



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

A Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Iyyar/Sivan 5775 May 2015

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## The Gifts of This Community

by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



**IN THESE** weeks leading up to the holiday of *Shavuot*, which begins this year on Saturday evening, May 23, we are preparing to celebrate both the receiving of Torah, and our “first fruits.” Originally a harvest holiday, *Shavuot* was the time when the new grain crop was brought to the Temple, as acknowledgment of agricultural abundance. In chapter 16 of the book of Deuteronomy, the verses describing the Biblical harvest festivals conclude with the instruction that on each of these festivals—Passover, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot*—the people should come on pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem, and be sure that when they appear, they are not “empty-handed,” but “each with his/her own gift, according to the blessing that YHVH your God has bestowed upon you.”

There are many benefits to being the rabbi of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but one of my greatest privileges is to witness the incredible gifts that so many bring to this community. Whether it's appreciating the many components of our sanctuary created by both adults and youth in the congregation, sitting at a meeting of our Executive Committee or with the folks spearheading the search for the Director of Congregational Learning, or listening to the Torah chanting of different congregants every Shabbat, I am constantly appreciative of the diverse talents and skills that fill this congregation.

I also realize that I am aware of the extent of our members' gifts to a greater degree than almost anyone else in the congregation. There are those whose contributions are very public—like the members who lead portions of the High Holyday services, or the president and Board members—and there are a few tasks, primarily

There are parents in the school coordinating snacks, volunteers sending out thank you cards for donations, Tikkun Olam committee members planning educational events and actions and showing up at GBIO, members planning holiday programs, or making meals and showing up at *shivah minyanim* to support mourners. There are people that host erev Shabbat potlucks and organize MOCA events, who make sure the website is kept up to date and who deliver

welcome bags to new members. There is the large percentage of the congregation—nearly 80%—who participate every year in our Nativ Lev campaign, making monetary gifts from the heart above and beyond dues and school fees. I could easily fill the entire space of this column with the varied and endless tasks that our dedicated members take on.

We have tried over the years to do a better job of saying thanks—of acknowledging members' contributions



of times, money and effort. I hope we can all make a practice of gratitude part of our experience here at CDT—to appreciate the incredible effort put in by the members of our Executive Committee and our Board; the work of our Chesed coordinators; the members of our various committees—Ritual, Children's Education, Tikkun Olam, Newsletter, Inclusion, and more; everyone who provides a delicious Kiddush for us on Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings; members who contribute their talents to lead workshops at Got Shabbat or at holiday programs; and of course the work of our dedicated staff. I will add my thanks to all of you who participate in whatever ways, large or small, that add to the life of our congregation—*Todah Rabah!* May we bless and give thanks for the many riches—of wisdom, talent, creativity, commitment, and material resources—that all of us collectively hold in our hands.

### INSIDE:

- 2 On the Bima
- 3 Shabbat
- 4 Events
- 5 Community
- 6 Tikkun Olam
- 8 Nativ Lev
- 9 Learning/Chesed
- 10 Calendar
- 12 Members Retreat

Kiddush assignments, that everyone partakes in. Yet so much of what makes this congregation run is relatively hidden to so many. There are the countless hours that so many members spend on everything from compiling this beautiful newsletter to making membership intake calls to getting folks to sign up for Torah chanting.

Graphic by Vivienne Shein.

## ON AND OFF THE BIMA: AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN ABOUT RITUAL PRACTICES OF OUR COMMUNITY

by The Ritual Committee

*Q: What is the meaning of Hagbah—the Lifting of the Torah?*

**Marion Ross** responds: On the bima a member of the congregation holds the *aytzei chayim* (the wooden handles of the Torah scroll), one in each hand, pushes down on the handles raising the Torah off the table, and with knees bent s/he brings the scroll to an upright position and lifts it high.

Off the Bima, I breathe in, expectantly.

The person lifting the Torah turns so that everyone in the congregation may see three columns of script. I breathe out and take in the pattern of today's *parashah* (Torah portion.) This ancient custom, which allows everyone to view the Torah script, has its Biblical beginning in Neh. 8:5, "And Ezra opened the Book in the sight of all the people..."

I was curious about how the experience of Hagbah felt to those who have claimed the honor, so I spoke to **Ezra Hausman, David Lobron, and Amy Mazur**. Each of them glowed with pleasure as s/he reflected on the experience.

David has been performing the task of Hagbah for many years—before he came to Dorshei Tzedek and before he learned to chant Torah. Lifting the Torah was David's way of connecting physically with the holy book. Because he is strong, he often was sought after to perform this task. "It felt really good to be able to contribute to the service and to feel needed for an important job," he said. Seeing a need that he could fulfill he thought, "It is good that I am here." David sees this ceremony as crowning the reading of Torah. He mused, "It feels democratic because it shows the words of the Torah to the whole community, helping to make the reading a truly communal experience." After he learned to *leyn* at Dorshei Tzedek, the intellectual, spiritual, and the primal element of lifting all came together in a profound unified experience.

Ezra spoke about the intimacy and physical connection with the Torah that he cherishes when he performs Hagbah. "I love this role in the service... seeing the words of the scroll up close and then lifting it and sharing the written words with the congregation. I love participating in the... relationship with individuals, our community and the Jewish people as a whole." Following in the steps of his namesake, Ezra experiences pleasure and continuity as he opens the Book in the sight of all the people. He said, "... some individual sat down and wrote each of our Torah scrolls by hand, meticulously enacting an ancient ritual that has helped to pass our tradition from generation to generation. By lifting the Torah before our community I feel like I am part of that tradition, without all the *tzures* (trouble) of having to sit and write all of those letters."

Amy vividly remembers the power of performing Hagbah the first time she stepped up to the bima to lift the Torah. Earlier when she had had an *aliya* and stood next to the Torah, following the Hebrew script on the scroll, she had felt a surge of connection to all the people who were reading this text on this Shabbat. When she lifted the Torah and turned to reveal the Hebrew script and the shape and pattern of the words to the congregation she experienced the joy of sharing with this community. She recalls faltering for a moment that first time she lifted the Torah and feeling fully, profoundly supported—physically and emotionally—by others on the bima with her. After the Torah was returned to the Ark, Amy remembers returning to her seat and feeling the hands of the congregation reaching out to her

*continued on page 11*

## Rabbinic Liaison Committee

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

### Staff

#### Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Education Director: Annette Lawson

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

Administrative Assistant: Jon Sarner/Shaeen Grossman

#### Executive Committee

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Children's Education: Erica Streit-Kaplan

Nediv Lev: Peter Katz

Newsletter: Danny Shain

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Space: Noam Shore

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcome! to our new Administrative Assistant **Shaena Grossman**. Shaena comes to us with a wealth of experience having worked for many years at the Hadassah Foundation in New York. You'll find her at 60 Highland Street on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We welcome her to our staff!

## 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, 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. On May 8, Kitah Dalet (4th grade) will co-lead the service with Rabbi Toba!

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturdays, May 9, June 13, 8:45 am, Library

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

## TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, May 9, June 13, 10:45-noon

Families with kids age 0-5 are invited to celebrate Shabbat with songs, prayer, movement, and more!

*More Shabbat events on next page*



Havdallah. Photo by Vivienne Shein.

## SHABBAT UNPLUGGED

### FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 8 AND 9

Does life feel too busy, not enough down time, too “plugged in”? The antidote to our contemporary over-scheduled world was invented a few thousand years ago – Shabbat!

Shabbat has been described as a “palace in time,” a holy architecture 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. Here’s a list of activities over the course of this Shabbat:

*Friday night:*

**All-ages Erev Shabbat Service and Potluck** — See notice to left.

**Shabbat at Home Dinners** — If you prefer a quieter evening in someone’s home (or your own), we encourage you to invite folks over, or if you’d like a place to go, please go to the CDT website to sign up ([dorsheitzedek.org](http://dorsheitzedek.org)) and join other CDT members for a potluck dinner and an evening of good food, conversation, and more!

*Saturday:*

**Shabbat Morning Torah Study: Parashat Emor** — See notice to left.

**Shabbat Morning Services** - 9:45am — Join us for this very special service, as we celebrate the learning of both our Hay/Vav (5th-6th grade) class, and honor our graduating high school seniors. All are encouraged to stay for a wonderful Kiddush lunch in honor of our students after the service.

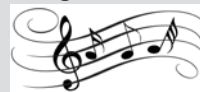
**Shabbat Afternoon** - 12:45pm — Participate in one of the Shabbat Unplugged activities:

- Join CDT member **Terry Traub** for an instrumental Klezmer jam – no klezmer experience needed! Bring your instrument, whether a fiddle, saxophone, banjo, guitar, clarinet, flute, kazoo, etc., following Kiddush lunch at 60 Highland Street.
- Join CDT Hikes for an exploration; the group will leave from the Second Church parking lot at 1pm.
- Read a book, meditate, take a nap!

**Shabbat Evening** - 7:30-9pm — Special Havdallah Program in the CDT Sanctuary:

### THE MUSIC OF ISRAEL: 1917-1947

with Hayim Kobi



Join Hayim as he traces the origins of Israeli music in an audio-visual program focusing on the years leading up to the formation of the state of Israel. The immigration waves between 1917 and 1947 yielded new song forms and styles that blended Eastern European with Middle Eastern conventions. Among the pioneers who built the foundation of Israel emerged a new generation of composers and poets who set the musical background to the historical events of that period.

**Hayim Kobi** (husband of CDT member **Tal Shalom-Kobi**, and father of **Ayla** and **Lia**) is a local authority on the history of 20th century music, delivering talks about wide-ranging topics from Jazz and Folk to the great composers and performers of popular music. His talks are rich with audio and video media and focus on the music within its historical context. Hayim has a number of CDs under his belt as a solo musician and part of the ethnic-ambient band Chillgroove, as well as a film score to the silent movie classic “The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari.”

**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).**



# Shabbat (continued) & Events

## FROM EDEN TO MANNA TO SABBATICAL YEAR: ECO-BIBLICAL THEOLOGY & PRESENT ACTION

with **Rabbi Arthur Waskow**

Co-sponsored with *Moishe Kavod House*

Friday, May 15, 7:00 Potluck Dinner

8:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Program

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 dinner and a musical kabbalat Shabbat, and learn!

## BAR MITZVAH OF ELI SIEGEL-BERNSTEIN

Saturday, May 16

Please join us for a wonderful *simcha* as our son, **Eli Siegel-Bernstein**, is called to the Torah as Bar Mitzvah. Eli is a seventh grade student at Belmont Day School, which he has attended since pre-kindergarten. Eli is an accomplished cellist, and has spent the past few months volunteering at a rehabilitation center in Cambridge, where he spends time with residents during their recreation time. He played cello, did crafts, and challenged them to word games, to name a few of the activities. We are delighted by the commitment and focus Eli has had as he prepared for this significant 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*

## VISIT THE VILNA SHUL WITH MOCA (MEMBERS OF A CERTAIN AGE)

Sunday, May 3, 2:00pm

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)).

## CDT UNDERSTANDING RACE "RACE: THE POWER OF ILLUSION (PART 3)," FILM AND DISCUSSION

Thursday, June 4, 7:00-9:00 pm

CDT Sanctuary, 60 Highland Street

In response to the enthusiasm for the March 7th "Waking Up White" conversation, the CDT Understanding Race planning group will host the film "Race: The Power of Illusion (part 3)". A discussion will follow the film. Prior to the event, participants are encouraged to read "*White America's Racial Illiteracy: Why our national conversation is poisoned from the start*," available on the web at [www.salon.com](http://www.salon.com).

## 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!

## CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, May 16

6:00pm, potluck; 7:00pm, movie starts

Home of Barbara Blumenthal & Barry Ehrlich

*Little White Lie* (2011, 66 min., English): Filmmaker Lacey Schwartz grew up in a typical upper middle class Jewish household in Woodstock, NY, with a strong sense of her identity. But after her parents split apart, she begins to piece together the mystery of how a white girl could have such dark skin, and learns the truth about her biological father. —PBS

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.

**DORSHEI TZEDEK SOFTBALL**

## SOFTBALL TEAM STARTS SEASON

by **Elliot Pittel**, Team Captain

The Dorshei Tzedek Men's Softball Team, marking its 9th year in the Men's Shul Softball League, has two home games in May at Forte Park in Newton: May 3 and May 17th. The spring is the perfect time to take in a game and cheer on our team. Go Tzedekmen!

For more information about upcoming games, including locations, you can find a full schedule at: <http://dorsheitzedek.org/softball-team>, or see page 11.

# Community

## MAZEL TOV

To **Idit Klein** and **Jordan Namerow**, on the birth and brit milah of **Lior Dov**.

## TODAH RABBAH

An extra-special *TODAH RABBAH* to **Jon Sarnier**, our wonderful administrative assistant, who will be leaving CDT shortly to pursue other interests. Many thanks to Jon for his 6+ years of loyalty and tireless, dedicated service to Dorshei Tzedek - he will be sorely missed. We are wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. (And hope he won't be a stranger...)

A big *Todah Rabbah* to everyone who offered their help and their talent for our March and April "Got Shabbat?" programs: **Esther Kohn, Sami O'Reilly, Sheree Galpert, Laurie Goldman, Alison Lobron, Susan Moser, Sue Ann Wasserman, and Susie Tanchell!**

*Todah Rabbah* to our Seder Matchmaker extraordinaire, **Linette Leibling!**

*Todah Rabbah* to everyone who helped with Kiddush/B'nei Mitzvah in March and April: **Jeffrey Marcus; Barbara & Elliot Pittel; Jordan Namerow; Rachel & Ruby Cohen; Phoebe Cushman; Doug Hersh; Bonnie Tenneriello; Bob Warren; Karen Leitner; Becca Gutman; Jeff Green; Andrew Milsten; Jen Levine-Fried & Matt Fried; Ellie Baron; Bryn Austin; Ellen Hemley & Mark Bronstein; Sheree Galpert & Peter Hess.**

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Please join us in welcoming **Jenny Siegel** and **Elizabeth Ferrenz** as the 200th CDT household! Hurray! Jenny and Elizabeth hail from Roslindale and are thrilled to be joining the CDT community. Thanks to them—and to everyone who came before—for helping us meet our 200 member-family goal! We are also thrilled to welcome new member **Robin Bernstein**, who lives in Watertown with her partner Maya, as well as welcoming back **Jeff Kichen**.

Know of others interested in joining CDT? Have them contact **Melanie Adler**, our VP of Membership, at [outreach@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:outreach@dorsheitzedek.org). No better time than today to start working toward 300!

## NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE: SHARING STORIES AND IDEAS FOR INCLUDING DIFFERENTLY ABLED PEOPLE INTO THE FOLDS OF OUR CONGREGATION

### AN INCLUSIVE RETREAT

by **Allison Lobron**

For many of us, the CDT Retreat is an event we look forward to for months in advance. What could be better than a weekend spent with friends, in a beautiful setting, where we can unplug and enjoy true connection with our community?

For me, what makes the event even more special, is the inclusive nature of our retreat.

For parents of children with special needs, a trip to an unfamiliar place, with unfamiliar food, and unfamiliar activities and expectations can be exciting... but it can also raise anxiety and pose some challenges. Will there be activities he can participate in? Will there be food my child can eat? Will there be adults on hand to help him overcome challenges?

*"I left the retreat finally understanding what a real Shabbat feels like... I can't wait for the next one." -Rebecca Cohen*

**For more on this year's Retreat, see page 12**

As a member of the retreat planning committee, I feel very proud of the work we are doing to make the retreat accessible to everyone who would like to participate.

**Activities:** The schedule for the weekend has been constructed with great care, with an eye towards accommodating the types of challenges we know to exist in our community. We're shooting for a good mix of structured versus unstructured fun, with a variety of activities that will appeal to a wide range of participants.

**Food:** In the past, we've found the food at Camp Yavneh is delicious and plentiful. The kitchen staff at Camp Yavneh have been extremely responsive about accommodating special dietary needs. Just let us know what you need!

**Staffing:** In addition to **Laura Bellows**, who will bring exciting Jewish content to the event, our retreat will be staffed by two incredible special educators (**Dori Stern** and **Heather Stoloff**). Dori and Heather will be on hand to provide support to kids with special needs. For the child who needs directions broken down into smaller steps, who needs assistance engaging with peers, who needs to take a break when crowds and noise become over-stimulating, Dori and Heather will be there.

Being inclusive, welcoming and supportive are all key values of our congregation. What a joy that our retreat will reflect those values. If you are considering attending the retreat, and have any questions about special needs accommodations, please don't hesitate to contact **Carole Slipowitz** at [carole@slipowitz.org](mailto:carole@slipowitz.org).

Looking forward to seeing you in New Hampshire!

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.)



## CDT Carbon Challenge Kicks off in May!

The CDT Climate Change Action Group invites the CDT community to join our new “Carbon Challenge campaign,” in which we as members are pledging to change our consumption habits and reduce our carbon output both individually and collectively.

Beginning in the week of Shavuot (May 24) and the CDT Retreat (May 29), the Climate Change Action Group is kicking off the CDT Carbon Challenge. We are asking you to take a pledge make changes in your daily routine to reduce your carbon footprint, from small changes at home such as switching to LED light bulbs, adjusting your thermostat, and using a clothesline to larger changes such as insulating your home, switching to clean sources of electricity, and getting involved in pushing for broader policy changes in the political realm.

We have come up with a list of possible actions for you to take, called “More than Lightbulbs.” We’ve assigned each action a certain number of “Carbon Points,” which correspond roughly to how easy or difficult the action is, and the amount of impact it has.

We’re setting a congregation-wide goal of earning 350,000 Carbon Points between Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah. (350 parts per million is the level of Carbon Dioxide climate scientists say we need to get down to - we are currently at over 400.) Each participating household will set its own goal for Carbon Points and pledges to take the actions it chooses from the “More than Lightbulbs” list. A website is planned for members to track their points, see how many points the community as a whole has earned, and share ideas and support.

Making the Carbon Challenge successful will require lots of members to participate, but how much you do is entirely up to you. We hope you will join us!

For more information and to sign up, go to [www.dorsheitzedek.org/climate](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/climate). If you have questions or want to join the Climate Change Action Group, please email [climatechange@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:climatechange@dorsheitzedek.org).

## 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.

We also still need volunteers to bring our contributions from our boxes at Second Church and FUSN to Family Table/JFCS in Waltham on 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).

## CARBON CHALLENGE TIMELINE:

Friday, May 15:  
Rabbi Arthur Waskow speaks at Erev Shabbat service on climate change.

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

Sunday, May 24:  
Watch for the CDT Carbon Challenge kick-off.

Tuesday, September 15:  
We announce the results of the challenge at Rosh Hashanah!

The next Tikkun Olam meeting  
is Sunday, May 3, at 5:00 pm at  
60 Highland Street in the library.



CDT Fights for \$15: Ora Gladstone, Rachel Greenberg, Carole Slipowitz, Sophia Aranow, Bonnie Tenneriello, Laurie Goldman and (not pictured) Amy Mazur and Barbara Shatkin, joined the April 14 “Fight for \$15” demonstration in support of a \$15 minimum hourly wage and the right of workers to organize.

## MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

Sunday morning, May 10

by Abby Cohen

### Walk with us for Peace!

We hear and read about it every day. Needless and senseless violence in our schools, on our streets, in our neighborhoods. Please join us as Boston, and ALL of Massachusetts, comes together to make a statement: "It's time to unite, and together stop the violence that impacts all of us!" Thousands of caring and concerned citizens will rally and walk in support of creating a more peaceful and violence free community. The Mother's Day Walk for Peace began in 1996 for families who had lost their children to violence. The walk is organized by the Louise

D. Brown Peace Institute and raises funds for the Institute's important work reducing violence in Boston's streets and neighborhoods and supporting victims of violence (Tina Chery, the Institute's founder, joined us at MLK services this year).

We have a CDT walking team and way to donate to support the team - so you can turn out for the walk, or donate to support the team, or both! Please note that ALL walkers must register at: [www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org](http://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org). Click "Register." When you get to the registration page, there will be an option to sign up with a team - scroll down the list to find CDT. To donate - you can click there and make a donation! We hope to have a great CDT turnout! If you have any questions or want to help with organizing, please be in touch with **Abby Cohen**, [Abby.Cohen@verizon.net](mailto:Abby.Cohen@verizon.net).

## GBIO ACTIONS ROCK: TUESDAY 5/12/15 - COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!

by Ora Gladstone

GBIO actions are unique, invigorating and inspirational gatherings and you can be part of a great big one from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Trinity Church, Copley Square, on Tuesday, May 12 (to get a seat, arrive at 7).

On March 26, nine CDters (just short of a minyan) were among hundreds of Jews, Christians, secularists, and Muslims who met to help the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) determine the campaigns and agenda for the organization and its 50+ communities of worship. In the typical GBIO well-planned, well-executed and ‘get-out-when-they-say-it’ll-be-over’ tradition, we heard from inspirational leaders charging us in small group discussions to explore a list of five potential areas of focus that have come out of recent congregational discussions. Over the next two months, further discussion will take place internally, to focus collective action in these five top priority areas, based on what’s doable and “winnable.” The issue areas are:

- Criminal Justice Reform
- Public Education
- Gentrification, Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Health Care Cost Containment
- Gun Violence

Most importantly, the thrust now is to gear up for a May 12 Action, which will be attended by Mayor Walsh, Governor Baker, Attorney General Healey, Speaker DeLeo, other politicians, and 1,500 GBIO members. An action agenda based on the five issues will be presented to the political leaders in attendance with an ‘ask’ that they sign on to also making them a priority in their administrations. This strategy, used many times by GBIO in the past, has resulted in such accomplishments as getting the MA Affordable Care Act passed, gaining standard workers rights for Haitian nursing home employees (including the right to speak their own language), and drastically lowering usurious fees that immigrants had to pay to send funds back to family in their countries of origin.

Be one of us as we challenge Boston’s elected officials to step up to important social justice challenges. Carpool rides will be available to get to Trinity Church. For more information or to let us know you’ll be with us contact Ora Gladstone ([gladstone@brandeis.edu](mailto:gladstone@brandeis.edu)), Paul Hattis ([paul.hattis@rcn.com](mailto:paul.hattis@rcn.com)) or Alan Epstein ([alan.epstein@rcn.com](mailto:alan.epstein@rcn.com)).

# Nediv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

## GENERAL FUND

Emily and David Shumsky

Shirley Milgrom

Eileen Morrison and Michael Jablon

Helaine and John Carroll

Jodie Siegel

Jackie Slivko

Cindy Rivka Marshall and Kathy Pillsbury

Miranda Phillips and Robert Kleinberg

Mark Schafer—*in memory of Bert Schafer*

Marjorie Salvodon and Mark Schafer

Elliot Pittel—*in memory of Aaron Pittel*

Susan Nitkin and Jeffrey Marcus

Alice Markowitz and Rick Glassman

Barbara Huggins

Fran Malino

Susan Silberberg

Toba Spitzer and Gina Fried—*in honor of CDT staff - Marla, Annette and Jon; in honor of Allison Hausman and the CDT board; in honor of Vilunya Diskin and Tatjana Meschede for teaching Kitah Zayin*

Harriet Budd—*in memory of Muriel & Lewis Budd*

Louise Enoch and Alan Epstein

Cheryl and Jeff Sacks

Laurie Gould—*in honor of the kindness, support and generosity of the CDT community after my father's death*

## 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 online shopping you were planning to do anyway!

Naomi Diamond

Matilda and Ed Bruckner—*with thanks to Peter Katz for his work on this campaign*

## CAMP JRF FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Linda Steiff

Sharon Shumak and Rabbi Michael Luckens—*in honor of Rav Tiffany*

Cindy Shulak-Rome and Dan Rome—*in honor of past presidents of Dorshei Tzedek*

## SCHOOL FUND

## HOLY BOOKS FUND

## JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Erica Streit-Kaplan and James Kaplan

## 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.



"CDT Hikes" had a great first hike on April 5 at Noanet Woodlands in Dover. 17 human and 6 canine members participated. The next hike - at the Middlesex Fells Reservation - will be part of our "Shabbat Unplugged" activities on May 9. Photo by Diana Gomberg.



# Learning

## AUTHOR TALK WITH LOCAL PARENTING EXPERT BRENDA DATER

Sunday, May 3, 10:30am-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, 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.

# Chesed

## REFUAH SH'LEMAH

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

## CONDOLENCES

To **Dani Krasa**, on the death of Dani's mother, Hana Krasa. May Dani, Tatjana, Yonatan and Benyamin, and the entire Krasa family find comfort, and may her 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 at: <http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/sites/default/files/managed/mourning-2010.pdf>.

*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.

The committee coordinates our community's response by using the website [Lotsa Helping Hands](http://LotsaHelpingHands.org) to post volunteer opportunities, often a Shabbat meal, and occasionally grocery shopping, errands, giving rides to doctor appointments, walking a dog or taking children to school when a member is in need.

The Chesed Committee encourages all members to sign up at [dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community](http://dorsheitzedek.org/chesed-caring-community) so you can respond when a Chesed request goes out. The committee would like to thank everyone who provided acts of chesed last month. We welcome new volunteers or committee members.

The Chesed coordinators in April are **Eileen Morrison** and **Corinne Lofchie**; please use [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org) to contact them.

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 x2. 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.



# CDT Calendar

# May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL SHABBAT PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE DORSHEI TZEDEK PRAYER SPACE: 60 HIGHLAND STREET IN THE SECOND CHURCH OF NEWTON, WEST NEWTON.						1 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm
3 Religious School Classes for Alef- Zayin (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am - 12 noon  Author Talk with Parenting Expert Brenda Dater JCDS 10:30am - 12 noon  Visit the Vilna Shul with MOCA JCDS 2:00pm  CDT Board Meeting 4:00-6:00pm Living Room  Tikkun Olam Meeting 5:00pm Library	4 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	5 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/ Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm  Ritual Comm. Meeting 7:30-9pm 60 Highland Street Living Rm	6 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	7 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck/ Siyyum for Kitah Dalet 6:00pm	8 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am-9:40am  Shabbat Morning Service & Siyyum for Kitah Hey/Vav 9:45am-12:00pm  Tot Shabbat 10:45am-12:00pm  CDT Hikes 1:00pm  Special Havdallah Program: The Music of Israel with Hayim Kobi 7:30-9:00pm	
SHABBAT UNPLUGGED!						
10 Religious School Classes for Alef- Zayin (Gr. 1-7) JCDS 9:30am - 12 noon	11 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	12 Religious School Classes for Gimmel, Dalet and Hey/ Vav (Gr. 3-6) Meets at FUSN 3:45 - 5:45pm	13 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	14 Special Erev Shabbat program with Rabbi Arthur Waskow 8:00pm Sanctuary	15 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Eli Siegel-Bernstein 9:45am-12:00pm  CDT Film Club: "Obvious Child" Potluck at 6:00pm Movie/Discussion at 7:00pm Participants' homes	
17 Last Day of Religious School Classes for Nitzanim-Zayin (Pre-K - Gr.7) JCDS 9:30am - 12 noon	18 Exploring the Bible with Dr. Sanford Goldfless 3:30pm Participants' homes	19 Rosh Chodesh 7:30-9:00pm Library	20 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	21 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	22 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am-12:00pm  Tikkun Leil Shavuot study Congregation Kehillath Israel 384 Harvard St., Brookline 9:00pm - 4:15am	
24	25	26	27 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library	28	29	30
31	June 1	2	3	4 Mindful Mornings 8:45-9:30am Library  Film & discussion: "Race, the Power of an Illusion" 7:00pm Sanctuary	5 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service/Potluck 6:00pm	6 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Elan Katz 9:45am-12:00pm
RETREAT!						

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

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

**May 8 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck:** Janelle Winston / Lisa Chedekel / Valerie Graf / Margo Michaels

**May 9 Shabbat Morning Service:** Ilana Streit / Jackie & Stan Fleischman

**May 16 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Eli Siegel-Bernstein:** Sanctuary Cleanup: Linda Kramer / Stephanie Hackett; Ushers: Gail Harris & David Reider

**May 23 Shabbat Morning Service:** Yale Lansky - *in memory of my mother, Edith Lansky, z'l* / Sarah Little / Linda Steiff

**Jun 5 All-ages Erev Shabbat Service & Potluck:** Jennifer Nichols / Jennifer Sartori / Misha Dudnik / Barry Ehrlich

**Jun 6 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Elan Katz:** Sanctuary Cleanup: Leah Diskin / Nem Hackett; Kiddush Setup: Ilana Mainelli / Nanette Byrnes / Alex Sugerman-Brozan / Sami O'Reilly / Stephanie Hackett / Scott Gordon; Kiddush Cleanup: Susan Bernstein / David Greenberg / Mitch Feuer / Elizabeth Roll / Robert Imperato / Kristin Butcher; Ushers: Karen Wasserman / Jodie Siegel

**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.

## SAVE THE DATE: PAINFUL HOPE

### WITH ALI ABU AWWAD AND RABBI HANAN SCHLESINGER

Sunday, June 14, 7-9pm  
Temple Israel, Boston

How do we move beyond the cycle of violence that engulfs Israelis and Palestinians? The Roots project is a new effort, based in the Gush Etzion area of the West Bank, to bring together Israelis and Palestinians who, despite living next to each other, are separated by walls of fear- not just fear of each other, but even of the price of peace. We are honored and excited to welcome to Boston two of the leaders of Roots, Ali Abu Awwad (Palestinian peace activist) and Hanan Schlesinger (an Orthodox rabbi who lives in a West Bank settlement), who will present their gut-wrenching personal narratives that brought them to discover the humanity and the legitimacy of the 'other', and will discuss how they are working to move their communities past suspicion, fear, and violence, and towards a positive solution of the conflict.



## CAMP JRF

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!

## CDT SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Sun 5/03, 10am	Beth David-Westwood Forte Park, 235 California St, Newton (home game)
Sun 5/10, 10am	Beth Elohim 2-Acton NARA Park, 25 Ledge Rock Way, Acton
Sun 5/17, 10am	Emunah 2-Lexington Forte Park, 235 California St, Newton (home game)
Sun 5/31, 10am	Israel 2-Natick Framingham HS, 115 A Street-#2, Framingham
Sun 6/07, 10am	Beth Abraham-Canton West School, 1322 Central St, Stoughton
Sun 6/14, 10am	Israel 2-Boston Forte Park, 235 California St, Newton (home game)
Sun 6/21, 10am	Beth El/Shalom Emetd-Belmont/Burlington Concord Ave Field, 365 Concord Ave, Belmont

## ON AND OFF THE BIMA

cont. from p.2

in connection and appreciation. Amy hopes that others will come forward to experience the exhilaration of lifting the Torah.

Talking with Amy, David and Ezra has increased my appreciation for the joy and love of Torah and of community that support the strong arms that lift Torah each Shabbat as we sing:

*Vezot hatorah etz hayim hi lamahzikim bah vetom'cheha me'ushar*

This is the Torah.

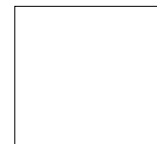
It is a Tree of Life to those who hold fast to it.

Those who uphold it may be counted fortunate.



**Congregation Dorshei Tzedek**

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465



Address correction requested



## ***It's Not Too Late to Sign Up for the CDT 2015 Members Retreat!***

**May 29–31**

**Camp Yavneh, Northwood, NH**

**Retreat comes but once every two years – so don't miss out! Families with kids young and old, teens, adults without children, Members of a Certain Age, retreat veteran or newbie, there's something for you at the CDT Retreat!**

‏ Nature: Camp Yavneh is just 90 minutes from Boston, but a world away in the beautiful New Hampshire woods.

‏ Fun activities: Swimming and boating at the beautiful waterfront. Arts and crafts. Sports and physical activities galore (softball, tennis, yoga, ultimate Frisbee, basketball). Campfire songs. Talent Show. Rain or shine, you won't be bored.

‏ Shabbat: *Davven* under the pines. Curl up with a good book. Go for a walk. Take a nap!

‏ Great food: From the salad bar to the sundae bar, there are lots of options for every taste and dietary stripe. And you don't have to do the dishes!

‏ Comfortable accommodations: Choose between family cabins or quiet adults-only housing, or camp outside under the stars.

‏ Friends: CDT is a great community, and the retreat is a great opportunity to get to chill and play and *davven* with friends, old and new.

We are committed to making the retreat as accessible as possible for all CDT members, and there will be staff support for kids/families with special needs. Learn more and register now at <http://dorsheitzedek.org/members/retreat-2015>. For more information or questions, contact [cdt-retreat@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:cdt-retreat@dorsheitzedek.org).



Scenes from the 2013 Retreat.

