

# CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
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## Reflecting on the Year

*Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org*

As summer officially begins, I find myself reflecting on this past year since my return from sabbatical last August. It has felt like a very full year on many levels. After a year away from the congregation, I plunged back in with renewed energy, and I was thrilled to see new initiatives begin to develop and bear fruit. Over 25 congregants participated in my year-long Judaism and Practice class, exploring a variety of Jewish approaches to spiritual practice. Congregants have initiated and participated in a new chanting group, and in the Zikaron Committee's work on mourning and remembrance. It was wonderful to see the flowering of a variety of new programs—our first Artists' Shabbat and "sanctuary show," our first Shabbat Unplugged and first Shabbat Shira celebration, our first members' auction. And I feel both inspired and challenged by the house meetings led by our GBIO leaders over the past two months, giving CDT members an opportunity to share with one another the struggles we face, and to begin a process of joining together to address some of those struggles. And last but far from least, the initial work done on our strategic planning process, and the distilling of strategic questions that we will begin to address in the year ahead, is a crucial piece of our moving forward in the months and years ahead.

It's also been a year of transition. A few months after my return, we found ourselves looking for a new administrator, and were blessed to find Marla Lichtman, who continues to learn our systems and help us better organize our operations. We undertook a major search for a new, full-time education director, and I am excited that Ewa Tuschman will have arrived in our community by the time you receive this newsletter. As with any transition, there will be additional work for everyone involved until all of our new staff settles in, but I am confident that after this period of adjustment, we will find ourselves with a new level of capacity as a congregation.

My sense is that these staffing changes are part of, but do

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## President's Column

*Marc Steinberg, marc@metaphasia.com*

As I sit here typing my first-ever column for the newsletter and contemplating my impending transition into Dorshei Tzedek's presidency, I find my mind wandering back to my first few experiences with the CDT community. I have to say that I'm amazed both at how different I am and at how different the congregation is. Excessive navel-gazing, whether personal or communal, comes at a cost: the more time and energy you spend on self-examination, the less you have left over to use for living in the moment. However, in the spirit of navel-gazers everywhere, I hope you'll cut me some slack as I reminisce for a moment.

Who was I then? I'm no longer entirely certain, but in hindsight I can definitely tell you who I was not: I was not yet a parent. I was not yet reawakened into environmental awareness. I was not yet fully established in my profession. And, other than my family and scattered old friends, I was not a part of any significant community outside of my work, Jewish or otherwise.

What did I experience coming to Dorshei Tzedek for the first time? Again, I'm no longer entirely certain, but I want to share with you the memory that remains: that I had found an unusually receptive and warm group of people who welcomed me into their midst on my own terms. Eventually I got around to reading the mission statement on the back of a CDT newsletter and I saw, right up there in the first paragraph, the words "...dedicated to creating a caring

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not account wholly for, the sense of change in the congregation at this time. The strategic planning process to date has uncovered both areas of uncertainty and areas of possibility. We know that we need to grow at a steady, although not dramatic, pace to maintain our vibrancy and financial stability. We are now facing the challenge of how to not only welcome and integrate new members but how to help all of our members connect in more meaningful and effective ways to the life of the community. We know that people are on spiritual journeys and want a Judaism that speaks to them, but we don't entirely know yet how to provide the kind of support that congregants need—and can fit into their busy lives—in those journeys. We know that a commitment to social justice is profoundly important to our members, and we are still learning how to best act on those values as a community. We have some sense of the kind of connection we'd like our children to have to Judaism and their Jewish heritage, but we are still learning how to inspire and shape those connections. Which is to say, we've accomplished a great deal, and we have a great deal yet to do!

So as summer approaches, I am ready—not for another sabbatical!—but for a bit of rest, and I am also excited to come back after a few weeks away in July to prepare for a new year with Dorshei Tzedek. I am excited to begin working with Ewa, and with Marc Steinberg and all of the new and returning leaders on the Board. I wish all of you a relaxing and renewing summer, and I look forward to seeing you when I return in August!

**Contacting Rabbi Toba:** Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at [rabbid@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbid@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617.965.0330 x2. **Rabbi Spitzer will be out of the office from July 1 through July 24.** In case of an emergency, please contact the office at 617-965-0330, or the president, Marc Steinberg. There are rabbis on-call in case you are in need of a rabbi while Rabbi Spitzer is away, and members of the congregation are available to help with life cycle events and other emergencies.

**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.

*(President's Column, continued from page 1)*

and inclusive community.” Reading these words drove home again the notion that CDT was a group of people actually striving to live out their ideals.

Who am I now? I'm a parent of two young (and challenging) children. I pay careful attention to everything my family buys and consumes. I'm the director of a team of people at work. My family and I are blessed to have made good friends and lasting community connections through Dorshei Tzedek.

What is CDT today? We've gone through quite a few fundamental (and challenging) changes: we moved our sanctuary from the makeshift space over at FUSN to its more permanent and more formal location at the Second Church, we grew from about 130 families to more than 160, and we went through our first rabbinic sabbatical. Most recently, we've hired new administrative staff and a new education director and we have begun a comprehensive strategic planning process.

On the surface, many of these changes are positive. However, when I think back to that feeling I had when I first walked through the doors and I consider the community we have become, I find myself wondering if I would still have that same experience today. Are we still that same warm, caring, and inclusive community? Are we still ready and willing to greet and get to know new people when they enter our doors?

I wish I could say that the answer is an unqualified “yes.” However, looking at the responses from the recent survey and listening to concerns recently expressed both inside and outside the membership, I'm honestly not so sure and I think it's probably safe to say that much of the community shares this uncertainty to some extent. For example, some older members say that they don't recognize many people when they come to shul, while several recent visitors have said that they aren't experiencing the same kind of welcoming experience I did.

I hope that next year's continuation of the strategic planning process helps us look this uncertainty in the eye, and I expect that arriving at thoughtful, careful, and honest answers will help us renew both our connections and commitments to each other and to the larger communities in which we all live.

## 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.

### Summer Services 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 July or August.

**Summer Kiddush:** Volunteers are still needed to bring kiddush for our summer services. **Please contact Marla in the office if you are able to help out in July or August**, at [office@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:office@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617-965-0330.

## Rosh Chodesh Celebrations

The celebration of the new moon is a day historically associated with women's renewal and celebration. In recent decades, Rosh Chodesh has become an occasion for Jewish women to gather for learning, ritual, and spiritual exploration, and to mark life passages.

On **Wednesday, July 26**, Dorshei Tzedek women are invited to celebrate the new moon of **Av** with an evening of personal reflection, singing and conversation. Please join us from 7:30 to 9 pm at the home of Nicky Silver and Shoshana Simons at 71 Florence Street, Roslindale, MA. To RSVP or for questions, contact Nicky ([nsilver@alum.bu.edu](mailto:nsilver@alum.bu.edu)) at 617.327.1999 or Shoshana ([fridapaz@mac.com](mailto:fridapaz@mac.com)) at 617.327.9111.

On **Thursday, August 25**, Dorshei Tzedek women are invited to celebrate the new moon of **Elul**. Please join us from 7:30 to 9 pm at the home of Corinne Lofchie, 15 Crafts Street in Waltham. To RSVP or for questions, contact Corinne at [cllofchie@onebox.com](mailto:cllofchie@onebox.com) or 617.909.6617.

Newcomers are welcome to all Rosh Chodesh celebrations!

## Summer Picnic and Softball!

*Sunday, August 20, 3 - 6 pm*

*Auburndale Cove Playground, Newton*



Join CDT members and members of the Second Church for a summer picnic, softball game, and general good time! Bring your own picnic dinner, and enjoy the ducks, the playground, tennis and basketball courts, and a softball game for older kids and adults. More details will arrive via e-mail and the website, but save the date. If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact CDT member Elliot Pittel at [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net).



## School News

### Recruiting New Students for our Religious School

*Susannah Zisk, sez1@bellatlantic.net*

The Membership Committee is working to support our religious school in boosting enrollment for the coming school year as we have a number of openings in grades *Gan* through *Gimel* (kindergarten through grade 3). Reduced enrollment in the school means fewer families joining our community, which in turn makes it that much more difficult to reach our goals for growth.

We are asking anyone who is willing to post fliers in your neighborhood, at your child's summer program, your place of work, coffee shops, anywhere you can think of where they might be seen by parents seeking a Jewish education for their children. This is an important community-building effort and we are asking for your support, whether or not you have (or will have) children in our school. Please contact me (see email above) if you can help.

### Welcome Ewa Tuschman!

Dorshei Tzedek is delighted to welcome Ewa Maniawski Tuschman as our new Education Director. Ewa is moving from Cleveland with her husband, Richard, and her son, Michael, to take on this position. Ewa has taught Jewish studies to kids from kindergarten through high school. She has served not only as a teacher, but as a congregational educator, a rabbinic assistant, and a synagogue operations manager. Ewa has recently completed her Master's degree in Rabbinics and Jewish Education from Siegal College in Cleveland. The Search Committee was unanimously delighted that Ewa is taking on this important role in our congregation. We were all impressed by her creativity, her passion for Jewish education, her open mind and heart, and her own spiritual journey.

Todah rabah to all who worked hard on the search for a new education director. Serving on the Search Committee were Laurie Gould, Jill Volk, Tessa Goldsmith, Doug Hersh, Benita Danzing, Peter Hess and Lisa Samelson. They all put in long hours figuring out how to market the position, screening and interviewing candidates, talking with congregants about their concerns, and drinking coffee at Laurie's house on Sunday mornings. Cindy Shulak-Rome was, as ever, generous with her time and sage in her advice. President Nancy Gertz and Rabbi Toba provided wisdom and guidance at critical points in the process. Phyllis and Al

Glazerman very graciously hosted Ewa during her visit in April, exemplifying the generosity and welcoming spirit of CDT; Cindy Shulak-Rome did the same when Ewa and her family returned in May to search for housing. Thanks, too, to the many members who spoke with our final candidates during their visits to the school. Todah Rabah to one and all – it was a great collaborative effort.

### Todah Rabah Cindy Shulak-Rome!

As most of you know, Cindy Shulak-Rome has been our Director of Religious Education for the past five years and is retiring this year from that role with the congregation. For those of you too new to remember, Cindy was not only one of the founders of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, she also served as Congregation President for many years. When our Education Director left five+ years ago, Cindy graciously stepped in for a year to temporarily fill the gap when we were unable to hire a Director on short notice. That short-term help became a more than full-time mission for our part-time Director! Under her leadership Cindy has developed a strong educational curriculum, hired, trained, and supervised a strong educational staff, and introduced new initiatives such as Torah Talk, Junior Congregation, and our youth group programming, No'ar Hadash. She has spent many hours helping to organize and participate in erev Shabbat class dinners, Shabbat youth services, family education programs, tikkun olam initiatives, board and committee meetings, and thoughtful meetings with parents to help guide their children's progress. As a congregation we want to thank you Cindy for your warm embrace of the job, the congregation, and of Jewish education!

### Todah Rabah Rebekah Ralen!

Rebekah has been the Associate Director of Religious Education at Dorshei Tzedek for the past two years and will continue to work with our post-b'nei mitzvah youth through No'ar Hadash while she continues on as the Director of Youth Education at Congregation Hillel B'nai Torah. Rebekah has been instrumental in helping develop our youth programming, organizing the b'nai mitzvah planning, and providing insight and knowledge to the congregation through the family education programs. We look forward to continuing to work with her through our older youth and other shared programming with Hillel B'nai Torah. Many thanks go out to you Rebekah for your teaching, organizing, enthusiasm and active community participation!

## A Journey Filled with Blessings

Cindy Shulak-Rome

On Shabbat services on June 17 (thank you for honoring me in this lovely way!) I spoke about the Israelites kvetching on their journey through the wilderness. In this particular *parashat*, they happened to be complaining about food, but as we examine the text more closely we learn that a direct translation of their complaints (*nafsheinu y've-sha*) is “our souls are dry” and we realize that perhaps they are confusing physical hunger with spiritual nourishment.

As my own thoughts explore what it means to be “spiritually nourished” I think about the many ways that I have been nourished by this community. Fifteen years ago as a founding member of DT with my husband Dan, and a small group of others, I never imagined the places this journey would take me. The opportunities to enrich my Jewish life and soul have been rich and varied. And, while I will sheepishly admit that I have done my share of kvetching ... I have known always that the blessings on this journey have far outweighed the reasons to kvetch!

Through my work in our school I have seen the many ways in which our kids’ souls are nourished by their connection to Judaism. I have been blessed with the opportunity to observe this over and over again for the past five years. I see it when kids learn Torah, and are empowered both to question and to imagine themselves inside the mind of our ancestors, when they join together in community to sing and help lead a service, when they feel empowered to help lead their family Passover seder, when they eagerly volunteer to open the ark or lead the Sh’ma at Torah Talk, and when a child takes comfort in prayer or Jewish ritual during a challenging time. I see it when kids come back from Jewish camp, infused with ruach/spirit and a love and comfort with their Jewish connection. And it doesn’t end there!

We all know that two or four hours of Religious School doesn’t transform a child into a Jewish adult. With that in mind, much of my energy these past few years has been devoted to expanding the Jewish experiences we offer our children. In addition to running a school, developing curriculum and hiring and supervising teachers, I have been committed to finding ways for our children and families to integrate Judaism more fully into their lives. Programs such as our No’ar Hadash Youth Group, Kiddush Levana—a monthly group for adolescents, our school wide Tikkun Olam programs, our new Ma’apilim – 8th grade program, Community of Learners and Family Education have all been established with this in mind. And, one of my favorites—Jewish Camp.

I have been especially committed to the formation of Camp JRF, which was a dream when I joined the national JRF Board seven years ago. After four years at a rental site, this is JRF’s first summer season at their own camp site in the Poconos. I am delighted that 6 of our youth are there as campers and staff. In addition, Rabbi Toba and Gina will spend a week working at camp, and Clifford Goldsmith will be there helping the Teen Avodah program to build the “Beit Tefilah” – the outdoor prayer space. I hope next year Dorshei Tzedek will send twice as many members to Camp JRF!

Our youth education program is eight years young! We have a wonderful foundation and room to grow. I welcome Ewa Maniawski Tuschman as our new Education Director. Ewa brings some wonderful skills and innovative approaches to Jewish Education that will be a gift to our community. I know her work will enhance our existing programs and will facilitate the growth of Jewish learning throughout our congregation.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to everyone for the support the community has given me over the past five years that I have served as Education Director. It was wonderful to see so many students and parents at Shabbat Services on June 17, and I am touched by the wonderful gifts you have showered me with. The Torah Table cover made in my honor, the beautiful framed tribute presented by the students on the last day of school, the wonderful song written by Laurie Gould and Sheree Galpert, and all the lovely cards and notes in the beautiful keepsake box, have all touched my heart in a very special way. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the members of our community. Many, many thanks—todah rabah!

—“Morah Cindy”

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## Ma’apilim: New Eighth Grade Program This Fall

We are excited to be offering a new 8th grade program this fall. *Ma’apilim*- Hebrew for “activists” will meet twice a month on Tuesday evenings. Students will have a chance to engage in study and action, and hopefully culminate in a spring trip. Themes of the program will include Tikkun Olam, Israel, Comparative Religions and more. If you are interested in receiving registration materials, please contact Marla in the office at 617 965-0330.

## Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Jackie Fleischman** of the Chesed Committee (617-332-5433 or jackief@rcn.com).

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to [dtnews@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 **Zach Carson**, **Marcia Okun**, and **Shari Zimble**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

### Condolences

To **Steve Siegel**, and to **Theresa St. John-Siegel**, **Celina and Tema**, on the death of Steve's mother, **Sylvia Siegel**. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Ira Fader**, and to **Emily Saltz**, **Julian and Sam**, on the death of Ira's mother, **Doris Fader**. May her memory be for a blessing.



### Todah Rabah

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek extends a huge "todah rabah" to everyone who served on our Board this past year, and who chaired off-board committee positions. We want to especially acknowledge those who are stepping down from their position and/or the Board, and thank them for their service. **Thank you to:**

**Nancy Gertz**, for her incredible service as president for the past two years. Nancy brought vision, grace, intelligence, and incredible dedication to this task. Her many leadership gifts have been a blessing to CDT. We are all indebted to her for her work on behalf of the congregation as president, and we are lucky to still have her on the Board as Past President for two more years!

**Steve Siegel**, for his many years of devoted service on the Board, most recently as Vice President for Develop-

ment, guiding our Nadiv Lev efforts.

**Paul Hattis**, for his leadership and vision as Vice President for Strategic Planning, initiating our strategic planning process.

**Sivan Nasoff**, for her dedicated service as Vice President of Finance.

**Peter Hess**, for his devoted service as Secretary and board representative to the Education Director Search Committee.

(We are thrilled that Sivan, Steve and Peter, while stepping off the Executive Committee, are continuing to serve on the Board in somewhat different capacities!)

**Carla Naumburg**, for her commitment and hard work as Membership Outreach chair.

**Angela Vierling-Claassen**, for her dedication to community as co-chair of Kehillah/Membership Inreach.

**Janet Boguslaw** and **Howard Lurie**, for their leadership of the Children's Education Committee.

**Kelli Kirshtein**, for her many years as co-chair of the Ritual Committee. And to **Marc Steinberg**, who is "moving up" from his position as Ritual co-chair!

**Matilda Bruckner**, for her many years serving as Adult Education chair.

**Josh Herzig-Marx**, for his thoughtful work as chair of Publicity.

**Annie Spanel**, for her dedicated service as co-chair of the Chesed Committee.

Todah Rabah to **Susannah Zisk** for creating the beautiful new covering for our torah table, which was presented to the congregation in honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome.

Todah Rabah to **Laya Steinberg** and **Debra Rattet** for helping us to create beautiful certificates with which to honor our many hard-working volunteers. Helping hands, indeed!

## 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).

## Incoming Board

At the June 4 Members Meeting, a new slate of officers of the CDT Board was voted on by the membership. We extend our thanks and congratulations to all those who are continuing to serve on the Board, and to those who are joining the Board for a new term, beginning this July:

### Executive Committee

President: **Marc Steinberg**

Past-President: **Nancy Gertz**

VP Strategic Planning: **Laurie Gould**

VP Membership: **Andrew Schiff**

VP Finance: **Mark Farber**

Secretary: **Dan Halbert**

### Board Chairs

Adult Education: **Jeff Kichen**

Finance Secretary: **Sivan Nasoff**

Kehillah (in-reach): **Diana Fisher-Gomberg**

Membership. Outreach: **Susannah Zisk**

Member-at-large: **Betsy Hinden**

Member-at-large: **James Kaplan**

Nadiv Lev: **Peter Hess**

Newsletter: **Dan Halbert**

Ritual: **Debbie Waber / Audra Karp**

Education: *Unfilled*

Space: **Stuart Snyder / Steve Siegel**

Tikkun Olam: **Esther Kohn**

### Off-Board Chairs

End of Life: **Nicky Silver**

Chesed: **Annie Spanel / Jackie Fleishman**

Rabbinic Liaison: **Ora Gladstone**

Personnel: **Peter Katz**

Website: **Stan Fleishman**

High Holy Days: **Theresa St-John Siegel**

Publicity: *In discussion*

School Liaison: **Pamela Schoenberg Reider**

## JRF News

### 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*.

### 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.

# Nadiv Lev

*We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions*

## General Fund

**Susan Bernstein & Jodie Siegel**

**Naomi Botkin & Josh Gordon**

**Lynne Brandon**

*In honor of Meryl Epstein*

**Elaine Bresnick**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

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

*In honor of Anna Bresnick's High School graduation*

**Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn**

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

*In honor of Nancy Gertz*

**Stacey Chacker**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

*In honor of Rebekah Ralen*

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

*In memory of my father, Fred Chacker*

**Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

**Cliff Cohen & Lissy Medvedow**

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

**Andy Diamond**

**Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein**

**Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola**

*In honor and appreciation of Nancy Gertz*

**Mark Farber & Sherry Katz**

**Carolyn Fine & Jeremiah Friedman**

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

*In honor of Rose Friedman's graduation*

*and Milton Fine's 80th birthday*

**Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome,*

*for her dedication and inspiration, warmth and wisdom*

*In appreciation of the Board of Directors of CDT,*

*with whom Nancy has had the great pleasure*

*of working over the last year*

**Lauren Gibbs**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome's vision for  
and leadership of the DT School*

*In honor of Hillary Pinsker's commitment to teaching  
and the Kitah Gimmel kids*

*In memory of Pat Gibbs*

*In memory of Jeannette B. Winkler*

**Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver**

**Ellie Goldberg**

*In gratitude of Nancy Gertz's two years as president*

*In memory of Fred Chacker, Stacey Chacker's father and  
Ariane's grandfather*

*In memory of Carole Spiro, Ilene Spiro's mother*

**Jeffrey & Beth Green**

**Rachel Greenberg**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome—  
thank you for your support and compassion*

**Paul Hattis & Lisa Samelson**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

*In honor of Lesley Chapman*

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

*In memory of Sylvia Siegel*

**The Hausman Family**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*

*In honor of Abby Cohen*

**Carol Hemley**

*In memory of David Hemley*

**Doug Hersh & Sarah Little**

*In appreciation of Lisa Port White's excellent sense of humor*

**Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman**

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

**The Junior Congregation Parents**

*In honor of Elana Rome and the inspiration and fun  
she gives our children*

**James Kaplan & Erica Streit-Kaplan**

*In memory of Erica's grandparents Irving Streit and  
Blanche Harris Streit*

**Peter & Linda Katz**

**Labe Philanthropic Fund**

**Elaine Landes & David Felson**

*In memory of Efrem Goldberg*

**Sue Lanser & Jo Radner**

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



**Arthur Lent & Allison Andrews**

**Alissa & Gerald Leonard**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome's fabulous leadership of the Dorshei Tzedek Hebrew School*

*In honor of all the outgoing board members who have contributed so much of themselves to our community*

**Josh Lieberman & Marcia Okun**

*In appreciation of the congregation's support during Marcia's illness and treatment*

**Amy Mazur & Michael S. Feldstein**

*In appreciation of Nancy Gertz's tenure as president*

**Gertrude Nemeth**

*In memory of Leonard I. Nemeth, 24 Adar, Husband, Father and Grandfather*

**Ellen Pashall**

*In honor of Nancy Gertz and Cindy Rome for their wonderful leadership at Dorshei Tzedek*

**Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider**

*In honor of Gina Fried's energy and inspiration in our children's education*

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

**Linda Schiller & Steve Robins**

*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome*  
*In honor of Nancy Gertz's two years of service*

**Jo Ann Share & Rochelle Weichman**

*In memory of Ina Samuels*

**Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman**

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

**Cindy Shulak-Rome**

*In honor of Rebekah Ralen, colleague, friend and teacher—thank you for all your work with our school*  
*In honor of our Dorshei Tzedek teachers—Lesley Chapman, AdAm Mayer-Deutsch, Hillary Pinsker, Abby Cohen, Rachel Hall—Todah Rabah for your wonderful teaching skills and the dedication you brought to the youth of Dorshei Tzedek*

*In honor of our Madrichim (teaching assistants)—Olivia Medvedow, Rachel Felson, Julia Pashall, Zach Miller, Shoshi Pris-Saper, Sarah Forman, Laura Greenly—thank you for helping out in our school*

**Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome**

*In honor of Nancy Gertz upon completion of her tenure as President: many thanks for the thoughtful ways in which you have led our congregation over the past two years*

**Lisa Beth Schneier**

*In appreciation of a wonderful congregation*

**Emily Sper**

*In memory of Pepi Friedman*

**Angela Vierling-Claassen & Dorea Vierling-Claassen**

*In honor of those members who have generously given us rides: Sivan Nasoff, Lisa Schneier, Laurie Goldman, Ilana Mainelli, Sue Lanser, Jo Radner, Lauren Gibbs*

**Susannah & Steven Zisk**

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## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Haralie Alpert**

*In honor of the new president of CDT, Marc Steinberg, our neighbor and friend*

**Stacey Chacker**

*In appreciation of Rabbi Toba*

**Doug Hersh & Sarah Little**

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## School Fund

**Jerry, Barbara, Charlotte & Ethan Zolit**

*In honor of Moreh AdAm—Thanks for a great year*  
*In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome—thanks for many great years of education*

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

## Adult Education

### Judaism & Practice: A Reflection

*Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

As a follow-up to my talk last Yom Kippur on creating a "Community of Practice," over the course of this past year I offered a new, weekly class (which met at two different times during the week) called "Judaism and Practice." Nearly 30 congregants took part in the class at some point over the year. We explored Jewish practices including morning blessings and meditations, eating and blessing practices, prayer, Shabbat, and "*tikkun middot*," a focus on the development of qualities that allow us to act more ethically and with greater compassion. It was a wonderful exploration for everyone involved, and I wanted to share here some reflections from different folks who took the class. I hope to offer the course again next year at a different time, and I hope that folks who weren't able to make it this year (or who want to do it again!) will join me!

"[The class] made me want to live in a more conscious way and to make decisions about how I act. The class has helped me to focus on that more."

"The course has been such an up. Participating in something Jewish that is so positive and joyful has been really wonderful. As I grew up, my experience of my Jewish identity held a lot of pain and down-ness. It's nice to become more and more part of a community and what I am learning is deepening the joyful part of my Jewish identity."

"This class was extremely worthwhile and has provided many insights into how to put Jewish values into practice as part of my daily life. For sure, I still need a lot more work in remaining focused on and cognizant of the practices explored in the class, and in integrating them so that they might become part of my being."

"For me, life is about the connections. This class has been a connection to study, to the community, to God and to Torah."

"I felt elevated by participating. It wasn't about what I want or how I feel. It was something Godly and it connected me to being Jewish and to my community."

"I found the class tremendously helpful, particularly the sessions on humility, compassion, and mindful speech."

"I feel privileged to be part of a congregation that has this many people learning together about these topics... I have added branches to my life and have tried to condition that awareness in my everyday crazy life."

"I now have a morning practice and I feel that I wake up to gratitude. It may only last for several hours. But I at least I reset it every day."

"I feel like I've been given an invitation to learn with whatever level of knowledge I am starting with. ... I enjoy feeling like a student again and learning with other people who want to learn."

## Community Events

### Summer Discussion Series with Rabbi Barbara Penzner

*(first session was June 28)*

*continuing on 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 remaining dates and topics are:

#### 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 [hbtooffice@templehbt.org](mailto:hbtooffice@templehbt.org).

## GBIO and Tikkun Olam

### Save This Date!

*Sunday, September 17, 3 - 5 pm*

### GBIO Gubernatorial Action

Dorshei Tzedek has pledged to bring 30 members to this exciting event. 1,000 GBIO members will gather together to present our priorities to the gubernatorial candidates. Our "platform", based on stories from house meetings across the metropolitan area, will include the challenges and pressures described by CDT members in our own Re-counting the Omer campaign. Stay tuned for more details!

## Action to Preserve Equal Marriage

On **July 21**, the Massachusetts legislature will be voting on whether to send an anti-equal marriage ballot initiative to the voters. Progressive religious communities across the state are mobilizing to contact legislators and defeat this measure. To take action, go to the website of the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry, [www.rcm.org](http://www.rcm.org).

## Membership

We say a sad and fond goodbye to CDT members **Marcia Wasserman** and **Cindy Bittker**, who will not be rejoining Dorshei Tzedek next year. Marcia is moving from Boston to the Orchard Cove retirement village in Canton, and Cindy is settling into her new community in Hull. While they may no longer be members, Marcia and Cindy are still in the general neighborhood, and we look forward to seeing them at occasional services here at CDT in the years to come!

## 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.

## CDT Sings

*Elaine Bresnick, [ebresnick@comcast.net](mailto:ebresnick@comcast.net)*

Join CDT Sings on the second Sunday of every month as we learn new songs and sing old favorites. We are already planning for the High Holidays. If you'd like to sing with us or just have questions, please contact Elaine at the email above.

## July-August Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Jul 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Sheree Galpert (In honor of her 50th birthday), Kelli Kirshtein, Wendy Angus
Sat Jul 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	<i>Kiddush help needed! (see page 3)</i>
Sat Aug 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ilana Mainelli, Jennifer Hochschild
Sat Aug 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Betsy Hinden, Karen Wasserman
Sat Aug 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	James Kaplan & Erica Streit Kaplan
Sat Aug 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jennifer Hochschild

**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.

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.