Rabbi’s Column

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Last month, I marked my mother’s tenth yahrzeit. It felt like a big milestone, and I am grateful to CDT member Lisa Schneier for convincing me to mark it here at Dorshei Tzedek and to the minyan-plus of members who made it possible for me to say Kaddish for my mother on that day.

This anniversary in my life came just in between our “End of Life and Bereavement” parlor meetings. At each of these two meetings, members shared openly and courageously some of their own experiences surrounding the loss of a loved one, what was and was not meaningful for them, and their wishes for how our congregation might be more responsive in meeting its members’ needs surrounding these times of sorrow. At our March 6 Members’ Meeting, the conversation moved forward, as more of you shared your experiences and visions.

We recognize that, as with any important, multifaceted initiative, there are many steps involved. Some steps will take some time to grow, develop, and take on their own unique Dorshei Tzedek flavor. Others, though, can be put into place in short order.

Shortly after the minyan in my mother’s memory, President Nancy Gertz commented that she thought it would be wonderful to offer, on a roughly monthly basis, an opportunity for those who have experienced a loss to come together, in an intimate setting, to center a little, remember their loved ones, and say Kaddish. Such a minyan might also be a place for those seeking healing of various sorts to find a place for centering, prayer, and meditation. It might feel like a support group for those who are looking for that, or at least relationships that are supportive might arise from therein. It would be structured around the traditional liturgy, with time for song, chant, appropriate readings, a misheberach for healing, and silence. We can start off this way, and see how it works for us, and adapt our approach as we go.

So there’s no time like the present to give things a try. We’ve chosen three dates—one each in April, May and June—to offer such a service. We’ve deliberately chosen different days of the week, to allow for different kinds of schedules. We invite all of you who seek healing, comfort, or a just a respite from a too-busy life, to add your presence.

Another change we will be trying out—based on strong sentiments we heard expressed at the second parlor meeting and the members’ meeting—is that of saying aloud the names of those individual for whom our members are saying Mourners’ Kaddish just before it is recited at our Shabbat evening and morning services. Please --- if you are saying Kaddish for someone and would like to hear his/her name read aloud, email it to me no later than Thursday night. (Feel free to include relationship --- e.g. Plonit, mother of Plonit, and how many years it’s been since his/her death.)

Both of these changes are experimental, and we will welcome feedback as we continue to strive to better address our members’ needs and wishes.

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, our administrator, will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.
Members’ Meeting Report

The Members’ Meeting on March 6 opened with Debbie Wa­ber giving kudos and appreciation to President Nancy Gertz and Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz for their contributions to the CDT community. Jill Volk and Nicky Silver were also appreciated for their efforts leading the End of Life and Bereave­ment initiative.

Updates:

**Me’ah:** Adina Kling of CJP gave a presentation about Me’ah, the two-year Adult Learning program jointly of­fered by Dorshri Tzedek, Temple Hillel B’nai Torah and the JCC. The program puts Jewish history and thought into historical, political, social, and religious context. Bos­ton’s Me’ah program (one of over 30 nationwide) benefits from its wealth of instructors, many of whom teach at area colleges and universities. Tuition assistance is available for those who need it. More information about Me’ah is available at [www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah).

**GBIO:** Paul Hattis spoke about two of GBIO’s major ac­complishments. Thanks to the efforts of GBIO and others, Massachusetts’s Attorney General sent out an Advi­sory of Civil Rights to nursing home workers statewide, assuring them that they have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. In response to pressure from GBIO, Beverly Enterprises (owner and operator of numerous nursing homes) has renounced their former practice of sending home workers without pay on days when it was determined that the employees were not needed. Ezra Hausman and Paul Hattis had assisted workers in filing claims against Beverly.

Amy Mazur discussed a new GBIO initiative to encour­age people in all sectors to share their own experiences trying to find balance in their personal and work lives. The first meeting is called “Starting in Our Own Backyards”, and will feature Ann Bookman of MIT on March 9, 2005.

On behalf of Emily Sper, CDT’s representative to the Organized Money committee of the GBIO, Janice Fine updated CDT members on the arrangement made with Citizens Bank. Citizens is creating a “GBIO premium ac­count”, which will give participants a number of financial benefits, including such things as online banking, rebates on closing costs, and free circle checking. Citizens will also be distributing annual grants to GBIO. As part of the agreement, Dorshri Tzedek will be relocating its adminis­trative funds – over $100,000 – to Citizens; members who responded to CDT’s survey asking if they would be willing to move their own money will be invited to do so by mid-April. Total money pledged (including CDT’s ad­ministrative funds) comes to over half a million dollars. A “money moving” event will take place on April 12.

Other upcoming GBIO events include a delegates meet­ing on April 12, and a CDT pot luck on April 15 to help people explore ways of including a focus on “modern plagues” in their Passover seders. [See event descrip­tions on page 12].

**Nadiv Lev:** Roberta Carson reported that we’re gearing up for another campaign, with a goal of $65,000 and a dream of $85,000. Nadiv Lev money is put toward basic operating expenses, and is a necessary element of CDT’s financial picture. A pamphlet will be sent out to members encouraging them to fill out a pledge card which will “protect” them from getting a solicitation phone call. Anyone willing to make phone calls can contact Roberta Carson or Steve Siegel.

**No-Interest Loan Fund:** On March 10 Ira Schor will be meeting with members who will be helping to start a no­interest loan fund; he will be providing them with instruc­tion in the basic operations of such a fund.

Jill Volk led a remembrance of member Francis Greenberg, who died recently at age 86. Tributes were made by Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein, who shared stories of how he founded a shul in his housing project back in his native Brooklyn, his move here from Brooklyn at age 80, his passion as an art student (even till age 85), his energetic participation in two CDT retreats, his delight in pre-High Holy Days visits from Rabbi Toba with the Shofar, and the challenge of pro­viding Shmira to him when he lay on a different floor at the funeral home. Amy Mazur told of the visits she and Karen Arnold made to sing to him; Michael Cohen and Tim Rosa described how Francis’ falls on the CDT retreat hikes built an instant community; Jill commented on how, even till his death, Francis was a seeker. He will be greatly missed. May his memory be for a blessing.

Jill then led into a discussion of CDT’s new initiative to help members address issues of death, dying, bereavement, and end-of-life. She noted the CDT ark, built in honor of and dedi­cated to Marion Weinberg, one of CDT’s first members, who died in 1987. Jill reported on some of the topics raised at the two parlor meetings: talking with and about aging parents, congregational remembrances of loved ones, stating at ser­vices for whom Kaddish is being said, monthly services for mourners and those in need of healing, challenges faced by those who are “Jews by choice” and those in interfaith mar­riages, a burial society, visibility as mourners, and a CDT cemetery. Attendees at the members meeting then divided into groups to discuss these issues.
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
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.

Erev Shabbat Services
April 15, May 20, 8 – 9 pm
Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection. Please join us!

Junior Congregation
April 9, May 7 10:45 am – 12 noon
60 Highland St., Room 111
All 3rd graders and up are welcome to attend Junior Congregation beginning at 10:45 am in Room 111 (across from the Child Care Room). The service will be followed by a special kiddush—and will conclude at 12 noon as the service in the sanctuary concludes.

Tot Shabbat
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.

We Celebrate Learning - Class Siyyum Services
Shabbat morning, April 9 – Kitah Vav
Shabbat morning, April 30 – Kitah Hay
Erev Shabbat, May 6 – Kitah Dalet
Each spring the students in our school mark the completion of their Tefilah (prayer) studies with a class siyyum. (Siyyum is Hebrew for “completion”) Kitot Dalet, Hay and Vav all celebrate this occasion at a Shabbat service, where they help to lead the prayers they have learned during the course of the school year. Kitah Gimmel concludes with a Havdalah siyyum for their families.
What a lovely way to celebrate learning of Jewish prayer and ritual—by sharing it with family and friends in the Dorshei Tzedek Community. We hope you will join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our students at these services!

Special Interest Shabbat Lunch for CDT Women
Saturday, April 2 at 12:45 pm, home of Jill Volk, Newton Center
On Saturday, April 2 there will be a women-only potluck lunch to discuss the use of mikveh in our lives. With the blessing of a new liberal mikveh in our community, many of us have dipping or considered dipping to celebrate our bodies and developmental milestones. Others are considering it but have questions as to how to make it meaningful. Dorshei Tzedek is full of interesting women of multiple ages and experience. Come share your experience and questions. Dairy and vegetarian potluck only. Contact Jill Volk at jillvolk@aol.com or Erica Streit-Kaplan at elstreit@yahoo.com to RSVP.
Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund
(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Karen and Reinhard Engels
With gratitude to the CDT community for their warm welcome to our new daughter Lucy

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen
In memory of Francis Greenberg
In honor of Rabbi Marna’s Birthday
In appreciation of Debbie Waber, and all the ways she continues to support our community/leadership

Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver
Rebecca Gutman
Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa
In honor of the brilliant work done by Barbara Shatkin and Cindy Shulak-Rome on the Behind the Labels Project
Meryl Kahn
Linda Weiss Katz & Peter Katz
Elaine Pollack
In honor of Miranda Phillips’ love of children, teaching and Judaism.
In honor or Cindy Rome’s education leadership, and in honor of this year’s crop of wonderful B’nai mitzvah students.

Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks
In memory of Francis Greenberg and in honor of the B’nai Mitzvah of Julia Sklar and Katy Jablon

Erica L. Streit-Kaplan & James H. Kaplan
In appreciation of Marc Steinberg’s guitar playing at Shabbat Services

Holy Book Fund

Ellen White
In memory of Francis Greenberg

School Fund

Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff
In memory of Francis Greenberg

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Sapsowitz (617.965.0330) or Annie Spanel of the Chesed Committee (617-547-1533).

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

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call Rabbi 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. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Many members of the community are currently caring for older members of their family—parents, aunts, uncles, and others. May healing and comfort come to those you are caring for and to you, the caretakers, who are also in need of comfort and healing.

Todah Rabah

At the March 13 meeting of the Board of Directors of CDT, members of the Board often lapsed into proud reflections of the wonderful program, Behind the Labels, held earlier the same day. The Board wishes to acknowledge the remarkable leadership and inspiration of Education Director Cindy Shulak-Rome, who seeded this far-reaching project, and the spirited, talented, most generous gifts of member Barbara Shatkin, whose energy and ideas were key to its great success. Todah rabah to all who helped make this program such a powerful educational adventure for our children and our membership, the teachers, parent volunteers, and of course, the hard-working and inspiring students.—Rebekah Ralen

To Steve Siegel, Roberta Carson, and Laya Steinberg for the wonderful brochure they created as part of the CDT Nadiv Lev effort. Don’t we look sharp?

To John Holohan, for continuing to grace us with lively guitar accompaniment on Shabbat. Todah rabah John!

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. 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.
Bat Mitzvah of Julia Faith Sklar

Please celebrate with our family on April 2 at 9:45 am as Julia Faith Sklar is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Julia is a seventh grader at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton. Julia is someone with many interests. She has studied dance since kindergarten, including two years of Irish step dancing. She is an avid reader, a marvelous and creative cook and baker. Julia is rarely without music in her head. She plays the clarinet, piano, and spent two years with the Newton All City Honors Chorus. She also enjoys photography, art, basketball, swimming and will be experimenting with softball in the spring. For her tikkan olam project she collected, laundered and sorted clothes for the Second Step women’s shelter in Newton. Julia is and always will be my best friend.

We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community, so many of whom have helped us reach this point, to join us for a Kiddush luncheon following the service.—Carol Sklar

Bat Mitzvah of Katy Jablon

On Saturday, April 16 at 9:45 am, our daughter Katy Jablon will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Katy is a seventh grader at Day Middle School. She loves reading and soccer and enjoys hanging out with her friends. Katy’s parents, Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon, and her brother, Alex, invite you to share our happiness on this day and join us for a Kiddush lunch following the service.—Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon

Passover in the Modern Day: Shabbat Potluck Dinner

Friday, April 15, 6 – 7:45 pm
FUSN, Head Start room
As we prepare our houses for Passover, how are we preparing spiritually to celebrate the story of our liberation? What are the modern-day plagues? What steps will we, as individuals and as a congregation, take to overcome them? The GBOI/Tikkun Olam Committee of Dorshei Tzedek welcomes you to come and join us in discussion. Details regarding what to bring will follow on email. Please join us for dinner & discussion, and services afterwards. For more information, contact Paul Hattis, at paul.hattis@tufts.edu.

Passover Seders

Naomi Botkin, botkinnf@yahoo.com
We all like to participate in Passover seders, but many of us live too far from relatives to be together. If you’re hosting a seder and have room for one or more CDT households, or if you would like to attend a seder in a member’s home, please contact Naomi Botkin at 508-651-1804 or botkinnf@yahoo.com. Hosts indicate how many spaces they have free, whether their seder will be for adults or mixed ages, and if they have pets. Guests should also let Naomi know of any food restrictions or allergies they may have. Please respond by April 15 if possible.

Passover Celebration

Sunday, April 24, 10-11:30 am
60 Highland Street
We will be celebrating the first day of Passover together as a congregation on Sunday, April 24. Please join us!
CDT Community Happenings

What We Lost When We Lost the Cantor

with Hankus Netsky

Saturday, May 7, 1:30 - 3 pm
Second Church, 60 Highland St., Reception Hall

Stay for kiddush after services and join us for a Shabbat afternoon lecture and discussion with Dorshei Tzedek’s own musicologist. He’ll be speaking about the era of the great cantors and raising questions about the relationship between the cantorial tradition and Reconstructionism, as well as gender issues between the past and present in Jewish music. You’ve already enjoyed Hankus’ many contributions to Klezmer, now expand your Jewish musical vocabulary!

“The World Turned Upside Down” with Ellen Kushner
Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 pm
60 Highland Street, Sanctuary

On Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 pm, Shir Hadash and Dorshei Tzedek will jointly sponsor a program with Ellen Kushner from WGBH’s Sound and Spirit. Ellen will present “The World Turned Upside Down.” Around the world and through the ages, people have created traditions that take our everyday, humdrum reality… and turn it on its head! From the Jewish Purim “Feast of Masks” to the English tradition of a Christmas “Feast of Fools,” from Victorian nonsense poetry to the Hindu Festival of Colors, people have been turning the World Upside Down for centuries – taking a walk on the wild side in one giant flipping of the social order that almost every society engages in once a year - ritual silliness that somehow manages to reassert that order when all is done.

Please join us for a fun evening and a chance to meet and mingle with our sister congregation, Shir Hadash. Potluck dessert, so bring along something to share, if you can.

Yom HaShoah

Thursday, May 5 at 7 pm
60 Highland Street – Sanctuary

Yom HaShoah v’ha’Gvurah / Holocaust and Heroism Memorial Day will be marked at CDT on Thursday, May 5, at 7 pm. Following a short memorial service in our Sanctuary, we are deeply honored to have as our speaker Edgar Krasa, a Holocaust survivor and father of our member, Daniel Krasa. Mr. Krasa will share some of his experiences and will speak on Music of Resistance and Defiance. More details to follow.

CDT Sings

Elaine Bresnick, ebresnick@comcast.net

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

James Kaplan, jameskaplan@hotmail.com

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 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.

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
dreamwork. We will examine some of these Jewish sources, as well as learn a multi-layered method of understanding and working with dreams based on the four part method of Torah study in Kabbalistic tradition. Our intriguing night language of the soul can be tapped both to deepen our understanding and connection of self, spirit, and healing, and to enjoy the fun of the “aha” when we figure something out. Please bring a recent, prior, or repeating dream that you would like to work on if possible. Linda Schiller is a member of our congregation with experience she’d love to share with us. She has worked as a psychotherapist, has studied and taught dreamwork for the past twenty years, and has been a member of her own dream circle for the last eighteen years.

Mark Your Calendar!!
CDT’S Got a Date!

Saturday, June 4, 2005

Yes, you read it right! CDT has its own Bat Mitzvah date, when we will celebrate our own thirteenth year! So save June 4, on your calendars for a special Shabbat event. Let’s all join together in community blessing in the morning, and then celebrate in the evening, 8 - 10:30 pm, with entertainment and friendship. We have already begun the first stages of planning, but are seeking additional helpers for this wonderful event. If you can help, please contact Judy Hersh at judyhersh@comcast.net.

Remembrance and Redemption:
Preparation of our souls for Pesach

with Roslyn G. Weiner, Ph.D.

Tuesday evenings: April 5 and 12, 7:30 - 9 pm
60 Highland St.
Members free, Non-members $35

Whether we are wise or rebellious, simply curious, or non-verbal, the Pesach Seder and the Passover festival itself has a powerful pull on our feelings as well as our thoughts and behaviors. Each year, at the seder we remember the journey of our ancestors from slavery to freedom as we enact the slavery-liberation story and consider how we can contribute to the ongoing process of liberation. This year, spend three evenings in preparation for the holiday by participating in a creative process, which blends the themes of the Passover narrative with self-reflection and sharing with others. You are invited to join with a Newton psychologist who is also a spiritual guide to examine the narrative from multiple perspectives including journey, enslavement and exile, and relationship with the Sacred.

Dreaming Through a Jewish Lens

with Linda Schiller

Sunday, May 15, 10 am-12:30 pm
60 Highland Street
Members free, Non-members $10

In Jewish tradition, Torah, Talmud, and Midrash all make reference to dreams and
School News

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

Raising Mensches:
A Jewish Parenting Discussion Group
Sunday, April 10, 10 am - 12 noon
60 Highland Street Sanctuary

Join us for a Jewish Parenting Discussion Group on Sunday, April 10 from 10 am - 12 noon in the sanctuary, led by Dorshei Tzedek member Annie Weiss. This discussion group will use Jewish teachings to address the daily challenges and opportunities of child rearing. Using the framework of Jewish values to support the moral, psychological and spiritual development of your children, we will address issues including discipline, temperament, materialism and gratitude. The group will provide a deeper understanding of Jewish thought, the opportunity to share experiences and wisdom with other parents, and specific skills to help your child navigate the pressures of modern culture.

Annie Weiss, LICSW, CGP is a psychotherapist, teacher and parent. She counsels individuals and leads groups in Newton & Cambridge. She has been leading parenting groups for 15 years.

This session is open to all members at no charge. Those who are interested in enriching their experience of this discussion group are encouraged to read Blessings of a Skinned Knee by Wendy Mogel. Please respond to Annie if you plan to participate in this program at annieweiss@rcn.com.

Todah Rabah

Thank you to Cindy Marshall for her generous donation of a sound system and wireless microphone for our school. This will be useful at many of our large group gatherings!

Behind the Labels:
An Inspiring Educational Event

The students, teachers and adults of our community should all be very proud of the inspiring "Behind the Labels" event we held on March 13 (see also Barbara Shatkin's report on page 13). This event was to educate people about the reality of sweatshop labor, how widespread it is and what we can do to help the laborers. This was the culmination of over a year of learning and preparing in our school, and everyone who participated in some way seemed to have their consciousness raised. Over a year ago the faculty began a conversation about the conditions faced by garment workers all over the world. Once we educated ourselves, we began a process of educating our students, who embraced this topic with their questions and eagerness to become more involved.

Our early learning included sessions of studying what our Torah has to say about the value of work and the way we treat workers. We watched videos and had speakers join us to learn about the conditions that garment workers face in sweatshops all over the world. We then formulated a plan for a "Behind the Labels" educational event. Each class took on a project—to learn more about some aspect of sweatshop labor and/or fair trade practices, and designed a station for our event to educate and raise consciousness of the community members in attendance. The Kitah Zayin students set up a mock sweatshop for all to visit, and a contingent of our eighth grade graduates participated in an eye-opening fashion show of sweatshop-made clothes that we all have in our closets.

For the past few months we have been using Community Time to create craft projects to be sold at the "Behind the Label" event. Everyone has been busy knitting, making bookmarks and potholders and other craft pieces. Many parents brought in supplies and shared their skills with us. The results were beautiful. The biggest surprise was on Thursday, March 10 when a student came in with a bag of hand-woven scarves and handbags. When asked where they came from, knowing that the number was too large for one person to accomplish, he said he had enlisted his neighbors to get involved. When the kids educate and involve people outside the CDT community, we know that the message has gotten through to the students and we have accomplished what we set out to do. For an educator, the mark of a good program is when the students "buy into" the idea and run with it.

The sale of these craft items will enable us to make a financial donation to the Bangladesh Workers Solidarity Union, along with funds raised by the Kitah Dalet raffle of fair trade items and a raffle of services offered by members. We heard two activists speak, one of whom had worked in a sweatshop in Saipan, and ended with some rousing singing of labor songs.

This was truly a community event, in that so very many people worked to bring it together. However, this entire project would not have been possible without the dedication, thoughtfulness and hard work of member volunteer Barbara Shatkin, who spearheaded this project. Barbara has long been dedicated to Tikvah Olam- working to create social justice in our world- but she also has a special gift when it comes to making themes of justice meaningful and relevant to students. Barbara’s thoughtfulness, creativity and attention to detail were key in the learning and sharing that our students were able to bring to our entire community. To Barbara we offer a very heartfelt todah rabah!!
### April Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Fri Apr 1</td>
<td>6 pm - 7 pm</td>
<td>Erev Shabbat Family Service</td>
<td>Sharon Sevransky &amp; Jeff Goldman, John Dubrow (see page 3)</td>
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| Sat Apr 2  | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service  
Bat Mitzvah of Julia Sklar  
(see page 5)                   | Elise Brenner & Michael Kajen, Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn, Robin Rouse  
Sanctuary Cleanup: Sue Pearce & Cindy Probst, Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman |
| Sat Apr 2  | 12:45 pm   | Shabbat Lunch for CDT Women                                           | Home of Jill Volk (see page 3)                                                  |
| Sat Apr 2  | 7:30 pm - 9 pm | Ellen Kushner:  
"The World Turned Upside-Down"  
co-sponsored with Shir Hadash          | 60 Highland St: Fellowship Hall  
(see page 5)                                                                       |
| Sun Apr 3  | 2 pm - 4 pm | Kitah Hay Family Ed                                                   | FUSN                                                                             |
| Tue Apr 5  | 7:30 pm - 9 pm | Adult Ed: Remembrance and Redemption: Prepara-  
doation of our souls for Pesach,  
with Roslyn G. Weiner, Ph.D.            | FUSN: Headstart room  
(see page 7)                                                                       |
| Thu Apr 7  | 5:45 - 6:45 pm | Refua v'Nechama: Service of Healing and Comfort                      | (see page 1)                                                                      |
| Fri Apr 8  | 6 pm - 8 pm | Kitah Bet Shabbat Dinner                                             | FUSN                                                                             |
| Sat Apr 9  | 9:30 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service  
Kitah Vav Siyum                  | Kitah Vav Parents; Setup & Cleanup only: Allyson Cherkasky, Jennifer Levine     |
| Sat Apr 9  | 10 am - 12 pm | Kitah Aleph Class, Kitah Bet Family Ed                            | FUSN                                                                             |
| Sat Apr 9  | 10:30 am - 11 am | Tot Shabbat                                             | 60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 3)                                           |
| Sat Apr 9  | 10:45 am - 12 pm | Junior Congregation                                              | 60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 3)                                           |
| Sun Apr 10 | 10 am - 12 am | Raising Mensches:  
A Jewish Parenting Discussion Group                                    | Members-Only Event; 60 Highland St: Parlor                                        |
| Tue Apr 12 | 7:30 pm - 9 pm | Adult Ed: Remembrance and Redemption: Prepara-  
doation of our souls for Pesach,  
with Roslyn G. Weiner, Ph.D.            | FUSN: Headstart room  
(see page 7)                                                                       |
| Thu Apr 14 | 7:30 pm   | Community Conversations Wrap-Up Discussion                         | 60 Highland Street; members only                                                |
| Fri Apr 15 | 6 pm - 7:45 pm | Passover in the Modern Day: Potluck               | (see page 5)                                                                      |
| Fri Apr 15 | 8 pm - 9:30 pm | Adult Erev Shabbat Service                                          | (see page 3)                                                                      |
| Sat Apr 16 | 8:45 am   | Shabbat Morning Torah Study                                         | 60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)                                             |
| Sat Apr 16 | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service  
Bat Mitzvah of Katy Jablon                      | Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives, Carol Sklar,  
Sanctuary Cleanup: Idit Klein, Stacey Chacker                                     |
| Sat Apr 23 * | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service                                             |                                                                                  |
| Sun Apr 24 | 10 - 11:30 am | Passover Celebration                                                | (see page 5)                                                                      |
| Tue Apr 26 |             | Classes Resume                                                      |                                                                                  |
| Wed Apr 27 | 7:30 pm   | Community Conversations Wrap-Up Discussion                         | 60 Highland Street; members only                                                |
| Thu Apr 28 | 7:30 am - 9 pm | Kitah Gimmel Orientation Meeting                                  | FUSN: Alliance Room                                                             |
| Sat Apr 30 | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service  
Kitah Hay Siyum                  | Kitah Hay Parents; Setup & Cleanup only: Amy Mazur, Melanie Northrop             |
| Sun Apr 30 | 10 am - 12 pm | Kitah Aleph & Bet Classes                                           | FUSN                                                                             |

**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.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Kiddush / Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun May 1</td>
<td>10:30 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>New Member Orientation</td>
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<td>Thu May 5</td>
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<td>Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Memorial Day Service</td>
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<td>with speaker Edgar Krasa</td>
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<td>Fri May 6</td>
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<td>Erev Shabbat Family Service</td>
<td>Ruth Paris &amp; Rob Saper,</td>
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<td>Carrie &amp; Michael Jasper</td>
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<td>Fri May 6</td>
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<td>Kitah Dalet Siyyum / Class Dinner</td>
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<td>Sat May 7</td>
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<td>Sat May 7</td>
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<td>Sat May 7</td>
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<td>Sat May 7</td>
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<td>What We Lost When We Lost the Cantor</td>
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<td>with Hankus Netsky</td>
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<td>Sun May 8</td>
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<td>Refua v' Nechama: Service of Healing and</td>
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<td>Tue May 10</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>No classes grades 3-6: staff meeting</td>
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<td>Tue May 10</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Kitah Zayin - Regular class</td>
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<td>Sat May 14</td>
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<td>Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Alex</td>
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<td>Sat May 14</td>
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<td>Adult Ed: Dreaming Through a Jewish Lens</td>
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<td>Sun May 15</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td>Gan Family Program #8 - Final session</td>
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<td>Sat May 21</td>
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<td>Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Caleb</td>
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<td>Sat May 21</td>
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<td>Aleph &amp; Bet Last Day</td>
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<td>Tue May 31</td>
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<td>Final Class for Kitot Gimmel - Zayin</td>
<td>FUSN</td>
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Help Wanted

Space Committee
Stuart Snyder at cohen-snyder@rcn.com
You will be part of the working group that is examining our current and future space needs. Our meetings will focus on the day-to-day issues related to our current space, particularly as they may impact our discussions with Second Church regarding the renewal of our lease. Contact Stuart Snyder via email or 617.965.6766.

Membership Outreach Committee
Carla Naumburg, outreach@dorsheitzedek.org
You will make intake and follow up phone calls to new members. Great way to meet new members, and can be done from home. Help plan prospective member events two-three times per year, and attend committee meetings three times per year. The next meeting will be on April 11 at 7:30 pm. Please contact Carla Naumburg if you are interested.

Membership Inreach Committee
Judy Hersh, judyhersh@comcast.net
We need help with the June 4th Bat Mitzvah party celebrating CDT’s 13th year. Contact Judy Hersh if you want to help out by being a party planner, schlepper, set-up, or clean up person.

Youth Education Committee
Tessa Goldsmith, tgoldsmith@partners.org
Shabbat childcare coordinator required. Does your young child enjoy Shabbat morning childcare? We are looking for a parent to help coordinate the childcare providers for Shabbat mornings. Your job would entail calling the childcare providers, informing them of upcoming B’nei Mitzvah, ensuring the supplies are up to date and orderly, providing some suggestions for simple Shabbat related activities, checking in with the child care providers to ensure the smooth running of the program. Please call Tessa Goldsmith at 617.965.7323.

CDT Teens: Ritual Committee Wants YOU!
Kelli L. Kirshtein, kellik@rcn.com
Why in the world would the Ritual Committee be looking for teens? Because you have a lot to tell the adults in the congregation about what CDT teens want to see in services, and what CDT teens would like to contribute. If you would like to become a member of the Ritual Committee, please contact Kelli Kirshtein, Judy Herzig-Marx or Rabbi Sapsowitz. We would like a teen representative to attend at least four meetings each year or as many as you would like—we meet one Thursday each month from 7:30-9:00 pm. Your opinions, concerns and talents are important to us!

Nadiv Lev Committee
Roberta Carson, ergofit@aol.com
Steve Siegel, spsiegel@aol.com
The Nadiv Lev Committee is looking for some Menschlech people who value the CDT community and appreciate the important and difficult task of raising funds. We seek volunteers to contact 3-5 households by phone in April and May to invite participation in the annual campaign. Contact Roberta Carson (617-964-9395 or email) or Steve Siegel (617-244-2291 or email) if you can help us out!

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.
GBIO: Broadening Our Commitment

Ezra Hausman, ezrad@rcn.com

As Dorshei Tzedek approaches her Bat Mitzvah anniversary in June, we have an opportunity to reflect on our tremendous growth and accomplishments as a community in such a short time. Each of us has played a role in the growth and development of our unique culture, whether we have participated for thirteen years or thirteen weeks. Our culture has included a developing sense of our social responsibility as a vibrant religious community, which will continue to grow and change over the next thirteen years and beyond.

At this milestone, our GBIO coordinating group has discussed how the congregation can take on what we ask of every 13-year-old in the community—take a look inside, and remember that being a Jewish adult means taking on more responsibility for the greater community as well as practicing ritual acts. How is our community doing in fulfilling its tikun olam requirement for Bat Mitzvah? Is our commitment to the greater community deepening and maturing? Are we going to continue this exploration and growth as adults, or just rest on our laurels after the big party?

As members of Dorshei Tzedek, we are all members of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) and we have accepted the responsibility to pursue social and economic justice as part of our religious and community life. Three CDT members, Paul Hattis, Emily Sper and Amy Mazur are taking active have taken on leadership roles in GBIO initiatives; more than forty members have taken part in GBIO actions and events. We can feel justifiably proud of our contributions to some impressive GBIO victories.

In the January newsletter, I wrote about our efforts to support nursing home workers who were lodging complaints of wage and hour violations with the Attorney General’s office. This has resulted in a significant change of employment practices in the Beverly nursing home chain, so that workers are no longer sent home without pay if nursing shifts are over staffed. In addition, and to the surprise of his own staff, the Attorney General took the proactive step of issuing a memo to all nursing homes in Massachusetts specifying the civil rights of nursing home workers that must be respected.

On the organized money front, our campaign has resulted in an impressive set of new services being offered by Citizen’s Bank that will benefit people throughout the Boston area with better services, lower fees and community development grants and loans. In addition, Citizens Bank is giving GBIO a $500,000 multi-year grant to create a “Turning Debts into Assets” financial literacy program for our members, which will include grants and low interest loans to individuals for debt reduction. Our congregation has been crucial to this effort: 70% of us responded to the organized money survey, scores of us pledged to move our money to Citizen’s Bank if negotiations with GBIO succeeded. Combined with the synagogue’s pledge to move some institutional assets, this amounts to close to half a million dollars.

Gratifying as these victories are, we are not satisfied. We want to build on our momentum and take on the big economic justice issues that plague our community. With this in mind, GBIO has joined with the organization Health Care for All in dedicating ourselves to working on access to affordable, high-quality health care, something which should be a basic human right but which many low and moderate income people in our community are denied. We are also embarking on process of reflection and action on the work and family pressures so many of us feel, and looking at actions we can take under the rubric of “building community and surviving the new economy.” So while we will continue to fight for immediate and pressing needs like respecting the rights of workers, GBIO is taking a longer term view to remedy this most basic, essential economic injustice. Though it may take decades, we will prevail.

Within Dorshei Tzedek, our ambitious goal is to make social justice an integral part of our community life. For us this means finding ways, as we mark each Shabbat and as we make our way through the Jewish calendar, to incorporate reflection and action on our values in our religious life. The pursuit of justice and promotion of human rights is not an adjunct to our Jewish life—it is part and parcel of what it means to be Jewish.

Everyone is encouraged to be an active part of GBIO and other related tikun olam initiatives. Here are some upcoming opportunities to add your voice and strength:

GBIO Delegates Meeting on April 12. GBIO will meet to review our victories, plan the next steps in the organized money campaign and begin our accessible health care efforts. If you have never been to a GBIO meeting, it is an inspirational experience. Please e-mail Paul Hattis (paul.hattis@tufts.edu) to let him know you are coming, and he will also help to coordinate transportation.

(Continued on page 13)
Behind the Labels Report  
Barbara Shatkin, Bfshatkin@aol.com  
The “Behind the Labels” tikun olam project began during the winter of last year. Students watched films about sweatshops and child labor, participated in an activity where they began to think about the origin of their clothing by placing their clothing labels on a world map, studied Jewish teaching about the protection of workers, and talked and learned about contemporary sweatshop conditions. At school assemblies this school year, students heard talks given by Abe Riesman, a Harvard anti-sweatshop activist and Adam Nieman, the founder of No Sweat Apparel. Kitah Zayin students attended a National Labor Committee tour of Bangladeshi factory workers at Boston College in October. In the fall, a good number of students and CDT families attended a Workman’s Circle-sponsored anti-sweatshop demonstration at Wal-Mart in Lynn.

Moved by what they had discovered, students were readily engaged in a process of developing an educational program to share what they had learned with their parents, congregation, and larger community. Each class worked on a project to contribute to the “Behind the Labels” event. Kitah Aleph made beautiful bookmarks for the student craft sale. Kitah Bet ran the admission table, and handed out admission tickets stating the hourly wage of a worker in a particular country, which then became the attendee’s admission charge. Kitah Gimmel ran the clothing label/map activity, displayed a chart indicating the results of the school’s map activity, and ran a wonderful make-a-nosweat-bag craft project for younger children. Kitah Dalet displayed information about and ran a raffle of Fair Trade Products. Kitah Hay displayed information about Fair Trade Chocolate, and offered samples of scrumptious Divine chocolate. Kitah Vav displayed information about the history of sweatshops and a fair trade clothing company. Kitah Zayin handed out a sweatshop labor quiz, and transformed the Children’s Chapel space into a low-lit, guarded, fenced-in room of oppressed workers mindlessly sewing on machines. Students who had attended Community Time, prior to the start of Religious School, sold a variety of wonderful crafts to benefit the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS), an NGO in Bangladesh dedicated to facilitating achievement of labor rights by Bangladeshi garment workers.

“Stations” not run by students included a very interesting exhibit about the history of Jews and sweatshops, a wonderful CDT members services raffle to benefit BCWS, interesting photos and papers written about the Bangladesh educational system, and a table where our speakers and Abe Riesman were stationed to answer questions.

During the second half of the event, last year’s Religious School graduates modeled name brand sweatshop-made clothing in a fashion show that informed us about the labor abuses of a variety of companies. Our guest speaker, Chie Abad, a former sweatshop worker from Saipan and speaker with Global Exchange, spoke about her experience of being economically abused as a worker and her successful participation in a class action suit against 26 U.S. clothing retailers in 1999. Our second speaker, Liana Foxvog, National Organizer for SweatFree Communities, spoke briefly about her organizing efforts to get communities and groups to adopt nosweat purchasing policies. The program ended with Ora Gladstone’s leading us in singing labor songs. We were also treated to a rendition of “Arbiter-Froyen” or “Working Women”, which Hankus Netsky sang in Yiddish.

The event was extremely well-attended, and all the students and attendees seemed engaged and invested in the experience of coming together as a community to educate ourselves about the issue of sweatshop labor and fair
trade and raise money for the BCWS. Many adult hands have been working behind the scenes to help the school undertake this rather large project, and lots of todah rahabs are in order to the many people who have been involved.

For starters, big thank-you’s go to School Director Cindy Shulak-Rome and Associate Education Director Rebekah Ralen, and classroom teachers Rachel Gutter, Miranda Phillips, Lesley Chapman, Adam Mayer-Deutsch, Samantha Papurt, and Sara Hollander-Birnbaum. Thank-you’s also go to parent helpers Rachel Greenberg, Barbara Zolit, Hara Klein, Kathy Pillsbury, Jonathan Rosenthal, Julie Fox, Amy Brodesky, Mel See Sandson, and Peter Hess. Very large thank-you’s go to parent helpers Marcia Okun, who put in a lot of time with this year’s Zayin class in creating an amazing mock sweatshop room; Clifford Goldsmith, who with Cindy Shulak-Rome, wrote a detailed, funny, and informative script for the Fashion Show and helped coordinate it; and Laura Katz, who put in a tremendous amount of time coordinating the Community Time craft-making activity.

Additional thank-you’s go to: Annie Spanel for her work in locating and providing transportation for our guest speaker Chie Abad; Steffi Karp, Abby Cohen, and Susannah Zisk for their help with supervising craft-making and or provided craft materials; Tatjana Meschede for sharing her photos and research about Bangladesh; Emily Sper for sharing her taped interview and postcards about sweatshops; Carol Sklar for organizing the display about “Jewish Ancestors and Sweatshops”; Gina Fried for organizing the CDT raffle; Betsy Hinden, Josh Herzig-Marx, and Carla Naumburg for help with pre and post-publicity; Judy Hersh for obtaining and donating the bottles of water and cookies for nutritional sustenance during the event; Ora Gladstone for leading us in labor songs; and Hankus Netsky for singing “Arbiter-Froyen”; Cindy Bittker for donating lots of coin to the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity; and Betsy Hinden, Bobby Kleinberg, Ingrid Neuman, Janet Boguslaw, Sandy Sedacca, Shoshanna Barnett, Lauren Sacks, and Andy Littman for set-up and clean-up. Thanks also go to Steffi Karp, Amy Mazur, Nicky Silver, Emily Sper, Tim Rosa, Ellie Goldberg, Sherry Katz, Angela Vierling, Zach Miller, and Annalise Littman for contributing their time and skills to the CDT raffle to raise money for the BCWS. Thank-you also to Kitah Zayin students Lily Strassberg, for her beautiful drawing of workers used on our flyer and newsletter notices, and Caleb Marcus for his terrific computer-generated posters. Lastly, thank-you to former CDT congregant Liz Umlas, now residing in Geneva, who works in the area of monitoring compliance and labor practices of corporations. Liz knows a ton about sweatshops and the globalization of trade, and regularly sent me suggestions and answered my email questions. There are probably people who’ve been left off this list of thank you’s for which we apologize—our gratitude extends to all who hearts and hands helped make this project so extraordinary.

News from JRF

Here is some of the latest news from the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. You can find out more about all of these items by going to www.jrf.org/news.manishma-im.html, where you can find the latest edition of Ma Nishma (What’s New).

A Night of Questions

With Pesach just around the corner, now is the time to order the very popular Reconstructionist Haggadah, A Night of Questions. Featuring traditional prayers and biblical text alongside contemporary commentary, stunning color illustrations, song lyrics both familiar and new, and a play for children to perform, the Haggadah has received rave reviews from Seder tables around the world. A special feature is the four suggested outlines for Seders with older children, young children, those who have grown up in other religious traditions, and focusing on the role of women in the Exodus story. To accompany the new Haggadah, we have produced a recording of thirty traditional and contemporary Passover songs www.jrf.org/pub/cat-passoversongs.html. To order, visit The Reconstructionist Press website, www.jrf.org/pub/cat-passover.html.

Camp JRF

Camp JRF is quickly filling to capacity for this summer with 115 campers. We still have a few spaces left, so if you are thinking about trying Camp JRF now is the time to sign up. (Continued on page 15)
For those of you who are still curious about the different programs at Camp JRF, here is a quick summary:

**Ilanot** is our program for current 4th and 5th graders. It is a chance for campers to get their feet wet and enjoy camp for the first time. There are the same fun camp activities as any other camp such as swimming, arts, and sports. We also add in the excitement of exploring the values of spiritual peoplehood on a daily basis, making being Jewish a part of our daily life. We have a great group of campers already for Ilanot, but are still looking for a few more boys and girls to round out the program.

**Nehalim** is for current 6th and 7th graders, both who have been to camp before and are trying camp for the first time. With the same exciting camp programming as Ilanot, Nehalim campers dive more deeply into the camp experience. They take a more in-depth approach to the richness of Jewish civilization, truly incorporating it into all of their programming. Nehalim is overflowing with campers, many as first timers, and is looking for a few more boys to round out the *eidah* (unit).

**Harim** is our oldest age group for current 8th through 10th graders. Our Harim campers challenge themselves to expand their camp experience beyond that of Ilanot and Nehalim by developing an in depth appreciation for one of the three main tenants of spiritual peoplehood - **Teva** (nature), **Tikkun Olam** (Social Action), and **Hadraha** (Teen Issues and Leadership). Our Harim campers are the foundation of our camp community as they learn what it means to be part of the Jewish community on a global scale, leading them into their experiences as the counselors of tomorrow. Harim is also looking for just a few more boys to join the *eidah*.

With all these exciting programs for campers, and a great summer of camp being planned, we are also looking for a few more college students to join our staff. We are looking for excited, fun, and energetic men and women to join us and make a real impact on the future of the Jewish people.

There are many ways to get involved at Camp JRF. If you are interested in any of the above spaces at camp, please give us a call at 877-CAMP-JRF, email us at info@campjrf.org, or visit our website at www.CampJRF.org. Can’t wait to see you this summer from June 26 to July 17 at Camp JRF.

**Resources for Congregations**

We are delighted to let you know that we have just uploaded the fourth installment of resources for congregational lay leaders, rabbis, educators, staff and members. Many of you have become familiar with the materials from our workshops ranging from "Torah of Money", "A Sacred Trust", "Kehillah Builders" to this year’s "Exploring Reconstructionism". The new materials focus on inreach and outreach, as well as theology and some movement overviews.

The materials are on Congregational leadership issues and can be found by going to the JRF website, www.jrf.org, and clicking on the heading to the "Congregational Resources" link. You'll see a whole variety of materials and other links there. Click on that link and you'll be presented with a number of options for resources. This includes the new "Money and Jewish Values" 12-week curriculum and the forthcoming "Guide to Effective Boards and Committees". We have also begun work on a third publication, "Bonei Kehillah: A Reconstructionist Approach to Organizing and Building Sacred Community."

Over the next few months we'll be uploading additional material in each area of congregational life. Take a peak and let us know what you think. Remember that all the resource binders are available for $54 from our department as well as the new curriculum. The new resource binder for "Exploring Judaism" featuring 500 pages is also now available directly from JRF for $54 or as part of the fee for attending the workshop. We held our first workshop at Ramat Shalom in Florida last month and two more locations (Boston, March 26/27 and Toronto May 14/15, www.jrf.org/cong/exprec2005-seminars.html) are scheduled for this year. Contact Hattie Dunbar at HDunbar@jrf.org if you wish to purchase any material or register for one of the workshops.
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.