

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

Sh'vat/Adar I 5769

February 2009



Reflections on the Inaugural

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... That's one way to describe my Inaugural experience. The day of the Presidential Inaugural was intense and long, beginning with a 7:30 am Metrorail ride downtown from my mother's home right outside the city. The scene down at the National Mall was near insanity. Thousands upon thousands of people waited in lines (well, not really lines, more like clogged streets), and we got consistently inconsistent information about where we were supposed to be to gain access to the standing-room area on the Mall designated by our ticket color. There were hours spent moving inches forward, a few moments of near panic as I thought I was going to get crushed by the crowd, and the moment of truth, at about 10:30 am, when I had to decide whether to keep waiting or cut out while there was still (theoretically) time, and find a restaurant with a TV to watch. I decided to stick it out, and was rewarded with some apparent last-minute decision by the invisible powers-that-be to just give up and let the crowd through. So at 11:30, a few minutes before the ceremony began, I found myself on the Mall just behind the Capitol lawn, unable to see much of anything but reveling in the crowd around me. The "worst of times" actually came after the program itself, involving the difficulty of getting back around to the north side of the Mall and entailing a walk across half the city. Would I do it all again? Probably not. Am I glad I was there? Most definitely.

The reason I cherish my experience at the Inaugural ceremony—despite the cold and the sore feet afterwards, despite the fact that while I could hear everything, I wasn't in eyesight of a Jumbotron and so couldn't watch the proceedings—was the crowd itself. People were feeling so joyful, so inspired, that even in the face of extremely frustrating and difficult conditions, I saw no anger or even impatience. People who had never met and who seemingly had little in common with one another were kind and considerate, with wonderful good humor. Crowds can be dangerous things, but this crowd felt like just the opposite: a shining example of the generosity and goodness inherent in the human heart when it is feeling hopeful, affirmed, and connected.

Watching my own reactions and those of others to this event, I have been wondering what it was, exactly, that touched so many of us so deeply. There is everything that has been written and talked about ad infinitum—the historic and symbolic nature of the occasion, Obama's charisma and star power, the sense of relief that the last 8 years are finally over. But there is some-

thing else that I sense out there, and in myself. It is, perhaps, the power of real leadership, and a yearning within all of us for such leadership.

Of course, no one yet knows whether Barack Obama will be a great president; we'll need to wait a few years for that judgment. But so far, I do feel that Obama has expressed certain qualities of leadership that touch people in a deep way. A good leader speaks to people's potential, to their ability to become more than they are in this moment—rather than speaking to their fears. A good leader seeks to empower others, rather than promising to take care of them. The crowd on the National Mall that day exemplified the results of such leadership: yes, we were there to celebrate our new President, but we were also celebrating one another. Seeing a million American flags waving, I realized, we are celebrating *us*.

There is an interesting commentary on the moment, in the book of Exodus, when Moses complains to God that he is unable to confront Pharaoh because he is a man of "impeded speech." The Hasidic teacher known as the Sefat Emet notes that the real cause of this impediment is not some defect in Moses, but due to the Israelites' inability to listen to him. The Sefat Emet says, "The prophet prophesies by the power of those who listen." This teaching suggests to me that the power of a leader doesn't come from blind obedience from his/her followers; it doesn't come from the ability to mesmerize or from adulation. It comes from the community's ability to listen, to be active partners in the act of prophetic leadership.

As we move into this next four years, we would do well to heed the Sefat Emet's reminder that, as American citizens, we ultimately need to be affirming our own power, our own potential. Ultimately, a leader is nothing without the community that s/he leads—as President Obama will surely learn if he strays too far from the vision and promise of progressive change that he ran on. May we all be active partners to the President in this process of being led, so that we can all move together towards a fulfillment of the hopes and dreams that swirl around him—and us—in these heady days.

Chesed, Food Matters.....	2
Tubishvat Seder, Rosh Chodesh, Retreat	3
B'nei Mitzvah Celebrations, Red Sox, Men's Softball	4
Shabbat Shira, Interfaith Mural, Shabbat Programs	5
Nediv Lev.....	6
Adult Education and Contemplation	7
Ask Lisa Dee.....	8
Calendar.....	9-10
Welcome New Members, Community	11

Chesed

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

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to dtnews@yahoo.com.

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

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Wendy Falchuk and Ami Gordon**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Todah Rabah

Thanks to the many, many people who helped with the preparations for the annual Chanukah Party and the many more who stepped in to assist at the rescheduled party, held on the last night of Chanukah. A wonderful time was had by almost 60 party-goers of all ages!

Among the many, thanks to: **Barbara Pittel**, for her coordinating efforts; **Josette Akresh-Gonzalez and Mike Gonzalez, Allison Andrews, Julia Appel, Nathan Aronow, Sheree Galpert, Amy Goldsmith, Rachel Greenberg, Laura Katz, Eileen Morrison, Rachel Nemeth-Cohen, Elliot Pittel Elizabeth Roll, Barbara Shatkin, Susan Silberberg, Carole Slipowitz, Jan Small, Emily Sper, Ellen White, and Stephen Zisk**.

Todah Rabah to the following people for providing Kiddush or doing B'nei Mitzvah ushering in December and January:

Lynda Goldberg & Joseph Bayes, Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Louise Enoch, Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Rick Glassman, Valerie Graf & Doron Gan, Stephanie Hackett, Lisa Dee Port White, Tracey Rogers & Jane Schwartz, Dan Rome, Rob Saper, Pamela Schoenberg & Joel Reider, Stuart Snyder, Jamie Tessler, Annie Weiss & David Cash, Janelle Winston, Amelia Zalcman

Condolences



To **Bruce Gore**, and to **Stacey, Rachel and David**, on the death of Bruce's mother, Helen Hakim. May her memory be for a blessing.

Yarzheit

On **February 21**, we mark the fourth yartzheit of CDT member Francis Greenberg (whose yartzheit falls on February 25 this year), may his memory be for a blessing. And on **February 28**, we mark the 12th yartzheit of CDT member Marion Weinberg, may her memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To **Jen Levine-Fried, Matt Fried**, and big brother **Jonah**, on the birth of **Ava Lily Levine-Fried!**

To **Matilda Bruckner**, on the publishing of her new book, *Chretien Continued: A Study of the Conte du Graal and its Verse Continuations* (Oxford University Press).

To **Tess Siegel**, on the marriage of her son **Joshua David Yager** to **Sarah Holewinski!**

Tikkun Olam

"Food Matters" Organizing Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 7:30 pm

All CDT members are invited to join us for this discussion of next steps in engaging our community in sustainable and just food practices. Initiatives under exploration include: coordinating CSA (community-supported agriculture) membership among CDT members, and perhaps creating a relationship between Dorshei Tzedek and one local farm; pursuing action that encourages fair trade practices in local stores; and involving interested members in our own gardening/small-scale farming initiative. For more information or with questions, please contact **Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld** at rachelschoenfeld@yahoo.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. 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.

Tu Bishvat Seder: From Blessing to Transformation

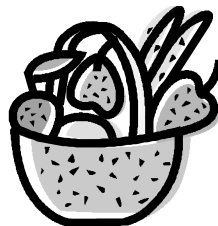
Part of the Food Matters Initiative

With special guest Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

February 8, 7 – 9 pm, First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

Tu Bishvat is a time to celebrate the earth's produce, and to bless the Source of all that we eat—it's the Jewish new year of the trees. Join your CDT adult friends for an inspiring evening of eating, drinking, and learning. Our special guest **Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein** will be speaking about "Creating An Ethical Kashrut for the 21st Century." CDT members, please RSVP to the Evite you should be receiving by email! On Tu Bishvat, the mystics of the 16th century created a special themed seder, just as we do on Passover. In our seder, we explore our relationship with food, where it comes from, and how it is produced as part of CDT's "Food Matters" Initiative. We will taste symbolic fruits, vegetables, and nuts and share in a vegan dessert and snack potluck. If you'd like to volunteer to help, email Rabbinic Intern **Julia Appel** at julia.appel@gmail.com.

Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein is the director of education at the Springfield Jewish Community Center in Springfield, MA. Assistant editor for the High Holy Day Prayerbook published by the Reconstructionist Press, Micah's musical and liturgical leadership have inspired hundreds of Jews to enter the world of Jewish prayer and song throughout North America, Europe, Israel, and even Africa. In addition, Rabbi Micah has also taught on justice and kashrut, Jewish food practice, and reclaiming ritual slaughter. Rabbi Micah is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.



Rosh Chodesh Adar Gathering

*Monday, February 23, 7 - 9 pm
60 Highland Street*



All CDT women are invited to join us for this month's Rosh Chodesh gathering. The month of Adar is joyous and celebratory, containing the holiday of Purim. We will celebrate the new moon of Adar in a gathering led by Rabbinic Intern

Julia Appel. Using song, conversation, and crafts, we will explore the kabbalistic meaning of and set intention for the new month.

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.



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 7th 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*

Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Katz

Please join us on **February 14** as our son, **Jeremy**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Jeremy is the 3rd bar mitzvah in our family (following his siblings Dan and Julianna) and is in the seventh grade at Pollard Middle School in Needham. During his time at CDT he has enjoyed the camaraderie and study with his Religious School Class. For his *tikkun olam* project, he has been specially interested in issues related to food production (sustainable agriculture) and hunger. He has volunteered at Newton Community Farm and Family Table. We hope you will join us for services followed by a Kiddush lunch at Dorshei Tzedek.—*Joel and Laura Katz*

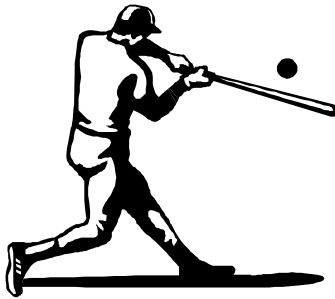
Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team News

February is the month pitchers and catchers report in the major leagues, and it is also the month that our softball team will begin training for the 2009 Men's Synagogue Softball League. The MSSL has almost 30 teams in Greater Boston, and the champion of the league wins the coveted Kiddush Cup. Our "home" games are at Forte Park in the Nonantum section of Newton, only a couple miles from CDT in West Newton.

Anyone can join the team as long as you are a male, a CDT member or a son of a member, and over the age of 25. If you are new to Dorshei Tzedek, like to play softball on Sunday mornings from early April through mid-June, and are interested in joining the team, we welcome new players.

Our preseason workouts will be starting in February. We will be scheduling batting practice sessions at a local batting cage in Watertown on weekend. In March when the weather begins to warm up, we hold outdoor practices at a local softball field in Newton. Coming to preseason practices is a good way to meet the other guys on the team, loosen up your throwing arm, refine your swing, and either catch or chase the ball.

Join the returning veterans of the Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team for our third season. If you're a potential rookie, or want more information, contact **Elliot Pittel** at epittel@comcast.net.



CDT Goes to Fenway!

Sunday, June 7

Announcing the 2nd Annual CDT at Fenway event! **Jeff Goldman** has been able to secure a block of Right Field Box seats for the Red Sox vs. Texas Rangers game on Sunday, June 7, and is offering them for sale to CDT members. Due to the expected high demand, ticket sales will be limited to 2 tickets per family. Tickets are \$50 each, plus \$3 per order for handling (\$103 for 2 tickets). If you are interested, please email **Bruce Miller** at perystop@rcn.com or call at 617.332.2505. The Farmer's Almanac predicts June 7th as sunny, highs in the 70's!

Shabbat Programs

Unless otherwise noted, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton. Shabbat morning services are held weekly, starting at 9:45 am.

Shabbat Shira & Interfaith Mural Viewing

Friday evening, February 6

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 Red Sea. For our own Shabbat of Song, Rabbi Spitzer will be joined by our very own pianist extraordinaire, **Nathan Aronow**, and other musicians, and we will sing and dance our way through the erev Shabbat service. This is an all-ages service, although not geared to very young (under age 6) children. All are welcome!



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. The mural will be unveiled at CDT at this service, and we will host the other communities that participated. Don't miss it!!

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Potluck and Service

February 6: Shabbat Shira (see above)

March 6, April 3, June 5: 6 pm candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service

May 1: Kitah Dalet Siyyum, 6 pm 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.

Tot Shabbat

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

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

February 28, March 14, April 4, May 9, 10:45 – noon

This is an awesomely fun, participatory service for third through sixth graders, (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 kiddush after the service.

On **Shabbat morning, February 28**, we will be formally welcoming into the covenant **Ava Lily Levine-Fried**, daughter of **Matt Fried** and **Jen Levine-Fried**. Please join us!

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn

Mark Farber

In honor of David Farber - Happy Chanukah!

Mark Farber & Sherry Katz

Carla Naumburg & Joshua Herzig-Marx

In honor of Frieda's naming, with thanks to Rabbi Toba for helping us create a meaningful ceremony; with thanks to all of our friends in the CDT community for welcoming Frieda!

Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter,

Frieda Lucia Naumburg

In honor of the engagement of our daughter Rachel to Tal Achituv

In honor of Marvin Brotman's return to health

In honor of Cheryl Sacks' 50th birthday

In memory of Helen Waber

Eleanor, Johnny, Rebecca & Jesse Myers

In loving memory of Helen K. Waber

Kristen Petersen

Port Family Foundation

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

Sharon Sevransky & Jeffrey Goldman

Deborah Waber

In loving memory of my mother, Helen Waber, and in gratitude for the caring and support of CDT with her loss

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.

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Peggy Rose

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

New Class!

Having Conversations that Matter

with Judy Elkin

*Tuesday evenings, February 24 & March 3, 7 - 9 pm
60 Highland Street*

Everyone's story matters....Most parents know the importance of telling children their own story, over and over again, so that they come to know in the tellings who they are and to whom they belong. (Rachel Naomi Remen, Kitchen Table Wisdom)

What's the story in you that needs to be told? Who needs to hear it? What do you hope others will learn or take from your story? In the Middle Ages, people shared their stories, their beliefs, their values, their wisdom in the form of an Ethical Will, intending for their loved ones to read it after they were gone. Today, people have adapted this practice to be the catalyst for having conversations that really matter with their loved ones while they're still very much alive and vibrant. In this two-part workshop we'll use guided conversation, visualization and journal writing to become clearer about the story we have to tell, the difference that story makes in our lives and how to pass it on to those we most love and care about.

Judy Elkin is a long-time Jewish educator and a certified personal and professional coach, working with people interested in maximizing their success, transitioning to a new career, and/or creating more balance in their lives. Judy was most recently the Director of the DeLeT program at the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, and was also the founding director of Ramah Family Camp.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

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!

Meditation in the Morning

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, 60 Highland Street

NOTE: No meetings on February 19 or March 19

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.

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.

Ask Lisa Dee!

Lisa Dee Port White, ldpw@rcn.com

Dear Lisa Dee,

What kinds of questions should we send you? And what if we don't want you to know who is asking the question?

—Very Interested and Curious

Dear Very Interested and Curious,

Thank you for your questions. We thought it would be fun to have an advice column for the newsletter. What harm could I do? You can ask whatever you want and I will do my best to answer them. I can't give medical or financial advice and any other advice I might give should be taken at one's own peril. I will do my best to find out the answers and I will answer them as honestly as I can.

If you have questions that you would like to submit anonymously, it can be anonymous to me, but not completely anonymous — send your question to Marla at the office (office@dorsheitzedek.org) with "ask lisa dee" in the subject heading. She will forward the question to me without any identifying information. Even if I know whom the question is from, I will not use the person's name in the newsletter and I will not bring it up in conversation with the person who sent it, so you don't have to worry about my saying anything to you about it afterwards.

There may be questions that I can't answer and I will consult with Rabbi Spitzer and the newsletter committee as to how to deal with that. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Lisa Dee,

I am going to a Bar Mitzvah for a nephew in Santa Monica, CA with wife and 2 children. What is an appropriate gift?

—Gift Giver

Dear Gift Giver,

I'm not sure your nephew will appreciate my advice. This may shock my dear readers, but I'm a little cranky fusspot when it comes to gifts for bar/bat mitzvahs. Bar and bat mitzvah celebrations have gotten to be such large events—although given the change in the economy, we may see things scale back down (you will see that for sure next Dec. 12 at my younger daughters'....). You are already paying for airfare and accommodations for four people—just your being there is almost enough. But not quite.

My favorite gift is getting the kid a subscription to a magazine that fits in with his/her interests. Sometimes I know something specific s/he is interested in and I try to find something that jibes—tickets to a sporting event, membership to an art museum or zoo). That's easier if you know the kid (if you don't, see if you can snoop out his Facebook page. A lot of kids don't keep their information private so you can see what their hobbies are. If they have it closed to friends only, and your own kids aren't 'friends' with him, send him an email (through Facebook) and if he answers it, you will have access to his profile for a month. (This is not as creepy as it sounds. Well, maybe it is.). If the magazine subscription doesn't zing you, there are always gift cards—to iTunes or a local independent bookstore. It has always been my inclination to give something the kid will like, but nothing extravagant. Specifically, I don't think it is necessary to spend more than \$50 (others, like my children and even some adults, would disagree). Because it's a relative, you might want/feel compelled to spend a little more.

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*



February



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Sun Feb 1	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav	FUSN: Head Start Room
Tue Feb 3	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Feb 5	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 5	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri Feb 6	6:15 pm	Shabbat Shira All-ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck Interfaith Mural Viewing	Alan Epstein, Sue Lanser & Jo Radner, Debbie Waber (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Feb 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Isabel Snyder	Sanctuary Clean-up: Pamela Schoenberg Rei- der & Joel Reider (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sun Feb 8	7 pm - 9 pm	Tubishvat Seder	Esther Kohn - <i>in memory of Priva Kohn</i> , Vilunya Diskin, Deb Albenberg, Tessa Goldsmith; FUSN: upstairs (<i>see page 3</i>)
Tue Feb 10	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library
Tue Feb 10	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Thu Feb 12	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 12	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
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, Jacqui Bloomberg (<i>see page 4</i>)
Tue Feb 17	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Feb 19	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
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> , Elaine Bresnick, Wendy Gedanken <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>
Mon Feb 23	7 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh Gathering	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 3</i>)
Tue Feb 24	7 pm - 9 pm	Having Conversations that Matter with Judy Elkin	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Tue Feb 24	7 pm - 9 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class with Benjamin Weiner	60 Highland Street: Living Room <i>Note different meeting room location</i>
Thu Feb 26	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Sat Feb 28	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
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 (<i>see page 5</i>)



March



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue Mar 3	7 pm - 9 pm	Having Conversations that Matter with Judy Elkin	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Mar 5	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Mar 5	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri Mar 6	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Susan Bernstein, Hope Kellman, Peter Shapiro, Bonnie Tenneriello (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Mar 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Barbara Shatkin & Andy Littman, Amy Dain, Lynda Goldberg & Joseph Bayes
Sat Mar 7	10 am - 2 pm	Teen Kiddush	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon Mar 9	7 pm - 9 pm	Purim Party	<i>Set up:</i> Jan Gortler-Small, Idit Klein, Allyson Cherkasky, James Kaplan, Ilana Mainelli <i>Clean up:</i> Nancy Kimelman, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Ruth Paris, Elaine Landes, Lisa Chedekel; at FUSN
Wed Mar 11	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Thu Mar 12	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Mar 12	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri Mar 13	9 pm - 9 am	Kitot Hay & Vav Shul-In	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Room 111 Sleepover for Kitah Hay and Kitah Vav students. Breakfast in the morning.
Sat Mar 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Weinreb	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Wendy & Charles Frankston
Sat Mar 14	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Mar 14	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (<i>see page XXX</i>)
Sat Mar 14	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu Mar 19	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri Mar 20	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Mei See Sandson, Elizabeth Ross & Caren Smith, Linda Katz (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Mar 21	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Mar 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Li Breite	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal; <i>Set-Up:</i> Susan Silberberg & Thom Robinson, Bob Warren & Meg Wilcox, Alison & Ezra Hausman; <i>Clean-up:</i> Karen & Jeff Arnold, Peggy Rose, Howard Lurie, Laurie Gould & Steve Ansolabehere
Sun Mar 22	7 pm - 9 pm	Members' Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Jeff Sacks, Lisa Schneier, Cliff Cohen, Ellen Pashall; 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Wed Mar 25	7 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh Gathering	60 Highland Street: Living Room
Thu Mar 26	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Mar 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Sat Mar 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Hilary Marcus & Jonathan Magaziner, Michael Gonzales, Rochelle Hahn & Kenny Breuer <i>Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</i>
Sun Mar 29	3 pm - 5 pm	Family Education	FUSN (First Unitarian Society of Newton)

Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our community:

Barbara Beck lives in an old farmhouse in Watertown with her husband, Robert Bahn, and their geriatric, but very spry and handsome cat, Elvis. They have two adult children in Brooklyn, New York. Barbara works as a toxicologist at an environmental consulting company. For fun, she has recently discovered the joys of pickling! Barbara has a varied religious background, but the more she reads about Reconstructionism, the more she finds it an expression of Judaism with which she is very comfortable. Barbara has found CDT members a friendly and varied group.

Muriel Heiberger joined Dorshei Tzedek in search of a place to call her own during the High Holydays. Several women from her Jewish Women's Book Group are members of CDT, and their deep appreciation of CDT inspired her to join. Immigrant rights have been a long-time commitment of Muriel's. First working at the International Institute of Boston, and then founding a state-wide immigrant rights advocacy coalition called MIRA (Mass. Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition) where she served as Executive Director for 13 years. She worked with other immigrant groups to make changes in state and federal policies to benefit immigrants. For the past six years, Muriel has been a consultant for the Hadassah Leadership Academy, a national project of Hadassah – where she guides women in areas of Jewish values, leadership skills and Israel/Zionism curriculum. She is also involved in Daughters of Abraham – a Jewish, Christian and Muslim book group - and has been a loyal filmgoer at the Boston Jewish Film Festival since its inception twenty years ago.. She is married to Michael Raysson and lives in Cambridge.

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.

The **Katz** family, **Steven, Pam, Joseph** (10), **David** (8), and **Elan** (6), lives in Brookline. Steven is a patent attorney and Pam also has a legal background, but has most enjoyed over the years her work at the intersection of the prison system and the welfare system for women in New York City. The Katzes love to go hiking and camping - anything to do with the outdoors! Steve and Pam were looking for a couple of years for a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community, Shabbat services that feel Conservative and progressive at the same time, and a religious school that is engaging and alive. They found CDT "warm and welcoming - and to have a guitar-playing rabbi was icing on the cake!" They then met CDT Ed Director Annette Lawson and joined on the spot. They were particularly struck by "the participatory nature of the congregation, the synergy between the leadership and the congregation" and the fact that CDT and Rabbi Toba are so engaged with the world outside of the congregation. The Katzes look forward to becoming integrated and active members of CDT, and we look forward to that as well!

Gateways Jewish Holiday Playgroup for Toddlers and Preschoolers with Special Needs

*Sunday Mornings, 11 am -12 pm
Classes held at Solomon Schechter Day School
60 Stein Circle, Newton (lower school)*

Introduce young children with special needs to Shabbat and Jewish holidays through music, movement, crafts, and multisensory activities. Students include children with developmental delays, autism spectrum disorders, hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, visual impairment and genetic disorders.

A monthly program designed especially for 2, 3, and 4 year olds with disabilities and their parents.

February 1: Sharing Shabbat

March 8: Purim Party

March 29: Passover Playtime

May 3: Israel Investigation

\$10 per session per family; sign up for one or for all sessions. For more information, contact Nancy at 617.630.9010, ext. 4 or nancym@jgateways.org

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.