

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Tishrei/Cheshvan 5770

October 2009



Hearing Ourselves in Prospective Members

Paul Hattis, president@dorsheitzedek.org

In my new role as President, one of the obligations/opportunities is to attend the session that we have each fall aimed at informing prospective members about our synagogue and Reconstructionist Judaism. Though I have attended a few of these sessions in the past—both at our Synagogue as well as at JRC in Evanston, Illinois (a Reconstructionist synagogue where Lisa and I first joined right after we married), I always find that from these sessions I not only learn something new about our branch of Judaism, but, from the reactions of prospective members, I learn a great deal about the various paths that people seek in trying to figure out their own Jewish journey.

This year was no exception. As you might imagine, Rabbi Spitzer provides a succinct, yet encompassing overview of the origins of Reconstructionist Judaism and the views of Mordechai Kaplan. At this Sunday session, she also spoke about how our branch of Judaism has evolved its own distinguishable path from the other Jewish religious movements, and provided the attendees an engaging active learning opportunity to experience how we use study of various historical writings within our tradition (from different eras) to help us as individuals and as a community come to our own views about the beliefs and practices that should guide our expression of Judaism.

The group of attendees seemed engaged in the session, both in the discussion accompanying the brief study as well as quite willing to ask logistical questions in the formal part of the meeting about the synagogue, its dues structure, the school and other matters.

However, it was actually in the few one-on-one conversations that I had after the formal session was over, where some of the attendees shared more details about exactly what they are looking for in their current synagogue shopping phase: finding the right Jewish educational environment for themselves and their children; joining a group of people who share a common desire to actively participate in *tikkun olam* activities; identifying a synagogue home to help them and develop meaningful spiritual practices; and nourishing their lives through finding that sense of 'Kehillah'—or intimacy that makes people feel welcome and connected as part of a community.

You will note that these desires are almost identical to the list of important values that we called 'defining and affirming' to us as a community in our 2007 Strategic Plan. In that same document, while we affirmed these values, we also noted that we wanted to use them to grow further as a community—both in numbers as well as in the quality and depth in which we take on the things that we do.

As we enter this new year—it is a good time to reflect on where we are at with all of this. While we remain a bit behind our initial goal to have reached 200 or so households by this time, our efforts to improve in leadership development as well as formulate an educational strategic plan for our entire community (via Limud 2010) are on track as key work foci over the course of this year.

We hope to make some real progress on these and other issues at our upcoming October 18 retreat with our board and off board leaders. Stay Tuned.

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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 rabbid@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.

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or Chesed Chair **Lisa Goodwin-Robbins** (617.969.6421 or lgoodrob@alumni.princeton.edu)

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, *refuah sh'leymah*, to **Susannah Zisk, Ellen Pashall, Ellen White, and Sandy Sedacca**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Todah Rabah

To all those who provided Kiddush in recent weeks: **Josette Akresh-Gonzales & Michael Gonzales, Steffi Aronson Karp & Eric Karp, Tony Broh, Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Cindy Marshall, Tania Mireles, Sivan Nasoff**—*In honor of Sivan's birthday*, **Pamela Schoenberg Reider & Joel Reider, Sharon Sevransky, Erica Streit-Kaplan & James Kaplan**—*In honor of Erica's birthday and our anniversary*.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our High Holydays services so wonderful this year. To **Cindy Marshall** and the Ritual Committee, for coordination and planning. To everyone who helped with *chazzanut* (service leading) and *Torah leyning*: **Elaine Pollack, Bill Shorr, Doug Hersh, Chayim Herzig-Marx, Dan Rome, Elana Rome, Karen Arnold, Mark Bronstein, Debbie Waber, Lisa Port White, Mark Farber, Gabe Weinreb, Ed Bruckner, Amalia Lieberman, Joel Reider, Steffi Karp, and Louise Enoch**. To our teens who helped with service leading: **Juliet Roll, Roz and Sophie Aronow, Max Gordon, and Gabe Adler-Cohen**. To our wonderful shofar blowers, **Lisa Port White and Jacqui Bloomberg**. To everyone who helped with the Torah of Chesed discussion on Rosh Hashanah: **Amy Mazur, Carole Slipowitz, Lisa Schneier, Jackie Fleischman, and Carla Naumburg**. To **Amalia Lieberman** for her viola rendition of "Kol Nidre". Todah rabah to **Laya Steinberg**, for Yom Kippur Yoga, and to **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, for the marvelous Midrash Workshop during Yom Kippur Mincha. A massive TODAH RABAH to the Child Chare Coordinating Committee, for setting up our new and improved program: **Sharon Sevransky, Theresa St John-Siegel, Marc Steinberg, Sivan Nasoff, and Lisa Port White**, as well as to all of the par-

ent volunteers, and to all of our wonderful kids' and youth service leaders: **Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Alison Lobron, Hillary Pinsker, Amy Goldsmith, Eyal Weiner-Kaplow, and Gina Fried**. Thank you to **Lauren Gibbs, Laya Steinberg, and Joel Reider** for their work on the beautiful Yizkor Scroll. And last but far from least, to everyone who helped on the logistical end to make things run so smoothly: **Theresa St John-Siegel, Mark Bronstein, Nathan Aronow, Barbara Zolit, Ellie Goldberg, Eileen Morrison, Jon Sarnier, Marla Lichtman**, and the many members who helped with the myriad tasks involved in making High Holydays work, from Kiddush set-up to ushering to greeting to shlepping. **Yasher koach everyone!**

Mazel Tov

To **Sam Cohen**, and his family, on becoming bar mitzvah!

Condolences

To **Hankus Netsky**, and to **Beth Brooks, Leah, and Mira**, on the death of Hankus' father, **Lester Netsky**. May his memory be for a blessing.

To **Hilary Marcus**, and to **Jonathan Magaziner, Noah, and Mayan**, on the death of Hilary's mother, **Roslyn Marcus**. May her memory be for a blessing.



To **Bill Shorr**, and to **Tania Mireles and Amalia**, on the death of Bill's father, **Bernard Shorr**. May his memory be for a blessing.

Yarzheit

The yartzheit of CDT member and founder **Efrem Goldberg** falls on erev Sukkot, Friday, October 2, and we will be remembering him at Shabbat/Sukkot services, **October 3**. May his memory always be for a blessing.

The first yartzheit of CDT member **Shari Zimble** falls this year on October 12, and we will be remembering her at Shabbat/Shemini Atzeret services on **October 10**. May her memory always be for a blessing.

New Guide for Non-Jewish Members

The CDT Ritual Committee, in partnership with the Board and the Membership Committee, has created "Non-Jewish Members at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: A Guide," now available both as a pamphlet on our literature table, and on-line on our website, www.dorsheitzedek.org. This Guide is for current and prospective members, to help clarify the special role of our non-Jewish members in the community, and to hopefully answer questions that people often have about what it means to be a non-Jewish member of a congregation committed to inclusivity, Jewish heritage, and tradition.

Sukkot

The week-long Sukkot festival is known as *z'man simchateynu*, "the time of our joy." It is a time to celebrate the abundance in our lives, our "harvest," while also being mindful of the temporary, vulnerable nature of all that we enjoy, as we sit in our sukkot, open to the stars and the cool night air. We close the festival week by rejoicing with the Torah!

Erev Sukkot

Friday, October 2, 5 - 8 pm

First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton Square

Come welcome Sukkot with a little learning, eating, and schmoozing! Old, new, and prospective members welcome. **At this event, we will be kicking off our "Eco-Teams" initiative**—adult and teens are invited to come learn about how to begin to actively lower our carbon "footprint" (see page 7 for information on the Eco-Team Project). Fun learning activities for kids of all ages as well.



5:00 pm: Sukkah decorating & learning activities for kids and adults

6:15 pm: Candle lighting & welcoming the Sukkot holiday in the *sukkah*

6:30 pm: Potluck vegetarian/dairy dinner – please bring a vegetarian dish to share (drinks and desserts provided).

Last names A-L: main course; M-Z: veggie, pasta, or rice salad.

Shabbat Morning Services during Sukkot

October 3 & 10, 9:45 am, 60 Highland Street

On Shabbat morning, **October 3**, we will celebrate the **first day of Sukkot** with the joyous singing of Hallel, and an opportunity to shake your lulav! We will be also be remembering CDT member **Efrem Goldberg** at this service.

Join us on Shabbat morning, **October 10**, for the celebration of **Shemini Atzeret**, the closing day of Sukkot when, in the ancient Temple, there was a special ceremony to ensure good rains for the winter planting. **Bring your (small) water guns or shpritzers, to help Rabbi Toba with her rain dance!** Shmini Atzeret also features a **Yizkor service**, an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died (yizkor candles are lit the evening before, October 9).

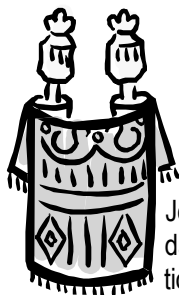
Havdallah (and Sukkot) on the Water!

Saturday, October 3, 5 pm start, 7 pm Havdallah

The Fisher-Gomberg home, 290 Islington Rd, Auburndale

It's a double header at the Gomberts on October 3! They will host a Havdallah and Sukkot celebration. **At 5 pm** canoeing, kayaking, and (BYO) picnicking will begin in their Sukkah. (Drinks and desserts will be provided.) **At 7 pm**, we'll gather in the middle of the Charles River for a very special Havdallah service on the water. The reflection of the flickering Havdallah candle flames off the water will be beautiful, and there bounds to be laughter trying to pass spices from boat to boat.

Please **RSVP by September 30 to Diana Fisher Gomberg** at gofish4@comcast.net or 617.243.9424. RSVP's are required so that we can make sure we have enough boats and candles. If you have a canoe or kayak, it would be great if you would bring it (Havdallah candles and spices too).



Simchat Torah Celebration

Saturday, October 10, 7 – 9 pm

60 Highland Street, West Newton

Join us for a kid- and grown-up-friendly festive evening service, featuring "Torah Quiz" (with prizes!) and dancing with the Torah to the tunes of klezmer musicians! Simchat Torah is a celebration of the completion of one year of reading Torah and the start of a new cycle.

Bat and Bar Mitzvah of Hannah and Zachary Pittel

Please join us on **October 17**, when our children, **Hannah** and **Zachary** are called to the Torah as B'nei Mitzvah.

Hannah and Zack are 7th graders at Oak Hill Middle School. Hannah is active in the arts and athletics. She plays the flute in the school band, sings in the chorus, and also plays the piano. She loves to dance and create arts & crafts, and is interested in fashion design. She plays in Newton Girls Basketball and Softball. She is a friend to all animals, except those with six or eight legs. Hannah is planning to continue visiting residents at the assisted living facility where her Grandma Dottie lived and is hoping to be able to play her flute at some of their Friday evening Shabbat services.

Zack enjoys playing tennis, swimming, bicycling, and snowboarding in the winter. He likes to build model airplanes. Zack is also interested in food. He volunteered this summer at the Newton Community Farm, helping to plant and harvest vegetables for the Newton food pantry as well as their farm stand. Zack likes to experiment in the kitchen and invent gourmet meals.

Please celebrate with us at a Kiddush luncheon following the service.—*Barbara and Elliot Pittel*

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org

Part of our curriculum this year at the Religious School will be for students to develop an understanding of the Jewish belief that all humanity is created "*b'tselem Elohim*," in God's image.

Last year as part of an effort to help our students use Jewish values as a basis for their decision-making, the school adopted the following values statement:

"At Congregation Dorshei Tzedek we believe in *B'tselem Elohim* (that we are all created in God's image) and treating people and property with *Kavod* (respect), and strive to create *Shalom Bayit* (peace in our home, school and synagogue)."

This statement is on posters in every classroom, and teachers in all grades refer to it when asking children to think about their behavior.

It is our plan to focus each year on one of the elements of the statement, and we are starting with *b'tselem Elohim*. Students in the Upper School will spend time studying related texts and after developing a deeper understanding of the concept, each class will apply its learning to developing a *tikkun olam* project that promotes the concept of *b'tselem Elohim*. On **January 10**, we are planning a Community Learning Day around this concept, which will include presentations of the students' projects. Lots more info about this event will be available later in the year.

Welcome: I would also like to welcome to our faculty our newest teacher, **Robyn Avellino**. Robyn, who will be teaching Kitah Gan (kindergarten) is from Albany, NY. She is a UMass graduate, has studied in Israel, and is an experienced religious school teacher. I am so pleased that she has joined our staff.

class of pre-schoolers, Nitzanim, to our Lower School taught by CDT member **Alison Lobron**. And we will welcome back many of last year's Kitah Zayin students to our new 8th grade program, BaDerech.

Upper School began on **September 15** and Lower School on **September 26**, for a year of Jewish learning, engagement and fun!

Welcome New Members!

We welcome Vivienne & Norman Shein of Waban as new members of Dorshei Tzedek! Several other new members have joined over the summer, and we hope to include brief biographies in upcoming newsletters.

שלום

Shabbat Programs

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

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service

*(October 2 – Sukkot program), November 6, December 4
6 pm candle lighting and dinner, 6:45 pm service*

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 dairy/vegetarian main dish or salad to share (enough for 15–20 people). Drinks and dessert are provided.

Erev Shabbat Services

November 13, December 18, 8-9:30 pm

Join us as we welcome Shabbat with a musical, contemplative erev Shabbat service that includes a little Torah study (adult-oriented, but older kids welcome!).

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

*October 17, November 14, December 19
8:45 – 9:45 am*

Once a month, we gather before Shabbat morning services to explore a variety of commentaries—traditional and modern—on the weekly Torah portion. This study group is appropriate for Torah study regulars and for folks who don't know Genesis from Deuteronomy—just bring your questions, your interest, and your own cup of coffee or tea!

Junior Congregation

Oct 24, Nov 21, Dec 12, Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 13, Apr 20, May 1, Jun 5, 10:45 am - noon

This is an awesomely fun, participatory service for 3rd through 6th graders (kids only!), led by our very own Elana Rome - teacher, singer, and youth leader extraordinaire! Spend a special Shabbat morning with your friends, or make some new ones! Kids will enjoy their own kiddush after the service.

Tot Shabbat

Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 12, Jan 30, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 1, Jun 12, 10:45 - 11:30 am

Tot Shabbat is a monthly program, run by parents, for children ages 5 and under and their parents. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with songs, stories, crafts and other fun activities. We will begin each session with feet-stomping, hand-clapping, get-your-sillies-out music for all ages. Then, there will be free play for infant- age 2 children, and a special story and craft for children ages 3-5. We will end the morning all together with a kiddush snack.

Please contact **Jodi Sugerman-Brozan** (jsuger@comcast.net) or **Alison Lobron** (auderial@yahoo.com) for more information or with any questions. This program is organized and led by parents on a rotating basis. If you would like to volunteer to help lead a session, or help with refreshments or setup, you can sign up on the website.



CDT Women's Rosh Chodesh Group: Welcoming Heshvan

*October 19, 7:30 – 9:30 pm
60 Highland Street, West Newton*

Join us for this month's Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh gathering in the parlor at 60 Highland Street. We will celebrate the new moon of Cheshvan with songs, conversation,

and creative expression. The session will be led by **Michele Arons**. All CDT women are invited. Also, save the date for Rosh Chodesh Kislev on **Wednesday, November 18** at 60 Highland Street from 7:30 - 9 pm. To RSVP or for questions contact **Alison Lobron** or **Erica Streit-Kaplan** at auderial@yahoo.com or ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com.

Adult Education

Does God Play Favorites? A Dialogue on Chosenness

with Dr. Joel Kaminsky
Thursday, October 29, 7:30 pm
60 Highland Street (no fee)

Chosenness, or God's tendency to favor certain individuals or groups over others, is a recurring biblical theme. Dr. Kaminsky will explore the complexity of the idea of chosenness within the Hebrew Bible in order to illuminate the importance of this idea not only within the Bible but to Jewish theology more broadly. Rabbi Toba Spitzer will offer a response from a Reconstructionist perspective, reflecting on Mordecai Kaplan's argument that the traditional notion of Jewish chosenness is not "reconstructable." How do we as contemporary Jews approach the traditional notion of Jewish "chosenness" today? This talk is open to the community – tell your friends!

Dr. Joel Kaminsky teaches courses on the Hebrew Bible and on ancient Judaism in the Religion Department at Smith College where he also Co-Directs the Program in Jewish Studies. His most recent book, Yet I Loved Jacob: Reclaiming the Biblical Concept of Election (Abingdon Press, 2007) examines the idea of chosenness in the Hebrew Bible, and explores how this central and pervasive idea both unites and divides Jews and Christians.

Soul Questions: An Exploration

Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Thursday mornings, 8 am – 9 am, beginning October 22

If we imagine the Torah as a telescope that our ancestors created in order to search for signs of divinity in the Universe, what do we see when we look through that lens? Is the idea of God a comfort, a challenge, or perhaps irrelevant? Where and how do we encounter the sacred in our own lives, and what would it mean to take spiritual practice seriously? In this weekly class, we will combine study of Jewish texts with practices for our day-to-day lives to "reconstruct" a meaningful notion of God/liness, whether we think of ourselves as believers or not. No previous experience or presumed comfort with text study or spiritual practice necessary – just bring your doubts, your yearnings, and your questions!

Eco-Systems and Jewish Texts: A Creative Nexus

with Rabbi Natan Margalit
Thursday evenings, Nov. 5, 12 & 19, 7:30-9:00 pm
60 Highland Street (free for members; \$15/session for non-members)

Underlying our ecological crisis is a mode of thought that treats the earth, oceans, animals, plants and even humans as if they were machines, running predictably, logically, like "clockwork." This way of thinking has brought dramatic gains in the short run, but forcing life into a straightjacket ultimately is a recipe for disaster.

In fact, all living systems: cells, swamps, neighborhoods -- and even some texts, are organized in complex, dynamic, non-linear patterns. Understanding the old/new mode of thought contained in Jewish texts can lead us to a more natural way of thinking, one that reflects nature instead of strangling it, and understanding eco-systems can help us open up Jewish texts in a new, enlivened perspective. Over these three sessions, we will study examples of Rabbinic Midrash which focus on the rabbis' ideas of truth as something which is not about mastery and control but rather about creativity and connectedness, as well as excerpts from the Mishnah which demonstrate the holistic and organic nature of the Rabbis' thought. We will compare these rabbinic texts with contemporary environmental writers such as Michael Pollan, Wendell Berry and others.

Rabbi Natan Margalit has taught at Bard College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in Boston. He is currently Director of Oraita, a program of continuing education for rabbis of Hebrew College. Natan has written and taught for many years on Judaism and the environment, innovative approaches to Jewish texts, Jewish spirituality, gender and Judaism.

Learn Hebrew

Contact Lisa Schneier at schneier.lisa@gmail.com
to express interest

Beginning in October, dates & class times to be determined

Learn Hebrew at Dorshei Tzedek! We will be offering adult Hebrew classes at several levels – beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Depending upon interest, we will offer weekly classes for adults during Hebrew School hours as well as in the evening. In our class offerings, we will accommodate those interested in both modern and prayer book Hebrew.

If interested, contact **Lisa Schneier** at schneier.lisa@gmail.com. Please include your estimated current level of Hebrew (Beginner: cannot recognize Hebrew letters; Advanced Beginner: can recognize letters; Intermediate: some reading ability; Advanced: can read, would like to work on speaking and comprehension). We will reply with more information.

Exploring the Bible

Dr. Sanford Goldfless
Thursdays, starting October 1, 7:30 – 9:30. (\$15 per session; fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)
First meeting (only) is at 60 Highland Street, Living Room. Locations for other dates to be determined. This class meets weekly from October through May, except when other Dorshei Tzedek events are scheduled.

In this class we'll read together, in English, large selections from the Jewish scriptures. We'll aim at asking and trying to answer some very basic – yet very deep – questions: "What sort of writings are these, after all? When, why, and by whom were they

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written? How should we approach the reading of these texts so that we can not only make the most sense out of them, but also find some resonance in them with our own human situation?"

This class last year began with the Psalms and their poetry, moved next to the Exodus, and then focused on a close reading of the stories of Saul and David. To start the current year, our focus will shift first to a different but highly important part of the Bible—the three major collections of laws in the Torah. We'll turn to the ancient Law Code of Hammurapi to get a handle on what sort of writings these are and we'll talk about what "Torah" has meant in the subsequent history of Judaism. Where in the Bible we turn next will depend on you!

Sandy Goldfless has a PhD in biblical studies and Near Eastern languages, religions and literature from Harvard University. He has taught biblical Hebrew for adults and has led Bible study groups in the Boston area for several years, including weekly groups for the last two years at Dorshei Tzedek.

CDT Film Club

Saturday night, October 17, potluck: 6 pm, film: 7 pm
Location to be announced

CDT Film Club's first film of the year will be *Arranged*. If you're coming for the 6 pm potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (if you know what you'll bring, please let us know). The movie starts at 7 pm, to be followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for any part of the evening. We hope you can join us!

Arranged (2007, English): When Rochel (Zoe Lister Jones) and Nasira (Francis Benhamou)—an Orthodox Jew and a Muslim, respectively—meet as new teachers at a Brooklyn school, co-workers and students expect friction. But the women discover they have a shared expectation of entering into arranged marriages. As they experience tension between their traditional cultures and life in contemporary America, Rochel and Nasira form a special bond.

Save these dates:

Nov 21: *Aviva, My Love*

Dec 19: *A Secret*

Jan 23: *Out of Spain*

Feb 13: *The Pawnbroker*

Mar 20: *Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg* (if available)

Apr 17: *Waltz With Bashir*

May 22: (a recent release)

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Eco-Teams: Join Now!

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek has joined the growing list of community groups and community leaders as partners in the Newton **Eco-Team Project**. The project, based on the *Low Carbon Diet Workshop*, is designed to bring together friends, neighbors, religious congregations and community leaders in teams of 5 - 8 participants **to reduce home energy usage, reduce waste, and save money**. Newton's Green Decade (www.greendecade.org) is creating hundreds of teams run by local volunteers working with "CoolMass", a state wide eleven-community initiative of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) to reduce household carbon footprints by 25%.

In 2007, nine CDT households were part of a Carbon Weight Loss Program, using the metrics in the *Low Carbon Diet Workbook* to measure changes and savings. Deb Albenberg wrote, "By upgrading household systems and developing low carbon habits, we reduced the amount of carbon dioxide we emit into the atmosphere each year by 54,175 pounds (6,019 pounds per household)." Deb predicted that four more Low Carbon Diet teams Dorshei Tzedek could drop 270,000 pounds.

We would like to exceed that goal! And you don't have to live in Newton to participate. To learn more or to sign on to an EcoTeam, contact Jen Kaplan, jkaplan12@rcn.com or Ellie Goldberg, ellie.goldberg@gmail.com. For more information, go to www.newtonecoteams.org and www.greendecade.org/ecoteams.html. (See page 3 for the Eco-Team kickoff on Sukkot.)

Tikkun Olam

Family Table Donations

Whenever you come to shul, consider bringing along some food to donate to Family Table, the kosher food pantry for greater Boston. We have two collection boxes at Dorshei Tzedek: one is in the school office at FUSN (and will be available during school hours in the fall) and the other is right outside the sanctuary at the Second Church, near the door out to Highland Street. Our assigned foods are raisins and tomato products (sauce, canned, etc.).

Also, **one Sunday per month**, we are responsible for bringing our food items to the Family Table office in Waltham. This is a very easy way to have you (and others of all ages in your family) do a simple mitzvah. As a driver, you would simply need to pick up the food at Dorshei Tzedek and transport it to the Waltham office. We need only one car to drive the load over to the Family Table office. At this time, we have four dates covered. We need drivers on 7 more Sundays. If you want to be a driver, please go to this calendar and sign up:

<http://doodle.com/3whymp8tsqk7h775>

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Pamela Schoenberg Reider at jomela@rcn.com.

Community

Synagogue Council of Massachusetts Events

Path of the Spirit: An African American Rabbi's Jewish Journey, featuring Rabbi Capers Funnye, spiritual leader of Chicago's Beth Shalom Bnai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation. **Wednesday, October 28**, 7:30 pm at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill.

Unity Mission to NYC: a journey of transformation through Judaism's major institutions of higher learning, **Sunday & Monday, November 15 & 16**.

For details, visit www.synagoguecouncil.org or call 617.244.6506.

Gann Academy Open House

Sunday, October 25, 2009, 2 - 4:30 pm
Gann Academy, 333 Forest St. Waltham

Gann Academy, the New Jewish High School of Greater Boston, welcomes prospective families for an afternoon of discovery and exploration into our community and culture. Discuss with students, parents, faculty, and alumni what makes Gann Academy a community they are proud to be a part of, and one that you might be as well. For more information on our open house please call the admissions office at 781.642.6800.

Gateways:

Jewish Education for Special Needs Children

Gateways has room for new students with a special need or disability for the 2009-2010 school years in our Jewish Education Supplemental Programs. Students in these programs have moderate to severe special educational needs, such as developmental delays, hearing and/or visual impairments, autism spectrum disorder, and cerebral palsy.

Children learn about Jewish holidays, customs and traditions, mitzvot and Bible stories. Gateways teaches students using a highly structured, multi-sensory, multi-modal approach. We provide multi-sensory Hebrew education (ages 4-18), two-year B'nei Mitzvah preparation (ages 11-14), and the Mitzvah Menches Class (ages 13-18) that includes advanced prayer study, conversational Hebrew and an imbedded social skills curriculum options. For more information, contact Nancy Mager at nancym@jgateways.org or 617-630-9010, ext. 4.

Adult Family Care Program from Springwell

Did you know that family members can get paid to be a full-time caregiver? The Adult Family/Foster Care program (AFC) provides seniors or individuals with disabilities with live-in care from a familiar loved one (other than a spouse) or foster caregiver. The recipient of care must be eligible for and enrolled in Mass Health and reside in the home with the caregiver. AFC caregivers receive a tax-exempt monthly stipend and two weeks paid vacation per year. For additional information or to learn more about Springwell's AFC program, call 617.926.4100.

Attention Newton Members!

Join us for the first Newton interfaith collaboration:

Mayor Accountability Night

Wednesday, October 14, 7 to 9 pm
Temple Beth Avodah

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization member churches and synagogues in Newton and allied Newton religious congregations will present our platform of shared issue priorities to the candidates, asking each to endorse this platform and implement it during their term of office. The platform will include specific items relating to:

- Restoring Senior Transportation
- Protecting the Environment through Newton recycling
- Nurturing our youth by addressing social and academic pressure
- Expanding Affordable Housing
- Promoting Fair Banking Practices

The information will be useful and this new group should be able to have real influence towards Newton's future. Please contact **Allison Hausman** at adhausman@gmail.com or 617.796.9811 with any questions.

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 generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates. Thanks for your help!—*Marla Lichtman, Administrative Director*



October



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Oct 1	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 6</i>)
Fri Oct 2	5 pm - 8 pm	All-ages Erev Shabbat, Potluck & Sukkot Program	<i>Set-up:</i> Ilana Mainelli, Rebecca Gutman, Josette Akresh Gonzales & Michael Gonzales, Ben Newman & Sarah Hartman, Hankus Net-sky, <i>Clean-up:</i> Elizabeth Carver, Liz Reisberg, Reinhard Engels, Emily Shumsky, Amy Dain FUSN (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Oct 3	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Barbara Beck, Ricky Greenly, Elena Eisman, Alan Epstein
Thu Oct 8	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Oct 10	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Paul & Julie Fox, Tom Brown, Audra Karp
Sat Oct 10	7 pm - 9 pm	Simchat Torah	Doug Hersh, Helaine & John Carroll, Jamie Tessler - <i>in memory of Jeffrey Segal</i> (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Oct 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Education	FUSN: Headstart Room
Thu Oct 15	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Oct 17	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat and Bar Mitzvah of Hannah and Zach Pittel	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Diana Fisher Gomberg, Paul Hattis; <i>Set-up:</i> Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen, Susan Silberberg-Robinson & Tom Robinson, Ami Gordon, Benita Danzing; <i>Clean-up:</i> Laura & Joel Katz, Annie Weiss & David Cash, Sandy Sedacca & Sherwood Ives (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Oct 17	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Oct 18	9 am - 4 pm	Board Meeting - All day offsite retreat	TBD
Mon Oct 19	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu Oct 22	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Oct 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Oct 24	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn, Carole Slipowitz, Rob Saper
Sat Oct 24	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu Oct 29	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Oct 29	7:30 pm	Does God Play Favorites? A Dialogue on Chosenness with Dr. Joel Kaminsky	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Oct 29	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Oct 31	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jen Levine-Fried - <i>in memory of Jonathan Levine</i> , Ellen Pashall, Wendy Gedanken - <i>in memory of Irving Gedanken</i> , Ora Gladstone <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>



November



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Thu Nov 5	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Nov 5	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Nov 5	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Eco-Systems and Jewish Texts: A Creative Nexus with Rabbi Natan Margalit	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 6</i>)
Fri Nov 6	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Arthur Lent, Wendy Falchuk, Elaine Bresnick - <i>in memory of Sig Adler, Jodie Siegel</i> (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Nov 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Celia Gittleman	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Carole Slipowitz, Cindy Marshall
Sun Nov 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Education	FUSN: Headstart Room
Thu Nov 12	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Nov 12	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Eco-Systems and Jewish Texts: A Creative Nexus with Rabbi Natan Margalit	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Nov 12	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Fri Nov 13	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	(<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Nov 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Robbins	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Jonathan Gordon, Laurie Gould
Sat Nov 14	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 112 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Nov 15	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	60 Highland Street: Living Room
Wed Nov 18	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>note location</i>) (<i>see page 5</i>)
Thu Nov 19	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Nov 19	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location to be determined (<i>see page 6</i>)
Thu Nov 19	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Eco-Systems and Jewish Texts: A Creative Nexus with Rabbi Natan Margalit	60 Highland Street: Living Room (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sat Nov 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Linette Liebling - <i>in memory of Joel Liebling</i> , Jon Weisberg & Debbie Hemley, Erica Streit-Kaplan
Sat Nov 21	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sun Nov 22	5:30 pm - 8:15 pm	Members' Meeting & Dinner	Elaine Landes, Barbara Shatkin, Jo Radner & Sue Lanser 60 Highland Street; dinner at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall followed by the Members' Meeting (6:15 - 8:15 pm) upstairs in our sanctuary; Childcare provided in Room 112
Sat Nov 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Elizabeth Ross & Caren Smith - <i>in honor of our 16th anniversary</i> , Leah Diskin, Muriel Heiberger, <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Janet Boguslaw & Howard Kaufman

In memory of Elissa Kaufman

Helaine & John Carroll

*In honor of the birth of our third grandchild, Jordyn Chaya Carroll,
on August 6, 2009*

Carolyn Fine & Jerry Friedman

Lauren Gibbs

*With respect for Annette Lawson's wise and
generous educational leadership*

*In appreciation of Marla Lichtman's big heart
and all her hard work*

In celebration of Rabbi Spitzer's lifetime contract

*In grateful acknowledgment of Marc Steinberg's 3 years of presi-
dential dedication*

In thanks to Barbara Beck

In honor of the beautiful art of

Susannah Zisk and Sharon Gorberg

In love and remembrance of Patricia Kook Gibbs

*In recognition of the care and thought Laya Steinberg
put into this year's Yizkor Scroll*

Avital Lewis

In memory of my mother, Jill Volk

Elaine Pollack

In honor of Clara Ives' & Celia Gittleman's B'not Mitzvah

Sharon Sevransky & Jeff Goldman

*In honor of the "Hi Ho Chica" committee: Theresa St. John Siegel,
Sivan Nasoff, Lisa Dee Port White, & Marc Steinberg*

Susan Silberberg Robinson & Tom Robinson

Nessa Spitzer

In memory of Bill Spitzer

Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund

In memory of CDT member Jill Volk, 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 our school and one of its first teachers. This fund will allow her love of Judaism and Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

Camp JRF Fund

Louise Enoch & Alan Epstein

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Tessa & Clifford Goldsmith

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Ronnie Fuchs

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Diana & Howard Kassler

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Rosalie Phillips & Jon Kingsdale

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Gail & Stephen Leichtman

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Linette Liebling

*In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday. We are so blessed to
have him in our community!*

Elaine Pollack

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Eve Shulak

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Rabbi Toba Spitzer & Gina Fried

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Susan Wurzel

In honor of Dan Rome's 60th birthday

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Phyllis Glazerman

*In honor of the recovery of my brother, Arthur Goldberg, who
has just received a life-saving kidney*

Debbie Hemley, Jonathan Weisberg & Emma Weisberg

In memory of Jonathan's mom

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.

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Officers, Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff

Executive Committee	President: Paul Hattis Past President: Marc Steinberg VP Membership: Susannah Zisk VP Finance: Michael Cohen VP Education: Sheree Galpert Secretary: Peter Katz Rabbi Toba Spitzer
Board Chairs	Communications: Theresa St-John Siegel Finance Secretary: Sivan Nasoff Membership: Lisa Port White Leadership Development: Esther Kohn Newsletter: Dan Halbert Ritual: Cindy Marshall School: Betsy Hinden and Lisa Samelson Tikkun Olam: Alex Sugerman-Brozan Member-at-large: Dan Rome Member-at-large: Janice Cole
Off-Board Chairs	Chesed: Lisa Goodwin-Robbins Nediv Lev: Jeff Sacks Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone Space Liaison: Josh Lieberman Website: Stan Fleischman
Education Director	Annette Lawson
Administrative Director	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.