

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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Developing Leadership at Dorshei Tzedek

Paul Hattis, Paul.hattis@rcn.com

As the synagogue's First Vice-President (not the 'first' one to be a VP at Dorshei Tzedek—but the title and role are new with this year's board) Mark Steinberg has asked me to use his writing space this month to fill you in on a new activity that involves eight of us from Dorshei Tzedek: **Rabbi Toba Spitzer**; Education Director **Annette Lawson**; from our Board—President **Mark Steinberg**, Leadership Chair **Esther Kohn**, At Large Board member **Dan Rome**, and myself as First VP; and non-Board members: **Allison Andrews** and **Alex Sugerman-Brozan**.

Under the auspices of CJP, each year, three synagogues from the greater Boston area are invited to participate in a year-long training program offered by the Leadership Development Institute (LDI). The CJP web site describes that the mission of LDI is to: "support professional and volunteer leaders within synagogues to deepen their understanding of leadership and organizational change. Through a series of monthly meetings and two semi-annual retreats, LDI combines individual organization consultation, Harvard Business School case study methodology and Jewish text study and ritual, enabling participants to explore approaches to leadership and change in Jewish communal settings."

At Dorshei, the eight of us are working closely with one of the LDI consultants, Terry Rosenberg (from Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley—an early LDI congregational participant) who has been assigned to be our regular consultant/facilitator in this process.

We first started meeting this past fall to be introduced to the LDI process, talk a bit about our own personal hopes and desires tied to our participation in LDI. These initial meetings were followed by the eight of us attending a 3 day retreat in November to begin our more formal training. At the retreat, through case studies and discussion, we were asked to explore some of the key organizational development issues facing synagogues that have been identified, from life experience over the years by LDI staff and the participating Harvard Business School faculty. The key themes of the retreat that we were asked to think about with respect to organizational development in synagogues were: vision, alignment and motivation for change.

For some synagogues, including potentially our own, these three themes could be explored at the big picture level. For example, we could ask ourselves at Dorshei Tzedek:

1. What is our synagogue's collective vision for itself?
2. How do we align our community members around a collective vision?
3. As needed, what is our motivation to change how we have traditionally done things at our synagogue so as to better align with such a collective vision?

However, these three themes could also be used by us to explore some particular challenges that the Board has already identified for improvement. For example, one of the key areas that the Dorshei Tzedek Board has focused on for improvement in this current year is the desire that individual leadership development practices at Dorshei Tzedek be strengthened. So, using the three retreat themes that we were presented with, we could formulate questions such as:

1. What is our vision for leadership development at Dorshei Tzedek?
2. How do we align ourselves around the structures or systems that we may design to help get us to this new vision of leadership?
3. How do we motivate ourselves to make the necessary changes to help actualize this new vision for leadership?

Where all of this goes remains an open question. As this training process is still at an early stage, the LDI team will not only continue its own educational development but will also work with the Dorshei Tzedek Board to help identify a value-adding level of focus for our efforts. By spring, it is our hope to find the appropriate issue focus for the LDI team to bring back its work to the larger community. Stay tuned!

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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@yahoogroups.com.

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call **Rabbi Spitzer** at 617.965.0330 x2.

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Tess Siegel**. 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 and December:

Michele Arons & Michael Brann, Bryn Austin, Elaine Bresnick, Leah Diskin, Elena Eisman, Jackie & Stan Fleischman, Wendy & Charles Frankston, Matthew Fried, Ora Gladstone, Jeff Goldman, Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith, Sharon Gorberg, Rachel Greenberg, Laurie Gould & Stephen Ansolabehere, Debbie Hemley & Jonathan Weisberg, Nem Hackett, Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa, Jeff Kichen, Linda Kramer, Willa & Tom Kuh, Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Linette Liebling, Howard Lurie, Sivan Nasoff, Kathy Pillsbury, Noam Shore, David Shumsky, Carol Sklar, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller, Annie Weiss & David Cash, and Michael White.

Todah Rabah to **Rachel Greenberg**, and **Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess** for B'nei Mitzvah ushering.

Toda Rabah to **David Lobron**, for organizing our first-ever "Human Rights Shabbat," in honor of the 60th anniversary of the UN's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yasher koach David!

Condolences



To **Bill Weinreb**, and to Lisa Goodman, Caleb, Gabe, and Susannah, on the death of Bill's mother, Phyllis Weinreb. may her memory be for a blessing.

Yarzeit

January 6 marks the eighth yarzeit of CDT member Marty Bresnick, may his memory be for a blessing. We will honor his memory at Shabbat morning services on **January 10**.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Elaine Pollack** on the marriage of her daughter, Lisa Frieda Pollack, to Christopher Martz, on December 7th!

Mazel tov to **Benyamin Meschede-Krasa, Alex Jablon, Risa Paley-Zimble, Juliet Roll, Gabe Adler Cohen, and Kelsey Fox**—and to their families—on becoming bar and bat mitzvah in recent months!

Mazel tov to the **Herzig-Marx family**, on Rachel's engagement to Tal Achituv!

Mazel tov to our rabbinic intern, **Julia Appel**, on her recent engagement to Aaron Wenner!

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. In addition, CDT members' "Jewish Journey" talks are available in the "Members Only" section. 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

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.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Shabbat

Friday, January 16 & Saturday, January 17

Friday evening, January 16, 8 pm: As we begin our celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., please join us for this adult-oriented erev Shabbat service when we welcome Harold Adams of the Committee of Friends and Relatives of Prisoners (CFROP). One of the most serious on-going civil rights issues in America concerns the incredibly high incarceration rate in the African-American community and the ripple effects of incarceration on the community at large. Mr. Adams will discuss the work of CFROP, which helps support family members of prisoners, many of whom live in poverty, as they struggle to stay in touch with their mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters inside prison. Harold himself was incarcerated, and emerged with a determination to help other families survive.



Shabbat morning, January 17, 9:45 am: As we begin the reading of the book of Exodus—the great foundational story of resistance and liberation—our Shabbat morning service will feature music from the Civil Rights movement and readings from Dr. King. Please join us!

Shabbat Shira & Interfaith Mural Viewing

Friday evening, February 6
60 Highland Street

6:15 pm potluck dinner: Please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15 people. Drinks and dessert to be provided.

7 pm service: “Shabbat Shira”—“Shabbat of Song”—takes its name from the Shabbat morning Torah reading, where the Israelites sing their song of freedom as they cross the Reed Sea. For our own Shabbat of Song, Rabbi Toba will be joined by musicians and we will sing and dance our way through the erev Shabbat service. Special event: A group of CDT teens has been working with Muslim and Christian teens to create a wonderful mural that depicts both the connections between, and the uniqueness of each of the three Abrahamic faiths (see page 5). The mural will be unveiled at CDT at this service, and we will host the other communities that participated. Don't miss it!!

Tot Shabbat

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

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

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.

Bat Mitzvah of Celina Bliss Siegel

Please join with us on **January 24** to celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Celina Bliss Siegel. Her parsha is Vayera, and covers some of the Ten Plagues. Celina's past year has been dominated by her Tikkun Olam project – she inspired a group of cyclists to join her, taking part in a 9-11 ride she organized from NYC to Boston to raise awareness and money for widows in Afghanistan. She also wrote letters, was interviewed by the TAB, sold buttons and showed a film to raise donations approaching \$10,000. Celina is an avid reader, writer, and contributor/editor to the school newspaper as a seventh grader at Oak Hill. She swims with the Newton Swim Team, sings with the Newton All-City Chorus, and has been a long-distance cyclist with her dad. We are delighted to share this day with the Dorshei community and hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch following services.—*Steve Siegel and Theresa St. John-Siegel*

Bat Mitzvah of Isabel Cohen Snyder

Please join us on **February 7** when our daughter, **Isabel**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. After brokering Middle East peace, constructing a working Large Hadron Collider, and ending world hunger, Isabel recently declined President-elect Obama's offer to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Instead, while she finishes seventh grade, she will continue: designing the first automobile that actually reverses global warming; authoring her third novel; and preparing to compete in the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London in 2012, endeavoring to break Michael Phelps' record of 8 gold medals in a single Olympics. We would be delighted to share this day with the CDT community, and we hope you will join us for a Kiddush lunch following the service.—*Abby Cohen and Stuart Snyder*

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Gathering



Join us for the first Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh gathering of the year at **7 pm on Monday, January 26**, in the parlor at 60 Highland Street. The month of Sh'vat invites us to begin to emerge from the tough winter months to experience inner renewal. We connect with newness, sustenance, and the environment around us in concert with Tu Bishvat in the middle of the month, the New Year of the Trees. We will celebrate the new moon of Sh'vat in a gathering led by Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel. Using song, speech, and some food meditation, we will explore the kabbalistic meaning of and set intention for the new month. All CDT women are invited.

Annual CDT Tu Bishvat Seder

Save the date: evening of February 8, exact time TBD



Join your CDT adult friends for an inspiring evening of eating, drinking, sharing, and learning for the holiday of Tu Bishvat—the Jewish new year of the trees. On Tu Bishvat, the mystics of the 16th century had a special themed seder, just as we do on Passover. We will be using the format of the mystical Tu Bishvat seder to explore our relationship with food, where it comes from, and how it is produced as part of CDT's "Food Matters" Initiative. We will also be tasting symbolic fruits, vegetables, and nuts and sharing in a vegan potluck. More information to follow! If you'd like to volunteer to help, email Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel at julia.appel@gmail.com.

Food Matters: Study & Action

Lessons from a Class on the Role of Food in Jewish Life

Sarah Hartman and Laurie Goldman

Over the course of our four meetings this past fall, the Food Matters adult education class looked at a broad range of ways that Judaism, food, and social justice intersect. We started by examining Biblical texts and commentary on the source of the food we eat and the origins and purposes behind food blessings. We then moved on to look at agricultural laws about gleaning and *pe'ah* -- leaving the corners of one's field and the leavings of the harvest for anyone in need to gather.

While discussing these texts, we assembled our own list of values that we felt were connected to the equitable producing and eating of food. These included gratitude towards God and the earth as the source of our food; respect and appreciation for those who produce it; humane treatment of the animals we eat and an awareness of the limits of human "ownership" of the land; and appreciation and care of our own bodies as we choose what food to put in them.

Transitioning to the social-justice aspect of the discussion, we examined Talmudic rules about workers' and employers' rights and responsibilities to each other, then looked at a modern analysis of the way migrant farm workers are treated today and what various groups are doing to speak up on their behalf, as well as the larger issue of the "commodification" of food. We ended the last session with

an amazing brainstorm of ideas on how CDT could work to enact some of these values in our communal relationship with food production and consumption. **Please read on to see how you can become involved in putting our values into action!**

Food Matters—from Study to Action

Thursday, January 15, 7:15 – 9 pm
60 Highland Street

Please join Rabbi Toba, Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld, and members of the Food Matters class as we explore next steps in taking action on issues of food justice and sustainability for our congregation. We'll be discussing both congregation-wide projects and school-specific actions.

Food Matters: A Community Learning Day

Sunday, January 25, 3 – 5 pm
First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street

Come join us as we learn why "food matters"—in Jewish tradition, in the world, in our lives! Activities for kids, teens, and adults: Learn about food justice issues and take action; prepare a Jewish dish from locally grown produce; create a Challah cover; study with Rabbi Toba. Special activities for kids pre-K through kindergarten. Don't miss it!!



Tikkun Olam

Project Ezra 2008: A Wonderful Mitzvah!

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts extends its heartfelt gratitude to all of the individuals and congregations who participated in Project Ezra 2008. You should be proud to know that you were part of a community-wide effort of hundreds of Jews throughout Massachusetts who volunteered in shelters, feeding programs, hospitals and nursing homes on Christmas Day. The positive impact of this annual interfaith activity was felt deeply by Jews and Christians alike. We at the Synagogue Council hope this volunteer experience was a meaningful one for you and your synagogue group.

We look forward to working with you again in 2009 for Project Ezra's 23rd year!

Interfaith Mural Project Brings Together Jewish, Christian and Muslim Teens

Local community organizations **Art Builds Community (ABC)** and the **Islamic Society of Boston (ISB)** have received a grant from the Interfaith Youth Corp for a mural project aimed at bringing together teens from Jewish, Christian and Muslim backgrounds in a joint creative project. Since receiving the grant, the groups have been assisted in developing the project by the **Center for Jewish-Muslim Relations (CJMR)**. The mural project has taken shape over the last two years, with a steering committee including representatives from the ABC, ISB, CJMR and members of other local organizations: Anyahlee Suderman from ABC; Aziz Elmadi, originally representing the ISB and now Co-Executive Director of CJMR; Omar Hakkaoui of the **Al Huda Society**; **Stuart Snyder**, a member of **Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**; and Alexander Kern and Matt Carriker, program coordinators for the Interfaith Youth Initiative within **Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM)**.

(Continued on page 6)

Nediv Lev

CH Neurology Foundation, Inc.

In memory of Helen Waber on behalf of the Learning Disabilities Program at Children's Hospital

Sue Fischlowitz & David Roberts

Lauren Gibbs

In appreciation of Joel Reider's flexibility and generosity creating the 5769 Yizkor Scroll

In memory of Shari Zimble

*In honor of Annette Lawson's first semester as Ed Director
In memory of Carol Friedlander Gibbs's 40th yearzeit*

Maria Marolda

To honor the memory of Helen Waber, mother of Deborah Waber, from her friend and colleague

Cindy Rivka Marshall

In honor of Joel Katz from the extended Marshall family, for his generous sharing of medical expertise, time and reassurance during Helene Marshall's illness

Carol & Ross Miller and Fredda Zuckerman & Paul Yager

In honor of Steffi & Eric Karp on their 30th wedding anniversary

Susannah & Steven Zisk

(Mural project, continued from page 5)

Since late October 2008, fifteen teen representatives (5 from each faith group) have been meeting weekly and working on preliminary art projects focusing on the commonalities and differences in their faiths, with particular attention to imagery drawn from each faith. Based on these discussions and projects, these teen representatives will design and produce a mural on several moveable panels (4' x 8' each) which are able to travel. Following its completion in late December, the mural will be temporarily installed in interested mosques, temples or churches until a permanent location is identified. The weekly meetings have been taking place at the **West End House Boys and Girls Club** in Allston.

The Jewish teens on the project are **Zoe Miller, Emma Halwitz, Daniel Kaufman, Ethan Zolit, Charlotte Zolit**, all of CDT, and Emily Shuster, a member of Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley. The CDT adult facilitators are **Stuart Snyder** and **Clifford Goldsmith**.

See page 3 for information about viewing the murals at CDT on Shabbat Shira, Friday evening, February 6.

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. Donations to the fund should be made out to 'Congregation Dorshei Tzedek,' and noted for the fund. All donations to CDT received last year in memory of Jill have been deposited into this fund.

Lenore Marx

In honor of the birth of my great-granddaughter, Frieda Lucia Naumburg

Ruth Kertzer Seidman & Aaron Seidman Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sarah Hartman

In thanks for all the help and encouragement I have received in my journey to joining the Jewish people

Jennifer Kaplan & Susie Tanchel

*In honor of Arleen Kulin, mother of Jennifer Kaplan
In memory of Judi White, mother of Michael White*

Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen

Ilana Streit, Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan
In honor of Sarah Hartman's conversion

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.

Adult Education and Contemplation

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

January 10, February 28, March 21, April 18, May 9

8:45 am – 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?" Current topic: The Samuel Story and the David Story (the biblical books I and II Samuel).

Sandy Goldfless has a Ph.D. 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 am – 9 am, 60 Highland Street

NOTE: No session on 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 *yarzheit*. No meditation experience required! Whether you come once or every week, all are welcome.

Learn to Lead Services

Cindy Rivka Marshall, cmars13@aol.com

Have you ever wanted to help lead Shabbat services, give a D'var Torah or leyn/chant from the Torah? The Ritual committee seeks people who are interested in this kind of lay leadership and participation. Even if you do not know how, or need to refresh your memory, we will arrange for training. Please contact **Cindy Rivka Marshall** cmars13@aol.com for more information.

Mixed Blessing Movie Event Draws a Crowd

Theresa St. John-Siegel, Programming Chair,
tmstjohn@aol.com

The CDT movie event held on Sunday, December 7 was a great success. Over 50 people came to the CDT sanctuary to view the documentary film, *Mixed Blessings*, and to participate in a group discussion lead by the films creator, **Jennifer Kaplan**.

As one member noted, "I thought tonight's event was fantastic! It made me think about some things in really nice ways. It made me feel good about how (we) have chosen to do things, first as a couple, and now as a fuller family. My take home message was the one about how there is loss (I read this as being especially for the person in whose religious heritage the child is not being raised) but how there is also gain. And I feel the gain has really outweighed the loss. Tonight's event was a glowing affirmation of why I am so happy to be part of the Dorshei Tzedek community."

Thanks so much to Jennifer Kaplan for sharing this film with our community and to the CDT members, **Corinne Lofchie** and **Stuart Snyder**, who volunteered to help to pull everything together to make it all happen.

School News

Noshing the Jewish Way: A Course for Teens

CDT Chai School presents "Noshing the Jewish Way: A Course for Teens", on four **Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 pm**, from **January 22 - February 12** at FUSN. What could be more Jewish than food? Explore, with rabbinic intern Julia Appel, Jewish approaches to food and eating-spiritual, practical and ethical. Learn how Judaism's view of food expresses Jewish values. Discover how food connects us to Jewish history. Uncover the mystical meanings of common food rituals and much more. The course is for students in Grades 8-12. To sign up or for more information email Julia at julia.appel@gmail.com.

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.

Rashi Tu B'Shvat Preschool Program

Preschoolers and their parents are invited to celebrate Tu B'Shvat with a Birthday Party for Trees on **Monday, February 9**, at **1:30 pm** at the Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton (park in Jackson Road lot). The free activity is part of the Hoorary for Holidays series sponsored by Rashi's Curious Minds program.

Children will learn about trees and nature in an interactive program led by Rashi kindergarten teachers. The youngsters will enjoy a puppet show and sing songs while they learn about the environment. A craft activity and healthy snack will be included.

Admission is free, but preregistration is required. To register, contact Anne Puchkoff at 617-969-4444 x 226 or apuchkoff@rashi.org.

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*



January



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sat Jan 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lynda Goldberg & Joseph Bayes, Louise Enoch, Rick Glassman
Tue Jan 6	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Jan 8	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 8	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (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, Michael Fein, 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: Head Start Room
Sun Jan 11	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St: Living Room
Mon Jan 12	7:30 pm	Career Workshop For CDT Job Seekers	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Tue Jan 13	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Jan 15	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 15	7 pm - 9 pm	Food Matters: Judaism, Eating, and Economic Justice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Living Room (see page 5)
Thu Jan 15	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (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	Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider, Rob Saper, Mark Bronstein, Stephanie Hackett (see page 3)
Tue Jan 20	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Jan 22	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 22	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Noshing the Jewish Way, a Chai School course	FUSN, 1326 Washington Street (see page 8)
Thu Jan 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (see page 7)
Sat Jan 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Celina Siegel	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Lisa Dee Port-White, Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz (see page 4)
Sun Jan 25	3 pm - 5 pm	Food Matters: A Community Learning Day	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton): (see page 5)
Mon Jan 26	7 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat Gathering	60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 4)
Tue Jan 27	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library



February



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sun Feb 1	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav	FUSN: Head Start Room
Thu Feb 5	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Feb 5	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Noshing the Jewish Way, a Chai School course	FUSN, 1326 Washington Street (see page 8)
Thu Feb 5	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (see page 7)
Fri Feb 6	6:15 pm	Shabbat Shira Service and Potluck Interfaith Mural viewing	Alan Epstein, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Wendy Angus, Debbie Waber (see page 3)
Sat Feb 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Isabel Snyder	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider (see page 4)
Sun Feb 8	7 pm - 9 pm	Tu B'Shvat Seder	Esther Kohn - <i>in memory of Priva Kohn</i> , Vilunya Diskin, Deb Albenberg, Tessa Goldsmith; FUSN (see page 4)
Tue Feb 10	7 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland St.: Living Room
Thu Feb 12	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Feb 12	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Noshing the Jewish Way, a Chai School course	FUSN, 1326 Washington Street (see page 8)
Thu Feb 12	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (see page 7)
Sat Feb 14		<i>School Vacation Week</i>	(No class Saturday, Feb 14 - Sunday, Feb 22)
Sat Feb 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Katz	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Peter Gittleman, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal
Thu Feb 19	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Feb 19	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (see page 7)
Sat Feb 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Haralie Alpert - <i>in honor of Francis Greenberg</i> , Ellen White - <i>in honor of Francis Greenberg</i> , John Holohan, Wendy Gedanken <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>
Tue Feb 24	7 pm - 9 pm	Adult Education Class with Judy Elkin	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Feb 26	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 7)
Thu Feb 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA (see page 7)
Sat Feb 28	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Feb 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Meryl Epstein, Susie Tanchel, Ben Newman & Sarah Hartman
Sat Feb 28	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)

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.



Dorshei Tzedek Retreat Committee's Interview with Rachel Carson

The Dorshei Tzedek Retreat Committee (DTRC) has sought out yet another luminary, known to us all, to get her perspective on the times we're living in from an ecological point of view. Rachel Carson (RC) joins us on the Boston Common for a chat:

DTRC: Thank you so much for taking time from your busy schedule to join us on this lovely spring afternoon. It's not often that we get a chance to interview one of *Time Magazine's* 100 most influential people of the century for the Dorshei Tzedek newsletter.

RC: You're welcome, though I must express some concern over your choice of location. [examining the grass intently] It seems like something has been sprayed here recently—I hope it's not DDT.

DTRC: No, no, I assure you it couldn't be DDT—that's been banned in this country since the 1980s.

RC: Very well then, I'm glad the human race has made some progress since my death. Maybe all that droning on and on really did accomplish something.

DTRC: You yourself said that human beings are but one part of nature, distinguished primarily by our power to alter the natural world. Tell us, how can our small yet environmentally-committed community have a lasting positive impact on the world?

RC: Well, judging by the sad state of the vegetation in this park I'm not sure I know the first thing after all about how to improve the environment. Sometimes I wonder if anyone has even read my books!

DTRC: But surely you're aware of the tremendous influence you've had both before and after your death, inspiring an entire generation of activists. You've even been called the mother of the modern environmental movement!

RC: Oh dear, now that's a problem—who ever listens to their mother?

DTRC: Believe us, Ms. Carson, many people continue to heed your message, even to this day. Do you have any final words you would like to leave us with?

RC: The final message I'd like to leave for humanity, and particularly for the members of Dorshei Tzedek, is—**You must sign up for the retreat!** It's good for you, it's good for the earth, it will make the world a better place for your children and your children's children. Be silent no more! Fill out your forms! Pay your deposit! Spread the word!

Welcome New Members

We are thrilled to welcome the following new members, who have joined Dorshei Tzedek recently.

The Keimowitz-Crozier family writes: "Our family includes **Jessica Keimowitz** (Ima), **Polly Crozier** (Mommy), our daughter, **Hannah Crozier**, and our fish, Morris. We live in Wellesley on the campus of Dana Hall School, where Jess is the director of the upper school. Polly is a family lawyer who works at a small firm in Cambridge that works with a lot of LGBT clients. In our spare time, we focus on spending time with Hannah and exploring—local farms, the Aquarium, libraries, etc. We enjoy history, museums, the outdoors, and good food. When we lived in Brookline, we were members of Temple Israel. We joined CDT this year for a number of reasons. We are looking for a small and close-knit congregation and a synagogue close to our house. We are excited to be a part of a vibrant community like CDT."

The **Akresh-Gonzales** family has been moving west for the past few years, starting out in Boston, stopping in Watertown, and now find themselves in Waltham. **Josette** and **Mike** enjoy CDT's openness, questioning spirit, and sense of community. **Sebastian** is two and a half years old and he enjoys CDT's play-dough and songs at Tot Shabbat. Josette works at Harvard Business Review and Mike is an English teacher at Waltham High School. In their free time, Josette does power yoga and organizes a book club, and Mike plays bass in a band and is finishing up his master's in English Literature. Last spring, Mike joined the CDT softball team (and the word is that he's pretty good). Sebastian loves to sing and read and help his parents cook by washing leaves of all kinds.

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.