

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

Tevet - Shevat 5765

January 2005



Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

What is appropriate content for Shabbat programming? We've been wrestling with this question as we try to "normalize" our monthly "geared to adults" Friday night services.

At November's Ritual Committee meeting, we discussed two possible upcoming Friday night events. We had been approached by Rabbi Stephen Berkowitz, who serves a progressive congregation in France, with an offer to come and address the topic of Anti-Semitism in France at our already-scheduled November 19 service. At roughly the same time, our members who have been most deeply involved with GBIO asked whether we could invite speakers to our January 21 service to discuss the nursing home labor issues they're working on.

Diverse opinions were expressed around the Bruckners' dining room table that night:

- 1) There is no more appropriate time than Shabbat for educating ourselves about issues of concern to us as Jews.
- 2) There is no more appropriate time than Shabbat for renewing our commitment to *tikkun olam*/repairing the world.
- 3) Shabbat should be a restful time. Hearing about anti-Semitism runs counter to what I come to Shabbat services for.
- 4) Hearing about anti-Semitism is educational, so that feels okay to me. But the topic GBIO is bringing is explicitly labor-related, and Shabbat is about ceasing from labor—so that feels particularly inappropriate to Shabbat.

Another concern voiced was that of fluctuating attendance at these monthly Friday night services. Would having speakers be likely to attract folks who otherwise might not come? Or, on the other hand, might it mean that some folks who might otherwise come would choose not to?

The conversation was then forwarded to the CDT Board, which decided to give the green light to these two presentations, and to evaluate them afterwards.

Rabbi Berkowitz spoke as scheduled in November. As you

know, **Nancy Gertz** asked folks who'd been there for feedback on the evening. There was a wide range of responses. One member came specifically to hear the speaker, really appreciated the opportunity to learn about an unfamiliar topic, and would love similar Friday night programs in the future. Other members indicated feeling that political speakers are anathema to creating a Shabbat mood.

In one of the *siddurim* on my shelf, I came across this poem/prayer:

You Respond in Many Ways

Our God and God of our ancestors,
You respond individually to the many ways in which we observe Shabbat.

For those whose Shabbat
is a time of relaxation and sleep,
You take delight in our Shabbat rest;

For those who observe
the details of Shabbat regulations,
You sanctify us through Your commandments;

For those who spend Shabbat in study,
You grant our portion in the Torah;

For those whose Shabbat
is a time for spirituality,
You make us rejoice in Your salvation;

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For those whose Shabbat
focuses on service and prayer,
You sanctify our hearts to serve You in truth.

May You continue to provide us
lovingly and with delight,
this gift of Shabbat.

And may all of those
who honor Your Essence
find in it true serenity.

Blessed are You, Eternal,
Who hallows Shabbat.

—Joe Rosenstein

As Reconstructionists, our approach to decision-making is values-based. As we consider what is appropriate Shabbat programming for CDT, we will need to sort and prioritize differing values. I believe a case can be made for all the positions I've heard expressed! Will we reach consensus? Unlikely. But there is value in the discussion, as we learn more about what makes each other tick Jewishly. I hope many more of you will take part in the conversation!

November Board Meeting Notes

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

Membership In-reach: In February, the In-reach Committee is planning special interest potlucks and is looking now to create groupings of people around members' interests. The committee is looking for a new chairperson for next year. Membership Committee members are in the process of making follow up phone calls to new member households.

Membership Outreach: A survey indicates that about 80% of new members fall into one of two groups: those who locate us through the referral of family and friends and those who have methodically been looking for a congregation to join.

Nadiv Lev: Diana Fisher Gomberg and Karen Engels have been coordinating a services auction, the date for which is still yet to be announced. People have already begun to donate services.

Web Committee: Stan Fleischman has agreed to take over as chairperson of the Web Committee. The committee's looking to recruit a few new members. Technical expertise is not a requirement. Anyone with organizational, graphic, or design aptitude could make an immediate contribution.

School: The "Behind the Labels" *"tikkun olam* project is

picking up steam. Each class is working on a different aspect of the project. A whole school educational and fundraising (but primarily educational) event is set for March 13 and the GBIO committee has volunteered to assist with it (See page 9).

Junior Congregation: The second Junior Congregation service of the year took place November 20. Twenty 3rd-6th graders attended. Level of participation is up from last year. **Elana Rome** and **Gina Fried** are working together to make these services lively so that young people who attend are excited to be there.

GBIO-Organized Money – Paul Hattis and Emily Sper, on behalf of the GBIO committee, distributed and discussed the draft of an email that the committee is working on to get information from the congregation regarding specific benefits our members would like to see emerge from the partnership between GBIO and Citizens Bank.

JRF Convention: Rabbi Sapsowitz, Tessa and Amy Goldsmith and Cindy Shulak-Rome were at the recent JRF convention in Portland, OR. Amy attended the Teen Kallah, which she found to be a transformative experience. Tessa and Cindy attended workshops that covered areas of special interest for our congregation. Cindy reports that Camp JRF has put in a bid on a camp in the Poconos, and has a handshake agreement to purchase it. If finalized, Camp JRF will move from Illinois to a location only a four-hour drive from our area. The prospective camp is in great shape, very well equipped, meticulously cared for, and partially winterized. (See report on page 12.)

Contacting Rabbi Sapsowitz: Rabbi 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.

Snow Policy

In the event that Shabbat services are cancelled due to snow emergency, we will leave a message to that effect on our phone system (617.965.0330) by 8:30 am. For Erev Shabbat services, notification will be made by 4:30 pm. *Messages will only be left if services are cancelled.* Please do not call members at home; call the office instead. Thanks!

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. **Please see the Snow Policy on page 2.**

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, 6 - 7 pm

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday of each month.

Please note: our next Erev Shabbat Family Service, on **January 7** will be a bit different. We have the opportunity to try out a pre-publication issue of the new *Children's Siddur* which will soon be published by JRF (Jewish Reconstructionist Federation). As one of a handful of communities who will be doing a "test run" with this new siddur, this is an opportunity for us to give some feedback about this *siddur* prior to its publication. We hope you will join us and share your feedback about the new *Children's Siddur* following the service!

GBIO Erev Shabbat Service

January 21, 7:15 – 9:00 pm (Please note special time!)

Please join us as we welcome Shabbat with song, prayer, and reflection. This special service will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat with guest speakers involved in the struggle to improve conditions for nursing home workers in Boston. Come hear why Dorshei Tzedek has joined with GBIO (the Greater Boston Inter-faith Organization) to stand with these workers and protect their rights. The service is scheduled from 7:15 until 8:15 pm, followed by the Oneg and our guest speakers. For more information, contact **Andrew Schiff** at manschiff@aol.com.

Erev Shabbat Services

February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, 8 - 9 pm

We welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection. Please join us!

Tu b'Shvat

*Monday, January 24, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
at the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street*



Tu b'Shvat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees, is an opportunity to celebrate the environment, connect to the special fruits and grains of the land of Israel, and study teachings from the Jewish mystical tradition. Join us to celebrate Tu b'Shvat with a special program of food, song and study. This program is appropriate for adults and older kids.

We will begin at 6:30 pm with a Tu b'Shvat seder, including readings, eating special fruits associated with the holiday, and some study and discussion. At 7:30 pm we will enjoy a potluck dinner. In order to prepare for both the seder and the meal, we ask that you RSVP to **Audra Karp** as soon as possible at ardua@netstep.net. Let us know how many are coming and what kind of a dish you would like to bring (main dish, salad, dessert). A Tu b'Shvat tradition is to eat foods using one or more of the seven agricultural species associated with the land of Israel: wheat, barley, figs, dates, olives, grapes, and pomegranates. So if you can, make a dish with one or more of these ingredients!

End of Life and Bereavement Parlor Meetings

Thursday, January 27 at 7:30 pm, 60 Highland St. Sanctuary

Sunday, February 13 at 10 am, home of Jill Volk

Two dates for the Parlor Meetings for our End of Life and Bereavement discussions have been set. Please come to one of meetings listed above and share your thoughts with us about CDT's initiatives in this area. The objectives of the parlor meetings are to have good discussion and collect members' thoughts with the goal of generating a plan for this initiative. Different opportunities/directions for the membership to consider will be explained at the meetings. If you are unable to attend and would like to write, feel free to send your comments to bereavement@dorsheitzedek.org. For further information or to speak to someone personally, contact **Nicky Silver** at 617-327-1999, or **Jill Volk** at 617-527-2456.

Synagogue Council of Massachusetts takes Jewish Community Leaders on 18th annual Unity Mission

Ellie Goldberg, erg_hk@juno.com

In an effort to spark better understanding among Jews, the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts recently brought together thirty leaders and representatives of Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist synagogues and communities for its 18th annual Unity Mission to New York City, November 21 and 22.

Adding to the diversity of the group were two Israelis from the Boston-Haifa Connection (a project with Boston's sister city, Haifa, Israel), a Brandeis student, and four teenagers. The trip to New York was made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

This year I joined the diverse group as the sole representative of the Reconstructionist Movement. I was very happy that, prior to the trip, the group had a chance to learn about Reconstructionism from Rabbi Elyse Wechterman from Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, and Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's Chayim Herzig-Marx.

In New York, we visited the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox seminaries for a series of meetings and classes with religious leaders, celebrated scholars and rabbinic students. The first presentation was by Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield, Vice President of CLAL (the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership). Rabbi Hirschfield in-

spired everyone by describing the need to search for common ground and foster mutual respect.

He emphasized the urgent need to change the paradigm that different choices meant one person was right and the other wrong. He suggested accepting each person's choices as right for himself or herself and that different forms of Jewish expression are a vibrant tapestry or mosaic of positive Jewish identities.

From early in the morning until late into the evening, we joined in daily worship services, study sessions, and formal and informal discussions exploring the religious beliefs and practices of each community as well as the challenges facing each Movement.

We heard talks from Rabbi Aaron Panken of Hebrew Union College; Rabbi Robert Hirt of Yeshiva University; and Sara Hurwitz, Madricha Ruchanit (Female Religious Mentor) of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. The visit to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) included a session with Rabbi Neil Gilman and an exciting presentation by David Wachtel about JTS' Rare Books Collection and fragments from the Cairo Geniza, a repository of more than 1,000 years of Jewish documents discovered in 1896.

The Mission exceeded my expectations for an experience that broke stereotypes and created positive feelings among a very diverse group of people. It was also an intensive educational opportunity where I learned not only about our shared history, but even more importantly, about ways to promote our shared future.

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Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Zolit

Please join us on **January 8 at 9:45 am**, as our son Ethan is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Ethan is a student at Brown Middle School, and has been a member of the Dorshei Tzedek community for seven years. Ethan enjoys reading and creative writing, and all aspects of science. He is a member of the Brown Cross Country team and BAYS soccer, and is an avid supporter of the Boston area professional sports teams. Ethan has been active in social action groups, and volunteers regularly at the Family Table food pantry. As part of his Bar Mitzvah experience, he will be collecting books that will be donated to children's groups in the Boston area. We hope that you will join us to celebrate this joyous occasion. A Kiddush lunch will follow the service.—*Barbara and Jerry Zolit*

Bar Mitzvah of Micah Shapiro

Please join us on **January 22 at 9:45 am**, as our son Micah is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Micah joined the Dorshei Tzedek community after moving to Newton and is now a seventh grader at F. A. Day Middle School. As part of his coming of age, he is folding 1,000 paper cranes to raise money for renal research at Children's Hospital. He chose cranes after reading the book "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" in third grade while he was being treated for Nephrotic Syndrome, a long-term manageable kidney disease, at Children's. When he's not folding cranes, he likes to listen to music, play baseball, ride his bike and a whole bunch of other kids stuff because, "a normal kid looks just the same as a kid with a kidney problem." A Kiddush lunch will follow the service—so please come and celebrate this happy milestone with our family.—*Karla and Miles Hailer-Fidelman and Barry Shapiro*

Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Nadler

Please join us on **January 29 at 9:45 am**, as our son Joshua is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Josh is a seventh grader at Pollard Middle School in Needham. He has been a member of the Dorshei Tzedek community for the past five years. Josh's passions include playing soccer, performing magic and cooking. He also enjoys his summer experience at Camp Tevya. Josh is volunteering for the Birthday Wishes Organization as part of his Bar Mitzvah experience, by baking cakes and raising money to help provide birthday parties for homeless children. We look forward to sharing this special day with family, friends and members of the Dorshei Tzedek community. Please join us for a Kiddush lunch after the service.—*Judy Shapiro and Brian Nadler*

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The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts plans several Boston-area meetings in the next few months to develop programs and projects that will help Mission alumni to bring the message of *K'lal Yisrael*, the unity of the Jewish People, home to their congregations in Massachusetts.

For learn more about the Unity Mission, contact me, Ellie Goldberg, erg_hk@juno.com, 617.965.9637, or go to <http://www.synagoguecouncil.org/UnityMissionNYC.html>.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is pleased to provide financial support to members who are interested in attending the Unity Mission each year.

Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Deborah Blicher & Peter Dain

In honor of Deb & Lisa Levheim's legal wedding

Jennifer Hochschild & Anthony Broh

In memory of Harry Phillips, Miranda Phillips' grandfather

Wendy and Charles Frankston

In honor of Naomi Frankston's Bat Mitzvah and all those who helped and participated in this simcha

Melanie Northrop

In memory of John Holohan's father and in gratitude for John's musical accompaniment at Sarah Forman's Bat Mitzvah

Ruth Paris & Rob Saper

Thanks to Rabbi Spitzer, Rabbi Sapsowitz and Miranda Phillips for all their help with Shoshi's Bat Mitzvah

Lisa Port White

Debra Rattet, Leslie Rubin, Zachary & Alexander Rubin

In memory of our mother, mother-in-law & grandmother Lillian Rattet on her fifteenth Yahrzeit

In memory of John Holohan Sr., father of John Holohan

In memory of Harry Phillips, grandfather of Miranda Phillips

In honor of Emily Flynn, Josh Sacks, Ethan Zolit and Josh Nadler on their becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks

In honor of John Holohan for his wonderful guitar playing at Josh's Bar Mitzvah

In honor of the Dorshei Tzedek choir and their beautiful singing at Josh's Bar Mitzvah

In honor of the Dorshei Tzedek religious school and all the teachers Josh has had over the years

A special thank you to Cindy Shulak Rome for her unfailing guidance and to Miranda Phillips for her tutoring skills

In honor of Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx for all of their help and support around Josh's Bar Mitzvah

In memory of Miranda Phillips grandfather

In honor of Rabbi Sapsowitz and all of her help with Josh's Bar Mitzvah

Lyn and Ed Weiner

In honor of Joshua Sacks becoming Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Melanie Northrop

In gratitude to Rabbi Spitzer and Rabbi Sapsowitz for their support during the time of Sarah's Bat Mitzvah and the loss of my father

School Fund

Melanie Northrop

In honor of Sarah Forman's Bat Mitzvah, with thanks to Miranda Phillips and Cindy Shulak-Rome

Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman

In appreciation of Kathy Pillsbury and Cindy Marshall's generosity

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.

CDT Sabbatical Liaison Committee

The Sabbatical Liaison Committee is available to help insure positive relations between rabbi and congregation. We are available to discuss any concerns or issues that may affect that relationship. Rabbi Sapsowitz and the committee will be in regular contact. Please feel free to call any one of us:

Ora Gladstone: 617.630.9050, gladston@brandeis.edu

Mark Bronstein: 617.332.8424, mark@bronsteinlaw.com.

Louise Enoch: 617.926.0836, lpenoch@aol.com

John Holohan: 617.244.4773, jholohan@mathworks.com,

Andrew Schiff: 617.239.2523, manschiff@aol.com

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Sapsowitz** (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 us 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 Sapsowitz at 617.965.0330 x2.

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Peter Demuth** and **Francis Greenberg**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Condolences



To **Miranda Phillips**, on the death of her grandfather, **Harry Phillips**. May his memory be for a blessing.

Todah Rabah

To our Holiday Coordinators **Marc Steinberg** and **Susannah Zisk**, and to our lotsa latkes team—**Tessa Goldsmith**, **Jerry Zolit** and **Audra Karp**. *Todah rabah* to the children's programming team: **Linda Schiller**, **Sheree Galpert**, **Joel Reider**, **Lilly Platt**, **Diana Fisher-Gomberg**, **Barbara Zolit**, **Laura Katz**, **Abby Cohen**, **Hara Klein** and sister **Vicki Ingrid Neuman**, and **Emily Sper**. Much appreciation to folks who helped with setting up and cleaning up: **Janice Fine**, **Cheryl and Jeff Sacks**, **Mei See Sandson**, **Carolyn Fine Friedman** and **Jerry Friedman**. Thanks to Rabbi Marna for leading us in study, prayer and song, and a great time was had by all!

To **John Holohan**, who has generously enhanced a number of our recent Shabbat services with his guitar accompaniment! *Yashir koach*, John!

To **Barbara Shatkin**, for her outstanding and tireless leadership of the exceptional Behind the Labels program in the religious school. What *nachas* parents have enjoyed to see our children standing up for the rights of others here and in lands far, far away. *Yashir koach*, Barbara!

To the Dorshei Tzedek community, from **Linette Liebling**, for providing the **Liebling-Demuth family** with meals during Pe-

ter's recent hospitalization. Having the meals meant so much to us; providing both nutritional and spiritual nourishment. Throughout this difficult year we have never felt the pain of isolation, instead we have experienced the love and support of community. Thank you and *L'chayim!*

Mazel Tov

To **Diane Dillon**, our office administrator, and family, on the marriage of her daughter on December 11!

To **Carla Naumburg** and **Josh Herzig-Marx** on their first wedding anniversary!

Me'ah Report

Joshua Lieberman oklieb@oklieb.net

Two Septembers ago a group of members from Dorshei Tzedek and Hillel B'nai Torah embarked together on a 2-year journey—4000 years of Jewish history, philosophy, and belief in 100 hours of study and discussion. Jules Verne would have been amazed. We would like to begin to share this journey with you over the next several newsletters and perhaps awaken some of you to the possibility of undertaking your own Me'ah journey next September.

The Me'ah program is sponsored by Hebrew College and CJP and covers four major periods of Jewish history: Biblical, Rabbinical, Medieval, and Modern. The class meets once a week for three hours and consists of lectures, discussions, and readings from a wide variety of sources. Our group has been helped along in the journey so far by three eminent and committed local scholars, Jonathan Klawans, Avi Winitzer, and Michael Weingrad, as well as by our two rabbi's.

For me, Me'ah is about history, but a unique form of history—history not only of physical events, but of the beliefs and traditions of those who came to call themselves the Jewish people; their story and how from earliest times to this day we retell (and—dare I say—reconstruct) this history to be *our* story.

We learned just how personal this history can be in the first year of Me'ah where most classes were split into two periods: the Biblical instructor took the first half and then made way for the Rabbinic instructor in the second half. The former perfectly embodied the fog of time blanketing the Biblical era, the tantalizing threads of multiple authorship, political intrigue, and Mesopotamian culture. The latter marched authoritatively and directly through the development of Rabbinical and Talmudic Judaism. About half of our group drank in the Biblical musings, while the other half preferred to tuck into the solid Rabbinical fare. Something for everyone in this feast! Stay tuned for Me'ah reports to come.

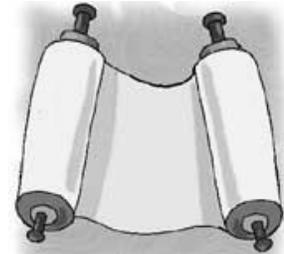
Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

with Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

January 15, 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!



Sarah, Hagar and Abraham: The Power of Empathy in Relationships

with Marsha Mirkin, PhD

Sunday, January 30, 10 am - 12 noon, 60 Highland Street

Members free; non-members \$10

During this session, we will join our foreparents Sarah, Abraham and Hagar in their joys and their sorrows as they struggle, make mistakes, learn, and grow. We will examine what this small piece of Torah can say to us about empathy, attention, and compassion. These teachings can guide us as we try to understand ourselves and our own relationships. Text will be read in English and no previous knowledge of Torah is required. Marsha Mirkin, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist and resident scholar at the Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center. She gives workshops throughout the Boston area about discovering personal meaning in Torah stories. Her newest book, *The Women who Danced by the Sea: Finding Ourselves in the Stories of our Biblical Foremothers* was released in October.

"In Search of the Name of God"

with Joel Rosenberg

Sunday, February 6, 10 am -12 noon

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Road, West Roxbury

Co-sponsored by Dorshei Tzedek and Temple Hillel B'nai Torah

Joel Rosenberg, is a poet and translator; he serves as Professor of Judaic Studies at Tufts University and Co-Chair of the Program in Judaic Studies at Tufts. For ten years, Joel Rosenberg worked as translator of the Hebrew text of *Kol Haneshamah*, the Reconstructionist Prayer Book, which presently includes volumes devoted to Shabbat, Festivals and the High Holidays. In the earliest stages, he based his work on a reading, among other sources, of Jewish mystical lore on prayer and divine names. Over the ensuing years, Rosenberg and the Prayer Book Commission worked to evolve a text of the prayer services that was readable, inclusive, and oriented to what he calls "a theology of immanence"—a sense of the awesomeness of divinity present in all life. He sought a translation that would read beautifully in English while serving as a guide and commentary to the Hebrew and Aramaic original.

Using traditional texts, selected prayer translations, and his own poetry, Rosenberg will offer his reflections on the language of prayer, on problems of translating the prayer book, and on the larger issue of defining, through prayer, one's relationship to divinity, to life of the spirit, and to the world. Discussion will follow. Coffee and bagels provided.

For further information, Contact **Susannah Sirkin** (617.363.0007) or HBT office (617.323.0486).

Tikkun Olam

Save the Date!

Behind the Labels Educational Event

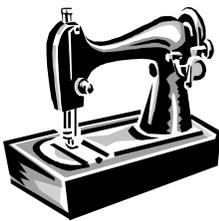
Sunday, March 13, 2 - 4 pm, FUSN

As part of the religious school's Behind the Labels *tikkun olam* project, we are holding an educational event the afternoon of Sunday, March 13. The purpose of this event is to inform and engage people in learning about the exploitation and horrible working conditions of the factory workers who make our clothes, and what we as consumers can do to address these problems. Congregants of all ages are invited to attend.

Jews and Sweatshops

Carol Sklar, CSKLAR12@aol.com

As you read above, on March 13 we will be having an educational event expanding on the Behind the Labels campaign (see above notice). To complement the awareness of current sweatshop practices we are planning a piece to highlight our Jewish past as workers and union organizers in sweatshops, especially in the earlier part of the 20th century. We are looking for old family photographs from that era showing sweatshop workers, old union cards, strike buttons, anything you have that you would like to share. We are also looking for family quotes pertaining to labor and or unions that you heard growing up. In my family it was always, "You never cross a picket line," among other things. We will take good care of your memorabilia and will return all of them to you. Please contact me to let me know what you have hidden away at home that would work for this exhibit or with questions.



GBIO Update

Ezra Hausman, ezrad@rcn.com

It is the third night of Chanukah, and I have tried to take some time to consider why we celebrate this holiday anyway—commemorating one small battle in the long struggle for religious and political self-determination by the Jews about 2300 years ago. Children often think the "miracle" of Chanukah is that a small amount of oil lasted for eight days. Adults try to remind them that the real miracle is that a small band of zealots overcame the mightiest army in the world and threw it out of Jerusalem. But I think the miracle wasn't the victory or the oil—it was the unexpected *chutzpah* of the powerless to challenge the powerful, when their

chances of victory was beyond slim, closer to none at all.

This coming Wednesday, the last day of Chanukah, a group of Dorshei Tzedek members will participate in a GBIO action at the State House, to stand with modern Maccabees in our own community. These Haitian women, caregivers for our parents and grandparents in nursing homes in the wealthy suburbs, are standing up to the political and economic forces that take them for granted, that never expect them to have the courage to stand up for their rights. Like the Maccabees, they are fighting for basic human rights—the right to be treated with dignity and respect, the right to justice and due process, the right to decent working conditions. Like the Maccabees, they face oppressors who hardly take them seriously, arrogant in the imbalance of power and viewing the workers as disposable and replaceable. And like the Maccabees, their chances of success must seem remote indeed. Complaints and grievances for nursing home caregivers are generally a one-way ticket out the door, a very effective technique for making sure no one causes too much trouble.

But in addition to their remarkable courage, these modern Maccabees believe they have something else that is taking the nursing home conglomerates by surprise. They have the watchful and concerned members of GBIO, from many faiths and reflecting the diversity of greater Boston, standing by their sides. We will be there with them when they file their grievances on Wednesday, and we will not be silent if there are reprisals against them. I'm not sure why they should trust that we will continue to stick our necks out for them, but they are putting their livelihoods on the line in the faith that we will. It is a daunting and humbling responsibility.

Watch your e-mail for ongoing opportunities to stand up for justice and human rights with GBIO. In addition to the nursing home initiative, we are continuing our organized money campaign to use our combined economic clout to demand better community and financial services from Citizens Bank and other institutions. Ideas and energy from all members of the community are always, always encouraged.

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 www.dorsheitzedek.org/rabbi-music.htm.

School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome, school@dorsheitzedek.org
and Rebekah Ralen

School Closings Due to Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather call the Religious School Office for information on cancellations (617.965.5443). We will make every effort to announce school closings by 1:30 pm on weekdays and by 8:30 am on Saturday mornings. School cancellations will be sent out via email on weekdays as well as noted on our office phone. Email announcements will not be sent out on Shabbat.

Tikkun Olam

For our *tikkun olam* project, **Katy Jablon** and **Julia Sklar** of *Kitah Zayin* are collecting donations of clothing for an organization called, "The Second Step." The Second Step is a shelter for homeless mothers and their children who have experienced domestic violence. We are collecting clothing items for kids in need of them. If you choose to donate, the box is in Morah Chavah's office. We ask that all underwear, socks, and bathing suits be new, but all other clothing items such as shirts, pants, etc. can be newly bought or gently used.

Junior Congregation

January 15, February 12, March 19, April 9, May 7
10:45 am – 12 noon, 60 Highland St.
Room 111 (across from the Child Care Room)

All 3rd graders and up are welcome to attend Junior Congregation. The service will be followed by a special kid-dush—and will conclude at 12 noon as the service in the sanctuary concludes.

Tot Shabbat

Janet Boguslaw, boguslaw@brandeis.edu
January 15, February 12, March 19, April 9, May 7
10:30 – 11 am

60 Highland St., Childcare Room

Join us in the Child Care Room at 60 Highland St. for a young people's service. This service is geared for children in preschool- Kindergarten and their parents.

"Behind the Labels"

CDT Participates in Wal-Mart Protest

Barbara Shatkin

On Sunday, December 5, members from about fourteen Dorshei Tzedek households joined Workmen's Circle in

Passport to Israel Program Deadline

Elaine Landes, erose116@yahoo.com

Families with children in 3rd and 7th grade Hebrew School are reminded to submit registration forms to enroll their children in the Passport to Israel program this month. For more information/details about this wonderful program, please call Elaine Landes at 617.969.7703.

their annual Children's Protest Against Sweatshops. Other sponsors of the protest included the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the National Labor Committee, the Jewish Labor Committee, and Mass NOW. The protest was held at Wal-Mart in Lynn.

Participants marched, carried signs that our students made detailing Wal-Mart sweatshop abuses, flew balloons stating "Wal-Mart Uses Sweatshops", chanted anti-sweatshop and anti-Wal-Mart chants, and sung protest songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "We Shall Not be Moved." We heard brief talks given by Mass NOW and AFL-CIO members and Workmen Circle fifth graders. The labor abuses described by the NOW and AFL-CIO speakers included those facing workers in Wal-Mart stores. Although the National Labor Committee discouraged boycotting companies using sweatshops at the Bangladesh workers tour attended by our *Zayin* class in October because workers desperately needed their jobs, one chant called for shoppers to buy their gifts elsewhere.

During the initial part of the protest, protesters signed a huge letter that had been written by the Workmen's Circle fifth grade class demanding that Wal-Mart rectify the problem of sweatshop abuse. As planned, the fifth graders entered Wal-Mart at some point and presented the letter to the store manager. The manager apparently took the letter, told the kids he was unaware of the issue, and directed them to speak to national headquarters. The kids let go of the balloons while in the store.

Apparently after exiting the store, the Lynn police claimed the protest had violated the terms of the permit. They temporarily detained the Workmen's Circle children who had entered the store in a grassy area, still in view of other protesters. Within a short period of time, and after a Workmen's Circle parent became quite vocal, the police allowed the fifth graders to rejoin the group. A Workmen's Circle staff person said she did not know whether the permit had been violated, and that the North Shore Labor Committee person who had obtained the permit was surprised that the

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

police had behaved in this manner.

Participating in a protest can be a complicated experience, and this protest was no exception. Despite the complications, some members who attended felt that it was a worthwhile experience to be able to join together with other members and our children in speaking up against the injustice being done to workers in sweatshops.

Here are some comments from some of our students who attended the protest:

If you went to Wal-Mart on December 5, you would have seen a crowd of people and a big truck in the parking lot. This was because Wal-Mart uses sweatshops! Several Hebrew schools learned about sweatshops and the conditions the workers live and work in. Women get less money than the men, and when they turn twenty-five they are kicked out and replaced by girls about ten years old who are expected to work harder! A letter was signed and the protesters tried to take it to the manager of the store, but were stopped by policemen and told to go home. "At least we got our message out."—Celina Siegel, *Kitah Gimmel*

When we got to Lynn, we found the people who we were going to protest with. After that we got in a circle and chanted some chants like "Hey hey! Ho ho! Sweat shops have got to go!" Then we got in a big group and some people talked.—Isabel Snyder, *Kitah Gimmel*

We thought it was exciting and a bit scary to attend the demonstration—we had never been to a protest before. It was a good idea to let balloons go inside the store—some of the people responded enthusiastically but most only said "Get out of my way—I'm trying to shop." Most people had no idea where the clothes came from or where the workers were working.

—Michal Lieberman and Cora Hersh, *Kitah Hay*

I think Wal-Mart is going to think a second time about using sweatshops to make their products!

—Ethan Zolit, *Kitah Zayin*

I thought it was sad that we had to go in the first place, but once we were there it was extremely exciting that we were making history. It was scary when the police came.—Julia Sklar, *Kitah Zayin*

I thought that it was fun and scary at the same time. I had never been to a protest and I was very excited to go.—Aliza Lurie, *Kitah Zayin*

I am glad I went to the protest and I hope it made a dif-

ference. Several people seemed really devoted to the cause and knew a lot about it. I am glad so many people showed up, and I hope it shows up in the press to inform other people!—Aviva Galpert, *Kitah Zayin*

And show up in the press it did! Articles and pictures about the protest were in the Jewish Advocate and the December 12 issue of the Sunday Globe!

Attention No'ar Hadash Youth Group

Next event: Sunday, February 13

Elyse Rast, markelyse@comcast.net

Hard to believe it's January already and the year is half over! We've been having a great year and if you took a risk and came to an event—yeah!! We've been seeing new faces each month and hope to see yours soon. Grab a friend, come meet new people, and do some interesting activities with other Jewish kids your same age. It's a neat way to explore your Judaism in a fun and relaxing environment.

So far, we went rock climbing in Oct, saw a film from BJFF in Nov and went to a Holocaust exhibit in Dec. There won't be an event in January so mark your calendars now for Sunday, February 13 for an event that is sure to be amazing!

If you have any questions about No'ar Hadash, please contact **Elyse Rast**, advisor, at 508.346.3231 or markelyse@comcast.net.

Upcoming JRF Workshop: Values-Based Decision-Making: Reconstructionism in Action

Saturday, March 26-27

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, West Roxbury

To be held Saturday evening and all day Sunday, this JRF-led workshop is designed for current and future lay leaders, rabbis, educators and professional staff of JRF congregations. In other words, it's for us! The workshop will help to develop skills in congregational application in Reconstructionist theology, philosophy and practice, and will introduce/model the values-based decision making and reconstructionist process for congregational decision-making. The text for the workshop is *Exploring Judaism*, by Alpert and Staub, which is required reading.

The cost for the workshop is \$100. For more information and to register, contact Hattie Dunbar at JRF (215.782.8500 x 30 or Hdunbar@jrf.org, or visit www.jrf.org). Some financial assistance is available through CDT; contact Nancy Gertz at president@dorsheitzedek.org.

JRF News

Report on the JRF Convention

Portland, Oregon, November 2004

Tessa Goldsmith, tessagoldsmith@comcast.net

Our daughter, Amy, a junior in high school, returned from Camp JRF this summer invigorated and inspired. She had developed close relationships with a bunch of kids, had truly lived Reconstructionist values for three weeks and was eager to be part of the No'ar Hadash (Youth Group) Leadership training and the Teen Kallah (Community) which was to run concurrently with the JRF convention in Portland. I had not been to a JRF Convention before and was curious to learn how Dorshei Tzedek fit into the Reconstructionist Movement as a whole. Secretly, I also wanted to see for myself what was going on in No'ar Hadash! So we both set out for Portland, Oregon on November 10th.

I am convinced that the experience was enhanced by having **Cindy Shulak-Rome** at the convention. Cindy, a JRF Board member, showed me the ropes, recommended valuable workshops and introduced me to many people! It's just astounding how many people were happy to see Cindy!

JRF celebrated its 50th birthday at the convention – of course there was Torah study, cake, and lots of reminiscing. The Shabbat services were so uplifting. Being surrounded by over 400 folks, most of whom I did not know, all singing in harmony, playing instruments, participating and connecting with the meaning of Shabbat was truly extraordinary. The teens participated in the Kabbalat Shabbat service and it was so heartwarming to see the future of our movement doing the same thing as the adults – singing and connecting meaningfully in their community while having a good time.

I attended several excellent workshops led by a group of very talented lay leaders and rabbis. My overwhelming impression was that of thoughtfulness and careful consideration of all information presented. Jeffrey and Deborah Schein led a session about the four requirements of life long learning based on a teaching from *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of our fathers). They emphasized the need to include a learning opportunity or a teachable moment in all activities that we plan across the age span.

Rabbi Richard Hirsh ran a fascinating and thought provoking session on "Who is a Jew and Why do we Care? Along a similar theme, I attended a "Values Based Decision Making" workshop led by Rabbi David Teutsch. This workshop reaffirmed for me some of the fundamentals which guide

policy making for our shul whether it relates to end-of-life issues, religious school issues, strategic planning or even bringing Kiddush for Shabbat.

Havurah Shalom, a fairly large congregation in Portland, has a very active group that looks at end-of-life issues, *chevra kaddisha*, burial and mourning practices. In a panel format, they presented a variety of related issues including how they embarked on this journey and how they share resources with their congregants. Hopefully I will be able to share some of their lessons learned as we move forward with our own *Horef Hayamim* process (winter of our lives).

Two important announcements were made at the convention that you should know about: Firstly, we learned that Camp JRF has purchased a permanent camp site in Pocono Ridge, Pennsylvania that will be ours in 2006. We saw a great slide show of the site which seems to be very well equipped and suited to the needs of our growing summer camp. I know the teens were exceptionally impressed!

Secondly, the Report of the JRF Israel Policies Task Force was published and presented at Convention. This comprehensive document is the culmination of two years work by a committee co-chaired by Rabbi Barbara Penzner and Mark Widoff, which examined questions such as the JRF position on support for Zionism and support of the State of Israel; whether or not JRF is to be vocal about its positions and how it should advocate; and how JRF can promote religious pluralism in Israel.

The Convention culminated in a Havdallah celebration that should have had the disclaimer "Don't try this at home." Howard Patterson of the Flying Karamazov Brothers juggled the Havdallah accoutrements and—yes, you guessed correctly—he juggled the *havdallah* candle directly into the wine cup!

There was a great sense of *ruach*, spirituality and connection—people were incredibly friendly and thoughtful and I got the feeling looking around that the larger movement with which are connected is just as vibrant, thoughtful, alive and dynamic as I feel we are at Dorshei Tzedek. To get your own taste of the convention, may I suggest you visit the photo albums at jrf.org.

And one more thing: The next JRF Convention will be held in Philadelphia in 2006 as it has been every four years; but in 2008 the convention will be held in Boston! I expect we will all be called upon to help with the planning and logistics and we'll all have the opportunity to experience the spirit of the movement in our own back yard!

January Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Sat Jan 1		<i>NO Shabbat Morning Services</i>	
Tue Jan 4		<i>Classes Resume</i>	
Tue Jan 4	6:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	<i>FUSN: Classroom 2</i>
Thu Jan 6	4:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	<i>FUSN: Alliance Room</i>
Fri Jan 7	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service (see page 3)	Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Ilana Mainelli
Sat Jan 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Zolit (see page 4)	Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Beth Brooks & Hankus Netsky, Sarah Little & Douglas Hersh; Sanctuary Clean-Up: Dinah Moeller, Sasha Goldberg
Sat Jan 8	7:30 pm - 9 pm	New Member Orientation	<i>60 Highland St: Sanctuary</i>
Sun Jan 9	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #4	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Jan 9	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Jan 9	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>60 Highland St: Parlor</i>
Tue Jan 11	6:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	<i>FUSN: Classroom 2</i>
Thu Jan 13	4:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	<i>FUSN: Alliance Room</i>
Sat Jan 15		<i>No Class - MLK Weekend</i>	
Sat Jan 15	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	<i>60 Highland St (see page 8)</i>
Sat Jan 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Meryl Kahn, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt, Karen & Reinhard Engels
Sat Jan 15	10:30 am - 11 am	Tot Shabbat	<i>60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 10)</i>
Sat Jan 15	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	<i>60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 10)</i>
Tue Jan 18	6:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	<i>FUSN: Classroom 2</i>
Fri Jan 21	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Aleph Shabbat Dinner	<i>FUSN</i>
Fri Jan 21	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service GBIO Speakers (see page 3)	Emily Sper, Caryn-Amy King
Sat Jan 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Micah Shapiro	Sanctuary Clean-up: Rachel Greenberg, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen
Sun Jan 23	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Mon Jan 24	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Tu B'shvat (see page 3)	Steffi & Eric Karp, Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan <i>FUSN</i>
Tue Jan 25	6:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Adult Hebrew Class	<i>FUSN: Classroom 2</i>
Thu Jan 27		<i>No Class - Staff In-service</i>	
Thu Jan 27	7:30 pm	End of Life and Bereavement Parlor Meeting	(see page 4)
Sat Jan 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Josh Nadler	Sanctuary Clean-Up: Toni Rosenberg, Laura & Joel Katz
Sat Jan 29	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Family Ed, Kitah Bet Class	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Jan 30	10 am - 12 pm	Sarah Hager and Abraham: The Power of Empathy in Relationships with Marcia Mirkin	<i>60 Highland St: Sanctuary (see page 8)</i>
Sun Jan 30	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Gimel Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>

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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.



February Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Fri Feb 4	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Andy & Miriam Baumel, Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner
Sat Feb 5 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Karen Wasserman & Betsy Hinden, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Amy Brodsky & Rex Flynn
Sun Feb 6	10 am - 12 pm	In Search of the Name of God <i>with Joel Rosenberg</i>	<i>Temple Hillel B'nai Torah</i> <i>(see page 7)</i>
Sun Feb 6	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Ed	FUSN
Sun Feb 6	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> <i>60 Highland St</i>
Fri Feb 11		Kitah Gimel home Shabbat Dinners	
Sat Feb 12	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	<i>(see page 7)</i>
Sat Feb 12	9:30 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Amy Bermar, Marvin Brotman, Andrea Diamond
Sat Feb 12	10:30 am - 11 am	Tot Shabbat	<i>60 Highland St: Room 112</i> <i>(see page 10)</i>
Sat Feb 12	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	<i>60 Highland St: Room 111</i> <i>(see page 10)</i>
Sun Feb 13	10 am	End of Life and Bereavement Parlor Meeting	<i>(see page 4)</i>
Sun Feb 13	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #5	FUSN
Sun Feb 13	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed	FUSN
Fri Feb 18	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Debbie Blicher & Peter Dain, Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg
Sat Feb 19		<i>No Classes Thru 2/23</i> <i>School Vacation Week</i>	
Sat Feb 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Emily Saltz & Ira Fader, Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman, Leeann Simons
Sat Feb 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller

Welcome New Members!

We welcome the following new members to the Dorshei Tzedek community:



Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent are expecting their first child in March. They have recently moved from Cambridge to Newtonville and are happily nesting, which they have discovered means frequent trips to Home Depot. Arthur is a technical director and computer engineer at Network Appliance, Inc. in Waltham. Allison recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical psychology and is looking forward to finishing the final requirements that will permit her to call herself a licensed psychologist. They are excited to be joining a participatory Jewish community and look forward to learning from and celebrating with Dorshei Tzedek.

Sue Lanser and Jo Radner are delighted to be joining Dorshei Tzedek three years after leaving Washington, DC and Congregation Bet Mishpachah. They moved to Cambridge in 2001 when Sue became chair of the Women's Studies Program and professor of literature at Brandeis and Jo took early retirement from her professorship at American University to pursue a freelance career as a storyteller, oral historian, folklorist, and scholar of New England history (see her website, www.joradner.com). Partners for nearly twenty years, Sue and Jo became newlyweds when Rabbi Spitzer performed their marriage ceremony in August. Between them they have five grown sons (Steve, Tom, Chris, Josh, and Jack), three daughters-in-law (Anna, Heather, and Holly), and three granddaughters (Kylie, Abigail, and newborn Amelia). Both Jo and Sue are holing up this year to finish books (though Sue is singing with the CDT chorus), but they look forward to participating more fully in the life of Dorshei Tzedek in coming years.

Carrie and Michael Pekar Jasper live in Newtonville with their six-year old twins, **Zoe** and **Gabe**. They've been in the Boston area for a couple of decades, and in Newton for the past eight years. Zoe and Gabe love kindergarten at the Cabot School and really look forward to their *Kitah Gan* classes. Michael is the director of scientific reporting at Genzyme in Cambridge. He's an enthusiastic amateur astronomer and a long time student and teacher of Chinese martial arts. Carrie is a child and family therapist by training, and worked for many years directing mental health programs for traumatized children and battered women. She's now a consultant to the Department of Public Health, runs a support group for parents of children with sensory processing disorder, and can be found amongst the sopranos in the Boston Intergenerational Chorus. All Pekar Jaspers are delighted to join the Dorshei Tzedek community!

New Member Orientation

Saturday, January 8, 7 pm
60 Highland Street Sanctuary

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz and the Membership Committee warmly invite new members to the New Member Orientation and Havdallah Service. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about Dorshei Tzedek!

We will provide an overview of our committees, answer any questions you might have, as well as discuss ways new you can deepen your connection and begin to explore your interest areas at Dorshei Tzedek. We will introduce you to other members, both new and old, and also give you a tour of our space. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

RSVP to **Diane Dillon** at 617.965.0330, and also let her know if you will need childcare. We hope to see you there!

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.

CDT Sings: The Dorshei Tzedek choral group sings a variety of pieces with some connection to Jewish liturgy or culture. There is no requirement for membership, just an interest in singing with fellow CDT members. Our pieces range from simple rounds to more complex multi-part arrangements. We really enjoyed performing several pieces during our High Holiday services, and we hope to sing occasionally for other events during the year. We meet approximately once a month, usually at the Parish Hall at FUSN. If you would like to receive email notification of our meetings and activities, or if you have questions about CDT Sings, please send e-mail to **Elaine Bresnick** at ebresnick@comcast.net, or call 617.964.5199 (home).

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 jameskaplan@hotmail.com.

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.