

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

Nissan/Iyar 5764

April 2004



Asking Questions

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Passover is a highlight of the Jewish year, and the seder is one of the most popular rituals for Jews of all backgrounds. In its origins in the early rabbinic period, during the first centuries of the Common Era, the Pesach seder was primarily a pedagogic tool, intended to get people at the table to ask good questions. While we formalize the asking of questions in the "*Mah Nishtanah*," the real goal is to come up with our own. One rabbinic story recounts that a teacher had all the food and plates taken off the *seder* table in order to get his disciples to ask what was going on. The purpose of the *seder* was, and is, to get everyone involved in telling, learning, and re-living the experience of the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt.

There is considerable debate as to whether that experience, as recounted in the Torah, reflects any kind of historical reality. But there is no debate as to the centrality of the Exodus story to our consciousness as Jews. Whatever its basis, by the time of the writing of the Torah, an ancient tradition about slavery and miraculous liberation had become central to what it meant to be *b'nei Yisrael*, the "children of Israel." The Torah itself not only recounts the story, but emphasizes that the story must be retold across the generations, and that we must always remember that "we were strangers in the land of Egypt." The Passover *seder* became one of the primary rabbinic methodologies for ensuring that this foundational story remained central to our communal consciousness.

What is fascinating is that the asking of questions should be so fundamental to that methodology. Why not just tell the story, or do a dramatic re-enactment? Why fuss around with food, cups of wine, weird rituals, all in order to prompt questions?

Last month I was reviewing some videos documenting the sweatshop conditions in which much of our clothing is made. The religious school has embarked on a project to learn more about this aspect of our global economy, and to take action to address the issue. Watching these videos,

my heart dropped, and I felt almost literally sickened. While I have had for some time a basic awareness that I wear garments produced in Third World countries in less than ideal conditions, seeing the images and learning more about the reality was another thing altogether. The "slavery" we speak of in relation to the Passover story is alive and well today: people, often teenage girls, working for almost no pay in prison-like conditions, in service to corporate Pharaohs who, with the support of our tax dollars, reap fantastic profits by making labor costs nearly negligible. Watching the videos, it was impossible for me not to start asking questions. How do I live with the knowledge that my own comfort is provided by people enduring unimaginable poverty and oppression? How can this be so widespread, and so many people unaware? And perhaps the most important question of all: what can I do to change this?

As we look at the world around us this Passover season, our tradition directs us to do two things. First, to "remember" that we were slaves in the land of Egypt, and that this memory should make us empathize with others who suffer oppression. Second, to ask questions, lots of them. Where do the clothes I wear, the food I eat, the toys my children play with, come from? Who made them, and what is their life like? Why does the world operate in such a way that my standard of living depends on others working in conditions I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy? What

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are my responsibilities in this matter? To ask questions is to challenge the status quo, to make ourselves and others uncomfortable, to realize that the object isn't to come up with the "right" answer, but to stir us to action.

On the sweatshops issue, there is an opportunity to act—adults are needed to help the religious school in its campaign (see page 8 for information on how to get involved). And I know that there are numerous issues that command the attention of many folks in our congregation—from gay marriage rights to environmental degradation to accessibility for people with special needs to poverty issues, and the list goes on and on. Whatever our commitments or our interests, perhaps we can all engage in one thing this Passover: to ask ourselves a question we've never asked before. A question that connects us in some way to our story as a people, to the world around us, and to the project of liberation that began so long ago on the way out of Egypt, and in which we are still involved today.



Members' Meeting

The Members' Meeting on February 29 included a program on *chesed* (loving kindness). Rabbi Spitzer presented some Jewish texts and we learned that *chesed* is considered a sacred obligation. The discussion that followed focused on our experiences receiving and doing acts of *chesed*. For many of us, there is uncertainty and discomfort when it comes to asking for help or giving support, especially in certain situations, such as making a *shiva* call. As one member said, "When I first came to Dorshei Tzedek, I couldn't imagine myself going to a *shivah minyan* without having had a previous relationship with the person who had died...I couldn't imagine that I could be a comfort to someone I barely knew, or that a minyan might depend on my presence...I was afraid of violating people's privacy." Many similar thoughts were shared during the meeting. We hope that the conversation started on Sunday will continue as we strive to build a more caring community.

Note: Please see the note next to your mailing label if you are a non-member recipient of the newsletter.

CDT Community Happenings

Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day Service

Tuesday, April 13, 7:15 - 8:30 pm, 60 Highland Street

On Tuesday April 13, the *Kitah Zayin* students will help Rabbi Toba lead a service in honor of Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day. Our *Kitah Zayin* students have been studying the Holocaust over the past few months and they will be sharing some of their thoughts and responses to their studies at our service.

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, or 617.393.0216.

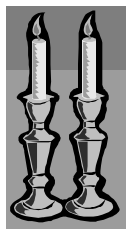
Fifth Bi-Annual Dorshei Tzedek Members' Retreat

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 as soon as possible; 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

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. On **April 2**, Kitah Dalet (our 4th graders) will help lead the service--all are welcome!

Erev Shabbat Services

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!

Special Shabbat Morning Services

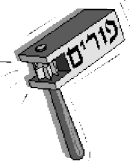
On Shabbat morning, April 3, Kitah Hay (our fifth graders) will help lead the Shacharit service. All are welcome (see page 9).

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 page 11 of this newsletter.

Please Note: There will be NO Shabbat morning services at Dorshei Tzedek on April 24, as we will be celebrating Shabbat at the regional Shabbaton in Attleboro—a 30-minute drive from Newton!

Bar Mitzvah Celebration

Adam Goldsmith

Saturday, April 17, 9:45 am - 12:00 noon

Please join us as Adam celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on April 17, *Shabbat Shemini*. Adam attends Brown Middle School where he is a member of the school jazz band, the skiing club, the football team and is on the editorial staff of the school magazine. Outside of school, Adam plays tennis and learns jazz piano. For his *tikkun olam* project Adam has been learning about homelessness through the newly established Community Day Center in Waltham. With this knowledge he is promoting the goals of the Center and its mission among teenagers attending religious schools in our area. We are thrilled that Adam has been taught his Torah and Haftorah portion by his sister Amy. The CDT community means a lot to Adam and our family and we look forward to sharing our *simchah* with you.

- Tessa and Clifford Goldsmith

Pesach

It's time for Passover! The first seder is Monday evening, April 5.



Pesach Seder Match-Making...Time is Running Out!

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 still 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 immediately if you either need a place to go or have some room.

7th Day of Pesach Services

Monday, April 12, 9:00 am, Second Church

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

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).

Celebrate Learning with Kitah Dalet and Kitah Hay

April 2 - April 3, 60 Highland Street

Each year, our students master a different part of the Shabbat service in our *Tefilah/Prayer* curriculum. As spring comes around, each class celebrates their learning in a class *siyyum*—as a way of marking the “completion” of this phase of their learning. The students will share their new skills with the congregation as they help Rabbi Toba to lead services. Please join us on Friday, April 2 as *Kitah Dalet* students help to lead the Erev Shabbat Family Service and Saturday, April 3, as *Kitah Hay* students help to lead the Shabbat morning service

JRF News

JRF Seeks Input from Congregants on Israel Position

Louise Enoch, CDT Middle East Discussion Group

On January 11, about 65 members of several New England Reconstructionist congregations met at Temple Hillel B'nai Torah to offer their thoughts on what support for Zionism and Israel should look like at the start of the 21st century. Similar meetings are being held around the country to gather ideas for the JRF Israel Task Force, which is charged with articulating a new vision for the Reconstructionist movement's relationship to the land and state of Israel. Dorshei Tzedek was well represented with about a dozen participants, including Rabbi Spitzer. The program was led by Rabbi Barbara Penzner, co-chair of the national Task Force.

Representatives from congregations in West Roxbury, Attleboro, Newton, West Newton, and Amherst sat in a large circle and studied two poems: Judah Halevi's "My Heart Is In the East" (written in the eleventh century) and Yehuda Amichai's more contemporary "Jewish Travel: Change is God and Death Is His Prophet," both of which express the author's feelings about the land of Israel. These were poignant and thought-provoking pieces which set the tone for the discussion groups that followed. In small groups we took up the question of what the Reconstructionist movement's support for Israel should look like at this moment in time. In my group, diverse views were expressed from concerns about security, to those of human rights, to ideas for promoting peace.

Notes were taken and comments from all the groups will be compiled. This input, together with views gathered from other parts of the country, will guide the Task Force as it develops a new Israel Resolution for the movement. The last such resolution, written in 1997, calling for a just and lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians, forms the basis for any statements or actions taken by the Reconstructionist movement as it interacts with other Jewish and non-Jewish organizations. The complete statement can be read on the JRF website.

Dorshei Tzedek members met briefly at the end of the program to express their interest in continuing this discussion in one way or another within our own congregation. We look forward to hearing from the Task Force about its new statement. I can't speak for the other participants, but I am

very proud to be part of a Jewish religious organization that enters into such discussions and is open to the concerns of its members on such significant moral, social, and political issues.

Shabbaton of Celebration

April 23 - 25, 2004

Hosted by Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, MA

This is your chance to learn more about the Reconstructionist movement and meet members of JRF congregations from around New England! A mere 30-40 minutes away, this is a wonderful opportunity for CDT members. We hope you'll make it to all or part of the program—see below!

Shabbaton Highlights

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 will include a Meditation Service, Affinity Group Sessions. and a Closing Circle at 11:30 a.m. Affinity groups include Tikkun Olam, Adult Education, Fundraising/Membership, Ritual, Youth Group, and Education

The cost for the weekend is Adults, \$72 and Child \$36 which includes all meals and the children's program. Attleboro is not far from the Boston area, but lodging is available if you'd like to make a weekend of it! Home Hospitality or Foxborough Courtyard Marriott available. Meals will be kosher-style vegetarian. Sign up now! Questions? Contact CDT member Ellie Goldberg (617.965.9637) or Rabbi Fredi Cooper (215.782.8500, ext. 32).



Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

In appreciation of Debbie Waber and the Dorshei Tzedek executive committee

Susan Levine & Richard King

For the pleasure of joining you for High Holy Day services

Ellen Pashall

In honor of Jolie Demuth's Bat Mitzvah

Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg

In honor of the spring 2004 B'nei Mitzvah, Eli, Chloe, Jolie, Adam, Raphe, Jake and Adina and all their hard work

Elizabeth Ross

Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks

Mei See Sandson

Jodi, Alex & Lev Sugerman-Brozan

In memory of Louise Sugerman

Etz Chayim Chumashim Fund

Thank you to our upcoming b'nei mitzvah families, and many others, who helped stock our sanctuary with these wonderful books!

Cindy Beth Bittker; Jacqui Bloomberg & Peter Gittleman; Elise Brenner & Michael Kaje; Elaine & Anna Bresnick; Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn & Family; Tony Broh & Jennifer Hochschild; Mark Bronstein & Ellen Hemley; Matilda & Edward Bruckner; Roberta & Paul Carson; Andrew Compaine; Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzola; Daniel Forman; Lauren Gibbs; Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith; Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere; Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman & Family; Stan & Jackie Fleischman; Julie & Paul Fox; Wendy & Charles Frankston; Galpert/Hess Family; Allison & Ezra Hausman; Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa; Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx; Laura & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt; Laura & Joel Katz; Linda & Peter Katz; Alissa & Gerry Leonard; Jennifer Levine; Linette Liebling; Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury; Dinah Moeller; Eileen Morrison & Michael

Jablon; Sivan Nasoff; Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus; Nancy Osher Blumberg; Ruth Paris & Rob Saper; Andrew Schiff & Susan Manheim; Lisa Port White; Cheryl & Jeff Sacks; Lisa Samelson; Mei See Sandson; Lisa Schneider; Sandy Sedacca & Ives Sherwood; Shatkin/Littman Family; Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome; Leeann Simons; Carol Sklar; Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert; Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor; Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried; Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steven Siegel; Jill Stanzler-Katz & Jeff Katz; Terry Traub; Julie Weiman & Peter & Sarah Blumenthal; Bill Weinreb & Lisa Goodman; Barbara & Jerry Zolit

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bev & Les Blicher

In honor of Debbie Blicher and Peter Dain's wedding

Holy Book Fund 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.

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@yahoo.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.

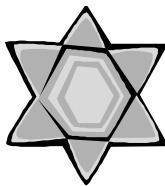
Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Jolie Demuth**—and her family—on becoming *bat mitzvah*!

Mazel tov to **Dr. Hankus Netsky**, who recently completed his doctorate in ethno-musicology!

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Francis Greenberg**, **Peter Demuth**, and **Lisa Port White**. 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.

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.

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: \$ _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Name of Congregation, City, State

or donate through the website at www.mazon.org

Tikkun Olam

The religious school has embarked on a project to learn about the conditions in which much of our clothing (as well as things like soccer balls and chocolate) are made, and to both educate the congregation and take action on a specific campaign related to the larger issue of sweatshop labor. Adults are needed to help the kids organize this education and action campaign. The project is beginning this spring, and will continue in the fall. If you are interested and would like to help, please contact Barbara Shatkin at 617-964-0853, or at bfshatkin@aol.com, as soon as possible.

Community Events

Diving Into Torah: Women of Exodus

Sunday, April 11, 1 - 3 pm

*Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University,
515 South Street, Waltham*

Join us for an experiential Passover workshop as the women of Exodus come alive through the creative arts! Free and open to the public. For directions and pre-registration, please call Colleen Eagan at 781-736-8100 or email ceagan@brandeis.edu and name the event as Women of Exodus: April 11.

Yom Hashoah Holocaust Memorial Service

Sunday, April 18, 1:00 pm

Faneuil Hall, Boston

Please join the Greater Boston Jewish community in commemorating the Holocaust at this annual Yom HaShoah service.

Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah from Lisa Port White and her very grateful family for the outpouring of concern, well-wishes, prayers for healing, and love they received from the members of CDT. If I could give you all a raise, I would.

School News

by Cindy Shulak-Rome

Junior Congregation

Dates: April 10, May 8

10:30 am - 12 noon, 60 Highland Street

All students in grades 3-6 are welcome to join us for our monthly Junior Congregation!

Kitah Gimmel Orientation Meeting

Thursday April 29 7:30 - 9:00 pm at FUSN

We will have a meeting for all parents who have students entering *Kitah Gimmel* (third grade) in our Religious School next year. *Kitah Gimmel* teacher Miranda Phillips and Education Director Cindy Shulak-Rome will present an overview of the goals and curriculum for *Kitah Gimmel* and answer your questions. For more info, contact Cindy at the school office - 617 965-5443 or school@dorsheitzedek.org.

School closings due to Passover and Public School Vacation week

There will be no Religious School classes on the following dates:

Tuesday, April 6 (Pesach Second Seder)

Tuesday, April 13 (8th day Pesach – Kitah Zayin to lead Yom HaShoah service in the evening)

(Note: There will be regularly scheduled classes on April 8)

Saturday April 17 – Saturday April 24 – School Spring Vacation week

Please note that while the Reconstructionist observance of Pesach is officially seven days, we do not hold classes on the eighth day of Pesach in respect for our members and staff who observe eight days of the Pesach holiday.





April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Thu Apr 1	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland St
Fri Apr 2	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service 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 4)
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		Pesach	(see page 4)
Tue Apr 6		No Class - 2nd Seder	
Thu Apr 8		Regularly scheduled classes - Chol Hamoed	FUSN
Thu Apr 8	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	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	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St
Sun Apr 11	10 am	Board Meeting	Members-Only
Mon Apr 12	9 am	7th Day Passover Service	60 Highland St (see page 4)
Tue Apr 13		No Class - Pesach	
Tue Apr 13	7:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Yom HaShoah service with help from Kitah Zayin	60 Highland St (see page 2)
Thu Apr 15		Regularly scheduled classes	FUSN
Thu Apr 15	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland St
Thu Apr 15	7:15 pm	New Member Orientation	60 Highland St (see page 2)
Fri Apr 16	6:30 pm	Kitah Aleph Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Apr 16	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Dinah Moeller, Caryn-Amy King
Sat Apr 17		No classes thru Apr 24 (vacation)	
Sat Apr 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Adam Goldsmith	Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan, Barbara & Shelly Isaacs, Sarah Little & Doug Hersh, Sanctuary Clean-up: Cynthia Piltch, & Jamie Katz, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor
Fri Apr 23 - Sun Apr 25		New England JRF Shabbaton	Agudas Achim In Attleboro, MA (see page 3, 5, 11)
Sat Apr 24		JRF Shabbaton/NO SERVICE	
Tue Apr 27		Classes Resume	FUSN
Thu Apr 29	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Mishnah in the Morning	60 Highland St
Thu Apr 29	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Kitah Gimmel Orientation Meeting	FUSN (see page 8)

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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.



May Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Sat May 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Raphe Broh Bar Mitzvah	<i>Sanctuary clean up:</i> Cindy Bittker, Andy Diamond
Sun May 2	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #8 (Final session)	FUSN
Thu May 6	6 pm - 8 pm	Staff In-service	FUSN
Fri May 7	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller, Elizabeth Umlas & Eric Berman
Sat May 8	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Study	60 Highland Street
Sat May 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Kitah Vav Siyyum (Kitah Vav to help lead service, followed by class lunch)	Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn, Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola, Geri Blitzman
Sat May 8	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sat May 8	10:30 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St
Sat May 8	12 pm - 3 pm	Kitah Vav Siyyum	FUSN
Sat May 15	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet (Final session)	FUSN
Sat May 15 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon, Leeann Simons & David Huenemo- erder, Miriam & Andy Baumel
Sat May 15	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Kitah Gimmel Siyyum (Havdalah & Dinner)	60 Highland St
Sun May 16	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Fri May 21	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service	Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome, Debbie Blicher & Peter Dain
Sat May 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Jacob Carson Bar Mitzvah	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Alison Morantz & Daniel Wohl, Emily Sper
Tue May 25		Final class for Kitot Gimmel - Zayin	FUSN
Tue May 25		Erev Shavuot	
Wed May 26		Shavuot - first day	
Sat May 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Adina Hemley-Bronstein Bat Mitzvah	Beth Brooks & Hankus Netsky, Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Amelia Zalcmán <i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i> Debbie Sher, Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg

Welcome New Members

Rachel Greenberg and her nine-year old son **Nathan** joined Dorshei Tzedek in October. Rachel started shopping around for congregations after relocating to Newton last year from Washington State. For many years she didn't have options in choosing a synagogue because they lived in a small rural town without a lot of Jews nearby. So the Jews that did live within a 100-mile radius of varying traditions all had to celebrate holidays together. Trying to decide amongst all of the many choices here in Newton was a daunting task, but Rachel finally settled on Dorshei Tzedek because of the liberal politics of many of the congregants, the relatively small size of the congregation, and her growing knowledge of Reconstructionism. The real deal breaker though was watching Miranda Phillips interact with some children and finding out that she would be Nathan's first religious school teacher, and that there were

other wonderful teachers too. Rachel and Nathan are now happily settling in to their new congregation. People are warm and friendly, the Torah discussions during services are thought provoking, and the religious school is a big hit with Nathan. Rachel's working life is quite varied; she is a personal care assistant, a free lance editor (always looking for more editing work), and a brand new sales representative for a barter and trade company. For fun she loves to hike, swim, sing, and write. Rachel would like to start both a song circle and a writers group, so if anyone out there is interested, please call her. Nathan's passions include baseball, Legos, art and chess. Rachel originally grew up in Brookline (Newton North's arch rival!), but after not living in this area for over 20 years, and living out of state for 15, she truly feels like a newcomer to the Boston area. It really helps to be part of such a nice community as CDT.



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

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

NOTE: We are updating our newsletter mailing list. **If your mailing label has a red star (*), please tell us via phone, email, or US mail if you wish to remain on the list.** A contribution of \$18/year to help defray postage and printing costs is requested. Note that the newsletter is freely available online on our website. If your label has a star but you think you should continue to be on the mailing list because you are a member, soon-to-be-member, school parent, or administrative recipient, please tell us so we can correct our records. Thank you!

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. 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.