

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
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Food, Torah, and the Torah of Food

Rabbi Toba Spitzer, rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org

There is a famous early rabbinic saying, *Im ain kemach ain Torah; im ain Torah ain kemach*. Literally, this means "If there's no flour, there's no Torah; if there's no Torah, there's no flour." This is usually interpreted to mean that Torah learning can't exist without attention to "flour"—that is, the stuff from which we make bread, the basic material of life. At the same time, it affirms that mere physical survival—bread alone— isn't truly living without Torah, without spiritual and intellectual sustenance.

As our Food Matters initiative continues into its second year, building on the learning and exploration that we began last year, I think this saying holds some deeper truths for us as well. What Jewish tradition has long held, and what more and more Americans are coming to understand, is that *kemach* (food)—its consumption and its production—is itself a kind of Torah. The basic tenet of *kashrut*, which has its roots in Biblical prohibitions on which animals can be eaten and how they are eaten, is this:

what we put into our mouths matters. The Torah gives no rationale for its restrictions, but claims that eating in a mindful, disciplined way is a fundamental piece of what it means it to be a "holy people."

When we look at some of the Torah's laws surrounding the production of food, we can also see a deeper set of values at work. Farmers were commanded to leave the corners of their fields and the gleanings of each harvest for the poor, and to bring each year a tenth of the crop to the Temple in Jerusalem as an offering (every third year, this tithe was to be given to the poor and landless in the community). These rules reminded farmers that their fields did not entirely belong to them, because both God (represented by the priests and the Temple) and those who could not grow their own food had a claim on a portion of the harvest. The Israelite farmer was a kind of co-tenant with God, sharing in the bounty but not owning it completely, and responsible to those who could not farm for themselves.

The way in which our food is produced and consumed in the 21st century is a far cry from the system described in the Torah. Over the course of the past 100 years, agricultural and animal products were transformed from locally raised foodstuffs to internationally traded commodities. The commodification of food has had many repercussions, certainly far too many to recount

here in this newsletter column. But some of those repercussions include: widespread hunger in countries where people were once able to feed themselves; agricultural advances that have vastly increased our capacity to produce enough food for the burgeoning human population; negative environmental effects of industry farming; and the advent of "fast food," which often seems to bear little resemblance to anything that might actually nourish us.

Yet in recent years, it feels as if more and more people are becoming aware of a new "Torah of food." This "Torah" includes a commitment to supporting small farms as opposed to industrial agriculture; paying greater attention to whether vegetables and animals have been grown or raised in ways that promote the well-being of consumers, of the animals themselves, and of the earth; and an awareness of the treatment of workers in the agricultural industry. While none of these issues is new, what seems to be emerging now is a more comprehensive awareness that our entire system of raising and consuming food is highly problematic. It is no longer just a matter of supporting farm workers or seeking out organic food. As Americans, as global citizens, and as Jews, we need to think about new ways to organize the production and consumption of the food that we eat.

Our "Food Matters" team, led by our Tikkun Olam chair **Alex Sugerman-Brozan**, is providing a number of ways for us as a congregation to go a bit deeper into how we might support and incorporate into our lives a new "Torah of food." We are actively exploring the possibility of becoming, in partnership with a few other local synagogues and churches, a distribution site for Red Fire Farm, a CSA (community supported agriculture) in western Massachusetts. We hope this will both encourage our members to support local farmers and will also open up opportunities for

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collaboration that might include anything from donating a portion of each harvest to those in need (in accord with Torah principles) to educating ourselves and our kids about environmentally sensitive farming techniques.

I also hope that many CDT members will attend the **February 6th Shabbat afternoon event with Nigel Savage**, the founder of Hazon. This organization is the pre-eminent American Jewish group helping to create and implement the new "Torah of food," and Nigel's visit to our congregation is a unique opportunity (see page 6).

Finally, our Board recently voted to join an organizing effort led by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a group seeking to improve both the working conditions and the pay of poor workers in the tomato fields of south Florida. Having successfully targeted McDonalds and Taco Bell, the CIW is now focusing on the parent company of Stop & Shop, which is headquartered in Quincy, MA. Stay tuned for more information on all of these efforts, and be in touch with Alex if there is any way that you'd like to get involved.

Board Meeting Minutes

Peter Katz, Secretary, peter_katz@harvard.edu

The CDT Board met on December 10. The following the topics were discussed.

Members' Meeting – There was an excellent turnout—about 80 people—at the November 22 members' meeting on the topic of education and congregational learning. Several people commented on how enjoyable the icebreaker was. The Limud 2010 team is reviewing the ideas that came out of the meeting.

Finance – The financial situation to date is consistent with the budget.

Tikkun Olam – Planned Food Matters activities include possible participation in a community-supported agriculture project and farm-to-shul workshops and the formation of two CDT eco-teams. See the "Tikkun Olam" article on page 6 for more information.

Membership – The committee is working on developing "elevator pitches" on CDT and Reconstructionism.

Ritual – The Ritual Committee is brainstorming on how to foster and deepen Shabbat practice and awareness. The committee is also working on training and encouraging more people to lead services. See the "Shabbat Corner" article on this page.

Communications – The committee is considering ways to improve the website.

School – Annette Lawson discussed training for teachers led by Gina Fried and an upcoming community education program. The school is doing well, but there is additional capacity at all levels.

Kiddush – The Board discussed ways that the Kiddush experience might be improved.

Shabbat Corner

My Shabbat Practice: Saying Goodbye to the Hum

Erica Streit-Kaplan

[Note: at a recent Ritual Committee meeting, we discussed ways to promote greater Shabbat consciousness at CDT. One idea was to include occasional musings here in the newsletter, from different members, on what Shabbat means to them. If you'd like to share your Shabbat practice in the newsletter, please send it to Ritual Chair Cindy Rivka Marshall at cindyrivka@aol.com.]

It's Wednesday afternoon and my preschooler is playing a computer game while her toddler sister reaches up to press the buttons too; chaos ensues. And I hear the hum—the almost imperceptible buzzing of the computer. Or it's late Thursday night and my husband James and I are watching a movie trailer instead of being smart and heading to bed. And I hear the hum.

But if it's Friday at 6 p.m., I don't hear the hum. Or I soon won't because the family computer goes off and stays off for all of Shabbat. I love the quiet, the calm that falls over our house as we turn off the computer and that incessant hum of the week falls away. That absence of sound leads us into our *tzedakah* ritual and Friday night blessings.

Of course the computer is great for all sorts of things, but I love having a day where we don't have the temptation of online shopping, Facebook, and all that the world has to offer. We set aside this time to just BE together. We sing, we play, we go to services, we nap, we see friends; sometimes we run errands; sometimes we get tired of each other.

Recently our family gave up TV on Shabbat too, which had served as a friendly and free babysitter. But we got the advice that if we want to break the habit of Shabbat TV, sooner was better, before our kids got old enough to really rebel. They resisted at first but now seem to accept the rule; they even help us throw on blankets to cover up the screens. I find I'm more relaxed about it too—instead of having to ration TV with "Just this one show, girls" our answer is "It's Shabbat; no TV--family day." Hearing them repeat this mantra makes me proud, and I am happy to be building a meaningful Shabbat practice for me and my family.

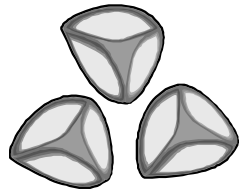
Members' Meeting, Sunday, March 21: Save the date!

5:30 pm dinner, 6:15 pm meeting

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.

Purim

Saturday, February 27, 7 – 9 pm
First Unitarian Society,
1326 Washington Street



Purim is coming! Join Rav Tiffany and the CDT Spielers for our yearly Purim bash, featuring:

- Costume parade (prizes for kids and adults in costume – come as you wanna be!)
- Purim davvening with Rav Tiffany
- Megillah reading (give a shout when you hear You-Know-Who's name!)
- The Purim Spiel
- Purim dance party, and hamentaschen galore!

Calling all spielers: If you are a CDT member and interested in being in, or helping out with, the Purim Spiel, please contact James Kaplan at jameshkaplan@hotmail.com

Mishloach Manot: One Purim tradition is the exchange of sweets and other goodies with friends and neighbors. Bring a *mishloach manot* plate the Purim party (plates can include hamentaschen, other sweets, fruit, what you'd like!) and take a different one home.



Matanot Le'evyonim – It is also traditional to give gifts of food to those in need on Purim. We have taken on a special Passover commitment to Family Table - we need to collect one hundred boxes of Kosher for Passover kugel and potato pancake mix. Please bring a box or two (or three!) to the Purim party!

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

February 5, March 5, April 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.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

February 13, March 20, April 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

February 20, March 13, April 3 (*note date change*),
May 1, June 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

February 20, March 20, April 17, May 1, June 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.

Reconstructionist Erev Shabbat

Friday evening, March 26, 8 pm
Temple Hillel Bnai Torah, 120 Corey Street, West Roxbury

On this erev Shabbat, we will join with members of Reconstructionist congregations Temple Hillel Bnai Torah and Shir Hadash for a musical service and learning with Rabbis Toba Spitzer, Barbara Penzner, and Audrey Marcus-Berkman. Please join us!

Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Reider

Join us to celebrate on **February 6** when our son, **Nathan** will be called to the Torah. Nathan is in grade seven at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton. When not playing the saxophone, Nathan enjoys being outside, keeping up with the Red Sox, listening to music, making things, and spending summers at his fantastic Habonim camp, Na'aleh. For his *tikkun olam* project, Nathan has been a weekly volunteer with the Special Needs Department at the JCC where he plays games and various sports with kids. We are very proud of Nathan and welcome you to join us for this simcha!—
Pamela Schoenberg Reider and Joel Reider

Bat Mitzvah of Shayna Farmelant

Please join us on **February 27** as our daughter, **Shayna Rose**, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Shayna is a seventh grader at the Watertown Middle School and is a regular participant at the Watertown Children's Theatre. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this special day with the Dorshei Tzedek community. We also look forward to introducing our family members to our Jewish home at CDT. Please join us for services and celebrate with us at a Kiddush luncheon afterwards.—*Kristen Petersen and Stuart Farmelant*

Avelut

Monthly Support Group for CDT Mourners

February 8, 8:30 pm, home of Paul Hattis (Newton Centre)

Avelut is a monthly gathering of CDT members (and prospective members) in mourning, focusing on mutual support and chance to share individual journeys in bereavement. See above for this month's meeting. Next month's meeting date and location is **March 8, time to be determined**, at the home of Linda Kramer (Roslindale).

April, May and June week night meeting dates will be set based on the schedules of those participating, and posted in the newsletter and online member calendars. Please join us if you would like to remember a lost family member or friend. We are also open to prospective members. If you would like more information, or you can volunteer to host the meeting in April, May or June, contact **Hilary Marcus** (hrm99@hotmail.com).

Rosh Chodesh Gathering

*Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 – 9 pm
60 Highland Street, Parlor*



Join us for this month's Congregation Dorshei Tzedek Rosh Chodesh gathering. We will celebrate the new moon of Adar with songs, conversation, and creative expression. When Adar comes, everyone is happy! All CDT women are

invited to come welcome this joyful month. To RSVP or for questions, contact Alison Lobron (auderial@yahoo.com) or Erica Streit-Kaplan (ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com).



Thinking about Summer? First-Time Camper Grants Available

We are participating again this year in Combined Jewish Philanthropies "First-Time Camper Grant" program. If your child is going to a Jewish overnight camp this summer for at least 3 weeks and has never been to a Jewish overnight camp before (or has only gone for a shorter period of time), then s/he is eligible for a \$1,000 grant! (Jewish day school students are not eligible for this grant.) For the CJP first-time camper grants, please be in touch with Rabbi Toba (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617-965-0330) for information on the application process.

Camp JRF Scholarship Fund

One of our movements' most precious resources is Camp JRF, the Reconstructionist summer camp in the Poconos. A number of CDT kids have gone in recent years, and our beloved Elana Rome and Amy Goldsmith are long-time staff. **Information and registration forms are available at www.campjrf.org.** Here at CDT we have a **scholarship fund** for members sending their kids to Camp JRF (whether for the first or fifth time!). For the CDT Camp JRF Scholarship Fund, please contact Marla Lichtman in the office (admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org) for an application form.

CDT Art Gallery

60 Highland Street in our sanctuary, ongoing

Don't miss the new art exhibit up in our sanctuary space, featuring photography by Emily Sper and monoprints by Lynda Goldberg. Be sure to take a look next time you're at services!

CDT Community Learning

Save the date!

Preparing for Pesach: Community Learning Day

Sunday, March 14, 2-4:30 pm, First Unitarian Society

Stay tuned!

Adult Education

Soul Questions: An Exploration

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday mornings, 8 – 9 am

Please note: no class February 18, March 18

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!

Leyning Class starting in February

with Rabbi Elaine Pollack

Would you like to learn how to leyn (chant from the Torah)? If you read Hebrew and are even a little bit musically inclined, you are a good candidate for learning how. Elaine Pollack will be offering a class on **Sunday evenings beginning at the end of February**. If you have an interest, contact Cindy Marshall at cindyrivka@aol.com. Watch for further updates. Thanks.

CJP Emergency Education Needs-Based Grants

As part of CJP's Economic Response, applications for tuition subsidies are now available for families who wish to send their children to Jewish preschools and Jewish overnight camps for the 2010 camp season and the 2010-2011 school year.

This funding enables Jewish day schools and high schools to increase their financial aid awards for the 2010-2011 school year. All 13 of Greater Boston's day schools will receive this funding. There is no special application; every family who completes their school's financial aid application will be considered for these grants.

For more information, see <http://www.cjp.org/page.aspx?id=196893>.

Religious School News

Annette Lawson, Education Director
school@dorsheitzedek.org

Seventy five children and adults attended the Community Learning event on January 10, “B'tselem Elohim – In God's Image”. They spent the afternoon considering from various perspectives how to treat others with the dignity they deserve if all are created in the Divine image. Activities ranged from a workshop on the rights of workers to a movie about coming out in a Jewish high school to a discussion of how teenagers communicate with each other electronically to learning about how to give in a way that preserves the dignity of the recipient. *Yasher koach* (good work!) to the first through fourth graders who turned their learning into action that afternoon by assembling three dozen goodie bags for the organization Birthday Wishes. *Todah Rabah* (a big thank you!) to **Tracey Rogers, David Lobron and Clifford Goldsmith** for their help with the event.

This month Kitot Gimmel-Vav were treated to a wonderful performance by the students in the drama *breira* (elective) of Isaac Bashevis Singer's story “The Fools of Chelm and the Stupid Carp,” in which we learned that you can't punish a carp by drowning it. Thank you to teacher **Ben Rotenberg** for organizing and directing the play.

The Kitah Alef-Bet parents and children engaged in a lively bit of Torah learning about the Tower of Babel led by teacher **Amy Goldsmith**. Amy had them working in groups constructing towers from paper and tape—only some people couldn't talk, some could only talk but not use their hands, others could only whisper. Parents and students alike found it an interesting challenge.

And our peripatetic students in BaDerech hit the road again, this time traveling to the Vedanta Society in Boston to learn about Hinduism.

Ritual Committee

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 cindyrivka@aol.com for more information. (See this page for more information on our new leyning class.)

Tikkun Olam

Alex Sugerman-Brozan, tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org

Food & Jewish Values: Learning Event and Havdalah

with Nigel Savage, Executive Director of Hazon

February 6, 4:30 – 6:30 pm, 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary

Jewish values have much to say about the food on our tables. How does it get there? How is it produced? How far does it travel? Who gets to eat enough and who doesn't? Dorshei Tzedek, along with JALSA (the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action) Moishe/Kavod House, and Temple Shalom, are jointly bringing Nigel Savage, charismatic leader of HAZON, a national Jewish environmental group, to the Boston area. Hazon (www.hazon.org), is "home of the new Jewish food movement." They run a national Jewish CSA program (*Tuv Haaretz*), publish the "Jew and the Carrot" blog (www.jcarrot.org), and host an annual Jewish food conference.

Join us for an exciting and inspiring presentation and discussion with one of the leaders of Jewish food and environmental activism. Meet and talk with folks from other synagogues and Jewish organizations interested in raising awareness and action in the Jewish community on food justice and sustainability.

Please arrive by 4:15 pm, because the program starts promptly at 4:30 pm.

Farm to Shul Speakers Training Potlucks

Sunday, February 28, 4 - 6 pm

For members who will be presenting the Farm to Shul workshop on March 6, we are having a 2-hour training on how to do it! The training will be at Dorshei Tzedek (exact room TBA) and will be led by leaders from Moishe/Kavod. Please RSVP to Alex at tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org.

Farm to Shul Potlucks

March 6

The Moishe/Kavod House in Brookline (<http://www.kavodhouse.com/>) has developed an exciting, interactive workshop for synagogues and the Jewish community on food called the "Farm to Shul" workshop. It addresses how our food gets from the farm (whether locally or across the globe) to our tables. On March 6, Dorshei Tzedek members will host potlucks in their homes, inviting other members to eat and attend a Farm to Shul workshop.

We need *potluck hosts* and *workshop speakers.* If you would like to either host a potluck or lead a workshop at a potluck (or both!), please email Alex at tikkunolam@dorsheitzedek.org. Our goal is to get at least five potlucks, geographically dispersed among the communities from which Dorshei Tzedek draws its members (for example, Newton, Watertown, Cambridge/Somerville, Jamaica Plain/Roslindale, etc.).



Coming Soon (Hopefully!): A Dorshei Tzedek CSA!

Tom Brown has been meeting and planning with a great Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Western Mass. on having Dorshei

Tzedek be the Newton drop-off site for the 2010 Season. Dorshei Tzedek members would get "first dibs" on purchasing a produce share from this great local farm. Whether you've been a member of a CSA for years, or have never been one, this is a great chance not just to support a local farm and get fresh local produce every week, but to do it as part of the Dorshei Tzedek community!

We are currently working on finalizing a drop-off location and other logistics and hope to have good news and an update soon. We may be partnering with Temple Shalom, the First Unitarian Society of Newton (FUSN) and Second Church (where we're located).

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)

CDT will continue to be involved in GBIO as they push forward on their agenda to improve health care, increase educational access and job opportunities and fight against usurious interest rates. If you are interested in getting involved in CDT's participation in GBIO, please contact Laurie Goldman, laurie.goldman@tufts.edu, or Paul Hattis, paul.hattis@rcn.com.

A Simple Mitzvah: Family Table Donations

Whenever you come to shul or to the Hebrew school, 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 next to the school office at FUSN, 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.).

In addition, we have taken on a special Passover commitment to Family Table, and are collecting boxes of Kosher for Passover kugel and potato pancake mix. This collection runs until March 8!

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 need drivers on five more Sundays through July. 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 Happenings

Rashi's Preschool Program

Get an introduction to The Rashi School through its Curious Minds preschool program. "Purim: Let's Make Noise and Boo Haman!" Children age 3-5 and their parents are invited to learn about Purim and make a noisy grogger with Rashi's art teacher on Thursday, **February 25** from 1:30-2:45 p.m. at Rashi, 15 Walnut Park, Newton (park in lot on Jackson Road). This event will also include a craft activity and a healthy snack. Curious Minds programs are free, but pre-registration is required. Contact Anne Puchkoff at 617.969.4444, ext. 226 or admissions@rashi.org. For more information, go to www.rashi.org/curiousminds.

Grossman Day Camp Summer Job Openings

Grossman Day Camp is looking to fill some openings for the summer: Nurse, Fishing, Sports, Boating, Wrestling, Dance, Drama, Swimming Instructor for children with special needs, Gymnastics, Ropes, Climbing Wall, Special Needs Counselors, Sewing, Nature, Mountain Biking, Ceramics, Photography, Yoga, Wrestling, Jewish Culture, and Unit Heads. If any of these positions interest you, your kids will attend camp for free, while you still earn a salary! Contact Stuart Silverman 617-244-5124 or email him at ssilverman@jccgb.org.

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 Mensches Class (ages 13-18) that includes advanced prayer study, conversational Hebrew and an embedded 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.

Ask Lisa Dee

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

Dear Lisa Dee,

Now that we have a one year old, we're trying to figure out how to navigate Saturday morning services with a little one. On the one hand, we want to expose her to services, but seeing as how she's not always quiet, and can't remember to bow at the right times, we don't want to be disrespectful of our Rabbi and our fellow congregants. So our questions are: "What sort of toddler behavior is acceptable in services, and what isn't? Does it differ depending on the service—for example, *b'nei mitzvah* vs. a meditation service vs. a regular service? Also, how does childcare work? Do we need to sign up ahead of time? Do we need to be there by a certain time? I assume a parent needs to accompany the child to childcare? Is there anything else we need to know?"

Thanks,

Confused in Childcare

Dear *Confused*,

There is so much else you need to know. But let's stick with the kid at services, shall we? One of the best things about CDT is how warm and welcoming we are, and another thing that many congregants like is the multi-generational aspect of most of our services. Young children are welcome in services as long as they are not disruptive: they can coo and shake keys and crawl around and toddle around, etc. Baby Danskos and other loud-soled shoes can be distracting. Screeching and crying and screaming and flailing can dampen the spirit (I try to be discreet, though). We've had babies and toddlers eat quiet, non-smearable, kosher food, nurse, drink from tight-lidded sippy cups and bottles, and gnaw on binkies. Not everyone is always psyched about the goings on with little ones, but for the most part, common sense should be the rule with respect to having babies and toddlers in the family evening services and Shabbat morning service. The monthly Friday night Shabbat service geared towards adults and the meditation services are not places to bring a baby or toddler.

As for childcare we are set up to have kids three years of age and older be left in the childcare room. Children younger than three must be accompanied by a parent or by a proxy assigned by the parent who will be responsible for that child during the time (this is not the person staffing the childcare room). You don't need to make a reservation or sign up ahead of time to have your beloved attend. We have childcare during Shabbat morning services and sometimes for other events. That information will be posted. We do not charge for childcare for our regular activities, although for the High Holidays we do to cover the costs of the space and personnel.

I hope this is helpful.

Lisa Dee

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

General Fund

Anonymous

In honor of new members Phoebe Cushman and Joel Auslander

Jess Koenigsberg

In honor of the memory of Efrem Goldberg

Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome

In memory of Ruth Paris' mother, Dorothy Paris

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Ingber

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Reider

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Shayna Farmelant

In memory of Marion Weinberg, on the occasion of her 13th
yahrzeit

Lynn Slobodin and Barry Hass

Patricia and Kenneth Zimble

As an expression of our appreciation of the opportunity to attend
High Holy Day services and to worship with your congregation

Susannah and Stephen Zisk

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

Mark Paley

Tracey Rogers and Jane Schwartz

Ruth and Aaron Seidman

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.

CDT at Fenway



Spring is just around the corner, and baseballs will soon be replacing snowballs...

Jeff Goldman has procured a group of tickets to the **May 30** (Sunday) Red Sox game vs. the Kansas City Royals, and he is making them available to CDT members for purchase. Seats are located in the Right Field Box Section, and cost \$52 each. \$1 handling fee is added for each 2 tickets purchased, with a maximum number of 4 tickets per member, depending on your "immediate family size" (this will allow more members get a chance to purchase tickets). If you are interested, please contact Bruce Miller at perrystop@rcn.com.

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



February



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Mon Feb 1	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue Feb 2	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Wed Feb 3	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Feb 4	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Fri Feb 5	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Jodie Siegel, Leah Diskin, Ellen Hemley (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Feb 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Reider	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Steven Katz, Nathan Aronow (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Feb 6	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Food Matters Learning Event and Havdalah, with Nigel Savage, Executive Director of Hazon	60 Highland Street: Sanctuary (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sun Feb 7	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Education	FUSN: Headstart Room
Sun Feb 7	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon Feb 8	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Mon Feb 8	8:30 pm	AVELUT: Monthly Support for CDT Mourners	home of Paul Hattis (Newton Centre) (<i>see page 4</i>)
Tue Feb 9	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Thu Feb 11	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Feb 13	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Feb 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Bill Shorr—in memory of Marilyn Jacobs Shorr, mhmbb, Willa Kuh, Cliff Cohen, Laurie Goldman
Sun Feb 14	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon Feb 15	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue Feb 16	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Tue Feb 16	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland Street: Library (note location) (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Feb 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Lissy Medvedow, Clifford Goldsmith, John Holohan; <i>Rabbi Toba off</i>
Sat Feb 20	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Feb 20	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Feb 21	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon Feb 22	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more information
Tue Feb 23	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Thu Feb 25	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Feb 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Shayna Farmelant	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Thea Breite, Jamie Tessler (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Feb 27	7 pm - 9 pm	Purim Party	<i>Set-up:</i> Stephen Zisk, Wendy Falchuk & Matthew Sarrett, Tatjana Meschede & Daniel Krasa, Janet Boguslaw; <i>Clean-up:</i> Sarah Little, David Shumsky, Michael White, Allison Andrews & Arthur Lent, Rob Greenly; FUSN (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Feb 28	7:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event;</i> 60 Highland Street: Room 111
Sun Feb 28	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library



March



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush, Notes
Mon Mar 1	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more info
Tue Mar 2	7 pm - 8:30 pm	Prayerbook Hebrew for Beginners with Sandy Goldfless	FUSN: Classroom directly across from Classroom 4
Wed Mar 3	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Mar 4	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Fri Mar 5	6 pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck	Stephanie & Nem Hackett—in memory of Eleanor Hackett, Karen Wasserman, Bill Shorr—in memory of Lou Jacobs (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Mar 6	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Ora Gladstone, Muriel Heiberger, Jacqui & Stan Fleischman
Sat Mar 6	6 pm	Food Matters Community Potlucks and "Farm to Shul" Workshop	Members' homes (<i>see page 6</i>)
Sun Mar 7	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Intermediate Prayerbook Hebrew with Michael Singer	60 Highland Street: Library
Mon Mar 8		AVELUT: Monthly Support for CDT Mourners	home of Linda Kramer (Roslindale) Note: Time TBD (<i>see page 4</i>)
Mon Mar 8	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more info
Wed Mar 10	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Sanctuary
Thu Mar 11	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Fri Mar 12	9 pm - 9 am	Kitot Hay & Vav Shul-In	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Sat Mar 13	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Alison & David Lobron, Beth Brooks, Howie Kaufman; Rabbi Toba off
Sat Mar 13	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland Street: Room 111 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sun Mar 14	2 pm - 4:30 pm	Preparing for Pesach: Community Learning Day	<i>Members-Only Event</i> FUSN (<i>see page 5</i>)
Mon Mar 15	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more info
Tue Mar 16	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Rosh Chodesh	60 Highland Street: Library (note location) (<i>see page 4</i>)
Sat Mar 20	8:45 am - 9:45 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Mar 20	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Mara Gibbs	<i>Ushering:</i> Bob Warren & Meg Wilcox, Susan Nitkin; <i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal; <i>Set-up:</i> Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder, Diana & Richard Fisher Gomberg, Sandy Sedacca & Sherwood Ives; <i>Clean-up:</i> Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Richard Fisher Gomberg, Laura & Joel Katz, Annie Weiss
Sat Mar 20	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland Street: Room 110, 112 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Mar 20	6 pm	CDT Film Club "The Pawnbroker"; 6 pm potluck, 7 pm film	<i>Members-Only Event;</i> at the home of Stan and Jackie Fleischman (<i>see page 11</i>)
Sun Mar 21	5:30 pm dinner 6:30 - 8:15 pm meeting	Members' Meeting and Dinner	<i>Members-Only Event</i> Elaine Landes, Susie Tanchel, Trish Nuzzola, Ellen Pashall; childcare provided in Room 112 (<i>see page 3</i>)
Mon Mar 22	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless	Location TBD; contact Stan Fleischman for more info
Wed Mar 24	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	<i>Members-Only Event</i> 60 Highland Street: Library
Thu Mar 25	8 am - 9 am	Soul Questions: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland Street: Library (<i>see page 5</i>)
Fri Mar 26	8 pm	Joint Erev Shabbat Service with Hillel B'nei Torah	Hillel B'nei Torah, West Roxbury, MA (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Mar 27	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Jake Schwartz-Rogers	<i>Sanctuary Clean-up:</i> Theresa St.John-Siegel & Steve Siegel; <i>Set-up:</i> Cindy Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury, Jonathan Gordon, Janelle Winston & Scott Lewis, Peter Shapiro; <i>Clean-up:</i> Diane Becker, David Roll, Mark Paley, Allison & Ezra Hausman, Amy Brodesky

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.

Todah Rabah

Todah rabah to all those who provided Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah help in recent weeks: **Miriam Bolkosky, Janet Boguslaw**—in memory of *Chelle Ramsey*, **Misha Dudnik, Louise Enoch, Nancy Gertz, Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes, John Holohan, Audra Karp, Rick Glassman, Jen Levine-Fried**—in honor of *Ava's* first birthday, **Corinne Lofchie, Amy Mazur**—in memory of *Marvin Mazur (father)*, **Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon**—in memory of *David and Dorothy Jablon*, **Sivan Nassoff, Andrew Schiff & Susan Manheim, Andrew Sofer**—in memory of *Paul Sofer*, **Carol Sklar, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Chagit Steiner & Tom Brown, Noam Shore, and Erica Streit-Kaplan**—in memory of *Ruth Weinberg Meschmar (great-aunt)*.

Condolences

Condolences to **Josette Akresh**, whose grandmother Ida Akresh passed away in January. May her memory be for a blessing.

Condolences to **Idit Klein**, whose grandmother Eva Vadas passed away in January. May her memory be for a blessing.



Yarzheit

At Shabbat morning services on **February 13**, we will mark the *yarzheits* of CDT members **Frances Greenberg** and **Marion Weinberg**. Francis' *yarzheit* falls on the first of Adar, February 15 and Marion's *yarzheit* falls on the fourth of Adar, February 18. May their memories be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to **Susan Moser, Thea Breite**, and to **Li and Shalev**, on the birth and *brit bat* of **Shirel Reut!**

Mazel tov to **Sarah Hartman**, who recently completed her Masters in Library and Information Science from Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science!

Welcome New Members



The Membership Committee would like to welcome the following people who have joined our congregation over the past several months:

Rachel Zakuta, Miriam Bolkosky and Benjamin Wright, Vivienne and Norman Shein, Irena Fayngold and Paul Schimek, Staci Rubin and Jamie Wilson, Sari Radin Gazda and Walter Gazda, Andrea Jacobs, Laurie Schloff, Marion Ross, and Marla Cummins.

We'll be having a special aliyah and Kiddush to honor them on **Shabbat morning, March 6**. Please come and introduce yourselves to them!

CDT Film Club

Note: There is no Film Club in February

Saturday night, March 20, Potluck: 6 pm, film: 7 pm
At the home of Jackie and Stan Fleischman

Join us for a screening of the classic 1965 film, *The Pawnbroker*. Nominated for the 1965 Academy Awards and winner of Best Actor honors at both the 1964 Berlin International Film Festival and the 1965 BAFTAs, Rod Steiger plays Sol Nazer-man, a Jewish pawnbroker and Holocaust survivor embittered and broken by his experience. Sol has become increasingly removed from his friends and the business he runs in Harlem, which has attracted the unwanted attentions of a mobster. Can he turn his life, and his shop, around?

Upcoming Events:

Apr 17: *Waltz With Bashir*

May 22: *Amreeka*

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

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.

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.