

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
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Tammuz-Av 5765

July-August 2005



Returning from Sabbatical

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

As I write this, the days are heating up and summer is fast approaching – and with it, the end of my sabbatical. I'll be returning full time to Dorshei Tzedek at the beginning of August. It's hard to believe that almost ten months have passed.

Perhaps it was serendipitous, but the Dorshei Tzedek Bat Mitzvah celebration on June 4 was a wonderful first step in my re-entry into congregational life. I was able to experience Shabbat morning services that day as a congregant—my first service at CDT enjoyed almost entirely from the “pews”! And giving the d'var Torah on that occasion was a great opportunity for me to reflect on where the congregation has been and where we might go in the coming months. But perhaps most wonderful of all was just getting to see so many people, both at Shabbat services and at the party that evening. It made me realize how long it's been and how much I am looking forward to seeing everyone again when I return. And while I'd certainly not forgotten what a wonderful community this is, getting to schmooze with so many CDT folks during the bat mitzvah celebration reminded me on a more visceral level of just how great the people in this congregation are.

There will be a couple of opportunities for me to meet with you after I return and for me to discuss my experience on sabbatical. The experience is not yet over, so I hesitate to say too much at this point, but there are a few things I know I can already say. I discovered a number of months into the sabbatical that I was spiritually depleted to a far greater extent than I had realized. That realization was an important first step in realizing the fundamental goal of this 10-month break—to replenish myself, to reconnect to the deep sources that allow me to do this holy work, and to begin to find out how to make that process of replenishment one that I can maintain even after I return from sabbatical. I am not entirely sure how it happened, but I can now feel a perceptible shift in the energy and resources I have available to myself and to others.

During the sabbatical, people have often asked me what I'm “doing,” which has consistently been a difficult question to hear and to answer. Early on, when I hadn't entirely settled into the experience of sabbatical, the question mostly made me anxious that I wasn't “doing” enough. Should I be studying more? Having more fun? Doing more political activity? Traveling to exotic locales? I started to feel like a sabbatical failure! But after awhile I realized that the problem wasn't so much with me but with the question (which is an entirely natural one). The point of the sabbatical wasn't really to accomplish anything at all, but to shift from the overemphasis on “doing” that makes up my normal life and to embrace a stance of “being.”

The best question about my sabbatical came from a colleague who asked me, a few months ago, “What's good about sabbatical?” Now that's a question I can answer! There are many things that have been wonderful about being on sabbatical: having more time to spend with Gina and the kids, and getting to experience a leisurely weekend; painting for the first time in years; learning beautiful Jewish songs not because I'm preparing for anything but because the music makes my heart happy; sitting for hours in a coffee shop reading books about theology; going on a meditation and study retreat for rabbis; starting a new project to support the work of Jewish social justice activists; meditating and davvening more regularly; traveling

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to southern Spain with my mother for a week; and the list could go on.

I really cannot express the level of gratitude I feel to the congregation in allowing me such an experience. It was transformative on a deep level, and my hope is that the community will reap the benefits of that transformation along with me. And I also hope that collectively we can work to make Shabbat a reality in all of our lives—whether as a weekly practice, as more extensive opportunities to Be rather than to Do, or as part of a larger struggle to create a society that honors the profound importance of rest.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Rabbinical Coverage for July

With Rabbi Toba on sabbatical and Rabbi Marna returning to Olympia, you might be wondering what's happening at CDT! Newer members might not realize that every July our rabbi takes time off. During this period, our services are lay-led and are typically held every other week instead of weekly. Please see the calendar for dates for services this July. We have three different rabbis who are on call, should we have an emergency or urgent need. To contact a rabbi, call the office. If the message tells you that Diane, our administrator, is on vacation, please call Nancy Gertz, President at her home number. Rabbi Toba will be back as of August 1.

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.

Shalom, Rabbi Marna, Shalom Blessing for Rabbi Marna

Lisa Schneier, on behalf of our membership

Rabbi Marna, you have brought many gifts to our congregation. You've offered us your wisdom in Torah study, You've shared a variety of beautiful texts over the year - poetry, readings, commentary - that have deepened our experiences of the Torah and of particular occasions and holidays. You've guided our efforts to learn about and create communal Jewish practices through which to mourn and remember loved ones. You've shared with us your strong voice in leading services. You have put the Torah into the arms of 16 b'nai mitzvah, and, as you pointed out to each of them, with it the full weight and richness of the Jewish tradition.

As we say on Pesach, "Dayenu!" "It would have been enough." But the most profound of your gifts is not any of these specifically; it's the way in which you have given them. To all of your work with us you have brought the quality perhaps most valued in Jewish life: that of "chesed," "lovingkindness." We have felt your lovingkindness in the generosity of spirit with which you've done your work this year. We have felt it in your lively interest in us - as individuals and as a congregation. We have each felt it in our own particular experiences of your caring. Many of us in the congregation have remarked at one point or another on this quality of yours, on how pronounced is your kindness. In the difficult position of sabbatical Rabbi, in which you were with us only for a short time, you have nevertheless opened to us the well of your heart. That is a courageous gift, and we are grateful for it.

Even as you leave, your gifts will remain with us. As individuals and as a community, we will take the experiences of our year with you and let them build into the future. In this way (as well as hopefully in others!) you will continue to be a part of our congregation's life, a strong and continuous thread in its ongoing tapestry.

We hope that you will take us with you also - what you have learned, how we have shared ourselves with you. May this year with us be a blessing to you as you continue on your journey. May it bring you light. And as it has for us, may it add a strong thread to your experience that you will continue to hold and weave into the future.

Nevarech lach b'derech shelach. We will bless you on your journey.

President's Message

Todah Rabah to Our Outgoing Leadership!

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

As I wrap up my first year as president of CDT, I feel tremendous gratitude and admiration for the many people who stepped up and supported our efforts during this sabbatical year. These are remarkable, generous, and committed people to whom all of us should be grateful. I'd like to use this space to thank the folks who are stepping down who have been especially helpful to me as president this year. A heartfelt todah rabah to:

Debbie Waber, who for the most of the thirteen years of CDT's life, worked in some capacity on the board, and most recently as president and past-president. She is unfailingly reliable, supportive, intelligent and insightful. Yasher koach, Debbie.

Laurie Gould, who for the last two years has served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer, brought clarity, vision, skill, and good humor to the task of managing our finances. Yasher koach, Laurie.

Wendy Gedanken, who for the last year has been on the Executive Committee, and before that many other board and off-board committees, brought her intelligence, readiness, and flexibility to the variety of projects she was asked to handle. Yasher koach, Wendy.

Cindy Shulak-Rome, who has had so few years of not sitting at board meetings, was asked to attend even more of them this year, while Rabbi Toba was on sabbatical. Cindy provides a ready source of information, ideas, support, values-clarification, institutional memory, and more. She is invaluable as a staff member as well as a leader and role model in the community. Yasher koach, Cindy.

Judy Herzig-Marx, who has served in so many roles, including president, is stepping down from chairing the Ritual Committee, and thus she is taking leave from the board. We'll miss her balanced and educated perspectives, her insights on CDT's path, and her talent for sorting out the essence of things. Yasher koach, Judy

Judy Hersh, who has served in the role of Membership In-reach Chair/Maven for the past two (feels like more!) years, brought her tireless energy, amazing organizational skills, and wonderful readiness to all she did. If you want to know the name of anyone in the shul, ask Judy, for she has welcomed each one personally and effectively, through calls, notes, dinners, meetings, retreats, and more. Yasher koach, Judy.

Roberta Carson, who as served in various capacities over the past four years, worked very hard this past year on our nadiv lev campaign, which was very successful in reaching

financial and participation targets. Roberta's reliability, attention to detail, willingness to work hard to get the job done right, and unique sense of humor will be missed this coming year.

Tessa Goldsmith and **Janet Boguslaw**, our co-chairs of Children's Education, worked in concert with Cindy Shulak-Rome and the Religious School for policies and programs in Children's Education, and also to provide Children's services on Shabbat. Some of the most complicated policy discussions emerge on this committee, and these folks have brought their intelligence, dedication and devotion to children and Reconstructionism to the many issues they have considered.

Susan Manheim and **Sherry Katz**, our Chesed chairs, have woven together the fabric of our chesed efforts over the last stretch. With quietness, grace, and style, they have coordinated meals and provided support to many of our members in times of joy and sorrow. Most recently they have worked closely with our newest study of End of Life and Bereavement to see how we can better meet the needs of our membership at this difficult life stage.

Elaine Bresnick has been the chair of our Personnel Committee for several years. She has brought her business experience and warm personal style to helping us with hiring, evaluating, and overseeing our administrative staff. Elaine has been an asset to us in this important area of our administration.

Amy Mazur, for her many years of dedication to the membership committee of the congregation, welcoming new members, interviewing and following up on queries and problems, making connections, guiding and counseling—with skill, kindness, and a help strengthen CDT as a community.

My gratitude extends to all the folks who will be continuing on the Executive Committee, Board, and as chairs of off-board committees. Our congregation can be described in many ways depending on the lens, and lately as we've been moving through the nominating process, I've been viewing it in the most simple terms as a non-profit voluntary organization. Of course, it is much more than that, chiefly a religious organization, but without this central effectiveness as a voluntary organization it really can't achieve its other goals at this point. So, to all those who are continuing on, stepping up, or transitioning to a new role, yasher koach to you all (see page 5).

Notice there are several positions on the roster that are currently unfilled. The congregation needs more of its members to step up to these leadership positions. I am happy to discuss this with anyone who is interested, as is Debbie Waber from the Nominating Committee. Don't hesitate to call.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer.

Bat Mitzvah of Katie Sandson

Please celebrate with our family on **August 6 at 9:45 am** as Katie is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Katie is entering 8th grade at Brown Middle School, where she is on the cross country and track teams. Katie loves to play soccer and is an avid skier. She is also a talented pianist. In her free time, Katie likes to read, follow the Red Sox, and hang out with her friends. For her tikkun olam project, Katie volunteered at the Wellness Community working with young children who have lost a parent to cancer. We look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with our family, friends, and the Dorshei Tzedek community and hope you will join us for Shabbat morning services followed by a kiddush luncheon.—*Mei See Sandson*

Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Schiff

On **September 3**, our daughter Hannah becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Hannah has been a student in CDT's religious school since first grade. This summer, she will return to one of her favorite places—Camp Young Judea—and then she will begin seventh grade at the Pollard Middle School in Needham. For her tikkun olam project, she has been working with children in a special needs activity group at the Jewish Community Center. Please join us at Shabbat Services, followed by Kiddush, as we celebrate with our family, friends, and Dorshei Tzedek community—*Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff*

Unity Shabbaton: An Adult Weekend of Study & Prayer

August 19-21, 2005
Chelmsford, MA

Featuring our very own Rabbi Toba!

Join folks from every stream of the Jewish community in the Greater Boston area for a weekend featuring study, prayer, schmoozing, and fun. Faculty for the Shabbaton include Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Rabbi Nehemia Polen (director of the Hasidic Text Institute at Hebrew College) and Rabbi Sara Zacharia (on the faculty of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College). This is a wonderful opportunity to have an in-depth Shabbat experience and to meet Jews of all backgrounds and levels of observance. Sponsored by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts. For more information and to register, go to www.synagoguecouncil.org.



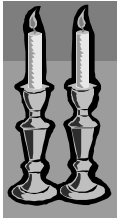
Three CDT Women Swim Against Breast Cancer



Susannah Zisk, Liz Carver, Hilary Marcus

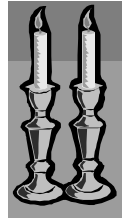
Actually, only one of us - Liz Carver - will be getting in the water for team CDT *L'Chaim* on August 20 in **Against the Tide**, an annual event sponsored by the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition. In response to the high incidence of breast cancer in our community (including several CDT members and two members of our team) the three of us are mounting a joint fundraising campaign in support of the MBCC. The money raised by Against the Tide supports the MBCC's work of organizing and coordinating efforts to prevent, treat, and ultimately cure breast cancer. A portion of the proceeds raised from this event will go to the Silent Spring Institute, a nonprofit research organization that conducts innovative scientific research to study links between breast cancer and the environment.

Please give today in the amount that's right for you. Checks may be made out to MBCC and mailed to Susannah Zisk, 4 Rose Drive, Newton, MA 02465. Thank you for your support.



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

Friday, September 9, 6 pm

Family services are on hiatus during the summer, but will resume Friday evening, September 9.

Erev Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat services will resume on September 16. During this service the new CDT Board of Directors will be installed.

Shabbat Morning Services

July 9, July 23, August 6, August 13, August 27

During the summer, Dorshei Tzedek operates with a reduced Shabbat service schedule. Weekly Shabbat services will resume in September.

Brit Bat and Aufruf

Shabbat Services, August 13

At Shabbat services on **August 13**, **Anna Madeline Kaplan**, baby daughter of **Erica Streit-Kaplan** and **James Kaplan**, will be welcomed into the covenant and the Dorshei Tzedek community and formally be given her name. During the same service, we'll also be celebrating the aufruf of **Audra Karp** and **Deb Albenberg**. Please come and join the celebration of these wonderful simchas.

Sabbatical Reflections with Rabbi Toba

*Wednesday, August 10, 7-9 PM, FUSN, Alliance Room
(air-conditioned)*

Sunday, September 11, 3-5 PM, 60 Highland, Sanctuary

Members are invited to join together in welcoming Rabbi Toba back from her ten-month sabbatical. In this intimate setting, Rabbi Toba will share her reflections on this rich time in her personal and professional life.

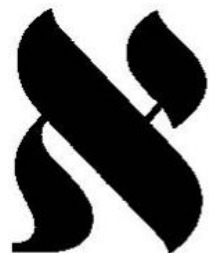
High Holyday Divrei Torah

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. 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.

Interested in Studying Hebrew?

Lisa Schneier

Our classes this past year were very successful! The Adult Education Committee is in the process of organizing beginner and advanced beginner Hebrew classes for the coming Fall. We are considering several ways to offer Hebrew instruction, and we need to know how much interest is out there. We are not yet offering specific times; these will be decided once we know who is interested. You don't yet need to make a firm commitment - just tell us of your interest by emailing or calling Lisa Schneier at lisa.schneier@umb.edu, 617-591-1931.



Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

From Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome from the Kitah Aleph Families

Ellie Goldberg

In celebration of the birth, May 29, of Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan's daughter, Anna Madeline Kaplan

Tessa and Clifford Goldsmith

In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx for his patience in leyning-tutoring.

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome

for her unwavering dedication to Jewish Education.

In honor of the births of Maayan Sarit Magaziner and Anna Madeline Kaplan.

In honor of Judy Hersh

for boundless energy and commitment to Dorshei Tzedek.

Audra Karp

Sue Lanser & Jo Radner

Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner

In honor of Leah Netsky, Hadass Silver and Tessa Goldsmith for their commitment to providing childcare during services this year, and in recognition of the many blessings we received from the community surrounding Maayan's birth. Thank you to Rabbi Marna for her help/collaboration on the naming ceremony, or Simchat Bat, as we think of it, and safe travels home.

Amy Mazur

In honor of the birth of Anna Madeline Kaplan.
Mazel tov to Erica & James.

Linda Potemken

To Dorshei Tzedek, an awesome congregation.
Long may you thrive!

Elizabeth Ross & Caren Smith

In honor of CDT for nurturing the beginnings of our Jewish Life

Elizabeth Samelson & Paul Hattis

In honor of our congregation's Bat Mitzvah

Jill Stanzler-Katz & Jeffrey Katz

In honor of Elaine Pollack

Michael White

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.

My Tikkun Olam Project: I Need Your Help

Jamie Schor, Kitah Zayin

i2j@comcast.net

For my Bat Mitzvah I am doing a Tikkun Olam project called *The Dress Connection*. As part of this project I will be collecting gently used, like-new dresses, appropriate for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony or celebration, from girls who no longer need them and giving them to families who can't afford to buy one. I believe that everyone should be able to celebrate their Bat Mitzvah even if they don't have very much money.



After I collect the dresses I will be giving them to the staff at Jewish Family & Children's Service and they will distribute them to the families in need.

I will be collecting the dresses in September 2005—I will let you know the date(s) soon. For now, please start thinking about whether you have any dresses that you may be able to donate to this project. If you have any questions I can be reached at i2j@comcast.net or 617-244-4215. Thank you very much.

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.

Upcoming Fall Events

To those of you who leave for the summer, we'll see you in September!

For those of you who like to look ahead, here are some of the previews for September. It's one of those lovely years for us when the High Holy Days arrive gracefully in October instead of converging with all the other start-ups in September!

- Sat, September 3** Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Schiff
- Fri, September 9** Prospective Member Potluck Dinner and Family Erev Shabbat Service
- Sat, September 10** Shabbat Services, during which we will honor and say farewell to Miranda Phillips. Special Kiddush to follow.
- Sun, September 11** Sabbatical Reflections with Rabbi Toba
- Fri, September 16** Adult Erev Shabbat Service and Board Installation
- Sat, September 17** Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Aliza Lurie
- Sun, September 18** Prospective Member Open House & Study with Rabbi Toba
- Sat, September 24** Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Lily Strassberg

Adult Education

Preparing for the High Holy Days, with Rabbi Toba, our first adult education offering of the upcoming season, will be held on Thursday evenings **September 8, 15 and 22**, from **7:45-9:15** at 60 Highland Street in the Parlor. Mark your calendars now!

Dorshei Tzedek Leadership Slate

At the Members' Meeting on May 22, members approved the Dorshei Tzedek leadership slate for the upcoming year was approved. Thank you to Debbie Waber, Ora Gladstone, Marc Steinberg for their excellent work as the Nominating Committee this year. Yasher koach and todah rabah to all outgoing and continuing board and off-board officers!

Executive Committee

President:	Nancy Gertz
Vice President	Steve Siegel
Vice President	Paul Hattis
Treasurer	Sivan Nasoff
Secretary	Peter Hess
Rabbi	Toba Spitzer
[Vice President]	[Unfilled]

Board of Directors

Finance Secretary	Jeff Kichen
Ritual	Marc Steinberg/Kelli Kirshtein

Space

Tikkun Olam
Membership Outreach
Membership Inreach

Newsletter
Children's Educ.
End of Life
[Nadiv Lev
[Holiday Programming
[Member-at-Large

Rabbinic Liaison
Personnel
Website
Publicity
High Holy Days
Adult Education
[Chesed

Stuart Snyder
Esther Kohn
Carla Naumberg
Angela Vierling/
Diana Fisher-Gomberg

Dan Halbert
Howard Lurie
Nicky Silver
[Unfilled]
[Unfilled]
[Unfilled]

Off-Board Chairs

Ora Gladstone
Peter Katz
Stan Fleischman
Josh Herzig-Marx
Theresa St-John Siegel
Matilda Bruckner
[Unfilled]

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **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 dtnews@yahoo.com.

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

Mazel Tov

To **Stan Fleischman**, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Me'ah graduates in last month's newsletter.

Todah Rabah

A big thank you to **John Holohan** for his guitar-playing accompaniment at a number of b'nei mitzvah services this past year!

Todah rabah to **Wendy Gedanken** from the Executive Committee for overseeing CDT's wonderful Bat Mitzvah celebration!

Thank you so much for donations folks have made to CDT in honor of our Bat Mitzvah as a congregation. Todah rabah!

To **Andrew Compaine**, for his skillful leadership of Community Conversations for the past two years, resulting in the completion of approximately sixty insightful, enriching, and connection-filled interviews of our members.

The Newsletter Committee gratefully acknowledges the years of dedicated service put in by **Susannah Zisk** as one of our newsletter editors. Thank you so much!

To **Erica Streit-Kaplan** and **James Kaplan** on the birth of

their daughter **Anna Madeline**, on May 29, 2005. The brit bat ceremony for Anna will be held during Shabbat services on **August 13**.

To **Audra Karp**, on her upcoming marriage to **Deb Albenberg**. The couple will be blessed during services on **August 13**.

To **Lisa Port White** on her recent graduation from the Muscular Therapy Institute. Anyone need a massage?

To **Ilana Mainelli**, for all the shlepping and laundering of our tablecloths this year! Here's a true behind the scenes job that nobody notices until it isn't done! Thanks for making sure that we always had a clean cloth for our noshes!

To **Paul Carson**, for doing such a great job maintaining the listservs so we can keep in touch with our membership via email.

To **Michael Kajen**, for changing the light bulbs in the sanctuary. Let there be light!

To **Steve Siegel**, who has been on the Executive Committee for the last few years, worked closely this year on the *nadiv lev* campaign and miscellaneous other projects, as they arose. Steve brings optimism, intelligence, and intention to whatever he undertakes. He's a wonderful collaborator and has taught us a great deal about fundraising at CDT.

To **Peter Hess**, who joined us this year for the first time as a board member, stepped up to the position of secretary on the Executive Committee with technical skill, reliability, and good humor. Peter's contributions to board discussion are always delivered with great care and thoughtfulness.

To **Cindy Shulak-Rome** and **Dan Rome** for hosting Rabbi Marna's farewell gathering at their home. What a lovely evening!

To **Sheree Galpert**, **Peter Hess** and **Lisa Schneier**, for helping with various aspects of Rabbi Marna's farewell evening.

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

Tikkun Olam GBIO Update: Dorshei Tzedek and GBIO Push for Affordable Healthcare

Esther Kohn and Ezra Hausman

On May 26, thirty-eight vocal members of our congregation joined over eighty congregations and community groups from across greater Boston as part of GBIO's Health Care Reform Campaign. We want to thank everyone who came, as well as the folks who helped organize our "turnout"—many people made telephone calls, offered rides, and shared information about the event. Thanks also goes to those who attended the June 8 action at the State House. Dorshei Tzedek is getting a reputation in GBIO for our commitment to social justice!

At the May 26 event, an exuberant gospel choir greeted over one thousand members of Greater Boston Interfaith Organization as they entered the auditorium at Temple Israel. During the dramatic role call, representatives from all the congregations and community groups present explained why they believe it is a priority to make health care accessible and affordable to everyone in Massachusetts.

Several GBIO members, including our own Emily Sper, gave testimonials about their difficulties obtaining quality, affordable health care. Working people explained that their employers do not provide health insurance, or that the premiums are beyond their reach. There were single adults who were not covered by MassHealth. A small business owner, who wanted to provide health insurance for his employees, described the prohibitive cost of health insurance to small businesses.

The GBIO Health Care Platform would:

- expand MassHealth to working people and families
- help small businesses and the self-employed
- provide relief to moderate-income families
- commit to sensible, fair, efficient funding of health care

Several state legislators attended the event, giving GBIO the opportunity to honor those senators and representatives who support our goals and to apply pressure to those who are on the fence. Legislators in attendance included Ruth Balser and Alice Wolff. Representatives Gloria Fox and Deborah Blumer and Senator Jarrett Barrios all addressed the crowd, emphasizing their commitment to the issue.

GBIO is also leading a Signature Collection Campaign this fall to put our health care initiative on the ballot. This is a great opportunity to get involved in building momentum on this crucial issue, and your efforts will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Esther Kohn (esthercfs@hotmail.com) to find out how to participate.

We look forward to discussions, events, and actions to deepen our understanding as we continue our support for the Health Care Campaign.

Tikkun Olam: Todah Rabah and Farewell to Janice Fine

Paul Hattis

This summer we say a bittersweet shalom to **Janice Fine** and her family. Janice, David and their two children Benjamin and Carson are moving to New Jersey as Janice begins a new phase of her career as a college professor at Rutgers University.

We take delight in the simcha of her being offered this wonderful academic position.

With Janice's guidance here at CDT, we fled the tikkun olam desert where we were stuck for a while. Together, with Janice's insight and passion, we learned how best to move our collective social action desires ahead. Janice's wisdom, experience and leadership have been invaluable. In sharing the chair of our GBIO and tikkun olam committee with her over the past year of so, I can say that without a doubt, our community's development that has resulted from our GBIO activities would not be as rich without her guiding hand. Janice will be missed.

Janice is remarkable not only in what she has contributed to our present efforts and activities; but her passion has energized so many of us to come forward to be active in GBIO, that sustainability of our community's commitment to this interfaith effort is without question. It is a real gift for someone to be able to contribute to a community in such a way. Janice's work in support of Jewish Fund for Justice, Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace, the Reconstructionist movement, as well as her professional endeavors will hopefully give many of us continuing opportunities to connect with her in making the world a better place.

We wish Janice and her family the very best and mazel tov as they create new life paths for themselves in New Jersey.

School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome, school@dorsheitzedek.org

Demystifying Mikveh: Kitah Zayin visits Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikveh

How many of you have ever visited a *mikveh*? Do you know about the three required immersions according to traditional Jewish law? Do you know what happens when the water is "kissed"? More importantly, do you know that we are blessed to have Mayyim Hayyim, Community Mikveh and Education Center just a mile down the road from us in West Newton? These are but a few of the things our Kitah Zayin students learned about this spring when we had the opportunity to visit Mayyim Hayyim. We participated in an educational session about Mikveh, and then had the opportunity to tour this beautiful facility.

Mayyim Hayyim is unique in that it aims to reclaim and reinvent the ancient Jewish ritual of immersion in the *mikveh* (ritual bath) for contemporary spiritual uses. Mayyim Hayyim (literally, "*living waters*") provides a beautiful and creative space for all Jews to experience Mikveh, whether for traditionally defined immersions or for other occasions or life transitions. Many in the community have been developing new immersion ceremonies to mark major transitions in life. A student from Solomon Schechter Day School has recently been working with Mayyim Hayyim to create a Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Immersion Ceremony.

After our class visit to Mayyim Hayyim, here are some comments from our Kitah Zayin students:

"I thought it was a really neat, spiritual cleansing experience."

"I was surprised to learn that there are times Jews are supposed to come to the Mikveh. Overall it was amazing how you can be with God."

"I thought it was really pretty and gave a nice impression. I might want to go before my Bat Mitzvah, for good luck."

Our visit to Mayyim Hayyim proved to be both educational and inspiring. You too can visit Mayyim Hayyim. To learn more about their programs visit their website at www.mayyimhayyim.org.

School Registration

School registration is now in progress for the 5765 (2005-06) academic year. If you have not received registration materials in the mail, please contact Diane in the office at 617 965-0330 or office@dorsheitzedek.org. **All registrations must be in by July 31.**

Dorshei Tzedek Bat Mitzvah Todah Rabah

Wendy Gedanken

As with any Dorshei Tzedek event, without the work and help of many, our Bat Mitzvah celebration would not have happened. With every DT project that I have worked on, I have always realized anew that I am lucky to get involved in Dorshei Tzedek work because I always-- always-- get so much out of it. Working on the Bat Mitzvah was no exception. I had to think about what this occasion meant and what our community means to me. I worked with members who I barely know or had never met before and it was a pleasure. I was reminded that even work like set-up and clean-up, when done in community, is connecting and fulfilling.

In no particular order: Thank you to **Judy Hersh** for creating the wonderful 3-volume scrapbook, and to **Barbara Shatkin** for helping out. Also thanks to **Judy** for coordinating and working on so many of the details, from the early planning through to invitations and the final clean-ups. We are deeply grateful.

Thank you to **Ellie Goldberg**, **Janice Fine** and the GBIO committee for their thoughtful notes on what our celebration might look like.

Thank you to **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Judy Herzig-Marx** and **Tessa Goldsmith** for planning our Shabbat morning service.

Thank you to those who participated in the service, our rabbis, **Marna Sapsowitz** and **Toba Spitzer**, service leaders and leyners, **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, **Dan Rome**, **Kelli Kirshtein**, **Marc Steinberg**, **Miranda Phillips**, **Debbie Waber**, **Adina Hemley-Bronstein**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Lisa Port-White**, **Jill Volk**, and **Sheree Galpert**.

Thank you to **Meryl Epstein** who coordinated the wonderfully healthy kiddush lunch on a shoestring budget, and **Kimberly Cox**, our caterer, for the delicious food.

Thank you to **Amy Goldsmith** and **Aviva Rosman** for leading us in Havdalah.

Thank you to **Debra Rattet** for finding our wonderful klezmer musicians and DJ.

Thank you to the set-up and clean-up crews and the decorating committee: **Naomi Botkin**, **Eileen Morrison**, **Jen Levine**, **Amy Brodesky**, **Diana Fisher-Gomberg**, **Jill Volk**, **Steve Siegel**, **Ellen Pashall**, **Allison and Ezra Hausman**, **Tim Rosa**, **Lauren Gibbs**, **Steve Leonard**, and **Ora Gladstone**.

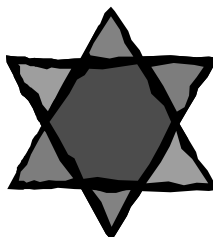
And thanks to the more than 25 people who pitched in to bring beverages, side dishes, and desserts. You helped make our celebration bountiful and delicious!

July-August Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Sat Jul 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman Valerie Graf and Doron Gan
Sat Jul 23	9:30 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Barbara & Jerry Zolit, Terry Traub
Sat Aug 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Katie Sandson	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Jeff Kichen, Melanie Northrop <i>Service at: 60 Highland Street</i> <i>Celebration at: First Unitarian Society</i> (see page 4)
Wed Aug 10	7 pm - 9 pm	Sabbatical Reflections with Rabbi Toba (see page 5)	<i>Members-Only Event</i> <i>Alliance Room, First Unitarian Society</i> (air conditioned)
Sat Aug 13	9:45 am - 12:30 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Brit Bat and Aufruf (see page 5)	Hara Klein and Eleni Carr Elaine Landes and David Felson
Sat Aug 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Cheryl & Jeff Sacks Eliz Ross & Caren Smith

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. **There will be no official Shabbat Childcare from June 25th through the end of August.** If parents would like to use the childcare room, please be sure to leave it as you found it so we will have the privilege of using the nursery school's wonderful space next year too. If you have any questions, please call Tessa Goldsmith.



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465



News from JRF

Hunger No More: an Interfaith Convocation

Under the leadership of Rabbi Shawn Zevit, JRF's Senior Consultant for Outreach, JRF was well represented on June 6 and 7 at the first Interfaith Convocation on Hunger in Washington, DC. The Convocation brought together the world's faith leaders and more than 1,000 people to address the scandal of hunger in the United States and around the world.

In a spirit of prayer, leaders of many faith traditions united with representatives of the millions of volunteers who feed hungry people in this country and those organizations that bring relief to people in need overseas. We called on the President and members of Congress to join Jewish, Muslim, Christian and other religious leaders to lead a new national commitment to end hunger.

Rabbi Zevit led the JRF delegation, which included Rabbi Alex Lazarus (Mid-Atlantic Regional Director), Rabbi Sid Schwarz (Panim: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values), Phil Goldberg (Director of Communications), and Bob Barkin (JRF Board Member). We were also joined by several rabbis from the Conservative movement at our meetings on Capitol Hill.

We met directly with US Representatives Allyson Schwartz (PA), Rahm Emmanuel (IL), Henry Waxman (CA) and with

Pennsylvania Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum. Other officials of the federal government spoke to the JRF and other delegations.

Camp JRF Moving to the Poconos

We are excited to announce that a contract has been signed to purchase a new home for Camp JRF. The new site, located in the Pocono Mountain Region of Pennsylvania, is an ideal site for our camp. The site has been running as a private summer camp for more than fifty years, and provides us a site pre-designed for camping. With cabin space for over 250 people, a swimming pool and lake, a large arts center, beautiful sports fields and courts, and acres of untouched forest to explore, we will be enjoying this new site for many years to come.

The signing of the contract tops off a month of excitement as we prepare to open camp. With over 130 campers representing more than thirty Reconstructionist congregations, our camp registration is larger than ever before. Our staff is also the largest and most experienced yet, and we all move into our last summer in Illinois with a sense of excitement for the future and a communal goal to make this a summer to remember.

Keep watching the Camp JRF website, www.campjrf.org, as the summer progresses for pictures and stories from the camp session. If you would like more information on the new site for Camp JRF or the Capital Campaign to help fund the purchase, please send us an email at info@campjrf.org.