

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
www.dorsheitzedek.org office@dorsheitzedek.org

Heshvan/Kislev 5767

November 2006



Israel and Us

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Twenty years ago, in October 1986 (the day after the Red Sox lost the World Series to the Mets, in fact—my personal introduction to the exquisite agony of the Red Sox fan!), I left Cambridge, where I'd spent my college years, and headed off to Jaffa, Israel. There, I connected with a tiny organization called Friendship's Way. At the time, the group consisted of the founder—Moty Golan—a few of his Israeli friends, and two volunteers from overseas, including me. Together, we spent the next 9 months renovating a community center in north Jaffa and teaching very poor Palestinian Israeli kids in one of the local Arab schools. It was my second time living in Israel; the first was 6 years earlier, when I had spent a year on a kibbutz in the Negev as part of the Habonim Workshop program. The next time I lived in Israel was in 1995, as a rabbinical student studying in Jerusalem.

I feel incredibly privileged to have had these three quite distinct experiences of living in Israel. During those years, I got to know Americans who'd moved to a desert kibbutz in the 1950s to fulfill a Jewish socialist ideal, Israeli Arabs living in broken down neighborhoods by the beautiful Mediterranean Sea, and a whole variety of people living in the intense, sometimes intoxicating city of Jerusalem. During all those years I was able not only to experience different people and neighborhoods, but also to connect with the land and history of Israel, to see ruins thousands of years old and to hike in mountains that conjured up the stories of the Torah. Politics was never far from my experience, no matter when I was there or where I was living, whether on a Labor-affiliated kibbutz during an election in which the right-wing Likud emerged victorious, or working with a population who suffered constant discrimination as second-class citizens, or standing in downtown Jerusalem on a chilly night in November, 1995, hearing the news of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's murder.

This November 3rd, the 12th day of the Hebrew month of Heshvan, marks Rabin's yartzheit. There is so much that has happened since that fateful night—the failure of the

Camp David accords and the eruption of the second Intifadah; 9/11, the war in Iraq, and the resultant radicalization in the Muslim and Arab worlds; the ascension to power of Ariel Sharon and his attempts to force a unilateral solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is easy to forget how relatively hopeful things felt that fall of 1995, and the real possibilities that might have played out. It also feels as if our discussions of Israel in the U.S. and in the American Jewish community have become increasingly thin and unnuanced in the intervening years. Unlike the rhetoric one hears from the right and from the left, Israel is neither the helpless victim nor the all-powerful monster. It is neither poised on the brink of possible annihilation, nor is it the cause of all the troubles in the Middle East. Israel is a place of conflict and contradiction, of great beauty and of great pain. All of its populations—Jewish and Palestinian, Christian and Muslim, secular and religious—harbor their own diversity and complexity. The labor Zionist myths of my childhood in Habonim no longer adequately describe either the history or the current reality of Israel today.

Having a relationship with the land of Israel, both the state of Israel and the Palestinian occupied territories, is in many ways like an intimate relationship with another hu-

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Members' Meeting, Retreat.....	2
Shabbat Programs	3
B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations	4
Rosh Chodesh Celebrations	5
Chesed.....	6
Harvest of Accomplishments	7
Adult Education	8-9
CDT Sings, Film Club.....	9
JRF Convention, Teen trip to Israel.....	10
Community Events	11
Nediv Lev	12
Calendar	13-14
JRF Convention, MAZON	15

(Continued from page 1)

man being. To be healthy, the relationship must be able to embrace complexity and struggle, to encompass both love and rebuke. It saddens me that so many members of Dorshei Tzedek have never had the opportunities that I have had to actually spend time in that part of the world, to discover one's own relationship to the land, the history, the people.

I am hoping that over the next year or so we can begin to remedy this problem. I am excited that the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is organizing our movement's first youth summer trip to Israel this coming July, for incoming 11th and 12th graders (for more information, see page 10). It would be wonderful if we can send some of our own high schoolers on what should be a transformative journey. I hope that all of our members who have school-aged children are participating in the Passport to Israel program, in which the Combined Jewish Philanthropies matches funds that parents put away over the course of a child's school years, to be used towards a youth trip by the end of high school (for information about Passport to Israel, please contact our school office).

And I am also hoping that in the not-too-distant-future (February vacation week 2008?) we might organize our first congregational trip to Israel, to have a communal experience of a place that holds so much of our people's history, hopes, and challenges. In the meantime, may we honor Yitzhak Rabin's memory this year with our own dedication to helping, in whatever we can, in the task of bringing peace between Israel and her neighbors.

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 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.

Members' Meeting

Sunday, December 3 (note change from November 5)

60 Highland Street

5:30 - 8:30 pm; child care provided

We hope that at least one representative from every CDT household will join us at our first Members' Meeting of 5767! We will begin with a potluck dinner at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If your last name begins A-K, please bring a veggie/dairy/fish main dish. Last names L-Z, please bring a salad (green, grain salad, etc.) **Please bring enough for 12-15 people.** Drinks and dessert will be provided.

At 6:30 we'll begin the meeting, where we will focus on next steps in our strategic planning process. We need to hear your voices as we discuss critical topics in the next five years of our congregation's development—issues ranging from growth and intimacy to financial concerns to spirituality and education.

Save the Date: the CDT Retreat is June 1-3, 2007!



Mark your calendars now! All members are invited to the retreat this spring at Camp Ramah in Central Massachusetts, only about an hour's drive from Newton. Adults and children are

welcome at this very special event that only happens every two (or three!) years. Join together to learn, play, sing, dance, and enjoy a special experience together. Please help plan the retreat! Contact Bill Shorr today at 617.787.1632 or bill.shorr@gmail.com. Thanks!

Shabbat Programs

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services and Potlucks



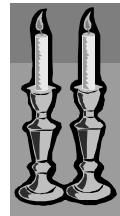
*November 3, December 8,
January 5 (2007), February 9 (special Shabbat Shira program), March 9, April 6, May 4, June 8*

Once a month, we gather for a potluck vegetarian dinner, beginning with **candle-lighting at 6 pm**, followed by a musical, all-ages erev Shabbat service **at 6:45 pm**. Please bring a vegetarian/fish main dish or salad to share (enough for 10 – 12 people).

Erev Shabbat Services

October 27, November 17, 8 – 9:30 pm

Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection. Please join us! Please note that on December 17, we'll celebrate the first night of Chanukah with Shabbat dinners in members' homes.



Tot Shabbat

NOTE THAT MANY DATES HAVE CHANGED

*November 18, December 2, January 27 (2007), Feb 10, March 17, April 21, May 12
10:45 - 11:30 am, Room 112, Second Church*



Tot Shabbat is for children around the ages of 3-5 and their parents. We do a little singing, a little praying, and celebrating of holidays. And, of course there will be snacks and crafts. Please call Karen Wasserman at 617-325-4716 with any questions.

Junior Congregation

*November 18, December 9, January 13 (2007), February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12
10.45 am – 12 noon*

Calling all students grades 3-7 for a wonderful Shabbat experience! Join us for Junior Congregation led by **Elana Rome**. This is a joyful, spirited, service with prayers, music, a Torah skit, and our very own Kiddush (kids only please!). We'll meet in Room 111 (first floor across from the Child Care room). Questions? Call the CDT School at 617.965.5443.

Spirituality & Social Justice: Abraham Joshua Heschel

with Rabbi Or N. Rose

November 4, 1 pm, following Shabbat services and kiddush lunch

We are pleased to welcome **Rabbi Or N. Rose**, Associate Dean at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College for a discussion of Abraham Joshua Heschel (see page 8).

Bar Mitzvah of Skylar Fox

Please join us on **November 11** when our son, **Skylar Cameron Fox**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Skylar is the tallest eighth grader at Bigelow Middle School in Newton. He enjoys being tall, theater of any sort...particularly being *in* it, dreaming up great sets, magic stuff, cooking anything with cheese, dancing, the art of the "costume", circus arts, juggling things that are dangerous and can break his teeth, and dressing up real fancy. For his Tikkun Olam project, he is designing and teaching an After-School Improv program that focuses on using improvisational theater to help kids deal with problems they encounter throughout life. Please join us for the Shabbat service, followed by a Kiddush luncheon, as we look forward to celebrating with the entire Dorshei community.—*Julie and Paul Fox*

Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Hope Cohen

Charlotte, as a two-year old, spent many Shabbat services walking laps around—and around—the old sanctuary. Now, she is a 7th grader at Oak Hill Middle School. She truly loves animals and has never walked by a dog without asking its owner if the dog is friendly enough to pet. Her *tikkun olam* project is raising funds via collection boxes and door-to-door canvassing in order to make a gift to the MSCPA or an animal shelter. She also loves singing and plays trombone. Please join us on **November 18** at 9:45 am as Charlotte is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Services will be followed by a Kiddush lunch at Dorshei Tzedek.—*Cliff Cohen and Lissy Medvedow*

Bar Mitzvah of Yonatan Meschede-Krasa

Please join us on **December 2** when our son Yonatan will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Yonatan is an eighth grader at Oak Hill Middle School. He enjoys reading fantasy, play on the computer and design computer games, swimming, photography, and exploring the woods. For his Tikkun Olam project he is volunteering at a soup kitchen. We hope you can join us for kiddush lunch and celebration on this special occasion.—*Daniel Krasa and Tatjana Meschede*



Rosh Chodesh Celebrations

Erica Streit-Kaplan, CDT Rosh Chodesh Coordinator

For over a year, women in Dorshei Tzedek have met to celebrate the new moon, or Rosh Chodesh. 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.

Several of us have become "regulars" at these groups, which have been held almost every month since the first one in April 2005, but each time there are new faces and new voices. I have heard concern about the loss of intimacy as our congregation grows, and I see Rosh Chodesh celebrations as one way that helps us stay connected. For me, the Rosh Chodesh group has been a great opportunity for to connect with other women of CDT on a deeper level.

For the Elul celebration in August, we were a small group of just three people. With song and candlelight to set the tone, our leader read a poem about the process of reflection and t'shuvah associated with Elul, the time leading up to Rosh Hashana. Perhaps unexpectedly, since we were all friendly but not on intimate terms when the group started that evening, each of us shared details about our own t'shuvah paths. We talked about relationships in our lives that we wanted to improve, and areas where we struggled to find forgiveness or be able to move forward.

Each month's celebration is hosted in a different member's

home. We've also rotated who leads the service, so each one has its own tone. In various celebrations people have shared highlights of their years, written poetry or letters on a theme, told stories about inspiring moments in their lives (which one member actually turned into a song on the spot!), and issues they're struggling with.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh group, or would like to get involved by hosting one in your home or leading a service, please contact me at ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com or 617-393-0216. The celebration for Kislev will be held at the home of Diana Fisher Gomberg on November 21 (see below). And check your newsletter for information about future celebrations.

Kislev Rosh Chodesh Celebration

Tuesday, November 21, 7:30 – 9 pm

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 **Tuesday November 21**, CDT women are invited to celebrate the new moon of Kislev. Please join us from **7:30 to 9 pm** at the home of **Diana Fisher Gomberg**, 290 Islington Road, in the Auburndale neighborhood of Newton. To RSVP or for more information, contact Diana at gofish4@comcast.net or 617-243-9424. Newcomers are welcome to all Rosh Chodesh celebrations.

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@yahoo.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**, **Ilana Mainelli**, **Marcia Okun**, and **Shari Zimble**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Condolences

To **Marcia Okun**, on the death of her grandmother, **Augusta Frank**, may her memory be for a blessing.

To **Nicky Silver**, on the death of her mother, **Bunny Grossman**, may her memory be for a blessing.



Mazel tov

To Matt Fried and Jen Levine-Fried, on the birth and *brit milah* of Jonah Fried-Levine!

Todah Rabah

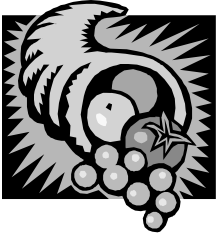
Todah rabah to everyone who made our Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations so special! To **Amy Mazur**, **Susan Manheim**, and **Laurie Goldman**, for coordinating the erev Sukkot program and our "harvest" activity of accomplishments from this past year! And thanks to our hardy sukkah-building crew **Paul Carson**, **Mark Farber**, **Jacob Farber**, **Corinne Lofchie**, **Noam Shore**, and **Susan Silberberg**.

We're also grateful to the wonderful musicians for our Simchat Torah celebration, our very own **Terry Traub** on accordion, and **Edith Epstein** on violin.

Thanks very much to the following members who sponsored Kiddush during the last few months:

Allison Andrews
Rex Flynn
Wendy Gedanken
Sharon Gorberg
Ezra Hausman
John Holohan
Arthur Lent
Barbara Pittel
Dan Rome

Rejoicing in the Dorshei Tzedek Harvest of Accomplishments for 5766



During the days of awe, we joined together to reflect on our transgressions. Over Sukkot's days of joy, we gathered to celebrate our accomplishments from the year—our harvest of deeds, creations, and gleanings of all sorts. Dozens of members of all ages described projects completed, honors awarded, new skills acquired, and blossoming connections with new and long-treasured friends and family members. We strung these fruits of our labor on colorful chains in the Dorshei Tzedek Sukkah.

The list of accomplishments below reflects this bounty. May they evoke the many more yet-to-be acknowledged achievements of Dorshei Tzedek members, both personal and collective.

Ellie Goldberg's most recent "Harvest" is the article, "Clearing the Air in Schools," published in the October/November 2006 issue of National PTA's magazine, *Our Children*. The original version and other recent publications are online at www.healthy-kids.info. **Lisa Schneier**: This year my harvest is not something I can hold in my hands. Instead, it's a kind of space or freedom that will hopefully allow me to use more of my full strength. **Benjamin Angus-Kirshtein**: I started kindergarten and I can write words! **Naomi Botkin and Josh Gordon**: Our biggest achievement this year is the birth of our daughter, **Susannah Adele**. She has brought great joy into our lives! **Linda Schiller** has been listed in the Cambridge "Who's Who" professional directory for teaching excellence, development of a new theory of a relational model of group development, and integration of body/mind/spirituality into clinical practice. **Steve Robins** is celebrating his "good as new" new hip. **Laurie Goldman** has joined new communities: as a faculty member at Tufts University, as a congregant of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, and as a participant among b'nei yisrael. **Emily Sper's** new book, *The Kids'*

Fun Book of Jewish Time, was published by Jewish Lights. **Steffi Karp** created two faith quilts, participated in the Davenen Leadership Training Institute, and helped carry the Torah from Elat Chayyim to its new home. **Sheree Galpert** turned 50, leyned for the first time, and celebrated her daughter becoming bat mitzvah. **Carole Slipowitz** jogged continuously for 95 minutes. **Hannah Schiff** was accepted into the ADL-World of Difference program. **Amy Mazur** performed the premier of *Flutter* with the Caitlin Corbett Dance Company. **Anna Streit-Kaplan's** parents celebrate the joys of parenting. **Susannah Zisk** completed her largest-to-date art commission. **Lucy** learned to walk and talk. **Maya** learned to read. **Susan Manheim** started working at a bakery. **Rabbi Toba** wrote the *Seek Peace* letter signed by 300 American rabbis. **Layla Zisk** can tread water without a floaty. **Sara Malka** climbed a *really* high mountain at Acadia National Park. **Rhea** took good care of her baby brother. **Phyllis Glazerman**: I traveled to Israel to visit my daughters and their families. I drove the 3 hours up to Zefat and gave each of my 14 grandchildren something special for them. It was a great accomplishment because everyone was very happy with my visit, especially after the difficult summer. **Lily F. G** got much better at writing and celebrates fasting for the first time. **Aleeza Lev** met a new best friend. Other young members got better at reading, learned to play lacrosse, to make a "tornado stitch," do borrowing in math, play Sims 2, and play the guitar.

A Harvest of Births: **Harriet Vierling-Claassen**, **Sid Hackett**, **Susannah Adele Botkin-Gordon**, **Noa Nasoff**, **Ezra Sugerman-Brozan**, and **Shalev Breite Moser**.

Community Harvests: 20 new households became members; completion of the first phase of the strategic planning process; the first annual CDT auction; GBIO health care initiative's petitions and affordability workshops; over 60 personal stories told and interpreted as raw material for the next GBIO social and political change campaign; the blessings of the beautiful lectern cover crafted by **Susannah Zisk** and the new Torah table created by **Joel Reider** with the assistance of members of our **Kitah Zayin** (7th grade class).

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street

Fall dates: November 18, December 9

Join Rabbi Spitzer for discussion of the weekly Torah portion at this once-a-month study opportunity before Shabbat morning services. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own coffee/tea and a few good questions.

Judaism and Practice

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

(no meetings November 8 and 22)

60 Highland Street

This class is a repeat of the popular offering from last year, at a new time! In this ongoing, weekly class, we are exploring a wide variety of Jewish texts with the intention of developing practices in our daily lives that cultivate greater wisdom, clarity, patience, gratitude and compassion. Topics include: blessings and morning practices; meditation; eating; Shabbat; mindful use of speech and other ethical teachings. This class is intended for folks at any level of Jewish observance (or non-observance), and with any range of comfort with all things spiritual! It is fine to join the class in progress.

Letting God In: Study and Practice

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am

(no meetings November 9 and 23)

60 Highland Street

"Where does God live?" asked the Rabbi of Kotzk. And he answered his own question: "Where we let God in." What does it mean to "let God in," if we're not even sure if we believe in God? How do we "let God in" in the face of skepticism, rationalism, doubt? What are the obstacles to "letting God in" to our lives, our hearts? What are practices that we can cultivate to begin to experience—or to experience more deeply—a Godly presence in our lives? In this ongoing weekly class we explore these questions through text study and practice. Bring your questions, your life experience, your willingness to learn and explore! The class is still open to new members.

Spirituality & Social Justice:

Abraham Joshua Heschel

with Rabbi Or N. Rose

November 4, 1 pm

following Shabbat services and Kiddush lunch

Second Church, 60 Highland Street; free to all

This winter marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972), famed theologian and social activist. Join us as we explore the intersection of these two realms in various writings of Heschel, exploring the religious underpinnings of his justice commitments. We will frame our study with a discussion of his biography and of the historical period in which he flourished as a public personality in the United States.

Rabbi Or N. Rose is Associate Dean: Director of Informal Education at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College.

Israeli Writing in Times of War

with Dr. Irit Aharony

Monday evenings: November 6, 13 and 20, at 7:30 pm

*Cost: members free, non-members \$15 per session,
\$36 for all three*

We are thrilled to have **Dr. Aharony** back following her very popular class last year. She will discuss literature covering some of the most painful issues of Israeli society that have arisen again as a result of the recent Lebanon War.

Session 1: The first meeting will be dedicated to the way war is seen in Israeli poetry through the theme of the "living dead" (*ha'met ha'chai*). We will read poems by Nathan Alterman, Yehuda Amichai, Haim Guri and others.

Session 2: In this meeting we will deal with the Israeli term "Purity of the Weapon" (*tohar ha'neshek*). We will question the issue of morality during war through S. Yizhar, the "Ethics Code of the IDF" and more.

Session 3: In this meeting we will talk about the culture of remembrance in Israel, the way Memorial Day is observed in Israel, and the way it has changed during the years. We will talk about the Israeli "*shirah ba'tzibur*" (singing together), examine some of the most famous memorial songs, and read from Yehudith Hendel.

Since 1996, **Dr. Aharony** has taught Modern Hebrew and Israeli Literature at Harvard University. She has published articles about contemporary Israeli literature focusing especially on biblical influences on contemporary Hebrew literature.

(Adult Education, continued from page 8)

Zionism without Fear: Israel and the Diaspora in the 21st Century

*An evening with Professor Derek Penslar
Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 7:30 pm*

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

CDT members are invited to join Temple Hillel B'nai Torah for study and discussion of the history of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Prof. Penslar is a scholar of Zionist history who will help us navigate a complex conversation with sophistication, clarity and humor. He is the Director of Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto, and the Nachson Visiting Professor of Israeli Studies at Harvard University this fall.

CDT Sings

Calling all singers! Did you enjoy listening to CDT Sings at High Holiday services? We'd love for you to add your voice to ours as we rehearse new songs and old favorites during the coming year. We'll be rehearsing at **3:30 pm** at Elaine Bresnick's on **November 5, December 10, January 14, and February 11**. Interested in joining us now or in the future? Contact Angela Vierling-Claassen (angelavc@math.harvard.edu) for information and to get on the email list.



Dorshei Tzedek Film Club



Please join us on **Saturday November 18** for the Dorshei Tzedek Film Club's first film of the season. We meet at **6:30 pm** for snacks and schmoozing. Bring your own munchies; we will supply cold drinks. The film starts at **7 pm**.

This year we are planning to screen the films in our sanctuary using a laptop with DVD player, and a projector.

Our first film will be *Fateless* (2006), based on Nobel Prize-winner Imre Kertesz' stunning novel about a Hungarian Jewish boy's experiences during and after the Nazi occupation of Hungary. One day, Gyuri Koves (Marcell Nagy) is a typical teenage boy, caught up in the daily dramas of adolescence. When Nazi soldiers take over his native Budapest and begin imposing restrictions on the city's Jewish citizens, his comfortable life changes profoundly. Gyuri resents these restrictions, especially since he has never considered himself particularly Jewish. A rapid succession of events forces him to reconcile himself to this new daily reality. His father is taken by the Nazis and Gyuri himself is deported to a series of distant concentration camps, where survival becomes a daily goal. Gyuri prevails and is liberated by American soldiers. The film is in Hungarian & German with English subtitles and runs for 140 minutes

We have films every month. Here is our schedule:

Dec. 16: *Nina's Tragedies*

Jan. 20: *Golub: Late Works Are the Catastrophes*

Feb. 17: *La Petite Jerusalem*

Mar. 17: *Lost Embrace*

Apr. 14: *The Sky is Falling*

May 19: *Alila*

If you have any questions, contact Stan Fleischman, 617.332.5433, stanf@rcn.com or Emily Sper, 617.332.5033, emily@emilysper.com.

JRF News

41st JRF Convention:

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

November 9 – 12, Philadelphia



Hundreds of Reconstructionists and likeminded friends will gather at the 41st Convention of the JRF to learn, *daven*, and celebrate together as we mark a new chapter in our collective Evolving Jewish Journey, held at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's

Landing in historic Society Hill. Join a diverse community of North American and Israeli rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators and members of JRF affiliate congregations as we explore what Jewish Peoplehood means to us in our commitments to Jewish life extending beyond ourselves, including an opportunity to explore the impact of events this summer in the Middle East.

Sixty Different Workshops will be offered on just about every imaginable area of Jewish communal life, including adult education, congregational development, *tikkun olam*, leadership, ritual and liturgy, youth, Israel, spirituality, and creativity. Whether you are from a new affiliate, are a veteran JRF Board member, or are a professional, there will be many offerings to interest you. We are excited that our very own **Cindy Shulak-Rome** is on the slate for the Executive Committee of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, which will be voted in at the November convention. Come join Cindy and Rabbi Spitzer in Philadelphia for this wonderful event!

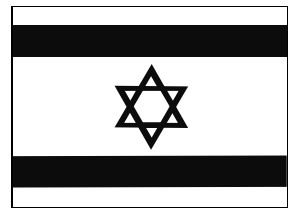
Convention highlights

- A Plenary Session on Reconstructionism is a time for us to hear leading rabbis within our movement share their thoughts on the evolution of Reconstructionist Judaism.
- A Special Thursday Evening Program on Israel will provide an opportunity to help us explore the impact of the events of this summer in personal and existential terms. What was the impact on our relationship to Israel? What was the impact on Israelis and their relationship to the reality and to the meaning of Israel? We will hear from and engage in dialogue with a group of thoughtful and creative leaders of pluralistic religious and cultural innovations in Israel.

- Shabbat services filled with ruach (spirit) and kavannah (intention) bring us all together as an extended Reconstructionist family.
- Shabbat Beit Midrash, informal text study on Shabbat afternoon, is an opportunity to delve into text with a havruta (study partner) to discern new meanings in our sacred works.
- The JRF Community Kumsitz '06 on Saturday evening promises to be a highlight of our days together as Harmoniyah—The Reconstructionist Music Network presents a showcase of the creative talent in our movement at this lively Havdalah program.

Reconstructionist Teen Trip to Israel

Join Reconstructionist teens from across North America for an amazing six weeks of exploring Israel! This trip is for entering high juniors and seniors.



The trip will take place **June 26 -**

August 5, 2007, including an orientation at Camp JRF, four days in Poland, and 30 days of touring and living in Israel.

After building community together at Camp JRF, participants will spend four days in Poland exploring the grandeur of Jewish life prior to World War II, touching the horror of the holocaust at concentration camps, and witnessing the rebirth of Jewish life in the 21st century. Upon arriving in Israel, they will begin a month-long interactive experience of the land and the people. Based on a civilizational approach, participants will move through history as they find ways in which Jews have lived their lives in Israel throughout the generations. They will spend time in all parts of the country as they climb, swim, sing, hike, learn, and explore their way through the country. Participants will have an opportunity to experience Shabbat in Jerusalem, see the sunrise over Masada, participate in *tikkun olam* projects with their Israeli peers, marvel at the natural wonders of the land, discuss the realities of life in contemporary Israel, and connect with Reconstructionist rabbis living and working in Israel. They will then bring their learning back to the Reconstructionist youth community in the United States - spending Shabbat at Camp JRF so that they can share their experiences, their stories, and their excitement about this unforgettable summer. For more information, go to <http://noarhadash.org/israel.htm>.

Community Events

"Shared Values and the Jewish Family"

*Sunday, October 29, 1:30-4 pm
Brandeis University*

Join us for a conversation with **Rabbi Arnold Eisen, Richard Joel, Larry Moses** and **Rabbi Eric Yoffie** on "Shared Values and the Jewish Family." This forum is co-sponsored by the Steinhardt Seminars on the Jewish Family, the Hornstein Program for Jewish Leadership, the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, and made possible by a grant from the Yahad Foundation.

Rashi Offers Programs for Curious Minds

(submitted by the Rashi School)

Curious three, four and five year olds are invited to explore and learn at The Rashi School in Newton at a series of programs specially designed for preschoolers.

Parents and their children are invited to "Get Ready for Thanksgiving" at the first Curious Minds program of the 2006-07 school year on **Friday, November 17**, at **1:15 pm** at The Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton (parking is in the Jackson Road lot).

Participants will explore Native American games and crafts and listen to Native American stories presented by the Newton History Museum. The program will end at 2:25 pm, after which parents and children are invited to stay for Rashi's Shabbat program.

The program is free; however, registration is required. To register, contact Anne Puchkoff, Admissions Manager, at 617-969-4444 ext. 226, apuchkoff@rashi.org.

The Rashi School, the Boston Area's Reform Jewish Day School, provides a dynamic child-centered program of academic excellence to students in grades K-8. Parents interested in finding out more about Rashi are invited to attend one of the upcoming Open Houses, on Sunday, November 5, 1-3 pm, or Thursday, November 16, 9:30 - 11 am. For more information, contact Susan Benett, Director of Recruitment and Admissions, at 617-969-4444 ext. 225, or sbenett@rashi.org.

Project Ezra: Volunteer on Christmas Day!

December 25, 2006

This year, as in years past, Christian volunteers and staff will be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends because of a unique project sponsored by the united Jewish community. The Synagogue Council's Project Ezra, embarking on its 20th successful year, is an outreach volunteer program of the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, an organization that unifies and strengthens the Jewish community and promotes interdenominational understanding, dialogue, and collaborative efforts. Jewish volunteers from across denominational lines will unite through Project Ezra, on Monday, December 25, to assist in local feeding programs and shelters, hospitals and nursing homes, enabling Christian staff members and volunteers to spend the holiday with their families. For more information, visit SCM's website: www.synagoguecouncil.org. If you are looking for additional site ideas, please contact Synagogue Council info@synagoguecouncil.org. or call 617.244.6506 ext. 17.

"The Seventy Faces of Torah" Contemporary Judaism in the State of Israel

January 3-14, 2007

Participate in a unique and special opportunity to express our oneness with the people of Israel, to explore our diversity and to be touched by the beauty and vibrancy of the land of Israel. This trip is in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Unity Missions to New York by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts. Mission Highlights include:

- Senior Tour Educator and Scholar-in-Residence
- Unique program focusing on the different expressions of Judaism in Israel
- Participation of Unity Mission alumni in Jerusalem and Haifa
- Customized sourcebook with readings, texts, maps
- Pre-Mission video-conference with Haifa
- Dr. Jesse Hefter, President, and Alan Teperow, Executive Director—tour leaders

Sponsored in part through a generous grant from CJP's Boston-Haifa Connection. For a brochure or additional more information, please contact: 617.244.6506, ext. 19, www.synagoguecouncil.org.

Nediv Lev General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

In memory of Efreim Goldberg

Lauren Gibbs

in memory of Bunny Grossman

In honor of Joel Reider and the boys—and girls—of last year's Kitah Vav, in thanks for the beautiful Torah table they made

In memory of Patricia Kook Gibbs

Sharon Gorberg

In memory of Sheila McIntyre

Jesse Michael Koenigsberg

In honor of the fourth yartzheit of brother-in-law Efreim Goldberg

Joshua Lieberman & Marcia Okun

In memory of Augusta Frank, Marcia's grandmother

Amy Mazur

In honor of Caroline Rosa's Bat Mitzvah

To Susan Manheim & Laurie Goldman, for their Sukkot celebration coordination

To Paul Carson & Mark Farber, for their Sukkah building leadership and expertise

In honor of the enthusiastic teamwork of the Sukkah building team: Corinne Lofchie, Noam Shore, Susan Silberberg, and Jacob Farber

Barbara Okun

In appreciation of Rabbi Toba's conducting a shiva service for Marcie Okun's maternal grandmother

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

In memory of Eleanor Zolit, Jerry Zolit's mother and Marcia Okun's grandmother

Lisa Schneier

In appreciation of Theresa St. John-Siegel and everyone else who worked to make High Holy Day services possible

School Fund

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

With blessing for Refuah Sh'lemah to Marcia Okun

Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lisa Schneier

In appreciation of Rabbi Toba and everyone else who contributed to the beauty of our High Holy Day services

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

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, or call 617.399.3162.

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.



November Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Wed Nov 1	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Nov 2	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Nov 2	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Back to School Night	FUSN: Parish Hall
Fri Nov 3	6 pm - 8 pm	All Ages: Potluck and Erev Shabbat Family Service	Linda Kramer & Alex Fried, Susan Bernstein & Jodie Siegel (see page 3)
Sat Nov 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor <i>in memory of Jonathan Levine</i>
Sat Nov 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Nov 4	1 pm	Spirituality & Social Justice: Abraham Joshua Heschel, with Rabbi Or Rose	Following services & Kiddush lunch (see page 8)
Mon Nov 6	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Israeli Writing in Times of War with Dr. Irit Aharoni	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 8)
Thu Nov 9	7:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Introduction to Hebrew, with Irit Halperin	FUSN classroom 4
Sat Nov 11		<i>NO SCHOOL- Veterans Day Holiday</i>	
Sat Nov 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Skylar Fox	<i>Sanctuary clean-up:</i> Barbara Zolit, Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives; <i>Set-up:</i> Laura Katz, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon, Ruth Super; <i>Clean-up:</i> Joel Katz, Peter Gittleman, Jacqui Bloomberg, Michael Super, Jerry Zolit (see page 4)
Mon Nov 13	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Israeli Writing in Times of War with Dr. Irit Aharoni	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 8)
Wed Nov 15	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Nov 16	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Nov 16	7 pm - 9 pm	Strategic Planning Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room (Parlor)
Fri Nov 17	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Elaine Bresnick, Michael White (see page 3)
Sat Nov 18	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Sat Nov 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Cohen	<i>Set-up:</i> Bill Weinreb, Lisa Goodman, Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow; <i>Clean-up:</i> Howard Lurie, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt, Ingrid Neuman (see page 4)
Sat Nov 18	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Nov 18	10 am - 12:45 pm	Junior Congregation with Elana Rome	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 3)
Sat Nov 18	10 am - 10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 3)
Sat Nov 18	4 pm - 6 pm	Kitah Gimmel, Kitah Dalet Family Program	FUSN
Sat Nov 18	6:30 pm	Dorshei Tzedek Film Club	(see page 9)
Sun Nov 19	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #2	FUSN
Sun Nov 19	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Mon Nov 20	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Israeli Writing in Times of War with Dr. Irit Aharoni	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 8)
Tue Nov 21	5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Rosh Chodesh Assembly	FUSN: Parish Hall
Thu Nov 23		<i>NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving</i>	
Sat Nov 25		<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	
Sat Nov 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Andy Diamond, Dorie Fried
Tue Nov 28		<i>Classes Resume</i>	
Wed Nov 29	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Nov 30	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Nov 30	7:15 pm - 8:30 pm	Introduction to Hebrew, with Irit Halperin	FUSN: classroom 4

Members: The complete Kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar at our website. Please check and see which of the days you requested we were able to schedule you for. **Please make sure to put the dates in your calendar!** Note that parents of 5th, 6th 7th and 8th graders help out with B'nei Mitzvah sanctuary clean-up and Kiddushes. Thanks for your help this year!—*The Kiddush Committee: Marla Lichtman and Ellen Pashall*

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.



December Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Dec 2	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Yonatan Meschede-Krasa	Sanctuary Clean-up: Andrew Schiff & Susan Manheim (see page 4)
Sat Dec 2	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Family Program	FUSN
Sat Dec 2	10 am - 10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: childcare room #112 (page 3)
Sun Dec 3	5 pm - 8:30 pm	New Member Orientation, Potluck Dinner and Members' Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Lilly Platt, Cheryl Sachs 60 Highland St (see page 2) <i>Board Members are requested to attend</i> <i>New members are encouraged to attend!</i>
Wed Dec 6	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Dec 7	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Fri Dec 8	6 pm - 8 pm	All Ages Potluck and Erev Shabbat Family Service	Richard Fisher Gomberg, Linda Hsu (see page 3)
Sat Dec 9	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Sat Dec 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Barbara Shatkin & Andy Littman, Linette Liebling, Stephen Zisk
Sat Dec 9	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Dec 9	10 am - 12:45 pm	Junior Congregation with Elana Rome	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 3)
Sun Dec 10	12:30 pm - 4 pm	An Afternoon at the National Yiddish Book Center - Amherst, MA	
Sun Dec 10	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #3	FUSN
Sun Dec 10	2 pm - 4 pm	Vav Family Program	FUSN
Sun Dec 10	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Wed Dec 13	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Dec 14	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Fri Dec 15		Potluck Dinners in Members' Homes (Hanukkah, Latke Theme)	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Fri Dec 15	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Terry Traub, Debra Rattet, Leslie Rubin (see page 3)
Sat Dec 16	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Cindy Marshall	<i>Sanctuary Clean-Up:</i> Linda & Peter Katz, Angela & Dorea Vierling-Claassen
Sat Dec 16	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Family Program	FUSN
Sat Dec 16	6:30 pm	Dorshei Tzedek Film Club	(see page 9)
Sun Dec 17	3 pm - 5 pm	Chanukah Party	<i>Set up:</i> Ruth & Michael Super, Allyson Cherkasky, Jeff Marcus; <i>Clean up:</i> Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman, Rachel Greenberg, Ilana Mainelli. <i>At FUSN</i>
Tue Dec 19	5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Rosh Chodesh Assembly - Maccabiah	FUSN
Wed Dec 20	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Dec 21	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Sat Dec 23		<i>NO SCHOOL - Winter Recess until 1/1/07</i>	
Sat Dec 23	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan, Elizabeth Carver & Bryn Austin
Wed Dec 27	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Thu Dec 28	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 8)
Sat Dec 30	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola, Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Mei See Sandson

Welcome New Members!



Haralie Alpert joined the congregation with her friend **Ellen White**; they were both looking for a smaller place to learn and share their Judaism. Haralie is the daughter of a former member, **Francis Greenberg**, who passed away last year. Francis loved the shul and Haralie had met many of his friends from Dorshei Tzedek.

Haralie is a single mom with two children: **Sam** just graduated from U. Mass. Amherst as an electrical engineer and is now working in Manchester, NH in the field of energy efficiency. Haralie's daughter, **Jessica**, is a freshman at Syracuse University, majoring in Industrial Design. Haralie works as an occupational therapist, working with children in the public schools. In her free time she loves all sports, both actively and by watching, including hiking, biking, walking, and cross-country skiing. She enjoys Harvard Square and traveling with friends who live in California and Colorado.

Scott Lewis, **Janelle Winston**, and **Celia** (age 7) live in Auburndale. Scott, a Massachusetts native, is a Real Estate Broker and Home Designer, specializing in renovations, additions, and new homes. Janelle was born in New Orleans. Janelle is a speech communication consultant specializing in public speaking, interviewing, meeting facilitation, interpersonal communication, and speech and accent reduction training. When asked what attracted them to CDT, Janelle responds "absolutely the people, and the interfaith connections that CDT embraces". Celia is in the second grade at Burr Elementary School and is happily enrolled in Kitah Bet. Celia and Janelle love swimming—and Scott loves to sail. The family also enjoys vacationing in Vermont.

Tom Robinson and **Susan Silberberg** live in Brookline with their three children: **Isaac** (12) and **Louis** (7) **Silberberg**, and **Jane Robinson** (15 months). Tom is an architect who loves cycling, the pottery wheel, and family time. He is also a great story teller and can put the family in stitches with his antics and masterful sound effects. Susan is an architect and city planner who teaches at MIT. She spends her days advocating for great urban spaces and a high quality of life for all and loves cooking and reading in her spare time. She also admits to a great love for the concept of napping but doesn't get much of a chance these days. Isaac is in 7th grade at Lincoln School and loves sports, anything electronic, and re-arranging his room regularly. He does a great imitation of Bill Cosby and has most of his comedy routines down pat. Louis is at Lincoln in 2nd grade and loves to read and is a great friend to many; he loves his position as the social butterfly of the family and knows more people than his parents think is humanly possible. He plays the piano and is in Performing Arts at Lincoln School (PALS). Jane loves being adored by her big brothers and parents and spends her days exploring new forbidden areas of the house and garden—keeping Tom and Susan busy. The entire family loves traveling and skiing together. Most of all, they are happy to have found an inclusive, more participatory, egalitarian congregation!

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, and Committee Chairs

Executive Committee	President: Marc Steinberg
	Past-President: Nancy Gertz
	VP Strategic Planning: Laurie Gould
	VP Membership: Andrew Schiff
	VP Finance: Mark Farber
Board Chairs	Secretary: Dan Halbert
	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
	Space: Stuart Snyder / Steve Siegel
	Tikkun Olam: Esther Kohn
Off-Board Chairs	Chesed: Jackie Fleischman
	Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
	Personnel: Peter Katz
	Website: Stan Fleischman
	High Holy Days: Theresa St-John Siegel
	School Liaison: Pamela Schoenberg Reider

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.