



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Nisan 5774 April 2014

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Photo: Rabbi Toba Spitzer consults with the Rambam, Maimonides, in Cordoba, Spain.  
Photo by Gina Fried.

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## Lessons from Spain

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



AS I write this column, I am heading into the final two weeks of my three-month sabbatical and our final few days in Seville, Spain. Purim is also a few days away and, as you read this, Passover is on the horizon. I wanted to share with you some reflections on the confluence of mine and Gina's one-month sojourn in Andalucia (southern Spain), Jewish history, and the themes of these spring holidays.

This region was the site of one of the grandest and most long-lived of Jewish civilizations, with great centers of Jewish learning and cultural life in Seville, Cordoba, Lucena, further north in Toledo, and in other medieval towns. Jewish communities were established in southern Spain from Roman times, and some of the greatest Jewish philosophers and religious thinkers of the 10th through 13th centuries—Maimonides, Nachmanides, Solomon Ibn Gabirol, Abraham Ibn Ezra, Judah Halevi—lived in Spain for all or part of their lives.

Sadly, Spain was also the site of some of the greatest oppression of Jews in history. Periodic violence flared against Jewish communities under Muslim rule, but it was the Christian reconquest which brought the greatest suffering. Beginning in 1391, there were pogroms against local Jewish communities in a number of Spanish cities, during which hundreds of people were killed. In their wake, thousands of Jews converted to Christianity. These new conversos were no longer subject to the same strictures as when they were Jewish, and many rose to political and social prominence. In 1473, the Inquisition was formally established in Spain under the control of the monarchy, largely with the goal of rooting out supposed "Judaizing" tendencies within the converso population. One of the sadder sights in our sightseeing here in Seville and other towns were the public squares where convicted conversos were burned at the stake. This

Background photo: Detail from the 14<sup>th</sup> century Sinogoga in Cordoba.  
Photo by Barry Ingber.

*continued on next page*

anti-Jewish policy culminated in King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella's edict of 1492, requiring that all Jews remaining in Spain be expelled or convert to Christianity (a similar edict was applied to Muslims in 1501). Those that fled found new lives in the Sephardic diaspora, and those who remained as conversos continued to suffer under the Inquisition, eventually assimilating into the surrounding culture.

Today, there is almost no physical evidence left of the Jewish life that thrived here for over seven hundred years. Almost all of the synagogues, as well as mosques, were destroyed or repurposed during the Christian reconquest. The remains of three medieval synagogues are all that are left in all of Andalucia; we visited one of them in Cordoba, built in 1315. It is a small, one-room synagogue, most likely built for the use of one extended family. I was very moved to be standing in it, feeling a tenuous link to those who had gone before. Here in Seville, there is literally nothing, aside from a few streets in the Barrio Santa Cruz—the historical Jewish neighborhood and tourist center of the old city—that still bear their historical names.

This might all sound as if it's been depressing to live in Seville, when nothing could be further from the truth! Gina and I have loved our time here, experiencing both the anxieties and the pleasures of being "strangers in a strange land." Whether struggling to understand Andalucian Spanish (spoken quickly and with lots of consonants dropped), getting glimpses of powerful Catholic traditions that live on in this highly secular society, visiting a thriving rural town with a famous Communist mayor, soaking in as much flamenco as possible, wondering at the ubiquity of pig legs in every bar, or enjoying the exquisite

Moorish architecture, we have absolutely loved the opportunity to taste life (minus the ham) in an unfamiliar culture. Once again I so appreciate the Dorshei Tzedek community for making this sabbatical adventure possible for us.

There is an old joke that the theme of every Jewish holiday is: "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat." This certainly holds true for Purim, where the wicked Haman's plans to kill all the Jews are foiled, and for Passover, when we remember our ancestor's liberation from slavery. Yet Jewish jokes aside, there is something more complex embedded in these holiday stories, the complexities of Jewish history that Spain encompasses. For all of its farcical nature, Purim gives us a glimpse into an important aspect of Jewish life over the centuries: the ability of Jews in many cultures to attain political and economic success, and the tenuous nature of that success. In Queen Esther's agonizing over whether to reveal her Jewish identity, we see the complications of Jewish attempts to fit into the surrounding culture, the compromises and accommodations of life as a minority. In the Passover story, we are invited to never forget the realities of Jewish oppression, while at the same time we drink and recline in the manner of Roman citizens, reminding ourselves that we are free and have the responsibilities that such freedom entails—namely, to never allow ourselves or others to be enslaved again.

As of April, I am back from sabbatical, and I look forward to opportunities to share more with you, and to celebrate this "season of our freedom" together. Many wishes for a zissen Pesach, a joyful and liberating Passover, and for a world where all forms of slavery and oppression are a distant memory.

## 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.

## Board

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Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

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Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Space: Noam Shore

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

Website: Dan Halbert

## Rabbinic Liaison Committee

The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between our rabbi and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Toba, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with the Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern, contact Cindy Shulak-Rome, Rabbinic Liaison Chair at [csrome@comcast.net](mailto:csrome@comcast.net), or Marc Steinberg at [marc@metaphasia.com](mailto:marc@metaphasia.com).

## Newsletter

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

#### Volunteer Staff: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

(chair), John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara

Pittel, Rachel Ross, Vivienne Shein

(photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer

# Shabbat

## BAR MITZVAH OF TEDDY SEIDMAN

Saturday, April 26

We hope you'll be part of our simcha when **Teddy Seidman** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Teddy is a seventh grade student at Watertown Middle School. He also plays viola, and administers his own Minecraft server. He enjoys biking and swimming when the weather is warmer, and this winter he's been very entrepreneurial at snow clearing. He has been working on several Tikkun Olam projects, including Family Table and the Watertown Food Pantry. Now he is part of the Computer Clinic at "Solutions at Work" in Cambridge, which rebuilds computers to give to low-income people, especially to help them find jobs. Please join us for a kiddush luncheon following services. —*Ilana Mainelli and Dan Seidman*

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

Saturday, April 12, 8:45 am, Library  
With Rabbi Toba

Each 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. This year, we will be using Hasidic texts from *Speaking Torah: Spiritual Teachings from around the Maggid's Table*, by **Rabbi Arthur Green**. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary. Bring your own caffeinated beverage!

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

Friday, April 4  
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 6:00pm, followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner (please bring a dairy/veggie main dish or salad, enough for 15–20 people). The service begins at 6:45 pm and is followed by dessert.

## CHILDREN'S SHABBAT PROGRAMS

### SIMCHAT SHABBAT

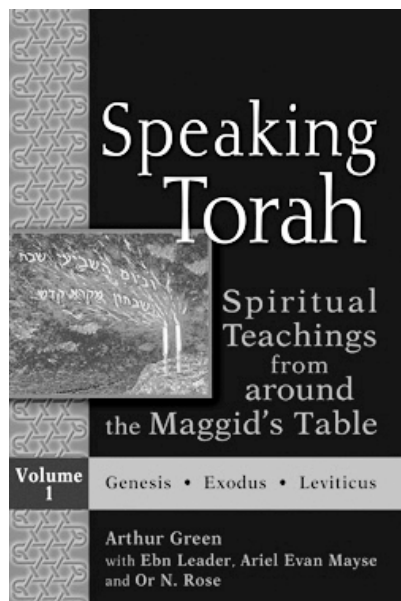
Saturday, May 10  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

For our 4th through 6th graders, this NEW program is an experiential exploration of the joy of Shabbat. Through music, meditation, art, movement, drumming and more, kids will enter into the possibilities of prayer outside the box. Come join the exploration!

### TOT SHABBAT

Saturdays, April 19, May 3, June 14  
10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Tot Shabbat is a monthly Shabbat morning program for children age 5 and younger and their parents, led by CDT members and Jewish educators **Susan Moser** and **Alison Lobron**. Join us in celebrating Shabbat with prayers and songs, stories, crafts, and other fun activities.



## Shabbat Unplugged!

Friday, May 2, 6:00pm to Saturday, May 3, 7:00pm

### GET A TASTE OF OLAM HABAH: THE WORLD AS IT SHOULD BE!

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.

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

## PESACH/PASSOVER

Monday, April 14

Passover begins on Monday evening, April 14. This holiday marks the journey out of slavery in Egypt and invites us to retell and re-experience the journey from oppression and narrowness to freedom. It's a mitzvah to go to a Passover seder, and a mitzvah to welcome someone to your seder! If you are a member of Dorshei Tzedek and in need of a Passover seder to attend, or if you have room at your table for another person or a few, or if you'd like to get together with others to create a seder, please contact **Linette Liebling** ([netgrace@aol.com](mailto:netgrace@aol.com)) by April 6.

## SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER

Monday, April 21, 9:30 am

We will mark the 7th day of Passover with services at 9:30 am. At this service we will celebrate (and read from the Torah about) the crossing of the Red Sea with Hallel and other special songs. We will also be having a Yizkor service, an opportunity to remember loved ones who are no longer with us, to celebrate the holiday. According to Reconstructionist practice (which follows the Israeli calendar), the 7th day of Pesach marks the end of the holiday. So happy pizza and pasta that Saturday evening!

## ROSH CHODESH

Tuesday, April 1

7:30-9:00 pm

Living Room at 60 Highland Street

It's no joke! Rosh Chodesh Nisan is coming on Tuesday, April 1st.

Nisan is called the "first month" because the Israelites left Egypt in Nisan, and it is the first month in the life of the Israelites as a free people. Nisan also marks the birth of spring. What is new in your life? Is there anything that you want to cultivate this spring? Come share conversation, reflection, fun and great snacks with other CDT women. For more info or to RSVP contact **Erica Streit-Kaplan** at [ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com](mailto:ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com).

## CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, April 5

Potluck, 6:00 pm

Movie, 7:00 pm to be followed by group discussion

Home of Emily Sper

Film: *Zatoun* (2012, 107 minutes).

In 1982 Beirut, an Israeli fighter pilot named Yoni crashes outside a camp of young Palestinian refugees, where he's met by gun-toting orphan Fahed. In exchange for his freedom, Yoni agrees to take the boy back to the village where his parents lived.—Netflix

Feel free to attend any part of the evening. If you're coming to the potluck, please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share (in consideration of members with dietary constraints, if you are making a dish with dairy or wheat that can be added later, i.e. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is only for members and their families.

We hope you can join us! Please contact the co-chairs **Stan Fleischman** or **Emily Sper** ([film-club@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:film-club@dorsheitzedek.org)) for more information, if you need directions, and/or if you'd like to host a film.

## CDT Film Club 5774 Complete Schedule

May 3: *Five Hours From Paris*

(Please note that dates and films are subject to change.)

## "A LAND TWICE PROMISED" COMES TO CDT

Monday, May 5, 7:30 pm

Sanctuary at 60 Highland Street

On Monday, May 5—the eve of Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's Independence Day—Israeli storyteller **Noa Baum** will be coming to CDT to perform her compelling one-woman show, "A Land Twice Promised."

From a heartfelt dialogue with a Palestinian neighbor in the United States, Noa has created a moving testimony that illuminates the complex and contradictory history and emotions surrounding Jerusalem, for Israelis and Palestinians alike. She weaves together the true stories of four women and gives us their voices: a Palestinian living under Israeli occupation as a child and as a university student; an Israeli child who lived through the 1967 war; a Palestinian mother's memory of the 1967 war; and an Israeli woman's experience of the 1948 war and the loss of her brother.

Noa says, "The experience of our compassion in the midst of passionate argument propelled me to create *A Land Twice Promised*. Our conversations reminded me of Gene Knudsen-Hoffman's words, 'an enemy is one whose story we have not heard.' I wanted my listeners to connect with our experience of discovery and common ground so I crafted these stories from our memories.

"I tell the human story that stands apart from politics and hope that hearing it will call upon us to listen with compassion without surrendering to prejudice and fear, choose dialogue, and commit to peace."

Scenes from the show can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/land-begin> and <http://tinyurl.com/land-ending>. Noa's web site, with much more information, is [www.noabaum.com](http://www.noabaum.com).

Thanks to the generous contributions of many members of Rabbi Toba's "Israel and Us" class, this performance will be free and open to the public. Please invite your friends! The show is suitable for adults and older children. It will take place at 7:30 pm, Monday, May 5, in the sanctuary at 60 Highland Street, West Newton, followed by a discussion with Noa. Refreshments will be served.

# Tikkun Olam

by Bonnie Tenneriello, Tikkun Olam Chair

The Tikkun Olam Committee is rockin'! Read below about what's going on, and join us for our next Committee meeting to plan for the summer, fall and beyond—*Sunday, June 1 at 5:00 pm*, at the Second Church (exact location TBA).

## Jobs Not Jails

*Saturday, April 26 (rally)*

On March 9, CDT hosted a successful film and speaker program in support of the "Jobs Not Jails" campaign. We viewed "The House I Live In," which details how the war on drugs and mandatory sentencing have resulted in the mass incarceration and disenfranchisement of ever increasing numbers of people, and whose effects fall disproportionately on African-American and poor men. Following the film, speakers included: Andrea James, Executive Director of Families for Justice in Healing, and three people from **EPOCA** (*Ex-prisoners and Prisoners Organized for Community Advancement*)—**Cassandra Bensahih**, **James Stephens**, and **Marinella Blake**. All spoke of their experiences in the criminal justice system. Through their personal stories, they emphasized the unfairness of the present system and the need for immediate action. Andrea James is also the author of "*Upper Bunkies Unite*," which relates her two years behind bars.

The campaign is collecting petition signatures urging state action to redirect \$2 billion in proposed prison construction funds toward jobs programs. CDT members en masse will be joining an April 26 rally on the Boston Common in support. For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/jnjcampaign2014> and contact the CDT organizing team to get involved ([cdtjobsnotjails@gmail.com](mailto:cdtjobsnotjails@gmail.com)).

## Join Team CDT in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace

*Sunday, May 11*

The Walk for Peace began in 1996 for families who had lost their children to violence. On a day that we celebrate mothers and children, the Walk has become a place for families and friends to feel support and love with thousands of others committed to peace. This walk also provides the opportunity for thousands of people to recognize and financially support the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and its programs, which include instilling peace in school and community settings, supporting survivors of homicide victims and the families of perpetrators, and training providers, professionals and faith leaders working with youth and families impacted by violence.

Please join the CDT team for the 18th Annual Walk for Peace on Sunday, May 11. The walk route stretches approximately 3.6 miles from Town Field Park in Fields Corner through Codman Square and ends back at Town Field Park, all in Dorchester (1520 Dorchester Avenue). Walkers are invited to participate in all or just part of the route. Parking is available at the 500-520 Geneva Avenue lot. Registration begins at 7:00 am with opening remarks beginning

## FAMILY TABLE DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

by Ilana Mainelli

Dorshei Tzedek is one 70 synagogues and day schools, and individual volunteers, that donate, collect, sort, pack, and deliver groceries monthly to more than 800 people as part of JF&CS's Family Table. Family Table is the Boston metro area's only food pantry offering kosher food. Thank you very much to everyone who participated in CDT's Passover collection of matzah and matzah meal for Family Table!

You can still help CDT participate in Family Table in three other ways:

1. Donate cans of kosher or vegetarian soup and/or boxes of whole grain cereal as often as you can. (CDT is committed to collect 25 of each, every month). Please put your donations in the wooden collection boxes either at our Sanctuary or our Hebrew School.
2. Donate money that Family Table can use to purchase fresh produce and dairy items to distribute to its clients. Please do that by putting a check in the smaller box next to the wooden one, on the landing near the door to our Sanctuary that is closest to the choir room. The checks should be made payable to "JF&CS" with "Family Table" in the memo line. Please remember that we do not collect money at the Hebrew School.
3. Sign up to collect our donations from the three boxes, in the two locations, and bring them to JF&CS/Family Table. We still need someone to do this on Sunday, July 20. This takes less than an hour and you can do it anytime between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm. It is essential to Family Table, even though it may seem less glamorous than making deliveries. Please sign up at for this at: [tinyurl.com/signupFT](http://tinyurl.com/signupFT), or you can link to it from the CDT web page.

Please help in as many ways as you can! If you have any questions, please call or email me (617-923-0789, [familytable@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:familytable@dorsheitzedek.org)). Thank you!

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at 8:00 am and the Walk officially beginning at 8:30 am. Closing remarks are scheduled for 10:00 am.

For more information please click on the Mother's Day Walk button at [ldbpeaceinstitute.org](http://ldbpeaceinstitute.org). If you would like to join the CDT team and/or make a donation to the Peace Institute, visit the CDT team webpage at: <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/lbdpeace/campaign.jsp?campaign=18&fundraiser=7119&team=144&>. You can also contact Abby Cohen at: [abby.cohen@verizon.net](mailto:abby.cohen@verizon.net).

## City Life/Vida Urbana

The Tikkun Olam Committee sponsored a highly successful organizing meeting and fundraiser for City Life/Vida Urbana, a group that has been a leading force mobilizing opposition to evictions in Boston, and in developing that opposition around the country in the "Right to the City" coalition. Organizers **Antonio Ennis** and **Maria Christina Blanco** talked about how CL/VU empowers communities

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# Chesed

The Chesed coordinators for April are **Ruth Paris** and **Jamie Tessler**. Please use [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to contact them.

Our congregation values chesed, acts of loving-kindness. The Chesed Committee coordinates our community's response for members who are in need of support, such as at the time of a birth or adoption, illness, death, or other significant life change. Some of the types of things we coordinate include meals, grocery shopping, and transportation for a medical appointment.

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone who provided chesed last month.

## CONDOLENCES

To CDT member **Linda Hsu** and family, on the death of her mother, Hso-Hwi (Sue); may her memory be for a blessing.

To CDT member **Mitch Feuer** and family, on the death of his mother, Glenda; may her memory be for a blessing.

To CDT member **Sami O'Reilly** and family, on the death of her father, Larry Saposnick; may his memory be for a blessing.

## REFUAH SH'LEYMA

We send blessings of healing to **Ruby Gan, Nancy Gertz, Stephanie Hackett, Steffi Karp, Susan Nitkin, Jo Radner, and Avraham ben Mordechai**.

## AVELUT

*Avelut* is CDT's member-led group for adults following a loss or marking a yahrzeit. We talk about the impact of loss, the journey of bereavement, and/or the legacies of loved ones we carry with us. You do not need to be in the official Jewish mourning period to attend.

The first meeting of 2014 was scheduled for January 26. Following introductions and remembrances, the topic was "*Lessons from loss: What have we learned? How have we changed?*" The next meeting will be announced by email. For more information about Avelut, see "*After Shiva, Now What?*" at [tinyurl.com/AvelutCDT](http://tinyurl.com/AvelutCDT). If you have suggestions for future meeting topics or questions about the Avelut group contact **Ellie Goldberg**, at [ellie.goldberg@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.goldberg@gmail.com).

## MOURNING AT CDT

As a reference, CDT members have created the brochure "*Finding Comfort, Giving Support: A Guide to Mourning at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek*," available on the resource table in our sanctuary and on our website at: [www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf).

Please Complete the Chesed Committee Online Survey

The Chesed Committee asks that you complete a very brief survey to help us know which members to contact for what sorts of help. We hope that everyone in the community will respond. Thank you! Visit this link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HKDZTVM>.


Note: If you were at the November Members' Meeting and filled out the paper survey, you do not need to complete the online version.

# Tikkun Olam

*continued from page 5*

facing evictions and foreclosures to achieve change, and many CDT members and their friends donated generously, raising over \$1,000 for the organization. Individual co-sponsors included **Stacey Chacker, Ora Gladstone, Laurie Goldman, Rachel Greenberg, Esther Kohn** and **Bonnie Tenneriello**.

For more information, visit [clvu.org](http://clvu.org). If you would like to get email alerts for CL/VU protests and eviction blockades, go to an organizing meeting, or to perhaps consider a B'nei Mitzvah project for a teen (which they encouraged), please contact **Bonnie Tenneriello** at [bonniet4@gmail.com](mailto:bonniet4@gmail.com).




**Jobs**

RALLY TO END MASS INCARCERATION AND  
FUND JOB CREATION

**Saturday, April 26, 12:00 p.m.**  
**Boston Common**

**Not Jails**



Please  
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# Community

## TODAH RABBAH

Todah rabbah to everyone who helped with, Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in March:

**Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome; Marcia Okun and Josh Lieberman; Haralie Alpert**—*in memory of Sylvia and Francis Greenberg*; **Ellen White**—*in memory of John and Paul White*; **Denise and Mark Yurkofsky; Mark Schafer; Linda Schiller and Steve Robins; Miriam Bronstein; Melanie Adler; Jerold Gelfand; Abby Cohen and Stuart Snyder; Tim Rosa; Sheree Galpert and Peter Hess**—*in memory of Alvin Galpert*; **Rob Saper; Marion Ross; Ellen Pashall; Sarah Hartman; Diane Becker; Yale Lansky**

Todah Rabbah to all those who helped do setup and cleanup for the Purim Party: **Rabbi Adam Lavitt** (coordinator); **Tatjana Meschede and Daniel Krasa; Rob Greenly; Janet Boguslaw and Howie Kaufman; Lisa Goodwin Robbins; Alissa and Gerry Leonard; Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman; Karen Leitner; Michael Fein; Caitlin Golden and Danny Shain**

Todah rabbah, yasher koach and kol haka-vod to this year's Purim Spielers, who made "Spy Nation" a rousing success! Thank you and kudos to **Doug "Haman" Hersh, Laurie "Esther" Gould, John "Mordechai" Holohan, Peter "King" Hess, Henry Wasserman, Anna Streit-Kaplan, Eleanor Streit-Kaplan, Erica Streit-Kaplan, Spencer Goldman, Sharon Sevransky, Jane Robinson, Susan Silberberg, Malka Pomerantz, Rebecca Pomerantz, Tamar Arons-Brann, Shira Lobron, and Allison Lobron** for their stellar (and intelligent!) performances, and to **Nathan Aronow and Adlai Hess** for the fabulous musical accompaniment!

notify the Newsletter  
cycle events, significant  
shments, or other moments  
ld like to share with the  
ity. (See page 2 for details.)

## ANNOUNCING MOCA

by Louise Enoch

"MOCA?," you ask. What is MOCA, you wonder? MOCA is the official name of our new initiative to engage our older members with each other and the congregation through a variety of programming, participation, and sharing. MOCA also refers to our older demographic itself. Okay, but what does the acronym MOCA stand for? It stands for *Members of a Certain Age*. We love the name because it's a bit mysterious and whimsical. It is also inclusive of anyone who wants to be included, whatever their age. Our members are enthusiastic and hope to bring a new energy to the congregation and new ways to fulfill our lives in a Jewish context.

On February 23, twenty one members met for our initial meeting. Many others expressed interest, but could not attend. We socialized, did an informative ice breaker, talked about the motivation for the meeting, and then broke up into groups. Each group then addressed three questions: what are the issues, interests, and challenges you have at this phase of life, what programming would speak to these, and what name would you like to call us. The overwhelming and clear message was that people want to connect more. There was also interest in some specific topics or issues. A committee was formed to move us forward and explore suggestions. Committee members include **Louise Enoch, Sharon Gorberg, Elaine Landes, Fran Malino, Lilly Platt, Marion Ross, Shirley Milgrom, and Judy Hersh.**

At our first committee meeting we made the name official. We talked about a number of ways to address members' interests. For example, MOCA members would like a way to connect with each other (and others) for Friday night Shabbat dinners. We will explore whether we can establish a regular sign-up on the website for those who would like to get together. Similarly, there may be local events and programs, both Jewish and secular, that members would like to attend with other interested CDT members—again, perhaps an online way to find others interested in attending. Members expressed an interest in getting together to learn more about each other's professional and/or vocational interests or expertise. The committee also discussed bringing in outside speakers to address a variety of issues related to midlife and beyond, forming book groups or study groups, and organizing day trips.

There appears to be enormous support for our new initiative. Our committee members are excited. Let us know what your interests are, and look for new programming sponsored by MOCA and open to everyone.

## CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM BEGINS ITS SEASON!

by Elliot Pittel, Team Captain

The Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team season starts in April—whether or not the weather is warm! 2014 marks our 8th year in the Men's Shul Softball League. This year the team will be playing a very tough schedule. We have been placed in the AA Division, which is the middle of three divisions. We will be playing some new teams this year, as well as some of our rivals. Our team begins the season with three straight home games in April and May. The Tzedekmen are scheduled to open

the season against Kehillath Israel-1; after a bye week for Passover, we take on Temple Beth Shalom-2 of Needham. The squad begins May with another home game, hosting Temple Israel-1 of Boston, which was undefeated last year.

Home games are played at Forte Park, 235 California Street, Newton. Here is the upcoming schedule. All three games are at home:

*April 13, 10:00 am vs. Kehillath Israel-1  
Brookline*  
*April 27, 10:00 am vs. Beth Shalom-2  
Needham*  
*May 4, 10:00 am vs. Israel-1 Boston*



# Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

## GENERAL FUND

Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent  
Karen and Jeffrey Arnold  
Michele Arons and Michael Brann  
Barbara Beck—*in memory of my brother, Stephen Beck*  
Liz Carver and Bryn Austin—*in memory of Harold Carver and John Austin*  
Janice Cole  
Jessica Engel and Scott Helman  
Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein and Family—*in memory of Linda Hsu's mother*  
Phyllis and Al Glazerman  
Laurie Gould and Stephen Ansolabehere  
Carol Hemley  
Barry Ingber  
Audra Karp and Deb Albenberg  
Pamela Rosenstein and Roy Wilson  
Mark Schafer—*in memory of Bert Schafer*  
Lisa Schneier—*in memory of Esther and Elliott Schneier*  
Emily and David Shumsky  
Jodie Siegel—*in memory of Natalie Leshner*  
Carol Sklar—*in memory of my aunt, Dorothy Solomon, who died 2/28/14. She fought the good fight.*  
Carole Slipowitz and Dan Halbert  
Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan—*in honor of the Rosh Chodesh group*  
Joyce Traister and Harriet Budd—*in memory of Sylvia and Murray Traister; in memory of Muriel and Lew Budd*  
Janelle Winston—*in memory of Dave Winston and Mollyne Karnofsky*

## CAMP JRF FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Haralie Alpert—*in memory of Linda Hsu's mother*

## SCHOOL FUND

## HOLY BOOKS FUND

## JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

## BUILDING FUND

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, including 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.

## NEDIV LEV—YOUR GIFT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

Spring is upon us and we are heading towards the end of our annual Nediv Lev campaign. To members who have already given to the Nediv Lev Campaign, thank you! For those members who haven't given yet, please don't wait. To date, we are still \$20,000 short of our \$76,000 goal, leaving a large gap in our Nediv Lev budget for this year.

A successful Nediv Lev campaign is critical to the continued flourishing of our congregation. As a community that recognizes the importance of giving, we hope that every CDT household will participate.

Donating is easy. You may send your check to the CDT office at 60 Highland St, Newton, MA 02465, or pledge on-line at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/nediv-lev> and we will bill you.

Thank you for your generosity.

Shalom,  
Sharon Sevransky, Nediv Lev Chair

## Support CDT Through Amazon.com

Buy your books, electronics, and whatever else, and support CDT at the same time!

CDT is an Amazon Associate. When you click on the Amazon link on the bottom of the CDT homepage ([www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org)), a portion of any purchase you make will be contributed to Dorshei Tzedek. It's an easy way to support the congregation while doing the on-line shopping you were planning to do anyway!



# Learning

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Annette Lawson, Education Director

On May 3, we will celebrate a milestone in the life of our congregation and I hope you will be there to share in the joy.

This year, for the first time we have had a group of students participate in our school through tenth grade, and at Shabbat services that morning we will mark this accomplishment. Our Darshanim (10th grade) students will lead part of the service, share parts of the spiritual autobiographies that they have been writing this year, and be honored for their participation in our Religious School program. We will continue the celebration with a special Kiddush lunch after the service.

The Darshanim students—**Annalisa Flynn, Lily Gomberg, Zoe Grodsky, Zev Hattis, Elise Hausman, Joseph Katz, and Jake Roll**—are models of commitment to Jewish learning, as are their parents who have supported their children's involvement in our educational program. Kol hakavod!

Our students in Kitah Dalet/Hey (4th/5th grade) will also have a special role in the service that morning.

The class, guided by their teachers **Vered Brooks** and **Gina Fried**, have been working this year on creating a siddur to be used at our student services in the future. As part of their work exploring the prayers of the morning service, Kitah Dalet/Hey students wrote interpretative materials for the prayers, created illustrations, and incorporated them into hand-bound siddurim. The students will lead the prayers they have been studying at the service and will present the siddurim to the congregation.

I hope each of you will mark your calendar and plan to attend as we celebrate, as a community, the accomplishments of our students and honor them for their achievements.

## JEWISH APPROACHES TO DEATH & MOURNING: A PRACTICAL EXPLORATION

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Thursday evenings, April 10 & 17, May 1,  
7:30-9:00 pm  
60 Highland Street, Room 111

What might it mean to imagine—and plan for—our own care at the end of our lives? What does Judaism have to say about end-of-life decision-making? What does *taharah*, the traditional Jewish preparation for burial, entail? Whether you are wrestling with your own mortality or caring for others as they near death, this class is an opportunity for learning and discussion in the context of the CDT community. Drawing on Jewish texts and traditions, and new local resources including a Jewish hospice center and community *chevra kaddisha* (burial society), we will delve into Jewish approaches to end-of-life decisions, burial and mourning practices, and what it means to care for ourselves and others at times of grief.

Topics:

*April 10:* Jewish approaches to dying and end-of-life decisions

*April 17:* Jewish burial traditions—caring for body and soul

*May 1:* The wisdom and practice of Jewish mourning

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays, 8:15-9:00 am  
60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness and to cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, and compassion. All are welcome, whether experienced in meditation or not. The group is facilitated by CDT members. No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! (Please arrive no later than 8:20 am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started.) For more information contact **Carole Slipowitz** ([carole@slipowitz.org](mailto:carole@slipowitz.org)) or **Laya Steinberg** ([lasword@rcn.com](mailto:lasword@rcn.com)).

## 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 *Tanakh* 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 [stanfma@gmail.com](mailto:stanfma@gmail.com) for more information.



Detail from statue in Cordoba, Spain, of Maimonides, the great 12<sup>th</sup> century rabbinical scholar, physician, and author of the *Torah Mishneh*. Photo by Barry Ingber.

# CDT Calendar

# April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 1	2	3	4	5
		Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9:00pm 60 Highland Street: Living Room		Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am 60 Highland Street: Library	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6:00pm	Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm  CDT Film Club Potluck at 6:00pm Movie/Discussion at 7:00pm Home of Emily Sper
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CDT Work Afternoon with Habitat for Humanity 1:00-4:00pm  Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 7:00-9:00pm	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes  Sha'arim: Gateways to Jewish Life and Thought, with Rabbi Adam Lavitt 7:30-9:00pm FUSN			Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am 60 Highland Street: Library  Jewish Approaches to Death & Mourning: A Practical Exploration, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30-9:00pm		Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am-9:40am  Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am 60 Highland Street: Library  Jewish Approaches to Death & Mourning: A Practical Exploration, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30-9:00pm		Shabbat Morning Passover Service 9:45am-12:00pm  Tot Shabbat 10:45am-12:00pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Learn to Leyn (Chant Torah) with Elaine 7:00-9:00pm	7th Day of Passover Service 9:30am  Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes			Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am 60 Highland Street: Library		Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Teddy Seidman 9:45am-12:00pm
27	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes			Mindful Mornings 8:15-9:00am 60 Highland Street: Library  Jewish Approaches to Death & Mourning: A Practical Exploration, with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 7:30-9:00pm	Erev Shabbat Home Dinners 5:30pm  All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/ Potluck 6:00pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am-9:40am  Shabbat Morning Service / Siyyumim for Kiot Dalet/Hey & Darshanim 9:45am-12:00pm  Tot Shabbat 10:45am-12:00pm  CDT Film Club Potluck at 6:00pm Movie/Discussion at 7:00pm Participants' homes

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

**APR 4** All-ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck: Karen Wasserman / Paul Schimek / Jodi Sugerman-Brozan / Margo Michaels

**APR 5** Shabbat Morning Service: Lissy Medvedow & Cliff Cohen / Liz Carver & Bryn Austin - *in memory of Harold Carver*

**APR 12** Shabbat Morning Service: Tom Brown / Jackie & Stan Fleischman / Diane Becker

**APR 19** Shabbat Morning Service: Idit Klein / Tom Kuh / Peter Shapiro & Aline Newton

**APR 21** 7th Day of Passover Service / Ritual Committee provides kiddush

**APR 26** Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Teddy Seidman: Sanctuary Cleanup: Hilary Marcus / Jodie Siegel - *in memory of Florence Goldberg*; Ushers: Nanette Byrnes & Eric Meltzer

**MAY 2** All-ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck: Jessica Engel / Kim Oekene / Mark Yukofsky / Misha Dudnik

**MAY 3** Shabbat Morning Service: Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury - *in memory of Arthur Marshall* / Annie Spanel / Alan Epstein

**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.

**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.**

## RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

### RECONSTRUCTIONISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*April 26-27, 2014, Boston*

Join us for a gathering of Reconstructionists from all over New England. Please mark your calendar! Our program will feature a special presentation by **Rabbi Deborah Waxman**, Ph.D.—president of Jewish Reconstructionist Communities and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She will speak on “Composing a New Song: Reconstructing Post-Holocaust Jewish Community.” More details to follow soon. Questions? Contact **Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman** ([jlitman@rrc.edu](mailto:jlitman@rrc.edu)).

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SUMMER 2014 AT CAMP JRF

Recognized as one of the “Top 10 Jewish Camps,” Camp JRF provides innovative, creative and engaging programs for youth entering second through 12th grades. As an inclusive community, we welcome children from a wide variety of family structures, religious practices, and socio-economic backgrounds. At the center of our Reconstructionist philosophy is a deep commitment to building a community in which all are welcome to grow and thrive. And it wouldn't be camp without all the fun of summer – swimming, sports, arts, music, friends, and so much more! One, two, three, and four week sessions, plus a five-day Family Camp program, all in the beautiful Pocono Mountains! For more information and to register, call 877.226.7573 or visit [www.campjrf.org](http://www.campjrf.org).

*CDT scholarships are available to help your child attend Camp JRF this coming summer. For an application, please be in touch with Marla Lichtman at [admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org).*

### GREAT NEW TITLES FROM THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST PRESS

“*A Guide to Jewish Practice, Volume 2*” is now available. This rich, flexible tool offers traditional and contemporary approaches to Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. (If you don't already have it in your collection, you may also want to consider volume one of the guide, on everyday living; the book helps navigate important contemporary issues, from sexual ethics and gender identity to end-of-life decisions.)

“*Chapters of the Heart: Jewish Women Sharing the Torah of Our Lives*” invites readers into the lives of 20 women via beautifully written essays. The writers reflect on intimate experiences such as parenting, infertility and illness. Through a Jewish lens, they detail the meaning they discovered. These titles and more are available through the Reconstructionist Press at [www.JewishReconBooks.org](http://www.JewishReconBooks.org).

### ISRAEL IS CALLING YOU!

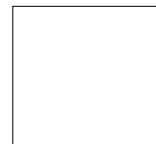
*May 14-21, 2014*

Join us for the first Reconstructionist Movement trip to Israel, May 14–21, 2014. Learn from leading academics, Israeli thinkers, and political activists in a unique series of stimulating and provocative programs. Take your part in a progressive Jewish conversation—an intellectual, spiritual and political dialogue that will build your knowledge, challenge your perspectives, and broaden your understanding of Israel. Our unique tour will include unusual stops such as the Ein Shemer Ecological Greenhouse and Co-existence Workshop and the Museum on the Seam, and meetings with Women of the Wall, journalist **Yossi Klein Halevy**, and Knesset member **Ruth Calderon**. Learn more at [www.rrc.edu/Israeltrip](http://www.rrc.edu/Israeltrip).

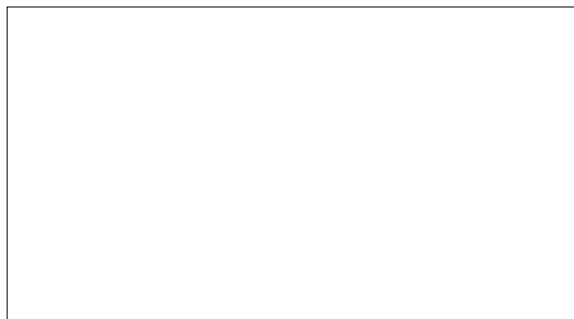


**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## PURIM 2014



Clockwise from upper left: Dorie Fried; Sarah Birkeland, Roy Edelstein, and Abby Edelstein; Jayla Wasserman; Michele Arons, Michael Brann, and Tamar; Susan Silberberg; Susie Tanchel (whoops! wrong congregation!). All photos by Vivienne Shein.