

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Reaching Out, Reaching In: To New Orleans and Back

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

As many of you have probably heard by now, we had a wonderful, first-ever Dorshei Tzedek service-learning trip this past February to New Orleans (NOLA). Fourteen CDT members—adults, teens, and young adults—joined 15 members of Temple Hillel Bnai Torah for an intense week of work and of learning. We were hosted by Trinity Christian Community (TCC), a community-based service group that before Hurricane Katrina focused on providing programs for children and youth in the low-income neighborhood of Hollygrove. Since Katrina, TCC (www.trinitychristiancommunity.org) has also been helping with rebuilding the neighborhood, as well as overseeing over 100 AmeriCorps volunteers placed around the city. While their evangelical Christianity differs from our religious approach, their deep faith and commitment to the work they do is both moving and inspiring.

We lived in simple and cozy quarters, sleeping on bunk-beds in three rooms and making our own meals. Every day, we divided into 4 work groups: building a two-story garage/shed at TCC to house tools and equipment; insulating and putting up drywall at a house that had been gutted after the storm; painting a newly-built house for the pastor who holds services at TCC, and surveying the Hollygrove neighborhood to produce a census of the housing stock. Some of us chose the same task every day; others decided to try a bit of everything. (To get a fuller sense of the work and the overall experience, I encourage you to visit the group's blog at <http://reconnola.blogspot.com>.)

In addition to our daily work, we also had the opportunity to meet with others who have come to New Orleans to participate in the rebuilding, and to meet local folks and hear their perspectives. We heard and saw the good and the bad: on the one hand, the stories of unscrupulous contractors who disappear with residents' money; the frustrations of waiting for federal grants for rebuilding through the Road Home program; the corruption and incompetence that has characterized the response at all levels of government; the endemic violence in the city; the inability of poorer and less well-connected NOLA citizens to return at all. And on the other, the profound gratitude expressed by everyone we met that we had come; the incredible friendliness and hospitality of the people in the neighborhood; the deep sense of commitment to home and to place of those who never

left or have returned; the innovative green housing that is going up in devastated neighborhoods such as the Lower Nine ward; and of course the wild joy and celebration of Mardi Gras. The divisions of race and class run deep and stark in New Orleans, but it also has a rich cultural and socio-political history (not to mention a lot of great, albeit trayf, food!) that gives the city an incredible allure.

One of the speakers we met with gave us this challenge: what would it mean to see our service trip not as charity, but as an act of solidarity with those for whom we were working? This is a question I have continued to chew over, during and since our visit. I know that for many of us on the trip, there is a sincere sense of having received more than we gave. There is also the sense that we now are witnesses to all that has gone wrong in New Orleans, as well as to the strength and resilience, patience and kindness, of the residents hardest hit. But to truly be in solidarity, we need to be engaged in a larger project of transformation, for our own sakes as well as for the sake of those victimized by Katrina and by racism and economic oppression more generally.

In March, over 80 CDT members turned out to the Members' Meeting to take part in the next stage of our Torah of Chesed process. We divided into action groups on issues including:

- creating mechanisms to better facilitate giving and receiving within the community;
- expanding our capacity to support members in mourning;
- creating networks for job searching and other support; taking steps to better include all of our children in the life of the community;
- developing ritual moments and other mechanisms by which we can break some of the silence around difficult issues our

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members struggle with;

- discussing how we might join with other member congregations in GBIO to take action on the economic crisis that is affecting all of us.

While as a congregation we are far, in many ways, from Hollygrove in New Orleans, this acknowledgment of the ways in which we, as individuals, families, and a larger society, are "broken," and the commitment to take collective action to both support one another and look at some of the larger systemic issues that affect us all, might be one aspect of what it means to be in solidarity. Can we, in a culture that exalts the "rugged individual," deepen our commitment to truly be a community for one another? Can we, despite the shame that often attaches to all types of brokenness in our society, create a space in which we can ask for, and give, support for life cycle challenges beyond illness and death? Can we give one another material and emotional support during the economic downturn, while also taking action in the public realm to hold our economic and political leaders accountable for the mess we're in?

I look forward to beginning to answer some of these questions together, and to our next trip to "The Big Easy"!

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.

Thirteen Things to Know about the CDT Retreat

Retreat Dates: June 12-14, 2009

Early registration deadline: April 17, 2009

Bill Shorr, bill.shorr@gmail.com

Lisa Dee Port White, ldpw@rcn.com

Friends and fellow congregants!

It is time to register (by **April 17**) for the Dorshei Tzedek retreat **June 12-14**. Here are 13 things you should know:



1. Our retreat is for all ages, as it was said by Rabbi Tiffany at the Purim Schpiel, "This will be a retreat for the ages."
2. This isn't camping (though we will stay at a place called Camp Yavneh). The sleeping arrangements are even nicer than Ramah where we held the retreat two years ago. Nor is this Yavneh (a town northwest of Jerusalem) for that matter (We will be about 85 minutes from Boston, a little east of Concord New Hampshire).
3. The site has a great waterfront with boats, nice places for walking, and even a high ropes course.
4. We will share meals together with tasty and plentiful food (we are attentive to particular dietary needs).
5. We will have Shabbat services for adults and kids and opportunities to learn together.
6. There will be organized games for those who want to play or watch (softball, capture the flag, ultimate Frisbee).
7. You will have opportunities for making art and doing crafts, both individually and collectively.
8. All activities are voluntary!
9. This is a great opportunity to get to know your community, spend time with your friends, or take a family vacation in the context of the congregation.
10. No one will be turned away due to financial need (contact Rabbi Toba).
11. You should print out the registration form (<http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/members/retreat.pdf>) and mail it with a check to: Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Write "retreat" on the envelope.
12. We would love it if you would email either bill.shorr@gmail.com or lisa.dee.port.white@rcn.com to let us know that you are planning to attend, considering attending, unable to attend, etc.
13. We can't say enough about what a wonderful experience this is for those who attend. We hold the retreat once every two years, though after the retreat we got dozens of requests to do it annually.

Pesach

Passover begins this year with the first seder on **Wednesday evening April 8**. If you have room at your seder, or are in need of a first- or second-night seder to attend, please contact our Seder Matchmaker **Melanie Adler** at adler-cohen@rcn.com as soon as possible!



Seventh Day of Pesach Service

Wednesday, April 15, 9:30 am

On the seventh (and, according to Reconstructionist reckoning, final) day of Passover, we celebrate this crossing of the Red Sea. This festival service will include the special songs of Hallel and the Yizkor service, where we remember loved ones who have passed away.

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 Morning Service

April 11, 9:45 am

At this Shabbat morning service, our Kitah Vav (6th grade) will be co-leading the service with Rabbi Toba. In addition, we will be honoring our graduating high school seniors. Please join us!

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Potluck and Service

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

Please note: 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

*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

*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

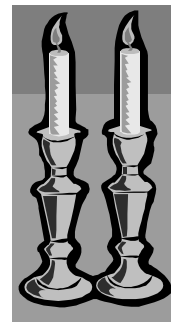
Apr (TBA: watch your email), May 9, 10:45 – noon

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 Service: Yom Hashoah Observance

April 17, 8 pm

At this Erev Shabbat service, we will be commemorating Yom Hashoah v'Gevurah, Holocaust and Resistance Remembrance Day. Our service will include reflections and teachings about the Holocaust, and an opportunity to remember those who lost their lives.



Bar Mitzvah of Jackson Alexander Lewis

Please join us on **April 4** as our son Jack is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Jack is a 7th grader at Bigelow where he is a quadruple threat—a student athlete who plays goalie for both his middle school and travel soccer teams and manages to find the time to cook awesome meals and act in the school's musicals. Jack is also a shape shifter able to appear as Gandhi to his doting parents and Attila the Hun to those who dare wrong him. His good works are legion including his thoughtfulness towards his sister, and his constant and dutiful care of his younger brother and beloved Mia. We, along with **Samantha**, and **Teddy** are delighted to share this day with the Dorshei Tzedek community and hope you will join us for a Kiddush luncheon after the service.—*Larry Lewis and Amelia Zalzman*

Bat Mitzvah of Sophia and Rosalyn Aronow

Please join us on **April 18**, when our daughters **Sophia and Rosalyn Aronow** are called to the Torah as Bat Mitzvah. Sophie and Roz are 7th graders at Day Middle School. Sophie enjoys playing soccer, guitar, drawing, biking, decorating her room, and hanging out with her friends. For her *tikkun olam* project, Sophie has been volunteering since the beginning of the school year at Family Table, a Jewish Food Pantry located at Jewish Family & Children's Service in Waltham.

Roz enjoys playing the piano, composing music, soccer, and babysitting. She loves the outdoors and is passionate about protecting the environment. For her *tikkun olam* project, she does recycling and gardening projects for Day Middle School's Green Club and is an active member of Students for a Greener World, a part of the Green Decade Coalition/Newton. Roz also wrote an article on biking for the school newspaper.

Roz and Sophie attended Camp JRF for the last two summers and loved the variety of fabulous activities—from rock climbing and Israeli dancing to socializing with great kids and staff.

Please celebrate with us at a Kiddush luncheon following the service.—*Benita Danzing and Nathan Aronow*

Bar Mitzvah of Max Gordon

Please join us on **May 2** as our son **Max Gordon** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Max is in 7th grade at F.A. Day Middle School. Max has two passions in his life. One is playing ice hockey as a goalie and the other is playing his electric guitar. He also plays the trumpet and the drums but not all at once. For Max's *tikkun olam* project he has played guitar music once a month during the past year at a family shelter in Waltham, MA for children's birthday parties with an organization called Birthday Wishes. We hope you join us for services (with some acoustic guitar playing from Max) followed by a Kiddush lunch at Dorshei Tzedek.—*Ami and Jonathan Gordon*

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!

Birkat HaChammah: Blessing of the Sun

Alex Sugerman-Brozan, sugerbroz@hotmail.com

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!)

Lars Anderson Park, Brookline, Pond Street Gate



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.

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, as 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 listserve and website as the date approaches. For questions or ideas, please email me at sugerbroz@hotmail.com. To learn more about Birkat HaChammah, visit www.blessthesun.org.

Ask Lisa Dee!

Lisa Dee Port White, ldpw@rcn.com

Dear Lisa Dee,

I've been a member of the congregation for a few years, and I'm still not sure if I should be attending life-cycle events other members are having. Bar/bat mitzvahs, naming ceremonies, shivah calls—most of the time I don't go if I don't know the person. It feels weird and I don't want to intrude.

signed, Miss Apprehension

Dear Miss Apprehension,

Please know you are not alone in feeling this way. I have heard from many members over the years who have said they didn't attend a Shabbat service because it was a bar mitzvah they weren't invited to, or, they would go to the service but not stay for the lunch. People also sometimes feel strange going to a congregant's house for a shivah call if they don't know the person.

In terms of Shabbat celebrations, everyone is welcome to the service and Kiddush lunch. Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has been mindful in keeping the Shabbat service about Shabbat. While there may be a celebration, we always make sure there is space for congregants, physically as well as spiritually. There is always at least one open aliyah (an opportunity to go to the bimah to make a blessing before a Torah reading) to receive a special blessing. And please, eat! We have Kiddush to continue the spirit of Shabbat and foster community. In addition, we as a community are welcoming the young person as an adult—so whether you know the family or not, you are part of that welcome! And please consider the invitation in the monthly newsletter as a real invitation, which it is.

For shivah calls, people can feel uncomfortable for a lot of reasons. If you don't know the member who has lost someone, it might feel strange to go show up at his/her house—especially if the prayers seem foreign, too. No one is invited to shivah—as Jews it is an obligation to make the shivah call if you can make it. People in mourning need ten adult Jews (anyone over the age of bat/bar mitzvah) gathered to be able to say kaddish, the prayer for mourners.

You don't need to know the prayers; you just have to be there to be counted and to witness. Making a shivah call is about community and helping someone through a difficult time. The grief process is long and arduous, but shivah is a reminder that the surviving loved ones are not alone.

Because my shyness does not manifest itself obviously and because grief is something I'm not too uncomfortable with and because I'm pretty familiar with the service, perhaps you are thinking: easy for you to say, Lisa Dee. It's true. I say a lot of things easily. Even things I mean. So, Miss Apprehension and other dear readers, if you'd like, the next time you know of a shivah, gd forbid, (in the CDT community or for other friends outside the community) and you want a shivah buddy, give me a call or send me an email. If I can make it, I'll go with you.

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Karen Engels

With gratitude to everyone in the CDT community who has helped us through a challenging stretch, and especially to Elaine Pollack, Meryl Epstein, Erica Streit, and Linda Hsu

Lauren K. Gibbs

*In memory of Hilda Silversen Kook
In honor of Jordana Rachel Kaplan-Tanchel
In honor of Ava Lily Levine-Fried
In memory of Helen Hakim
With congratulations to Julia Sklar*

Jennifer Kaplan & Susie Tanchel

With thanks and appreciation to those CDT members who provided meals after our daughter was born

Laura and Joel Katz

In honor of Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbi Toba and all of Jeremy Katz's former Hebrew School teachers marking his Bar Mitzvah

Klainberg-Rosenberg Family

In honor of the Cash/Weiss family to say "thank you"

Rabbi Barbara Penzner and Brian Rosman

*In honor of the birth of Frieda Lucia, the daughter of Josh Herzig-Marx and Carla Naumburg
In honor of the wedding of Rachel Herzig-Marx to Tal Achituv*

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

In memory of Charles Manheim

Theresa St. John Siegel and Steven Siegel

In honor of Rabbi Toba and Elaine Pollack

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.

Avital Lewis

In honor of the second yartzheit of my mother, Jill Volk

Camp JRF Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Tess Siegel

In memory of Tom Cole, Pearl Lang and George Carter

The Zolit Family

In honor of Stuart Snyder, for his dedication and compassion in working on the interfaith mural project. It was a wonderful experience for the group.

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

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 pm – 9 pm, 60 Highland Street

The seven 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: Tikkun Middot

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, 60 Highland Street
No meeting on April 9 (Pesach)

Beginning on April 16, our weekly session will focus on the cultivation of *middot*, qualities, like patience generosity, order, humility, and enthusiasm, in order to live fuller, more balanced lives. Whether you have been attending up to this point or want to begin now, please join us! **Please bring with you a copy of Alan Morinis' book *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*.**

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

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!

Walk For Hunger Boston 2009

Sunday May 3

Hunger affects more than 522,000 people in Massachusetts, including the state's most vulnerable citizens—children, the elderly, the disabled, and the unemployed. Project Bread's Annual Walk for Hunger is approaching on Sunday, May 3. With poverty and unemployment at unprecedented levels, this year's Walk is more important than ever. If you've ever participated in the Walk, or thought about doing so, this is the year to get involved. The Walk for Hunger has relied on members of the religious community since 1969 to speak out about the unacknowledged tragedy of hunger in our midst.

Now, over 40 years later, the Walk includes teams from more than 1,000 religious and community groups who find its message of social justice relevant and compelling. Come to the Boston Common on May 3rd and witness a tremendous outpouring of goodwill—caring at its best. We encourage the members of your religious organization to participate in The Walk for Hunger with the knowledge that Project Bread is doing more things than ever to help those who are suffering.

To learn more, please contact Brooke MacKinnon at 617.239.2524, visit www.projectbread.org or email walk@projectbread.org.

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. The remaining session is on May 3. The theme is 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.

Synagogue Council Annual Meeting

*Thursday, May 14, 7:15 pm
Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland*

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts (SCM) invites members of our congregation to attend its upcoming Annual Meeting. 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 SCM and recognizes the accomplishments of some outstanding individuals: Lauren and Bill Gabovitch—K'lal Yisrael Award; Dr. Jesse Hefter—Founders Award; Marjorie Berkowitz—Community Service Award. In addition, SCM will honor Anita Zetlan Redner for her service as president and honor Richard Shulman, its incoming president. For further information, please visit www.synagoguecouncil.org or call 617.244.6506.

Rashi Students Participate in Tamchui Philanthropy

Members of Dorshei Tzedek who are students at The Rashi School participated in the Tamchui philanthropy program by learning about five charities that help children locally and around the world. **Gabriel Weinreb** engaged in a number of hands-on activities as he learned about organizations that are building indoor playgrounds in Israel, enabling children to go to camp, bringing smiles to hospitalized children, working to help enslaved children, and sowing the seeds of peace in the next generation of leaders. Tamchui is part of Rashi's ongoing social justice program. For more information, go to www.rashi.org.

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*



April



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Apr 2	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 2	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri Apr 3	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Linda Kramer, Andrew Sofer, Karen Wasserman, Tania Mireles (see page 3)
Sat Apr 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jack Lewis	<i>Sanctuary clean-up:</i> Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn (see page 4)
Sun Apr 5	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed	Please note change in location: 60 Highland Street: Room 111
Wed Apr 8	6 am	Birkat Hachamah Sunrise Celebration	Lars Anderson Park, Brookline, Pond Street Gate; A joint celebration with Temple Hillel Bnai Torah and Nehar Shalom. (see page 5)
Thu Apr 9		<i>No religious school class (Passover begins)</i>	
Sat Apr 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Passover Kitah Vav Siyyum	David Felson, Andrew Schiff, John Holohan 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary Pesadich Kiddush (see page 3)
Sat Apr 11	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (see page 3)
Sat Apr 11	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (see page 3)
Wed Apr 15	9:30 am	Seventh Day of Pesach Service	Ritual committee provides kiddush (see page 3)
Wed Apr 15	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 16		<i>No religious school class (End of Passover)</i>	
Thu Apr 16	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 16	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Thu Apr 16	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri Apr 17	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Jeff Goldman, Liz Reisberg, Linette Liebling, Tim Rosa (see page 3)
Sat Apr 18		<i>School Vacation Week</i>	<i>No class Saturday, April 18 - Sunday, April 26</i>
Sat Apr 18	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Apr 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service B'not Mitzvah of Sophie & Roz Aronow	<i>Sanctuary clean-up:</i> Linda Schiller & Steve Robins <i>Set-up:</i> Barry Ingber, Alissa & Gerry Leonard, Nancy Gertz, Michael Cohen, Allison or Ezra Hausman; <i>Clean-up:</i> Janet Boguslaw & Howie Kaufman, Tatjana Meschede & Dan Krasa, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Mille (see page 4)
Sun Apr 19	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Wed Apr 22	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 23	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 23	7 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh Gathering	60 Highland Street: Living Room (watch your email for confirmation)
Sat Apr 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ellen Hemley, Becca Gutman, Jennifer Hochschild, Jacqui Fleischman; Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off
Sun Apr 26	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Wed Apr 29	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 30	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Apr 30	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA



May



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Fri May 1	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service (no potluck) Dalet Siyyum	Michele Arons & Michael Brann - in honor of Benjamin, Thais, & Rebecca Willens, Isabel Morais, Willa Kuh; Kiddush folk need only provide drinks and dessert (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 2	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Max Gordon	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Diana & Richard Fisher Gomborg; <i>Set-up:</i> Barbara & Elliot Pittel, Richard & Rachel Nemeth Cohen, Susan Nitkin, Howard Lurie <i>Clean-up:</i> Marcia Okun & Josh Lieberman, Julie & Paul Fox, Peter Gittleman, Lauren Gibbs (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sun May 3	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Wed May 6	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 7	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 7	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Fri May 8		Shabbat Unplugged	
Sat May 9	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat May 9	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service / Shabbat Unplugged	Haralie Alpert, Ellen White, Misha Dudnik, Rick Glassman
Sat May 9	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 Led by Elana Rome (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 9	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (childcare room) (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 9	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Teeny-Tiny Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 109 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 9	5 pm - 8 pm	Family Education, Potluck dinner and Gimmel Siyyum	FUSN : Classrooms, Head Start Room, Children's Chapel, upstairs kitchen Family Education by Rabbi Rachel Schoenfeld
Sun May 10	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Wed May 13	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (note different location this week) (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 14	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 14	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Sat May 16	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Kitah Hay Siyyum	Louise Enoch, Trish Nuzzola, Allison & David Lobron, Elena Eisman
Sat May 16	10 am - 12 pm	<i>School ends for Lower Grades</i>	
Sun May 17	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Sun May 17	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event;</i> 60 Highland Street: Living Room
Wed May 20	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 21	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 21	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Dr. Sandy Goldfless	TBA
Sat May 23	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lissy Medvedow, Elaine Pollack, Rob Saper, Alex Sugerman-Brozan; Rabbi Toba's Shabbat off
Sun May 24	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Tue May 26	3 pm - 5:45 pm	<i>School ends for Upper Grades</i>	
Wed May 27	7:15 pm - 9 pm	Preparing for Torah: Tikkun Middot & The Qualities of our Lives, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 28	8 am - 9 am	Morning Meditation with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu May 28	8 pm - 12 am	Shavuot	Emily Sper, Matilda & Ed Bruckner
Fri May 29	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Ilene Spiro, Carla Naumburg & Josh Herzig-Marx (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat May 30	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Cheryl Sacks, Tony Broh, Barbara Huggins
Sat May 30	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Risa Paley-Zimble	Sanctuary Clean-up: TBA
Sun May 31	10 am	CDT Men's Softball Team game	
Sun May 31	7 pm - 9 pm	Members' Meeting	Noam Shore, Jonathan Magaziner, Susie Tanchel 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary

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.

Todah Rabah

Thank you to everyone who made our Purim so enjoyable:

- To our logistics crew: **Idit Klein, Ilana Mainelli, Marcia Okun, Jan Small, and Jodi Sugerman-Brozan**
- To our venerable sound man and pianist extraordinaire, **Nathan Aronow**
- To **Michele Arons**, for creating and organizing the young kids program
- To our fabulous Megillah leyners, **Chayim "Happy Poppa" Herzig-Marx** and **Elaine "Bozo the Clown" Pollack**
- And last but far from least, to our wonderful cast of the "Daily Spiel": **James Kaplan**, creative fount; **Sheree Galpert, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Richard Gomberg, Rachel Greenberg, Doug Hersh, Steve Robbins, Linda Schiller, Peter Shapiro, and Stuart Snyder**; and the adorable singing kids: **Roz and Sophie Aronow, Lily and Maya Fisher Gomberg, Livia Reider, Celia Snyder, and Leila Zisk!**

A big "Todah Rabah" to **Morah Cindy** and the **Yad Chesed Gang (aka Kitah Zayin)** for helping us fulfill the Purim mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim*, "gifts for the needy," by raising \$200 from a "captive" audience to give to Yad Chesed, which provides financial aid to folks in the local Jewish community.

Todah Rabah to the following people who helped with kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah recently: **Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen, Karen Arnold, Susan Bernstein, Lisa Chedekel, Cliff Cohen, Amy Dain, Meryl Epstein, Wendy and Charles Frankston, Ora Gladstone, Lynda Goldberg and Joseph Bayes, Jan Gortler-Small, Laurie Gould and Steve Ansolabehere, Allison Hausman, Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx, James Kaplan, Linda and Peter Katz, Hope Kellman, Idit Klein, Elaine Landes, Ilana Mainelli, Benjamin Newman and Sarah Hartman, Ellen Pashall, Susan Silberberg-Robinson and Thom Robinson, Peggy Rose, Elizabeth Ross and Caren Smith, Cheryl and Jeff Sacks, Mei See Sandson, Rod Saper, Lisa Schneier, Peter Shapiro, Barbara Shatkin and Andy Littman, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Susie Tanchel, and Bonnie Tenneriello, and Robert Warren.**

Condolences

To **Valerie Graf**, and to **Doron Gan and Evan**, on the death of Valerie's father, **Bob Graf**. May his memory be for a blessing.



To **Mitchell Silver**, and to **Ora Gladstone, Isaac** and **Hadass**, on the death of Mitchell's brother, **Ron Silver**. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Annette Lawson** on the death of her father

Abraham

Tarnapoll. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Caren Smith** on the death of her sister **Lynne Austin**. May her memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To the **Herzig-Marx family**, on **Rachel's** marriage to Tal Aчитuv!

To everyone who has become bar/bat mitzvah in recent months, and their families: **Li Breite, Jeremy Katz, Celina Siegel, Isabel Snyder, and Gabe Weinreb**. Yasher koach!

To **Laurie Goldman**, on officially completing her doctorate in public policy from MIT!

To **Tess Siegel** on the arrival of her long-awaited first grandchild Miru Pearl Yager Yang.

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
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	Space: Steve Siegel
	Tikkun Olam: Laurie Goldman
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	Member-at-large: Sharon Sevransky
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	Chesed: Pamela Schoenberg Reider
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Education Director	Annette Lawson
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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.