

## Two Great Speakers coming to Acton!

### **The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Program**

Monday, January 15 9:00--11:00 AM Congregation Beth Elohim Donations at the door  
133 Prospect St., Acton

#### **Special invitation to come hear Renée Graham of the Boston Globe**

Renée Graham is a columnist for the Globe's op-ed page. She started as a general assignment reporter, and then moved to features and arts covering music, film, and television as a writer and critic. She also wrote a weekly pop culture column. Graham has written numerous pieces on racism and sexual harassment.

The Social Action of Beth Elohim (Na'aseh) is sponsoring this breakfast program. For more information contact Sal Lopes at [sal.t.lopes@gmail.com](mailto:sal.t.lopes@gmail.com)



\*\*\*\*\*

### **An Evening with Debby Irving**

*Sponsored by Acton Congregational Church, UCC Boxborough, West Acton Baptist Church, and  
Social Action of Beth Elohim (Na'aseh)*

Wednesday, January 17 6:45-9:00 pm Acton Congregational Church Free Will Offering  
12 Concord Road, Acton



**Debby Irving** is a racial justice educator, author, and public speaker. A community organizer and classroom teacher for 25 years, Debby Irving grappled with racial injustice without understanding racism as a systemic issue or her own whiteness as an obstacle to it. As general manager of Boston's Dance Umbrella and First Night, and later as an elementary school teacher in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she struggled to make sense of racial tensions she could feel but could not explain. In 2009, Debby took a graduate school course, *Racial and Cultural Identities*, which gave her the answers she'd been looking for and launched her on a journey of discovery. Now, speaking and leading workshops around the country, Debby devotes herself to exploring the impact white skin can have on perception, problem solving, and creating culturally

inclusive communities. A graduate of the Winsor School in Boston, she holds a BA from Kenyon College and an MBA from Simmons College. Her first book, ***Waking Up White***, is the book Debby Irving wishes someone had handed her decades ago. By sharing her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, she offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. As she unpacks her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she reveals how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated her ill-conceived ideas about race. **Monies raised above expenses will benefit the *Fostering Racial Justice Group*.**