

# CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330  
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## Progressive Vision as Process

Nancy Gertz, [president@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:president@dorsheitzedek.org)

Lately I've been shopping for new eyeglasses, courtesy of four-legged Cosmo, who happily mauled my très chic, "oh-those-look-great-on-you" progressives. I loved everything about those specs—the little hint of cat-eye throwback, the tortoise-shell hue, and best of all, I could see perfectly! Those glasses were the lenses through which I grabbed the world each time I opened my eyes, and at the same time they informed others about me in subtle, yet still powerful ways. I liked what they said about me.

Perched atop the stool at the optical shop, each pair of frames I slip on evokes a Rorschach response from the savvy eyewear specialist behind the counter: "Wellesley mom," "Soho gallery owner," "professor," "Bloomingdale's buyer," and we continue. At first I like the idea of being able to try on all these characters, but frustration mounts as I can't seem to find the pair that accurately reflects the "me" I am when I am not wearing the glasses! How do I get to *that*, when "me" is so many different personae? How do I reduce that to just one pair of specs? Finding a new set of progressives is nothing less than a process!

As an organization, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is also in the process of acquiring new glasses. With our Mission Statement as our prescription, we're looking to the future and focusing our vision through a dedicated process of strategic planning. The 3-5 year plan we generate, *a.k.a.* our shiny new set of specs, will both sharpen our vision and make a statement about who we are, in all our complexity.

And there's the rub. If I thought it was hard finding a pair of glasses to reflect the many "Me"s, think how much harder it is to find glasses that will reflect the many "We"s—the rich diversity of all the members of this wonderful congregation! I can just picture the optical shop salesperson reviewing our frames: "spiritual," "*haimische*," "compassionate," "politically leftist," "traditional davener," "social activist," ... and so much more.

As one of the steps in our strategic planning process we conducted a survey to find out what our members are thinking about. Thanks to the many members who responded. We've also been looking at our organizational history, analyzing current membership data, and formulating targeted questions that will help us determine our next steps. We recognize that there is still much more input needed from members before we can draft our strategic plan. So we're back in the optical shop, trying on more ways of "framing" the issues and asking the right questions.

In the course of our strategic planning, we will be pressed to take positions on pivotal issues: what kind of physical space we will require, how we will adequately raise money to take the next steps in our organizational development while maintaining fiscal stability, what our program priorities are in the face of limited resources or as resources expand, and many more topics like these. The final plan will be a one-of-a-kind set of "specs". It won't be perfect, but will both fit and reflect in large measure the collective "We" if all of us as members add our voices to the process.

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At the Members' Meeting on **June 4**, I will have an opportunity to thank the many folks who have contributed their precious time and effort over the past year. The Executive Committee, comprised of Paul Hattis, Peter Hess, Sivan Nasoff, Andrew Schiff, Steve Siegel, together with Rabbi Toba, work tirelessly on behalf of our community. I also applaud the members of the board and off-board folks: Jeff Kichen, Marc Steinberg, Kelli Kirshtein, Stuart Snyder, Esther Kohn, Carla Naumburg, Angela Vierling-Claassen, Diana Fisher-Gomberg, Dan Halbert, Howard Lurie, Janet Boguslaw, Nicky Silver, Ora Gladstone, Peter Katz, Stan Fleischman, Theresa St. John-Siegel, Matilda Bruckner, Josh Herzig-Marx, Annie Spanel, and Jackie Fleischman.

We are so fortunate to be graced by the devoted leadership of Rabbi Toba Spitzer and I am grateful for her partnership over the past year, along with that of Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz of the previous year. Working with Cindy Shulak-Rome has been a wonderful experience and we are all sorry to see her leave. (Luckily she isn't going very

far!) I want to extend special thanks to Laurie Gould as Chair of the Ed Director Search Committee, along with all the members of the committee, for doing such a superb job in finding us Eva Tuschman, who will be starting on July 1 as our new Education Director.

Last but not least, *yasher koach* to Marc Steinberg for accepting the nomination to become the next president of CDT, to be confirmed at the June 4 meeting. Those of us who know Marc are very excited about him taking on this important role in the community. He has been involved as a volunteer in several different capacities, he is smart, approachable, a good listener, decisive, and very devoted to CDT. Marc will also be supported by an experienced and capable Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to a leadership position for next year.

### Members' Meeting—And Now for Something Slightly Different!

*Communal Potluck with Childcare*  
60 Highland Street—Fellowship Hall Sunday  
June 4, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

The June 4 Members' Meeting will be preceded by a communal schmoozing potluck, when you can hear all about everyone's summer plans! We'll have childcare available through the end of the meeting. So mark your calendars now, for the evening when we'll vote on the new slate for the board, the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, discuss some key CDT initiatives, and enjoy being together for a nice meal.



### Contacting Rabbi Toba

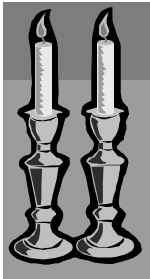
Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

### Adult Education

#### Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

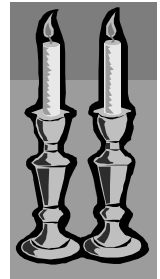
*Saturday morning June 10 at 8:45 am,  
60 Highland Street*

Final Torah study with **Rabbi Spitzer** of the year - we'll take a look at the weekly Torah portion, *Naso*. Bring your own coffee/tea!



## 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 Potluck and Services

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

Join us for our last all-ages service before our summer break. Bring a veggie main dish to share (enough for 10 - 15 people). Drinks and dessert will be provided. Along with our usual service, we'll be celebrating the holiday of Shavuot - appropriate for grown-ups and kids of all ages!

### Honoring Cindy Shulak-Rome

*Saturday, June 17, 9:45 am*

Join us for this special Shabbat service when we will honor Cindy Shulak-Rome for her leadership of our school for the past five years!

**Note: The Erev Shabbat Service previously scheduled for June 9 has been cancelled.**

### Summer Schedule

In July and August, some of our regularly scheduled events do not occur. There will be Shabbat morning services on **July 8** and **July 22**; weekly Shabbat morning services will resume in August. There will be no Erev Shabbat services in June or July. **Please see page 14 for information about summer Kiddush signups.**

## Shavuot

*Thursday, June 1, 8 pm, 60 Highland Street*

Celebrate the giving of Torah with an evening of noshing, studying, and schmoozing! This is the holiday when we celebrate the mythical moment at Mount Sinai, when it is said that every Jewish soul, past present and future, was there to receive its own particular teaching. So come receive some Torah! We'll study, eat, and sing together to celebrate this holiday of revelation (tradition has it that the heavens open at midnight on erev Shavuot, so we'll see how late we can go...)

**8 pm:** Ma'ariv service

**8:40 pm:** A Shavuot nosh—please bring fruit or dairy desserts (cheesecake and cheese blintzes and other dairy products are a Shavuot tradition!)

**9 pm:** Study begins! Teachers include Rabbi Spitzer and other members of the CDT community, and texts include everything from traditional Jewish teachings to poetry and more!

### Second Day of Shavuot

*Saturday, June 3, 9:45 am*

This morning we celebrate Shabbat as well as the second day of Shavuot. In honor of the holiday, we will celebrate with Hallel and have a special *Yizkor* service, an opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away and to honor their memory.

## Bar Mitzvah of Avi Adler-Cohen

June 3, 9:45 am

Please join us on when our son, Avi, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Avi is a seventh grader at Day Middle School. Once described as a kid who “never saw a ball he didn’t like,” Avi loves playing sports, listening to music, and hanging out with his friends. For his tikkun olam project, Avi helps coach the Tiger Athletes, an all-sports team for teenagers with special needs. We are thrilled to share this day with the Dorshei community and hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch at the First Unitarian Society following services.

—Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen

### Zikaron (Remembrance Project)

Ellie Goldberg, [ellie.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.goldberg@gmail.com)

The Zikaron (Remembrance) Project was formed after last year's members' group conversations about loss and remembrance. Zikaron members are studying Jewish traditions and developing resources and rituals for meeting the needs identified in those meetings. Interested CDT members are invited to join this discussion about our personal and congregational values related to mourning and remembrance. No prior knowledge or background required!

The group met at the end of March. From a discussion of loss experiences, multiple themes emerged. We learned that a significant number of people had joined CDT to mourn a loved one's death or in anticipation of a death. This means that some members are bereaved while relatively new to our community.

When some people have a loss they come to CDT seeking what Jewish congregations traditionally provide. Some come to CDT not knowing what Judaism or CDT have to offer. Most of our group is motivated to ensure that others have access to the support and structure that Judaism and CDT can provide either because we experienced it or wish we had experienced it at the time of our own losses.

Some of us expressed our deep gratitude for the presence of the CDT community in our lives during this time – for both emotional and logistics support.

We spoke of the window into feelings of community members that arise from our working on Zikaron together. We spoke of how this Zikaron work and creating these Zikaron options will deepen the connection many feel to CDT and to Judaism itself. Some of us are also deeply motivated by the need to

keep the memory of our beloved ones alive. We spoke of this work as a way to enfold members who may feel more on the periphery of the congregation.

Identified needs and action steps:

- Develop a *Shiva* Team that is responsible for coordinating the logistics of *shivas*.
- Develop a Zikaron bibliography
- Develop a CDT members' *yahrzeit* list and reminder system
- Develop a pamphlet on what to do and what to expect from CDT when a death of a loved one occurs including *shiva* options and ideas, etc.
- Develop stories to share about *shiva* and *sheloshim* from both mourners and comforters to help people understand the mitzvah of comforting mourners.
- Research *tzedakah* and living legacy opportunities.

All congregants are encouraged to share ideas or work on these projects. For the complete minutes of the past meetings or more information please contact **Ellie Goldberg** at the email address above.

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ing loneliness and other personal frustrations is a bold step that may actually fortify the trust it took to express them in community. I can only imagine how this courage will fortify the next steps in our *tikkun olam* practice!

We hope you will join us at the Members' Meeting on June 4 as we respond to the stories we've collected and begin to identify areas to address with collective action.

## Recounting the Omer: From Sharing Personal Stories to an Agenda for Social Action

Laurie Goldman, [lgoldman@mit.edu](mailto:lgoldman@mit.edu)

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is about to embark on its next campaign for social justice. The health care campaign has culminated in the passage of the first (nearly) universal health insurance policy in the country. Our congregation contributed significantly to the health care campaign. CDT members gave testimonies at rallies, participated in strategy meetings and press conferences, and over 30 members collected more than 1,500 signatures for the health care ballot initiative. A big “*yasher koach*” to all who helped on the campaign. While the new legislation elicits rounds of “*lo maspiq*” (not enough) rather than the satisfied refrain of “*dayenu*,” the next steps of ensuring appropriate implementation will not consume the entire focus of GBIO members.

To shape the agenda for the upcoming campaign, GBIO is convening house meetings among congregants of member organizations throughout the Boston area. April 21 marked the beginning of this process for those who attended the potluck Shabbat dinner at Dorshei Tzedek. The evening was the first of several initial house meetings designed to surface potential foci for collective action by sharing stories about our individual experiences. Other Dorshei Tzedek members will be attending similar house meetings later this month. Representatives from around the Boston area will come together on June 8 to begin identifying common themes from the personal stories.

I came to the meeting with eager enthusiasm. The opportunity to participate in GBIO is one of the reasons I decided to join the Dorshei Tzedek congregation. I love the idea of uniting with people from diverse backgrounds to pursue a shared commitment to social justice. The chance to do that with members of my own cultural and spiritual community is doubly rewarding.

**Esther Kohn**, Tikkun Olam Chair, posed the question formulated by the GBIO activists:

*Imagine that you could sit down, one-on-one with each of the candidates for governor and tell him or her one story about yourself, your family, a friend, or your neighborhood that you would want your next governor to hear and to care deeply about. Try to think of a story that dramatizes a key problem or pressure that you or someone you know is struggling with. Take a few moments to reflect on the essential components of your story.*

Like many other CDT members, much of my professional life is dedicated to *tikkun olam*. As a social policy researcher and teacher, I spend much of each week exploring how to improve how our systems of governance serve people. So I was not short of ideas I'd love to share with the gubernatorial candidates. My mind raced to select from my mental list of agenda items around affordable housing, income and wealth inequality, and education reform. But then I realized that these were not *personal* stories. As I struggled to move from the societal to the personal, I wondered whether the stories of the relatively affluent members of Dorshei Tzedek community would adequately reflect the issues that are most pressing for Greater Boston as a whole. Embarrassingly aware of my paternalistic inclinations, I asked myself, “Isn't social policy what we do for *others*?”

But in the small group reflection, I recognized emotionally what I have long understood intellectually; real social change is mediated through individuals who act on insights spawned by lived experiences and genuine feelings. I now realize that the stories told in our group will not only resonate for a great many people from diverse economic and social backgrounds; the combined details of our personal experiences also hold the seeds for possible action.

- Our stories about caring for aging parents tell of the challenges of culling what is important from the morass of information, making caring arrangements across geographic distance, bearing the financial costs without burdening other family members, and managing the guilt we feel about not doing enough.
- Stories about the prohibitively high cost of living – even among families with two professional incomes – speaks both to the widely felt hardships of our economy and the possibility of pooling our consumer power to create cooperative alternatives.
- Stories of the financial and emotional challenges of life as a single person accentuate the social isolation many of us experience when our own circumstances do not correspond to society's norms.

Hearing these stories, I realized how much courage it takes to voice deeply felt concerns. Admitting that we feel guilty for not doing enough for our parents, expressing our shame about our susceptibility to commercialism, and acknowledg-

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## Please Take Our Deficit Control Quiz!

Steve Siegel, [spsiegel@aol.com](mailto:spsiegel@aol.com)

Learn how to keep Dorshei Tzedek in the black! More fun than the Wheel of Fortune!

1. The fundraising goal for Dorshei Tzedek this fiscal year is:
  - a. \$65,000
  - b. \$125,000
  - c. The proceeds of our own Texas-Hold-em poker tournament
2. If we cancel our annual fundraising campaign and simply increase everyone's dues to cover the budget shortfall, each household's dues will increase by an average of:
  - a. 400 Kinahoras
  - b. \$400
  - c. 400 valuable items of an unspecified nature
3. The Leadership Gift is:
  - a. Something that President Nancy Gertz has had from birth
  - b. A Hanukah present that your child finds less exciting than Red Sox tickets
  - c. The initial, aggregate pledge to the annual campaign made by the present board and past presidents, totaling \$24,000
4. You want to be a part of our campaign this year because:
  - a. You value the vibrant programming, private prayer space, full time education director, high-level office administrator, and membership in GBIO, that have all been made possible by the generosity of our congregants in our recent campaigns.
  - b. You cannot imagine what we will have to give up if we don't meet our goal
  - c. Kinky Friedman's campaign for Texas governor seems like such a long shot

Please be on the lookout for the annual campaign mailing, sent out by both email and the USPS. We need your generous gift to maintain the level of programs, activities, and staffing that has helped keep Dorshei Tzedek the special community that it is. We need your financial support to keep our dues structure affordable for members of all income levels.

Answer Key: 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-a, b, c.

You can make a contribution by mailing in a check to the office. If you would like to make this contribution in honor or memory of a person or event, please note this with your check and your text will appear in the newsletter. Send to: Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Please write "Fundraising Campaign" in the memo line.

You can also make a pledge by email ([office@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org)) or by phone (617.965.0330) to our administrator **Marla**. She will send you a bill for the amount of your pledge.

All donations should be sent in by June 15. Questions? Please contact **Steve Siegel** at [spsiegel@aol.com](mailto:spsiegel@aol.com) or 617.244.2291.

## Spring Fundraising Campaign

Thank you to the following board households and past presidents who have generously initiated our annual fundraising campaign. With gifts ranging in size from \$100 to \$10,000, the following households have pledged a total of \$24,000 out of our \$65,000 fundraising need for this year! Please consider acknowledging their support for Dorshei Tzedek by making your own contribution to the campaign now.

**Angela and Dorea Vierling-Claassen**

**Michael Cohen and Nancy Gertz**

**Esther Kohn**

**Diana Fisher Gomberg and Richard Gomberg**

**Dan Halbert and Carole Slipowitz**

**Paul Hattis and Lisa Samelson**

**Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx**

**Peter Hess and Sheree Galpert**

**Jeff Kichen**

**Kelli Kirshtein and Wendy Angus**

**Linette Liebling**

**Howard Lurie**

**Susan Manheim and Andrew Schiff**

**Carla Naumburg and Josh Herzig-Marx**

**Dan Rome and Cindy Shulak-Rome**

**Cheryl and Jeff Sacks**

**Marc Steinberg and Linda Hsu**

**Theresa St.John-Siegel and Steve Siegel**

**Debbie Waber**

## Nadiv Lev General Fund

*(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)*

**Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome & Rebekah Ralen*

**Karen and Reinhard Engels**

*In memory of Jean Kraemer*

**David & Phyllis Farber**

**Jacqueline & Stan Fleischman**

*In honor of Rabbi Toba for enriching our Jewish identity,  
adding depth to our practice and understanding,  
and focusing our spirituality*

**Julie & Paul Fox**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome & Lesley Chapman*

*In honor of Nancy Gertz's two years of service*

*In memory of Cecil Marks and Miriam & Phillip Ellovich*

**Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess**

*In memory of Carole Spiro and with thanks to the CDT  
community for their support for Aviva's Bat Mitzvah*

**Becca Gutman**

**Deborah Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg**

*In appreciation of Cindy Shulak-Rome's direction,  
leadership and commitment to CDT Religious School*

*In memory of Jonathan's father, Emil Rosen,  
at the time of his first year yartzheit*

*In appreciation of Rabbi Spitzer's weekly Judaism and  
Practice class*

**Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman**

**Eric Karp**

*In honor of Steffi Karp's birthday*

**Jeff Kichen**

**Hara Klein & Eleni Carr**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome, Lesley Chapman,  
and Rebekah Ralen*

*In honor of Nancy Gertz*

**Howard Lurie**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

**Jeffrey Marcus & Susan Nitkin**

**Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury**

**Amy Mazur & Michael S. Feldstein**

*In memory of Amy's father, Marvin Mazur*

**Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome & Nancy Gertz*

*In memory of Helen Urban*

**Sivan Nasoff**

**Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx**

*In honor of Melanie Northrop & Jeff Kitchen, with thanks  
for all of their help and support*

*In honor of Nancy Gertz's two years of service*

**Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman**

*In memory of Helen Sevransky and Rose Hochman*

**Nicky Silver**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome & Nancy Gertz*

*In honor of my teacher, Shefa Gold*

**Ann Spanel**

**Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor**

*In memory of Carole Spiro*

**Theresa St. John Siegel & Steven Siegel**

**Linda Weiss Katz**

*In memory of Saul Weiss*

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

*For the Equal Marriage Fund:*

**Mark Farber & Sherry Katz**

**Mitchell & Ora Gladstone**

**Steffi & Eric Karp**

**Sivan Nasoff**

**Caleb & Gabe Weinreb**

**Lisa Schneier**

*In appreciation of Rabbi Toba's generous and  
compassionate help*

*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

It has been heartening to have such quick response to the Chesed—*acts of loving-kindness*—needs of the community the last few months. Many thanks to those who have been called upon and available on short notice.

The Chesed page on the Dorshei Tzedek website has recently been updated to include a link to a Chesed sign-up form. You can navigate to the form by selecting "Chesed" from the top level menu at the left-hand side of each page of our website, or by going directly to [www.dorsheitzedek.org/chesed.htm](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/chesed.htm), and then selecting the link to the sign-up form.

We would greatly appreciate it if all members fill out this form, including those of you who have already volunteered, so that we will have a complete record of how you can help.

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.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330 x2), or **Annie Spanel** (617.547.1533 or [copperbeech.tree@verizon.net](mailto:copperbeech.tree@verizon.net)) or **Jackie Fleischman** ([jackief@rcn.com](mailto:jackief@rcn.com)) of the Chesed Committee.

## 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

To **Lynne S. Brandon**, who has been accepted into the MFA in Playwriting program at Smith College, beginning in September. To add to the excitement, one of her monologues will be performed at the Short Attention Span Play-FEST in Lowell the third weekend in July! Shameless recruiting: she is looking for a flat-mate, who mostly would have her wonderful apartment to her/him/itself ([lsbrandon@igc.org](mailto:lsbrandon@igc.org)).

To **Bill Shorr**, on completion of his Ed.D. from Harvard University!

To all of our beloved **CDT Graduates!**

**Anna Bresnick** is graduating from Newton North High School and will be attending the University of Vermont.

**Zach Carson** is graduating from the Forman School in Litchfield, CT and will be attending Lasell College to study hospitality management.

**Zach Demuth** is graduating from the Commonwealth School and will be attending Oberlin College.

**Hannah Epstein** is graduating as valedictorian of Watertown High School and will be attending Oberlin College.

**Rose Friedman** is graduating from The Rivers School in Weston and will be attending Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Amy Goldsmith** will be attending the School of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University. She will also be rowing in their crew team.

**Rebecca Holohan** is graduating from The Winsor School and will be attending Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Sarah Leonard** is graduating from Natick High School and will be attending Columbia University.

**Aaron Littman** is graduating from the Commonwealth School and will be attending Yale University.

**Olivia Medvedow** is graduating from Newton South High School and will be attending Connecticut College.

**Zachary Chaim Rubin-Rattet** is graduating from Newton South High School and will be attending Hampshire College in Amherst.

**Lauren Sacks** is graduating from Newton North High School and will be attending the University of Rochester.

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).

## Condolences

Condolences to **Ilene Spiro**, and to **Ira Schor** and **Jamie**, on the death of Ilene's mother, **Carole Spiro**. Carole passed away after three years of struggling with cancer, and was here to celebrate her granddaughter Jamie's bat mitzvah this past fall. May her memory be for a blessing, and may Ilene and her family find comfort among all those who mourn.



Condolences to **Stacey Chacker** and to **Ariane**, on the death of their father and grandfather, **Fred Chacker**. May his memory be for a blessing, and may Stacey and her family find comfort among all those who mourn.

### Todah Rabah

A huge *Todah Rabah* to everyone who made our very first CDT Auction such a rousing success. To **Judy Hersh**, whose leadership turned this dream into a reality, and to her organizing team: **Diana Fisher Gomberg, Erica Streit Kaplan, Allison Andrews** and **Laura Katz**.

And thank you to the nearly scores of CDT members who donated their time or possessions to this worthy cause.

Thank you also to:

**Dan Halbert**, who provided the website auction listing.

**Clifford Goldsmith** for his help with sound.

**Tessa Goldsmith** for the centerpieces.

**Ora Gladstone, Amy Brodesky, Sharon Gorberg, Arthur Lent, Tim and Caroline Rosa, Cora Hersh, Valerie Graf, Doron Gan, and Cindy Shulak-Rome** who helped with set-up.

**Stuart Snyder, Lisa Port White, and Laurie Gould** for serving as the Emcees.

**Laura Katz, Sharon Gorberg, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Sheree Galpert, Kelli Kirshtein, Nancy Gertz, and Ora Gladstone** who supplied the food and drink.

**Richard Fisher Gomberg, Amy Brodesky, and Carole Slipowitz** for their work as Bid Processors.

And all the people who pitched in at the end for clean-up!

And if you loved the very professional sounding Jazz trio, they are juniors at Newton South. They would be thrilled to be contacted about future gigs. The contact person is **Jesse Adelman** at 617.965.3005.

*Todah Rabah* to the following CDT members who sponsored Kiddush in April:

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Louise Enoch</b>    | <b>Jonathan Magaziner</b> |
| <b>Ora Gladstone</b>   | <b>Hilary Marcus</b>      |
| <b>Jeff Goldman</b>    | <b>Cheryl Sacks</b>       |
| <b>Tessa Goldsmith</b> | <b>Cindy Shulak-Rome</b>  |
| <b>Audra Karp</b>      |                           |

## School News

*Cindy Shulak-Rome, cbsrome@comcast.net*

### School Registration for 2006-07

Registration is underway for our Religious School classes for the coming academic year. We are taking registration for students in *Gan-Kitah - Zayin* (Kindergarten through 7th grade). If you have not received registration materials, please contact **Marla Lichtman** in the office at 617.965.0330. For more information about our school programs, contact our Education Director at 617.965.5443 x1.

### 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

### From Rebekah Ralen

Dear CDT Families,

Many thanks to the Gan and Vav families for their generous and thoughtful gifts and to all of you for an exceptional piece of art by someone whose work I have long admired.

Thank you also for the opportunity to study and learn with you and your children for the past two years. CDT is truly a unique community.

Have a great summer. B'shalom,  
Rebekah

### Chanting with Nicky Silver

Our bi-monthly chanting sessions will be suspended for the summer months starting in June. We will resume sessions again in the fall.

## Community Events

### Erev Pride Liberation Seder

Friday, June 9, 8 pm

Temple Israel, Boston, 477 Longwood Avenue

The Erev Pride Liberation Seder unravels all the mysteries of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Pride on the evening before the annual "Gay Pride" celebration. Begun over 20 years ago by Am Tikva in Boston, we have been telling and retelling the story. We begin where it all began at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 27, 1969. Learn the history of the GLBT Rights movement, and the struggles our community has had to endure.

The event is co-sponsored by Ohel Tzedek of Temple Israel, Am Tikva and Keshet. Please RSVP to: **Josh Lakin**, President, AmTikva at 617.232.5543, [info@amtikva.org](mailto:info@amtikva.org) or **Alex Coleman**, Ohel Tzedek, GLBT Action Team, Temple Israel c/o **Anne Meirowitz** at [ameirowitz@tisrael.org](mailto:ameirowitz@tisrael.org) 617.566.3960 x123, or **Michail** at the Keshet office at 617.524.9227, [michail@boston-keshet.org](mailto:michail@boston-keshet.org).

### Summer Discussion Series with Rabbi Barbara Penzner

June 28, July 12, July 26, August 9,  
7 - 8:30 pm

Temple Hillel Bnai Torah,  
120 Corey Street, West Roxbury



Rabbi Penzner will be leading four sessions on summer evenings, discussing articles from the 70th anniversary issue of *The Reconstructionist* journal, the premier intellectual Jewish journal of the 20th century. (Copies of the journal are available in the Dorshei Tzedek office, for \$5.50 each – e-mail [office@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org) if you'd like to buy a copy.)

Each session is independent of the other; the dates and topics are listed below:

#### June 28: Basic Reconstructionism: Its History and Development

Richard Hirsh, "American Jewish Life since 1935: A Reconstructionist Retrospective"

Rebecca Alpert and Jacob Staub, "Exploring Judaism and Finding Reconstructionism"

#### July 12: Reconstructing Theology, Part I

Ann Eisenstein, "Kohut Meets Kaplan: The Paradox of

Relating Personally to a Nonpersonal God"

Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, "Science and Spirit: Reconstructionist Theology for the 21st Century"

#### July 26: Reconstructing Theology, Part II

Toba Spitzer, "The Blessing of Uncertainty: Kaplan, God and Process"

Daniel Cedarbaum, "Toward a Redefinition of Reconstructionism"

#### August 9: Reconstructing Reconstructionism

Carl Sheingold, "Managing Dualities: A View of Reconstructionism from the Radical Center"

"Reconstructionist Judaism, Past, Present and Future: A Symposium"

Please let them know if you're coming! Call the Hillel B'nai Torah temple office at 617.323.0486 or email at [hbtoffice@templehbt.org](mailto:hbtoffice@templehbt.org).

### Reclaiming Mikveh: Pouring Ancient Waters Into a Contemporary Vessel

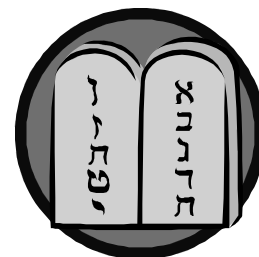
June 4-6, Boston, MA. Co-sponsored by JRF

Clergy, educators, Jewish professionals and lay leaders will want to attend this national conference offering new possibilities for spirituality, growth and renewal. Key note speakers include, **Rabbi Norman Cohen**, **Anita Diamant** and **Barry Shrage**. For more information, please visit <http://www.mayyimhayyim.org/conference>.

### 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 Messinger, 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



(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

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.

### 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 call 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).



## JRF News

### Camp JRF Seeks Talented Staff

Located in the majestic Pocono Mountains, Camp JRF is an environment where progressive Judaism, imagination, and fun are integrated into a program that engages both campers and staff. The only overnight camp of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, we are an inclusive community that welcomes campers and staff from varied backgrounds to explore being Jewish and American in modern day life.

Please visit our website at <http://www.campjrf.org> to learn more about Camp JRF. Contact **Samantha Papurt** at [spapurt@jrf.org](mailto:spapurt@jrf.org), or 877.CAMP.JRF (877.226.7573) for more information or to apply. Visit <http://www.campjrf.org/staff/index.htm> to download a staff application.

### JRF Convention: Our Evolving Jewish Journey: Peoplehood and the Quest for Spiritual Community

*November 9 – 12, Philadelphia*

Jewish peoplehood was a founding premise of Reconstructionist Judaism. What issues does it raise regarding our commitments to Jewish life beyond our personal Jewish lives? What is distinctive about our ideology and practice today? How are they evolving and what are our enduring principles?

The JRF Convention is the place to connect with fellow Reconstructionists from congregations and havurot from all over the U.S. and Canada. Learn from educators, rabbis, and leaders from across the spectrum of Reconstructionism, including keynote speakers **Ruth Messinger** and **Ruth Calderon**.

**Ruth Messinger** is President of the American Jewish World Service (<http://www.ajws.org/>), an international development agency. Previously Ruth was active in local politics in New York for two decades, serving as a Council Member and as Manhattan Borough President. She was the Democratic Party candidate for Mayor of New York City in 1997.

Israeli **Ruth Calderon** is a recent Scholar-in-Residence at UJA Federation of New York and the founder of Alma College, in Tel Aviv and Alma, NY. Her book, *The Market, the Home, the Heart*, is being translated to English. Her article, "The Balcony" ([http://www2.jrf.org/resources/show\\_res.php?rid=34](http://www2.jrf.org/resources/show_res.php?rid=34)), was recently published in *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility*.

## Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

June date and location TBA

Stan Fleischman, 617.332.5433, stanf@rcn.com and Emily Sper, 617.779.9403, emilysper@verizon.net

Please join us for a showing of the film *The Komedi-ant*. There will be an optional light potluck vegetarian supper at 6:30 pm and time to schmooze a bit before seeing the film. Please plan to stay after the film for a discussion. The date and location for this film event will be e-mailed shortly.

Film summary: This irresistible saga of the singing and dancing Burstein family spans several continents, two world wars, the birth of Israel, and the history of the Yiddish theater. At 15, Pesach Burstein ran away from his small town in Poland to join a troupe of Jewish actors. In 1924, he arrived in New York, becoming a leading light in the golden era of Yiddish theater. Burstein and his young wife, actress Lillian Lux, then traveled Europe, fleeing the Continent on the last ship before the start of World War II. Their twins, Susan and Mike, joined the act, and the four Bursteins emigrated to Israel via the port of Haifa and then criss-crossed the globe. Mike has continued the family tradition, winning an Israeli Academy Award for his portrayal of the popular character Kuni Leml. With rare archival footage, clips from musicals, interviews, and Burstein family home movies, director Arnon Goldfinger presents an entertaining portrait of a fascinating family. *The Komedi-ant* won Best Documentary at the 1999 Haifa International Film Festival and is a Boston-Haifa Film Connection Selection. Israel, released 1999, 81 min., English & Yiddish w/ subtitles



## Membership

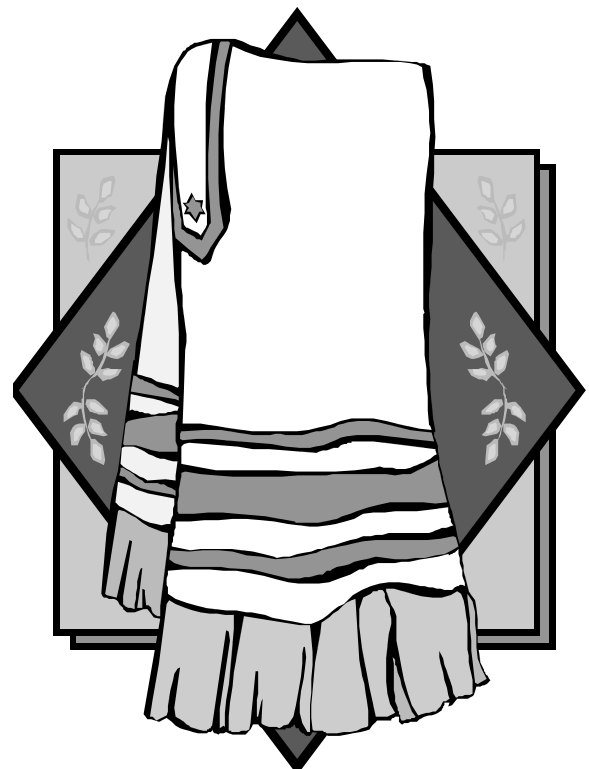
### Farewell!

Marcia Wasserman, marciawasserman@yahoo.com

It was 1991 when I joined a small group named Dorshei Tzedek. On a good Sabbath morning we had maybe ten or a dozen people. But a dedicated and spirited group we were. I had to take a subway and taxi to come from the North End, but it was worth it. A strong seed was planted. Soon, we could afford to pay a rabbi, and with the arrival of Rabbi Spitzer we grew and grew and grew!

One of my fondest memories is of the retreat where, in charge of the art project, I got to relive my former life as an art teacher. One year we created the quilts you see at High Holy Days services.

This July I leave for Orchard Cove, a retirement village in Canton that is affiliated with Hebrew Senior Life. For Sabbath services I may not have to spend most of the day on the M.T.A, but neither will the experience hold a candle to the uplift I always got at Dorshei Tzedek. Goodbye to my dear friends. I will miss you all.





## June Calendar



| Date       | Time              | Event  | Kiddush, Notes  |
|------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Thu Jun 1  | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>              | 60 Highland Street: Library   |
| Thu Jun 1  | 8 pm              | <b>Shavuot Services</b>  | Sharon Gorberg, John Holohan, Nathan Aronow ( <i>see page 4</i> )   |
| Fri Jun 2  | 5:45 pm - 8 pm    | <b>Potluck and Erev Shabbat Family Services</b>                  | Stacey Chacker, Lisa Goodman ( <i>see page 3</i> )  |
| Sat Jun 3  | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service<br><b>Bar Mitzvah of Avi Adler-Cohen</b> | <i>Sanctuary Clean up:</i><br>Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn,<br>Elana Eisman & Steve Strassberg<br>Service at 60 Highland St,<br>Celebration at FUSN ( <i>see page 4</i> ) |
| Sun Jun 4  | 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm | <b>Members' Potluck and Members' Meeting</b>                     | <i>Members-Only Event</i><br>Jennifer Hochschild, Cindy Bittker<br>60 Highland Street ( <i>see page 2</i> )   |
| Thu Jun 8  | 7 pm - 9 pm       | GBIO Delegates Meeting   | Roxbury Presbyterian Church   |
| Sat Jun 10 | 8:45 am - 9:40 am | <b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study</b>                               | 60 Highland St: Library ( <i>see page 2</i> )   |
| Sat Jun 10 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Sandra Sedacca, Sherwood Ives, Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith   |
| Sat Jun 17 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service<br>in honor of <b>Cindy Shulak-Rome</b>  | Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein,<br>Allison & Ezra Hausman  |
| Sun Jun 18 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | Board Meeting  | <i>Members-Only Event</i><br>60 Highland St: Parlor   |
| Sat Jun 24 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Toni Rosenberg<br>( <i>Rabbi Off</i> )  |



## July-August Calendar



| Date       | Time            | Event                   | Kiddush, Notes                |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sat Jul 8  | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service | <i>More details to follow</i> |
| Sat Jul 22 | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service |                               |
| Sat Aug 5  | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service |                               |
| Sat Aug 12 | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service |                               |
| Sat Aug 19 | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service |                               |
| Sat Aug 26 | 9:45 am - 12 pm | Shabbat Morning Service |                               |

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

**No Fragrances, Please:** So that Dorshei Tzedek services and events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfume, scented oils, cologne, etc.) to all Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

## Kiddush Signups

Marla Lichtman, CDT Administrator,  
office@dorsheitzedek.org

Ellen Pashall, Kiddush Committee

It's that time of year! Kiddush Signup Time—time to think of who you'd like to honor, memorialize or celebrate by sponsoring a Kiddush.

Volunteers are needed immediately to provide Kiddush for the following summer Shabbat dates:

**July 8, 2006**

**July 22**

**August 5**

**August 12**

**August 19**

**August 26**

**September 2**

**Please contact** Marla Lichtman by email at office@dorsheitzedek.org or by phone, 617-965-0330 to **choose your summer date.**

Next year's calendar is being finalized. We will be sending out a sign-up request form so you may request dates best suited to your schedule. Look for that mailing during the summer months.

Please do send us feedback or suggestions as to how you feel the sign-up process worked last year and how to improve upon it.

Thank you!

## 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.

## 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>

# Food for Darfur & Chad

In recent months, the Jewish community has responded magnificently to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Now, in addition to the horrific news of mass executions and the subsequent flood of refugees, a new challenge threatens to worsen matters dramatically.

The United Nations World Food Program has announced that, effective immediately, millions of vulnerable people throughout eastern and western Sudan will receive half-rations of food due to a significant funding shortfall. Donations are currently running 70% below what is needed to feed over 6 million at-risk individuals.

The United Nations hopes that reducing the daily rations to as little as 1,050 kilocalories – just half the minimum daily requirement of 2,100 kilocalories per person – food supplies in the region will last longer during the “hunger season,” the annual pre-harvest period from July to September, when needs are greatest.

Aid providers are especially worried about the negative impact of reduced rations in Darfur and neighboring Chad, where a genocidal campaign has killed 400,000 black Africans and forced an additional 2.5 million to flee their homes in search of safer ground. The situation in Sudan pits government-armed and supported Arab militia groups, known as Janjaweed, against unarmed black Africans in the region.

The Janjaweed's brutal campaign of burning villages, poisoning water supplies and razing crops has destroyed more than 50% of all villages in Darfur (a region approximately the size of France), devastating lives, destroying agriculture and compromising future harvests.

To help combat this devastating shortage, MAZON is urging supporters to provide aid to struggling families throughout the region through the “Food for Darfur & Chad” fund.

**SEND DONATIONS FOR RELIEF IN DARFUR TO MAZON AT:**

**1990 South Bundy Dr. Ste. 260**

**Los Angeles, CA 90025**

**(310) 442-0020**

or

**Donate online at [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org)**

Be sure to specify that your donation is for “Food for Darfur & Chad.”



MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger • 1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 260  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

(310) 442-0020 • fax (310) 442-0030 • [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.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.