

# 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

Tevet-Shevat 5766

February 2006



## Trees & Change & Us

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Observance of the holiday of Tubishvat—literally, the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Sh'vat, which falls this year on February 13—is perhaps a classic example of the Reconstructionist principle that Judaism is the “evolving religious civilization of the Jewish people.” Tubishvat is first mentioned in the Mishnah, the compendium of rabbinic laws from the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century C.E. There, it is noted merely as a kind of tax day, marking the year for calculating the tithing of fruit trees.

In the medieval period, a group of Jewish mystics made Tubishvat their own, seeing in the first budding of trees in the land of Israel a parallel to the flow of “abundance” in the cosmic Tree of Life. They believed that by staying up all night during Tubishvat, studying Jewish texts and eating the fruit of trees with the proper mystical intention, they would ensure an abundant earthly and heavenly flow of blessing for the coming year. This mystical take on Tubishvat yielded to a very this-worldly observance with the early Zionists, who saw in Tubishvat an opportunity to affirm their and their children's connection to the land of Israel. And in America in the 1970s, progressive Jewish communities gave a new meaning to Tubishvat: a kind of Jewish “Earth Day,” a time to celebrate Jewish ecological teachings and raise awareness of our environmental responsibilities.

As we can see with the evolving meaning and observance of Tubishvat, Jews have constantly been “reconstructing” our traditions so as to keep them alive, relevant, and meaningful. People often mistakenly think that Reconstructionist Judaism means a “do whatever you want” approach to Jewish life. But that is quite far from the truth. Rather, the challenge that Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionism, laid out for us was this: how do we “reconstruct” Jewish life in America in the 20<sup>th</sup> (now 21<sup>st</sup>) century in such a way as to reinvigorate ancient traditions while infusing meaning into our own lives?

This “reconstruction” project is very much before us at Dorshei Tzedek as we continue in our process of strategic planning. While there are structural issues that we need to

be ever mindful of—questions about how we grow in a thoughtful way; how we find and maintain adequate and stable physical space for our activities; how we fund our programs in a sustainable, community-building way; and the like—this is also an opportunity to really think deeply about who we are as individuals and as a community.

What would it be like if every member of the community asked him or herself: where would I like to be—Jewishly and spiritually—in five years? Where would I like my family or my household to be? What are the areas of Jewish practice that I would like to build, to nourish, and to explore—anything from fostering awareness of and connection to the divine, to mindful consumption, to action for social justice, to fostering compassion and caring for others? And then, to ask: how might Dorshei Tzedek support me and my household, in that endeavor?

Just as the meaning of Tubishvat has changed and developed over the millennia, so on a smaller scale do our own Jewish journeys develop and grow. Whatever brought us to CDT may or may not be what keeps us at CDT. We may each need to reflect on our individual “strategic plan” for the next five years before we can decide what the key issues are for us to address as a congregation. I would urge us to think creatively about our collective journey as mem-

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bers of this community. I imagine there will be things about CDT that will look more or less the same in five years, and some things that will look markedly different. And I have no idea what will fall into which category! But I do know that our core values and commitments will not have significantly changed. On the way to fulfilling whatever plan emerges in this process, my hope is that each of you will be strengthened in some way in your own personal journey, and that each of you will be a part of strengthening this community for your fellow members.

## CDT Board Report

Peter Hess, [phess@mit.edu](mailto:phess@mit.edu)

The CDT Board met on December 18, 2005.

**D'var Torah: Paul Hattis** opened with a D'var on Parsha *Vayeshev*. This parsha marks a transition between the era of the Patriarchs and the book of Exodus and begins the story of Joseph. When Jacob asks Joseph to go and check up on his brothers who are tending the old patriarch's sheep. Joseph responds: "*Hineni*" (I am ready). When Joseph arrives, his envious brothers sell him into slavery, beginning his remarkable journey. Like Joseph, Dorshei Tzedek is now at a time of transition, and needs members to come forward in the *Hineni* spirit to help guide the congregation on its journey.

**Personnel:** Two major personnel transitions are underway. We are seeking a new office administrator to fill an immediate opening and a new Education Director to replace **Cindy Shulak-Rome** when she leaves that job at the end of this school year. **Peter Katz**, chair of the Personnel Committee, is screening applicants for the office position and thinks it can be filled by the end of February. The Education Director Search Committee has been formed and has had its first meeting. Chairperson **Laurie Gould** says that the Committee plans to run ads for the position by mid-January, to have between one and three finalists selected by mid-March, and to have the new Ed Director hired by the end of Spring. To emphasize its commitment to broad participation in the search, the board passed a resolution explicitly stating our intent to "solicit input from the congregation."

**Nadiv Lev: Steve Siegel**, reports that although the brochure sent by the Nadiv Lev Committee last year got a good reception and participation in the campaign was high, the amount raised was the about the same as the year before, barely meeting our target. This year we'll use a more traditional approach, with congregational leadership and

large contributors being contacted first. The hope is that this initial effort will get us well on the way to our fundraising goal, at which point we'll ask the rest of the congregation to join the vanguard group in contributing towards the attainment of the goal. We also hope to instill in our congregational culture an ethic of gratitude toward all those who support the congregation with their financial contributions.

**Strategic Planning Update:** A recent focus of strategic planning discussions has been on defusing certain topics that tend to cause anxiety among the membership when raised, by looking at the sources of distress that underlie them, and the opportunities they present. For one example, discussing congregational growth often leads to strong reactions. The real underlying issue may be a fear of losing intimacy. The opportunity would then lie in figuring out ways to preserve our intimate feeling as we grow. The Board engaged in discussion around three primary topics.

**School report: Cindy Shulak-Rome** reported on Jewish Education opportunities for CDT youth now being offered or planned for the near future. These include: Noar Tzedek—mini-courses for young people who are in 8th grade and older; the Noar Hadash program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders done in cooperation with Hillel B'nai Torah, and our Junior Congregation services. The education team would like to see the school undertake a new *tikkun olam* project, to follow on the success of the "Behind the Labels" effort last year, but adult volunteers are needed to make it happen.

**Shabbat Unplugged:** The Kehilla (formerly Membership Inreach) Committee is planning "Shabbat Unplugged" for March 31 – April 1. People will pledge what they're "unplugging" from. Members will be encouraged to share Shabbat with one another, and Shabbat will be ushered out with a community Havdalah. After Havdalah, there'll be a screening of the highly praised film *Hinenei*. (see page 4)

## Save the Date: Members' Meeting!

March 5, 7 pm (earlier start)

We'll be continuing our discussion of future directions for Dorshei Tzedek, and we hope we'll see all of our households there! Details to come in the March newsletter.

**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 [rabb@torsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabb@torsheitzedek.org) or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

## Shabbat Shira

*February 10 – 11*

The Shabbat when we chant the “Song of the Sea” from the Torah is traditionally called “Shabbat Shira”—“Shabbat of Song.” This year we’ll be celebrating Shabbat Shira with musical contributions from our talented community.

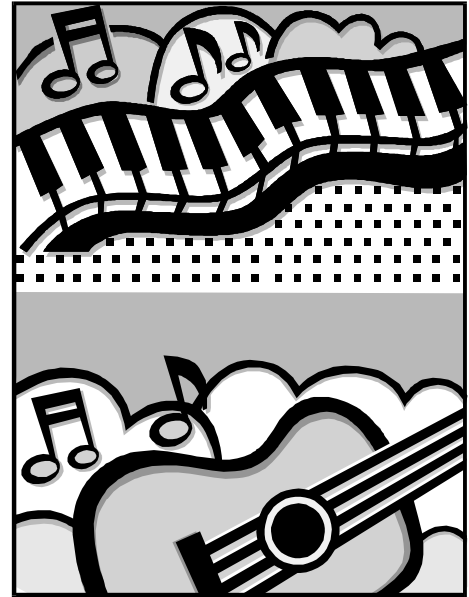
### **Erev Shabbat Shira, Friday, February 10**

**Potluck Dinner, 7 pm:** Join us for a veggie/dairy/fish potluck dinner preceding services. Please bring a main course to share, enough to feed 12-15 people (drinks and desserts will be provided).

**Musical Erev Shabbat Service, 8 pm:** Join CDT member and klezmer musician extraordinaire **Hankus Netsky, Rabbi Toba**, and other CDT musicians for a lively, musical celebration of Shabbat. Bring your dancing shoes!

### **Shabbat Morning, Saturday, February 11, 9:45 am**

CDT Sings, our wonderful choir, will be singing and teaching us new songs as part of our Shabbat morning service. Don’t miss it!

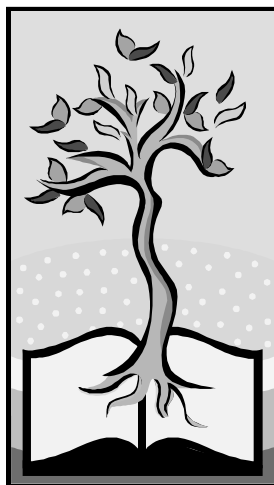


## Tubishvat

*Monday, February 13, 6:30-8:30 pm*

*First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street*

*Marc Steinberg, [marc@skillcheck.com](mailto:marc@skillcheck.com)*



Tubishvat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees, is an opportunity to celebrate the environment, connect to the special fruits and grains of the land of Israel, and study teachings from the Jewish mystical tradition. Join us to celebrate Tubishvat with a special program of food, song and study. This program is appropriate for adults and older kids. We will begin at **6:30 pm** with a Tubishvat seder, including readings, eating special fruits associated with the holiday, and some study and discussion. At **7:30 pm** we will enjoy a potluck dinner. **In order to prepare for both the seder and the meal, we ask that you RSVP to Marc Steinberg as soon as possible at [marc@skillcheck.com](mailto:marc@skillcheck.com).** Let us know how many are coming and what kind of a dish you would like to bring (main dish, salad, dessert). A Tubishvat tradition is to eat foods using one or more of the seven agricultural species associated with the land of Israel: wheat, barley, figs, dates, olives, grapes, and pomegranates. So if you can, make a dish with one or more of these ingredients!

### **Upcoming: CDT's Fabulous Purim Party**

*Monday Evening, March 13th*

Rav Tiffany is back in town! To help out with our always outstanding Purimspiel, see page 10.

## Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Pearce-Probst

February 25, 2006

Please join us on when our daughter, **Rebecca Jiang Fen**, becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Rebecca particularly enjoys exploring Jewish history with her Dorshei Tzedek classmates. For her *tikkun olam* project, Rebecca is working with contacts and raising funds to make soccer equipment available to children who live in orphanages and/or attend poor rural schools in China. Rebecca is an eighth grader at the Fayerweather Street School in Cambridge. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to share with us in this special occasion! A Kiddush will follow the service.—*Sue Pearce and Cindy Probst*

## Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Marshall

March 4, 2006

Please join us for the Shabbat morning service and a Kiddush luncheon on March 4 when our son **Jeremy** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Jeremy is a seventh grader at Oak Hill Middle School. He loves music, playing baseball and basketball, cooking, and ping pong matches. For his *tikkun olam* project, Jeremy is working with an organization called Kids Gear For Baseball, collecting and donating used and new baseball equipment for kids who cannot afford to buy it. We hope to see many of you on March 4.

—*Cindy Rivka Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury*

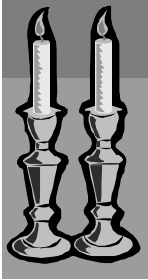
## Shabbat Unplugged

March 31 – April 1

What would it be like to really celebrate Shabbat together as a community? How challenging would it be to "unplug" from the many things that distract and pressure us during the week—from cell phones to e-mail, from television, to bringing our work home with us? Shabbat Unplugged is an opportunity to find out!

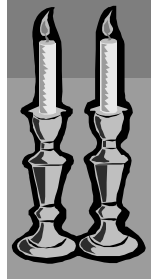
We'll usher in Shabbat together with a potluck dinner and special Erev Shabbat service on **March 31**. And after Shabbat morning services on **April 1**, we hope to have lots of opportunities to eat, schmooze, study, and play with other members of the community at homes throughout the area. Finally, we'll close Shabbat together with Havdalah and a special screening of "Hineni," produced by our very own **Idit Klein**.

We need households to volunteer to host a lunch or late afternoon meal ("Se'udah Sh'lishit") on **Saturday, April 1**. If you'd like to invite folks from your neighborhood, or families with kids, or have folks over to study or play games or go on a communal dog walk, let us know! Please contact Angela Vierling-Claasen if you're interested, at 617.876.1036 or [angelavc@math.harvard.edu](mailto:angelavc@math.harvard.edu).



## 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

*February 3: potluck at 5:45 pm (Fellowship Hall) followed by service at 6:30 pm*

*March 3 (potluck TBD), April 7 (6 pm service only; no potluck)*

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday (usually, but see schedule) of each month. Before services, we'll enjoy a Shabbat meal together, beginning at 5:45 pm. Please bring a vegetarian/fish main dish or salad to share (enough for 10 – 12 people).

### Erev Shabbat Services

*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!

### Shabbat Shira Celebration

*February 10 – 11 (see page 3 for details)*

### Tot Shabbat Services

*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

*February 4 (note change from original schedule), March 11, April 1, May 13*

*10:45 – 12 pm*

Calling all 3rd-6th graders—come to a spirited and participatory Junior Congregation service led by **Elana Rome**. The service is followed by a “kids only” kiddush. We'll meet in Room 111 (1st floor across from the Child Care room). Questions? Call the CDT School at 617.965.5443.

## Call for Volunteers: CDT Needs Your Help!

Happy 2006 from the Kehilla (formerly Membership Inreach) Committee!

This year, please consider joining a Dorshei Tzedek committee. It is a great way to get to know people in our congregation better and the community needs your help! Level and type of involvement can be personalized to suit your particular needs and interests, so everyone stands to benefit from the mitzvah of members serving the community. If you are interested in any of the committee work described below, contact Diana Fisher Gomberg at [gomberg@comcast.net](mailto:gomberg@comcast.net) or email the committee directly. Thank you!

### **Adult Education** ([adulthood@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:adulthood@dorsheitzedek.org))

The Adult Education Committee is responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing all adult educational activities. These generally include short-term classes, given by our rabbi or scholars from the local community, on a wide variety of topics ranging from biblical texts to Jewish mysticism, from Reconstructionist Judaism to Hasidism. We also help organize workshops in connection with holidays, tallis making, Jewish music, and others.

### **Chesed** ([chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org))

The Chesed (loving-kindness) Committee is responsible for providing support to members in the event of a birth or adoption, illness, death, or other significant life change. We need members to prepare and deliver meals, grocery shop, visit someone who is ill, and provide transportation and short-term child care. Any congregation member can volunteer to help out in these ways and no special skill is required.

### **Children's Education** ([childrensed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:childrensed@dorsheitzedek.org))

The Children's Education Committee is comprised of a Steering Committee that meets monthly and three sub-committees that meet on an as needed basis. The Steering Committee works with the Education Director to help set policy for the school and oversee its functioning. Tasks include developing a mission and strategic plan for the school and helping to guide the development of educational goals and curriculum. In addition to the Steering Committee, the additional sub-committees include: Tikkun Olam, Children's Programming for Shabbat and Holidays, and Class Parent coordinators.

### **Finance** ([finance@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:finance@dorsheitzedek.org))

The Finance Committee is charged by the CDT Board to work with the Treasurer to oversee the congregation's financial health and well being. Specifically, it reviews budgets, balance sheets and statements of cash flow and helps to formulate synagogue policies relating to fiscal matters. It reports its activities and recommendations to the Board on a regular basis.

### **Holiday Programming**

Holiday Programming involves planning and facilitating, along with Rabbi Toba, activities for five holiday celebrations: Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Hanukkah, Tu B'Shvat and Purim. People work together according to the holiday of their choice. Responsibilities are divided up among the group. This is an opportunity to be creative and to get to know members of the Dorshei Tzedek community.

### **Kehilla** ([inreach@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:inreach@dorsheitzedek.org))

We plan fun events at which members can get to know each other better, such as potlucks, softball games, game nights, film, and theater events. We also prepare and distribute new member welcome baskets, help plan the member retreat, prepare the member binder, and other activities that build community.

### **Membership Outreach** ([outreach@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:outreach@dorsheitzedek.org))

We do the important work of reaching out to potential new members and introducing them to the Dorshei Tzedek community. We do publicity in local papers and websites, organize open houses, and welcome all new members with phone calls in order to help them feel more connected to the CDT community. Outreach is looking for individuals who are excited about CDT and want to help bring new households and new energy to our community. Specifically, we need help with publicity, event planning (we only host a handful of events each year, but they are important!), and our new member intake phone calls.

### **Nadiv Lev (Fundraising)** ([spsiegel@aol.com](mailto:spsiegel@aol.com))

A significant amount of Dorshei Tzedek's programs are supported through membership dues and various fees. However, by design, our budget still relies on contributions from both members and non-members to sustain us, with up to 25% of our total income coming from Nadiv Lev (giving from the heart). This committee is responsible for: (1) working with the Board to design fundraising strategies and goals that are consistent with the budget, Reconstructionist values and Torah of Money guidelines; (2) carrying out the fundraising plan.

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### **Newsletter** (dtnews@yahoogroups.com)

The Newsletter Committee edits and publishes the monthly Dorshei Tzedek newsletter. Each month, one of the newsletter editors assembles newsletter submissions into a draft document in Microsoft Word. The editor unifies the editorial style and format of all the submissions, and sends out a draft of the newsletter for review. After integrating comments from reviewers, the editor delivers the copy to another committee member who lays out the final newsletter.

The layout person produces the newsletter in a desktop publishing program, laying out the pages and adding artwork, and hands it off to the committee chair. The Committee Chair takes the finished newsletter to a commercial printer, who prints, addresses, stamps, and mails the newsletters.

The Newsletter Committee works primarily by e-mail. The jobs rotate each month, so an editor or layout person only needs to work every three or four months. The Newsletter Committee is ideal for someone who would like to help out at Dorshei Tzedek, but could use flexibility in scheduling their volunteer time. **Right now the committee is looking for one or two more editors, and one or two more layout people.**

### **Personnel** (personnel@dorsheitzedek.org)

The Personnel Committee is responsible for assisting with the hiring and evaluation of new employees and with helping to develop personnel policies for Dorshei Tzedek. On an ongoing basis, this committee will develop guidelines that can be used to measure the performance of administrative staff and will recommend procedures for performance evaluation.

### **Public Relations and Advertising**

(publicity@dorsheitzedek.org)

The Public Relations and Advertising Committee is responsible for developing and placing ads for the congregation, including the holidays, the school and adult education programs. We will also place free listings in a wide variety of publications throughout the year to help Dorshei Tzedek maintain a presence in the Jewish community.

### **Rabbinic Liaison** (liaison@dorsheitzedek.org)

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee serves as a bridge between the Rabbi and the congregation to ensure the ongoing success of the relationship. Congregants are encouraged to share concerns and positive feedback with this committee. Concerns are discussed confidentially and,

when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. Other solutions to address concerns may also be suggested. The committee meets with the Rabbi several times during the year to problem solve around any areas of concern she might be experiencing.

### **Ritual** (ritual@dorsheitzedek.org)

The Ritual Committee plans and helps implement all matters relating to religious services and observances, ceremonies and lifecycle events. We may study ritual practices, help educate and make recommendations to the community. Participating on the Ritual Committee is a great way to learn more about the Dorshei Tzedek community.

### **Space** (space@dorsheitzedek.org)

The Space Committee addresses the physical space needs of the congregation (e.g., prayer space, classroom space, event space). When called upon, the committee will seek out new space for use by Dorshei Tzedek. At present, however, the committee principally coordinates Dorshei Tzedek's relationship with our current landlords—the Second Church and First Unitarian Society. Despite its name, the Space Committee does not travel beyond Earth's atmosphere—though if good space were available there, who knows...

### **Tikkun Olam** (tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org)

Join our active Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) Committee! Help envision, plan, and organize social justice events and projects including discussion groups, community service activities, and recruiting members for *tikkun olam* and GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) actions. One of the projects this year includes joining GBIO to campaign for accessible and affordable health-care in Massachusetts.

### **Web Community** (dtweb@dorsheitzedek.org)

The Dorshei Tzedek Web Community Committee is ideal for people with an interest in creating an online community, who enjoy streamlining processes with computing and who would like to be able to contribute to Dorshei Tzedek in their own time and place. The tasks/areas that our committee is looking for help with include:

- Web access, web content and accessibility.
- Online calendars.
- Making membership lists and other membership documents easily available and current.
- Increasing use of online signup for programs, membership, etc. to ease the administrative burden.
- Online communications, such as the CDT listserv.

## Nadiv Lev General Fund

*(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)*

**Lauren K. Gibbs**

*In honor of Emma Halwitz's Bat Mitzvah*

**Robert I. Lurie**

*In honor of Aliza Miranda Lurie's Bat Mitzvah*

**Matthew Pelikan and Lori Shaller**

**Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

**Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome**

*In honor of the B'nei Mitzvah of: Rebecca Ansolabehere, Jamie Schor, Xue Rosenberg, and Nathaniel Kahn-Leavitt*

**Ruth and Aaron Seidman**

**Youngstown Area Jewish Federation**

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## Camp JRF Fund

**Pamela Kellogg and Stephen Porter**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

**David and Martha Rome**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome's 50th birthday*

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## School Fund

**Marilyn and Neil Port Family Foundation**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

Note: Several contributions from late last year have not yet been acknowledged in the newsletter, due to temporarily mislaid paperwork during our administrator transition. We apologize for the delay and hope to have all of these contributions acknowledged in the next issue of the newsletter. Thank you for your patience.

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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.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.azm.org) for more information on how to register and vote.

## Camp JRF

Join Camp JRF for the first summer in our new home in the Pocono Mountains. Choose from one or both of the following sessions: First Session: June 28 – July 23; Second Session: July 25 – August 13

Camp Units Ilanot (4th, 5th and 6th grades), Nehalim (7th and 8th grades), and Harim (9th and 10th grades) will continue for another season of camping. New for this year will be a work-study and leadership training program for entering high school juniors and seniors. Another new addition will be a 12-day Mini-Camp, which will provide a taste of camp for entering 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. (Entering 4<sup>th</sup> graders can choose to attend a full session of camp (Ilanot) or just try a shorter time (Mini-Camp).

For more information, visit our website at [www.campjrf.org](http://www.campjrf.org) or call 877.CAMP.JRF.



## Adult Education

### Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat

*Monday, February 6 at 7:30 pm  
60 Highland Street, Parlor*

*Cost: members free, non-members \$15 for final session*

#### *Session 3 – Debate and Dissent in Polite Society*

The course entails close reading of selected Talmudic passages dealing with ethical questions that resonate with us today. The work has a dual purpose. We delve deeply into the specific social and moral issues, and at the same time, gain familiarity with the complex mechanics of Talmudic discussion. During this 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.

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### Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street  
February 4, March 4, April 1, May 13*

Join Rabbi Spitzer 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, 12 noon – 1:00 pm*

*Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am*

*Meditation following Thursday morning class, 9:05 – 9:45 am*

**NO CLASS:** February 1 – 2

*60 Highland Street*

This is an ongoing class, and you're welcome to come any time! Choose the time that works the best for you. We are continuing our exploration of Jewish texts and practices, with an eye towards cultivating greater mindfulness, wisdom, clarity, and meaning in our daily lives. Upcoming topics include: prayer; *tzedakah* and mindful use of money; Shabbat; positive speech; the cultivation of ethical and moral qualities. The class is intended for folks at any level of Jewish observance/non-observance. Classes on Thursday are followed by a period of silent meditation, with instruction. You are welcome to come just for the meditation session.

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### 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](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/rabbi-music.htm).

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**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](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei). Also of interest, see the Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site, with more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading ([www.jrf.org](http://www.jrf.org)).

## Community Events

### Calling All Singers! Your Purim Spiel Wants YOU!

*CDT's Fabulous Purim Party, March 13, FUSN*

Rav Tiffany is back in town! Whether you're a shower singer, a karaoke crooner, an Elvis impersonator, or a soloist at The Met, this year's Purim Spiel, (rated "G"), needs you! Warble or wobble, if you'd like to sing 10 – 20 seconds of anything (and I mean ANYthing), please contact Sheree Galpert as soon as possible [sgalpert@yahoo.com](mailto:sgalpert@yahoo.com) or 617-558-8697). **Minimal rehearsal commitment—really!**

### Support Group for Members with Elderly Parents

*Louise Enoch, [lpemoch@rcn.com](mailto:lpemoch@rcn.com)  
and Ruth Paris, [rparis@bu.edu](mailto:rparis@bu.edu)*

*Sunday, February 12, 4– 6 pm (note time change)  
Second Church Parlor, 60 Highland Avenue*

Any member with concerns about an elderly parent is invited to come to the CDT Support Group in the library of the Second Church on Highland Ave. This group offers the opportunity to share with others who are in a similar place, dealing with the challenges of an aged parent or parents. Support for complex feelings, as well as information about practical resources can be available. We are still defining our needs and our direction and would welcome your participation and input. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Louise or Ruth.

### Dorshei Tzedek Zikaron (Remembrance) Study Group

*February 15, 7:30 – 9 pm, Second Church*

*Lauren Gibbs, 617.441.8892, [laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net](mailto:laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net)  
and Ellie Goldberg, 617.965.9637, [erg\\_hk@juno.com](mailto:erg_hk@juno.com)*

#### Session One: After Shiva, Now What?

All interested CDT members are invited to join this discussion about our personal and congregational values and needs in the area of mourning and remembrance. No prior knowledge or background required!

**Rabbi Toba** will lead this study session focused on Jewish rituals and traditional practices for loss and remembrance following the initial period of mourning, including saying Kaddish, observing Sheloshim, Yahrzeit, and Yizkor. Dis-

cussion will focus on how we as congregation want to support one another in the ongoing process of remembrance and marking significant loss.

In preparation for the study group, please read chapters 2, 8 and 9 in *Saying Kaddish*, by Anita Diamant (available at the library or in most bookstores). For more information, contact Ellie Goldberg (617.965.9637, [erg\\_hk@juno.com](mailto:erg_hk@juno.com)).

### An Evening of Chanting and Sound Healing

*Nicky Silver, [nickysilver@comcast.net](mailto:nickysilver@comcast.net)*

*Wednesday, February 22 and Tuesday February 28,  
7:30 – 9 pm, Second Church Parlor Room*

What is it about chant that speaks to us at such a deep level? Why has chanting found its way into so many cultures and religions around the world both ancient and modern? How does using sound help to correct imbalances in the body?

Through chanting and sound healing we are able to focus the mind, and shift our consciousness from the outside world to the inside world of the chant and the sounds, and then further inside to our spiritual core. This is primarily a meditative process and a vehicle toward an inward focus which incorporates breath, heart, spirit, intention and voice together, much like a yoga practice joins physical postures with our deeper core.

Nicky Silver has been studying meditative practices using Hebrew chants and sound healing for many years and has currently completed a chant leadership training program with Rabbi Shefa Gold. NO knowledge of Hebrew is necessary and singing ability is unimportant. Please call Nicky if you have any questions at 617 327 1999.

### Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

*Stan Fleischman, 617.332.5433, [stanf@rcn.com](mailto:stanf@rcn.com) and Emily Sper, 617.779.9403, [esper@blueirisdesign.com](mailto:esper@blueirisdesign.com)*

Please join us on Saturday February 18 at 7 pm for a showing of the film *Walk on Water*. 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:** *Walk on Water* is a colorful and very contemporary road movie that takes its characters around Israel and later to Berlin. This unique movie is a non tradi-



*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

tional attempt to understand the role that is still played by the past in the lives of Israeli and German young people. Released 2004, Duration: 103 m, English, German, Hebrew, Italian, Turkish, Arabic.

### Upcoming films

- 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. *Waiting for the Messiah*, 97 min. Spanish, Yiddish.
- May date and time TBD. *Time of Favor*, 102 min. Hebrew.
- June date and time TBD. *The Komediand*, 85 min. 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.

### CDT Game Night!

*Diana Fisher Gomberg, gomberg@comcast.net*

March 4, 7:30 – 10:30 pm, 290 Islington Road, Newton

The first Game Night a few months ago was a hit so we are having another!

Come Saturday night, **March 4**, to the Gomers' to play some board and card games and get to know each other better. All members age 5 and older (and infants) are welcome from 7:30 until 10:30 pm. Feel free to bring a dessert or drink to share. More games are also welcome! Please RSVP to Diana at gomberg@comcast.net or 617.243.9424. The Gomers' home is at 290 Islington Road in Newton.



### CDT Sings

*Angela Vierling-Claassen, angelavc@math.harvard.edu*  
and *Elaine Bresnick, ebresnick@comcast.net*

Join CDT Sings on the second Sunday of every month as we learn new songs and sing old favorites. Contact **Angela Vierling-Claassen** or **Elaine Bresnick** if you'd like to sing with us. We will also be singing at *Shabbat Shira* on February 11, so please join us!

## School News

*Cindy Shulak-Rome, school@dorsheitzedek.org*

### No'ar Hadash Teen Retreat

March 3 - 5

All teens, 8th – 12th grade are invited to attend a New England Regional Teen Retreat the weekend of **March 3 – 5**. Sponsored by the Reconstructionist Youth Group Movement—No'ar Hadash—and organized and run by **Samantha Papurt**, a former Dorshei Tzedek teacher, our own **Amy Goldsmith**, and **Aviva Rosman**, this promises to be a fun weekend of group building activities, singing, celebration of Shabbat, games, hanging out, meeting new friends, and more. We already have a few of our teens signed up—please consider joining them! This is a great way to meet and connect with other Jewish teens.

The Kallah will be held at Agudas Achim, the Reconstructionist Synagogue in Attleboro, MA—just a 40-minute drive from Newton. and the cost is \$100 which includes all expenses. For more information or for an application, contact Cindy in the school office or check out the No'ar Hadash website at [www.noarhadash.org](http://www.noarhadash.org). Financial assistance is available.

### Education Director Search Committee Member Forum

*Laurie Gould, lgould@vivaconsult.com*

February 16, 7:30 pm, Second Church Parlor

Please join members of the Education Director Search Committee to learn more about the search for a new Education Director for next Fall. We encourage parents and other interested congregants to come and discuss the search with us, and to share your priorities and ideas for filling this critical position. We invite comments and questions from members, which can be directed to the search committee by sending email to [edsearch@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:edsearch@dorsheitzedek.org).

### Wanted: Madrichim/Teaching Assistant

We have a great opportunity for a teen to join our Madrichim/Teaching Assistant staff at the Dorshei Tzedek School! Tuesday and/or Thursday afternoons from 3:30 – 6:00 pm, come help in our afternoon school. This is a paid position. To apply, we ask the following:

1. Good Hebrew reading skills
2. Must be Bar/Bat Mitzvah
3. High School student, grade 10 or higher.

Call or email Cindy at the school if you are interested.

## New CDT Members

Angela Vierling-Claasen, [angelavc@math.harvard.edu](mailto:angelavc@math.harvard.edu) and  
Diana Fisher-Gomberg, [gomberg@comcast.net](mailto:gomberg@comcast.net)

Welcome to our newest members. **Darci and Jon Klein**, and their children **Maddie** and **Sam**; and to **Bob Warren** and **Meg Wilcox** and their children, **Liam** and **Sophia**.

Many thanks to all the Dorshei Tzedek families who have made us feel so welcome. **Jon** and I moved here with our now 8-year-old daughter, **Maddie**, two years ago from San Francisco. Since then, we were blessed with our son, **Sam**, who will be two this spring. Jon is a management consultant, and I am a writer. We live in Newton Highlands. We feel fortunate to have found the Dorshei Tzedek community. We wanted a temple that not only offered spiritual consciousness for our family, but emphasized social consciousness as well. The temple seems to offer both in ample proportions. We look forward to getting to know everyone.—*Darci Klein*

**Bob Warren** and **Meg Wilcox** and their children, **Liam**, 8, and **Sophia**, 6, moved to Newtonville last summer after living 8 years in Jamaica Plain. Bob is an attorney in Jamaica Plain specializing in the representation of the immigrant community in the greater Boston area. He has a long history as an activist in both local and international political issues. Meg is an environmental scientist with a particular passion for working to confront global climate change. Both Bob and Meg are fluent in Spanish. Liam, a Kitah Gimmel student, is passionate about sports, particularly baseball, soccer and football and is an avid reader. Sophia, a Gan student, loves art and is curious about everything. They both attend Cabot Elementary School. They like Dorshei Tzedek because of the congregation's commitment to social justice and because of the comfortable feeling being part of the CDT community.



## Dorshei Tzedek Board Members

*For the year 5766*

### Executive Committee

President: Nancy Gertz  
Vice President Development: Steve Siegel  
Vice President Strategic Planning: Paul Hattis  
Vice President Membership: Andrew Schiff  
Vice President Finance: Sivan Nasoff  
Secretary: Peter Hess  
Rabbi: Toba Spitzer

### Board

**Finance Secretary:** Jiff Kichen  
**Ritual:** Marc Steinberg and Kelli Kirshtein  
**Space:** Stuart Snyder  
**Tikkun Olam:** Esther Kohn  
**Membership Outreach:** Carla Naumburg  
**Kehillah:** Angela Vierling, Diana Fisher Gomberg  
**Newsletter:** Dan Halbert  
**Children's Education:** Howard Lurie, Janet Boguslaw  
**Nadiv Lev:** *[unfilled]*  
**Holiday Programming:** *[unfilled]*  
**Board Member at Large:** *[unfilled]*

### Off-Board

**End of Life:** Nicky Silver  
**Rabbinic Liaison:** Ora Gladstone  
**Personnel:** Peter Katz  
**Website:** Stan Fleischman  
**High Holy Days:** Theresa St. John-Siegel  
**Adult Education:** Matilda Bruckner  
**Publicity:** Josh Herzig-Marx  
**Chesed:** Annie Spanel, Jackie Fleischman

<http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/board.htm>



# February Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Fri Feb 3	5:45 pm - 8 pm	<b>Potluck and Erev Shabbat Family Service</b>	Allyson Cherkasky, Annie Weiss ( <i>see page 5</i> )
Sat Feb 4	8:45 am - 9:40 am	<b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 9</i> )
Sat Feb 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Rachel Cohen, Richard Cohen Gertrude Nemeth, Laura Katz
Sat Feb 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Feb 4	10:45 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland St: Room 111 ( <i>see page 5</i> )
Sun Feb 5	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Ed	FUSN
Mon Feb 6	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective, Prof. David Bernat</b>	60 Highland St: Parlor ( <i>see page 9</i> )
Wed Feb 8	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 9</i> )
Thu Feb 9	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 9</i> )
Fri Feb 10	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Gimel Shabbat Dinner	FUSN: Parish Hall and Kitchen
Fri Feb 10	7 pm - 8 pm 8 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Erev Shira Shabbat Potluck</b> <b>Erev Shira Shabbat Musical Adult Service</b>	Sue Lanser, Jo Radner, Rebecca Gutman ( <i>see page 3</i> )
Sat Feb 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Judy Hersh, Tim Rosa, Lisa Goodman, Bill Weinreb
Sat Feb 11	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Feb 11	10:45 am - 11:30 am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland St: Room 112 ( <i>see page 5</i> )
Sun Feb 12	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #5	FUSN
Sun Feb 12	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	FUSN: Headstart
Sun Feb 12	4 pm - 6 pm	<b>Elder Care Support Group</b>	<i>Members-Only Event; note time change</i> 60 Highland St: Parlor ( <i>see page 12</i> )
Sun Feb 12	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	<b>Tu B'shvat Potluck</b>	Idit Klein, Lauren Gibbs, Wendy Gedanken, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt FUSN ( <i>see page 3</i> )
Wed Feb 15	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 9</i> )
Wed Feb 15	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Zikaron Study Group</b>	<i>Members-Only Event</i> FUSN: Alliance Room ( <i>see page 10</i> )
Thu Feb 16	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 9</i> )
Thu Feb 16	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Open Forum: Ed Director Search</b>	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Parlor ( <i>see page 11</i> )
Sat Feb 18		<i>No School through 2/25/06</i> <i>February School Vacation week</i>	
Sat Feb 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Matilda Bruckner, Edward Bruckner, Caryn-Amy King, Jeffrey Schindler ( <i>Rabbi Toba off this Shabbat</i> )
Sat Feb 18	6 pm	<b>Film: Walk on Water</b>	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 6 pm light meal; 7 pm film ( <i>see page 10</i> )
Wed Feb 22	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Chanting Class with Nicky Silver</b>	60 Highland Street: Parlor ( <i>see page 10</i> )
Sat Feb 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Pearce-Probst</b>	Jane Schwartz & Tracy Rogers, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal, Sheree Galpert; Sanctuary cleanup: Rob & Ricky Greenly, Howard Kaufman 60 Highland St ( <i>see page 4</i> )
Sun Feb 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue Feb 28		<i>School Classes Resume</i>	
Tue Feb 28	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Chanting Class with Nicky Silver</b>	60 Highland Street: Parlor ( <i>see page 10</i> )
Sun Jan 29	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed	FUSN
Mon Jan 30	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Adult Ed: Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat</b>	60 Highland St: Room 111 ( <i>see page 9</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.



# March Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Wed Mar 1	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Wed Mar 1	5 pm - 7 pm	<b>No'ar Tzedek Teen Program, Mask making workshop</b>	60 Highland St: Kitchen
Thu Mar 2	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Fri Mar 3	5:45 pm - 8 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Family Service</b> ( <i>Potluck to be determined</i> )	Ira Fader, Hope Kellman (see page 5)
Sat Mar 4	8:45 am - 9:40 am	<b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Sat Mar 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Marshall</b>	Sanctuary Clean Up: Sarah Little & Doug Hersh, Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus 60 Highland St (see page 4)
Sat Mar 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Family Ed & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Mar 5	7 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Members Meeting</b>	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Robert Warren & Meg Wilcox, Patricia Nuzzola 60 Highland Street - Sanctuary (see page 2)
Wed Mar 8	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Wed Mar 8	5 pm - 7 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program, Mask making workshop	60 Highland St: Kitchen
Thu Mar 9	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 9	6 pm - 8:30 pm	Purim Rehearsals	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , FUSN: Parish Hall (see page 10)
Fri Mar 10		Kitah Gimmel Home Dinner	
Sat Mar 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Corinne Lofchie, Noam Shore, Linda Schiller, Steve Robins ( <i>Rabbi Toba off this Shabbat</i> )
Sat Mar 11	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 11	10:45 am - 11:30 am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 5)
Sat Mar 11	10:45 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 5)
Mon Mar 13	7 pm - 9 pm	<b>Purim Celebration</b>	Debbie Waber, Alan Epstein, Louise Enoch, Steffi Karp, Eric Karp, Jeffrey Green; FUSN
Wed Mar 15	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 16	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 16	6 pm - 8 pm	<b>No'ar Tzedek Teen Program</b>	FUSN: Classroom 3
Sat Mar 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Talia Leonard</b>	<i>Kiddush:</i> Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert, Debbie Rattet & Leslie Rubin, Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg <b>Service:</b> 60 Highland St. <b>Celebration:</b> FUSN: Parish Hall
Sat Mar 18	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 18	6 pm	<b>Film: God is Great, I'm Not</b>	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 6 pm light meal, 7 pm film (see page 10)
Sun Mar 19	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #6	FUSN
Thu Mar 23	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 23	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	FUSN: Classroom 3
Fri Mar 24	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Aleph Dinner	FUSN: Headstart Room
Fri Mar 24	8 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Adult Service</b>	Mark Kertzman, Josh Herzig-Marx (see page 5)
Sat Mar 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Lewis</b>	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider, Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman <b>Service:</b> 60 Highland St <b>Celebration:</b> FUSN: Parish Hall
Sat Mar 25	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Bet Family Ed, Kitah Aleph Classes	FUSN
Sun Mar 26	3 pm - 5 pm	No'ar Hadash Youth Group, 7 - 8 Grade	TBA
Sun Mar 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Wed Mar 29	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 30	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 30	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	FUSN: Classroom 3
Fri Mar 31	6 pm - 8 pm	Gan Family Shabbat Dinner	FUSN: Headstart Room

## 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 copperbeech.tree@verizon.net).

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](mailto: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.

## Condolences

To Matt Fried on the death of his father, Arthur Fried. May his memory be for a blessing.

## 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 **Xue Elana Rachel Rosenberg** and her mother **Toni Rosenberg** on Xue's becoming bat mitzvah! *Yasher koach!*

To **Reva Goldberg** (daughter of **Ellie** and **Efrem Goldberg**) on her new role as Director/Producer at Pureland Pictures ([www.purelandpictures.com](http://www.purelandpictures.com)) and her new documentary film project.

**Emily** and **David Shumsky** are thrilled to announce the birth of their twin sons, **Jacob Aaron Shumsky** and **Elliot Tobias Shumsky**. The twins arrived on Nov. 29, 2005. They haven't had much time to contact anyone--but the twins are now seven weeks old!

## Todah Rabah

A huge Todah Rabah to **Susannah Zisk** for her organizing efforts on the CDT Chanukah Celebration!

Many thanks to **Tim Rosa** for the donation of a laser printer to our school office.

The Kehilla Committee wants to offer special thanks to the following people who helped us to welcome new members by delivering gift baskets: **Sharon Sevransky**, **Ruth Paris**, **Amy Mazur**, **Linda Schiller**, **Sivan Nasoff**, **Barbara Zolit**, **Sheree Galpert**, **Marcia Okun**, **Tessa Goldsmith**, **Corinne Lofchie**, and **Angela Vierling-Claassen**. And a special thanks to **Linda Hsu** for both delivering baskets and organizing the gift basket delivery.



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.