

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Sivan 5768

June 2008



Receiving Torah

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

Shavuot is that most unfortunate of Jewish holidays. It tends to fall in late May or early June, after most Hebrew Schools end, but too early to be celebrated by those who attend Jewish summer camp. This means that, even for folks who had a Jewish education growing up, Shavuot was either entirely missed or barely mentioned.

What is Shavuot? In the Torah it is introduced as a harvest holiday, called *chag hakatzir* ('Feast of the Harvest') in the book of Exodus, celebrating the first fruits of the spring harvest. In the book of Leviticus, it follows seven weeks after the Passover holiday, a period which culminates in an offering of new grain. In Deuteronomy, it is called *chag Shavuot*, 'Feast of Weeks,' based on this practice of counting the seven weeks.

Today, we celebrate Shavuot as the holiday commemorating the receiving Torah at Mount Sinai by the Israelites. Interestingly, the Torah itself does not record any particular date for that event. We are simply told that the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai 'on the third new moon' after they had left Egypt. And while the harvest holiday called '*chag hashavuot*' doesn't seem to have had anything to do with Torah, at some point it took on this association, most likely for a few reasons.

After the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E., the Israelites were no longer able to celebrate the harvest festivals as they once had—there was no longer anywhere to bring their offerings of first fruits and grains. The other two major harvest festivals—Sukkot in the fall and Pesach/Passover in the spring—were not only agricultural holidays, but were also associated, with the great 'master story' of the ancient Israelites: the Exodus from Egypt and subsequent wandering in the wilderness. Thus they could still be celebrated as something other than simple harvest festivals. What to do about Shavuot?

In the wake of the Temple's destruction, as the early rabbis began to emerge as the leaders of the remaining Jewish community, Shavuot took on its association with the moment of revelation at Sinai. For the rabbis, whose world revolved around studying Torah, it must have been strange to have no opportunity to formally celebrate the moment at which the Torah was given to the Jews. Luckily, they were able to do the math in such a way as to prove that, in fact, it was precisely 49 days after leaving Egypt—and thus precisely 49 days from the day

after Pesach—that the Israelites stood at Mount Sinai and heard God's teachings for the first time.

What does Shavuot mean to Reconstructionists? There are a couple of challenges. For one, we generally do not take the Torah or its narrative literally, and thus imagine the moment at Sinai as a mythical, not historical, moment. This agrees in many ways with Jewish tradition, in which the moment at Sinai has taken on cosmic proportions. For the early rabbis, it was a kind of 'Big Bang,' in which not only the written Torah, but also the 'Oral Torah,' comprising all of the commentary and Jewish law handed down over the ensuing millennia, was received by Moses. In Hasidic tradition, every Jewish soul, past and present, was there at Sinai.

Another challenge has to do with the nature of Torah itself. One thing that distinguishes the Reconstructionist approach is the understanding that Torah—and religion in general—is not the product of divine revelation, but the result of human searching and creativity. Torah is not something that was 'handed' to Moses on Sinai, but is rather the record of our ancestors' search for meaning and their encounter with the divine, as they understood it. And in the same vein as the rabbis' notion of 'Oral Torah,' what we call Torah continues to unfold, to incorporate new understandings, new questions, new insights.

Shavuot begins this year on **Sunday evening, June 8** (see page 3 for information about our CDT Shavuot program). We will step into 'mythic time' as we celebrate not really the moment, but rather the process, of giving and receiving Torah. Naturally, we do this by studying! Please join us for a wonderful program that incorporates the tradition of eating dairy on this holiday (cheesecake, anyone?), study, and discussion of a variety of Jewish texts, and a moment to sit and see what particular Torah, what teaching, each of us needs to receive this year.

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Unity Shabbaton: An Adult Weekend of Study & Prayer

Friday, July 25-Sunday, July 27, 2008,
Holiday Inn, Peabody, MA

This rich and unique Shabbat experience, hosted annually by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, brings together Jews from various streams of Judaism in an atmosphere of respect and understanding, will feature a diverse faculty of noted rabbis for high-level Judaic study, inspirational services (with mechitza and egalitarian davening options), delicious Kosher, ruach-filled meals from Provender Kosher Catering, and entertainment, outstanding accommodations and air-conditioned facilities. This year our esteemed faculty includes Rabbis Fred Hyman, Shira Joseph and David Paskin. Plan now to join in this extraordinary opportunity for learning and growth! Contact the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts at 617-244-6506, ext. 10 or visit our website at www.synagoguecouncil.org for further information. Registration materials will be available by mail or on our website by early May.

Save the Date—JRF Convention in Boston

November 13–16, 2008

The 42nd Convention of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation will take place in Boston on **November 13-16, 2008**. The theme is *Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century*. This will be an exciting opportunity to meet and learn with hundreds of members of Reconstructionist communities from around the country. Dorshei Tzedek will be actively involved in the Convention. Stay tuned!

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.

Members' Meeting

Sunday, June 1, 7:15 pm, in our Sanctuary

Our final Members' Meeting of 5768 falls on **Sunday evening, June 1**. At this important meeting we will approve the budget for next year, thank our current Board members and elect a new board, hear updates on a number of important congregational initiatives, and explain some adjustments we have made to CDT governance, including the nominating process and some Board-level position changes. See the website for details of the new slate and proposed budget.

Join us for shmoozing at **7:15 pm**; the meeting will begin at **7:30 pm sharp**. Childcare will be provided. We hope at least one member of every household will be there!

CDT Torah of Chesed

Update & Request for One-on-One Participants

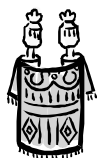
As many of you know, CDT members have been busy this year thinking more deeply about Chesed and continuing to grow and be an even more fully caring community for each other. Toward that end, we have been focusing on the following three specific areas which we believe will help us better understand the issues and ultimately inspire action:

1. Gathering information from other congregations (Jewish and non-Jewish) about out how they define a caring community and their specific activities and practices in this area.
2. Using texts to teach us about Chesed practices and values and to broaden our thinking.
3. Exploring the issue of members' needs that have not typically been discussed openly in the community, and might be more hidden and/or unknown. These can include mental illness, divorce, financial problems, and children's struggles, among others.

We invite members to join the conversation in any of the three areas listed above. In addition, individual members of our Chesed group would like to speak one-on-one with individual members of the congregation who wish to share their stories about their experience of difficult issues in relation to being a CDT member. We would like to invite members who feel comfortable sharing their stories to be part of these one-on-one conversations. Feel free to call or e-mail **Meryl Epstein** (mepstein@mintz.com) or **Amy Mazur** (acmazur@comcast.net) if you would like to participate. We will continue the Torah of Chesed exploration into the year and will share what we learn as we move forward.

Shavuot

*Sunday, June 8, 8 pm to midnight
60 Highland Street*



On the holiday of Shavuot we celebrate receiving Torah at Mount Sinai by holding a *tikkun leil Shavuot*, an evening of Shavuot study. We will be celebrating together with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, and are excited to welcome HBT member **Deeana Klepper** as one of our teachers. Deeana is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University, and one of her areas of expertise is Jewish-Christian relations in medieval Europe. Her study topic to be announced!

Evening program (please join us at any time):

8 pm: Shavuot ma'ariv—we will begin with candle lighting and a brief evening service.

8:30 pm: Dessert & schmooze—bring a dessert or other nosh to share (Shavuot is especially associated with dairy products, so blintzes are good!).

9 pm to midnight: It's a tradition to begin studying at midnight on Shavuot, but we'll get underway a bit earlier! Deeana Klepper will be our first teacher of the evening, and Rabbis **Barbara Penzner** and **Toba Spitzer** will then do some teaching as well.

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 Potluck and Service

June 6, August 8

6 pm candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service

Join us for this fun, musical erev Shabbat 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/dairy main dish or salad to share (enough for 12-15 people). Drinks and dessert are provided.

Note: There will be no All-Ages Erev Shabbat Potluck and Service in July. We'll be taking a break! Also, there will be no adult-oriented Erev Shabbat Service in June.

Musical Tot Shabbat

June 14, 10:45 am – 11:45 am

The last Tot Shabbat until the fall will be a special musical celebration just for our youngest members! Designed for

children ages 3 – 5, this special service will feature lots of song, dance and live music by CDT members! Organized by members Hilary Marcus-Magazine and Ora Gladstone this is a Tot Shabbat not to be missed! For more information, or to volunteer to help with a Tot Shabbat, contact Jodi Sugerman-Brozan at 617.983.3679 or jsuger@comcast.net.

Teeny Tiny Tot Shabbat

June 7, 11:00 am – 11:45 am

Come celebrate Shabbat with the youngest members of CDT! Please join us for an interactive Shabbat play session designed for children birth to age four (babies and toddlers are very, very welcome!). We will play with Shabbat toys, sing Shabbat songs, and eat a Shabbat snack. Parents and caregivers of young children will also have a chance to connect with one another at this event.

For more information, or to volunteer to help with Teeny Tiny Tot Shabbat, contact Alison Lobron at 617.332.0780 or auderial@yahoo.com.

Special Shabbat Services

On **Shabbat morning, June 7**, we will be honoring **Elaine Pollack**. Elaine, a founding member of Dorshei Tzedek, is receiving rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College on June 1—the first CDT member to become a rabbi! She invites the Dorshei Tzedek community to celebrate with her at a festive kiddush lunch following services.

At our Shabbat morning service on **June 21**, we will be honoring and thanking our rabbinic intern, **Minna Bromberg**, and bidding her *nesiyah tovah* (a good journey) as she heads off for a year of study in Israel. This morning we also celebrate the bar mitzvah of **Nathan Greenberg**, one of Minna's students—please join us!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday morning, June 21, 8:45 am – 9:45 am

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!

Summer Shabbat Morning Services

During the summer we maintain a lighter schedule of Shabbat Morning Services. This summer, services will be held **July 12, July 26, August 9, and August 23**.

Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Greenberg

Please join me in celebrating Nathan's Bar Mitzvah, **June 21 at 9:45 am**. Nathan has been a student at the Dorshei Tzedek religious school since third grade. He is a 7th grader at the Oak Hill Middle School where he most enjoys science, being in the chorus, and playing the tuba. He especially enjoys unusual and creative math, especially math that deals with other dimensions. He can most often be found with either a pencil in his hand, drawing super heroes for a future video or comic book, or rocking out on his guitar. I always told him that a Bar Mitzvah was optional, and it could always wait another year, but he was clear that this was something very important to him, to stand up and be counted as a member of his community responsible for his own decisions. I look forward to you joining us for a Kiddush following the service.—*Rachel Greenberg*

Bat Mitzvah of Anya Mariel Carr Klein

Please join us in celebrating Anya's Bat Mitzvah, **Saturday June 28 at 9:45 am**. Anya has prepared for this important event since 3rd grade when she chose (and pushed us!) to join the Hebrew school at Dorshei Tzedek. Currently, Anya is a seventh grader at Bigelow Middle School in Newton. She has been a long-time basketball and soccer player in various city-wide programs and played both sports for Bigelow this year. Anya is a fun-loving kid who can be found kicking around town with friends, lounging on the beach on Cape Cod, or rocking to 'alternative' tunes on her iPod! For her Tikkun Olam project, Anya has selected to sell beaded bracelets made by teen and pre-teen African girls who live in a rescue center in Kenya. Consistent with her love of fashion and all things original, this project suits her beautifully. We enthusiastically invite you to join us for kiddush following the service.—*Eleni Carr and Hara Klein*

Adult Education

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.

Tikkun Olam

Team Zayin Leads First DT Walk for Hunger Team!

On Sunday May 4, twenty Dorshei Tzedek members participated in the Walk for Hunger. With amazing energy and spirits undaunted by rain, students and adults walked 10 miles together, from Newton Corner to the Boston Common, along with thousands of others who were walking to raise money for Project Bread.

This was the first time a group was organized from Dorshei Tzedek to participate in this important project. As a class Kitah Zayin learned a lot—not only about hunger, but about what it takes to organize a team for an event like this. **We are so proud that we raised \$5,031 for Project Bread!**

Here are some comments from Kitah Zayin students about the experience:

'The walk for hunger was truly amazing. It felt like, for every step, I helped someone. I recommend everyone do it.' (**Nathan Greenberg**)

'I loved the fact that we are helping feed the hungry. We are putting effort into something a lot bigger than us!' (**Ilana Galpert**)

'The walk was really fun, the ten miles didn't feel like that much

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because we were with friends. I felt really good about how many people came together to fight hunger.' (**Kelsey Fox**)

'The walk was awesome! My best friend and I had an amazing time! When we started the walk it was raining but we were still dancing in the streets. At the end of the walk we celebrated with piggy backs and cotton candy. It was really fun and I felt great at the end!' (**Anya Carr-Klein**)

'After walking out my front door on May 4th and seeing the rain coming down in buckets I thought the walk would be a long and treacherous one. But after walking the ten miles with friends it turned out to be a fun and productive day!' (**Daniel Kaufman**)

'I loved seeing the signs along the way saying 'good job' and giving facts about hunger. I loved seeing a lot of people out in the rain walking. It was fun raising the money and making posters in class and going to speak to students in the other classes.' (**Charlotte Zolit**)

'After our feet had gone ten miles all of us noticed the enormous balloon in the distance and to me that was really great. All of the people along the route who kept encouraging us—that was great too!' (**Gemma Lurie**)

'The Walk for Hunger was great fun. I had fun and knew I was helping out the world. I'll definitely walk next year.' (**Julian Cohen**)

Thanks to Kitah Zayin parents **Paul Fox, Eleni Carr, Michael Cohen, Rachel Greenberg** and **Sheree Galpert** for their support and companionship. Thank you to our two Sara/h's—**Sara Robins** and **Sarah Arnold**—for representing the young folks at CDT, and to **Linda Schiller Robins, Karen Arnold, Geri Blitzman, Rabbi Toba, Annette Lawson** and **Anya's friend Stephanie** for walking with us. We were in great company and spirits all day.

We hope you too will walk with us next year. This group is already planning to organize a team for Dorshei Tzedek again next year, and our goal is to more than double our walkers!

Thank you to all of our members who supported us! Thanks also to Dorshei Tzedek member **Andrew Schiff**, and Project Bread Coordinator **Sandy Tsai** for coming to our Kitah Zayin class back in March and teaching us about the issues of hunger and inspiring us to take on this project. It was an honor for us to participate in this important work!

Dorshei Tzedek Habitat for Humanity Building Days

*Build Days: Tuesday, June 3, Wednesday, June 4 &
Sunday, June 8*

Habitat for Humanity helps families help themselves by providing opportunities to break generational cycles of poverty through homeownership. Habitat for Humanity is now building its first project in Newton - a 2-unit condominium at 76 Webster

Park in West Newton. Many Dorshei Tzedek members would like to contribute to this project and the Tikkun Olam Committee is therefore coordinating several build days in June for our community to volunteer their time.

Habitat is only able to accommodate about 8 people on each build day. We may be able to book an additional Sunday build day later in June. If none of our early June dates work for you but you are still interested please let us know which Sundays would work and we will try to pull together another date. Building begins at 8:30 am and ends at 3:30 pm. **This is for anyone 16 years and older.** Each participant is encouraged to make a donation of \$100 for building materials, on-site supervision, and other supplies. If you are unable to join us for one of our days at the site, please also consider donating money which help others go and will be used to by materials for the construction of these two homes.

Please let Marla Lichtman know if you would like to participate and let her know which date works for you. She can be contacted at 617-965-0330 or administrator@dorsheitzedek.org. Do not hesitate to contact **Jeff Sacks** (617-964-4773) or **Clifford Goldsmith** (617-965-7323) if you need further information.

Tikkun JRF

Week of Service: August 10-15, 2008

At Camp JRF in South Sterling, Pennsylvania

Post B'nei Mitzvah teens and their parent/s will spend a week working together to make a difference, by connecting to local communities and providing much needed support and building work. Working side by side, parents will model the caring and activist values they hold; and young teens will experience the power of their potential to make a difference in the larger world. We will learn from and about the communities we serve, with time for reflection, journaling, and Jewish values discussions.

Space is limited, enrollment is currently open for a team of 20-30 adults and teen pairs, post b'nei mitzvah ages 13+ (teams may include one or two parents) Coordinated by the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the project is modeled on other successful family work projects and developed in consultation with the Jewish Coalition for Service and the United Methodist Urban Ministry Fees: 250. per person inclusive of meals and lodging.

To register, contact Eve Maslin at the JRF office, 215.885.5601 or Emaslin@jrf.org

For more information about the project, please contact our very own **Clifford Goldsmith**, 617.965.7323, clifgold@hotmail.com

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**, **Abby Cohen**, and **Joey Ives**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Todah Rabah

Today Rabah to the following people for recently providing and/or helping with kiddush: **Jamie Tessler**, **Jacqui Bloomberg**, **Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan**, **Amy Dain**, **Toni Rosenberg**, **Elaine Bresnick**, **Stephanie & Nem Hackett**, **Elizabeth Ross & Caren Smith**, **Hope Kellman**, **Elaine Landes**, **Stacey Chacker** (in memory of Frederic Chacker), **Joel Katz**, **Valerie Graf & Doron Gan**.

Todah Rabah to these people for helping with B'nei Mitzvah Kiddush: **Ami & Jon Gordon**, **Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen**.

Condolences

To **Hara Klein** (father-in-law of **Eleni Carr**, and grandfather of **Anya**) on the death of her father **Raphael V. Klein**. May his memory be for a blessing,



Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Gemma Lurie**, **Julian Cohen**, **Jared Frankston**, **Daniel Kaufman**, and to their families, on becoming bar/bat mitzvah in recent months!

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of our two newest Dorshei Tzedek members:

Ila Maive was born to **Audra Karp** and **Deb Albenberg** on May 14, weighing in at 7 lbs. 9 oz., and 21 inches long.

Becca Gutman and **Idit Klein** had a little boy (name to be announced after the bris) on May 18, weighing in at 8 lbs. 3 oz., and 19 inches long.

Mazel tov many times over to all of our recent graduates:

High School

Stefan Cohen, son of **Nancy Gertz** and **Michael Cohen**, is graduating from The Oliverian School in Pike, NH, and will be attending Clark University, Worcester MA in September.

Rachel Felson is graduating from Newton North High School and going to Israel on the Young Judea Year Course next Fall, then attending Boston University in the Fall, 2009.

Hadass Gladstone Silver is graduating from Newton North High School. She will be spending the summer as a counselor at Camp Kinderland in Western Massachusetts and will be attending Oberlin College in Ohio.

Laura Greenly is graduating from Newton North High School. She will be attending Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin in the fall.

Shana Hausman is graduating from Newton North and will be going to Bard College next year.

Adam Karp is graduating from Gann Academy. He will be on the Young Judea Year Course in Israel next year, before attending UMass-Amherst.

Alex Boguslaw Kaufman is graduating from Newton South and will attend Washington University in St. Louis.

Leah Netsky is graduating from Newton North High School and will be attending Hampshire College in the fall.

Sophie Strassberg is graduating from Newton South High School and will be attending Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA. She has worked for the past two years in the office at the CDT religious school. Thank you, Sophie!

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Prozdor Graduates

Jeremy Bayes, Sarah Forman, Adam Goldsmith, and Shoshana Paris-Saper graduated from Prozdor Hebrew High School at Hebrew College. Yasher Koach to them for reaching this milestone event in their Jewish education. (Prozdor is the community Hebrew high school located at Hebrew College in Newton on Sundays mornings and Tuesday evenings. If you would like to receive additional information about Prozdor, please call Staci Zemlak, Director of Non-Formal Education at (617) 559-8806 or szemlak@hebrewcollege.edu.)

College

Eleanor H. Broh will graduate with an AB degree in Government from Harvard College. Lea has been awarded a Hauser Fellowship for next year and will work at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard. She will spend the year rewriting her senior thesis for publication and doing a Human Rights project in a country yet to be decided.

Nate Farber will be graduating from Northwestern University with a BS degree in industrial engineering. He will be working at Marakon Associates in Chicago as a management consultant, and living in Evanston, Illinois.

Maida Brownell Ives is graduating from Bard College with a B.A. in Environmental Studies/Economics concentration. Upon graduation, she is moving to Brooklyn to teach math as a NYC Teaching Fellow.

Rachel Sacks is graduating from Dickinson College with a degree in Biology and is moving back to the Boston area to work at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Graduate School

Rachel Nemeth Cohen graduated from UMass Boston/ Graduate College of Education with a CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study) in Education Administration.

Josh Herzig-Marx graduated from Babson College with his MBA. His new business, Incentive Targeting, won the Douglass Foundation Graduate Business Plan Competition.

Liz Reisberg received her PhD in Higher Education from Boston College.

Elaine Pollack: CDT's First Rabbi

After five years of study **Elaine Pollack** will graduate from The Rabbinical School of Hebrew College and be ordained as a rabbi. The ceremony takes place on June 1, 2008. After ordination Elaine will be working as coordinator and mentor in a unique teacher education experiment, based at Hebrew College, and called 'Congregational Education Initiatives. She also hopes to continue to support students and their families in preparation for Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

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@jfcbsoston.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

School News

Ewa Maniawski Tuschman, Education Director,
school@dorsheitzedek.org

Dear Friends,

This is a very bittersweet moment for me.

As the school year came to a close, and my tenure at Dorshei Tzedek is about to end, I want to take a moment to thank you for the two years we have spent together. It has been a wonderful experience to see our children not only grow physically (or course!), but to blossom in their ability to ask challenging questions, and to offer impressive insights. I have and will always admire the sense of community that you possess, and the many ways you cultivate it. I am grateful for the impossible to count times that so many of you have stepped in and helped the school function efficiently and move forward.

What I am taking with me are the lovely, heartwarming connections I have made over these two years, the words of encouragement, and the acts of kindness. I am also taking the image of the children's smiling faces, and the bursts of laughter that I so frequently heard during our school sessions. Not to mention the lessons the students taught me. One of our Sages said '*I learned a lot from my teachers, even more from my colleagues, but I learned most from my students.*' There is nothing more true than that.

Thank you again for the good wishes you sent my way as I am moving into the next stage of my journey. I am about to take a position as the Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Beth Shalom in Sarasota, Florida. My responsibilities will in-

clude overseeing and aligning any and all of educational endeavors that happen in that congregation. Big task, so wish me luck!

On a Dorshei Tzedek note again—I am professionally and personally thrilled that the educator to whom I am handing over the school leadership is **Annette Lawson**, whom I tremendously respect as an educator, and dearly love as a person. You could not have given me a better farewell gift!

It is a tradition that when we complete the reading of a particular book of the Torah, we rise and chant '*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek!*' - '*Be strong, be strong, and continue growing in strength!*' I have had an opportunity to experience your community's strength, and I look forward to watching its ongoing continued growth, despite the physical distance.

L'Shalom,
 Ewa

Family Education

Discussion and Visioning

Thursday June 12, 7:30 pm, Alliance Room, FUSN

Please join the education committee and new education director, **Annette Lawson**, for a forward-looking discussion and visioning process about family education at CDT. Results from a recent school-wide survey will be summarized, and time will be devoted to sharing past experiences and future possibilities for family education. Come and share your experiences and aspirations with each other and our new education director. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please contact Betsy Hinden (bhinden@rcn.com).

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*



June - July



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sun Jun 1	10 am	Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Game	Lincoln Field Complex-110 Lincoln St, Lexington Opponent: Isaiah Red Lox 1-Lexington
Sun Jun 1	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Members' Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Michael Brann, Susie Tanchel, Ellen Pashall, Vilunya Diskin; 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary Room 112 (Childcare); Childcare Available (see page 2)
Thu Jun 5	8 am - 9 am	Judaism & Practice Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library
Fri Jun 6	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Amelia Zalcmann, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Peter Shapiro (see page 3)
Sat Jun 7	9:45 am - 7 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Elaine Pollack, Willa & Tom Kuh, Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb (see page 3)
Sat Jun 7	11 am - 11:45 am	Teeny Tiny Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 111 For more info, or to volunteer to help, contact Alison Lobron (see page 3)
Sun Jun 8	10 am	Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Game	Brookline High School-115 Greenough St, Brookline; Opponent: Young Israel - Brookline
Sun Jun 8	8 pm - 12 am	Shavuot	Emily Sper - <i>In Memory of her father, Roy Sper</i> , Andrew Schiff & Susan Manheim (see page 3)
Sat Jun 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ayala Galton, Deborah Albenberg, Danielle Klainberg & Mark Rosenberg <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>
Sat Jun 14	10:45 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112, childcare room (see page 3)
Sat Jun 21	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 3)
Sat Jun 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Greenberg	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Allison & Ezra Hausman, Barry Ingber; <i>Set-up:</i> Barbara & Elliot Pittel, Lisa Goodwin Robbins, Lisa Port-White, Benita Danzing & Nathan Aronow, Dan Forman; <i>Clean-up:</i> Elizabeth & David Roll, Jennifer McGonagle, Susan Moser & Thea Breite, Lauren Gibbs (see page 4)
Sun Jun 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	CDT Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Jun 28	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Anya Carr-Klein	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Beth Brooks & Hankus Netsky; <i>Set-up:</i> Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel, Lisa Schneier, Karen & Jeffrey Arnold; <i>Clean-up:</i> Marcia Okun & Joshua Lie- berman, Amelia Zalcmann, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt (see page 4)
Sun Jun 29	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Leyning Class with Chayim Herzig-Marx	60 Highland Street: Library
Sat Jul 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Michael White (see page 3)
Sat Jul 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	(see page 3)

Nediv Lev

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

General Fund

Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent

Amy Bermar

Naomi Botkin & Joshua Gordon

In honor of Rabbi Toba

Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn

In memory of Kayla Ellen Flynn

Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder

In honor of all the wonderful CDT folks who helped my family and me during my recovery by driving the girls to Religious School, walking the dog, providing us with dinner and checking in on me while I was housebound. Thank you all.

Andy Diamond

In memory of Stuart Diamond and Herbert Diamond

Carolyn Fine & Jeremiah Friedman

Jacqui & Stan Fleischman

In honor of Rabbi Toba's shepherding us to Israel and guiding us along the spiritual path of Mussar

Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

Stacey & Bruce Gore

Jan Gortler-Small

In memory of Susan Varon Small

Inge & Robert Gould

Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere

In honor of Mark Steinberg's valiant continuing leadership; in honor of Sheree Galpert's creative genius

Stephanie & Nem Hackett

In honor of Rita and Sid Hackett's namings and in honor of Rabbi Toba for making this event so special for our family

Allison & Ezra Hausman

Deborah Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg

Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa

In honor of the 2008 Auction Committee

Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman

In honor of Jayla Naomi's joining our family and the Dorshei Tzedek community

Barry Ingber

Linda & Peter Katz

In memory of Saul Weiss

Alissa & Gerald Leonard

In memory of Sol Elkin

Jennifer Levine-Fried & Matthew Fried

In memory of Jonathan Levine and Arthur Fried

Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore

Ilana Mainelli

In honor of Morah Rivka Gordon

Amy Mazur

In honor of Rita and Sid Hackett's namings

Sivan Nasoff

In memory of Jill Volk

Barbara & Elliot Pittel

Ruth Paris & Rob Saper

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz

In loving memory of Jill Volk

Theresa St. John Siegel & Steven Siegel

Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider

Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman

Jo Ann Share & Rochelle Weichman

Tess Siegel

In memory of Morton Wishengrad

In memory of Rose Pesin Wishengrad

In memory of Ruth Pesin Bruckner

Nicky Silver & Shoshana Simons

In loving memory of Raphael Klein

Emily Sper

In memory of Roy Sper

Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan

In appreciation of Rabbi Toba and the many members of the CDT community who have given us meals, company, and so much support since Eleanor's arrival

Deborah Waber

Susannah & Steven Zisk

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Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund

On May 15, we marked the first yartzheit of CDT member Jill Volk. In her memory, we have created the Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund, which will provide scholarships for teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek religious school to receive professional development and training. Jill was one of the founders of and first teachers in our school, and this fund will allow her love of Judaism and Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community. Donations to the fund should be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, and noted for the fund. All donations to CDT received last year in memory of Jill have been deposited into this fund.

Lauren & Brian Brenner

Rhoda Volk

In honor of Rabbi Toba

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Betsy Hinden & Karen Wasserman

With thanks to Toba for her continued support of our family

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 Fund, the Holy Book Fund, the Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund, and the Building Fund. 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.

Please designate the fund you wish to support if it is other than the General Fund. Please also indicate the how you would like your name(s) to appear in the acknowledgements. Thank you.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
 60 Highland Street
 West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff

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

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.