

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

Tishri-Cheshvan 5765

October 2004



President's Message

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

Each year, at Rosh Hashanah, our Dorshei Tzedek community comes together to celebrate the birth of the world, the birth of our new year. Sitting in our High Holiday prayer space and seeing the annual gathering of our community is a powerful experience for me. I am always reminded of how much all of our year-round efforts are about the holy work of building relationships and building community. As diverse as we are, we are all powerfully connected to one another. It is also a time to reflect on where we have been as a community and, with the energy of the New Year upon us, where we are headed in the year to come.

So, I wanted to reflect briefly on the year that is ahead of us. Last year, the Community Conversations project emerged from the previous work that had been done by the former Tikkun Olam and present GBIO Committees, using an open-ended interview technique, called one-on-ones. This project, led by **Andrew Compaine**, is about building community; it is a series of one-on-one conversations between members, whose goal is to elicit individual Jewish narratives, and, in so doing, to mobilize our community's collective resources. As those of you who participated or who attended our June Members' Meeting can attest, this process can be quite powerful, and we look forward to continuing it this year. We will be renewing our exploration of this process at our next **Members' Meeting on November 7**, and I hope everyone will mark their calendars to save this date.

A new focus for us this year will be consideration of a very important life cycle subject—our community's approach to issues surrounding death and loss. Life cycle events are central to the life of a vital Jewish community. We celebrate the birth of life and the coming of age of our children, we celebrate marriage and the creation of families, and, as part of life together, our community inevitably confronts moments of great sadness with the death of a member or a loved one, or when we confront our own mortality. This

year, our new board member-at-large, **Nicky Silver**, our sabbatical **Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz** and I will guide a process of study and deliberation about how we wish to deal with these issues in the life of the Dorshei Tzedek community. Please contact Nicky Silver if you would like to be involved in this study group.

Taking the theme of life cycle events in a somewhat different direction, this year we as a Congregation mark our Bat Mitzvah year. Congregation Dorshei Tzedek celebrated its first High Holiday services in the fall of 1991. We have grown in this short time from 8 households to a lively community of more than 150 households with a Rabbi, a school, a vibrant ritual and social life, and a permanent prayer space. We will be considering various ways to celebrate this wonderful "coming of age" over the course of the next year. I invite anybody who would like to be involved in this celebration to call or email me at president@dorsheitzedek.org.

Finally, this year we will experience first-hand the biblical tradition of the sabbatical year. In the Torah, we are commanded to allow the land to rest every seventh year so that it will remain rich and productive for years to come. In the spirit of this tradition, we as a congregation set aside time every seven years for our Rabbi to rest and renew herself so that our partnership with her will remain rich and productive for years to come. At the same time, we are fortunate to have as our rabbinic partner this year Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz. We expect that this new partnership will provide a basis for creativity and fertility for ourselves at the same time that **Rabbi Toba** is enjoying her well-deserved sabbatical, and we anticipate that Rabbi Sapsowitz will help us grow in new and different ways while she is with us.

So, I look forward with great excitement and energy to this new year of ours, my first as president. Let us all stretch and strengthen our communal connections to make this a wonderful, rich, and stimulating year. Once again, *shanah tovah u'mtukah*, a good and sweet year to everyone.

Members' Meeting November 7

Come one, come all (but at least send one member from your household), to the first of our three Members' Meetings for this new year. The meeting will be held on **Sunday evening, November 7 at 7:15 pm** in our sanctuary. As is typical of all of our Members' Meetings, we will dedicate some period of time to the business of the congregation, and then we will move on to study together. For this meeting, we will explore Community Conversations in further depth. We will also take some time to introduce our newest initiative in the realm of death, dying, and remembrance. This is an excellent opportunity for members, staff, and leadership to come together to talk about the "pulse" of things at CDT, so don't miss it. We look forward to seeing you there!

October Open House with Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

Come meet our Rabbi and our members! Learn about our congregation, our religious school, our services, our style, and Reconstructionism. We had two Open Houses in September where prospective members experienced and learned about Dorshei Tzedek. The remaining Open House is **Sunday, October 3 at 3 pm**. Join us in our sanctuary at 60 Highland Street for a prospective member Open House, meet **Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz** and **President Nancy Gertz**, learn a little about the history of Dorshei Tzedek and Reconstructionism, ask questions and schmooze a little. While not required, folks are asked to call the office and let us know they are planning to attend the Open House. This gathering will be followed at 4:30 pm by our Sukkot program.

With the exception of the Sukkot program, all events listed are held at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton. The Sukkot program 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.

Contacting Rabbi Marna: Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, 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.

Board Meeting Notes

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

The Board meeting of August 10, 2004, was the first meeting of the Dorshei Tzedek Board that included newly-elected members, and we begin the year with abundant energy and enthusiasm.

The Board is working on a change in how we make Shabbat set-up assignments to allow members a little more flexibility and input. When the specifics are worked out, they'll be announced in the usual channels. **Nancy Gertz**, President of the Congregation, spoke about wanting to change the way we view this obligation. What we have been calling Shabbat setup/cleanup is really providing Kiddush for the congregation after Shabbat services, which is how we want to frame it going forward. **Carla Naumburg** volunteered to review our policies and procedures, and make recommendations for an improved Kiddush system.

Judy Hersh and **Cindy Bittker**, co-chairs of the Membership In-Reach committee, spoke about their goal for this year of increasing the number of opportunities for people to get together in small groups.

Michael Kajan, Chairperson of the Web committee spoke about keeping the CDT Web site up-to-date. There are a number of empty or out-of-date pages on the Web site, which the Web committee, working closely with chairs of other committees, will attempt to fill or remove. The Web site has a recently updated members' list and we've improved our procedure for keeping the list current so that it will now be updated every two weeks.

Sivan Nasoff reported on a survey taken after our congregational retreat in June. She said that participants were generally satisfied with the food and lodging at Camp Ramah, and 93% said that they would probably come to another retreat if it were held there. She added that now that we know the facility better, we can adjust for some of the conditions there that people expressed reservations about. Recent rate increases at Camp Isabella Friedman have apparently ruled it out as an affordable option for future retreats.

5765 is Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's Bat Mitzvah year. The idea of having a Shabbaton ending in a party next spring was discussed and received a broad favorable response from Board members. The Board is seeking a coordinator and committee members for planning CDT's Bat Mitzvah Shabbaton and celebration.

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: 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.

Erev Shabbat Services

Fall dates: 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

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!

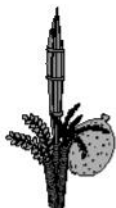
Sukkot Services

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:



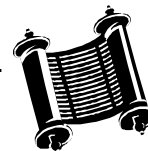
- Last name starts with A-H: starch-based salads (i.e. pasta, rice, etc.)
- Last name starts with I-R: veggie salads (no pasta, please!)
- Last name starts with S-Z: fruit and dessert

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.



Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Forman

On Saturday, **October 9**, **Sarah Forman** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. She will read from *B'reishit*. Sarah is an eighth grader at Wellesley Middle School, and has been going to Dorshei Tzedek since the age of two. She loves languages, attends the *Prozdor* Hebrew High School program, plays field hockey at WMS, and enjoys horseback riding. Sarah's mom, Melanie Northrop and her sisters Rachel and Rebecca, along with her dad Daniel Forman, invite you to share our kevel (delight and loving pride) on this day and join us at the kiddush lunch after the service.— *Melanie Northrop*

Bat Mitzvah of Shoshana Paris-Saper

Please join us on **October 16 at 9:45 am** as our daughter **Shoshana** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Shoshi joined the Dorshei Tzedek community after moving from Berkeley, California in 2000. An 8th grader at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton, she enjoys dance, art, swimming, reading, writing, and hanging out with friends. In addition, she sings in her school chorus and A Besere Velt, the Yiddish community chorus of the Workmen's Circle. Shoshi has loved spending the last four summers at *Habonim Camp Na'aleh* in Pennsylvania. For her *tikkun olam* project Shoshi volunteered for Breaking Barriers, an organization that assists immigrant Latino families, by tutoring a 2nd grader in Waltham. Shoshi will continue her Jewish education at *Prozdor* where she plans to be a part of their Israeli dance troupe *Nilhav*. A Kiddush lunch will follow the service.— *Rob Saper and Ruth Paris*

A Blessing for Renewal

This blessing, written by Lisa Schneier for Rabbi Toba, in honor of the upcoming sabbatical, was the inspiration for Rabbi Marna's mishaberach on Yom Kippur. Thank you Lisa, for gracing us with such a beautiful farewell—albeit temporary—for Rabbi Toba.

Rabbi Toba, you are a great blessing to us. In the "Community Conversations" we had this past year, it was striking how consistently people in this community spoke of you as significant to our lives. We spoke of you in different ways—as teacher, as leader, as nourisher of spirit—but always with love and appreciation—always as a blessing. You have led us well, you have reached out and met us in our pain and our joy, you have deepened our connections to our tradition and have nurtured our coming together as a community.

One of the teachings that you often bring to us, drawn from our tradition and particularly from the Torah, is about how we might hold or relate to our blessings: we must hold them tightly, appreciating and enjoying, and also loosely, remembering that they are not fully ours but part of something larger—gifts from G-d. The sabbatical year, as de-

scribed in the Torah, is an example of this holding loosely—a freeing of the land for its renewal and also for the renewal of those who work on it. It is not primarily a year for production, though our contemporary society often interprets it that way—as a giving up of one kind of production only to plunge into another. On the contrary, the Torah describes a year in which the land rests, producing only what is already planted, what is already within it, and those who live on it reap only those spontaneous fruits. The primary goal is not production but a deeper nourishment—of the land, of the workers, and of the community.

As you have stood here beside the Torah and blessed us so many times, today we bless you. We send you into this year with our blessing for nourishment, echoing the third paragraph of the Sh'ma, in which G-d's blessing takes the form of rain: *May you be blessed with rain upon your land in this your appointed time.* May it nourish you well, in body and mind and spirit. May you come back to us renewed, and we to you, also renewed. *L'shanah Tovah.*

Todah Rabah Thank You to Dorshei Tzedek Members

Our wonderful experience over the High Holydays would not have been possible without the active participation and leadership of many people in the congregation. A very big Todah Rabah—Thank You—to all the Dorshei Tzedek members who helped make our High Holydays so special. The names of some of these dedicated and amazing members appear below (in no particular order). (Apologies if we left your name off the list. If you email dtnews@yahoo.com we will include your name, or another omission you may have noticed, in the next issue.)

Overall Coordination: Theresa St.-John Siegel

Coordinator's Helpers: Wendy Gedanken, Steve Siegel and Diane Dillon

Children's Program Coordinator: Eileen Morrison

Children's Program Helpers: Janet Boguslaw, Meryl Epstein, Laura Katz, Lisa Goodman, Abby Cohen, Peter Gittleman, Doug Hersh, Sandy Sedacca, Sherwood Ives, Julie Fox

Children's Services Coordinators: Cindy Marshall, Gina Fried, Miranda Philips

Children's Services Helpers: John Holohan, Aviva Galpert, Emily Flynn, Seth Simons, Amalia Lieberman

Reception Table: Lilly Platt, Toni Rosenberg, Mia Branco, Jill Stanzler-Katz, Judy Hersh, Sharon Gorberg, Jen Levine, Betsy Hinden, Jill Volk, Abby Cohen, Sherry Katz, Cindy Marshall

Setup/Breakdown: Cindy Marshall, Barbara Zolit, Ellen Pashall, Clifford Goldsmith, Steve Siegel, Angela Vierling-Claasen, Mark Farber, Sheree Galpert, Jeff Kichen, Tessa Goldsmith, Adam Goldsmith, Amy Goldsmith, Karen Arnold, Emily Sper, Leeann Simons, Marc Bronstein, Ezra Hausman, Amy Mazur, Miranda Philips, Bobby Kleinberg

Publicity: Josh Herzig-Marx and Carla Naumburg

Movers: Lisa Port-White, Lynne Brandon, Amelia Zalcmann, Audra Karp, Clifford Goldsmith

Food Coordinators: Barbara Zolit, Sharon Sevransky,

Food Helpers: Ellie Goldberg, Cindy Bittker, Toni Rosenberg, Amy Berman, Ruth Paris, Shoshi Paris-Saper, Carol Sklar, Emily Saltz, Allison Hausman, Ezra Hausman

Flowers: Louise Enoch, Ellen Pashall

Literature Table: Ellen Pashall

Ritual: Elaine Pollack, Michael White, and members of the Ritual Committee

Service Leading: Miranda Phillips, Nicky Silver, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Elaine Pollack, Lisa Port White, Dan Rome, Bill Shorr, and Judy Herzig-Marx, along with our post-b'nei mitzvah youth.

Kol Nidre singers: Karen Arnold, Elana Rome

Dorshei Tzedek chorus: Elaine Bresnick, Angela Vierling, David Felson, Doug Hersh, Jill Stanzler-Katz, Karen Arnold, Marcia Okun, Nancy Osher Blumberg, Stephen Zisk, Sue Lanser, Cindy Rivka Marshall

Todah Rabah for Children's Programming for the High Holydays

Gina Fried

So often the holidays sneak up on us, and before we know it, before we have time to think about what we want for ourselves in the coming year, it's Erev Rosh Hashanah, and the New Year has already begun. A couple of weeks ago I had the great pleasure of meeting with a small group of people to discuss the upcoming holidays. We talked about time—how we mark it, why we mark it, what it means, along with a few other salient topics such as life, God and Godliness, and holidays.

The people with whom I shared this incredible journey of questioning and discovery are from our own Dorshei Tzedek community. They are **Seth Simons, Aviva Galpert, Emily Flynn and Amalia Lieberman**, members of our current Kitah Zayin (7th grade), and together we designed the Youth High Holiday Services.

I'd like to share Emily's introduction to the Rosh Hashanah Youth Service with you:

"Have you ever tried to picture time? Is it a triangle, a circle, a square, a line, or some irregular figure with lots of angles? I think of time as a circle, because of the circle we travel around the sun, the circle of the earth rotating, and the circle that the moon travels around us, every year, every day, every hour, circling over the same spot that the previous one did. There are no endings, like a line would have, no angles, no special times when the earth spins extra fast or extra slow. It's always a circle.

Time is not a boring circle that we get lost in, going around and around, never knowing whether some time was really a long time or just a few minutes. That is because we choose to make signposts, little marks on our circle that say what time it is, what month it is, and what holiday. Today is one of those signposts, Rosh Hashanah, and it helps us to acknowledge that a year has passed. Rosh Hashanah symbolizes a beginning and a chance to start over even though we remain in the same circle, going round and round."

Amalia, Aviva, Emily, Seth, and I wish all of you a joyous and fruitful 5765!

Rabbi Toba's Talks Available on Dorshei Tzedek Website

Were you out of town for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur? Did you have a screaming child that caused you to miss any of Rabbi Toba's inspiring talks? There's still an opportunity for you to catch up with the rest of us! Just go to our website—www.dorsheitzedek.org—click on Shabbat & Holidays, and then Divrei Torah. There you will find Rabbi Toba's High Holyday talks for the past few years, including this one. Enjoy!



Nadiv Lev



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Amy Bermar & Alex Donnini

In memory of Enrico Donnini and Bert Bermar

In honor of Olivia Donnini

and her recently-graduated b'nei mitzvah class

In honor of Elaine Pollack,

and her generous and talented support

Muriel Bermar

In honor of Olivia Donnini

Roberta & Paul Carson

In honor of Lisa Port White's birthday

Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

In honor of Theresa St John-Siegel and Eileen Morrison's coordination of High Holiday Adult and Children's programming, Rabbi Toba Spitzer's inspiring sermons, Lisa Port White's 40th birthday, and in memory of Billy Gishen

Mark Farber & Sherry Katz

In memory of Edward Katz

Fisher Gomberg Family

In memory of Lawrence Stephen Fisher

Allison & Ezra Hausman

In honor of Joey Ives Bar Mitzvah

In honor of Annalise Littman's Bat Mitzvah

Jack & Shirley Kasten

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Annalise Rachel Littman

Linda & Peter Katz

In memory of Milton Katz and Saul Weiss

Mark Kertzman

In memory of Beatrice and Morris Kertzman

Linette Liebling, Peter Demuth, Zach & Jolie Demuth

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joey Hattis

Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury

In honor of the "chai" anniversary and legal marriage of Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz

Amy Mazur

In honor of Joey Hattis' Bar Mitzvah

Ruth Paris & Rob Saper

In memory of Isaac Paris & Louis Saper

Elana Rome

*In honor of Theresa and Steve Siegel,
with much thanks for their generosity*

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

*In memory of Ruth & Bill Shulak, Marion Weinberg,
Chava & Herzl Rome, and Zelda Liebling*

Jeff & Cheryl Sacks

In memory of Stanley Littman, Andy Littman's father

Sandy Sedacca & Sherwood Ives

Joanne Share & Rochelle Weichman

In memory of Etta Share

Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman

In appreciation to Elaine Bresnick, Ellen Hemley, Mark Bronstein, Ezra Hausman, Ruth Paris, and Rob Saper for their help with Annalise's Bat Mitzvah Kiddush

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Susan Bernstein & Jodi Siegel

In honor and gratitude to Rabbi Toba who married Susan Bernstein and Jodie Siegel on August 15, 2004. It was a beautiful and profound ceremony for us.

Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz

In gratitude to Rabbi Toba for a beautiful wedding ceremony

Samelson Hattis Family

In honor of Joey's bar mitzvah, CDT's Bar/Bat mitzvah, and Rabbi Toba's sabbatical

Holy Book Fund

Samelson Hattis Family

In honor of the many congregants, who provided love, leyning, lodging, and labor, during Joey's Bar Mitzvah, including Sivan Nasoff, Gertz Cohen family, Sedacca Ives family, Brenner Kagen family, Boguslaw Kaufman family, Fisher Gomberg family, Shatkin Littman family, Kuh family, Goldberg family, Zolit family, Gladstone Silver family, Herzig-Marx family, and Goldsmith family

School Fund

Samelson Hattis Family

In honor of our school and Joey's teachers, Miranda Phillips, Lesley Chapman, Elaine Pollack, and Cindy Shulak-Rome, and in honor of the Education Committee

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.

Chesed

Susan Manheim and Sherry Katz, the Coordinators of the Chesed Committee, invite you to our first meeting of the year, on Sunday, October 17, 10 - 11:30 am, at Sherry Katz' house. The purpose of the committee is to organize the Dorshei Tzedek community around providing support to our members, in times of need and celebration. As our congregation grows, we need a strong functioning committee to create systems to meet these needs. Please consider being a part of this effort - it's incredibly rewarding to be a part of building our community in this way. RSVP to Sherry at 617.527.3494 or katzfarber@rcn.com.

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

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

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

Condolences



To **Dinah Moeller** on the death of her father, **Henry Chase Britton**. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Andy Littman** on the death of his father, **Stanley Littman**. May his 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, and Susannah Zisk**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Mazel Tov!

To **Naomi Bodkin** and **Joshua Gordon** on their engagement!

To **Tracey Rogers** and **Jane Schwartz** on their wedding!

To **Annalise Littman** and **Julia Hausman** and their families on their becoming bat mitzvah!

To **Karen Arnold**, who finished her final unhiked segment of the Appalachian Trail, the "One Hundred Mile Wilderness" of Central Maine, in mid-August. Her 2,170-mile, multi-year journey from Georgia to Maine is now complete. Encore!?

...And What's Your Name?

Hello My Name Is

We're not putting those High Holyday name tags away yet! Very soon our name tags will be displayed in the small foyer as you enter the sanctuary at 60 Highland Street. Members are encouraged to wear the name tags at services, meetings, and gatherings, in an effort to assist Rabbi Sapsowitz in the first few months of the sabbatical year. Guests are encouraged to wear "guest" name tags so that others can greet them, and so Rabbi Marna can distinguish members from non-members. The name tags will need to be returned after each use, to minimize having to continually reproduce them, so please be conscientious about placing them in the appropriate location. And for those of you who prefer to remain nameless, the wearing of name tags is, of course, optional.

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!

Opportunities for Adults to Learn Hebrew!!

Lisa Schneider, lisa.schneider@umb.edu

Dorshei Tzedek's Adult Education Committee offers two Hebrew classes—"beginner" and "advanced beginner"—this Fall.

Beginner Hebrew (no previous knowledge assumed). **Thursday afternoons, 4:30 pm – 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. Members \$150-\$200. Non-members \$200-\$250 per series of 10. (Scholarships available if needed; please contact Rabbi Marna directly.)

This ten-session adult Hebrew class is for beginners. We'll start with the Hebrew alphabet and move quickly to vocabulary and grammar to empower students to read the prayer book and Torah and understand them. Class will be fun, informal, yet rigorous. Small weekly homework assignments will be an important part of the class.

Please purchase before first class: *The First Hebrew Primer*, Third Edition, by Simon, Resnikoff, and Motzkin. Approx. \$36. Available at Kolbo and the Israel Book Shop in Brookline, or online at amazon.com.

Natasha Shabat earned her degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University in 1987. She has also studied Hebrew in Israel and in the Ulpan at Hebrew College in Brookline, MA. Natasha worked as an editor for 10 years in the publishing field, and has been teaching Hebrew to adults since 1997.

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 October 19, 7:15 pm to 8:45 pm.** Members \$150-\$200. Non-members \$200-\$250 per series of 10. (Scholarships available if needed; please contact Rabbi Marna directly.)

This ten-session course will focus on developing reading knowledge of the Torah and prayer book. The aim is for students to become independent readers of text with the help of a dictionary.

Please purchase before first class: *New Comprehensive Shilo Pocket Dictionary* by Zevi Scharfstein. Approx. \$7. Available at Kolbo.

Yehudit Nave has over 30 years teaching experience and is president of the Hebrew Institute of Boston.

If you are interested in either class, please respond as soon as possible to **Lisa Schneider** at lisa.schneider@umb.edu or 617.591.1931.

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!

Youth Group News

Elyse Rast

Attention all 7th and 8th graders!! A new youth group is starting and we need YOU to make it great!! We're planning amazing events and thinking of exciting things to get you thinking and get you to meet new people and have fun! The first event is **Sunday, October 17** so watch your mailboxes for a flyer and remember the youth group can only be GREAT if you help make it that way! Get involved! Help plan an activity, meet new friends, and have fun!! It's time YOU joined in the FUN!! Questions: Elyse Rast, youth group advisor, 508-346-3231 or markelyse@comcast.net. See you on October 17!! I can't wait to get to know you!



October Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Fri Oct 1	6 - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service (see page 3)	Linda & Peter Katz, 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 (see page 3)
Wed Oct 6	7:30 - 9 pm	Simchat Torah	60 Highland Street (see page 3)
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 (see page 4)	Julie & Paul Fox, Ricky & Rob Greenly, Judith Wine & Aileen Cronin; <i>Sanctuary clean up:</i> Jennifer Levine, Jill Volk, Lisa Schneier
Tue Oct 12	7:15 - 8:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Adv Beginner	FUSN (see page 8)
Thu Oct 14	4:30 - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Beginner	FUSN (see page 8)
Thu Oct 14	7:30 - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Rebbe Nahman	60 Highland St (see page 8)
Fri Oct 15	6 - 8 pm	Gan Family Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Oct 15	8 - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service (see page 3)	Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Rick Glassman
Sat Oct 16	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Shoshi Paris-Saper (see page 4)	<i>Sanctuary cleanup:</i> Jamie Tessler & Peter Shapiro, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal
Sun Oct 17	2 - 4 pm	Opening Day: Gan Program #1	FUSN
Tue Oct 19	7:15 - 8:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Adv Beginner	FUSN
Thu Oct 21	4:15 - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Beginner	FUSN
Thu Oct 21	7:30 - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Rebbe Nahman	60 Highland St
Sat Oct 23	8:45 AM	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	(see page 8)
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>
Tue Oct 26	7:15 - 8:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Adv Beginner	
Thu Oct 28	4:15 - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Beginner	FUSN
Thu Oct 28	7:30 - 9 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

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.



November Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Tue Nov 2	7:15 pm - 8:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Adv Beginner	FUSN
Thu Nov 4	4:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Beginner	FUSN
Thu Nov 4	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Back to School Night	FUSN
Fri Nov 5	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service (see page 3)	Linda Schiller & Steve Robins / Ilana Mainelli 60 Highland St (see page 3)
Sat Nov 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Emily Flynn	Willa & Tom Kuh, Elaine Landes & David Felson, Angela & Dorea Vierling-Claassen 60 Highland St
Sat Nov 6	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Bet classes	FUSN
Sun Nov 7	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Gimel Family Ed	FUSN
Sun Nov 7	7:15 pm	Members Meeting (see page 2)	60 Highland St
Tue Nov 9	7:15 pm - 8:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Adv Beginner	FUSN
Thu Nov 11		<i>No Classes / Veterans Day Holiday</i>	
Sat Nov 13		<i>Youth Services / No Classes</i>	
Sat Nov 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Julie Weiman, Jodie Siegel & Susan Bernstein
Sun Nov 14	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #2	FUSN
Tue Nov 16	7:15 pm - 8:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Adv Beginner	FUSN
Wed Nov 17	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Remembrance & Redemption: Preparation of our souls for Pesach	60 Highland St
Thu Nov 18	4:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Adult Hebrew Class: Beginner	FUSN
Fri Nov 19	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Gimmel Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Nov 19	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service (see page 3)	Jacqueline & Stan Fleischman, Elana Eisman & Steve Strassberg
Sat Nov 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Elizabeth Ross & Caren Smith, Tracy Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Karla Hailer-Fidelman
Sat Nov 20	10:30 am - 11 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St
Sun Nov 21	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Ed	FUSN
Sun Nov 21	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed	FUSN
Sun Nov 21	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	60 Highland St
Thu Nov 25		<i>No School—Thanksgiving 11/25 -11/27</i>	
Sat Nov 27	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St
Sat Nov 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Josh Sachs	<i>Sanctuary clean-up:</i> Beth & Jeff Green, Rebecca Gutman 60 Highland St
Tue Nov 30	6:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	FUSN

Welcome New Members!



We welcome new member **Joshua Gordon**, fiancé of **Naomi Bodkin**.

We welcome new members, **Benita Danzing** and **Nathan Aronow** and their children **Sophia** and **Roslyn**; **Shari Zimble** and **Mark Paley** and their children **Davin** and **Risa**; and **Carrie** and **Michael Jasper** and their children **Zoe** and **Gabriel**.

Please look for these new members at upcoming services and programs and give them a warm welcome into our community.

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!

Check out www.jrf2004.org to see all the details of this exciting program. You can access the convention schedule, list of scheduled workshops, details about the highlighted programs, and much more on this page. You can also register for the JRF convention on line and pay by credit card via secure server. For more information, contact Lani Moss, JRF Managing Director, Programs and Services, at 215-782-8500, x15 or visit www.jrf.org. Some scholarship funds may be available for CDT members; contact Rabbi Marna if you are interested.

Tutoring at the Marshall School

Abby Cohen

Are back-to-school advertisements and thoughts of cool, crisp mornings making you nostalgic for your early school years? You can go back to elementary school and make a difference in a current student's education by joining a group of volunteers (including CDT members **Laura Katz** and **Abby Cohen**) who go weekly to the Marshall School in Dorchester and work one-on-one with students in kindergarten through third grade supporting their reading and writing. This wonderful program is part of the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy, which is a program of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

In the Fall, the Coalition offers training for new and returning volunteers. This training provides hands-on support and guidance for working with young readers. No previous tutoring experience is required! The Volunteer Training Calendar lists three different trainings in October: on **Tuesday, October 12 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**, on **Monday, October 18 from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm**, and on **Friday, October 22 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**. These trainings take place in Newton at either the JCC or at Temple Reyim on Washington Street. We begin going to the Marshall School on a weekly basis in late October. One group goes on Mondays and one on Wednesdays, so there are car-pooling opportunities on either day. We spend the mornings there and are back in Newton by noon.

As the Coalition states in its flyer, "Nearly half of America's third graders cannot read at grade level. As part of a local and national initiative, the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) mobilizes the Jewish community to ensure that all kids can read. Join more than 600 local Jewish volunteers who make a commitment to this effort and who truly make a difference."

Please consider joining us this school year and helping a young child develop a life-long love of reading and learning. If you are interested, please contact Abby Cohen at 617-965-6766.

School News

A warm welcome to Rebekah Ralen, our new Associate Education Director! Rebekah says: I have been involved in Jewish education all my life as a continuing student as well as a Family Educator and Education Director in the Boston area and in Santa Cruz, California. My goal as an educator is to strengthen our children's Jewish identity and to encourage intergenerational, lifelong learning in the community. I am an avid reader, as well as a designer of knitwear and jewelry, and I am the mother of **Adam**, **Gabriel**, and **Miranda**. I am delighted to be part of the Dorshei Tzedek community; I look forward to an exciting, creative year of learning with you!

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

The DT Film Club will screen *Postville: When Cultures Collide* (60 min, 2001), **Wednesday, October 15, 7:15 pm** (please be prompt), at the home of Emily Sper. This documentary film studies the impact of the growth of Hasidic, Mexican and other ethnic communities on a small, predominantly Lutheran, Iowa town after an entrepreneurial Hassidic Jew from Boro Park, Brooklyn, buys a boarded-up meat-packing plant and establishes a kosher slaughterhouse. Optional discussion follows. No need to RSVP. Emily's address is 41 Wallingford Rd. #2, Brighton. For directions, go to: www.home.earthlink.net/~sperphoto/.

Volunteers are needed to host future screenings. Watch the CDT-LIST email list for a more detailed announcement.

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.

Dorshei Tzedek Writers' Group

Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry or essays? Are you interested in getting together with other members of Dorshei Tzedek to share your craft and gain support and encouragement? Then consider getting involved with the Dorshei Tzedek Writers Group. We have met once so far and so we are still in the formative stages of figuring out what sort of group this will be and what we'll do together. We imagine getting together about monthly, to share what we're working on, seek advice from others, and engage in creative writing exercises. This is also a terrific opportunity to connect with other members of Dorshei Tzedek. If you're interested in learning more or finding out about our next meeting, please feel free to contact James Kaplan at 617.393.0216 or jameshkaplan@hotmail.com.

Dorshei Tzedek Artists' 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.