

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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In the Wake of Violence

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

I am writing this column on April 20—the eighth anniversary of the Columbine school killings, and a few days after the horrific massacre at Virginia Tech. The airwaves and print media and cyberspace are filled with discussions of whether it could have been prevented, what to do now, and with talk of mental health services at universities, gun control, and campus security.

What is weighing on my mind and spirit, however, has more to do with the culture of violence that saturates us in America and in the world. In some ways, the horror in Blacksburg, Virginia, was an aberration and a “first.” In other ways, it was simply one more eruption of the violence with which we are assaulted daily—from the streets of Boston to the marketplaces of Baghdad.

In the midst of all this, I was intrigued to hear these words, spoken in response to the Virginia Tech killings:

“It’s impossible to make sense of such violence and suffering. Those whose lives were taken did nothing to deserve their fate. They were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now they’re gone—and they leave behind grieving families, and grieving classmates, and a grieving nation ... In times like this, we can find comfort in the grace and guidance of a loving God. As the Scriptures tell us, ‘Don’t be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.’”

The irony is that those words were spoken by President George W. Bush. How easy it would be to apply his message to the hundreds of thousands of dead and wounded Iraqis caught in the sectarian bloodshed unleashed by our country’s invasion of their nation—people who have done nothing to deserve their fate, who were “simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.” And how ironic that the impetus for that war was as a response to another act of violent evil, the attacks on September 11th. Where would our nation, indeed the world, be today if President Bush had heeded the Scriptural message he spoke this week, in his own response to the events of 9/11?

While I resonate deeply with the Scriptural message (a quote from the New Testament, the book of Romans, itself quoting the Jewish Bible, the book of Proverbs) from President Bush’s speech, I deeply disagree with his claim that the violence unleashed at Virginia Tech is “impossible to make sense of.” In fact, every day we are told that unspeakable violence makes all the sense in the world.

When one is attacked, the rational response is to retaliate with violence. If one needs to defend oneself, then violence is not only sensible, it is moral and appropriate. From movies to video games to White House pronouncements, we are told in various and multitudinous ways that violence is natural, thrilling, necessary, and right. Most importantly, it is often the only solution to complex, seemingly intractable problems.

So why, then, is it nonsensical for depressed and deeply disturbed individuals to imagine that causing great pain for others is fair retribution for their own suffering, when it is considered not only rational—but patriotic, just, and necessary—to cause the death of thousands upon thousands of people in retribution for an act to which they had absolutely no connection? Why is it amoral and abhorrent for young men who feel they have no future to find meaning and some sense of power in exacting retribution against their perceived enemies on the streets of Boston, yet manly and inspiring for young people to be drawn to the service of violence—and to make their own brief lives a sacrifice—in a war that makes no sense?

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One does not need to be a full-blown pacifist to say: enough. Enough of the glorification of violence, the rationalization of violence, the exaltation of violence. Every community, every religion, every nation has its responsibility to speak out against the glorification of violence in its midst. For us, as Americans, as Jews, our responsibility is to our own communities. To those in the American Jewish community who imagine that only military might—against Iran, against Palestinians, against Muslims in general—will somehow make us safe, let us call for renewed commitment to dialogue, engagement, and a politics of hope instead of fear. To our government in its misconceived, unending embrace of military responses to complex political situations, let us say: enough. In our own individual lives, when we experience the tendency to violence—whether it's violence through words, or through actions, or emotions—may we have the wisdom and courage to confront that within ourselves.

On Tuesday evening, May 22, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot, the holiday of receiving Torah at Mount Sinai. What is Torah? According to the rabbis, quoting the book of Proverbs, "She is a tree of life for all those who hold fast to Her. ... Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all of Her paths are peace." May this Shavuot bring us closer to our Torah of peace, to the path of life.

Israel-Palestinian Peace: Forget It? Or Not Just Yet?

*Temple Beth Zion, Thursday, May 10, 7:30 pm
1566 Beacon St., Brookline*

Daniel Levy and Rafi Dajani join together in an Israeli and Palestinian-American conversation. They will address the possible steps toward progress – as well as the serious obstacles – in the peace process today.

Levy is a Senior Fellow at both the Century Foundation and the New America Foundation. He has served Israel as a diplomat and policy adviser in the governments of Ehud Barak and Yitzhak Rabin. He was the principal Israeli negotiator of the historic Geneva Initiative of 2003.

Dajani is Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine, an organization of Palestinian-Americans who advocate for a two-state solution to the conflict. The AFTP categorically condemns all violence against civilians and promotes "a democratic Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside Israel."

This event is sponsored by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, and is co-sponsored by Temple Beth Zion and Jewish Community Relations Council. More info: 617.230.6439 or boston@btvshalom.org.

CDT Religious School Outreach Events

Do you know a family who may be interested in the CDT Religious School? Are you looking for a way to entice your friends/neighbors/co-workers/acquaintances with school-age children to try Dorshei Tzedek? The school has openings for the 2007-2008 school year.



We are running two different kinds of events for prospective families to learn about our wonderful school.

Information Sessions at the School

Our Education Director, Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, is offering three different **Information Sessions** in May for interested families. Prospective parents and children will have a chance to talk with Ewa as well as with parents of children currently enrolled in the school, and to actually participate in a class.

The session for families with children entering kindergarten through 2nd grade will be on **Saturday, May 5 from 10 to 11:30 am**. Families with children entering 3rd through 6th grade can come on either **Tuesday, May 8** or **Thursday, May 10** from 5 - 6:30 p.m. All sessions will be at the CDT Religious School, located at FUSN.

Home Get-Together Events

In addition to the information sessions, we will be offering two get-togethers in May at CDT members' homes. Interested families can meet Rabbi Toba and Ewa and learn more about our wonderful school. One gathering will be in Roslindale, **May 29, 7:30 pm**, at the home of **Bonnie Teneriello** and **Julian Sofer** and one in Newton, **May 30, 7 pm**, at the home of **Marc Steinberg** and **Linda Hsu**. For more information contact Susannah Zisk at sez1@bellatlantic.net or 617.332.0977.

If you know anyone considering a Religious School Program, please let them know about the information sessions and the home gatherings, and consider letting Ewa know as well! Prospective parents can contact Ewa or visit the website at www.dorsheitzedek.org. And, if you are available to attend one of the sessions to answer questions of prospective parents, please contact Ewa at 617.965.5443 or e-mail her at school@dorsheitzedek.org.

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.

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

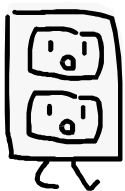
May 4: 6 pm services (no potluck), June 8: 6 pm: candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm: Shabbat service

On May 4, we will *not* be having the usual potluck dinner before services. Instead, the erev Shabbat service will begin at **6 pm**, and will be led by our very own Kitah Dalet (4th grade), with kiddush following services. Please join us as we welcome Shabbat together with Kitah Dalet! In June, we'll be back to the regular potluck, followed by services.

Shabbat Unplugged!

May 11-12

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called Shabbat a "palace in time." So welcome to the palace! Shabbat is a time to "unplug" from all those things that keep you chained to work, anxiety, and an unhealthy relationship to time, and a time to "plug in" to rest, family time, schmoozing with friends, and just "being." We hope you'll take advantage of this Shabbat Unplugged to taste Shabbat in a new or deeper way, either on your own or with the community!



TO UNPLUG: Go to the Dorshei Tzedek website and click on "Shabbat Unplugged." There, you can make your very own Shabbat Unplugged pledge—you can unplug from doing errands, your e-mail or cellphone, watching TV, going in to work, laundry, or whatever you'd like! There's a page for kids as well!

TO PLUG IN:

All-ages Erev Shabbat service

Friday, May 11

We'll have a potluck veggie dinner at **6:15 pm**, followed by all-ages erev Shabbat service at **7 pm**. Join us for a musical, restful Shabbat service, for kids and adults, as we enter into the palace of Shabbat.



Shabbat Morning Study and Services

Shabbat morning, May 12

At **8:45 am**, there will be **Torah Study with Rabbi Toba**—We'll take a look at commentaries on the weekly Torah portion. Bring your own coffee or tea, no previous Torah study experience necessary!

At **9:45 am**, we'll have **Shabbat Morning Services**—This morning, Kitah Hay (5th grade) will be leading the service along with Rabbi Toba. During the Torah service, we'll be honoring our high school seniors. A Kiddush lunch will follow services!

Tot Shabbat will be **10:45 – 11:45**

am, in Room 112. Join us and invite your friends for the last Tot Shabbat this season. This Tot Shabbat will feature singing geared towards young children, featuring some of Dorshei Tzedek's resident musicians. Parents are encouraged to participate. Snacks as always. Please call **Karen Wasserman** at 617.325.4716 with any questions.



Also at **10:45 am**, in Room 111, is **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!). Call the CDT School at 617.965.5443 with any questions.

On Shabbat afternoon - you can:

- Take a nap.
- Go for a walk with some CDT friends.
- Enjoy an afternoon of **kayaking and canoeing** on the Charles River at the Fisher-Gomberg's in Newton, starting at **2:30 pm**! They'll provide the boats, just let them know if you're coming: please RSVP to Diana or Richard at 617.243.9424.

Finally, in the evening, we have:

Havdallah and Dancing

*Saturday evening, May 12, 7 pm
60 Highland Street*

We'll bid Shabbat farewell with Havdallah, dessert, and Israeli Dancing! No experience necessary, a dance teacher will be on hand!



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*

Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Silberberg

May 19, 2007

Please celebrate with us when **Isaac** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Isaac is a seventh grader at Lincoln School in Brookline; he likes sports, biking, skiing, all things electronic, and reading the NY Times Business Section and Wall Street Journal. He is well known for his homemade apple scones. He can sing every song in the Alan Sherman repertoire and knows many Bill Cosby comedy routines by heart (only ask if you have a minimum of ten minutes to spare). For his Tikkun Olam project, Isaac is volunteering time at The Brain Tumor Society to help prepare for the annual Ride for Research to raise money for brain tumor research. He has also formed a team to bike 25 miles in what will be his eighth ride on Sunday May 20th, the day after he becomes a Bar Mitzvah.—*Susan Silberberg-Robinson and Tom Robinson*

Bat Mitzvah of Maya Ilana Paris-Saper

May 26, 2007

Please join us on Shabbat Naso when our daughter Maya is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Maya is a 7th grader at Oak Hill Middle School. She is a warm enthusiastic person, and a great dresser, who loves to dance (jazz and ballet), sing (her school chorus and around the house), read, watch movies, and spend time with friends and family. Maya is also passionate about her summer camp, Habonim Dror's Camp Na'aleh. For her Tikkun Olam project she and a friend are raising funds and collecting toys to make gift baskets for children in a shelter for survivors of domestic violence. We invite the entire Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us on this special day.—*Ruth Paris & Rob Saper*

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club: The CDT Film Club will not meet in May or June. We plan to resume in the fall with more great films. We're looking for more members to host films and to help out. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com) or Emily Sper (emily@emilysper.com).

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

The final Shabbat morning Torah Study will be **May 12** during our Shabbat Unplugged celebration. Please see page 3.



Shavuot

Tuesday, May 22, 8 pm - midnight
60 Highland Street

Shavuot is the holiday when we commemorate, and re-experience, the receiving of Torah at Mount Sinai. It is traditional to welcome Shavuot with an all-night study session, or *tikkun leil Shavuot*. Join us for a little study! The evening will begin at **8 pm** with a brief service, followed by dairy desserts and study beginning at **9 pm**. Feel free to drop in at any time—we'll go at least until 11 pm! Please bring dessert or fruit to share: dairy foods are especially associated with Shavuot!

Nediv Lev

General Fund

(including donations to the Nediv Lev campaign)

Elaine Bresnick

Matilda & Ed Bruckner

*In memory of Ruth & Samuel Bruckner
and Mary & Michael Tomaryn*

Lillian & Sheldon Epstein

*In memory of Catherine Nuzzola,
stepmother of Trish Nuzzola*

Mark Farber & Sherry Katz

**Sharon Gorberg, John, Rebecca, & Elizabeth Holohan
& Sylvia Gorberg**

Thank you to the Dorshei Tzedek community for the enormous support we received as we mourned the loss of my father, George Gorberg. The delicious food, shiva minyanim, kind words and visits brought us much comfort during a very difficult time. This is truly a very special community that we are blessed to be a part of.

Steffi & Eric Karp

*In memory of Sharon Gorberg's father
In honor of Toba becoming President of the RRA*

Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

*In honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Eulalia Rose Port
White, Jonah Reider, Marina Miller, Davin Paley, Zoe
Miller and Nina & Sophie Friedman*

*In honor of Toba's installation as president of the RRA
in memory of Sharon Gorberg's father, George Gorberg*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Sharon Gorberg, John, Rebecca, & Elizabeth Holohan
& Sylvia Gorberg**

With grateful appreciation to Rabbi Toba for her compassionate support and guidance as our family mourned the loss of my dad, George.

Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon

With gratitude for all the phone calls, visits, meals and get well wishes during Eileen's recent difficulties. These acts of kindness made a very difficult time easier.

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.

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, Alex Fried, and Eileen Morrison**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Mazel Tov

To the **Fine-Friedman** family, and to **Rabbi Toba** and **Gina Fried**, on **Nina, Sophie** and **Zoe** becoming bat mitzvah!

To **Cindy Marshall**, on the release of her new CD, *By The River: Women's Voices in Jewish Stories!*

To **Mark Farber**, on the siting of his company Evergreen Solar's new factory in Massachusetts!

To **Allison Andrews** and **Arthur Lent**, on the birth of **Samuel Philip Lent!**

Todah Rabah

To Linette Liebling, our "seder matchmaker," for once again making sure that all who were hungry had a seder to attend!

Todah rabah to the following members who have recently sponsored Kiddush: **Tessa Goldsmith, Karen Wasserman, Liz Reisberg, Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Amy Mazur, Linda Hsu, Jill Volk**

And Todah Rabah to our B'nei Mitzvah Helpers: **Julie & Paul Fox, Sandy Sedacca & Sherwood Ives, Jerry Zolit, Benita Danzing, Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen, Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman, Ami & Jonathan Gordon, Laurie Goldman**

Welcome New Members!

CDT is very happy to introduce the **Tenneriello-Sofer** family to the congregation. **Bonnie, Andrew** and **Julian** (age 7) live in Roslindale, and have been living in the Jamaica Plain/Roslindale areas for eight years.



Andrew and Bonnie met in Washington, DC in 1990. Bonnie now works as a lawyer for Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, where she focuses on improving prison conditions in the state, and Andrew is an English professor at Boston College, where he teaches drama (from Shakespearean to modern) and creative writing. Son Julian keeps equally busy attending the Dennis Haley Elementary School in Roslindale.

Andrew comes from Cambridge (the original one that's across that very large body of water), and Bonnie hails from the Bronx (that's probably the original one). Julian is currently enjoying Kitah Aleph, and along with his parents, is very much looking forward to getting to know the Dorshei Tzedek community.

Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Inaugural Season

Here is our 2007 schedule, with results so far:

April 8	Home vs. Temple Beth Avodah (Loss)
April 15	Away at Temple Beth-El Atereth (Postponed, rain--game to be rescheduled)
April 22	Home vs. Maimonides--Brookline (Loss)
April 29	Away at Temple Emeth
May 6	Away at Temple Beth Shalom--Needham
May 13	Home vs. Young Israel--Brookline
May 20	Home vs. Temple Shalom--Newton
May 27	Away at Temple Mishkan Tefila--Newton
June 3	Home vs. Temple Beth Elohim--Wellesley (Retreat--game to be rescheduled)
June 10	Away vs. Shaarei Tefillah--Newton
June 17	Playoffs--1st round
June 24	Playoffs--2nd round
TBD	Playoffs--Kiddush Cup Championship

All games are scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10 am, with the exception of make-up games. Check email from CDT-LIST for updates on rescheduled games. Home games are at Forte Park in Nonantum. Away games with field directions will be announced on CDT-LIST. Directions and current standings can also be found on the website www.msslonline.com.



Tikkun Olam/GBIO

Chesed and Tikkun Olam

Amy Mazur, acmazur@comcast.net

About six years ago, my father died after being in a coma for about 5 weeks. I am originally from Virginia, and I spent the shiva period there, blanketed in a caring and connected community that I knew from growing up there. I returned to Massachusetts, and felt awkward reaching out to the CDT community, as they did not know my Dad, and I felt I had already had my time of grieving in another place. What I found when I returned was that I had not finished with my grieving, and when I got a call, a visit, a card or a bowl of soup, it made a tremendous difference. I felt cared for by my CDT community.

Now my Mother is still in Virginia, and her physical and mental health are failing. Being far away has been difficult. I shared those difficulties at a recent CDT Elder Care House Meeting (part of a larger GBIO Initiative), where I was invited to tell my story, and hear the stories of others who were also experiencing elder care concerns. Knowing that others were going through the same or similar experiences helped me feel connected, and helped me to consider options and actions that I could take, and that I could support others to take. Again I felt cared for, and this time, I also felt I could help care for others.

Why am I writing about these two experiences in the Tikkun Olam/GBIO Newsletter column? First, because I am a firm believer in the power of the story, and I see how telling my own story connects me to a larger community. "When we listen to stories, we can almost feel our souls breathing fully and deeply. Our capacity to see options, to visualize possibilities, to imagine expands and we are somehow more alive." (Michael Parent - GBIO Leadership Training Handout).

Second, at our recent house meetings and follow-up discussions, members have expressed great interest in finding ways our community might join together to help each other face challenges in our lives. These discussions raise important questions: how we as a congregation can be more intentional in connecting Chesed (acts of lovingkindness) with our Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) work. What does it mean to be a covenantal community, and how do we put that into practice? What structures do we need to put into place so that Chesed is as integral a part of our lives as we have tried to make Tikkun Olam? And how can we rethink Chesed—not just as an act of loving-

kindness, but as a process that transforms us as individuals and as a community, within Dorshei Tzedek and outside of it as well?

My stories represent the multiple themes and parts of my life. How can I continue to connect Chesed and Tikkun Olam, and how can CDT make the connections? I am eager to answer these questions, and I invite all who are also interested in exploring these connections to join me. We all have stories to tell, transformations to make and actions to take!

Aging with Dignity

by Esther Kohn, esthercfs@hotmail.com

Following our house meetings on Elder Care, Dorshei Tzedek members gathered at an Aging with Dignity Forum to reflect on what we and our elders need to age with dignity. It was at times an intense discussion as we sifted through our shared experiences: parents who are losing physical and mental capabilities but who desire independence and respect; elders who do not have access to effective health care and supportive communities; and trying to care for aging parents and loved ones from far away while working full-time jobs and caring for families at home.

By the end of our meeting we created a "wish list" – what we think is needed to age with dignity. Highlights from our list included having a supportive community that is engaged and engaging to afford care, technology to improve functioning, safe, affordable health care, options in housing, and respite for caregivers. A GBIO strategy team took our list to a meeting where we heard similar information from 21 other congregations who held "Aging with Dignity Forums." Identifying many common themes among the congregations, the team created a (draft) document entitled "Aging with Dignity: A Bill of Rights." This document is available on our information table in the sanctuary. We will have opportunities to discuss the draft and suggest changes and improvements to it. The document will guide our public actions and discussion on elder care issues in the coming months.

The right to age with dignity carries with it responsibilities – the actions we can and need to take right now to prepare for our own aging. I have to admit I am at the beginning stages of these daunting tasks: completing a will, a health care proxy, a durable power of attorney, a living will, and a financial plan. It is reassuring that I am part of a community that can offer support to face these challenges. We can share our experiences, refer professionals to each

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other, and even sponsor workshops to help members complete these tasks.

Also, as part of GBIO's Aging with Dignity campaign, we will work together to advocate for funding two important laws that were passed in Massachusetts in 2006. "The Right to Equal Choice" is meant to give those clinically eligible for nursing home care new options for home and community-based care. The Personal Care Attendant Quality Home Care Workforce Law aims to improve seniors' access to personal care attendants and to improve work conditions for personal care attendants. Our public action will focus on these two laws which offer more choice and dignity for our elders but have yet to be implemented.

We invite you to be part of an upcoming action on **May 31 from 7 - 9 pm** (see below). This GBIO Delegates Assembly will kick off the Aging with Dignity campaign. To be part of the CDT Aging with Dignity leadership team, please contact Esther Kohn or Lisa Schneier.

GBIO Delegates Assembly: Wednesday, May 31, 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.

Community 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.

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.

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's not too late to consider Camp JRF! 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 *Nitzan* 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.



May Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue May 1	7:30 pm	GBIO meeting	60 Highland St: Sanctuary
Wed May 2	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer - with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St
Thu May 3	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Fri May 4	6 pm - 8 pm	Erev Shabbat Family Service: Kitah Dalet Siyyum	Tania Mireles & Bill Shorr, Hope Kellman (<i>see page 3</i>)
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 (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat May 5	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph, Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat May 5	10 am - 11:30 am	School Information Session for Prospective Families	FUSN: Children's Chapel (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sat May 5	6 pm - 8:30 pm	Gimmel Siyyum	FUSN: Headstart
Tue May 8	5 pm - 6:30 pm	School Information Session for Prospective Families	FUSN: Children's Chapel (<i>see page 2</i>)
Wed May 9	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St
Thu May 10	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Thu May 10	5 pm - 6:30 pm	School Information Session for Prospective Families	FUSN: Children's Chapel (<i>see page 2</i>)
Fri May 11	6:15 pm - 9 pm	Shabbat Unplugged: Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck	Susan Lanser & Jo Radner, Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 12	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 11</i>)
Sat May 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Unplugged: Shabbat Morning Service Kitah Hay Siyyum	Peter Shapiro, Josh Gordon, Rebecca Gutman
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 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 12	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 12	7 pm - 10 pm	Shabbat Unplugged: Havdallah and Israeli Dancing	60 Highland Street: Fellowship Hall (<i>see page 3</i>)
Wed May 16	7 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Delegates Assembly	Location TBA (<i>see page 8</i>)
Wed May 16	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Judaism & Practice: Counting the Omer with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St (<i>see page 11</i>)
Thu May 17	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 11</i>)
Fri May 18	6 pm - 8 pm	Kitah Bet and Gan Class Dinners	FUSN: Parish Hall and Headstart Room
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 (<i>see page 4</i>)
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 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu May 24	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 11</i>)
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 (<i>see page 4</i>)
Tue May 29	7:30 pm	School Information Get-Together for Prospective Families	Tenneriello-Sofer home, Roslindale (<i>see page 2</i>)
Wed May 30	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>please confirm</i>)
Wed May 30	7 pm	School Information Get-Together for Prospective Families	Steinberg-Hsu home, Newton (<i>see page 2</i>)
Thu May 31	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 11</i>)

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

Events and services are held at The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. During Rabbi Toba's weekends off, members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor. **No Fragrances, Please:** So that Dorshei Tzedek services and events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfume, scented oils, cologne, etc.) to all Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.



June Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Fri Jun 1 - Sun Jun 3		Retreat	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Camp Ramah (see page 11)
Wed Jun 6	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St
Thu Jun 7	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Fri Jun 8	6 pm	All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck	Michael White, Ally Cherkasky, Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis (see page 3)
Sat Jun 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Forman	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow; <i>Set-up:</i> Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt; <i>Clean-up:</i> Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt, Peter Gittleman
Sun Jun 10	5 pm - 8:30 pm	Members' Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Louise Enoch, Susan Nitkin 60 Highland St: Fellowship Hall <i>Board Members are requested to attend</i>
Wed Jun 13	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St
Thu Jun 14	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Sat Jun 16	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Alissa & Gary Leonard (<i>Rabbi Toba off</i>)
Wed Jun 20	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St
Thu Jun 21	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Sat Jun 23	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Cora Hersh	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere; <i>Set-up:</i> Toni Rosenberg, Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives; <i>Clean-up:</i> Annie Weiss & David Cash, Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff, Howard Lurie
Sun Jun 24	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> , 60 Highland St: Parlor
Wed Jun 27	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Judaism & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St
Thu Jun 28	8 am - 9 am	Letting God In: Study & Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Sat Jun 30	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Mira Netsky	<i>Sanctuary Clean Up:</i> Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder; <i>Set-up:</i> Rachel Greenberg, Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Laura & Joel Katz; <i>Clean-up:</i> Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen, Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Ruth & Michael Super

The DT Retreat Committee Interviews the Dalai Lama

The Dorshei Tzedek retreat committee (RC) once again finds itself in the presence of greatness. The Dalai Lama himself has granted us an audience. Indifferent to the rain falling all around us, we sit in the Boston Public Garden to talk about living in harmony with one's self.

RC: Thank you, His Holiness, for agreeing to meet with us on such a rainy day.

DL: Rain is like blood for the earth; without it we would all perish.

RC: Yes, well. How are things in India these days? It couldn't be much fun living in exile.

DL: Fun is but an illusion. Exile is also an illusion. All that matters is that we channel our life force in the direction of peace, so that all sentient beings can exist in harmony.

RC: Wow, that sounds like a lot of work. How can we help?

DL: This path I am on is my own. I have given up the chance to achieve nirvana in order to serve humanity. You, my friends, must find your own path.

RC: How do we do that, Ocean of Wisdom?

DL: I hear that your esteemed leaders have planned for you a retreat, a time and a place to nurture your spirit in community with others. You must enter this retreat in the spirit of compassion, so that you may learn from each other and share together in the joys and sorrows of this world. Gather your few possessions, and go then to Ramah, and be at peace. But, do not be too trusting of the vagaries of the universe: **send in your registration form and deposit (see page 11)** to ensure there will be room for you in this life, and so that the Retreat Committee, too, can be at peace.

**Sixth Bi-Annual
Dorshei Tzedek Members' Retreat
CREATING, RE-CREATING, RECREATING
Retreat Dates: June 1-3, 2007
Registration Deadline is 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 complimentary passes for the entire regular season of the Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball (tournament passes to be arranged later).

The 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 off and include the coupon below with your check

Retreat Participants Please list first and last name of all participants and note their age:

If you are pre-registered, note any registration changes, and include the full balance of your fee.

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 & IN THE MEMO SECTION of your deposit check.

IN MAY YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE MORE REGISTRATION INFORMATION, INCLUDING HOUSING REQUEST FORMS, WEEKEND SCHEDULE, PACKING LISTS, AND MORE!!!

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.