

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
www.dorsheitzedek.org office@dorsheitzedek.org

Av-Elul 5765

September 2005



Looking Ahead

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

Periodically, as Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has grown and developed, we have initiated a process of strategic planning to reassess and evaluate our vision. The Board has determined that we have reached another of those junctures, thus we will be undertaking a new strategic planning process beginning in September. I'm very excited about this! Lately I've been enjoying some delightful and provocative conversations with members and small groups about this process. Topics of these discussions have ranged from the simple procedural elements, e.g. how often we'll meet and who will be on the committee(s), to more complex concerns about how to bridge divergent views around strongly held values. I am continually impressed by our membership's investment in our community, how they feel when they attend services and other events, and the importance of education, liturgy, community, and individual practice.

We are a young congregation on a steady growth path. Both the membership and the leadership have evolved significantly since a small group of households maintained a lay-led congregation for the first six years of CDT's young life. As Rabbi Spitzer commented at our congregational Bat Mitzvah in June, just like a young adult, many of our qualities as a congregation are already well-defined. The issues we face now, like the post-b'nai mitzvah adolescent, revolve around choices we make to determine where we will be in five, or even ten, years. How do we want to define ourselves at that point?

As we engage in this process of deliberation and choice, I invite you to ponder your own personal role in this developmental process. I'm not asking you to feel guilty that you aren't doing something at CDT—not at all! I'm suggesting you examine your connection to CDT as a community, perhaps your sole Jewish community. What do you bring to this community and what do you want to

receive from this connection? Following on the rabbinic sabbatical year, have you reconsidered the role of the rabbi at CDT and your role as a member of a congregation that values "producer Judaism"? How can this experience contribute to the strategic planning process? If you would like to discuss strategic planning at CDT, feel free to contact me, or VP **Paul Hattis**, at paul.hattis@rcn.com.

Finally, on behalf of all of us, a warm welcome back to Rabbi Spitzer, who has returned from her sabbatical with renewed energy and deep gratitude. I know I'm not the only one looking forward to partnering with her this year. As we welcome our rabbi back, however, we must offer a sad but proud and grateful farewell to our Family Educator, teacher, friend, Renaissance Educator, tutor, mentor, and member, Morah Chavah—Miranda Phillips. Please join us on September 10 for Shabbat services, when all of our *leyners* will be students of Miranda's, to honor Miranda and give her our communal blessings as she moves forward to the next phase of her journey.

INSIDE

Farewell Message, Morah Chava	2
Board Notes	2
High Holy Days	3
B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations	4
Shabbat Programs	5
Sukkot	6
CDT Community Events	7
Community Events	8
Nadiv Lev	9
Chesed, JRF News	10
Calendar	11-12
School News, Adult Education	13-14
MAZON, Lulav-Etrog Order Form	15
Mission Statement	16

Farewell Message

Miranda Phillips, phillipsville@gmail.com

It is with very mixed feelings that I write this. I am of course excited for Bobby's and my coming year in Berkeley, and for Ithaca after that. But after seven years, my roots at Dorshei Tzedek run deep.

I've become attached to each of you kids, having taught most of you in one or more grades. At each stage I've been amazed by your creativity, insight, humor, love of *tikkun olam*, and pride in your Judaism. I've also been wowed by your growth: from *Gan* to *Aleph*, *Aleph* to *Gimel*, and *Gimel* to bar/bat mitzvah; it has truly been a gift for me to be part of that.

I, too, have really grown here. I arrived at age 22 and leave at nearly 30, feeling that I've really come into my own -- as an adult, and as a Jew. By the example, support and encouragement of amazing mentors and colleagues, I've also become a professional, so excited to keep learning and growing in that capacity.

I can't tell you how honored and blessed I feel to have found all this here with you. May Dorshei Tzedek continue to be such a source of blessings -- for each of you, and for the larger communities of which Dorshei is a part.

I will be leaving mid-September. I hope to see each of you before I go. There will be a farewell service/Kiddush in my honor on September 10. It would be very meaningful to me to have you there!

—Morah Chavah / Miranda

(See the note on page 14 about a special farewell for Miranda.)

Board Meeting Notes

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

The Board met on August 5.

D'var: Kelli Kirshtein opened the meeting with a D'var Torah on the *Parsha Masei* (Journeys). She pointed out that when we disagree with other Jews about the past and future of Israel, it can help us to keep in mind that their world view has been shaped by the vision of Israel set out in this Torah portion, so that we can carry on our discussion in the spirit of loving our fellow Jews and having compassion for those with another point of view.

Membership/School Enrollment: Inquiries to the school and membership outreach committee appear to be down this summer compared to other years. We hope this is because of the lateness High Holy Days this year, but we need to put

effort into publicity between now and then, to increase our school enrollment and membership for the upcoming year.

School Staff/Member Tuition Policy: The board unanimously passed a resolution that gives children of teachers who are CDT members a 50% discount on their tuition at our school.

Remembrance: Building on our Death and Bereavement discussions from last year, we talked about ways to incorporate remembrance into our congregational life, such as:

- Reading names at Yizkor
- Continuing group discussion of death and bereavement
- A booklet listing the names of people we want to remember

There is no uniformity of practice among other Reconstructionist congregations we looked at. No major changes will be undertaken this year, but the Ritual Committee, the Rabbi, and members who have led our thinking about this topic will continue to work on it in the months ahead.

Sabbatical--Lessons Learned: Board members, asked to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the Rabbi's sabbatical year, observed that the year saw several members increase their involvement in ritual leadership, expanding their capabilities and often surprising themselves by what they could do. Also, it was a good year for youth participation: post-B'nei Mitzvah youth remained involved in congregational activities; there was wide participation in, and enthusiasm for, the "Behind the Labels" project; and the large B'nei Mitzvah class did beautifully. We also noted that, expectedly, in Toba's absence some members had a hard time maintaining their involvement and interest in CDT. Rabbi Toba said that from her perspective, things went well with the congregation. She noted the beginnings of Rosh Hodesh observance and the Death and Bereavement project, as well as the success of "Behind the Labels". The Rabbi said that in replenishing her energies, the Sabbatical did what it was intended to do, and expressed her appreciation to Dorshei Tzedek for having made it possible.

Strategic Planning: We are beginning to think about how to structure our strategic planning process. The outcome of the process will be a written document outlining a three-to-five year plan that includes input from the other working committees and the general membership. We first need to identify our goals keeping sight of our mission, vision, and values. One of the challenges we face is that Dorshei Tzedek is at an in-between stage in congregational development: not small enough to operate by consensus nor big enough to have an established organizational structure. Our hope is for our planning process be content driven, avoiding entanglement in organizational details, and for it to be an energizing experience for the congregation.

High Holy Days

Mark your calendars! You should have received a High Holy Days mailing with specific information about services. If you didn't get one, contact Diane in our office at 617-965-0330 or office@dorsheitzedek.org.

Erev Rosh Hashanah: *Monday evening, October 3*

First Day of Rosh Hashanah: *Tuesday, October 4*

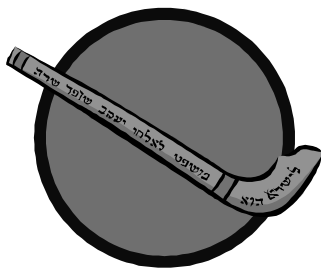
Second Day of Rosh Hashanah: *Wednesday, October 5*

Kol Nidre: *Wednesday evening, October 12*

Yom Kippur: *Thursday, October 13*



Children's High Holy Days Programming



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is pleased to offer special Children's programming for the upcoming High Holy Days. We will offer three programs: a program for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners, a program for children in Grades 1-3, and a program for children in Grades 4-7.

A musical evening service will be held on **Erev Rosh Hashanah** appropriate for older children and adults. In addition to this, Children's services will be held on the morning of the first day of **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur** morning. All children will join the Adult service for story telling by the Rabbi on the first day of **Rosh Hashanah** and the sounding of the Shofar on the second day.

A structured childcare program, including age appropriate holiday crafts, stories, and songs will be provided during our daytime services on **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**. There will be childcare but no structured program during Kol Nidre and during the **Ne'ilah** service on **Yom Kippur**. We regret that we cannot provide childcare for children under the age of three.

Please review your High Holy Days mailing for additional information about childcare. **It includes a sign-up form for High Holy Days childcare that must be returned by September 19.**



Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Schiff

September 3, 9:45 am

On September 3, our daughter **Hannah** becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Hannah has been a student in the 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

Bat Mitzvah of Aliza Lurie

September 17, 9:45 am

Please join our family in celebration on September 17 as our daughter **Aliza** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Aliza is entering 8th grade at F.A. Day Middle School where she has been active in the environmental and dance clubs. When not playing soccer, Aliza can be found spending time with her friends and her sister, Gemma. For her *tikkun olam* project, Aliza has been tutoring immigrant students in English and other subject areas. We look forward to sharing this wonderful occasion with family, friends, and the entire Dorshei Tzedek community. Please join us for at Shabbat Services, followed by a Kiddush luncheon.

- Howard Lurie

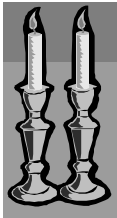
Bat Mitzvah of Lily Rebecca Strassberg

September 24, 9:45 am

Please join us on September 24 as our daughter **Lily** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Lily has shown real dedication by studying her Torah portion all summer at summer camp, complete with phone lessons with Miranda. Lily will be entering the eighth grade at Brown Middle School in Newton. Lily has always been a fun-loving, sensitive and creative child. She loves to sing and has performed with the school Redwood Singers. She draws, paints and writes poetry. Her major love, however, is for animals who cannot take care of themselves. For her *tikkun olam* project she worked all year at adoption events for Save-a-Dog, an organization that saves stray and abandoned dogs from euthanasia by bringing them to Massachusetts, and fostering them in homes until they can be adopted. She has involved her friends in this effort and this fall, when a new law requiring a quarantine period almost shut down the organization, she and her friend mobilized kids at school to raise money to save it. Ask her about it, she is a great publicist, but be careful or she will talk you into adopting a dog! Please join us in celebration for a Kiddush lunch after the services.

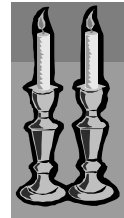
- Elena Eisman and Steve Strassberg





Special 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.



Open-House Potluck and Family Service

Prospective Member Event – Invite Your Friends

September 9, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an open house Erev Shabbat Family Service on Friday, September 9. We'll have a potluck at 5:30 to be followed by services at 6:30 pm and an *oneg* afterwards. Plenty of opportunity to re-connect with friends, meet some new folks, *daven*, sing, *kvell* over the kids, and enjoy a meal with a sweet afterwards.

Farewell to Miranda Phillips

September 10, 9:45 am

Join us for Shabbat morning services and Torah discussion during which we will say our communal "goodbye" to our beloved Morah Chavah, **Miranda Phillips**, and her partner **Bobby Kleinberg**.

Open-House Erev Shabbat Service & Board Installation

September 16, 8 - 9:30 pm

Friends, neighbors, and prospective members are welcome to join us for Erev Shabbat adult services on Friday night, September 16 at 8 pm. Join as we welcome Shabbat with a musical service, and as we honor our new Board leadership.



Monthly Shabbat Programs

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

*September 9, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 10, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2
6 – 7 pm*

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday (usually, but see schedule) of each month. (Note there is no service scheduled in the month of October.)

Erev Shabbat Services

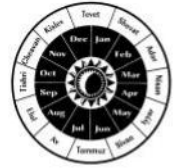
*September 16, October 21, November 11, December 9, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 21, May 12, June 9
8 – 9 pm*

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

Tot Shabbat Services

*October 15, November 19, December 17, January 28, February 11, March 11, April 1, May 13
10:45 - 11:30 am*

We will learn about Shabbat and the Jewish Holidays through song, stories, and crafts while building our community from the toddlers on up. Please join us! For more information call **Karen Wasserman** at 617.325.4716



Sukkot

The holiday of Sukkot is known as *z'man simchateynu*, the "time of our joy." Come be joyful with us as we celebrate this week-long festival!

Building the Sukkah

Sukkah building on Sunday, October 9, Sukkah deconstruction on Sunday, October 30

FUSN, 1326 Washington Street

Help us build the Dorshei Tzedek sukkah! We need a few adults to help put up the frame and cover the top with *s'chach* (greenery). If you are interested in helping out, contact **Paul Carson** at p-carson@ti.com.

Sukkot Programs

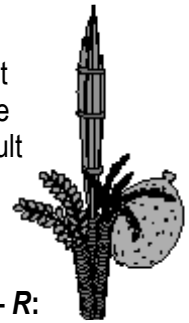
At FUSN, 1326 Washington Street, and Second Church, 60 Highland Street

Sunday, October 16, 4 - 6:30 pm

Decorations to be hung and songs to be sung! Participate in an experience in the sukkah that starts at **4 pm**. Begin at the outdoor sukkah at FUSN with sukkah-decorating, intended for the whole family. At **5:15 pm** walk together to the Second Church and participate in either an adult study (for those 12 and older), or join the younger children in story and song (parents must accompany children).

Main dish & drinks will be provided and will follow at **6 pm**. Bring potluck contributions for 12 people as follows: **Last Name A-H: Starch-based salads (pasta, rice, etc.). Last Name I - R: Veggies salads (No pasta please!). Last Name S-Z: Fruit & Dessert.**

In the event of inclement weather, the entire program will occur at the Second Church, and will begin at 5:15 pm.



Sukkot Services

Join us for Sukkot Services on **Tuesday, October 18 at 9 am** in the sanctuary. **Bring your lulav, or pick it up at services!!**

We welcome all interested parties who would like to use the Sukkah during the holiday. Feel free to come with family and friends any time during Sukkot. The Sukkah will be located in the back of the First Unitarian Universalist Church (FUSN - 1326 Washington Street) for the duration of the holiday.

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.

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.

Contacting Rabbi Spitzer:

Rabbi Spitzer 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.

It's an Honor—Board Installation—You're Invited!

Friday, September 16, Sanctuary, 8 pm

Please help us welcome the new Dorshei Tzedek Board during Erev Shabbat services. Come and show your support and appreciation for the efforts of the Board and Committee Chairs. Services begin at 8 pm and will be followed by a festive Oneg Shabbat where members are invited to relax and schmooze while enjoying a special Kiddush of coffee and dessert. Hope to see you there!

Introduction to Dorshei Tzedek and Reconstructionism with Rabbi Spitzer

*Sunday, September 18, 10 am,
60 Highland Street*



Tell your friends! Prospective members are encouraged to join **Rabbi Spitzer** and current members for study and discussion on Sunday, September 18. This is an opportunity to learn about our congregation and about Reconstructionist Judaism. Bring your own coffee/tea and noshes.

Softball and Picnic

September 25, location and time TBA



Join us for some sweaty fun as we say goodbye to summer with a softball game and picnic on September 25th. Bring whatever equipment you have and a potluck dish. Location and exact time will be announced on email.

Contact **Angela Vierling-Claassen** (angelavc@math.harvard.edu) or **Diana Fisher-Gomberg** (gofish4@comcast.net) for more information.

Sukkot Prospective Members Meeting

*Sunday, October 16, 3 -4:30 pm
60 Highland St*

Get out the word! Invite your friends! Our annual Sukkot Prospective Members Meeting is a great way for families and individuals to learn more about Dorshei Tzedek and to experience the fun of celebrating a chag with our community. We'll be meeting in the Sanctuary from 3 - 4:30 pm, and then we'll head downstairs for the Sukkot programming. For more information, call Carla Naumburg at 617.558.1323 or e-mail outreach@dorsheitzedek.org.

Help Wanted Membership Outreach

Carla Naumburg, outreach@dorsheitzedek.org

Membership Outreach is looking for a few good folks to help out (that's you!). We're especially interested in finding folks who regularly attend our Family Erev Shabbat Services and would be willing to schmooze with prospective members. This is a good opportunity for folks who haven't had much experience on committees at CDT to get started, and for those who would simply like to get to know more people in the shul to make some new friends. We have fun, enjoy ourselves, get the job done, and it's meet about 3 times per year. If you're interested, please call Carla at 617.558.1323.

The Dress Connection Is Ready to Go!

Jamie Schor

The Dress Connection invites post-Bat Mitzvah girls and their families to make an important difference by donating gently used, like-new dresses appropriate for a Bat Mitzvah ceremony or celebration to a girl in need. Clothing collected will be given to girls of Bat Mitzvah age through Jewish Family & Children's Service Mitzvah to Mitzvah Program.



I will be collecting dresses at Dorshei Tzedek (60 Highland Street) at 3 different times:



- Friday September 16 from 7 – 8 pm (prior to the Erev Shabbat service)
- Sunday October 16 from 4:30 – 5:30 pm (at the Sukkot program)
- Tuesday October 25 from 5:30 – 6:30 (at the Simchat Torah celebration)

I can also pick up dresses at your home if that is more convenient. Please contact me with any questions at i2j@comcast.net or 617.244.4215. Thank you for your help.

Community Events

Raising Teenagers:

Helping Parents move from Conflict and Confusion to Confidence and Connection

Tuesday, September 13, 7:15-9:30 pm

Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Avenue, Boston

Synagogues provide an ideal environment to provide support and education to the parents of teenagers. As parents gain confidence and knowledge they increase their effectiveness and help their teenagers in many concrete ways.

Sue Blaney, author of *Please Stop the Rollercoaster! How Parents of Teenagers Can Smooth Out the Ride* will present this informative workshop which will explore:

- * Why parenting teenagers is so challenging today and major sources of stress for parents
- * Parents' three areas of need and approaches and information that address these needs
- * A program for parenting discussion groups that can be implemented in your congregation
- * Jewish perspectives on parenting teenagers

For more information or to RSVP for the evening please contact David Goldstein from the Bureau of Jewish Education at 617.965.7350 or via e-mail at dag@bje.org.

Selichot Program

with Ruth Messinger, President of the American Jewish World Service

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 pm

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek will be joining with Reconstructionist Temple Hillel Bnai Torah for an evening of learning and reflection as we begin our formal preparations for the High Holy Days. We are honored to be able to participate in this evening with Ruth Messinger, former Manhattan borough president and current President of the American Jewish World Service (and member of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, the original Reconstructionist congregation in New York). Ruth will be speaking about AJWS's work in tsunami relief and in response to the crisis in Darfur. Ruth is a passionate speaker and activist, and this promises to be an exciting evening. →

Selichot program:

8:00 Havdallah

8:30 Discussion with Ruth Messinger

9:15 Selichot service

Join us for JF&CS Family Day

Sunday, October 2

JF&CS Headquarters 1430 Main Street, Waltham, MA

Jewish Family & Children's Service will be holding a fun-filled Family Day from 12-4 p.m. on October 2 to showcase our programs and services and introduce the community to our Waltham headquarters. Activities for kids of all ages:

- Rick Goldin will give a kids music show at 1 pm
- Raffle: 4 tickets to a Wang Center performance
- Moon bounce and a mini golf course
- Rami Salami the clown will entertain the crowd
- Make Your Own Personalized Bead Bracelets
- Pizza, Popcorn and Cotton Candy
- And Many More Exciting Surprises!

For more information contact Liz Carey at 781.647.JFCS (5327) or visit jfcsboston.org

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).



Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman

In appreciation of Rabbi Toba's return just in time our Shiva for Jerry's mother.

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

To Zach Carson, a refuah sh'lemah—a full and joyful recovery—and to Roberta, Paul and Jake, continued strength for you who love and care for him.

To CDT's new board of directors and executive committee, with whom Nancy looks forward to partnering this year.

In honor and appreciation of Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg.

In honor of the Brit bat of Anna Madeline Kaplan—mazel tov!

In celebration of the continued healing of Peter Demuth.

Lauren Gibbs

In honor of Morah Cindy Shulak-Rome's educational leadership as well as her vivid impersonations of Sarah, Joseph, Moses, mother, and a host of other characters we've laughed and learned from.

With thanks for the Torah Talk families.

In honor of the founders of Dorshei Tzedek for their vision and creation of this wonderful congregation and community.

In honor of Nancy Gertz for her warmth, honesty, and effective leadership.

In honor of a terrific school year with Morah Rachel Gutter who inspired Margalit / Pearl to love learning Hebrew, Morah Chava (aka Miranda) who created such stimulating ed programs for us parents, and Morah Cindy Shulak-Rome who guides the school with such clear vision.

In honor of Rabbi Marna and her warmth, openness, responsiveness, and child-friendly ways.

In honor of Caleb Marcus's bar mitzvah.

In honor of Nicky Silver for opening up the congregation to talking about loss and remembrance.

In honor of Andrew Compaine for his vision and execution of Community Conversations, allowing voice to heretofore unmentioned aspects of our congregational life.

In honor of Barbara Shatkin's engagement of our children of all ages in the power of Tikkun Olam through the Behind the Labels project.

In memory of Edward F. Kook, Hilda S. Kook, Jeanette B. Kook Winkler, Nancy Wyner, Rosie and Abe Franzblau, and, above all, Patricia Kook Gibbs - 25 years.

Teri Hauserman & Stan Piltch

Laura & Joel Katz

In honor of Miranda Phillips and Samantha Papurt.

Kelli Kirshtein & Wendy Angus

In honor of Rabbi Marna's loving care of CDT during the last year.

In honor of Judy Herzig-Marx's contributions to CDT and Ritual committee this year and always.

In honor of Ma'ayan and Anna's birth.

In honor of the young people of CDT who contributed so beautifully to this year's youth services.

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

In memory of Pepi Friedman.

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In memory of Jerry Friedman's mother, Pepi Friedman.

In honor of Zach Carson—wishes for Refuah Sh'lemah—a complete healing.

In honor of Nancy Gertz, with appreciation for your wonderful leadership throughout this past year, and on into next year.

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Katy Sandson, Emma Halwitz and Hannah Schiff.

Carol Sklar

In memory of Mendel Halpern father of Carol Halpern.

In memory of Yetta Samuelson, mother of Marlene Samuelson.

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan

In honor of Miranda Phillips and Bobby Kleinberg, their contributions to CDT and in honor of our friendship.

In memory of Erica's grandparents Irving and Blanche Harris Streit.

School Fund

In honor of and farewell to Miranda Phillips:

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

Debra Rattet & Leslie Rubin

Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor

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.

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 tuurtle2@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@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 617.965.0330 x2.

Refuah Sh'lemah

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

Mazel Tov

To **Erica Streit-Kaplan** and **James Kaplan**, on the *brit bat* of **Anna Madeline**!

To **Katie Sandson**, and her family, on becoming bat mitzvah!

To **Audra Karp** and **Deb Albenberg**, on their marriage!

To **Liz Carver** and **Bryn Austin**, on their wedding ceremony!

To **Naomi Botkin** and **Josh Gordon**, who were married on June 26!

To **Michael Cohen**, **Tim and Danny Rosa**, **Steve Siegel**, and **Barbara Zolit** on completing the Pan Mass Challenge bike ride in support of the Jimmy Fund. *Yasher Koach!!!*

To **Susannah Zisk**, **Hillary Marcus** and **Liz Carver** on their marvelous efforts swimming and fundraising for Against the Tide, in support of the Mass Breast Cancer Coalition. *Yasher Koach* to all of you!

Condolences

To **Jerry Friedman** and his family, on the death of Jerry's mother, Pepi Friedman. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Marc Steinberg**, on the death of his uncle, Michael Katz. May his memory be for a blessing.

Todah Rabah

To **John Holohan**, guitar player extraordinaire, for helping out with so many bar/bat mitzvah celebrations over this past year, during Rabbi Toba's sabbatical. *Yasher koach!*

To **Carla Naumburg** for going into the closet! The closet in the sanctuary, that is, to clean, organize, and make it

ready for another year of multi-purpose use. What a job! Thanks Carla!

To **Ellen Pashall** for implementing the new Kiddush signup system with Diane Dillon. This was a big administrative task and we are very grateful to Ellen for her attention to all the details involved.



News from JRF

Save the Date!

The JRF Presents a "Yom Iyyun"

Sunday, November 13, 10 am - 4 pm, Congregation

Ahavas Achim, Hastings Avenue, Keene, NH

A day of learning for anyone who has or is interested in taking a leadership role in discussing and teaching about Israel in their communities. You will have the opportunity to connect with Israel in many ways, from scholarship to culture. Learn about the way new religious expressions are blossoming in Israel today. Part of our time will be spent planning a portion of our Spring *shabbaton* that will enable us to continue this discussion.

This day of learning will be hosted by Rabbi Fredi Cooper, JRF's Director of Congregational Development and Education, and by Dr. Carl Sheingold, JRF's Executive Vice President.

Order Your Pocket Diary for 5766/2005-06

JRF's very popular pocket diary with a complete and comprehensive calendar for the Jewish & secular year, with explanations of all Jewish holidays and important *Shabbatot*:

- **Diary**, with space to jot down your appointments. Plus blank pages for additional information and an address section.
- A clear and direct **statement** describing the platform and program of the Reconstructionist movement.
- A current **listing** of all synagogues and *havurot* which are affiliated with JRF.

All this for only \$8. Order now by calling 1.877.JRF.PUBS (1.877.573.7827) or visit www.jrf.org and click on the pocket diary link. Order now ... this is a limited-edition item!



September Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush , Notes
Sat Sep 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Schiff (p.4)	Lisa Port White, Melanie Northrop, Sarah Little & Doug Hersh. <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg
Thu Sep 8	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Preparing for the High Holydays	Members-Only Event
Fri Sep 9	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Shabbat to follow <i>after</i> Open-House Potluck Dinner (p.5)	Amy Bermar, Wendy Angus, Hara Klein, Eleni Carr
Sat Sep 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Honoring of Miranda Phillips (p.5)	Laura Katz, Barbara Shatkin, Andy Littman, Elaine Bresnick, Julie, Paul Fox. <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Dan Rome, Linda Schiller
Thu Sep 15	3:45 pm - 5:45 pm	Opening Day: Kitot Gimmel - Vav	FUSN
Fri Sep 16	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitot Aleph & Bet Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Sep 16	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service Board Installation (p. 5)	Jonathan Gordon, Ellen Pashall
Sat Sep 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Aliza Lurie (p.4)	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Jane Schwartz, Tracy Rogers
Sat Sep 17	10 am - 12 pm	Opening Day: Kitot Aleph & Bet	FUSN
Sun Sep 18	10 am	Rabbi's Open House, Study (p. 7)	
Sun Sep 18	5 pm	Board Mtg: Orientation for New Board Members	Members-Only Event
Sun Sep 18	5:45 pm	Board Meeting: Dinner and Meeting	Members-Only Event
Tue Sep 20	6:15 pm - 8:15 pm	Opening Day: Kitah Zayin	FUSN
Sat Sep 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Lily Strassberg (p.4)	Debra Rattet & Leslie Rubin, Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman, Sheree Galpert. <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Howard Kaufman, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller
Sat Sep 24	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Sep 24	8 pm	Selichot Services (p.8)	To be decided
Sun Sep 25		Softball Game and Picnic (p.7)	TBA

Events and services are held at The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted.

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.



October Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Sat Oct 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Allison Andrews, Arthur Lent, Meryl Kahn Sacks, Dorie Fried
Sat Oct 1	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Mon Oct 3	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah (p. 3)	Solomon Schechter Day School, 125 Wells Ave, Newton, MA
Tue Oct 4		<i>NO SCHOOL - ROSH HASHANAH</i>	
Tue Oct 4	9:30 am - 1:15 pm	First Day of Rosh Hashanah	Solomon Schechter Day School, 125 Wells Ave, Newton, MA
Wed Oct 5	10 am - 12:30 pm	Second Day of Rosh Hashanah	Solomon Schechter Day School, 125 Wells Ave, Newton, MA
Thu Oct 6		CLASSES RESUME	
Sat Oct 8		<i>NO SCHOOL, COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND</i>	
Sat Oct 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Marian Baumel, Andy Baumel, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, Lilly Platt
Wed Oct 12	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Kol Nidre	Solomon Schechter Day School, 125 Wells Ave, Newton, MA
Thu Oct 13		<i>NO SCHOOL, YOM KIPPUR</i>	
Thu Oct 13	9:30 am - 2:15 pm	Yom Kippur	Solomon Schechter Day School, 125 Wells Ave, Newton, Ma
Sat Oct 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Dan Price, Peter Shapiro, Karen Arnold, Andy Cohen
Sat Oct 15	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Oct 15	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	
Sun Oct 16	3 pm - 4:30 pm	Prospective Members Meeting	
Sun Oct 16	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Sukkot Program (p. 6)	Ellie Goldberg, Elaine Landes, David Felson, Amy Mazur
Tue Oct 18		<i>NO SCHOOL, SUKKOT</i>	
Tue Oct 18	9 am	Sukkot Morning Service	
Fri Oct 21	6 pm - 8 pm	Gan Family Shabbat Dinner	FUSN
Fri Oct 21	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Sharon Sevransky, Jill Volk
Sat Oct 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Katz	Jamie Tessler, Cindy Probst & Sue Pearce, Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn. <i>Sanctuary Cleanup</i> : Lana Eisman & Steve Strassberg, , Rachel Greenberg
Sat Oct 22	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Oct 23	2 pm - 4 pm	Opening Day: Gan Program #1	FUSN
Sun Oct 23	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Ed Program	FUSN
Sun Oct 23	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Members-Only Event
Tue Oct 25	6 pm - 8 pm	Simchat Torah	Susannah Zisk, Jacqui Bloomberg, Peter Gittleman
Tue Oct 25	6 pm - 8 pm	NO SCHOOL / Simchat Torah Celebration	
Sat Oct 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Joel Katz, Cindy Marshall, Jen Levine, Jacqueline Fleischman
Sat Oct 29	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Oct 30	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Gimmel Family Ed	FUSN

School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome, school@dorsheitzedek.org

Musings on Education

What is the soul of Jewish education? How do we tap into the inner world of our students and support them as they grow into adolescence and young adulthood? This July I had the privilege of attending my third retreat with the Institute of Jewish Spirituality along with thirty Jewish Educators from across the country. In addition to our regular routine of Tefilah, Meditation Practice, Text Study and Yoga, we had the opportunity to study with Rachel Kessler, a master educator in the secular world.

Kessler's work in education is directed towards honoring young voices by attending to the inner life or "soul" of students. Her book, *The Soul of Education: Helping Students Find Connection, Compassion, and Character at School* is an inspiring document. Though her work was originally conceived for secular school settings, so much of what she speaks about relates beautifully to the work we are doing at the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School.

Kessler talks about the need to honor young voices and to acknowledge the yearnings young people express; yearnings for connection, transcendence, creativity, and meaning and purpose in life. Through her teachings and experiential learning exercises, Kessler provided us with a wealth of resources to take home with us.

I was among many of our cohort who were moved by Kessler to think about how we can bring her ideas into our schools, our classrooms, our youth groups. Our Dorshei Tzedek community affords us a unique opportunity to support our youth in a most important way. I strongly believe that we are not just "running a school" at Dorshei Tzedek, but that we are building community, and hopefully working to instill in our children values and connections that will have a lifelong impact.

I am grateful to the congregation for providing me the opportunity to participate in this program as part of my professional development.

Back to School!

We look forward to welcoming our families to the 5766 school year! Starting dates for the various classes are as follows:

Gan Family Program:

Family Shabbat dinner on Friday October 21, 6 pm

First class begins Sunday October 23, 2 - 4 pm

Kitot Aleph and Bet (grades 1 & 2):

Family Shabbat Dinner on Friday, September 16, 6 pm

First Shabbat morning class begins Saturday, September 17,

10 am

Kitot Gimmel-Vav (grades 3-6):

First class begins Thursday, September 15, 3:45 – 5:45 pm

Kitah Zayin (grade 7):

First class begins Tuesday, September 20, 6:15- 8:15 pm

All school families should have received Back to School letters in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Dillon in our office, or Cindy Shulak-Rome in the school office.

A Special Goodbye for Miranda Phillips

This September, Miranda Phillips will be moving and will no longer be a member of our teaching staff. Bobby Kleinberg, Miranda's husband, has recently completed his Ph.D. at MIT. He has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley for the coming academic year and a position at Cornell the following year. Obviously, Miranda will be accompanying him!

Miranda has been a beloved member of our faculty for the past seven years. She has taught *Kitah Gimmel* and *Kitah Aleph* for duration of her time with us, and has also served as teacher for our *Gan* Family Program, Family Educator and B'nai Mitzvah tutor for many of our students.

For the past two years Miranda has been our Renaissance Educator—with the help of a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education, she has been working full time and has taken on additional responsibilities, including the role of B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator. She will be missed by many of us!

We are planning a special Shabbat service and Kiddush luncheon to honor Miranda on the occasion of her departure. This will be on **Saturday, September 10, Shabbat Shoftim**. Many of Miranda's former students will be *leyning* Torah and participating in the service. Our service will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon at which we will have a brief presentation to express our gratitude and appreciation to Miranda. All are welcome! Questions can be directed to Cindy Shulak-Rome at school@dorsheitzedek.org.

Meet Our Staff for 5766

We are pleased to welcome new and returning staff to our Dorshei Tzedek Religious School this year. Here is a brief introduction to our faculty:

Gan Family Program: Rebekah Ralen – Rebekah returns for her second year as Associate Education Director. She will be teaching Gan and the Family Education Programs for Grades 1-5.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Kitah Aleph: Rachel Hall – Rachel has been teaching religious school for three years. She is working toward a Master's degree in Cultural Studies at Simmons College, focusing on the intersection of race, class and gender.

Kitah Bet: Abby Cohen -- Many of us know Abby Cohen as an active Dorshei Tzedek member, but how many of us know that Abby was a beloved kindergarten teacher at Underwood School in Newton? We are delighted that Abby will be bringing her wonderful teaching skills and experience to the *Kitah Bet* classroom..

Kitah Gimmel: Hillary Pinsker – Hillary is currently a doctoral student in Judaic Studies at Boston University. She has a master's degree in Jewish Education and Jewish Studies and comes to Dorshei Tzedek with three years of teaching experience at *Mishkan Shalom*, a Reconstructionist congregation in Philadelphia.

Kitah Dalet: Lesley Chapman – We are delighted that Lesley is returning for her ninth year at our Dorshei Tzedek Religious School! Lesley has a master's degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College and when she is not teaching Hebrew or Torah, she works as the Producing Artistic Director of the Theatre Cooperative in Somerville.

Kitah Hay: AdAm Mayer-Deutsch – We welcome AdAm back for his third year at our school. AdAm will be a junior at Brandeis University this year, and has spent the past five summers working as a camp counselor at both Camp Ramah and a JCC Camp.

Kitah Vav: Jennifer Stevens Jennifer has a Master's Degree in Jewish Studies from Hebrew College and is currently enrolled in the Cantor-Educator Program at Hebrew College. She has been involved in a number of Jewish teaching and organizing experiences, including serving as a fifth grade teacher at a local synagogue.

Kitah Zayin: Cindy Shulak-Rome This will be my fifth year as Education Director at Dorshei Tzedek and my third year working with *Kitah Zayin*.

We feel blessed to have so many talented and gifted students working with our children. We look forward to a vibrant and stimulating school year!

L'hitraot!

This summer we said good bye to two of our teachers, Rachel Gutter and Samantha Papurt. Rachel taught *Kitah Bet* at Dorshei Tzedek for five years and at the same time connected with many of our students on the ice skating rink or as a private tutor. Rachel moved to Berkeley, California this summer to pursue her many creative interests in a different environment.

Samantha graduated this spring from Brandeis University with a double major in Women's Studies and Anthropology. She has been a staff member at Camp JRF for all four years of the Camp's existence, and now has a job at the JRF office in Philadelphia working on Youth and Camping Programming. She plans to attend graduate school in the future to get a Master's Degree in social work or education.

To both Rachel and Samantha we say "*l'hitraot!*" (see you later!). These two teachers will be missed by many, but we are most grateful for all you gave to our students and our school community while you were here.

Adult Education

(see also the event on page 7: Introduction to Dorshei Tzedek and Reconstructionism)

Preparing Ourselves for the High Holy Days

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

September 8, 15, and 22, 7:30- 9:15 pm
60 Highland Street

Join us for our first adult education offering of the season! Jewish tradition designates the month of Elul, the four weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah, as a time to prepare for the work of "turning" and "returning" during the Days of Awe. Make your High Holyday experience a meaningful one with this series of classes on the liturgy, texts, and personal meaning to be found in the holiest days of the Jewish year. Whether you want to have a better idea of what Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services are about, or want an opportunity for reflection as we head into the new year, these classes are for you!

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. Please let us know of your interest by e-mailing or calling **Lisa Schneier** at lisa.schneier@umb.edu, 617.591.1931.

MAZON

Again this year, the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements and Hillel International are joining MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger in fulfilling the biblical mandate to "leave the corners of our fields for the poor and the stranger." By donating to MAZON what you would have spent to feed yourself and your family on Yom Kippur and by participating in your congregation's food drive, you take part in this extraordinary act of Jewish pluralism. Your tax-deductible donation will support MAZON's grantmaking to programs that provide critical assistance to hungry people in the United States, Israel and developing countries around the world.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90025

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5766/2005

YES, I (we) will join with MAZON and leave "the corners of our fields for the poor and the stranger."

Amount of contribution: \$ _____

☐ A check payable to MAZON is enclosed ☐ Please charge my credit card

Credit Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Name of Congregation, City, State _____

or donate through the website at www.mazon.org

All gifts will be acknowledged in writing and are tax-deductible.

Lulav and Etrog Order Form

Celebrate Sukkot with your very own lulav and etrog! Orders must be received by Thursday, October 6. You can pick up your lulav at Sukkot services or at the Dorshei Tzedek office during school hours on Tuesday, October 11.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I would like _____ sets @ \$35 each = \$

Please enclose a check made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, and mail to the Dorshei Tzedek office at 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

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.