

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

Adar-Nisan 5767

March 2007



Covenantal Commitments

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

In a Rosh Hashanah talk that I gave a number of years ago, I distinguished between three types of community. The first I called “intimate community”—those groups of people that we are closely linked to because they are friends or family. The second I called “situational community”—people we engage with because our children go to the same school, or because we live in the same neighborhood or share a workplace. Finally, I spoke of “covenantal community.” This type of community is created when people come together because of a shared commitment and vision—and so a congregation like Dorshei Tzedek is a covenantal community. We are bound together by our mission as a Jewish community whose members are trying to live out certain values, certain religious and ethical commitments. It doesn’t matter, in covenantal community, whether you are personal friends with every other member, or whether you share a neighborhood or the same kind of work or lifestyle. In covenantal community, relationships are extremely important, but they are generated by a shared commitment to what is at the core of the community’s mission, and do not exist simply for their own sake.

This notion of covenant is derived from our Jewish “master story,” the Torah’s depiction of the Israelite people entering into relationship with God and with one another. Standing at Sinai, our ancestors took upon themselves ritual and ethical obligations that not only affirmed their relationship with the Godly Power of Creation, but also enabled them to enter into relationship with one another as a free people. In the Bible, this type of relationship is called *brit*, covenant. In essence, the Torah makes the case that relationship with God is possible only through just and loving relationship with other human beings, and vice versa: we are able to come into authentic relationship with others when we take upon ourselves a commitment to serve that which is Ultimate, the divine Source of *tzedek*/justice and *chesed*/lovingkindness.

I see congregations like ours as experiments in creating

covenantal alternatives to the current American paradigm of the “ownership society,” which exalts hyper-individualism and self-aggrandizement at the expense of larger communal commitments and mutual responsibility. In order not to be alone in this endeavor, we must widen the circle of our covenantal commitments beyond just the members of our own congregation. One such wider circle is the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. Through our membership in GBIO, we have made a commitment to stand with others in the organization on issues of shared concern, and to engage in a kind of relational organizing that helps us uncover those shared issues. We need not accept or like every aspect of our coalition partners—nor they of us—to effectively work together based on our shared commitments and on authentic relationships built on mutuality and trust.

Another, larger covenantal community of which we are a part is the Reconstructionist movement. As a congregation we are a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), the lay arm of the movement (on the Board of which our very own **Cindy Shulak-Rome** and **Chayim Herzig-Marx** are currently serving!). As a rabbi, I am also a member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Nediv Lev	2
Purim, Rosh Chodesh, Pesach.....	3
Softball, New Members, Nediv Lev	4
Auction, Retreat.....	5
B’nei Mitzvah Celebrations, Low Carbon Diet.....	6
Shabbat Programs, Film Club.....	7
Chesed, Camp JRF	8
Adult Education	9
Community Events	10
Tikkun Olam / GBIO	11
MAZON	12
Calendar	13-14
Retreat Registration	15

(RRA). And as of March 13, when my nomination is voted on at the RRA convention, I will become the president of the RRA. This feels like a great honor and a somewhat unknown commitment (that is, I'm not entirely sure yet what I've gotten myself into!). The RRA is in a way my own covenantal community as a rabbi, and like the CDT members who devote their volunteer time to leadership of our congregation, I am taking this responsibility on because of my belief in the mission and the membership of the RRA.

In an interesting intersection, I now find myself working to promote covenantal community on many fronts. First, in my work here as rabbi of Dorshei Tzedek, and for the next two years as president of the RRA. I am also privileged to be involved on a national level with the Jewish Funds for Justice, helping them promote the GBIO model of congregation-based community organizing—what I have come to call “covenantal organizing”—both within the Reconstructionist movement and within the broader American Jewish community. I have come to understand that I am doing all this not just because of my commitments to those various communities, but because of a deeper commitment to the revitalization of the covenantal ideal within American society as a whole. After decades of ideological and political assault on the very notion of a nation whose members are in any way responsible for one another, in the growing absence of *tzedek* and *chesed*, justice and lovingkindness, in the public sphere, I see a crying need to inject the dynamic of covenant into the larger public discourse. I feel lucky to be doing this work in the company of so many others dedicated to similar ideals.

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.

Nediv Lev 2007

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

Our Nediv Lev* campaign began in February with generous contributions and pledges made by board members and former presidents of CDT. In March the other households of the congregation will be receiving a letter from the fund raising committee, reminding them of the Nediv Lev campaign and requesting their participation.

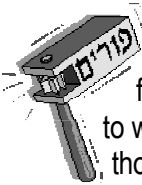
The phrase Nediv Lev, which can be translated as “willingness of heart” is taken from the Torah portion called Vayakhel, which we'll read this year on March 17. In this portion, God instructs Moses about the building of the Holy Tabernacle, and God commands Moses as follows: “Speak to the Children of Israel that they may make me a raised contribution; from everyone whose heart makes-him-willing...” The Children of Israel responded with inspiring generosity: “Then came men and women alike, everyone of willing mind...” bringing woods, precious metals, gems, tapestries, spices and oils, everything “that YHWH had commanded to make through Moses, the Children of Israel brought it, a free will offering for YHWH.” (from *The Five Books of Moses*, Everett Fox translator).

It is in this spirit that we make our Nediv Lev requests -- the spirit of the freely given contribution. While Nediv Lev contributions are entirely voluntary, they are also entirely necessary. The funds raised from these contributions make up about 20 per-cent of Dorshei Tzedek's operating budget. We look forward to seeing, as in the past, our congregation respond to the call with inspiring generosity.

* Formerly (and less correctly) transliterated as Nadiv Lev.

Purim

Saturday, March 3, 7 pm – 9 pm



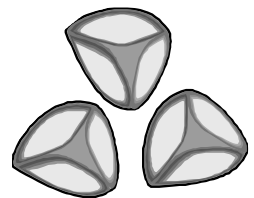
Come one, come all, to our annual Purim bash featuring **Rav Tiffany** and Purim davvening, megillah-reading, lots of hamentaschen, costume parade and prizes, and, of course, the ever-fabulous **PURIM SPIEL!!** This year's theatrical extravaganza, "Inconvenient Trayf," features a plot to warm the soul—and the planet! See Vashti's new underground music video, and what about all those camels?? Don't miss it!

Rav Tiffany says: "We want to see everybody in costume this year! **Special prizes** for grown-ups in costume, don't be left out!"

Mishloach manot—it's a Purim tradition to give gifts of food and sweets to other members of the community. Bring your dish of *mishloach manot* (can include dried fruit, cookies, hamentaschen, etc.) to the Purim celebration, and you can take another home!

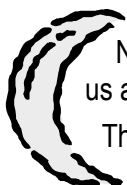
Bring a grogger, a friend or two, a little alcohol if you want, and your sense of humor—be happy, it's Purim!

Begin Your Passover Cleaning—at Purim we will kick off our *hametz* drive, so you can bring any non-perishable food items that you want to clear out of your house in time for Passover to the Purim celebration, and it will be donated to a local food pantry. Spaghetti, canned goods, unopened cereal boxes, etc.—bring it on!



Dorshei Tzedek Women: Rosh Chodesh Nisan

March 21, 7:30 - 9 pm



Prepare your hearts and minds for Passover and the coming of spring. Celebrate Rosh Chodesh Nisan on March 21. The theme will be on the struggle for liberation and rebirth—what it means for us as individuals, members of a community, and citizens of the world.

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.

Come join us from 7:30 to 9 pm at the home of Erica Streit-Kaplan, 29 Alden Place in West Newton. Please RSVP to Erica at EricaStreitkaplan@yahoo.com or 617.965.0655. Newcomers welcome!

Passover/Pesach

The first night of Passover falls this year on **Monday, April 2**. It's a mitzvah on Passover to attend a *seder*, and a mitzvah to make a place at your table for someone who needs a place to go—so do a mitzvah! **Linette Liebling**, our seder "matchmaker," is standing by to help all those who need a seder to attend or who would like to invite other CDT members to their seder. If you have room at your seder table for a guest or two (or more), or if you need a place to go, please contact Linette at netgrace@aol.com.



We will hold **First Day of Pesach Services, Tuesday, April 3, 9 am – 11 am**, 60 Highland Street. Join other members of CDT for a service celebrating the first day of Passover.

Synagogue Softball League

Elliot Pittel, epittel@comcast.net



Spring Training has begun, and visions of baseball—and softball—are in the air!

We now have a team together to represent Dorshei Tzedek in the Men's Synagogue Softball League, which is made up of 18 teams in

Metro Boston. Games are played on Sunday mornings between April and the end of June, with single elimination playoffs in July.

The team that wins the playoffs gets the coveted "Kiddush Cup." Isn't that motivation? Wouldn't you like to see the "Kiddush Cup" displayed on the Dorshei Tzedek bimah? If you are a male CDT member age 25 or over, and interested in signing up for the team, please e-mail Elliot or call 617.964.7011.

TEAM LOGO NEEDED! Even if you can't play, you can add to our CDT presence on the field by submitting a sketch of a logo for the team T-shirts (please send them on to Elliot).

Welcome New Members!

Elizabeth and David Roll live in Newton with their children Juliet (11), Jacob (9), and Abby (6). The children attend

Franklin Elementary and Juliet is in Kitah Hay and Jake is in Kitah Gimmel. Elizabeth works in book publishing as a freelance copywriter. David is a family doctor in Revere. Elizabeth grew up in a Reform temple on Long Island and David was raised a Methodist in the Midwest, so Reconstructionist Judaism seemed a natural fit! They first visited Dorshei Tzedek on the recommendation of the Danzing-Aronow and Adler-Cohen families, and they decided to join because of the many other families that have welcomed them so warmly. Mom and Dad are enjoying learning Hebrew along with the kids.



Nediv Lev

General Fund

(including donations to the Nediv Lev campaign)

Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein

In honor of Clifford & Tessa Goldsmith's birthdays

Camp JRF Fund

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

In honor of Clifford & Tessa Goldsmith's 100 years of life!

Laurie Goldman

In honor of Paul Hattis' inspiring contribution to the GBIO healthcare initiative and the invitation of his D'var Torah to "come" into the commitment to make our world a more just place in which all may thrive.

Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman

In memory of Sharon's grandmother, Betty Baum. Her life will always be an inspiration for me and her love will always be in my heart.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman

In memory of Sharon's grandmother, Betty Baum. Her life will always be an inspiration for me and her love will always be in my heart.

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.

Second Annual CDT Goods and Services Auction

March 24, 7 pm – 10 pm

Location changed to *First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1236 Washington Street*

Last year the auction raised \$6,000 to help CDT meet its expenses. With your help we can raise even more! This year's event will feature a silent auction, live music, appetizers, dessert, and door prizes. CDT teens will be offering discounted babysitting available in your home on the night of the auction.

Donations and volunteers still needed to:

- Help out on the day of the auction.
- Donate items and services.
- Put March 24 in your calendar and come to the auction.

Popular items last year included: cooking classes, homemade Shabbat dinners, homemade challah, canoe rides and picnic, Red Sox tickets, airline miles, knitting lessons, Hebrew lessons, and artwork. Please think about what you can offer. The auction is a great way to advertise your business to your community! A great way to share a hobby and connect with others!

To volunteer, offer an auction service or item, or for more information, contact Judy Hersh at judy-hersh@comcast.net.

Sixth Bi-Annual Dorshei Tzedek Members' Retreat: Creating, Re-Creating, Recreating

June 1 - 3, 2007, Camp Ramah Palmer, MA

The retreat is a time to create new ties and strengthen existing connections within our wonderful community. It is a time to worship together and play together in the midst of over one hundred acres of undeveloped woods at Camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts, about an hour's drive from Dorshei Tzedek. There will be swimming, boating, arts & crafts, sports events, and more.

Please come create, re-create, and recreate. **Registration forms are now available on our website and on inside back page of this newsletter.**

Don't delay! Register early, by March 31! Encourage other members you enjoy spending time with, or those you'd like to spend more time with, to register! If you have any questions or would like to become involved in retreat planning please contact **Betsy Hinden** at 617.325.4716 (bhinden@rcn.com) or **Bill Shorr** at (bill.shorr@gmail.com) 617.787.1632.

Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Leo Reider

March 17, 2007

Please join us when our son, **Jonah** is called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah*. Jonah is a seventh grader at Oak Hill Middle School. He's a piano player (at home, in a jazz ensemble in Brookline, and bands at school and at Prozdor), a reader and a builder of things. He loves his guinea pig, Hazel, and his summers at Habonim's Camp Na'aleh. For his Tikkun Olam project, Jonah volunteers every Tuesday at Hebrew Rehab where he visits with the residents and plays piano for them. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us on this special day.—*Pamela Schoenberg Reider and Joel Reider*

Bat Mitzvah of Marina Miller

March 24, 2007

Please join us when our daughter **Marina** is called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah*. Marina is a 7th grader at Day Middle School in Newton. Her many hobbies and interests include musical theatre, playing the piano and flute, rabbit breeding, and swimming on the Newton swim team. For her Tikkun Olam project, Marina is training with one of her (many) rabbits to visit hospitals and old-aged homes. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us during services and for a Kiddush luncheon following
—*Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller*

CDT Low Carbon Diet Initiative

Deb Albenberg, debalbenberg@verizon.net

The typical American household emits 55,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually, whereas the average Swedish household contributes only 15,000 pounds. Our ability to rapidly change our institutions and the way we live our lives will greatly impact the climate we leave to our children and the children of all species. The good news is that there's a lot we can do to reduce our household contribution to climate change. In order to learn together how to get started, I invite you to join me in a CDT Low Carbon Diet Initiative. This program is based on a handbook called *Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds* published by the Empowerment Institute (check them out at www.empowermentinstitute.net). Please contact me by **March 15** if you'd like to join me in forming a group that will meet 3 times in the next 6 to 8 weeks. I can be reached at 617.522.8383 or at the email above.



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

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

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

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

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.

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

*Saturday, February 24
6:30 (light meal), 7:30 pm (film)*



We are reverting to our previous policy of showing films in member's homes. Please check the CDT-LIST email list for location information. Join us at **6:30 pm** (optional) for soup and schmoozing. (We will supply a nice vegetarian soup and cold drinks.) The film will begin at **7:30 pm**. Plan to stay awhile afterwards, if you can, to discuss the film.

This month the film will be *Lost Embrace / El Abraso Partido / Le Fils d'Elias* (Argentina 2004). In Spanish with English subtitles, 99 minutes.

Synopsis: Ariel and his mother run a lingerie shop located in downtown Buenos Aires. It's a comfortable, cloistered world, but many young people there still search for their immigrant roots. Ariel, however, wants more than that; he yearns to understand why his father left the family shortly after his birth to fight a war in Israel ... and why he never returned. We have films every month. Here is our schedule:

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).

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Jackie Fleischman** of the Chesed Committee (617.332.5433 or jackief@rcn.com).

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to dtnews@yahoogroups.com.

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, Shari Zimble, Trudy Nemeth, and Alex Fried**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Condolences

To **Sharon Sevransky** on the death of her father **Paul Sevransky**, and her grandmother, **Betty Baum**. May their memories be for a blessing.

To **Laya Steinberg** on the death of her father **Victor Steinberg**. May his memory be for a blessing.



Mazel Tov

To **Larry Johnston**, partner of CDT Administrator Marla Lichtman, for his high score of 177 in the First Annual CDT Bowling-for-Dollars! Rabbi Toba has made a donation to Dorshei Tzedek matching Larry's score.

To our recent b'nei mitzvah—**Sasha Grodsky, Eulalia Rose Port White, and Davin Paley-Zimble**—and their families, on this wonderful occasion!

Todah Rabah

To **Hankus Netsky, Jonah Reider**, and special guest **Dena Ressler**, our wonderful Shabbat Shira musicians, for contributing to such a wonderful, *freylikh* celebration.

To **Liz Carver, Corinne Lofchie, and Ellie Goldberg** for their leadership and creativity in putting together the inspiring Tubishvat seder.

To **Elliot Pittel** for organizing the fun bowling outing in January, and for spearheading our first-ever CDT softball team!

To **Emily Sper**, for organizing our first "Yiddish Sing"—may it not be the last!

Our sanctuary chairs now have book holders!! Todah rabah to **Lissy Medvedow** for the inspiration, **Laya Steinberg** for the engineering ingenuity and legwork, and to our **7th grade class** for donating the book holders and installing them. No more *chumashim* perched precariously on our laps.

Todah rabah to the following members who have recently sponsored Kiddush:

David Felson
Lauren Gibbs
Ora Gladstone
Stephanie and Nem Hackett
Sherry Katz
Ira Schor and Ilene Spiro
Lisa Schneier

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 June 27 - July 22 and July 25 - August 5, with a "mini-camp"—the *Nitzanim* program—for entering 3rd and 4th graders 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.

Adult Education

Winners, Wine Drinkers, and Wives: Feminist Approaches to Rabbinic Literature

with Rabbi Jane Kanarek

Sunday, March 11, 10 am – noon, 60 Highland Street

The Talmud has been called both misogynistic and wonderful about women. The truth lies somewhere in between. In this class, we will examine Talmud stories of women who argue for their place in Jewish society. We will look at how they context what men want and how men reply to their challenges. We will bring our own voices to these women's lives to understand what it means to be a feminist and a Jew.

Rabbi Kanarek is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Chicago in rabbinic literature and legal theory. Currently, she is teaching Talmud and Jewish law at rabbinical school of Hebrew College.

NEW CLASS!

A Plausible God?

with Mitchell Silver

Thursday, March 29, 7:30 – 9:15 pm, 60 Highland Street

Mitchell will read from and discuss his new book—**A Plausible God**—which explores the question, “Is a God that a modern, rational person can believe in, a God that’s worth believing in?” The evening will include a response from Rabbi Toba Spitzer and an open discussion with participants.

Mitchell Silver is the husband of CDT member Ora Gladstone, and a professor of philosophy at UMass/Boston. He has been the Educational Director of the I.L. Peretz School of the Brookline Workmen's Circle since 1992, and is the author of *Respecting the Wicked Child: A Philosophy of Secular Jewish Identity and Education*.

Shabbat Morning Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street

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, Feb. 28, March 7, 21, and 28 (**no class March 14**), 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, 60 Highland Street,

These four classes will explore the practice of Shabbat, and the inner work of preparing ourselves for Passover. What do we need to “clear out” of our lives—both physically and psycho-spiritually—to prepare for liberation?

Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Special class at a new time: April 4 – May 16, 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm, 60 Highland Street

The final portion of the “Judaism & Practice” class will focus on counting the *omer*, the journey from Passover to the holiday of Shavuot. “Counting the Omer” will be a series of exercises in what is called *Tikkun Middot*, the “repair” of qualities of heart and mind. In this six-week series, we will cultivate qualities of gratitude, humility, patience, compassion, and positive speech as we prepare to receive Torah. These sessions will combine text study with instructions for weekly practice. **For these 6 weeks, the class will be offered during the evening, from 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm.**

Letting God In: Study and Practice

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, 60 Highland Street
(**no class March 15**)

“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!

Community Events

Israel Town Hall Meeting

Temple Shalom of Newton, March 7, 7:30 pm

This Newton Town Hall Meeting is entitled "A Conversation with Consul General Nadav Tamir". The Consul General of Israel to New England will brief attendees on the situation in the Middle East as well as the strategic threats to the region. After the briefing, you will be given the opportunity to share your thoughts and concerns in an open community discussion. For more information, or to RSVP contact israelevents@jcrboston.org or 617.457.8650.

This event is sponsored by JCRC's Israel Action Center, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Consulate General of Israel to New England, Temple Shalom of Newton, Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston, Temple Emanuel, Temple Emeth, Temple Reyim, Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Congregation Beth El - Atereth Israel, Congregation Shaarei Tefillah, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Sephardic Congregation, Shir Hadash, Temple Beth Elohim, Boston Israel Action Committee and Christians, and Jews United for Israel.

Program for Jewish Tots with Disabilities & their Parents

*Sundays of March 4, March 25, April 29, 10 am – 11 am
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 *Etgar 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. March 4: Purim Party; March 25: Passover Playtime; April 29: Israel Investigation. Contact **Nancy Mager** at nancy@jgateways.org or call 617.630.9010. See www.jgateways.org for more info.

Film: Rashevski's Tango

*of special interest to Interfaith Couples and Families
Sunday, March 11, 4 - 6 pm, West Newton Cinema*

Free raffle, food and drinks. Simultaneous children's programming for 4-8 year olds. Sponsored by Creative Judaica Interfaith (Pre-registration recommended as spaces are limited). For more information and to order tickets contact 781.647.JFCS (5327) or eperkins@jfcsboston.org or www.InterfaithFamily.com/bostonfilm. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$3 in advance for 5 or more tickets and \$7 at the door.

Film: Praying with Lior

Sunday, March 18, 2:30 - 5 pm, West Newton Cinema

Praying with Lior introduces Lior Liebling, a thirteen-year-old boy "spiritual genius," who also has Down syndrome. Since Lior was a toddler, the exuberance of his praying

has made him legendary among Philadelphia Jews, and some even call him "little rebbe." Six years after Lior's mother, a beloved Reconstructionist rabbi, died of breast cancer, Lior is becoming Bar Mitzvah. The film follows the five months preparing for this feverishly anticipated event, alternately switching points of view between Lior's siblings, father, late mother, stepmother, community, and Lior himself. With unflinching honesty and surprising humor, *Praying with Lior* captures life inside a family living with a "disabled" child, while exploring Lior's spirituality, notions of disability, and his family's journey to healing.

At the screening, Producer Ilana Trachtman will be discussing her work and the movie's impact. For more details on the film, see dantrachtman.com/lior/.

Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$10 students. For advance tickets send check payable to BJE: BJE, Attn: Praying with Lior, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton, MA 02459. For group sales email Deb Barsel, dbarsel@gmail.com. This event will help support TeenAde, a BJE program that prepares teens to work with students with special needs. For more information, contact Dr. Sandy Miller-Jacobs, Director of Special Education Services, 617.965.7350, x229, or sandymj@bje.org

Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture

Rabbi David Ellenson

March 25, 7:30 pm, Temple Shalom, Newton

This year's Birnbaum Lecture will feature Rabbi David Ellenson, President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Associated with HUC-JIR for over 30 years, Rabbi Ellenson is a beloved teacher and mentor to generations of Reform rabbinic students. His topic will be, "A Shared Landscape, Different Roads: What Modern Jewish History Has to Teach us About Jewish Unity Today." This lecture will reflect on the rise of modern Jewish movements and the divisions present in the Jewish community, and will address how mutual Jewish respect and dialogue can emerge in a contemporary setting. The lecture is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 pm and the program begins promptly at 7:30.

Fiddler on the Roof

Performances: Fri day March 30, 7 pm;

Sat March 31, 7 pm; Sun April 1, 2 pm

Watertown Children's Theatre, Arsenal Center for the Arts

Come see CDT's very own Ruby Cohen, Sam Cohen, Charlotte Robbins, and Sara Schiller-Robins perform in "Fiddler on the Roof" with the Watertown Children's Theatre. For ticket information, call 617-926-ARTS.

Tikkun Olam/GBIO

From Personal to Public: Broadcasting the Power of Our Stories

Laurie Goldman, laurie.goldman@tufts.edu

Many of us have experienced the power of telling our personal stories at Dorshei Tzedek house meetings on elder care, health insurance, and our other struggles to balance conflicting pressures at home and work and in our communities. We've learned that something special happens in sharing these stories with others. Naming the problems turns them into challenges we can then begin to address. Talking with others in our community proves that we're not alone with the challenges. In fact, we've discovered that the common concerns are points of connection and we're working on building the infrastructure to facilitate even more ways to offer one another support and assistance.

Recent events in the GBIO's (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) healthcare insurance campaign teach us that when we tell our stories to a broader audience, they also have political power. Our data about what we can actually afford to spend on health care collected from over 600 of our members have won the attention of the decision makers responsible for keeping the promise to provide affordable and creditable insurance to all Massachusetts residents. (For details see the report at www.gbio.org/healthcare.html.) The personal stories told at events such as the Delegates Meeting of January 25, media broadcasts, and public hearings make the arguments resonate in ways numbers alone cannot.

At the gathering of GBIO activists on January 25, we heard Debby, a cancer survivor who, thanks to the new health care legislation, can afford her medications and doctors visits to keep the disease in remission. Her story moved me not only because it illustrates the success of GBIO actions and the fact that she commanded resounding applause from the packed pews of the Roxbury church. What moved me even more was hearing her courageous voice drown out the initial hesitations I recall from our days as new members of the health care committee.

Bethany and Kim's stories about their fears of not being able to afford the proposed health insurance plans moved us to our feet. Standing with them, our collective voices spoke the refrain "Together we can do better!" And the strength of our voices moved JudyAnn Bigby, the newly appointed Health and Human Services Secretary and John Kingsdale, President of the Health Care Connector Board

to stand with us—at least on that evening.

To have the message that all residents of Massachusetts deserve genuinely affordable and creditable health care insurance resonate for more than one evening, we need to make more of our stories public. Our stories include those of our friends, co-workers, and acquaintances who are currently uninsured and who worry about being able to afford insurance once the mandate for being insured takes affect this July. If you know anyone who is uninsured and earns less than \$55,000 for a single person or less than \$95,000 for a family of four who might be willing to speak publicly at a GBIO event, please contact Laurie Goldman at laurie.goldman@tufts.edu.

All of us can join the continuing story of our efforts to assure that the Health Care Connector Board fulfills the promise of truly universal health coverage by attending the press conference at 8:15 am on March 8 in Nurses Hall at the State House.

Aging with Dignity Forum

Thursday, March 8, 7 pm – 9 pm, Second Church

GBIO member congregations across the city are joining together to develop an Elder Care Bill of Rights to guide future public action. As part of that campaign, we will take on the challenge of considering our own aging as well as evaluating the needs of elders in our lives. At this meeting, we'll discuss the following questions:

- What steps have we taken to prepare for our own aging?
- What do we want for ourselves, our loved ones, and our congregations to help us "age with dignity?"

We invite you to come and contribute your experiences and ideas as we create a vision of a world that respects and cares for elders. Our voices and those of other congregations will be included in a GBIO Elder Care Bill of Rights.

Caring for Elders

*Sunday, March 18, 3 pm – 5 pm
Second Church, childcare provided*

At our house meetings on elder care this winter, members shared their concerns and stories of caring for their aging loved ones. It was clear that many of us are in need of more information and guidance to help us with this sometimes overwhelming task. Please join Karen Wasserman, CDT member and director of Geriatric Care Management at Jewish Family and Children's Services, to learn about elder care resources in Massachusetts and to continue to share our experiences and questions together.



How can you make this night different from all others?

This Passover, you can help make a difference in the lives of 35 million Americans at risk of hunger. Your support enables them to eat and provides them the tools they need to achieve a better future.

So join us.
Together, we can make this night different.

Passover 2007/5767

____ A check payable to MAZON is enclosed.

____ Please charge my credit card \$ _____

____ Visa ____ MC ____ Discover ____ AmEx

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Name of Congregation, City, State _____

Please send to MAZON at 1990 S. Bundy Dr., Ste 260
Los Angeles, CA 90025 or donate online at www.mazon.org.

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger®



1990 South Bundy Dr., Suite 260
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 442-0020

(310) 442-0030 (fax)

mazonmail@mazon.org

Donate online at www.mazon.org



March Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Mar 1	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Sat Mar 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Carol Sklar- in memory of Joseph Elias Sklar, Ann Spanel, Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx - in memory of Kurt Marx
Sat Mar 3	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 3	7 pm - 9 pm	Purim Party	Set up: Rachel Nemeth Cohen & Richard Cohen, Gertrude Nemeth, Barbara Huggins; Clean up: Emily & David Shumsky, Allison & Ezra Hausman FUSN: Parish Hall and Chapel (see page 3)
Sun Mar 4	7 pm - 9:30 pm	Debt to Assets - Class 1 with Joel Schwartz	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary; Childcare provided
Wed Mar 7	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 8	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 8	8:15 am	Press Conference on Health Care Affordability and Credibility	State House: Nurses Hall
Thu Mar 8	7 pm - 9 pm	Dorshei Tzedek Aging with Dignity Forum	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 1)
Fri Mar 9	6 pm - 9 pm	All-ages Erev Shabbat Family Service and Potluck	Karen Wasserman, Carole Slipowitz (see page 7)
Sat Mar 10	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Sat Mar 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Peter Shapiro, Debbie Sher
Sat Mar 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 10	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 7)
Sun Mar 11	10 am - 12 pm	Winners, Winedrinkers, and Wives: Feminist Approaches to Rabbinic Literature with Rabbi Jane Kanarek	60 Highland St: Sanctuary (see page 9)
Sun Mar 11	7 pm - 9:30 pm	Debt to Assets - Class 2 with Joel Schwartz	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary; Childcare provided
Wed Mar 14	7:30 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Elder Care Action Meeting	4th Presbyterian Church
Fri Mar 16	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	60 Highland St (see page 7)
Sat Mar 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Reider	Sanctuary Clean Up: Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman Set-up: Barbara & Jerry Zolit, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow; Clean-up: Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen, Julie Fox, Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives (see page 6)
Sat Mar 17	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Family Program	FUSN
Sat Mar 17	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: childcare room #112 (see page 7)
Sat Mar 17	6:30 pm - 8 am	Dorshei Tzedek Film Club: Lost Embrace	(see page 6)
Sun Mar 18	3 pm - 5 pm	Caring for Our Elders: Sharing Resources	60 Highland Ave: Sanctuary, Childcare provided (see page 11)
Sun Mar 18	7 pm - 9:30 pm	Debt to Assets - Class 3 with Joel Schwartz	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary; Childcare provided
Sun Mar 18	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Members-Only Event, 60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue Mar 20	5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Rosh Chodesh Assembly	FUSN: Parish Hall
Wed Mar 21	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 22	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Sat Mar 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Marina Miller	Sanctuary Clean Up: Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb Set-up: Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa; Clean-up: Stacey & Bruce Gore, Peter Gittleman, Jacqui Bloomberg, Paul Fox (see page 6)
Sat Mar 24	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Mar 24	7 pm - 10 pm	Second Annual Goods and Services Auction	FUSN: Parish Hall (see page 3)
Sun Mar 25	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #6	FUSN
Sun Mar 25	7 pm - 9:30 pm	Debt to Assets - Class 3 with Joel Schwartz	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary; Childcare provided
Wed Mar 28	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 29	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Mar 29	7:30 pm - 9:15 pm	A Plausible God? with Mitchell Silver	60 Highland St: Sanctuary (see page 9)
Sat Mar 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Linda Schiller & Steve Robins, Jill Volk, Laurie Goldman
Sat Mar 31	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN

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.



April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue Apr 3		<i>NO SCHOOL- First Day Of Pesach</i>	
Tue Apr 3	9 am	<i>Pesach Service</i>	60 Highland St (see page 3)
Wed Apr 4	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Apr 5	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Fri Apr 6	6 pm	All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck	Linda Hsu (see page 7)
Sat Apr 7	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Sat Apr 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Naomi Botkin, Amy Mazur, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Idit Klein
Sat Apr 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Kitah Vav Siyyum - Shabbat Service and Kiddush	
Sat Apr 7	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Apr 7	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 7)
Sun Apr 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #7	FUSN: Headstart
Tue Apr 10		<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	
Wed Apr 11	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Apr 12	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Fri Apr 13	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 7)
Sat Apr 14		<i>NO SCHOOL Through 4/21 - April School Vacation Week</i>	
Sat Apr 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service B'nei Mitzvah of Nina & Sophie Friedman	<i>Sanctuary Clean-Up Only:</i> Barbara & Jerry Zolit
Wed Apr 18	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Apr 19	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Sat Apr 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Angela & Dorea Vierling- Claassen (<i>Rabbi Spitzer off</i>)
Sat Apr 21	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Childcare Room #112 (see page 7)
Sun Apr 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Members' Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Elaine Landes, Melanie Northrop <i>60 Highland St: Sanctuary; Childcare provided</i> <i>Board Members are requested to attend</i>
Tue Apr 24		<i>CLASSES RESUME</i>	
Tue Apr 24	5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Rosh Chodesh Assembly	FUSN: Parish Hall
Wed Apr 25	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Apr 26	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 9)
Thu Apr 26	7:30 pm - 9 pm	A Plausible God?—with Mitchell Silver	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 9)
Sat Apr 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Miller	<i>Sanctuary Clean-Up Only:</i> Jon Gordon, Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen
Sat Apr 28	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sun Apr 29	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	FUSN: Headstart
Sun Apr 29	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Program	FUSN

Sixth Bi-Annual
Dorshei Tzedek Members' Retreat
Creating, Re-creating, Recreating
Retreat Dates: June 1-3, 2007

Early Registration deadline March 31

Registration deadline May 3

The Dorshei Tzedek members' retreat is a time to create new ties and strengthen existing connections within our wonderful community. Come celebrate Shabbat and more in the midst of over one hundred acres of undeveloped woods, at the sandy beach of a spring-fed lake with a beautiful mountain view. Camp Ramah is in Palmer, Massachusetts, about an hour's drive from Dorshei Tzedek.

This is your early registration opportunity. We expect to be full to capacity, so don't delay! Your early registration form and deposit will hold your place, give you more choices in the various options for housing, and get you complementary passes for the entire regular season of the Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball (tournament passes to be arranged later).

The full retreat cost is **\$155** per adult and **\$90** for children. (No charge for children under 2 years of age, families with five or more attendees can receive the benefit of a cap on registration fees). This fee covers the costs of housing, meals, snacks, programming, paid staff, childcare and supplies.

We are committed to making this event affordable to all. If you would like to attend the retreat but are unable to afford the full fee, please contact Rabbi Toba Spitzer confidentially by phone (617) 965-0330 or by email rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org. We also welcome contributions to support those who otherwise could not attend, or to offset the costs of staffing and supplies.

If you would like to find out more about the retreat, please contact retreat co-chairs, Betsy Hinden, 617 325-4716 (bhinden@rcn.com) or Bill Shorr (bill.shorr@gmail.com) 617-787-1632.

Please tear here and include this portion with your deposit

Retreat Participants: Please list first and last name of all participants below
even if you're unsure of exactly who will be able to come.

Please enclose approximately half of your expected registration cost. Balance due on May 3.

Sponsorship

Please consider making a contribution to the retreat weekend. Contributions will help cover the costs of staff and supplies as well as assist members who would like to attend but find the fee more than they can afford.

Support amount (circle): \$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 Other _____

Enclosed is my check to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for \$ _____

Are there other congregants in particular with whom you are looking forward to retreating? _____

Mail to: Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465
Please write *RETREAT* on the envelope and in the memo section of your deposit check.

MORE SOON!!!

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
	Nediv 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.