Carrying Our Community:
Torah of Chesed at Dorshei Tzedek

Amy Mazur, acmazur@comcast.net

“A community is too heavy for anyone to carry alone.”—The Midrash

Over the past year and a half, Dorshei Tzedek has been engaged in an effort to think more deeply about what means to be a caring community. A group of committed CDT members has been meeting, exploring caring community practices of other faith-based communities, examining texts, facilitating one-on-one conversations with members, and working to uncover how we have been feeling about our community and how we get (or do not get) what we need from each other. On Sunday, March 22 at 5:30 pm, we will come together for our Members’ Meeting (see page 2) and let you know what we have heard, and how we want to move forward with the information we have gathered.

Some of the information we have gathered is not a surprise; there are areas where we are doing pretty well, and areas where we could do better. We did not undertake this initiative to run better programs, nor have more people volunteer to deliver more meals (although all of that is nice). We came together to ask deeper questions about how we transform Chesed from doing to being: how we look at CDT as a place to practice a kind of counter-cultural shift of bringing our whole selves into community and experiencing that as a welcomed and affirmed practice.

Themes emerged in our community story gathering, and we hope to use these themes as the next step in the work we have to do as a caring community. On the evening of March 22, we will ask members to select a theme that resonates for them and gather with others to discuss putting ideas into action. All of the groups will be facilitated by members of the Chesed Core Team who have been involved with this work for many months.

Themes that emerged and that will be discussed are:

How do we “Give & Take” in community? What mechanisms can be set up to facilitate this? Time banks, bartering, CDT resource directories, networking groups and exploring the Caring Communities Resource Network will be among the topics discussed.

How do we better celebrate the uniqueness and special qualities of each of our children? How do we integrate all of our children into our community, no matter what their level of involvement? Parenting issues and support groups will be among the topics discussed.

How do we handle Death & Mourning in our community? How to better organize support for members in mourning, and ideas for engaging in community education for those who may not be knowledgeable about, or comfortable with, traditional Jewish mourning practices (How do I speak? How do I respond? How can I best be present for others?) will be among the topics discussed.

How do we break silences, bringing our whole selves into community, knowing that a broken part is as holy as a whole part? In this group, we will discuss ways that we can overcome some of the silences that we bring the broken places in our lives, in order to better be able to support one another around life cycle issues including divorce, mental illness, job loss, and other topics that are not easily spoken about in our surrounding culture.

We are not ignoring the overlay of a very difficult and stressful economic climate that creates a context about which we are constantly reminded. We all face it to some degree in our lives, and it shapes the way we frame any and all of the themes described above. This will also be addressed at the Members’ Meeting.

Not all the themes that emerged in our work will be addressed at the Members’ Meeting, and the issues we discuss are not meant to be solved on March 22. But we are bringing the work that has been going on back out to the community so that through ritual, learning, and each other’s stories, we can act on these important community responsibilities.

Because we are an intentional community and we believe that we are all in this together, we look forward to seeing you on Sunday evening, March 22 to continue the ongoing work of mindfully transforming Chesed at CDT.

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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@dorsheitzedek.org.

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, refulah sh’lemah, to Karen Engels and Wendy Falchuk. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Tedoh Rabah


Condolences

To Barbara Shatkin, and to Andy, Aaron and Annalise, on the death of Barbara’s mother, Toby Shatkin. May her memory be for a blessing.

To Andrew Sofer, and to Bonnie and Julian, on the death of Andrew’s brother, Paul Sofer. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Susan Manheim, and to Andrew, Jack, and Hannah, on the death of Susan’s father, Charles Manheim. May his memory be for a blessing.

To Peter Demuth, and to Linette, Zach and Jolie, on the death of Peter’s father, Robert Demuth. May his memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To Jennifer Kaplan and Susie Tanchel, on the birth of Jordana Rachel!

To Isaac Kellman Carlen, on completing his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College last month. He studied film, more specifically, cinematography. Isaac hopes to stay in New York to pursue his dreams. Isaac’s other claim to fame was the first combined Bar Mitzvah service along with Shir Hadash!

To Julia Sklar, on being named Managing Editor of Denebola, the official school newspaper of Newton South High School. Julia worked for three years to get to this point!

To Tess Siegel’s daughter Abigail Ruth Yager and her husband Ming-Lung Yang, the proud parents of Mimu Raizel. They are still working on an English first name but they have Rose down pat for a middle name.
**Purim**

**Monday evening, March 9, 7 pm – 9 pm**
**First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington St, West Newton**

Come one, come all, to our annual Purim bash featuring Rav Tiffany and Purim davvening, megillah reading, lots of hamentaschen, costume parade and prizes, and featuring the best Purim spiel ever! Rav Tiffany says: “We want to see everybody in costume this year! Special prizes for grown-ups in costume, don’t be left out!”

*Mishloach manot*— it’s a Purim tradition to give gifts of food and sweets to other members of the community. Bring your dish of *mishloach manot* (can include dried fruit, cookies, hamentaschen, etc.) to the Purim celebration, and you can take another home! Bring a grogger, a friend or two, a little alcohol if you want, and your sense of humor— be happy, it’s Purim!

*7:00 pm: Purim Davvening with Rav Tiffany*

*7:20 pm: Costume Parade – special prizes for kids and adults, so dress up!!*

*7:30 pm: Megillah Reading & Special Program for young children*

*8:00 pm: The Spiel!!*

*8:30 pm: Dancing, dancing, dancing!!*

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**Food Matters!**

*Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld, Food Matters Coordinator*

On the afternoon of January 25, about 75 Dorshei Tzedek members gathered to teach and learn together that Food Matters!

We learned about many aspects of food, sustainability, and justice, including food distribution and fair trade, and then broke up into groups to cook, plant, study text, learn about fair trade, and do art, while learning how Food Matters. It was an engaging day for young and old alike.

Theo Tessler Shapiro of Kitah Dalet wrote about the day: “We learned about local food and how it is bad to ship food across countries and seas. When food is shipped across oceans it uses up a lot of energy such as gas and oil. Very often they use preservatives. In our GREAT class we made blintzes with homemade cheese fillings and apples mixed with maple syrup and cinnamon. Most of the ingredients were from local farms in Massachusetts. The blintzes were easy to make and very delicious. I LOVE cooking with Dorshei Tzedek!!”

Hannah Steinberg, of Kitah Aleph, raved about blintz making too: “I thought making blintzes was amazing. I thought they were too sweet so I only took one bite. I hope the other people had fun at their stations too. I was watching my teacher Amy make the blintzes. It was amazing. I didn’t want to get burned so I stayed back. Elia, my brother, was roasting coffee with Stan.”

Amalia from Gan exclaimed about the planting workshop: “At Food Matters my Mami and I went to a planting workshop. First we sat down and Sherri told us stories and we talked about food. Like where food comes from and what were our favorite foods. After that we sat at a table and painted pots. We painted with brushes and we had stamps made out of potatoes! I knew some of the friends there, but some people I was just meeting. After we painted the pots we filled them with dirt and we planted seeds. We planted basil and cilantro. It was really fun and I hope we can do it again.”

Lily Fisher Gomberg of Kitah Hey wrote about Challah Cover Making: “I had lots of fun making a challah cover at the Food Matters program. We used materials that were familiar to us (crayons) to make something spectacular! I also liked the story that they, the leaders, read. I enjoyed this very much.”

A huge thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this event so wonderful!

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**Let All Who are Hungry Come & Eat: Food Matters Learning and Action Day**

**Sunday, March 29, 2 - 4:30 pm**
**First Unitarian Society**

During the Passover seder, we proclaim, “Let all who are hungry, come and eat!” How might we connect the teachings of Pesach to our commitments to food sustainability and justice? Join students from the CDT religious school as well as adults involved in the Food Matters Initiative for an afternoon of learning about all the ways that “food matters”—from fair trade to baking matzah, from supporting a local Jewish food bank to connecting to local farmers. Both kids and adults will learn about different ways we can take action to support sustainable eating practices and just food policies, as well as teachings and activities that we can bring to our Pesach seders. For more information or to help out, please contact Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld at rachelschoenfeld@yahoo.com.
Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Weinreb

Please join us on March 14 as our son, Gabriel, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. After dropping out of Hebrew School at Dorshei Tzedek in third grade on the grounds that "no one can make me be Jewish if I don't want to be," Gabriel dabbled in Buddhism, Wicca, and other fascinating pursuits before enrolling at the Rashi School (!) and wholeheartedly re-embracing Judaism – only now on his own terms. We hope you join us for services (and a sigh of relief), followed by a Kiddush lunch at Dorshei Tzedek.—Bill Weinreb and Lisa Goodman

Bat Mitzvah of Li Yosifon Breite

Please join us on March 21 as Li Yosifon Breite is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Li is in the 7th grade at the Jewish Community Day School in Watertown. She loves singing, reading, doing puzzles, chanting Torah and horseback riding. For Li's tikun olam project, she has been volunteering at the Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Holyoke, MA. We would love to have members of the CDT community celebrate with us by joining us for services and a kiddush lunch.—Thea Breite and Susan Moser, Shlomit Yosifon and Aileen Journey

Ask Lisa Dee!

Lisa Dee Port White, ldpw@rcn.com

Go ahead, ask a question! 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 (administrator@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.

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 perrystop@rcn.com or call at 617.332.2505. The Farmer’s Almanac predicts June 7 as sunny, highs in the 70’s!

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.
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.

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Potluck and Service
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
March 14, Apr 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.

Adult Erev Shabbat services
March 20 and April 10, 8 pm
Join us for a musical, contemplative service to welcome Shabbat!

Shabbat morning, March 7
Join us as our CDT teens help lead parts of the service, and as we celebrate the aufruf and upcoming wedding of Rachel Herzig-Marx and Tal Achituv. Special Kiddush lunch following services!

Rosh Chodesh Nisan Gathering
Corrected: Wednesday, March 25, 7 - 9 pm
60 Highland Street: in the parlor
The month of Nisan celebrates personal and communal freedom, containing the holiday of Passover. In Nisan, we leave behind our narrow places and step into new beginnings. We will celebrate the new moon of Nissan 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. All CDT women are invited.

Tikkun Olam

Combatants for Peace Speaking Tour
Saturday, March 14, 7:30 pm, 60 Highland Street
(co-sponsored with Workmen’s Circle)
Combatants for Peace is an organization of over 500 former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian fighters who have renounced violence and joined together to work for a peaceful and just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On March 14, we are hosting two leaders of this organization, Yaniv Reshef and Bassam Aramin. Yaniv lives near the Gaza border, in an area that has endured multiple missile attacks, and served in Lebanon and the Occupied Territories from 1991-1998. He now works with former Palestinian and Israeli combatants in the southern Israel/Hebron area. Bassam is a former member of Fatah who served a 7-year prison sentence for helping to plan an armed attack against Israeli soldiers. His transformation began in jail, as he met Israelis and learned of Jewish history. He is a founder of Combatants for Peace, and heads the Al Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue in Jerusalem.
Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn
Janet, Mark, Miriam & Abigail Fagan
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Isabel Snyder
Mark Farber & Sherry Katz
Rachel Greenberg
Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh
Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg
In honor of Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Dan Halbert & Carole Slipowitz, Elizabeth & David Roll, Stuart Snyder, Wendy Falchuk & Matt Sarrett, and Cindy & Dan Rome
Linda & Peter Katz
Esther Kohn
Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore
In honor of Ava Fried, daughter of Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Fried
Amy Mazur
In honor of Isabel Cohen's Bat Mitzvah
In honor of Jeremy Katz's Bar Mitzvah
Benjamin Newman
Kristen Petersen
Elaine Pollack
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Celina Siegel
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Isabel Snyder
In celebration of a new grandson for
Wendy Gedanken & Joa Branco
In memory of Debbie Waber's mother, Helen Waber
In memory of Michael White's mother, Judi Sohn White
Cheryl & Jeff Sacks
In memory of Barbara Shatkin's mother, Toby Shatkin
Elizabeth Samelson & Paul Hattis
In honor of Marc Steinberg and his Committed Service as Synagogue President

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Celina Siegel
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Isabel Snyder
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Katz
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Weinreb
In honor of Linette Liebling's birthday - with gratitude for her contributions to the Dorshei Tzedek community - past & present
Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome
Tess & Eli Siegel
In honor of the birth of their first grandchild, Sasha Rose

Southways Foundation / Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury
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 yarzheit 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

Bruce, Stacey, Rachel & David Gore
In loving memory of Helen Hakim
Elaine Pollack
In honor of Sarah Hartman's conversion
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 Classes!

Experiencing the Spiritual Freedom of Passover
With Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel
Tuesday, March 31, 7 - 8:30 pm
60 Highland Street, room TBA

Get ready for Passover with other CDT members! Take a break from your cooking and leafing through haggadahs to focus on the spirituality of the holiday. Join CDT Rabbinic Intern Julia Appel for study and discussion around the themes of Passover. We will ask, how can we make Passover more personally meaningful this year? How might we experience Passover as a new beginning of freedom for ourselves? What do the Chassidic masters have to tell us about the mystical meaning of Passover? Contact Julia with any questions at julia.appel@gmail.com.

Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot and the Qualities of our Lives
With Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Wednesday evenings, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27
7:15 - 9 pm, 60 Highland Street

The 7 weeks between Passover (the Exodus from slavery) and the holiday of Shavuot (the time of receiving Torah) is understood in the Jewish mystical tradition as a time of preparation, in order to receive the particular teaching that each of us needs to hear this year. **One way to do that preparatory work is a focus on the middot, the qualities—like patience, generosity, order, humility, enthusiasm—that we want to cultivate in our lives.** Over these seven sessions, we will explore traditional and contemporary teachings about these qualities, and choose middot to work on that present the greatest challenges in our lives. No previous experience necessary, but those who have done this work before are welcome to join! **Please bring with you to the class a copy of Alan Morinis' book, Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar** (and if you order through Amazon, be sure to access it via the CDT website!)

Meditation in the Morning
with Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, 60 Highland Street
No meetings on March 19 or April 9 (Pesach)

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 Kadish, for anyone in mourning or observing a yarzheit. No meditation experience required! Whether you come once or every week, all are welcome.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study
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!

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.
**Birkat HaChammah: Blessing of the Sun**

*Don’t miss this once-every-28-years event!*

April 8, 6 am  
(the sunrise is at 6:15 am so don’t be late or you’ll miss it!)  
Location: To be announced (most likely Lars Anderson Park in Brookline or Millennium Park in West Roxbury)

Judaism is a religion of cycles in time -- from to daily (blessings at different times of the day) to weekly (Shabbat) to monthly (Rosh Chodesh) to annually (High Holidays, etc). There is one cyclical event in Jewish tradition that most modern Jews have never heard of: Birkat HaChammah. The Talmud teaches (in tractate Berachot 59b) that every 28 years, the Sun returns to the position it was in when the world was created, and calls upon us to celebrate and mark this moment. Dorshei Tzedek will be participating in a sunrise service on the morning of Wednesday April 8, along with members of Nehar Shalom and Temple Hillel Bnai Torah.

While as Reconstructionists, most of us probably do not subscribe to a literal belief in Bereshit’s account of creation, the ritual of Birkat HaChammah can be a deeply meaningful one for us. Given its infrequency, most of us will witness two, or at most three, of this once-in-every-28-years event in our lifetimes. The event gives us a unique opportunity to reflect on the physical forces and processes that make all life possible, and the spiritual meaning inherent therein.

This year, Birkat HaChammah also happens to fall on morning before the first night of Pesach. This confluence of events, while coincidental, gives a chance to connect Passover’s themes of freedom and of resistance to oppression to this solar “anniversary.”

A coalition of organizations, including the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, the Jewish Reconstruction Federation and other groups are calling up the Jewish community to use the occasion of Birkat HaChammah to highlight the need to develop Solar Energy technologies. Given the unique political moment we are living in, the prospects for government policy and technological innovation making Solar Power a real and affordable source of energy have probably never been greater. The participation of Jewish and other faith communities in the movement for sustainable, clean sources of power is critical. Birkat HaChammah offers us an opportunity to jumpstart and rededicate our community’s involvement in this issue.

Commemorating Birkat HaChammah as the anniversary of the moment the world was created gives us a unique chance to reflect on the amazing web of life and creation around us. There is a sense of wonder in the New. We see the Sun every day (well, not in the past few months here in New England – but we awake each day because the Sun makes life on Earth possible), but seldom do we see it or think much about it. By looking at the sunrise through the lens of when it was new (or “created”), we get an opportunity to reflect for a moment on how we would look at it, and appreciate it, if we were seeing it for the first time.

So we invite you to join us, bright and early, on the morning of Wednesday, April 8, to attend a special sunrise service at which we will recite the blessing used on Birkat HaChammah. More details will be posted on the CDT Email List and website as the date approaches. For questions or ideas, please email Alex at sugerbroz@hotmail.com. To learn more about Birkat HaChammah, visit www.blessthesun.org

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**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 cleanup, can find their names listed on B’nei Mitzvah dates only. Thanks for your help!—Marla Lichtman, Administrator
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Mar 12</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Mar 12</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Mar 13</td>
<td>9 pm - 9 am</td>
<td>Kitot Hay &amp; Vav Shul-In</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 14</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Sanctuary Clean-up: Wendy &amp; Charles Frankston, 60 Highland Street (service), FUSN (kiddush celebration) (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 14</td>
<td>10:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Weinreb</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111, Led by Elana Rome (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 14</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Junior Congregation</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 14</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 109 (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 14</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Combatants for Peace</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Mar 19</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Mar 20</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Adult Erev Shabbat Service</td>
<td>Mei See Sandson, Elizabeth Ross &amp; Caren Smith, Linda Katz (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 21</td>
<td>8:45 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 21</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Sanctuary Clean-up: Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Ora Grodsky &amp; Jonathan Rosenthal; Set-Up: Susan Silberberg &amp; Thom Robinson, Bob Warren &amp; Meg Wilcox, Alison &amp; Ezra Hausman; Clean-up: Karen &amp; Jeff Arnold, Peggy Rose, Howard Lurie, Laurie Gould &amp; Steve Ansolabehere (see page 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 21</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Bat Mitzvah of Li Breite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Mar 22</td>
<td>5:30 pm - 8:15 pm</td>
<td>Members’ Meeting (dinner included)</td>
<td>Jeff Sacks, Lisa Schneier, Cliff Cohen, Ellen Pashall (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Mar 25</td>
<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Gathering</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Living Room (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Mar 26</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Mar 26</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Mar 28</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>Hilary Marcus &amp; Jonathan Magaziner, Michael Gonzales, Rochelle Hahn &amp; Kenny Breuer; Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Mar 29</td>
<td>2 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Let All Who are Hungry Come &amp; Eat: Food Matters Learning and Action Day</td>
<td>FUSN (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See calendar notes on page 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Kiddush, Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 2</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 2</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Apr 3</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck</strong></td>
<td>Linda Kramer, Andrew Sofer, Karen Wasserman, Tania Mireles (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 4</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Bar Mitzvah of Jack Lewis</strong></td>
<td>Sanctuary clean-up: Amy Brodeskys &amp; Rex Flynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 4</td>
<td>10:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Junior Congregation</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 111, Led by Elana Rome (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Apr 5</td>
<td>4:30 pm - 7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>CDT Auction &amp; Community Event</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Fellowship Hall (see page 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Apr 5</td>
<td>2 pm - 4 pm</td>
<td><strong>Kitah Vav Family Ed</strong></td>
<td>Note change in location to 60 Highland Street: Room 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 8</td>
<td>6 am</td>
<td><strong>Birkat HaHammah Sunrise Celebration</strong></td>
<td>(see page 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 9</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No class (Passover begins)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Apr 10</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td><strong>Adult Erev Shabbat Service</strong></td>
<td>Jeff Goldman, Liz Reisberg, Linette Liebling, Tim Rosa (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 11</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Kitah Vav Siyyum</strong></td>
<td>Ayala Galton Bassett, David Felson, Andrew Schiff, John Holohan, Pesadich Kiddush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 11</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Tot Shabbat</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 11</td>
<td>10:45 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Room 109, (see page 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 15</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td><strong>7th day of Passover Service</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 15</td>
<td>7:15 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot &amp; The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 16</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No class (End of Passover)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 16</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Members-Only Event&lt;br&gt; 60 Highland Street: Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 18</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>School Vacation Week</strong></td>
<td>No class Saturday, April 18 - Sunday, April 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 18</td>
<td>8:45 am - 9:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 18</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>B'not Mitzvah of Sophie &amp; Roz Aronow</strong></td>
<td>Sanctuary clean-up: Linda Schiller &amp; Steve Robins; Set-up: Barry Inger, Alissa &amp; Gerry Leonard, Nancy Gertz, Michael Cohen, Lisa Dee Port White; Clean-up: Janet Boguslaw &amp; Howie Kaufman, Tatjana Meschede &amp; Dan Krasa, Tracey Rogers &amp; Jane Schwartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 22</td>
<td>7:15 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot &amp; The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 23</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Rosh Chodesh Gathering</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Apr 25</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Shabbat Morning Service</strong></td>
<td>Ellen Hemley, Becca Gutman, Jennifer Hochschild, Jacqui Fleischman; Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 29</td>
<td>7:15 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td><strong>Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot &amp; The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 30</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</strong></td>
<td>60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Apr 30</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome New Members

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

Sarah Hartman has been a member for a little while now, but figures she should probably actually introduce herself in the newsletter one of these days. She grew up in Rockville, MD, graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2006, and now lives in Waltham with Ben Newman while working in the main library at Brandeis and getting her master’s in library science at Simmons. In the remaining time not spent sleeping, Sarah enjoys fiber arts, cooking, environmental activism, and music. She got involved with CDT through Ben, and something seems to have stuck as she became officially Jewish this past December.

Chagit Steiner and Tom Brown live in Newton Highlands with their friendly black lab Clyde, their cats Spackle and Wendell, and their overweight fish Pete and George. Chagit is a veterinarian and works at a small animal clinic. Tom is a patent lawyer in Boston, and also does pro bono work in the Lynn housing court. In their spare time, Chagit and Tom enjoy outdoor activities including hiking, bike riding, jogging and walking Clyde. They also love to cook and travel, and are looking for good ideas for their next vacation. They recently took their first family road trip vacation with Clyde to Nova Scotia. They have been very impressed by the open, diverse, and welcoming community at Dorshei Tzedek, and are looking forward to participating in the many exciting activities the congregation has to offer.

Rashi Preschool Program: “Hooray for Purim”

Friday, March 6, 1:15 pm
Rashi School, 15 Walnut Park, Newton (park in Jackson Road lot)

“Hooray for Purim” will be the focus of the next Curious Minds preschool program. Preschoolers ages 3-5 and their parents are invited to this free activity. Children will learn about Purim and make a noisy grogger with Erica Smiley, Rashi’s art teacher, and will enjoy creative movement activities with Nathaniel Cutter, Rashi’s physical education teacher. A craft project and healthy snack will be included.

At 2:15 pm attendees are invited to attend Rashi’s Kabbalat Shabbat, welcoming the Sabbath with song and prayer. Admission is free, but preregistration is required. To register, contact Anne Puchkoff at 617-969-4444 x 226 or apuchkoff@rashi.org.

Synagogue Council Annual Meeting

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts invites members of our congregation to attend its upcoming Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 14 at Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland. The evening—which includes a gala dessert buffet, Installation of Officers and silent auction—will be a wonderful gathering that supports the ground-breaking work of the Synagogue Council and recognizes the accomplishments of some outstanding individuals.

Lauren and Bill Gabovitch will be honored with the Synagogue Council’s K’lal Yisrael Award. Presented to individuals who exemplify the spirit of K’lal Yisrael and help strengthen our Jewish Community, this award promotes an appreciation for religious diversity. SCM will be presenting the Founders Award to Dr. Jesse Hefter, immediate past president of the Synagogue Council and teacher of Daf Yomi, SCM’s early morning Talmud class. Also that evening will be a presentation of the Community Service Award to Marjorie Berkowitz, Director of Prozdor at Hebrew College. The Community Service Award recognizes outstanding leadership in strengthening our Jewish community, supporting Jewish education, and enhancing relations across the spectrum of Jewish belief and practice.

In addition, the Synagogue Council will be honoring Anita Zetlan Redner for her service as president of the Synagogue Council, and honoring Richard Shulman, its incoming president.

For further information, please visit www.synagoguecouncil.org or call 617-244-6506.

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.

This monthly program is designed especially for 2, 3, and 4 year olds with disabilities and their parents. Remaining sessions:

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
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.