



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Nissan/Iyyar 5775 April 2015

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## Kol HaKavod (A Job Well Done) to You!

by Allison Hausman, CDT President



**I WOULD LIKE** to start this column with an appreciation of us. We as a congregation have been exploring what it means to be a member at CDT—what our kehillah,

or community, is all about—both collectively and for each of us as individuals. We've taken time to consider, redefine, and prioritize the values that unite us. We've reached out to talk with each other through a series of one-on-one conversations, and many, many members expressed their feelings through our online survey. This conversation has continued formally during our Members' Meetings and Board discussions, and informally over kiddush.

We have learned a lot about ourselves through this process—first and foremost how much and how deeply members care about our community. We received 200 responses to our survey—in a congregation with just under 200 households. And while there are many differences of opinion about many aspects of congregational life, the care and detail expressed in the survey responses and comments showed how committed our membership is to keeping our community vibrant and active.

We've learned that there is a lot that is strong about our community, and about the many ways congregants stay connected. Not surprisingly, we discovered that there is much diversity in how we connect, how much time and energy we want to devote to our congregational lives, and what motivates us to participate. And we learned



Gathering the congregation at the 2011 CDT Retreat.

that while people's level of involvement can vary widely and often changes over time, our community members generally feel deeply committed and appreciative of being part of CDT. But we also learned that people can feel disconnected or isolated, and identified possibilities for connections that could be strengthened.

One key finding from our exploration into connectedness is that many members have appreciated the opportunity to form shared-interest groups within the congregation, such as Members of a Certain Age (MOCA), the Film Club, the Climate Action Group, and book discussion groups. *Dur-*  
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ing the March Members' Meeting, a new CDT Hiking Club even began to take shape, thanks to the initiative of **Diana Fisher-Gomberg** and **Stuart Snyder**! On the other hand, we've also learned that members don't always feel comfortable or confident initiating activities, or felt that their particular interests wouldn't be shared by other members, so we spent some time during our last meeting sharing different ways that new groups have formed and evolved.

Another common theme is that becoming, and staying, involved in congregational activities can be challenging when there are so many other demands on our time and attention.

Our membership committee is evolving to reflect our growing awareness of how membership connects to all aspects of congregational life, and is growing and changing based on this work. Rather than comprising a discrete group focused on the needs of new members, our new, reinvented Kehillah Committee will expand its scope to also focus on ways to build connections between existing members, as well. While the details are still being worked out, we anticipate that the new committee will offer a variety of opportunities for members to get involved in large and small ways. Possibilities might include: becoming a buddy

to new members or hosting a new member orientation dinner; helping to spice up the CDT Facebook page and/or members' photo gallery; finding a member "quote of the month" that exemplifies community to feature in the CDT newsletter; or simply inviting a member you may not have seen around much lately to come along to a CDT event. The possibilities are endless with more details coming soon!

We began our exploration to define and understand what a covenantal community is. What we've learned is that this is just what we have; the foundation is strong, but there are many things we can build together to facilitate and strengthen the many bonds that hold us together.

During the March Members' Meeting, CDT member **Rob Greenly**, with members **Roy Edelstein** and **Lissy Medvedow**, provided an overview of the results from the most recent CDT member survey. His presentation is available on the CDT website ([www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org)) along with the full survey report. Also available on the website is a summary of the results from our one-on-one conversations, completed last fall. I encourage you to take the time to read through them!

Please notify the Newsletter of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the community.

## Rabbinic Liaison Committee

**Rabbinic Liaison Committee:** The Rabbinic Liaison Committee exists to insure 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 [cbsrome@comcast.net](mailto:cbsrome@comcast.net).

## 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

#### Staff

Education Director: **Annette Lawson**

Administrative Director: **Marla Lichtman**

Administrative Assistant: **Jon Sarner**

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President: **Allison Hausman**

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Chesed: **Eileen Morrison and Corinne Lofchie**

Nediv Lev: **Peter Katz**

Newsletter: **Danny Shain**

Ritual: **Marin Ross and Laurie Goldman**

Rabbinic Liaison: **Cindy Shulak-Rome**

Space: **Noam Shore**

Tikkun Olam: **Bonnie Tenneriello**

Website: **Dan Halbert**

## 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:** Danny Shain (chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, John Holohan, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer.

# Shabbat

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND POTLUCK

*Fridays, April 10, May 8, June 5*

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

All are welcome to this fun, musical erev Shabbat experience! We begin with candle lighting and Kiddush at 6pm, followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner (please bring a veggie/dairy/fish main dish or salad, enough for 15–20 people), followed by services at 6:45pm. In April, we will be welcoming special guests from K'sharim, a program for adults with disabilities. This is the 5th year we've hosted our K'sharim guests, and we look forward to once again sharing our Shabbat tables and lively service with them! Members of the CDT Inclusion Committee will serve as greeters for the evening. We hope that everyone will join us in making this an evening of celebration and camaraderie.

Please note: April 10 is during Passover, so all food for the potluck should avoid grain products (unless marked “Kosher for Passover”) and beans (hummus, chili, etc.). Quinoa is fine, as are green, tuna, and egg salads, matzah concoctions, and veggies of all sorts. (And if anyone can track down kosher-for-Passover mac'n'cheese, you get the prize!)

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA SPITZER

*Saturdays, April 11, May 9, June 13*

*8:45 am*

*60 Highland Street, Library*

Each month before the Shabbat morning service, we will explore 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!

## PASSOVER SERVICES

*Saturdays, April 4 and 11*

*9:45 am*

This year, the first day of Passover falls over Shabbat, and on Shabbat morning, April 4, we will celebrate the holiday with the special songs of Hallel and the study of the Song of Songs, traditionally associated with this Shabbat. We will close the week of Passover on April 11 with special Passover-related Torah study in the morning and Yizkor during the Shabbat morning service, an opportunity to remember our loved ones who have passed away.

## SHABBAT UNPLUGGED

*Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9*

Shabbat has been described as a “palace in time,” a holy architecture in that allows us 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. Over the course of Shabbat, there will be services, potluck dinners, opportunities to study and hike and sing, and more! Stay tuned for details.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### “FROM EDEN TO MANNA TO SABBATICAL YEAR: ECO-BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AND PRESENTATION,” WITH RABBI ARTHUR WASKOW

*Friday, May 15*

*8:00 pm*

*60 Highland Street*

Rabbi Waskow, author and founder of the Shalom Center, is one of the American Jewish community's pre-eminent teachers and activists on social justice and climate

change. What insights does the Torah provide in response to human degradation of the planet? What revolutionary action does our tradition suggest? How is Shabbat itself part of the answer? Come, enjoy a musical kabbalat Shabbat, and learn!

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## ON AND OFF THE BIMA: AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN ABOUT JEWISH RITUAL AND PRACTICE IN THE DORSHEI TZEDEK COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

by the CDT Ritual Committee

*Question: How can parents from different religious backgrounds participate in their children's Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony?*

*Cindy Rivka Marshall responds:* Several years ago when our son was preparing to become a Bar Mitzvah, Kathy and I had some concerns about how our family and diverse extended family would be included in the service. Although Kathy did not grow up Jewish, and has not converted to Judaism, she has been fully involved in raising our children Jewish. We joined Dorshei Tzedek as a family, and Kathy has participated as a volunteer. She was often driving the Hebrew school carpool from our neighborhood, and she was often the parent in our family who held the line with our children, saying that “yes, we felt that it was important that they go to Hebrew school.”

When we met with Rabbi Toba, we learned that while Kathy could come up for an aliyah with me, because she was not Jewish, she could not recite the blessing before our son *leyned* (read) from the Torah. Kathy ex-

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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

## YOM HASHOAH/HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY PROGRAM



### “A WORLD APART,” WITH JOYCE FRIEDMAN

Thursday, April 16

7:30-9 pm

CDT Sanctuary,  
60 Highland Street

Inspired by hundreds of her parents' love letters discovered after their deaths in 2010, Joyce Friedman explores her family's parallel lives on both sides of the ocean during World War II. This heartwarming one-woman cabaret-theater performance features songs of the 1940s from America and Eastern Europe. Following the performance, Friedman will take questions from the audience. Appropriate for adults and teens.

## CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, April 18

6:00 pm, potluck; 7:00 pm, movie begins,  
to be followed by group discussion

Home of Jackie and Stan Fleischman

*The Flat* (2011, 97 min., Hebrew, German, English with subtitles): When Arnon Goldfinger's grandmother died at 98, he was charged with cleaning out her Tel Aviv apartment, where he made a shocking discovery. The filmmaker plays detective as he sorts through decades of the Holocaust survivor's letters and photos. —*Netflix*

Potluck at 6:00 pm, movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion. Feel free to come for 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, ie. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families only.

We hope you can join us! Contact the co-chairs **Stan Fleischman** and **Emily Sper**

([film-club@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:film-club@dorsheitzedek.org)) for more information, or if you'd like to host a film.

Upcoming schedule:

May 16: *Obvious Child*

## SHAVUOT

Saturday, May 23

9:00 pm-4:15 am

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 and permutations. This year we will again be joining with other area congregations at the **Brookline Area Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot**. This all-night study session will include a large variety of teachers and teachings, from text study to music to meditation and much more. Come for one hour or stay the whole night, but don't miss it!

## IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE 2015 CDT RETREAT!

May 30-31

Camp Yavneh, Northwood, NH

Spring is here, and now is the time to dream of our upcoming bi-annual CDT Retreat! It's happening the final weekend of May (the weekend after Memorial Day weekend), at lovely Camp Yavneh. We will be joined by our wonderful inclusion staff of the past few retreats, Dorie and Heather, plus our rabbinic intern for Got Shabbat, Laura Bellows, plus all of us! Registration information and forms can be found at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/retreat-2015> - please print them out and send in your deposit soon! If you have trouble accessing the forms online, please be in touch with Marla Lichtman ([admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:admindirector@dorsheitzedek.org)) and she will mail you a hard copy. And if finances are an issue, please be in touch with Rabbi Toba.

**The retreat is intended for all ages—for families with tots to teens, and adults with no kids; this means you!** Opportunities for learning, tennis, waterfront activi-

ties, art, Shabbat rest, and most importantly, a chance to connect with CDT members, whether old friends or new acquaintances. A range of accommodations are available, including MOCA-certified beds!

For more information, or questions, or to volunteer to help plan the CDT Retreat, contact [cdt-retreat@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:cdt-retreat@dorsheitzedek.org).

## DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL

### CDT MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM SEEKS THE KIDDUSH CUP!

by Elliot Pittel, Team Captain

The Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team new season starts in April. 2015 marks our 9th year in the Men's Shul Softball League. This year there has been some "realignment," and our team has been moved into the Single A Division, which is the lowest of the 3 divisions. As a result, there will be some new teams on our schedule, and hopefully, the games will be more competitive.

The team opens the season with 2 straight road games. Weather permitting, the Tzedekmen travel to Belmont on April 12th for the season opener to take on a combined team of Temple Beth El/Temple Shalom Emeth from Belmont and Burlington. (If there are weather issues or the field isn't ready by April 12, the game will be played later in the season). The team then travels to Lexington the following week for a game against the Temple Isaiah-2 Red Lox. CDT's home opener is on Sunday, April 26, when we host Temple Beth-El from Sudbury. All home games will be played at Forte Park in Newton.

For more information about upcoming games, including locations, you can find a full schedule at:

<http://dorsheitzedek.org/softball-team>.  
**Go Tzedekmen!**

# Nediv Lev

## MOCA (MEMBERS OF A CERTAIN AGE)

### VISIT THE VILNA SHUL WITH MOCA

Sunday, May 3

2:00 pm

Meet at the Vilna Shul (18 Phillips St., Boston)

Join us for a private tour of the Vilna Shul in Boston. Learn about the “people of Vilnius” who came from Lithuania in the late 1880s looking to rebuild their European community by establishing a “landsmanshaft” in Boston. This is a wonderful opportunity to discover Boston’s Jewish roots in the company of your CDT friends. There is a \$5.00 suggested donation per person; carpooling is encouraged, and there is \$5.00 validated parking at a nearby garage. The nearest T stop is “Charles/MGH” on the Red Line.

This event is sponsored by MOCA, but all are welcome and encouraged to come! RSVP to **Sharon Gorberg** ([sharon.gorberg@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.gorberg@gmail.com)).

## On and Off the Bima

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pressed that she wanted to be present in the ritual in some more significant way. That’s when Rabbi Toba came up with the wording in English that has been used at Dorshei Tzedek since that time, a blessing that is said along with the traditional Hebrew blessing:

Before the Torah is chanted: *Blessed is the Source of Life, That has brought me into loving relationship with the Jewish people and the Torah. Blessed is the Source of Torah.*

After the Torah is chanted: *Bless us as one, Source of Life, by the light of your Presence and teaching.*

This blessing allowed Kathy to not only stand there, but to lend her voice to the ritual on this significant occasion. We were happy with the wording “in loving relationship” because it captured what felt true, and acknowledged our family more fully.

## NEDIV LEV ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

### by Peter Katz, Nediv Lev Chair

By now you all should have received a letter about this year’s Nediv Lev campaign (please let me know if you did not at [lpjkatz@verizon.net](mailto:lpjkatz@verizon.net)). This year’s target is \$74,500, which is about 15% of CDT’s income for the year. We are already half-

way there! Thank you to our Board and off-board leaders, and past presidents, for kicking things off with the Leadership Gift. Reaching our goal will be challenging, but we can do it! Of course, I hope everyone will be comfortable giving as much as or a little more than last year, but any amount will help and will be gratefully and enthusiastically received. Thank you!

## We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

### GENERAL FUND

Melanie Adler and Andy Cohen  
Rose and Lloyd Adler  
Karen and Jeffrey Arnold—*In memory of Martha Arnold*  
Barbara Beck—*In memory of my parents, Irving and Edith Beck, and my brother, Stephen Beck*  
Diane Becker  
Eric, Brett, Max and Rebecca Berkman—*In honor of the March birthdays of Phoebe Cushman and Joel Auslander, with love!*  
Thea Breite and Susan Moser  
Elaine Bresnick  
Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer—*In honor of Alison, David, Gabriel, and Shira Lobron for passing on their couch to us!*  
Stacey Chacker  
Alyssa Cohen  
Janice Cole  
Amy Dain and Misha Dudnik  
Jackie and Stan Fleischman  
Sandra Gertz—*Mazel and good health to the entire congregation!*  
Lisa Goodwin-Robbins  
Sharon Gorberg and John Holohan—*In memory of George L. Gorberg, beloved father and grandfather*  
Carol Hemley  
Debbie Hemley and Jonathan Weisberg  
Betsy Hinden and Karen Wasserman  
Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein and Kevin Hsu-Weinstein—*Thank you for a great start to our first year as members!*  
Kevin Hsu-Weinstein—*In memory of Hsiu-Chun Hong*  
Marjorie Feld and Michael Fein  
Carolyn Fine and Jerry Friedman  
Ellie Goldberg—*In memory of my husband, Efrem Goldberg; in memory of my brother, Jesse Koenigsberg; in memory of my father, Emanuel Koenigsberg*

Lisa Goodman and Bill Weinreb  
Stephanie and Nem Hackett  
Barry Ingber  
Steffi and Eric Karp—*In memory of Ellen Pashall’s mother; in memory of Diana Fisher-Gomberg’s step-father*  
Sherry Katz and Mark Farber  
Phyllis and William Kantor—*In memory of Celia Feinson*  
Hope Kellman  
Ina and Steve Kichen—*In memory of Abraham Kichen*  
Esther Kohn—*In memory of Priva Kohn; in memory of Katherine Greenberg*  
Dianne Lior  
Corinne Lofchie and Noam Shore  
Gertrude Nemeth  
Gertrude Nemeth and Rachel Nemeth Cohen—*In memory of Leonard I. Nemeth, beloved husband and father*  
Sami O’Reilly and Robert Imperato  
Maribeth Ortega and Alan Segal  
Ruth Paris and Rob Saper  
Diana Perretta  
The Roche Associates/JP and Joe Roche—*In memory of Abraham Kichen*  
Pamela Rosenstein and Roy Wilson  
Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis—*In honor of Allison Hausman completing her presidency*  
Sharon Sevransky and Jeff Goldman—*In memory of Helen Sevransky*  
Jo Ann Share and Rochelle Weichman  
Barbara Shatkin and Andrew Littman  
Emily Sper—*In memory of my cousin Paul Horn*  
Nessa Spitzer  
Lauren and Andrew Stefano  
Laya Steinberg and Bruce Miller—*In memory of Victor Steinberg*  
Chagit Steiner and Tom Brown

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# Learning

## AUTHOR TALK WITH LOCAL PARENTING EXPERT BRENDA DATER

Sunday, May 3

10:30 am-noon

JCDS (57 Stanley Ave., Watertown)

On Sunday, May 3, the CDT Inclusion Committee will be hosting local author/speaker Brenda Dater. Brenda is the author of *Parenting without Panic: A Pocket Support Group for Parents of Children and Teens on the Autism Spectrum (Asperger's Syndrome)*. She is also the Director of Child and Teen Services at AANE where she teaches workshops, facilitates support groups, and provides consultations for parents, grandparents, and professionals. At the event, Brenda will facilitate a discussion based on her book. Topics might include chronic stress, siblings, deciding on how to spend your time, money, and energy, parenting on the same page, extended family dilemmas—or whatever else is on people's minds! Childcare will be provided. Anyone from CDT is welcome to join this spirited discussion.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursdays mornings

8:45-9:30 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 with Rabbi Toba Spitzer. On the first Thursday of each month, **Karen Arnold** will be leading a meditation based on that week's Torah portion (Karen is currently participating in the Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training program with Rabbi Sheila Weinberg). No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! (Please arrive no later than 8:45 am, in order not to disrupt the session once we've started).

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

## EXPLORING THE BIBLE WITH DR. SANFORD GOLDFLESS

*The class is open to all Dorshei Tzedek members and their friends.*

*\$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.

## NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE

### SHARING STORIES AND IDEAS FOR INCLUDING DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PEOPLE INTO THE FOLDS OF OUR CONGREGATION

by Kristin Butcher

"Inclusion" can so often feel like something that is tacked on, something that makes the non-disabled world feel better for extending a helping hand, a generous lowering of the bar so that people who are less well-endowed with talent can participate. What "inclusion" usually does not feel like is a full-throated cry on behalf of the diversity of human experience, an acknowledgement that we all bring different capacities to the table, and that those who lack in some areas, often make up for it in spades in other areas. Last month, we celebrated our daughter Yannik's Bat Mitzvah. While we are mem-

bers of CDT, Yannik received the bulk of her Jewish education at Gateways, a Jewish educational program for students with special learning needs. I would like to thank the union of the CDT community and the Gateways community for making Yannik's Bat Mitzvah feel like that more fulsome and beautiful kind of inclusion: a child on the brink of adulthood, acknowledged by her community for the real talents that she brings to it. It truly was one of the best days of my life! For Yannik, I hope it sets the bar (high!) against which future days will be judged. Below are excerpts from Yannik's D'var Torah. I think it speaks to the strength, courage, and determination she employed to reach this Jewish milestone.

## D'VAR TORAH ON B'SHALLACH

by Yannik Gordon

My Torah portion is about how the Israelites escaped from Egypt and crossed the Red Sea.

When the Israelites came to the Red Sea they panicked because Pharaoh and his army were right behind them. The Israelites kept on complaining to Moses and they said that they would rather be safe and be slaves than be here.

Moses started crying out to God and God said, "why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward." I think God was saying that this wasn't a time to be asking for things, but a time for ACTION! But it must have been so SCARY to be standing on the edge of the sea and being told to go in!

One of the Israelites named Nachshon was the first to jump into the sea. When he jumped in, the waters split and it was safe for the Israelites to walk across...I think it took bravery and faith for Nachshon to jump into the sea and for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea. Nachshon had to have faith in God and Moses, because both of them helped the Israelites escape from Egypt, but he must have had faith in himself too – I bet he could swim!

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# Community

I've been thinking about how bravery and faith are important in my life. My story about bravery and faith is when I was in California and I was at the Santa Cruz beach boardwalk and I went on this ride that my babysitter and cousin forced me to go on. The ride shot you straight up hundreds of feet and then dropped you. I am afraid of heights, so I was really scared to go. On the way up I closed my eyes and then opened my eyes and I saw a beautiful sunset over the bay. And then I wasn't scared anymore.

I think I had faith that the person that locked us in the seats knew what he was doing and that I was safe with my cousins and my babysitter. Also I think it took bravery because I had to overcome my fears and challenge myself. I think it took some faith and bravery to trust myself and to trust that I was safe. And I was happy that I did because I got to see something I wouldn't have gotten to see otherwise, and I wasn't so afraid any more.

Faith and bravery are also a big part of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. I remember a year ago trying to learn some words in Hebrew and thinking that I would never be able to do it. But, one of the things I have liked most about this process is how my teachers and my Rabbi have helped me and encouraged me to do my best. I think I've come a long way from last year when I didn't want to have a Bat Mitzvah and thought that I couldn't do it. I think it takes bravery to stand in front of all your family and friends, and I think it takes faith to know people are there to help you and encourage you. Maybe I'm a little like Nachshon in that I can jump into things, even when I'm scared and I don't know how things are going to turn out.

Did you know you can access the newsletter at any time online? Learn more at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/newsletters>

## TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with Kiddush/B'nei Mitzvah in February and March:

**Dan Halbert, Edward Bruckner, Carolyn Fine Friedman and Jerry Friedman—in memory of Sara Fine, Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis—in memory of our parents, Judy and Chayim Herzig-Marx, Stuart Snyder, Andrew Garnett-Cook, Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon, Esther Kohn—in memory of Priva Kohn, Deborah Lang Saltzman, Diana Fisher-Gomberg and Richard Gomberg, James Kaplan, Marcia Okun, Pamela Rosenstein, Barry Gilbert, Sarah Hartman, Peter Shapiro, Haralie Alpert—in memory of Francis Greenberg, Ellen White—in memory of brother, Paul, and father, John S. White, Betsy Hinden**

Todah Rabbah to everyone who helped with the Purim party:

**Tatjana Meschede and Daniel Krasa, Janet Boguslaw and Howie Kaufman, Todd Carmody, Bruce and Perry Miller, Josette Akresh-Gonzales and Michael Gonzales, Gerry and Abigail Leonard, Jonathan Rosenthal, Barbara Shatkin and Andy Littman, Danielle Klainberg**

Hamon Todot (a HUGE thank you!) to all who made our Purim celebration so special:

**Scott Gordon**, our kids' prize-master; **Margo Michaels, Tal Shalom-Kobi** and **Scott** for the young kids' program; CDT Brews (**Todd Carmody, Tatjana Meschede, Ezra Hausman, Sue Weil, Jackie Slivko, David Felson, and Rachel Nemeth-Cohen**) for the wonderful Purim beer; Megillah leyners **Elaine Pollack, Miriam Bronstein, and Allison Peiser**; musicians **Nathan Aronow, Tal Shalom-Kobi, and Hayim Kobi**; and our fabulous Spielmeister **Sheree Galpert**, coordinator **Erica Streit-Kaplan**, and the merry band of Spielers: **Anna Kaplan, Ayla Kobi, Diana Fisher-Gomberg, Doug Hersh, Eleanor Kaplan, Henry Wasserman, Jane Robinson, John Holohan, Michael Brann, Sharon Sevransky, Alison and Shira Lobron, Spencer Goldman, Susan Silberberg, Tamar Arons-Brann, and Andrew Sofer.**

And thank you to everyone who contributed to the Yad Chessed Purim collection, raising funds for over 1,000 people in the greater Boston Jewish community to have a special meal on Purim. We contributed \$405 to this effort.

## WELCOME

We give a hearty CDT welcome to the following new members:

**Susana and Jaime Wurzel**



Rabbi Toba teaches a Purim song in the Nitzanim class.

# Tikkun Olam

## “TZEDEK REFLECTION” MEETING

by Abby Cohen

On Sunday, March 15th **Benita Danzing**, **Barbara Shatkin**, and I joined with participants from about fifteen other congregations and organizations to participate in a communal gathering at Temple Emanuel of Newton that focused on hunger and food insecurity. The goal of the program, “Tzedek Reflection: A Jewish Response to Poverty,” is to provide an opportunity for congregants from various synagogues and Jewish organizations to come together, learn, reflect, and develop a response that can be acted on collaboratively.

Three presenters discussed the causes, effects, and consequences of food insecurity. Dr. Deborah Frank from the Grow Clinic for Children at Boston Medical Center stressed that hunger is a health issue; Samuel Chu, the National Synagogue Organizer for MA-ZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, discussed the importance of individual acts as well as advocacy to address food insecurity in Massachusetts; and Pat Baker, Senior Policy Analyst for Massachusetts Law Reform Institute revealed how the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) has created barriers for people trying to receive federally sanctioned food assistance, known as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly the Food Stamp Program.

Participants broke up into different groups to explore ways to take action. If you would like more information, please contact me at [abby.cohen@verizon.net](mailto:abby.cohen@verizon.net).

## “MORE THAN LIGHTBULBS”: CDT MEMBERS TO TAKE ON CARBON CHALLENGE

by CDT Climate Change Action Group

Back in September, several dozen CDT members joined over 400,000 people in New York City at the People’s Climate March, to push for global action against climate change. **The CDT Climate Change Action Group grew out of members’ par-**

**ticipation in the March, and has exciting plans to engage the entire CDT community in an ambitious campaign to reduce our carbon output both individually and collectively.**

Climate scientists warn that we need to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm) to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of global warming. The current level is over 400 ppm! To get to 350 ppm, we are going to have make major changes in how we get and use energy. We have to move beyond fossil fuels, and change not just our individual consumption habits, but industry and economic policy at the highest levels.

Beginning at Pesach, the Climate Change Action Group is kicking off the **CDT Carbon Challenge**. The goal of the Challenge is to get as many CDT members and households as possible to push ourselves, change our consumption habits and take real and meaningful action on climate change. This begins with small changes at home, like switching to energy efficient LED light bulbs, turning down your thermostat, and hanging laundry on a clothesline, but that’s just the beginning. And that’s why our action-sheet is called “More than Lightbulbs”: we want to encourage people to take deeper action on climate change, including educating ourselves, pushing for policy change, and getting involved in the political process.

### **The Carbon Challenge will work like this:**

Each “action” on the “More than Lightbulbs” list (available soon on the CDT website) is assigned a certain number of Carbon Points. Easy actions (like changing a light bulb) earn a small number of points. Larger and longer-horizon actions, like insulating your home, joining a climate change organization, attending a rally, or writing a letter to an elected official, earn more points. **We’re setting a congregation-wide goal of earning 350,000 Carbon Points between Pesach and Rosh Hashanah.** Each household that decides to participate will set its own goal for Carbon Points, and will pledge to take actions it chooses from the “More than Lightbulbs list.” We hope to have a website where participants can track their progress, see how we’re doing collectively

on our 350,000 point goal, share ideas, and engage in a little friendly competition.

### **CDT Carbon Challenge Calendar/Timeline:**

Pesach (starts April 4) to Shavuot (May 25): CDT members make Carbon Challenge pledges.

Saturday, April 25: Carbon Challenge interactive workshop and activity at Got Shabbat.

Friday, May 15: Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center will speak at Erev Shabbat service on climate change.

Sunday, May 19: Jewish Climate Action Network kickoff conference at Hebrew College.

Shavuot (May 25) to Rosh Hashanah (September 15): Carbon Challenge is underway!

Rosh Hashanah: We announce the results of the Challenge, to great fanfare...

## FAMILY TABLE UPDATE

by Ilana Mainelli

Thank you for making the Passover food drive a success, for CDT, for FT, and most importantly for the people who receive help from Family Table! We collected 45 boxes of matzah, 19 cans of matzah meal, 3 cans of matzah farfel, and 2 packages of Passover soup mix. I also want to thank the people who have helped us collect our Family Table contributions this year by bringing them from JCDS to FUSN, and from our collection boxes to FT. We would not be able to participate in FT without these critical steps.

**Now I again urge everyone to help us meet, or exceed, our monthly responsibility of collecting 25 cans of kosher and/or vegetarian soup and 25 boxes of whole grain cereal by bringing some to any of our 3 collection points whenever you can.**

Every year CDT also sends people to work on one of the FT distribution days. This year we are scheduled to provide 6-10 families to pack and deliver food to FT clients on Sunday, April 26th. Please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/FT42615> if you would like to join us on this date. And please do so quickly if you have never before made deliveries for FT, because there is some

continued on next page



# Chesed

**Chesed** (Loving-Kindness) is an important CDT community value.

The **Chesed Committee** is dedicated to creating a caring community by providing a gesture of support and comfort when one of our members has a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness or other significant life cycle event.

Chesed coordinators use the website **Lotsa Helping Hands** to post volunteer opportunities, often a Shabbat meal, and occasionally for doing grocery shopping, errands, giving rides to doctor appointments or taking children to school when a member is in need.

The Chesed Committee encourages all members to sign up at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community> so you can respond when a Chesed request goes out.

The Chesed coordinators for February are: **Eileen Morrison** and **Corinne Lofchie**. Please use [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to contact them.

## Family Table Update (continued from page 8)

simple paperwork that you must complete a few weeks in advance of the 26th.

As part of the lead up to this, a group of Hebrew School parents who are working on local hunger issues this year, **Annette Lawson** our Hebrew School Director, and Eve Youngerman of Family Table, have put together a wonderful educational program that all of our students will participate in on April 12.

We also still need volunteers to bring our contributions from our boxes at Second Church and FUSN to Family Table/JFCS in Waltham on April 26, May 17, June 14, and July 19. You can sign up for this at <http://tinyurl.com/deliver2FT>. There are links to both of these sign-up pages in the Members' section of the CDT website.

Thank you very much for your participation in Family Table. If you have any questions, please email them to me at [familytable@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:familytable@dorsheitzedek.org).

**Contacting Rabbi Toba:** Rabbi Toba Spitzer is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. To schedule an appointment, please contact her (confidentially) at [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) or 617-965-0330 #2. She does not check email or voicemail on Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) or on Mondays (her day off).

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.

## REFUAH SHLEMA

We send blessings for a complete healing to: **Mark Bronstein, Ilana Mainelli, and Ilana Streit**.

## Yahrzeit

We remember longtime CDT teacher **Lesley Chapman**, whose 6th yahrzeit falls this year on April 2, and CDT founding member

**Jill Volk**, whose 8th yahrzeit falls this year on April 30. We will be remembering Lesley at Shabbat morning services on April 4, and Jill at Shabbat morning services on April 25. May each of their memories be for a blessing.

## CONDOLENCES

To **Laurie Gould, Steve Ansolobehere, Rebecca and Julia**, on the death of Laurie's father, Daniel Robert Gould. May the entire family find comfort, and may his memory be for a blessing.

## 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>.

## YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BE ON THE RECEIVING END...

by Ellie Goldberg

Chesed at CDT is members helping members when there is a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury, or illness.



### *What does the Chesed Committee do?*

We use the LotsaHelpingHands (LHH) website to organize members to provide (among other things): a meal, help with errands, rides.

### *How does Chesed work?*

Contact Rabbi Toba Spitzer to tell her when you have a major life event. She will contact Chesed and you will receive a call from a Chesed Coordinator. The coordinator will ask for information to post on the LotsaHelpingHands Calendar.

Help make Congregation Dorshei Tzedek a more caring community! All members are strongly

encouraged to join the Chesed at CDT volunteer list at <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/625130/login/>.

# CDT Calendar

# April 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>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.</p>			1	2	3	4
				Mindful Mornings 8:45am to 9:30am		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm		Mindful Mornings 8:45am to 9:30am	All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck Candle lighting and dinner 6:00pm Service 6:45pm	Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am  Shabbat Morning Passover Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin, Nitzanim and Gan 9:30am to 12:00pm  Men's Softball Team Game 10:00am 365 Concord Ave., Concord	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm		Mindful Mornings 8:45am to 9:30am  Yom Hashoah Program: "A World Apart," with Joyce Friedman 7:30pm to 9:00pm		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm  CDT Film Club 6:00pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Men's Softball Team Game 10:00am 110 Lincoln St., Lexington	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm			Mindful Mornings 8:45am to 9:30am		Got Shabbat? (including Tot Shabbat) 9:45am to 12:00pm
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
Men's Softball Team Game 10:00am 235 California St., Newton	Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm	Religious School Classes for Gim-mel, Dalet and Hey/Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm		Mindful Mornings 8:45am to 9:30am		Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm

**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.

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

**Shabbat, April 4:** Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein / Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess

**Erev Shabbat, April 10:** Karen Leitner / Becca Gutman / Jeff Green / Andrew Milsten

**Shabbat, April 11:** Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Fried / Ellie Baron / Bryn Austin

**Shabbat, April 18:** Theresa St. John-Siegel & Steve Siegel / Alice Markowitz / Erica Fretwell

**Got Shabbat?, April 25:** Beth Green / Lisa Goodwin-Robbins / Mark Paley / Laurie Goldman / Marsha Klein

**Shabbat, May 2:** Shirley Milgrom / Kate DeBethune / Stacey Chacker - *in memory of Fred Chacker* / Joel Katz

**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.

# Reconstructionist News

## GIVE RECONSTRUCTIONIST VIEWS AND VALUES A VOICE IN ISRAEL TODAY!

Right now, the American Zionist Movement is holding elections to determine U.S. Jewish representation to the World Zionist Congress (WZC), the highest legislative body of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Elections will be held in Jerusalem in October 2015.

You must vote by **April 30**. Register and vote in the WZC at this pivotal juncture! You can choose the ARZA slate, which has strong Reconstructionist participation. Get more details on how to vote: [JewishRecon.org/VoteARZA](http://JewishRecon.org/VoteARZA).

Nediv Lev

*continued from page 5*

Rhonda Taft-Farrell—*In memory of Abraham Kichen*

Deborah Waber—*In memory of Isadore Waber*

Susana and Jaime Wurzel

## CAMP JRF FUND

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Vera Katz—*In honor of Rabbi Toba's APN Award*

Jeff Kichen—*In memory of Anne Johnson Minkoff*

Ellen Pashall

### SCHOOL FUND

Jeff Kichen and Leslie Pinnell, Lee and Carol Kichen—*In memory of Abraham Kichen*

### HOLY BOOKS FUND

### JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

## BUILDING FUND

Alissa and Gerry Leonard—*In memory of Susannah Zisk*

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.

# Jewish Community Events

## LIBERATION: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

*Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston* Sunday, April 12

10:30 am

*Faneuil Hall, Boston*

To honor local survivors of the Holocaust and to pay tribute to those who perished, JCRC and its partners will present Liberation: From Darkness to Light, a community commemoration of Yom HaShoah, on Sunday, April 12th at 10:30 am at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

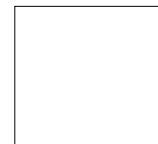
The keynote speaker will be David Eisenhower, grandson of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Mr. Eisenhower is a historian and the Director of the Institute for Public Service at the Annenberg Public Policy Center.

## CAMP JRF

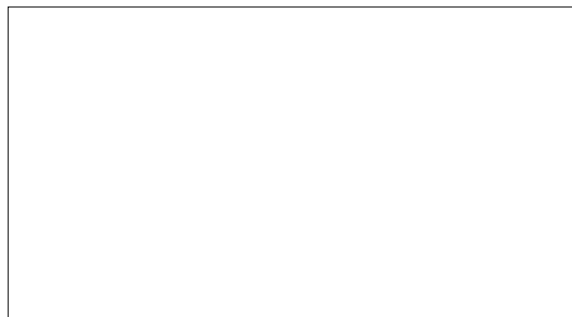
A Spring Kallah is being held at Camp JRF in Pennsylvania for kids in grades 4-7 over the weekend of May 1-3, 2015. This is an opportunity to learn more about Camp JRF and visit the camp for an overnight. **If your child is interested in attending, please contact Rabbi Toba!**

JRF Family Camp is happening on August 19-23, 2015 in South Sterling, PA and the application and information is already up on their website (<http://campjrf.org/parents/family-camp/>). **The time to sign up is now!**





Address correction requested



## GOT SHABBAT?

*Saturday, April 25*

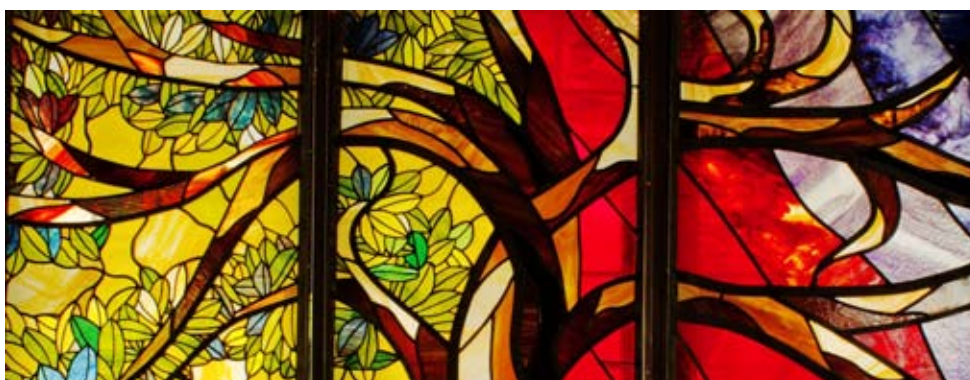
*9:45 am-noon, followed by Kiddush lunch*

All are welcome for our final “Got Shabbat” of the year! Beginning together with songs and morning blessings, adults and kids are then invited to choose from a panoply of activities.

We have a wonderful line-up of activities for all ages, including:

**\*Tot Shabbat**—a musical, interactive experience for families with kids age 0-5.

**\*49 Bundles of Wheat:** A Food Art Challenge with **Laura Bellows** (kids 6+ through adult)—There is an ancient tradition of counting the 49 days between the Passover seder’s story of liberation and Shavuot’s celebration of receiving the Torah. This time period has spiritual, agricultural, and ecological significance in the cycle of Jewish holidays. In this creative food art workshop we will use fresh veggies to explore, illustrate, discuss, (and nosh on) the themes of freedom, journeys, and revelation.



**\*Climate Change and Us**—a workshop for families and individuals who want to take on CDT’s “Carbon Challenge” and find creative ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

**\*Movement workshop** (stay tuned for more info!)



We will also be welcoming **Lori Lefkowitz** in the main sanctuary for a special teaching on The Shape of Jewish Stories. Drawing on personal stories, classic Jewish

tales, the Jewish yearly cycle, and Jewish views of time, Lori will talk about Jewish stories that resist closure, and instead illustrate that wherever we are in a story, we are always in the middle. From all of us having been at Sinai to the annual Exodus at the Passover Seder to the perpetuation of Jewish national traumas, we will imagine the Messiah as a “perpetual return” and strategy by which the future changes the past. Lori is one of our favorite guest teachers, and is the Ruderman Professor of Jewish Studies at Northeastern University, where she directs the Jewish Studies Program and the Humanities Center.