

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
www.dorsheitzedek.org info@dorsheitzedek.org

Cheshvan/Kislev 5770

November 2009



Harry Potter and the Two-State Solution

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

In the latter weeks of October, I decided to re-read the last two books in the Harry Potter series. I enjoy epic struggles between good and evil, and it's interesting to me how—both in the Harry Potter series and in other, similar sorts of epic fantasies—good and evil tend to be represented in very concrete, distinguishable ways. In Harry Potter, the bad guys—the “Death Eaters”—actually have a physical mark that identifies them (and they tend to be either nasty or stupid). The lead bad guy, Voldemort, is so physically altered as to appear snake-like. The various good guys may have flaws, but they are generally likeable and never do evil things.

As I was indulging my Potter-mania, I found myself re-engaging in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at a level that I haven't experienced in awhile. On October 21, in my capacity as local chair of the Brit Tzedek v'Shalom Rabbinic Cabinet, I helped bring together a group of rabbis to meet with Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish. Dr. Abuelaish is a Palestinian doctor who suffered unspeakable loss during last winter's war in Gaza, when three of his daughters were killed in their home by Israeli tank fire. Given what Dr. Abuelaish has been through so recently, I was reduced to a kind of awed silence by his eloquence and his resolute commitment to remaining engaged in Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. He has worked for many years in Israeli hospitals that treat both Israeli citizens as well as Palestinians from the territories, and in that setting Dr. Abuelaish has strived to help both Palestinians and Israelis see the humanity of the other. He preaches nonviolence and the need to clearly see the truth of what is happening in his homeland to both Gazans as well as Israelis and others, with a clarity and a lack of bitterness that is both heartbreaking and breathtaking. (To learn more about Dr. Abuelaish's story and the foundation he has established in his daughters' memory, go to www.daughtersforlife.com.)

A few days later, I was privileged to attend the first national conference of the lobbying group J Street, in Washington D.C. This amazing gathering, which brought together over 1,500 people from across the country and the globe, was focused on J Street's mission to foster vigorous U.S. support of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Panels of activists, policy experts, political leaders, artists, and many others, dis-

cussed everything from the state of Israeli democracy and peace activism to how the U.S. should address Iran to the role of the other Arab nations to Palestinian economic development, and many other topics besides. It was both a bit overwhelming and incredibly informative. The message that echoed throughout the conference was clear: for the sake of Israel's security and its ability to remain a Jewish and democratic state, for the sake of Palestinian freedom and self-determination, and for the sake of regional and world peace, there must be the political will within the U.S. to push, and keep pushing, the parties involved to achieve a workable two-state solution—and the sooner, the better. There was a real sense of urgency along with a realistic but hopeful sense that, given the leadership that President Obama has already taken on this issue, it might actually be possible.

Sitting through the conference sessions, I kept thinking about Harry Potter, and about how much easier it would be if the world fit into neat categories of “Death Eaters” and “Dumbledore's Army.” Of course it isn't so, yet the ways in which the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are discussed within the American Jewish community and in the larger society too often fall into this kind of simplistic, polarized discourse. In reality, Israeli and Palestinian society have their own internal contradictions and their many complexities, as do any societies. At the conference, it was extremely interesting to hear a former head of Israel's Shin Bet (the internal security agency) talk about his gradual realization that in the year leading up to the outbreak of the Second Intifadah, Hamas leaders refrained from carrying out terror attacks as long as the Palestinian public had some hope in a diplomatic solution to the conflict. It was helpful to hear someone who has engaged in diplomatic talks with Iranian officials speak about

(Continued on page 2) ►

Inside

Religious School News, Members' Meeting, New Members 2	
Shabbat Programs	3
B'not Mitzvah Celebrations, Chesed	4
Ask Lisa Dee, CDT Film Club	5
Tikkun Olam: Eco-Teams, Family Table, Toy Drive	6
Adult Education	7
Community	8
Calendar	9-10
Nediv Lev	11

(Continued from page 1)

those leaders' perception of their own security interests, and the fears which shape the actions they take vis-à-vis Israel and other countries. And it was wonderful to be among other American Jews who were willing and able to see both the beauty and the complexity of Israeli society, who could be honest and critical without needing to demonize Israel or its citizens.

The J Street conference—indeed, the very existence of J Street and its early success (I urge you to learn more about them, and to see video from the conference, at www.jstreet.org)—gives me real hope for the ability to have a much more nuanced, non-Harry Potter-like discussion of these critical issues within the American Jewish community. I came home from the conference with a clearer sense that we as a Jewish community need to do all that we can to affirm our support for the President in his work on this issue, and to re-engage our own passions and energies to work for Middle East peace. I am already beginning to think about what will hopefully be our second congregational trip to Israel in 2011, and I hope we as a community will find other ways as well to re-engage in this critical issue.

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org

If you come into the Upper School on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, you may encounter teachers giving students directions in Hebrew while students are walking, running, jumping, or spinning around the Parish Hall or Head Start Room at FUSN. What's up? Our newest addition to the curriculum, *Ivrit im Kol Haguf*, or Hebrew with the Whole Body.

This activity is based upon *Learning Another Language through Actions: Total Physical Response* (TPR) by James Asher and was adapted for teaching Hebrew in Jewish school settings by Dr. Lifsa Schachter of Siegal College of Judaic Studies.

TPR follows the strategies by which very young children acquire their first language: adult modeling of meaning and correct usage, lots of repetition, language bonded through physical activity, and lots of encouragement. TPR assumes a long period of exposure to a language before a student produces language on his or her own.

Teachers start with a few directions (for example, run, sit, walk), which they model for the students. When the students do the right action for the direction, the teacher praises them. New directions are gradually introduced, as are prepositions and nouns (for example, jump next to the chair). Over time, as students begin through repetition and movement to acquire the meaning of the Hebrew, they will start to use the Hebrew themselves.

Teachers in the Upper School are using TPR as both a fun activity that incorporates a lot of movement and as a way of developing interest in Hebrew as a modern spoken language.

Members' Meeting

Sunday, November 22,
 5:30 pm Pizza & Salad Dinner, 6:15 pm Members' Meeting
Child care provided

Come learn about learning! At our first Members' Meeting of 5770, we will be kicking off a new initiative, called "**Limmud 2010**." "Limmud" means 'learning,' and we are embarking as a congregation on a year-long exploration of what it would mean to become a congregation of learners. How do we want to learn as a community—kids, teens, and adults? What would it mean for all of us to be engaged in Jewish learning in way that is meaningful and that fits into our busy lives? What do we want for our kids and for ourselves? **We need you to be part of the conversation!** We hope at least one member of every CDT household will be able to attend. We especially want to encourage those who have found themselves too busy, conflicted, intimidated, or uninterested to do much in the way of Jewish learning to date—we need your input.

Welcome New Members!



We welcome as new members:

- **Irena Fayngold** and **Paul Schimek**, and their children **Amitai** and **Hannah**
- **Sari** and **Walter Gazda**, and their daughter **Hannah**
- **Andrea Jacobs**
- **Staci Rubin** and **Jamie Wilson**

Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

High Holyday Sermons: The talks that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei. In addition, CDT members' "Jewish Journey" talks are available in the "Members Only" section. Also of interest, see Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site of more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading.

Shabbat Programs

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

All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service

*Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 9, May 7, June 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

Nov 13, Dec 18, 8 pm – 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!).

On **November 13**, we will be joining with Congregation Shir Chadash for an erev Shabbat service co-led by **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** and **Rabbi Audrey Marcus-Berkman**. The service will include lots of singing and a little study. Come join us!

Shabbat Shira

January 29, 6:15 pm potluck, 7 pm musical service, for all ages

On this “Shabbat of Song,” join Rabbi Toba and musicians for a vegetarian potluck dinner, followed by a musical service (and bring your dancing shoes!).

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

*Nov 14, Dec 19, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 1, June 5
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

*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

*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 an age-appropriate service with lots of singing, for all the kids. 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.

Bat Mitzvah of Celia Gittleman

Please join us on **November 7** as our daughter, **Celia**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Celia is a seventh grader at Day Middle School in Newton where she is preparing to perform in *Our Town*. Celia is an avid reader and can often be found sneaking books late at night when she thinks nobody is watching. For her Tikkun Olam project Celia has been volunteering with Charles River Arc where she works with autistic children while their parents attend educational programs. We hope to see you at the service and Kiddush lunch.

—Jacqui Bloomberg and Peter Gittleman

Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Anne Robbins

Please join us on **November 14** when our daughter, **Charlotte**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. In the seventh grade at Brown Middle School in Newton, Charlotte is a caring, thoughtful person, a good friend, and a great big sister to Allison. She plays all kinds of sports, but especially enjoys soccer. She likes to sing, to dance, and to participate in musicals at Watertown Children's Theatre. For her Tikkun Olam project she tutored an ESL student, through a teen program at the Newton Public Library. We look forward to sharing this day with the CDT community. Please join us for services and Kiddush luncheon. —Lisa Goodwin Robbins and Andrew Robbins

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, Tess Siegel, Ellen Pashall, and Ellen White**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Mazel Tov

To **Miriam Bolkosky** and **Benjamin Wright** on the birth and brit milah of **Samuel** and **Ethan**!

To our October b'nei mitzvah, **Hannah** and **Zachary Pittel**, and **Noah Marcus**, and their families!

Todah Rabah

To all those who helped recently with Kiddush or B'nei Mitzvah: **Rob Saper, Josette Akresh-Gonzales and Michael Gonzales, Karen Arnold, Barbara Beck, Amy Brodesky & Rex Flynn, Tom Brown, Helaine and John Carroll, Benita Danzing, Elena Eisman, Alan Epstein, Diana Fisher Gomburg, Ami Gordon, Rob Greenly, Becca Gutman, Paul Hattis, Doug Hersh, Audra Karp, Ilana Mainelli, Hankus Netsky, Ben Newman and Sarah Hartman, Elaine Pollack, Liz Reisberg, Cindy Shulak-Rome, Emily Shumsky, Carole Sliowitz, Jamie Tessler—in memory of Jeffrey Segal, Lisa Port White, and Jerry Zolit.**

A big thank you to **Noam Shore** and all those who helped him with building and taking down of our communal sukkah: **Kenny Breuer, Mark Farber, Doron Gan, Rochelle Hahn, Klainberg-Rosenberg tribe, Tim Rosa, Mark Rosenberg, Jeff Sacks, and David Shumsky. Mark Farber and Mark Rosenberg** pulled double duty this year! We managed to get the entire sukkah in a Prius!

Todah Rabah to the fabulous **Hankus Netsky** and **Marissa Licata** for the wonderful music on Simchat Torah!

Ask Lisa Dee

Send your questions to Lisa Port White, ldpw@rcn.com

Dear Lisa Dee,

In a few weeks I am supposed to be 'doing kiddush' after a Shabbat morning service .I know I've been told what to do in the past, but I just am not really sure what I'm supposed to do. Can you help me, Lisa Dee?—Nervous in Ntown

Dear Nervous,

First, my nervous friend, I'd ask you to take a breath and imagine a world of abundance, where all have their fill and people who are listed to be working together to provide nourishment communicate clearly and in a timely manner. Feel better? I do.

Complete and thorough instructions are on the website (www.dorsheitzedek.org under *For Members* and then *Providing Kiddush*), however even folks who have 'done kiddush' before often don't remember what to do, so don't worry, you are in fabulous company. **Because this seems to be a concern, I will be offering tours of the kitchen once a month for anyone at services who wants a walk-through or little refresher. There will be an announcement at the end of services letting people know.**

There are a couple of things that need to happen for the folks taking care of the kiddush for after a Saturday morning service. The kiddush is a way for our community to spend time together while sharing a meal, without covenantal obligations or work to discuss. CDT made the deliberate choice to make kiddush more of an actual meal, rather than just a nosh, to provide time for social connections. And this is a delightful opportunity, this gathering around round tables with plates of food. So, what does providing for this delightful opportunity really mean? There are a few things that have to happen. There are often several people listed as providers in the newsletter and online (www.dorsheitzedek.org, under *Calendar*, then *Member Calendar*). Someone needs to begin the contacting process. Nervous, may I suggest you email or call the other people listed with you? There are some things you need to work out together—who is going to bring what, what time people think they will be showing up, etc.

When the group assigned to kiddush is figuring out what to bring, please keep quantities in mind. Please make sure to bring enough food for 50-75 people. One person should not be stuck with making tuna fish salad for the entire *kahall*, so it's nice to figure out ahead of time who is bringing what and how much. Also, we have many people with food allergies, so it is very helpful if you could list the ingredients in the food you bring.

As with all things at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, this is not supposed to be an undue burden (at least financially). You are welcome to submit a reimbursement form (found on the website) for out-of-pocket costs .If you are making an in-kind donation, you can leave the receipt in the CDT office door letting Marla know that's what you are doing. If two (or more) families

are splitting the costs, please make arrangements to be reimbursed outside of shul, as we prefer that money does not change hands at shul on the Holy Sabbath.

A question from Lisa Dee:

Dear Chaverim—one of the questions recently submitted has been a stumper for me, so I'm throwing it out to CDT's collective wisdom. The question is, where does the phrase "may his/her memory be for a blessing" come from? Why do people say it? What do they mean when they do? I have learned a bit, but not the where or what. Please email me, ldpw@rcn.com or visit me on my Ask Lisa Dee Facebook page.

CDT Film Club

Aviva, My Love

Saturday night, November 21, Potluck: 6 pm, film: 7 pm

Location to be announced

CDT Film Club's film this month is *Aviva, My Love*. Aviva, a hard-working hotel cook in the small northern Israeli town of Tiberias, is on the brink of finally fulfilling her lifelong dream. For years she kept her remarkable writing abilities under wraps, until her sister, Anita, introduces her to Oded, an accomplished novelist. Immediately recognizing Aviva's talent, Oded takes her under his wing, promising to help her achieve greatness. But the journey to greatness affects her life and the lives of her family—her unemployed husband, her trouble children, her unstable mother, and primarily her sister, a funny and sensitive woman who have her own dreams. When Aviva discovered that Oded has other plans for her work, her world collapses.

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!

Save these dates for future films:

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)

If you would like to host a film or have questions, please contact Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com) or Emily Sper (esper@blueirisdesign.com).

Tikkun Olam

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%.

We are hoping to organize a number of CDT Eco-Teams, 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.newtonecotteams.org and www.greendecade.org/ecoteams.html.

A Simple Mitzvah: 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.

Hanukkah Toy Drive for Local Families in Need

The Center for Family Assistance (CFA) at Jewish family & Children's service is beginning its annual Hanukkah Toy Drive. In these extremely hard times of economic crisis, so many have lost their jobs and homes, and need to ask for help now more than ever. If you'd like to donate a \$25 gift card to a local store, please contact their Toy Drive Coordinator at toydrive@jfcbsoston.org or at 781-647-5327 extension #2210 with any questions.

Ritual Committee

Shabbat Practice

The Ritual Committee will be brainstorming ways that CDT can build a culture of Shabbat practice. If you are interested in joining us, our meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30 pm** at the home of Ed and Matilda Bruckner, 516 Ward St, Newton. All are welcome. Contact Cindy Rivka Marshall at cindy@cindymarshall.com for more information.

Leyners, Lay Service Leaders, D'var Torah Presenters

We are a participatory community in many ways and services are lay led one Shabbat each month. We are always looking for folks who would like to step up to these leadership roles, and we will provide support and training to get you ready! If you have ever considered the possibility of learning to chant Torah, or lead the congregation in part of the service, or if you would like to plan a Torah talk or discussion, please contact us. Your help is needed and your contribution will be appreciated. Contact Cindy Rivka Marshall at cindy@cindymarshall.com for more information.

The Membership Committee Is Looking for a Few Good Menschen

Lisa Port White (ldpw@rcn.com)

Do you like people? Do you like the idea of liking people? You don't need to answer yes to both of those to be part of a great team of people committed to making Congregation Dorshei Tzedek welcoming to people who come to our events—prospective members, new members, and, heck, even members who've been with us for years.

The Membership Committee needs folks for a variety of different jobs:

- Ambassadors at services and events
- Coordinators for orientations and open houses
- Host families to offer a meal or to attend services with folks
- Note writers and phone callers to follow up after events

For more information about joining the Membership Committee, email Lisa Port White (ldpw@rcn.com). Watch your email for a CDT Announce for news of the next Membership Committee meeting. If you come, you might get an honorable menschen.

Adult Education

Eco-Systems and Jewish Texts: A Creative Nexus

with Rabbi Natan Margalit

Thursday evenings, Nov 5, 12 & 19, 7:30 – 9 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.

Soul Questions: An Exploration

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am

Note: No class on November 26, December 31

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!

New Class!

Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9 pm, at 60 Highland Street
Jan 20 and 26, Feb 3; Mar 3, 10, and 24
(Dorshei Tzedek Members only)

Where have we been, and where are we going—as Jews, as human beings? This class is an opportunity to reflect on our personal journeys, and to inquire into the development of our beliefs, values, and commitments. The first three sessions will focus on exercises to help participants begin the writing process. After a break, the class will re-convene to share what people have written. Because class size is limited, you must contact Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) to register. No writing experience or expertise needed!

Exploring the Bible

Dr. Sanford Goldfless

Monday afternoons, 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Classes meet October through May

Contact Stan Fleischman (stanf@rcn.com) for location
(\$15 per session; fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)

In this class we’ll read together, in English, large selections from the Jewish scriptures. 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.

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.

Community

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 Men-sches 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.

Rashi School Programs for Parents and Children

Wednesday, Nov 4, and Friday, Nov 20, 9:30 – 11 am

Parents interested in learning more about The Rashi School, Boston's Reform Jewish Day School, are invited to attend one of two upcoming Information Sessions at the school, 15 Walnut Park, Newton. (Park in Jackson Road lot.) Attendees will learn how Rashi's approach to education, featuring integrated learning and individualized instruction, can help each child flourish. Parents will see classes in action and meet Rashi educators.

Preschoolers ages 3-5 are invited to become "Small Singers and Shakers" at the next Curious Minds program, on Wednesday, November 18, 1:30 – 2:45 pm at Rashi. Children will make music with a variety of instruments in this interactive music and movement class led by early childhood specialist Stacy Lake. The program includes a healthy snack and a craft activity. Curious Minds programs are free, but pre-registration is required. Contact Anne Puchkoff at 617-969-4444 x 226 or admissions@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 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*



November



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Mon Nov 2	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Thu Nov 5	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
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 (see page 7)
Fri Nov 6	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Arthur Lent, Wendy Falchuk, Elaine Bresnick - <i>in memory of Sig Adler</i> , Jodie Siegel (see page 3)
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 (see page 4)
Sun Nov 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Education	FUSN: Headstart Room
Mon Nov 9	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Thu Nov 12	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
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 (see page 7)
Fri Nov 13	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Susan Silberberg-Robinson & Tom Robinson, Melanie Adler & Andy Cohen (see page 3)
Sat Nov 14	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
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 (see page 4)
Sat Nov 14	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 110, 112 (see page 3)
Sun Nov 15	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members only</i> : 60 Highland St: Living Room
Mon Nov 16	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Wed Nov 18	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland Street: Library (note location)
Thu Nov 19	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
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 (see page 7)
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 (see page 3)
Sat Nov 21	6 pm	CDT Film Club	(see page 5)
Sun Nov 22	5:30 pm - 8:15 pm	Members' Meeting & Dinner <i>5:30 pm Pizza & Salad Dinner, 6:15 pm Meeting</i>	Elaine Landes, Barbara Shatkin, Jo Radner & Sue Lanser; Childcare provided in Room 112 (see page 2)
Mon Nov 23	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
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>
Mon Nov 30	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)



December



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Tue Dec 1	7:30 pm	Ritual Committee: Building a culture of Shabbat practice	(see page 6)
Thu Dec 3	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Fri Dec 4	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Rachel Zakuta, Tom Kuh, Liz Carver & Bryn Austin (see page 3)
Sat Dec 5	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Corinne Lofchie & Noam Shore, Hope Kellman, Matt Fried - <i>in memory of Art Fried</i>
Mon Dec 7	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Thu Dec 10	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Thu Dec 10	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members only:</i> 60 Highland St: Living Room
Sat Dec 12	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lisa Goodwin-Robbins, Jan Gortler-Small - <i>in memory of my father-in-law, Milton Small, Laura Katz, Tracey Rogers</i>
Sat Dec 12	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (see page 3)
Sat Dec 12	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 110, 112 (see page 3)
Sat Dec 12	6 pm - 9 pm	Dorshei Teen Chanukah event	60 Highland Street: Room 111, kitchen
Sun Dec 13	4 pm - 6:30 pm	Chanukah Party	<i>Set-up:</i> Jan Gortler Small - <i>in memory of Susan Varon Small, David Reider, Susan Bernstein, Jodi Sugerman-Brozan, Polly Crozier & Jessica Keimowitz;</i> <i>Clean-up:</i> Jennifer Hochschild, Valerie Graf & Doron Gan - <i>in honor of Evan's 2nd birthday, Jennifer & David Greenberg, Tessa Goldsmith - in honor of Clifford Goldsmith's birthday</i> FUSN
Mon Dec 14	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Thu Dec 17	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Fri Dec 18	8 pm	Adult Erev Shabbat Service	Rachel Greenberg, Lisa Schneier, Diane Becker; Final night of Chanukah (see page 3)
Sat Dec 19	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Dec 19	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jon Weisberg & Debbie Hemley, Amy Mazur - <i>in memory of my father, Marvin Mazur, Ruth Paris</i>
Mon Dec 21	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Thu Dec 24	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)
Sat Dec 26	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ilana Streit - <i>in memory of my great-aunt Ruth Weinberg Meschmar, Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, Audra Karp; Rabbi Toba off</i>
Mon Dec 28	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	(see page 7)
Thu Dec 31	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (see page 7)

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Terice and Martin Cohen

In honor of our grandson Sam Cohen's Bar Mitzvah

Nancy Gertz and Michael Cohen

Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan

Happy Birthday Tim Rosa

Jessica Gordon

Annette and Alan Lieberman

In recognition of the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of Aryeh Lieberman; in recognition of Amalia Lieberman's playing at Kol Nidre

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

*In memory of Bill Shorr's father, Bernard Shorr
in memory of Roz Marcus, Hillary Marcus' mother*

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sam Cohen

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Zach Pittel

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Pittel

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Celia Gittleman

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Goodwin-Robbins

William Small

In honor of the Kuh family

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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Trudy Nemeth, Richard Cohen, and Rachel Nemeth Cohen

With gratitude to Rabbi Toba for all of her help and support for Sam Cohen's Bar Mitzvah

Susan Nitkin & Jeffrey Marcus

With thanks, on the occasion of Noah's Bar Mitzvah

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.