

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

Kislev-Tevet 5768

December 2007



President's Column

Marc Steinberg, president@dorsheitzedek.org

For the d'var at the shabbat service after Thanksgiving, Rabbi Toba presented several Presidential Thanksgiving proclamations, including examples from George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and asked us to reflect on them. While listening to the ensuing discussion and thinking about the context within which each proclamation was offered, I was struck by how the holiday has been recast and re-imagined over the years. If the proclamations are any guide, then from the earliest beginnings of this country, Thanksgiving was explicitly religious, unlike most other federally observed holidays. It was also, as repurposed by Lincoln during the Civil War, deeply political and then, in the hands of FDR during the Depression and World War II, restorative and hopeful. Football and wild consumerism aside, this holiday has over time continued to evolve, and it remains one of the only cross-culturally religious moments in American life today.

In contrast, for those who observe it at all, Veterans Day is mainly an occasion for speeches and shopping and perhaps a solemn moment in honor of the men and women who gave their lives in service during the course of this country's relatively short history.

In Canada and Europe, however, the title of this holiday remains Armistice Day, and it still marks the cessation of hostilities on the eleventh day of the eleventh hour of the eleventh month: November 11, 1918, the end of the Great War, now commonly known as World War I. The international Armistice Day symbol is a red poppy. In Montreal, where I recently had the opportunity to witness how Canadians observe Armistice Day, poppies were everywhere as people took time to consider the fragility of peace and civilization, the carnage and destruction which are the hallmarks of war, and all the time that has passed since that moment of utter exhaustion on the blood-soaked fields and in the ruined cities of Europe.

I returned home from my trip to Montreal in time to get to work on Veterans Day and, true to form, the day passed largely unmarked and unnoticed. I got curious: whatever happened to Armistice Day? In 1954, it had been renamed by President Eisenhower, ostensibly because America had just been involved in two major wars—the Korean War and World War II—and had many more veterans for whom a day of observance was needed. I think, however, that perhaps President Eisenhower and the Congress of that era may have made a mistake. As an

observance of a specific moment in time, namely the blossoming of peace after a long and bloody war, Armistice Day had a power to focus the mind and ignite the spirit that a general observance of fallen soldiers across time and across many conflicts (some of them obviously noble, others possibly less so) simply does not. In moving from marking a specific moment in time—the eleventh hour of November 11, 1918—to the general history of bloody conflict—World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Iraq I, Afghanistan, Iraq II, etc., etc.—and from a specific event (the German armistice) to a category (veterans), the day has been diluted and its transformative power has been lessened.

As I headed into work this morning, I saw workers hanging Christmas wreaths and holly springs with big red bows in the lobby and setting up a tree, so naturally I thought of Chanukah. I stopped to watch, and I began to consider Chanukah in terms of the evolution of both Thanksgiving and Veterans Day. Like Thanksgiving, over time Chanukah has meant many things in many places: it has a political backdrop, a religious twist, and of course it's all about war. In different times, each of these aspects has had more or less appeal and received more or less emphasis, but in America it is in annual danger of suffering the fate that has befallen Armistice Day: it is in danger of losing its meaning in favor of a larger expediency (which I will leave unwritten) and becoming Veterans Day with tasty potato pancakes.

It need not be so. Elsewhere in the world, Armistice Day retains its power to transform, while here in America Thanksgiving stands as proof that it is possible to reimagine and reinterpret a holiday without diluting or removing its essential meaning. This year as I light the menorah, I'll be looking for a way to reconstruct Chanukah so that it provides an opportunity for some kind of meaning beyond the gifts and the rituals: I'll be thinking of our sad, lost Armistice Day, and I'll be hoping beyond hope for a merciful end to the conflict in Iraq that has already claimed so many lives.

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Members' Meeting Synopsis

Dan Halbert, halbert@halwitz.org

Our most recent Members' Meeting was on Sunday, November 18.

After our opening blessing, Marc Steinberg introduced Minna Bromberg and Michael Ramberg, our rabbinic interns for the year. New members attending the meeting were then recognized and introduced.

A welcoming community: Nancy Gertz introduced a short presentation and activity to reinforce being a welcoming community. Jill Volk is remembered by many as being one of the most welcoming members of Dorshei Tzedek; it was one of her central goals to be a welcomer to visitors and new members. Members read excerpts from contributions to Jill Volk's memorial blog (jillvolk.blogspot.com). We then turned to the nearest person we did not know at the meeting and welcomed them.

Finance: Mark Farber reported. Last year we budgeted for a modest deficit, assuming conservatively that there would be no net growth in membership. Our spending and revenues for the year are so far within budget. Mark noted that *nediv lev* and modest membership growth are the keys to balancing the budget in the near future.

Membership: James Kaplan was happy to report that so far this year, 14 new households have joined. Four households will not be rejoining, giving as a net growth of ten households so far, which is above our expectations.

James has written a photo/video policy and release form, which has now been mailed to members. This form will make it easier for us to use photographs of Dorshei Tzedek events for publicity purposes. We do not take photos on Shabbat or major holidays, but it is fine to take photos on Purim, Chanukah, Havdallah events, softball, and other occasions.

Israel trip: Rabbi Toba was pleased to report that the Israel trip has reached the required number of participants and will take place; 20 people have signed up, 18 from Dorshei Tzedek, and 2 relatives of members. Thanks to the committee for their hard work.

New logo: Laya Steinberg presented her new logo design for the congregation. As with the current logo, it is based on the tree on our ark, which was designed and constructed by David Strauss, and is in memory of Marion Weinberg. But it is anchored in the ground (as is the ark tree), has a surrounding box representing both the ark and a book, and has a gradation representing sunrise (or sunset). The logo will be available electronically for a variety of uses.

Torah of Chesed: The final part of the meeting was an extended exercise on Torah of Chesed. Rabbi Toba gave a short *d'var* on chesed. Chesed can be monetary, such as congregational dues or *tzedakah*. In that case an amount is suggested by the rabbis, say 5-20%. But there is no measure or limit on che-

sed of personal action, such as visiting the sick, comforting mourners, helping to bury the dead, providing for poor brides, free loans, and so forth.

Amy Mazur has taken on Torah of Chesed in Dorshei Tzedek as a theme for this year. She explained that GBIO has helped us think about new ways to do social justice. But there are also our internal needs. We will explore chesed through parlor meetings, and work on integrating it into our lives. It is not just something to do, but is a way to be, a habit of mind.

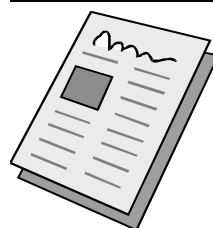
We then broke into groups and discussed our own experiences with both the giving and receiving of chesed within communities we've been a part of. Finally, we discussed our visions of the practice of chesed within the Dorshei Tzedek community.

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).

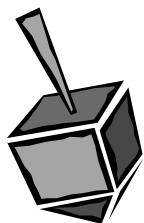
Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case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

High Holiday 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.



Paper newsletters: If you are a member reading this newsletter in paper form, please help defray the cost of the newsletter by donating \$18 to cover printing and postage, if you have not done so already. Thank you.

CDT Chanukah Party



*Sunday, December 9, 4 – 6 pm,
at the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street*

Come celebrate the sixth night of Chanukah with songs, candle lighting, activities for all ages, and, of course, latkes!

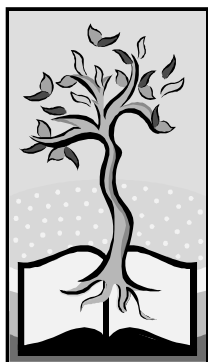
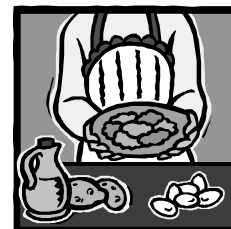
What to bring:

- Please bring a menorah to light (as well as matches and at least seven candles).
- Please bring a salad to share (enough for 15 people). Bring any kind of salad you like: green salads, bean salads, veggie salads, pasta salad, even potato salad if you like to eat potatoes with your latkes!

What we'll do:

- Sing and light candles together.
- Stories and songs for children of all ages (especially young children)
- Interactive drama games for older children and interested adults
- Text study with Rabbi Toba for adults
- Eat latkes, salads, and other delicious foods
- And maybe even play a game or two of dreidel!

For more information, or if you want to help out, please contact **Barbara Pittel** (bpittel@yahoo.com) or **Minna Bromberg** (minna@minnabromberg.com).



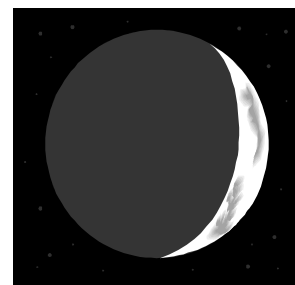
Save the Date! Tubishvat Seder

Monday, January 21 at 7 pm

Stay tuned for more information!

Rosh Chodesh Gathering

Save the date! A women's gathering for Rosh Hodesh (to welcome the month of Shevat) will be held on **Tuesday, January 8 from 7:30 to 9 pm** in the Dorshei Tzedek sanctuary at 60 Highland Street. The celebration of the new moon is a day historically associated with women's renewal and celebration. In recent decades, Rosh Hodesh has become an occasion for Jewish women to gather for learning, ritual, and spiritual exploration, and to mark life passages. All CDT women are invited to come celebrate.



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.

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.

Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to the following members for helping with Kiddush: **Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Wendy Gedanken, Rick Glassman, Jeff Goldman, Jennifer Levine, Linette Liebling, Corinne Lofchie, Tania Mireles, Sivan Nasoff, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Noam Shore**.

Thanks to all the following folks who helped to make the CDT Sukkot celebration a great success this year: **Stacey Chacker, Meryl Epstein & Trish Nuzzola, Mark Farber, Laurie Goldman, Tiffany "Rivka" Gordon, Stephanie & Nem Hackett, Idit Klein, Susan Manheim, Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, Tania Mireles, Benjamin Newman (and friend), Liz Reisberg, Noam Shore and his team of sukkah-builders, Jan Small, Rabbi Toba Spitzer**

Mazel Tov

To **Rabbi Spitzer**! Each year the staff of *The Forward* chooses 50 individuals who are "making a difference in the way American Jews view the world and themselves" and embody "the spirit of Jewish action as it is emerging in America," and the list for 2007 includes our very own Rabbi Spitzer.

Adult Education

A New Jewish Theology of Creation

with Dr. Arthur Green

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 pm

60 Highland Street, West Newton

co-sponsored with Hebrew College

Building on his previous work in *Seek My Face, Speak My Name* and *Ehyeh: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow*, Dr. Green will share his current thinking on Jewish theology and our relation to the natural world. Reading selections from a forthcoming book, Dr. Green will explore a contemporary theology of creation and some new ways of looking at the relationships between God, world, and humanity. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

Dr. Green is the Low Professor of Jewish Thought at Brandeis University, and is one of today's leading authorities on contemporary Jewish spirituality. He serves as the Rector of the Rabbinical School program at Hebrew College in Newton, and is the former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Green has combined his own personal commitment with a scholarly career in Jewish theology and mysticism.

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 page 5.

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.

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

*December 7, January 4, February 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

*December 15 (note new date), 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.

Junior Congregation Program

*December 1, January 12, February 9, March 1, April 12, May 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!

Erev Shabbat Services

*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!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings, 8:45 – 9:45 am
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
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.

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, 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.

Tikkun Olam

Seek Justice With Our Friends Throughout Greater Boston

*Monday, December 3, 7 – 9 pm
Roxbury Presbyterian Church, 328 Warren Street
Laurie Goldman, laurie.goldman@tufts.edu*

It's time to sing songs of celebration and determination with our fellow members of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). The next Delegates' Assembly will meet on Monday, December 3.

Come to hear about recent achievements and future plans:

- We have organized 500 individuals to go through Outreach and Enrollment sessions to find out about the new opportunities available to them through Health Reform. Many of our own members are now enrolled in the new programs.
- We have organized 500 adults to share stories about their concerns for the young people in their lives and to begin to move on those concerns through local action.
- We have organized 1000 conversations around our concerns for our own aging and our aging parents. We are ready to build a team of allies to truly help us Age with Dignity.

For more information, please contact **Laurie Goldman** at the email above

Christmas Tikkun Olam Opportunity: Volunteer with CDT and Project Ezra on December 25

David Shumsky, shumsky@ll.mit.edu

CDT members or friends can provide a break for Christian volunteers and staff so that they are able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. This is made possible by a unique project sponsored by the Synagogue Council, Project Ezra. Last year, 25 Dorshei Tzedek members successfully assisted with meal preparation and serving at 4 different shelters in Boston and Cambridge.

Project Ezra is a volunteer program which promotes interdenominational understanding, dialogue and collaborative efforts. Jewish volunteers (from various congregations) will be working together at sites all over Greater Boston. The sites include soup kitchens, shelters, hospitals and nursing homes. If you would like to volunteer with other Congregation Dorshei Tzedek members, contact **David Shumsky** at the email above or call him (at home) at 617.332.3454. We would love it for single people, couples or families to volunteer. Children 6 and older can volunteer with their parents.

This year we will probably return to the First Church Shelter in Cambridge, the Bishop Street House in Jamaica Plain, the Long Island Shelter in Boston Harbor, and/or the Woods Mullen Shel-

ter in South Boston. Once he has a list of volunteers (and their email addresses or phone numbers), David will contact you with site, time, location, directions, and instructions.

Habitat for Humanity

Did you know that Habitat for Humanity is building in Newton now? A groundbreaking for the Newton project at 76 Webster Park in West Newton was held in September and the project is currently underway. Habitat is currently seeking individual and groups of volunteers to work on the project. For more information, please contact **Ted Kuklinski**, Co-Chair, Habitat Newton Project, at 617.969.6222 or dolanpond@aol.com.

Community Happenings

"Finding Light in Times of Darkness"

*facilitated by Rabbi Karen Landy and Barbara Sternfield, MA,
Jewish Healing Connections*

Wednesday, December 5, 7 - 8:30 pm

Jewish Family & Children's Service, 1430 Main Street, Waltham

JF&CS Jewish Healing Connections invites those who are grieving a loss to join us for a conversation about the potential challenges of celebrating Hanukkah. The program is offered at no cost through the generosity of the George and Beatrice Sherman Family Charitable Trust. Please RSVP to **Barbara Sternfield** at 781.647.5327, ext. 1984, or bsternfield@jfcscboston.org

Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival

Sunday, December 2, 10 am – 4 pm

Newton South High School

CELEBRATE NEWTON! Over 50 community artists and crafters! There will be live music, author signing, a silent auction, children's projects, and a lunch café. \$2 per person/\$5 per family. See www.perugi.com/newton. Proceeds benefit Newton Public Schools.

Newton Fine Art & Craft Show

Saturday, December 8, 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday, December 9, 11 am – 4 pm

Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada St. Newtonville

One show! A thousand gifts! Textile, glass, jewelry, pottery, paintings, photographics, ceramics, and wood created by juried artisans from New England. Proceeds benefit free cultural programming in Newton.

For more information about either of these shows contact **Lynda Goldberg** at 617.527.2117 (lyngoldberg@hotmail.com); she is a participant (monotypes) and CDT member.

School News

The Teen Vanguard

Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, school@dorsheitzedek.org

It is always such an exciting moment for the Education Director to speak about a successful endeavor. One of the many goals of educational expansion and alignment at Dorshei Tzedek is to offer an increasing number of opportunities for our teens, encouraging them to stay involved with our congregation through social service and learning.

Last spring, a group of eighth graders and I had a long conversation that began with their worries about the upcoming high school experience, and moved on to what they felt they would be willing to commit to within a Jewish context during the coming year. We spoke about their interests, likes and dislikes, and about how to shape a program that would meet their needs. They gave us clear guidance, so all that was left was to either find a quality community-based offering Dorshei Tzedek would take advantage of, or to create the curriculum ourselves. Enter Rabbi Spitzer, who directed me toward a CJP-sponsored, very successful, social service and learning-oriented teen program, called TELEM (check them out at www.telemetryouth.org)

I am proud to report that we have a group of ten 9th graders who conquered their anxiety surrounding the transition into the high school environment, and decided to stick together while taking advantage of this program we offered to them. We meet monthly, and while we are still working out the kinks, I am convinced that by the time you are reading this, we will have the program's shape and content where the "kids", Rabbi Spitzer, Hillary Pinsker (our teacher and coordinator), and I want it to be.

Let me briefly tell you how it all happened. At the very end of the previous school year we (the students and I) had a long conversation that began with their worries about the upcoming high school experience, and moved on to what they felt they would be willing to commit to within a Jewish context during the coming year. We spoke about their interests, likes and dislikes, about the shape of the program they would like to see happen. They gave us clear guidance and practically defined the program right then and there. All that was left was to either find a quality community-based offering Dorshei Tzedek would take advantage of, or to create the curriculum ourselves. Enter Rabbi Toba, who directed me toward a CJP-sponsored, very successful, social service and learning-oriented (sounds familiar?) teen program, called TELEM (check them out at www.telemetryouth.org).

To make a long story short, our 9th grade (called Mapilim 2.0, since last year they were just Mapilim) is working within an eldercare track. Once a month, on a Sunday afternoon till early evening, the group visits the residents of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Facility in West Roxbury. Following the recent "get to know you" session, we will work in small groups discussing, swapping stories, etc. There is talk about making a documentary, so stay tuned! After approximately an hour and a half the students move to their own room for the nourishment of body and mind – food, socializing and learning about seniors, aging, respect, care, etc. from Jewish perspective. They are VERY articulate, thoughtful, with deep insights and a lot of personal stories that weave through what they are experiencing during those visits. This will be nothing you don't know – the group is fabulous. They will probably hate me for that, but I want all of you to know who they are: Rebecca

Ansolabehere, Leah Cotton – a new friend, Skylar Fox, David Gore, Julianna Katz, Talia Leonard, Samantha Lewis, Jeremy Marshall, Caroline Rosa and Caleb Weinreb. Not to forget about their parents! It is our hope that they become the seeds of an ongoing and growing in numbers Dorshei Tzedek High School Program.

May they go from strength to strength!

No'ar Hadash

Elana Rome, elana.rome@gmail.com

The CDT and Hillel B'nei Torah 6th and 7th grade youth group got off to a great start on Sunday, November 4. Eight students from CDT came together for an afternoon of games, mixers, and fun. The highpoint of the event was getting to create Torah stories out of candy (graham crackers, frosting, pretzels, gum drops, and more). Some groups depicted the Garden of Eden, others the parting of the sea. After this was done, all the groups then had a Tower-of-Babel contest to see who could make the highest structure. Impressive heights were reached and structural integrity was maintained!

Also, save the date for our next event for 8th and 9th graders: bowling on December 15. More details to come. If you have any questions, contact either of the youth group co-coordinators: **Benjamin Bechtolsheim** (BenBech@gmail.com) or **Elana Rome** (elana.rome@gmail.com).

Passport to Israel

Families with children in the 3rd and 7th grades can enroll their children in the Passport to Israel Program during December and January. Sponsored by the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, this program is basically a savings plan by which families make a yearly contribution into an account earmarked for their child to participate in a peer trip to Israel when they are teens. CJP adds \$700 to each account when the funds are needed to pay the costs of the trip. Money in an account may be refunded at anytime, i.e. your teen is not planning to travel to Israel. This is a very easy way to save for your child's future trip to Israel.

Teen programs to Israel promote life-long connections to the Jewish community and commitment to Jewish identity.

More detailed information is available on the new website: www.passporttoisraelprogram.org. For more information, you can also call **Elaine Landes**, Passport Coordinator for Dorshei Tzedek, at 617.969.7703.

This year CJP is offering \$2500 in scholarships, for teens traveling to Israel this summer, to the congregation with the highest percentage of 3rd graders enrolling in the program. Enrollments forms and details are available from Ewa, in the religious school office, or from Elaine Landes.

Summer Program Opportunities

PanimWorks: An Activist's Adventure

Session 1: June 29-July 10, 2008

Session 2: July 27-August 7, 2008

www.panimworks.org

Live and work in an entirely new culture this summer!

Make a difference as you live in rustic accommodations on a Native-American reservation, interacting with members of the Navajo Nation while working together to promote positive change. This trip in the majestic Southwest includes hands-on service projects as well as outdoor

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

recreational activities. Make lifelong friends and learn about the ethical values that define Jewish life while earning up to 45 community service-learning hours. PanimWorks is open to rising high school sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduating seniors. Contact: **Rachel Hillman** 301.770.5070, ext. 217 or PanimWorks@panim.org

Summer JAM (Judaism, Activism, Mitzvah Work)

June 30-July 27 2008

www.dcjam.org

Come to Washington, DC and participate in a one-of-a-kind program on the campus of The George Washington University. Become a leader in the political world and the Jewish community today! Learn about key issues impacting the U.S. and the world through interactions with leading U.S. policymakers and experts, while exploring the connection between Judaism and advocacy. Participate in meaningful hands-on service projects, while earning up to 75 community service-learning hours. Develop the skills to pioneer change and impact the issues you care about.

Summer JAM is open to rising high school juniors, rising seniors and graduating seniors. Contact: **Lani Hart** 301.770.5070, ext. 223 or SummerJAM@panim.org

Nediv Lev General Fund

Phyllis & David Farber

In memory of Annabelle Katz

Wendy & Charles Frankston

Ellie Goldberg

In honor of the memory of Sig Adler, Elaine Bresnick's brother

Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan

In honor of the Fisher Gomberts for their generous havdallah on the Charles River

In memory of Sherry Katz's mother, Annabelle

Sherry Katz & Mark Farber

In gratitude for support by Rabbi Toba and the congregation

Calendar Notes

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

Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury

Amy Mazur

To CDT in honor of all the wonderful Sukkot helpers (see page 4)

Carolyn & Edwin Weiner

In memory of Annabelle Katz, mother of Sherry Katz

School Fund

Barbara & Jerry Zolit

In honor of Charlotte's tutor, Debby Gelber, for a wonderful job tutoring Charlotte for her Bat Mitzvah and for an amazing Hebrew school education with such caring teachers

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Schwartz-Rogers Family

In honor of Toba's birthday and her gift to us as a B'nei Mitzvah family!

Rachel Schoenfeld

Barbara & Jerry Zolit

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.

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.

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 cleanup, 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 Dr. Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street, West Newton: Library (see page 5)
Sat Dec 1	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere, Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx
Sat Dec 1	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)
Sat Dec 1	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street, West Newton: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (see page 5)
Mon Dec 3	7:30 pm - 9:15 pm	Jewish Identity, Israeli Identity--Images and Questions with Dr. Irit Aharony	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 4)
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 (see page 4)
Fri Dec 7	6 pm potluck 6:45 pm service	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Liz Reisberg, Marcia Okun & Joshua Lieberman, Karen Wasserman (see page 5)
Sat Dec 8	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Chanting & Meditation Service	JoAnn Share & Rochelle Weichman, Jeff Kichen - In Honor of Abraham Kichen, Naomi Botkin (see page 5)
Sat Dec 8	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Dec 8	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)
Sun Dec 9	4 pm - 6 pm	Chanukah Party	Set-up: Jennifer Levine Fried & Matthew Fried, Jan Small, Scott Lewis, Bill Shorr; Clean-up: Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Meg Wilcox & Robert Warren, Janelle Winston FUSN, 1326 Washington Street (see page 3)
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
Wed Dec 12	7:30 pm	A New Theology of Creation -- A Talk by Dr. Arthur Green	(see page 4)
Thu Dec 13	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)
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 (see page 5)
Sat Dec 15		Event for 8th and 9th Graders	TBA
Sat Dec 15	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)
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
Sat Dec 15	10 am - 11 am	Shabbat Morning Learner's Minyan with Dr. Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)
Sat Dec 15	10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street, West Newton: Rooms 112 & 109 (see page 5)
Sun Dec 16	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Program	FUSN
Sun Dec 16	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Ma'apilim 2.0	Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged, off-site
Sun Dec 16	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	CDT Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Tue Dec 18	5 pm - 5:40 pm	Hebrew Refresher Class	FUSN
Thu Dec 20	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)
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 (Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off)
Tue Dec 25		<i>No School</i>	
Thu Dec 27		<i>No School</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



January



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue Jan 1		<i>No school</i>	
Thu Jan 3	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 4</i>)
Fri Jan 4	6 pm potluck 6:45 pm service	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Richard Fisher Gomberg, Karen & Reinhard Engels, Jeremy Kepner (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Jan 5	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Jan 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Matilda & Ed Bruckner, Elaine Bresnick - In Memory of Martin Bresnick, Jamie Tessler - In Memory of Ted Tessler
Sat Jan 5	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Jan 5	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Gimmel Family Program	FUSN
Sun Jan 6	2 pm - 4 pm	Zayin Family Program	FUSN
Thu Jan 10	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Jan 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer, Sharon Sevransky - In Memory of Betty Baum, Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent (<i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>)
Sat Jan 12	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Sat Jan 12	10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Jan 12	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street, West Newton: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Jan 13	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Program	FUSN
Sun Jan 13	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Ma'apilim 2.0	Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged, off-site
Sun Jan 13	7 pm - 9 pm	GBIO Debt to Assets Support Group	60 Highland Street: Library
Sun Jan 13	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	CDT Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Thu Jan 17		<i>No School</i>	<i>Members-Only Event</i> (<i>see page XXX</i>)
Thu Jan 17	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA: Library (<i>see page XXX</i>)
Fri Jan 18	6:15 pm service 7 pm service	Shabbat Shira Service and Potluck	Emily Sper - In Memory of her grandmother, Sonia Heringman; Idit Klein; Tim Rosa & Judy Hersh
Sat Jan 19		<i>No School</i>	
Sat Jan 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service	Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff - In Memory of his father; Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis - In Memory of William Samelson
Mon Jan 21	7 pm - 9 pm	Tu B'Shvat, Martin Luther King Day	Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Ellen Hemley, Kevin Karty, Lynda Goldberg FUSN
Thu Jan 24	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Jan 26	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Meditation In the Morning with CDT Rabbinic Intern Minna Bromberg	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Jan 26	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Galpert	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Lauren Gibbs, Peter Gittleman <i>Set-up:</i> Elliot & Barbara Pittel, Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen, Melanie Northrop; <i>Clean-up:</i> Carolyn Fine-Friedman & Jerry Friedman, Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Ricky Greenly
Sat Jan 26	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	FUSN
Thu Jan 31	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 4</i>)

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 week-day 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

Advice on Elder Care

CJP SeniorDirect, a service of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, provides free advice on caring for your aging parents. Call 1.800.980.1982 from 9 am to 5 pm for answers, resources and expert advice on elder care. You can also visit online at www.cjpseniordirect.org or email info@cjpseniordirect.org. For more information about CJP, visit www.cjp.org

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**
Tikkun Olam: **Laurie Goldman**

Off-Board Chairs Adult Education: **Jeff Kichen**
Chesed: **Pamela Schoenberg Reider**
Rabbinic Liaison: **Ora Gladstone**
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.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465