

# 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

Cheshvan 5769

November 2008



## Looking Back and Looking Forward

Marc Steinberg, [president@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:president@dorsheitzedek.org)

As I move into the third and final year of my presidency, I'm proud that many of the things we set out to do as a result of the strategic plan are already complete while others are now in motion. I beg your momentary indulgence as I present a laundry list of recent accomplishments. As I see it, here are the three key indicators of progress:

- **Renewed growth.** The membership is growing again at a healthy pace. Our goal was to reach 200 households in 3-5 years. We are now in the mid-170s after being flat in the low-160s for four years, and if we can maintain this rate we will achieve our goal.
- **Financial stability.** Our finances are in good shape. We began last year expecting to have a deficit and instead achieved a modest surplus even as expenses continued to rise as forecasted. We were able to achieve the surplus because our membership began to grow again and because the community met its Nediv Lev fundraising target.
- **Staff support.** We have been able to provide our professional staff with the additional resources and support they need to continue their success. We now have a part-time administrator to support our full-time administrator and education director, and we are continuing to host a rabbinic intern to assist Rabbi Toba.

Many members have also contributed in other areas as well. I'd like to highlight just a few of the major changes and developments that have occurred over the last year:

- We have a fantastic space for the High Holydays;
- We had our first-ever congregational trip to Israel;
- We began the Torah of Chesed initiative;
- We began a conversation about how to better serve our members who are not Jewish;
- We professionalized High Holydays coordination.

It's clear that quite a bit has been accomplished. However, looking back at the strategic plan recommendations, there are two remaining areas where there is still work yet to be done, and it is on these areas that the Board leadership will focus much of its attention this year:

- **Education strategic planning.** We have a strong education committee this year led by Betsy Hinden as well as representation on the Executive Board by Sheree Galpert. Together with our new Education Director Annette Lawson, the education leadership is planning an education-oriented visioning and strategic planning process. We hope the outcome will provide a clear pathway not just for the school but also for community-based learning and broad membership involvement at every level. The planning process will begin at the November 9 Members' Meeting.
- **Leadership development.** With support from Paul Hattis, Esther Kohn is working to set the newly-minted Leadership committee in motion. This committee's goal is to help identify, connect, and develop future community leaders. It will also provide the membership with a more transparent view into the nomination process. In addition to the Leadership committee, a small group of members is participating in a consulting process run by the Leadership Development Institute, which is funded by the CJP and is designed to support professional and volunteer leaders as they seek to strengthen their understanding of leadership and organizational change. More information about LDI will be forthcoming throughout the year as the process unfolds.

I am looking forward to seeing what new directions and ideas surface this year, and I hope that the community will enjoy the process as much as I expect to.

Finally, I want to mention that for the past several years this newsletter column has alternated between Rabbi Toba and the current president. In a small break with tradition, for the remain-  
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der of this year I'll be passing along my airtime to other community leaders. I have the pleasure of working with many talented voices, and I am delighted to begin sharing them with you.

Warm regards,

Marc Steinberg

## Welcome to Jon Sarner

Jon Sarner, CDT's new Administrative Assistant, has just joined our staff on a part-time basis. You will see Jon working with our Administrator, Marla Lichtman, at 60 Highland Street and with our Education Director, Annette Lawson, in our school space at 1326 Washington Street. Jon's interests include freelance writing and he has published feature articles in the Brookline Citizen, book reviews in the Boston Book Review and film reviews in the Improper Bostonian.

Jon will be in the school office during school hours so when you drop off or pick up your child(ren), please take a moment to say hello. Emails to him can be directed to officeassistant@dorsheitzedek.org.

## 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](http://www.jrf.org) now!

## Members' Meeting

Sunday, November 9

5:30 - 8 pm, **dinner and childcare provided**  
60 Highland Street

Please join us for the first Members' Meeting of 5769! This gathering is an opportunity to meet new and old members, build community, and begin an important conversation about what it means to be a "Community of Learners." We will be kicking off a visioning process for our educational programs for adults, children, and teens, as well as getting to know one another. **Whether you've attended every one, or never been to a Members' Meeting, we hope you'll come to this one!** Pizza dinner (with gluten- and dairy-free alternatives available) for kids and adults begins at **5:30 pm**; please join us no later than **6 pm** for the meeting.

## CDT Service-Learning Trip to New Orleans

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 **Clifford Goldsmith** at [clifgold@hotmail.com](mailto:clifgold@hotmail.com)

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

**High Holyday Sermons:** The talks that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at [www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei). Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.

## 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

*Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 9, Mar 6, Apr 3, Jun 5: 6 pm candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service*

*Feb 6 - Shabbat Shira 6:15 pm Potluck, 7 pm service*

*May 1 - Kitah Dalet Siyyum, 6 p.m. service, no potluck*

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.

### Erev Shabbat Services

*8 pm, 60 Highland Street  
December 12, January 16,  
February 6 (7 pm - Shabbat Shira), March 20*

Once a month, we gather for an adult-oriented erev Shabbat service. A relaxing and inspiring way to end the week and enter into Shabbat. Please join us!

### 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 6:00 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>. **Please note: Shabbat morning services are open to the public, but for Friday night services and/or meals, you will need to register for the "Shabbaton" package, or for the entire convention.**

### Tot Shabbat

*Nov 22, Dec 13, Jan 31, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9,  
Jun 13 (at the CDT Retreat), 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](mailto:jodi@ace-ej.org) with any questions.

### Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat

*Nov 22, Dec 13, Jan 31, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13 (at the CDT Retreat), 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](mailto:auderial@yahoo.com).

### Junior Congregation

*Nov 22, Dec 13, Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 14, Apr 4, May 9,  
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.

### Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan

*Julia Appel, CDT Rabbinic Intern  
Shabbat mornings, 10 – 11 am,  
November 22, December 6, 13, 20*

Back by popular demand! See page 7 for details.

## 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.

## 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**

## Bat Mitzvah of Kelsey Fox

Please join us on **December 6** when our daughter, **Kelsey Shay Fox**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Kelsey is a seventh grader at Bigelow Middle School. She enjoys embarrassing her parents by figuring out how to do things on the computer that we didn't know how to do, cuddling kitties, telling jokes, figuring out how to make stuff, drawing amazingly accurate portraits, solving world peace, watching *Monk*, and giving good advice. For her *tikkun olam* project, Kelsey helps raise the spirits of the elderly community at Evans Park, in Newton Corner, by visiting and making balloon caricatures of the residents. We are thrilled to share this day with the Dorshei community and hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch following services.—**Julie and Paul Fox**

Save the  
Date: Retreat  
2009!

Mark your calendars now!  
**The 2009 CDT Retreat will  
be happening next June**

**12 – 14, 2009.** The new site is 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](mailto:bill.shorr@gmail.com).



## Chesed



### Condolences

Dorshei Tzedek mourns the death of **Shari Zimble**, who passed away on October 23, the 24th of Tishrei, after a decade of battling breast cancer. May **Mark, Davin, and Risa** find comfort in the love of community and friends, and under the wings of the *Shechina*, the Source of Comfort to all those who mourn. May Shari's memory be for a blessing for all who knew her, and for all whose lives she touched.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** of the Chesed Committee (617.244.3373 or [jomela@rcn.com](mailto:jomela@rcn.com)).

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to [dtnews@yahoo.com](mailto: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 **Marvin Brotman** and **Joanna Marcus**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

### Todah Rabah

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our High Holydays services so wonderful this year.

To **Cindy Marshall** and the Ritual Committee, for coordination and planning.

To everyone who helped with *chazzanut* (service leading) and Torah *leyning*: **Karen Arnold, Mark Bronstein, Ed Bruckner, Olivia Donnini, Louise Enoch, Mark Farber, Doug Hersh, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Judy Herzig-Marx, Audra Karp, Steffi Karp, Kelli Kirshtein, Amalia Lieberman, Elaine Pollack, Dan Rome, Elana Rome, Debbie Waber, and Bill Shorr**.

To our teens who helped with service leading: **Anya Carr-Klein, Julian Cohen, Daniel Kaufman, Gemma Lurie, Benjamin Meschede-Krasa, Zoe Miller, Charlotte Zolit**, and to the inimitable **Skyler "Prophet Isaiah" Fox**.

And to everyone who helped with the Yom Kippur Mincha pro-

gram: **Matilda Bruckner, Louise Enoch, Clifford Goldsmith, Laurie Goldman, Becca Gutman, Steffi Karp, Lisa Samelson, Lisa Schneier, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Carole Sli-powitz, and Laya Steinberg** (and thank you for the yoga!).

A massive **Todah Rabah** to everyone who put together a wonderful program for our kids: To the childcare coordinator, **Abby Cohen**, and her helpers from Kitah Dalet: **Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess, Lisa Goodwin Robbins, Ami and Jon Gordon, Ruth Paris and Rob Saper, Kathy Pillsbury and Cindy Marshall, Peter Shapiro, Susan Silberberg-Robinson, Jan Small, Theresa St. John-Siegel and Steve Siegel, Stuart Snyder, Jamie Tessler, Annie Weiss and David Cash, Janelle Winston and Scott Lewis, and Amelia Zalcman**, and to all of our wonderful kids' and youth service leaders: **Gina Fried, Esther Kohn, Alison Lobron, Hillary Pinsker, Amy Goldsmith, Jake "Guitar God" Schwartz-Rogers, and Jodi Sugerman-Brozan**.

Thank you to **Lauren Gibbs** and **Joel Reider** for their work on the beautiful Yizkor Scroll.

And last but far from least, to everyone who helped on the logistical end to make things run so smoothly: **Mark Bronstein, Marla Lichtman, Theresa St John-Siegel, Barbara Zolit**, and to the many members who helped with the myriad tasks involved in making High Holydays work, from Kiddush set-up to ushering to greeting to schlepping. **Yasher koach everyone!**

Todah rabah to the folks who helped make our Sukkot and Simchat Torah events so enjoyable: to **Amy Mazur and Susan Manheim**, co-coordinators of our Sukkot programming, to **Doug Hersh**, for his wonderful creative Sukkah learning experience, and to **Noam Shore** and his crew for setting up the congregational sukkah! Many thanks to the amazing **Hankus Net-sky** for adding his sweet clarinet (and snappy tambourine!) to our Simchat Torah celebration.

Todah Rabah to the following people for providing Kiddush in recent months: **Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent, Kenny Breuer, Matilda and Edward Bruckner, Elizabeth Carver, Cliff Cohen, Meryl Epstein, Michael Fein and Marjorie Feld, Phyllis and Alvin Glazerman, Ellie Goldberg, Rebecca Gutman, Rochelle Hahn, John Holohan, Barbara Huggins, Jen Kaplan, Sherry Katz, Nancy Kimelman, Lissy Medvedow, Amy Mazur, Ruth Parris, Elaine Pollack, Carol Sklar, and Susie Tanchel**.

Many thanks to **Sharon Solomon**, our wonderful temporary of-fice assistant, who filled in for us through the High Holy Days. Many of you had a chance to meet her and know what a huge help she was to us all. We wish Sharon the best of luck in her future endeavors.

### Mazel Tov

To **Carla Naumburg** and **Josh Herzig-Marx** as they welcome their daughter **Frieda Lucia Naumburg**.

## Nediv Lev

*Congregation Dorshei Tzedek gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:*

### General Fund

**Barbara Beck**

*In memory of my brother, Stephen M. Beck*

**Ann & Myron Falchuk**

**Wendy Falchuk**

**Wendy Gedanken**

**Celia & Richard Kaplan**

*In memory of Kurt Weinberg, grandfather of Erica Streit-Kaplan*

**Amy Mazur**

*In honor of all the Sukkot helpers at CDT*

**Liz Reisberg**

*In celebration of the New Year!*

**Sofia & Simon Rosenberg**

**Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman**

*In honor of the Zisk family hosting all of the CDT Sings rehearsals*

*In honor of Karen Arnold conducting CDT Sings through many rehearsals, to make the High Holy Days successful for the chorus*

## 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.*

**Avital Lewis**

*In memory of my mother, Jill Volk*

**Rhoda Volk**

*In memory of Rob Davenport*

## Camp JRF Fund

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Michael White**

*In memory of my mother, Judi White, to acknowledge the comfort and support I received from the congregation*

## School Fund

**Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider**

*In honor of Gina Fried for keeping our teens engaged*

## 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](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org)), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek.*

*There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. Donations can also be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. These additional contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.*

## Adult Education and Contemplation

### **Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice**

*with Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

*Wednesday evenings, 7:15-9 pm., 60 Highland Street*

*November 5, 12, 19, December 3*

*(free for members; \$18/class for non-members)*

Traditional Judaism cares quite a bit about what we put in our mouths and on our dinner plates. What might Jewish texts and traditions have to say about rising hunger rates in the U.S. and abroad, the condition of agricultural laborers, and the spiritual aspects of pursuing economic justice? Focusing on both personal practice and larger questions and solutions, we will explore together what it means to take seriously the notion that "food matters" from a Jewish perspective.

### **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!

### **Bible Study Group**

*with Dr. Sandy Goldfless*

*Thursday evenings, in members' homes*

In this class we'll read together, in English, large selections from the Jewish scriptures. We'll aim at asking and trying to answer some very basic - yet very deep - questions: "What sort of writings are these, after all? When, why, and by whom were they written? How should we approach the reading of these texts so that we can not only make the most sense out of them, but also find some resonance in them with our own human situation?"

**Sandy Goldfless** has a PhD in biblical studies and Near Eastern languages, religions and literature from Harvard University. He has taught biblical Hebrew for adults and has led Bible study groups in the Boston area for several years, including last year's weekly group at Dorshei Tzedek.

Contact **Stan Fleischman** at stanf@rcn.com for information about location and any other questions.

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

*with Rabbi Benjamin Weiner*

*Tuesday evenings, 7:15 - 9 pm, beginning November 11*

*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 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 28. 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. **Please call the CDT office at 617.965.0330 for information.**

### **Meditation in the Morning**

*with Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

*Thursday mornings, 8 - 9 am, 60 Highland Street*

*Note: The group is not meeting on*

*Thursday, November 27 (Thanksgiving)*

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 a variety of sources, 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 *yartzheit*. 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 - 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).

## Shining Through Broken Glass, a Kristallnacht Concert

*Sunday, November 9, 7 pm  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence, RI*

Shining Through Broken Glass, a Kristallnacht Concert will be held on Sunday, November 9 at 7 pm at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, Rhode Island. Noted producer and actor, LEONARD NIMOY will narrate Shining Through Broken Glass, joined by an ecumenical choir of more than 200 adult and youth voices from synagogues, churches, colleges and schools from Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts together with a 40-piece professional orchestra and four cantorial soloists, including Scott Sokol and Lynn Torgove of Hebrew College in Boston. For tickets and further info, call the box office at 401-421-ARTS or visit [www.vmari.org](http://www.vmari.org).

## Rashi School Fall Open House

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 an open house on **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](mailto:afrechter@rashi.org), or 617.969.4444 x 255 or go to [www.rashi.org](http://www.rashi.org).

## A Celebration of Women's Scholarship

*Sunday, November 23, 1 - 3:30 pm  
Temple Israel, 477 Longwood Avenue, Boston*

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts is excited and proud to announce a very special event for the women of the Greater Boston Jewish Community!

Spend a joyous afternoon in dialogue, interaction and study as we mark the emergence of the acclaimed "The Torah: A Women's Commentary" with its Associate Editor, Rabbi Andrea Weiss. Rabbi Weiss is Assistant Professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City and has helped guide this groundbreaking publication from its inception over a decade ago. A true reflection of the important goal of Jewish unity of the Synagogue Council, the Commentary's contributions come from female rabbis, scholars and writers from across the Jewish religious and cultural spectrum. Published by the Women of Reform Judaism and the Union of Reform Judaism Press, the Commentary has been hailed as a great work by Bible experts of diverse backgrounds.

Please plan to join us at this wonderful event! Connect with women from all segments of the local Jewish community and enjoy a delicious kosher lunch, treating yourself to a first-class learning experience at the same time! For further information and to register for the event, visit our website, [www.synagoguecouncil.org](http://www.synagoguecouncil.org) or call Marilyn Lipman at 617-244-6506, ext. 10.

## 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](mailto:d.s@prodigy.net) for more details.

## 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*





## November



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Nov 1	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Roll</b>	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Diana & Richard Fisher Gomborg; <i>Set-up/Clean-up:</i> Eileen Morrison, Theresa St. John-Siegel, Laura Katz, Ami Gordon (see page 4)
Wed Nov 5	7:30 pm - 9 pm	<b>Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Nov 6	8 am - 9 am	<b>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Fri Nov 7	6 pm	<b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</b>	Emily Shumsky, Julie & Paul Fox, Lisa Schneier (see page 3)
Sat Nov 8	8:45 am - 9:45 am	<b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Nov 8	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Adler-Cohen</b>	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn (see page 4)
Sun Nov 9	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav	FUSN: Head Start Room
Sun Nov 9	5:30 pm - 8 pm	<b>Members' Meeting</b> <i>dinner and childcare provided</i>	Ellen Pashall, Elaine Landes, Andrew Littman 60 Highland Street (see page 2)
Tue Nov 11		<i>No class (Veteran's Day)</i>	
Tue Nov 11	7:15 pm - 9 pm	<b>Exploring Judaism: An Introduction to Jewish Text, Tradition, &amp; Practice, with Rabbi Benjamin Weiner</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7) <i>continues on following Tuesdays</i>
Wed Nov 12	7:15 pm - 9 pm	<b>Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St.: Sanctuary (see page 7)
Thu Nov 13	8 am - 9 am	<b>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Fri Nov 14	6 pm	<b>Adult Erev Shabbat Service</b>	JRF Convention Site (see page 3)
Sat Nov 15	9:45 am	<i>No Shabbat Morning Services at CDT; Services will be held at the JRF Convention Site</i>	JRF Convention Site (see page 3)
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	7:15 pm - 9 pm	<b>Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Nov 20	8 am - 9 am	<b>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Nov 22	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Amy Berman, Matthew Fried, Jeff Goldman, Noam Shore, Leah Diskin
Sat Nov 22	10 am - 2 pm	Teen Kiddush	60 Highland St: location TBA
Sat Nov 22	10 am - 11 am	<b>Learners' Minyan</b>	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 7)
Sat Nov 22	10:45 am - 11:30 am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland Street: 112 (childcare room) (see page 3)
Sat Nov 22	10:45 am - 11:30 am	<b>Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (see page 3)
Sat Nov 22	10:45 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (see page 3)
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, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Michael White; <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>



## December



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Mon Dec 1	7:30 pm	<b>Rosh Chodesh Gathering</b>	60 Highland Street: Living Room; all CDT women are invited (see page 3)
Wed Dec 3	7:15 pm - 9 pm	<b>Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 4	8 am - 9 am	<b>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Fri Dec 5	6 pm	<b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</b>	Linda Kramer - <i>in memory of Alex Fried's Yahrtzeit, 12/2</i> , Sivan Nasoff, Michele Arons & Michael Brann - <i>in honor of Tamar Thais's 3rd birthday</i> , Kathy Pillsbury (see page 3)
Sat Dec 6	9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Service <b>Bat Mitzvah of Kelsey Fox</b>	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up</i> : Annie Weiss & David Cash; <i>Set-up</i> : Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Wendy & Charles Frankston; <i>Clean-up</i> : Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere, Rachel Greenberg, Howard Lurie (see page 4)
Sat Dec 6	10 am - 12 pm	<i>Gan, Aleph, &amp; Bet Classes meet</i>	FUSN
Sat Dec 6	10 am - 11 am	<b>Learners' Minyan</b>	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 7)
Sun Dec 7	3 pm - 5 pm	Family Education	FUSN
Mon Dec 8	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Thu Dec 11	8 am - 9 am	<b>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Fri Dec 12	8 pm	<b>Adult Erev Shabbat Service</b>	Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Elaine Bresnick, Carol Sklar (see page 3)
Sat Dec 13	8:45 am - 9:45 am	<b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Dec 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Linette Liebling - <i>in memory of Zelda Liebling</i> , Ora Gladstone, Nem Hackett
Sat Dec 13	10 am - 11 am	<b>Learners' Minyan</b>	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 7)
Sat Dec 13	10:45 am - 11:30 am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland Street: 112 (childcare room) (see page 3)
Sat Dec 13	10:45 am - 11:30 am	<b>Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat</b>	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (see page 7)
Sat Dec 13	10:45 am - 12 pm	<b>Junior Congregation</b>	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (see page 3)
Thu Dec 18	8 am - 9 am	<b>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer</b>	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Dec 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith - <i>in honor of birthday/ anniversary season in their family</i> , Tom Kuh, Elena Eisman, Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
Sat Dec 20	10 am - 11 am	<b>Learners' Minyan</b>	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 7)
Sun Dec 21	4 pm - 6 pm	<b>Chanukah Party</b>	<i>Set up</i> : Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Shatkin, Hilary Marcus, Stephen Zisk; <i>Clean up</i> : Carole Slipowitz, Jan Small, Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Misha Dudnik, Marcy Karty FUSN
Mon Dec 22		<i>School Vacation Week</i>	(No class Monday, December 22 - Sunday, January 4)
Sat Dec 27	9:30 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jeff Kichen, Bryn Austin, Sharon Gorberg, David Shumsky; <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>

## Jewish Family & Children's Service Family Table "Turkey Tzedakah" Drive

Hopefully, we all have many things to be thankful for in this New Year, 5769. As November approaches we traditionally begin thinking about preparing for our own meaningful family Thanksgiving celebrations. At JF&CS Family Table, Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry, our "family" consists of 165 needy Jewish families, including 105 children, 100 elderly, and 180 adults. JF&CS Family Table helps Jews in 38 local communities who are experiencing great financial stress due to job layoffs, low wages, serious illness or disability, or the trauma of domestic violence. Imagine what it must be like for a parent to have to choose between paying the rent or buying food to feed his/her children.

Each month, JF&CS Family Table provides essential groceries to needy families throughout Greater Boston. For Rosh Hashanah this year recipient families received challah, kosher chickens, fresh apples, honey, gefilte fish, and chicken soup. Family Table is a program of Jewish Family & Children's Service, and is made possible by the dedication of hundreds of volunteers and generous donors. Monthly food donations are collected at 48 synagogues, day schools, and community centers, and are delivered to the pantry on our monthly "Distribution Days." Volunteers sort, pack, and deliver each family's groceries to their homes.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are asking families in the Jewish community to share their many blessings by helping a Family Table recipient provide a meaningful Thanksgiving celebration for their household. Through our "Turkey Tzedakah" drive, we provide each recipient family with a food certificate or kosher turkey and holiday foods for their family.

Please send a tax-deductible donation of \$18 or an amount of your choice to "JF&CS Family Table", c/o Jewish Family & Children's Service, 1430 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451 by November 20, 2008. Each donation of \$18 will cover the cost of food certificates/turkeys for each family in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you, in advance, for enabling us to provide this special holiday assistance.

If you would like to learn more about JF&CS Family Table or to volunteer on one of our Distribution Days, please contact Margie Nesson or Barbara Zolit at 781-693-5593.

JF&CS Family Table donations can also be made at [jfcsboston.org](http://jfcsboston.org)

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek  
60 Highland Street  
West Newton, MA 02465

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

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

#### Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members. "Dorshei Tzedek" means "seekers of justice," and as our name implies, we are seekers: of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

Consistent with Reconstructionist philosophy, we are committed to seriously engaging with Jewish tradition, challenging that tradition, where need be, and building on the tradition in creative ways. We do this in order to enhance our own lives as contemporary Jews and to perpetuate our bond—and our children's bond—to our heritage. We view education for ourselves and our children as fundamental to Jewish life.

We are a participatory congregation, encouraging all of our members to take an active role in some aspect of our congregational life. Our rabbi is our partner in this endeavor, and is both teacher and participant in our community. We value diversity in our congregation, and welcome all those who share our commitments.

Finally, we affirm the concept of mitzvah as obligation, acting on our Jewish values through deeds of *tzedek* (social justice) and *gemilut chasadim* (loving kindness), both within our congregation and in the larger community.