

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

Cheshvan-Kislev 5766

December 2005



December Lights

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Last month, I attended a regional “Yom Iyyun or seminar day with eight other Dorshei Tzedek members. The day was organized by the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), the congregational arm of our movement. It focused on our relationship—as individuals and as communities—to Israel today. That morning, Carl Sheingold, the Executive Vice President of JRF, spoke about a fascinating new development in Israeli society: a movement, among Israeli Jews normally identified as “secular,” to reconnect with Judaism. These primarily second-generation Israelis—sons and daughters of those who helped found the state of Israel—were brought up with almost no knowledge of or real connection to traditional Judaism. Beginning with the study of rabbinic Jewish texts, groups of these “secular” Israelis are coming together to reclaim these texts, and have also tentatively begun to create their own forms of prayer community and life cycle celebrations. Having heard one of the leaders of this new expression of Israeli Jewish culture speak at my rabbinic convention last spring, I am truly inspired and excited by the possibilities for those of us in the Reconstructionist movement to make connections with Israeli Jews who—while very different from us—share our commitment to serious re-engagement with and reconstruction of Jewish texts and traditions.

It is interesting, perhaps even ironic, to realize that Mordecai Kaplan’s insight that we American Jews live in “two civilizations”—that of America and that of Judaism—applies as well to our Israeli counterparts in a somewhat different form. While Israel was indeed founded as a Jewish state, it has in its relatively short existence developed a culture that is distinctly Israeli and not exactly “Jewish” as we know it. About 20% of Israeli citizens are not Jewish at all, and a significant percentage of Jewish Israelis have very little connection to Jewish observances. So even while Hebrew is the national language and the national holidays follow the Jewish calendar, it is not necessarily a simple thing to have a Jewish identity that goes beyond just Israeli nationality.

Perhaps we in America have something to teach our Israeli counterparts, expert as we are in the complications of Jewish identity in the post-modern world. December always seems like an appropriate month to reflect on the nature of Jewish identity, both individual and communal.

The Christian underpinnings of American culture are never as clear as they are at this time of year, and it is ironic that, at this most Christian time of year, many Jews feel most acutely their minority, Jewish status. The “December dilemma” that many of us experience—whether it’s that sense of being an outsider as the vast majority of the country celebrates a holiday that is not ours, or the tensions experienced in interfaith families when our Jewish and non-Jewish “civilizations” collide—is one of the prices we pay for living in a multicultural, yet not entirely secular, society.

It is appropriate, then, that our Jewish winter holiday, Chanukah (which this year coincides with Christmas), commemorates an historical struggle over Jewish identity. The victorious Maccabees of the Chanukah story were essentially religious zealots, who fought not only their Assyrian oppressors but also their fellow Jews whom they deemed too assimilated to Hellenistic culture. The alternative, in their eyes, was the complete destruction of Jewish religion and culture. But in America today—just as in Israel—the choice does not have to be between religious extremism

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and a complete loss of Jewish observance.

The December dilemma is perhaps a necessary reminder of the challenges and blessings of living a life that both celebrates who we are as Jews and welcomes our connection to the larger culture around us. The fact that we often experience this as a tension is a welcome sign that we have neither retreated into a secluded Jewish enclave nor lost our sense of distinction and our commitment to maintaining a distinct Jewish practice and identity. And for our non-Jewish members, those who are “fellow travelers” with Jewish family members and this community as a whole, this is a time to celebrate your ability to live in “two civilizations” (if not more!) as well, and your commitment to helping the Jewish people in your life maintain a connection that is not always easy as such a tiny minority.

Dilemmas and all, December is a time for celebrations of light—so may we celebrate the light of our Jewish tradition, of our American heritage, and of all of the other aspects of whom we are.

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.

Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba 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 rabbid@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.

Board Report

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

These are the Board meeting minutes from October 23, 2005.

Kehilla Committee: Kehilla, formerly known as the Membership Inreach Committee, is actively contacting new congregants. The Kehilla Committee encourages new members to get involved by joining a CDT committee, and is thinking about using our CDT-ANNOUNCE email list to

better spread the word to the entire membership about need for and rewards of committee membership. Kehilla Committee members are organizing community Erev Shabbat potlucks to take place after many family Shabbat services. A first-ever CDT game night was held on Nov 12, and “Shabbat unplugged” is planned for a future date. If you have ideas for community programming or other feedback, please contact Kehilla co-chairs **Diana Fisher-Gomberg** (gofish4@comcast.net) or **Angela Vierling-Claasen** (angelavc@math.harvard.edu).

Membership Outreach: “Outreach” hosted two successful prospective-member events in October and others are being planned. A follow-up letter will go to all non-CDT members who attended our High Holy Day services whom we can identify. We know that, for many people, High Holy Day attendance is the first step toward CDT membership.

Finance Committee: Our High Holy Day revenue so far is better than it was last year at this point, and we are close to our revenue target for the High Holy Days. We are also close to achieving our membership target for the year. The Nadiv Lev campaign for this year has not yet been laid out, and there has been some thought of restructuring it.

Camp JRF Scholarship Fund: The Board approved the creation of a restricted fund to provide scholarships for children of CDT households to attend Camp JRF. Members will not be solicited for contributions to it, but those who have a special interest in the objective, or who want to honor someone who does, can contribute. Education Director **Cindy Shulak-Rome** will draft guidelines and policies for the fund and present them at an upcoming Board meeting for final approval.

Strategic Planning: **Ellen Hemley** facilitated the second of two sessions to educate the Board on elements of the strategic planning process. She envisions strategic planning as a structured conversation among stakeholders. Strategic planning questions don't have obvious answers, but the answers that emerge from the process should be fundamentally related to the organization's mission, its vision, and the concerns of its stakeholders. One concern that came out in small group discussions was the seeming tension between the goal of inclusiveness and the commitment to serious Jewish practice. Rabbi Toba referred to this as a familiar dynamic within Reconstructionism—one that is often addressed by having sub-communities of people who share the same form and level of practice. **Paul Hattis** will be calling the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee; its first task will be to draft a “process proposal” to bring to the next Board meeting.

Members' Meeting Needs You!

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

As many of you are aware both from Nancy Gertz's thoughts to us from High Holiday Services as well as the November newsletter, Dorshei Tzedek is currently engaged in a strategic planning process involving the board and the general CDT membership. As the process has only recently begun, we are currently in an information-gathering phase that includes gathering perspectives and data about Dorshei Tzedek from our Board, general members, and even from a few people and organizations external to CDT.

To further the goal of information gathering, the Members Meeting on Sunday, December 4 will primarily be devoted to the subject of strategic planning. Our strategic planning committee has created an interesting agenda aimed at focusing all of us to think about an exciting future vision for our synagogue community and our personal connection to it.

Please do try to have at least one adult member of each household attend the December 4 meeting to help contribute thoughts and ideas to this important visioning process.

CDT Chanukah Party

Monday, December 26, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street

At the darkest time of the year, come light the Chanukah lights with the Dorshei Tzedek community! This all-ages event will include candle lighting and Chanukah songs, fun and games for kids, a potluck dinner, and a study session for adults with Rabbi Toba. And, of course, lots of latkes!!! Bring your own chanukiyah (Chanukah menorah) and three candles.

Please bring a dish to share:

A – H: Veggies/green salads (no pasta!)

I – R: Dessert or fruit

S – Z: Starch-based salads (pasta, rice, etc.)

Latkes, applesauce, sour cream, and drinks will be provided.

For more information, contact Susannah Zisk, sez1@bellatlantic.net



Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Kahn-Leavitt

Please join our family on **December 10, 2005** when our son **Nathaniel Kahn-Leavitt** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Nathaniel is in the 7th grade at Shady Hill School in Cambridge, which he has attended since beginners. It seems like “only yesterday” to us. Nathaniel has prepared diligently and systematically for his Bar Mitzvah. For his Tikkun Olam project he is volunteering at Birthday Wishes, an organization that provides birthday parties for children living at shelters for the homeless.

At school, Nathaniel has an excellent academic record and does not have any one favorite subject. He is known for actively participating in class discussions, and has never been shy about presenting and developing his opinions. His extra-curricular activities include the school vocal ensemble, piano lessons, and skiing. And of course, he spends a reasonable amount of time bicycling around the neighborhood with his friends, playing computer action games, and the LOTR board game.

We look forward to the Dorshei Tzedek community joining us for Shabbat services followed by a Kiddush.

—Laurie and Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt

GBIO and Tikkun Olam

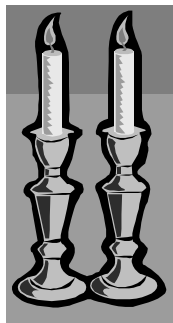
Paul Hattis, paul.hattis@rcn.com

This has been an incredibly busy, but inspiring time for GBIO. On November 3, the State House began its debate on the health care reform bill put forward by Speaker of the House Salvatore DiMasi. It is a bill that very much captures the essence of what GBIO, along with its coalition partners, have been asking for—plus some additional controversial items such as a poorly-defined “individual mandate.” A group of us has been meeting with both our coalition members and our state legislators to craft our final bargaining position. There is no question that the Speaker’s bill has been affected by GBIO’s input. In fact, two of our leaders—Rev. Hurman Hamilton and Rabbi Jonah Pesner—participated in Speaker DiMasi’s press conference announcing his proposed bill. (We struggled a bit as to whether we wanted to do this and decided that it was in the best interest of GBIO and our health care reform package to lend support to Speaker DiMasi’s efforts.)

Soon after the House bill passed, the Senate proposed a far more modest health care reform bill. After heavy lobbying by GBIO members, the Senate passed an amendment to increase the scope of their bill. There are still large gaps between the House bill and the Senate bill. The bills are now in Conference Committee. We will continue to let our legislators know that we hope the final bill corresponds more closely to the health care ballot initiative.

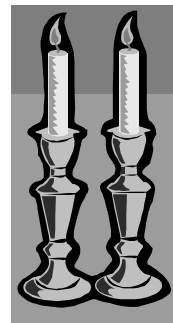
These exciting events came about largely because of the hard work of GBIO members, who include many CDT members. At least 20 to 25 of us have dedicated time to obtaining signatures on the 2006 ballot initiative—an effort GBIO supports should the legislature fail (in our eyes) to pass the right sort of health care reform proposal. Dorshei Tzedek has had great success in the signature effort for the ballot initiative. CDT members collected over 1,500 towards GBIO’s promised total of 40,000 signatures. (On a per household member basis, we have likely contributed more than any other church or synagogue member of GBIO!) With over 40,000 signatures collected by GBIO, the MassACT coalition reached its goal of collecting 100,000 signatures. These signatures will be presented at a State House rally on December 7 at noon. We have also been active legislatively—this is where the action is happening right now. Beyond a number of us speaking with legislators and/or their staffs, CDT member **Emily Sper** was one of the featured speakers at an October 20 rally at the State House sponsored by the coalition.

CDT member **Esther Kohn** has been leading our group in every way and has been a tireless organizer of our participation and attendance at all of the above noted activities. Please contact Esther Kohn if you can attend the December 7 rally to turn in our 100,000 signatures and to let the Legislature know our priorities on health care reform. These meetings are really inspiring and we hope as many of you can come as possible. Carpools can be arranged!
We are on a roll!



Shabbat Programs

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.



All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

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

January 6, February 3:

*pot-luck at 5:45 pm (Fellowship Hall, downstairs below sanctuary)
followed by service at 6:30 pm*

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday (usually, but see schedule) of each month. We have planned several additional potluck dinners, starting in January. For potluck meals, please bring a vegetarian/fish main dish or salad to share (enough for 10 - 12 people).

Erev Shabbat Services

*December 9 (see below), 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!

December 9, 7 pm: Join together with other CDT adults for a potluck dinner before the Adult Erev Shabbat service. It's a great opportunity to chat, get to know each other better, fill our bellies, and warm up our vocal chords before Rabbi Toba starts strumming! Please bring a veggie or dairy main course (enough to feed 10-12), and join us in the hall below our sanctuary at **7 pm**; desserts will be provided. Services begin at **8 pm**.

See information about a Shabbat morning service honoring new members on page 8.

Tot Shabbat Services

*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

*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 (first floor across from the Child Care room). Questions? Call our school at 617.965.5443.

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@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 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 **Jamie Schor and her parents (Ira Schor and Ilene Spiro)** on becoming bat mitzvah! *Yasher koach!*

To **Emma Halwitz and her family (Carole Slipowitz, Dan Halbert, and Jesse Halwitz)** on becoming bat mitzvah! *Yasher koach!*

To **Rebecca Ansolabehere and her family (Laurie Gould, Steve Ansolabehere, and sister Julia)** on becoming bat mitzvah! *Yasher koach!*

To **Dorea Vierling-Claasen** for passing her qualifying exam for her Ph.D. *Yasher koach!*

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to the **parents of the Kitah Zayin class** for the gift of the beautiful everlasting flowers that now grace our bima!

Todah rabah to **Diana and Richard Fisher-Gomberg** for hosting CDT's first-ever game night in November.

Kiddush Todah Rabah

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



Allison Andrew and Arthur Lent

Andy and Miriam Baumel

Jacqui Bloomberg and Peter Gittleman

Amy Brodesky and Rex Flynn

Allyson Cherkasky

Jacqueline Fleischman

Dorie Fried

Doron Gan and Valerie Graf

Steffi Aronson Karp

Joel Katz

Laurie Kahn-Leavitt

Jennifer Levine

Susan Manheim

Cindy Marshall

Amy Mazur, in memory of her father, Marvin Mazur

Sue Pearce and Cindy Probst

Lilly Platt

Sharon Sevransky

Jamie Tessler

Jill Volk

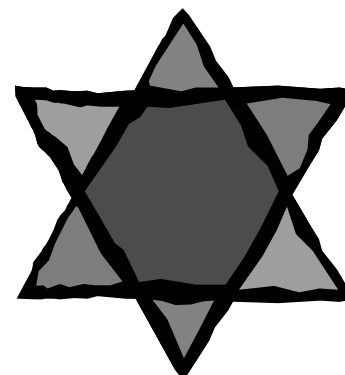
Susannah and Stephen Zisk

Dorshei Tzedek

Zikaron (Remembrance) Project Starting

Lauren Gibbs (617.441.8892, laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net) and *Ellie Goldberg* (617.965.9637, erg_hk@juno.com)

Were you moved by the *Eleh Ezkareh* service on Yom Kippur? Would you like to help explore Jewish traditions and rituals for remembrance, and develop resources and recommendations for supporting the needs of Dorshei Tzedek members? **Lauren Gibbs** and **Ellie Goldberg**, Zikaron co-chairs, will be holding a series of sessions to do just that. Please let us know if you are interested in participating.



Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street

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-1:00 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, Classroom 111

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 second 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.

News from JRF World Zionist Congress Elections

*November 15, 2005 – February 28,
2006*



For the first time ever, the Reconstructionist movement is running a slate of candidates for the World Zionist Congress, which will meet in June 2006. The WZC is a democratic, international Jewish gathering that influences hundreds of millions of dollars in funding in Israel as well as policy decisions of the Jewish Agency. Due to its quasi-governmental status, the WZC affects everything from funding for settlements in the occupied territories to support for non-Orthodox Jewish movements in Israel. To find out more about the WZC, go to www.azm.org. Now we as Reconstructionists can have a collective voice for peace, democracy and pluralism in Israel, by electing Reconstructionist delegates to the WZC. For more information about the Reconstructionist platform and slate of candidates, go to www.jrf.org. Anyone who wants to participate in the election must register by February 15, 2006 (voter registration costs \$7). Once you have registered, you can vote in the election. Go to www.azm.org for more information on how to register and vote.

Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

The Dibner Fund

The donation was made on the recommendation of Michael Cohen, a trustee of the Fund.

Wendy Gedanken & Joaquim Branco

In loving memory of Irving Gedanken

Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome and Sheree Galpert

Barbara Magaliff

In honor of the Hemley-Bronstein family

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

In memory of Jeff Green's mother

Camp JRF Scholarship Fund

Ellie Goldberg

In honor of Cindy's birthday

Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome's 50th birthday. Cindy continues to inspire us with her dedication and commitment to our children.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Laura & Joel Katz

Jack & Anne Minkoff

Sidney Shapiro

In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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.



New CDT Members

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

Welcome to our newest members: the **Kepner Family—Alexandra, Jeremy, and Jemma**; the **Hackett Family—Stephani, Nem, and Rita**; **Liz Reisberg**; and **Laurie Goldman**.

Liz Reisberg has lived in Arlington for 14 years. In 1993, she founded a small company that organizes professional recruiting tours for business schools that wish to enroll qualified international candidates to their MBA program. Liz is currently in the process of selling her business to return to school full-time to complete her Ph.D. She is a student at the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College where she met Karen Arnold who introduced her to Dorshei Tzedek. Liz has visited many congregations during the 25 years she has lived in the Boston area but never quite found a place where she felt she "fit". The diversity of the CDT community and the Reconstructionist interpretation of Jewish tradition and ritual have provided a welcome space. Liz travels a lot for work and research which has kept her from getting as involved in political and social action to the extent that she would like during the last several years. She will be traveling to Argentina often during the next year to complete her Ph.D.

CDT Honors New Members on Shabbat December 3, 9:45 am

Carla Naumburg, outreach@dorsheitzedek.org

The leadership, board, and membership of CDT are pleased to announce our Shabbat morning service honoring new members on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 9:45 am in our sanctuary at 60 Highland Street. New members will be honored with an *aliyah*. If you would like to review or listen to the Torah blessings, please go to our website and click on "Torah Blessings" on the left-hand menu. Copies of the blessings will also be available on the *bimah*.



December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Thu Dec 1	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Fri Dec 2	6 pm - 7 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service (no Potluck)	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	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 8	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Fri Dec 9	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Bet Shabbat Dinner	FUSN: Headstart Room
Fri Dec 9	6:30 pm - 8 pm	Potluck Dinner Erev Shabbat Adult Service	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 Sanctuary Cleanup: 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	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 15	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Dec 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Linda & 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 (see page 5)
Sat Dec 17	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 5)
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	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see age 7)
Thu Dec 22	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 22		No School; Winter recess through 1/2/2006	
Sat Dec 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lisa Schneier, Meryl Kahn-Sacks Rabbi Toba Off this Shabbat
Mon Dec 26	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Chanukah Party FUSN	Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere, Abby Cohen, Ilana Mainelli, Elaine Pollack, Karen Wasserman, Amelia Zalcman (see page 3)
Sat Dec 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	

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.



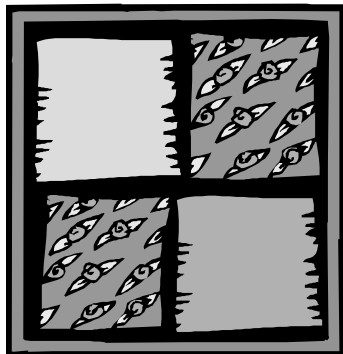
January Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Tue Jan 3		<i>CLASSES RESUME</i>	
Wed Jan 4	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 5	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Fri Jan 6	5:30 pm - 8 pm	Potluck Dinner Erev Shabbat Family Service to follow	Rochelle Weichman, JoAnn Share, William Shorr (see page 5)
Sat Jan 7	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Laura Katz, Naomi Botkin & Joshua Gordon, Emily Saltz
Sat Jan 7	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Jan 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Gimmel Family Ed	FUSN
Wed Jan 11	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 12	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 14		<i>NO SCHOOL / MLK WEEKEND</i>	
Sat Jan 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh
Wed Jan 18	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 19	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Fri Jan 20	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Amy Gordon, Mark Bronstein (see page 5)
Sat Jan 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Xue Rosenberg	Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Wendy & Charles Frankston, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon; <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Barbara & Gerry Zolit, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller
Sat Jan 21	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Jan 21	7 pm	New Member Orientation	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St: Sanctuary
Sun Jan 22	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #4	FUSN
Sun Jan 22	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Ed Program	FUSN: Headstart Room
Sun Jan 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Mon Jan 23	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 7)
Wed Jan 25	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 26	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff, Lisa Samelson, Meryl Epstein <i>Rabbi Toba off this Shabbat</i>
Sat Jan 28	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Jan 28	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 5)
Sat Jan 28	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: 111 (see page 5)
Sat Jan 28	6 pm	Potluck Dinners	<i>Members-Only Event</i> at members' homes
Sun Jan 29	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed	FUSN
Mon Jan 30	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Contemporary Ethics from a Talmu- dic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 7)

"Inspirational Jewish Women" Faith Quilt

Steffi Aronson Karp, shula@comcast.net



Do you have some free time in the afternoon? Why not visit the "Inspirational Jewish Women" faith quilt hanging at the Brandeis Women Studies Research Center? Over 70 Greater Boston women participated in workshops led by Waban quilter, Steffi Aronson Karp, in which they created

fabric collage squares, which were then completed, quilted, and turned into an artistic whole. The entire work measures 14 feet long by 6 feet high. Beside the fabric squares are cards describing the inspirations for each piece.

This installation hangs in the Hadassah Brandeis Institute at 515 South Street, Waltham (across from the Roberts train station), and is available for viewing weekdays, during office hours. Workshop participants came from all over Eastern Massachusetts, including: supporters of Mayyim Hayyim—the community mikveh, Temple Beth Zion (Brookline), Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Hadassah Brandeis Institute, Temple Beth Elohim (Wellesley), Shir Tikveh (Wayland), Amit Women (Newton), and the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework.

This faith quilt will hang at Brandeis' Women Studies Research Center until April 1, when it will be part of the larger 60-piece interfaith quilt exhibit at the Boston Center for the Arts, and other places in Massachusetts. After that exhibit, the quilt will reside at Mayyim Hayyim. For more information on the Faith Quilts concept, see www.faithquilts.org or email moreinfo@faithquilts.org.

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.

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

Saturday December 17

6 pm light meal

7 pm film: **Heir to an Execution**

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

Please join us on Saturday December 17 at 7 pm for a showing of the film **Heir to an Execution**. We will provide an optional light vegetarian supper at 6 pm for those who would like to schmooze a bit before seeing the film. Please plan to stay after the film for a discussion.

Film summary: 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 Meeropol, reflects on their lives, principles and ultimate sacrifice. Includes extensive footage of the Rosenbergs at the time of the trial. USA, released 2003, Duration: 99m.

The film will take place at Emily Sper's house (esper@blueirisdesign.com, 617-779-9403). If you would like to host a film, let us know your preferred date.



Upcoming films

6 pm light meal, 7 pm film

Saturday Jan. 21: **Yellow Asphalt**, 87m, Hebrew, Arabic.

Saturday Feb. 18: **Walk on Water**, 103m, English, German, Hebrew, Italian, Turkish, Arabic.

Saturday Mar. 18: **God is Great, I'm Not**, 100m, French, English, Hebrew.

Apr. date and time TBD, **Waiting for the Messiah**, 97m, Spanish, Yiddish.

May date and time TBD, **Time of Favor**, 102m Hebrew.

June date and time TBD, **The Komediand**, 85m, Hebrew, Yiddish, 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.

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.