



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

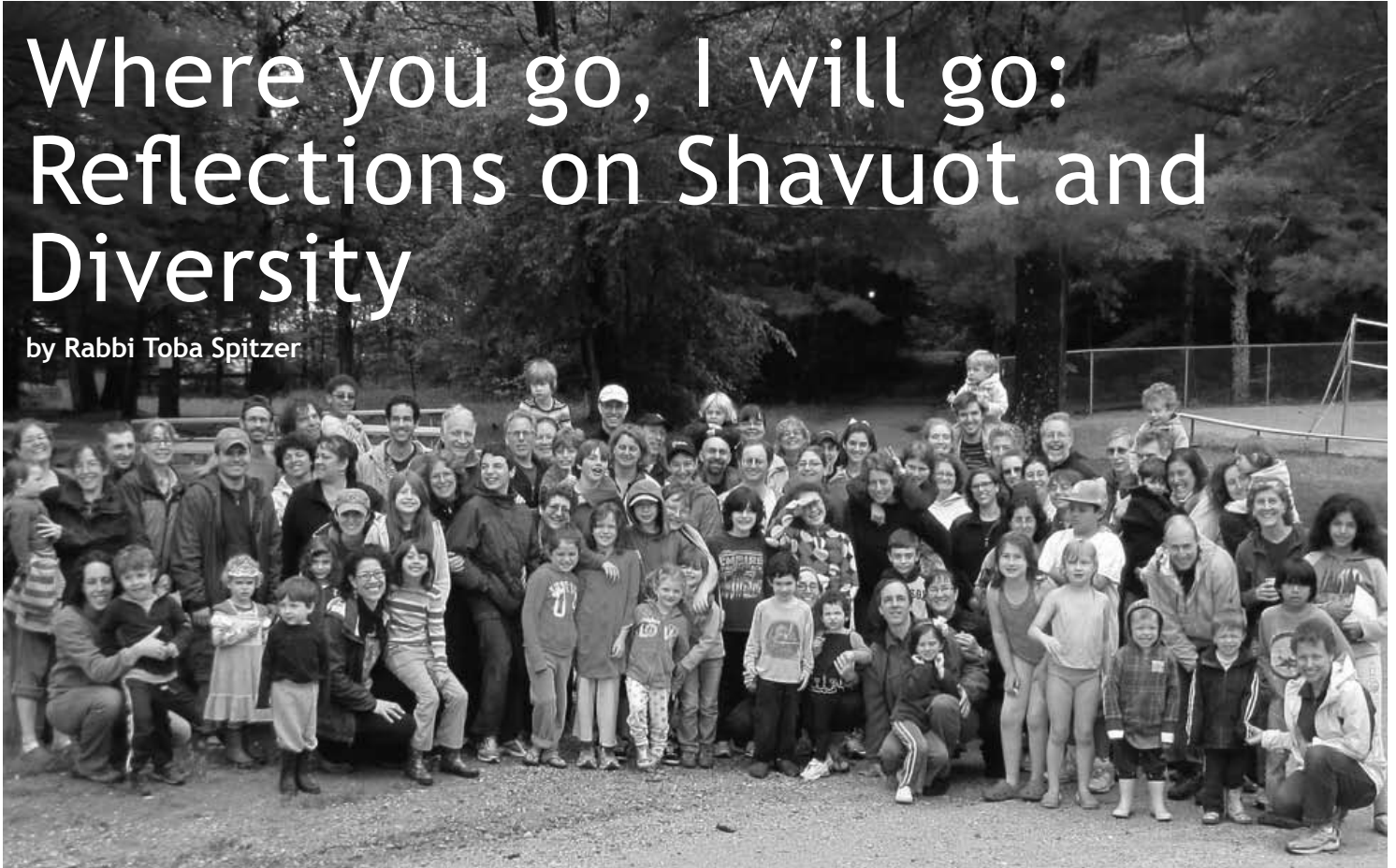
An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Iyar/Sivan 5773 May 2013

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Where you go, I will go: Reflections on Shavuot and Diversity

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



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Photo: CDT Retreat, 2011
Photo by Vivienne Shein.

SHAVUOT THIS YEAR begins the evening of May 14. The word “shavuot” means “weeks,” and the holiday gets its name from the Biblical instruction to count seven weeks from the Passover holiday (coinciding with the first grain harvest) and then bring an offering of first fruits to the Temple. In the Bible, Shavuot is simply a harvest festival; many centuries later it took on a more mythical meaning as the moment of revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai. Today, Shavuot is celebrated not with first fruit offerings, but with all-night text study and a reading of the 10 Commandments at the morning service.

But we haven't entirely lost the agricultural reference for Shavuot. It is traditional to read the Book of Ruth during this holiday, which contains no mention of Sinai, or of any laws, or of God or Moses, for that matter. The most obvious connection with Shavuot seems to be that it is set at the time of the barley harvest. It tells the story of an Israelite woman, Naomi, who goes with her husband to the land of Moab during a famine in the land of Israel. There, her two sons marry Moabite women. The men die off in rapid succession in the first chapter, and the rest of the book follows Naomi and her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth, as they journey back to the land of Israel.

The Book of Ruth can be appreciated for many things. It is a powerful story of love and connection between two women; indeed, Ruth's proclamation to Naomi that “Wherever

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you go, I will go; where you lie, I will lie” has become a beloved vow at lesbian wedding ceremonies. It is a story filled with very little conflict and an enormous amount of chesed, loving kindness, as everyone treats everyone just as the ideal of Biblical covenantal community would expect. It also became, for the Talmudic rabbis, a model of conversion to Judaism. The rabbis saw Ruth’s vow to Naomi, which continues, “Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God,” as the first affirmative statement of someone choosing Judaism. And Ruth wasn’t just any convert—by the end of the book, we are told that she has given birth to the direct ancestor of King David.

Shavuot, then, becomes a time when we can reflect on what it means to be a part of the Jewish people—whether by birth, conversion, or other affiliation. The Book of Ruth is a powerfully inclusive book, positing a Moabite woman—a member of a tribe known as enemies of the Israelites—as the ancestor of King David, himself the progenitor of the Messiah. I imagine putting the Book of Ruth side-by-side with the Exodus account of the covenantal moment of Sinai, where the Torah’s authors describe a gathering of descendants of Jacob along with a “mixed multitude” who went up out of Egypt with them (according to the midrash, the daughter of Pharaoh was included in that group!). Put together in this way, our own diverse Jewish community here at CDT—which includes people who were raised in every sort of Jewish household, as well as non-Jewish households; people whose Jewish status was passed on by one parent, or two; people who have chosen Judaism, as well as those who have chosen not to convert to Judaism—seems less like a historical deviation from some homogeneous norm and more like a true reflection of our people’s roots.

At a recent Ritual Committee meeting, we discussed the confusion that can arise as our congregation tries to navigate the tensions of being an inclusive, diverse community while maintaining some adherence to traditional Jewish ritual. As the holiday of Shavuot affirms, the receiving of Torah at Sinai is the central mythic moment at which the covenantal community that called itself “Israel” came to be. During the Torah service at our Shabbat and holiday services, we reaffirm the covenantal nature of our connection to Judaism through the rituals that accompany the reading of Torah (most powerfully in the Torah blessings, where we give thanks for being given the Torah).

For this reason, our current ritual policy states that certain honors directly related to the reading of Torah—for example, being called for an aliyah up to the Torah, lifting and wrapping the Torah, opening the ark—are reserved for those who are Jewish. These are moments when some people feel, sometimes painfully, the distinction that remains between those who identify as Jewish, and those in our community who do not.

Without obliterating the distinction, we also seek to affirm all the ways that we welcome non-Jewish members’ participation in our ritual life. Our policy does not mean that a non-Jewish person can’t be on the bimah, or can’t accompany Jewish folks up to the bimah for an aliyah. For example, when we have group aliyot during the High Holydays and at other times, we welcome anyone, with the understanding that the obligation of reciting the traditional Torah blessing falls on our Jewish members. For parents of children becoming bar/bat mitzvah, we have created a special English blessing for the non-Jewish parent to recite, affirming his/her connection to Torah and to the Jewish people. Non-Jewish members are more than welcome to offer a d’var Torah, a reflection on the week’s Torah portion, during a Shabbat morning service.

This is a complex issue, and one that I can’t do justice to in a newsletter column! I encourage all of you who haven’t read our brochure, “Non-Jewish Members at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek” (available on our website to do so. This document was the outcome of a year of study and discussion a few years ago. But we are a dynamic community, and the discussion continues. We would like to hear about your experiences and thoughts in this regard. What does it mean to you to be a non-Jewish person in a Jewish community? What does it mean to you to be a Jew in a diverse community, or with non-Jewish family members? What do the various inclusions and restrictions that we are currently navigating mean to you, as a convert to Judaism? I, or anyone on the Ritual Committee, would love to hear your thoughts. You can contact **Laurie Goldman**, Ritual Chair, at laurie.goldman@tufts.edu. And all are encouraged to participate in our Shavuot program this year, along with area congregations at the Brookline Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot (for more information, see page 3).

CDT

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.

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Rabbi Toba Spitzer

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Website: Stan Fleischman

Newsletter

The CDT Newsletter is published monthly with a July-August summer issue. Email articles, events, and photos to dtnews@dorsheitzedek.org by the 15th of the month for the following month’s issue.

Volunteer Staff: Josette Akresh-Gonzales (chair), Deb Albenberg, John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Rachel Ross, Vivienne Shein, Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer, Tim Rosa (Chair Emeritus)

Shabbat & Holidays

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA

Saturdays, May 4, June 8, 8:45 am

Once a month, before the Shabbat morning service, we will explore the parshat hashavua, the weekly Torah portion, through the lens of commentaries both traditional and contemporary. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage! **Start your Shabbat Unplugged by joining** Rabbi Toba to explore parshat *Behar-Behukkotai* and teachings about the sabbatical year and Jubilee.

ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Fridays, May 10, June 7

6:00 pm, candle lighting and dinner;
6:45 pm, service

Join us for this fun, musical Erev Shabbat service, appropriate for all ages. We begin with candle lighting and kiddush at 6:00 pm, followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner (please bring a dairy or veggie main dish or a salad, enough for 15–20 people). Come join our Kitah Dalet (4th grade) students as they co-lead the service with Rabbi Toba!

The service begins at 6:45 pm and is followed by dessert.

LEARNING WITH LEORA (FOR STUDENTS IN KITOT DALET, HEY, AND VAV)

Saturday, May 18

10:00–10:45 am

60 Highland St., Room 111

This is a fun, participatory service for third through sixth graders, led by Leora Abelson. After services, join with everyone for Kiddush in Fellowship Hall.

Leora Abelson is in her second year of rabbinical school at Hebrew College. She loves to make music and lead creative prayer experiences.

SHAVUOT

Tuesday evening, May 14

8:00 pm, Congregation Kehillath Israel,
384 Harvard Street, Brookline

Seven weeks after Passover, we celebrate the mythical moment of receiving Torah at Sinai, and continue the ongoing conversation that is Torah in all its many branches

TOT SHABBAT

Saturdays, May 4, June 1

10:45 am–noon

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program for children age five and younger and their parents, led by **Susan Moser**—CDT member, musician, and Jewish educator—and by **Alison Lobron**—CDT member and Jewish educator. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.

BAT MITZVAH OF LIVIA REIDER

Saturday, May 11, 9:45 am

Livia Reider is in the 7th grade at Day Middle School in Newton. Livia really enjoys sports and music. An avid soccer player, she also swims and, climate allowing, skis. A strong musician, she loves to sing, plays cello, and is enjoying being part of a chamber group. Livia most enjoys spending time with friends and family. For her Tikkun Olam project, she is working with the elderly at Hebrew SeniorLife in Boston. Please join us for a kiddush luncheon following the service.

—Gail Harris and David Reider

BAT MITZVAH OF JOANNA MARCUS

Saturday, May 18, 9:45 am

Please join us on May 18th, when our daughter **Joanna** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Joanna is a seventh grade student at Brown Middle School in Newton. She is involved in many artistic pursuits, violin being her main focus. Joanna shares her love of dance by volunteering at a dance class

and permutations. This year, like last year, we will be joining with other area congregations at the 5th Annual Brookline Area Community *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*. Beginning at 8:00pm and continuing until 4am, this all-night study session will include a large variety of teachers and teachings, including Rabbi Toba! Come for one hour or stay the whole night, but don't miss it!

for elementary-age students who need individualized attention and extra assistance. She intuitively knows which children need her most, and they have responded to her warm and fun presence by becoming more engaged and happy in the class. Joanna has worked hard to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah and we are very proud of her. We hope you will share this happy moment with us.

—Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus

BAT MITZVAH OF SARA KRAMER-FRIED

Saturday, June 1, 9:45 am

Please join us on June 1st when **Sara Kramer-Fried** is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. Sara is in the 7th grade at the Rashi School, where she especially enjoys math and creative writing. Sara spends her free time writing songs, singing, dancing and hanging out with close friends, family, and her dog Berry. For her Tikkun Olam project, Sara volunteered at the Elder Service Plan of Uphams Corner Health Center in Roxbury/Dorchester, where her late father worked for 20 years. She spent time with the old folks helping out with craft projects and learning about their lives. We hope you will join us downstairs after the service for a festive kiddush lunch. —Linda Kramer

AUFRUF OF RICK GLASSMAN AND ALICE MARKOWITZ

Saturday, June 1, 9:45 am

On Shabbat morning, June 1, we will celebrate the upcoming wedding of **Rick Glassman** and **Alice Markowitz** as we call them to the Torah for an *aufruf aliyah*!

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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. FREE CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE DURING SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN ROOM 112. FOR THE COMFORT AND HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS, WE ASK EVERYONE ATTENDING OUR SERVICES TO AVOID WEARING FRAGRANCES (PERFUME, COLOGNE, HAIR AND BODY SPRAYS).

Events

CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, May 4

7:30 pm

Home of Judy Hersh and Tim Rosa

12 Randolph St, Newton Highlands MA 02461

Film: *Strangers* (2007 Hebrew with subtitles 85 minutes)

At the 2006 World Cup in Germany, Palestinian Rana (Lubna Azabal) and Israeli Eyal (Liron Levo) meet on the Berlin underground and soon fall in love. Taking place over six intense days, this film follows their emotional journey to connect and find happiness together. When Rana is suddenly called back home to Paris, Eyal must quickly decide whether he should continue to pursue the fledgling romance. The movie is followed by a group discussion. We hope you can join us! .

ROSH CHODESH

Thursday, May 9, 7:30-9:00 pm

Rosh Chodesh, the new moon, is an occasion for Jewish women to gather for learning, ritual and spiritual exploration, and to mark life passages. The Jewish people received Torah during the month of Sivan, and thus it is associated with giving/receiving, purpose and love. We'll explore these themes, as well as take time to reflect on the American holiday of Mother's Day—what does it mean to us as daughters and/or mothers.

For more information or to RSVP please contact **Erica Streit-Kaplan** (EricaStreitKaplan@yahoo.com). Newcomers are welcome!

ONCOGLYPHS: AN EXHIBIT

Quilts by Susannah Zisk

Ongoing

In the final year of her life, Susannah Zisk created a stunning series of quilts incorporating images of cancer cells as a contemplation and exploration of the disease that was threatening her own life. The quilts are being displayed for the first time in the CDT sanctuary, with accompanying text by Susannah. They will be up for a few months, so please take the time to view them the next time you in the sanctuary. They are a beautiful celebration of life



in the face of mortality. —*With thanks to Stephen Zisk and Emily Sper for organizing this exhibit.*

BIKE TO SHUL DAY

Saturday, May 18

In Honor of Bay State Bike Week (May 11–19), Kitah Gimmel presents Bike to Shul Day. Give the Earth a rest on Shabbat by biking to shul and Hebrew school.

We hope to organize bike “convoys” and family-friendly bike routes to CDT from different neighborhoods, and to calculate how many gallons of gas and pounds of CO2 emissions we collectively save by biking to shul. Watch the CDT email list for more details.



CONSTRUCTION AT SECOND CHURCH

The Second Church has launched a project to refurbish the front hall and the Fellowship Hall. This work, which has already begun, will include creating storage space for the tables and chairs now piled in the Fellowship Hall, building a closet to replace the coat rack in the front hall, improved lighting, new flooring, and painting. The work will last through the summer. Please heed any cautionary signs. They have told us that they will do their best not to disrupt kiddush.

The Church also reminds us to heed the parking limitations in the neighborhood, particularly on Highland Street where we should park only on the Church side of the street and avoid blocking driveways.

NEW SHABBAT RESOURCE ON CDT WEB SITE

We now have in our “Prayer & More” section of the CDT website a series of videos of the erev Shabbat blessings. You can see them at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/shabbat-videos>. If you need a refresher on any of the blessings, you can sing along with the **Steinberg/Hsu family**, and there's a reflection on the meaning of Shabbat in the very last video. Thanks to the **Steinberg/Hsu family**, to **Jen Kaplan**, moviemaker extraordinaire, and to **Dan Halbert** for getting it all onto our website. Feel free to share widely!

GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

HAVA NAGILA: THE MOVIE

Opens April 26

Coolidge Corner Theater, Brookline

The definitive, glorious (and musical) story of how the Hebrew song Hava Nagila (Let Us Rejoice), set to a traditional melody from the Ukraine, became the signature theme of Jewish life. Despite having become truly universal in appeal, the song never lost either its Jewish soul or origin. The film features interviews with Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, and Glen Campbell, as well as performances of the song by Belafonte, Francis, Danny Kaye, Bob Dylan, Lena Horne, Regina Spektor, and Chubby Checker.

COMMUNITY FUN ON THE FARM DAY

*Sunday, June 2, from 10-11:30 am
(rain date Sunday, June 9).*

*Community Farms (240 Beaver Street)
in Waltham*

Learn all about where our food comes from. Help with planting raised beds on the farm. Visit real beehives and learn how bees help make food and the honey we eat on Rosh

Hashanah. Enjoy a farm-to-table snack in a solar powered kitchen and design a souvenir of your day on the farm. Designed for families with young children. Cost is \$15 per family. Walk-ins are an additional \$5. Open to the entire community. Register at bostonjcc.org/metronorthfarm. For more information, contact metronorth@jccgb.org or 617-841-8009.

DILLER TEEN FELLOWSHIP INFO SESSION

The Diller Teen Fellows is a national youth leadership program for 10th and 11th graders currently available in 16 cities in North America and Israel. In Boston, the program is administered by the JCCs of Greater Boston. Twenty Boston-area teens are selected based on leadership aptitude, commitment to Jewish learning, interest in exploring their connection to Israel, and passion for community service. Applications can be found at www.bostonjcc.org/diller and will be accepted until May 31. Learn more about the Diller Teen Fellowship at an information session on Sunday, May 19 (6-8pm) at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center (333 Nahanton Street) in Newton. Contact teens@jccgb.org or 617-558-6512 for more information.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

HAVE A RECONSTRUCTIONIST SUMMER!

Now registering for its summer sessions, June 25–July 21 and July 23–August 11. For kids in grades 3–11, Camp JRF in the Poconos is a magical place where campers can open up to the possibilities in life—and in Judaism—in order to become their best selves. Activities include sports, arts, drama, singing and dancing, boating and swimming, hiking, challenge course and overnight camping experiences. Most of all, kids experience community and learning in new and exciting ways. To learn more, go to www.campjrf.org.

Family Camp, August 14–18, lets the whole family have fun—parents, children, and other family members join the staff of Camp JRF for five days of swimming, sports, arts, experiential education, celebrating Shabbat like in no other place, and more! Learn more at www.campjrf.org/parents/family-camp.

Scholarships are available for Camp JRF programs from the CDT Camp JRF Scholarship Fund. Please contact Marla Lichtman in the CDT office for more information.

CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM BEGINS ITS 2013 SEASON

The CDT Men's Softball Team will be entering our seventh season in the Men's Synagogue Softball League this spring. Whether you are new to CDT or a long-standing member, if you can swing the bat and flash some leather, you're eligible to be on the team.

So check your age, and if you're over 25 and a member, or a son of a member, you can join the team. Join us for Sunday morning batting practice sessions. Games are played on Sunday mornings from mid-April to early June, with playoffs starting in mid-June. The winner of the championship earns the "coveted" Kiddush Cup.

For more information on the team, or to sign up, contact **Elliot Pittel**, Head Coach of CDT Softball, at epittel@comcast.net.

REMAINING 2013 SEASON SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	FIELD	LOCATION	HOME TEAM	VISITING TEAM
Sun. 5/5/13	10am	Concord Ave Field 365 Concord St.	Belmont	Beth El-Belmont	Dorshei Tzedek
Sun. 5/12/13	10am	Forte Park 235 California St.	Newton	Dorshei Tzedek	Israel-Boston
Sun. 5/19/13	10am	Forte Park 235 California St.	Newton	Newton Minyan Beth Zion-Brookline	Dorshei Tzedek
Sun. 6/2/13	10am	Cabot Field	Newtonville	Dorshei Tzedek	Reyim-Newton
Sun. 6/9/13	10am	TBD	Brookline	Sinai-Brookline	Dorshei Tzedek
Sun. 6/16/13	10am	Forte Park 235 California St.	Newton	Dorshei Tzedek	Beth David-Westwood

Learning

GOD IN METAPHOR: PART TWO

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9pm

May 1, 8 & 22

Free and open to the community

Back by popular demand! Building on the “God in Metaphor” class that finished in March, we will continue our exploration of new ways of thinking about the divine. Whether “Water” or “Place,” “Voice” or “Fire,” Jewish tradition is rich in non-human metaphors for God. Come find out how they might enliven your spiritual practice and sense of connection to something beyond ourselves.

MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings

8:30-9:15 am

Library, 60 Highland Street

This weekly meditation group is for both new and experienced meditators, an opportunity to cultivate mindfulness and qualities like patience, gratitude, and equanimity. Please join Rabbi Toba and lay leaders for a combination of guided and silent meditation and discussion. During the months of April and May, as we count the days from Passover to Shavuot, we will explore different qualities—like compassion, ease of mind, gratitude, and patience—that shape this journey from liberation to revelation.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE WITH DR. SANFORD GOLDFLESS

Mondays

3:30 pm, in participants' homes

\$15 per session (fee can be reduced to whatever you feel comfortable with)

In this class we get familiar with the Jewish Bible (the Tanach or Torah, Prophets, and Writings) by reading it in English and discussing large parts of it together. We often look at the biblical text from a historical perspective, and we always pay attention to the literary features of the text that are essential for conveying its meaning. We also

enjoy conversation about the course of Jewish history and culture through the ages. The class is open to all Dorshei Tzedek members and their friends. This class will meet weekly through May, at participants' homes. Contact **Stan Fleischman** at stan-fma@gmail.com or 617-332-5433 for more information.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

One Saturday morning each month, our religious school is abuzz with the energy of our youngest students. Our three, four and five year olds in Nitzanim, our Pre-K class, and in Gan, our Kindergarten class, are busy having fun, making friends, and learning what is special about being Jewish.

Students, with their parents, begin the morning with Mini-Minyan, a celebration of Shabbat for young children and their grown-ups. Led by Nitzanim teacher Morah Aviva (**Alison Lobron**), and using a siddur especially designed for very young children, the students begin to learn songs and prayers that mark Shabbat as a special day.

After Mini-Minyan, students go to class. Our classes for our youngest learners are hands-on and active and feature stories, music, crafts and games. Nitzanim has a two-year curriculum in which students explore their Jewish world, including family and home, holidays and celebrations. Gan students encounter their world through the framework of the *brachot* (blessings). Students learn to “stop, notice, and give thanks” for the many things with which they are blessed. They learn that not only do we have blessings for ritual acts, like lighting candles and putting up mezuzahs, and familiar blessings, like the ones for food, but there are blessings for wearing new clothes, hearing good news, and seeing something beautiful in nature.

Because these classes meet on Shabbat morning when Rabbi Toba is leading services, she can't visit with them. So the Nitzanim students (with some help from Mo-

rah Aviva) keep in touch by writing Rabbi Toba an email telling her what they have been learning about each class and ask her a question or two.

For example, Kitah Nitzanim wrote:

Today in Nitzanim we learned about the Torah. The Torah rolls up into a scroll. We read it again and again. It has the stories of our Jewish ancestors. We learned the Torah is dressed in fancy clothes because it is so special. What do you like about the Torah?

Rabbi Toba answered (in part):

That is such a great question! I really love the Torah. I like to hold it, and carry it around the room during Shabbat morning services, so that other people can touch it and see it. I love that it's so old—Torah scrolls have been written pretty much the same way for the last 2,000 years—can you believe that? And our Torah scroll that we read from every week is also old, although not that old—it was written around 150 years ago.

Enrollment for next year's Gan and Nitzanim classes (as well as all our other grades) begins this month. If you are interested in our program, or know someone who might be, please feel free to contact me at school@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-5443 to learn more about our school.

Chesed

REFUAH SH'LEYMA

We send blessings of healing to CDT member **Ruby Gan**.

AVELUT is a member-led group for CDT members to talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the AVELUT group please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, at ellie.goldberg@gmail.com.

CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Sunday, June 9

10:30 AM

12 Randolph Street, Newton

Please join our next monthly drop-in group for those of us caring for family members. Whether you're supporting someone at home or in another state this is a time to connect with other CDT members, share our stories, and think about ways we can take care of ourselves. We'll be meeting this month at the home of **Judy Hersh**, but contact **Ellen Pashall** if you have any questions, at elpashall@aol.com.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** (rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org, 617-965-0330), or the Chesed coordinators, **Theresa St. John-Siegel** and **Corinne Lofchie** (chesed@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. 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. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voicemail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the community. (See page 2 for details.)

Community

CDT CHALKBOARD

by **Marla Lichtman**,
Administrative Director

School Enrollment and Kiddush Signups, Too. What Could Be Better?

It's hard to believe that winter is almost a distant memory and that May is here already. With trees budding, flowers pushing up from the earth and Mother Nature trying to make it actually feel like spring, it's a busy month for administration at CDT. We are actively "sowing the seeds" too, planning the school and temple calendars for next year, preparing for High Holydays 2013, working on the next round of kiddush signups, Hebrew school enrollments, and membership renewals.

During the early part of May, if you already have kids in our religious school, look for

your 2013-14 registration packets to arrive in the mail. Early discounts apply to everyone who returns these, with their tuition deposits, by May 31. If you have kids entering school for the first time or are a non-member thinking of enrolling your child(ren), our Education Director, **Annette Lawson**, can answer all of your school-related questions. Reach her at school@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-5443.

Mid-May is also the time we plan for next year's kiddush coverage. Look for a CDT-ANNOUNCE message from me letting you know that kiddush sign-ups are open online. **Signing up online gives you the power to choose your own Kiddush dates as opposed to having them randomly assigned, so do take advantage of this opportunity when it's time to sign up.**

As always, there will be two separate parts for kiddush signup—one for families with

kids entering 5th-8th grades ("B'nei Mitzvah" families) and one for everyone else. Detailed signup instructions will accompany the email and also be available on the signup pages themselves.

To review what it means to provide kiddush at CDT, you may find the various guidelines on our website at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/providing-kiddush-and-bnei-mitzvah-help>. To access this "member-only" sections, you will need to log in to the site with your user name and password. (Give us a call or send an email if you need help signing in.)

I know the kiddush signup process can be a bit daunting, especially for new(er) members, so please feel free to be in touch if you have questions. I can be reached at admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org or 617-965-0330.

Tikkun Olam

FAMILY TABLE

CDT has been asked to collect **25 cans of kosher or vegetarian soup** and **25 boxes of whole grain cereal** per month for the area's only food pantry offering kosher food for Jewish families. We need your help to fill this need. **Please bring your donations with you when you come to services or to drop off or pick up your child from the CDT Religious School.**

One volunteer is needed **one Sunday per month** to transport the food. This takes approximately one hour. The driver picks up the monthly donations of food from

Dorshei Tzedek and delivers it to Family Table in Waltham. Drivers are still needed on the following dates: May 19, June 9, and July 14; Sign up for one day (or more!) here: <http://doodle.com/z75uie72aic5zf4m>.

It is a great mitzvah for someone to do solo or with others. Questions? Contact **Pamela Schoenberg Reider** at jomela@rcn.com

If you have any questions or want to become more involved, please contact Pamela Schoenberg Reider (jomela@rcn.com).



Shabbat (continued)



SHABBAT UNPLUGGED, MAY 3 & 4

Shabbat has been described as a "palace in time," a structure in time, not space, that is made up of special things we do, and things we refrain from doing, in order to "be" rather than "do." Shabbat is a space in which to enjoy the presence of family and friends, a leisurely meal or a contemplative moment.

We invite you to join with fellow CDT members to savor the pleasures of unplugging from the stress and strain of work and school. Here are some of the highlights:

Erev Shabbat Home Dinners, Friday, May 3

Welcome Shabbat at a CDT potluck dinner! You can host your own, or join one that's already organized. To sign up for a Shabbat home dinner, please click on "Shabbat Unplugged" on the CDT website home page.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Join Rabbi Toba for Torah Study to explore parshat Behar-Behukkotai and teachings about the sabbatical year and Jubilee!

Shabbat Morning Services

Shabbat morning services will be co-led by the students of Kitah Hay (5th grade). In addition, we will be honoring our graduating high school seniors! In addition, Tot Shabbat will be meeting at 10:45am.

Shabbat Afternoon

After Kiddush, you can: Take a nap, go for a walk with friends, read a good book, go for a bike ride, hang out or play with your family, do nothing at all, or join CDT members for one of these activities:

Open Sing with CDT Sings! 12:45 in the Living Room at 60 Highland Street. Adults and kids are welcome for an hour or so of singing—no training or ability to read music required!



Nature Walk with Doug Hersh—to sign up for the walk, go to the CDT website and look for the link to Shabbat Unplugged activities.

Havdallah on the Water

Saturday evening, May 4

at the Fisher-Gomberg home in Auburndale

CDT'ers are welcome to come by as early as 5:00pm for a vegetarian potluck Havdallah dinner and some casual canoeing and kayaking on the Charles River. Then by 7:30pm, we'll all paddle onto the river with our Havdallah candles and spices for a very special Havdallah service on the water. If case of rain, the potluck will still happen but Havdallah will be indoors.

Please RSVP by April 30 to **Diana Fisher Gomberg** at dfgomberg@gmail.com. RSVP's are requested so that we can make sure we have enough boats and candles. If you have a canoe or kayak, it would be great if you would bring it. Otherwise, please just bring a contribution to the vegetarian potluck dinner and if you have a Havdallah candle and/or spices please bring them too. The Gombergs will provide drinks and desserts (and boats, paddles, and life jackets!) All ages are welcome. If you'd rather just watch from the shore, you can join the photographers or the unofficial rescue crew!

Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge
the following contributions.

GENERAL FUND

Ellie Goldberg — *In memory of my father, Emanuel Koenigsberg*

Pamela Schoenberg and Joel Reider — *In memory of Joel's father, Raphael Reider, and Pamela's father, Mickey Schoenberg*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome — *In memory of Ellie Goldberg's father*

Harriet Budd — *In memory of the second yahrzeit of Muriel Budd and the 30th yahrzeit of Lou Budd*

Carol Hemley

Alison and David Lobron

Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg

Lisa Goodwin-Robbins

Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman

Tania Mireles and Bill Shorr

Mei See Sandson

Chagit Steiner and Tom Brown

Gertrude Schwab — *In appreciation to Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx*

Jennifer Levine-Fried and Matthew Fried

Emily and David Shumsky — *In honor of Emily's mother, Marsha Tobias*

David and Joel Reider — *In our father's memory*

Douglas Hersh — *In memory of Michael and Marilyn Hersh*

Barbara Huggins

Sharon Gorberg — *In loving memory of my father, George Gorberg*

Rashi School— *In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sara Kramer-Fried*

Rashi School— *In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Julian Sofer*

Nessa Spitzer — *In honor of Rabbi Toba Spitzer*

CAMP JRF FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lisa Chedekel and Isabel Morais— *With gratitude for Evelyn and Bernard's bat/bar mitzvah service*

Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman

SCHOOL FUND

HOLY BOOKS FUND

JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUILDING FUND

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund or to targeted funds. The Rabbi's Discretionary 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 important, to help out congregants in need. The Jill Volk Teacher Development Fund provides 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 allows her love of Jewish learning to continue to enrich our community.

UPDATE ON OUR 2013 NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN

by Sharon Sevransky, Nediv Lev chair

Our 2013 Nediv Lev (fundraising) Campaign this year is well on its way. As I write this, we have received donations and pledges that bring us to about 70% of the way to our \$75,000 goal. To those who have already given, THANK YOU! For those who have not yet made your Nediv Lev donation, please don't wait. We are about \$20,000 short of our goal needed to ensure our congregation's financial health.

The Nediv Lev campaign is an opportunity to reflect on what the CDT community means to you—the music of our Shabbat services, our adult learning classes, our community celebration of holidays and festivals. Please honor the contribution that CDT makes to your life with a Nediv Lev gift, large or small.

Every contribution, of any size, is very important to the Nediv Lev campaign. If you choose, you may direct your gift to be in honor of a member of our community, or as a way to remember a loved one.

It is easy to give: Online— You can go to <http://dorsheitzedek.org/nediv-lev>

Mail— Send a check, payable to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, to the CDT office, 60 Highland Street, West Newton 02465. Please note "Nediv Lev" in the memo section of your check.

Thank you for all you do to support our community!!

CDT Calendar

May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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.			God in Metaphor: Part Two with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:30pm to 9:00pm	Mindful Mornings 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	Erev Shabbat Home Dinners CDT Members' Homes 5:30pm Shabbat Unplugged! 60 Highland St, 7pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service 9:45 am Tot Shabbat , 10:45am to 12:00pm Kiddush Lunch , 12pm CDT Sings 12:30pm to 2pm Havdallah on the Water 5:00pm, potluck, 7:30pm, Havdallah CDT Film Club 6pm
CDT Men's Softball 10am, Concord Field, 365 Concord Ave, Belmont	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm		God in Metaphor: Part Two with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:30pm to 9:00pm	Mindful Mornings 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am Rosh Chodesh 60 Highland St: Living Room 7:30pm to 9:00pm	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck & Dalet Siyyum , 6:00 pm	Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Livia Reider 9:45 am
CDT Men's Softball 10am, Forte Park- 235 California St., Newton	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm			Mindful Mornings 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am		Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Joanna Marcus 9:45 am Learning with Leora for students in Kitot Dalet, Hey and Vav , 10:00am to 10:45am Junior Congregation for all 3rd-6th Graders , 10:45am to 12:00pm CDT Sings 1:00pm to 3:00pm
CDT Men's Softball 10am, Brookline CDT Board Meeting , 7:30pm, 60 Highland St, Library	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless Will meet at participants' homes 3:30pm		God in Metaphor: An Exploration with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:30pm to 9:00pm	Mindful Mornings 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45
				Mindful Mornings 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am		Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Sara Kramer-Fried , 9:45 Tot Shabbat , 10:45am to 12pm
CDT Men's Softball 10am, Forte Park- 235 California St., Newton Members Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm to 8:00pm, 60 Highland St: Sanctuary, Rooms 109,110, 111				Mindful Mornings 60 Highland St: Library 8:30am to 9:15am	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck & Dalet Siyyum , 6:00 pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer, 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Maya Gomberg , 9:45

Community (continued)

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to our May B'nei mitzvot and their families – **Livia Reider and Joanna Marcus**.

TODAH RABBAH

A huge Todah Rabah to our wonderful Seder Matchmaker, **Linette Liebling**, for making matches of seder-seekers with gracious hosts for Passover!

Todah Rabbah to all of those who helped with Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in March and April: **Rachel Zakuta, Valerie Graf, Karen Wasserman, Jodie Siegel, Gail Harris & David Reider, Lisa Goodman & Bill Weinreb, Barbara Huggins, Annie Spanel, Willa Kuh, Corinne Lofchie, Rebecca Cohen, Mark Paley, and Karen Leitner**.

KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

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.

No Fragrances, Please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT

events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

MAY 4 Shabbat Morning Service:

Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen / Linda Schiller & Steve Robins – *in honor of our anniversary*

MAY 10 Erev Shabbat: Andrew Milsten / Kate Hoffman / Irena Fayngold / Rebecca Pomerantz

MAY 11 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Livia Reider: Sanctuary Cleanup: Susan Silberberg / Jan Small, Ushers: Meg Wilcox & Bob Warren – *in memory of Bette Warren*

MAY 18 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Joanna Marcus: Sanctuary Cleanup: Ami Gordon / Carole Slipowitz, Ushers: Lisa Chedekel / Stephen Zisk

MAY 25 Shabbat Morning Service: Judy Hersh & Tim Rosa / Sheree Galpert / Marjorie Greenberg

JUNE 1 Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Sara Kramer-Fried: Sanctuary Cleanup: Gail Harris / Dan Halbert, Setup: Pamela Katz / Ilana Mainelli / Lisa Goodwin-Robbins / Jodie Siegel / Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess, Cleanup: Steven Katz / Madeline Steinberg & Mitchell Feuer / Peter Shapiro / Carole Slipowitz, Ushers: Jeffrey Marcus / Stacey Chacker – *in memory of Alex Fried*

(continued on page 7)

Tikkun Olam (continued)

LOUIS D. BROWN PEACE INSTITUTE MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday May 12, Dorchester, MA

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing, we can take action for peace here in our city. The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, based in Dorchester, supports and empowers families affected by violence, and it has developed the "Peace Zone" conflict resolution program used in Boston Public Schools. The annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace offers an opportunity to stand together with people who have lost loved ones to violence and to help raise funds for the Institute.

Join a CDT team on May 12 as we walk in Dorchester with families affected by violence, in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Several CDT members are forming a team to jointly raise funds and walk, and we'd love folks to join us or support us with a donation.

If you're interested please contact **Bonnie Tenneriello**, bonniet4@gmail.com. For more on the Institute or the Walk, go to <http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org>.

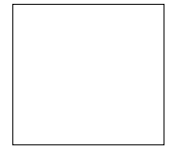
JOIN TEAM DORSHEI TZEDEK IN THE BIKES NOT BOMBS ANNUAL BIKE-A-THON!

Sunday, June 2, Jamaica Plain

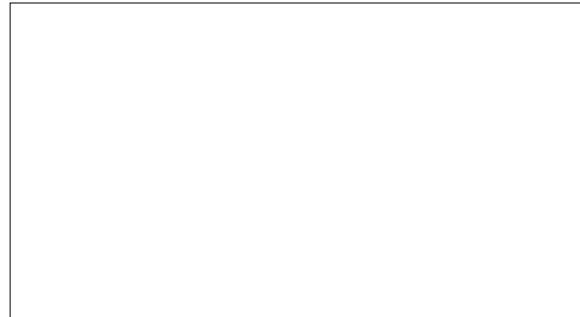
Bikes Not Bombs is a local nonprofit which collects thousands of used bicycles and tons of used parts from supporters around Greater Boston and New England every year. They ship most of these bikes overseas to economic development projects through international programs in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Bikes that don't get shipped often land in their youth programs, where teens learn bicycle safety and mechanics skills in the process of earning bikes to keep for themselves. Their retail bike shop also reconditions and sells some of the donated bikes.

The Bike-A-Thon is family- and kid-friendly. You choose from four scenic routes: 15, 25, 40 or 65 miles. There is a minimum fundraising commitment (\$150).

Learn more at bikesnotbombs.org/bike-a-thon. If you want to join Team Dorshei Tzedek, or have questions, email **Alex** at abg717@gmail.com.



Address correction requested



Tikkun Opportunities

In the spirit of tikkun, repair, here are three local opportunities to take action for the betterment of our communities.

CJP BOSTON RELIEF FUND: SUPPORT FOR MARATHON BOMBING VICTIMS

Donate to the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) Boston Relief Fund: Support for Marathon Bombing Victims. The fund will serve as a central place where people can make donations in the aftermath of recent events. One hundred percent of collected funds will be used to help the victims of this tragedy and their families. To make a gift, please click here https://secure.ujcfederations.org/ft2/form.html?__id=27309

GBIO - FAIR/PROGRESSIVE REVENUE CAMPAIGN

Come hold candidates for US Senate and 1st Suffolk State Senate accountable and promote revenue increases to education and transportation that will make a difference. Sunday, April 21, 2013, 7-9pm at St. Mark's Parish, 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester. (Red line to Shawmut Station) For more information, contact **Ora Gladstone** at glad...@brandeis.edu

MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Join a team of CDers for the annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Based in Dorchester, the institute supports and empowers families affected by violence. It has developed the "Peace Zone" conflict resolution program used in Boston Public Schools. For more information, see page 11.



Photo: 2012 Mother's Day Walk for Peace