

# CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330  
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## *This year in Jerusalem!*

*Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org*

I am writing this column a few days after returning from our congregational trip to Israel. The group convened in the Ben Gurion airport on Thursday, February 14. As we came together with our tour guide in the welcome area, it suddenly hit me that this was real—we were here! We gathered together to say the “shehecheyanu” blessing, marking this first-ever Dorshei Tzedek congregational trip. After months and months of planning, after not being sure if we’d gather the minimum number to make the trip a go, we had arrived.

We saw and experienced a lot, from the beautiful (and warm!) southern desert areas of the Arava, to the lush green of the Galil up north; from the sparsely settled Negev region to the packed middle of the country, where the vast majority of Israelis live (and where we saw the traffic jams to prove it!). We met Jewish Israelis of varying political stripes, visited with East Jerusalem Palestinians protesting Jewish encroachment in their neighborhood, learned about the situation of Palestinian citizens of Israel, and heard about new initiatives in Jewish learning and culture being embraced by so-called “secular” Israelis. We visited kibbutzim which have undergone great changes over the past 25 years but which are still committed to the ideals of cooperative living and shared wealth. We saw archeological ruins from the time of the first Temple (approx 800 BCE) through Roman times (the first centuries of the Common Era), running our hands along walls built by King Herod over 2,000 years ago, and marveling at gorgeous mosaics in the Roman-era town of Tzippori, where tradition relates that Rabbi Judah HaNasi compiled the first rabbinic document, the Mishnah. We sang “Esa einai el he’harim,” “I lift up my eyes to the hills,” from Psalm 121, as we gazed at the colorful mountains of the Negev highlands—chanting words written nearly 2500 years ago by people who may have been appreciating those very same hills. We haggled over prices in the Arab market of the Old City of Jerusalem, as travelers most likely have been doing in that very same spot for hundreds of years.

I heard from everyone in the group how powerful an experience it was for each of them, and I am enormously pleased that we had such success in our first attempt at a congregational trip. Some folks had never been before, and others have lived in Israel, and yet others hadn’t been back since an initial visit 20 or 30 years ago. For all of us, the trip was an opportunity to get a

real sense of the complexities and difficulties of life in that beautiful land. We saw the separation barrier that runs through East Jerusalem and the West Bank—at some places a 20-foot concrete wall, in others a high-tech metal fence—cutting through Jerusalem neighbors, running along the highway in the middle of the country. On one side, it has made life vastly safer for Israeli citizens; on the other, Palestinians are hedged in, sometimes cut off from fields, schools, neighbors. We also got to learn about individuals and organizations doing inspiring work in the realm of Jewish-Arab cooperation and co-existence within the state. We heard from one Jewish Israeli man whose son was killed in a bus bombing in 2002, and his decision to not seek revenge, and to instead join with other parents, Jewish and Palestinian, who had lost children to the violence of the conflict, in speaking out for co-existence and peace.

I know it is hard for many folks who have never been to Israel, who have no particular personal or family ties to that country or land, to imagine why one might want to spend a significant amount of money and precious vacation time to go on such a trip. Israel and the occupied territories appear, from afar, as places of hopeless conflict and suffering. Yet it is only by spending time there that you can get real sense of the full human reality that both encompasses and transcends that conflict. It is hard to describe, without actually visiting, the power and vitality of life in that land. The existential nature of the conflict on all sides, and Israel’s self-proclaimed—and perhaps impossibly lofty—goal to be both a Jewish and a democratic state, makes for a vibrancy, a sense of urgency and aliveness, a feeling of living close the pulsing heart of what really matters, that I rarely ex-

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perience here in the U.S. Materialism and consumerism are alive and well in Israel (I was somewhat dismayed to see that now McDonald's golden arches welcome arrivals into Jerusalem), but more profound and important issues have not been shunted to the side. The land of Israel is the place where the reality of three thousand years of Jewish history can be experienced, where the parallel and competing dreams of both Jewish and Palestinian self-determination are still playing out, where one can drive in a single day from the arid hills of the Biblical Sodom to the lush green mountains where the early rabbis and Jesus walked. There is, simply, no other place like it on earth.

I hope everyone who was not able to go on the trip will join us at the Members' Meeting on Sunday, March 20th, to hear and see more about the trip (see page ?? for information about the meeting). I am already excited thinking about our next trip—2010 or 2011 in Jerusalem?? See you then!!

**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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:arnoldkc@bc.edu)) or **Sharon Sevransky** ([sharonsev@comcast.net](mailto:sharonsev@comcast.net)).

**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](http://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.

## Members' Meeting

*Sunday, March 30, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, 60 Highland Street, Sanctuary*

Join us for a travelogue and discussion about the just-completed Dorshei Tzedek Israel trip at the next Members' Meeting. Other agenda items are on tap—watch your email!

## New Member Orientation and Havdalah Celebration

*Saturday, March 1, 7 pm - 8:30 pm  
In our sanctuary at 60 Highland Street*

We are thrilled that approximately 17 new households have joined Dorshei Tzedek since last summer. This is an opportunity for new(ish) members to learn more about getting involved at CDT, to meet one another as well as Board members and other more veteran members, and to learn the mysteries of kiddush set-up!

We will begin with havdallah at **7 pm**, followed by dessert and discussion. Child care will be provided; the program should go until about 8:30 pm. Not-so-new members are also invited to help welcome the new folks!

## New Member Shabbat

*Saturday, March 8*

We will be honoring our newest members as part of our regular Shabbat morning service.

## Good Times at Game Night

*Diana Gomberg, [gofish4@comcast.net](mailto:gofish4@comcast.net)*

Twenty-three CDT members gathered on Saturday, February 9 at the Gomers' home for an evening of games, noshes, and general merriment. Kids and adults played an assortment of games, including Blokus, Cranium, Taboo, Apples to Apples, Twister, Speed Scrabble, and even good 'ole Chess. At one point we had five different games going at the same time! It was fun to meet and get to know fellow CDT'ers better in a slightly competitive but still very informal and fun atmosphere. Thanks to everyone who came and contributed to the excitement, the game options, and the munchies. Game night is becoming a winter CDT tradition!

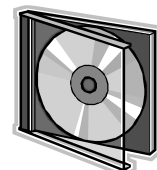


## “Spring Ahead” The Third Annual CDT Fundraiser

Sunday, March 9, 4:30 – 7 pm, Second Church of Newton, 60 Highland Street

**Note:** This is the afternoon after we turn our clocks ahead.

Anticipation is building for our big fundraising event. Donations for the marketplace and auction are mostly in, but collect any CDs and DVD's you don't need so we can sell them. Our musicians are busily practicing. They are: **Laurie Gould, Gabe Adler Cohen and Max Gordon, The Reider Boys, The Arnolds, CDT Sings, Ben Newman, Elliott Pittel, Acappella Surprise, and Nathan Aronow.** The kids' movie is ready to roll, and the on-line auction is going strong. Snacks and Sweet Tomatoes pizza will be provided free of charge.



We need fellow CDT members to attend! So, bring a friend, the kids, your checkbook, and stay for part or all of the afternoon. See you then! For more information, contact **Judy Hersh** at [judyhersh@comcast.net](mailto:judyhersh@comcast.net) or 617.332.2487.

## Purim

Thursday, March 20, 7 pm – 9 pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton (note location!)



Come one, come all, to our annual Purim bash featuring **Rav Tiffany** and Purim davvening, megillah-reading, lots of hamantaschen, costume parade and prizes, and featuring the best Purim spiel ever! We can't tell you what it is because the writers have told us their contract won't allow them to reveal any information... hmmm... what can that mean? Guess we'll all have to come to the Purim party and find out!

Rav Tiffany says: “We want to see everybody in costume this year! **Special prizes** for grown-ups in costume, don't be left out!”

**Mishloach manot**—it's a Purim tradition to give gifts of food and sweets to other members of the community. Bring your dish of *mishloach manot* (can include dried fruit, cookies, hamantaschen, etc.) to the Purim celebration, and you can take another home!



Bring a grogger, a friend or two, a little alcohol if you want, and your sense of humor—be happy, it's Purim!

**Begin Your Passover Cleaning**—at Purim we will kick off our *hametz* drive, so you can bring any non-perishable food items that you want to clear out of your house in time for Passover to the Purim celebration, and it will be donated to a local food pantry. Spaghetti, canned goods, unopened cereal boxes, etc.—bring it on!

Pesach is coming: the first seder is **Saturday night, April 19!** Need Haggadahs? Order a Reconstructionist Haggadah from the Reconstructionist Press!

### ***A Night of Questions: A Passover Haggadah***

Rabbi Joy Levitt and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, Eds.

Illustrated in full color by Jeffrey Schrier

Rooted in tradition, yet accessible to all, this beautifully illustrated volume is a rich resource for the Passover holiday and for your Seder. Softcover, 160 pp., \$22.00. JRF Members-only

quantity orders: 1-11 \$18 each; 12+ \$15 each; 100+ \$13 each. Special offer: Order 12 books and receive a cassette recording of 30 traditional and contemporary Passover songs as a gift! (Cassette and CD version sold separately.)

See <http://jrf.org/pub/cat-passover.html> for more information.

## Bat Mitzvah of Gemma Louisa Lurie

Please join us on **March 15** when our daughter **Gemma Louisa Lurie** is called to the torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Gemma is a seventh grader at F.A. Day Middle School and has attended Dorshei Tzedek Religious School since she was in kindergarten. Gemma has a deep love for music and she enjoys playing the drums, the oboe, guitar, piano and penny whistle. When she isn't playing music, she participates with great intensity in Newton Girls Soccer, Newton Girls Basketball and the Central Newton's Little League baseball team, where she has been one of the only female players. She can often be spotted around West Newton walking on her stilts or riding her unicycle. Gemma is particularly fond of primates and belongs to an organization that funds the preservation of gorillas and their habitats in Africa. We invite the entire Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with us during services and afterwards at a *Kiddush* lunch.

—Ingrid Neuman and Howard Lurie

## Bar Mitzvah of Julian Philip Gertz Cohen

Please join us on **March 29** when our son **Julian** is called to the torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Julian is in the seventh grade at Bigelow Middle School and has been a student in CDT's Religious School since first grade. He enjoys most sports, but especially enjoys baseball, football, and tennis. Julian is a member of two bands in which he plays his alto saxophone; jazz and blues are his tunes of choice. For his Tikkun Olam project, Julian is collecting sports equipment which will be donated to The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)/O'Donnell Schoolyard Summer Program in East Boston, which provides free recreational activities for diverse, mostly low- and moderate-income children ages 5 to 12, and to the Boys and Girls Club of Boston. We are looking forward to sharing this *simcha* with the Dorshei Tzedek community, as well as Julian's brother **Stefan**, grandparents **Anne** and **Bob Cohen**, and **Sandra Gertz**. We will remember Julian's beloved grandfather, **Junius "Babe" Gertz**, who passed away this past year. Please join us for *Kiddush* following the service.—Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

## Adult Education

### Finding Our Way in Prayer with Dr. Minna Bromberg

*Tuesday evenings, continuing March 4 and 11, 7:30 pm,  
60 Highland Street*

This series will allow us to explore the Shabbat morning worship service with an emphasis on the deeper meaning of prayer itself. We'll be using the prayer book as well as a variety of texts on what praying is all about. While our focus will be on the Shabbat morning service, feel free to bring questions and thoughts about any aspect of prayer in synagogue and in your own life. For those who made it to the Learner's Minyan, this will be an excellent continuation, but newcomers are more than welcome. Is there anything you ever wanted to know about Jewish prayer but were afraid to ask?

## Bible Study Continues

*Thursday evenings, 7:30 pm, at participants' homes*

Please join **Dr. Sandy Goldfless** for a close reading of a Biblical text. As Sandy describes the study: "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."

Contact Stan Fleischman at stanf@rcn.com or 617.332.5433 to find out the location of each upcoming class.

## 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

*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.

### Erev Shabbat Services

*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!

### Tot Shabbat

*March 15, April 12, May 3, June 14  
10:45 am-11:45 am, Room 112 at 60 Highland Street*

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](mailto:jsuger@comcast.net).

### Junior Congregation Program

*March 1, April 12, May 3  
10:45 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!

### Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings, 8:45 – 9:45 am  
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!

## 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, March 1, 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 morning, March 22  
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.



## Nediv Lev

### General Fund

#### Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

*In memory of Janet Boguslaw's sister, Chelle Ramsey*

*In memory of Alex Fried*

*In memory of Phillip Siegel*

*In memory of Elaine Bresnick's father & brother*

#### Ellie Goldberg

*In memory of David Adler, father of CDT member Elaine Bresnick*

*In memory of Phillip Siegel, father of member Steve Siegel*

*in memory of member Efrem Goldberg, 3/18/1947-9/20/2002*

#### Michelle Kahan & Robert Fagan

*Thanks very much to Rabbi Spitzer for our son Arlo's mikvah conversion.*

#### Sherry Katz & Mark Farber

#### Joan & Roger Streit, Ilana Streit, Kurt & Ilse Weinberg

*In memory of Janet Kaplan, James Kaplan's grandmother*

#### Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer

*In memory of Alex Fried*

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](http://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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **Abby Cohen**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

### Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to the following CDT members for helping with *Kiddush*: **Barbara Shatkin & Andy Littman, Carole Slipowitz, Ellen Hemley, Emily & David Shumsky, Haralie Alpert & Ellen White** - *In Memory of Francis Greenberg, Idit Klein, Jeff Kichen, Jo Ann Share & Rochelle Weichman, Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Josh Gordon, Kelli Kirshtein & Wendy Angus, Kevin Karty, Linda & Peter Katz, Linda Kramer, Linette Liebling, Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Lynda Goldberg, Mark Bronstein, Melanie Adler, Ora Gladstone, Phyllis & Al Glazerman, Sharon Sevransky*

### Condolences



To **Tracey Rogers**, on the death of her stepfather, Roger Steinhardt. May his memory be for a blessing.

### Mazel Tov

To **Reinhard Engels** on the publication of his book, *The No-S Diet!*

## Community Happenings

### Rabbi Harold Kushner to be Featured at Synagogue Council Lecture

*Sunday, March 23, 7:30 pm, at Temple Israel of Natick*

Rabbi Harold Kushner will be the featured speaker at the fifth annual Connie Spear Birnbaum Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts and area congregations & agencies. The lecture is named in memory of Connie Spear Birnbaum, who worked for the Synagogue Council for seven years as Coordinator of Unity Programming. Author of *"When Bad Things Happen to Good People"*, Rabbi Harold Kushner is a best-selling writer and internationally acclaimed speaker. His topic will be, "Three Ideas the Jewish People Can Teach the World." The lecture is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the program begins promptly at 7:30.

### Women of Valor: Conversations with Biblical Women

*with Penina Adelman*

*Tuesdays, March 4 - April 29, noon-2:00 pm*

Sponsored by Mayyim Hayyim Community Mikveh, this is a series of eight weekly interactive study sessions examining stories, traditional and contemporary commentaries, original monologues, and discussion topics touching upon the lives of individual biblical Jewish women--some lesser-known and some more familiar--and how their life experiences can inform and inspire us today. Deadline for registration is 2/15/08; course fee is \$240. For more information or to register contact LisaB@MayyimHayyim.org or call 617-244-1836 ext. 205.

### Walk for Hunger

*Sunday, May 4*

This year is the 40th annual Walk for Hunger, a 20-mile walk through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Watertown, and Cambridge. Help people across the state who struggle to make ends meet. Last year alone, pledges from The Walk for Hunger funded 400 emergency food programs in 126 communities across the state. During the same period, these soup kitchens and food pantries provided more than 42 million meals for hungry people in our state. For more information or to register, see [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org) and click on the Walk for Hunger links, or call 617-723-5000.

## 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](http://www.cjpseniordirect.org) or email [info@cjpseniordirect.org](mailto:info@cjpseniordirect.org). For more information about CJP, visit [www.cjp.org](http://www.cjp.org)

## 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](mailto:eperkins@jfcscboston.org)

## Hospice Volunteers Needed

Compassionate Care Hospice is looking for caring individuals who are willing to share some of their time and themselves with people in the community who are facing a terminal illness. Volunteers provide weekly visits to the patient's residence where they read to patients, play cards, take walks, talk, assist with a meal or errand, and offer invaluable emotional support and companionship. Volunteer training is provided to prepare volunteers for meaningful engagement with patients during this pivotal time in their lives. To become a volunteer member of the hospice team, call 781-935-5550 and ask for Jennifer, or e-mail [JFirestone@cchnet.net](mailto:JFirestone@cchnet.net).

## Men's Synagogue Softball Team

Elliot Pittel, [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net)



Need something to recover from the Patriots Super Bowl loss? Interested in helping to build another sports dynasty? Looking for something to do on Sunday

mornings in the spring instead of mowing the lawn? It's Softball Time, and the Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team needs **YOU!**

Last year was the inaugural season of the Men's Softball Team, which competed in the Men's Synagogue Softball League, which is made up of almost 30 teams in Metro Boston. Our team finished in 13th place in the Jerusalem Division and will be looking to move up in the standings this year. Games are played on Sunday mornings between April and the end of June, with single elimination playoffs in July. The team fee for joining the league is \$200, plus equipment, jerseys, and caps, and a Newton field permit. Cost to individual players will be in the range of \$60-\$75.

You are eligible if you are male and a member of our congregation, or a son of a member. That's it! What could be harder than that? With many new families joining the congregation since last year, we're looking for guys who can swing a bat, throw a ball, and bring bagels once in a while. Or maybe you thought of playing last year but didn't think we needed you. So even if your game is golf, tennis, or Frisbee, come out and see if you can translate those skills into slow-pitch softball. Consider trying out for our team!

**All positions—1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, shortstop, pitcher, catcher, and 4 outfield positions— are open.** So if you're better than anyone who played last year, you could be a **starter!** We have begun to hold batting practice sessions at a batting cage in Watertown, so come out and join us to begin

your spring training.

In addition to players, anyone in the congregation who wants to help out is welcome. If you have skills in marketing & public relations, accounting, graphic arts, equipment management, baseball statistics, writing recaps for the newsletter and email list serve, athletic training, or catering our games, consider offering your time. There is virtually no competition for these positions. The only position that is already taken is Head Coach.

Don't forget, we are **YOUR** team, and who knows, the 2008 Kiddush Cup can be sitting on our Bimah this summer! Right behind Rabbi Toba. Think of our proud she'll be of us.

Oh, and I wouldn't want to forget the women. Last year I put a call out for Coed Players to form a CDT team for the Coed Jewish Sports Softball League, which plays Sunday afternoons from May to August. Our scouting department has informed me that with so many talented women athletes in our congregation, we could field a very competitive team in the CJS Softball League. And for anyone who thinks winning a championship is an impossible dream, ask Bruce "Ribs" Miller (or me) what its like to win a championship; we were on the championship team in the CJS Fall League. That ties us with the Red Sox, and gives us one more championship than the Patriots had in the 2007 Season.

Interested? Dust off those cleats and email **Elliot Pittel** at [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net), or call 617.964.7011 to sign up.

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## 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 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*





## March



| Date       | Time              | Event  | Kiddush, Notes  |
|------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Sat Mar 1  | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | <b>Shabbat Morning Chanting &amp; Meditation service</b>                 | Amy Berman, Andrew Sofer, Deb Sher, Vilunya Diskin (see page 5)   |
| Sat Mar 1  | 10 am - 12 pm     | Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes  | FUSN  |
| Sat Mar 1  | 10:45 am - 12 pm  | Junior Congregation  | 60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 5)   |
| Sat Mar 1  | 7 pm - 8:30 pm    | <b>New Member Orientation</b>  | (see page 2)  |
| Tue Mar 4  | 7:30 pm - 9 pm    | <b>Finding Our Way in Prayer with Dr. Minna Bromberg</b>                 | 60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 5)  |
| Thu Mar 6  | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>              | 60 Highland Street: Library   |
| Thu Mar 6  | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | <b>Bible Study Class with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</b>                        | in participants' homes (see page 5)   |
| Fri Mar 7  | 6 pm              | <b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</b>                         | Richard Fisher Gombert, Elizabeth & David Roll, Hilary Marcus, Jeff Goldman (see page 5)  |
| Sat Mar 8  | 8:45 am - 9:45 am | <b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>               | 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 5)  |
| Sat Mar 8  | 9:45 am           | Shabbat Morning Service  | Laura Katz, Naomi Botkin, Stacey & Bruce Gore   |
| Sat Mar 8  | 10 am - 12 pm     | Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes  | FUSN  |
| Sat Mar 8  | 4 pm - 5:30 pm    | Hay Family Program   | FUSN  |
| Sun Mar 9  | 2 pm - 4 pm       | Gan Program  | FUSN  |
| Sun Mar 9  | 4:30 pm - 7 pm    | <b>Spring Ahead Fundraiser</b>   | 60 Highland Street (see page 3)   |
| Tue Mar 11 | 7:30 pm - 9 pm    | <b>Finding Our Way in Prayer with Dr. Minna Bromberg</b>                 | 60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 4)  |
| Thu Mar 13 | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>              | 60 Highland Street: Library   |
| Thu Mar 13 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | <b>Bible Study Class with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</b>                        | in participants' homes (see page 4)   |
| Fri Mar 14 | 8 pm              | <b>Adult Erev Shabbat Service</b>  | Carla Naumburg & Josh Herzig-Marx, Lilly Platt, Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman (see page 3)  |
| Sat Mar 15 | 9:45 am           | Shabbat Morning Service<br><b>Bat Mitzvah of Gemma Lurie</b>             | <i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg; <i>Set-up:</i> Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Beth Brooks; <i>Clean-up:</i> Carolyn Fine-Friedman & Jerry Friedman, Doug Hersh & Sarah Little, Hankus Netsky                               |
| Sat Mar 15 | 10:45 am          | <b>Tot Shabbat</b>   | 60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (see page 5)  |
| Sun Mar 16 | 4 pm - 6:30 pm    | Ma'apilim 2.0  | Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged   |
| Sun Mar 16 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | CDT Board Meeting  | <i>Members-Only Event</i><br>60 Highland Street: Living Room  |
| Tue Mar 18 | 7:30 - 9 pm       | <b>Rosh Chodesh Celebration</b>  | 60 Highland Street: Library; open to all CDT women  |
| Thu Mar 20 |                   | <i>No School</i>   |   |
| Thu Mar 20 | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>              | 60 Highland Street: Library   |
| Thu Mar 20 | 7 pm - 9 pm       | <b>Purim</b>   | <i>Set-up:</i> Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder, Rachel Nemeth Cohen & Richard Cohen, Lisa Chedekel & Isabel Morais, Barry Ingber; <i>Clean-up:</i> Susan Bernstein & Jodie Siegel, Elizabeth Carver & Bryn Austin, Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel<br>FUSN (see page 3) |
| Thu Mar 20 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | <b>Bible Study Class with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</b>                        | in participants' homes (see page 4)   |
| Sat Mar 22 |                   | <i>No School</i>   |   |
| Sat Mar 22 | 8:45 am - 9:40 am | <b>Meditation in the Morning with CDT Rabbinic Intern Minna Bromberg</b> | 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 3)  |
| Sat Mar 22 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Naomi Botkin, Amy Mazur - <i>In Memory of Marvin Mazur</i> , Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor<br><i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>   |
| Thu Mar 27 | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>              | 60 Highland Street: Library   |
| Thu Mar 27 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | <b>Bible Study Class with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</b>                        | in participants' homes (see page 4)   |
| Sat Mar 29 | 9:45 am           | Shabbat Morning Service<br><b>Bar Mitzvah of Julian Cohen</b>            | <i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Lisa Port-White, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal  |
| Sat Mar 29 | 10 am - 12 pm     | Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes  | FUSN  |
| Sun Mar 30 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | <b>Members' Meeting</b>  | <i>Members-Only Event</i><br>60 Highland Street, MA: Sanctuary  |



# April



| Date       | Time              | Event  | Kiddush, Notes  |
|------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Thu Apr 3  | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>    | 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)  |
| Fri Apr 4  | 6 pm              | <b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</b>               | Karen Wasserman, Jonathan Magaziner, Lisa Samelson & Paul Hattis (see page 5)   |
| Sat Apr 5  | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Sue Lanser & Jo Radner,<br>Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn   |
| Sat Apr 5  | 10 am - 12 pm     | Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes                                | FUSN - 1326 Washington Street<br>(see page XXX)   |
| Sun Apr 6  | 2 pm - 4 pm       | Gan Program  | FUSN  |
| Thu Apr 10 | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>    | 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)  |
| Fri Apr 11 | 8 pm              | <b>Adult Erev Shabbat Service</b>                              | Becca Gutman, Haralie Alpert & Ellen White -<br><i>In Memory of Paul White</i> , Elizabeth Ross &<br>Caren Smith (see page 5) |
| Sat Apr 12 | 8:45 am - 9:45 am | <b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study<br/>with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> | 60 Highland Street: Library<br>(see page 5)   |
| Sat Apr 12 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Elaine Landes & David Felson,<br>Susan Moser & Thea Breite  |
| Sat Apr 12 | 10 am - 12 pm     | Aleph and Bet Family Program                                   | FUSN  |
| Sat Apr 12 | 10:45 am          | <b>Tot Shabbat</b>   | 60 Highland Street: Room 112 (see page 5)   |
| Sat Apr 12 | 10:45 am - 12 pm  | <b>Junior Congregation</b>                                     | 60 Highland Street: Room 111<br>Led by Max Fischlowitz-Roberts (see page 5)   |
| Sun Apr 13 | 2 pm - 4 pm       | Gan Program  | FUSN  |
| Sun Apr 13 | 2 pm - 4 pm       | Vav Family Program   | FUSN  |
| Sun Apr 13 | 4 pm - 6:30 pm    | Ma'apilim 2.0  | Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged   |
| Sun Apr 13 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | CDT Board Meeting  | <i>Members-Only Event</i><br>60 Highland Street: Living Room  |
| Thu Apr 17 | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>    | 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)  |
| Sat Apr 19 |                   | <i>No School</i>   |   |
| Sat Apr 19 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Jeff Kichen, Toni Rosenberg, Elizabeth Carver<br>& Bryn Austin; <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>                               |
| Sat Apr 19 | <i>sunset</i>     | <i>First Pesach Seder</i>                                      |   |
| Tue Apr 22 |                   | <i>No School</i>   |   |
| Thu Apr 24 |                   | <i>No School</i>   |   |
| Thu Apr 24 | 8 am - 9 am       | <b>Judaism &amp; Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>    | 60 Highland Street: Library (see page 4)  |
| Sat Apr 26 |                   | <i>No School</i>   |   |
| Sat Apr 26 | 9:45 am - 12 pm   | Shabbat Morning Service  | Jamie Tessler, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-<br>Leavitt, Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan  |



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek  
 60 Highland Street  
 West Newton, MA 02465

**Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff**

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

**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.