

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Elul-Tishri 5764-5765

September 2004



Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

It is with a mix of anticipation and disbelief that I am writing this newsletter column, my last for 10 months. I am going on sabbatical beginning October 1, right after the High Holydays. In many ways, I feel that this sabbatical is coming at a good time, both for me and for the congregation.

During the sabbatical, I'll be staying here in the Boston area (many of you will see me dropping off Zoe at Hebrew School!), and taking the opportunity to do some study and writing, to hopefully get more involved in social justice work, and to deepen my own spiritual practice. I hope to return to you next August refreshed and renewed on many levels, and with new things to teach and explore with you. I also hope to gain some perspective on my role here at Dorshei Tzedek, and to come back with a clearer sense of how I can best partner with you to fulfill the CDT mission.

It is perhaps no coincidence that this Rosh Hashanah, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek celebrates becoming bar/bat mitzvah. It was 13 years ago, in Tishrei 5761 (September 1991), that the congregation held its first High Holyday services. Eight households were members at that time. For the first six years of its existence, CDT was largely a lay-led community, with congregants taking responsibility for running the first classes for kids, leading Shabbat and holiday services, and doing everything else that a growing congregation requires. In the seven years that I have been here, the congregation has seen both continuity and change. There is continued lay leadership in all areas of synagogue life, from the school, to ritual life, to social action, as well as all the myriad organizational tasks that have grown along with the size of the community. But much has changed as well. A large majority of the membership at this point has no memory of a rabbi-less Dorshei Tzedek, and is used to a congregation that has a full-service school, rabbi-led services, and a certain extent of identification of the congregation with me, as its rabbi.

While I don't want to belabor the metaphor, I do think it is interesting to reflect on what becoming bar/bat mitzvah means for Dorshei Tzedek, especially as it is happening in

tandem with my going on sabbatical. For a young person becoming a Jewish adult at the age of 13, bar/bat mitzvah is an opportunity to take on a Jewish task distinctly larger and more challenging than anything s/he has done in that realm up to this point. For the parents, it's an opportunity to reflect on 13 years of nurturing a child to young adulthood, and to take a step back and allow the young person to shine in his or her own unique way. For Dorshei Tzedek, this year will most likely contain some elements of both aspects of the experience—the young person's and the parents'. I say to each of our upcoming b'nei mitzvah kids that I want the process of becoming bar/bat mitzvah to be "challenging but not overwhelming." And so I hope that this is a year of interesting, fruitful, and manageable challenges for our congregation. May it be a year of new people stepping into roles of leadership and responsibility, of getting to experience the unique approach and gifts of a different rabbi, of finding those inevitable "holes" that I have gotten used to plugging, and finding new ways to fill them! May it be a year of CDT exploring its identity at a temporary remove from my own. I will very much miss you, and I hope you'll miss me too—but not too much! As much as I am looking forward to this incredible gift of my sabbatical, I am already looking forward to rejoining you in less than a year's time.

May 5765 be a year filled with joy, good health, and many blessings for all of us. *L'shanah tovah u'metukah!*

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Our Sabbatical Year: An Introduction

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you. I met many of you when I visited during Pesach, and I look forward to renewing those relationships and building many more during the High Holy Days and into the coming year.

While I was at CDT in April, the Sabbatical Committee did a heroic job of arranging for me to meet folks in a variety of different settings. Sitting in on Religious School classes, an adult education committee meeting, Mishna in the Morning, Shabbat dinner, Shabbat morning services, a lovely *oneg shabbat*/lunch, a Board meeting, a meeting with the parents of the coming year's b'nai mitzvah cohort, time spent with Cindy, Debbie, and Nancy, and, of course, lots of time with Rabbi Spitzer—all gave me glimpses of the many facets that make up the wonderful fabric that is Congregation Dorshei Tzedek.

This year will be a new experience for all of us. You've never had a "sabbatical rabbi" before, and I've never been one. One theme that kept cropping up in our discussions during my interviews was striking the right balance. To a large extent, it will be my job in the coming year to help keep CDT in "maintenance mode," to do my best to keep things running smoothly and uninterrupted, to make sure that as few as possible of the countless balls Rabbi Toba keeps in the air (some of them invisible to everyone but her) go splat. I am committed to doing that to the best of my ability.

But I hope to be not only a "caretaker" or a "bookmark," just holding the place until Toba's return. Each of us has unique gifts, abilities, talents, interests, areas of expertise, strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes—Rabbi Spitzer's and mine overlap to some extent, and, in other areas, are very different. Part of the benefit for you of having a sabbatical rabbi, I hope, will be that I'll be able to share some of myself—the unique experience and perspective which I bring to my rabbinate. I don't plan to shake things up too much—but some "shaking up" will be inevitable, and, in some cases, I hope, even positive. It will be a challenging 10 months for all of us, and I trust that, facing and embracing that challenge, we can all grow and learn together, enhancing our Jewish lives.

You may be familiar with the old story of Rabbi Zusya of

Hanipol, who mourned on his deathbed: "In the World to Come, they will not ask me: 'Zusya, why were you not more like Moshe Rabbeinu [Moses our Teacher]?' Rather, they will ask me: 'Zusya, why were you not more like Zusya?'" In the end, all that is expected of us is that we be the best selves we can be. I cannot be Rabbi Spitzer. It would be foolish of me to try. You have a wonderful, gifted, hard-working Rabbi, deeply committed to you, who will come back to you next August replenished and revitalized. She will be the same Rabbi Spitzer, but she will be also be changed. She will come back to the same Congregation she left, but it will also be changed. That's what sabbaticals are for.

Thank you for placing your trust in me, for inviting me into your wonderful Community to be your Rabbi. I look forward to a wonderful 10 months together.

Kol tuv.

Fall Open Houses with Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

Come meet our Rabbi and our members! Learn about our congregation, our religious school, our services, our style, and Reconstructionism. There are a number of opportunities to experience and learn about Dorshei Tzedek this fall:

- **Friday, September 3, 6-7 pm:** Join us for an all-ages, child-oriented Erev Shabbat service and Open House, led by Rabbis Spitzer and Sapsowitz.
- **Friday, September 10 at 8 pm:** Join us for an adult-oriented Erev Shabbat service and Open House led by Rabbis Spitzer and Sapsowitz. This service will include a brief installation ceremony for our new Board of Directors.
- **Sunday, October 3 at 3 pm:** Join us for a prospective member Open House, followed at 4:30 pm with an Erev Sukkot service. See the October newsletter for more details!

With the exception of the Erev Sukkot service, all open house events listed are held at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton. Erev Sukkot services will be held at the First Unitarian Society, just one block north on Highland Street. For more information or directions, please call the Dorshei Tzedek office 617.965.0330 or e-mail us at office@dorsheitzedek.org.

Yamim Noraim/High Holy Days

Solomon Schechter Day School, Wells Avenue, Newton

We will begin welcoming the New Year 5765 on **Wednesday, September 15** at **7:45 pm** with a musical Erev Rosh Hashanah service appropriate for adults as well as older children. Our Rosh Hashanah services continue on **Thursday, September 16** at **9:30 am** and **Friday, September 17** at **10 am**. On **Thursday, September 16** at 4 pm, we will hold a *tashlikh* service at the Newton City Hall Pond, a ritual in which we symbolically release our transgressions.

On **Saturday, September 18**, *Shabbat Shuvah*, we will hold our usual Shabbat morning service on this special Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This service will be at 60 Highland Street at 9:45 am (not at the Solomon Schechter location).

Yom Kippur begins with the *Kol Nidre* service on **Friday, September 24** at 6:30 pm, and we continue with a full day of services on **Saturday, September 25**, starting at 9:30 am. A light Break Fast of bagels and juice will be served at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services.

If you have not yet received a mailing containing details about High Holy Day services and reservation forms, please call the Dorshei Tzedek office at 617.965.0330 (leave a message in voice-mailbox 1 if no one is in the office). You may also visit our website to reprint the mailing; there are separate forms for members and non-members.

High Holy Days Children's Programming

Preparations are well underway for an exciting program for children for the High Holy Days. A rich variety of age appropriate activities will focus on the same themes the adults will be thinking about in their services: *tefilah* (prayer), *t'shuvah* (turning and returning), creation, and responsibility. Parents are welcome at the children's and youth services, which begin at 10:30 am the first day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning (at other times, there are other activities available).

We welcome parent involvement and encourage parents to spend some time with their child/ren in the child-care rooms. We also invite non-parents and teens to help out. We have given much thought to creating fun activities, appropriate to the holidays we are celebrating. There will be things to do indoors as well as outdoor games if the weather permits. If your child does not want to participate, we ask that you stay with your child. This will help us maintain a warm positive atmosphere in the different age groups and help other kids derive meaning from our activities.

If you have not already volunteered to assist for a half-hour in the childcare program, please e-mail **Eileen Morrison** at eileenmorrison@msn.com regarding your availability. During this time you may be asked to help out with an activity we have prepared such as a craft project, reading a story or playing a game with a group of kids.

We look forward to spending the High Holy Days with you and your children.

—*L'shanah Tovah u metukah!* Children's High Holiday Programming Committee

New Year Open House September 19

All Dorshei Tzedek members are invited to drop in at the home of Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen on Sunday, September 19 from 1 pm to 3 pm to say goodbye to Rabbi Spitzer as she embarks on her sabbatical, and to welcome Rabbi Sapsowitz as our sabbatical Rabbi. Beverages will be served. Directions will be sent via e-mail.

Bat Mitzvah of Annalise Littman

Please join us on **September 4** as our daughter **Annalise Littman** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Annalise has been a member of Dorshei Tzedek since she was a preschooler. She is an eighth grader at Brown Middle School in Newton, where she is on the track team and plays flute in the school band. She especially enjoys hanging with her friends, watching movies, sewing, and playing with her dog Cocoa. We look forward to sharing this simcha with our family, friends, and the Dorshei Tzedek community, and hope you will join us for Shabbat morning services followed by Kiddush.

Barbara Shatkin and Andy Littman



Bat Mitzvah of Julia Hausman



We are pleased to announce that our daughter, **Julia Hausman**, will become a Bat Mitzvah on **September 11, 2004**. Julia, who is entering the eighth grade at Day Middle School, is a talented artist and musician, a lover of children and animals, and a musical theater enthusiast. For her tikkun olam project, Julia volunteered at Community Farms Outreach, an organic farm and non-profit organization supporting farmland preservation, hunger relief, and education. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to join us for the service and a kiddush luncheon to celebrate this joyous occasion.

—Allison and Ezra Hausman

It's an Honor—Board Installation September 10

Friday, September 10, at our usual prayer space

Please help us welcome the new Dorshei Tzedek Board during Erev Shabbat services. Please come and show your support and appreciation for the efforts of the Board and Committee Chairs. Services begin at **8 pm** and will be followed by a festive Oneg Shabbat where members are invited to relax and schmooze while enjoying a special Kiddush of coffee and dessert. Hope to see you there!



Shabbat Programs

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

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

Fall dates: September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, 6 – 7 pm

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday of each month. The September 3 service is also an Open House—so bring your friends and prospective CDT members!

Erev Shabbat Services

Fall dates: September 10, October 15, November 19, December 17, 8 – 9:30 pm

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

Sukkot & Simchat Torah

The holiday of Sukkot is known as *z'man simchateynu*, the "time of our joy." Come be joyful with us as we celebrate this week-long festival! Help us build the Dorshei Tzedek sukkah! We need a few adults to help put up the frame and cover the top with *s'chach* (greenery). If you are interested in helping out, contact Paul Carson at p-carson@ti.com.

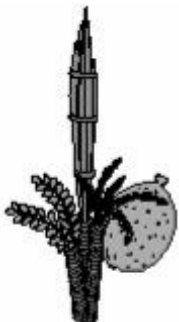
Sukkot Services

Join us for services on the first morning of the Sukkot holiday, Thursday, September 30, at 9 am, at 60 Highland Street. Bring your lulav!!

Sukkot Program

Sunday, October 3, 4:30 - 7 pm

Come join us for a family-friendly experience in the *sukkah* at the First Unitarian Society in West Newton Square, 1326 Washington Street on Sunday, October 3, starting at 4:30 pm. Dinner and drinks will be provided after the program, starting at 6 pm. CDT will provide the main dish and drinks. People should plan to bring potluck contributions to feed 10-12 people as follows:



- Last name starts with A-H: starch-based salads (i.e. pasta, rice, etc.)
- Last name starts with I-R: veggie salads (no pasta, please!)
- Last name starts with S-Z: fruit and dessert

We welcome all interested parties who would like to use the Sukkah during the holiday. Feel free to come with family and friends any time during Sukkot. The Sukkah will be located in the back of the First Unitarian Society for the duration of the holiday.

Simchat Torah Celebration

Wednesday Evening, October 6, 7 - 9 pm, 60 Highland Street

Come dance with the Torah and celebrate as we end our reading of the Torah and begin again.





Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Dorothy Anger

In memory of Henry J. Goldberg

Anonymous

*In honor of The Gertz/Cohen and Hattis/Samelson Family
with thanks for being such great
Maccabi Game host families*

In honor of Joseph Hattis' Bar Mitzvah

Junius Gertz and Sandra Gertz

In honor of Nancy Gertz's election to the CDT presidency

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

In honor of Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx's anniversary

*In honor of Debbie Waber's awesome job
as President of CDT*

*In honor of the incoming Board of Directors
and Executive Committee*

Welcome to Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

*With blessings and prayers for healing,
refuah sh'lemah to Peter Demuth*

In memory of Joan Fried, Gina Fried's mother

In loving memory of Efrem Goldberg

*In appreciation of Theresa St. John-Siegel's coordination of
High Holy Days*

*In honor of Steve Siegel—Our Nadiv Lev campaign was a
great success!*

Wendy Gedanken

In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

In memory of Joan Fried, mother of Gina Fried

Kelli Kirshtein and Wendy Angus

*In appreciation of Michael White's friendship and support as
Ritual Committee Co-Chair*

Barbara Nicholson

*In celebration of the wedding anniversary of Jane Schwartz
and Tracy Rogers on Saturday, Sept 4, 2004*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

*In memory of Joan Fried, Gina's Mother
In honor of Susannah Zisk, with wishes
for a complete healing*

*In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Annalise Littman
and the Bat Mitzvah of Julia Hausman*

Jodi Siegel and Susan Bernstein

Steven Siegel and Theresa St. John-Siegel

In memory of Michael Hersh

Nessa Spitzer

In memory of Bill Spitzer, Rabbi Toba's Dad

Carolyn and Edwin Weiner

In honor of Jacob Carson's Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

In honor of Rabbi Spitzer's upcoming sabbatical

Linda Kanefield and Norm Schneider

In honor of Tracy Rogers and Jane Schwartz

Joan Radner and Susan Lanser

*With thanks to Rabbi Spitzer for her support and guidance on
the occasion of our marriage.*

Sidney Shapiro

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.

Contacting our Rabbis:

Rabbi Spitzer is available until and through the High Holydays.

Rabbi Sapsowitz is available as well in **September and thereafter.**

Both can be reached through the Dorshei Tzedek office at 617.965.0330 x2. The rabbi's e-mail is rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org.

Chesed

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

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

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call Rabbi Spitzer at 617.965.0330 x2.

Condolences

To Bryn Austin, and to Liz Carver, on the death of Bryn's father, John Austin, who passed away on August 17 after a long struggle with colon cancer. May the Source of Life bring comfort to Bryn and her family.



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 **Karen and Reinhard Engels** on the birth of **Lucy Rose** on August 5. Lucy Rose came into the world a tad early, and we are eagerly awaiting her arrival at home and her introduction to the Dorshei Tzedek community!

Mazel tov to **Valerie Graf** and **Doron Gan**, who were married on August 1, 2004 in Ashland, Massachusetts!

Mazel tov to **Hara Klein and Eleni Carr**, and to **Anya**, on their legal marriage on August 1, after 18 years of commitment!

Mazel tov to **Susan Bernstein and Jodi Siegel**, and to **Eli and Sophie**, on the celebration of Susan and Jodi's legal marriage on August 15!

Yasher koach to **Karen Arnold**, who this summer completed her conquest of the Appalachian Trail! Karen has now hiked the entire trail. Mazel tov!!

To **Joey Hattis** and his family on becoming bar mitzvah last month. Yasher koach!

Todah Rabah

Many thanks to **Mark Bronstein** and **Debbie Waber** for all their behind-the-scenes work to wrap up the business side of the Sabbatical Rabbi position. We are very appreciative of all the time, skill, and talent that Mark and Debbie generously offered to the congregation.

Thank you so much to coordinator **Leslie Rubin, Debra Rattet** and their sons **Zachary** and **Alex Rubin-Rattet** for facilitating the summer move over to the Unitarian Church, and to the movers/packers: **Jon Gordon, Howard Lurie, Tim Rosa, Michael White, Angela Vierling, and Nancy Gertz**. This was a great show of teamwork, under Leslie's able and generous direction, and we were moved and settled in near record time, even for very experienced wandering Jews.

On July 10, we had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate with many of CDT's recent and impending newlyweds at the Equal Rights to Marry fete. Over sixty children and adults shared the dance floor at this joy-filled simcha. This party was just terrific, thanks to the super organizing efforts of **Roberta Carson**, along with **Andrew Compaine** and **Sharon Gorberg**. Thanks to the set up volunteers: **Lily Platt, Ellie Goldberg, Angela Vierling, Dorea Claasen, Paul Carson, and Nancy Gertz**. To all of you who stayed to help with the cleanup, it proved that many hands make light work! What a great community! Here's to more opportunities to kick back on a Shabbat afternoon, enjoy some nice conversation, dance it up, celebrate political progress, marvel at the kids, and eat some good food. Now that's nice!

School News

by Cindy Shulak-Rome

Back to School!

We look forward to welcoming our families to the 5765 school year! Our Upper School students in Kitot Gimmel-Zayin (Grades 3-7) begin on Tuesday, September 21. Kitot Aleph and Bet (grades 1 and 2) will come together for a Family Shabbat Dinner on Friday, September 10 and begin class at Torah Talk on Saturday, September 11 at 10 am. Our Gan class will meet for the first time on Sunday, October 17.

Rebekah Ralen, our new Associate Education Director and I have been working this summer on curriculum development and expanding programming for our No'ar Hadash Youth Group. This fall we are beginning a new Hebrew language program in grades 4-7 and we have further refined our *Tefilah*/prayer curriculum for these grades.

We are pleased to introduce our instructors for the 5765 school year:

- Gan Family Program: Miranda Phillips
- Kitah Aleph: Miranda Phillips
- Kitah Bet: Rachel Gutter
- Kitah Gimmel: Miranda Phillips & Adam Mayer-Deutsch
- Kitah Dalet: Lesley Chapman
- Kitah Hay: Julia Moskowitz
- Kitah Vav: Samantha Papurt
- Kitah Zayin: Sara Hollander-Birnbaum

All school families should have received Back to School letters in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Dillon in our office, or Cindy Shulak-Rome in the school office at 617.965.0330 or e-mail school@dorsheitzedek.org.

We look forward to a vibrant and stimulating school year!

An Exciting Tikkun Olam Opportunity for our High School Students

If you are in Grades 9-12 and would like to join with a few other Dorshei Tzedek Teens in a Tikkun Olam/community

service project, there is a great opportunity here for you. "Teens for Tzedek" (run through the JCC) has organized a program for high school students to participate in the Jewish Youth Literacy Corps (JYLC). Through this program, teenagers work with K-3rd grade students on tutoring and read-aloud activities to promote literacy.

The program offers van transportation from the various local high schools to schools in Boston and other nearby communities. The JYLC program is structured in 8-10 week blocks, so high school students can participate at a time in the school year when other extra-curricular activities are not demanding their daily participation. Participating students will receive training prior to the program, and will be accompanied each week by a staff member from Teens for Tzedek. The fall program begins the first week of October. Vans generally depart from the high schools around 2:45 pm and return at 5:30 pm. The scheduled days for the local schools is as follows:

- Newton North High School – Mondays
- Needham High School – Wednesdays
- Newton South High School – Thursdays

We are hoping to have a group of students from Dorshei Tzedek participate together. If you are interested in this program, please contact Education Director Cindy Shulak-Rome at 617.965.5443 or school@dorsheitzedek.org. For more details about the Jewish Youth Literacy Corps, visit www.jcrcboston.org/literacy.

Todah Rabah

by Miranda Phillips and Cindy Shulak-Rome

This summer we had the opportunity to participate in a five day retreat for Jewish Educators at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. The beginning of a two year program, the focus of this Institute is on "Nourishing Ourselves, Nourishing Jewish Teens," working with the idea that educators need to understand the need to connect the head and the heart to inspire Jewish learning and to better teach, lead, and accompany Jewish teens in their own Jewish growth and learning. This retreat involved intensive instruction and practice in meditation, yoga, prayer, and text study. It has been extremely nourishing for us to be part of this program, together with an inspiring faculty and 30 Jewish educators from across the country. We want to express our gratitude to the congregation for enabling us to participate in this unique and wonderful experience as part of our professional development.

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

with Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

*Fall dates: October 23, November 27, December 18,
8:45 am*

The early bird gets the wisdom! Once a month, before the Shabbat morning service, we'll examine the week's Torah portion in depth, using a supplementary text to shed light on its contents. All are welcome; no prior knowledge or regular attendance assumed. Bring your own coffee!

Selichot Program

Saturday evening, September 11, 8 - 10:30 pm

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Beginning with dessert and havdallah, this program for adults and teens is a powerful way to enter into the spirit of the Days of Awe. Held jointly with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah (our newest Reconstructionist neighbor!), the program will include separate study sessions for adults and teens, and close with songs and rituals to prepare us for the work of teshuvah, "return" or repentance. The program will be led by Rabbis Toba Spitzer and Barbara Penzner, and Rebekah Ralen, educator at both CDT and HBT.

Opportunities for Adults to Learn Hebrew!!

*Dorshei Tzedek's Adult Education Committee
will be offering two Hebrew classes this Fall*

Beginner Hebrew (no previous knowledge assumed). Thursday afternoons, 4:30 – 5:45 pm (during Hebrew School hours). Beginning October 14. Alliance Room at the Unitarian Society. Teacher: Natasha Shabat. This class will meet for a ten-week session in the Fall and then possibly continue, depending on interest. We are still firming up the cost, but it is likely to be between \$150 and \$200 per series of 10. (Scholarships available if needed; please contact Rabbi Sapsowitz directly.)

Advanced Beginner Hebrew (knowledge of the aleph bet and/or some basic vocabulary or grammar—don't assume your skills are too low for this class without talking to us!) Tuesday evenings. Beginning in the Fall, start date to be determined. Teacher and cost also to be announced. (Scholarships available if needed; please contact Rabbi Sapsowitz directly.)

We've sponsored Hebrew classes in the past, and they've been a great way to improve your skills while also getting to know others in the community! If you are interested, even tentatively, in one of these classes, or if you have questions about fitting into the level that fits your schedule, please contact **Lisa Schneier** at lisa.schneier@umb.edu or 617.591.1931.

Get Immersed in Learning

September 12, 2004, 3 – 5 pm

Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Education presents three workshops to spiritually prepare for the New Year with study, song, and movement. Workshops include:

- **"Arise You Slumberers!"** Exploring Rabbinic Texts on Repentance and Renewal (Rabbi Andrew Vogel)
- **Shir Hadash: Sing a New Song** (Cantor Louise Treitman & Eshet Hazon Matia Rania Angelou)
- **Yoga for the Jewish Soul** (Rabbi Michelle Robinson & Michelle Silberman, M.F.A.)

Space is limited and this event is expected to fill up quickly. Please register early in order to participate in the workshop that you most prefer. Questions? Call Kathy Bloomfield, Program Director, 617.244.1836 ext 201 or e-mail kathyb@mayyimhayyim.org.

Rebbe Nahman of Bratslav: Mystical Master & Existential Seeker

with Or Rose

*Thursday evenings, Oct 14, 21, 28,
7:30 - 9 pm, Parlor, 60 Highland Street*

Join us as we explore the teachings of Rebbe Nahman of Bratslav (d. 1811), one of the most original and provocative thinkers in the history of Hasidism. Our exploration will include the study of Rebbe Nahman's tales and sermons, focusing specifically on issues of identity, community, and the religious quest. No background knowledge is necessary; texts will be available in English and Hebrew.

Or Rose is the Co-Director of the Bet Midrash at Hebrew College. He is the author of two books, *God in All Moments: Spiritual and Practical Wisdom from the Hasidic Masters* and *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action*. Or is currently writing a doctoral thesis on the early Hasidic masters at Brandeis University. Or gave a very successful class on Kabbalah last fall and is back by popular acclaim!

News from JRF

Todah Rabah to Chayim Herzig-Marx

The Congregation Dorshei Tzedek community takes special pride in one of its founding members, **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, who stepped in to serve the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) as interim Executive Vice President over the past year at a time of transition in leadership for the organization. Those of us who know Chayim have not been surprised to learn that he did a superb job and was beloved by the professional staff and the board. With the appointment of a permanent Executive Vice President, Chayim has now concluded his work for the JRF. Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has made a contribution to the JRF in honor of Chayim's dedication and accomplishments over the past year. Chayim's service to the JRF will be formally acknowledged at the JRF convention in Portland, Oregon this coming November.

Carl Sheingold, Ph.D. has been appointed as the new EVP for the JRF. Dr. Sheingold has been an active member of Reconstructionist congregation Bnai Keshet in Montclair, NJ, for over twenty years and has been a guest contributor to *The Reconstructionist*. Dr. Sheingold's long and distinguished career includes extensive professional experience in Jewish organizations and academia. Dr. Sheingold most recently served as Management Professor in the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service and Director of the Fisher Bernstein Institute for Leadership Development in Jewish Philanthropy at Brandeis University. He previously served as part of the senior management of the Council of Jewish Federations and as Executive Director of the National Havurah Committee.

JRF Convention—November 11 – 13 in Portland, Oregon

How would you like to be thrilled, inspired, and challenged for three days, in the company of other open-minded, lively folks who are as dedicated as you are to a progressive, vibrant approach to Judaism? And how would you like to take home as a "souvenir" the knowledge of best practices and creative approaches to share with your congregation? That is the experience awaiting you at the **JRF Convention**, to be held **November 11 – 13 in Portland, Oregon**. Yes, it's a long way for us New Englanders to travel, but if there's any possibility for you to attend—you won't be disappointed! Go to <http://www.jrf2004.org>. You can access

the convention schedule, list of scheduled workshops, details about the highlighted programs, and much more. The page will be updated regularly. You can register for the JRF convention on line and pay by credit card via secure server. From August 10 through September 10, the JRF is offering an early signup discount for full-convention registrations. For more information, contact Lani Moss, JRF Managing Director, Programs and Services, at 215-782-8500, x15 or visit www.jrf.org.

Camp JRF: The Experience

by Amy Goldsmith

Before this past summer, I had been to many summer camps before, even other Jewish overnight camps, but none of them compare to my summer experience at Camp JRF. I signed up for camp knowing only the other five Dorshei Tzedek campers and counselor and one school friend from Hillel B'nei Torah. However, that changed the instant I got to T.F. Green Airport in Providence, RI. I was immediately bombarded by excited Congregation Agudas Achim campers from Attleboro, MA who were bursting with camp stories and reasons why I was going to love Camp JRF.

On the plane and bus rides to camp, I was both excited and anxious but any fears I had were eased as soon as I stepped off the school bus and onto Camp JRF grounds at Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, Illinois. It was then that I met the other 17 campers in my age group, who would all become my best friends for the summer.

With only 124 *hanihim* (campers), 12 *tzrifim* (bunks), and 4 *aidot* (age groups) the Camp JRF community is incredibly close-knit and friendly. By the end of my 3 weeks at camp, I can safely say that I could name just about every camper and staff member, and had talked to almost all of them at least once. This small community allowed for us to do all-camp activities such as an entire camp trip to an indoor water park, camp-wide civilization days where we explored different eras of Jewish history, and our end of camp *hagigah* (color celebration) which every camper and staff member actively participated in.

My other favorite camp memories include my age group's two-day canoe trip in Madison Wisconsin, dancing with the torah during Shabbat morning services, our Friday night Shabbat walk where the entire camp would meet out on the fields, camping out with the younger age groups on camp grounds, our open-seating lunches where I got a

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GBIO Update

Paul Hattis

Dorshei Tzedek has been actively involved in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) campaign to improve work and care conditions for nursing home patients and front-line caregiver staff. After participating in a training with other GBIO congregational members in late June, a number of us have been assigned to various five-person delegations and are now making visits to nursing homes in the Boston area. Our hope is to establish relationships with nursing home administrators so that we can have an ongoing dialogue about a variety of issues. Stay tuned. If you want to get involved in GBIO, contact Paul Hattis at pahattis@comcast.net.

Screening and Fundraiser: "One in Eight: Janice's Journey"

Monday, October 4, 2004, 7 - 9 pm,

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard Street, Brookline

On the eve of her 33rd birthday, CDT member Janice Fine was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer. This film explores her personal journey and the larger issues around this epidemic disease. Janice and filmmaker Cynthia McKeown will host a Q & A following the screening. Tickets for film screening and Q & A are \$25; Sponsorships are \$100 and up (pre-screening reception). For information call 617-323-9955 or visit www.oneineight.net.

Artists' Support Group

We meet monthly for potluck lunch and conversation about our work as artists, in varied disciplines. Our hope is to allow for networking, support, and discussion about topics such as marketing and creative process. This group is open to new folks. For information about our next meeting, or to be put on the e-mail list, contact Cindy Rivka Marshall at cmars13@aol.com.

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.

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.

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chance to sit with kids from all other bunks, and of course, just being able to spend time with my new camp friends.

Getting the chance to meet so many Reconstructionist kids, counselors and Rabbis, so many more than I ever knew existed, was really very cool. The experiences that I had and the knowledge that I gained at camp, are things that I would never give up. I learned so much about what it means to live in a true camp community and about what it means to me to be a Reconstructionist Jew and I was able to learn all of this while having fun at the same time. Camp JRF has become a second home to me, and I hope to return there for many summers to come. To learn more about Camp JRF or to see photos from this past summer,

go to www.campjrf.org.

My camp friends and I had so much fun this past summer and are looking forward to seeing each other at this year's Noar Hadash North American Teen Kallah! If camp sounds like fun to you, and you are a teen entering Grades 9-12, you might also be interesting in attending the kallah. Concurrent with this year's JRF Convention in Portland, Oregon, *No'ar Hadash*, JRF's youth group, is holding its annual Teen Kallah as well as a Teen Leadership Program. These programs provide teens with a taste of camp, as well as the chance to make many new friends. For more information on either one of these events visit www.noarhadash.org or go to the JRF website at www.jrf.org.

Welcome!

Gertrude Nemeth represents the third generation of Dorshei Tzedek members in her family. Her daughter and son-in-law (**Rachael and Richard Cohen**) and their children (**Sam and Ruby**) have also recently joined CDT. Gertrude, who is originally from the Boston area, moved to Watertown from Lewiston Maine two years ago to be near her daughter and family. She had lived in Maine for forty years, where she worked as a teacher and as a librarian in the Auburn Public Library. She also spent two years in Israel as an English teacher and spent time at Kibbutz Allonim. Gertrude is now retired and enjoys reading (of course) and puzzles. She joined Dorshei Tzedek to enjoy holidays and simchas with her family.

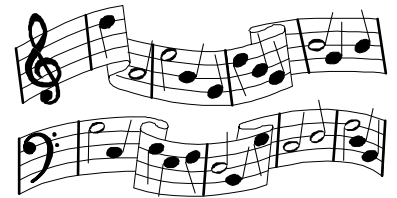
Corrine Lofchie and **Noam Shore**; **Pamela Schoenberg** and **Joel Reider**; and **Lilly Platt** have also recently joined CDT. Please look for them at services and give them a warm welcome!

Preschool Toys and Books Needed for Tot-Shabbat Program

Have your kids outgrown their preschool books and games? The Shabbat Childcare Program is in need of age-appropriate books and games for 3-5 year old kids to enjoy while adults attend services. Books and games with a Jewish theme would be great, but other items are equally welcome. Please call **Tessa Goldsmith** at 617.965.7323 to arrange a pick-up time for your items.



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>



September Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Fri Sep 3	6 - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service and Open House	Lisa Port-White, Melanie Northrop, Carol Sklar
Sat Sep 4	9:45 am - 3 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Annalise Littman	Alison & Ezra Hausman, Elaine Landes & David Felson; <i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i> Esther Kohn, Linette Liebling
Fri Sep 10	6 - 8 pm	Kitah Aleph & Bet Dinner	FUSN
Fri Sep 10	8 - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service and Open House Board Installation	Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Amy Mazur
Sat Sep 11	9:45 am - 3 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Julia Hausman	<i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i> Ellen Pashall, Carol Hemley, Idit Klein
Sat Sep 11	10 am - 12 pm	Opening Day: Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet	FUSN
Sat Sep 11	8 - 10:30 pm	Selichot Study and Service	Hillel B'nai Torah, West Roxbury (see page 9)
Sun Sep 12	3 - 5 pm	CDT Sings	FUSN
Wed Sep 15	7:45 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah	(see page 3) Solomon Schechter Day School
Thu Sep 16	9:30 am - 1:15 pm	Rosh Hashanah - First Day	Solomon Schechter Day School
Thu Sep 16	4 -pm	Tashlikh	Newton City Hall Pond
Fri Sep 17	10 am	Rosh Hashanah - Second Day	Solomon Schechter Day School
Sat Sep 18	9:45 am	Shabbat Shuvah	David Cash & Ann Weiss, Stacey Chacker, Amy & Jonathan Gordon
Sun Sep 19	1 - 3 pm	New Year's Open House: Farewell to Rabbi Toba / Welcome Rabbi Marna	Home of Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen (see page 3)
Tue Sep 21	3:45 - 5:45 pm	Opening Day Kitah Gimmel - Vav	FUSN
Tue Sep 21	6:15 - 8:15 pm	Opening Day for Kitah Zayin	FUSN
Fri Sep 24	6:30 pm	Kol Nidre Service	Solomon Schechter Day School
Sat Sep 25		<i>Yom Kippur - No Aleph & Bet Classes</i>	
Sat Sep 25	9:30 am	Yom Kippur Services	Solomon Schechter Day School
Sun Sep 26	5:00 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Thu Sep 30	9 - 10:30 am	Sukkot Services (No School)	

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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 The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. An asterisk (*) denotes Rabbi Sapsowitz's weekend off; members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.



October Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Fri Oct 1	6 - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Judith Wine & Aileen Cronin, Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa
Sat Oct 2	9:45 am - 2 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Aufruf for Meryl Kahn & Jonathan Sacks	Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh, Sherry Katz & Mark Faber, Terry Traub
Sun Oct 3	3 pm	Membership Open House	(see page 2)
Sun Oct 3	4:30 - 7 pm	Sukkot Program	FUSN
Wed Oct 6	7:30 - 9 pm	Simchat Torah	
Thu Oct 7		<i>Simchat Torah - No Classes</i>	
Sat Oct 9		<i>Columbus Day Weekend - No Classes</i>	
Sat Oct 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Forman	Julie & Paul Fox, Ricky & Rob Greenly, Linda & Peter Katz; <i>Sanctuary clean up:</i> Jennifer Levine, Jill Volk, Lisa Schneier
Thu Oct 14	4:15 - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	FUSN (see page 9)
Thu Oct 14	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Rebbe Nahman	60 Highland St (see page 9)
Fri Oct 15	6 - 8 pm	Gan Family Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Oct 15	8 - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Rick Glassman
Sat Oct 16	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Shoshi Paris-Saper	<i>Sanctuary cleanup:</i> Jamie Tessler & Peter Shapiro, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal
Sun Oct 17	2 - 4 pm	Opening Day: Gan Program #1	FUSN
Thu Oct 21	4:15 - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	FUSN
Thu Oct 21	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Rebbe Nahman	60 Highland St
Sat Oct 23	8:45 AM	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	
Sat Oct 23	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Debra Rattet & Leslie Rubin, Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman, Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman
Sat Oct 23	10:30 - 11 am	Tot Shabbat	
Sun Oct 24	2 - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Ed	FUSN
Sun Oct 24	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Thu Oct 28	4:30 - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	FUSN
Thu Oct 28	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Rebbe Nahman	60 Highland St
Sat Oct 30	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus, Tania Mireles & William Shorr, Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen

Lulav and Etrog Order Form

Celebrate Sukkot with your very own lulav and etrog ! Orders must be received by **Wednesday, September 22**. You can pick up your lulav at Sukkot services or at the Dorshei Tzedek office during school hours on **Tuesday, September 28**.

Name _____ Phone _____

I would like _____ sets @ \$35 each = \$ _____

Please enclose a check made out to Dorshei Tzedek, and mail to the Dorshei Tzedek office at 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

MAZON

Again this year, the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements and Hillel International are joining MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger in fulfilling the biblical mandate to "leave the corners of our fields for the poor and the stranger." By donating to MAZON what you would have spent to feed yourself and your family on Yom Kippur and by participating in your congregation's food drive, you take part in this extraordinary act of Jewish pluralism. Your tax-deductible donation will support MAZON's grantmaking to programs that provide critical assistance to hungry people in the United States, Israel and developing countries around the world.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

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

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5765/2004

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 _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of Congregation, City, State _____

or donate through the website at www.mazon.org

All gifts will be acknowledged in writing and are tax-deductible.

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.