



# Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Adar/Nissan 5777

March 2017

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Photo: The Hausmans at the Women's March in Boston.

## Resistance, Justice, Compassion

by Jen Kaplan



**FOR MANY** of us, it's been a hard couple of months. Winter in New England has a way of bringing out the blues (unless you love grey, cloudy, cold and skiing, in which case you're all set!).

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The violation of human rights set forth by this Administration has been shattering for many of us. The only bright spot is the comfort and camaraderie that has resulted from being among like-minded folks at the Women's March (in Boston, DC or wherever you might have been for those who participated) and the Muslim Unity protest march in Copley Square in response to the presidential executive order restricting immigration from seven countries and banning admission for refugees for 120 days. In both cases, there was a huge outpouring of support for these causes. Susie and I went to the Boston Women's March and it was incredible to see women, men and children in support of one another in wanting a fair and just country for ALL.

Through the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) – of which Congregation Dorshei Tzedek is a member — hundreds of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish congregants across the greater Boston region came together in early February at the Bethel A.M.E Church in J.P to advance our criminal justice reform agenda, along with securing more affordable housing in Boston and organizing to save the Affordable Care Act. CDT mem-

ber Ora Gladstone reported, “With over 40 CDTers in attendance, CDT was (and not for the first time) wonderfully represented. We have much to be proud of as a congregation. Our Tikkun Olam commitment stacks up remarkably well next to that of any other congregation represented in GBIO.”

We, as individuals and as groups of people, have the power to make changes — whether it is voting for a candidate, running for office ourselves, marching for beliefs you have, lobbying your elected officials, or or-

Different Faith Traditions, People from Different Countries (especially Arab), People of Differing Abilities, and People who are LGBTQ. When disparate groups come together, we can bring forth more energy and in time, help create an America that is more just, more compassionate and more inclusive.

On the flipside, as a pastor from Connecticut told me, “You have to make sure you don’t burn out. You may not be able to go to every rally. Pick what you can do and feel

When disparate groups come together, we can bring forth more energy and in time, help create an America that is more just, more compassionate and more inclusive.

ganizing to make changes to policies and laws, it can be done. Perhaps some of us have been complacent over the years and now feel threatened and realize that these human rights, which we believe are inalienable, could be taken away.

One of the “benefits” of what many of us find troubling is the intersectionality of these causes — People of Color, People of

okay about it.” This is going to be a long haul. Doing what we can, when we can, will be important. There will be many more battles to come so we need to pace ourselves.

I hope that during this time of anxiety, disbelief, and frustration, we will be there for each other and those in our larger community, in both words and deeds.



Photos: CDT members at the Women's March in Boston.

## Rabbinic Liaison

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

### Staff:

Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Director of Congregational Learning: Rabbi Shahar Colt

Administrative Director: Marla Lichtman

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: Ellen Hemley

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Past President: Allison Hausman

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Susan Silberberg, Jen Levine-Fried, Barry Ehrlich, Ruth Paris, Nancy Gertz

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Chesed: Ellie Goldberg and D.B. Reiff

Communications: TBA

Nediv Lev: Mark Paley and John Carroll

Newsletter: John Holohan

Ritual: Marion Ross and Laurie Goldman

Rabbinic Liaison: Cindy Shulak-Rome

Space: Ezra Hausman

Tikkun Olam: Bonnie Tenneriello

Website: Dan Halbert

Welcoming: Melanie Adler and Allison Hausman

## 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.

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

# Shabbat and Holidays

## ALL-AGES EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, March 3, April 7, May 5

6:00 pm candle-lighting and 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. Services geared towards families with kids aged 3-8, but adults like it too!

## SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

Saturday mornings, March 4, April 8, May 13

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?

March 25th, 9:45am-noon

At this special Shabbat gathering for all ages, we will be reading about the building of the mishkan, the portable sanctuary in the wilderness, and thinking together about how we build, relate to, and protect our sacred space. We will have a diverse array of morning workshops for all ages, including:

- Movement with **Esther Kohn**
- Comic art with **James Kaplan**
- Drumming with **Shira Moss**
- Tot Shabbat
- Text Study on creating a space that welcomes and protects refugees, with **Rabbi Shahar** and CDT Teens.

At this service we will also be honoring the *yahrzeit* of Gina Fried, and hearing from our teens about their fundraising project to welcome refugee families to the Boston area.

**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 PURIM PARTY

Saturday evening, March 11, 7-9pm

First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton

This is the one time during the year when we're commanded to get wild and crazy – so come join the fun! Join Rav Tiffany and the CDT Spielers for our yearly Purim bash, featuring:

- Costume parade (prizes for kids and adults in costume – come as you wannna be!)
- Purim davvening with Rav Tiffany
- Megillah reading (give a shout when you hear You-Know-Who's name!)
- Young children's activities
- The Purim Spiel (since we're already living in one...)
- Purim dance party, and hamentaschen galore!

**Mishloach Manot** — One Purim tradition is the exchange of sweets and other goodies with friends and neighbors. Bring a mishloach manot plate to the Purim party (plates can include hamentaschen, other sweets, fruit, what you'd like!) and take a different one home.

**Matanot l'evyonim** — It is also traditional to give gifts of food to those in need on Purim. All are encouraged to bring along cash or your checkbook for a tzedakah collection.



Photo: Sarah Birkeland at CDT's Purim party, 2016. Photo by Viv Shein.

# Community

## KIDDUSH CAPTAIN COMES TO CDT!

Do you experience Kiddush anxiety—a condition with a vague sense of insecurity and/or confusion brought on by that orange reminder postcard, often manifesting itself in an extreme reluctance to get the ball rolling? If you're one of the many CDT members who do, Kiddush Captain is here to help!

Under this new program, the CDT Office will begin assigning one person per volunteer event to the role of coordinator, or boss. This person will be responsible for just two things:

- Starting the email chain of who should bring what—as soon as reminders go out 10 days before the event.
- Serving as point person on the day of the event, ensuring that everyone knows what they should be doing to make the event a success.

So easy but so important!

The Kiddush Captain will not be responsible for finding replacements for members who can't fulfill their assignments—that will still be up to the individual member.

Really, our goal is not to make more work but less, and to make all of our volunteering more efficient. And while we're calling this person the Kiddush Captain, we imagine filling this role for all CDT volunteer events—Kiddushim, Erev Shabbat services, members' meetings, and holiday celebrations.

We've been piloting the program in January and February, and have received a lot of positive feedback. According to our first Captain, **Elaine Bresnick**:

"I think having a 'point person' is a better way to go...there's less ambiguity about who's supposed to do what. I think the other Kiddush providers were happy to have one person to coordinate with, rather than the whole group."

So the next time your postcard arrives in the mail, please pay special attention to your Kiddush assignment—and if you're the assigned to be "captain" for the day! And for

a reminder of what's involved in preparing for Kiddush and other events, check out the detailed instructions in the Providing Kiddush and B'nei Mitzvah Help area of the CDT website under the Members tab.

Questions or feedback? Contact **Margo Michaels** ([margoimichaels@gmail.com](mailto:margoimichaels@gmail.com)) and/or **Melanie Adler** ([madler@edc.org](mailto:madler@edc.org)) Thanks so much for helping to make this new program a success!

## CDT SINGS BRINGS LATIN TOUCH TO SHABBAT SHIRA

by Karen Arnold

On Shabbat Shira, CDT Sings added our voices to the congregation's current focus on diversity within the Jewish community. The choir included two Ladino songs during services for the "Shabbat of Song." Ladino is a personal language of Sephardic Jews, mixing Spanish with Hebrew and vocabulary from the countries where Jews settled after the expulsion from Spain in 1492. Scholar Aviya Kushner writes that Ladino is "sometimes called *el espanol nuestro*—'our Spanish'—and everything about it is tied to the ideas of home and identity." Like Yiddish, there is a rich tradition of Ladino literature, theater, folktales, and music.

In the U.S., Flory Jagoda has been a leading performer and advocate of Sephardic music. Our first Ladino song was connected to Flory Jagoda. CDT Sings learned the Ladino "Ein Keloheinu" from Joan Streit, mother of CDT members **Ilana Streit** and **Erica Streit-Kaplan**. Joan and her family sang this piece as fellow congregants of Flory's daughter, Betty Jagoda Murphy, at B'nai Keshet Reconstructionist Congregation in New Jersey. CDT Sings also included a Ladino setting of a Shabbat table song: "Yom Ze L'Yisrael." The two rousing Ladino pieces are likely to become part of our congregation's standard tunes. Bring on the castanets!

## YAHREZEIT

This month, we remember **Marion Weinberg**, whose 20th yahrzeit falls on March 2. We will be remembering Marion at Shabbat mornings services on March 4 (we will also be remembering **Frances Greenberg**

on this Shabbat, whose 12th yahrzeit fell on February 27). We are also remembering this month our beloved Rebbetzin, **Gina Fried**, whose first yahrzeit falls on March 24. We will be remembering Gina at our Got Shabbat service on March 25.

## REFUAH SHLEYMAH

We send blessings for complete healing to **Dan Karp**, **Ruby Weinberg**, **Lissy Medvedow**, **Jacqui Bloomberg**, **Jaime Wurzel**, and **Susana Wurzel**.

## CONDOLENCES

To **Dani Krasa**, and to **Tatjana Meschede**, **Yonatan & Benyamin Meschede-Krasa**, on the death of Dani's father, Edgar Krasa. Edgar spoke to our congregation and our students on a number of occasions about his experiences in the Holocaust, and his death is a loss to the entire greater Boston Jewish community. May his memory be for a blessing.

The CDT community mourns the tragic death of **Mara Gibbs**, daughter of CDT member **Lauren Gibbs**. Mara became bat mitzvah in our community in 2010, and in her younger years was a regular participant in our monthly all-ages services and the bi-annual retreat. Mara was a sophomore at Reed College, where she had created a



wonderful community of friends and was pursuing a new passion for computer science. Our love and support go out to Lauren at this difficult time. May Mara's memory always 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

# Inclusion Task Force

by Susan Nitkin

In the January newsletter article, I wrote about a vision of an inclusive community that was lifted up at the November members' meeting in response to the question: "What are our aspirations for CDT around our value of inclusivity, specifically in the context of special needs?" Today I would like to focus on one aspect of that vision: valuing the presence and unique contributions of each person and family.

At a recent workshop sponsored by the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP), Lauren Tuchman, Rabbinical Student at the Jewish Theological Seminary, gave the keynote address. Her talk was entitled: "The Power of Personal Narrative as a Tool for Illuminating the Tangible Impact Inclusion has on a Community." She spoke about reframing the concept of inclusion for people with special needs, changing it from thinking of inclusion as the provision of accommodations and specialized infrastructure and equipment to a more holistic commitment, that of providing a set of tools which allow someone to bring their full self into a setting, leading to reciprocity and a sharing of the person's talents.

I believe that at CDT our values and process reflect this commitment, and that we see inclusion as a constant process of change and deepening understanding. It is human nature to be drawn to accomplishments and contributions that are measurable and familiar, but when we open our hearts to differences between us and take time to listen, we are enriched, often surprised, and sometimes deeply touched by the gifts that each one of us brings to the community.

As the chair of the Inclusion Task Force, I want to express my gratitude to the CDT community for its openness and warmth, and for the willingness of our members to let ourselves be vulnerable, take chances, and question our assumptions as we seek to understand how to help everyone feel welcomed and part of the fabric of the community.

In closing, I would like to share this piece of wisdom written by Esther Kletter, co-chair of the Inclusion Committee at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton:

"To foster inclusion, let us...bring gentle curiosity, generosity of spirit and an open heart and mind to all who we meet on our journey."

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 member:

**Myra Schwartz** (Thanks to CDT members **Bob Warren** and **Peter Shapiro** for referring Myra to CDT.)

## TODAH RABBAH

Todah Rabbah to these CDT members for helping with kiddush in January and February: **Karen & Reinhard Engels, Phoebe Cushman, Marjorie Feld & Michael Fein, Noah Rumpf, Cindy Shulak-Rome & Dan Rome, Elaine Bresnick (Captain) — in memory of Martin Bresnick & David Adler, Vivienne & Norman Shein, Andy Cohen, Andrew Garnett-Cook (Captain), Nathan Aronow, Amy Dain, Noah Rumpf, Sherry Katz & Mark Farber (Captain), Cheryl & Jeffrey Sacks**

A special Todah Rabbah to **Edith Epstein & Michael Tsuk** for their donation of a wicker basket and kippot.

# 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

Jeff Arnold — *In memory of Martha Arnold*  
Miriam Bronstein — *In memory of Tamar Bronstein*

Rachel Davenport and Mark Paley  
Sharon Gorberg — *In memory of my beloved mother, Sylvia R. Gorberg, my beloved father, George Gorberg, Edgar Krasa, and Mara Gibbs*

Laurie Gould — *In memory of Robert Gould*  
Allison and Ezra Hausman — *In honor of the political action inspired and strengthened by Dorshei Tzedek members and Rabbi Toba*

Jennifer Kaplan and Susie Tanchel  
Steffi and Eric Karp — *In memory of Edgar Krasa; in memory of Mara Gibbs*  
Linda and Peter Katz — *In memory of Vivian Katz*  
Jessica Keimowitz — *In memory of my father Robert Keimowitz*

Danielle Klainberg and Mark Rosenberg  
Lissy Medvedow and Cliff Cohen — *In memory of Leon Medvedow and Lucille Feinstein*

Ruth Paris and Rob Saper — *In honor of Mark Bronstein's dedication to the audio needs of our synagogue*

Elaine Pollack — *In honor of Jen Kaplan, our president*

Debby and John Saltzman — *In memory of Mara Gibbs*

Steven Siegel — *In memory of Philip Siegel, on his yahrzeit*

Susan Silberberg

Andrew Sofer — *In memory of Paul Martin Sofer and Elaine Sofer*

## CAMP JRF FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Tatjana Meschede and Dani Krasa, Rafi and Debbie Krasa — *With thanks to Rabbi Toba, in memory of Edgar Krasa*

## SCHOOL FUND, RETREAT FUND, HOLY BOOKS FUND, JILL VOLK TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND, BUILDING FUND

# Community Events

## CDT COMMUNITY POTLUCKS

Friday, March 17

One of CDT's wonderful traditions are our Erev Shabbat community potluck dinners. Hosted by CDT members in their homes, these dinners offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new people, eat delicious food, and celebrate the awesomeness of our community! Sign-ups will be open on the CDT website by March 3.

And save the date — our final potlucks of the year will be on May 12, Shabbat Unplugged!

If you have questions or would like to host a dinner on May 12, contact **Melanie Adler** at [madler@edc.org](mailto:madler@edc.org). And if a Saturday Havdallah potluck works better for the tots, we're flexible!

All members are welcome! Fun is guaranteed!

## REFUGEE EXPERIENCE IN EUROPE: WORLD WAR II AND TODAY

*Special Program with Rachael Cerrotti*

*Sunday, March 26th, 5:30-7:30pm in the CDT Sanctuary*

Photographer and journalist, Rachael Cerrotti has spent the past several years retracing her grandmother's experience as a refugee from Prague during the second world war. In this presentation she will share her photography of her grandmother's route. With this historical and personal context, she will share observations and reflections about the refugee crisis in Europe today.

## CDT FILM CLUB

*Saturday, March 4*

*Home of Ellie Goldberg*

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

*The Frisco Kid (1979, 1hr 59m)*

"Armed with his yarmulke and a cross-country mission to reach San Francisco's Barbary Coast neighborhood, naive Polish rabbi Avram Belinski is a natural target for



Photo: CDT members at a community potluck.

swindlers and thieves in the bustling port city of Philadelphia. But with a rough-and-tumble bank robber by his side, he takes on the American West — and makes an unlikely friend in the process."—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 elements that can be added later, i.e. salad with cheese or croutons, please keep them separate). Due to space constraints, this event is for members and their families.

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.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**CDT RETREAT—FRIDAY-SUNDAY,  
JUNE 2-4, 2017**

*Camp Yavneh, NH*

The future looks dark? There's always "Retreat!"

In New Hampshire, with our congregation. It's coming in June, so

Reserve your spot soon;

Keep reading for more information.

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. Find more information and a link to the online registration at: <https://dorsheitzedek.org/retreat>. Register by April 1st and save \$25 per family with Early Registration.

If you are interested in being part of the organizing committee or have any other questions please contact **Allison Andrews** at [drarandrews@gmail.com](mailto:drarandrews@gmail.com).

## SOFTBALL PRESEASON IS COMING!

**By Head Coach Elliot Pittel**

Any softball players in CDT? The CDT Men's Softball Team — otherwise known as the Tzedekmen, will open training camp this spring for our 11th season! We begin our 2nd decade this year. Outdoor practices start either in late March or early April. Our Men's Softball Team is a member of the Men's Shul Softball League. The MSSL ([www.msslonline.com](http://www.msslonline.com)) has roughly 40 teams throughout Greater Boston. Games are played on Sunday mornings from mid-April to mid-June, with playoffs starting at the end of June. The winner of the MSSL championship earns the "coveted" Kiddush Cup. Last year our team qualified for the playoffs!

For more information, contact **Elliot Pittel**, HC of the CDT Tzedekmen: [epittel@comcast.net](mailto:epittel@comcast.net) [www.facebook.com/CongregationDorsheiTzedekMensSoftballTeam/](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationDorsheiTzedekMensSoftballTeam/)

# Chesed

## A CHESED WORD SEARCH

By Ellie Goldberg

The Chesed Committee would like to thank everyone whose acts of kindness manifest the spirit of Chesed in our community.

The Chesed Coordinators for February are **Ellie Goldberg** and **D.B. Reiff**. Contact them at [chesed@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:chesed@dorsheitzedek.org).

We post Chesed tasks online on the LotsaHelpingHands (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>.

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@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:rabbi@dorsheitzedek.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.

Y C O N N E C T I O N J W  
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community

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connection

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challah

# Religious School Notes

## CDT TEENS CARE ABOUT REFUGEES

by Lev Sugerman-Brozan

This fall, the teen group at Dorshei Tzedek came together to explore what it means to be a teen at Dorshei Tzedek and to do a project on social justice. We decided to team up with Temple Israel, who had taken on a project to raise funds for two Syrian refugee families to come and live in the USA. The plan was to raise enough funds to cover their living expenses in the US for their first two years here. We planned to raise \$1,500 to contribute to that goal. The first family was successfully settled here in January. However, the second family, which was scheduled to arrive here on February 5, was not able to enter the US due to Donald Trump's ban on immigrants from seven majority Muslim countries in-

cluding Syria. This was certainly a setback for us, but we are working through it.

We decided to keep raising raising the funds in case the family was allowed to enter the US, and if not, we would donate the funds to Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Working and meeting not only gave us an opportunity to think of our own project to do, but it also to explore together the world we're in today. In times like this, the best thing we can do for our world is to try and make a difference.

My Bar Mitzvah project also involved MIRA. I went to Hynes Convention Center with other MIRA volunteers to register new citizens leaving their naturalization ceremony to vote. The enthusiasm with which those new citizens came up to us was very inspiring to me. If people want to come into

our country and be a part of our country, you do not simply turn them away out of fear and hatred. The majority of our country are immigrants, and at a time like this, the best thing we can do for them is welcome them with open arms. This is why the Dorshei Tzedek teen group came together and is working to raise funds for these families, and we will continue to be upstanders and to help other people in times of need.

You can make a donation via check made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, with "rabbi's discretionary fund/refugee project" in the memo line. Alternately, you can donate online via the CDT website, putting the same information about the donation. This fundraiser will run through the month of March. If you have any questions, you can contact **Rabbi Shahar** at [dcl@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dcl@dorsheitzedek.org).

# Tikkun Olam

## NEXT MEETING

March 9, 7:30 pm, Room 111

Please join the Tikkun Olam Committee on March 9 at 7:30 pm in Room 111 at 60 Highland Street. Our central discussion will be on sanctuary for undocumented immigrants. We'll have brief reports from those who participated in recent trainings on this, and a discussion of how CDT might relate to the sanctuary movement.

As always, we'll be catching up on the great work folks are doing in criminal justice reform, race, and other areas. And, as always, all are welcome to participate or just listen.

## CDT MEMBERS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH IMMIGRANTS

By Esther Kohn

*Ve'asu li mikdash v'shakhanti betocham.*

"Let them make me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them"—Exodus, 25:8

Twelve CDT members attended a Sanctuary Training on January 16th (MLK Day) at Hillel B'nei Torah in West Roxbury. The event, attended by over 97 people from 14 congregations, was planned in response to pledged policies of the current administration which unfairly target immigrants. Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), and led by Janine Carreiro-Young, Director of the Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN), the session was held as part of a larger effort to form a network of faith communities in the Greater Boston area which can support and protect immigrants on an as needed basis.

During the two-hour training, participants discussed the history and purpose of the Sanctuary Movement, analyzed immediate and potential threats to immigrants, and learned about various options for effective action by individuals and congregations. The presenter also described ways to effectively intervene if you witness harassment or aggressive behavior towards immigrants (or anyone!) in public.

To find out more about the training and help determine next steps, come to the March CDT Tikkun Olam meeting: training attendees will present what they learned and discuss how CDT might participate in the JCRC/MCAN Sanctuary project.

## PRISON BOOK PROGRAM BOOK DONATION PROJECT

By Barbara Shatkin

CDT members will be volunteering at the Prison Book Program on Tuesday, March 7th, from 6:30-9:00 pm. We travel to the program in Quincy Center by T and carpool. Volunteers select books from a collection of donated books that meet prisoners' written requests, and package books up for mailing. If interested in volunteering, please go to the Prison Book Program sign-up on the CDT website. Questions? Email [bfshatkin@aol.com](mailto:bfshatkin@aol.com).

## BEING IN COMMUNITY

By Amy Mazur

As we watch what is happening in the world unfold, it can be hard to stay optimistic. But staying connected to our guiding principles and being in community can sustain us in hard times. What does being "in community" really mean? Over these last few weeks, I have had a chance to experience this up close and personal.

In December, I attended an event co-sponsored by the New England Jewish Labor Committee and Matahari Women Workers' Center, a Greater Boston organization of women of color, immigrant women, and families who for personal and societal transformation. The event was an oral history project of domestic workers and their employers that asked the question, "How does our view of domestic work/labor impact the way we all care for one another in society?"

We shared our personal stories of immigration, and how our immigration histories have shaped our lives. I walked away with a much deeper appreciation for both the value of listening to the stories we all have to tell,

as well as the different ways that the immigrant experience has had an impact on each of us.

After the event, I learned, first hand, about the real meaning of being "in community". Matahari and the JLC approached Dorshei Tzedek to help find short-term housing for a domestic worker who was in an exploitive working environment. Many CDT households offered housing (which was graciously accepted) for the domestic worker, her husband and daughter. Other CDT members offered additional support and resources. There was a real need and we were there - for a stranger in need.

Coming at a time when I am struggling to make sense of the world around me, I realized that I am more of the person I want to be when I am in community, and that community means welcoming, and even inviting others in, with whom I might not have had the chance to connect before.

To read the full version of this article, visit Amy's blog at <http://www.kolotproject.net/blog>.

## CDT AT GBIO ACTION

By Alan Epstein

GBIO held its latest Action in a show of political power on Feb 2 at the Bethel AME Church in JP. Although 700 constituents were expected, over 900 attended, including over 40 CDTers! Participants filled Bethel's main sanctuary and two overflow spaces. In order to respect everyone regardless of seating, the program speakers moved from room to room throughout the Action so everyone could hear first hand from leaders, speakers and legislators—a novel, if slightly chaotic solution!

Ex-incarcerated citizens shared their stories, and State Senators and Representatives were asked to support GBIO's Criminal Justice agenda (they did):

- Ending Mandatory Minimums for non-violent drug offenses
- Pre-trial and Bail Reform
- Ending excessive Solitary Confinement

- Eliminating excessive probation and parole fees and fines

GBIO members were also tasked with actions over the next 6 months of the campaign, to lobby legislators, attend hearings, write letters and op-ed pieces, and make our voices heard.

In addition, the programs to preserve the Affordable Care Act and secure seats on the Boston Community Preservation Committee heard from stakeholders and Boston politicians, with an affirmation of both.

The next GBIO Action is planned for May 18.

## CDT AT WOMEN'S MARCH IN BOSTON

By Annie Spanel

CDT women and men were well represented the Boston Women's March the day after the Inauguration. About 20 folks gathered at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Common under the CDT banner, pussy hats were in abundance. **Steffi Karp** shared the pattern for knitters and seamstresses.

We shared advice on downloadable content for signs and the signs everywhere were smart and sassy: "Not My Czar!", "Give Me Your Tired Masses and Deport Them," "We Are Not Delicate Snowflakes, We Are an Avalanche," and the ubiquitous "Keep Your Laws and Your Hands Off Our Bodies." There was a beautiful, giant globe on a platform with a huge ticket "Not For Sale," and a tiny florid hand coming out of a blue suit sleeve groping the Statue of Liberty.

There is something unforgettable about the hilarity of women under attack: mocking, derisive, and completely contagious. Documentaries show South African anti-apartheid women and Tibetan nomad women immersed in it, and Boston women have it in abundance. That bodes well for our rights.

Photos: CDT members at the Women's March in Boston.



# CDT Calendar

# March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Unless noted otherwise, all programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.</b></p>			1	2	3	4
				<p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p>	<p><b>All-Ages Erev Shabbat Service / Potluck</b> 6 pm</p>	<p><b>Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> 60 Highland St.-Library 8:45am to 9:40am</p> <p><b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>CDT Film Club</b> CDT member's home 6:00pm</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p><b>Religious School Nitzanim/Gan - Gr. 6</b> 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA 9:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>The Music of Israel: 1917-1947</b> JCDS, 57 Stanley Street, Watertown, MA 10:20am to 11:45am</p> <p><b>Purim Spiel Rehearsal</b> 2:00pm to 4:00pm</p> <p><b>CDT Board Meeting</b> 4:00pm to 6:00pm</p>		<p><b>Religious School Gr. 3-6</b> 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p> <p><b>Intro to Talmud Spring Session</b> 60 Highland St: Library 7:30pm to 9:15pm</p>		<p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p> <p><b>Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting</b> 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:30pm</p>		<p><b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>Purim Party</b> FUSN: Parish Hall, downstairs kitchen, Head Start Room, Children's Chapel 7:00pm to 9:00pm</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p><b>Religious School Gr. 1-6</b> 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA 9:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>The Jewish Holidays for Grown-ups - The Hidden Story of Purim with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> JCDS, 57 Stanley Street, Watertown, MA 10:20am to 11:45am</p> <p><b>7th &amp; 8th Grade Meeting</b> 1326 Washington St, Newton, MA 02465, 7:30pm</p>		<p><b>Religious School Gr. 3-6</b> 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p> <p><b>Intro to Talmud Spring Session</b> 60 Highland St: Library 7:30pm to 9:15pm</p> <p><b>Executive Board Meeting</b> Member's home 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><b>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p> <p><b>Understanding Race Meeting</b> 60 Highland St: Room 111 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>CDT Erev Shabbat Community Potluck Dinners</b> CDT members' homes 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p><b>Members' Meeting &amp; Dinner</b> 5:30pm to 8:00pm</p>		<p><b>Religious School Gr. 3-6</b> 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p> <p><b>Intro to Talmud Spring Session</b> 60 Highland St: Library 7:30pm to 9:15pm</p>	<p><b>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p>		<p><b>Got Shabbat? (Including Tot Shabbat)</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	APR 1
<p><b>Religious School Gr. 1-6</b> 57 Stanley Avenue, Watertown, MA 9:30am to 12:00pm</p> <p><b>7th&amp;8th Grade Meeting</b> 1326 Washington St, Newton, MA 02465 5:30pm to 7:30pm</p> <p><b>Follow My Footprints: Refugee Crises, Then and Now</b> 5:30pm to 7:30pm</p>		<p><b>Religious School Gr. 3-6</b> 1326 Washington St. West Newton, MA 3:45pm to 5:45pm</p> <p><b>Intro to Talmud Spring Session</b> 60 Highland St: Library 7:30pm to 9:15pm</p>	<p><b>Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Autobiography Workshop with Rabbi Toba Spitzer</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><b>Mindful Mornings</b> 60 Highland Street: Library 8:30am to 9:15am</p>		<p><b>Shabbat Morning Service</b> 9:45am to 12:00pm</p>

**Mar 3 Erev Shabbat** Janelle Winston - CAPTAIN / Rebecca Byard / Leah Diskin / Jerold Gelfand

**Mar 4 Shabbat** Jacqui Bloomberg - CAPTAIN / Benjamin Newman / Jeff Marcus / Bob Warren

**Mar 11 Shabbat** Madeline Steinberg - CAPTAIN & Mitch Feuer, *In Memory of Glenda Feuer* / Allison & Ezra Hausman

#### **Mar 11 Purim Party**

**Setup:** Tatjana Meschede - CAPTAIN & Daniel Krasa / Janet Boguslaw / Linda Kramer & Steve Zisk / Gail Harris & David Reider / Barbara Blumenthal

**Cleanup:** Diana Fisher Gomberg - CAPTAIN & Richard Fisher Gomberg / Alissa & Gerry Leonard / Bonnie Tenneriello & Andrew Sofer / Danielle Klainberg & Mark Rosenberg

**Mar 18 Shabbat** Peter Shapiro - CAPTAIN / Shirley Milgrom, *In Memory of Esther*

‏ Louis Milgrom / Reva Kasman / Mike McEwan

#### **Mar 19 Members' Meeting & Dinner**

Ellen Pashall - CAPTAIN / Elaine Landes & David Felson / Fran Malino

**Mar 25 Shabbat** Linda Hsu - CAPTAIN / Stacie Garnett-Cook / Barbara Shatkin & Andrew Littman / Elizabeth Ferrenz & Jenny Siegel / Abby Schwartz / Daniel Reeves

**Apr 1 Shabbat** Carolyn Fine - CAPTAIN, *In Memory of Sara Fine* & Jerry Friedman, *In Memory of Pepi* ‏ Mark Friedman / Laya Steinberg, *In Memory of Victor Steinberg* & Bruce Miller

**Kiddush Note:** The complete kiddush and holiday assignment schedule is available in the members' calendar on our website. Please remember to sign-in to the site to access the calendar as well as all member-specific information. 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 and 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.

## Learning

### **NEW CLASS WITH RABBI SHAHAR!**

#### **INTRO TO TALMUD: SPRING SESSION**

*With Rabbi Shahar Colt*

*Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:15 pm*

*March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4*

*60 Highland Street, Library*

This fall's class on "Chametz and Responsibility in the Talmud" was so much fun that we have to keep going! In this class we will continue to explore the question of what the Talmud is. What did the rabbis think they were doing? What value can we find in encountering these stories and conversations? Whether or not you took the fall course, all are welcome (no previous Talmud experience necessary). Please RSVP to **Rabbi Shahar** ([dcl@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:dcl@dorsheitzedek.org)) so she can anticipate materials.

### **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT LEARNING**

*10:20-11:40 am*

*JCDS (57 Stanley Avenue in Watertown)*

An exciting new component of this year's Sunday morning program is that we are hosting a series of programs open to all adults (and teens too!) in the community. Each of these programs will run from 10:20-11:45 am:

March 5 — Hayim Kobi will offer an audio-visual presentation on The Music of Israel: 1917-1947 — a reprise of a wonderful presentation he made at the congregation two years ago.

On March 12 — Purim! Rabbi Toba will be leading a fun study session looking at the hidden meanings of the Purim story.

April 9 — Preparing for Passover with Rabbi Toba & Rabbi Shahar

May 7 — Adoption in the Jewish Community with Jenny Sartori

### **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. Each month, **Karen Arnold** leads a meditation on the first Thursday based on a teaching from the weekly Torah portion, and **Rabbi Toba** leads a meditation on the second Thursday. Experienced CDT members offer teachings and instructions the other weeks. 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).



Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

60 Highland St.  
West Newton, MA 02465

Address correction requested

## Get Wild and Crazy! That's an order.

### CDT Purim Party

*Saturday evening, March 11, 7-9pm*

*First Unitarian Society, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton*

Join Rav Tiffany for the costume parade (prizes!), activities for kids, exchanging sweets, dancing, and, of course, our always-fabulous Purim Spiel!



Photo: CDT members performing the Purim Spiel, 2016. Photo by Viv Shein.