

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

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

March 2006



I'll Take the Change, Please

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

My term as president of CDT will be coming to a close in July this year, and I've been reflecting on the past almost-two years, especially in light of the upcoming nominating process and budget planning for next year. Some of you who do not regularly attend management meetings of the congregation might have the impression that with all of the changes going on that we might have reason to feel uneasy. On the contrary! We are engaged in a very positive process of reflection and goal-setting through the strategic planning process. At the same time we are making administrative and personnel changes that are responsive to our needs as a larger and more dynamic organization. At the end of my term as president, my hope is to have an administrative structure in place that (1) adequately supports the rabbi and religious school staff (e.g., during school hours) and (2) relieves volunteer members of administrative tasks (i.e., less desirable volunteer jobs) wherever possible.

As part of the Strategic Planning process, board members brainstormed at the January board meeting around three key themes that often arise when we discuss the future of our community: the rate of growth of our membership, the number of b'nei mitzvah, and having our own building. The goal of the discussion was to dissect or "unpack" each of these concerns, so as to understand why they become points of anxiety or conflict when they arise.

For example, if we know that the real concern of some of those who worry about CDT getting too big (growth) is loss of intimacy—that they won't know people when they walk into the sanctuary—then *we can reframe the way we think about this, and focus on ways we can preserve the intimate feeling as we grow*. The "hot topic" is transformed from worries about growth, to creative problem-solving around preserving intimacy. Other comments related to this topic that came up were:

- Growth means change, and that's nervous-making
- I liked how it felt here when I joined and growth is making it different

- If we grow we'll need a building, then more money, and an unfavorable spiral
- I don't want to repeat my childhood experience of being part of a big, formal, not-connected-to-others sort of congregation
- Growth creates lots of options of things to do, people with different and diverse interests

The theme of "too many b'nei mitzvah" generated a long sub-text of concerns, as well as positive comments. This issue is tied closely to preserving intimacy. Is there a sense of losing control of services? *Can it be re-framed as "how do we celebrate the simchas of our co-congregants?"* Here are a few of the comments:

- It is so crowded there that no one goes there anymore!
- I don't like going to a bar/bat mitzvah and not knowing anyone there who is familiar
- We're losing control of Shabbat services and the accompanying intimacy
- I love the kids' dvarim—there's a high kvell factor from seeing these kids growing up and how much development has gone on for them
- Seeing generations up on the bimah is very powerful
- Educating our children is an important part of our mission
- Am I invited to come to services if I didn't receive

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an invitation—I feel unwelcome unless I was invited

The third topic, having (owning, renting, constructing...) our own building, raises fears of loss of financial stability and of even more growth. *Can it be reframed as an opportunity, whatever we might decide to do, to strengthen our identity as a congregation?* Some of the comments:

- Having a building means needing to grow and all the issues tied to growth and loss of intimacy
- A building will provide stability
- A building adds legitimacy (especially for external constituencies like our 'parents' and others who don't think we belong to a 'real' synagogue)
- Having a building could mean concerns over managing it and all the problems a building can have
- More funding challenges
- Building provides an identity; provides space in which to do things!

What are your thoughts about these topics? Are you talking about them with other members? If so, try unpacking or dissecting them the way we did at this board meeting, and see how they can be reframed for you. Soon all members will be asked to complete a web-based survey as part of the strategic planning process, and we'll be soliciting your thoughts and concerns. We also want to see you at the Members' Meeting on March 5 (see the notice on this page), when we'll be looking to the future in four key areas: Education, Torah of Money/Fundraising, Tikkun Olam, and Intimacy and Jewish Practice. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thanks to Paul Hattis and Peter Hess for the use of their notes for this column.

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 rabbi@dorsheitzedek.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.

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.

Members' Meeting: Your Seat is Reserved!

Sunday, March 5, 7 pm (note earlier start time)
60 Highland St., Sanctuary

The second of our three annual members' meetings is planned for March 5, and we want you to be there. No winter blah excuses this year!! Come on over and help us do some visioning for the CDT of the future, and get caught up on the latest CDT happenings. Looking forward to schmoozing with you!!

CDT Goods and Services Auction

Judy Hersh and Theresa St. John-Siegel

On **May 13** we will be having an evening of fun and silent auction fundraising to benefit Dorshei Tzedek. Please think about an item or a service you can donate – we would like every household to offer something to make this a real community event. Everyone has something to give, whether it's babysitting, cooking, giving a lesson, providing a personal or professional service, donating use of a vacation home or artwork, providing entertainment, computer help or gift certificates. Older children and teens are also encouraged to pitch in. To make a donation please contact **Judy Hersh** at judy-hersh@comcast.net or 617-332-2487, and to volunteer to help out with the auction contact **Theresa St. John-Siegel** at tmstjohn@aol.com or 617-244-2291.



שלום

Welcome to our newest members **Susan Silberberg** and **Thomas Robinson** and their children **Isaac, Louis, and Jane!**

Purim Bash!

Monday, March 13, 7 - 9 pm

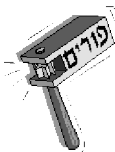
Important: This program is taking place at the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton Square, and not at our regular prayer space.

American Idol, move over! It's time for *Shushan Idol*- this year's entry into Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's famous (and often infamous) Purim Spiel lineup! Come and cast your vote for Shushan's next Idol (who *will* it be???) at Dorshei Tzedek's Purim celebration.

Join us for an evening of merriment, noshing, and booing Haman!

The fun begins at **7 pm** with Purim davvening, a costume parade with prizes, Megillah reading, singing, and hamentaschen! The fabulous **Purim Spiel 5766** (rated "G" this year—bring the whole family!!) will begin at **8 pm**, followed by dancing and schmoozing. All ages are encouraged to dress up in costumes! And you can bring a little schnapps as well.

Mishloach manot ("sending gifts"): In keeping with the Purim tradition of sending gifts, we ask you please to bring one plate of goodies (fruit, nuts, hamentaschen, candy, etc.) to exchange with another household.



Calling All Singers! Your Purim Spiel Wants You

Whether you're a shower singer, a karaoke crooner, an Elvis impersonator, or a soloist at The Met, this year's Purim Spiel, 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 or 617-558-8697. **Minimal rehearsal commitment—really!**

Dorshei Tzedek Members' Art Show

Susannah Zisk, sez1@bellatlantic.net, Emily Sper, 617.779.9403, esper@blueirisdesign.com

Do you paint? Draw? Quilt? Sculpt? Calling all DT members, adults and teens, who are involved in making visual art of any kind, you name it, we want to see it! We are gathering material for a Dorshei Tzedek members' art show planned for **March 24**. We need to have the show



fairly well planned by the beginning of March, so please start thinking now about what you would like to submit. This promises to be an exciting opportunity for visual artists of all stripes to gain exposure and affirmation, and for all of us to gain an appreciation for the creative gifts within our congregation. Please contact **Susannah Zisk** or **Emily Sper** if you think you may like to participate.

No'ar Hadash Youth Group

Elyse Rast, 508-346-3231, markelyse@comcast.net

No'ar Hadash has had a great year! We've had record numbers of 7th and 8th graders attend events and kids have had a great time! Throughout this school year, we've gone to Coolidge Corner for a photo scavenger hunt and dinner at Taam China, we had a Tikkun Olam day where we painted t-shirts for kids at Dana Farber, assembled party bags for Birthday Wishes and we made jewelry for Cradles to Crayons. Finally, we saw local artist, Jon Krasner's Judaic short film, *Heritage*, and he held a private workshop for us on filmmaking where we created our own Jewish heritage videos. In addition, we had our first event for 6th grade where we were entertained by You are the Star Entertainment and Mr. DJ.

Please note that we have one more event for both the 6th grade and for the 7th and 8th grade this year. **Our 6th grade event will be held on Sunday, April 9 when we're hoping to work at an organic farm. Our 7th and 8th grade event will happen on Sunday, April 30 (date change) and will be a movie night.** Thanks so much for continuing to support your child's religious school experience! Questions to Elyse Rast, Advisor.

Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Marshall

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*

Bat Mitzvah of Talia Leonard

Please join us on **March 18** as our daughter, Talia, is called to the torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Talia is a seventh grader at the Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School in Framingham. An avid reader, Talia enjoys nature, art, photography and being with her friends. Talia has been working at A Place to Turn, a food and everything else pantry, in Natick. We are thrilled to celebrate this simcha with the Dorshei community. We hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch and celebration across the street at the First Unitarian Church following services.—*Alissa and Gerry Leonard*

Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Lewis

Please join us as our daughter Samantha Elizabeth Lewis becomes a Bat Mitzvah on **March 25**. Sammy is a 7th grader at Bigelow Middle School in Newton. She enjoys playing many sports, especially skiing and soccer. Sammy loves to read *manga* (Japanese comic books) and the collected oeuvre of Meg Cabot. She also adores animals especially her dog Mia, who she was hoping (futilely) to dress up and smuggle into the Bat Mitzvah claiming her to be a cousin with unruly hair. We hope that you can all join us on this special day.—*Larry Lewis and Amelia Zalcman*

An Evening of Chanting and Sound Healing

Nicky Silver, nickysilver@comcast.net

Thursday, March 23 and Tuesday March 28, 7:30 – 9:00 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. You can attend either one or both sessions.

Shabbat Unplugged

March 31-April 1

Shabbat potluck dinner, Friday, 6:30 pm

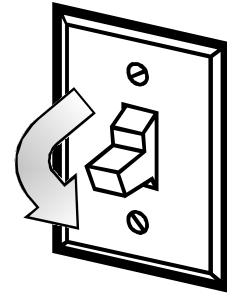
Shabbat sing along, Friday, 7:30 pm

Shabbat morning Torah Study, Saturday, 8:45 am

Shabbat morning services, Saturday, 9:45 am

Havdallah program, Saturday, 7 pm ... and more!

at 60 Highland Street, www.dorsheitzedek.org, and at a home that might be yours!



Shabbat is an invitation--to reflection; to letting go of the ceaseless need to "do"; to spending quality time with family and friends; to allowing yourself to just "be" in a way that is difficult during the week.

Please accept the invitation!

To help us all experience what Shabbat might be in our lives, and as an opportunity to connect with other CDT members, this year we're creating "Shabbat Unplugged"—a congregation-wide experiment in having a Shabbat experience from Friday evening through Saturday night. Our hope is that through an activity or two at the synagogue, on a walk or at a meal with other community members, or by unplugging from the cell phone and TV and enjoying a Shabbat nap, we can all support one another in accepting the invitation of Shabbat.

Join us for Shabbat Unplugged!

What you can do:

- **Go to** the CDT website after March 15th and pledge to "unplug" from anything from your cellphone to TV, from bringing work home to going into the office (more details on this to follow)
- **Join us** Friday evening, March 31, for a potluck Shabbat dinner at 6:30 pm, followed by a communal song session at **7:30 pm** (bring your instruments!)
- **Study with** Rabbi Toba at Torah study Shabbat morning, April 1, at **8:45 am**, or come to services at **9:45 am**, followed by a communal kiddush lunch
- **Connect** with other CDT members for a late afternoon meal, for a hike in the woods, for a dog walk, for an afternoon of games--whatever you decide to do!
- **Gather for** Havdallah at the synagogue at **7 pm** on Saturday for a showing of the wonderful documentary "Hineni: Coming Out in a Jewish High School"--produced by our very own Idit Klein, and featuring Gina Fried. This program is appropriate for kids in 6th grade and up.

We need your help! If you'd like to organize a neighborhood potluck meal on Shabbat afternoon, host an afternoon of fun and games for families with young kids, organize a dog walk, help set up the Friday evening potluck, or create some other Shabbat activity for yourself and others, **please contact** Angela Vierling-Claasen at 617-876-1036 or angelavc@math.harvard.edu

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

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



Please join us on **Saturday March 18 at 7 pm** for a showing of the film *God is Great, I'm Not* (100m, French, English, Hebrew).

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: Michele (Audrey Tautou), a 20-year-old French model, has just broken up with her boyfriend and aborted their baby. Full of existential angst, she's looking for something to believe in. That's when she meets François, a veterinarian who is a non-practicing Jew and several years her senior. She falls in love and is inspired to try to convert to Judaism -- much to François's chagrin.

The location for the showing of this film is not yet set. If you would like to host a film, let us know your preferred date.

Upcoming films

- 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!



The first Game Night a few months ago was a hit so we are having another! Come Saturday night, March 4, to the Gombergs' 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. 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 Gombergs' home is at 290 Islington Road in Newton.



Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street

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 pm

(no class Wednesday, March 22)

Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am

(no class Thursday, March 2)

Meditation following Thursday morning class, 9:05 – 9:45 am
60 Highland Street

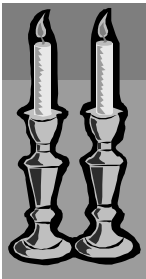
This is an ongoing class, and you're welcome to come any time! Choose the time that works the best for you. We are continuing our exploration of Jewish texts and practices, with an eye towards cultivating greater mindfulness, wisdom, clarity, and meaning in our daily lives. Upcoming topics include: prayer; *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.

Hebrew Instruction

Potential Beginner Hebrew Students: We are again trying to offer Hebrew instruction this spring. If you are interested in studying Hebrew in a teacher-led small group with other congregants this spring (to start very soon), please respond ASAP to Lisa Schneier at lschneier@codmanacademy.org or 617-591-1931. Let us know which description below fits you best:

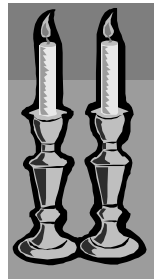
1. I do not know the Hebrew aleph-bet
2. I do know the Hebrew aleph-bet well enough to read, even if not fluently.

We hope to be able to match you up with fellow students and a teacher!



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

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

April 7: 6:00 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).

On April 7 our Kitah Dalet (4th grade) will be leading this service. Please join us as we celebrate their learning!

Erev Shabbat Services

March 24 (see below), 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!

CDT Artists Erev Shabbat

March 24

Reception at 7:30 pm; services followed by Oneg Shabbat, 8 – 9:30 pm

On Friday evening, March 24, we are celebrating the artists in our community at a special erev Shabbat service! Join us for a reception, followed by services, and Oneg Shabbat after services. Art will be on display before and after the service, and CDT Sings will enhance the service with some beautiful music.

Tot Shabbat Services

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

March 11, April 1, May 13

10:45 – 11:30 am

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 in Room 111 (1st floor across from the Child Care room). Questions? Call the CDT School at 617.965.5443.

Shabbat Unplugged

March 31– April 1

See page 5 for full information!

Nadiv Lev General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Elaine and Anna Bresnick

In memory of Martin Bresnick, who died in January 2001

Lauren K. Gibbs

In honor of Elana Rome

Robert & Inge Gould

In memory of my father, Justin Vollweiler whose Yahrzeit was observed on Feb. 15

Mark Kertzman

Marcia Okun and Joshua Lieberman

Peggy Rothschild

Steve Siegel and Theresa St. John-Siegel

In honor of Lisa Port-White to acknowledge her heartfelt work in support of our fundraising activities

Camp JRF Scholarship Fund

*These donations are in honor of
Cindy Shulak-Rome's 50th birthday*

**Bonnie Alpert & Nathan Rome
Michelle Azimov & Clifford Wilcox**

Jill Millis Blum

Roberta & Paul Carson

Ann & John Cassidy

Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein

Christine & Goldman Franz

Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman

Wendy Gedanken

Ellie Goldberg

Allison & Ezra Hausman

Sherry Katz & Mark Farber

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

Roberta Isberg

Loraine & Mark Kuhn

Betsy Lewenberg

Linette Liebling & Peter Demuth

Raymond Mabus, Jr.

Ellen Pashall

Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg

Sandy Rabison & Ronnie Fuchs

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

Jeffrey Shulak

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

Ann & Richard Sullivan

Elizabeth & David Torrey

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

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Annie Spanel** of the Chesed Committee (617.547.1533 or copper-beech.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.

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, Marcia Okun, and Steve Robins**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Yarzheit

The 9th yarzheit of CDT member Marion Weinberg, z"l (*zichronah livrachah*, may her memory be for a blessing), falls this year on Shabbat, March 4th (the 4th of Adar). Marion was a member of our first adult Bat Mitzvah group, and the ark for our Torah scrolls was commissioned in her memory. At Shabbat morning services on the 4th we will have the opportunity to honor her memory and her contributions to this community.

Mazel Tov

To Ira Schorr, who was recently named associate director of operations at Jewish Family & Children's Services of Greater Boston. Ira has been with JF&CS since 1990.

To Rebecca Pearce-Probst, and her parents Sue Pearce and Cindy Probst, on becoming bat mitzvah! Yasher koach!

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March Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Wed Mar 1	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Fri Mar 3	5:45 pm - 8 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service and Potluck	Ira Fader, Hope Kellman (see page 7)
Sat Mar 4	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Sat Mar 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Marshall	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Sarah Little & Doug Hersh Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus (see page 4)
Sat Mar 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph Family Ed & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 4	7 pm - 10 pm	Game Night	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Diana Fisher Gombert's home (see page 6)
Sun Mar 5	7 pm - 9:30 pm	Members Meeting	<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	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 9	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 9	6 pm - 8:30 pm	Purim Rehearsals	FUSN: Parish Hall (see page 3)
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 Off</i>)
Sat Mar 11	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 11	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 3)
Sat Mar 11	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: 111 (see page 7)
Mon Mar 13	7 pm - 9 pm	Purim Celebration	Debbie Waber, Alan Epstein, Louise Enoch, Steffi Karp, Eric Karp, Jeffrey Green FUSN (see page 3)
Wed Mar 15	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 16	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 16	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	FUSN: Classroom 3 (see page 3)
Sat Mar 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Talia Leonard	<i>Kiddush:</i> Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Carole Slipowitz & Dan Halbert, Debbie Rattet & Leslie Rubin, Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen; <i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i> Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg Service: 60 Highland St., Celebration: FUSN (see page 4)
Sat Mar 18	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 18	6 pm	Film: God is Great, I'm Not	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 6 pm light meal, 7 pm film (see page 6)
Sun Mar 19	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #6	FUSN
Thu Mar 23	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 23	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	FUSN: Classroom 3 (see page 3)
Thu Mar 23	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Chanting with Nicky Silver	60 Highland St: Parlor (see page 4)
Fri Mar 24	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Aleph Dinner	FUSN: Headstart Room
Fri Mar 24	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service: Artists' Shabbat	Mark Kertzman, Josh Herzig-Marx (see pages 5, 7)
Sat Mar 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Lewis	<i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i> Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider, Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman Service: 60 Highland St., Celebration: FUSN (see page 4)
Sat Mar 25	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Bet Family Ed, Kitah Aleph Classes	FUSN
Sun Mar 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue Mar 28	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Chanting with Nicky Silver	60 Highland St: Parlor (see page 4)
Wed Mar 29	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 30	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 6)
Thu Mar 30	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	FUSN: Classroom 3 (see page 3)
Fri Mar 31	6 pm - 8 pm	Gan Family Shabbat Dinner	FUSN: Headstart Room
Fri Mar 31		Potluck: Shabbat Unplugged	(see page 5)
Fri Mar 31	7:30 pm	Shabbat Sing Along: Shabbat Unplugged	(see page 5)

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.



April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Apr 1	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study Shabbat Unplugged	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Apr 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Shabbat Unplugged	Hilary Marcus, Jonathan Magaziner, Dorea Vierling-Claassen, Marcia Wasserman (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Apr 1	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Apr 1	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 (<i>see page 7</i>)
	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: 111 (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Apr 1	7 pm	Havdallah Shabbat Unplugged	(<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Apr 2	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed Program	FUSN
Sun Apr 2	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	FUSN
Wed Apr 5	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Apr 6	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Fri Apr 7	5:30 pm - 8 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Potluck and Service	Karen Wasserman & Betsy Hinden, Stephanie & Nem Hackett 60 Highland St: Fellowship Hall (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Apr 7	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Dalet Siyyum	
Sat Apr 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Kitah Hay Siyyum	Kiddush by the Parents of Kitah Hay Setup and Cleanup only (no food): Ruth & Michael Super, Jodie Siegel, Susan Bernstein
Sat Apr 8	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Apr 9	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #7	FUSN
Sun Apr 9	3 pm - 5 pm	No'ar Hadash Youth Group, 6 Grade	TBA (<i>see page 3</i>)
Wed Apr 12	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Wed Apr 12		First Seder of Passover	
Thu Apr 13		NO SCHOOL THROUGH APRIL 24- VACATION	
Sat Apr 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Tania Mireles, William Shorr, Shoshana Simons, Terry Traub (<i>Rabbi Off</i>)
Wed Apr 19	9 am - 11 am	7th Day of Passover Services	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Fri Apr 21	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Lynne Brandon, Barbara & Elliott Pittel (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Apr 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Johanna Gittleman	Sanctuary Clean up: Mei See Sandson, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper
Sun Apr 23	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue Apr 25		CLASSES RESUME	
Tue Apr 25	7 pm - 9 pm	Yom HaShoah	Emily Sper, Linette Liebling, Beth Green 60 Highland St: Sanctuary
Wed Apr 26	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Apr 27	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Apr 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jeff Goldman, Kathy Pillsbury, Ora Gladstone, Liz Carver
Sat Apr 29	6 pm - 9 pm	Kitah Gimmel Siyyum	FUSN: Headstart Room

Tikkun Olam: From Boston to Biloxi and Back

Rick Glassman, rickg@gis.net

BILOXI, Mississippi—Greetings from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I'm here on a busman's holiday, doing legal aid work for low-income people impacted by Hurricane Katrina. It's been an interesting opportunity to think about the meaning of *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world, in part because so much here is broken. Homes, schools, offices, shopping centers, restaurants, courthouses, movie theatres and banks. The little things we depend upon: traffic lights, street lights, telephones, mail delivery. And the intangible things: broken spirits, hopes and aspirations, broken families and relationships, broken communities.

The order of magnitude is way beyond what I had imagined. With an 80-mile-wide eye to the hurricane, the storm was, well, biblical in proportion. Seeing mile after mile, block after block of homes completely destroyed, or entire neighborhoods just blown away, I wonder how so much fierce destruction could have taken place in only hours. About two million people remain displaced. It is the largest humanitarian crisis in this country since the Great Depression.

As a biblical people, we may not be cut out for disaster relief. Our collective stories are filled with trauma from lightning, thunder, earthquakes and floods. But as contemporary Jews, we are locked in a struggle with the present tense, to be engaged in the destinies of our lives in this moment, without promises of redemption or absolution. We know that *chesed* (acts of kindness) and *tzedek u'mishpat* (righteousness and justice) in the world is formed only from what we bring to our families and communities each day. As Reconstructionists, we are challenged to begin that process together, spurred forward by our understanding of a covenantal community, one that binds us together in the process of *tikkun olam*.

I'm not really sure what I am doing here, without my community, and I'm not entirely sure what a "community" is in the age of the Internet and the global economy. Maimonides wrote that there were differing obligations of *tzedakah* depending on whether one settled in a community for thirty days, or three, six or nine months. But we are interconnected and intertwined in so many ways impossible to imagine in the 12th century.

So we do whatever we can, wherever we can, and as Jews, we act collectively, whenever we can. And there is still much work to be done back at home. In our partner-

ship with GBIO, members of Dorshei Tzedek are still calling and writing letters, pressuring House and Senate leaders, locked in a stalemate over competing versions of health care reform.

It's an amazing process, to be connected to other communities of faith, making our voices heard together. Meanwhile, 532,000 men, women and children remain without health care insurance in the Commonwealth.

There's a *midrash* about a sick farmer who wonders about whether seeking a medical cure would interfere with a divine purpose. Rabbis Akiva and Ishmael explain to him that just as his action in feeding, fertilizing and plowing his fields determines if his plants will live or die, good medicine will do the same for him. "Drugs and medicine are the fertilizer" they explain, "and the physician is the tiller of the soil." But for people without doctors, the system is broken, as difficult to repair and rebuild as anything on the Gulf Coast. There is as much for all of us to do back in Boston, and I look forward to rejoining you.

(Chesed, Continued from page 8)

Todah Rabah

Thanks to Laya Steinberg and Debbie Waber for delivering baskets to new members.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek would like to thank the following members who sponsored Kiddush during December 2005 and January 2006:

Naomi Botkin & Joshua Gordon
Tony Broh & Jennifer Hochschild
Mark Bronstein & Ellen Hemley
Meryl Epstein
Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx
Ora Gladstone
Richard Fisher Gomberg
Linda Hsu
Meryl Kahn-Sacks
Linda & Peter Katz
Sherry Katz & Mark Farber
Emily Saltz
Lisa Samelson
Andrew Schiff & Susan Manheim
Lisa Schneier
Joann Share & Rochelle Weichman
William Shorr & Tania Mireles
Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan
Membership Committee (Kehilla Committee and Membership Outreach)

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.