

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Tevet/Shevat 5767

January 2007



In With the New?

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

I had a very happy moment a few weeks ago when I brought my turntable home from the repair shop. Yes, a turntable! Originally purchased by my father some time in the late 1970s, for the past few years it's been sitting in our living room with hundreds of unplayed record albums, becoming increasingly dysfunctional. But God bless those who still repair turntables—during the week of Chanukah I brought it home and, joy of joys, I could play my records once again! And they sound wonderful. Despite the wonders of i-pods and high-definition digital recording, somehow there's nothing quite like a full stereo system and a good old-fashioned album with the volume turned up high.

I have to admit that I haven't entered into the digital world with the same enthusiasm as many of my peers. I have no real use for a cell phone, and have rarely had a pang of desire for one. I've graduated from records to CDs but still can't navigate the MP3 world, and I really can't tell the difference between DVDs and VHS tapes, except that they put a lot of extra junk on the former. I keep my appointments in a paper calendar, which aside from getting lost occasionally, seems to work just fine. I appreciate much about e-mail and its ability to connect me to many people at once (including the members of Dorshei Tzedek!) and friends around the world, but I also wonder about how much time I'd have to do other things if I didn't have to spend so many hours every day staring at my computer screen. I revel in my Shabbat practice of not turning on the computer from Friday evening through sundown on Saturday, and sometimes I don't see my e-mail from erev Shabbat until I return to my office on Tuesday morning.

"Progress" is a funny thing. It is indisputable that for many of us—especially those of us living in the United States—life today is unimaginably easier and less oppressive than even 50 years ago. I most likely could not be who I am, doing what I am doing—being a lesbian congregational rabbi, that is—if I'd been born just 10 or 15 years earlier than I was. And it's a bit hard to believe, but the two peo-

ple spoken of most often as viable Democratic candidates for president are a woman and a Black man. Racism, sexism, homophobia—all are still powerful and tenacious forces, here in America and around the world, but at the same time it's impossible to deny that change and forward movement have been real.

And yet, as we enter into this new year, it can sometimes feel like the world is moving backwards, not forwards. Depending on one's political and religious proclivities, the world is either a scary mix of environmental degradation, religious fundamentalism, and endless war, or a frightening amalgam of disintegrating "traditional" families, disrespect for patriarchal authority, and rampant secularism. The only thing that seems to unite folks left and right is that as we enter an era of unprecedented technological, economic and social change, everyone is feeling a bit jittery and ill at ease.

So we look for ways to find comfort and to remind us of what we imagine to be simpler, less stressful times. For me, it's my turntable and cable TV-free, cell phone- and Palm Pilot-free routine. For others, it's nostalgia for a society where everyone could (presumably) agree what "marriage" meant and where gays and lesbians were conveniently hidden in the closet. Still others want to turn back the clock to an imaginary time where religious values held sway and everything was orderly and good.

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I think it's okay to say "no" to supposed progress sometimes, to choose to do without the newest innovation; and it's also okay to say "yes," and to use the fruits of human ingenuity for good. What's not okay is to deny the reality of the world around us, or attempt to gain one's own comfort back at the expense of the dignity and rights of another. One of the main reasons that Judaism and Jewish practice are so important in my life is that our texts and traditions give me a sense of being grounded in something older than yesterday's headlines. The Reconstructionist approach offers me a way to grapple with the new and incorporate it into the old, to hold on to ancient values and insights while also affirming the need to come to terms with the evolutionary nature of reality. The challenge, as we say goodbye to 2006 and welcome 2007, is to neither cling to an imaginary past nor rush towards an idealized future, but to seek grounding in what our ancient wisdom has to offer and to make wise choices about where we are headed. So for now, I'm sticking with my turntable, and I also look forward to what the new year has to bring!

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

Moving from Debt to Assets

*Starting in February, Sunday evenings
Emily Sper, emilysper.com*

GBIO-run financial empowerment classes will be starting in **February** at CDT on **Sunday** nights. The program is free for members. Participants commit to attending four classes, each 2-1/2 hours, followed by six meetings monthly with a peer support group. For those under 80% of the Federal mean income, there will be three individual counseling sessions and a \$500 grant (one per family). Look for details in the forthcoming mailing!

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, or **Betsy Hinden** at 617.325.4716 or bhinden@rcn.com. Thanks!

CDT Silent Auction March 24

Planning Meeting January 7

On Sunday, January 7th at 4 pm we'll be having the initial meeting for our second annual fundraising silent auction at my house. If you'd like to work with a great bunch of people to produce this event please contact Judy Hersh at judyhersh@comcast.net.

Passport to Israel: Reminder

Passport to Israel payments are due by January 10. If your child was enrolled in grade 3, your payment is \$200; if your child was in seventh grade at enrollment, then your payment is \$400. Checks should be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and sent to Marla at 60 Highland Street. If your child is in 10th grade (or above), no payment is due. Questions? please call **Elaine Landes** at 617.969.7703.

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

January 5, February 2 (special Shabbat Shira program, see right), 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

January 19 (Art Show, see page 5), March 16, April 13, May 11, 8 – 9:30 pm

Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection. Please join us!

Tot Shabbat

Note that many dates have changed!

*January 27, February 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

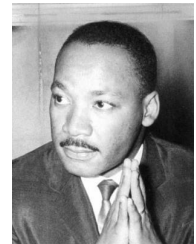
*January 13, February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12
10.45 am – 12 noon*

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 Kid-dush (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.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 13, 9:45 am

At this Shabbat morning service, we will celebrate the thought and activism of Dr. King with special music and readings. This is an opportunity to be re-inspired by the prophetic teachings of Dr. King, and to rededicate ourselves to achieving his dream of an America, and a world, redeemed.



Shabbat Shira

Friday, February 2

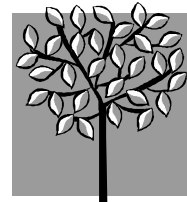
Potluck dinner at 6:15 pm, erev Shabbat service at 7 pm

On this Shabbat we read the "Song of the Sea" when the Israelites crossed to freedom and we celebrate music and song of all sorts! Join us for a potluck dinner, to be followed by a very musical service with klezmer musicians! This service is appropriate for kids as well as adults, so join us! Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for the dinner (dessert and drinks will be provided).

Save the Date! Tubishvat Program

Saturday evening, February 3

Tubishvat is known as the "new year of the trees," and we will celebrate with an evening Tubishvat seder (geared towards adults and older kids) that celebrates trees, the earth, and Jewish teachings throughout the millennia.



Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Rosenthal Grodsky

January 20, 2007

Please join us when our daughter **Sasha** is called to the torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Sasha is a 7th grader at Cambridge Friends School. She was moved at a very young age to pursue a Jewish education, despite her parents' disconnection from Judaism. She has led our family to Dorshei Tzedek and inspired our reconnection with our Jewish identity. We are awed by Sasha's dedication, passion and wisdom and we invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to join with us to celebrate this special day.

—Ora Grodsky and Jonathan Rosenthal

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 dnews@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.

Todah Rabah

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Chanukah celebration so special this year: to **Hilary Marcus** and **Ami Gordon** for coordinating the neighborhood pot-lucks; to **Ilana Mainelli** and **Kelli Kirshtein** for their work on the Chanukah party, and to everyone else who participated and helped out!

Todah rabah to the following members who sponsored Kiddush in recent months:

Susan Bernstein & Jodie Siegel
Elaine Bresnick
Diana Fisher Gomberg
Linda Hsu
Linette Liebling
Andrew Littman
Barbara Shatkin

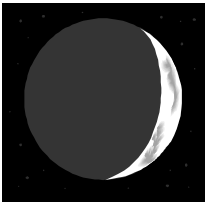
Camp JRF

It may still be cold out, but it's not too early to think about summer camp! The Reconstructionist movement has its own, wonderful summer camp in the Poconos. Camp JRF is a place for kids in grades 3 through 12 to have a summer filled with fun, friendships, and creative Jewish community. Along with sports, arts and crafts, music and drama and nature programs, campers at Camp JRF create unbelievable community and get to experience the rhythms of Jewish living in a fun, inclusive environment. Sessions this summer run from June 27th-July 22 and July 25-August 5, with a "mini-camp"-- the *Nitzanim* program-- for entering 3rd and 4th graders from July 25-August 5. Camp JRF is committed to including all children who want to come, and financial aid is available. In addition, Dorshei Tzedek has a Camp JRF scholarship fund for additional help. To find out more about Camp JRF, visit the website at www.campjrf.org. For information about the CDT scholarship fund, please be in touch with **Marla Lichtman** in the office.

Rosh Chodesh Celebration

Sunday, January 21, 4 – 5:30 pm

Home of Corinne Lofchie, 15 Crafts Street, Waltham



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 Sunday, January 21, CDT women are invited to celebrate the new moon of *Cheshvan*. Please join us from 4 to 5:30 pm at the home of **Corinne Lofchie**, 15 Crafts Street in Waltham. Please note that the time is different than the usual meeting time. To RSVP or for questions, contact Corinne at clofchie@onebox.com or 617.909.6617. Newcomers are welcome to all Rosh Chodesh celebrations!

Save the date! The next Rosh Chodesh group to observe the new moon of Nisan will meet on **Tuesday, March 20** at the home of **Erica Streit-Kaplan**. More details to follow.

Bowling Outing!

Sunday, January 21, 1 - 3 pm

CDT is planning an afternoon at the lanes on Sunday January 21. Meet at 1 pm at Lanes & Games in Cambridge (<http://www.lanesgames.com/>) for ten pin bowling. We have reserved 6 lanes from 1 to 3 pm. The cost is \$4.50 per person a game and \$2.75 for shoe rental. For more information contact **El-liot Pittel**, epittel@comcast.net.



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.

Second Annual CDT Art Show

Friday, January 19, 7:30 pm

60 Highland Street



Join us for an erev Shabbat celebration of the artistry in our community! We'll begin with a reception in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm, where CDT members' artwork will be on display, and then will join together for a musical erev Shabbat service at 8:00 pm. The art will remain on display for a few months following the service.

Calling all CDT artists! Bring your paintings, drawings, photos, quilts, ceramics, sculptures, or any other visual art form to the sanctuary on Tuesday, January 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to stay to hang the show between 7:30 and 9:30, though it's okay if you can't or don't want to do so.

What we hang from each person will depend on what we get, so those who can't stay should be reachable by telephone. Nothing got broken last year, but it's up to you what you wish to contribute.

If the January 16 drop-off time doesn't work for you, please call the office at 617.965.0330 to arrange to bring your items on January 15 or 16. This is for all CDT artists, of all ages and ability. For questions, call **Emily Sper** at 617.332.5033.



Yiddish Sing

with Linda Gritz and Mike Katz

Saturday, February 10, 1 pm

Free of charge, in our Sanctuary following Shabbat services and Kiddush lunch



Come learn Yiddish songs and sing those you already know! No knowledge of Yiddish is necessary. Song sheets will be provided. **Linda Gritz** and **Mike Katz** lead the Workman's Circle Yiddish sing-a-long in Brookline and are active Yiddishists.

GBIO

Update on GBIO Elder Care Actions

Lisa Schneier, schneier.lisa@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates:

January 14, 10:30-12 noon: Dorshei Tzedek Elder Care House Meeting, Location TBA (Child care available)

January 17, 7:30-9 pm: GBIO-wide Elder Care Meeting, Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston (Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the new Elder Care Handbook and how to use this resource!)

The November 20 GBIO meeting on elder care brought together congregations to share what we've learned from our elder care house meetings and to discuss the next steps for forming a GBIO action plan. Several members of CDT attended. We began by looking at demographic data: how many elders are in our various congregations and organizations, how many people are caring for elders, how much of this is local and how much long distance care. We discussed other categories that will also be important to include, such as the group of people who are not yet providing direct care but who want to plan for that in the future.

The meeting then moved to specific concerns that came out of the house meetings. I am listing here the main concerns that were recorded:

- Toll on caregivers
- Quality of life for elders
- Stress of travel and distant care coordination
- Information gap
- Resource Coordination
- Transportation
- Finding quality care
- Affordability of care
- Housing for elders
- Navigating the system

Each of these had many examples that came from the house meetings.

Rebecca Gifford of GBIO then did a power analysis of the major forces/players that affect the range of issues concerning elder care. As a next step, this analysis is being formed into a research agenda. This research will investigate who/what are the people, agencies, and organizations that might be allies for GBIO as we proceed to de-

velop and take action on issues of elder care.

That research has now begun. As part of this research, I went to a public hearing held by the Human Services Transition Team of the Deval Patrick administration on December 6. These public meetings, which have been held by various transition teams of the Patrick administration during December, are unique attempts to hear from the public about what needs to be done when Patrick takes office. (They are also accepting emails from whoever has something to say at www.patrickmurraytransition.org, and this website details the various transition teams and dates of the public meetings.) At the Human Services meeting, various people spoke about whatever issues was important to them, each for about two or three minutes. Many state and local agencies were represented, so the research I was doing for GBIO was essentially paying attention to who might be potential allies in our work on elder care. It was exciting to attend this meeting - to hear so many people voice passionate concerns and to see that the whole room was listening, and that the Transition Team was also listening, and taking notes!

I encourage anyone who is interested to get involved with this research! To find out more, contact **Lisa Schneier** at schneier.lisa@gmail.com, or **Esther Kohn** at esthercfs@hotmail.com.

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.

Adult Education

The Call to Leadership: Ancient Models *Distance learning program*

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

*Taught by Tamar Kamionkowski, Ph.D., RRC's Dean and
Chair of the Department of Biblical Civilization*

February 11 - May 4

This new course examines the nature of leadership through the lens of the prophets. The writings of the biblical prophets are among the most inspiring, troubling and complex texts of the Bible. In this six-session course, we will delve into the self-reflections of a number of prophets to understand more fully what compelled them to take on the challenging role of a prophet in Israel. We will pay particular attention to the call narratives -- the moment of God's call to a prophetic life -- of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The course will include six sessions, each of which is available online for two weeks. This allows people to participate at times convenient for them. The cost for the course is \$75 for members of JRF congregations and \$150 for others. A video introduction to the course is available at the RRC web site. You may also register online or e-mail **Janis Smith** at jsmith@rrc.edu. Registration is available now and continues through February 2, 2007.

Shabbat Morning Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street
January 20, February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12*

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 pm – 6:30 pm, 60 Highland Street
Please Note: NO CLASS on January 31*

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 obser-

vance (or non-observance), and with any range of comfort with all things spiritual!

Letting God In: Study and Practice

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am, 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!

Marcia Freedman: "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East: The Role of American Jews"

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

60 Highland Street, Newton

Marcia Freedman, National President of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, and former member of Knesset, will address what opportunities exist at the present time to move the peace process forward, and what stands in its way. What can we, the American Jewish community, do to secure greater engagement by our government in brokering a peace between Israel, the Palestinians, Syria, and Lebanon?

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace, is the largest American Jewish grassroots organization advocating for the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution. Marcia Freedman, born in New Jersey, emigrated to Israel in 1967, and served in the Knesset from 1973 – 1977. She is the author of *Exile in the Promised Land*, a memoir, as well as numerous articles and reviews. She currently makes her home in Berkeley, CA.

Community Events

Program for Jewish Tots with Disabilities and their Parents

January 28, March 4, March 25, April 29

Solomon Schechter Day School, 60 Stein Circle, Newton

Introduce young children with disabilities to the joys of Jewish tradition!

Through music, movement, crafts and multi-sensory activities, this *Etgat L'Noar* program, under the umbrella of Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, provides a unique monthly program for 2, 3, and 4 year olds with disabilities and their parents. The sessions will be led by Gateways Education Committee members Judy Weinberg and Maggie Cooper, who both have extensive experience in early intervention and Jewish and special education.

The programs will be held at Solomon Schechter Day School, 60 Stein Circle, Newton (see www.jgateways.org for directions) on Sunday mornings, 10 - 11 am, on the following days:

January 28: Sharing Shabbat

March 4: Purim Party

March 25: Passover Playtime

April 29: Israel Investigation

Etgat L'Noar/Gateways provides a Jewish education for children with moderate to severe disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, hearing impairment, developmental delay, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, and genetic disorders. Our weekly Sunday program currently serves 45 children, ages 4-16, our B'nei Mitzvah program prepares Jewish youth for this special milestone, and our monthly Mitzvah Mensches program provides a Jewish learning and social experience for teens with disabilities ages 13-16. We also service students in day schools through our Jewish Special Education Collaborative (JSEC)/Gateways which supports students with mild to moderate special needs in nine area day schools.

To register or for more information contact Nancy Mager at nancy@jgateways.org or call 617.630.9010. Learn more about Gateways: Access to Jewish Education at www.jgateways.org

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

Saturday, January 13, 6:30 pm

60 Highland Street, sanctuary

Please join us on January 13 for a Dorshei Tzedek Film Club screening. 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 screening the films in our sanctuary using a laptop with DVD player, and a projector.

Our January film will be *Golub: Late Works Are the Catastrophes*. This documentary offers a glimpse into the private studio of the late New York artist Leon Golub, whose monumental paintings call attention to human rights violations and the abuse of power. The film also includes warm and comic exchanges between Golub and his wife, artist Nancy Spero.

We have films every month. Here is our schedule:

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 Spero**, (617.332.5033, emily@emilysper.com).

CDT Sings

Rehearsals: January 14, February 11, 3:30 pm

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 Elaine Bresnick's on 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. If you are interested in having us sing at your bar or bat mitzvah or other event, contact **Elaine Bresnick** at ebresnick@comcast.net.





January Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue Jan 2		CLASSES RESUME	
Wed Jan 3	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Jan 4	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Jan 5	6 pm - 8 pm	All Ages Potluck and Erev Shabbat Family Service	Meg Wilcox & Robert Warren, Jodie & Alex Sugerman-Brozan (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Jan 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Carol Sklar, Stephanie Bennett & Joshua Breindel, Ayala Galton
Sat Jan 6	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph / Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Jan 7	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #4	FUSN
Wed Jan 10	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Jan 11	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Jan 11	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Marcia Freedman on "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East: The Role of the American Jews"	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Jan 13		NO SCHOOL	
Sat Jan 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	MLK Shabbat Service	Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis, Deb Albenberg Yahrtzeit of William Samelson (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Jan 13	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Jan 13	6:30 pm	CDT Film Club	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 8</i>)
Sun Jan 14	10:30 am - 12 pm	Dorshei Tzedek House Meeting on Elder Care	Location TBA; Child care provided (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sun Jan 14	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Program	FUSN
Sun Jan 14	3:30 pm	CDT Sings rehearsal	Home of Elaine Bresnick (<i>see page 8</i>)
Wed Jan 17	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Wed Jan 17	7:30 pm - 9 pm	GBIO-wide Elder Care Meeting	Fourth Presbyterian Church, South Boston (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Jan 18	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Jan 19	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Art Show Reception followed by Erev Shabbat Adult Service	JoAnn Share & Rochelle Weichman, Ellie - In Honor of Reva's Birthday (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Jan 20	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Jan 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Grodsky	<i>Set up:</i> Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder, Steve & Theresa Siegel; <i>Clean up:</i> Ami & Jonathan Gordon, Hara Klein & Eleni Carr (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Jan 20	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph / Kit Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Jan 21	10 am - 1 pm	Membership Committee Meeting	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Sun Jan 21	1 pm - 3 pm	Bowling	(<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Jan 21	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue Jan 23	5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Rosh Chodesh Assembly	FUSN
Wed Jan 24	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Jan 25	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Jan 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Sherry Katz, Ora Gladstone
Sat Jan 27	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph / Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Jan 27	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: room #112 (<i>see page 3</i>)

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.



February Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Feb 1	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Feb 2	6:15 pm - 8 pm	Shabbat Shira Potluck and All-ages Erev Shabbat Family Service	Stephanie & Nem Hackett, Lauren Gibbs, Lilly Platt, Lisa Schneier, David Felson
Sat Feb 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Eulalia Rose Port-White	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere
Sat Feb 3	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph / Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Feb 3	7:30 pm	Tu B'Shvat Seder	Ellen Pashall, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Rick Glassman, Lilly Platt, Lisa Schneier (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Feb 4	2 pm - 4 pm	6th Grade Family Education	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>please confirm</i>)
Sun Feb 4	3 pm - 5 pm	Kitah Gimmel/ Dalet/Hay Family Program	FUSN
Wed Feb 7	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 8	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Feb 9		Potlucks in Members' Homes	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Sat Feb 10	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Feb 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith, Willa & Tom Kuh
Sat Feb 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph / Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Feb 10	10:30 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: room #112 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Feb 10	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Feb 10	1 pm	Yiddish Sing with Linda Gritz & Mike Katz	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Feb 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #5	FUSN
Sun Feb 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Vav Family Program	FUSN
Sun Feb 11	3:30 pm	CDT Sings rehearsal	Home of Elaine Bresnick (<i>see page 8</i>)
Wed Feb 14	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 15	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Feb 17		<i>NO SCHOOL through 2/24 February School Vacation Week</i>	
Sat Feb 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Davin Paley-Zimble	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Sue Peace & Cindy Probst
Wed Feb 21	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 22	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Feb 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Alix & Jeremy Kepner, Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried, Jeff Sachs
Sun Feb 25	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue Feb 27		<i>CLASSES RESUME</i>	
Wed Feb 28	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)

Nediv Lev General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Roberta & Paul Carson

In honor of Clifford & Tessa Goldsmith's birthdays

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

For Clifford and Tessa—In honor of celebrating 100 glorious years and hoping you'll always remember your college days with Judd and Candace

*In honor of Nicky Silver and Shoshana Simons and their many contributions to the CDT community
With gratitude to Joel Reider and all who created our beautiful new Torah table*

Amy Mazur

In honor of Cindy Marshall's Bat Torah

Nancy & Kenneth Nussbaum

In honor of our friend, Susan Silberberg, and her wonderful tour of Boston

Alice De V. Perry & Charles Pillsbury

In honor of Cindy Marshall's 50th

Sally & George Pillsbury

In honor of Cindy Marshall's Bat Torah

Judy Shanks & James Gracer

In honor of Cindy Marshall's Bat Torah

Theresa St. John Siegel & Steven Siegel

In honor of Rabbi Spitzer, Nancy and the entire Dorshei Tzedek community for their loving support of our family after the death of Steve's mom, Sylvia Siegel

Carol Sklar

In memory of Hilda Halpern, mother of Carol Halpern.

Mary Tiseo & George Pillsbury

In honor of Cindy Marshall's Bat Torah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman

Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa

Thanks to Rabbi Spitzer for help with Caroline's Bat Mitzvah

Laura & Joel Katz

In appreciation of all of Julianna's religious school teachers and the guidance of Rabbi Spitzer

Naomi & Meyer Schoenberg

In honor of Joel Reider's beautiful Torah table

Robert Schwebel

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.

Membership

Welcome New Member

Leah Vaks!

Born in the former USSR, **Leah Vaks** has lived in Newton with

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her mother and twin sister since 1992. Leah loves math, chess, and Russian literature. As a young *ba'alat teshuva*, she received a Modern-Orthodox, yeshiva education. While her sister made *aliya* (and currently attends Bar-Ilan), Leah went to Barnard College, where she studied religion, engaged in inter-faith dialogue, and made many friends among the Muslim, Christian, and Messianic communities. Interning at *Elat Chayyim* last summer, she embraced a post-denominational vision of Judaism. Having recently finished college, Leah has moved back to Newton to her mother's home and now works as a teacher in a public school, a math school, and two Hebrew schools. Hassidic and mystical literature is her current area of exploration. Dorshei Tzedek is a blessing to Leah because of its tight-knit community, inspiring rabbi, progressive theology and social activism, as well as the congregation's encouragement of creativity, leadership, *leyning*, and personal growth. Not to mention, CDT is a 10-minute walk from Leah's home, perfect for a *shomer-shabbos* Jew!

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.