

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
www.dorsheitzedek.org info@dorsheitzedek.org

Tamuz-Av 5768

July-August 2008



Education and Bagels

As we wind down for the summer, I want to spend a few minutes looking ahead to new developments at the school. As you're probably aware, the school is a major attraction for new members, and we are hoping that some of the changes now under way will lead to continued membership growth. School enrollment has been slowly shrinking over the past few years, and we are optimistic that our renewed focus and energy will reverse this trend. One of the most critical ways that we find new students is through word-of-mouth, so please take the opportunity to share information about the school with people you know who are looking into schooling options for their children. With that in mind, here are some of the school doings and changes in direction:

- ❖ The Education Director transition is now in process. **Annette Lawson** officially became Director on June 23, and she'll be spending the summer getting acclimated and finalizing staff for next year. Annette brings new energy and perspectives, and we are confident that this is the beginning of a close and productive partnership between the school and Rabbi Toba.
- ❖ The Education Committee has begun a long-sought resurgence and is planning to meet regularly beginning this fall. We are grateful for the continuing leadership of **Betsy Hinden** and excited to see the committee enjoying an active and committed membership.
- ❖ We held the first in a series of Education workshops last month, facilitated by **Tracey Rodgers** and **Laurie Gould**. The topic was Family Education, and the goal was to brainstorm ideas for new family education programming. The meeting was well-attended (22 members plus Annette and Rabbi Toba) and we generated quite a few new ideas which we hope will be helpful to Annette as she begins to examine the current programming.
- ❖ Education will gain increased focus at the congregational level with the addition of a VP for Education position to the Executive Committee. **Sheree Galpert** has taken on this role—stay tuned to see what develops!

I also want to brief you on a research project that will be taking place over the summer. The Board devoted some time this year to discussing kiddush; we are aware that there is some perception that the current volunteer system might be in need of some adjustment. At first we thought that we might do a formal survey, but then realized that we didn't really have enough information to craft a survey with concrete alternatives or bounded questions. In an attempt to gather information for some fall discussions, Dan Halbert has graciously agreed to make phone calls to members over the summer and have some open-ended discussions on the topic. We hope to gain a better understanding of how members feel about recent experiences with kiddush, positive or negative. Dan will not be calling the entire membership, so if you have an opinion or perspective that you wish to share, please feel free to contact him at your convenience. The Board is looking forward to hearing your feedback and plans to engage around this topic again in the fall with better information.

I wish you all a relaxing summer!

Warm regards,

Marc Steinberg

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Spread the Word About CDT!

Fabulous opportunities available immediately for willing adults (and a few motivated teens)! Do you love Dorshei Tzedek and want to keep it a strong, vibrant, and growing community? Then we need YOU to help spread the word about our wonderful congregation. If you can write, talk, take pictures, make phone calls, or post fliers, there is a place for you on the marketing team. We're looking for a few committed people to lead projects such as High Holiday promotion, and other people who can take on smaller tasks like designing fliers, posting fliers around town, verifying contact info for media sources, or writing notes on CDT events that you attend anyway so that we can publicize our activities on the website.

Interested? Contact **Ellie Goldberg** (617.965.9637 or ellie.goldberg@gmail.com) or **Susannah Zisk** (617.332.0977 or sez1@bellatlantic.net).

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.

Yizkor Scroll Project

Lauren Gibbs, laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net

We were so fortunate to be able to enjoy Richard Tuschman's beautiful and haunting Yizkor Scroll design, ensconced in Joel Reider's simple frame, this past year, as we remembered our loved ones at Yizkor and throughout 5768. We plan to create a new Yizkor Scroll for 5769 and later years in a way that is flexible enough to allow us to update the Scroll as needed, sadly. If you would like to participate in the design planning, building, and/or collection of names for this project, please contact laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net or 857.544.6778. And be on the look out for the Yizkor Scroll Project Form on the website and in your High Holiday packet!

Welcome New Board Slate!

The Board slate for 5769 was presented and voted upon at the June Members' Meeting. We're proud to announce our new and continuing Board members. Please see the back page of this newsletter for the list of 5769 Board and Off-Board members.

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

August 8, September 5: 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!

Summer Shabbat Morning Services

9:45 am - noon, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23

In July, we enjoy lay-led services, in our usual space and time. Rabbi Toba returns to lead two Shabbat morning services in August. **Please Note:** There is no child care during services in the summer.

Tisha b'Av

Saturday evening, August 9, 8:30 pm

60 Highland Street

Tisha b'Av, the 9th of Av, is a fast day commemorating the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem (in 586 B.C.E. and 70 C.E., respectively). We will usher in *Tisha b'Av* with an evening program that includes reading of a portion of the Biblical book of Lamentations, and study and reflection on traditional and contemporary responses to communal tragedy.

Sukkot Planning Meeting

*Tuesday, August 5, 7:30 pm
at the home of Amy Mazur*

If you would like to help plan a variety of activities for the holiday of Sukkot (which begins the evening of October 13)—including organizing neighborhood sukkah-raisings, Shabbat lunches in CDT sukkot, and an afternoon of programming on Sunday, October 19th, please join us! For more information, please contact **Amy Mazur** at acmazur@comcast.net or **Susan Manheim** at manheim.co@comcast.net.



CDT End of Summer Softball Game and Picnic

August 24, 4 – 6:30 pm, Auburndale Cove

Save the date! Celebrate the end of summer with food and fun. More details to follow!



Save the Date: Retreat 2009!

Bill Shorr, bill.shorr@gmail.com

Mark your calendars now: **The 2009 CDT Retreat will be happening next June 13-15**, at a new site – Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire (all the amenities of Camp Ramah but better accommodations!). If you are interested in helping plan the retreat, please contact **Bill Shorr** at bill.shorr@gmail.com.



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 mehitza 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.

National Havurah Committee Summer Institute

*August 11 – 17, 2008
Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH*

The National Havurah Committee is a nondenominational, pluralistic, egalitarian, intergenerational, and volunteer-run organization, which has been dedicated to participatory Jewish living and learning, joyful grassroots Judaism, community building, and tikkun olam (repairing the world), since the 1970s.

The 30th National Havurah Committee Summer Institute is fast approaching, and in mid-August, the campus of Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire will be host to the Institute, a week-long celebration of grassroots Jewish life that leaves participants excited to share new ideas and experiences with their home communities. More than 300 people from a wide range of backgrounds will come together at the National Havurah Committee's 30th Summer Institute, "Blessed is the One who spoke the world into Being," August 11-17, 2008 at Franklin Pierce University, in Rindge, NH. Together we will spend a week of in-depth study, moving prayer, spirited conversation, creative arts, social justice work, and enriching experiences for children and families. We'll enjoy late-night jam sessions, singing, dancing, swimming, meditation, and hiking, all while building new connections. This year we have a new Social Justice Fellow, fabulous teachers (including Judith Plaskow and Steve Greenberg), additional scholarship funds, and online registration. Some scholarships and travel grants are still available. For more information, or to register, visit www.havurah.org/institute.

Tikkun Olam

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.

Cradles to Crayons Charity Drive

Sharon Sevransky, sharonsev@comcast.net

In June, CDT hosted its first ever Group Drive for Cradles to Crayons, a local organization that collects donations of clothes, books, toys and other essential items for distribution to children in need. Their mission is to provide, free of charge, low-income and homeless children from birth to pre-teen the basic essentials they need to be safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued. Members brought bags of donations to services, and to Sharon Sevransky's house. We collected more than 18 bags and boxes of clothes, books and toys. What a great response!

For more information about Cradles to Crayons, please visit their website: www.cradlestocrayons.org

Save the Date:

CDT Service-Learning Trip to New Orleans

Tentatively scheduled for February 15-22, 2009

Planning has begun for a week-long trip to New Orleans, for adults and older kids, to participate in a rebuilding project, as well as to learn about the devastation of that city and community organizing efforts in response to the disaster. We are planning this trip in conjunction with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah. **Stay tuned for more details!**

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 **Nancy Gertz**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Eulalia Rose Port White**, **Bob Warren**, and **Shari Zimble**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Todah Rabah

A huge "todah rabah" to those members who have served this past year (or years) on the Board or as off-Board committee chairs, who completed their term of service this spring and have stepped down from these positions:

Nancy Gertz, immediate Past President
James Kaplan, VP for Membership
Diana Fisher-Gomberg, Kehillah (membership in-reach)
Audra Karp & Debbie Waber, Ritual Co-Chairs
Judy Herzig-Marx, Education Committee Co-Chair
Stuart Snyder, Space Co-Chair
Andrew Sofer, Board member at-large
Dan Halbert, Secretary (but thankfully continuing as our Newsletter chair!)

For all of your hard work and inspiring leadership, thank you!!

Todah rabah to **Amanda Frankel**, **Aviva Galpert**, **Ilana Galpert**, **Cora Hersh**, **Chloe Kuh**, **Elias Kuh**, **Zoe Miller**, **Leah Netsky**, **Eulalia Port White**, **Xue Rosenberg**, **Sophie Strassberg** and **Emma Weisberg** for providing childcare during services and other events at CDT. We will miss Leah and Sophie as they head off to college in the fall!

Mazel Tov

To the families of **Nathan Greenberg** and **Anya Carr-Klein**, on their becoming bar/bat mitzvah!

Community Events

Nishmat Hayyim Meditation

Nishmat Hayyim cultivates Jewish meditation and contemplative practices in New England through collaborations with synagogues and other Jewish institutions and programs for individuals from all backgrounds. No one turned away for lack of fund. Call: (617) 566-8171 x20 or email: office@nishmathayyim.org for more information.

Jewish Meditation, Teaching and Contemplative Prayer with Norman Fischer

Saturday, July 19, 1:30- 5:30 PM

Temple Beth Zion, 1566 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA

Norman Fischer leads traditional Jewish observance meditation and silent reflection of the contemplative dimension of the torah portion. Torah is about language but also about silence. . Cost: \$36 Pre-Registration for Afternoon Practice required: money is not taken on Shabbat. www.nishmathayyim.org/register_fischer_afternoon.php.

Silent Meditation and Contemplative Chant with Yocheved Katz

Tuesday Evenings, July 22 & 29, August 5&12, 7 - 8:30 pm

Practice Hebrew chant and silent meditation as forms of Jewish contemplative practice that builds a mishkan—holy space—as a source of awareness and strength in this four week class being held at Temple Ohabei Shalom, 1187 Beacon Street, Brookline. \$80 for all sessions - register on line at: http://www.nishmathayyim.org/register_sheilakatz_chant.php.

Nediv Lev

Susan Bernstein & Jodie Siegel

Jeanne Cowan & Barnett Hass

In celebration of Elaine Pollack becoming a rabbi!

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

In loving memory of Jill Volk

In loving memory of Nancy's father, Junius "Babe" Gertz

In honor of Rabbi Elaine Pollack's ordination

In appreciation of Peter Hess' continued outstanding work leading our nediv lev efforts

In recognition of Marc Steinberg's strong and steady service to CDT for not just two, but three years! Thank you Marc!

Sandra Gertz

In honor of Elaine Pollack's ordination as Rabbi. Mazel Tov!

Ora Gladstone

Mazel Tov to Elaine Pollack! Kol Hakavod, Rav E.

Ellie Goldberg

Sharon Gorberg & John Holohan

In honor of Judy Hersh - for all she does for Dorshei and for bringing music into my life

Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh

Congratulations to Lea Broh

on her graduation from Harvard University

Jeff Kichen

Esther Kohn

In honor of Steffi Karp's generosity

In honor of the naming of Jayla Naomi Hinden Wasserman

In honor of the birth of Ila, daughter of Deb & Audra

In honor of the birth of Nuriel, son of Becca & Idit

Linda Kramer

In honor of Dan Halbert

In memory of Alex Fried

Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury

Amy Mazur

In honor of the births of Ila Maeve & Nuriel

Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa

In memory of Ben Adler

Elizabeth Samelson & Paul Hattis

Carol Sklar

In honor of Edgar Krasa, with gratitude for all he is doing to educate people, especially school children, about the Holocaust

Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller

In honor of Rabbi Toba for her meaningful

Judaism and Practice classes

and to fellow class members for their insights and sharing

Elaine Pollack

In memory of Sherry Katz's mother, Annabelle Katz

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

In honor of Rabbi Elaine Pollack's ordination - Mazel Tov!

Thank you to Sherry Katz & Mark Farber for helping to outfit our daughter Rachel's apartment.

Debbie Sher

In honor of Matt Nadler graduating

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Anya Carr-Klein & the Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Greenberg

Theresa St. John Siegel & Steven Siegel

Deborah Waber

In honor of Elaine Pollack

In honor of Audra Karp and Deb Albenberg on the birth of their baby

Barbara & Jerry Zolit

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.

Caren Bosk, Rhoda Volk, Avital & Steve Lewis

The family of Jill Volk wishes to thank everyone at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for their kindness and support over the last year. A special thank you to Rabbi Toba for being a wonderful shoulder to lean on over the last few months. Thank you also for the many contributions that were made in Jill's memory. We are very proud of the Teacher Development Fund that was started in Jill's memory. We know that Jill would be very honored to know that these contributions are going toward scholarships for the teachers in the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School.

Rochelle Mattleman-Rubin & Leonard Rubin

In honor of Jill Volk

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July - August



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Jul 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Michael White, Stacey & Bruce Gore, Steffi Karp (<i>Rabbi Toba off</i>)
Sat Jul 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Chayim Herzig-Marx, Linda Katz, Jennifer Hochschild, Jen Levine-Fried (<i>Rabbi Toba off</i>)
Fri Aug 8	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Sivan Nasoff, Karen & Reinhard Engels, Karen Wasserman (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Aug 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Marcy Karty, Tom Kuh, Liz Reisberg, Joy Chertow
Sat Aug 9	8:30 pm	Tisha b'Av	60 Highland Street (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Aug 23	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Hope Kellman, Tony Broh, Mei See Sandson, Allyson Cherkasky
Sun Aug 24	4 pm - 6:30 pm	End of Summer picnic and softball game	Auburndale Cove (<i>see page 3</i>)

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 normally available during Shabbat morning services in room 112 (but not during July and August).

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*

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Camp JRF Fund

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In honor of Elaine Pollack's graduation from Rabbinic school

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

In honor of Julian's Bar Mitzvah

School Fund

Holy Books Fund

Building Fund

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
	First VP: Paul Hattis
	VP Education: Sheree Galpert
	VP Finance: Mark Farber
	VP Membership: Susannah Zisk
	Secretary: Peter Katz
	Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Board Chairs	Membership: Corinne Lofchie
	Programming: Theresa St-John Siegel
	Nediv Lev: Peter Hess
	Leadership: Esther Kohn
	Newsletter: Dan Halbert
	Ritual: Cindy Marshall
	School: Betsy Hinden
	Space: Steve Siegel
	Tikkun Olam: Laurie Goldman
	Member-at-large: Dan Rome
	Member-at-large: Sharon Sevransky
Off-Board Chairs	Marketing/Publicity: Ellie Goldberg
	Chesed: Pamela Schoenberg Reider
	Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
	Website: Stan Fleischman
Education Director	Annette Lawson
Administrator	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.