

# 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

Nisan/Iyar 5766

April 2006



## A Journey Towards Covenant: “Recounting the Omer”

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org),  
and Esther Kohn, Tikkun Olam Chair,  
[EstherCFS@hotmail.com](mailto:EstherCFS@hotmail.com)

This month of April—and the Hebrew month of *Nisan*—brings with it a journey through the heart of our Jewish “master story,” the Torah story of Exodus. We retell and re-experience the moment of liberation at the Passover seder, where we remember that “we were slaves to Pharaoh in *Mitzrayim* (Egypt),” and that we were freed from there by the Godly Power of liberation. Seven weeks later, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot, an ancient harvest festival that the early rabbis recast as the celebration of receiving Torah at Mount Sinai. The intervening weeks are marked by the counting of the “*omer*,” a measure of barley. It is traditional to count each day on the path from redemption to revelation, following the Torah’s instructions to “count seven weeks” beginning right after the first day of Passover.

In the Jewish mystical tradition, the counting of the *omer* took on another meaning: not just a countdown to Shavuot, but an opportunity for “*tikkun*,” repair, as we prepare ourselves to receive Torah. Each day of the *omer* has its own quality that calls our attention to what it is that needs to be healed in order for each of us to be open to the particular truth, the particular teaching, that awaits us on the 50<sup>th</sup> day.

We can also understand the *omer* period as a journey into covenant. The Israelites left Egypt a mass of individuals, joined together by little other than their mutual experience of suffering. At Sinai, our ancestors entered into reciprocal relationship with the divine and with one another, called on to create covenantal community. That covenant was framed by instructions for living—what we now call “Torah”—centered on the values of *tzedek*, justice, and *chesed*, loving kindness.

During the *omer* period that begins this month, we are going to be reflecting on our work of “*tikkun*,” of repair, in a way that mirrors the process of moving from *Mitzrayim*—literally, the “narrow place,” the place of constriction and oppression—towards the ideal of covenantal connections. Members of the congregation will be organizing group conversations that will give us the opportunity to tell our stories and help one another reflect on the key issues that affect us and the communities we live in. What are the specific challenges we face in our families and at work? In our neighborhoods? In the greater Boston area? These challenges often make us feel isolated, or are experienced as largely personal problems to be dealt with on an individual level.

The connections that are made as we discover common experiences and the compassion we develop as we listen openly to our differences will, we hope, help us prepare for a renewed commitment to our covenant as a congregation, as well as our commitment to the society around us. We hope our shared stories will shed light on the knots and tears in the social fabric that perhaps we can begin to mend if we are willing to engage them publicly. Are we struggling to pay the bills, to afford our rent or mortgage?

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Do we have money put away for retirement? How do we care for our aging parents, grandparents? Do we have quality, affordable childcare? Can we afford to work at jobs which reflect our values? Do our schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces allow us to care for the environment? How do the complications of social and economic class affect our relationship to Dorshei Tzedek? These are only a few examples of questions that might arise as we share our current challenges.

Action for *tikkun olam* ("repair of the world") that is grounded in an understanding of our personal struggles allows us to connect and invest more deeply and authentically in the struggles of those around us. Though we will begin this process in our own congregation, churches and synagogues all over the metropolitan Boston area will be engaging in a similar campaign this April and May. A group of members from Dorshei Tzedek are attending trainings run by the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) with other leaders from congregations all over the metropolitan area committed to acting together on our core beliefs and common issues. The trainings are an opportunity to reflect on the habits of collective leadership and to learn how to facilitate "house meetings" – these discussions about the issues we care about and face in our lives every day.

For our own Dorshei Tzedek house meeting campaign—"Recounting the Omer"—we are planning several opportunities for members to gather together to tell their stories. Our goal is for every adult member of the congregation to attend at least one house meeting. **The first gathering will be at our common "house," at a potluck dinner on Friday, April 21 at 6:30 pm preceding services.** We will divide into small groups and CDT members, trained as facilitators, will lead each group through the storytelling process. Childcare will be provided.

There will be two other House Meetings in May (stay tuned for details!). We hope you will attend the potluck meeting on April 21 or one of these other meetings. If you would like to host a gathering at your home, please contact **Esther Kohn** at [esthercfs@hotmail.com](mailto:esthercfs@hotmail.com), 617.524.0478.

We look forward to engaging in this process as a community as we prepare for spring, Passover, Shavuot, and our *tikkun olam* plans for the future. May our journey into the challenges and blessings of covenant be as bountiful as our ancestors' spring harvests!

## New CDT Administrator

Peter Katz, [lpjkatz@verizon.net](mailto:lpjkatz@verizon.net)

Please welcome **Marla Lichtman**, who joined us as CDT's new Office Administrator on March 27. Marla will be working Monday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, and will support the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6 pm.

Marla has many years of experience in the Jewish communal world. Most recently she served as Administrator and Publications Editor for the Southern Merrimack Valley Chapter of Hadassah. Previously, Marla served as Administrator for Temple Emmanuel in Andover and as Administrator for the Jewish Family Service of the Merrimack Valley. She has also been a consultant for the Jewish archival history outreach project of the Lowell National Historical Park.

Marla lives in Lowell. We are thrilled to welcome her to the Dorshei Tzedek community. Please give her a warm welcome!

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welcoming and encouraging of new members to participate in holiday celebrations and committee work?

- How can we increase the number and depth of interactions between longtime and newer members?
- How can we include all parts of our lives in Dorshei Tzedek (all family members, including children not in the school, parents, partners, etc.)?
- How do we grow and retain the specifically *Jewish* nature of our connection with each other (CDT is NOT just a social group)?

**Bob Warren:** On March 5 I was obligated to attend the CDT members meeting because I discovered my name listed in the newsletter as one of three people scheduled for set-up and refreshments that evening. I knew that along with membership in the congregation came a commitment to participate in set-up/refreshments for Kiddush after services, meetings, etc. I had little expectation for the meeting other than to do my job and observe the proceedings. However, to my surprise I became energized and stimulated to participate in the small group discussions on education and Tikkun Olam. It was exciting to hear other members, particularly parents of school-age children, discuss along with me our visions for education in CDT. As an activist, it was great to be part of a visioning discussion on CDT's social justice work. The meeting and the members' survey afterwards has helped my process of internalizing what being part of our community means to me and to the whole.

## March Members' Meeting Report

*Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu*

The March member's meeting opened with a d'var from Rabbi Toba, updates from the Education Director Search Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee, and a review of the nominating process for next year's board and committees.

Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion sessions on topics related to the strategic planning process. The session topics were: *education, intimacy and Jewish practice, Torah of Money, and Tikkun Olam*. Of these four sessions, each meeting participant could attend two. The intent was for members to have in depth conversations with each other on these themes and to record the ideas that were generated for the Strategic Planning Committee.

The executive committee invited five members to reflect on their experience of the meeting, and their reports follow.

**Debbie Waber:** I was so impressed by the thoughtfulness the members displayed at the meeting as well as their depth of caring about this community. Although the overriding issue was growth (it always is in these strategic planning exercises!), there was remarkably little anxiety about that. No matter what the particular issue, the concerns seemed to be connectedness, shared values and preserving community. I attended discussions about fundraising and ritual practice. In both sessions, the discussions were not about the manifest issue, that is, money or practice, but about how we maintain the power of community while integrating diverse interests and constituencies. The fact that everyone so easily focused at this level gives comfort that we will indeed be able to maintain the CDT culture of community, no matter where this journey takes us.

**Trish Nuzzola:** Maintaining connection is an important consideration among all communities fortunate enough to be struggling with the challenges of growth. In our discussion about growth, intimacy, and what makes our community special, members shared personal views on the impact of varying levels of involvement within our congregation -- the "committed" versus "casual" member. I believe that for the CDT community to continue to flourish, we need to honor members who participate in all different ways. The perspectives and experiences of those at the periphery may be different than those at the center, but no less integral to creating and a strong, diverse and vital community. People have different needs, comfort levels, and capacities for how they belong and participate; in many cases, these will vary over time within the same individual. In our commitment to diversity and creating a place for the many layers of Judaism, it is important that we all feel welcomed.

**Carol Sklar:** I went to the group that would be discussing money and fundraising and to the group dealing with how the congregation is meeting our needs. These were open discussions, interesting and fun. In the money group, we talked about traditional fund raising and how we felt about fund raising in other congregations we had belonged to. Some of us acknowledged that we were concerned that Dorshei might get too expensive to belong to. It was then that I found out we are one of the only sliding scale dues communities. It was a wonderful conversation, over too soon. In the second group, we went around introduced ourselves and told what we had done to volunteer at Dorshei. People raised various issues of what they needed more or less of at Dorshei. We talked about what to do when your child is post B'nei Mitzvah and your identity is no longer attached to the school. It was very much a give and take. Every committee was genuinely interested in hearing what we had to say and what could be done to help everyone feel at home at Dorshei. I was again struck with what a special group this is.

**Lauren Gibbs:** My responses to the two sessions I went to will be in the form of the questions that I left those sessions with:

### Education at DT:

- How do members who already have significant Jewish practice retain a feeling of continuing to be a Jewish Learner at Dorshei Tzedek?
- How can we support and include families with children who are not in the school?
- How can we reach the goal of creating a post B'nei Mitzvah program?
- How can we increase intergenerational learning opportunities? How can we revive and sustain periodic "Community of Learners" sessions?
- What policies and supports can we put in place to include every child possible in the school?
- How can we increasingly support adult ed. or other learning connections for adults?

Intimacy and Jewish Practice – The topic in the session was: Can we retain a sense of Intimacy if we grow? The surprisingly (to me) large consensus was "yes". The next question was: How do we do that?

- How can we transform B'nei Mitzvah services into shared simchas in which we delight at seeing children in our community grow into young Jewish adults?
- How do we increase the number of shared experiences that members have together?
- How do we revive the active and personal one-on-one

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## Bat Mitzvah of Johanna Gittleman

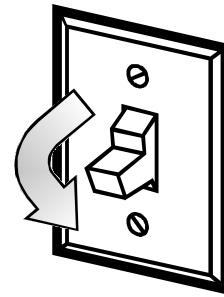
*April 22, 9:45 am*

Please join us on April 22 as our daughter, **Johanna**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Johanna is in the 7th grade at Day Middle School where she has just performed in *Guys and Dolls*. Since the day she started talking, Johanna has been singing, and since then she has performed in a number of children's operas and school musicals. This year, she has enjoyed learning the musical and linguistic aspects of the Torah. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and family, particularly her younger cousins. Johanna has been researching charities that her Hebrew School class will contribute to this spring. We hope to see you at the service and Kiddush lunch.

*- Jacqui Bloomberg & Peter Gittleman*

## Shabbat Unplugged

**March 31-April 1**, 60 Highland Street  
 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!



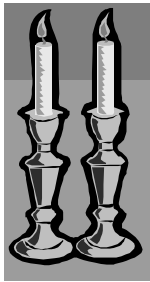
Shabbat is an invitation--to reflection; to letting go of the ceaseless need to "do"; to spending quality time with family and friends; to allowing yourself to just "be" in a way that is difficult during the week. **Please accept the invitation!**

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:

- **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 1st, 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.

For more information please contact **Angela Vierling-Claasen** 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.*

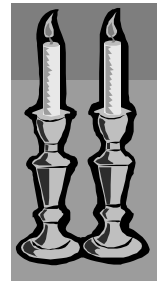
### All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

*April 7, 6 pm service (no pot-luck)*

*May 5 and June 2, 5:45 pm potluck dinner, followed by Erev Shabbat service at 6:30 pm.*

On, Friday, April 7, join our Kitah Dalet (4th grade) class, as they celebrate their learning this year by leading us in our musical, all-ages service! **Please note: there is no pot-luck preceding the service.**

Then, in May and June, we will resume our popular new tradition of pre-service pot-lucks. Bring a veggie main dish to share (enough for 10 - 15 people). Drinks and dessert will be provided!



### Erev Shabbat Services

*April 21, potluck at 6:30, service at 8 pm*

*May 12 and June 9, service 8 – 9 pm*

Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection. Please join us! And on Friday evening, April 21, preceding Shabbat services, the Tikkun Olam Committee is sponsoring a potluck dinner. (See article on page xxx for more information).

On Shabbat morning, April 8<sup>th</sup>, our *Kitah Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> graders) will be helping to lead the Shabbat morning service and sharing their learning with us – please join them for this special service!

On Shabbat morning, April 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring our 12<sup>th</sup> graders, a group which includes our first “graduates” of the Dorshei Tzedek religious school! Please join us as we celebrate this group before they head off in new directions at the service and a special Kiddush following services.

### Tot Shabbat Services

*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

*April 8, May 13, 10:45 – 11:30 am*

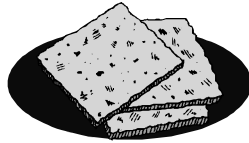
Our final two meetings of Junior Congregation for this academic year will be April 8 and May 13 (**please note date change for April**). All students in grades 3-7 are invited to join us for a wonderful, participatory student Shabbat service lead by **Elana Rome**. This is a joyful, spirited, service with prayers, music, a Torah skit, and our very own Kiddush (kids only please!). We 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 4)*

## Passover/Pesach

**Preparing for Passover:** The Judaism & Practice classes on **Wednesday, April 5 at noon**, and **Thursday, April 6 at 8 am**, will focus on preparing ourselves and our houses for Passover. Feel free to drop in to either session to learn about the "clearing out" process that makes this time of year so useful, for body and soul!



**Passover Seders:** The first night of Passover falls this year on **Wednesday, April 12**. It's a mitzvah on Passover to open our tables to all who need a place to go, and it's a mitzvah to attend a seder. So do a mitzvah! If you have room at your seder to accommodate a guest or two, or if you need somewhere to go for seder for either the first or second night, please call our "Seder Matchmaker," **Linette Liebling**, at 617.244.7248 or [netgrace@aol.com](mailto:netgrace@aol.com).

**7th Day of Passover Service:** Reconstructionist practice is to observe 7 (instead of 8) days of Passover, as is done in Israel, and we will culminate the holiday with a 7th Day of Passover service on **Wednesday, April 19**, from **9 - 11 am**. Tradition holds that on the 7th day of Passover the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. Our "crossing the sea" service will feature the joyous songs of *Hallel* as well as the *Yizkor* service, an opportunity for remembering loved ones who have died.

## 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](mailto: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!

## Adult Education

### Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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

*April 1, May 13, June 10*

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*

*Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am*

*Meditation following Thursday morning class,*

*9:05 – 9:45 am*

*NO Classes April 12-13, 19-20*

*60 Highland Street*

On April 5-6, we will be "Preparing for Pesach," exploring both the physical and symbolic process of clearing the *hametz* out of our homes and our psyches. After a break for Passover and spring vacation week, the final portion of this class will focus on counting the *omer*, the journey from Passover to the holiday of Shavuot. "Counting the Omer" will be a series of exercises in what is called "Tikkun Mid-dot" - the "repair of qualities" of heart and mind. Traditionally, during the *omer* we study in order to prepare ourselves internally to be able to receive Torah - teaching, truth, guidance. This segment will begin the week of April 26-27, and the class will end on June 1, Erev Shavuot. Classes on Thursday are followed by a period of silent meditation with instruction. You are welcome to come just for the meditation session.



## CDT Happenings

### Yom HaShoah / Holocaust Remembrance Program

*Sunday, April 30th, 7 - 9 pm*

*60 Highland Street, CDT Sanctuary*

We will be commemorating *Yom HaShoah* this year with a screening of a compelling new film about a little known Holocaust hero. Walter Suskind was a German Jew living in Amsterdam who was forced by the Nazis to serve as the Jewish head of deportation at the Hollandsche Schouwburg (the Jewish Theatersite) in Amsterdam. Using his fluent German, his skills as an actor and business-man, and unfathomable courage and tenacity, he orchestrated the escape of over 1200 Dutch children and adults who were marked for transport to the death camps. Walter took the secret of his mission to his death at Auschwitz, and only a few survivors and resistance workers knew what he had done. Producers **Tim and Karen Morse** will present the film and answer questions afterward. This film is appropriate for adults and students in middle school (accompanied by an adult) or older.

### Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

*Saturday, April 8, 6:30 pm light meal, 7:30 pm film, location TBA*

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

Please join us on Saturday April 8 at 7:30 pm for a showing of the film *Waiting for the Messiah*. We will share an optional light vegetarian potluck dinner at 6:30 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: This dynamic, witty, and modern film explores Jewish identity within the broader context of Argentine identity. As twenty-something Ariel tries to escape his ordered Jewish existence of Shabbat dinners, his job at his father's kosher restaurant, and his long-time Jewish girlfriend, the film moves out from the Jewish community of Buenos Aires to explore the larger urban environment. A parallel story involves a bank clerk (notably played by Enrique Pieyro) who loses everything but finds comfort in an unexpected place. With a marvelous script and strong performances, *Waiting for the Messiah* is an enchanting urban fable. Released 2000, Duration: 97m, Spanish, Yiddish.

If you would like to host a film, let us know your preferred date.

Upcoming films:

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

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

Although it is not necessary to contact us before attending, 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 in the film series in general. We will send out announcements with descriptions of the films about one week before each showing.

### Chanting

*April 18, 7:30-9 pm*

*Nicky Silver, nickysilver@rcn.com*

During the past three months I have presented six evenings of chanting at CDT with growing success, inspiring me to continue these sessions.

Chanting is a form of meditation that uses the repetition of sacred words and sounds that affect our inner being. The benefits of chanting are numerous. To name a few, chanting can still the mind, focus our intentions, open our heart, and be a pathway to our soul.

At times, ordinary words may not be able to take us where we want to go. Through chanting, we can use music and sacred words to carry us into a dialogue with the divine.

Each session is open to all, and beginners are welcome. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary and singing ability is unimportant. The next scheduled date is April 18 in the parlor room at CDT. Please call **Nicky Silver** at 617. 327.1999 for more information.

### Synagogue Softball League

*Elliot Pittel, epittel@comcast.net*

Are there Dorshei Tzedek men who are interested in softball? If any of you are out there, the Men's Synagogue Softball League, which is made up of 18 teams in Metro Boston, is expanding. Interested in putting a team together and joining the league to represent Dorshei Tzedek? Games are played on Sunday mornings between April and the end of June, with single elimination playoffs in July. There are teams from congregations in Newton, Brookline, Wellesley, Natick, Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Lexington, Canton, Stoughton, Randolph, and Sharon. The team fee for joining the league is \$200, plus equipment, T-shirts, and caps. Games are played with 10 men in the field, and rosters usually average between 12 and 20 players. You are eligible if you are male and a

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member in good standing in our congregation. Having played softball before in your life would also be a plus, but not a requirement.

Anyone interested? I'd like to get an idea of the interest level, so please email me at [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net), or call 617.964.7011, and I'll tell you more about it.

### No'ar Hadash Youth Group

*Elyse Rast, 508-346-3231, [markelyse@comcast.net](mailto:markelyse@comcast.net)*

Please note that we have one more event for both the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade event will be held on Sunday, April 9 when we're hoping to work at an organic farm. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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! For more information, please contact **Elyse Rast**, Advisor.

### 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 [judyherh@comcast.net](mailto:judyherh@comcast.net) or 617.332.2487, and to volunteer to help out with the auction contact **Theresa St. John-Siegel** at [tmstjohn@aol.com](mailto:tmstjohn@aol.com) or 617.244.2291.



### High Holyday Divrei Torah

The Divrei Torah that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at [www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei). The talks are available in both HTML and Adobe Acrobat (PDF) formats. Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.

## Community Events

### Study Leads to Action: Jewish Approaches to Social Responsibility

#### Summer Bet Midrash, Hebrew College

*June 5-11, July 17-23, 2006*

Join teachers from the Rabbinical College at Hebrew College and guest teachers (including Ruth Messenger, Executive Director of American Jewish World Service) for an intensive week of Jewish learning and discussion on topics including Judaism's approach to poverty and homelessness, the relationship between classical Jewish sources and contemporary ethics, and how Jewish activists can weave together religious and secular wisdom in working as agents for social change. The program is open to participants of all backgrounds and levels, college-age and older. For more information and an application form, go to [www.hebrewcollege.edu](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu) or call 617.559.8630.

### Davenen Leadership Training Institute

For spiritual seekers, why not try the Davenen Leadership Training Institute (DLTI) at Elat Chayyim, the Jewish Renewal Retreat Center -- The next workshop series starts this July. Participants meet for 4 weeks over 18 months (July & February)

Program is led by RRC graduates-- **Rabbis Shawn Zevit & Marcia Prager**, as well as **Hazzan Jack Kessler**. Everyone is welcome, no matter your level of leadership experience. It may sound like a program in how to lead services, (enunciate the page number) but it's actually a life-changing program on connecting with G-d while connecting with everyone you touch, along with classes on service meaning and leadership.

To register, see [www.elatchayyim.org](http://www.elatchayyim.org). For questions, contact **Steffi Aronson Karp**, who just completed DLT13, [shula@comcast.net](mailto:shula@comcast.net).

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### 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](mailto: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.



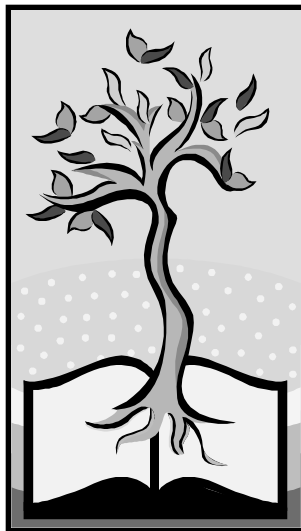
(Continued from page 8)

### Jewish Vocational Service Employment Help

The Career Moves program at Jewish Vocational Services has redirected its mission to focus on those members of the Jewish community most in need. They are providing low/no-cost customized employment and counseling services to anyone dealing with unemployment or underemployment. They offer coaching, resume, and interview prep, networking contacts, peer support groups, job leads and referrals to employers. For more information, contact **Judy Bottkol** at [jbottkol@jvs-boston.org](mailto:jbottkol@jvs-boston.org), or 617.399.3162

### Jewish Family & Children's Service

**Jewish Family & Children's Service** offers a variety of support groups, including groups for new mothers, gay and lesbian parents of infants, adoption resources, and other services. Visit their website for more information: [www.jfcsboston.org](http://www.jfcsboston.org)



## Nadiv Lev General Fund

*(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)*

**Sue Pearce and Cindy Probst**

*With heartfelt thanks to **Rabbi Spitzer** and the Dorshei Tzedek Community on the occasion of **Rebecca's** Bat Mitzvah*

**Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff**

**Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury**

*In honor of our son **Jeremy Marshall** becoming a Bar Mitzvah, with appreciation for the Dorshei Tzedek community*

**Amy Mazur**

*In honor of **Jeremy Marshall's** Bat Mitzvah, in appreciation of **Louis Gnoch's** help in giving me the tikkun*

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Jamie Tessler**

*In loving memory of my uncle, **Benjamin Tessler**, on his first yartzheit*

**Haralie Alpert and Max Greenberg**

*In memory of our wonderful father, **Francis Greenberg**, at the time of his first yartzheit—we say hello to all his wonderful friends at the congregation*

**Cindy Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury**

*With gratitude for our wonderful Rabbi Toba*

*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 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.

## 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.

## Mazel Tov

A belated mazel tov to **Josh Breindel** and **Stephanie Bennett**, on their New Year's wedding!

To **Jeremy Marshall, Talia Leonard, and Samantha Lewis**, on becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

## Condolences

To **Wendy Angus**, and to **Kelli Kirshtein** and **Benjamin**, on the death of Wendy's father **Paul Angus**. Mr. Angus passed away peacefully the morning of March 17 after a long illness. May his memory be for a blessing, and may Wendy and her family find comfort among the mourners of Zion.

## Todah Rabah

To **Peter Katz**, Chair of our Personnel Committee, for his work handling the recruitment and hiring process for our Office Administrator. We are very grateful for Peter's fine work and his generosity of time and spirit. *Yasher Koach* Peter, and *todah rabah*!

To **Angela Wong**, who covered the office in January, February and March and impressed everyone with her grace, good cheer and hard work. Best of luck to her in her future endeavors.

To the **Steinberg-Miller Family** for donating a lovely sofa to the alcove outside our school office. And thanks to **Lynn Brandon** for supplying the transport for the sofa from the Millers to our school.

**Rav Tiffany** wants to say a huge "*Todah Rabah*" to all those who made our Purim celebration so wonderful!

Thank you to our Megillah *leyners*, **Kelli Kirshtein** and **Chayim Herzig-Marx**!

And thanks, of course, to **Tammy** bat Tiffany, for her help leading the Purim davvening!

To **Sheree Galpert**, our Spielmeister, and her merry players: **Stephen and Julia Ansolabehere, Alan Epstein, Emily Flynn, Zoe Fried, Ilana Galpert, Richard, Diana, Lilly, and Maya Fisher-Gomberg, Laurie Gould, Ezra Hausman, Doug and Cora Hersh, Peter Hess, Steffi Karp, Mira and Hankus Netsky, Dan and Cindy Rome, and Marc Steinberg**.

To **Debbie Waber** and **Marc Steinberg**, for coordinating the logistics, and to all those who helped: **Deb Albenberg, Alan Epstein, Louise Enoch, Beth Green, Steffi Karp, Audra Karp, Idit Klein, Dani Krasa, Benyamin Krasa, Tatjana Meschede, Susan Silberberg, and Pamela Schoenberg**.

And to **Mark Bronstein**, our sound man!

Thank you!

## Yarzheit

Last month (March 1/Adar 1) marked the first *yarzheit* of CDT member **Francis Greenberg**, may his memory be for a blessing. Francis joined us as a vibrant 80 year-old when he moved to the Boston area to be near his children, **Haralie** and **Max**. He was a regular at Shabbat morning services until his final years, when it became difficult for him to attend. His life was blessed by his connection to this community—including Shabbat services led in his room at the Golda Meir house by congregants—and we were blessed by his gentle spirit and good humor.



# April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Apr 1	8:45 am - 9:40 am	<b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study Shabbat Unplugged</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 6</i> )
Sat Apr 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Shabbat Unplugged</b>	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	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland St: Room 112 ( <i>see page 5</i> )
	10:45 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland St: 111 ( <i>see page 5</i> )
Sat Apr 1	7 pm	<b>Havdallah Shabbat Unplugged</b>	( <i>see page 4</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	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 6</i> )
Thu Apr 6	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	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 5</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 <i>Setup and Cleanup only (no food):</i> Ruth & Michael Super, Jodie Siegel, Susan Bernstein
Sat Apr 8	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Apr 8	7:30 pm	Film Club: <i>Waiting for the Messiah</i>	( <i>See page 7</i> )
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 8</i> )
Wed Apr 12		<b>First Seder of Passover</b>	
Thu Apr 13		<b>NO SCHOOL THROUGH APRIL 24- VACATION</b>	
Sat Apr 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Tania Mireles, William Shorr, Shoshana Simons, Terry Traub ( <i>Rabbi Off</i> )
Tues Apr 18	7:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>Chanting with Nicky Silver</b>	<i>FUSN Parlor (see page 7)</i>
Wed Apr 19	9 am - 11 am	<b>7th Day of Passover Services</b>	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Fri Apr 21	6 pm - 8 pm	<b>Tikkun Olam Potluck</b>	60 Highland St ( <i>see page 15</i> )
Fri Apr 21	8 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Erev Shabbat Adult Service</b>	Lynne Brandon, Barbara & Elliott Pittel ( <i>see page 7</i> )
Sat Apr 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Johanna Gittleman</b>	<i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i> 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		<b>CLASSES RESUME</b>	
Tue Apr 25	7 pm - 9 pm	<b>Yom HaShoah</b>	Emily Sper, Linette Liebling, Beth Green 60 Highland St: Sanctuary
Wed Apr 26	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 6</i> )
Thu Apr 27	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	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
Sun Apr 30	Evening	No'ar Hadash Youth Group, 7th & 8th Grades	TBA ( <i>see page 8</i> )

*See location, childcare and other notices on next page below May calendar.*



# May Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Wed May 3	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street Library
Thu May 4	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street Library
Fri May 5	5:45 pm - 8 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service to follow Potluck	60 Highland St
Sat May 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service/ <b>Bat Mitzvah of Aviva Galpert</b>	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Eileen Morrison, Michael Jablon, Hara Klein, Eleni Carr
Sat May 6	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun May 7	2 pm - 4 pm	<b>Gan Family Program #8 - FINAL SESSION</b>	FUSN
Wed May 10	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street
Thu May 11	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street
Fri May 12	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	60 Highland St
Sat May 13	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St
Sat May 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service/ <b>Kitah Vav Siyyum</b>	<i>Sanctuary Setup/Cleanup only, no food :</i> Audra Karp, Ayala Galton, Caryn-Amy King
Sat May 13	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat May 13	10:45 - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St
Sat May 13	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St
Sat May 13	Evening	<b>CDT Goods and Services Auction</b>	TBA
Wed May 17	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street
Thu May 18	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street
Sat May 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service/ <b>Bar Mitzvah of Caleb Weinreb</b>	Celebration at FUSN <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Carol Sklar, Cindy Probst & Sue Pearce
Sat May 20	10 am - 12 pm	<b>Kitah Aleph &amp; Kitah Bet Classes / FINAL CLASS</b>	FUSN
Sun May 21	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	60 Highland St
Wed May 24	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street
Thu May 25	3:45 pm - 5:45 pm	<b>Kitah Gimmel - Zayin - FINAL CLASS</b>	FUSN
Thu May 25	8 am - 9 am	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street
Sat May 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Erica Streit, James Kaplan (Rabbi off)
Wed May 31	12 pm - 1 pm	<b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street

**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.

## School News

Cindy Shulak-Rome, [school@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:school@dorsheitzedek.org)

### A Great Opportunity for Teens – Interfaith Youth Leadership Program

Camp IF is a week long summer camp opportunity for teens of Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths who are interested in developing leadership skills and building interfaith understanding for positive social change. The program, which runs from August 15-21, is free of charge and is open to entering high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from the New England area. As a follow-up to the camp program, participants meet in monthly Regional Action Groups from September to January to collaborate on what they have learned from the program and find ways to introduce what they have learned in this program to their local communities.

Pick up a program application in our school office, or contact **Jennifer Smith** at the Boston ADL office: 617.406.6300.



## 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

**Membership Inreach:** 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>

## JRF News

### **JRF Gets Two Seats for the World Zionist Congress**

In its first ever bid to run in the World Zionist Elections under its own name, Jewish Reconstructionist Federation received two seats in the election. Because of the importance of coalition building at the congress, our two seats have the potential to make a real impact. JRF thanks all the lay leaders, rabbis, cantors, educators, staff, friends and members of Reconstructionist communities across the United States for helping make this dream a reality.

To find out more information about JRF's slate go to: <http://www.jrf.org/wzcl/>. For more information about the World Zionist Congress and a complete list of the results, go to: <http://www.azm.org>

### **Order Passover Haggadot**

Passover begins Wednesday evening April 12 with the first seder. This year, enhance your Passover experience by bringing *A Night of Questions* to your seder table. Rooted in tradition, yet accessible to all, *A Night of Questions* is a rich resource for the Passover holiday and for your seder. This colorful, beautifully illustrated *haggadah* has it all -- the traditional prayers, biblical text, historical notes, song lyrics, and even a play for children to perform. Translations and transliterations are included, and additional readings and commentaries offer varied perspectives.

If you order 12 or more haggadot, you will receive the CD, *A Night of Questions: Songs to accompany the New Reconstructionist Haggadah*, recorded by Shabbat Unplugged, a six-member troupe of Reconstructionist rabbis and educators.

Visit <http://www.jrf.org/pub/cat-passover.html> or <http://jrf.org> to order your *haggadot*.



### **Teen Kallah!**

*May 12 - 14, 2006, Camp JRF*

The No'ar Hadash North American Teen Kallah will take place May 12 - 14, 2006 on the Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus of Camp JRF. This is the first overnight event ever to be held at the new camp. For more information, visit: <http://www.noarhadash.org/kallah.htm>.

## GBIO & Tikkun Olam:

### Recounting the Omer

*Esther Kohn, Tikkun Olam Chair,  
EstherCFS@hotmail.com*

This fall, Dorshei Tzedek was part of a statewide effort to work for comprehensive health reform in Massachusetts. As I write this article, we are still fighting to make sure that extensive reform will take place. If the legislature does not implement significant reform we will face the challenge, with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), of moving forward with a health care ballot initiative next fall. We worked hard and were engaged in direct action. Now it is time to reflect.

As we detailed in the opening article of this newsletter, our congregation will reflect on the key issues we face in our individual lives and in our communities. This process of reflecting and relating as a way to prepare for action is one that the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) has successfully engaged in the past. Through members' conversations about personal experiences, GBIO has identified issues that need attention and action. Over the past few years, affordable housing, improving conditions for workers in nursing homes, and health care reform are examples of issues that have been identified through this process. Our upcoming conversations, our own CDT "house meeting campaign," will provide an invaluable opportunity to identify the issues that Dorshei Tzedek members are grappling with and help us chart a *tikkun olam* course alongside other congregations across the metropolitan area.

To kick off the House Meeting Campaign, we invite everyone to a GBIO Delegates meeting on **April 6 from 7 pm to 9 pm** (location TBA). GBIO meetings are inspiring, energizing events and a chance to be part of a truly diverse social and spiritual movement across the Boston area. We hope many of you can attend!

We also look forward to seeing you at the Potluck/House Meeting on **April 21 from 6 – 8 pm** preceding the Friday night service. Childcare will be provided. Look for other house meetings in May. If you are interested in hosting a house meeting please contact **Esther Kohn** at 617.524.0478, [esthercfs@hotmail.com](mailto:esthercfs@hotmail.com).

### Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry

To save gay marriage in Massachusetts, we need 151 out of 200 legislators to vote against the anti-gay amendment. Your story can help reach legislators and citizens and win new supporters for equality.

Please email a one-page personal story about why you support marriage equality to [info@RCFM.org](mailto:info@RCFM.org). Our goal is to collect 150 testimonies from laity and 100 from clergy to print into an historic People of Faith Testimony Book that we will deliver to every legislator before the next constitutional convention in May. We are asking you to submit a one page personal story that illustrates why you believe in the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry. Include a picture of yourself, your wife, partner, daughter, mother, sister, husband, cousin, ... and make your story even more powerful.

For details about the format and content of testimonies, go to [www.rcfm.org](http://www.rcfm.org). The deadline for submissions is April 17, but ideally needs to be received ASAP.

### JRF to Participate in Major Relief Effort for Darfur-CDT Members Invited!!

JRF congregations will participate in a national rally and demonstration in Washington, D.C., on April 30, 2006, sponsored by the Save Darfur Coalition - of which the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is a member. The coalition intends to deliver to President Bush one million signatures on postcards calling for a larger and stronger multinational force to protect the civilians of Darfur and to exercise leadership to stop the genocide.

The Million Voices for Darfur campaign is a coordinated effort urging Bush to exercise leadership to stop the genocide. Darfur is a region of western Sudan in Africa. Since February 2003, over 400,000 men, women and children have died while another 2.5 million innocent civilians have been forced to flee their homes.

January 12, 2006 marked the 55th anniversary of the ratification of the United Nation's Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The day has come to be known as International Genocide Prevention Day. The Save Darfur Coalition launched the Million Voices for Darfur campaign on that day.

JRF will sponsor events in Washington, D.C., during the Shabbat and weekend leading up to the rally. Information about the Save Darfur Coalition can be found on the JRF website, <http://jrf.org>.

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.