

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

Tishrei 5766

October 2005



The Gift and Challenge of Shabbat Shabbaton

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Here we are, once again, entering into a new Jewish year. There are many “peak” moments in this month of Tishrei, beginning with the first days of the month—Rosh Hashanah—continuing through Yom Kippur, and culminating in the festival of Sukkot. There are, correspondingly, many different themes and moods throughout these Yamim No-ram (Days of Awe)—the celebration and trepidation of new beginnings; the intense work of reflection, repentance, and personal transformation; the joy of being cleansed and renewed and ready to sit in the open, expansive canopy of the *sukkah*.

In the center of this season is Yom Kippur, referred to as “Shabbat Shabbaton” in the Torah—the “Shabbat of Shabbats.” With both its various restrictions and its invitation to intensive practice, we can think of Yom Kippur as a sort of spiritual marathon—a full 25 hours in which, traditionally, there is nothing to distract us from the concentrated effort of prayer, meditation, and personal reflection.

Over this past year, I discovered some of the deeper challenges and teachings of another version of “Shabbat Shabbaton”—the sabbatical year. For ten months I refrained from my primary labor, and neither sowed nor reaped in my line of rabbi work. There were many blessings in this experience, but I soon found out it’s not so easy to do nothing! I encountered the great anxiety of not having a set schedule nor any productive activity to define who I was. I had to learn how to just be. I had to push myself to give priority to things I knew I needed for my own physical and spiritual health. I had to avoid the temptation of cramming more “things” into each day to make my existence feel justified. And, like the cycle of the Yamim No-ram, I experienced the whole array of themes and moods—trepidatious beginnings, intensive personal exploration, and ultimately an expansive sense of renewal and joy.

Our Biblical and rabbinic forebears were smart people: they understood that, left to our own devices, most of us won’t put the challenging work of personal renewal and spiritual practice first on our “to do” lists. So they affirmed as Godly commandments the observance of the weekly Shabbat and the Jewish holidays, each with their own restrictions on work, and a Shabbat year every seven years for the entire society.

Like those observances, and like my own sabbatical, the High Holyday season is both a gift and a challenge. Here are days for you, for your own process of stopping and reflecting and renewing your own wellsprings. As I discovered about myself, we have many clever ways of convincing ourselves that in fact this opportunity isn’t really there—there are so many reasons why we can’t or don’t want to take off work, can’t make arrangements to be at services for the whole day, can’t really take any time for a quiet walk in the woods, or some silent meditation. But here the holidays are, nonetheless, with their invitation and their challenge. Can we shift our priorities, during this holy-day-filled month, to make the center of our days not the work we need to do in order to live, but the life we have which those activities are supposed to support? Can we take real time for reflection, for attention to the connections that sustain and nurture us—connections to our inner

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selves, to the important people in our lives, to nature, to God or the Source of Life or whatever it is beyond ourselves which gives us a sense of context and meaning? Within the limits and responsibilities and competing demands on our time which shape all of our days, can we shift our intention, our *kavannah*, in such a way that we are not just plowing through all that has to be done, but experiencing each moment as its own blessing, its own opportunity for learning?

I am deeply grateful for my sabbatical experience, which you, the members of Dorshei Tzedek, made possible. My wish and hope is that you will experience some of the fruits of that experience in what I bring back to you and to the congregation as a whole. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, and may you have a sweet, healthy and joyful new year—*l'shanah tovah tikkateivu!*

Dorshei Tzedek

Zikaron (Remembrance) Project Starting

Lauren Gibbs, 617 441-8892, laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net
Ellie Goldberg, 617 965-9637, erg_hk@juno.com

As co-chairs of the new Zikaron (Remembrance) Project, we are pleased to announce the formation of a study group focused on loss and mourning. The goal will be to develop options for remembrance for our congregational, family and individual lives. The group is based on the needs expressed by some of the attendees at the recent parlor meetings led by **Jill Volk** and **Nicky Silver**. Other groups will focus on meeting members' needs related to death and dying, *chevra kadisha*, and other interests identified at the parlor meetings.

The Zikaron group will meet monthly starting in November. We will study various Jewish traditions and rituals and develop resources and recommendations for supporting the needs of Dorshei Tzedek members.

We welcome anyone interested in participating. Please contact either one of us. We welcome all input and comments even if you are not able to participate in these meetings.

Watch for upcoming information about a new concept for an Eleh Ezkerah Program (These We Remember...) during the afternoon Yom Kippur Mincha Service, Thursday, October 13.

Prospective Member Events

Carla Naumburg, outreach@dorsheitzedek.org

All events are located in our sanctuary at 60 Highland Street in West Newton. For more information, contact our office at 617.965.0330 or e-mail outreach@dorsheitzedek.org.

Sukkot Prospective Members Meeting

Sunday, October 16, 3 - 4:30 pm

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.

Meet our Rabbi and CDT Leadership

Friday, October 21, 7:15 pm (Services start at 8 pm)

Meet our Rabbi Toba and leadership before our Adult Erev Shabbat Services. This is a great way to informally get to know the leadership of Dorshei Tzedek. Please feel free to bring your friends and come schmooze before our Erev Shabbat Services!

Membership Events

Angela Vierling-Claassen, angelavc@math.harvard.edu

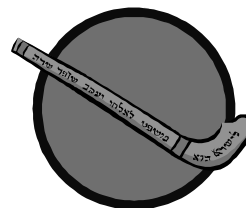
Membership Inreach is planning several fall activities:

- October 21:** Celebrate Sukkot with a potluck at a member's home (in a sukkah if it's not too cold!). Location (s) to be announced. 
- November 12, 7 – 10 pm, Game Night:** This event is geared toward adults and older children; younger kids are welcome, too (and we'll have some games for them as well!), but no childcare will be provided. Location to be announced. 
- December 9, 6:45 – 9:30 pm:** Potluck followed by Adult Erev Shabbat Services at 60 Highland Street. Bring a salad, main dish, or side dish to share; desserts will be provided. 

High Holy Days

You should have received a High Holy Days mailing with specific information about services. If you need further information about the High Holydays, please call the Dorshei Tzedek office at 617-965-0330 or go to our website, www.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

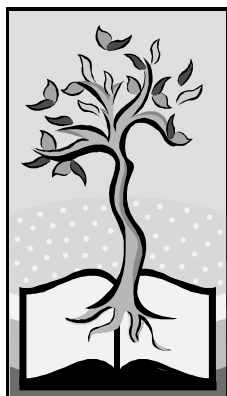
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is pleased to offer special Children's programming for the upcoming High Holy Days. We will offer three programs: a program for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners, a program for children in Grades 1-3, and a program for children in Grades 4-7.

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 both days of **Rosh Hashanah**.

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.

New Year's Greetings – A Brief Guide

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org



This year, the month of October corresponds with the Hebrew month of Tishrei, the time of the *Yamim Noraim*, Days of Awe. Traditionally understood, the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah and through Yom Kippur are a time when we are written, and write ourselves, into the Book of Life for the remainder of the year. In more modern terms, we might say that this is a period when we set our intentions for the year, inscribing a path for ourselves

which we hope will lead to abundance and blessing.

Traditional greetings for this time period correspond to this understanding. We do not traditionally wish one another a "happy new year," as we might on January 1st, but rather greet one another with "*shanah tovah*" ("A good year!") or "*l'shanah tovah u'metukah*" ("A good and sweet year!") or "*l'shanah tovah tikateiv*" (to a man) or "*l'shanah tovah tika-teivi* (to a woman)—"May you be written for a good year." An easy response is "*gam lecha* (man)/*gam lach* (woman)"—"The same to you."

On Yom Kippur, continuing through Sukkot, the traditional greeting is "*G'mar chatimah tovah*" ("A good final sealing for you!") or *Chatima tovah* ("A sealing for good"), reflecting the traditional wish that we all be "sealed" in the Book of Life for a good year.

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!

Sukkot Program

Sunday, October 16, 4 – 6:30 pm

The First Unitarian Church, 1326 Washington Street & The Second Church, 60 Highland Street in West Newton

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 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). A festive potluck dinner will follow, at **6 pm**. Main dish and drinks will be provided. Bring vegetarian potluck contributions for 12 – 15 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 and Dessert.



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

In Memory of Efrem Goldberg

3/18/1947 – 9/20/2002

CDT founder Efrem Goldberg's third *yahrzeit* falls on the day before Sukkot, beginning the evening of October 16. Following the potluck dinner, at **6:45 pm**, we will have a brief ceremony honoring Efrem's memory and lighting the *yahrzeit* candle.

Hold on to what is good
even if it is
a handful of earth.

Hold on to what you believe
even if it is
a tree which stands by itself.
Hold on to what you must do
even if it is
a long way from here.

Hold on to life even when
it is easier letting go.

Hold on to my hand even when
I have gone away from you.

—Nancy Wood



Efrem enjoyed good humor and he was very funny. This was one of his favorite jokes:

What did the Buddhist say to the hot dog vendor?

"Make me One with Everything."



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. 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, as the sukkah will be located in the back of the First Unitarian Universalist Church (1326 Washington Street) for the duration of the holiday.

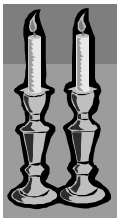
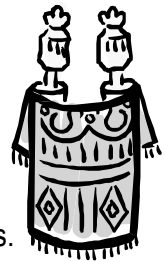
Sukkot Services

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

Simchat Torah

Tuesday, October 25, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, 60 Highland Street

Rejoice with the Torah!! To close the holiday week of Sukkot, we celebrate finishing one cycle of yearly Torah reading and starting again with the book of Bereshit/Genesis during the holiday of Simchat Torah. Join us for a festive evening service and dancing with professional musicians. All ages welcome!

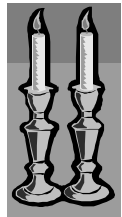


Monthly Shabbat Programs

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

*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.) **On Friday, November 4, a pot-luck dinner will follow services at 7 pm.** Please bring a vegetarian/fish main dish or salad to share, enough for 12 - 15 people. Drinks and dessert will be provided.



Erev Shabbat Services

*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

Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Stanzler Katz

Please join our family on **October 22**, when our daughter **Samantha Stanzler Katz** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Sammie is currently in the eighth grade at The Rashi School in Newton, where she has received her Jewish education since kindergarten. At Rashi, Sammie has been very active in the Middle School Student Leadership Council, serving as Co-President in the seventh grade. She also has enjoyed actively participating in many of the schools plays and musicals, on stage and behind the scenes. Sammie can also be found singing, dancing and listening to music, playing soccer, playing with our dog Rudy, and hanging out with her friends or her older sister Alex. Sammie just spent a wonderful fifth summer at JCC Camp Kingswood, and can't wait to return next summer!

Sammie has chosen MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger to be the recipient of funds that she raises herself to help provide relief to people devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Her fundraising efforts include organizing a giant yard sale and babysitting (please call her if you are interested!). Please join us at Shabbat Services, during the Sukkot holiday, followed by a Kiddush luncheon.—*Jill Stanzler-Katz and Jeff Katz*

Bat Mitzvah of Jamie Schor

Please join our family and friends on **November 5** as our daughter **Jamie Schor** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Jamie is an 8th grader at the Brown Middle School in Newton and has been a student in the religious school at Dorshei Tzedek since first grade. Jamie enjoys singing, dancing, acting, swimming and making videos; most of all she enjoys hanging out with her friends. For her *tikkun olam* project Jamie is collecting dresses as part of the Mitzvah-To-Mitzvah/Dress Connection program at Jewish Family & Children's Service. These slightly worn, like new dresses will be given to families in need, helping them to celebrate their daughters' Bat Mitzvah or similar religious occasion with dignity. We look forward to the Dorshei Tzedek community joining us for Shabbat services followed by a Kiddush.—*Ira Schor and Ilene Spiro*

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.

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.

Adult Education



Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am
60 Highland Street*

*November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4,
March 4, April 1, May 13*

Join Rabbi Toba for exploration of the weekly Torah portion at this once-a-month study opportunity before Shabbat morning services. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own coffee/tea and a few good questions.

Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Wednesdays, noon - 1 pm, beginning November 2nd
Thursday mornings, 8 - 9 am, beginning November 3rd
60 Highland Street*

In an ancient rabbinic teaching, we learn that the importance of study is that it leads to action. In this class, we will explore a wide variety of Jewish texts with the intention of developing meaningful practices in order to cultivate greater wisdom, clarity, patience, gratitude and compassion in our lives. Topics include blessing and prayer practice; meditation; tzedakah and other mindful uses of money; Shabbat; mindful use of speech and other ethical teachings. No particular text study experience necessary. This class is intended for folks at any level of Jewish observance, and with any range of comfort/discomfort with all things spiritual! The class will meet at two different times--choose the time that works best for you.

Perspectives on Modern Hebrew Literature with Irit Aharony

*Monday evenings, November 7,
14 and 21, at 7:30 pm*

Second Church, Class room 112

(on the first floor a little past the kitchen)

Free for members; \$15/session, or \$36 for all three for non-members



Session 1—The Akedah in Israeli literature: In this lecture we will explore the special place the story of the Binding of Isaac has in Israeli culture. As Abraham was willing to sacrifice his beloved son to God, Israeli fathers are sacrificing their own sons for the sake of the land. We will

compare the Israeli Akedah to the Biblical one, focusing on parents (especially mothers) and sons.

Session 2—Jerusalem in the eyes of Yehuda Amichai:

Amichai has been Israel's most important poet. His poetry deals with all the important Israeli topics: wars, the Holocaust, surrounding enemies, and others. Jerusalem captured a significant place in his writing. We will read Amichai's poems to reveal his special lyrical point of view focusing on Jerusalem.

Session 3—Israel of Love: It is hard to believe, but Israeli literature is filled with love: romantic, ideal, ironic, and even sarcastic. We will examine contemporary Israeli literature both poetry and prose, and see the influence of love as described in the Bible (for example, Song of Songs) on Israeli literature.

Dr. Irit Aharony was born in Israel, served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as a teacher, taught literature to gifted high school students and worked in the Ministry of Education in the program for gifted students. She received her Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University in Modern Hebrew Literature, and wrote her thesis on the theme of wandering in Israeli Literature. Since 1996, Dr. Aharony has taught "Modern Hebrew" and "Israeli Literature" at Harvard University. She has published articles about contemporary Israeli literature focusing especially on the Biblical influence on contemporary Hebrew literature.

Interested in Studying Hebrew?

Lisa Schneier, lisaschneier@umb.edu

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 lisaschneier@umb.edu or 617.591.1931.

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, at <http://www2.jrf.org/recon-dt/>.

No'ar Hadash Youth Group

Rebekah Ralen, Associate Education Director

We are excited to begin our third year of the youth group program for 7th and 8th grade students of Temple Hillel B'nai Torah and Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for 2005-2006 and to be adding two events for students in grade 6.

Our No'ar Hadash group is part of the national Reconstructionist youth movement. Participation in this group will open our students to opportunities to meet other Reconstructionist youth from our community and around the country, this year and in the future.

With Elyse Rast returning as the advisor, we have planned four exciting and varied events for 7th and 8th grade students and two events for 6th graders. These programs will take place on Saturday evenings from 7-9 and Sunday afternoons from 2-4. Elyse has been teaching for ten years and has successfully created and led youth groups for three area synagogues for the past five years.

The first event for 7th and 8th grade students will be a scavenger hunt in Brookline. A student advisory committee will meet at the end of the program to plan future events. Programs will be fun, educational and will provide a supportive atmosphere for kids to be themselves, gain leadership skills and explore their lives as young Jewish adults.

The kickoff program for grades 7 and 8 will be on Sunday, October 16, 2-4 p.m. The other programs for grades 7 and 8 will be on Sundays, 2-4 p.m.; November 20, January 8 and March 12. Programs for 6th graders will be on Saturday, February 4, 7-9 p.m. and Sunday, April 9, 2-4 p.m. All dates are subject to change.

There is a membership fee of \$50 per students in grades 7 and 8 and \$25 for students in grade 6 to help us bring you exceptional programs. Everyone is welcome to participate in all programs; there will be a fee for each program that will be discounted for members.

Please call if you have any questions: 617.965.5443.

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.

To register online go to <http://jrf.org/events/yomiyyun.htm>. You can pay by credit card or check. Registration Cost is \$54 and includes lunch. After October 31, the registration fee is raised to \$64.

Hurricane Katrina Disaster Response

The JRF has partnered with the United Jewish Communities to provide a venue for our members to make cash contributions in response to the disaster brought on by Hurricane Katrina. These organizations worked to have the UJC donation link placed prominently on JRF's homepage and may partner with other organizations in the future. The JRF encourages its members to make generous contributions through UJC via the JRF website. The website is www.jrf.org. The link to the contribution page is prominently displayed. The JRF's thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected by this tragedy.



Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

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 an 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
In memory of Irving Gedanken, Wendy's father.
In memory of Efrem Goldberg
In honor of our 20th wedding anniversary*

Ellie, Reva and Sasha Goldberg

In loving memory of Efrem Goldberg

Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan

In memory of Irving Gedanken, father of Wendy Gedanken, and Samuel Greenly, father of Rob Greenly

Amy Mazur

In honor of Hannah Schiff's Bat Mitzvah

The Membership Outreach Committee

In thanks to Amy Mazur for gracefully informing and warmly welcoming so many new members over the past seven years, for her friendliness, for her continuous team spiritedness, and for all her quiet, hard work

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

*In memory of Irving Gedanken
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Aliza Lurie
In honor or the Bat Mitzvah of Lily Strassberg*

Nessa Spitzer

In memory of Toba Spitzer's dad, Bill Spitzer

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff

In honor of Rabbi Toba

Holy Book Fund

Carol Hemley

For yahrzeit of David Hemley, husband of Carol Hemley, and father of Ellen Hemley and Debbie Hemley

School Fund

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

In honor of Miranda's Phillips farewell

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

In honor of Miranda Phillips' farewell

Laura & Joel Katz

In honor of Hannah Schiff

Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome

Debra Rattet & Leslie Rubin

In honor of Miranda Phillips farewell

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

In honor of Miranda Phillips and all she has done or our family over the years. Good luck Miranda.

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

*In memory of Irving Gedanken
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Aliza Lurie
In honor or the Bat Mitzvah of Lily Strassberg*

Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor

In honor of Miranda Phillips' farewell

Nessa Spitzer

In memory of Toba Spitzer's dad, Bill Spitzer

Michael White

In honor of Miranda Phillips' farewell

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. Donations can also be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. These additional contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Chesed

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

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

Mazel tov to **Dan Price**, on his marriage to **Bonnie Diamond**!

Mazel tov to all the September b'nei mitzvah kids, their parents and siblings—**Hannah Schiff** (**Susan Manheim, Andrew and Jack Schiff**), **Aliza Lurie** (**Howard and Gemma Lurie**), and **Lily Strassberg** (**Steve Strassberg, Elena Eisman, and Sophie Strassberg**). Yasher koach!

Todah Rabah

Many thanks to **Lisa Samelson** and **Sandy Sedacca** for coordinating and serving the Kiddush for Miranda's farewell, and to all the kitchen workers: the **Shatkin-Littman Family**, **Elaine Bresnick**, **Allison Hausman**, the **Katz Family**, the **Fox Family**, and **Tessa and Clifford Goldsmith**.

Many thanks to **Debra Rattet** for creating a beautiful scrapbook as a wonderful keepsake for Miranda, to **Susannah Zisk** for providing flowers, and to **Elana Rome** for organizing and rehearsing with the small chorus that sang to Miranda at Kiddush. Todah rabah to all the volunteers who contributed by bringing food, donations, and helping out in general. And *yasher koach* to all of our students who chanted and led prayers so beautifully. Finally,

a special thanks to **Cindy Shulak-Rome** for her marvelous warmth and leadership.

Many thanks to **Wendy Gedanken** for creating the lovely lectern covering now gracing the bima.

Many thanks to everyone from Dorshei Tzedek in making this kiddush in Miranda's honor a very special (and yummy!) community event. What a wonderful celebration! To all those who expressed to me (via email or in person) the desire to make a contribution to help cover the costs, please send a check in any denomination to: Lisa Samelson, 53 Channing Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459

To **Amy Mazur** and **Lauren Gibbs** for all of their hard work on the Membership Outreach committee. After several years on the committee, Amy is moving on! While we will miss her, we're sure she will bring her energy and talent to her next endeavor at CDT! Lauren continues to be incredibly helpful on the Membership Committee, attending events, doing intakes, and keeping track of all our stats! The Membership Outreach committee is pleased to welcome **Trish Nuzzola**, **Alissa Leonard**, and **Lisa Port-White**! We're looking forward to the new energy as Membership ramps up this year!

Condolences

To **Rob Greenly**, on the death of his father, **Samuel Greenly**. May his memory be for a blessing.



To **Wendy Gedanken** on the death of her father, **Irving Gedanken**. May his memory be for a blessing.

L'hitraot!

Debbie Blicher and **Peter Dain** send love to Rabbi Toba and the membership from our home in Sudbury. We began our marriage within Dorshei Tzedek two years ago, and now we're embarking upon the process of adopting a child. After long and sad discussion, we've decided we'd like to raise our child in a religious community nearer to where we live. We're about two miles from Congregation Beth El—an active, inclusive, creative synagogue which places a strong emphasis on *tikkun olam*. Rabbi David Thomas knows Toba and sends his best regards. This fall, we're becoming members there. We'll miss you, though. We'll stay in touch and drop in from time to time. Please come visit us if you're out our way: 201 Peakham Road, Sudbury MA, 01776; 978 440-9288. *L'hitraot* (see you later)!



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 <i>Rabbi Spitzer off this Shabbat</i>
Sat Oct 1	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Oct 1	1 pm - 2:45 pm	Nature Walk Millennium Park	<i>Carpool from service or meet there</i>
Mon Oct 3	7:45 pm - 9:15 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah (see page 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
Tue Oct 4	4 pm - 5 pm	Tashlich	Newton City Hall Pond
Wed Oct 5	10 am - 12:30 pm	Second Day of Rosh Hashanah	Solomon Schechter Day School
Thu Oct 6		<i>Classes Resume</i>	
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
Thu Oct 13		<i>No School: Yom Kippur</i>	
Thu Oct 13	9:30 am - 2:15 pm 5:15 - 7 pm	Yom Kippur	Solomon Schechter Day School
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	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 2)
Sun Oct 16	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Sukkot Program (see page 4)	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	7:15 pm	Prospective Members: Meet Rabbi and Leadership	<i>before service (see page 2)</i>
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 (see page 6)	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	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Tue Oct 25	6 pm - 8 pm	Simchat Torah (see page 5)	Susannah & Stephen Zisk, Jacqui Bloomberg & Peter Gittleman
Tue Oct 25	6 pm - 8 pm	<i>No School: Simchat Torah Celebration</i>	
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

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.



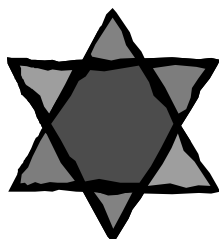
November Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Wed Nov 2	12 noon - 1 pm	Adult Education: Judaism and Practice	<i>continues on Wednesdays (see page 7)</i>
Thu Nov 3	8 am - 9 am	Adult Education: Judaism and Practice	<i>continues on Thursdays (see page 7)</i>
Fri Nov 4	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service	Karen Engels, Reinhard Engels, David Cash
Sat Nov 5	8:45 am - 9:30 pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St: Library <i>(see page 7)</i>
Sat Nov 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jamie Schor <i>(see page 6)</i>	Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Cheryl Sacks & Jeff Sacks, Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen, Beth Brooks & Hankus Netsky; <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Michael Cohen, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal
Sat Nov 5	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Mon Nov 7	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Modern Hebrew Letters with Irit Aharony	60 Highland St: Room 112 <i>(see page 7)</i>
Fri Nov 11	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Andy Diamond, Josh Herzig-Marx
Sat Nov 12		<i>No School: Veterans' Day</i>	
Sat Nov 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Emma Halwitz	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Carol Sklar, Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus
Sat Nov 12	7 pm - 10 pm	Game Night	<i>Members-Only Event (see page 2)</i>
Sun Nov 13	4 pm	JRF Regional Yom Iyyun	Keene, NH <i>(see page 8)</i>
Mon Nov 14	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Modern Hebrew Letters with Irit Aharony	60 Highland St: Room 112
Sat Nov 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Judy Herzig-Marx, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Dan Rome, Bryn Austin <i>Rabbi Spitzer off this Shabbat</i>
Sat Nov 19	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes Youth Service	FUSN
Sat Nov 19	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 <i>(see page 5)</i>
Sun Nov 20	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #2	FUSN
Sun Nov 20	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Mon Nov 21	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Modern Hebrew Letters with Irit Aharony	60 Highland St: Room 111
Thu Nov 24		<i>No School: Thanksgiving</i>	
Sat Nov 26		<i>No School</i>	
Sat Nov 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Ansolabehere	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Mei See Sandson, Toni Rosenberg
Tue Nov 29		<i>Classes Resume</i>	

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).



GBIO and Tikkun Olam

Esther Kohn, esthercfs@hotmail.com

As we approach the High Holy Days, it is the ideal time to reflect on what we can do individually and as a community to make this world a more just, equitable, and peaceful place. Dorshei Tzedek members are deeply involved in this effort in their professions, financial contributions, volunteer work, and political activism. From gathering supplies for those affected by Hurricane Katrina to leading discussions on issues of family and work, Dorshei Tzedek members seek to put our values of social justice into action.

As members of GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization), Dorshei Tzedek joins our Tikkun Olam efforts with about 80 congregations across the Boston metropolitan area. This has been a powerful, exciting collaboration and a chance to achieve concrete results alongside Massachusetts residents of various faiths, ethnic backgrounds, neighborhoods, and social classes.

With 748,000 people in Massachusetts lacking basic health insurance, GBIO has joined with MassACT to work on health care reform. Building on the momentum of last May's kick-off campaign at Temple Israel (with 1,000 attendees including 35 Dorshei Tzedek members) and State House hearings in June (with some of our own congregants testifying!), the health care Ballot Initiative is in full swing.

We have five precinct captains at Dorshei Tzedek who organized members in September and early October to collect signatures for the ballot initiative at specific locations or on neighborhood walks in many neighboring communities. We are working to help reach GBIO's goal of collecting 100,000 signatures in 10 days, with the participation more than 30 CDT members.

The Health Care Ballot Initiative is an exciting opportunity to address the problem of affordability and accessibility of health care in Massachusetts. By taking these local actions, we can do our part to begin to make a real difference in people's lives. If you would like to participate in the health care campaign, contact Esther Kohn at esthercfs@hotmail.com or 617.524.0478. For information on the ballot initiative go to www.massact.org.

School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome, school@dorsheitzedek.org

Our School Offices Have Moved!

On Monday night, August 29, a group of Dorshei Tzedek members came together to move the school offices. They came with smiles on their faces, screwdrivers in their hands, bags of pizzas and sodas and humor. And not every who came had a child in the school. "Community" in the truest sense of the word. Thank to all who came and accomplished the entire move in 3 hours and allowed us to function immediately the next morning. Special thanks to **Steve Siegel** for orchestrating the evening. We are most grateful!

If you are wandering around FUSN looking for our school office, you may be surprised to find our former offices transformed into preschool rooms! So, if you are looking for Cindy or Rebekah, a place to leave a message for our teachers, or to borrow a book from our library, please make your way down the stairs, and find our new office at the end of the hall of classrooms. (You won't believe this was a former boiler room!) **Or, just come down to say "hi" and check out our new space—we'd be delighted to see you!!**

We are pleased to be working in closer proximity to most of the classrooms, and even more pleased that not only is our new office air-conditioned, but so are all the classrooms--so we'll have better ventilation, year round for our kids! We are looking for one or two more pieces of furniture—we could use a small scale sofa or love seat in good condition. If anyone has such an item that you are looking to unload, please let us know!

Many thanks to the **Goldsmith Family** for donating books to our school library.

Thanks to **Charles Frankston** and the **Danzig-Aranow Family** for helping us create and duplicate CD's for our students at school

Many thanks to so many member volunteers who schlepped and schlepped on a hot summer night to move the CDT School offices downstairs at FUSN: **Abby Cohen, Julian Cohen, Michael Cohen, Stefan Cohen, Nancy Gertz, Doug Hersh, Jeff Kichen, Howard Lurie, Ruth Paris, Dalia Paris-Saper, Miranda Phillips, Rebekah Ralen, Theresa St. John Siegel, James Shapiro, and Steve Siegel.**

Camp JRF is Coming to "Our Neighborhood"!

Looking for a great Jewish summer camping experience for your child or children? **Camp JRF** is a place to consider -rich programming and an opportunity to be living Jewish values in a spirited and vibrant camp community.

For the past four years Camp JRF has been operating from a rented camp site outside of Chicago. This coming summer, Camp JRF will be operating a full-summer program at their very own camp site in eastern Pennsylvania, a four-hour drive from the Boston area! The Reconstructionist movement is expanding on the wonderful summer programming they have been offering for the past four years. There will be two, 3-1/2 week sessions for campers in grades 4 and higher, and a shorter mini-session for students entering grade 3 and grade 4 who want to have a shorter first-time camp experience. Scholarships are available to subsidize costs. A number of our Dorshei Tzedek youth have had great experiences as campers and staff members.

To learn more about Camp JRF, check out the website: www.campjrf.org or call Cindy Shulak-Rome or Rabbi Toba. We're happy to tell you more about camp and to put you in touch with people who have been there!



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.