

# 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

Adar/Nissan 5764

March 2004



## President's Message

by Debbie Waber

This month we launched an exciting new initiative at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek—**Community Conversations**. Community Conversations, coordinated by **Andrew Compaine**, are a series of one-on-one conversations between members. The goal of the Community Conversations is to elicit individual Jewish narratives, and, in so doing, to mobilize our community's collective resources. To borrow from the mission statement that has been crafted for this effort:

"Over the course of the next few years, we will meet personally with members to help them to articulate their story, and to find out what matters most to them in their lives and in the world. We want to explore where people have come from in their Jewish journeys and where they would like to see themselves traveling next. In the process of sharing their stories, we hope members can become more aware of their vision, of their personal power, and of their potential resources. We hope these conversations will facilitate the sharing of individuals' resources within our community: each of us has interests and needs, and each of us has gifts to share. In the largest sense, we see these conversations as a way to help empower our members so that they may feel a renewed sense of Jewish possibilities, and so that they feel energized in pursuing their Jewish goals. We hope to mobilize our members' resources towards the mission of this community so that collectively we can build our congregation and work together towards our goals: Jewish learning and practice, *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving-kindness) and *tikkun olam* (repair of the world)."

This process represents a wonderful opportunity for us as a community to learn about and appreciate the richness and diversity of our membership, to deepen our bonds as a community, and to identify directions for our community

in the months and years ahead. We plan to engage with roughly one-third of the congregation over each of the next three years. Households will be selected each year to represent the diverse voices in our community.

A group of about a dozen CDT members met in January and February for orientation sessions with Rebecca Gifford, a staff member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), and these volunteers are in the process of contacting the households who will be invited to participate this year. In the course of the orientation sessions, the volunteers developed a vision about this project and what it can accomplish, and they left the meetings with great enthusiasm and energy.

The one-on-one conversations will take place in February and March. We hope that these conversations will enable us to seek ways to deepen all of our connections and commitments to the Dorshei Tzedek community. As we discover the issues that are most important in the lives of our members, we can begin to think about how to take action on those issues, both within our congregation and in the broader community. As this process unfolds, I hope that others in the congregation will experience enthusiasm and excitement for these conversations, and that they will serve to enrich all of us as members of the CDT community in our personal and collective Jewish journeys.

### INSIDE

Board Notes, New Member Orientation, Retreat .....	2
Shabbat, Purim, JRF Shabbaton .....	3
Pesach .....	4
Adult Education .....	5
Nadiv Lev, Todah Rabah .....	6
Chesed .....	7
Tikkun Olam: GBIO .....	8
Calendar (removable) .....	9-10
New Members, MAZON Appeal .....	11
JRF Shabbaton Registration Form .....	12

## Notes from the Board

February 8, 2004

*Ellie Goldberg, Secretary*

The board met on Sunday February 8. **Steve Siegel** and **Michael Cohen** from the Nadiv Lev Committee introduced the annual Nadiv Lev Campaign. This year, the campaign will be carried out by telephone. Members of the congregation will receive a mailing, to be followed up by a phone call. All households will be contacted. Board members were trained to make the calls.

**Andrew Compaine** reported on the Community Conversations project. The purpose of this project is to enrich our understanding of ourselves as a community. The project is described in detail in the President's Column on page 1. The conversations will begin in late February and the project will be concluded at the end of March, when the volunteers will convene to share themes that they heard during the visits.

**Ora Gladstone** reported on the progress of the search for rabbinic support during Rabbi Spitzer's sabbatical year. The job description has been sent to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College for distribution to the graduating seniors and other rabbis. The board also asked the committee to broaden the search in case a good candidate did not emerge from the Reconstructionist movement, as well as considering other options in case it was not possible to identify one person who could assume the role of rabbi next year.

**Debbie Waber** reported that the Personnel Committee, chaired by **Elaine Bresnick**, is carrying out the annual review of Diane Dillon, our administrator. Board members were invited to offer comments to Elaine, and encouraged to make use of Diane's skills in situations where administrative support is required.

**Laurie Gould** updated the budget. The budget assumes that the Nadiv Lev campaign will raise \$75,000 this year, so it is very important that the campaign meet its goals.

**Cindy Shulak-Rome** reported on the school. Cindy has assumed the role of teacher in Kitah Zayin, following the resignation of the original classroom teacher. The Education Committee is focusing on post-b'nei mitzvah education, with some exciting possibilities. This year's Tikkun Olam program will focus on economic justice in the clothing industry.

A community of learners program is being planned for the spring, with a focus on Pesach. (See page 3.)

The **Members' Meeting on February 29** will include a program by the Chesed Committee. The business agenda will take approximately half an hour, followed by the program.

The next Board meeting will be Sunday evening, March 21 at 7:30 pm at 60 Highland Street in West Newton.

---

### New Member Orientation

*April 15, 7:15 pm, 60 Highland Street*

Members who have joined within the past year are invited to a new member orientation on Thursday **April 15 at 7:15 pm**, at our regular prayer space—upstairs at the Second Church (60 Highland Street). Meet other newcomers, learn about exciting developments in the congregation, and get to know Dorshei Tzedek Board members and Rabbi Spitzer.

Refreshments will be served. This is guaranteed to be a fun evening for all, and we hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to **Erica Streit**, [ELStreit@yahoo.com](mailto:ELStreit@yahoo.com), or 617.393.0216.

---

### Fifth Bi-Annual Dorshei Tzedek Members' 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 within our wonderful community. 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. Camp Ramah is in Palmer, Massachusetts, less than 90 minutes from metro Boston.

Early registration forms were sent out several weeks ago. Return your forms and deposit by March 15. We expect to be full to capacity so don't delay! Your deposit will hold your place. 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.



## 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.*

### All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services

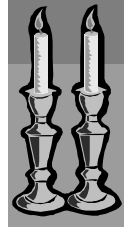
*March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 11, 6 – 7 pm*

Join us on the first Friday of each month for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat. Please note that the March family service is on March 5, not on March 12, as an earlier calendar had indicated.

### Erev Shabbat Services

*March 19, April 16, and May 21, 8 – 9:30 pm*

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



## Purim Bash!

*Sunday, March 6, 7–9 pm*

**Important:** This program is taking place at the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton Square, and **not** at our regular prayer space.

Remember Election 5761, Star Kvetch in 5762 and Joe Minyanaire in 5763? Don't miss the **March 6 Dorshei Tzedek Purim 5764 Spiel!** Dorshei Tzedek's Purim celebration is more than just a premier Broadway show: Join us for an evening of merriment, noshing, and booing Haman! The fun begins at **7 pm** with Purim davening, a costume parade with prizes, Megillah reading, singing with Kitot Aleph and Bet, and hamentaschen!



The fabulous Purim Spiel 5764 will begin at **8 pm**, followed by dancing and schmoozing. All ages are encouraged to dress up in costumes! And you can bring a little schnapps as well.

*Mishloach manot* ("sending gifts"): In keeping with the Purim tradition of sending gifts, we ask you please to bring one plate of goodies (fruit, nuts, hamentaschen, candy, etc.) to exchange with another household.

## JRF Shabbaton of Celebration

*April 23 - 25, 2004, hosted by Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, MA*



**Friday, April 23:** Dinner, Kabbalat Shabbat, Featured Scholar Reconstructionism looks at the 21st Century by Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer. **Saturday April 24:** Study, Shabbat Service, Lunch, Workshops, Dinner, Havdalah and Talent Show. There will be special programs for teens and children. Program Features including Dealing with Issues of Life and Death as Reflection of our Community, Values-Based Decision Making, Torah of Money, Writing a Kashrut Policy, Incorporating Children in the Spiritual Life of the Congregation, How we Talk about Israel in Community, and Music, Dance, Art and Drama. **Sunday morning, April 25:** Meditation Service, Affinity Group Sessions, and a Closing Circle at 11:30 am Affinity groups include Tikkun Olam, Adult Education, Fundraising/Membership, Ritual, Youth Group, and Education.

The cost for the weekend is \$72 for adults and \$36 for children, which includes all meals and the children's program. Lodging is by home hospitality or at the Foxboro Courtyard Marriott. Meals will be kosher-style vegetarian. Sign up now! Registration deadline is March 18, 2004. Questions? Contact Ellie Goldberg (617.965.9637) or Rabbi Fredi Cooper (215.782.8500, ext. 32).

**See the registration form on the back page of this newsletter.**

# Pesach

Passover is coming! The first seder is Monday evening, April 5.

## Community of Learners Hosts Two Passover Preparation Events

Pesach is upon us!! Dayenu!!

Have you wondered what the Passover seder is really about? Have you dreaded long seders and fidgeting in your seats waiting for the matzoh balls? Have you hoped you could do something differently for yourself, your family, friends, and children? This year you have the opportunity to enhance your Passover seder with some thoughtful preparation. The Community of Learners Committee is hosting two Passover Preparation Events and we hope you will attend. Please call Tessa Goldsmith at 617.965.7323 with questions and to RSVP.

### Making the Passover Seder work for Younger Children

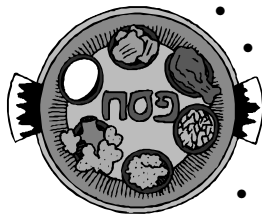
*Saturday, March 13, 10:30 am – noon, First Unitarian Society*

This workshop is for parents of younger children (Kitah Gan, Aleph and Bet) during Religious School time. The workshop will cover traditional and non-traditional concepts, concrete suggestions, an opportunity to engage with a family friendly Haggadah, songs, and games.

### Preparing for Passover: A Day of Learning

*Sunday March 21, 1:30 – 4 pm, 60 Highland Street*

Join us for an afternoon of learning at all levels of knowledge and experience. Adults and kids (together or separately) can select a workshop from a variety of choices, including:



- Passover 101—For Those Who Don't Know Enough to Ask
- Adult Text Study with Rabbi Allan Lehmann
- Creative Ways to Enhance Your Seder;
- Art projects
- Passover drama for kids
- Creating Your Very Own Passover Scavenger Hunt
- Making Passover Desserts.

This promises to be a wonderful afternoon of learning, so don't miss it! Watch your e-mail for more information about the workshops and pre-registration.

## 7th Day of Pesach Services

*Monday, April 12, 9 am, 60 Highland Street*

Join us for this celebration of the final day of Pesach (in Reconstructionist tradition)—which is also the day that commemorates the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea! We will meet for a special service in our sanctuary.

## Pesach Seder Match-Making

It's a mitzvah to attend a Passover seder, and a mitzvah to invite someone to a seder! So do a mitzvah - if you need a place to go for Passover, or if you have room for another person or two at your table, please help make this a wonderful holiday for everyone in our community. Contact our Seder Matchmaker, Erica Streit, at 617-393-0216, **no later than Monday, March 22**, if you either need a place to go or have some room. While it's fine to let the Matchmaker know about any preferences, allergies, etc. that you may have, please remember that while we do our best to find room for everyone who needs, we also appreciate your willingness to be open and flexible. Or, if you want to organize a Dorshei Tzedek seder of your own, use the CDT listserv! Just send a message to [cdt-list@shamash.org](mailto:cdt-list@shamash.org) and let folks know what you'd like to do.

# Adult Education

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

## Shabbat Morning Study

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am with Rabbi Spitzer  
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!

## The End of Life:

### A Practical and Spiritual Guide

*with Rabbi Spitzer and Nicky Silver*

*Wednesday evenings, March 3, 10, 17, 7:30 – 9:15 pm*

While death and dying are topics that often make us uncomfortable, the opportunity to reflect and make plans—for ourselves, for 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. Through a combination of text study and discussion, we will explore these themes:

**March 3 and 10:** An in-depth exploration of Jewish traditions--and choices we need to make--in relation to burial and mourning, as well as how to comfort mourners. If there is time, we will also explore Jewish ideas about the afterlife.

**March 17:** Taking the next steps: how can we as a

community better support one another around death and dying? Do we want to create our own *Chevra Kadisha* (Jewish Burial Society), and participate directly in the preparation of bodies for burial, sitting overnight with the deceased before the funeral, etc.? Is it time for Dorshei Tzedek to have our own burial plots?

Rabbi Spitzer is co-teaching this class with new CDT member **Nicky Silver**. Nicky writes:

I first got involved with this work because of my curiosity about the mystery of death. When my former congregation (The Jewish Community of Amherst) was starting a *Chevra Kadisha* (Jewish Burial Society), I readily joined. I found great comfort studying and wrestling with other members of my community about issues concerning death. We explored our personal relationship with death, our fears, our concerns, our curiosities, our stories, and our reverence. There were approximately 15 of us who met monthly for over 4 years before we performed our first tahara (the ritual of cleansing and purification). Since 1991, for over 12 years, I was the head of both the *Chevra Kadisha* and the cemetery committee. As the *Chevra Kadisha* members grew individually and communally, our work affected the rest of the congregation. Through the years that I held these positions, I saw our community develop a maturity in our relationship to death and dying, which affected other parts of the community as well. We were all pretty skilled at baby namings, weddings, and B'nai Mitzvah. Doing death together seemed to change everything. Death, the shadow, brings with it a time of our greatest emotional need and our greatest vulnerability. When we as a community can support each other during this profound life cycle, deep, open-hearted love and support is developed in a way that other life cycles do not provide.

This course will be both practical and experiential, whether you yourself are a mourner, or supporting a mourner. That is, it is for anyone interested in exploring this important topic.



# Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

## General Fund

*(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)*

**Ellie Goldberg**

*In memory of Efrem Goldberg*

**Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan**

*In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jolie Demuth*

**Linette Liebling and Peter Demuth**

*In honor of Elaine Pollack, tutor extraordinaire*

**Delores and Ken Kimmel**

*In memory of Eli Shapiro*

**Amy Mazur**

*In memory of Marvin Mazur (my father)*

**Meschede - Krasa Family**

*In memory of Helen Urban*

**Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon**

*In honor of the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School*

**Sivan Nasoff**

*In honor of Debbie Waber  
for her hard work & dedication to the community*

**Elaine Pollack**

*In honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Donnini,  
Joey Ives, and Jolie Demuth*

**Sandra Sedacca and Sherwood Ives**

*In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

**Emily Sper**

*In memory of Roy Sper*

**Umlas - Berman Family**

*In honor of our new niece Goldie Umlas*

---

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Beth Brooks**

*With belated thanks for help  
with my mother's funeral and shivah*

**Michael Fessler**

*In honor of the marriage of Debbie Blicher and Peter Dain*

**Judy and Chayim Herzog-Marx**

*In honor of*

*Josh Herzog-Marx and Carla Naumburg's wedding*

**Nancy Osher-Blumberg**

*With thanks for Rabbi Spitzer's guidance in preparation  
for Yoni's Bar Mitzvah*

## Holy Book Fund

**Samelson - Hattis Family**

*In honor of the b'nai mitzvah of  
Eli and Chloe Kuh, Joey Ives, and Jolie Demuth.  
Mazel Tov to you and your families*

---

## Building Fund School Fund

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. In addition, donations can 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. Donations to this fund are encouraged, in addition to (not instead of!) your contributions to help support the congregation. Checks should be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Please contact Rabbi Spitzer directly at 617-965-0330 if you are in need of financial assistance. When sending a contribution, please include a note with the names of the donors, and the dedication, if any, as you wish them to be printed in the newsletter. Mail to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

---

## Todah Rabah

Many, many thanks to the upcoming b'nei mitzvah families, and to many other members of the community, who generously donated beautiful new chumashim (Five Books of Moses) for our services!

## Chesed

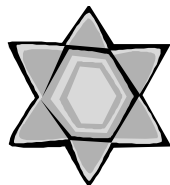
If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Susan Manheim** of the Chesed Committee (781.449.2984).

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](mailto: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 Spitzer at 617.965.0330 x2.

### Condolences

To Elena Eisman and her family, on the death of Elena's mother, Mollie Eisman. May her memory be for a blessing.



### Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Francis Greenberg, Lisa Samelson, and Peter Demuth**. 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 [www.jfcsboston.org](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 [www.jewsinrecovery.org](http://www.jewsinrecovery.org).

## Why is This Night Different From All Others?

Because on this night we begin our Passover seders with the words, "Let all who are hungry enter and eat."

This night, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger asks you to breathe life into these ancient words by offering a hand up to the 35 million Americans living at the edge of

hunger.

Your gift to MAZON of whatever you would spend to invite even one extra person to your seder helps hungry families in our own country, in Israel and around the world.

For these children, and for millions like them around the globe, please lend your voice to the struggle against hunger. Let them know that this night will be different.

### MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA  
90025-5249

Passover 5764

YES, I (we) will join with MAZON and leave "the corners of our fields for the poor and the stranger."

Amount of contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ A check payable to MAZON is enclosed

☐ Please charge my credit card

Credit Card Type:

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Congregation, City, State  
\_\_\_\_\_

or donate through the website at [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org)

**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.



# Tikkun Olam



## GBIO & the Nursing Homes Campaign

A *minyan* (ten) Dorshei Tzedek members joined hundreds of others from GBIO member-congregations on February 10 at Temple Salem in Dorchester to help launch an initiative to bring dignity and respect to nursing home front line caregivers (in the Boston area, 80% are Haitian women) while helping to improve care for residents of nursing facilities. It was a very exciting evening—please read some members' reflections below.

One key next step is to build our own personal relationships with workers from local nursing homes so that we can take action together on critical issues facing the workers and those they care for. On **Monday, March 15, at the Lutheran Church of the Newtons, 1310 Centre Street in Newton Centre, from 7:30 to 9 pm** we will be joining other synagogue and church members from the Newton, Brookline and Brighton areas in a dialogue with care-givers who work at homes in these communities. There are also plans to meet with local nursing home management staff and to begin a resident visitation program. If you are interested in the meeting on March 15, or in other activities related to this campaign, please contact Paul Hattis at [paul.hattis@tufts.edu](mailto:paul.hattis@tufts.edu).

### Reflections on the February 10 GBIO meeting

"Arriving a bit late at Temple Salem for the GBIO solidarity meeting with Haitian nursing home workers gave me the opportunity to hear the singing of their first Haitian song ringing out on the streets of Dorchester. Hearing that song while walking up the steps of what had been an old "shul," so similar to the one my grandfather had been the president of in Brooklyn N.Y., was odd indeed, but was also somewhat reassuring. Here is a place of worship being used by subsequent generations of immigrants. The 10 commandments atop Temple Salem, the beautiful old "bima," sitting in what had been the women's gallery, provided the sense of the old and new in tandem. Feeling in league with this newer congregation and finding another relatively uncomplicated issue of civil rights to work for, felt like a very Jewish thing to be doing."

—Ora Gladstone

"I gratefully sat in the pew and felt the collective joy among the CDT members upon discovering an additional 2 members in the balcony. We had a *minyan*! Strong and inspirational voices of national pride and spiritual identity—all in

Creole—filled the room. My head was warmed by multiple hats: As a longtime *occupational health educator/advocate*, I had the honor of working with nursing home workers in several Eastern states, and experienced the long road to improved working conditions, living wages and safer jobs for this essential profession. As a *daughter* I felt humbled and sad. Just last Fall, I visited my Mom several times during her 10-week stay in a nursing home/rehab facility, and saw first hand the startling understaffing, stressful working conditions and absence of lifting devices. I saw nursing home residents grow weary with aides who could not respond to urgent requests due to needs of neighboring residents. The caregivers who want to care and the vulnerable elderly were pitted against each other. As a *Dorshei Tzedek member* I felt happy to be present and proud of Rabbi Spitzer's leadership. Like the Hebrew letters which still adorn the *bimah* of this now vital and bustling Haitian Church, it was moving to note how quickly the actors change with new waves and generations of immigrants. This is the right time and a good place to breathe our values into simple and meaningful acts of solidarity."

—Jamie Tessler

"There was a lot of positive energy in Temple Salem as people sang Haitian-Creole songs, clergy blessed, and an assortment of folks spoke about the working conditions of nursing home workers. Hearing one worker describe her 16-hour day was enough to get anyone angry and involved. The lack of respect was as shocking as the understaffing that stops the workers from giving adequate care to the patients. I didn't realize that working in nursing homes was so much an extension of the inter-generational Haitian family, where grandparents often live with the extended family. Other than the things I expected, such as low wages, lack of health insurance, etc., I was shocked to hear that the Haitian workers are yelled at for speaking Creole among themselves *on breaks* and that they aren't allowed to take phone calls during the day. A few minutes taken from our busy lives might make a world of difference in the lives of the nursing home workers!"

—Emily Sper





# March Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Wed Mar 3	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Adult Ed: End of Life</b>	60 Highland St (see page 5)
Thu Mar 4	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland St (see page 5)
Fri Mar 5	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b>	Hara Klein & Eleni Carr, Ilana Mainelli
Sat Mar 6		<i>No Aleph &amp; Bet Classes</i>	
Sat Mar 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver
Sat Mar 6	7 pm - 9 pm	<b>Purim Party</b>	TBA FUSN (see page 3)
Wed Mar 10	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Adult Ed: End of Life</b>	60 Highland St (see page 5)
Thu Mar 11	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland St
Fri Mar 12	6:30 pm	Gan Class Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
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	FUSN
Wed Mar 17	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Adult Ed: End of Life</b>	60 Highland St (see page 5)
Fri Mar 19	6:15 pm	Kitah Vav Family Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Mar 19	8 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Service</b>	Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Beth & Jeffrey Green
Sat Mar 20	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Study	60 Highland St (see page 5)
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	FUSN
Sun Mar 21	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed	FUSN
Sun Mar 21	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St
Thu Mar 25		<i>No Class ( Staff Meeting)</i>	
Thu Mar 25	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland St (see page 5)
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	FUSN
Sat Mar 27	10:30 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland St
Sun Mar 28	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #7 Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	FUSN
Sun Mar 28	3:30 pm - 5 pm	CDT Sings	FUSN

Cut here to remove

**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.



# April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Thu Apr 1	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland St
Fri Apr 2	6 pm - 7 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b> Kitah Dalet Siyyum (led by Kitah Dalet, followed by class dinner)	Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen
Sat Apr 3	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Study	60 Highland St (see page 5)
Sat Apr 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service (Kitah Hay Siyyum: students help lead service)	Dorie Fried, Audra Karp, Ingrid Newman & Howard Lurie
Sat Apr 3	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sat Apr 3	12 pm - 3 pm	Kitah Hay Class Lunch	FUSN
Mon Apr 5		<b>Pesach</b>	(see page 4)
Tue Apr 6		<i>No Class - 2nd Seder</i>	
Thu Apr 8		<i>Regularly scheduled classes - Chol Hamoed</i>	FUSN
Thu Apr 8	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland St
Sat Apr 10 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Rachel Greenberg, Sheree Galpert, & Peter Hess, Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner
Sat Apr 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sat Apr 10	10:30 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland St
Sun Apr 11	10 am	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only</i>
Mon Apr 12	9 am	7th Day Passover Service	60 Highland St (see page 4)
Tue Apr 13		<i>No Class - Pesach</i>	
Thu Apr 15		<i>Regularly scheduled classes</i>	FUSN
Thu Apr 15	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland St
Fri Apr 16	6:30 pm	Kitah Aleph Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Apr 16	8 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Service</b>	Dinah Moeller, Caryn-Amy King
Sat Apr 17		<i>No classes thru Apr 24 (vacation)</i>	
Sat Apr 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bar Mitzvah of Adam Goldsmith</b>	Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan, Barbara & Shelly Isaacs, Sarah Little & Doug Hersh, <i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Cynthia Piltch, & Jamie Katz, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor
Fri Apr 23 - Sun Apr 25		<b>New England JRF Shabbaton</b>	Agudas Achim In Attleboro, MA (see page 3)
Sat Apr 24		<i>JRF Shabbaton/NO SERVICE</i>	
Tue Apr 27		<i>Classes Resume</i>	FUSN
Thu Apr 29	8 am - 9 am	<b>Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning</b>	60 Highland St



## Welcome New Members

**Julie Weiman, Peter Blumenthal, and Sarah** (10) have lived in Newton Highlands for 11 years, with the exception of a year spent in Israel when Sarah was 7. They have been hanging around the DT community for years and are really happy to be back as members. Sarah is a fifth grader at Mason Rice and is amazed that she just received her Bat Mitzvah date. She really likes the kids in Kitah Hay and has felt quite welcomed after a three year absence. Julie worked for over 15 years in organizational development and training. This was a fabulous career, but she is transitioning out of it. It is not yet clear to Julie what she will be doing next for work, which sometimes fills her with dread. In the meantime, she is in her first year of MEAH at Hebrew College. She is also an artist and has a small show coming up in April at the New Art Center in Newton. It didn't take long to get involved in her first DT committee (Youth Education), and she fully expects to be involved in a few more before long. Peter has a small company called Theracycle which makes exercise equipment for people with disabilities. He became involved with it a few years ago after a life-changing accident. He would say that he believes in "doing well by doing good." Julie brought her father to High Holy Day services this year and felt really wonderful to be part of the greater Dorshei Tzedek community.

**Dorea Claassen and Angela Vierling** are planning their wedding (perhaps legal!) for May of 2004 at the Milky Way Lounge and Lanes in Jamaica Plain, after which they will become the Vierling-Claassens, saddling their future children with a cruelly unwieldy name. They joined Dorshei Tzedek in summer of 2003 after Angela's conversion with Rabbi Spitzer. Dorea currently lives near Inman square in Somerville, but spent most of her childhood in Denver, Colorado, where she was sometimes known as The Great Grapefruit (long story). She likes animals, especially rats (she's had seven, they really do make good pets, honest) and dogs (though she has yet to actually acquire one). She is studying the mathematics of the brain at Boston University and hopes to do research related to schizophrenia. She enjoys knitting, playing her trumpet, riding her bike all over town, and singing harmony. Dorea enjoys meditation and erev Shabbat services at DT, as well as the welcoming community.

Angela is deep within the process of finishing her mathematics PhD at Boston University and applying for jobs for

next fall. She'll be graduating this May (knock wood). When not tied to her computer, Angela enjoys teaching, herding undergrads as an RA in a BU dormitory, reading, lavishing affection on her snuggly cat Animal, singing, long road trips, science reporting (she worked a stint as a newspaper reporter in St. Louis) and talking about pretty much anything. Angela gets the credit for finding DT (online!) and hopes to take greater advantage of the adult education opportunities once the dissertation is handed in.

## Community Events

### Hillel B'nai Torah Fundraising Auction and Community Social

*Saturday, March 27 at 7 pm*

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

The congregation of Dorshei Tzedek is cordially invited to attend Hillel B'nai Torah's Fundraising Auction and Community Social. Events include Havdalah, desserts, a silent auction, great entertainment, and a live auction hosted by Ashley Adams. See the HBT website for sample auction items at [www.templehbt.org](http://www.templehbt.org). Please RSVP to the HBT temple office: 617.323.0486. \$18 per person (up to \$36 per household).

### Springtime for Haman

*King Open School, 850 Cambridge Street, Cambridge MA (East Cambridge)*

Dorshei Tzedek **Sophie Cash** (Kitah Bet) and **David Cash** are performing in the world premiere of the opera "Springtime for Haman" with the non-profit North Cambridge Family Opera Company.

Sophie and David perform on: Sat March 20, 7 pm, Sun March 21, 5 pm, Sat March 27, 3 pm, Sun March 28, 1 pm.

Other performances are: Sat March 20, 3 pm, Sun March 21, 1 pm, Sat March 27, 7 pm, Sun March 28, 5 pm.

"Springtime for Haman" is a sensitive and entertaining version of the biblical story of the courageous young Queen Esther, who risks her life to save her cousin Mordechai and the Jewish people from Haman, the vengeful Grand Vizier of Persia. The opera, in two 50-minute acts, features singing and dancing by a multigenerational cast and is most appropriate for ages 6 and up (but all ages are welcome). Tickets are \$5/children, \$10/adults, \$25/families of four, and \$5/each for groups of 10 or more. For information visit [www.FamilyOpera.com](http://www.FamilyOpera.com) or call 617.492.4095.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek  
60 Highland Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

---

**JRF New England Shabbaton at Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, MA**

**Registration form: Please complete and mail with a check payable to Jewish Reconstructionist Federation to:**  
JRF, 7804 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 9, Elkins Park PA 19027

Names and address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Interested in Children's Program? ☐ yes ☐ no

List Children's names and ages:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclose \$72 for each adult and \$36 for each child.

# Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Meals are kosher-style vegetarian. We will try our best to  
accommodate dietary restrictions (list below):

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please send me travel information.
- ☐ I am interested in home hospitality.
- ☐ Please send me information about nearby hotel accommodations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Courtyard Marriott in Foxboro.

I best fit into the following affinity group:

- ☐ Tikkun Olam
- ☐ Youth Group
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Adult Education
- ☐ Fundraising/Membership
- ☐ Ritual
- ☐ Other