

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Iyar – Sivan 5765

June 2005



President's Message

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

Archives of the board minutes would tell us the exact time that we started planning for Rabbi Toba's sabbatical, but if we use kinesthetic memory, suffice it to say, it was a long time ago. The subject came up each time we renewed Rabbi Toba's contract, and board members would each nod to each other in agreement, about the importance of fiscal and organizational planning around such an "interruption" in the routine functioning of CDT.

I don't know if other synagogue boards debated the concept of a rabbinic sabbatical, but ours never did; we saw the value in a rest, a stepping apart, and a time to reflect and study, that is the essence of an extended sabbatical. We diligently analyzed Rabbi's Toba's job functions, projected the congregation's needs, interviewed and hired a Sabbatical Rabbi, processed our concerns, hopes, and anticipations, and marched optimistically into the unknown. It is hard to believe that after all the planning, the sabbatical period itself, is drawing to a close. I'm hopeful that there will be occasion(s) for us to look back at this time in our lifecycle, and see what we can learn about ourselves from how we've moved through this challenging time of opportunity.

One of the benefits of this year has been the opportunity for us to get to know and work with **Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz** as our Sabbatical Rabbi. June is the last month of our contract with Rabbi Marna, and we will miss her. On behalf of the Congregation, I extend to her our deep gratitude for her earnest and steady efforts to ascertain our needs and wishes, and to meet them whenever possible. Simply put, she has aimed to please, in every way. Rabbi Marna was determined to learn the names of every member, and she worked very hard to keep her fingers on the pulse of CDT. As a partner to me this year, Rabbi Marna was a valuable sounding board, advisor, and teacher.

I will leave it to members themselves to express their personal thanks to Rabbi Marna, but on behalf of the entire congregation, a hearty *yasher koach* and *todah rabah*. Rabbi Marna, may your blessings be many. You will always have a home here at Dorshei Tzedek, and we hope you will visit often.

Rabbi's Column

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

My time with Dorshei Tzedek seems to have flown by so quickly! I'll be returning to my home in Washington at the end of June, and, although I know I'll see many of you between now and then, this is an opportunity to say *Todah rabah* for a wonderful (soon-to-be) 10 months with you.

Many of you have started asking what comes next for me. I don't yet know. I can say that I think two major learnings have come out of this year for me. One is that I **do** want to be doing congregational work. This is, at least largely, a credit to Dorshei Tzedek. I wasn't entirely sure that this was the kind of work I wanted to keep doing, so burnt-out was I when I left my congregation of 13 years three years ago. This has been a very healing year for me.

The second big learning is that I want to be back in the Pacific Northwest. Even while very intentionally taking advantage of much that the Boston area has to offer, and enjoying it, I have been oh-so-homesick! It's clear that I'm not an East Coast Big City Girl anymore...my *neshama* yearns for the Northwest. I can't wait to get back to my home, my garden.

The challenge, of course, will be figuring out how to make these two conclusions compatible with each other...to find productive, soul (and bank account!)-satisfying work to do in a part of the world I have grown to love and where I have put

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down roots. And, yes, Eastern/Central Europe still beckons, and I'm hoping to return there sometime in the next few years, also.

There are so many folks to thank. I hope to be able to do that in person in the next month. But here, publicly, I want to thank **Nancy Gertz**. Her dedication to this congregation is astounding. She puts in hours often longer than mine—and she doesn't get a salary for it! Thank you, Nancy, for all that you do.

Yasher Koach, Rabbi Marna

Collected by Miranda Phillips, phillipsville@gmail.com

The following is a set of goodbyes and thanks for Rabbi Marna by members of the CDT community.

Dear Rabbi Marna,

Thanks so much for journeying across the country to be our Rabbi at CDT this past year. You were a great help to us in the last miles of our own journey for Emily's *bat mitzvah*. You respected the work that Emily had already done with Rabbi Toba and gently pushed Emily to deepen and strengthen her *D'var Torah*. Thank you for bringing your warmth, integrity, wisdom, calmness, and beautiful voice to the *Bat Mitzvah* service and for helping Emily to shine on that memorable day.

—Amy Brodesky and Rex Flynn

Thanks for helping us to embark on this *Bat Mitzvah* year and for explaining everything in such an accessible way. We wish you all the best.

—Cindy Rivka Marshall, Kathy Pillsbury, Jeremy Marshall

Rabbi Marna was essential in assisting Katy with drafting and editing her *D'var Torah*. Katy refused to let us read what she wrote; we felt completely confident that Rabbi Marna would help Katy shape something appropriate for the very difficult subject of her Torah portion. She found creative ways to include our extended family and many friends in Katy's *Bat Mitzvah*. Rabbi Marna was very supportive of us while Michael's mother was in hospital before and after the *Bat Mitzvah*.

—Michael Jablon and Eileen Morrison

Amalia was already dismayed at the absence of Rabbi Toba in her *Bat Mitzvah* year and then found that her tutor, Elaine Pollack, would also be absent for the event itself. We are grateful that Rabbi Marna worked enthusiastically to build a connection with Amalia and work on her *D'var Torah* with her, giving her valuable support in an anxious time.

—Josh Lieberman and Marcia Okun

Rabbi Marna spent many hours with Scott not only preparing him for his *Bat Mitzvah* but challenging him. She was a teacher who really pushed him to find a deeper understanding of his Torah portion and the different historical perspectives

that have existed. We want to thank her and wish her the best!

—Stan Piltch and Teri Hauserman

Rabbi Marna, when we met with her for my *Bat Mitzvah*, explained everything to me but she made the *Bat Mitzvah* process seem less intimidating, and she seemed really friendly and happy and enthusiastic. I hope she does well in her next job.

—Xue Rosenberg

Rabbi Marna smoothed the way for Xue and me into Xue's *Bat Mitzvah* process. Her warmth and kindness are reassuring and inclusive. I wish her great joy in her journey.

—Toni Rosenberg

Rabbi Marna helped me make my *D'var Torah* authentic and very entertaining.

—Josh Nadler

Rabbi Marna's insight, guidance and patience allowed Joshua to fully understand the underlying messages in his torah portion (even when Josh wasn't sure if Moshe was doing a good job as a leader). We wish Rabbi Marna all the best in the next leg of her journey. She has a wonderful approach and style that will hopefully be shared with many more children and their parents.

—Judy Shapiro and Brian Nadler

Rabbi Marna,

As you know this was a very important year for our family, and particularly for Ethan. Our anxiety over losing Toba the year of Ethan's *Bar Mitzvah* was quickly alleviated, as you were able to immediately connect with the congregation and our family. Thank you for your support, your caring, and your guidance.

—The Zolit Family

Rabbi Marna,

Hannah has appreciated your help in explaining her Torah portion and helping understand it better. Even though you and I haven't worked a whole lot together, I really appreciate your interest in, and thoughts about, *chesed*. And Andrew and I both appreciate how you have been able to get involved in so many things midstream. Thank you!

—Susan Manheim, Hannah, and Andrew Schiff

Rabbi Marna,

Thank you for sharing your time and insights with us. You gently helped guide Julia and I through the *Bat Mitzvah* process. We appreciate all your Torah discussions and ideas for decoding the story. We wish you all the best as you continue on your spiritual journey. You are permanently recorded in our photo album.

—Carol and Julia Sklar

May Board Meeting Notes

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

Finance Report: The Finance Committee has completed work on the proposed congregational budget for 5766 (2005/6). This proposal projects a balanced budget for the year ahead. It was noted that having a balanced budget on paper doesn't guarantee achieving it, which will depend on our meeting fundraising and membership goals. The board passed the budget recommendation, which sends it to the membership meeting for final approval. (*Editor's note:* The CDT membership passed the budget in the Members' Meeting on May 22.) The board offers its appreciation to the Finance Committee and committee chair Laurie Gould for a job well done.

Nadiv Lev Report: Nadiv Lev responses have been received from 125 households; thirty-nine households have yet to be heard from. The goal of the Nadiv Lev campaign is \$65,000, and we are well on the way to meeting it, if we get a good response from the remaining households.

Space Report: Agreement on a three-year lease has been reached with the First Unitarian Society of Newton (FUSN) which will provide us with space for our school and incidental uses. We have also secured a three-year lease agreement with Second Church for our worship and office space at 60 Highland Ave. We are also beginning conversations with FUSN leadership about ways to deepen the relationship between our congregations, perhaps by engaging in a joint social action project. The board expresses its appreciation to the Space Committee and **Stuart Snyder**, its Chair, for completing the challenging task of negotiating our lease agreements to a positive outcome for all parties.

Membership Report: We are beginning a membership drive this spring which we plan to accelerate in the fall. On June 2 there will be a Prospective Members' Open House (see related articles on pages XX and YY), (Josh/Dan: Add cross-reference) for which we'll place paid notices in the *Newton Tab* and the *Jewish Advocate*. Members will be encouraged to bring their friends. Increasing membership is very much on the board's collective mind, and our formal and informal surveys indicate that each year the most significant part of our new membership is comprised of friends and associates of current members.

CDT Bat Mitzvah: Invitations have gone out and responses are coming back for the CDT Bat Mitzvah service and reception on June 4. The service will be lay- and Rab-

binic-led, with Rabbi Marna conducting part of the worship and Rabbi Toba giving the D'var. The service will be followed by a catered *kiddush* luncheon. The evening reception, for adults and children over 10 years old, will feature a dessert buffet, a *Havdalah* service led by post *B'nei Mitzvah* youth, and dancing to music provided by a local DJ.

Rabbi Marna Farewell: On Saturday, June 25 at 7:30 pm (the day before she flies back home to Olympia, WA), board members will join their fellow congregants at the home of Cindy and Dan Shulak-Rome to say goodbye to and thank Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz, who has served Dorshei Tzedek so well during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical year. (See related article on facing page). There will be a *Havdalah* service and dessert. Children are welcome.

Help Wanted

CDT Newsletter Needs Editor

Dan Halbert, halbert@halwitz.org

The CDT Newsletter Committee is looking for an editor to join us. Editors organize, edit, and format submissions from CDT members and other sources. The work is fun, and you'll be part of a great team. Editors rotate every month, so the job requires only a few hours of your time every few months. Experience with editing and Microsoft Word are a plus. If you have any questions, please e-mail Dan Halbert at halbert@halwitz.org.

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.

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

Bat Mitzvah of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

June 4, 9:45 am, 60 Highland St.

Party at 8 pm, 60 Highland St. (ages 10 and over)

Please join in spirit and song, study and prayer, as we celebrate CDT's 13th year! Services will begin at 9:45, and will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon, to which all are invited. The evening event is for adults and children ages 10 and over, with dancing, celebration and Havdalah. *(If you are able to be a helper in any capacity, please contact Judy Hersh at judyhersh@comcast.net or 617-332-2487.)*

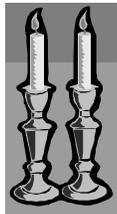
Bat Mitzvah of Amalia Lieberman

Please join us on **June 11 at 9:45 am**, as our daughter Amalia Shoshana Lieberman is called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah*. Amalia attends Brown Middle School where she plays soccer and particularly enjoys studying Latin and French. She was born wide-eyed on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem and the wheels have been turning ever since. Many of them revolve around music and language, as she plays violin, viola, clarinet, and piano; sings in the All-Newton honors chorus; or spends the odd moment composing music and poetry. Since fourth grade, involvement in the CDT community has also been a large part of her life. For her *tikkun olam* project, Amalia has been raising money for Aids Action by selling bracelets.

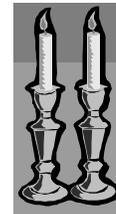
We and her sister Michal and brother Aryeh hope you will celebrate with us at a *kiddush* lunch following the service.—*Joshua Lieberman and Marcia Okun*

Brit Bat

At Shabbat services on **June 11**, Maayan Sarit Magaziner, Hillary Marcus and Jonathan Magaziner's new daughter, and Noah's baby sister, will be welcomed into the covenant and formally be given her name. All are welcome to join in celebrating!



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

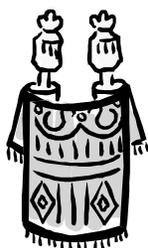
June 3, 6 – 7 pm

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

Rosh Chodesh Celebration

Wednesday, June 15, at the home of Esther Kohn

Dorshei Tzedek women are invited to a Rosh Chodesh Sivan celebration. This is the third CDT Rosh Chodesh group gathering. To RSVP or for directions contact Esther Kohn at esthercfs@hotmail.com, 617-424-0478 or Steffi Aronson Karp at shula@comcast.net, 617-614-0722.

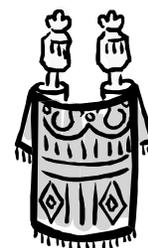


Shavuot

We All Stood at Sinai

Sunday night, June 12, 2005, 7:30 pm to very, very late

Dorshei Tzedek Sanctuary



Shavuot is known in our tradition as *Z'man matan torateinu*—The Time of the Giving of the Torah. *Shavuot* is one of the three major festivals of the Jewish year—equal in importance to *Sukkot* and *Passover*. *Sukkot's* theme of gratitude for the harvest's bounty and *Pesach's* celebration of freedom are easy for us to embrace. But how do modern, rational, or even skeptical Jews relate to the concept of Revelation? How do we engage with the Torah's description of Moses bringing to Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai?

Hear the thoughts of our fellow members on The Question—what do **you** think happened at Mt. Sinai?

Members include:

Marvin Brotman

Jeff Kichen

Lisa Schneier

John Holohan

Dinah Moeller

Michael White

Add your thoughts. Eat cheesecake (traditional Shavuot fare).

We will begin the evening with a short Festival Eve service, followed by the panel. Watch CDT-announce emails for further details. We are looking for members who would like to teach/facilitate further Torah study (loosely defined), later into the evening. If you'd like to be one of them, please let Rabbi Marna know right away!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

June 4 at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street in the library

The early bird gets the wisdom! Once a month we study 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 is assumed. Bring your own coffee.

Healing and Comfort Minyan

Originally scheduled for June 8, this service been cancelled.

Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent

Amy Bermar

Susan Bernstein and Jodie Siegel

Deborah Blicher and Peter Dain

In celebration of the birth of Nicholas Leonard

Jacqui Bloomberg and Peter Gittleman

Lynne Brandon

In honor of the Chesed and GBIO Committees

Elaine and Anne Bresnick

In honor of my parents David and Shirley Adler

Amy Brodesky and Rex Flynn

*In honor of the b'nei mitzvah of Kay Jablon, Julia Sklar,
Alex Rubin-Rattet and Caleb Marcus*

Matilda and Edward Bruckner

*In honor of all the members of the Ritual Committee and
the Adult Ed Committee who have contributed so much to
Dorshei Tzedek*

Stacey Chacker

Allyson Cherkasky

Abby Cohen and Stuart Snyder

In honor of Morah Miranda and Morah Rachel

Jacqueline Colby

In honor of DT's Bat Mitzvah

Benitta Danzing and Nathan Aronow

In honor of my mother who has shown strength and courage this year and my grandmother, who at 106 passed away in March 2005. She lived her whole life with dignity. I will remember her for her intelligence, generosity and comfort she provided.

Andrea Diamond

Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein

Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess

*In honor of Marna Sapsowitz and her rabbinate
at Dorshei Tzedek*

Wendy Gedanken

*In honor of Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz' work
with our community during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical*

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

*In honor of Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz,
with gratitude and blessings
In honor of CDT's founders*

Richard Glassman

Ellie, Reva and Sasha Goldberg

*In celebration of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's
Bat Mitzvah*

Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg

In honor of Diana's parents, Ruth Ann and Iz Mendel

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

*In honor of Elizabeth and Rebecca Holohan
for being wonderful daughters*

Ami and Jonathan Gordon

In honor of Rebecca Rosenstein

Rachel Greenberg

Ricky and Rob Greenly

Allison and Ezra Hausman

*In honor of Janice Fine's contribution to Dorshei Tzedek
and Ora Gladstone's birthday*

Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

*In memory of Sharon Marx
In honor of the leadership who brought us to this simcha*

Carol Hemley

Deborah Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg

*In memory of Jonathan's father, Emil Rosen:
in appreciation for the support from Congregation
Dorshei Tzedek and Rabbi Marna*

Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein

Jennifer Hochschild and Tony Broh
In honor of Dorshei Tzedek's Bat Mitzvah

Linda Hsu and Marc Steinberg

*In memory of Alvin Galpert and Francis Greenberg
In honor of Carrie Lent and Maayan Marcus-Magaziner*

Carrie and Michael Pekor Jasper**Laurie and Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome and Miranda Phillips
and all the other Hebrew School teachers*

Audra Karp**Linda and Peter Katz****Sherry Katz and Mark Farber****Jeff Kichen****Hara Klein and Eleni Carr**

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome and the school

Sue Lanser and Jo Radner**Alissa and Gerald Leonard**

*In honor of Morah Chava for a fun happy year of Torah
Talk. I'll miss you a lot.*

Jennifer Levine**Linette Liebling and Peter Demuth**

*In honor of the entire Dorshei Tzedek community for their
love and support throughout Peter's long illness*

Sarah Little and Doug Hersh

In honor of Dorshei Tzedek's Bat Mitzvah year

Rabbi Michael Luckens

In honor of Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

Howard Lurie

In honor of Elaine Pollack

Ilana Mainelli**Rosalind Mainelli****Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff****Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury****Amy Mazur**

In memory of my father, Marvin Mazur

Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen

*In honor of Miranda Phillips for her teaching at the
Religious School, for Bat Mitzvah tutoring, and for help and
teaching in particular to Olivia and Charlotte*

Tania Mireles and William Shorr

In honor of Marilyn Jacobs Shorr

Sivan Nasoff**Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus**

*In honor of: Caleb Marcus on being Bar Mitzvah, Morah
Chava, Rabbi Marna, Morah Cindy, and the Kitah Zayin
class*

Melanie Northrop

In honor of Miranda Phillips and Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

Marcia Okun and Joshua Lieberman

In honor of Me'ah class of 2005

Ruth Paris and Robert Saper

In honor of Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz and Miranda Phillips

Ellen Pashall**Rabbi Barbara Penzner and Brian Rosman****Lisa Port White**

*In honor of the hardworking dynamic duo,
Steve Siegel and Roberta Carson*

Daniel Price**Debra Rattet and Leslie Rubin**

*In honor of: our son Alexander becoming a bar mitzvah
with pride and joy; Elaine Pollack, bar mitzvah tutor,
teacher and advisor; Rabbi Marna, for her help and guid-
ance in preparation for Alex's bar mitzvah; and for her
warmth, kindness and humor throughout this year; Nancy
Gertz, who has successfully met the challenge of being
president with grace and humor; Sheree's father, Alvin
Galpert; Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's Bat Mitzvah and
founders.*

Elizabeth Ross and Caren Smith**Cheryl and Jeff Sacks**

*In honor of: Cindy Shulak-Rome and the DT School;
Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg as they move on to
the next phase of their lives; Nancy Gertz for her leader-
ship, wisdom and compassion; DT's Bat Mitzvah*

Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steve Siegel

*In memory of Sheree Galpert's Dad Alvin
In honor of: Dorshei Tzedek in its Bat Mitzvah year;
Roberta Carson for her clear, focused, and tireless efforts
on behalf of the Nadiv Lev Committee*

Emily Saltz and Ira Fader**Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis****Linda Schiller and Steve Robins****Pamela Schoenberg and Joel Reider****Sandra Sedacca and Sherwood Ives**

*In honor of Miranda Phillips, for the gift of communal Shabbat, and Jill Volk for the gift of communal remembrance
With gratitude for the Jewish education of our four children: Clara, Joey, Maida and Noah*

Sharon Sevransky and Jeffrey Goldman

*In honor of the birth of our son, Spencer Robert Goldman,
and as thanks to Rabbi Sapsowitz for conducting
a beautiful brit milah service for Spencer*

JoAnn Share and Rochelle Weichman**Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman****Debbie Sher**

In honor of Josh and Matt Nadler

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome

*In memory of Alvin Galpert, Sheree Galpert's father
In memory of Arthur Pollack
In honor of the: Bar Mitzvah of Alex Rubin-Rattet; Bar Mitzvah of Caleb Marcus; Bat Mitzvah of Amalia Lieberman
In honor of Bobby Kleinberg—Mazel tov on the completion of your doctoral dissertation.*

In honor of Founding Members of Dorshei Tzedek: Elaine Pollack, Jill Volk, Sue Fischlowitz and David Robert, Ellie and Efreim Goldberg, Steffi Karp, Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx and Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Shoshana Simons

*In memory of my beloved mother,
Helen Bogen-Simons on her 20th yahrzeit*

Gayle Smalley**Nessa Spitzer**

*In honor of CDT's Bat Mitzvah
and in honor of Rabbi Toba's father Bill Spitzer*

Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried

In honor of Nancy Gertz and the Board

Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller

In honor and appreciation of Cindy Rome, Rebekah Ralen, Rachel Gutter, Miranda Phillips and Adam Mayer-Deutsch for another wonderful Hebrew School year

Betsy and David Teutsch

In honor of Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

Angela and Dorea Vierling-Claasen**Jill Volk**

*In honor of Nancy Gertz
for her wonderful leadership this year*

Karen Wasserman and Betsy Hinden**Michael White**

In honor of Kelli Kirshtein and Marc Steinberg's exceptional service leading during April

Susannah and Stephen Zisk**Barbara and Jerry Zolit****School Fund****Samantha Papurt**

*In honor of all the outstanding Kitah Vav students. It was a privilege to teach you as well as learn from you.
Thanks—Morah Shulamit*

Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried

In honor of Cindy Shulak Rome and Barbara Shatkin, for their leadership in the "Behind the Labels" Project

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.

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Marna** (617.965.0330) or **Annie Spanel** of the Chesed Committee (617.547.1533 or tuuurtle2@aol.com).

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 dnews@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**, **Laurie Gould**, and **Debbie Waber**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Condolences

To **Jon Weisberg**, **Debbie Hemley**, and **Emma Weisberg** on the death of Jon's father, **Emil Weisberg**. May his memory be for a blessing.

To the **Danzing-Aronow family** on the death of Benita's grandmother, **Rose** (at the age of 106!). May her memory be for a blessing.

To the **Shulak-Rome family** of the death of Dan's aunt, **Dora Schocken**. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Elaine Pollack and family** on the death of her father-in-law, **Arthur Pollack**. May his memory be for a blessing.

Todah Rabah

To **Hankus Netsky** for his wonderful presentation, "What We Lost When We Lost the Cantor."

To **Stuart Snyder** for successfully negotiating CDT's lease renewal with the First Unitarian Society of Newton and the Second Church, assuring us three more years of Religious School activities and services in these two locations.

To **Linda Schiller** for her stimulating adult education program entitled "Dreaming through a Jewish Lens."

To **Debra Rattet and Leslie Rubin** for the beautiful table that now sits on the *bima*--the perfect holder for the *challah* and wine for Kiddush on Shabbat. Many thanks to you, and such a nice way to remember Alex's Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov

To **Amy Goldsmith** on graduating from Prozdor Hebrew High School at Hebrew College on Sunday, June 5, 2005. *Yasher Koach* to Amy on reaching this milestone event in her Jewish education. If you are interested in learning more about Prozdor for your post b'nai mitzvah student, please call Bil Zarch at 617.559.8805 or e-mail him at bzarch@hebrewcollege.edu.

To Me'ah Graduates who have just completed their two-year study of One Hundred Hours of Jewish Learning. CDT Graduates for the Class of 2003-05 are: **Wendy Gedanken**, **Judy Hersh**, **Josh Lieberman**, **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, **Joshua Herzig-Marx**, **Judy Herzig-Marx**, **Carla Naumburg**, **Ellen Pashall**, **Lisa Samelson**, and **Marc Steinberg**. We are honored to have you all among our community of learners. *Yasher Koach!*

Mazel tov to **Bobby Kleinberg** on completing his Ph.D.!

Mazel tov to **Tatjana Meschede** on completing her Ph.D.!



CDT Community Happenings and News

Prospective Member Open House

Thursday, June 2, 7 pm

60 Highland St.

Tell your friends! Invite your colleagues! Spread the word! Membership Outreach and Inreach, along with the Religious School, are hosting a Prospective Member Open House on Thursday, June 2. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals and families to learn more about our wonderful community – including our fabulous religious school. We know that most new households join because of a personal connection to CDT – through friends, neighbors, and colleagues. We'd like your help in getting the word out! If you know of households who might be interested in learning about our Religious School and congregation, this is the perfect invitation for them. If you're in the mood, offer to accompany them!

For more information, contact **Carla Naumburg**, Membership Outreach Chair: outreach@dorsheitzedek.org, or call 617.965.0330.

Farewell Gathering for Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

Saturday, June 25, 7:30 pm

Home of Cindy and Dan Rome

What could be sweeter than an evening of dessert, touched by the magic of Havdalah (around 9 pm) as an opportunity for extending gratitude and sharing stories of the last ten months? As our Sabbatical Rabbi, Marna Sapsowitz has tendered us many gifts, and we have many reasons to be grateful. Just us at Cindy and Dan's home, sing some songs, count the stars, enjoy some sweets, and extend some of your own blessings to Rabbi Marna. Kids welcome! To give us a sense of how many are expected, please RSVP to Diane, our administrator, by June 20, by phone at 617.965.0330, or email at office@dorsheitzedek.org. If you forget, or your plans change, come anyway!

Fun Mitzvah Opportunity

A member of the CDT community who is a single parent is seeking a male mentor for her son. This person could act as a 'Big Brother' and be as involved or uninvolved as he wants. Even a once or twice a month outing would not be too little as this boy has no involved male relatives. His

mother has already tried the established route for getting a Big Brother but to no avail. If you might be interested or would like more information, please contact Rabbi Marna at 617-965-0330. (If you know a man who is not a CDT member but who you think might be interested, feel free to forward this to him.)

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).

Community Events

The LSJCC is Your Summer Family Fun Destination!

Dear JCC Friend,

Summer is almost here! The Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton has many exciting summer programs and we would love to share the information with your constituents. Space is still available in most summer camp programs and in our fabulous Outdoor Pool Club. We appreciate your support! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 617.558.6411.

Shabbat Shalom,

Jennifer Bobruff, Membership Development

Hebrew Grammar Corner

Rabbi Marna notes that the plural of *bar mitzvah* is *b'nei mitzvah*, not *b'nei mitzvot*. (And *b'not mitzvah* is the plural of *bat mitzvah*.) As with "mothers-in-law" (not "mothers-in-laws") and "ladies-in-waiting", you only make the first word plural.

Membership Outreach

Bring a Friend to CDT – The Growing of Dorshei Tzedek

Carla Naumburg, outreach@dorsheitzedek.org

As a member of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek over the past three years, I have come to appreciate the value of community—the joy of celebrating *simchas* and holidays with neighbors, friends, and family, the power of communal support during times of grief and loss, and the meaning many of us experience while worshipping, praying, and learning with others.

The individuals, families, and households of Dorshei Tzedek are the life of our congregation. We contribute time, energy, resources, skills, and friendship. As members move in and out of their connection to and engagement with CDT, new members help us maintain the energy, ideas, and opportunities for involvement and learning that characterize CDT. As we continue to grow, we can move forward with intention. We know that the most common way for new members to come to Dorshei Tzedek is through a personal connection. This is an excellent way for us to grow.

For the most part, our members share the values that characterize Reconstructionism—egalitarianism, inclusiveness, *tikkun olam*, and a willingness to step up to positions of leader-

ship and share knowledge and skills. Fortunately, in the midst of our shared values, we also have great diversity—of experiences, backgrounds, and families, among other things. I feel confident that by bringing our friends, families, neighbors, and colleagues to CDT, we can grow the congregation with those who may be more likely to share our values, and contribute diverse experiences, interests, and skills to our community. It is this powerful combination of shared values and unique experiences that will help Dorshei Tzedek continue to grow as a vital, dynamic, and supportive congregation.

In addition to informally asking all of you to bring your friends and family to services, adult education classes, family events, and holiday celebrations, we are going to create specific opportunities for you to do so. Throughout the late summer and early fall, you will begin to notice that some events are specifically labeled as “Bring a Friend.” In addition to the open houses that happen throughout the year, these events have been designated as good opportunities for prospective members to experience the warmth of the Dorshei Tzedek community.

Your first opportunity to introduce your friends to our community is coming up – we’re hosting a Prospective Member Open House on Thursday, June 2 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Start thinking about who in your life might be interested in learning more about CDT. Contact **Carla Naumburg**, Membership Outreach Chair, at the email address above with any questions or thoughts.

It Does Take a Village

Carol Sklar, CSKLAR12@aol.com

On April 2, 2005 we celebrated the Bat Mitzvah of my daughter Julia. I was having your basic pre-Bat Mitzvah anxieties but my greatest anxiety was how I, by myself, would be able to set up an extensive *kiddush* to feed 130 to 140 people while participating in the service upstairs. Enter **Eileen Morrison** to the rescue. She volunteered to coordinate the task. On Friday afternoon I brought in all the food and Eileen and I set up the tables and chairs. That is the last I saw of the kitchen or the Fellowship Hall. When we came down for the *kiddush* on Saturday afternoon the room was beautiful, the food was professionally arranged, and everything was where you needed it. Even the coffee was percolating. I want to thank Eileen, **Amy Brodesky**, **Rex Flynn**, **Robin Rouse** and **Michael Kajn** for their hard work. These folks even packed up all the remaining food and put it in my car. I was overwhelmed by the caring and attention to detail, some from congregation members I had never met before.

Then, on April 16, came Katy Jablon's Bat Mitzvah. Eileen is

Katy's mom so it was with great joy and an open heart that I volunteered to help set up the *kiddush* for Katy's Bat Mitzvah. I wanted it to be as nice as Eileen had helped make ours two weeks before. This time I was on the other side of the *kiddush* setup/cleanup phenomenon. I was again overwhelmed by the hard work, caring and attention to detail of **Sue Lanser**, **Jo Radner** and **Sherwood Ives**, all members of Dorshei that I had not met and who had no personal connection to Katy and her family. These folks arranged, carried and set out food. They refilled platters, packed up at the end of the day, spent a long time washing and drying dishes, put things away, wiped counters, and left the kitchen as clean as when we started. Everyone was involved in the spirit of the task and put their all into it. We even split time so that we could each attend part of the service.

Having now seen and experienced both sides of the *kiddush* setup and clean-up, I wanted to say what a meaningful experience it was for me. I was so touched by the caring and generosity of spirit I found. I will be forever grateful for having had the opportunity to be on both sides and to see people at their best. *Todah rabah*.

GBIO and Tikkun Olam

Standing Shoulder to Shoulder

Ezra Daskal Hausman, ezrad@rcn.com

As a member of the Dorshei Tzedek GBIO leadership team, I have been at several meetings at which our successful negotiations with Citizen's Bank have been discussed. I knew this was a long and laborious process, and I knew that those involved considered it to be a major victory. Even so, I have been concerned occasionally that GBIO is just marketing Citizen's services, and that they are really getting the better end of this deal. If I think this, having been involved in the process, I have no doubt the thought has crossed the minds of others. So I looked into the issue and talked about it with a GBIO staffer, Rebecca Gifford, who has been intimately involved with the negotiations.

The first thing to note is that while many of the families in our community may be used to getting excellent, solicitous services from banks, families of lesser means see a very different side of this industry. For example, while I have had free checking all of my working life, people who cannot maintain minimum balances and arrange for direct deposit are not granted this privilege. People, that is, who can least afford them, pay much higher transaction fees than I do as a matter of course.

What we demanded from Citizens Bank was that they treat all of our members and member institutions as valuable customers, and provide us all with VIP banking services regardless of color, nationality, or social standing. Over 1,000 of us met with Citizens Bank President Bob Smyth and told him that we are all important customers and must be treated as such. This is a civil rights issue. It is a demand for a rollback of exploitative practices that are a traditional, if shameless, profit center for banks. Yes, we hope and expect that it is a good deal for Citizens Bank, and that we move institutional money to their coffers and bring them more business. It has to work for them if it is going to work for us.

So when we hold a meeting where people who have felt powerless in the face of the banking industry can sign up for the same services I take for granted, we are standing shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors and making it clear that we expect the bank to take this commitment seriously. Just as we stand alongside nursing home workers and demand that they are treated with the same dignity that anyone should expect in the workplace. Just as advo-

cates for human rights and dignity have always stood shoulder to shoulder, not demanding anything more than universal access to what the privileged among us takes for granted.

Here is a summary of the service improvements Citizens Bank has agreed to for at least the next three years, which are now available to us and to all other members of GBIO. You may or may not feel that these are of direct benefit to you, but the fact that they are available to the wide socio-economic swath that GBIO represents is a considerable victory indeed. Our recognition of that victory, and even making this a profitable venture for Citizens, is an important part of building the momentum for more.

For members from GBIO congregations, Citizens Bank is creating "GBIO Premium" accounts. (GBIO Member Benefit cards are available to DT members in the congregation office.) These accounts will allow members of GBIO congregations many benefits including:

1. Free Circle Checking—No monthly service fee or minimum balance for 3 years. Accounts can be started with as little as one cent—\$.01.
2. Citizens will contribute \$10 each to help start youth accounts.
3. Free Circle design checks.
4. Free online banking and bill pay; no-fee debit card.
5. 6% Commerce Auto Insurance Discount and 15% Commerce homeowners discount through Brewer & Lord Insurance Agency.
6. .50 basis point rate increase on non-promotional rate CD's
7. Access to Money Market accounts with \$1000 min. balance, no fee (usually \$2,500 required.)
8. \$250 rebate on Citizens Bank Mortgage closing costs
9. Annual \$25,000 unrestricted grant to GBIO that we will use to award five \$5,000 community service awards/scholarships.
10. For member institutions, free non-profit checking and discounted interest rates on construction/acquisition/rehabilitation loans (1% below market.).

In addition, Citizens Bank is making 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. Citizens Bank is already popular in low-income

(Continued from page 12)

communities, and this grant program will support a positive, mutually beneficial relationship with our members. If it works for Citizens Bank while providing premium banking services to all of our members, we will be in a position to demand and expect even more community support in the future.

GBIO Health Care Initiative

GBIO is working in partnership with Health Care for All to promote access to high-quality health care for all residents of Massachusetts. It is important for us to act quickly and stand together to make sure that real health reform is debated in the Legislature, and that no half-measures are allowed to deflect the pressure for expanding health care to all citizens. Please join us as we work with our neighbors from throughout greater Boston on this important initiative. Dorshei Tzedek has committed to bring 30 members to this important action. This is a great *tikkun olam* opportunity for children, especially those in Grade 6 and above. If you would like to attend, contact Paul Hattis at pahattis@comcast.net.



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

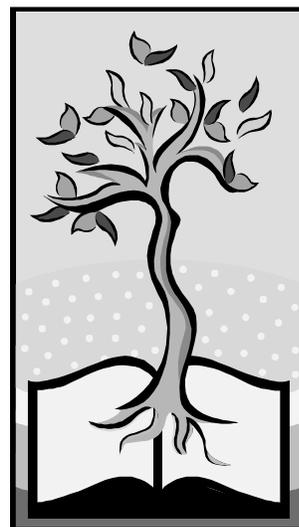
School Registration

School registration is now in progress for the 5765 (2005-06) academic year. We have openings in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. For more information about our school, or to receive the registration forms, please contact Diane in our office at 617.965.0330 or by email at office@dorsheitzedek.org. **All registrations must be in by July 31.**



High Holyday Divrei Torah

The Divrei Torah that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei. The talks are available in both HTML and Adobe Acrobat (PDF) formats. Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.



News from JRF

Siddur Kol Hano'ar: The Voice of Children



Introducing Siddur Kol Hano'ar: The Voice of Children, the new Reconstructionist Children's Siddur. Authored by Rabbi Sandy Sasso and Rabbi Jeffrey Schein, the siddur will be sized appropriately for children (96 pages, hard-cover) and accessible for children ages 5 to 9 and their families. Colorful artwork by Joani Rothenberg enhances the siddur. The siddur was funded through an initial gift by an anonymous donor through the Shefa Fund and then added to by generous gifts from grandparents of students in Reconstructionist congregations.

Two versions are being printed: one with, and one without, English transliteration. The siddur will have its own website in coming weeks, and will be available for congregations to purchase at a substantial discount before it is printed. Note cards featuring eight of the images from the siddur will also be available.

Large Print Shabbat Vehagim

Two-volume set; coil-bound; 8½" x 11" \$75 (\$55 for members of JRF Affiliates). This is the entire Shabbat Vehagim prayer book enlarged to 130 percent of its original size. Useful as a leader's edition, for the visually impaired, and for people new to Hebrew.

A Guide to Jewish Practice: Bioethics

This new book by David A. Teutsch, Ph.D., thoughtfully addresses a number of hot-button issues. Is euthanasia ever permissible? How should we make decisions on behalf of an incapacitated patient? When is abortion a valid ethical choice? And ultimately, is it only the individual patient who is responsible for maintaining health, or should society assume some of the burden?

This book is the second of 11 planned sections in the volume-length Guide to Jewish Practice. The first part of the volume covered the laws of kosher practice. It is produced by the Center for Jewish Ethics of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, which Teutsch directs, and is published by RRC Press. It is available for \$10. Requests for copies should be sent to RRC's Center for Jewish Ethics, 1299 Church Rd., Wyncote, PA 19095 or by calling 215.576.0800.





June-July Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Thu June 5	7 pm	Prospective Member Open House for Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and our Religious School	<i>See pages 11 and 14</i>
Fri Jun 3	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	<i>Carol Slipowitz, Lauren Gibbs See page 5</i>
Sat Jun 4	8:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	<i>60 Highland St. Library See page 5</i>
Sat Jun 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	<i>Jill Volk, Jennifer Levine, Steve Siegel</i>
Sat Jun 4	8 pm – 10:30 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Dorshei Tzedek	<i>Members-only Event 60 Highland St. Fellowship Hall See page 4</i>
Sat Jun 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service / Amalia Lieberman Bat Mitzvah	<i>Amelia Zalcmán, Susannah & Stephen Zisk, Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan. SANCTUARY CLEANUP: Rebecca Gut- man, Dan Rome</i>
Sat Jun 18 *	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	<i>JoAnn Share & Rochelle Weichman Tracy Rogers & Jane Schwartz , Judith Wine & Aileen Cronin 60 Highland Street</i>
Sun Jun 19	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-only Event</i>
Sat Jun 25	7:30 - 9:30 pm	Farewell for Marna Dessert and Havdalah	<i>Members-only Event Home of Cindy and Dan Rome See page 11</i>
Sat Jul 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	<i>Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg</i>
Sat Jul 23	9:30 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	<i>Barbara & Jerry Zolit, Terry Traub</i>

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.

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.