



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Sivan/Tammuz 5774

June 2014

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## Torah and the Big Bang

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



**THIS MONTH** we celebrate Shavuot, the “feast of weeks” – in the Torah, a harvest holiday celebrated at the end of counting seven weeks from Passover, and thus the name “weeks.” For the early rabbis, Shavuot took on another significance: as the anniversary of the Israelites’ experience of receiving Torah at Mount Sinai. And so Shavuot is also known as z’man matan Toratenu, the “time of the giving of our Torah.”

How did our rabbinic forebears imagine that moment? Not, as you might think, as a literal handing of a Torah scroll to Moses up on the mountain. Rather, according to one midrash, all Jewish teaching was given to Moses at that time—some written down, some orally. My favorite line is this: “Even the question a student asks his teacher, God told Moses at that time” (Exodus Rabbah 47:1). What a marvelous concept! Not just Bible, Mishnah, and Talmud, the great works of Jewish law and learning, were given at Sinai, but every question a student will ever ask. I think of this rabbinic conception of Sinai as a kind of “Big Bang,” with the written Torah as that first dense little bit of energy, and the Sinai moment as the “bang!” after which our universe of asking questions and seeking answers comes to be, eternally expanding.

And so on Shavuot we don’t just remember a mythical moment, we participate in that ever-expanding process of Oral Torah. One Shavuot tradition is to spend the evening, night, and early morning hours of the holiday in study, and this year we are once again participating in the Brookline community “Tikkun Leil Shavuot,” the all-night study ses-

Photo: Chanukah games at the annual CDT Chanukah Party. Photo by Vivienne Shein at the 2012 party.

sion happening on June 3 (see page 12 for more information).

Thinking about Shavuot has also prompted me to reflect on all the learning that has happened at Dorshei Tzedek this year, in our own little corner of ever-expanding Torah. On the adult level, 40 members joined me this fall in my “Israel and Us” class, as we explored together past, present and possible future narratives about the meaning of the land and state of Israel for each of us individually and for the Jewish community more broadly. It was both challenging and incredibly inspiring to delve into topics that are so often divisive, in the spirit of open inquiry and honest sharing. And that is only the tip of the adult learning iceberg! Over my sabbatical, and on the Shabbatot that I was off, the community has enjoyed incredible guest speakers and wonderful divrei Torah given by members. There is the group that gathers each month to study Torah with me on Shabbat mornings, and another group that meets every Monday afternoon to study Biblical texts with Sandy Goldfless. Elaine Pollack has taught another cohort of members to chant from the Torah this year, and Rabbi Adam’s adult Shaarim class has spent the year exploring the breadth of Jewish practice and thought (we will be celebrating both the class and Rabbi Adam at Shabbat morning services on June 7; see the next page [Shabbat section] for more info).

Our children have also enjoyed a rich year of learning. Each month I receive a great question from our Nitzanim (preschoolers), who ask me about the topic they are studying that month. What is my favorite thing about the Torah? How do I celebrate Shab-

bat? How do I do Tikkun Olam? I love answering these questions! From our youngest students beginning to learn Hebrew to our Dalet/Hay class coming up with their own names for the Divine to our Darshanim exploring their spiritual journeys, and all the other classes in between, our children add their incredible questions—and their beautiful insights—to the expanding universe of Torah.

And then there is the Torah that we discover in less formal learning settings: learning about house-building while volunteering with Habitat with Humanity, or about how to be fully present with another during a shivah visit; exploring the meaning of “legacy” as we become older with MOCA, discussing a provocative movie in the CDT Film Club, or investigating what it means to sustain a vibrant community in a Board discussion—there is more Torah in the life of our community than I can begin to recount. All I can do is express my wonder and gratitude at everyone at CDT who is engaged in Torah: in asking questions, in seeking meaning, in figuring out how to live an engaged and potentially transformative life. As the Hasidic master Menachem Mendel of Kotzk taught, “The Giving of the Torah took place in the month of Sivan, but the receiving of the Torah takes place every day.” May each of us continue to receive our own Torah, to ask our questions and find our place in that ever-expanding universe of Jewish learning and personal meaning. Chag sameach!

## 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

### **Rabbi Toba Spitzer**

Education Director: Annette Lawson

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant: Jon Sarner

Assistant Rabbi: Rabbi Adam Lavitt

### **Executive Committee:**

President: Allison Hausman

Immediate Past President: Peter Katz

VP Finance: Sivan Nasoff

VP Membership: Melanie Adler

VP Education: Lisa Schneier

VP Leadership: Laurie Gould

Secretary: Jen Kaplan

### **Board Members-at-Large:**

Louise Enoch, Jake Weinberg, Jonathan Rosenthal, Laurie Goldman, Vilunya Diskin, Linda Hsu and David Lobron.

### **Off-Board Chairs**

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Nediv Lev: Sharon Sevransky

Website: Dan Halbert

Space: Noam Shore

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Chesed: Ellie Goldberg and Donna Rae Hirt

Newsletter: Josette Akresh-Gonzales

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

## Rabbinic Liaison

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 [chsrome@comcast.net](mailto:chsrome@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

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

*Fridays, June 6 and August 8 (no service in July)*

*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/veggie main dish or salad, enough for 15–20 people). The service begins at 6:45 pm and is followed by dessert.

## SHA'ARIM SHABBAT

*Saturday, June 7, 9:45am*

During our Shabbat morning service, we will be celebrating the learning of the CDT members who participated in Rabbi Adam Lavitt's year-long exploration of Judaism in the Sha'arim class. We also be saying goodbye and thank you to Rabbi Adam for his three years of teaching here at CDT, as he heads off to Israel and the next phase of his rabbinic journey. In addition, we will

be welcoming Jonah Baron-Bethune to the community and celebrating with his parents, Ellie Baron and Kate DeBethune!

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

*June 14, 8:45-9:40*

Join Rabbi Toba for this final Shabbat morning study before we take a break for the summer. We will explore commentaries on parshat Shelach Lecha – bring your own caffeinated beverage!

## TOT SHABBAT

*Saturday morning, June 14, 10:45am-Noon*

For parents and kids age 0-5, a musical, fun Shabbat morning experience! This will be the last Tot Shabbat before we break for the summer.

## BAT MITZVAH, SOPHIE SIEGEL-BERNSTEIN

*June 14*

Please join us for a wonderful simcha as our daughter, Sophie Siegel-Bernstein, is called to the Torah as Bat Mitzvah. Sophie is a sev-

enth grade student at Belmont Day School, which she has attended since kindergarten. Sophie is passionate about gymnastics, and has spent the year working with Special Olympics gymnasts as a volunteer coach. We are delighted by the commitment and focus Sophie has had as she prepared for this momentous occasion and we look forward to sharing it with friends and family. Kiddush luncheon will follow services at the FUSN social hall and all members of our congregation are invited to join us. —*Jodie Siegel and Susan Bernstein*

## WELCOME

*June 21*

CDT will be welcoming **Samuel Garnett-Cook** to the community and celebrating with his parents, **Stacie and Andrew Garnett-Cook!**

## LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER

**by Sivan Nasoff**

*Aufruf and Kiddush, June 21*

With mixed emotions, I'm writing to let the congregation know that my daughter Noa and I have big changes afoot. After 20 long years, I am going to marry my Peace Corps sweetheart, Valerie. Valerie has had a chance to meet some of you this year at various CDT events and is excited to become part of our community. However... She lives in New Orleans and we have decided to relocate there for our first year together as a family.

We will be married here in Massachusetts in late June, before heading south in time for the best summertime heat (Oy!). Dorshei Tzedek has been my home for 12 years. It is bittersweet to set off on this adventure knowing how much I will miss this wonderful community while we are gone.

Valerie and I would like to invite you to join us at CDT during services on Saturday, June 21 for our Aufruf. Kiddush and a chance to bid us farewell will follow.



**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 SINGS REHEARSAL — YOU ARE INVITED!

*Saturday, June 14, 1:00-2:00pm*

CDT Sings, our community chorus, will be learning some new music, and reviewing the old, in preparation for High Holydays 5775. New members are welcome! For more information, please contact Karen Arnold at [arnoldkc@bc.edu](mailto:arnoldkc@bc.edu).

## MEMBERS MEETING

*Sunday, June 8*

*Pizza (and alternative) dinner at 5:30pm, meeting at 6:15pm*

*Child care provided*

We hope every CDT household can send at least one member to our final meeting of the year, when the membership needs to transact some important business, including passing a budget for next year and voting on a new Board slate, as well as thanking our outgoing Board members and off-board chairs. In addition, there will be a report on this year's exploration of the meaning of membership, including next steps. Keep an eye for an e-vite in order to RSVP for dinner!

## CDT FILM CLUB

On hiatus until September. Contact **Stan Fleischman** or **Emily Sper** ([film-club@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:film-club@dorsheitzedek.org)) if you have any questions.

# Community

## FAREWELL

**by Rabbi Adam**

There is no easy way to say goodbye to you. With sadness, a meaningful chapter in my life closes, and with excitement, a new one begins. Between my rabbinical studies at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, and my work at CDT, I've been grateful for the eight years I've had in Boston. The three years I've worked at CDT has seen me grow from a Community Educator, in my final year of rabbinical school – to Assistant Rabbi. Each of you, in many ways large and small, has contributed to my growth and learning.

The families who participated in Project LO"X over the years have given me profound insight about the challenges and gifts of being a Jewish parent today. My Sha'arim students have reminded me how fundamentally transformative Jewish learning can be, and how important it is to use Jewish practice to nourish ourselves. My students in CDT's religious school have helped me figure out what the important questions are, and taught me the power of learning about our individual and collective heritage. And then there were all of those – too many to name here! – who collaborated with me during Rabbi Toba's Sabbatical to design and lead engaging and creative holiday programs, Shabbatonim, and Shabbat morning services.

Finally, Rabbi Toba and Annette Lawson have taught me to always challenge myself, experiment, and try new things – whether in our work on Project LO"X (CDT's educational pilot project), on the bimah (or on the floor, during Shabbat Circle!), or in (or out of!) the classroom. I'm particularly grateful for the ways Toba and Annette constantly demonstrated, in our work together, that

Judaism doesn't happen in particular times and places, but always responds to our everyday questions and challenges. I have learned so much from each of you!

Now it's time for another adventure! Next year, I will be moving to Jerusalem for the year with my partner, Alex Weissman (a rabbinical student at RRC). As of my writing, I will either be enrolled in year long program at Hebrew University, or doing curriculum design. Please be in touch – my new e-mail address is [rabbilavitt@gmail.com](mailto:rabbilavitt@gmail.com). I wish all of you well!

## MAZEL TOV

We have many graduates to congratulate:

To **Gabriel Weinreb** for graduating from Commonwealth School. In September he will be attending Wesleyan University.

To **Celina Bliss Siegel** for graduating from Newton South High School. In September she will be attending Oberlin College in Ohio.

To **Sofia Rosenberg** for graduating from Newton North High School. In September, she will be attending Barnard College.

To **Alex Jablon** for graduating from Newton North High School. In September, he will be attending business school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

To **Isabel Snyder** is graduating from Newton South and will be attending RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, studying to become a sign language interpreter.

To **Clara Ives** for graduating from Newton South High School. In September, she will be attending Tulane University as a Deans' Honor Scholar.

To **Sophia Aronow** for graduating from Newton North High School. In September, she will be attending Clark University.

To **Rosalyn Aronow** for graduating from Newton North High School. In September, she will be attending the University of Vermont.

**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.)**

To **Risa Paley-Zimble** for graduating from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. She will be attending Tufts University in the fall.

To **Julia Faith Sklar** for graduating from the University of Rochester in May after completing a double major in Brain and Cognitive Science and Anthropology. In September she will be starting a masters degree program at Boston University in Science writing/science journalism.

To **Shoshi Paris-Saper** for graduating from Goucher College with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media Studies.

To **Zachary Miller** for graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in English and Communications.

To **Rachel Sacks** for completing her Masters in Nursing Degree at Northeastern University. Rachel is moving forward into her new career at as Nurse Practitioner.

To **Josh Sacks** for graduating from Ithaca College as a communications major. Josh will be moving to New York City to start work at an experiential marketing firm.

To **Adam Halwitz** for graduating from Marlboro College, with concentrations in philosophy and literature.

To **Emily Flynn** for graduating from Smith College with a double major in biochemistry and computer science. She will be attending graduate school at Stanford University's Biomedical Informatics program.

To **Amalia Lieberman** for graduating from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ with a degree in musical performance. Amalia most recently appeared as Tamiri in Mozart's Il Re Pastore.

To **Raphael Fox Broh** for graduating from Colorado College. He majored in molecular biology, wrote a senior thesis, and is on his way to a job in a synthetic biology lab.

To **Aaron Littman** for graduating from Yale Law School. Aaron will be heading off to a clerkship in Los Angeles.

To **Katy Jablon** for graduating from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Allied Health.

In addition to our graduates, we also extend congratulations:

To **Susie Tanchel** for receiving the Sidney Hillson/Rose Bronstein Memorial Award for distinguished leadership and commitment to the centrality of Hebrew language in Jewish education and the advancement of Jewish culture and civilization at Hebrew College's commencement ceremonies on June 1, 2014.

To **Danny Shain and Caitlin Golden**, on their wedding!

To our May bnei mitzvah and their families—**Jasmine Meltzer, Sam Feuer and Ava Feuer!**

### TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Events, Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah in April and May: **Jonathan Magaziner, Susan Bernstein, Nanette Byrnes, Eric Meltzer, Idit Klein, Peter Shapiro, Stacey Chacker, Hope Kellman, Jodie Siegel - in memory of Florence Goldberg, Merav Opher, Aaron Fischlowitz-Roberts, Wendy Gedanken, Marjorie Greenberg, Jessica Engel, Kim Ockene, Mark Yurkofsky, Cindy Rivka Marshall & Kathy Pillsbury - in memory of Arthur Marshall, Alan Epstein, Vilunya Diskin, Alyssa Cohen, Jennifer & David Greenberg, Sami O'Reilly & Robert Imperato, and Bill Shorr & Tania Mireles**

A huge thanks to **Joel Reider and Sharon Gorberg**, for assisting Kitah Vav with the Sanctuary Artwork project.

### INTERESTED IN JAMMING?

Anyone interested in playing music in a small group? CDT member Joe Bayes is returning to playing piano after a many year absence and wondering if a few people might be interested in trying to playing together? Joe sees himself as an advanced beginner or possibly low intermediate. What style? Joe likes jazz, popular, classical and klezmer but would consider any genre. If you might be interested please contact Joe via email or phone.

## RECONSTRUCTIONIST MOVEMENT

### REPORT FROM RECONSTRUCTIONIST PLENUM MEETING

by Chaim Herzig-Marx

The Plenum is an ongoing conversation among representatives of Reconstructionist affiliates and communities, punctuated by business meetings, and an opportunity for them to give guidance and direction to the Reconstructionist movement. Supported by the Congregational Services Committee and movement staff, membership consists of a representative from each affiliated Reconstructionist community plus rabbis of affiliates.

The two most recent plenum meetings were held in March and May. The March meeting (two sessions, March 23 and March 27) was devoted to a discussion of the twin decisions around affiliation and dues. The current dues structure was conceived as a way to give affiliates a choice about the level of support they wished to provide to the Movement and was a radical experiment when first introduced. As an experiment, we wanted to understand how dues decisions are made. Before breaking into discussion groups, Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of the RRC, talked about affiliation as an expression of community.

The May meeting was one of the mandated biennial business meetings, and one key outcome was the election of Abe Clott as the next chair of the Congregational Services Committee and of the plenum. The plenum also received an update from Rabbi Waxman about the reconstituted Community Engagement department. Now led by Rabbi Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin, Community Engagement includes the Affiliate Support staff, the placement office, Ritual Well, and other functions relating to in-reach and outreach. This reorganization will enable the central office to focus attention on the highest priorities of our affiliates. Finally, representatives broke into small discussion groups to describe which central programs and services they have used, what programs and services their affiliates would find most beneficial in the future, and which programs and services they believe the movement as a whole most needs.

Logistically, because our affiliates span North America, plenum meetings are held by conference call. Between calls, ongoing discussions are conducted through a (closed) Facebook affinity group. Well more than half of all affiliates participate in the conference calls,

*Continued on next page*



# Community

and many people contribute to Facebook discussions.

## RECONSTRUCTIONISM ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Get a snapshot of what's happening in our movement in this year's annual report. Discover the optimistic vision that Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., brings to the presidency, and follow her personal journey from eager bat mitzvah to glass-ceiling shattering Jewish leader. See our plenum through the eyes of an anthropologist. Get a Talmud-inspired take on Shabbat and holidays in the Guide to Jewish Practice Volume 2. Take a peek behind the scenes at Camp JRF, and find out how RRC students create holiness in unexpected places.

This first online-only annual report is full of live links and sharable contents: [www.rrc.edu/report14/reader](http://www.rrc.edu/report14/reader). You can also download a printable PDF, which can be interpreted by screen readers for the visually impaired: [www.rrc.edu/printable-report.pdf](http://www.rrc.edu/printable-report.pdf).

## 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).

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).

# Chesed

The Chesed coordinators for May are Ellie Goldberg and Donna Rae Hirt – 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 support to members of the community last month.

## REFUAH SH'LEYMAH

We send blessings of healing to **Ruby Gan, Stephanie Hackett, and Susan Nitkin**.

## CONDOLENCES

To **Merav Opher**, on the death of her mother, Erella Opher. May her memory be for a blessing.

To **Jonathan Rosenthal**, on the death of his father, Bradley Rosenthal. May his memory be for a blessing.

## Yahrzeit

We remember **David Keimowitz Crozier**, son of Jessica Keimowitz and Polly Crozier, whose second yahrzeit falls this year on June 14. We will be remembering David at Shabbat morning services on June 14.

## 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 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 are interested in attending one of the meetings or have questions about the AVELUT group, please contact **Ellie Goldberg**, 617-965-9637, [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 under: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.

# Learning

## ADULT EDUCATION

### 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 **Laya Steinberg** ([lasword@rcn.com](mailto:lasword@rcn.com)) or **Carole Slipowitz** ([carole@slipowitz.org](mailto:carole@slipowitz.org)).

### 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.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by **Annette Lawson, Education Director**

As this school year comes to a close, I keep thinking that this year has been a journey for our school. We have explored what education can be in our community, tried new things, and committed to some exciting changes.

We experimented with Project Based Learning this year in our upper grades. Our Dalet/Hey (4th/5th) class explored how we experience God and the language we use to describe the experience, and created an amazing siddur for use in our school. Kitah Vav (6th gr.) thought about sacred spaces, and researched and documented the ritual items in our sanctuary and created a beautiful display to share their research.

We reached an important milestone this year in the life of our school, as we cele-

brated the Vilna Shul, Yiddish Book Center, Islamic Society of Boston, Mayyim Hayyim Mikvah, Hebrew Senior Life, St. Ignatius Church, Omni Theatre at the Museum of Science, Second Step and Heifer Farm.

Our Alef, Bet and Gimmel (1st-3rd gr.) families traveled to each other's homes to share a meal and engage in Jewish learning in four LO"X@home programs this year.

A big part of our journey this year was the decision to change our school schedule. Beginning in September, all our classes from Nitzanim through Zayin (PreK-7th grade) will meet on Sunday mornings, with our 3rd-6th grades also meeting on Tuesday afternoons.

Since we cannot use our current school space in FUSN on Sundays, we have entered into an agreement with Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) in Watertown to use their building for our Sunday classes. JCDS is a great space—we will be

## This year has been a journey for our school. We have explored what education can be in our community.

brated on May 3 the siyyum (completion) of our Darshanim class, our first group of 10th graders. It was a wonderful moment as this great group of young adults (Joseph Katz, Jake Roll, Lily Gomberg, Elise Hausman, Zoe Grodsky and Annalise Flynn) helped lead the service and shared their spiritual autobiographies with the congregation.

Sometimes we were literally on a journey. Expanding our learning beyond the classroom, this year our students vis-

surrounded by Jewish "ambiance" in large and sunny classrooms (no basement!) and, parents will be happy to know, there is plenty of parking.

Our new space and schedule will give us time and space for expanded learning opportunities, not just for children's classes, but for family and adult learning as well, as well as allow Rabbi Toba to be part of Sunday programming. I am very excited to begin this next stage of our journey.

# Tikkun Olam

Take a look at all the world-changing energy in our congregation and join in!

## TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday June 1, 5-7pm

60 Highland St, Living Room

Join the Tikkun Olam Committee at our June meeting where we will take stock of recent projects, such as, the Habitat for Humanity work day in Wayland (see last issue), the Jobs not Jails campaign (see below), and the annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace (also below), and consider new ideas for future projects. This has been an extra-fertile Spring for social justice at CDT so come and see what will take root! All are welcome, whether you want to spearhead a campaign or just see what's going on.

## JOBS NOT JAILS

CDT was out in force in support of the Jobs not Jails rally April 26 on Boston Common (photo above). Over 20 CDT members, children and adults, attended in the rain and cold to show solidarity with the campaign's effort to channel state funding away from new prison construction and into jobs programs. The campaign is also focused on abolishing Mandatory Minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses. A day of lobbying state legislators followed on April 30 when all the petitions that were collected were presented.

## TEAM CDT IN THE MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

On Sunday, May 11th, over twenty CDT members, ranging in age from under 7 to over 70, joined founder Tina Chery and approximately 10,000 other participants in the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Along with our physical presence at the Walk, CDT members contributed over \$1,000 to support the Peace Institute. Over the past 18 years, the Institute has provided, free of charge,

- Programs to instill peace in school and community settings
- Support to survivors of homicide victims and the families of perpetrators
- Training of providers, professionals and faith leaders working with youth and families impacted by violence.

## FAMILY TABLE FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

by Ilana Mainelli

Food insecurity is still a very pressing need in our community. And many people are especially dependent on Family Table to get them through the month because it is the only food pantry in the Metro Boston area to provide kosher food to those who need it, and it is one of very few that delivers food to those who can't pick it up. So please remember to help CDT participate in Family Table.

You can help support Family Table by:

(1) Continuing to donate cans of kosher or vegetarian soup and/or boxes of whole grain cereal as often as you can. CDT is committed to collecting 25 of each, every month). Please put your donations in



the collection boxes either outside of our Sanctuary or at the Religious School when you attend.

(2) Donating 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 into the smaller box next to the wooden one, near the door to our Sanctuary closest to the resource table. Checks should be made payable to "JF&CS" with "Family Table" in the memo line. Please note that we only collect food at the Religious School; do not drop off checks there.

(3) Signing up to collect our donations from the three boxes, in the two locations, and bring them to JF&CS/Family Table food pantry in Waltham. We need volunteers to do this delivery this summer on Sunday July 20. This takes less than 1 hour and you can do it anytime between 9:30 am & 12:30. 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.

Any help you can give is appreciated! If you have any questions, please call me at 617-923-0789 or email me at [familytable@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:familytable@dorsheitzedek.org). Thank you!

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE FOR NEWTON

Newton Congregations, an affiliate of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization of which Dorshei Tzedek is a member, is a coalition of approximately 12 churches and synagogues that work on local community and city issues. Newton Congregations is looking at affordable housing in Newton as its next project. The issue addresses important social justice and equity concerns for all of us. Whether you are a current Newton resident, or not, we hope you'll let us know if you see this as an important issue to tackle. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact CDT member Ora Gladstone at [gladstone@brandeis.edu](mailto:gladstone@brandeis.edu).

## SHARES STILL AVAILABLE IN THE RED FIRE FARM CSA

Our partnership with Red Fire Farm continues this summer, and shares are still available, with pick-up locations near CDT and in other neighborhoods as well. Enjoy the bounty of organic vegetable shares, local fruit Shares and organic flower shares. In June, look out for the free (for members) pick your own organic strawberries at the farm in Granby.

For more details on vegetable, fruit, egg and flower shares, and to sign up for the season please visit [www.redfirefarm.com](http://www.redfirefarm.com).



# Nediv Lev

## UPDATE ON OUR 5774 NEDIV LEV CAMPAIGN

by Sharon Sevransky, CDT Nediv Lev Chair

We are nearing the close of our annual Nediv Lev campaign, and we hope to get close to our fundraising goal of \$76,000 by the end of May. To members who have already given to the Nediv Lev Campaign, your gift is truly appreciated. For those members who haven't given yet, it's not too late! We are just a few thousand dollars short of our \$76,000 goal. Your gift will help us bridge that gap.

The programs that allow our CDT community to thrive are only possible if we are able to meet our Nediv Lev goals. Please consider how CDT enhances your life through our Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, religious school, adult learning, social action and chesed activities. Every contribution, of any size, is very important to Nediv Lev. 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.

Donating is easy: 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.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

### GENERAL FUND

Joseph Bayes—*In memory of Rose Bayes and Arthur Bayes*

Diane Becker—*In memory of Alvin Becker*

Brodesky/Flynn, Grodsky/Rosenthal, Roll, Samelson/Hattis, Katz & Hausman families —*In honor of Gina Fried, from the 10th grade families*

Harriet Budd—*In memory of Muriel Budd and Louis Budd*

Polly Crozier and Jessica Keimowitz—*In memory of David Levi Keimowitz Crozier*

Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman

Marjorie and Newton Greenberg—*In memory of David Greenberg, father of Newton Greenberg*

Linda and Peter Katz—*In memory of Saul Weiss*

Deborah Lang Saltzman and John Saltzman

Cindy Rivka Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury—*In memory of Cindy's father, Arthur Mitchell*

Tania Mireles and Bill Shorr—*In honor of all of you, who have given us stuff through the listserve*

Sami O'Reilly and Robert Imperato—*In honor of Rabbi Adam Lavitt, from the CDT Sha'arim Class of 2014*

Elliott Pittel

Elaine Pollack

Rabbi Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried—*In honor of our wonderful staff: Annette Lawson, Marla Lichtman, and Jon Sarnier, and in honor of the leadership of Allison Hausman and the CDT Board.*

### CAMP JRF FUND

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### SCHOOL FUND

### HOLY BOOKS FUND

### JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Gina Fried—*With thanks to Lisa Goodman, Ora Grodsky, Paul Hattis, Jonathan Rosenthal, and Bonnie Tenneriello, for contributing to the learning of the Darshananim*

Avital Lewis—*In honor of my mother's yahrzeit*

### 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.

## 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!

# CDT Calendar

# June 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p><b>Tikkun Olam Meeting</b> 60 Highland Street: Living Room 5:00pm to 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Education Meeting</b> 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:00pm to 8:30pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Shavuot</b>  Congregation Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard Street, Brookline 8:15pm to 5:00am</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck</b> 6:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>Shabbat Morning Service &amp; Siyyum for Sha'arim Class</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>Kiddush lunch</b> 12:00pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>Members' Meeting &amp; Dinner</b> 5:30pm to 8:00pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:45am to 9:40am Jun 14</p> <p><b>Shabbat Morning Service &amp; Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Siegel-Bernstein</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>Tot Shabbat</b> 60 Highland Street: Rooms 110, 111 10:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>Kiddush lunch</b> 12:00pm</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>Kiddush lunch</b> 12:00pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p><b>CDT Board Meeting</b> 60 Highland Street: Living Room 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:15am to 9:00am</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>Kiddush lunch</b> 12:00pm</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>July 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dor-shei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</p>						

# Kiddush Assignments

**Jun 6** All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck: Jarred Haas / Marjorie Feld / Rebecca Cohen / Sarah Little

**Jun 7** Shabbat Morning Service & Siyyum for Sha'arim Class: Laura & Joel Katz / Ezra Hausman / Ben Dash

**Jun 8** Members' Meeting & Dinner: Lilly Platt—*in memory of Chaïke and Yankel Platt* / Alison Lobron / Nancy Gertz—*in honor of Alison Hausman's first year as president*

**Jun 14** Shabbat Morning Service & Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Siegel-Bernstein: Sanctuary Cleanup: Sharon Sevransky / Gail Harris;  
Ushers: Madeline Steinberg & Mitch Feuer

**Jun 21** Shabbat Morning Service: Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel / Dorie Fried / Noah Rumpf

**Jun 28** Shabbat Morning Service: Abby Cohen & Stuart Snyder / Aaron Fischlowitz-Roberts / Kate Hoffman

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. Thank you!

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.

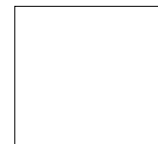
No Fragrances, Please. So that Dorshei Tzedek events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfumes, scented oils, colognes, etc.) to all CDT events. While pleasant to some, fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

—



**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

*Starting at 8:15 pm, June 3, until dawn on June 4  
at Congregation Kehillath Israel, 384 Harvard  
Street, Brookline*

Shavuot is the holiday when we celebrate the mythical moment of receiving Torah at Mt Sinai, and the ongoing unfolding of Torah—Jewish learning—in all its many forms. This year, as in recent years, we will celebrate Shavuot by joining with many other area congregations and Jewish groups for an all-night learning (and schmoozing and eating) extravaganza! Rabbi Toba is included among the teachers - for the Tikkun schedule and session descriptions and to RSVP, visit [www.charlesriverlearning.com](http://www.charlesriverlearning.com).