

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

Tammuz-Av-Elul 5767

July-August 2007



Looking Back, Looking Forward

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

As summer approaches, I am thinking back on all that has occurred at Dorshei Tzedek since Rosh Hashanah 5767. There has been a good deal of transition, as our new full-time staff, Marla Lichtman and Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, have settled in and completed a program year. Each of them has brought wonderful gifts and new energy to the congregation. 5767 has been a year of learning, with 30 people taking my weekly Judaism & Practice classes (in addition to those who attended other adult education programs), with a new 8th grade program, and with our biggest bar/bat mitzvah class ever – 19 kids! We had a marvelous retreat, with almost half of the congregation participating. At the recent Members' Meeting, we voted on a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years, the culmination of an incredible amount of work by many people in the congregation, ably led by Paul Hattis and Laurie Gould. We fielded the first-ever CDT softball team, bringing a little Reconstructionist spirit to the synagogue league! We've celebrated births, and supported one another through the loss of parents. We came together as a community at a moment of profound pain and loss, with the death of our beloved Jill Volk. It's been a rich, challenging, and full program year.

It's also been a rich and full year for me personally. On the family level, I had the gift of spending the year tutoring Zoe for her bat mitzvah, and then *kvelling* with Gina as Zoe leyned from the Torah and gave a wonderful d'var Torah. In addition to becoming parents of a bat mitzvah, we've also seen Zach turn 16 this month and eagerly enter the ranks of teenage drivers! And we're thrilled that Zach is heading off to a month in Israel with the NFTY program, with his CDT buddy Adam Goldsmith.

As a rabbi, I've had a number of opportunities to become involved in ways that both complement and extend my work at Dorshei Tzedek. Following my authorship of a rabbi's letter for peace in the wake of the Israel-Lebanon war last summer, I was asked to take on some leadership in

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, a national Jewish organization that seeks to support Israel through promoting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With the help of our very own Stan Fleischman, I have helped create a rabbinic cabinet for the local Brit Tzedek chapter. On a national level, I helped organize a conference this past February, sponsored by the Jewish Funds for Justice, that brought together rabbis and members of Jewish congregations around the country involved in congregation-based community organizing (like our own involvement in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization). And then this past March I took on the presidency of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. So much for my post-sabbatical pledge to maintain a little balance in my life!

This is also the time of year that I begin looking forward to the coming year, to upcoming initiatives and programs. I am thrilled that we will be joined after the High Holydays by a rabbinic intern, **Minna Bromberg**, a student at the Hebrew College Rabbinical School, to help support our programming and leadership development needs. Minna is, among other things, an accomplished cantorial soloist and a teacher of Jewish meditation, whose doctoral dissertation focused on Jewish-Christian interfaith families. Our Tikkun Olam efforts will also be supported by a rabbinic intern from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, as part of a program sponsored by the Jewish Funds for Justice. **Michael Ramberg** will be working

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

JRF Update, Amazon Associates	2
Shabbat Programs, Tisha B'Av, High Holydays	3
Bat Mitzvah Celebration, Softball	4
CDT Goes to Israel.....	5
Chesed.....	6
School Notes, Membership.....	7
Nediv Lev, Reflections on the Retreat.....	8
Healthcare Blessing and action	10
Calendar	11

(Continued from page 1)

with Laurie Goldman and the rest of the Tikkun Olam committee on building our practice of relational organizing, helping us take action on the values most dear to us.

I am also extremely excited about our plans for what I hope will be the first-ever CDT congregational trip to Israel, this coming February. The organizing committee—Louise Enoch, Ora Gladstone, Elaine Landes, and Cindy Shulak-Rome—are working with me and Ewa to shape a trip that we hope will be a powerful experience for adults and older kids in our congregation. **See page 12 for details about opportunities this summer and fall to learn more about the trip.** Whether you are going to Israel for the first time or have visited before, this trip will be an opportunity to experience different aspects of Israeli society, to encounter places where our Jewish history was shaped, to spend time in the incredibly beautiful land itself, and to have an opportunity to learn about and discuss the critical issues facing Israel with other members of the community.

But before all that happens, I am ready for a bit of a summer break! I'll be heading off to Camp JRF to spend a week as a "faculty rabbi," and will then attend an 8-day silent retreat at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, MA. I'm also looking forward to having a little time to spend with Gina and the rest of my family as well. I hope that you'll have some opportunities this summer for rest, renewal, and a little time by the beach or pool! And if not before, I look forward to seeing you at High Holydays in September.

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

During the summer: Rabbi Toba will be away from the office for the month of July, and will be returning at the beginning of August. During July, if there is an emergency or if you need help from the congregation, please contact the office during work hours, the Chesed coordinator, Pamela Schoenberg Reider, or the CDT president, Marc Steinberg. There will be rabbis on call if you are in need of a rabbi for any reason during this time.

JRF Update

Dorshei Tzedek has two representatives on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) board of directors. **Cindy Shulak-Rome** is the board Secretary and **Chayim Herzig-Marx** is the Regional President for New England. Each of them is leading a strategic program for JRF.

Cindy is working with Rabbi Erin Hirsh, JRF Director of Education, to build a comprehensive and integrated Reconstructionist religious school curriculum. They are also creating a tighter connection between the Jewish content of Camp JRF and the school curriculum, as well as materials to train non-Reconstructionist educators and education directors in Reconstructionist philosophy and approaches to Judaism and Jewish practice. The materials they create will be of great value to all JRF affiliates and will help to elevate the quality of education we provide our children.

Chayim is working with Rabbi Nancy Epstein, JRF Director of Congregational Relations, to develop the means for JRF to serve its affiliates better. They are focusing on methods for understanding affiliate needs from a life-cycle perspective, which will help JRF staff not only respond more quickly and appropriately to requests from affiliates for assistance but should also enable staff to become pro-active, anticipating developmental issues before they arise.

JRF relies heavily on fund-raising to support its programs and activities: about half of the JRF budget comes through the Development Office. Contributions of any size are welcome! If you'd like to make a donation, please contact Cindy or Chayim.

CDT Joins Amazon Associates Program

Dorshei Tzedek is now enrolled in the Amazon.com Associates program: for every purchase members make through Amazon.com, CDT will receive a 4-6% commission at no additional cost to you!

To make sure that your purchase results in a donation to CDT, **do not go directly to the Amazon.com website.** Instead, click the Amazon.com graphic in the "What's New" section on the CDT home page (www.dorsheitzedek.org).

To date, this program has netted us commissions on over \$600 worth of purchases. Thank you!

Shabbat Summer 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 Morning Services

Saturdays, July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, 9:45 am

On **August 11**, please join **Wendy Gedanken** and **Joaquim Branco** at services we officially welcome **Leah Zalea**, daughter of Tali Branco and Sequoia McDowell into the Jewish community. (This is another DT milestone: Zalea will be the first baby named in our community whose parents celebrated her bat mitzvah in our community!)

On **August 25**, please join us as we officially **Samuel Lent**, son of **Allison Andrews** and **Arthur Lent**, into our community, and celebrate his birth!

All-ages Erev Shabbat Service

August 10, 6 pm: candle-lighting and potluck dinner, 6:45 pm: Shabbat service

We will 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).

Tisha B'Av

The fast day of Tisha b'Av (the ninth day of the month of Av) falls this year on **Tuesday, July 24**. This day commemorates the destruction of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem, the first in 587 B.C.E. at the hands of the Babylonian Empire, and the second in 70 C.E. at the hands of the Roman Empire (the Temple was rebuilt when the exiles returned from Babylonia c. 520 B.C.E.). While we will not be having a Tisha b'Av program at Dorshei Tzedek this summer, traditions on this day include reading the book of Lamentations (the Biblical account of the first Temple's destruction) during the evening that ushers in Tisha b'Av, and fasting from that nightfall through sunset of the day itself.

The city of Jerusalem and the Temple were the center of ancient Israelite society for nearly one thousand years, and each time they were destroyed, there was a massive dislocation of both people and Jewish tradition. The destruction of the second Temple marked the end of Jewish rule in the land of Israel for 2,000 years, and the beginning of rabbinic Judaism—which is the Judaism with which we are familiar today. While we may no longer mourn the absence of the Temple ritual in Jewish life, Tisha b'Av is an opportunity to reflect on the cataclysms that the Jewish people have endured over the millennia. At a time when violence and contention again rages in the vicinity of Jerusalem, the observance of Tisha b'Av is also an opportunity for reflection on what it will take to bring peace and wholeness to all the peoples who call that land home.

High Holydays 5768

Save the dates! Rosh Hashanah 5768 begins the evening of **Wednesday, September 12**, and Yom Kippur begins on **Friday evening, September 21**. **New location!** This year, Dorshei Tzedek will be holding its High Holydays services at Gann Academy: The New Jewish High School, in Waltham (about 10 minutes from West Newton Square). With a lovely space for our services and expanded room for children's programming, we're looking forward to our best High Holydays yet! More complete information and registration forms will be available in August.

Bat Mitzvah of Savannah Greenly

We hope you will join us on Labor Day weekend, when our daughter Savannah is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. A native of Newton, Savannah will be entering eighth grade at the Day Middle School in September. She enjoys singing, being with her family and friends, softball, basketball, and training her dog, Daisy, a rescue dog from Louisiana. For her Tikkun Olam project Savannah has been volunteering at the Waltham Fields Community Farm, which grows food for homeless shelters and community groups. Please join us for a Kiddush luncheon after services **on September 1.**—*Ricky and Rob Greenly*

Softball at CDT

Todah rabah and yasher koach to **Elliot Pittel** on initiating and coordinating the inaugural season of the CDT men's softball team! And *yasher koach* as well to the intrepid members of the team: **Elliot Pittel, Ira Schor, Bruce Miller, Nathan Aronow, Howard Lurie, Jeff Goldman, Jonathan Magaziner, Rob Greenly, Stuart Snyder, Bob Warren, Alex Sugarman-Brozan, Michael Glazerman, Jonathan Weisberg, John Holohan, Bill Shorr, Marc Steinberg, Steven Zisk, Richard Gomborg, Paul Hattis, and Richard Cohen.** With the best-looking T-shirts in the league, and glimpses of the great play that will only increase in seasons to come, we're already looking forward to softball season 2008!

Coed Jewish Sports Fall Softball!

Eliot Pittel, epittel@comcast.net

Are there members of Dorshei Tzedek who are interested in forming a CDT team in the Coed Jewish Sports frostbite softball league? Softball season does not have to end with the completion of the Men's Synagogue Softball League. For softball players of both genders, the Coed Jewish Sports frostbite softball league is the answer. The league runs from **September to late October**, including playoffs. Games are played on **Sundays**, with typical starting times **10:15, 12:00, and 1:45.** There is usually one double header during the season. Parents are welcome to bring their children. The schedule is posted about a week or so before the season starts so parents will have time to plan for babysitting or child care. Last year games were played at Billings Field in West

Roxbury. All teams make the playoffs in CJS leagues. Ability levels of players vary widely in the CJS leagues. Usually there are beginners or inexperienced players who join, as well as highly skilled players. Teams are required to play at least 2 women in the field each inning, but more can certainly play in the field. Cost is in the \$60 to \$70 range per person. Teams traditionally go out for refreshments after games. And best of all, women Rabbis can play in this league! Interested? Contact Elliot Pittel at epittel@comcast.net with questions or if ready to play. It's not too early to dust off your mitts, make sure your cleats still fit, go to the batting cage, and loosen up your throwing arms. And think of how much fun it would be to play alongside the stars of your Men's Team!!



New Dorshei Tzedek Leadership Slate

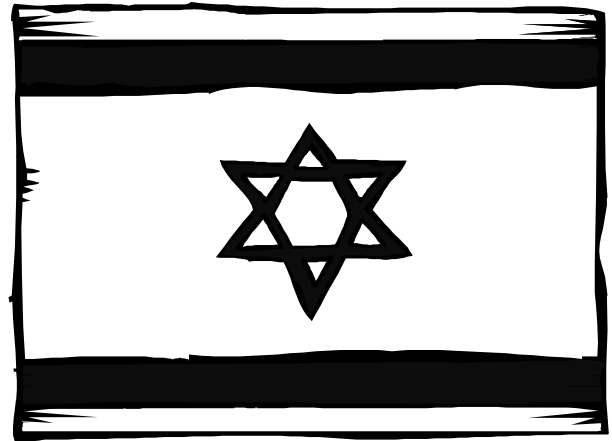
At the June Members' Meeting, members approved the Dorshei Tzedek leadership slate for the upcoming year, listed on the back page of this newsletter. Yasher Koach and Todah Rabah to all outgoing and continuing board and off-board officers! See Chesed on page 6 for detailed thanks.

CDT Goes to Israel

Join us, February 14-24, 2008

Next year (2008) in Jerusalem?

We are currently in the midst of planning our first ever congregational trip to Israel, tentatively scheduled for February vacation week (plus a few days) this coming year. This will be a trip for older kids and adults, for folks who've never been to Israel as well those who want to visit again and have some new experiences. The itinerary is still in development, but we hope to include a wide variety of activities, from nature hikes to visiting historical sites to learning about some of the critical social and political issues currently facing Israeli society. Plus, of course, having some fun, enjoying the sun, and shopping!



Informational Meetings

Please come to one of these informational meetings to hear more details and learn about what such a trip could mean for your household:

August 26, Sunday, 5 - 6:30 pm at FUSN. A program for kids (4th grade and up) and adults to learn about our trip. This could be a great way to spend February vacation week with your family. Dinner included!

September 6, Thursday evening, 7:30 pm (adults and teens), at FUSN.

September 30, Sunday, 6 - 7:30 pm. Join us at the end of the Sukkot program – a great time to learn about the trip. Children (4th grade and up) and adults (at FUSN).

Why visit Israel?

Here's what some of our members have said about their Israel experiences:

"It is hard to describe the bond I feel with the country, its physical spaces, and the people there...I have never found a city or country where I feel more comfortable...That feeling, that you are part of something bigger than yourself and your own small world, is extraordinary."—*Ora Gladstone*

"Regardless of why I went or where I was in Israel, it is always the experience of Shabbat in Eretz Israel that is the most central and meaningful to me...starting with the Friday afternoon rush home, the "prep," the planning for food, gathering with friends, and family time in the evening and on Saturday – all of this has a unique quality that one cannot experience in the diaspora. It is a collective sense of identity and belonging that is as immediate, yet unintentional as breathing air."

—*Elaine Landes*

"I still remember feeling a sense of belonging that I had never realized I hadn't felt before. History was so immediate. The land was so beautiful. The light of Jerusalem so rose colored and desert like, so different from anything I had ever known, and yet my DNA felt I had come home."—*Louise Enoch*

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** of the Chesed Committee (617-244-3373 or jomela@rcn.com).

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

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

(Contacting Rabbi Toba over the summer: Rabbi Toba will be away from the office for the month of July, and will be returning at the beginning of August. During July, if there is an emergency or if you need help from the congregation, please contact the office during work hours, the Chesed coordinator, Pamela Schoenberg Reider, or the CDT president, Marc Steinberg. There will be rabbis on call if you are in need of a rabbi for any reason during this time.)

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

Condolences

To Janelle Winston, Scott Lewis and Celia, on the death of Janelle's father Dave Estes Winston. May his memory be for a blessing.



Mazel Tov

Mazel tov and yasher koach to **Rebecca Forman, Cora Hersh, Mira Netsky**, and their families, on their June bat mitzvah celebrations!

Mazel tov to **Karen, Reinhard, and Lucy Engels**, on the birth of **Clara Ruby**!

A belated mazel tov to **Peter and Linda Katz** on the graduation of their youngest son, **Joseph**, from the University of Chicago!

Todah Rabah

A HUGE *Todah Rabah* to our wonderful Retreat coordinators, **Bill Shorr** and **Betsy Hinden**, and to their key support people, **Corinne Lofchie** and **Susannah Zisk**, for their amazing work on the wonderful 2007 Retreat. And thank you as well to everyone who helped plan, coordinate, and lead different aspects of the retreat: **Gina Fried, Sheree Galpert, Al and Phyllis Glazerman, Doug Hersh, Judy Hersh, Esther Kohn, Dani Krasa, Scott Lewis, Josh Lieberman, Hilary Marcus, Susan Moser, Hankus Netsky, Joel Reider, Pamela Schoenberg Reider, Linda Schiller Robins, Lisa Schneier, Stuart Snyder, Emily Sper, Leah Vaks**, our teachers **Michelle Greenfield, Hillary Pinsker, and Melissa Schick**, and of course **Rabbi Toba**.

We owe a deep *Todah Rabah* to those members who have served for the past year or more on the Board, and who are now stepping down. To **Laurie Gould**, who served this year as Vice President for Strategic Planning, guiding us through the final stages of formulating our strategic plan with diligence and wisdom; to **Andrew Schiff**, who served this year as Vice President for Membership, overseeing the re-organization of our outreach and inreach efforts; to **Esther Kohn**, who for the past two years has served as chair of the Tikkun Olam committee, deepening our work with GBIO and our own internal organizing; and to **Sivan Nasoff**, Finance Chair, who has helped guide our financial processes for a number of years. And finally, a huge thank you to **Jackie Fleischman**, who has served off-Board as the Chesed coordinator for the past two years with grace and compassion. Thank you and yasher koach to all of these great leaders!

We all owe a huge *Todah Rabah* to the many CDT members who do "behind the scenes" work that keeps our congregation running. For all that they've done this year, thank you to: **Ally Cherkasky** and **Ellen Pashall** for their support in the office; **Stan Fleischman, Peter Hess, and Dan Halbert** for all the invaluable computer and website assistance; **Lauren Gibbs, Corinne Lofchie, and Benita Danzing** for membership calls and one-to-ones; **Elaine Landes** for coordinating the Passport to Israel program; **Linda Hsu** for coordinating child care; **Karen Wasserman** for coordinating Tot Shabbat; and the newsletter folks: **Dan Halbert, Josh Lieberman, Tim Rosa, Karen Engels, and Stephanie Hackett** for editing and laying out our beautiful newsletter!

Todah Rabah to these members for sponsoring Kiddush at recent Shabbats: **Andy Diamond, Alissa Leonard, Susannah & Stephen Zisk**.

School Notes

Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, school@dorsheitzedek.org

The school year is over, the kids are off to enjoy the rhythm of the summer, the budget is done (whew!). I can finally sit down, take out a box of tissues (allergies, not despair!), and recall the journey our school community has completed between the middle of September and the end of May. Nine months is a long time. It should have been long enough for all of us to emerge from it with a clear sense of growth and accomplishments.

Let's talk about the students. The parents, the teachers, and yours truly, will be searching for the signs of their emotional and intellectual growth, hoping that they feel more connected to their classmates, to their teachers, to our congregation, and to their Jewish heritage we are so eager to pass on to them for safekeeping. We want them to have a keen understanding that the Jewish view of the world provides them with invaluable tools to deal with whatever they will face in their lives. Each day they burst into the classrooms with laughter and excitement we know they took another step toward this goal. For us, the teachers, it means ever-increasing educational standards to maintain a high quality environment that nurtures their souls and challenges their intellect.

Let's talk about the parents. Through their support and engagement I had a constant proof of "makes it or breaks it." Ours is one of a very few congregations where the religious school is not a "drop off your kid and do your own thing" place. Our parents are an indispensable and eager part of the learning universe created by the formal structure of the school. **Thank you!!!**

Finally - let's talk about the teachers. They / we are acutely aware that this is a place of the highest expectations. We strive to challenge the students, and grow when we are challenged by them. One of the Sages made a statement that is a mantra of the educators who walk in our doors: "*I learned a great deal from my teachers, even more from my colleagues, but I learned most from my students.*" When we bring in new teachers, we look for a clear understanding of this principle and a passion in following it. Then, and only then, Jewish education becomes what it must be—a calling, a passion. We've been blessed with the presence of those who live by these words—Irit Halperin, AdAm Myers-Deutsch, Michelle Greenfield. When we bid them goodbye, we know the gifts of their spirit they shared with us enriched our community.

For just a brief moment, let's go back to the beginning of May. The festival of Shavuot is traditionally a celebration of giving and receiving the teachings of the Torah (*matan haTorah*). It also takes us back to the time when the Jewish society was an agricultural community. It was a celebration of the first harvest (*chag hakaztir*), the time of bringing the first fruits of one's labor to Jerusalem for a physical and spiritual offering (*hag habikkurim*). May our learning community have nourishing first fruits to feast on and an abundance of harvest to draw from throughout the summer.

Membership

Please welcome new member **Ben Newman** to our midst. Originally from San Francisco, Ben has

been in the Boston area for two years and is working on a PhD in computer Science at Brandeis. His girlfriend Sarah works at Brandeis and will enter the library science program at Simmons College in the fall; they are living in Waltham. Ben loves to cook and play the guitar. Having belonged to a Reconstructionist congregation in Pennsylvania he is making a smooth transition to Dorshei, where he appreciates the welcoming community and the lively services. Welcome Ben!



As some of you know, we will be ending our membership at Dorshei Tzedek this coming fall and joining Havurat Shalom in Davis Square. This has been an extremely difficult decision, but the trek to Newton via bus/zipcar/train/carpool has become a barrier to meaningful participation in the community, especially now that Harriet has joined us.

We will forever be grateful for the warm welcome into the Jewish community that we received at Dorshei Tzedek. Thanks so much for all of the friendships (which we hope will continue!), carpools (especially to Sue Lanser, Sivan Nasoff and Lisa Schneier), and the support after Harriet's birth.

Please do stay in touch, and we hope to make our way to Dorshei from time to time in the future.

Thank you,
The Vierling-Claassen Family

Nediv Lev**General Fund***(including donations to the Nediv Lev campaign)***Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent****Naomi Botkin & Joshua Gordon****Thea Breite & Susan Moser****Allyson Cherkasky***In honor of Irit Halperin; in memory of Evan Cherkasky***Andy Diamond***In memory of Herbert Diamond***Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola***In appreciation for Rabbi Toba's support and guidance around the death of Trish's stepmother***Carolyn Fine & Jeremiah Friedman****Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess***In memory of Nancy Gertz's father***Lauren Gibbs****Ora Gladstone***In honor of Ellie Goldberg's birthday**In memory of Jill Volk, who is so sorely and sadly missed***Sharon Gorberg***In loving memory of my father, George Gorberg***Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan***In memory of Junius Gertz, father of Nancy Gertz**In memory of Jill Volk***Stacey & Bruce Gore****Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere***In memory of Junius "Babe" Gertz***Inge & Robert Gould***Kiddush donation***Sheila Hall***In honor of Ellie Goldberg's birthday***Allison & Ezra Hausman***In honor of Dan Halbert & his team, who brilliantly produce the Dorshei Tzedek Newsletter every month***Carol Hemley***In memory of David Hemley***Deborah Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg****Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa***In memory of Jill Volk & Junius Gertz***Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh****Linda & Peter Katz****Esther Kohn***In honor of Rabbi Toba and the Judaism and Practice class**In memory of Jill Volk**In honor of all who have worked on Tikkun Olam this year, including the leadership of Lisa Schneier, Laurie Goldman and Amy Mazur**In honor of Emily Sper for organizing the Debt to Assets class**In honor of Laurie Gould for her leadership with strategic planning, her Pesach musical and her generosity***Elaine Landes & David Felson***In honor of Ellie Goldberg's birthday***Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore****Melanie Northrop***In memory of Jill Volk***Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz***In memory of Jill Volk & Nancy Gertz's father***Elizabeth Samelson & Paul Hattis***In honor of Ellie Goldberg's birthday***Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider***In honor of Rabbi Toba's warm guidance in preparation for Jonah's Bar Mitzvah**In memory of Pamela's grandmother, Katherine Margoles Board***Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman****Cindy Shulak Rome & Dan Rome***In memory of Jill Volk & Babe Gertz***Theresa St. John Siegel & Steven Siegel****Deborah Waber***In honor of Ellie Goldberg's birthday***Michael White***In memory of Jill Volk, George Gorberg & Junius Gertz***Rabbi's Discretionary Fund****Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola***In memory of Jill Volk***Melanie Northrop & Rachel, Sarah & Rebecca Forman***In gratitude to Rabbi Toba and Cindy Shulak-Rome***The Shapiro, Sher, Nadler, Cashook & Stafford Families***In loving memory of Nancy Gertz's father***Jill Volk Memorial Fund****Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury****Thea Breite & Susan Moser****Deborah Waber**

School Fund

Kitah Bet Class of 2006-07

We would like to thank the school for a wonderful year! From Grace Fennel, Adlai Hess, Celia Lewis, Theodore Lewis, Mikayla Marshall, Dahlia Paris-Saper, Tema Siegel, Louis Silberberg, Siena Small, Celia Snyder & Theo Tessler-Shapiro

Kitah Zayin

In appreciation for the wonderful teaching of Morah Cindy and Morah Hilary

School Parents

In honor of Ewa Maniawski Tuschman's first year and her responsiveness, caring and dedication from the parents of the school

Families of Junior Congregation

In honor of Elana Rome's Junior Congregation magic

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. Donations can also be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. These additional contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Jewish Summer Camp Isn't Just For Kids!

There are many opportunities for adult (and family) learning and fun this summer

National Havurah Committee, 29th Summer Institute

August 6 – 12, 2007, Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, NH

Join members of participatory Jewish communities from around the country who gather each summer for a week of study, prayer, the arts, and celebrating Shabbat together. Classes are taught by a variety of rabbis, knowledgeable lay people, and an artist-in-residence. There is a full program for children and teens as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to immerse in Jewish learning and culture, and it's not far from Boston! For more information, go to www.havurah.org and click on "Summer Institute."

Elat Chayyim at Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center

June through August

There is a full summer of programming run by the Elat Chayyim Center for Jewish Spirituality, with workshops on everything from connecting to God, to meditation and yoga, to spirituality and politics, to environmentalism and Jewish arts, to Yiddish culture. There will also be opportunities for hiking, swimming, and celebrating Shabbat in community, and special programming for seniors, b'nei mitzvah families, and young adults. For the full catalog of courses and events, go to www.isabellafreedman.org.

Reflections on the Retreat

Laurie Goldman

For me, the retreat was hardly a "retreat." It as much more of a plunging in (to the lake) and a coming together and joining others in song, play, and conversations. I had lots of conversations over that weekend.

Some of those conversations were discoveries of new connections. I had met Barbara Huggins as an alumna of my department at Tufts, but I hadn't known that she and her daughter Ilana are CDT members. I had recently learned that Joel Reider and I went to high school together and I enjoyed sharing memories with him about growing up in San Francisco, but I didn't know that Pamela Schoenberg works around the corner from me on issues that overlap with my interests. I discovered Mark Bronstein's love of puzzles. And Stacey Chacker and I uncovered several similar life experiences.

Other conversations deepened already established connections. Bill Shorr's reflections on his involvement in social justice issues in Latin American and Corinne Lofchie's stories about initiating Jewish-Palestinian dialogue in college led us to new insights about what motivates us to try to make a difference in the world.

And there were the beginnings of conversations I hope to explore in the future. I look forward to learning more about Tania Mireles' gleanings about hope and Jamie Tessler's vast knowledge of medicinal plants. I'm eager to hear more about Al Glazerman's long history of civil rights work and his current involvement in creating opportunities for youth leaving the youth services system. Hearing about Phyllis Glazerman's experiences promoting affordable housing in Newton left me with more questions about the courage it took to engage reluctant neighbors. I'm still curious about what it was like for Carla Naumburg to be with her partner, Josh Herzig-Marx, under the influence of so many years of memories as a Ramah camper. And I'm even more curious to see what might emerge from the powerful camaraderie among CDT kids – within grades and across age differences.

So in some respects, it was a retreat after all. It was a retreat from the habits of busyness that prevent me from lingering to share a thought, to ask another question, to explore a point of connection. What's great is that we don't need to wait two more years to reverse that habit. We can continue those conversations and start new ones. And we can plunge in, if not into a refreshing lake, then into the invigorating depths of an engaged community.

Healthcare Blessing

On May 15, activists from across the GBIO coalition gathered in prayer for the first ever inter-faith worship service. Together, we sang songs from our different faith traditions and in many languages to express our thanks for the successes of the Universal Health Care Insurance campaign, our praise for one another's efforts, and our hopes for what we still have left to accomplish. Emily Sper's blessing that follows was among other blessings and teachings by members and clergy from other congregations.

At the end of the service, we joined one another in silence to honor the victims of two homicides that occurred in the neighborhoods of our GBIO friends that evening. Being among fellow GBIO leaders who are and will be active in addressing the issue of youth violence in its various forms made that moment of silent reverence feel more meaningful and more hopeful in the midst of the tragedy.

I'm Emily Sper, a member of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek.

It was just about 3 years ago that I stood on the stage at Temple Israel at the healthcare kick-off rally and testified about the high cost of health insurance for the self-employed — how within seven years my monthly premium had increased from 200 dollars to over 500 dollars.

When I visited my representative and testified at the State House Healthcare Hearing, I spoke out against stripped-down insurance, knowing first-hand that with bad health insurance you can still end up with 8,000 dollars in medical expenses.

Later, we hit the streets with our petitions for the ballot initiative. I admit that when out collecting signatures on a cold and rainy day, I wondered if it was worthwhile.

Well, I'm not wondering anymore. Today I'm here to celebrate our collective victory, as well as my own enrollment in one of the new plans. As of June 1st, I'll have affordable health insurance!

A huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. Now I can stop draining my savings to pay for health insurance, nor will I have to borrow money. And, now that I don't have to look for a job just to get health insurance, I'll be able to continue my creative endeavors — the way I'm best able to contribute to making this world a better place in which to live — and grow my own business.

Modim anachnu lach sh'ata hu adonai eloheynu....

We give thanks to you
That you are The All Merciful, our God,

God of our ancestors, today and always.
A firm, enduring source of life,
A shield to us in time of trial,
You are ever there, from age to age.
We acknowledge you, declare your praise,
And thank you for our lives
Entrusted to your hand,
Our souls placed in your care,
For your miracles that greet us every day,
And for your wonders and the good things
That are with us every hour,
Morning, noon, and night.
Good One, whose kindness never failed
—always have we placed our hope in you ...

May the healthy remain healthy, may healing come to the sick, and may all people in need of medical attention receive the same care and respect.

Baruch ata adonai eloheynu melech ha-olam, sh'hechyanu, v'kiyamanu, v'higiyanu la-zman ha-zeh.

Opportunity To Take Concrete Action On Health Care Access

Thanks in part to our hard work with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), more than 135,000 Massachusetts residents who were previously uninsured have gotten free or subsidized coverage under the state's landmark health insurance law. Now it's time to ensure that the victory is brought all the way home. We want to make sure that people get what they are now entitled to and are not unfairly penalized by the requirements that take effect in July.

To that end, we'll be conducting "enrollment sessions" to help families and business owners across our congregations take advantage of the new resources. **If you want to take part in this concrete way of "repairing our world,"** contact Laurie Goldman, laurie.goldman@tufts.edu. (Training sessions will be held on **July 10 and 24.**)



July / August / September



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Jul 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent, Meryl Epstein & Patricia Nuzzola (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Jul 22	7 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Debt to Assets Support Group	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Jul 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Roberta & Paul Carson, Elizabeth Carver & Bryn Austin
Fri Aug 10	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Sharon Sevransky, Allyson Cherkasky, Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Aug 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Linda & Peter Katz - In Memory of Milton Katz; Wendy Gedanken - In Honor of the baby naming of her granddaughter Leah, Dorie Fried (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Aug 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Irene Cramer, Amy Berman, Laurie Goldman, Ayala Galton (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Aug 26	5 pm - 6:30 pm	Israel Trip informational meeting	FUSN: Parish Hall & Children's Chapel (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Sep 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Savannah Greenly	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Karen & Jeff Arnold; <i>Set-up:</i> Elliot & Barbara Pittel, Annie Weiss & David Cash <i>Clean-up:</i> Meg Wilcox & Robert Warren, Linda Schiller & Steve Robins (<i>see page 4</i>)
Thu Sep 6	7:30 pm	Israel Trip informational meeting	FUSN: Alliance Room (<i>see page 5</i>)
Fri Sep 7	6 pm - 6:45 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service, Open House and Potluck	Karen & Reinhard Engels, Linda Hsu, Kelli Kirshtein & Wendy Angus
Sat Sep 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Deb Albenberg, Peter Shapiro
Sat Sep 8	8 pm - 10 pm	Selichot Study and Service	
Wed Sep 12		Erev Rosh Hashanah	(<i>details TBA; see page 3</i>)
Thu Sep 13		First Day of Rosh Hashanah	
Fri Sep 14		Second Day of Rosh Hashanah	
Sat Sep 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Shuvah	Amy Berman, Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith, Hope Kellman
Tue Sep 18		<i>Opening Day of Tuesday/Thursday School</i>	FUSN
Fri Sep 21		Kol Nidre	
Sat Sep 22	9:30 am - 2:15 pm	Yom Kippur	
Fri Sep 28	5 pm - 8 pm	Aleph & Bet Back to School Dinner	FUSN
Sat Sep 29	9:30 am - 12:15 pm	<i>Aleph & Bet - Opening Day</i>	FUSN
Sat Sep 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat, Sukkot Morning Service	Ora Gladstone, Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome, Carla Naumburg & Josh Herzig-Marx In Honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx's birthday
Sun Sep 30	3 pm - 7:30 pm	Sukkot (3-6 pm) Israel Trip Informational Session (6-7:30 pm)	<i>Set up:</i> Amy Mazur, Nem Hackett, Jan Small, Meryl Epstein & Patricia Nuzzola, Liz Reisberg; <i>Clean up:</i> Sherry Katz, Tania Mireles, Carol Hemley/ Idit Klein, Stephanie Hackett (FUSN)

Kiddush Note: The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up.

Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades, who help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates only. Thanks for your help!—
Marla Lichtman, Administrator

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.

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 Membership: James Kaplan
	VP Finance: Mark Farber
	Secretary: Dan Halbert
	Education Director: Ewa Maniawski Tuschman
	Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Board Chairs	Kehillah (in-reach): Diana Fisher Gomberg
	Marketing/Publicity: Ellie Goldberg
	Membership Outreach: Susannah Zisk
	Member-at-large: Paul Hattis
	Member-at-large: Andrew Sofer
	Nediv Lev: Peter Hess
	Newsletter: Dan Halbert
	Ritual: Audra Karp / Debbie Waber
	School: Judy Herzig-Marx / Betsy Hinden
	Space: Stuart Snyder / Steve Siegel
Off-Board Chairs	Tikkun Olam: Laurie Goldman
	Adult Education: Jeff Kichen
	Chesed: Jackie Fleischman
	Rabbinic Liaison: Pamela Schoenberg Reider
	Personnel: Peter Katz
	Website: Stan Fleischman
	High Holy Days: Theresa St-John Siegel
	School Liaison: Tessa Goldsmith

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.