

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Kislev-Tevet 5769

December 2008



Food Matters

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

There's an old (and sort of silly) Jewish joke that says that every Jewish holiday goes something like this: "They tried to kill us; we survived; let's eat." While this is not a very accurate description of the Jewish holiday cycle, the "let's eat" part does ring true. Jewish food and Jewish eating practices occupy a very central place in the history of the Jewish people.

The authors of the Torah imagined an act of eating ushering in the beginning of human history, as Eve and Adam partook of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. In the book of Leviticus, among all the laws and rules for the priests, the Israelite people were instructed that holiness was accessible to them as well, and should be reflected in the limitations upon which animals they could and could not eat. Hundreds of years later, these Biblical rules were developed by the early rabbis into the complex system that we now know as kashrut. For more than two thousand years, Jews in communities around the world have been distinguished by their eating practices, from refraining from eating pork to keeping meat and milk utensils separate to blessing food both before and after it is eaten.

But the Jewish concern with food doesn't begin and end with the practice of kashrut. The earliest economic justice practices in Judaism were [literally] grounded in the agricultural process. In the Torah, one-tenth of each person's crop had to be given, every third year, to those without land—the stranger, the orphan, and the widow. A corner of every field, and the gleanings of every harvest, had to be left for any poor person who needed to eat. Every seven years, the land had to be given a rest. Those who labored in the fields had to be treated with dignity and given a living wage. Fundamental to Jewish teachings is the notion that not only is what we put in our mouths important, equally important is the process of how it is grown and how it reaches our plate. To put it simply, "food matters"—to our bodies and to the earth, to our ethical lives, to how we live as Jews and as global citizens.

To pursue these connections this year, we have received a grant from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies to create a learning and action program modeled after our very successful 2004 "Behind the Labels" program. Spearheaded by CDT member Barbara Shatkin, "Behind the Labels" was a school-based project of learning and action, where our kids learned about where our clothes come from, about the working conditions of

those who labor to produce our clothes, and about what we might do to correct some of the injustices in that system. This year, we are envisioning "Food Matters" as a community-wide program of learning and action about what we eat and what is involved in getting it to our tables. I have been teaching an adult education class called "Food Matters," and rabbinic intern Julia Appel will be teaching a similar class, called "Noshing the Jewish Way," later this winter for our teens. In the Hebrew School, Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld is coordinating "Food Matters" for the entire school community, as well as helping to organize the action components of the program for the congregation as a whole. We will be officially kicking off "Food Matters" in the school on December 2nd, with an interactive exercise to help our 3rd-6th graders understand the inequities in food distribution across the globe.

There will be community-wide learning days on **Sunday, January 25**, and **Sunday, March 1**, on this theme – both of which will offer educational opportunities for all ages, as well as opportunities to take action on issues related to food and justice. And we need your help! We hope adults in our community will become involved, either helping out with the action projects taken on by each of our religious school classes, or with helping to shape actions that we can take on a congregation-wide level. If you have particular expertise in this realm, or are interested and want to learn more, please be in touch with Rabbi Rachel at rachelschoenfeld@yahoo.com.

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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.

Condolences



To **Debbie Waber**, on the death of her mother, **Helen Waber**. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Howie Kaufman**, and to **Janet Boguslaw, Alex** and **Daniel**, on the death of Howie's mother, **Elissa Kaufman**. May her memory be for a blessing.

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

Todah Rabah to the following people for providing Kiddush in November: **Paul and Julie Fox, Allison and Ezra Hausman, Emily Shumsky, Lisa Schneier, Ami Gordon, Eileen Morrison, Michael Jablon, Theresa St. John-Siegel, and Steve and Tema Siegel, Diana and Richard Fisher Gomberg, Michael Fein and Marjorie Feld, and Elaine Pollack.**

Todah Rabah to **Ami & Jonathan Gordon** and **Elizabeth & David Roll** for B'nei Mitzvah ushering.

Todah Rabah to the following people who helped with kiddush for the recent member's meeting: **Ellen Pashall, Elaine Landes, Andrew Littman, Marc Steinberg** and **Linda Hsu.**

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Ayala Galton Bassett** and **Oliver Bassett**, on the birth of **Gavriella!**

new cdt newsletter column

lisa dee port white, ldpw@rcn.com

dear friends,

the newsletter committee has cautiously agreed to hosting a new column where congregants can submit questions and i will attempt to answer them. we are also open to a name for the column. so far, some of the thoughts have been 'really, lisa dee?'; 'ask lisa dee'; 'you don't say.' there may not be a way to submit questions anonymously, but the inquirer's name will not be published in the newsletter.

send your questions to ldpw@rcn.com. please indicate in the subject line this is for the column.

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.

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.

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

*December 5, January 9, March 6, April 3, June 5:
6 pm candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service
February 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!

On December 12, we will be marking "Human Rights Shabbat," as part of a nation-wide celebration of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The service will include special readings and study as we affirm our commitment, as Jews, Americans, and human beings, to universal human rights.

Tot Shabbat

*December 13, January 31, March 14, April 11, May 9,
June 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 with any questions.

Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat

*December 13, January 31, March 14, April 11, May 9,
June 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.

Junior Congregation

*December 13, January 31, February 28, March 14, April 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,
December 6, 13, 20*

Back by popular demand! See page 7 for details.

Human Rights Shabbat

*Friday evening, December 12
(see Erev Shabbat Services at left.)*

New Members Shabbat Frieda Lucia Naumburg Naming

Shabbat morning, December 13, 9:45 am

Join us this Shabbat morning as we officially welcome all those who have joined CDT since this summer, and as we welcome into our community, and into the Jewish people, **Frieda Naumburg**, daughter of **Carla Naumburg** and **Josh Herzig-Marx**.

Yarzheit of Alex Fried

Please join us for Shabbat morning services on **December 20**, as we mark the first yartzheit of CDT member Alex Fried, may his memory be for a blessing.

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**

School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director, school@dorsheitzedek.org

We have had a very busy fall at the Religious School.

Our Lower School has been enhanced this year by the presence of the Gan (kindergarten) class, which now meets on Saturday morning with the rest of the Lower School, rather than on Sunday afternoons.

As a Lower School community, students, parents and teachers begin the morning by joining together to celebrate Shabbat through movement and song and learn a bit of Torah in an interactive, child-friendly way enhanced by storybooks, costumes, props and scenery.

The parents of the Lower School community have been meeting monthly for a discussion group based on our reading of the book, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*. We have been having lively discussions centered on the book's premise that Jewish values provide useful tools for effective parenting.

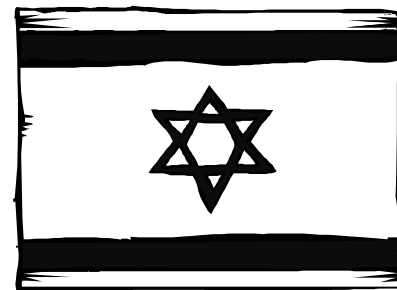
New to the Upper School this year is a program of electives. We celebrate Rosh Chodesh (the new month) by a special day of programming each month. On those days, each student selects an activity from a list of electives. Students can pursue their own interests through a range of Jewish cultural activities. During our first elective session students throughout the school were happily involved in Israeli folk dancing, Jewish cooking, Hebrew calligraphy, Jewish drama workshop and Soccer *B'Ivrit* (in Hebrew). New electives will be added through the year.

In October, our Kitah Zayin (seventh grade) students and parents, led by teacher Cindy Shulak-Rome, went on a field trip to the mikveh, Mayyim Chayim. There the students had an opportunity to tour the mikveh's beautiful facilities and learned about the tradition of immersing oneself in the mikveh and how that tradition has been reinterpreted and expanded at Mayyim Chayim. It was a very thought-provoking evening.

Passport to Israel

Families with children in the third and seventh grades can enroll their children in the Passport to Israel Program during December and January. Sponsored by the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, this program is basically a savings plan by which families make a yearly contribution into an account earmarked for their child to participate in a peer trip to Israel when they are teens. CJP adds \$700 to each account when the funds are needed to pay the costs of the trip. Money in an account may be refunded at anytime, i.e. your teen is not planning to travel to Israel. This is a very easy way to save for your child's future trip to Israel. Teen programs to Israel promote life-long connections to the Jewish community and commitment to Jewish identity.

More detailed information is available on the new website: www.passporttoisraelprogram.org. For more information, you can also call Elaine Landes, Passport Coordinator for Dorshei Tzedek, at 617.969.7703.



First Rosh Chodesh Gathering of the Year!

Monday, December 1, 7:30 pm, Library at 60 Highland St



Join us for the first Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh gathering of the year. The month of Kislev brings us to the darkest months of the year, when, like the seeds setting out roots in preparation for springtime, we retreat into our core for nourishment. The lights of Chanukah remind us that in darkness, there is always a new light on its way. We will celebrate the new moon of Kislev in a gathering led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel. Using song, speech, and some (unintimidating!) arts and crafts, we will explore the kabbalistic meaning of and set intention for the new month. All CDT women are invited.

Special Screening of the Documentary Film *Mixed Blessings*

Sunday, December 7, 6 pm, in the CDT sanctuary at 60 Highland Street

Please join us for a special screening of the documentary film *Mixed Blessings* created by CDT's own **Jennifer Kaplan**. *Mixed Blessings* focuses on the lives of four interfaith couples and their children. "Through the personal stories of the couples, the testimony of the children and the advice of experts, *Mixed Blessings* seeks to demystify the many religious, ethnic and personal issues in a manner that is helpful and meaningful, as well as visually compelling."



There will be pizza prior to the film and a discussion, facilitated by Jennifer, will take place afterward.

CDT Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 21, 4 - 6:30 pm at the First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street

Come celebrate the first night of Chanukah with songs, candle lighting, activities for all ages, and, of course, latkes!

What to bring:

- A menorah to light (as well as matches and at least two candles).
- A salad to share (enough for 15-20 people). Bring any kind of salad you like: green salads, bean salads, veggie salads, pasta salad, even potato salad if you like to eat potatoes with your latkes!

What we'll do:

- Sing and light candles together
- Stories and songs for children of all ages (especially young children)
- Interactive drama games for older children and interested adults
- Text study and discussion for adults
- Schmooze & catch up with friends- old and new
- Eat latkes, salads, and other delicious foods

And maybe even play a game or two of dreidel!



Everyone is welcome! **Volunteers Especially Welcome!** For more information, please email: **Barbara Pittel** (bpittel@yahoo.com) or **Julia Appel** (julia.appel@gmail.com).

Nediv Lev

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

General Fund

Nancy Gertz & Michael Cohen

Mazel Tov to Carla Naumburg & Josh Herzig-Marx on the birth of Frieda Lucia

Mazel Tov to Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx on becoming Bubbe & Zadie to Frieda Lucia!

In memory of Shari Zimble

Refuah sh'lemah for Marvin Brotman

Ellie Goldberg

Mazel Tov to parents Josh Herzig-Marx & Carla Naumburg and grandparents Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx on the arrival of Frieda Lucia Naumburg

In honor of the memory of Shari Zimble

Rachel Greenberg

Steffi & Eric Karp

*In honor of the privilege of leyning Torah on Simchat Torah
In honor of the birth of Frieda Lucia Naumburg*

Amy Mazur

*In honor of the birth of Frieda Lucia Naumburg
In memory of Shari Zimble*

Hans & Heidrun Meschede

*In appreciation of Toba's guidance of both our grandsons',
Yonatan & Benyamin, Bar Mitzvah*

Hanna & Zev Palmon

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In memory of Shari Zimble; in honor of Cheryl Sack's birthday

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Alex Jablon

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Risa Paley-Zimble

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Roll

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Adler-Cohen

Josephine Schneider

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

Naomi & Mickey Schoenberg

In appreciation of services and in honor of family

Theresa St. John Siegel & Steve Siegel

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

Dorit Harverd & Richard Dale

In memory of Jill Volk

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

In memory of Shari Zimble and with gratitude to Pamela Schoenberg for all her generosity

School Fund

Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

*To the school as a thank you to Abby Cohen for all her childcare coordinating during HH
To Josh & Carla in honor of their new CDT member*

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.

Adult Education and Contemplation

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

*December 13, January 10, February 28, March 21, April 18, May 9
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?" Our current topic: The Samuel Story and the David Story (the biblical books I and II Samuel).

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.

Meditation in the Morning

*with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Thursday mornings, 8 - 9 am, 60 Highland Street
Note: No sessions on December 25 or January 1*

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, 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).

Tikkun Olam

Christmas Tikkun Olam Opportunity: Volunteer with CDT and Project Ezra on December 25

CDT members or friends can provide a break for Christian volunteers and staff so that they are able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends. This is made possible by a unique project sponsored by the Synagogue Council, Project Ezra. Last year, 30 Dorshei Tzedek members successfully assisted with meal preparation and serving at 4 different shelters in Boston and Cambridge.

Project Ezra is a volunteer program which promotes interdenominational understanding, dialogue and collaborative efforts. Jewish volunteers (from various congregations) will be working together at sites all over Greater Boston. The sites include soup kitchens, shelters, hospitals and nursing homes. If you would like to volunteer with other Congregation Dorshei Tzedek members, contact **David Shumsky** at the following email address: shumsky@ll.mit.edu (work e-mail) or call him (at home) at 617-332-3454. We would love it for single people, couples or families to volunteer. Children 6 and older can volunteer with their parents.

Rashi Preschool Program Celebrates Holidays

Tuesday, December 16, 1:30 pm

"Hooray for Holidays" is the theme of the Curious Minds program for the 2008-09 school year. Sponsored by The Rashi School, Curious Minds is a free program geared for preschoolers (ages 3-5) and their parents.

The first program will be held on **Tuesday, December 16**, at 1:30 pm. "Hooray! Let's Get Ready for Hanukkah!" will feature Jon Nelson, Rashi's song leader and member of the band Yom Hadash. He will lead the children in learning and singing Hanukkah songs as well as clapping their hands and stomping their feet.

The afternoon will also include a craft project and a healthy snack. Children must be accompanied by an adult; maximum two children per adult.

Curious Minds programs are held at The Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton. Please park in the Jackson Road lot. Advance registration is requested; email apuchkoff@rashi.org or call 617-969-4444 x 226.

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.

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*



December



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Mon Dec 1	7:30 pm	Rosh Chodesh Gathering	60 Highland Street: Living Room <i>All CDT women are invited (see page 5)</i>
Wed Dec 3	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 4	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 4	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(see page 7)
Fri Dec 5	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Linda Kramer - <i>in memory of Alex Fried's Yahrzeit, 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 Bat Mitzvah of Kelsey Fox	Sanctuary Clean-up: Annie Weiss & David Cash; Set-up: Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Willa & Tom Kuh; Clean-up: Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere, Rachel Greenberg, Howard Lurie (see page 4)
Sat Dec 6	10 am - 12 pm	Gan, Aleph, & Bet Classes meet	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton)
Sat Dec 6	10 am - 11 am	Learners' Minyan	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 3)
Sun Dec 7	4 pm - 6 pm	Family Education	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton)
Sun Dec 7	7 pm	Screening of the documentary "Mixed Blessings"	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary Film and Discussion about Interfaith Marriage, produced by Newton filmmaker and Dorshei Tzedek member Jennifer Kaplan (see page 5)
Mon Dec 8	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> ; 60 Highland Ave: Living Rm
Thu Dec 11	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 11	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(see page 7)
Fri Dec 12	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Elaine Bresnick, Carol Sklar (see page 3)
Sat Dec 13	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Dec 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service New Members Shabbat Frieda Lucia Naumburg Naming	Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Linette Liebling - <i>in memory of Zelda Liebling</i> , Ora Gladstone, Nem Hackett <i>New Members and the Membership Committee will be honored at this service (see page 3)</i>
Sat Dec 13	10 am - 11 am	Learners' Minyan	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 3)
Sat Dec 13	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (see page 3)
Sat Dec 13	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (see page 3)
Sat Dec 13	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (see page 3)
Thu Dec 18	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 18	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(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
Sat Dec 20	10 am - 11 am	Learners' Minyan	60 Highland Street: Library led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel (see page 3)
Sun Dec 21	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Chanukah Party	Set up: Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer, Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barbara Shatkin, Hilary Marcus, Stephen Zisk; Clean up: Carole Slipowitz, Jan Small, Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Misha Dudnik FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton) (see p. 5)
Mon Dec 22		<i>School Vacation Week</i>	(No class Monday, Dec 22 - Sunday, Jan 4)
Sat Dec 27	9:30 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jeff Kichen, Bryn Austin, Sharon Gorberg, David Shumsky, Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off



January



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Jan 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lynda Goldberg & Joseph Bayes, Alan Epstein, Michael Fein
Thu Jan 8	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 8	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(see page 7)
Fri Jan 9	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Amelia Zalcmán, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Jamie Tessler, Janelle Winston (see page 3)
Sat Jan 10	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Rick Glassman, Dan Rome, Marjorie Feld
Sat Jan 10	10 am - 2 pm	Teen Kiddush	60 Highland St.: Library
Sun Jan 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton)
Sun Jan 11	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Thu Jan 15	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 15	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(see page 7)
Fri Jan 16	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx, Valerie Graf & Doron Gan (see page 3)
Sat Jan 17		<i>No class for Lower Grades (MLK weekend)</i>	
Sat Jan 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Martin Luther King Shabbat Morning Service	Jo Ann Share & Rochelle Weichman, Rob Saper, Mark Bronstein, Stephanie Hackett
Thu Jan 22	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(see page 7)
Sat Jan 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Celina Siegel	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Sun Jan 25	3 pm - 5 pm	Family Education	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton):
Thu Jan 29	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 29	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfess	(see page 7)
Sat Jan 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Alison & David Lobron, Lilly Platt - <i>in memory of Jack Platt</i> , Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>
Sat Jan 31	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (see page 3)
Sat Jan 31	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (see page 3)
Sat Jan 31	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (see page 3)

Welcome New Members

We are thrilled to welcome the following new members, who have joined Dorshei Tzedek since July:

From towns that begin with "W": **Barbara Beck**, in Watertown; **Ilana Streit**, in Waltham; and **Polly Crozier and Jessica Keimowitz** and their child, **Hannah**, almost 2, living in Wellesley.

Hailing from diverse areas of Newton: **Diane Becker; Wendy Falchuk and Matthew Sarrett** and their children, **Zachary**, age 7, and **Cailey**, age 4; **Jennifer and David Greenberg** and their children, **Max**, age 5, and **Isadora**, age 1; **Gail Harris and David Reider** and their children, **Livia**, age 8, and **Ben**, age 6; **Robert Sabal** and his children, **Matilda**, age 14, and **Max**, age 12.

From Brookline, **Pamela and Steven Katz** and their children, **Joseph**, age 10, **David**, age 8, and **Elan**, age 6.

And crossing the river to join us, **Muriel Heiberger** from Cambridge and **Janice Cole** from Medford.

From **Corinne Lofchie**, Membership Chair: I would like to thank the members of the Membership Committee for their dedication, openness and creativity. **Amy Dain, Valerie Graf, Lauren Gibbs, Bruce Gore, Jen Levine-Fried, Jen Kaplan, Kristen Petersen.**

Please join us at our **December 13** Shabbat service and kiddush as we honor those who have recently become a part of our community and those who are serving the community as welcomers.

About Our New Members

An enthusiastic welcome to **Janice Cole**! Janice lives in Medford with her two Shetland sheepdogs: Cassie and Reece. She grew up Conservative in Brighton and went to Israel for the first time at 19, staying on an ulpan for 6 months. She has attended various congregations over the years but hadn't settled in any one for a long time. While in Israel recently on a trip with her mother and sister, Janice was deeply moved, realized that she loves this feeling of connection to Judaism, and that she missed being part of an active Jewish community—so she found Dorshei! Janice says she loves the services at Dorshei and the commitment, positive energy and way that Dorshei congregants relate with each other and with her. Janice is a hospice social worker and a creative artist (her media include pottery, stained glass, and photography). She likes to take long walks with her dogs, socialize, go to the movies, eat out and travel. Janice is a returned Peace Corps volunteer (Africa) and a former high school science teacher. She is a doer and looks forward to being active at Dorshei.

We warmly welcome **Rob Sabal** and his children **Matilda** (9th grade) and **Max** (6th grade) to CDT! Rob grew up Sephardic and Conservative in West Texas. He has made his way recently from Salem to Newton Corner and teaches film-making at Emerson College. He and his kids love to—surprise!—go to the MOVIES! They are big cultural consumers and frequent museum-goers.→ Rob found High Holy Day Services very moving and is looking forward to being a regular participant in the congregation. He is thankful for the immediate use of the listserv - which resulted in many lovely email and phone conversations and instantly made him feel connected to the Dorshei Community.

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

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

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

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

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

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