

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

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October 2008



The Challenge of the New

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

The High Holydays are the most exciting and most challenging time of year for me. I love that we essentially start the year at its peak, the entire community coming together to sing, reflect, pray, discuss, schmooze (and, of course, eat!). So much wonderful energy is generated over the course of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and it feels like that energy propels us right into our new program year.

The challenging part is perhaps obvious. In addition to the myriad pieces that need to come together to make the holidays run smoothly, there is the daunting task of coming up with sermons sufficiently interesting and meaningful to engage a crowd as highly intelligent and discerning as the Dorshei Tzedek community. This Rosh Hashanah is the eighteenth anniversary of the very first Dorshei Tzedek services, and marks my twelfth High Holydays with the congregation. As I began contemplating writing my talks last month, I somewhat despairingly wondered what in the world I could possibly say. Haven't I taught everything I could ever have to teach? What in the world could I write that would be even vaguely new and different? I started perusing some of my old talks, some of which I could barely remember. Would anyone notice if I did a little sermonic recycling...?

One of the challenges of the New Year is the challenge of the new. Or rather, the challenge of experiencing as new that which can so easily feel mundane, uninteresting, "been there, done that." One of my very favorite lines in the liturgy is traditionally recited each morning, as part of the *Yotzer*/Creation blessing. In this blessing, God is praised as the One that 'makes new, each and every day, the work of Creation.' Whether or not we believe in a God that is literally and actively involved in the ongoing process of creation, this verse challenges us to cultivate a particular kind of awareness. It is an invitation to experience each day as if it is in fact newly created, to greet each morning as if we had just awoken for the very first time.

If that is the challenge of every morning, then what is the challenge of the "new" year? What does it even mean to think of the coming year as "new"? Perhaps it is an invitation on a bit of a grander scale. As we go through the rituals of the High Holydays, rituals that echo ancient rites of atonement and purification, we are encouraged to experience ourselves, and not just the year, as "new." Spiritual progress is like a spiral, not a straight line. We don't move directly from A to Z, but make our

way in ascending circles. At the completion of each circuit, if we're making progress, we find ourselves a little higher than we were the last time we passed this way. The beginning of a new level on the spiral can feel disconcertingly difficult, yet that sense of struggle is often an indication that we have indeed arrived at a new beginning, and are ready for what comes next.

As we enter into 5769, may we each find blessing in the "new" of this year. However similar things may seem to last year, however much we may wonder what is left for us to learn, to do, to contribute, our tradition encourages us to come into the new year with a sense of expectation, wonder, and appreciation. Each moment is a gift, and with a new sense of self, we can savor each of those moments as if it—and we—are new creations. *L'shanah tovah!*

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

High 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.

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Rabbi Spitzer Featured in *Harvard Magazine*

Rabbi Toba Spitzer was one of three women rabbis (all Harvard-Radcliffe alumni) featured in the article, "Open to Difference" in the September 2008 issue of *Harvard Magazine*. The article discusses the diverse and complex experiences of women inhabiting a new role in an ancient religion within contemporary society. To read it on-line, go to <http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/09/open-to-difference.html>.

Welcome to Julia Appel, Our Rabbinic Intern

Having led services and taught at havurot, retreats, and congregations across the Northeast, Julia Appel is thrilled to be joining Dorshei Tzedek as Rabbinic Intern for 2008-09. Julia is currently in her third year of rabbinic training at Hebrew College Rabbinical School. Outside of school, Julia enjoys the arts, meditating, cooking, and creating music in a Jewish women's singing group. Previously, Julia lived and learned in Jerusalem, worked in progressive politics in DC, and has edited three books.

While attending Harvard College, Julia organized with Harvard's Living Wage Campaign, helped lead a biannual shabbaton called Jews in the Woods, and created interfaith, social action, and women's programming at Harvard Hillel. This summer, Julia served as a student chaplain at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Boston, as well as taught a course on prayer leading at the National Havurah Institute. At CDT this year, you will see her at Shabbat morning services and holiday celebrations, leading a learners' minyan and doing other adult education, working with our teens, and in sundry other capacities! She looks forward to getting the chance to hear all of your stories and to share this year with the congregation.

Save the Date:

CDT Service-Learning Trip to New Orleans

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!**

Nediv Lev Reaches Goal!

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

We did it! With one final gift, we reached a very ambitious \$77,000 Nediv Lev goal for 2007-2008. This seems to be a popular season for saying "This is about you", and indeed in this case it is true. I am very grateful for, and so greatly impressed by the ongoing generosity of the members of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek (and not just in matters of money). Thank you.

You may remember (and may have thought that I forgot) that back in the Spring I put out a joke challenge, saying that I would contribute \$36 in honor of the sender of best joke I received. I received seven entries (oy, I hope I didn't lose any). It was entirely predictable that I would not be able to make a choice, so I will just make the contribution in honor of all those who submitted. (Marla, the check is in the mail.)

The role of Nediv Lev chair has been, and continues to be a very rewarding one. You may not believe it, but it is true. We don't fund raise in the traditional way, and the way we do it, I think, relieves both the givers and the asker of stressful expectations. In the coming year however, our family is facing some substantially increased time pressures (including Sheree being the new CDT Education chair), and it would be a great relief to me to have one or more people to help with fund-raising efforts. If you are interested in helping out, or in finding out more about what is involved, please give me a call at 617.558.8697, or send email to phess@mit.edu.

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)

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur begins this year on **October 8, at 6:15 pm.**

For more information on our services, go to www.dorsheitzedek.org/highholydays.htm.

It is traditional to light a *yizkor*—remembrance—candle, in memory of parents and other who have passed away, before lighting candles on the evening of Kol Nidre (this year, October 8). Yizkor candles can be purchased at many large grocery stores (look in the kosher food section) as well as at Jewish bookstores.



Sukkot

The holiday of Sukkot is known as *z'man simchateynu*, the "time of our joy." Come be joyful with us as we celebrate this week-long festival!

Help us build the Dorshei Tzedek sukkah! We need a few adults to help build the frame and cover the top with *s'chach* (greenery). If you are interested in helping out on **Sunday, October 12**, contact Noam Shore at ndshore@gmail.com. (Breakdown is **Sunday, October 26**, and we need help with that too!)

Sukkot Service

Tuesday, October 14, 9:30 am, 60 Highland Street

Sukkot Celebration

Sunday, October 19, 4:00 - 6:30 pm

First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street

Join us for an afternoon full of playing, learning, and eating! Prospective and current members are welcome!

4 pm: Prospective member greeting and introduction to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek. Sukkah decoration.

4:30 pm: Choices of activities for adults and children. These will include text study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, an environmental program and edible sukkah building.

5:30 pm: We will all gather to say blessings, sing, and share a potluck meal in the sukkah. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share (drinks and dessert are provided). Last names A-J: Veggie, pasta, or rice salad; K-Z: main course.

Shabbat Sukkot

October 18, 9:45 am, 60 Highland Street (see page 5)

Build Your Own Sukkah!

Neighborhoods can enjoy building a sukkah together and sharing in the holiday with friends & family! For more information about purchasing a sukkah-building kit, contact Noam Shore (ndshore@gmail.com). Or to find out who might be interested in gathering for Sukkot-related activities in your neighborhood (building, hosting, sharing a meal), contact:

Newton: Cindy Marshall, cmars13@aol.com

Jamaica Plain: Stacey Chacker, chacsjc@aol.com

Roslindale/West Roxbury: Jamie Tessler, jtessler@igc.org

Cambridge/Somerville: Laurie Goldman, lgoldman@mit.edu

Needham: Susan Manheim, manheim.co@comcast.net

Other: Amy Mazur, acmazur@comcast.net

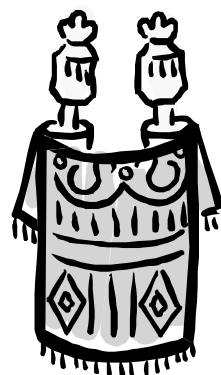
Need ideas for sukkah-building? Check out:

www.sukkot.com/faq.htm

www.alljudaica.com, and click on *Sukkah & Mats*

www.sukkahsoul.com

We welcome all interested parties who would like to use the CDT sukkah during the holiday. Feel free to come with family & friends any time during Sukkot, as the sukkah will be located in the back of the First Unitarian Society at 1326 Washington Street for the duration of the holiday.



Simchat Torah

Tuesday, October 21, 7 - 9 pm

60 Highland Street, West Newton

Simchat Torah is a celebration of the completion of one year of reading Torah and the start of a new cycle. Join us for a kid- and grown-up-friendly festive evening service and dancing with the Torah to the tunes of klezmer musicians! Prospective members are welcome!

Bat Mitzvah of Risa Paley-Zimble

Please join us to celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of **Risa Paley-Zimble** on October 25, Shabbat Bereshit. Risa is a seventh grader at the King Open School in Cambridge. Risa loves all things musical. She enjoys singing (especially when her older brother is around) and is an accomplished fiddler. She is also an active member in a Roots and Shoots group that is seeking to replace the thousands of polystyrene trays used daily in the Cambridge public schools with a more ecological alternative. For her Tikkun Olam project she is taking on a leadership role in this effort. Come join us for this festive occasion and for lunch afterwards.—**Shari Zimble and Mark Paley**

Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Roll

Please join us on **November 1** as our daughter **Juliet Roll** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Juliet is a seventh grader at Day Middle School and loves musical theater, singing, and pitching on her softball team. For her Tikkun Olam project, she has been providing childcare for a local mom who needs some help. We hope you will join us to celebrate this joyous occasion and for a Kiddush lunch following the service.—**Elizabeth and Dave Roll**

Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Adler-Cohen

Please join us on **November 8** when our son, **Gabe**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Gabe is a seventh grader at Day Middle School, where, among other things, he plays saxophone with the Day Jazz Ensemble. Gabe enjoys watching *Lost*, playing Rock Band with his friends and brothers, and catching for his baseball team. For his *tikkun olam* project, Gabe helps coach the Tiger Athletes, an all-sports team for teenagers with special needs. We are thrilled to share this day with the Dorshei community and hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch at the First Unitarian Society following services.—**Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen**



Tikkun Olam

Interfaith Teens to Create Mural

Dorshei Tzedek, in partnership with Art Builds Community, Islamic Society of Boston, and Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, is participating in a project aimed at bringing together 14- to 18-year-

olds from Jewish, Muslim and Christian backgrounds to work together for 6-8 weeks on producing an interfaith mural to be installed at the ISB.

The project will begin on **Tuesday, October 28**, from **7 – 9 pm** and will run each Tuesday thereafter during the same hours until completed (approximately 6 – 8 weeks). The meetings will take place at the West End House Boys and Girls Club in Allston.

Teens who are interested in participating should contact **Stuart Snyder** at SLS@SnyderLegal.com

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

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.

Special Shabbat Services

*Shabbat Shuvah – Chanting & Meditation Service
October 4, 9:45 am*

Shabbat Shuvah falls between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. At this contemplative Shabbat service, we will focus on themes of “turning” and “return,” using both chant and guided meditation. No meditation experience necessary; all are welcome!

Shabbat Sukkot

October 18, 9:45 am

In addition to our *regular* Shabbat morning service, we'll be celebrating the harvest holiday of Sukkot with the joyous singing of Hallel, and shaking our lulav and etrog (bring yours if you have it!).

Tot Shabbat

October 25, 10:45 am – 11:30 am

Tot Shabbat is a *monthly* program, run by parents, for children aged 3-5 and their parents. Join us for singing, fun activities, and celebrating holidays (and of course, a snack!). Please contact Jodi Sugerman-Brozan at jodi@ace-ej.org with any questions.

Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat

October 25, 10:45 am – 11:30 am

For the youngest members of our community and their parents! If you have a child aged 0-2, please join us for this monthly Shabbat celebration *including* songs, games, crafts and snacks. For more information, please contact Alison Lobron at auderial@yahoo.com.

Junior Congregation

October 25, November 22, December 13, 10:45-noon

This is an awesomely fun, participatory service for third through sixth graders (kids only!), run by the one and only Elana **Rome**. Spend a special Shabbat *morning* with your friends, or make some new ones! We'll enjoy our own kid-dush after the service.

A Reconstructionist Shabbat

November 14 – 15, Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers

As part of the first convention of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation to be held in Boston, we will be holding our Shabbat services together with *Reconstructionists* from around the continent this weekend. Rabbi Toba will be leading erev Shabbat services on Friday at **6 pm**. On Shabbat morning, at **9:45 am**, there will be both adult services and a family service for families with kids of all ages, led by the incomparable Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat, founder of Camp JRF. For more information and to register, please go to <http://www.jrf.org/convention>.

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** (see above). To find out more about the program and to register, go to www.jrf.org now!

Save the Date! Rosh Chodesh Gathering

Save the date for the next Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh gathering at **7:30 pm** on **Monday, December 1**. We will celebrate the new moon of Kislev in a gathering led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel. Using song, speech, and art we will explore the kabbalistic meaning of and set intention for the new month. All CDT women are invited. See the November newsletter for more details.

Nediv Lev

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

General Fund

Brandeis University
Phyllis & David Farber
Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen
Beth & Jeffrey Green

Steffi & Eric Karp

Jesse Michael Koenigsberg
In memory and in honor of Efrem Goldberg

Deborah Levine

Ilana Mainelli

Nessa Spitzer

In memory of Rabbi Toba's father, Bill Spitzer

Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund

On May 15, 2008 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.

Caren & Nathan Bosk

Avital Lewis

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Phyllis Glazerman

In honor of Michael Cohen and Julian, who hosted my family on their boat on Pleasant Bay at the Cape this summer (my CDT auction purchase.) A great afternoon!

Sharon Gorberg & family
In loving memory of George L. Gorberg

Michael Luckens

Shari Zimble

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.

School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org

I was pleased as Dorshei Tzedek's new Education Director to welcome our staff and 80 students as we began a new school year in September.

We are fortunate to have an exceptional teaching staff at our Religious School. We welcomed back veteran teachers **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Hillary Pinsker** and **Yuval Brokman**. Cindy is again teaching Kitah Zayin (seventh grade), bringing to her class her depth of knowledge and commitment to the Reconstructionist movement and this community. Hillary is teaching Kitah Vav (sixth grade), drawing on her teaching experience and scholarship to develop a curriculum for it focusing on issues of leadership in the Biblical era. Yuval, a graduate student at Brandeis, is teaching Kitah Dalet (fourth grade) and enhances his class with innovative methods of teaching Hebrew reading. Yuval is being assisted in Kitah Dalet by new staff member, **Avraham Wachs Cashman**. Avraham, a recent Brandeis graduate, has experience both as a religious school teacher and counselor at Camp Ramah.

Also new to our school this year is Kitah Hay (fifth grade) teacher **Ben Rotenberg**. Ben is a student at Hebrew College working on a BA/MA in Jewish Education. Completing our Upper School faculty is **Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld**. Rabbi Rachel is a Reconstructionist rabbi and the leader of Congregation Shirat Hayam in Marshfield, MA. Rabbi Rachel will bring her talents to Kitah Gimmel (third grade) as well as leading family education and tikkun olam programming.

Our Lower School is staffed by **Brenda Dolan** and **Amy Goldsmith**, both new to our faculty. Brenda teaches at the Jewish Community Day School and has a masters in elementary education from Brandeis and teaches Kitah Gan (kindergarten). Amy, a student at Brandeis and an experienced staffer at Camp JRF, is a graduate of CDT Religious School and is teaching Kitah Aleph/Bet (first and second grade) as well as coordinating activities for our high-school-aged students.

I know our students will have a wonderful school year with this talented and experienced group of educators.

Adult Education and Contemplation

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

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!

Exploring Judaism: An Introduction to Jewish Text, Tradition, & Practice

with Rabbi Ben Weiner

*Introductory Meeting: Tuesday evening, October 28, 7:15 pm,
60 Highland Street*

Exploring Judaism is a year-long class offering an introduction to Jewish practice and thought, history and ritual, in a setting that encourages questions, conversation, and personal reflection. Sponsored by Dorshei Tzedek and other area Reconstructionist congregations, this class is appropriate for Jews who have some questions they're not afraid to ask, people interested in conversion, or anyone seeking a primer on Judaism from a Reconstructionist perspective. The class will meet weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:15-9:00 pm (location to be determined). For more information, to meet the instructor and hear about fees, course content, etc., please join Rabbi Ben Weiner on October 28th. Rabbi Weiner serves as the spiritual leader of Mishkan Ha'am: The Westchester-Riverdale Reconstructionist Group. He is also a cultural reporter, writing about matters of interest to the contemporary Jewish world, and has an extensive background in world literature and Yiddish studies.

Meditation in the Morning

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Thursday mornings, 8 am - 9 am, 60 Highland Street
Beginning October 23*

This weekly opportunity for learning and silent meditation is an opportunity to gain greater awareness, calm, and insight. Each Thursday morning we will reflect on Jewish teachings from the liturgy and the weekly Torah portion, and then practice silent and guided meditation intended to cultivate qualities of gratitude, patience, joy, and equanimity. We will close each session with the Mourner's Kaddish, for anyone in mourning or observing a *yarzheit*. No meditation experience required! Whether you come once or every week, all are welcome.

Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan

Julia Appel, CDT Rabbinic Intern

*Shabbat mornings, 10 am – 11 am,
November 22, December 6, 13 & 20*

Back by popular demand! Looking for a way to familiarize yourself with the Shabbat Morning Service? Seeking greater connection to the prayers? Join Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel for four sessions of Shabbat Learners' Minyan. Each week, we will focus on a different theme or section of the Shabbat morning service. Together, we will become more familiar with the liturgy's order, theology, tunes, and meaning. We will also explore our own relationships with the liturgy to forge new connections with our tradition. All are welcome, no matter what your background. (Participants are invited to join the Torah service and discussion in the main sanctuary at 11 am).

Community Happenings

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.

Rashi School Fall Open Houses

Did you realize that studying Torah can help students analyze Shakespeare? Adrienne Frechter, the new Director of Admissions and Marketing at The Rashi School in Newton, points out that the critical thinking skills that Rashi students develop beginning in kindergarten are used in both secular and Jewish subject areas.

She invites parents to learn more about Rashi's educational program, in which teachers know each child as an individual learner, at one of the upcoming open houses on **Thursday, October 2, 9:30 am – 11 am** or **Sunday, November 2, 1 pm – 3 pm**. Parents can tour the school, meet staff and administrators, and learn more about how the school nurtures both critical minds and compassionate hearts Rashi is located at 15 Walnut Park, Newton; please park in the Jackson Road lot.

For more information, contact Adrienne Frechter at afrechter@rashi.org, or 617.969.4444 x 255 or go to www.rashi.org.

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*



October



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Wed Oct 1	10 am	Second Day of Rosh Hashanah	Gann Academy
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, Jen Kaplan & Susie Tanchel, Elizabeth Carver (<i>see page 5</i>)
Wed Oct 8	6:15 pm	Kol Nidre	Gann Academy (<i>see page 3</i>)
Thu Oct 9			
Thu Oct 9	9:30 am	Yom Kippur	Gann Academy (<i>see page 5</i>)
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 <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>
Sun Oct 12	12 pm	Sukkah building	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton) (<i>see page 3</i>)
Tue Oct 14		<i>No class (Sukkot)</i>	
Tue Oct 14	9:30 am	Sukkot Service	Amy Dain, Elaine Pollack, Tricia Nuzzola, Lisa Schneider 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 3</i>)
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>Setup:</i> Ben Newman & Sarah Hartman, Debbie Sher, Isabel Morais; <i>Cleanup:</i> Peter Shapiro, Kelli Kirshtein, Matilda & Ed Bruckner, Nancy Kimelman, Becca Gutman FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton) (<i>see page 3</i>)
Tue Oct 21		<i>No class (Simchat Torah)</i>	
Tue Oct 21	7 pm - 9 pm	Simchat Torah	Phyllis & Alvin Glazerman, Sherry Katz, Meryl Ep- stein, Laurie Kahn-Leavitt 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 3</i>)
Wed Oct 22	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St: Living Room
Thu Oct 23	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Oct 25	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Oct 25	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Risa Paley-Zimble	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Julie & Paul Fox (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Oct 25	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Oct 25	10:45 am - 12 pm	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Oct 26	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin	FUSN
Tue Oct 28	7 pm - 9 pm	Exploring Judaism: An Introduction to Jewish Text, Tradition, & Practice	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Oct 30	8 am - 9 am	Meditation in the Morning	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)



November



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Nov 1	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Roll	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Diana & Richard Fisher Gomburg; <i>Setup/Cleanup:</i> Eileen Morrison, Theresa St John-Siegel, Laura Katz, Ami Gordon (<i>see page 4</i>)
Wed Nov 5	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Adult Education: Social Justice with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Thu Nov 6	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Nov 7	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	(<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Nov 8	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Nov 8	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Adler-Cohen	<i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sun Nov 9	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav	FUSN
Sun Nov 9	7 pm - 9 pm	Members Meeting	Ellen Pashall, Elaine Landes, Andrew Littman 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Tue Nov 11		<i>No class (Veteran's Day)</i>	
Wed Nov 12	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Social Justice with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland St: Sanctuary
Thu Nov 13	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Nov 14		Adult Erev Shabbat Service	JRF Convention Site (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Nov 15		No Shabbat Morning Services at CDT Services will be held at the JRF Convention Site	JRF Convention Site (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Nov 15		<i>No class for Lower Grades (JRF Convention)</i>	
Tue Nov 18	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St: Library
Wed Nov 19	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Adult Ed: Social Justice with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library
Thu Nov 20	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Nov 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Jeff Goldman, Noam Shore, Leah Diskin
Sat Nov 22	10 am - 2 pm	Teen Kiddush	60 Highland St: Library
Sat Nov 22	10 am - 11 am	Learners' Minyan	60 Highland Street: Library Led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Nov 22	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu Nov 27		<i>No class (Thanksgiving)</i>	
Sat Nov 29		<i>No class for Lower Grades (Thanksgiving weekend)</i>	
Sat Nov 29	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Willa Kuh, Matthew Fried, Michael White, Amy Berman; <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>

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** and **Marvin Brotman**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to the following people for providing Kiddush in the months of August and September: **Tony Broh, Allyson Cherkasky, Karen & Reinhard Engels, Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman, Wendy Gedanken, Hope Kellman, Tom Kuh, Ilana Mainelli, Sivan Nasoff, Liz Reisberg, Mei See Sanderson, Carole Slipowitz, Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan** (in honor of their eighth wedding anniversary), **Debbie Waber** (in honor of her birthday), **Karen Wasserman**, and **Stephen Zisk**.

Todah Rabah to **Pamela Schoenberg** and **Joel Reider** for helping at the Bar Mitzvah of **Benyamin Meschede-Krasa**.

To the great folks who helped get the High Holy Day mailing done so quickly and efficiently: **Amy Brodesky, Ellie Goldberg, Ellen Hemley, Gertrude Nemeth, Barbara Pittel & Zach, Liz Reisberg**, and **Jamie Tessler**.

Condolences



To **Michael White** on the death of his mother, **Judi Sohn White**. May her memory be for a blessing.

Yarzheits

This month, we remember two beloved Dorshei Tzedek members, **Zachary Carson** and **Efrem Goldberg**. The first yartzheit of Zach's death falls on **Sunday, October 5** this year, and we will mark it during **Yizkor** services on Yom Kippur. Efrem's sixth yartzheit falls on **Monday, October 13** this year, and we will mark it on **Shabbat morning, October 11**.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to **Emily Sper** on the official publication of her new "Jewish Holidays Go Fish" card game! To find out where you can get your own set, go to www.emilysper.com.

CDT Bids A Fond Farewell

As the new year begins and we welcome many new members, it is also time to say goodbye to those who will not be rejoining us for next year, whether due to logistics or other family circumstances. We wish a fond farewell to:

- **Naomi Botkin, Josh Gordon, and Susannah**
- **Roberta, Paul, and Jake Carson**
- **Joy Chertow**
- **Andy Diamond**
- **Marcy, Kevin, Simon, and Rhea Karty**
- **Cindy Pearce and Sue Probst**

Sadly, we also note the death of two of our members in the last year, **Zach Carson** and **Alex Fried**.

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).

Newton Babysitting Co-op

The Newton Babysitting Co-op is a wonderful way to meet Newton Families and an affordable babysitting service that can be very helpful to all. Please Contact Suzanne at d.s@prodigy.net for more details.

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