

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Elul 5768

September 2008



Return, Renewal, and New Orleans

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

As I write this, I am heading home from a five-day visit with a dear friend in New Orleans. And as you read this, the Hebrew month of Elul has begun. These four weeks leading up to the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, are a kind of preparation period for the new year and the intense work of *teshuvah*, “turning” or “returning,” that we engage in at that time. One way to think of this entire season, from Elul through Yom Kippur, is as a time of the 3 “R”s – **remembrance, return, and renewal**.

In the realm of **remembrance**, we connect to our past during this time by visiting the graves of loved ones, by honoring the memories of those who have passed away in the Yizkor rituals, and by connecting to the many layers of our Jewish history reflected in the High Holydays liturgy. “**Return**,” or *teshuvah*, is the central theme of this season. It conveys the sense of returning to a Godly path, to our true selves, to that which we know is right. And ultimately, remembrance and the work of “turning” is all in the service of **renewal**—of beginning a new year with renewed commitment to living life according to our deepest values, to letting go of the old patterns and habits that keep us from coming into our full selves.

These three “R”s are also present for me as I reflect on my visit to New Orleans. In addition to visiting my friend, I was also hoping to learn a bit in preparation for a congregational service-learning trip that we are planning in partnership with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah for this coming February. This was my first time in NOLA, and I was quite captivated and intrigued by this unique city. It is a place of great contrasts and great beauty, and, three years after Hurricane Katrina, still in recovery. I heard some wonderful music, ate delicious food, appreciated beautiful architecture, and witnessed both the recovery from Katrina and the devastation and disrepair still evident in many areas of the city.

While there was no demographic group spared in the disaster, the poorer neighborhoods on the lower ground—and closer to the levees—were hit worst both by the flooding and by the greed, corruption and institutional blocks to recovery that have followed in the hurricane’s wake. All over the city I saw empty and gutted buildings, bare lots with nothing but foundation slabs, and streets with only one or two inhabited houses. My friend

took me down to the Lower Ninth Ward, the area worst-hit by the flooding. Before the flood, the Lower Ninth was 99% African-American, predominantly poor and working-class, and boasted a relatively high level (nearly 60%) of home ownership. While apparently a hundred times better than it looked in the months immediately following the disaster, this once-thriving neighborhood was clearly a shell of its former self. Rebuilt houses are few and far between and overgrown empty lots abound. A wooden sign affixed to one tree was a heartbreaking memorial to someone’s lost home, inscribed with the dates that she had lived there. **Lives and homes lost, a community destroyed—this is the realm of remembrance.**

Return—this is also a powerful theme in New Orleans. Who has been able to return to their beloved city, to their home, and who not? Three years after Katrina, New Orleans is now home to 72% of its pre-storm population. **In the Lower Ninth Ward, that figure is 19%.** In a sign of both the extreme shift in NOLA’s demographics, and perhaps a larger loss of faith in public institutions since the disaster, a white majority was recently elected to the City Council for the first time in over 20 years, in a city that once had one of the largest African-American majorities in the country.

And finally, renewal. Here is where I hope that we will be able to both contribute as well as to learn. Thousands of volunteers have flocked to NOLA in the months and years since Katrina, helping residents rebuild their homes, and the need has not disappeared. We have the opportunity to help in the work of renewal in a very tangible way. But just as the individual work of *teshuvah* entails an honest look at where we have been, at our

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shortcomings and our failures, so too the "return" and renewal of New Orleans demands a hard look at the realities there. Sadly, those realities encompass not just the open hearts and hands of so many who have come to help. On a level that I am still coming to understand, the effects of corporate greed, public corruption, and concerted efforts to remake the city in ways that do not have the interests of her poorest and most vulnerable citizens in mind, are a challenge to the true return, recovery and renewal of this historic city. I hope, as plans for the February trip unfold (stay tuned for more details!), that we will have the opportunity to learn as a community both about the particular situation in New Orleans and its larger implications for our own work towards the creation of a society dedicated to the ideals of *tzedek v'chesed*, justice and love. Many blessings to you for a sweet and good year, *I'shanah tovah tikateivu!*

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 teens aged 14 and older, 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. **If you are interested in attending, please contact Tikkun Olam chair Laurie Goldman at laurie.goldman@tufts.edu. Stay tuned for more details!**

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.

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)

New Religious School Brochure

We are happy to announce the publication of a new brochure and flyer for the Dorshei Tzedek Religious School. The brochure was designed by member Laya Steinberg. You can find links to them both on the Dorshei Tzedek website, www.dorsheitzedek.org; see the right-hand box. Please help get the word out by telling your friends and other parents in the community. Enrollment is still open for students at all levels. See Susannah Zisk for copies of the flyer or you can download the flyer from the website and post it on bulletin boards in your neighborhood or at your workplace.

JRF News: Time To Register for the First Reconstructionist Convention in Boston!

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. Our own Rabbi Toba will be leading erev Shabbat services on **November 14**, and there will be programming for children on Shabbat morning, **November 15**. To find out more about the program and to register, go to www.jrf.org now!

Preparing for the High Holy Days

This year, the month of Elul—the four weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah—corresponds to the month of September. Elul is traditionally a time of preparation for the Days of Awe, a time to begin the process of reflection that leads to *teshuvah*, turning and returning to our best selves. Here are some opportunities for learning and reflection in the month of Elul/September:

Meditation in the Morning

*Thursday mornings, September 11, 18, 25, 8 - 9 am
60 Highland Street*

These three sessions will combine text study along with silent and guided meditation to help you begin your journey of reflection and renewal in preparation for the New Year. Join Rabbi Toba for one session or all three! No meditation experience necessary; trepidation and doubt welcome. *Note:* Meditation in the Morning will resume after the holidays, on October 23.

Welcoming the High Holy Days: A Reconstructionist Approach and A Birthday Party for the World

Sunday, September 14, 2 - 4 pm, 60 Highland Street

Tell your friends!

Adults—both members and prospective members—are invited to explore with **Rabbi Toba** how ancient rituals of renewal and "return" may enhance our lives as contemporary Jews. There will be study and discussion, as well as an introduction to the Dorshei Tzedek community and Reconstructionist Judaism. Children in pre-K through grade 2 are invited to join **Education Director Annette Lawson** to create a sweet start to the New Year with story, song and art. Refreshments will be served to adults and children.

Selichot Program – Special Guest!

*Saturday evening, September 20, 8 - 10 pm
Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury*

Together with members of Reconstructionist congregations Hillel Bnai Torah and Shir Chadash, we will mark the beginning of the season of *teshuvah*, repentance and return, with a program featuring guest Rabbi **Danya Ruttenberg**, editor of *Yentl's Revenge: The Next Wave of Jewish Feminism* and author of *Surprised by God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion* (forthcoming). Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg will lead us in an exploration of what it means to

take on a meaningful spiritual practice as we begin our journey into the High Holydays. How might a commitment to spiritual practice change our relationship to ourselves, to the people and world around us, perhaps even our politics? Rabbi Ruttenberg will lead a discussion and writing exercise. No prior experience with spiritual practice, God, or writing required!

Rosh Hodesh Group: Days of Awe Preparation Mikveh

Dorshei women are invited to augment their New Year preparations with a pre-Rosh Hashanah mikveh on the **evening of September 22** at Mayyim Hayyim-Living Waters. We will meet first in one of the conference rooms for a short sharing ceremony, to be followed by individual dips. The cost of this evening, \$50, goes to Mayyim Hayyim for the immersion and the additional meeting space.

Please RSVP quickly to **Steffi Aronson Karp**, shula@comcast.net, as there is a limit to the number of women who may participate on that date.

Yizkor Scroll Tradition Continues at CDT for 5769

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

Member **Joel Reider** will be updating Dorshei Tzedek's Yizkor Scroll for Yom Kippur this year. The Yizkor Scroll is the memorial listing of the names of congregation members and others whose memory we honor at Yizkor. After High Holy Days, the Yizkor Scroll Committee will elicit feedback from CDT members on the permanent design for the Yizkor Scroll. The Committee's initial design criteria are: beauty, flexibility, and mobility. Last year member **Richard Tuschan** designed the scroll and **Joel Reider** constructed it. **Lauren Gibbs** and **Dan Halbert** collected the names. Dorshei Tzedek introduced the Yizkor scroll at Yom Kippur 5768 services and it has been displayed in Dorshei Tzedek's sanctuary throughout the year. Please see the new membership packets for information about including names of those you would like to remember this year. Names will be accepted until **September 2** at the 60 Highland Ave office.

High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah begins this year on **Monday evening, September 29**, and we will once again be welcoming the New Year at the lovely Gann Academy in Waltham. If you haven't yet received our High Holy Day packet in the mail, please go on-line to www.dorsheitzedek.org/highholydays.htm.

Community Happenings

Explore the Elulian Mysteries with Rabbi Shefa Gold

*Sunday, September 21, 10 am – 4 pm,
Temple Beth Zion, 1566 Beacon St, Brookline*

Rabbi Shefa Gold will lead this daylong retreat of Elulian Mysteries. Enter the mysteries of Elul through study, chant, meditation and sacred conversation with Rabbi Shefa Gold in this workshop in preparation for the High Holidays. We will explore the journey from devastation to renewal and work to repair our connection to the Great Mystery. Cost: \$85, \$36 for students and seniors. Pre-registration is requested and can be completed online at www.nishmathayyim.org or by mailing a check. For more info: (617) 566-8171 x 20, email: office@nishmathayyim.org. Co-sponsored by Nishmat Hayyim: The Breath of Life Jewish Meditation Collaborative of New England, Temple Beth Zion Adult Learning Committee and Congregation Beth El, Sudbury.

Attend the Synagogue Council's Unity Mission to New York City ... and Be Transformed for Life!

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts' nationally acclaimed Unity Mission, now in its 22nd year, will be held on **Sunday and Monday, November 9 & 10**, in New York. This program brings together leaders of Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Orthodox congregations from throughout Massachusetts for a one-of-a-kind experience that will move you, uplift you and alter the way you perceive yourself and your fellow Jews for all time! Along with a diverse group of committed synagogue leaders, you will meet, face to face, not only with prominent national and international Jewish luminaries such as Rabbi Irwin Kula, President of CLAL and Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, eminent rabbis from Yeshiva University, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Hebrew Union College and the Academy for Jewish Religion, but also with rabbinical students from each of the seminaries. Other highlights include visits to rare book rooms, libraries and chapels, enabling you to view -- up close -- the sacred spaces, treasured archives and artifacts preserved and housed at each of the Unity Mission's itinerary sites.

Please call Ellen Michelson at 617.244.6506, ext. 17 or check out the Synagogue Council's website, www.synagoguecouncil.org for more information on how to participate in this exciting and meaningful program.

Bus Tour to Visit Synagogues and Jewish Communities South of Boston

Join the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts' annual bus tour of Jewish Boston on **Sunday, September 7** from **12:30 - 6:30 pm**, which this year will travel to the area south of Boston, including communities from Milton to Sharon. The tour will explore congregations struggling with demographic change, a former synagogue in Dorchester, and synagogues & communities undergoing revival and growing membership.

The bus trip will be led by Ellen Smith, a distinguished scholar, curator, author and teacher. A faculty member at Brandeis University, Ellen is co-editor of *The Jews of Boston* and the curator of three award-winning exhibitions on Jewish Boston. Smith is the Associate Director of the Gralla Fellows Program for Religion Journalists at Brandeis University, where she also teaches American Jewish Women's history and American Jewish Material Culture.

Join us for our first tour of Boston's Jewish South Area, and all it can teach us about our past and future. To register, call 617.244.6506, ext. 19 or visit the Synagogue Council's website, www.synagoguecouncil.org.

CDT Sings

Do you love to sing? Please join us! CDT Sings is looking for a few new men and women to sing with us.

Some prior choral experience and knowledge of some basic musical terms is helpful. The ability to read music is a plus, but not required. We typically perform 2 or 3 times a year, and rehearse once or twice a week before a performance. For more information, please contact **Karen Arnold** (arnoldkc@bc.edu) or **Sharon Sevransky** (sharonsev@comcast.net).

Save the Date: Retreat 2009!

Mark your calendars now – **The 2009 CDT Retreat will be happening next June 12-14**, 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.

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

*September 5, October 3, November 7, December 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.

On September 5, we are especially welcoming prospective members. So tell your friends with kids aged 0-10, and bring them along! Guests don't need to contribute to the potluck, unless they'd like to. **Education Director Annette Lawson** will be present, along with **Rabbi Toba**, to answer questions about the religious school.

Welcoming Our Rabbinic Intern

Shabbat morning, September 27: 9:45 am - noon

Please join us at Shabbat morning services as we introduce and welcome **Julia Appel**, our 5769 Rabbinic Intern. Julia is a native Newtonian, and a third-year student at the Hebrew College Rabbinical School. She has a background in singing, visual arts, theater and dance, as well as experience in community organizing and public policy work. She will lead services with Rabbi Toba and is looking forward to meeting members of CDT!

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

*September 13, October 25, November 8, December 13
8:45 – 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!

Bar Mitzvah of Benyamin Meschede-Krasa

Please join us on **September 13** when our son Benyamin Meschede-Krasa is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Benyamin will be an 8th grade student at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton this fall. Benyamin has been spending the past school year in Germany where he attended a German "Gymnasium" and became a member of a small Jewish community in Hamelin. While in Germany he enjoyed soccer, volley ball, drumming, swimming, using his bike for transportation, and his many new friends. For his Tikkun Olam project, Benyamin volunteered at an old age home in Germany helping with afternoon activities and conversing in English with a former English teacher now residing at the home. We hope you can join us for this simcha and a festive Kiddush lunch following the service—*Tatjana Meschede and Daniel Krasa*

Bar Mitzvah of Alex Jablon

Please join us **Saturday, September 20** as our son, Alex Jablon, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Alex is a seventh grade student at Day Middle School. Alex loves playing baseball, all things sports, being assistant sports editor for his school newspaper, traveling, reading, listening to music, riding his bike, hanging out with friends and attending Camp F.A. Day in East Brookfield, Massachusetts. Alex has been a member of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek for eight years. For his tikkun olam projects, Alex and Michael have been cooking for the Women's Lunch Place in Boston and Alex and Eileen made dinner for 20 for The Second Step homeless shelter for battered women and their kids. Alex is a big fan of the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox and Boston Celtics, and counts himself lucky to be Bar Mitzvah'ed during a double championship year. A Kiddush lunch will follow the service; please join us for this joyful simcha!—*Eileen Morrison, Michael Jablon and Katy Jablon*

Nediv Lev

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Naomi Botkin & Joshua Gordon

Stacey Chacker

In memory of Fred Chacker

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

In honor of the new grads, new babies and endless possibilities

Lauren Gibbs

In memory of Jeannette B. Kook Winkler on the 100th anniversary of her birth; in memory of Patricia Kook Gibbs

In thanks and with best wishes to Ewa and Richard Tuschman for all they brought to Dorshei

In thanks to Annette Lawson

for great teaching two years in a row

In honor of Nathan Greenberg's bar mitzvah

Laurie Goldman

In appreciation of Toba's Thursday morning class and our community of learners

In gratitude for Chayim Herzig-Marx's leyning class and Lisa

Schneider's organizational efforts that made it happen

In honor of Amy Mazur's inspiring leadership in the Torah of Chesed Project and all the others who dedicated time, energy and imagination to infusing our community with the spirit and practice of caring and compassion.

Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

In honor of Sherry Katz & Mark Farber

Inge & Robert Gould

Deborah Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

In honor of Josh's graduation from Babson College Olin Graduate School of Business

Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg

Sue Lanser & Jo Radner

In honor of CDT sings, Elaine Bresnick, Karen Arnold, and Rabbi Toba

Sarah Little & Doug Hersh

Debra Rattet & Leslie Rubin

In honor of Elaine Pollack's rabbinical ordination

Liz Reisberg

Lisa Goodwin Robbins

Sandra Sedacca & Sherwood Ives

In honor of our four children

Susan Silberberg Robinson & Thomas Robinson

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

In honor of the leadership of Marc Steinberg, Nancy Gertz and the 5768 Board

Debbie Waber

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, Nat, Steve & Kate Bosk

In memory of Rita Pincus

Rabbi Jeff Pivo (Congregation Beth El, Yardley, PA)

I hope this donation helps to further Jewish Education at your shul. Put it to good use in Jill's memory.

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

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

Rhoda Volk

In memory of beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Rita Pincus

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

In honor of Annette Lawson becoming our Education Director

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Hara Klein & Eleni Carr

Thank you for all your support and guidance during Anya's Bat Mitzvah preparation.

Lindsay & Ari Lavine

Thanks to Rabbi Spitzer for enabling Miranda (Phillips) so wonderfully to help us with our recent wedding

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 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.

A Fond Farewell

We - **Naomi Botkin, Josh Gordon and Susannah Gordon** - are sad to announce that we will no longer be members of CDT as of this fall. As many of you know, we live somewhat far away, in Westborough, and have found it difficult to participate in the CDT community as fully as we would like. After much soul searching, we have decided to join a local synagogue, B'nai Shalom. We would like to thank Rabbi Toba for her wonderful leadership, and the members of CDT for creating a warm, stimulating environment. We won't say a permanent good-bye, as we plan to visit from time to time!

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, Elaine Pollack, Nancy Gertz, and Bob Warren**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Condolences



To **Elizabeth Roll** on the death of her brother, **Matthew Halpern**. May his memory be for a blessing.

Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to those who provided kiddush in the month of June: **Mark Rosenberg, Ayala Galton Bassett, Janet Boguslaw, Elliot & Barbara Pittel, Susan Moser & Thea Breite, Allison & Ezra Hausman, Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman, Elizabeth & David Roll, Amelia Zalcman, Dan Forman & Jennifer McGonagle, Lisa Goodwin Robbins, Vilunya Diskin, Ellen Pashall, Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Danielle Klainberg & Mark, Sofia, & Simon Rosenberg, Susie Tanchel, Emily Sper, Theresa St. John Siegel & Steve Siegel, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, Michael Brann, Deb Albenberg, Elaine Pollack, and Linda Schiller and Steve Robins.**

Todah Rabah to the following people for providing Kiddush in the month of July: **Steffi Karp, Michael White, Stacey and Bruce Gore.**

From Elaine Pollack: Todah Rabah, many thanks, to **Judy Herzig-Marx, Clifford Goldsmith, Cindy Rome, Gina Fried, and Wendy Gedanken**, who helped me celebrate becoming a rabbi by providing special kiddush on Shabbat Parashat Naso, June 7. Todah to **Judy Herzig-Marx**, in particular, for coordinating.

A huge Todah Rabah to **Laya Steinberg** for the design of our beautiful new religious school brochure!

Todah Rabah to **Michelle Arons, Jodi Sugarman-Brozan**, and everyone else who posted fliers for the school, or forwarded them to friends and family. A special thanks to **Lisa Samelson** for helping to put a marketing plan in action for the school.

Tikkun Olam

9/11 Charity Bike Ride to Benefit "Beyond the 11th"

Celina Siegel, CDT 7th grader, will lead a 240 mile Bike ride from Ground Zero in NYC to Boston, MA between **Friday, September 5 and Sunday, September 7** to raise donations for Beyond the 11th (www.beyondthe11th.org). This organization provides support to women in Afghanistan who have lost their husbands. It was started by two American widows who lost their own husbands in the 9/11 attacks. Widows in Afghanistan lose all of their rights to home and family and receive little to no support from their communities. Celina is doing this ride as her tikkun olam project in preparation for her bat mitzvah in January 2009. To support her, please make donations payable to *Beyond the 11th* and mail to Celina Siegel at 160 Allen Avenue, Waban, MA 02468.

Join us for a GBIO Delegates Assembly

Please join us on **Sunday, September 14, 5 – 7 pm, Roxbury Presbyterian Church**, for a Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Delegates Assembly where Members will decide whether to launch a **"Vote No on Question 1"** campaign to protect Massachusetts' social services budget.

Background On the Campaign: Question 1 on the November 4 ballot seeks to eliminate the Massachusetts state income tax. Analysts estimate it will cost the Commonwealth \$12.7 billion in revenue or approximately 40% of the state budget. This drastic cut to the state budget will force significant reductions or even the elimination of critical state services that support public safety, youth violence prevention programs, education, health care, services for children and low income families, consumers with disabilities and senior citizens and would likely force significant property tax increases to counterbalance the loss of aid to local communities.

In 2002, a similar ballot initiative failed but only by a small margin; over 40% of voters supported eliminating the income tax.

This initiative nearly passed because there was not an organized effort to oppose it. No one organized against it because many believed that it was too outlandish to pass. We can not take this same risk today. Many individuals and families are struggling to survive these difficult economic times and can easily be persuaded to vote for what they believe will put more money back in their pockets. For more details see votenoquestion1.com/t-votenoma/facts-en.pdf

Governor Deval Patrick and the campaign organized to oppose this initiative, the Coalition for Our Communities, have asked GBIO to endorse and participate in the public education campaign. If passed, Question 1 could also significantly jeopardize GBIO's ongoing campaigns to fight for programs that support our youth, allow aging adults to live with dignity and to ensure that everyone has access to quality health care.

Charting the GBIO Action: Over the past month, a team of GBIO leaders has been studying how we might engage in this campaign. Now it's our turn to decide how to leverage the strength of our members from Jewish, Christian, and Moslem congregations across the urban and suburban landscape of Greater Boston.

Please join us at the Assembly:

*Sunday, September 14
5PM – 7PM*

*Roxbury Presbyterian Church
328 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA 02119*

For more information on this campaign and GBIO please contact: **Laurie Goldman** at laurie.goldman@tufts.edu.

P.S. Follow these links to see press coverage on GBIO's Tenth Anniversary celebration attended by two dozen CDT members.

Article in The Pilot: www.gbio.org/maint/pilot_5-16-2008.pdf
News video: www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/Interfaith-organization-celebrates-10-years-/1211938604.html

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*



September



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Fri Sep 5	6 pm	Open House, Potluck , and All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service	Liz Reisberg, Ilana Mainelli, Stephen Zisk, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan 60 Highland Street (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Sep 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Debbie Waber - <i>in honor of her birthday</i> , Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan - <i>in honor of their 8th wedding anniversary</i> , Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman, Wendy Gedanken
Sun Sep 7	7:30 pm	Board Meeting, Dinner	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room Dinner in Room 111 at 6 pm
Thu Sep 11	8 am - 9 am	Meditation in the Morning	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Thu Sep 11	3 pm - 5:45 pm	<i>Class begins (Upper Grades: Gimmel through Vav)</i>	FUSN
Sat Sep 13	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Sep 13	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Meschede-Krasa	Sanctuary Clean-up: Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Sep 13	10 am - 12 pm	<i>Class begins (Lower Grades: Gan, Aleph, & Bet)</i>	FUSN
Sun Sep 14	2 pm - 4 pm	Welcoming the High Holy Days: A Workshop For All Ages	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary There will be a program for children, as well as for adults. Prospective members and those interested in learning more about Dorshei Tzedek welcome! (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Sep 14	5 pm - 7 pm	GBIO Delegates Assembly	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Roxbury Presbyterian Church, 328 Warren St, Roxbury, MA (<i>see page 8</i>)
Tue Sep 16	3 pm - 5:45 pm	<i>Upper Grades meet, Zayin class begins</i>	FUSN
Thu Sep 18	8 am - 9 am	Meditation in the Morning	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Sep 20	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Alex Jablon	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder. <i>Set-up</i> : Peggy Rose, Peter Gittleman, Kristen Petersen, Rachel Nemeth Cohen & Richard Cohen. <i>Clean-up</i> : Meg Wilcox & Robert Warren, Elizabeth Samelson & Paul Hattis, Barbara & Jerry Zolit (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Sep 20	8 pm - 10 pm	Selichot Study and Service	Hillel B'nai Torah, (<i>see page 3</i>)
Mon Sep 22		Rosh Hodesh Group: Days of Awe Preparation Mikveh	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Mayyim Hayyim/Living Waters (in the evening) (<i>see page 3</i>)
Thu Sep 25	8 am - 9 am	Meditation in the Morning	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Sep 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Steffi & Eric Karp, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Alan Epstein, Lisa Chedekel
Mon Sep 29	8 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Gann Academy (<i>see page 3</i>)
Tue Sep 30		<i>No class (Rosh Hashanah)</i>	
Tue Sep 30	9:30 am	Rosh Hashanah	Gann Academy



October



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Wed Oct 1	10 am	Rosh Hashanah	Gann Academy (<i>see page 3</i>)
Fri Oct 3	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Jodie Siegel, Stacey Chacker, Cindy Marshall, Ruth Paris (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Oct 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service	Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen, Matilda & Ed Bruckner, Elizabeth Carver
Wed Oct 8	6:15 pm	Kol Nidre	Gann Academy (<i>see page 3</i>)
Thu Oct 9		<i>No class (Yom Kippur)</i>	
Thu Oct 9	9:30 am	Yom Kippur	Gann Academy
Sat Oct 11		<i>No class for Lower Grades (Columbus Day weekend)</i>	
Sat Oct 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent, Ellie Goldberg, John Holohan, Barbara Huggins
Sun Oct 12	12 pm	Sukkah building	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton)
Tue Oct 14		<i>No class (Sukkot)</i>	
Tue Oct 14	9:30 am	Sukkot Service	Amy Dain, Louise Enoch, Tricia Nuzzola, Lisa Schneier
Sat Oct 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Rochelle Hahn & Kenny Breuer, Carol Sklar
Sun Oct 19	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Sukkot	<i>Coordinator:</i> Amy Mazur. <i>Set up:</i> Ben Newman & Sarah Hartman, Debbie Sher, Isabel Morais. <i>Clean up:</i> Peter Shapiro, Kelli Kirshtein, Jen Tanchel, Nancy Kimelman, Becca Gutman FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton)
Tue Oct 21		<i>No class (Simchat Torah)</i>	
Tue Oct 21	7 pm - 9 pm	Simchat Torah	Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman, Sherry Katz, Meryl Epstein, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt
Sat Oct 25	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page XXX</i>)
Sat Oct 25	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Risa Paley-Zimble	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Julie & Paul Fox 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

Our Yom Kippur fast lasts 24 hours.



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High Holy Days 5769/2008



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Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

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	First VP: Paul Hattis
	VP Membership: Susannah Zisk
	VP Finance: Mark Farber
	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
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	Tikkun Olam: Laurie Goldman
Off-Board Chairs	Marketing/Publicity: Ellie Goldberg
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	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.