

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
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Tishrei-Cheshvan 5766

November 2005



Turning and Returning: Strategic Planning at CDT

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

With the High Holy Days falling so late this year, it feels as if we've had a head start on projects slated for the new year. Every year the board has an extended retreat-style September board meeting with an in-depth discussion topic and this year the focus for the extra inning was strategic planning. Led by **Paul Hattis**, and facilitated by **Ellen Hemley**, we formally cut the ribbon on Dorshei Tzedek's next round of planning, having completed and implemented two previous strategic plans in our 14-year history as a congregation.

As I described on Rosh Hashanah, the strategic planning process is much like the process of turning and returning. We are looking back to the mission of the congregation, to what we do well and not as well. We are studying the results of all the Community Conversations. We are also reviewing the Torah of Money: how we now raise money and members' feelings about the process. We plan to use the opportunity of strategic planning to think about our future goals and desires—including those related to what we as a community want to offer to members as a way to nurture spiritual, educational, or experiential growth. Towards this end, we'll ask questions of ourselves, such as:

- Who comes to services, who doesn't, and why?
- Who joins CDT and what are they seeking?
- Who doesn't join CDT?
- What draws us together and enables us to act as a community on issues of social justice, or in educating ourselves and our children?
- How we do keep intimacy while expanding?

Turning and returning. And in the end, we aim to produce a plan that will give at least general guidance to all of our committees and staff for their yearly goals for the next five years.

Many of you may have participated in the process of strategic planning in your professional lives, or in other volunteer roles in the community. I know that for me, the words "strategic planning" don't elicit the most positive memories from my life chapter in corporate America. Guided by Rabbi Spitzer's Yom Kippur thoughts to all of us about building a "community of practice," I think this process will be very different. I am hopeful that our strategic planning will be inspiring and energizing as we build the next phase of our Reconstructionist community.

Look for communication from the Board regarding how you can be involved in this exciting planning process, thinking about CDT in 3-5 years. We will have many opportunities for members to contribute thoughts and ideas, and when there is disagreement, healthy debate. I look forward to it all, and hope you do too. If you have questions or comments about Strategic planning at CDT, feel free to contact me or **Paul Hattis** (paul.hattis@rcn.com).



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Board Report (September 2005)

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

Welcome to New Members: **Diana Fisher-Gomberg, Jeff Kichen, Esther Kohn, Angela Vierling-Claassen, and Andrew Schiff** were welcomed as new members of the board.

D'var Torah: **Rabbi Spitzer** opened with a *D'var* on *Parsha Ki Tavo*. On the bank of the Jordan River, before they go without him into Canaan, Moses gives the Israelites instructions about the practices God has set out for them to follow when they're on the other side. Moses tells of harsh consequences if they don't adhere to God's commandments and abundance if they do. Ritual practice both creates community and necessitates community. What does it mean to become a community of practice? What would it be like for us as a Jewish community to serve with joy in the knowledge of abundance? As we begin a new round of strategic planning for our congregation, we have the opportunity to approach the project with joy and a sense of abundance, working together to make ourselves into the community of which we want to be a part.

Strategic Planning: **Ellen Hemley and Paul Hattis** led the strategic planning discussion. Ellen, as facilitator, told the board that to be an effective change agent, one has to be able to hope for change with the expectation of its fulfillment. She asked board members to think about and share their hopes for the planning process. Paul put out three goals for the strategic planning process for the board to think about and discuss. The goals are very consistent with our mission statement; we're not looking for a major shift in direction but rather a strengthening of our pre-existing commitments to belonging, participation, diversity and Jewish practice. There may be a sub-group designated to consider resource issues in the "Torah of Money" model, but the approach this time will be that we already have a dues structure in place and unless we find reason to change it, it will stay as it is. The strategic planning group will rely on work already done through Community Conversations as a resource for understanding members' feelings, attitudes and hopes. The next board meeting will be devoted exclusively to more strategic planning discussion.

Finance: We are close to meeting our membership and school goals. There are no great concerns on either the revenue or the expense side. **Sivan Nasoff**, our treasurer, reminded the committee chairs that the Finance Commit-

tee relies on them to submit reports about their committee's expenditures, and the chairs will then get back summary reports on what their committee has spent, which they are asked to review for accuracy.

School Report: **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, CDT school director, reported that school got off to a great start this week, and that she feels we have an excellent school staff in place. *Kitah Gan* is quite under-enrolled, for reasons that remain unclear, and there are still a few spaces *Aleph* and *Bet* classes.

Tikkun Olam: **Esther Kohn**, chair of the *Tikkun Olam* Committee, reports that participation in GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) activities remains a focus of the committee, but it plans to have other projects too. At present GBIO is very involved in a statewide health care campaign, and the *Tikkun Olam* Committee is organizing CDT volunteers to work on that. The committee is looking for ways to better bring the work they're doing into the life of the congregation. This year's activities will continue to be organized around health care issues.

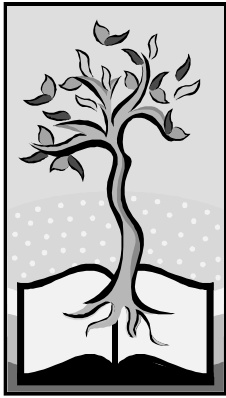
Membership Outreach: Membership Outreach Committee chair **Carla Naumburg** reports that recruitment is going well. Two outreach events were scheduled for October: an Open House on Sunday, October 16 before our Sukkot program, and a get-together to meet and schmooze with our Rabbi and CDT leadership before the October 21 Adult Erev Shabbat service. The Membership Committee is much in need of additional help. Additional committee members are needed and we need to identify and train people who can take over leadership next summer. Board members can help by attending the outreach events mentioned above.

Membership Events

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

Membership Outreach is planning several fall activities:

- **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.



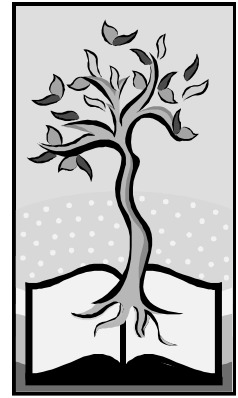
Shabbat Programs

All Shabbat services are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in West Newton Square, in the Second Church of Newton.

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

November 4, December 2, January 6:
pot-luck at 5:30 pm followed by service at 6:30 pm

December 2: 6 pm service (no pot-luck)



Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday (usually, but see schedule) of each month. After the success of our September pot-luck, we have planned several additional pot-luck dinners. For pot-luck meals, please bring a vegetarian/fish main dish or salad to share (enough for 10 - 12 people).

Erev Shabbat Services

November 11, December 9, January 20, February 10, 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

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.

Junior Congregation

November 19, December 17, January 28, February 11, March 11, April 1, May 13
10:45 am - 12 pm

Calling all students grades 3-7 for a wonderful Shabbat experience! Join us for Junior Congregation led by **Elana Rome**. This is a joyful, spirited, service with prayers, music, a Torah skit and our very own Kiddush (kids only please!). We'll meet at 60 Highland St. in Room 111 (1st floor across from the Child Care room). Questions? Call our school at 617.965.5443.

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 Holy Days 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.

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

Bat Mitzvah of Emma Halwitz

We invite you to celebrate with us on **November 12** at 9:45 am when our daughter Emma Rose Halwitz is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Emma is in 8th grade at F.A. Day Middle School, where she particularly enjoys English, Art, and Latin. Emma is an avid reader, creative writer, actor and word-lover who spends summers at the Charles River Creative Arts Program. Her other interests include Aikido, rock-climbing and Celtic music. For her *tikkun olam* project, Emma is recording books and poems on tape for visually impaired children. Please join us for Shabbat services, followed by a Kiddush luncheon with acoustic Klezmer music.

—Carole Slipowitz and Dan Halbert

Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Ansolabehere

Please join us on **November 26** when our daughter Rebecca is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Rebecca is a seventh grader at Bigelow Middle School in Newton. She enjoys drama, soccer, piano, and jumping off of tall things into deep pools of water. For her *tikkun olam* project, Rebecca has been volunteering with Birthday Wishes, a group that organizes birthday parties for children in homeless shelters, and in the process has become expert at producing extremely large birthday cakes. Please join us for the service followed by a Kiddush and dancing to Klezmer music. We promise not to serve leftover turkey – not even the vegetarian variety – and yes, you can take home your very own tie-dyed *kippah*.

- Laurie Gould and Steve Ansolabehere

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.

CDT Community Happenings

Membership Inreach

*Angela Vierling-Claassen, angelavc@math.harvard.edu
and Diana Fisher-Gomberg, gomberg@comcast.net.*

Welcome to the following new members!

Deb Albenberg, Robert Warren and Meg Wilcox, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins and family, Barbara and Elliot Pittel, Matthew Fried, Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein, Mark Kertzman, Phyllis and Alvin Glazerman, Stephanie Bennet and Joshua Breindel, and Darci and Jon Klein.

Please join us for upcoming fall activities:

- November 4, 5:30 - 8 pm, Pot-luck and Family Erev Shabbat Services:** The pot-luck dinner before the Family Erev Shabbat service was such a success in September that we have decided to make it a new tradition! Please join us for our next family pot-luck on November 4. We will eat dinner at 5:30 downstairs before the lively 6:30 service in our prayer space. At 7:30 we will return downstairs for dessert. Please bring a dairy main course or salad (enough to feed 10-12.) For more information, contact **Diana Fisher Gomberg** at 617.243.9424 or gomberg@comcast.net.
- November 12, 7 – 10 pm, Game Night:** Join with friends to play a variety of large group and small group games! Meet new friends and get to know each other better over board games, card games, musical games, and kooky games. Pre-crawling babies and everyone else ages 5 and older are invited. No childcare is provided. Please bring a snack or a drink, and if you'd like to bring a favorite game, please do! Game night will be held at Diana Fisher Gomberg's home at 290 Islington Road in Newton. For directions or more information, contact **Diana Fisher Gomberg** at 617.243.9424 or gomberg@comcast.net.
- 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 (enough to feed 10-12); desserts will be provided.

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

Stan Fleischman (617.332.5433, stanf@rcn.com) and Emily Sper (617.779.9403, esper@blueirisdesign.com)

L' Shanah Tova,

As we move into the New Year, this is an excellent time to make plans for the Dorshei Tzedek Jewish film club.

This year we are going to try a few new ideas:

First, instead of weekdays, we are scheduling the first five films on Saturday evenings on a trial basis, with the hope that this will make it easier for more members to attend. (Please tell us what you think!! We are willing to change this decision if there is a popular clamor.)

Second, for those who would like to hang out and schmooze a bit before the film, we will provide an optional light vegetarian meal (such as soup and salad) one hour before showtime.

Like last year, for those who can, please plan to stay for a discussion of the film.

The following is the tentative schedule of films. The November and December films will take place at Emily Sper's house. If you would like to host a film, let us know your preferred date.

Saturday Nov 19: 6 pm light meal, 7 pm film: **Divan**

USA/Hungary, released 2003, duration: 77 minutes.

Language: English/Yiddish/Hungarian w/subtitles

Director Pearl Gluck takes a renegade approach to healing a personal breach with her father. Raised in a Hassidic Jewish community in Brooklyn, she travels to her family's homeland, Hungary. She searches for a turn-of-the-century family heirloom, a couch upon which revered *reb-bes* once slept. Bringing back this couch, or divan, she hopes, will compensate her father for the fact that she did not get married and return to the Hassidic world. En route to the ancestral divan, Pearl encounters a colorful cast of characters. A chorus of Pearl's friends, all former Orthodox Jews actively reclaiming Jewish culture, frames the tale. *Divan* is a marvelous visual parable in which reupholstering a couch stands as a means of reclaiming family heritage.

Saturday Dec 17: 6 pm light meal. 7 pm film: **Heir to an Execution**, USA, released 2003, duration: 99 minutes.

A half-century after the controversial execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg as Communist spies in the service of the Soviet Union, the couple's granddaughter, Ivy Meer-

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opol, reflects on their lives, principles and ultimate sacrifice. Includes extensive footage of the Rosenbergs at the time of the trial.

Saturday January 21: 6 pm light meal. 7 pm film: **Yellow Asphalt**, 87 min. Hebrew/Arabic

Saturday February 18: 6 pm light meal. 7 pm film: **Walk on Water**, 103 min. English/German/Hebrew/Italian/Turkish/Arabic

Saturday March 18: 6 pm light meal. 7 pm film: **God is Great, I'm Not**, 100 min. French/English/Hebrew

April date and time TBD. film: **Waiting for the Messiah**, 97 min. Spanish/Yiddish

May date and time TBD. film: **Time of Favor**, 102 min. Hebrew

June date and time TBD. film: **The Komediant**, 85 min. Hebrew, Yiddish, and English

Although it is not necessary to contact us before attending any of these films, it would be useful to know how many plan to have soup and salad before the film.

We would also be interested in knowing your level of interest to the film series in general.

We will send out announcements with descriptions of the films about one week before each showing.

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)

Sign up now! Lauren Gibbs and Ellie Goldberg, Zikaron co-chairs, will be holding a series of sessions to explore Jewish traditions and rituals for remembrance and to develop resources and recommendations for supporting the needs of Dorshei Tzedek members. Please let us know you are interested so we can let you know the meeting dates and place.

Community Events

A Town Hall Meeting

"The Day After Disengagement"

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 7:30 pm

Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward Street, Newton

Dramatic changes are happening in Israel. With the disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank complete, Israel faces many challenges. Join us as **David Baker**, Senior Foreign Press Officer for the Israeli Prime Minister, presents a briefing on the aftermath of the disengagement. Come share your thoughts and ask questions about Israel in a community discussion.

For more information, contact **Seth Brysk** at the Jewish Community Relations Council at 617.457.8657 or visit www.bostonisraelaction.org.

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and will examine Talmudic attitudes toward the disabled, specifically as regards their performance of sacred and liturgical functions. During the final class, we will focus on the "rules of engagement" in the Rabbinic Academy. How can we debate important matters with fierce conviction while avoiding personal attack? What are the stakes in maintaining the integrity of the discourse?

David Bernat is Assistant Professor of Religion and Jewish studies at Wellesley College. His doctorate is from Brandeis University, and his areas of teaching and research are Hebrew Bible and ancient Judaism. Prof. Bernat has been a member of the Meah faculty for seven years and gave a class on Psalms at CDT last year.



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.

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)

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.

Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesdays, noon-1:00 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.

Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat

Monday evenings: January 23, 30 and
February 6 at 7:30 pm

Second Church, Class room 112

Cost: members free, non-members \$15 per session, \$36
for all three

Session 1 - Civil Rights in Stressful Times

Session 2 - Disability and Inclusion

Session 3 - Debate and Dissent in Polite Society

The course will entail close reading of selected Talmudic passages dealing with ethical questions that resonate with us today. The work will have a dual purpose. We will delve deeply into the specific social and moral issues, and at the same time, gain familiarity with the complex mechanics of Talmudic discussion. The first session will look at the way in which rabbinic legislation attempted to balance the concerns for individual rights and communal safety. The sec-

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GBIO and Tikkun Olam

Affordable Health Care

Allison Andrews, arandrews_2000@yahoo.com

Several members of CDT collected signatures during a ten-day blitz launched by GBIO in September and October to support a ballot initiative for accessible and affordable healthcare. CDT-ers and others spread out to communities across the greater Boston area and gathered hundreds of signatures. On two Sundays alone in Newton, volunteers collected almost a thousand signatures. Additionally, signatures are being gathered on Election Day and at neighborhood walks.

You learn a lot about your neighbors when you stand in front of a supermarket holding a petition, looking for signatures. For example, there are many techniques employed to avoid an encounter with someone holding a petition. My favorite is denying that you are, in fact, registered to vote. The hardest part of collecting signatures is the initial contact, convincing people that you are not selling anything and will not put their names on a mailing list or sell them out to a corporation. Once people slow down and listen, you learn that most people care deeply about health care, are dissatisfied with the status quo and are eager to sign and support changes to the current system.

As a new member of CDT, I have been thinking about what issues to get involved with in the congregation, as well as in the larger community. The campaign for changing the healthcare system in Massachusetts seemed like a good place to start. After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, I thought a lot about how I might help the survivors of that disaster in a personal way. I thought about volunteering with the Red Cross but the idea was quickly boycotted by my six-month old daughter.

Although I am far from the floodwaters, I thought I could "think globally and act locally" (as they say), by involving myself in the healthcare campaign. In my own very small way, I could contribute to addressing some of the problems that plague people unable to afford healthcare. At the kickoff meeting at Temple Salem, Esther Kohn reports that "Rev. Hammond spoke about the connections between the aftermath of Katrina and the health care campaign. We are truly doing meaningful service to try to address inequity here in Massachusetts." I am proud of CDT because we have chosen to stand with other congregations throughout Boston and to perform this meaningful service.

Jewish Family & Children's Service Family Table Annual Turkey Tzedakah Drive

Hopefully, we all have many things to be thankful for in this New Year, 5766. As November approaches we traditionally begin thinking about preparing for our own meaningful family Thanksgiving celebrations. At JF&CS's Family Table, Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry, our "family" consists of 155 needy Jewish families, including 130 children, 73 elders, and 180 adults. Family Table helps Jews in 38 local communities who are experiencing great financial stress due to job layoffs, low wages, serious illness or disability, and the trauma of domestic violence. Imagine what it must be like for a parent to have to choose between paying the rent, or buying food to feed their children.

Each month, Family Table provides essential groceries to needy families throughout Greater Boston. For Rosh Hashanah this year recipient families received a round challah, kosher chickens, fresh carrots, apples, honey, gefilte fish and chicken soup. Family Table is a program of Jewish Family & Children's Service, in collaboration with Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, Jewish Community Relations Council, and Hillel Council of New England, and is made possible by the dedication of hundreds of volunteers and generous donors. Monthly food donations are collected at 48 synagogues, day schools and community centers, and are delivered to the pantry on our monthly "Distribution Days." Volunteers sort, pack and deliver each family's groceries to their homes.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are asking families in the Jewish community to share their many blessings by helping a Family Table recipient provide a meaningful Thanksgiving celebration for their household. Through our "Turkey Tzedakah" drive, we provide each recipient family with a food certificate or kosher turkey and holiday foods for their family.

Family Table receives annual grants from CJP and Project Bread and monetary donations from individuals and synagogues. The pantry is now a member of the Greater Boston Food Bank and we have been able to add dairy products and fresh produce to our monthly food orders. If you would like to learn more about Family Table or to volunteer on one of our Distribution Days, please call **Margie Nesson** or **Barbara Zolit** at 617.566.0333.

To sponsor one family, please see the form on page 15.

Response to Hurricane Katrina

In response to Katrina, CDT collected contributions for the Mount Carmel Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The following message, written by **Lisa Schneier** and **Annie Spanel**, accompanied the contributions:

We send this message to those who struggle with the terrible loss and damage in the wake of Hurricane Katrina,

Our hearts go out to you. We are deeply disturbed by the losses you have suffered and continue to suffer, and by indications that your needs were not well met. You have continuously been in our individual and community prayers. We have organized our efforts to help in whatever ways we can, and we will continue to do this. We are grateful to be able to send you some items of sustenance through the interfaith effort that will send a truck of supplies from Myrtle Baptist Church in our hometown of Newton, Massachusetts to Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. These items, from our hands to yours, carry with them our blessings for healing.

We pray that you will soon be able to begin to heal – as individuals and as communities – and that we and all the others in the Jewish community and the world community who are concerned about you will have the opportunity to participate in the work of rebuilding your lives and your communities.

With our love,

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek - a Reconstructionist Jewish congregation in West Newton, Massachusetts



News from JRF

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.

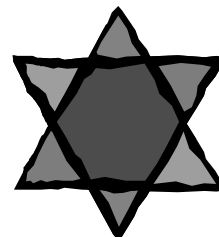
This day of learning will be hosted by Rabbi Fredi Cooper, JRF's Director of Congregational Development and Education, and by Dr. Carl Sheingold, JRF's Executive Vice President.

To register online go to <http://jrf.org/events/yomiyyun.htm>. You can pay by credit card or check. Registration Cost is \$64 and includes lunch.

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.

➔ more JRF news on page 15



Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (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@yahoogroups.com.

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call **Rabbi Spitzer** 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

To **Samantha Stanzler Katz** and her family (Jill Stanzler-Katz, Jeff Katz, and Alexandra Stanzler-Katz) on becoming bat mitzvah! *Yasher koach!*

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to **Doug Hersh** for leading the Shabbat nature walk on October 1!

High Holy Days Thank-You's

Our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services only happen due to the hard work and talents of many people, both on the *bimah* and "behind the scenes." The biggest *Todah Rabah* goes to **Theresa St. John-Siegel**, our unbelievable High Holy Days coordinator. Thanks to Theresa, all of the logistical aspects of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur flowed smoothly. Without her, there would have been no services. Thank you Theresa!!

We also want to say "Todah Rabah" to:

All of our service leaders/*chazzanim* (in order of appearance!): **Elaine Pollack, Nicky Silver, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Dan Rome, Lisa Port White, Karen Arnold, Elana Rome, Bill Shorr, and Judy Herzig-Marx**. And to our shofar blowers, **Nicky, Lisa, and Josh Sacks**- *yasher koach!* And to our post-b'nei mitzvah prayer leaders - **Julia Sklar,**

Sarah Forman, Shoshi Paris-Saper, Alex Rubin-Rattet, Ethan Zolit, and Caleb Marcus.

Our Torah and haftarah *leyners*: **Mark Bronstein, Debbie Waber, Mark Farber, Olivia Donnini, Elaine Pollack, Ed Bruckner, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rachel Herzig-Marx, Kelli Kirshtein, Karen Arnold, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Amalia Lieberman, Steffi Aronson Karp, and Louise Enoch.**

And to all those who added their own words and stories to our services: **Stan Fleischman, Josh Lieberman, Carla Naumburg, Jeff Kichen, Betsy Hinden, Lisa Schneier, and Caleb Weinreb**. Thanks to all of you for all that you brought to our Days of Awe.

To our inimitable children's service leaders: **Janet Boguslaw, Esther Kohn and her dad, Ammi Kohn, Jill Volk, Gina Fried, and Zachary Miller** on guitar - *yasher koach!* And a HUGE Todah Rabah to **Janet Boguslaw** for all of her work coordinating the children's program.

To the other children's programming organizers and Super Supporters: **Eileen Morrison, Benitta Danzing, Howard Lurie, Theresa Siegel, Ruth Paris, Sandy Sedacca, Peter Gittleman, Doug Hersh, Steve Ansolabehere, Julie Fox, Nathan Aronow, Amy Berman, Abby Cohen, Jennifer Hochschild, Karen Wasserman, Howie Kaufman, Lisa Goodman, Willa Kuh, Barbara Shatkin, Joey Ives, Alex Kaufman, Stephen Cohen, Olivia Medvedow, Daniel Kaufman, Chloe Kuh, Rebecca Holohan, Elizabeth Holohan, Elias Kuh, Annalise Littman, Joey Hattis, Jolie Demuth, Adam Goldsmith, Hadass Silver, Sophie Strassberg, Shoshi Paris-Saper** and many other great parents and teens who really helped make it all work!

To our very own CDT Sings, the community chorus that added so much to our services with their voices, leading us in beautiful rounds and other pieces. *Yasher koach* to **Elaine Bresnick**, coordinator and director of CDT sings, and to the other chorus members - **Angela Vierling-Claassen, Karen Arnold, Marcia Okun, Sue Lanser, Doug Hersh, Stephen Zisk, and David Felson.**

A big *Todah Rabah* to members of the Ritual Committee who helped with overall service coordination and planning: **Kelli Kirshtein, Marc Steinberg, Elaine Pollack, and Matilda and Ed Bruckner.**

To **Ellie Goldberg and Lauren Gibbs**, for planning the moving "*Eleh Ezkerah*" service.

To **Joshua Gordon**, for his beautiful cello playing before Kol Nidre.

From Theresa:

I would like to thank the following individuals for taking the time to volunteer to help with our High Holy Day services. Many of you donated time to more than one task so I am simply listing (in alphabetical order) the names of the 71 volunteers that I have tried to keep track of during our High Holy Day program.

If I have left out anyone who assisted with our program, please accept my apology and e-mail me so that I may include your name in next month's newsletter.

Thank you, once again, for your time, your energy, your community spirit and your humor. I have truly enjoyed working with all of you to create our High Holy Days program.

Stephen Ansolabehere, Amy Berman, Janet Boguslaw, Naomi Botkin, Amy Brodesky, Tony Broh, Marc Bronstein, Stacey Chacker, Abby Cohen, Isabel Cohen-Snyder, Rachel Cohen, Louise Enoch, Mark Farber, Carolyn Fine, Diana Fisher-Gomberg, Sheree Galpert, Ora Gladstone, Hope Kellman, Al Glazerman, Laurie Gould, Josh Gordon, Allison and Ezra Hausman, Doug Hersh, Judy Hersh, Tim Rosa, Betsy Hinden, Jen Hochschild, Audra Karp, Sherry Katz, Jeff Kichen, Sue Lanser, Gerry Leonard, Jen Levine, Josh Lieberman, Corinne Lofchie, Cindy Marshall, Jeffery Marcus, Amy Mazur, Eileen Morrison, Susan Nitkin, Marcia Okun, Ruth Paris, Kathy Pillsbury, Barbara Pittel, Lilly Platt, Elaine Pollack, Jo Radner, Joel Reider, Tracy Rogers, Dan Rome, Toni Rosenberg, Cheryl Sacks, Rob Saper, Lisa Schneier, Jane Schwartz, Peter Shapiro, Pamela Schoenberg Reider, Bill Shorr, Noam Shore, Cindy Shulak Rome, Steve Siegel, Celina and Tema Siegel, Carol Sklar, Emily Sper, Jill Stanzler-Katz, Angela and Dorea Vierling-Claassen, Jill Volk, Debbie Waber, Rochelle Weichman, Susannah Zisk, and Barbara Zolit.

L'Shanah Tova,

Theresa St. John-Siegel

A special High Holy Days acknowledgement: Beginning 14 years ago, at CDT's first Rosh Hashanah celebration, **Chayim Herzig-Marx** stepped up as one of the main High Holy Days *chazzanim* (prayer-leaders). He has shared his beautiful voice and presence with us during the High Holy Days every year since. He is now stepping aside to allow others to take leadership, and to enjoy the services from the "pews." A deep thank you to Chayim for all that he has given us these many years. We'll miss you on the *bimah*!

Kiddush Todah Rabah

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek would like to thank the following members who sponsored Kiddush during September 2005:

Wendy Angus

Amy Berman

Elaine Bresnick who sponsored Kiddush in honor of **Miranda Phillips**

Julie Fox, sponsored in memory of **Miriam Ellorich**

Paul Fox, sponsored in memory of **Sam & Ruth Schweiner**

Doug Hersh

Laura Katz, sponsored in honor of **Miranda Phillips**

Hara Klein

Josh Lieberman

Andrew Littman

Melanie Northrop

Marcia Okun

Ellen and Sam Pashall, sponsored in honor of the new Board of CDT

Lisa Port White

Debra Rattet & Leslie Rubin, sponsored in honor of **Lily Strassberg's Bat Mitzvah**.

Deb Sher, sponsored in honor of the new Board of CDT

**Save the Date! Mark Your Calendar!****Members' Meeting**

Sunday, December 4, 7:15-9:15 pm, 60 Highland Street

At our first members' meeting of 5766, we will be discussing the visioning and planning process that the CDT Board has initiated. Where and who do we want to be in 5 years? What are the critical issues facing the congregation, and how do we want to address those issues? What does it mean to create a meaningful "community of practice"? We need your input—please plan to be there!

Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Amy Berman

In memory of Bert Berman

Muriel Berman

In honor of Olivia Donnini for her superb reading of her Torah on Rosh Hashanah

Sandra & Junius Gertz

In honor of Nancy Gertz

Ricky & Rob Greenly

Todah Rabah for all those offering support at the time of my father's passing

Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa

In memory of Marilyn & Michael Hersh

In memory of Jared Branfman

From Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx

In memory of Chiaie & Howard Herzig, Kurt Marx, Sharon Marx, Enio Paul and Harriet Fay

Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh

In memory of Judith Gruber.

Steffi & Eric Karp

In honor of Erica and James Streit Kaplan's new baby.

In memory of the father of Wendy Gedanken

Mark Kertzman

In memory of my parents Beatrice & Morris Kertzman

Jeffrey Kichen

In memory of Abraham & Rose Stern

Jesse Koenigsberg

In memory of our late brother-in-law Efrem Goldberg

Amy Mazur

In memory of my father Marvin Mazur

Ruth Paris & Rob Saper

In memory of Isaac Paris, Louis Saper, Moishe Glatt and Sol Glatt

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

With L'shanah Tovah wishes to all

Debbie Waber

In loving memory of Efrem Goldberg

With prayers for a refuah sh'lemah for Zach Carson and his wonderful family

In honor of Nancy Gertz for her warm, loving and wry leadership of the Congregation in her second year

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Eliz Carver & Bryn Austin

With thanks to Rabbi Spitzer for officiating at our Brit Ahuvim ceremony

Sidney Shapiro

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.





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 & Reinhard Engels, David Cash
Sat Nov 5	8:45 am - 9:30 pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Nov 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jamie Schor (see page 4)	Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Cheryl & 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 Literature with Irit Aharony	60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 7)
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 (see page 9)
Mon Nov 14	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Education: Modern Hebrew Literature with Irit Aharony	60 Highland St: Room 112
Sat Nov 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Judy & 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 (see page 3)
Sat Nov 19	10:45—12	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St., Room 111 (see page 3)
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 Literature 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>	

Events and services are held at The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. During Rabbi Toba's weekends off, members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.

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.



December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Thu Dec 1	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Thursdays (page 7)</i>
Fri Dec 2	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service <i>(no Potluck)</i>	Linda Hsu, Richard Fisher-Gomberg
Fri Dec 2	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Dalet Shabbat Dinner	60 Highland St: Fellowship Hall
Sat Dec 3	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St: Library
Sat Dec 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service with Special Invitation for New Members	Kiddush sponsored by the Membership Committee
Sat Dec 3	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Family Ed / Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Dec 4	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	FUSN: Headstart
Sun Dec 4	7:15 PM	Members Meeting	Members-Only Event Andrew Compaine, John Dubrow
Wed Dec 7	12 pm - 1 pm	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Wednesdays (page 7)</i>
Thu Dec 8	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Thursdays (page 7)</i>
Fri Dec 9	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Bet Shabbat Dinner	FUSN: Headstart Room
Fri Dec 9	6:30 pm - 8 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service to follow Potluck	Annie Spanel, Melanie Adler
Sat Dec 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Kahn-Leavitt	Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider, Shari Zimble & Mark Paley. Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Hara Klein, Eleni Carr, Carole Slipowitz
Sat Dec 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Dec 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Ed	FUSN
Wed Dec 14	12 pm - 1 pm	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Wednesdays (page 7)</i>
Thu Dec 15	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Thursdays (page 7)</i>
Sat Dec 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Linda Katz, Peter Katz, Sherry Katz, Mark Farber
Sat Dec 17	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Bet Family Ed / Kitah Aleph Classes	FUSN
Sat Dec 17	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 (page 3)
Sat Dec 17	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (page 3)
Sun Dec 18	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #3	FUSN
Sun Dec 18	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Members-Only Event; 60 Highland St: Parlor
Wed Dec 21	12 pm - 1 pm	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Wednesdays (page 7)</i>
Thu Dec 22	8 am - 9 am	Adult Ed: Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library <i>continues on Thursdays (page 7)</i>
Thu Dec 22		<i>No School; Winter recess through 1/2/2006</i>	
Sat Dec 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lisa Schneier, Meryl Kahn-Sacks <i>Rabbi Toba Off this Shabbat</i>
Sun Dec 25	3 pm - 7 pm	Chanukah Party FUSN	Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere, Abby Cohen, Ilana Mainelli, Elaine Pollack, Karen Wasserman, Amelia Zalcman
Sat Dec 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	

More News from JRF

Help the Reconstructionist Movement

Earn Seats at the World Zionist Congress!

June 19-22, 2006

JRF has received official confirmation of its qualification to run an independent Reconstructionist slate in the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections (November 15, 2005-February 28, 2006). This is the first time there will be an independent Reconstructionist slate for a WZC election!

The Vote Drive Begins: Vote for the Reconstructionist slate beginning November 15th at <http://www.azm.org>. If you haven't registered already you'll be asked to register and pay \$7 (\$5 for students) before you can vote. Or you can register now at the same site: <http://www.azm.org>.

For more information about the Reconstructionist WZC election campaign please contact Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Director of Outreach and External Affairs, at szevit@jrf.org or Isabel Dekoninck, JRF intern at idekoninck@jrf.org or call JRF at 215.782.8500.

What is the World Zionist Congress?

In 1897, Theodor Herzl convened about 200 Jewish leaders from around the world in Basel, Switzerland to discuss the condition of the Jewish People, the delegates at the meeting, or Congress, decided to create a movement whose goal was to establish a Jewish Homeland. The World Zionist Organization was born and led the campaign for the establishment of a Jewish State.

The State of Israel came into being 51 years after the creation of the WZO. Since that time, the World Zionist Congress has met 34 times to resolve critical issues facing the Jewish people, from building Israel's infrastructure to the establishment of the State...from the aliyah following the Holocaust to the aliyah of today. The WZO also impacts and provides the contact and delivery of Zionist education to Jews throughout the Jewish World. The 35th World Zionist Congress, meeting in Jerusalem June 19-22, 2006, will set an agenda that is certain to affect Israeli society and Israel-Diaspora relations for years to come.

For more information about the World Zionist Congress visit the American Zionist Movement's web site at <http://www.azm.org>.

Why a Reconstructionist Slate?

The World Zionist Congress is the only world Jewish gathering for which seats at the table are based on voting

rather than nominations or designations. The deliberations have significant practical consequences, but there is also something symbolically meaningful about the nature of Israel/Diaspora dialogue in a setting constructed through at least a partially democratic process.

With the support of the JRF, RRA and RRC, we have decided to seek delegates in our own name for the first time. Our general desire for some form of involvement should be obvious in the aftermath of the work of the Israel Policies Task Force (see <http://www.jrf.org/israel/israel-taskforce.html>).

Our goal is to win some seats and, thus, to be engaged in the process in our own name and voice. We will certainly, through this process, develop a new relationship with individuals and congregations interested in being part of our broader engagement with Israel.

Family Table Annual Turkey Tzedakah Drive

To sponsor one family, please send a tax-deductible donation of \$18 along with the form below to "Family Table", c/o Jewish Family & Children's Service, 1430 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451 by November 10, 2005. We will deliver food certificates/turkeys in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

If you prefer to charge your donation:

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Name on credit card _____

Card # _____ Code _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Thank you on behalf of JF&CS Family Table recipients.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours

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.