

# 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

Tammuz-Av-Elul 5764

July-August 2004



## President's Message

Nancy Gertz

Over the years that my family and I have been members of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, I have often reflected on the thoughtfulness, intellect, values, good humor, and mindfulness that characterize so many of our members. I have often felt intimidated by the depth of Jewish knowledge of some, and by the remarkable abilities of others to articulate their positions on complex political and moral issues. I have been humbled by the teachings that some among us seem to so easily and eloquently impart. I have been mesmerized by the beautiful *leyning* of Torah by our members, as well as by Rabbi Spitzer's challenging *divrei Torah*. I could go on. How could I—as president, no less—possibly provide leadership for such an extraordinary community?

I found one comforting answer in the Torah portion we read and studied at our retreat, *B'haalotecha*, where we learned that the "burden," or responsibility, of leadership must be shared, spread out across many shoulders. How fitting that this *parsha* was also the one read by CDT's first adult Bat Mitzvah group, eight years ago! As representatives of this class rose for an *aliyah* at the retreat, I thought about how CDT is this year marking its own Bat Mitzvah year. It was in 1991 that twelve people sat together and conceived of a new Jewish community. They were understandably excited but equally anxious. Would anyone want to join the Jewish community they were dreaming of? Would they ever be able to afford a rabbi, and would they be able to have the school they wanted for their young children? Years later, through many moons of standing shoulder to shoulder, their vision has been more than achieved, and new dreams are continually being shaped by our membership, most actively by our Board of Directors. As with all B'nai Mitzvah, we are growing and maturing, and now we are entering a new age of greater responsibility—the Sabbatical Year!!

Rabbi Spitzer will begin her sabbatical immediately after High Holy Days this fall, and will return in August 2005. Personally, I am feeling very positive about this time, both

for Toba and for the congregation. Sabbaticals can be rich and restorative. Our interim rabbi, Marna Sapsowitz, whom many of you met when she visited this spring, will be getting oriented starting in early September. Rabbi Sapsowitz comes to us with a great deal of experience and enthusiasm and will undoubtedly be an asset to our community. She will provide her professional expertise and a guiding hand, and in true Reconstructionist fashion she will expect us to be her partners. Once again we will need to stand shoulder to shoulder, this time with Rabbi Sapsowitz. Like the Dorshei Tzedek founders who sat with a vision, some trepidation, and even more determination, we need to work in partnership with Rabbi Sapsowitz, Education Director Cindy Shulak-Rome, and our hard-working staff and volunteers. With our mission statement in mind and our values at heart, we will undoubtedly celebrate a fulfilling Bat Mitzvah and Sabbatical year.

Finally, I would like to recognize Debbie Waber for her steady and thoughtful leadership throughout the last two years. As I already mentioned, nobody can do the work of this community alone, and as Debbie discusses in her piece in this newsletter, there were many who were instrumental, in both obvious and more behind-the-scenes ways, in making these past two years as successful as they have been for the community. Personally it has been delightful and insightful working with Debbie, and my "daunting" feelings are greatly minimized knowing she'll be serving as Past-President on the Executive Committee for

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the next two years. When you see her around shul, don't forget to thank her for a job well done, and while you're at it, give yourself and others a pat on the back while you are standing shoulder to shoulder. I'm really looking forward to working together. Feel free to call me anytime at 617-969-5456 or email me at [ngertz@comcast.net](mailto:ngertz@comcast.net) if you want to chat or get more involved.

## Outgoing President's Message

*Deborah Waber*

Recently, as part of our new strategic planning process, I reread the report of our last strategic planning process, written about three years ago. To be honest, I had not thought to read it during my past two years as president, but I was struck by how accurate it was in predicting our course --- new space, administrative support, a *Nadiv Lev* campaign, and even the Community Conversations. Looking back at our accomplishments as a community, I certainly feel a sense of satisfaction about how I personally have spent the past two years, but more than that, I feel tremendous gratitude and admiration for the many people who stepped up and made it possible for us to achieve so many of our goals. These are remarkable, generous and committed people to whom all of us should be grateful. I would like to use this space to thank a few people who have been responsible for some of our major achievements over the past two years.

- **Cheryl Sacks**, as chair of the space committee, was tireless in her dedication to making the new space happen for us, attending to every detail to make the move and the space so successful.
- **Steve Siegel**, vice president for development, brought his endless enthusiasm and optimism to the daunting task of *Nadiv Lev*, creating a solid base for us to attend to our financial needs as we go forward.
- **Laurie Gould** and **Sivan Nasoff** brought our financial systems to a new level so that all of us have access to timely and accurate financial data.
- **Elaine Bresnick** oversaw the process of soliciting, screening and interviewing applicants for our administrative assistant position, which has been filled so well by **Diane Dillon**.
- **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, as our education director, has devoted her energy, warmth and wisdom to creating a remarkable school experience for our children.
- **Andrew Compaine** chaired (and named!) our Commu-

nity Conversations effort, which will enrich our communal life for years to come. His energy and spirit have helped to make this a deep and enriching experience for all of us.

- **Janice Fine** and **Paul Hattis** worked tirelessly toward our membership in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, providing a remarkable opportunity for us to engage as Jews and as members of CDT in social justice issues within the broader faith community.
- **Ora Gladstone** chaired the sabbatical search, which was carried out in a thorough and professional manner, culminating in our welcoming Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz (all the way from Olympia, Washington) to be our sabbatical rabbi.
- **Roberta Carson**, **Judy Hersh** and **Erica Streit**, our membership trium(fem)ate, have worked hard to nurture CDT's warm welcome of new members and to strengthen our sense of community among our membership.
- **Sivan Nasoff** (again!) and **Susannah Zisk** chaired our wonderful retreat at Camp Ramah, managing to think of everything!

As president, I could only watch these people with admiration and hope that I could manage somehow to facilitate their incredible work.

I also want to thank several people who will be leaving the Board after this year who have worked tirelessly and greatly enriched our community. **Erica Streit**, **James Kaplan**, **Ellie Goldberg**, and **Michael White** will all be leaving, each having made a significant contribution to our congregational life and health. **Judy Herzig-Marx** and **Roberta Carson**, who contributed so much as members of the executive committee, will bring their talents to board seats next year. I am delighted that so many current board members will be staying on, and that we will be welcoming many new board members. I also know that we are in very good hands with our incoming president, **Nancy Gertz**, whose warmth, good sense and wisdom are a gift to us all.

I want to echo Nancy's remarks and tell you how often I too have looked around in awe, marveling that I could be a leader of a community of such truly remarkable individuals. It has been a blessing and a source of great joy to me to have had the opportunity to care for this community in whatever way I have been able. Finally, I must express my deep appreciation to **Rabbi Spitzer** for her steady, wise, and tactful guidance to me over the past two years. Working with her has been my great pleasure.

## Welcome!

We welcome **Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz**, who will arrive in September to begin her residence with Congregation Dorshei Tzedek as acting rabbi while Rabbi Toba is on sabbatical. Rabbi Sapsowitz comes most recently from Temple Beth Hatfiloh in Olympia, Washington, where she served from 1989 to 2002. She is a Brandeis graduate (1980), and so the Boston area is very familiar to her. She received a master's degree in education from Seattle University in Seattle in 1988 and was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1989. She is particularly interested in Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. She served as Visiting Rabbi for Beit Warszawa, Warsaw's liberal/progressive congregation, in December 2003 and has visited Eastern Europe professionally on a number of occasions. We look forward to Rabbi Sapsowitz's arrival in the fall and to a productive sabbatical year with her.



### Board and Members' Meeting Notes

The Board met on May 16, which was followed by a Members' meeting on June 13.

At the Board meeting, the Finance Committee reported that there will be a deficit this year because of our increased expenses for space and administrative support. Our *Nadiv Lev* campaign has been very successful, but will not raise as much as we had budgeted. Since it is not prudent to budget a deficit every year, we will budget a somewhat more conservative number for *Nadiv Lev* next year and will raise dues to fill the gap. We have not had a dues raise for several years so this seems reasonable. Dues will be raised proportional to the current levels established in the Torah of Money process. The board voted unanimously to approve the budget. The membership approved the budget at the Members' Meeting.

Also at the Members' Meeting, Andrew Compaine introduced a thought-provoking discussion of the Community Conversations process. Three participants described their experience with the process, and then small-group conversations were facilitated by members of the Community Conversations committee.

The Dorshei Tzedek leadership slate was approved as well. Yasher Koach and Todah Rabah to all outgoing and continuing board and off-board officers!

#### Executive Committee:

<i>President</i>	Nancy Gertz
<i>Past President</i>	Debbie Waber
<i>VP Development</i>	Steve Siegel

*VP Program*  
*VP Finance*  
*Secretary*  
*Rabbi*

*Education Director*

#### Board Chairs:

*Finance Secretary*  
*Ritual*  
*Space*  
*Tikkun Olam*  
*Membership Outreach*  
*Membership Inreach*  
*Newsletter*  
*Holiday Programming*  
*Children's Education*

*Nadiv Lev*  
*Community Conversations*  
*Member at Large*  
*Member at Large*

#### Off-Board Chairs:

*Chesed*  
*Rabbinic Liaison*  
*Personnel*  
*Ritual Co-chair*  
*Website*  
*High Holy Days*  
*Adult Education*  
*Public Relations*

Wendy Gedanken  
Laurie Gould  
Peter Hess  
Toba Spitzer  
Marna Sapsowitz  
Cindy Shulak-Rome

Sivan Nasoff  
Judy Herzig-Marx  
Stuart Snyder  
Paul Hattis  
Carla Naumburg  
Judy Hersh  
Dan Halbert  
Mark Steinberg  
Janet Boguslaw &  
Tessa Goldsmith  
Roberta Carson  
Andrew Compaine  
Howard Lurie  
Nicky Silver

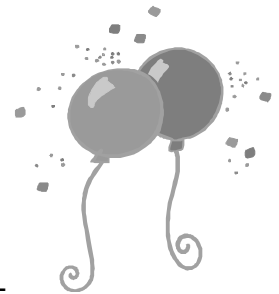
Susan Mannheim  
Ora Gladstone  
Elaine Bresnick  
Kelly Kirshtein  
Michael Kaje  
Theresa St. John-Siegel  
Matilda Bruckner  
Josh Herzig-Marx

# A Celebration of Equal Marriage Rights

Saturday, July 10, 2004, 5 - 8 pm, FUSN Parish Hall

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is throwing a family-friendly bash to recognize this huge civil rights advance, the freedom to marry for lesbian and gay couples in the Commonwealth. This was a long-fought fight and the outcome is still somewhat uncertain. But, we have plenty to feel proud of and to celebrate at this juncture. Come join those CDT members who are celebrating their new marriages, as well as those who are celebrating their freedom to marry if they so choose in the future..... and, come show your support for equal rights for lesbian and gay citizens in the Commonwealth. This has always been an amazingly accepting and affirming community and we want to celebrate that too! There will be a potluck dinner, wedding cake, and a DJ to help us kick up our heels!

RSVP: **Andrew Compaine**, [wellshrink@aol.com](mailto:wellshrink@aol.com) (and if you can help to make this a very special party and not just another potluck, we need your help with organizing and planning! Let us know that, too!)



## Summer Reading

by Jeff Kichen

### The Singing Fire by Lilian Nattel

Scribners, 2004. 319 pp., \$25.00

Those who enjoyed Lilian Nattel's first book *The River Midnight* are likely to be somewhat disappointed with her second novel, *The Singing Fire*. Nattel is evidently comfortable with the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as both the *River Midnight* and *The Singing Fire* are set at that time. However, the Poland of *The River Midnight* is more vividly portrayed than the London of *The Singing Fire*. The descriptions of London at times seem overdrawn at times, where Nattel seems more at home in the little *shtetl* north of Warsaw. Nattel in *The Singing Fire* presents life in London's East End for many young Jewish women as more harrowing than life in a Polish *shtetl*. But Nattel's characters in *The Singing Fire*, although certainly worthy of our interest and our sympathy, don't quite grasp us the way the *vilda hayas* (wild animals) of *The River Midnight* did. For those who have not read *The River Midnight*, read *The Singing Fire* first and save the best for last. Oh, and perhaps we should tell the publisher of *The Singing Fire* that we not fooled by the jacket cover that portrayed a street in Vienna instead of a street in London.

### American Judaism by Jonathan Sarna

Yale University Press, 2004. 490 pp., \$35.00

Significant anniversaries of historical events often breed

books tied to those events. Such is the case with the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jewish life in America as marked by the appearance of Jonathan Sarna's *American Judaism*. Sarna, a prolific author of both scholarly and popular historical works, including *The Jews of Boston*, provides in *American Judaism* a highly readable but scholarly work. However, as the title implies, Sarna's new book is a chronicle on the development of Judaism in the United States and not a political or social history. Thus, we refreshingly read more about rabbis than we usually do in histories of the Jewish experience in the United States. So there is more on Soloveitchik than Schiff, and we find considerable discussion of Mordecai Kaplan and the Reconstructionist movement. Sarna claims that John Dewey's Reconstructionism in Philosophy influenced Kaplan. But Mel Scult, in a 1993 biography of Kaplan (not cited by Sarna) discounts Dewey's influence on Kaplan. In closing his discussion of Reconstructionism, Sarna says "its members often anticipated and articulated issues in advance of the Jewish mainstream." But he then cites uncritically a 1996 demographic study that concluded that the central concern of Reconstructionist congregants was now personal growth and spirituality and not social action programming. Those who are more interested political and social history of the Jewish experience may wish to wait until August when *The Jews of the United States, 1654 to 2000* appears by Hasia Diner, co-author of *Her Works Praise Her: A History of Jewish Women in America from Colonial Times to the Present*.

## Summer Shabbat Programs

We suspend our weekly Shabbat morning services over the summer for a periodic schedule (see below).

**Also, please note that we will be holding our July and August services at the First Unitarian Society (our old *davvening* space), in air conditioned comfort!** The Unitarian Society is located just down the street from the Second Church, at the corner of Highland and Washington Streets in West Newton Square.

**July:** There will be Shabbat morning services on **July 10** and **July 24**, beginning at **9:45 am**.

**August:** Weekly Shabbat morning services resume on Saturday, **August 14** at **9:45 am**. That morning we will be celebrating the *aufruf* of Alison Morantz and Daniel Wohl (and saying goodbye to them, before they head off to their new home in California!). On Shabbat morning, **August 21**, we will be celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Joey Hattis (see below). Our last service at the Unitarian Society will be on Shabbat morning, **August 28**.

There are no Friday evening services over the summer.

**September:** Shabbat services in our sanctuary at 60 Highland Street resume on Friday evening, **September 3**, with an all-ages *erev* Shabbat service at **6 pm**. The following morning, **September 4**, please join us as we celebrate the bat mitzvah of Annalise Littman.

## Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Samelson Hattis

*August 21, 9:45 am, FUSN*

Please join us on *Shabbat Shoftim*, when we will celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of our son, Joey. Joey will be called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah after spending his fifth summer at Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA. He also plans to spend part of August as a member of the Boston-Haifa Maccabiah Team, contributing his talents to the U-14 soccer team. Joey is quite a sports enthusiast; he plays soccer year round on club and school teams, and plays on basketball and lacrosse teams as well. His love of sports has even found a way into his *tikkun olam* project, in which Joey decided to contribute to the lives of special needs children by becoming an assistant baseball coach. Joey attended his first Shabbat service at CDT when our family moved to Newton in the very snowy February of 1992. Joey enrolled in the preschool *Gan* class along with many of his long-time CDT Hebrew School friends, paving the way for his little brother Zev, who recently graduated from *Gan*. This September, Joey plans to continue his Jewish studies at Prozdor. We are looking forward to sharing this wonderful *simcha* with our family, friends and members of the Dorshei Tzedek community.

Please join us for Shabbat morning services followed by Kiddush. **Note that services on this day will take place at the (air-conditioned!) First Unitarian Church on Washington Street instead of our Highland Avenue ritual space.**—Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis

**Contacting Rabbi Spitzer:** In July and August, Rabbi Spitzer will not have regular office hours, but will be available for appointments (as well as for emergencies). Please contact her at 617.965.0330 x2. At times when she is on vacation, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. Both the rabbi's voice-mail and Diane, the administrator, will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi. Please note that e-mails to Rabbi Spitzer may be answered somewhat sporadically over the summer; calls are better! The rabbi's sabbatical does not begin until October, after the High Holy Days.



# Nadiv Lev



*We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions  
(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)*

**Arline and Shep Brightman**

*In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Adina Hemley-Bronstein,  
daughter of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein and  
granddaughter of Carole Hemley*

**Elaine Bresnick**

**Robert and Paul Carson**

**Abby Cohen and Stuart Snyder**

*In memory of Doug and Judy Hersh's father Michael Hersh  
In honor of Jacob Carson's, Adam Goldsmith's and Zack  
Miller's Bar Mitzvah, and Rachel Gutter for her wonderful  
teaching*

**Andrew Compaine & John Dubrow**

*In appreciation to Rabbi Toba for blessing our marriage on  
May 30, 2004 according to Jewish tradition and in accor-  
dance with the new landmark equal marriage rights ruling  
in our great commonwealth!*

**Meryl Epstein and Trish Nuzzola**

**Carolyn Fine and Jeremiah Friedman**

**Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver**

*Mazel Tov to:*

- Debbie Waber on shepherding CDT  
over the past few years*
  - Adina Hemley Bronstein on her being an extraordinary  
Bat Mitzvah and service leader*
  - Linda, Mark and Big Sister Hannah on their new baby Elia*
  - Steven Siegel for championing the Nadiv Lev campaign  
and tag sale*
- Sincere condolences to Gina and family  
on the loss of her mother*

**Valerie Graf and Doron Gan**

**Ellie Goldberg**

*In honor of the memory of Michael Hersh, father of Judy  
and Doug Hersh*

**Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan**

*In honor of Adam Goldsmith's Bar Mitzvah and in memory  
of Michael Hersh, father of Doug Hersh and Judy Hersh*

**Doug Hersh and Judy Hersh**

*In memory of our dad, Michael Hersh*

*With gratitude to Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Miranda Phillips  
for leading the shiva minyans for our Dad*

**Jamie Katz and Cynthia Piltch**

**Jeffrey Kichen**

*In memory of Alma S. Kichen*

**Cindy Marshall and Katharine Pillsbury**

*On the occasion of our legal marriage (after 24 years!)  
in appreciation of Rabbi Spitzer and our  
supportive community at Dorshei Tzedek*

**Amy Mazur**

*In memory of Judy Hersh's father, Michael*

*In honor of the birth of Elia, son of  
Marc Steinberg and Linda Hsu and brother to Hannah*

**Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus**

**Cynthia Probst and Susan Pearce**

*With thanks to Rabbi Spitzer and in  
celebration of our marriage*

**Lori Rutter and Jeff Behrens**

**Robin Rouse and Brian Gallagher**

**Cheryl and Jeff Sacks**

*In memory of Michael Hersh, father of Judy and Doug  
Hersh*

**Peter Shapiro**

**Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome**

*In honor of Zachary Miller's and Joey Hattis' Bar Mitzvah  
In honor of Julia Kaje's Bat Mitzvah*

**Nicky Silver**

*In appreciation of Sivan Nasoff  
for her dedication and leadership at the DT retreat*

**Shoshana Simons**

**Jill Stanzler-Katz and Jeffrey Katz**

*In honor of the CDT Board of Directors  
for all their hard work*

**Angela and Dorea Vierling-Claassen**

*In honor of Rabbi Spitzer for all her help with our wedding*

**Debbie Waber****Julie Weiman****Michael White***In honor of Adam Goldsmith's Bar Mitzvah**In memory of Joan Fried (Gina's mother)**In honor of the camaraderie of the Ritual Committee,  
Elaine Pollack and Kelli Kirshtein's on going support with  
helping me leyn (especially with the tricky tropes) and in  
honor of all the Torah leyners during the past year*

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## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Jeffrey Kichen***In honor of the Mishnah in the Morning Class and Rabbi  
Toba Spitzer*

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## Torah Fund

**Michael Jablon & Eileen Morrison***In memory of David H. Jablon*

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## Building Fund School Fund

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*There are many ways to support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek financially: 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*

*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.*

## JRF – Our Barely Visible Backbone

*By Cindy Shulak-Rome*

Many thanks to the families of our Religious School for the donation made in my honor to the JRF. I am very touched by this gift. Many of you may be unaware that for the past five years I have had the honor of sitting on the Board of Directors of the JRF

(Jewish Reconstructionist Federation)—the lay arm of our national movement. I have had the privilege of seeing first hand so many of the things our movement does that most of us, in our individual congregations, are largely unaware of.

As we weave in and out of the many programs and opportunities that Dorshei Tzedek provides for us, how often do we stop and think about the organization with which we are affiliated? I sometimes think of JRF as our backbone—we can't see it, but it is essential to our existence. There are so many aspects of our congregational life that are touched or influenced by the JRF. To name but a few, they include: our *Kol Haneshamah* prayer book series, the values and processes that underlie our organization and our decision making processes, many of our educational resources, and more recently Camp JRF and the new and growing Reconstructionist Youth Group—*No'ar Hadash*. Camp JRF was a transformative experience for my daughter Elana last year, and she has returned to serve as a counselor for a second year along with four of our youth who will be campers for the first time. In addition, our very own Chayim Herzig-Marx has been serving as interim Executive Director of the JRF for the past year, helping to stabilize and build the JRF during a time of leadership transition.

My experience as a JRF board member has raised my own consciousness regarding the importance of our movement and the work being done on an ongoing basis. I am grateful for this donation and hope that each of our members will connect with one of the many opportunities to notice and appreciate the ways that JRF serves us.



## School News

by Cindy Shulak-Rome

### School Registration

Registration for the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School is in process. In order to be assured of a classroom space for your child/children, members must return registration forms by July 31. If you have not received registration materials, please contact Diane in the office at 617.965.0330. We currently have openings for new students in grades K-3. If you have questions about our Religious School program, please contact **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, Education Director at 617.965.5443.

Lower School classes (Grades 1 & 2) meet on Saturday mornings from 10 am – 12 noon.

Gan (Kindergarten) is an 8 session Family Program which meets on Sunday afternoons from 2 - 4 pm once a month.

Our Upper School (Grades 3-7) meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:45 – 5:45 pm, with the exception of Kitah Zayin (7<sup>th</sup> grade) which meets Tuesday evenings from 6:15 – 8:15 pm.

Our thanks to all the students, parents and teachers who contributed to making 5764 a great year of learning for everyone involved in our school. We would like to thank **Janet Boguslaw**, chair of our Education Committee, as well as all the members of the Education Committee for their valuable input and assistance: **Tessa Goldsmith, Judy Herzig-Marx, Abby Cohen, Peter Hess, Julie Weiman, Ruth Paris, Brian Nadler, and Lisa Samelson.**

### Todah Rabah

Special thanks are also in order to **Laura Katz**, our Room Parent Coordinator and Kitah Bet room parent, as well as all the classroom parents who helped organize Shabbat Dinners, special events and snack schedules for the year: **Allison Hausman, Rachel Nemeth-Cohen, Barbara Zolit, Lissy Medvedow, Julie Weiman, Alissa Leonard, Ingrid Lurie and Jennifer Hochschild.** Your assistance is a great support to our school!

And of course, school wouldn't be school without students and teachers! We are grateful to our students who show up at Dorshei Tzedek with smiles on their faces and their parents who support them in their Jewish learning. To our teaching staff -- **Miranda Phillips, Rachel Gutter, Lesley Chapman, Adam Mayer-Deutsch, Aviva Pollack, Samantha Papurt and Michael McCloskey**, and our

Teaching Assistants – **Mia Branco, Rebecca Holohan, Amy Goldsmith and Lauren Sacks**, we say a very hearty *todah rabah*- we are so appreciative of the dedication and energy you bring to your work, to our community, to our children!

Finally, thank you to **Geri Blitzman** and her brother **Jay Blitzman** for their generous donation of an entire set of the *Encyclopedia Judaica* to Dorshei Tzedek, in memory of their parents, **Benjamin and Sara Blitzman**. This set of books has found a new home in our school office library, where we hope it will be well used by our students and any members who are interested. Please don't hesitate to drop by and make use of this great resource!

### Synagogue Council Unity Shabbaton

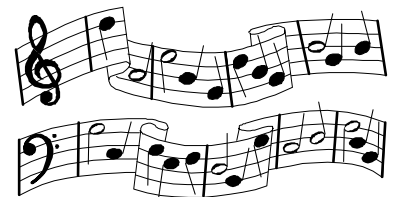
*August 13-15, Radisson Hotel & Suites, Chelmsford*

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a Shabbat together with members of the Boston area's diverse Jewish community. The weekend's faculty include **Reb Moshe Waldoks, Rabbi Barbara Symons & Rabbi Mitchell Levine**, great food (Catering by Andrew), davening (egalitarian & mechtza options), singing and Shabbat camaraderie. In addition, Moshe Waldoks will be sharing his talents as a Jewish humorist and raconteur on Saturday evening in a program entitled, "Beyond Laughter Through Tears: A Short History of Jewish Humor."

Contact **Marilyn Lipman** at 617-244-6506, ext. 10, or [marilin@synagoguecouncil.org](mailto:marilin@synagoguecouncil.org) for more information. We hope you will join us at this wonderful Shabbat retreat.

### 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>



## 2004 CDT Members Retreat

*The Dorshei Tzedek members' retreat was a time to create new ties and strengthen existing connections to one another within our wonderful community. Some members have shared their experiences and thoughts with us:*

Mostly I want to let you all know what a pleasure it was for me to be part of this experience. I enjoyed finally matching names with familiar faces, meeting new people and having meaningful exchanges to forge friendships I know will last. I've never doubted that I joined the right congregation but this retreat really hit it on the nose for me. CDT has quickly become home to me and I have you all to thank.

—Sivan Nasoff

My special moments: ... Laying on the docks on the lake warming up to a gorgeous sun-filled shabbat afternoon ... Zev running proudly to first base! ... Giggling with Nancy and Debbie around the campfire—about what?—well, you'll have to come next time ... Waking up Sunday morning to my 13-year-old bunkmates singing Hebrew songs.

—Lisa Samelson

My special memories: ... Services and Singing ... Walking under the stars and tall pines ... Nature Walk with Jamie Tessler ... Syzygy with Emily Sper ... Closing Circle Games ... Great weather ... Flowers on the tables in the dining hall ... Mama Turtle.—Ellie Goldberg

Our family attended the first Dorshei Tzedek members retreat in 1998. Those were the old days. Amy, our daughter, was 10 and Adam, our son, 8 years old. We were new members of Dorshei Tzedek. We drove the three plus hours to Camp Isabella Freedman in the Berkshires feeling some hesitation about spending two nights with many people we hardly knew. We returned from that retreat filled with joy about this amazing community we had joined and new friendships we were forging.

Dorshei Tzedek has grown tremendously since 1998 (30% in the past two years alone). Much has happened to our family in the past six years. Amy and Adam have been bar mitzvah'ed. Tessa and I have been on and off and on several Dorshei Tzedek committees. Several of the families we grew to know better at the first retreat have become our closest friends and Dorshei Tzedek has become a core part of our family life. And our family and several others from our cohort of friends stopped going to the retreat as our children became teenagers.

Last week Adam and I attended the 2004 retreat. Sivan through several attentive phone calls and discussions had

kindly coordinated housing so that we could bunk with close family friends. Despite this, Adam and I drove the one-and-a-half hours (a great improvement over 1998!) to Camp Ramah with a feeling of apprehension about spending two nights with some people we knew and many that we did not know well at all. On arrival we were warmly welcomed by Sivan and Deb. The superb organization was evident in the comprehensive schedules and a guiding light (a Dorshei Tzedek flashlight) we received at registration. Rabbi Toba's Friday night service under the stars (and clouds) set a relaxing tone for the rest of Shabbat.

Conversations began over dinner and continued to build through an ice-breaker and the traditional adult sing-down. Shabbat morning services and lunch (greatly improved food from what I recalled in 1998) were as intimate as the early days at DT. A game of doubles tennis in the afternoon turned out to be a microcosm of the entire weekend. I played with close friend that I now see regularly, one person I worked with on the Purim committee a few years ago and one person I heretofore could only just recognize. Later in the afternoon we all participated (as players or supporters) in a community game of softball. Through dinner, evening activities, a fantastic campfire (with song books to ease participation) and the rest of the weekend I felt my Dorshei Tzedek Community of friends expanding.

Adam put it best as we walked from the campfire to watch a late night movie organized for older kids. He contemplated aloud that it did not matter that many of our other DT friends weren't here - it's still really nice to meet new ones.

Our journey home was a joyful reminder of the 1998 post-retreat emotion but now there is one new realization - there is something exhilarating about embracing diversity within our Dorshei Tzedek community—Clifford Goldsmith



## 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](mailto: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.

## Condolences



To **Gina Fried, Zoe Miller, Zachary Miller,** and **Rabbi Spitzer**, on the death of Gina's mother, **Joan Fried**. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Jeff Kichen**, on the death of his mother, **Alma S. Kichen**. 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 **Peter Demuth, Francis Greenberg, Susannah Zisk, and Elizabeth Ross**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

## Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to **Adina Hemley-Bronstein, Julia Kagen and Zach Miller**--and to their families--on becoming bat/bar mitzvah. Yasher koach!

Mazel tov to the CDT couples who became legally married by the authority of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (!) in recent weeks: **Deb and Lisa Levheim, Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury; Cindy Probst and Sue Pearce;** and **Andrew Compaine and John Dubrow**. With many wishes for joy and blessing to you and your families!

Mazel tov to **Linda Hsu, Marc Steinberg, and Hannah** on the birth and brit milah of **Elia Haili Steinberg**! And welcome, Elia, to Dorshei Tzedek!

## L'hitra'ot

We are sad to say goodbye to a few families that are leaving the area, and we wish you many blessings in your new home. We'll miss you!

- Deb, Lisa, and Max Levheim, who will be joining the Jewish Community of Amherst this summer.
- Liz Umlas, Eric Berman, and Rachel and Jonah, who are heading to Switzerland for a few years.
- Alison Morantz and Dan Wohl, who are moving to California.
- Margo Schlanger, Sam Bagenstos, and Harry and Leila, who are moving to St. Louis.

## Todah Rabah

To the Rabbinic Sabbatical Search Committee—**Ora Gladstone** (chair), **Mark Bronstein, Louise Enoch, John Holohan, Cindy Shulak-Rome, and Andrew Schiff**—for their thoughtful and diligent search for a Rabbi to serve us during Rabbi Spitzer's upcoming sabbatical.—*Deborah Waber*

Thank you to everyone who wrote us notes, brought food, called, visited, and listened to stories about our dad. We feel incredibly supported by and grateful to the Dorshei Tzedek community.—*Judy Hersh, Doug Hersh and families*

## Community Resources

**Career Moves** is a division of Jewish Vocational Service of Greater Boston. For individuals in need of assistance to clarify career direction or those who have a career objective, but are in need of assistance to stay focused on the job search, contact Career Moves at 617.451.8147 in Boston or 617.965.7940 in Newton. You can also learn more about Career Moves at [www.jvsjobs.org](http://www.jvsjobs.org).

**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).



# July / August Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush/Notes
Sat Jul 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>at the First Unitarian Society</i>	Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Dorie Fried, Audra Karp, (Elizabeth Ross)
Sat Jul 10	5 pm - 8 pm	<b>Freedom to Marry Party</b> <b>Dancing and Celebrating for All Ages</b>	<i>First Unitarian Society</i> (see page 4)
Sat Jul 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>at the First Unitarian Society</i>	Ingrid Neuman & Howard Lurie, Elaine Pollack, Daniel Price, (Matilda Bruckner)
Sat Aug 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>at the First Unitarian Society</i>	Jessica Woolliams & Ari Goelman, Jacqui Bloomberg & Peter Gittleman, (Michael White)
Thu Aug 19	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Sat Aug 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bar Mitzvah of Joey Hattis</b> <i>at the First Unitarian Society</i> (see page 5)	<i>Sanctuary cleanup:</i> Elise Brenner & Michael Kajen, Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder
Sat Aug 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <i>at the First Unitarian Society</i>	David Cash & Anne Weiss, Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg, Wendy & Charles Frankston, (Kelli Kirshtein)

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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.

**Summer events are held in air-conditioned comfort at the First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street.** We will resume using our space at 60 Highland Street in September. See page 5 for more information.

**A Kiddush assignment in parentheses ( ) denotes the setup/cleanup advisor.**

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.