Dorshei Tzedek is participating once again in Family Table, Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry. Eight to ten volunteer drivers from Dorshei Tzedek are needed to bag groceries at Temple Kehillath Israel (Harvard St., Brookline) and deliver them to families in the Greater Boston area. Each volunteer driver delivers to two families. Dorshei Tzedek's delivery date this year is Sunday, February 8, 2004. Orientation and bagging begins at 12:30 pm; delivery time varies, depending on the location of the families receiving food donations. The overall time commitment is about 2 – 3 hours. You can request a close location if you have a time constraint that afternoon. Participation as a volunteer is a meaningful mitzvah activity for congregants of all ages, as one is reminded that there are families who cannot afford life's basic necessities. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, please contact **Barbara Shatkin** at 617-964-3121 or bfshatkin@aol.com.

GBIO Action

Tuesday, February 10, 7 pm

Temple Salem, 222 Woodrow Avenue, Dorchester

At its January meeting, the CDT Board voted for our Congregation to become a full-fledged member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. We are grateful to Janice Fine and the GBIO working group for their hard work to bring this about.

Even before we formally joined GBIO, a group of CDT members became engaged in a GBIO effort to improve the rights of nursing home workers. GBIO is organizing an action to support the rights of the hundreds of nursing home workers who are in its member congregations, and to preserve quality elder care in Massachusetts nursing homes. The CDT group hopes to bring a large delegation to support this action.

GBIO will invite the owners of area nursing homes to join us in committing to create climates of dignity and respect for workers and patients alike within their facilities. GBIO has set a turnout goal of 500 from our member institutions to support the 100 nursing home workers who will be present.

If you are interested in joining the Dorshei Tzedek contingent to this event, please contact Andrew Schiff at man-schiff@aol.com.

Exploring Class: A Weekend Workshop

*Saturday and Sunday, February 28 and 29, 9 am–6 pm
with Felice Yeskel*

The Walker Center, Newton, MA

Felice Yeskel, a member of Reconstructionist Congregation the Jewish Community of Amherst, is a skilled trainer who does wonderful work around issues of money and class. Take advantage of this opportunity!

This will be an opportunity for intensive dialogue about a taboo topic. Questions to be explored include: How has your class background affected your relationships with people of the same and different classes? How has your class background limited you from dreaming and fulfilling those dreams? How has your class background helped you to dream and fulfill your dreams? What do you need to become a better caretaker of all of your resources, time, money, attention, and love, no matter what your circumstances? Join a diverse group to explore these questions and more!

Cost: \$50–\$500 sliding scale (during the workshop you will go through a process to determine the amount you will ac-

tually pay) Lunch provided both days. Very low-income people welcome for \$10 or whatever you can afford. Registration is required. For more information please contact Class Action: (413) 585 9709 or email, fyeskel@stuaf.umass.edu or jladd@classactionnet.org. Register online at www.classactionnet.org. Please register early as space is limited.

JRF News

Welcome Temple Hillel Bnai Torah! Havdallah Celebration

Saturday, February 7, 7:30–9:30 pm

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Join members of Temple Hillel Bnai Torah for this celebration of their recent affiliation with the Reconstructionist movement. This is a great opportunity to meet and schmooze with our new Reconstructionist neighbors to the south, as well to share an evening of music and more. Corey Street is off of the VFW Parkway; the Temple is on your right as you head toward Centre Street.

Save the Date!

JRF New England Regional Shabbaton: Exploring Reconstructionism

Friday, April 23 – Sunday, April 25

Agudas Achim in Attleboro MA

Explore the meaning of Reconstructionism through study, worship, music, spiritual exploration, and community building. Our guest scholar will be Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, RRC faculty and author of *Parenting as a Spiritual Journey*. Get to know members of other New England Reconstructionist congregations; meet rabbis and teachers from the national movement; and deepen your connection to the Reconstructionist movement, to our congregations, and to each other. The cost for the Shabbaton is \$72 per adult and \$36 per child, including all meals and programming for adults, teens and children. Meals are kosher-style vegetarian. Home hospitality and hotel information is available.

Calling all poets, writers, musicians, singers, artists, performers and performance ensembles: Dorshei Tzedek members are invited to share their talents in the Saturday night *Talent Showcase*. For more information on the New England Regional Shabbaton and how you can be part of it, contact Ellie Goldberg, 617–965–9637.

School News

Update from our Education Director

Cindy Shulak-Rome

We are almost halfway through a very successful school year. While the central focus of our school is obviously what happens in our classrooms each Saturday, Tuesday, and Thursday, one of my priorities this fall has been to introduce some informal education opportunities into our program. Many of us know from our own lives that some of the most affirming and solidifying experiences kids have in forming a strong Jewish identity stem from their involvement in Jewish camps, youth groups, Israel trips, and similar experiences. This year the teachers and I have been working to provide our students these kinds of opportunities in a Jewish setting beyond the traditional classroom. To date, we have launched the following programs towards reaching this goal:

No'ar Hadash Youth Group No'ar Hadash is the official Youth Program begun by the Reconstructionist movement. We have hired three youth group leaders, with the goal of establishing the following programs:

A 7th and 8th grade group which includes students from Dorshei Tzedek, Shir Hadash and Hillel B'nai Torah. This group has met twice. Jessica Stiss and Samantha Papurt are serving as leaders; Ora Gladstone is the parent liaison.

Junior No'ar Hadash for 4th – 6th grade students. We want to give our younger students a taste of the youth group experience, so they will be ready for a more active program in 7th grade. Our goal is to have three programs during the remainder of the school year. We have hired Meg Berenson (former DT teacher) as our Jr. No'ar Hadash leader and we had a very successful kick-off program just before Chanukah. Gina Fried is our parent liaison.

High School No'ar Hadash program. We are hoping to launch a High School level group. We had a small group turn out for our camp program where they met with one of our youth leaders to talk about future programming.

Junior Congregation In December we had our first Junior Congregation service for our 3rd – 6th grade students. Led by Jon Nelson, who has been a service/song leader at Rashi and several camps, we hope this will give our kids a chance to have their own *ruach*-infused service and kid-

dush. Our parent liaisons are Peter Hess, Cindy Marshall, and Julie Weiman.

Camp JRF On November 15 we had a very successful program with Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat, Director of Camp JRF. Jeff, joined by four counselors, lead a camp-style *havdalah* service and showed the camp video. We had over 55 people in attendance, and we currently have at least three members signed up for camp with a few others still contemplating going. Samantha Papurt and Elana Rome both plan to return as counselors, and Rabbi Toba is planning to escort any Dorshei Tzedek kids to camp and to spend some time at camp as a resident staff Rabbi.

It is very gratifying to have these wonderful programs in gear. Of course all of this would not be possible without the great professionals who are working with us, and the parents, who volunteer their time and wisdom to help support these programs. As always, I welcome your ideas and feedback as we continue to develop this aspect of education at Dorshei Tzedek.

And finally, a big *todah rabah* to the following people:

Emily Sper for sharing her Hanukah book with Kitah Bet. Emily gave a great presentation of her book, and also talked with us about being an author and some of the ins and outs of publishing a book. She then taught us a card game that goes along with her book. Emily has published two picture books, Hanukkah: A Counting Book and The Passover Seder, both of which are available in our school library.

Laura and Joel Katz for facilitating a discussion on inter-faith parenting.

Sharon Gorberg and Miriam Slipowitz for their gifts of books to our school.

Dan Halbert and Paul Carson for their continued technical support for our school office.



School Closings

In case of inclement weather, check the school phone line (617 965-5443) for a message as to whether classes have been cancelled. We will also send out an email on the CDT-Announce email list whenever possible if school is cancelled.

Community Happenings

Superbowl Sunday Schmooze

Sunday, February 1

Attention all football fans: the Membership Inreach Committee announces Dorshei Tzedek's first ever Superbowl Sunday Schmooze and Potluck. Location and time TBA. For more information, contact **Linda Hsu** at lhsu@earthlink.net.

An Evening of Israeli Dancing

Saturday, February 28 at 7:30 pm

Second Church, 60 Highland Street

What is a Yemenite step? Find out! Join us for an evening of dancing, eating and schmoozing. Dances will be led by some of our more experienced members.

For more information, contact Naomi Botkin at botkinnf@yahoo.com or Diana Fisher Gomberg at lilyfish@flash.net.

Members' Meeting

Sunday, February 29, 7:15 pm

60 Highland Street

We hope as many member households as possible will join us for a discussion of building and maintaining and mobilizing our Dorshei Tzedek community. The Chesed Committee and Rabbi Toba will lead us in learning and discussion of traditional Jewish practices—like caring for the sick and for mourners, supporting one another at times of joy and of loss—that may feel alien to many of us, yet are basic components of living together in Jewish community. Come share your experiences, your hesitations, your questions! We will also have the opportunity to hear more about the Community Conversations initiative that is just getting underway, and to learn about upcoming actions of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. Don't miss this great opportunity to get to know other members of the congregation!

Singing for the Fun of It

Date and location to be announced

Are you interested in being part of a Dorshei Tzedek chorus? I would like to organize an adult singing group to explore and have fun singing songs with some relevance to Jewish life. No particular background or experience required. If you love to sing and would enjoy periodic sing-a-thons, please contact Elaine Bresnick, 617-964-5199, ebresnick@comcast.net. An organizational meeting will be held in early February.

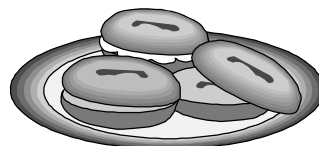


Dorshei Tzedek Retreat

June 4–6, Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA

The Dorshei Tzedek members' retreat is a time to create new ties and strengthen existing connections to one another within our wonderful community. The 2004 retreat will be at Camp Ramah, in Palmer, MA. Come celebrate Shabbat in the midst of over one hundred acres of undeveloped woods at the sandy beach of a spring fed lake with a beautiful mountain view.

Watch your mail for a pre-registration form. If you are not familiar with the retreat and would like to find out more, please contact retreat co-chairs, Sivan Nasoff at 617-924-7551 or Susannah Zisk at (617) 332-0977.





February Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Sun Feb 1	10 am—12 pm	Psalms – Sunday Morning Workshop	(see page 5)
Sun Feb 1	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Ed	FUSN
Fri Feb 6	7 pm - 9 pm	Tu B'shvat Seder (See page 3)	Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman, Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Angela Vierling & Dorea Claassen,
Sat Feb 7		Celebration with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah <i>welcoming them to the Reconstructionist movement</i>	(See page 9)
Sat Feb 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Barbara & Jerry Zolit, Toni Rosenberg, Robin Rouse & Brian Gallagher
Sat Feb 7	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sun Feb 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #5	FUSN
Sun Feb 8	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St
Fri Feb 13	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Lauren Gibbs, Susan Hart, Margo Schlanger & Samuel Bagenstros
Sat Feb 14		<i>No Classes Thru 2/23- Feb School Vacation Week</i>	
Sat Feb 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jolie Demuth (see page 4)	Emily Sper, Daniel Price (sanctuary cleanup)
Sat Feb 21 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Matilda & Edward Bruckner, Karen & Reinhard Engels
Tue Feb 24		<i>Classes Resume</i>	
Wed Feb 25	7:30 am	Adult Ed: The End of Life	(see page 5)
Sat Feb 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Chanting and Meditation (see page 3)	Willa & Tom Kuh, Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper
Sat Feb 28	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sat Feb 28	7:30 pm	Israeli Dancing	FUSN (see page 10)
Sat Feb 28	10:30 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation Meeting 60 Highland St	Willa & Tom Kuh, Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper
Sun Feb 29	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #6	FUSN
Sun Feb 29	7:15 pm	Members Meeting 60 Highland St (see page 10)	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Jill Stanzler -Katz & Jeff Katz, Linda Schiller & Steve Robins

No Fragrances, Please: So that Dorshei Tzedek services and events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfume, scented oils, cologne, etc.) to all Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Events and services are held at 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. Some events (as noted) and all school classes are at the First Unitarian Society in Newton (FUSN), 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. An asterisk (*) denotes Rabbi Spitzer's weekend off. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.



March Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Wed Mar 3	7:30 am	Adult Ed: The End of Life	(see page 4)
Sat Mar 6		<i>No Aleph & Bet Classes</i>	
Sat Mar 6	7 pm – 9 pm	Purim	Elizabeth Carver & Bryn Austin, Kelli Kirshtein & Wendy Angus, Valerie Graf & Doron Gan
Wed Mar 10	7:30 am	Adult Ed: The End of Life	(see page 4)
Fri Mar 12	6:30 pm	Gan Class Shabbat Dinner	<i>FUSN</i>
Fri Mar 12	8 pm – 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Family service	Hara Klein & Eleni Carr, Ilana Mainelli
Sat Mar 13 *	9:45 am – 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Rebecca Gutman, Teri Hauserman & Stan Piltch, Steffi & Eric Karp
Sat Mar 13	10 am – 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Family Ed / Kitah Bet Class	<i>FUSN</i>
Wed Mar 17	7:30 am	Adult Ed: The End of Life	(see page 4)
Fri Mar 19	6:15 pm	Kitah Vav Family Shabbat Dinner	<i>FUSN</i>
Fri Mar 19	8 pm – 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Beth & Jeffrey Green
Sat Mar 20	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Study	(see page 4)
Sat Mar 20	9:45 am – 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Allison & Ezra Hausman, Laura & Joel Katz, Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein
Sat Mar 20	10 am – 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Mar 21	2 pm – 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Mar 21	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Thu Mar 25		<i>No Class (Staff Meeting)</i>	
Sat Mar 27	9:45 am – 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
Sat Mar 27	10 am – 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Class / Kitah Bet Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Sat Mar 27	10:30 am – 12 pm	Junior Congregation	<i>60 Highland St</i>
Sun Mar 28	2 pm – 4 pm	Gan Family Program #7 Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	<i>FUSN</i>

Welcome New Members

Linda Yael Schiller, Steve Robins, and Sara Lirong Schiller-Robins of Watertown have recently joined Dorshei Tzedek. Linda is a psychotherapist in private practice and Adjunct Clinical Professor at Boston University School of Social Work. Her areas of interest and expertise are in group work, dream work, and body/mind/energy therapies. She regularly teaches and trains around the country in these areas as well as on trauma work. Steve is a physical therapist at the Shattuck Hospital, working in rehab and chronic care. He is also director of the student intern program there. Sara is in first grade at the Lowell Elementary School. They all enjoy outdoor sports, theater, and dancing. Sara also loves gymnastics and swimming, and Steve is a bicycle commuter all year long and a bike maven; Linda lived in Israel and speaks Hebrew. They were initially attracted to Dorshei Tzedek for the excellent Hebrew school, and also really enjoy the stimulating intellectual discourse and opportunities for ongoing Jewish study for adults as well as kids. "Since joining we have been so impressed with the outreach and friendliness of the members", say Linda and Steve.



Send items to be published in future newsletters to
dtnews@yahoogroups.com. Thanks!

The Newsletter Committee:

Dan Halbert, Karen Engels, Tim Rosa, Susannah Zisk,
and Josh Lieberman

Margo Schlanger and Sam Bagenstos, and their children, **Harry and Leila Bagenstos**, are happy to be joining Dorshei Tzedek, which feels like a wonderfully welcoming community. Margo and Sam are both lawyers who specialize in civil rights law and teach at Harvard Law School. (Sam especially focuses on disability rights, and Margo on prisons and prisoners' rights.) Leila and Harry turn four this month, and specialize in playing and eating as many cookies as they can. They are particularly looking forward to Purim. They live in Newton Highlands, on a block with three other Dorshei Tzedek families.

CDT in Cyberspace

Dorshei Tzedek has two congregation-wide email lists. Official congregation announcements are posted to the **CDT-ANNOUNCE@shamash.org** list. If you have something you would like to post, please send it to Paul Carson, the CDT list owner (p-carson@ti.com) or an Executive Committee member. For more informal exchanges of ideas and information among members of Dorshei Tzedek, use **CDT-LIST@shamash.org**; all members may post to it. For questions about the email lists, changes of address, etc., contact Paul Carson.

Note: If you have mysteriously stopped receiving CDT email, check your email settings. AOL 9.0 has new spam-prevention features which may redirect CDT email to a special spam folder. If you use Hotmail, make sure your mailbox, which has very limited capacity, is not full.

The CDT website now has a discussion board for archiving recommendations from CDT-LIST, recipes, and other information. Go to www.dorsheitzedek.org, choose Communications on the left-hand menu, and then click on Discussion Board, or go directly to <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/discussions/>.

Notes

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members. “Dorshei Tzedek” means “seekers of justice,” and as our name implies, we are seekers: of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

Consistent with Reconstructionist philosophy, we are committed to seriously engaging with Jewish tradition, challenging that tradition, where need be, and building on the tradition in creative ways. We do this in order to enhance our own lives as contemporary Jews and to perpetuate our bond—and our children’s bond—to our heritage. We view education for ourselves and our children as fundamental to Jewish life.

We are a participatory congregation, encouraging all of our members to take an active role in some aspect of our congregational life. Our rabbi is our partner in this endeavor, and is both teacher and participant in our community. We value diversity in our congregation, and welcome all those who share our commitments.

Finally, we affirm the concept of mitzvah as obligation, acting on our Jewish values through deeds of *tzedek* (social justice) and *gemilut chasadim* (loving kindness), both within our congregation and in the larger community.