

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Towards a "Torah of Chesed"

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

In the year 70 C.E., the Roman army destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, ending Jewish self-rule in the land of Israel and sending thousands of Jews into exile. Along with the political upheaval and the human devastation, the destruction of the Temple presented a major theological and religious crisis for our ancestors. The Temple had been the center of the ancient Jewish community's religious rites and festivals for 1,000 years. It was the place where individuals could come to seek atonement and offer thanksgiving, and while it was possible to worship elsewhere, the Temple stood at the center of the Jewish people's relationship with God. How would the community now function, with its spiritual center gone?

While there were many different responses to that question, I have always been struck by a particular teaching from the rabbinic tradition. This story relates a conversation between Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, the rabbinic leader who founded a *beit midrash*, a house of study, in the wake of the destruction, and one of his disciples, Rabbi Joshua:

Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai once was walking with Rabbi Joshua near Jerusalem after the destruction of the Temple. Rabbi Joshua looked at the Temple ruins and said: "Alas for us! The place which atoned for the sins of the people Israel through animal sacrifice lies in ruins!" Then Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai spoke to him these words of comfort: "Be not grieved, my son. There is another way of gaining atonement even though the Temple is destroyed. We must now gain atonement through *gemilut chasadim* (acts of *chesed*), for it is written in Scripture: "For I desire *chesed*, not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6)."

The word "*chesed*," and the phrase "*gemilut chasadim*," are difficult to translate. The word "lovingkindness" was coined by translators of the King James Bible to capture the sense of *chesed*. Others describe *chesed* as "covenantal love," "loyalty," "reciprocity," or going above and beyond the minimum requirements of a partnership. In Jewish tradition, acts of *chesed* include comforting mourners, helping bury the dead, visiting the sick, and granting interest-free loans to those in need. As the scholar Gordon Freeman writes: "The purpose of *chesed* is to lead to greater cohesiveness between people... Such acts are to ensure that individuals are mutually concerned for each other. Each person is obligated in a very specific way to others living in

the society..." *Chesed* is not an emotion, in the way we normally think of love, but a kind of caring action that both grows out of, and itself creates, deep communal connection.

What strikes me as radical about the above story is Rabbi Yohanan's claim that in place of the ancient structure of the Temple and its elaborate sacrificial and priestly system, the Jewish people could maintain their relationship to God (which is what is meant here by "atonement"—a cleansing of sin in order to remain connected to the sacred) not by creating new forms of worship, but by coming into closer relationship with one another. Our new "Temple," Rabbi Yohanan seems to be saying, will be built out of the caring relationships that we establish with one another. The better we are able to care for one another, the better will be our relationship with the Source of Life, with God.

At our upcoming Members' Meeting, we will be kicking off a new initiative, the Torah of Chesed. As many of you remember, about 9 years ago we engaged in a process called the Torah of Money, exploring Jewish teachings around money and economic justice and discussing our own concerns in order to arrive at a financial structure for the congregation that would be solidly based in our values while also meeting our fiscal needs.

Through the Torah of Chesed, we hope to do something similar: to explore Jewish teachings and our own needs and concerns, and then to take the actions necessary to better fulfill our mission as a "caring community."

How might we best fulfill the *mitzvot* of caring for the sick, comforting the mourner, supporting one another at times of need? What are the obstacles to giving of ourselves, and to asking for help, that we experience? Are there ways that we might need to expand the traditional notion of *gemilut chasadim*, are there places of need and support that our ancestors couldn't envision? **We will explore all of this and more at the Members Meeting on Sunday, November 18th, at 7:00 in our sanctuary.** I hope we'll see someone from your household there!

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Members' Meeting

7 - 9 pm, Sunday, November 18

We hope that at least one member of every CDT household can join us as we gather to explore what it means to be both a "welcome" and a "caring" community, as our Mission Statement asserts. Please see Rabbi Toba's front page article, "Towards a Torah of Chesed," to learn more!

Tzedakah opportunity:

Family Table, Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry (run by our very own **Barbara Zolit!**), is seeking donations to help local Jewish families in financial distress celebrate Thanksgiving. For a gift of \$18 or more, you can help provide a family with a kosher turkey for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as other holiday foods. Contributions can be made out to "Family Table," and sent to JF&CS, 1430 Main Street, Waltham MA 02451 - send in by November 22 to be part of the "Turkey Drive." Donations to Family Table can also be made on-line at www.jfcsboston.org.

CDT Sings

Do you love to sing? No need to sing alone in the shower anymore. Please join us! CDT Sings is looking for a few new members. Some prior choral experience is helpful: the ability to stay on a part, blend with a section, and know some basic musical terms. The ability to read music is a plus, but not required. We typically perform 2 or 3 times a year, and rehearse monthly (more often shortly before a performance). For more information, please contact Karen Arnold arnoldkc@bc.edu or Sharon Sevransky (sharonsev@comcast.net).

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.

High Holyday Sermons: The talks that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei. Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.

Shabbat Programs

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services & Potlucks

November 9, December 7, January 4, Feb 1, March 7
April 4, May 9, June 6

6 pm candle lighting & dinner, 6:45 pm 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 12-15 people). Drinks and dessert are provided.

Tot Shabbat

November 3, December 1, January 12, February 9,
March 15, April 12, May 3, June 14, 10:45 am-11:45 am

Come join us for an interactive service designed just for 3-5 year olds! Each parent-led service includes songs, prayers, activities, stories, crafts and a snack. For more information, or to volunteer to help with a Tot Shabbat, contact **Jodi Sugerman-Brozan** at 617-983-3679 or jsuger@comcast.net.

Erev Shabbat Services

November 16, December 14, (January 18 – Shabbat Shira),
Feb 8, March 14, April 11, May 2 (Yom Hashoah)

8 – 9:30 pm

Each month we welcome Shabbat with a musical erev Shabbat service that includes a little Torah study and an opportunity to welcome Shabbat with community. Please join us!

(Continued on page 3)

CDT Goes to Israel

Next year in Jerusalem? Join Us February 14 – 24, 2008: 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! Please contact **Louise Enoch** if you are interested in attending the trip.



(Continued from page 2)

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, 8:45 – 9:45 am, November 17, December 15, January 5, Feb 9, March 8, April 12, May 17

Once a month, we gather before Shabbat morning services to explore a variety of commentaries—traditional and modern—on the weekly Torah portion. This study group is appropriate for Torah study regulars and for folks who don't know Genesis from Deuteronomy—just bring your questions, your interest, and your own cup of coffee or tea!

Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan

Dr. Minna Bromberg, CDT Rabbinic Intern

Shabbat mornings, 10 – 11 am

November 17, December 1, 8, and 15

Looking for a way to familiarize yourself with the Shabbat Morning Service? We will spend four sessions learning the structure, content, and meaning of the prayer service, focusing on a different part each Shabbat. Our learning, singing, and praying together will include time for reflection not only on what the prayer service can bring to you, but what you bring to it. The sessions will be appropriate both for beginners and for those who wish to deepen their connection. All are welcome to drop in or come to all four sessions. Participants are invited to join the Torah service and discussion in the main sanctuary at 11 am.

Shabbat Afternoon Bible Study Group

Dr. Sandy Goldfless

*Shabbat afternoons, 1:30 – 2:45 pm, November 3 & 10
Subsequent dates and times to be determined by the group.*

An ongoing reading group is an effective, stimulating, and enjoyable setting for adults to attain broad familiarity with the literature of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible). In this group, we will read extensively, in English, from the Torah, Prophets, and Writings. Dr. Goldfless will guide the study and provide context for interpretation, both from what is known about the biblical world and from the intricate relationships between one biblical text and another.

While the emphasis will be on experiencing the text itself and learning to listen for meaning in its tone, its choice of words, and the arrangement of its parts, we will also encourage a free-ranging discussion of the text's implications. Although no prior knowledge of Hebrew is necessary, the Hebrew language will be an essential part of our group's

experience. We will introduce language basics and key biblical terms in Hebrew as we go along, pacing ourselves by the interest and energy of the participants.

Sandy Goldfless began studying the Hebrew Bible as a child in yeshiva and then at Yeshiva University in New York City. He later earned a Ph.D. in biblical studies and Near Eastern languages, religions and literature at Harvard. He has taught biblical Hebrew for adults and has led Bible study groups in the Boston area for many years. Sandy is a retired software engineer.

Junior Congregation Program

November 3, 10.30 am, Room 111 at 60 Highland Street

Our fabulous Junior Congregation program is up and running! Spend a special Shabbat morning with your friends. Reminder to the parents - session dates are posted on our website as a part of the school calendar!

Meditation at CDT

This year, we will have a few different opportunities to experience, and learn about, different forms of meditation. No experience necessary!!

Chanting and Meditation Service

Shabbat morning, December 8, 9:45 am - noon

In place of our regular Shabbat morning service, this contemplative service will combine song, periods of guided silent meditation, and Torah study. This is an opportunity to experience the restfulness of Shabbat in a profound way. Please join us! Childcare will be available.

Meditation in the Morning

with Dr. Minna Bromberg, CDT Rabbinic Intern

*Shabbat mornings, November 3, December 1, January 26
and more to be scheduled)*

8:45-9:40 am, 60 Highland Street - Library

Ready for a bit of silence before services? These sessions will include instruction and practice in Jewish meditation -- including both silence and song-- as well as some contemplative text study. Content will be appropriate for those with no experience, those with years of experience in a different meditation tradition, those with an established Jewish meditation practice, and everyone in between! Minna is certified in Jewish Meditation Instruction from the Chochmat HaLev Jewish Meditation Center.

Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Hillson Schwartz Rogers

Please join us on **November 10** when our son **Isaac Hillson Schwartz Rogers** is called to the torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Isaac is in the 8th grade at Oak Hill Middle School and has been waiting patiently for his day on the bimah. Isaac has liked every sport he's ever tried, but has a particular affinity (and talent) for basketball, tennis and softball. When he is not trying to score a goal, run or point, Isaac enjoys travel and adventures and hanging out with his friends and family. For his Tikkun Olam project, Isaac will be working through this year with *Birthday Wishes*, a program that organizes birthday parties for kids in homeless shelters. We invite the Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us during services and for Kiddush following.—Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz

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

Condolences

To **Sherry Katz**, **Mark Farber**, and to **Nathan and Jacob**, on the death of Sherry's mother **Annabelle Katz**. May her memory be for a blessing.



Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to the following members for helping with Kiddush: **Irene Cramer**, **Amy Berman**, **Ora Gladstone**, **Carla Naumburg** & **Joshua Herzog-Marx**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**.

Mazel Tov

To **Amy Berman**, whose PR firm, Corporate Ink, was named one of the Wall Street Journal's 15 Top Small Workplaces, out of a field of 850 nominees!

Boston Jewish Film Festival November 1 – 11

Don't miss the 19th annual Boston Jewish Film Festival, November 1 – 11. This year's Festival shines a spotlight on Israeli cinema, with screenings of films that have won prizes at international film festivals around the world including Berlin, Cannes, Sundance, and Tribeca. In addition, a number of films are by local directors or producers. Sports-related films make an appearance, too.

Films are enlivened by the active participation of filmmakers, actors, and film subjects. Two free panel discussions, one on Israeli cinema, the other on Jewish utopias, offer an opportunity for in-depth exploration of these subjects.

The Festival screens at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), the Coolidge Corner Theatre, and the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston, as well as at selected suburban locations. For information on the Festival's program, visit The Boston Jewish Film Festival website, www.bjff.org. To purchase tickets, visit www.ticketweb.com, or call toll-free, 1.866.468.7619.

The Interfaith Resource Center at Jewish Family & Children's Service

Mother's Circle: The Mother's Circle Program is an umbrella of free educational programs and resources for women who are not Jewish who are raising Jewish children. There is an 8-month course that provides an introduction to Jewish practices and ethics and the "how-to's" of Jewish living.

Interfaith Family Living—Couples' Workshop: This series will address many of the issues facing interfaith couples, including the role of religion in family life, what is best for children, relationships with extended families, and belonging to a spiritual community. Small groups meet in a comfortable, non-judgmental environment.

Groups are forming in November, and each will meet four weekday evenings, at convenient times and locations for participants. For more information about any of these programs, please contact **Elana Kling-Perkins** at 781-647-5327 or eperkins@jfcscboston.org

Chanukah

Save the Date!

Sunday, December 9,
4 - 6:30 pm

At the First Unitarian Society,
1326 Washington Street



This year, Chanukah begins the evening of **December 4**. We will celebrate as a community on **Sunday, December 9**, with activities for all ages, adult study, candle-lighting and songs, and a yummy latke dinner! **Stay tuned for more information!**

What We Love About Camp JRF!

Have you heard of Camp JRF – the summer camp of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation? Read on!

This past summer, we had the biggest group ever from CDT attend Camp JRF: **Zev Hattis** and **Lily Gomborg** (now in Kitah Dalet/4th grade), **Pearl Flax-Gibbs** (Kitah Hay/5th grade), **Roz** and **Sophie Aronow** (Kitah Vav/6th grade), **Zoe Miller** (8th grade), and two CDT graduates who worked as staff, **Elana Rome** and **Amy Goldsmith**. Everyone had a **fabulous** time this summer, and we're hoping to have lots more kids from CDT attend this coming summer! To find out more information and to get registration materials, go to www.campjrf.org. Dorshei Tzedek has a scholarship fund for families who need financial help to go to camp; to either contribute to the Fund or to receive an application form, please contact the CDT office.

And in the meantime, here's what some of our kids have to say about the Summer of '07 at Camp JRF:

"Camp JRF is great because all age groups are all together and it's a nice community. Its saying is 'So many friendships made and strengthened' and it is so true! I made quite a few friends and one of them has been writing to me already and I have written to her. Being in the youngest group for the shortest session (Nitaznim), we had buddies in the oldest group (Hadraha) and they were really sad to see us go. They wanted to barricade our doors so we couldn't leave camp! I love Camp JRF. I want to go next year and my little sister better want to come too!!!"

—Lily Fisher Gomborg

"My camp is really small so that everyone really knows everybody else ... like family."—Zev Hattis

"What I liked best about JRF was my friends. What is the most fun part of Shabbat is *Midurah* (campfire) and Shabbat Unplugged. Shabbat Unplugged comes first. Campers and counsel-

ors sign up to perform formal things like dancing, singing, poetry, playing instruments, and we watch them. Havdallah is in between. We sing, and then we spiral in - we grab hands and make a big circle and sing and clap while we spiral in: "Everybody loves a Saturday night" - we sing in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish, French, any language anybody knows - and then lots of Hebrew songs too. Then *Midurah* is a wild and crazy thing where you can do anything you couldn't do in Shabbat Unplugged - skits and wacky songs. Once, Lily Fisher Gomborg did cat impressions. My elective was art and I liked it - we painted rocks, did leaf rubbings, made god's eyes, and clay beads. *Havayah* (Jewish Values) was fun. One time we talked about Jacob's coat of many colors and then did tie dye. And the overnight was awesome. We made a fire and set up the tents. Then we went to a little service, walking around and looking at nature in the woods and a stream, and then we made soup from vegetables we grew in camp. Then we heard a story and made s'mores and three of us stayed up all night talking. Keren, my favorite counselor, is Israeli - she is really awesome. Music is dangerous near her - she goes a bit crazy and wild! Next year, I want to go for the whole summer."—Pearl Flax Gibbs

"What I loved about camp is that you make a lot of new friends from all around the United States. What I also love about camp is that there is just so many things to do. You have no time to sleep in. Of course, you just can't not like Shabbat! Shabbat is my most favorite day of the week. We dance, sit around the fire, and eat great food!—Roz Aronow

Three fabulous things I loved about camp were --- my bunkmates - they were great friends; the lake - I loved the humongous Iceberg! And the singing and dancing because I learned a lot of great new songs. My first session was wonderful! I'm definitely returning back next year!—Sophie Aronow

"For the fourth summer, I spent a week at Camp JRF as part of the "faculty," three rabbis who help with education at camp. I can't say enough about what our kids get from Camp JRF. First and foremost, a profound experience of Jewish community, and connections that they will most likely have their entire lives. And beyond the connections with other kids of all ages, an experience of Jewish living that is fun, connected to nature, and deeply steeped in the best Reconstructionist values. There's simply nothing quite like it. Now I just need some more CDT kids to hang out with!!"—Rabbi Toba

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.

Adult Education

Torah, Prayer & Practice

Wondering how to make Shabbat morning services more meaningful? Hoping to incorporate more spiritual practice into your daily life? Eager to study a little Torah? These classes are for you! **No fee! All classes will be held at 60 Highland Street, West Newton.**

For **Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer**, **Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg**, and **Shabbat Afternoon Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless**, see pages 2-3.

Judaism & Practice: A Path of Transformation

Thursday mornings (through May), 8 – 9 am

*Note: The class will **not** meet November 15 and 22*

Traditional Jewish practice is known as "*halakha*"—usually understood as "Jewish law," but literally meaning "the way." At its core, Judaism is a "way," a continually evolving set of spiritual and ethical practices that can potentially lead to profound personal and social change. In this year's Thursday morning class (running from October through May), we will explore together Jewish texts, teachings and practices that will enable us to live more mindfully and with greater patience, compassion, courage and peace.

Explorations in Israeli History and Culture

In 2008, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, CDT is planning its first congregational trip to the Holy Land! This fall we are hosting two scholars who will explore aspects of Israeli history and culture and current challenges facing the Jewish state. Come to the whole series or just a class or two. *These classes are free for CDT members; \$10/session for non-members.* **All classes will be held at 60 Highland Street, West Newton.**

Introduction to Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Dr. Mitchell Silver

Second and final session, Monday, November 5, 7:30 – 9:15 pm

The first session will focus on the development of modern Zionism as an ideology and concrete political movement, including the historical contexts that gave rise to Zionism and the various forms the movement took. In the second session, Dr. Silver will focus on the history and dynamics of the Zionist, and later Israeli, conflict with the Arabs, and especially with the Palestinians. The class will conclude with a discussion of the current situation and possibilities for resolving the conflict.

Mitchell Silver teaches philosophy at UMass/Boston, and often speaks on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict for Brit Tzedek v'Sha-

lom. He recently returned from his sixth trip to Israel. He is the author of books on secular Judaism and Jewish theology, and is married to CDT member Ora Gladstone.

Jewish Identity, Israeli Identity—Images & Questions

Dr. Irit Aharony

Monday evenings, November 19 & 26, December 3, 7:30 – 9:15 pm

Session 1—From the "New Jew" to the "Lost Sabra":

Figurative and textual images of people and land in Israeli culture from the end of the 19th century until today. An exploration of the changing image of the Israeli and changing values in Israeli society.

Session 2—Dividing lines: Right versus Left, Secular versus Orthodox, rich versus poor. A discussion of the differences among Israelis through the lens of poetry and short stories by writers from diverse sides of the socio-economic-political map.

Session 3—"Yordim/Olim - Back and Forwards": We will watch a prize-winning Israeli documentary about the *aliyah* of three young Israelis/Americans and their decision to serve in the Israeli army. It raises many questions of identity, most centrally "Is service in the army enough to give one an Israeli Identity?"

Dr. Irit Aharony is one of our most popular teachers at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. She is returning for her third year teaching in the Adult Education Program. Dr. Aharony was born in Israel, and received her Ph.D. from Bar Ilan University in Modern Hebrew Literature. Since 1996, she has taught Modern Hebrew and Israeli Literature at Harvard University.

School News

Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, school@dorsheitzedek.org

No'ar Hadash for 6th and 7th Graders

Sunday, November 4, Time & Location to be announced

No'ar Hadash of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and Hillel B'nei Torah will be having the first event of the coming '07-'08 year for 6th and 7th graders. We will be coming together for mixers, games, and a special food art activity! We would love to see you there! The cost of this event is \$7. Please RSVP to **Benjamin Bechtolsheim** (BenBech@gmail.com) or **Elana Rome** (elana.rome@gmail.com) by Friday, October 26.

Save the Date: 8th and 9th Grade

Saturday, December 15

Our second 8th and 9th grade event! Watch for details!

Welcome New Members

We offer a warm welcome to our newest members:

- **Michele Arons, Michael Brann** and their daughter **Tamar Thais**
- **Lisa Chedekel** and **Isabel Morais** and their two children, **Bernard** and **Evelyn Chedekel**
- **Joy Chertow** and **Kitty Cox**
- **Lynda Goldberg** and **Joe Bayes** and their son **Jeremy Bayes**
- **Jen Kaplan** and **Susie Tanchel**

After many years of 3rd floor apartments in Jamaica Plain, Somerville and Waltham, **Michele Arons, Michael Brann** and their 21 month old daughter, **Tamar Thais**, are very happy to have just purchased a home in West Newton. Michael is a jack of all trades software engineer. He enjoys kayaking, camping and observing wildlife. Michele is a singer, teacher and craft artist. She enjoys singing opera and ethnic music from around the world. They joined CDT because of the warm and welcoming community. They like that CDT is progressive and inclusive while preserving traditional music and customs.

Lisa Chedekel and **Isabel Morais** live in West Newton with their two children, **Bernard** and **Evelyn Chedekel**. Bernard and Evelyn are 7 year old twins, now in second grade at Franklin School. The family moved to Newton 5 years ago from New Haven, CT, where Lisa, a native of Andover, MA, and Isabel, originally from Portugal, had lived for 20 years. Isabel is a physician at Weston OB/GYN Associates; Lisa is a newspaper reporter. The family joined Dorshei Tzedek after accompanying friends who are members of CDT to Shabbat services and other events, and "recognizing that our children seemed more comfortable and excited about Judaism than in other settings." In their free time, the family enjoys the beach, biking, amusement parks and "debating for hours on end about whether to get a dog!"

Joy Chertow lives in Newton with her partner **Kitty Cox**. Joy has 2 children: **Ben**, a student at Phila University in their graduate Physician's Assistant program, and **Eva**, a junior at Hampshire College. Kitty has 2 daughters: **Caroline**, a senior at NNHS, and **Jing**, a freshman there. Their shelties, Prince and Lola, complete the family. Joy and Kitty have a cottage on the Cape in Truro, a favorite family retreat. Joy is a long time Newton resident, but grew up in Syracuse NY and attended Temple Society of Concord, a Reform synagogue, there. She met Rabbi Toba when she performed the wedding ceremony for her and Kitty in 2002. Since then, she had thought about joining CDT and now the time seems right. Joy has been the art teacher at Solomon Schechter Day School of Boston for grades 4-8 for 18 yrs. She is also a silk painter and has silk judaica in synagogues in the area and in Kolbo and other galleries. You can see her work at www.joyofsilk.com. Joy currently runs workshops to help you make your own handpainted silk tallit. She has met many

DT members at her workshops and talked to them about the CDT community. Their openness and warmth was one of the reasons she decided to join. Kitty works for Partners Healthcare as a manager in the Real Estate department. She also designs websites as a side business, called www.euclidassoc.com. Joy and Kitty are both looking forward to becoming part of the CDT community.

Lynda Goldberg, Joe Bayes and their 16 year-old son, **Jeremy Bayes**, live in Newton Centre during the school year and in Gloucester during the summer. Lynda is an artist specializing in monotypes (one-of-a-kind prints). She teaches monotype print-making at the JCC in Newton on Friday mornings (all welcome!) and runs a licensed family daycare (a few spots left!). In the summer, she works in her studio in Gloucester. Jeremy attends Newton North High School and in recent summers has been a counselor at Camp Simcha in Middleton. Joe is an anesthesiologist and clinical director at Mass Eye and Ear year-round. The family also enjoys membership in two shuls - with Dorshei becoming the family's school year shul and Temple Ahavat Achim in Gloucester the family's summer shul. Lynda, Joe and Jeremy look forward to having Jewish community year-round!

Jen Kaplan grew up in Sharon and **Susie Tanchel** in South Africa. They now live in Newton. Jen is a filmmaker and environmental activist. Susie is Associate Head of School at Gann Academy. Jen enjoys bike riding, swimming, hiking, walking - anything outdoors - and LOVES the movies (it's her business, after all)! Susie loves Sudoku, crossword puzzles, and Torah Study. They are both big Red Sox fans (and Susie loves the Patriots too). They both love to travel. By the time you read this, they will have returned from chaperoning 58 teenagers on a trip to Prague and Poland! Jen and Susie are looking forward to connecting with and being involved with the CDT community because it is a congregation where people care about other people and care about social justice causes. They also enjoy all the singing and the lessons they walk away with from Rabbi Toba's talks. They were particularly impressed to be welcomed by CDT members *before* being asked if they were members!

שלום

Nediv Lev

Kathleen & Bruce Everett

In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx's celebration of his 60th birthday from his long-time friends (and Princeton College roommate!)

Diana & Richard Fisher-Gomberg

In honor of Elana Rome to thank her for her amazing and inspirational leadership of Junior Congregation

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

In memory of Zachary Carson, Roberta & Paul Carson's courageous and inspirational son, brother of Jake, nephew of Cheryl & Jeff Sacks; In memory of Saul Elkin, Susannah Zisk & Alissa Leonard's father; In memory of Pearl Cahn, Susan Nitkin's mother; In memory of Efreim Goldberg, dear friend, founder of Dorshei Tzedek; In honor of Theresa St. John-Siegel's final year of High Holy Day coordinating! Yasher Koach, with great appreciation! In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx's 60th birthday; In honor of Jayla's arrival, daughter of Betsy Hinden and Karen Wasserman, sister to Henry; In honor of Daniel's arrival, son of Kelli Kirshtein and Wendy Angus, brother to Benjamin; In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Avital Lewis; In memory of Jill Volk, welcomer-extraordinaire, founder of Dorshei Tzedek

Lauren Gibbs

In memory of Pearl Cahn; In memory of Dorothy Pittel; In memory of Sol Elkin; In memory of Edward F. Kook and Hilda S. Kook; In great appreciation of Richard Tuschman's artistry and Joel Reider's framing; In honor of Marla Lichtman's first year and her warmth and enthusiasm; In awe of Theresa St. John-Siegel with belated thanks to Bill Shorr and Betsy Hinden for a fun-filled retreat

Ora Gladstone

In memory of Zachary Carson and in commemoration of Efreim Goldberg

Ellie Goldberg

In honor of the memories of Zachary Carson, Sol Elkin, Sherman Okun, & Paul Cherkasky; In honor of the memory of Annabelle Katz, mother of Sherry Katz; In celebration and joy for the arrival of Jayla to the Hinden-Wasserman family, the arrival of Daniel to the Kirshtein-Angus family and arrival of Nathan to the Fein-Feld family; In celebration of Chayim Herzig-Marx's birthday; In admiration of Theresa St. John-Siegel and in gratitude for her efforts organizing the High Holy Day services for the past four years

Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx's 60th birthday

Erica Streit Kaplan & James Kaplan

In memory of Zachary Carson

Steffi & Eric Karp

*In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer for the New Year
In memory of Sol Elkin, father of Susannah Zisk*

Alissa Leonard

Thanks to Chayim Herzig-Marx for leading the shivah minyan for my father, Sol Elkin; With deep appreciation for the support and kindness of the Dorshei community following my father's death

Steven & Avital Lewis

In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer, with thanks!!

Elaine Pollack

Mickey & Neil Port

In memory of Zachary Carson

Elizabeth & David Roll

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In memory of Zachary Carson; In memory of Sol Elkin, father of Alissa Leonard and Susannah Zisk; In memory of Pearl Cahn, mother of Susan Nitkin. In honor of the Bat Mitzvahs of Michal Lieberman, Savannah Greenly & Charlotte Zolot

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

*In memory of Sol Elkin, father of Alissa and Susannah.
May his memory be a blessing to them all.*

Tess Siegel

*In honor of the engagement of
Joshua David Yager & Sarah Theresa Holewinski*

Jamie Tessler

In loving memory of my father, Ted Tessler

Deborah Waber

In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx's 60th birthday; In honor of new members Daniel, son of Kelli Kirshtein & Wendy Angus and brother of Benjamin, and Jayla, daughter of Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman and sister of Henry

Susannah Zisk

In memory of Sol Elkin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

In honor of Rabbi Toba, for guiding our community so well through times of joy and sorrow, and for her ease with song and comic relief, just when we need it!

Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan

In memory of Sol Elkin; in memory of Zachary Carson

Torah Fund

Marlene & Harry Dodyk & Family

In honor of Chayim Herzig-Marx's 60th birthday - May his days be blessed with good health, happiness and joy

Camp JRF Fund

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In honor of the birthday of Chayim Herzig-Marx

Buy your books electronics, and whatever else, and support CDT at the same time! We are now an "Amazon Associate": When you click on the Amazon link on our CDT homepage (www.dorsheitzedek.org), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek. More information about Nediv Lev on page 5, in the lower right-hand corner.



November



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Nov 1		Upper School Parents Night, Open House	
Thu Nov 1	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)
Fri Nov 2	6:30 pm	Potlucks in members' homes	
Sat Nov 3	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Meditation In the Morning with CDT Rabbinic Intern Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 3)
Sat Nov 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Carol Sklar, Jodie Siegel & Susan Bernstein; <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>
Sat Nov 3	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Sat Nov 3	10:30 am	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 3)
Sat Nov 3	10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: room 112 (see page 2)
Sat Nov 3	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 6)
Sun Nov 4		No'ar Hadash for 6th and 7th Graders	TBA (see page 6)
Sun Nov 4	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Program	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Mon Nov 5	7:30 pm - 9:15 pm	Introduction to Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict with Dr. Mitchell Silver	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 6)
Tue Nov 6	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street: Alliance Room
Thu Nov 8	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)
Fri Nov 9	6 pm 6:45 pm service	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck (see page 2)	Karen Wasserman, Allison & Ezra Hausman, Benjamin Newman; 60 Highland Street: Fellowship Hall
Sat Nov 10	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Schwartz-Rogers (see page 4)	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider; <i>Set-up:</i> Rachel Nemeth Cohen & Richard Cohen, Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel <i>Clean-up:</i> Elizabeth & David Roll, Jacqui Bloomberg, Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa
Sat Nov 10	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Sat Nov 10	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Shabbat Afternoon Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 6)
Sun Nov 11	7 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Debt to Assets Support Group	60 Highland Street: Library
Sun Nov 11	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	CDT Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Fri Nov 16	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service (see page 3)	Becca Gutman, Esther Kohn - In Memory of Kitty Greenberg, Rochelle Hahn & Kenny Breuer
Sat Nov 17	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)
Sat Nov 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jeff Goldman, Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore, Sivan Nasoff
Sat Nov 17	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	(see page 3)
Sat Nov 17	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Sat Nov 17	4 pm - 6 pm	Vav Family Program	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Sun Nov 18	7 pm - 9 pm	Members' Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 2)
Mon Nov 19	7:30 pm - 9:15 pm	Jewish Identity, Israeli Identity--Images and Questions with Dr. Irit Aharony	60 Highland Street (see page 6)
Tue Nov 20	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street: Alliance Room
Thu Nov 22		<i>No school - Thanksgiving</i>	
Sat Nov 24		<i>No School</i>	
Sat Nov 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein, Wendy Gedanken, Rick Glassman
Mon Nov 26	7:30 pm - 9:15 pm	Jewish Identity, Israeli Identity--Images and Questions with Dr. Irit Aharony	60 Highland Street (see page 6)
Tue Nov 27	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street: Alliance Room
Thu Nov 29	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 6)

Events and services are held at The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. Some events are at FUSN, the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton. During Rabbi Toba's weekends off, members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in room 112. **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.

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*



December



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Dec 1		<i>No School</i>	
Sat Dec 1	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Meditation In the Morning with CDT Rabbinic Intern Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Dec 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere, Judy & Chayim Herzog-Marx
Sat Dec 1	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	(<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Dec 1	10:30 am	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Dec 1	10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (<i>see page 2</i>)
Tue Dec 4	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street: Alliance Room
Thu Dec 6	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Fri Dec 7	6 pm 6:45 pm Service	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Liz Reisberg, Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman, Ilana Mainelli (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sat Dec 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Chanting & Meditation Service (<i>see page 3</i>)	JoAnn Share & Rochelle Weichman, Jeff Kichen - In Honor of Abraham Kichen, Naomi Botkin
Sat Dec 8	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Sat Dec 8	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	(<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Dec 9	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Chanukah Celebration	<i>Set-up:</i> Jennifer Levine Fried & Matthew Fried, Jan Small, Scott Lewis, Bill Shorr; <i>Clean-up:</i> Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Meg Wilcox & Robert Warren, Janelle Winston FUSN - 1326 Washington Street (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Dec 9	7 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Debt to Assets Support Group	60 Highland Street: Library
Tue Dec 11	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street: Alliance Room
Thu Dec 13	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Fri Dec 14	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Ellen Pashall, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Andy Diamond - In memory of Herbert Diamond, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sat Dec 15		Event for 8th and 9th Graders	TBA (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Dec 15	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sat Dec 15	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Sherry Katz, Ira Schor & Ilene Spiro, Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks
Sat Dec 15	10 am - 12 pm	Aleph and Bet Family Program	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street
Sat Dec 15	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	(<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Dec 16	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Program	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street:
Sun Dec 16	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	CDT Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event;</i> 60 Highland Street
Tue Dec 18	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN - 1326 Washington Street: Alliance Room
Thu Dec 20	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Dec 22		<i>No School</i>	
Sat Dec 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Stephanie & Nem Hackett, Mei See Sandson, Willa & Tom Kuh 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page XXX</i>)
Tue Dec 25		<i>No School</i>	
Thu Dec 27		<i>No School</i>	
Thu Dec 27	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Dec 29		<i>No School</i>	
Sat Dec 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Barbara Huggins, Steffi & Eric Karp, Esther Kohn Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off

Havdallah On the Water

Dorshei Tzedek had its first ever "Havdallah on the Water" event on October 13 and it was a great success. Members canoed and kayaked in the Gomberg's back "yard" (a.k.a. the Charles River) while it was still light. Once the sun went down, we paddled out to the middle of the river where we celebrated Havdallah, the end of Shabbat. We had 32 people in 12 boats on the Charles River, including 20 adults and 12 kids from 12 families. We had a lot of fun paddling, chatting, dripping wax into the river, and creating quite a sight (and sound!). For those of you who could not attend, we'd like to share some memories of the event. Pictures (for members) are available at http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/gallery/v/2007_Havdallah_water/. We hope you can join us next time!—*Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg*

It was the most *Shabbatlich* way to watch the sun go down. How on earth did you train the river to be so glassily smooth? Dan and I both enjoyed every minute.

Shabbos paddling
Sun sets low o'er glassy Charles
Perfect Havdallah
—*Steffi Karp*

It was really so amazing. We just started doing Havdallah in our house whenever we can about a month or so ago, and Amalia is now talking about it a lot. So this was great timing and a beautiful way to connect to our Jewish community, with a new twist on a tradition.—*Tania Mireles*

I loved the quiet of the water at sunset, going out alone in a kayak and passing one boat after another of CDT members whom I know well or not well at all, and waving, or calling to them across the water. I loved having some time alone in the boat to enjoy the feeling of being on the quiet water, and then turning around and heading back and being greeted by others who were gathering for Havdallah after having witnessed the closing of the day on the river. I remember the feeling of the expanse of water and sky as the night fell. I loved the gathering in the water, all of us holding on to each other's boats as we passed around candles and lighters and spices and prayer sheets and then lit up the darkness with the candles. And I loved the sound of the prayers rising from the gathering of boats, the old familiar words echoing back and forth as people from one end of the gathered boats tried to sing in time with the other end. And then how we all put the candles out in the river, and the boats lined up to come in, and the people were helped out of each boat one by one. Thanks so much for giving us all such a memorable experience to share.—*Lisa Schneider*

We splayed the kayaks and canoes
like fingers on two hands
extended for the kindling of a sabbath wick.
Unlike sardines confined within a tin
we're tight together by our own design —
she held their gunwales, and they anchored mine.

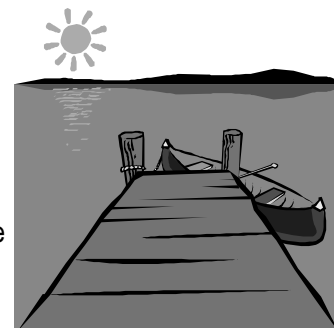
Someone poured some wine into a cup
and we all yai-dai-daied that final tune.
Susannah passed a spice box on her paddle's blade,
and braided flames danced gold across our faces in the night
until we snuffed our candles in the river. Still,
for a moment, even with no moon, such communal light.

—*Bill Shorr*

Thank you so much for Saturday's gathering. It really was so special. Havdallah is one of my favorite parts of Shabbat. I just had a sense that this one would be special. And it was. To be able to share Havdallah with three generations of my family was very special. One of my mother's

favorite activities, as a kid, was canoeing. I wasn't sure, if at her age, she would be into it or not. She was a real trooper. She climbed right into the canoe as if she were 30. Doing the service in the middle of the Charles was truly a gift. To recognize how small I am in relation to the universe is truly a humbling and awe-inspiring experience. One of Shabbat's meanings, for me, is about removing myself from the ordinary, the every day. Saying good-bye to Shabbat and welcoming the coming week, in a canoe, on the Charles, with my mother, among friends, in the dark was nothing short of extraordinary. Thank you for welcoming us at your home, in "your" canoes, in your hearts. I am so lucky to be a part of this wonderful community.—*Hope Kellman*

We set out, guided by Richard's helpful hosting, to canoe on the beautiful, placid Charles with only occasional other boaters. Steffi Karp and her son Dan waved to us from another canoe as Steffi said, "This is real Shabbat." We fantasized that we were traveling in a time tunnel as we canoed under a low hanging bridge, came within one foot of two swans, ate dinner in the middle of the river without another human being in sight, marveled over the clouds colored by the setting sun, swiftly paddled back in the rapidly darkening sky, heartened by seeing other canoes coming out as we were headed back, enjoyed peering into each canoe to recognize other CDT members ("Ohhhhhh, there's"), reveled in the all ages participation from solos to families with little kids and teens to empty nesters, loved the image of the 12 canoes huddled together in the dark, each canoe connected to each other by fingers holding on, wondering at the synchronicity of everyone's decision to douse Havdallah candles in the river rather than in the miniscule grape juice we each had brought. Then back to land and dessert hubbub in the cold with younger kids exuberantly clambering on the play structure, and home to the start of a new week, at peace, happy, in community. Thanks, Fisher Gomers, for the framework for that palace in time!—*Lauren Gibbs*



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, and Committee Chairs

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Past-President: **Nancy Gertz**
VP Membership: **James Kaplan**
VP Finance: **Mark Farber**
Secretary: **Dan Halbert**
Education Director: **Ewa Maniawski Tuschman**
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Newsletter: **Dan Halbert**
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Website: **Stan Fleischman**
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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.