



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

## Tishrei/Cheshvan 5777 November 2016

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# Inspired by Those Who Did Not Stand Idly By

by Jen Kaplan, President



President Barack Obama awards Shimon Peres the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House on June 13, 2012.



In the last few months, we have lost two leaders who dedicated their long lives to fighting for what they believed in and working for the betterment of the Jewish people: Elie Wiesel and Shimon Peres. As we are about to elect a new President, may their words and their accomplishments serve to inspire us.

Elie Wiesel, who died July 2 at age 87, was a tireless advocate for human rights all over the world. As a Holocaust survivor, Wiesel wrote about his experience growing up in Sighet and about his time in Auschwitz in the well-known novel, *Night*. While continuing to write, he also courageously spoke out publicly against communism, the degradation of Soviet Jews, the Rwandan genocide, apartheid, ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, Darfur, and other injustices, wherever they took place. In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 1986 he said, "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." These words remain just as true today, as we continue to see the effects of hatred in Syria, the terror of ISIS, and the countless deaths of black men at the hands of police in our own country.

While in college, I was privileged not only to audit one of Wiesel's classes at Boston University, but also to have dinner with him in my parents' home before he spoke at my father's synagogue. (My paternal grandfather and Elie Wiesel were close friends). Before dinner, he wanted to know all about my brother and me. He was soft spoken, kind, and lovely. You never would have known the degree of his accomplishments by how gentle and low-key he was with all of us.

Shimon Peres, who died in September at the age of 93, dedicated his life to public service; Peres never left the public stage during Israel's seven decades. Twice Prime Minister, Peres also served as Minister of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Transportation, and was President from 2007 until 2014.

What was remarkable was that even as he led the creation of Israel's defense industry, negotiated key arms deals with France and Germany, and

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was the prime mover behind the development of Israel's nuclear weapons, he constantly searched for a way to make peace with the Arab world. This search, in recent years, left him orphaned as Israeli society lost interest, especially after the upheavals of the 2011 Arab Spring led to tumult on its borders. (New York Times, Sept 27, 2016)

Mr. Peres's biggest breakthrough came in 1993, when he worked out a plan with the Palestine Liberation Organization for self-government in Gaza and in part of the West Bank, both of which were occupied by Israel. Mr. Peres persuaded his old political rival Yitzhak Rabin, then the prime minister, to accept the plan. It became known as the Oslo Accords. (New York Times, Sept 27, 2016)

Mr. Peres, who was serving as foreign minister, signed the accords on Sept. 13, 1993, in a ceremony at the White House as Mr. Rabin and their old enemy Yasir Arafat, the chairman of the P.L.O., looked on and, with some prodding by President Bill Clinton, shook hands. It was a historic moment. I remember watching it. I was working for The American Jewish Committee in New Jersey and gasped as the handshake between Rabin and Arafat

took place. Mr. Peres broke the taboo, and the impasse. "What we are doing today is more than signing an agreement; it is a revolution," he said at the ceremony. "Yesterday a dream, today a commitment. Let all of us turn from bullets to ballots, from guns to shovels."

As I reflect on their legacies, I am moved and inspired by the fact that these individuals didn't do what was popular. They did what they thought was right, regardless of who agreed with them. I think it's extraordinary that Peres, who was fairly hawkish particularly in his younger years, intensely negotiated for a peace between Israel and the P.L.O. Wiesel courageously spoke of his own suffering as he sought to use his experiences to shine a light on the mistreatment of other ethnicities; he would not be silent and stand idly by.

At Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, we have among us

so many people devoted to tikkun olam—righting the wrongs of society by speaking up, marching, writing, and advocating on behalf of what is fair and just and right in this world. This is inspiring and part of what makes this community so incredible.

So yes, let us turn to ballots and shovels. Ken yehi ratson.

## 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**

Director of Congregational Learning: Rabbi

**Shahar Colt**

Administrative Director: **Marla Lichtman**

Administrative Assistant: **Shaena Grossman**

Administrative Assistant: **Lidia Prunte**

Inclusion Coordinator: **Alison Lobron**

### Executive Committee

President: **Jen Kaplan**

First Vice President: **Lissy Medvedow**

VP Finance: **Cliff Cohen**

VP Membership: **Melanie Adler**

VP Education: **Lisa Schneier**

VP Leadership: **Ora Grodsky**

Secretary: **Doron Gan**

Past President: **Allison Hausman**

### Board Members-at-Large:

**Susan Silberberg, Jen Levine-Fried, Barry**

**Ehrlich, Ruth Paris, Nancy Gertz**

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Children's Education: **Andy Stefano**

Chesed: **Marla Cummins and Gail Pressberg**

Communications: **TBA**

Nediv Lev: **Mark Paley**

Newsletter: **John Holohan**

Ritual: **Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman**

Rabbinic Liaison: **Cindy Shulak-Rome**

Space: **Ezra Hausman**

Tikkun Olam: **Bonnie Tenneriello**

Website: **Dan Halbert**

Welcome: **Melanie Adler and Allison Hausman**

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

## 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 10th of the month for the following month's issue. For questions, email us at the same address.

**Volunteer Staff:** John Holohan (chair), Josette Akresh-Gonzales, Barry Ingber, Barbara Pittel, Vivienne Shein (photographer), Emily Shumsky, Michael Singer, Amy Westebbe

# Shabbat & Holidays

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE & OPEN HOUSE

*Friday, November 4, December 9*

*6:00 pm candle-lighting & potluck dinner,  
6:45 pm service*

Join us for this fun, musical, all-ages celebration of Shabbat! We begin with candle-lighting and the Shabbat blessings at 6 pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner (please bring a main dish or salad, enough for 15-20 people; drinks and dessert provided). Services begin at 6:45 pm, and we'll end with an Oneg Shabbat at 7:30 pm.

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI TOBA SPITZER

*Saturday mornings, November 12, December 17*

*8:45-9:40 am*

All are welcome to explore the weekly Torah portion, with commentaries both traditional and modern. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own caffeinated beverage.

## GOT SHABBAT?!

*November 19*

*9:45am-noon*

Join us for our second Got Shabbat of the year, as we explore themes related to the complicated family of Avraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael! We begin together with Rabbi Toba for mornings blessings and songs at 9:45 am, followed by a variety of workshops for all ages including Tot Shabbat, Yoga, Text Study with Susie Tanchel, and more. Stay tuned for more details!

## BAR MITZVAH OF LEV SUGERMAN-BROZAN

*Saturday, November 5, 9:45 am*

Please join us as our son Lev Sugerman-Brozan is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Lev is a seventh grader at Boston Latin School who loves baseball and soccer and plays the clarinet and piano. For his Tikkun Olam project, he volunteered with the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition to register new citizens to vote. We look forward to celebrating with our CDT friends and family at Kiddush downstairs following services.—Jodi and Alex Sugerman-Brozan

## BAR MITZVAH OF NOAH BENJAMIN GOLDMAN

*Saturday, November 12, 9:45 am*

Please join us as our son Noah is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Noah is a seventh grader at Day Middle School in Newton and enjoys playing his French horn, playing Pokemon Go, and taking care of his hermit crabs and fish. For his Tikkun Olam project, he has been raising money for Gift of Life, which is an organization that helps to cure blood cancer through bone marrow and blood stem cell donations. Please join us downstairs for Kiddush following the ceremony.—Alyssa Cohen and David Goldman

## SPECIAL GUEST! RABBI MAURICE HARRIS

*Saturday, December 3, 9:45 am*

Rabbi Maurice Harris, the Associate Director of Affiliate Support for the Reconstructionist movement, will be joining us at Shabbat morning services and leading our Torah discussion. He is the author of books of contemporary biblical commentary: *Moses, A Stranger Among Us*, and *Leviticus: You Have No Idea*. Rabbi Maurice is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and served Temple Beth Israel in Eugene, OR for eight years. He is a wonderful teacher, and we look forward to his visit!

## CONTEMPLATIVE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

*Saturday, December 10, 9:45am-noon*

All are welcome for this service combining chant, guided and silent meditation, and Torah study. No previous meditation experience necessary! Enter into the peace of Shabbat with this opportunity for song and silence. If possible, please arrive no later than 10 am so as not to disrupt the meditation; Torah study begins at 11:15 am.

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 111. 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).



# CDT Events

## CDT FILM CLUB

Saturday, November 12

Home of Judy Hersh

Potluck at 6:00 pm; movie starts at 7:00 pm to be followed by a group discussion

*Run Boy Run* (2013, 107 min., German, Polish, Yiddish, Russian)

*On the run after fleeing the Warsaw ghetto during World War II's dark days, an 8-year-old Jewish boy is by no means out of danger as he must scrounge for food and shelter—and disguise his faith if he's to survive.*—Netflix

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, i.e. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families.

## SAVE THE DATE....

December 10, *Censored Voices* (2015, 87 min., Hebrew, English)

January 7, *The Kindergarten Teacher* (2015, 1 hr 59, Hebrew)

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.

## MOBILIZING FOR A SHARED SOCIETY: CONCERT & CONVERSATION FEATURING MIRA AWAD

Thursday, November 3, 7:30pm concert followed by conversation



Regent Theater,  
Arlington

CDT is thrilled to be co-sponsoring this event, organized by the New Israel Fund with world acclaimed Palestinian-Israeli singer, songwriter, and peace activist Mira Awad. This is

more than a concert – it is an opportunity to stand together for a shared society in Israel between Jews and non-Jews. Rabbi Claudia Kreiman will moderate the post-concert conversation with Mira. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Additional information, including how to purchase tickets and sponsorships, is available at [www.nif.org/mira](http://www.nif.org/mira).

## FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION: ENACTING CHANGE ON THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM WITH DR. YAKIR ENGLANDER

Monday evening, November 14,  
7:30-9:00pm

In the Dorshei Tzedek sanctuary,  
60 Highland Street



Dr. Yakir Englander, a founder of Kids4Peace International, is directing a new program, Dialogue to Action, which engages Palestinian and Jewish young adults from the Jerusalem area in interfaith

dialogue and nonviolent action to promote social and political change. Originally from the ultra-Orthodox community of Bnei Brak in Israel, Englander earned a PhD in Jewish philosophy and gender studies from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The CDT Israel Trip met with Dr. Englander this past July, and found his personal story and his work to be truly transformative. Don't miss this opportunity to meet with one of the most innovative and powerful activists for peace and social change in Israel today!

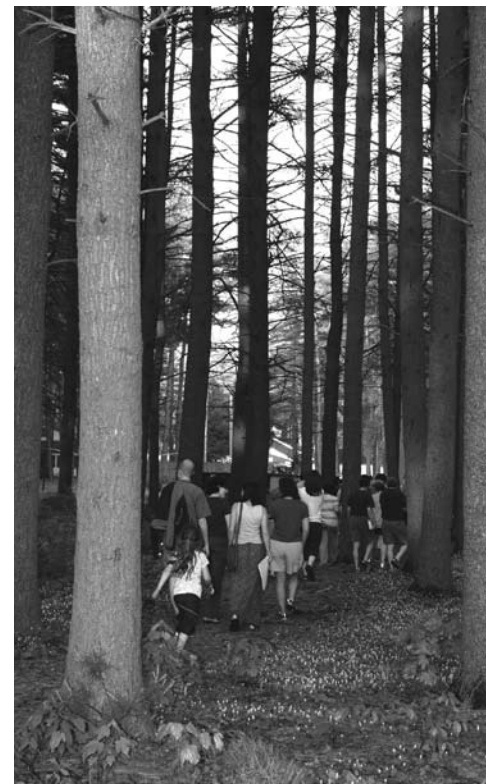
## CDT MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday, November 20

5:30 pm, pizza dinner; 6:15-8 pm, meeting

Childcare will be provided

At this first members meeting of 5777, we will begin a discussion of some of the inclusion and diversity issues that we are exploring as a community—from economic diversity to special needs inclusion to racial diversity. We hope that at least one member of every CDT household can attend!



## SAVE THE DATE!

## CDT RETREAT—

Friday-Sunday, June 2-4, 2017

Camp Yavneh, NH

Mark the date! The fabulous CDT retreat is coming, with activities for all ages, and a wonderful opportunity to meet other folks in the CDT community. More details coming soon!

# Community

## MAZEL TOV

A hearty mazel tov to **Matilda** and **Ed Bruckner** on the birth of their newest grandchild, David Boaz Bruckhauser!

## YAHARZEIT

## REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **David Broad**, **Dan Karp**, **Mark Schafer**, and **Ruby Weinberg**.

## TODAH RABBAH

*Hamon Todot* (many, many thanks!) to everyone who helped create our beautiful High Holydays services:

To all those who helped with planning and logistical support: **Laurie Goldman**, **Marion Ross**, **Matilda Bruckner**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Fran Malino**, **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, **Dianne Lior**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, **Dan Rome**, **Debbie Waber**, **Ezra Hausman** and **Chayim Herzig-Marx**.

To the many volunteers who helped with setup and registration.

To **Mark Bronstein**, for the sound system, to **Mark** and **Dan Halbert** for the livestreaming, and **Dan** for all of the web-based support.

To our wonderful staff: **Marla Lichtman**, **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, **Alison Lobron**, and **Shaena Grossman**, and to **Wendy Buglio** and her helpers, **Elizabeth Goodsell** and **Melanie Fried**.

To our chazzanim (cantors): **Bill Shorr**, **Doug Hersh**, **Karen Arnold**, **Dan Rome**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Marc Steinberg**, **Max Greenberg**, **Rita Hackett** and **Dani Imperato**.

To all of our Torah & haftarah leyners: **Mark Bronstein**, **Debbie Waber**, **Zanny Weinreb**, **Audra Karp**, **Ed Bruckner**, **Chayim Herzig-Marx**, **Karen Arnold**, **David Lobron**, **Jacob Roll**, **Sue Lanser**, **Amalia Lieberman**, **Louise Enoch**, **Steffi Karp**, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, and **Susan Moser**.

To **Karen Arnold** and **Sue Lanser** and all of the members of CDT Sings, for the beautiful music: **Michele Arons**, **Miriam Bronstein**, **Liz Carver**, **Dave Felson**, **Sandy Goodman**, **Doug Hersh**, **Judy Hersh**, **Cindy Rivka Marshall**, **Marcia Okun**, **Ruth Paris**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Rebecca Pomerantz**, **Jo Radner**, **Bob Warren**, and **Steve Zisk**; and to **Mark Rosenberg** for his drumming!

To our Shofar blowers: **Jacqui Bloomberg**, **Ezra Hausman**, **Josh Lieberman**, and **Karen Wasserman**.

To **Wendy Gedanken** for creating the beautiful new High Holydays Torah covers.

To **Kate DeBethune**, for her cello rendition of Kol Nidre.

To **Doug Hersh** and **Jamie Tessler**, for leading the Yom Kippur afternoon Nature Walks.

To **Doron Gan**, **Marjorie Salvodon**, **Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein**, and **Ben Newman** for sharing their stories and insights.

To **Susan Moser** and **Lisa Schneier**, for organizing the “Eleh Ezkereh” remembrance of **Gina Fried z”l**.

To the High Holydays Children’s Programming committee: **Valerie Graf**, **Lauren Stefano**, and **David Shumsky**; and our wonderful service leaders: **Susan Moser**, **Tal Shalom-Kobi**, **Esther Kohn**, **Karen Engels**, **Rabbi Shahar Colt**, **Vered Brooks** and **Risa Dunbar**.

Todah Rabbah to these CDT members for helping with kiddush in September and October: **Sharon Sevransky**, **James Kaplan**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Polly Crozier**—in memory of **David Keimowitz Crozier**, **Steffi Aronson Karp** and **Eric Karp**, **Susan Bernstein**, **Janet Boguslaw**, **Rachel Nemeth Cohen** and **Richard Cohen**, **Beth Brooks**, **Esther Kohn**, **Chanda Hsu Prescod-Weinstein** and **Kevin Hsu-Weinstein**—in memory of **Norman Weinstein**, **Judy Hersh**, **Hope Kellman**, **Diana Perretta**, **Diane Becker**, **Phyllis Glazerman**, **Mark Yurkofsky**.

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.)



# Religious School Notes

By Rabbi Shahar Colt, Director of Congregational Learning

There is an old story of a Jewish man who was travelling through the woods as Yom Kippur approached. Night fell, and he was stuck in the woods, away from Jewish community, without a machzor (high holiday prayer book). He wanted to pray, but didn't know the words. Instead, he began to recite the alef-bet, the Hebrew letters. In Jessica Greenbaum's acrostic "A Poem for S.," she recalls this moment:

"Quietly, because it was from his heart, he / Recited them slowly, from aleph to tav. Within those/ Sounds, all others were born, all manner of/ Trials, actions, emotions, everything needed to/ Understand who he was, had been, how flaws/ Venerate the human being, how aspirations return/ Without spite."

I shared a version of this story with the Dorshei 4th-7th graders at our Yom Kippur service. On Tuesday at Hebrew School, students in kitot dalet and hey (4th and 5th grade) work on "climbing Mt. Tefilah" in Alison Lobron's class, and the first step up this mountain is re-mastering the letters after a summer away from them. It can be hard to embrace a foreign language, especially one most of us don't hear very often. I shared this story on Yom Kippur in part because it

is our spirit that counts on that day, not how much we know. But I also wanted to share this story as an invitation. The Hebrew letters themselves are a beginning; they are the building blocks of so much of Jewish tradition.

I have been thinking a lot about the power and beauty of Hebrew letters since we found a set of Hebrew printing blocks in the Dorshei education office. Long hidden away in a box, they have been brought to life with the help of the Arbalest Press printing collective. The printed letters are beautiful (teens and adults are invited to see for yourselves at the Dec. 4th workshop-details below!)

On a mystical level, as Greenberg's poem alludes, our tradition teaches that worlds are created through Hebrew letters. On a practical level, they provide us access to Jewish history, traditions, and teachings, as well as the modern Hebrew language and all it contains. I am excited to be introducing 4th-6th graders to Hebrew text reading this year, and I look forward to more opportunities to explore and appreciate the alef-bet, and the Hebrew language more broadly, with other segments of the community in the future.

## CHANUKAH CARD MAKING: HEBREW TYPESETTING WORKSHOP

*Open to CDT Teens and Adults*

*Sunday, December 4*

*6:00-8:30 pm*

Learn about the history of typesetting and how it has shaped Jewish life and culture. We will be introduced to using the printing presses, playing with both English and Hebrew letters to create unique and beautiful Chanukah cards. RSVP to **Rabbi Shahar** ([dcl@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dcl@dorsheitzedek.org)) by Dec. 1st to participate (Space at the press is limited).

## ADULT LEARNING ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

An exciting new component of this year's Sunday morning program is that we will be hosting a series of programs open to all adults (and teens too!) in the community. These programs were initiated by parent interest, and will be led by members of the CDT community. Each of these programs will run 10:20-11:45 on Sunday mornings at JCDS (57 Stanley St., Watertown, MA). Here's a list:

**Adoption in the Jewish Community** — January 22 with **Jenny Sartori**

**The Music of Israel: 1917-1947** — March 5 with **Hayim Kobi**

**Mindful Parenting** — April 2 with **Carla Naumburg**

If you have questions, concerns or feedback about the CDT Religious School and would like to connect with the parent-run Children's Education Committee, email **Andy Stefano**, Chair of the CEC, at [CEC@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:CEC@dorsheitzedek.org).

# Community Events

## CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND CHURCH BUILDING

*November 5 at 6:00pm*

*60 Highland Street*

Celebrate all the good works that flow from the people who use the Second Church. The party includes a catered dinner and a program in Fellowship Hall, with presentations from each of the groups who gather at 60 Highland Street. There will be an "Open House" with a guided tour to visit the parts of the building you normally might not see, so that you get a feel for how the spaces are used.

Please let Second Church secretary **Barbara Cancellieri** know by October 22 if you plan to attend, so that we are sure to have a place and a meal prepared for you. Email her at [office@2ndChurch.org](mailto:office@2ndChurch.org).



# Tikkun Olam

**Next Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting: November 9, 2016, 7:30 pm.** Please join us as we plan social justice activism, learning, and hands-on contributions to change.

## “MORAL MONDAYS” COME TO BOSTON

by Lauren Gibbs

Rev. William Barber II, head of the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP, told the nation during his Democratic National Convention speech in the summer, “we are called like our foremothers and forefathers to be the moral defibrillators of our time. Together, we can save the heart of our democracy, and shock this nation.” The Moral Mondays Team then came to Boston and spoke at Bethel AME Church and many CDT members took part ([www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/08/01/after-dnc-speech-pastor-leads-hundreds-local-social-justice-service](http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/08/01/after-dnc-speech-pastor-leads-hundreds-local-social-justice-service)). The stories Sister Simone Campbell of “Nuns on the Bus” told of inequalities led Lauren Gibbs towards further action. Linda Kramer said “I felt hopeful and inspired...that there is a leader who inspires people from many walks of life to wake up and think about taking action for racial justice. Rev. Barber helps find common threads.”

**Annie Spanel** writes: I was impressed with Karen, a young black woman who works in the fast food industry for \$11 an hour. Karen said she works hard, but as the family’s sole earner, she can’t support her three children and disabled husband on her salary. (That’s \$22,880 a year if she worked 40 hours a week all year long.) As a result, the family lives in a shelter. So Karen joined the “Fight for 15” movement that’s trying to get the minimum wage raised from the current \$10 in Massachusetts. I have never gotten to know a fast food worker. Hearing this woman and seeing her real hope and energy brought home the reality of the struggle. I’m hoping that those of us at Dorshei will find a good way to help. To watch MoralMonday (June, 2016) with Rev. Barber: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYQ4Tan-TJM>. For more info, visit [Fightfor15.org](http://Fightfor15.org) or <http://raiseupma.org/fight-for-15/>.

On September 12, Boston and CDT then took part in a National Day of Action at the State House to support the Moral Mondays platform. Members of the clergy spoke from the Higher Ground Moral Declaration to Governor Baker. **Rabbi Toba** asked the questions on worker’s rights. You can see the Moral Declaration at [www.moralrevival.org/moraldeclaration](http://www.moralrevival.org/moraldeclaration). We walked around the State House singing and clapping together and then sent our delegation to Governor Baker’s office to speak against racism, poverty, and hate. We renewed our energy for the fight. Onwards and upwards!

*continued on page 11*

# Reconstructionist News

## APPLY NOW FOR BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL: ISRAEL EXPERTS RECONSTRUCTIONIST ADVENTURE

*Planned dates: December 18th-29th*

The Reconstructionist Movement is excited to be partnering with Israel Experts to offer a uniquely Reconstructionist journey to Israel as part of the Birthright Israel program (meaning the major costs of the trip are covered for qualifying participants). 21 – 26 year olds who are members of Reconstructionist communities are encouraged to apply!

This is the kind of Birthright Israel trip where questions are deeply welcomed, where complexity and nuance is embraced, and where diversity is a valued part of community.

To get more information and sign up, visit <http://campjrf.org/birthright/>.

## CHECK OUT THE NEW RECONSTRUCTIONIST LEARNING NETWORKS

More than 20 Reconstructionist Learning Networks are being launched this year to facilitate relationships, learning and action. Sponsored by the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, visit <http://jewishrecon.org/networks> to check out the complete list of offerings, find more information about how Learning Networks work, and learn how to register!

# Nediv Lev

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.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

## GENERAL FUND

Allison Andrews and Arthur Lent

Shelly Autor

Rabbi Shahar Colt

Beth and Jeffrey Green—in memory of Beth's father, Israel Zevin; in memory of Jeff's mother, Adele Green

Steffi and Eric Karp

Pamela and Steven Katz

Betsy Klein and John Rosenberg

Maribeth Ortega and Alan Segal

Pamela Rosenstein

Renee Samelson and Woody Jones—in honor of Lisa Samelson and Paul Hattis

Emily and David Shumsky

Debbie Waber—in honor of the naming of my grandson, Phineas Leonard Hennessy

Amy Westebbe and David Broad

Susana Wurzel—in memory of Bernard Tabbat

## CAMP JRF FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

## SCHOOL FUND

## RETREAT FUND

## HOLY BOOKS FUND

## JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

## BUILDING FUND

# Learning

## ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CHAMETZ: A TALMUD CLASS FOR EVERYONE

with Rabbi Shahar Colt

Tuesday evenings, November 15, 22, 29,  
December 6, 7:30-9:15 pm

(free for CDT members; \$36 for non-members)

What are the boundaries of personal ethical responsibility? How do we make decisions about where our personal efforts matter and

where we can look away? Moreover, with so many real life applications of this question, why would anyone look to Talmud study for answering these questions? This class will explore Talmud based texts about chametz, the prohibition of bread on Passover.

Drawing on this symbol from our narrative of liberation, we will explore these questions by unpacking layers of rabbinic conversations. No previous experience with Talmud, Hebrew, or any other Jewish text is expected, but willingness for engage-

ment and reflection on that challenge is recommended, as we will explore the "why Talmud?" question as part of our study process.

*continued on next page*



# Chesed

## CHESED TOP TIPS

by Ellie Goldberg

Thanks to CDT member **Eileen Morrison**, adapted from <https://www.mealtrain.com/>.

1. Contact (email, text, call) the recipient to ask about food allergies or preferences.
2. Contact the recipient to confirm delivery and drop off arrangements
3. Consider making enough for leftovers.
4. Freezer meals are also helpful.
5. Include clear preparation instructions, i.e. "Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees."
6. Include your recipes and/or list of ingredients.
7. Deliver your meal in a recyclable or reusable container.
8. Label any items that you would like returned.
9. If you arrange for food delivery (e.g. pizza), pay and tip in advance.
10. Text or call the recipient when you are on your way and when you arrive.

Our congregation values Chesed, acts of loving-kindness, especially when members have a major life event such as the arrival of a child, death, injury or illness. The Chesed Committee offers Dorshei Tzedek members the opportunity to experience the joys and blessings of Chesed as both receivers and givers.

The Chesed Committee coordinates tasks such as meals, grocery shopping, and trans-

portation to a medical appointment. The November Chesed coordinators are **Marla Cummins** and **Gail Pressberg**. Contact them at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

We post Chesed tasks online on the Lot-saHelpingHands (LHH) calendar. We encourage emails or phone calls between the volunteers and recipient families to confirm arrangements.

Sign up for LHH at: <http://tinyurl.com/SignUpLHH>.

Forgot your LHH password? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/GetPsWrdLHH>.

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone who did acts of Chesed last month.

If you have a major life cycle event or illness or injury, contact **Rabbi Toba Spitzer** at [rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org) or call 617-965-0330. Rabbi Toba 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@dosheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dosheitzedek.org) or 617-965-0330. 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.

## CONDOLENCES

### 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>.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

**Joan Autio** and **Stephen Gomperts** and their child, **Maya** (5)

**Ellie and Judah Axe** and their children, **Maren** (3) and **Nora** (2 months)

**Annette Jacobs**

**Melody and Joshua Kommerov** and their children, **Tairou** (9), **Tsering** (7), and **Noa Lielle** (4)

**Deb and Mike McEwan** and their children, **Leah** (3) and **Katherine** (Katie) (1)

*Learning - continued*

## THE JEWS ARE ALRIGHT: LEARNING FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF HUNGARY & POLAND TODAY

with Rabbi Shahar Colt

Tuesday, November 1, 7:30-9:00pm

For two weeks in July, I travelled with a group of colleagues to Hungary and Poland, meeting with Jewish leaders organizations, activists and academics. We asked about the past, present and future

of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, and were fascinated by how the themes and questions we encountered reflected dynamics in our own North American Jewish communities. At this presentation, I will share images, stories, conversations and questions about Jewish identity, anti-semitism, memory, and communal narratives.

## MINDFUL MORNINGS

Thursday mornings, 8:30-9:15 am

60 Highland Street, Library

This weekly gathering combines guided and silent meditation to develop our capacity for mindful awareness, helping us cultivate qualities of patience, gratitude, clarity and compassion. **Rabbi Toba** and experienced CDT members offer a teaching to begin each session, with meditation instruction. All are welcome, whatever your level of experience (or lack thereof!). No need to make a weekly commitment; join us when you're able! For more information, please contact [mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:mindful-mornings@dorsheitzedek.org).

# CDT Calendar

# November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Religious School Classes Gr. 3-6 Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm Prison Book Program 6:30pm to 9:00pm "The Jews are Alright" 7:30pm to 9:00pm	2 Retreat Planning Meeting 7:00pm	3 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am  Mira Awad Concert Regent Theater, Arlington 7:30pm	4 All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck Candle lighting and dinner 6:00pm Service 6:45pm	5 Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Lev Sugarman-Brozan 9:45am to 12:00pm
6 Religious School Classes for Alef-Zayin 9:30am to 12:00pm	7	8 Religious School Classes Gr. 3-6 Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm	9	10 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	11	12 Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer 8:45am to 9:40am Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Noah Goldman 9:45am to 12:00pm CDT Film Club 6:00pm
13	14 From Dialogue To Action: Enact- ing Change on the Streets of Jerusalem 7:30pm to 9:00pm	15 Religious School Classes Gr. 3-6 Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm  Ethical Respon- sibility and Chametz 7:30pm to 9:15pm	16	17 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	18	19 Shabbat Morning Service "Got Shabbat" including Tot Shabbat 9:45am to 12:00pm
20 Members Meeting & Dinner 5:30pm to 8:00pm  7th & 8th Grade Meeting 5:30pm to 7:30pm	21	22 Religious School Classes Gr. 3-6 Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm  Ethical Respon- sibility and Chametz 7:30pm to 9:15pm	23	24 Thanksgiving Day CDT Offices closed (all day)	25	26 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm
27	28	29 Religious School Classes Gr. 3-6 Meets at FUSN 3:45pm to 5:45pm  Ethical Respon- sibility and Chametz 7:30pm to 9:15pm	30	December 1 Mindful Mornings 8:30am to 9:15am	2	3 Shabbat Morning Service 9:45am to 12:00pm

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.

## KIDDUSH ASSIGNMENTS

**Erev Shabbat, November 4:** Joshua Herzig-Marx / Susie Tanchel / Jonathan Gordon / Valerie Graf

**Shabbat, November 5:** Sanctuary Cleanup: Erica Streit-Kaplan / Susan Silberberg  
Ushers: Lori & Pushkal Garg

**Shabbat, November 12:** Sanctuary Cleanup: Tania Mireles / David Shumsky  
Kiddush Setup: Susan Silberberg / Michele Arons & Mike Brann / Emily Shumsky (*In Honor of Marsha Tobias*) / Bill Shorr / Jennifer Greenberg

Kiddush Cleanup: Sami O'Reilly, Robert Imperato, & Dani Imperato / Terry Traub / Stephanie Hackett (*In Memory of Benjamin Lipka*) & Nem Hackett (*In Memory of Ellie Hackett*) / David Greenberg  
Ushers: Linda Hsu & Marc Steinberg

**Shabbat, November 19 :** Jeff Kichen (in memory of Alma & Abraham Kichen) / Beth & Jeff Green / Jeff Goldman

**Members' Meeting & Dinner, November 20:** Sue Lanser & Jo Radner / Lauren Gibbs / Janice Cole

**Shabbat, November 26:** Lynda Goldberg & Joe Bayes / Marjorie Salvodon & Mark Schafer

**Kiddush Note:** The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. When notified of your dates, please be sure to put them into your personal calendars. The whole congregation counts on your participation in kiddush and each assigned person is needed and expected to show up.

**Parents of students in 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades,** who generally help out with B'nei Mitzvah kiddush, ushering and sanctuary clean-up, can primarily find their names listed on B'nei Mitzvah dates.

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

*Tikkun Olam - continued from page 7*

## NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION TASK FORCE—NOVEMBER 2016

by Susan Nitkin

A commitment to inclusion goes deeper than accessibility; it means believing that all of our congregants and guests, including those with disabilities, should have the opportunity to participate in the life of our congregation as meaningfully and as comfortably as possible. We all have limitations, but for those among us with disabilities, our limitations may be more apparent; knowing this compels all of us to refrain from defining others by what we see and assume. Our welcoming of each other, and of our guests, is deeply important, and sometimes has greater meaning and effect than we realize, even beyond the actual time spent at services and other congregational activities. The hope is that everyone, with or without disabilities, will feel not only accepted, but embraced, wanted, and needed, to whatever extent is comfortable and meaningful for each person.

This year, as we reflected on our needs prior to the High Holidays, we realized that greeting is often the first point of contact and the first step in helping guests feel included and welcomed, and so the CDT Board and the Inclusion Task Force did some directed learning on best practices in welcoming congregants and guests with disabilities who are attending services. More to come in future newsletters on this very important topic !

**IMPORTANT TIKKUN OLAM INITIATIVE:** CDT is working with GBIO on the Community Preservation Act (CPA) for Boston, a ballot initiative on November 8th to raise millions of dollars for Affordable Housing in the city. We hope to involve as many CDT members as possible in this effort! If you'd like to learn more, or to become involved in this campaign, please contact Esther Kohn or Lauren Gibbs. Tell Boston voters to vote YES for CPA in Boston, and let Esther or Lauren know who they are. The CPA is the last question on the ballot in Boston.



CDT Contingent at GBIO YES CPA for Boston Sept. Action: Lauren Gibbs, Bob Warren, Lisa Hirsh, Matt Fried

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE PRISON BOOK PROGRAM

By Barbara Shatkin

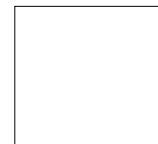
*Tuesdays: November 1 (more to come)*

*6:30-9:00 pm*

*Basement of United First Parish Church, 1306 Hancock St., Quincy*

Volunteer with the Prison Book Program at the United First Parish Church in Quincy on the first Tuesday of odd-numbered months from 6:30–9:00 pm. Volunteers work at various tasks to respond to prisoners' requests for specific books and send them out. The church is very close to the Red Line (Quincy Center) stop or volunteers can organize a carpool. Contact **Barbara Shatkin** at [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com) with questions.





Address correction requested



# Tashlich 2016



CDT celebrated Tashlich with Rabbi Toba at Newton City Hall on a beautiful Rosh Hashana afternoon.

Photo by Lissy Medvedow