

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

Nisan-Iyar 5767

April 2007



Thoughts on Reconstructionist Liturgy

Marc Steinberg, president@dorsheitzedek.org

I had expected to write this newsletter column about the latest developments in our strategic planning process, but earlier this week I found myself reading an article in the winter issue of *Reconstructionism Today* that caught my full attention. The article, "Reconsidering Reconstructionist Liturgy," by Daniel Goldman Cedarbaum, examines the history, framework, and social constructs behind various changes made to the Reconstructionist prayer liturgy in our Shabbat siddur, *Kol Haneshamah*.

Cedarbaum concludes the article by suggesting that perhaps a time is approaching when Reconstructionists should consider restoring many—though not all—of the more significant Hebrew alterations to their traditional formulations as found in Orthodox and Conservative siddurim. I don't have the space in this column to reprise his argument let alone rebut it, but as someone who enjoys Jewish practice in general and the *Kol Haneshamah* experience in particular, I want to use my limited airtime to try to articulate why I like and appreciate the changes in our Reconstructionist siddur.

I grew up in a Conservative shul with a fair contingent of older guys whom Cedarbaum would recognize as "davveners"—people repeating the liturgy, all in Hebrew, at blinding speed, and often indistinctly even when singing together aloud. Although I learned enough Hebrew to imitate this behavior by the time of my Bar Mitzvah, I didn't understand why this experience was considered prayer and I didn't find it spiritually engaging. Instead, I spent my allotted contemplative time examining the Hebrew and the accompanying English translation, and I was by turns fascinated and repelled by the often-violent and, to my teenage perspective, clannish and supernatural imagery. As I began to pay more attention to the Hebrew, I also began to discover that things were sometimes not quite what they seemed.

There are many examples from which to choose, but I'll focus on a single blessing Cedarbaum discusses in his ar-

ticle which occurs towards the beginning of the Amidah just before the Kedushah. The traditional liturgy reads in Hebrew: *Vene'eman atah lehchayot maytim; baruch atah adoshem mechayey hamaytim*. A literal translation of this blessing would read: "And You are faithful to restore the dead to life. Blessed are You, God, Resurrector of the Dead."

The two Conservative prayer books I grew up with, however, employ translation (both here and in other places where the Hebrew text raises problematic themes) as a device to alter the meaning of the text. For example, the prayer book I first experienced as a child translates this blessing as "Faithful art Thou, O Lord, who callest the dead to life everlasting," and the prayer book *Siddur Sim Shalom* (which my childhood shul adopted shortly after my Bar Mitzvah) renders it as "...Master over Life and Death."

While it's true that, as Cedarbaum writes, the Reconstructionists were not the first group to begin tinkering with the liturgy, I was immediately aware from the first time I picked up *Kol Haneshamah* that something unusual was going on. Instead of attempting to sanitize or even expunge the meaning of the Hebrew via the translation while using only the Hebrew in the context of the actual service, here was a

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Members' Meeting, Blessing for Rabbi Toba	2
Pesach, Retreat, Film Club	3
B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations	4
Shabbat Programs	5
Chesed, Softball	6
Nediv Lev	7
Tikkun Olam/GBIO:	
Immigration, Delegates Assembly	8
Step Into Action, K'hilot K'doshot	9
Affordable Health Insurance	10
Community	10
Adult Education, JRF News	11
Calendar	13-14
MAZON	15

prayer book that was being honest on both sides of the page. Instead of manipulating the translation, the Hebrew itself had been rewritten so that the prayer experience was consistent and whole. Rather than the original literal resurrection of the dead or the substitute ideas of the dead being called into some kind of afterlife and the more simple and unchallenging notion of God as master of life and death, we have a genuinely different approach: *Kol Haneshamah* replaces the Hebrew with *Vene'eman atah le-hachayot koh chai; baruch atah adoshem mechayey kol chai* and the English with the matching "Faithful are you in giving life to every living thing; Blessed are You, God, who gives and renews life."

The liturgical changes in *Kol Haneshamah* allowed me to stop focusing both on the objectionable notions in the traditional liturgy and on the strange and sometimes deliberately wrong translations. During our Shabbat service, I find that as my thoughts drift back and forth between the English and the Hebrew, I can actually enter into a world of meaningful prayer, free of consternation, shame, and doubt which I had never imagined possible as a teenage observer of davveners. Perhaps I'm in the minority, but for me the siddur is central to my experience as a Reconstructionist, and while I understand that liturgy is a living thing (perhaps more so in our movement than in any other), I hope that the values which so obviously informed and infused its present incarnation remain present in its eventual replacement.

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@vorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

Members' Meeting

Sunday, April 22, 60 Highland Street
7:30 - 9:30 pm, childcare provided

Please join us at this important members' meeting! We will present the results from our second members' survey and will share important goals, conclusions, and proposed actions developed during our strategic planning process. We hope that at least one member of each of our households can attend.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Toba Spitzer: New President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association!

The following blessing, written by Lisa Schneier, was given to Rabbi Toba by Marc Steinberg on behalf of the congregation on the Shabbat of March 17, when he called her to the Torah to honor her as the newly-elected President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. Congregation Dorshei Tzedek takes pride in her historic election and in our participation in the movement that she serves.

Rabbi Toba, as you now extend your leadership further out into the world as President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, the Dorshei Tzedek congregation, knowing first-hand what you bring, can only rejoice to imagine that a wider world will come to know your guidance. We know your wise and compassionate leadership, and the inspiration that you bring to us through your deep access to Jewish tradition as a source of joy and strength in our current world. We know your efforts to create with us a strong community committed to supporting each other and to working toward chesed and tzedek – lovingkindness and justice - in the wider world. We know you as a sustainer of hope in troubled times. It's encouraging to think that a wider world will come to know such blessings.

May you be blessed with confidence, strength and support as you continue your work in this larger context. And may our congregation continue to be for you a source of nourishment and a sustaining home.

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.

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.**

Don't delay! Register as soon as possible! 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.

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

Saturday, April 14, 6:30 pm for soup and schmoozing (optional); film at 7:30 pm

Location TBA (check CDT listserv)

Please join us at 6:30 (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 afterwards, if you can, to discuss the film.

Film: *The Sky is Falling*.

Synopsis: Andrea Frazzi's and Antonio Frazzi's story of two orphaned sisters brought in 1943 to stay with their aunt and uncle (played by Isabella Rossellini and Jeroen Krabbé), as Nazi soldiers take up residence in their Tuscan villa.

If you would like to host a film club event (usually between six and ten people) or have questions, please contact **Stan Fleischman** (617.332.5433 or stanf@rcn.com) or **Emily Sper** (617 332-5033 or emily@emilysper.com).



Bat Mitzvah of Sophie and Nina Friedman

April 14, 2007

We hope you will celebrate Shabbat with our family when **Nina** and **Sophie** are called to the Torah as B'not Mitzvah. Sophie and Nina are in Seventh Grade at Shady Hill School. Though they are in the same grade and have many of the same friends they differ in their interests and activities. Nina has been an actress for many years. She has been a part of two different acting companies, Artbarn and Freelance Players. She has grown tremendously in her stage presence and singing ability. Sophie has been a swordswoman for the last four years. She practices fencing at the Boston Fencing Club. Last year she switched from foil to saber, one of very few girls to wield that weapon. Nina and Sophie have risen to the challenge of study and reflection on their Torah portion beautifully. We hope you will be with us to share our joy and our Kiddush lunch as well.—*Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jeremiah Friedman*

Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Miller

April 28, 2007

We hope that you will all join us when our daughter, **Zoe Miller**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Zoe is a seventh grader at Clarke Middle School in Lexington. Her interests include playing the flute, running, skiing, soccer, and reading epic novels. For her Tikkun Olam project, Zoe has been visiting every week with Harriet Angus (mother of CDT member Wendy Angus) who is at the Stone Institute. Zoe helps Harriet exercise, paint, pronounce words, and use email. Zoe is also working with classmate Maya Paris-Saper to help REACH a shelter for adults and children escaping domestic violence. Their goal is to buy and collect enough goods to supply REACH with one year's worth of birthday bags for the children whom they service.

We look forward to sharing this special occasion with our CDT community. Please join us for the service and for kiddush lunch and dancing after the ceremony.—*Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried*

Bat Mitzvah of Emma Davi Hemley Weisberg

May 5, 2007

Please join us when our daughter, **Emma**, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Emma is a 7th grader at Day Middle School where she arrives early every day to write the script for W.O.R.D., the school's daily news broadcast. Emma enjoys and participates in all aspects of theater including acting, singing, dancing, costumes, make-up and lighting. For Emma's tikkun olam project, she volunteers at *Family Table*, Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry. Please join us for the Shabbat service, followed by a Kiddush at Dorshei Tzedek.—*Debbie Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg*

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.

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.

Shabbat Unplugged is Coming!

May 11-12

Yes, it's time again to think about how you might "unplug" for a whole Shabbat! Shabbat Unplugged will feature services on Friday evening and Shabbat morning, Torah study, opportunities to hang out with other CDT members, and Israeli dancing at the end. Best of all, you're invited to let go of all that makes you stressed during the week, and just to "be" for 25 hours. Keep posted for more details!

Shabbat Morning Service: Kitah Vav Siyyum & Immigration Shabbat

Saturday, April 7, 9:45 am

Join us for this special Shabbat morning service as our 6th graders help lead the service with Rabbi Toba! We will also be welcoming Manlio Mendez and Carlos Pemberth, immigrants from El Salvador and Columbia, respectively, who will share with us their experiences as immigrants to the U.S. and how current local and federal policies directly impact their lives. This Shabbat discussion will help prepare us for the Interfaith Immigration Summit the following Thursday (please see page 8 for details).

All-ages Erev Shabbat Services and Potlucks

April 6, May 4, June 8

6 pm: candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm: Shabbat service



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).

PLEASE NOTE that our April 6 service is during Passover, so please bring food that is Pesachdik! Please avoid products made from wheat, barley, oats, spelt,

rice, and corn, unless they are marked "Kosher for Passover." Bring on the potato kugel, tuna and egg salad, green veggies, and the like! Kasha and quinoa are fine!

Junior Congregation

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.

Erev Shabbat Services

April 13, May 11, 8 pm - 9:30 pm

At this monthly, adult-oriented service, we welcome Shabbat with music, a contemplative service, and a little Torah learning. At the April 13th service, we will be commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Tot Shabbat

April 21, May 12

10:45 am – 11:30 am, Room 112

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.



Chesed

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

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

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call **Rabbi Spitzer** at 617.965.0330 x2.

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Zach Carson**, **Shari Zimble** and **Alex Fried**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Condolences

To **Andy Diamond**, on the death of father, **Herb Diamond**, may his memory be for a blessing.

To Sharon Gorberg, and to John, Rebecca, and Liz, on the death of Sharon's father George Gorberg, may his memory be for a blessing.



Mazel Tov

To the **Schoenberg-Reider family** and the **Steinberg-Miller family**, on **Jonah** and **Marina** becoming bar/bat mitzvah!

To **Erica Streit-Kaplan** and **James Kaplan** on moving into their new home!

To **Phyllis** and **Al Glazerman**, on the marriage of their grandson **Yosef**!

Todah Rabah

A huge TODAH RABAH to everyone who made this year's Purim celebration so wonderful:

To our megillah readers, **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, **Kelli Kirshtein**, and special guest Little Red Riding Hood (a.k.a. **Dan Rome**).

To our magnificent Spielers: Spielmeisters **Sheree Galpert** and **Laurie Gould**, with techno-wiz **Clifford Goldsmith**,

and all the rest of the spielers: **Marc Steinberg**, **James Kaplan**, **Doug Hersh** and **Cora Hersh**, **Diana**, **Lily** and **Maya Fisher-Gomberg**, **Marcia Okun**, **Aryeh Lieberman**, **Susannah** and **Leila Zisk**, **Kelli Kirshtein**, **Dani** and **Benjamin Krasa**, **Julia Ansolabehere**, **Stephen Ansolabehere**, **Adlai Hess**, and the one and only **Hankus Netsky**.

Thank you also to everyone who helped with logistics, set-up and clean-up: **Marla Lichtman**, **Sharon Sevransky**, the **Nemeth-Cohen family**, the **Hausman family**, **Barbara Huggins**, **Emily** and **David Shumsky**, and the **Leonard family**.

Rav Tiffany says "Thank you, and see you next year!"

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

Chayim and Judy Herzig-Marx

Carol Sklar

Ann Spanel

Karen Wasserman

Carole Slipowitz

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.

Nediv Lev

General Fund

(including donations to the Nediv Lev campaign)

Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow

In honor of Benita's father, Daniel Danzing

Diana & Richard Fisher-Gomberg

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

In memory of Sid Shapiro, father of Debbie Sher & Judy Shapiro and grandfather of a bunch of very lucky kids. Sid graced us all with his generous spirit and many passions

Ora Gladstone & Mitchell Silver

With thanks to Louise, Mark, John & Andrew, for "re-upping" to the Rabbinic Liaison Committee; with a "Kol Hakavod" to Marla Lichtman for coming up with the terrific Purim flyer; to the auction committee for the lovely auction invitation

Audra Karp

Linda & Peter Katz

In honor of Rabbi Toba's election as President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

Michael Luckens

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Miller

Gertrude Nemeth

To Lisa Port-White, whose healing hands were a great comfort to me

To my wonderful family, Rachel, Richard, Sam & Ruby, whose love, care and devotion saw me through my great ordeal

Andrew Schiff

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

In honor of Larry Johnston's high score!

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

To Marc Steinberg, with thanks for getting us into hot water; to Laurie Gould, intrepid co-spieler; to Clifford Goldsmith, thank you for the techno-spiel. (part of this donation also designated for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Haralie, Sam & Jessica Alpert

In memory of our father & grandfather, Francis Greenberg, 1 Adar, who was a member of Dorshei Tzedek; In memory of our mother & grandmother, Sylvia Greenberg, 4 Adar II, who was a kind and giving woman; In memory of Laya Steinberg's father, Victor Steinberg. May his memory be a blessing for your family

Marvin & Charlene Brotman

We are so happy for your honor. This is to celebrate.

Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow

In honor of Benita's father, Daniel Danzing

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

To Marc Steinberg, with thanks for getting us into hot water; to Laurie Gould, intrepid co-spieler; to Clifford Goldsmith, thank you for the techno-spiel

Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal

In honor of Rabbi Toba & Debby Gelber, with many thanks for all they did for Sasha's Bat Mitzvah

Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman

In memory of her father, Sharon Sevransky.

Lorna Shapiro

Thank you for your kindness and consideration during our shiva period

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.

Tikkun Olam/GBIO

Interfaith Summit on Immigration

Thursday, April 12, 10 am - 1 pm, State House

CDT has endorsed this important event—so please join CDT members, thousands of immigrants and other supporters as we advocate for comprehensive immigration reform legislation that establishes a safe and humane immigration system. The morning will include learning opportunities (including a workshop with Rabbi Toba) and visits with our legislators. For more information, go to www.miracoalition.org or call **Stacey Chacker** at 617-522-5441.

GBIO Delegates Assembly

Wednesday, May 16, 7 pm - 9 pm, Location TBA

We plan to have 18 (chai!) CDT members attend this "Elder Care Campaign Kick-Off." We'll recognize local "Aging with Dignity" leader teams (including our own) and ratify the GBIO "Rights and Responsibilities for Aging with Dignity." Watch for details in the coming weeks.

Tikkun Olam – Expanding our Commitment

Stacey Chacker, chacsjc@aol.com

"The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt (Leviticus 19:33-34)."

I was thrilled when I learned that CDT endorsed the Interfaith Summit for Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition! It's just one more reason that I am proud to be a CDT member. We're *all* immigrants, and have benefited from open U.S. doors, and suffered when the doors were closed to us.

My great-grandfather came to the U.S. from Romania in the early 1900s with two sons. The plan was to bring his wife and five other children over within a year. Approximately five years later, they made it over. When they stepped off the boat, my Uncle Joe and Aunt Ruthie were decked out in tux and gown, purchased at a French port stop, in anticipation of walking on the golden sidewalks of New York. They were in for a big surprise.

My family came here inspired by the myths and dreams of economic prosperity and opportunities not found in Eastern Europe. They sought freedom from persecution and reunification with family members. Luckily, at the time, U.S.

immigration policy supported these dreams and opportunities (a discriminatory quota system was later established in 1921 against "new immigrants," including Eastern Europeans).

Today's immigrants face a much harsher reality: a federal policy that is inhumane and outmoded.

I have many friends and colleagues in East Boston who are immigrants; some are U.S. citizens and others are undocumented persons. All have made great sacrifices to be here, from leaving family members behind and paying a lot of money to be smuggled over a border, to working in exploitive conditions or for demeaning employers, and often in jobs well below their skill or education level. And living in constant fear of being deported, if they are undocumented, as we've recently seen in New Bedford. All of these people hope for a better future for themselves, and especially their children; most are working hard to meet this goal. I'd like to share two of their stories.

Alma is 17 years old, a high school senior, and part of a youth crew I work with. She's also *really* smart. Alma would love to go to college next year, but right now it's doubtful that she will be able to afford it. Alma's parents came to Boston from El Salvador, across the Mexican border, when she was 7 months old; she is still a "temporary resident" and thus not eligible for in-state tuition, let alone any government aid. Her siblings, both born here, are eligible for these benefits. Unless immigration policy changes, Alma is at risk of never becoming a permanent resident.

Pedro, a civil engineer, came to Boston in 1990, leaving his wife and baby boy in Colombia. They finally joined him in 1998. For years, he worked as a repairman in a Boston hotel under an alias. It turned out that the social security number he was using belonged to a suspected murderer. The authorities came to his work looking for him, so Pedro fled and lived underground for months leaving his family behind once again. They lost their home, their jobs, and their (false) sense of security. Eventually the social security number was cleared, and Pedro returned to his community. Due to the tenacity of his wife, the family has just received political asylum, and will receive their green cards in a year or so.

Two of my colleagues will share their own experiences as immigrants at CDT's April 7 Shabbat morning service. I hope you will be able to attend to hear their stories.

CDT has stepped up to the plate to support immigrant rights, and I encourage you to join CDT members, thousands of immigrants and other supporters for the Interfaith

Summit at the State House on Thursday, April 12 between 10 am and 1 pm. We will be advocating for comprehensive immigration reform legislation to establish a safe and humane immigration system. For more information, go to www.miracoalition.org or contact me.

Step into Action

by Ora Gladstone

If you have not yet attended a GBIO meeting, action or State House "event," think about doing so in the near future. It is inspiring to see a spectacularly diverse group of people standing together, all with a commitment to work for the "good of the people." You'll be moved by the extraordinary rhetorical skills of impassioned and dedicated religious leaders (including our own Rabbi Toba).

A great way to get involved now is to join the fight for affordable health care for all. While we celebrate the wonderful strides made so far (health care insurance for the poorest members of our Commonwealth), we continue to address the challenges that remain, such as mandated but unaffordable premiums for those who are just making it. We have a long way to go but with CDT's and the other congregations' involvement, and the participation of more of us, we can get there.

K'hilot K'doshot

Holy Congregations, Just Communities

Lisa Schneier, schneier.lisa@gmail.com

As part of my work on Congregation Dorshei Tzedek's Tikkun Olam Committee, I attended a conference from Feb 11 to Feb 13 entitled "K'hilot K'doshot" or "Holy Congregations, Just Communities." The conference, held in Santa Clara, California, was sponsored by the Jewish Funds for Justice and included all branches of the U.S. Jewish community. The focus was on the form of tikkun olam work that our congregation practices in its connection with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. I've listed below a few of the highlights.

First, it was inspiring to be part of a coming together of the Jewish community around a core focus of social justice work. At various points during the conference, I was reminded of the wide diversity of Jewish belief and practice that was present in this group of 300 conference participants. Often the reminders came in small ways, but they made me feel both the possibility and the power of the different movements uniting around the common Jewish

commitment of tikkun olam. Differences that can seem vast at other times and places were overshadowed by this common focus.

Second, the conference drew participants from all over the country, and this, too, was an important coming together. I learned that the kind of work we have been doing with GBIO has a context that is much larger than greater Boston, and that the model of social justice work that we are engaging in has a name (Congregation-based Community Organizing) and an acronym (CBCO). And CBCO has formed national interfaith networks across the country. In my work within Dorshei Tzedek's collaboration with GBIO up to this point, I hadn't fully realized that we are part of a web of a larger political organizing network.

Third, the conference was focused on the philosophy and methods of "Congregation-based Community Organizing." Ideas and practices that were familiar to me based on what we have done at Dorshei Tzedek as part of GBIO – telling personal stories as a basis for focusing political action, and the idea of "relational" rather than "coercive" power – were the subjects of the workshops. I found my own ideas being pushed and deepened. I learned that the telling of stories is more than a means of learning about people's lives, telling a story is also itself a political vehicle, a tool that moves personal experience into the public sphere. I learned how this kind of story should be consciously structured to be politically effective.

Fourth, perhaps the most characteristic and unique feature of the conference was the drawing together of the CBCO focus and the study of Jewish texts. Some sessions focused on political practices and other sessions, called *batei midrash*, focused on text study. But whether the focus was political practice or text, elements of both were introduced in each session. For example, much of the text study was about relationship, answering the question *what are the possibilities of relationship*, also a central aspect of CBCO. Another example was Rabbi Toba's portion of the keynote, in which she focused on *covenant* as a unique contribution that the Torah has given to the world. Through text study, she drew together the practice of covenantal community and that of CBCO. We then shared experiences that each of us have had with some form (no matter how informal) of covenantal community in our own lives.

My feeling at the end of the conference was that Dorshei Tzedek is further along than many congregations in our efforts to integrate this work into our congregation's life, but we are still at the beginning of learning what there is to

(Continued on page 10)

learn about the work of Congregation-based Community Organizing and exploring the directions in which we might take it. One next step may be for those members who are interested in being trained further in this work to attend one of the seven-day trainings that is offered. It's exciting to think that there is a network and a body of knowledge out there that are so closely attuned to what we have already been trying to do, and have much to offer us – and vice versa.

A Press Conference and So Much More

by Marvin Brotman

I was one of 12 CDT members attending the GBIO Press Conference on Affordable Health Insurance, March 8, at the State House. Because I needed transportation to the event, Esther Kohn arranged for me to ride with Lutheran pastor John Stendahl, who has a small congregation in Newton Centre.

As I think back over the press conference and the many stories from needy people on healthcare insurance affordability, I remember the plea from CDT member Audra Karp and several other speakers on why the current mandated plan is unaffordable for many of the people who need coverage.

There was also the physician who spoke, recalling the warning he had as a medical student: "Do no harm." This was a message he wanted transmitted to the Healthcare Control Board, a pivotal group about to meet in an adjoining building to deliberate the healthcare insurance coverage plan. The large audience attending the press conference began chanting, "Do no harm."

It was a powerful experience to see and hear speakers and audience members representing so many different religious perspectives, pulling together for a common goal: health insurance coverage that reaches all, regardless of economic circumstances.

On a more personal level, I was moved deeply by the Rev. Stendahl. He was more than just the driver of this legally blind Reconstructionist. He reminded me in some ways of my Orthodox shamas grandfather who could see beyond the narrow walls of his synagogue to a larger humanity.

Community News and Events

Walk for Hunger

Sunday, May 6, 2007

Enjoy a festive day walking through Boston and the surrounding neighborhoods while you help our hungry neighbors in Massachusetts. Your pledges will support 400 food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks, and food salvage programs in 135 communities across the state. Celebrate the spirit of giving along with 40,000 other concerned citizens by participating in this exciting and rewarding Massachusetts tradition. For more information, call 617-723-5000 or visit www.projectbread.org.

Save the Date: New England Celebrates Israel

Dana-Farber Field House at Gillette Stadium, May 20

Join hosts Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Gillette Stadium, and the Greater Boston Jewish Community for a fun-filled day of celebration. Festivities include Israeli entertainment, music and dance, sports and Israeli flag football, kids' zone and Patriots inflatables, Israeli food and wine, culture, tourism and technology, and Shop Israel. For more information, visit www.celebrateisrael.org or call 617.457.8788.

Newton Babysitting Cooperative

The Newton Babysitting Cooperative a non-profit babysitting group that works on a point system. We are limited to 30 families but at this time have some openings for interested families. Those who are interested should contact CDT member Jan Small at 617.527.6685, rjsmall@att.net or newtonbabysittingcoop@hotmail.com to find out more.

Program for Jewish Tots with Disabilities & their Parents

Last session 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. The final program is April 29, entitled "Israel Investigation". Contact **Nancy Mager** at nancy@jgateways.org or call 617.630.9010. See www.jgateways.org for more info.

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street
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 & Practice: Counting the Omer

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 16

*PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm,
60 Highland Street*

NEW STUDENTS WELCOME!

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 – 8:30p m.** All are welcome, regardless of whether you participated in the earlier sessions of the class!

Letting God In: Study and Practice

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, 60 Highland Street

NOTE: No class on Thursday, April 19

"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!

JRF News

Great Tikkun Olam Opportunity for Post-B'nei Mitzvah Youth and Their Parents!

This summer, from **Sunday, August 12 - Friday, August 17**, teams of post-B'nei Mitzvah teens and their parents are invited to share a week working together to make a difference. Participants will meet at Camp JRF: The Aaron and Marjorie Ziegelman Campus in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, and will travel to Wilkes Barre, PA, where they will provide much-needed assistance with a variety of carpentry, building repair, home rehabilitation and light construction projects.

Working side by side, parents will have an opportunity to model the caring and activist values they hold; and young teens will experience the power of their own potential to make a difference in the larger world, living together in active, participatory community. Coordinated by JRF, the project is modeled on other successful family work projects and developed in consultation with the Jewish Coalition for Service and the United Methodist Urban Ministry.

Tuition: \$225 for adults, \$180 for teens includes vegetarian meals and lodging. Enrollment is requested by **April 13**, and is currently open for 30-40 adult/teen teams (post-B'nei Mitzvah ages 13 and above; teams may include one or two parents).

For project information, contact Clifford Goldsmith at clif-gold@hotmail.com.

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.



April Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue Apr 3		<i>NO SCHOOL- First Day Of Pesach</i>	
Tue Apr 3	9 am	Pesach Service	60 Highland St (see page 3)
Wed Apr 4	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (see page 11)
Thu Apr 5	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Fri Apr 6	6 pm	All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck	Linda Hsu, Liz Reisberg, Tom & Willa Kuh (see page 5)
Sat Apr 7	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
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	60 Highland Street
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 5)
Sun Apr 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #7	FUSN: Headstart
Tue Apr 10		<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	(see page XXX)
Wed Apr 11	7 pm - 9 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Wed Apr 11	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (see page 11)
Thu Apr 12	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Thu Apr 12	10 am - 1 pm	Interfaith Summit on Immigration	State House (see page 8)
Fri Apr 13	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx, Ellen Pashall (see page 5)
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 Bat Mitzvah of Nina & Sophie Friedman	<i>Sanctuary Clean-Up Only</i> : Barbara & Jerry Zolit (see page 4)
Sat Apr 14	6:30 pm	Dorshei Tzedek Film Club: The Sky is Falling	<i>Members-Only Event, Location TBD</i> (see page 3)
Sat Apr 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Angela & Dorea Vierling-Claassen (<i>Rabbi Toba off</i>)
Sat Apr 21	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Childcare Room #112 (see page 5)
Sun Apr 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Members' Meeting (see page 2)	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Elaine Landes, Melanie Northrop 60 Highland St: Sanctuary; Childcare provided <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: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (see page 11)
Thu Apr 26	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
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 (see page 4)
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

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.



May Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Wed May 2	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer - with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (see page 11)
Thu May 3	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Fri May 4	6 pm - 8 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service Kitah Dalet Siyyum	Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr, Hope Kellman (see page 5)
Sat May 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Emma Weisberg	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury; <i>Set-up:</i> Laurie Gould, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Eleni Carr, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon <i>Clean-up:</i> Laura & Joel Katz, Rachel Greenberg, Howard Lurie (see page 4)
Sat May 5	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat May 5	6 pm - 8:30 pm	Gimmel Siyyum	FUSN: Headstart
Wed May 9	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (see page 11)
Thu May 10	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Fri May 11	6:15 pm - 9 pm	Shabbat Unplugged Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck	Susan Lanser & Jo Radner, Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman
Sat May 12	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Sat May 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Peter Shapiro, Josh Gordon, Rebecca Gutman
Sat May 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Kitah Hay Siyyum - Shabbat Morning Service	60 Highland St
Sat May 12	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat May 12	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Rooms 109 & 112 (see page 5)
Sat May 12	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 5)
Sat May 12	7 pm - 10 pm	Shabbat Unplugged and Israeli Dancing	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Fellowship Hall
Wed May 16	7 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Delegates Assembly	Location TBA (see page 8)
Wed May 16	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (see page 11)
Thu May 17	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Sat May 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Silberberg	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Julie & Paul Fox; <i>Set-up:</i> Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Ruth & Michael Super; <i>Clean-up:</i> Sheree Galpert, Hara Klein, Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel
Sat May 19	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet - Final Class	FUSN
Sun May 20	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #8 - Final Session	FUSN: Headstart
Sun May 20	7 pm - 8:30 pm	GBIO Debt to Assets: Class Graduation	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Sun May 20	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Tue May 22	3:45 pm	Kitah Gimmel - Zayin - Final Class	FUSN
Tue May 22	5 pm	Last Day of School - All School Family Assembly	FUSN: Headstart, Parish Hall
Tue May 22	8 pm	Erev Shavuot Program	Emily Sper, Matilda & Ed Bruckner
Thu May 24	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)
Sat May 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Maya Paris-Saper	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Toni Rosenberg, Peter Hess <i>Set-up:</i> Stacey & Bruce Gore, Stephen Ansolabehere, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon, Jacqui Bloomberg; <i>Clean-up:</i> Cindy Probst & Sue Pearce, Amelia Zalcmán, Ami Gordon, Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
Wed May 30	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (please confirm)
Thu May 31	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 11)



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

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.