President’s Column
Debbie Waber, CDT President

As you read this, I hope you are all enjoying some long overdue and well-deserved sunshine. The summer break invites reflection about the year just completed at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and the year to come. Last October, the Board met for a strategic planning session to identify goals for the year. The list was ambitious: expand our space to accommodate our needs; increase our administrative support; obtain more accurate and complete financial information; organize an ongoing program of fundraising; develop new leadership; and recruit an education director.

Remarkably, thanks to the diligence and commitment of our leadership on the Board as well as that of many other members, we have essentially achieved all of these goals! We have acquired a permanent prayer space and expanded office space.

- We have acquired excellent full time administrative support.
- Our financial information is in significantly better shape than it was in October, and we have the administrative support to maintain it.
- We have an active and energetic Nadiv Lev Committee and our first annual campaign is ongoing.
- Our recently elected Board includes 10 new members.
- Our school had an outstanding year under the direction of Cindy Shulak-Rome, who will continue as Education Director next year.

And so we head into the new fiscal year (beginning August 1) on a firm footing. With our new space, our excellent administrative support, and our energetic and committed leadership, we will be freer to focus our attention on programmatic initiatives that can nourish ourselves and our community—hesed, tikkun olam, community of learners, ritual observance. But as we nourish ourselves and flourish in this way, we must also be mindful of the resources needed for us to support these activities, resources that come from our dues and from nadiv lev contributions. We are many, nearly 150 households; we are diverse; and we all join this community intentionally. As we open our hearts to the possibilities of this community for us, for our children, and for the broader world around us, gathering the resources needed to sustain us should become nearly effortless.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months. To celebrate our move to the new prayer space, we will process the Torah scrolls from the Unitarian Society to our space in the Second Church on the afternoon of Thursday, September 11 after Hebrew School, and adult Kabbalat Shabbat services will be held the evening of Friday, September 12. We will then officially inaugurate the space on Shabbat morning, September 13, with a special program. The following week, our hosts at the Second Church have invited us to join them on Saturday evening, September 20 for their annual potluck Harvest Dinner, after which we will conduct Slichot, the service that marks the beginning of the High Holy Day season, in our own space. Please see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter to find out how you can help to make these events happen, and please plan to join in these wonderful celebrations.

Best wishes for a relaxing and renewing summer.

New Postal Address, Offices, and Phone Numbers

As of June 25, you can find the Dorshei Tzedek Administrative Office and Rabbi Toba’s office at the Second Church, 60 Highland Street. This is also the new mailing address for Dorshei Tzedek. (Of course, mail to the old address will be forwarded.) The main number for the congregation remains the same, 617–965–0330. This is also now the number at which you can reach Rabbi Toba (the 617–454–0511 number is no longer operative). To reach the religious school, the telephone number is now 617–965–5443; the religious school office remains at 1326 Washington Street in the First Unitarian Society.

Rabbi Toba will be on vacation for much of July and will not be having any regular office hours for the month. Please call 617–965–0330 for an appointment (and please try to avoid e-mailing her in July if at all possible). When the rabbi is away, there will always be another rabbi on call in case of emergency; please call the Dorshei Tzedek office for this information.
Members’ Meeting Notes
Elizabeth Ross, CDT Secretary

Fifty-three members from 45 families attended the June Members’ meeting—the first in our new space at the Second Church.

Rabbi Toba opened the meeting by quoting a Rabbinic teaching that if only one of the Israelites had been absent at Sinai, the Torah could not have been given. Toba commented that this teaching was especially relevant in the week leading up to Shavuot, the holiday commemorating receiving the Torah, as we sat in our ritual space and looked forward to this next stage in our community’s development. In Toba’s words, as we receive “this year’s Torah” it is essential that every member of the community be present and active.

Debbie Waber, reviewing the past year’s goals and accomplishments, characterized 5763 as a year focused on strengthening CDT’s infrastructure. We have hired a full-time administrator, rented additional office space and a permanent prayer space, and started a more ambitious nadiv lev campaign than we have had in years past. Debbie and the congregation thanked the Personnel, Space, and Nadiv Lev Committees, chaired by Elaine Bresnick, Cheryl Sacks and Steve Siegel, and Steve Siegel respectively, for their hard work. Looking ahead to next year, Debbie stated that with a more solid infrastructure in place, in 5764 the congregation would be able to turn its focus to programming.

Mark Farber provided a financial overview by outlining the new expenses we have incurred in this strengthening of our infrastructure. We have doubled our administrative costs and more than doubled our space rental costs. In addition, we will have one-time costs associated with preparing our space at the Second Church. Should we hire an outside Education Director, the expenses of running the religious school will increase significantly as well. These added costs represent a sharp increase in next year’s expenses compared to last year’s, and while this year’s budget forecasts a surplus (assuming fundraising goals are met), next year’s projects a deficit of $13,000. The Board, while not comfortable in general with projecting deficits, passed this budget for presentation to the membership based on two criteria: 1) we have considerable reserves built up, and 2) while we expect expenses to flatten out for several years after the coming year, we expect revenue to continue to grow as the membership grows, allowing revenues a chance to catch up to expenses. Had we not incurred new costs, we would not be able to accommodate new members or even to sustain our current activities. Next year’s budget was passed unanimously by the membership.

Debbie introduced Linette Liebling, who chaired this year’s Nominating Committee, by recalling a fourth goal set for itself by this year’s Board: enhancing leadership development within the congregation. Debbie spoke of leadership at Dorshei Tzedek as something all members should expect to take on at one time or another as members rotate in and out of Executive Committee, Board, and Off-Board positions. This year 13 people are rotating off and 10 people rotating onto the Board.

Before Linette introduced next year’s slate, Debbie and the congregation thanked members leaving leadership positions this year, including Chayim Herzig–Marx, first Vice President; Tessa Goldsmith, Education Vice President; Mark Farber, Jon Gordon, and Paul Hattis, Treasurers; Ellen Pashall, House and Operations Chair; Betsy Hinden, Tikkun Olam Chair; Jill Volk, Children’s Education Chair; Ira Schor, Adult Education Chair; Louise Enoch and Linette Liebling, Rabbinic Liaisons; Paul Carson, Web Chair; and Dinah Moeller, Publicity Chair.

Linette began the presentation of next year’s slate by thanking Debbie Waber for her active leadership of the congregation over this past year and thanking her for agreeing to serve in this position again in 5764, to the strong applause of the gathered members. Also continuing on next year’s Executive Committee will be Judy Herzig–Marx, Past President and Roberta Carson, Vice President of Membership.

New on the Executive Committee next year will be Nancy Gertz, First Vice President; Steve Siegel as Vice President of Development; Laurie Gould as Treasurer. Continuing on the Board will be Michael White, Ritual; Cheryl Sacks, Space; Erica Streit, Membership Outreach; Judy Hersh, Membership Inreach; Dan Halbert, Newsletter; and Marc Steinberg, Holiday Programming.

New on the Board this year will be Susan Manheim, Chessed; James Kaplan, House and Operations; Sivan Nasoff, Finance Secretary; Janice Fine, Tikkun Olam; Janet Boguslaw, Children’s Education; and Andrew Compaine, Membership—Large. In off-Board positions, Elaine Bresnick will continue in her role as Personnel Chair, Wendy Gedanken as Torah of Money Chair, and Cliff Cohen and Lissy Medvedow will continue as Co-Chairs of the High Holy Days Organizing Committee.

(Continued on page 4)
**Tisha B’Av**

*Tisha B’Av* (the 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av) is a Jewish day of mourning that commemorates the destruction of the first temple in 586 BCE and the second temple in 70 CE. In more recent history, *Tisha B’Av* marks the date when Jews were expelled from England in 1290 and from Spain in 1492.

This year, *Tisha B’Av* will begin on the evening of Wednesday, August 6 and continue through Thursday, August 7. To remember the tragedies that occurred on *Tisha B’Av*, several mourning practices are observed including fasting, reading the Book of Lamentations, and avoiding the exchange of greetings. There are also modifications to the liturgy of the weekday services that acknowledge that it is a day of mourning.

Since *Tisha B’Av* occurs in the summer, which is a difficult time for forming a Dorshei Tzedek minyan, the Ritual Committee decided to not schedule a Dorshei Tzedek *Tisha B’Av* observance. Instead, we will send out an email later in the summer listing information on other congregations’ *Tisha B’Av* observances.

**Shabbat Programs**

**Shabbat Morning Services**

*Saturday, July 12, and Saturday, July 26, 10 am–noon*

*In July, we have a special schedule and venue for Shabbat morning services.*

These services will be lay-led, at Cindy Bittker’s home, 151 Webster Street, West Newton, 617-964-1516. Services will be outside, so if you can, please bring a folding chair or beach blanket. In case of rain (or extreme heat), we will have services inside where a folding chair would still be welcome.

**Regular weekly Shabbat morning services resume on August 9, at 9:45 am. All Shabbat morning services in August will be held at the First Unitarian Society.**

Celebrate the upcoming marriage of Dorshei Tzedek members Debbie Blicher and Peter Dain at the aufrut on Shabbat morning, **August 16**!

**Erev Shabbat Family Service and Potluck**

*Friday, August 1, 6pm*

Join us for a musical all-ages’ service, followed by a dairy potluck dinner! This event will be at Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein’s home, 350 Auburndale Avenue, Auburndale, 617–332–8424. Please bring a main dish or salad to share, enough for 8 to 10 people. In case of rain, we will meet at The Unitarian Society.

**Erev Shabbat Service**

*Friday, August 15, 8 pm*

This service will be one of our regular Erev Shabbat services, held at the First Unitarian Society. All are welcome, but please note that this service is oriented toward adults and older kids.

**Services in our new space at 60 Highland Street will commence on September 12.**

**Refuah Sh’lemah**

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh’lemah*, to Lynne Brandon and Francis Greenberg. May healing and comfort come soon to you and those who help to care for you.

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact Rabbi Spitzer (617-965-0330) or Susan Manheim (781-449-2984).

The Chesed Committee would like to know if you are available over the summer to prepare and deliver meals. We want to be sure that we can continue to meet the needs of the congregation during the summer months. Please contact Susan Manheim at 781-449-2984.
New to off–Board positions this year will be Ora Gladstone, who will chair Rabbinic Liaison; Cindy Bittker, who will chair the Web Committee; Matilda Bruckner, who will chair Adult Education; Clifford and Tessa Goldsmith, who will co-chair Community of Learners; and Joshua Herzig–Marx and Carla Naumburg, who will co-chair Public Relations. Next year’s slate was passed by the membership. Linette encouraged any CDT member interested in any of these areas to get involved.

Lissy Medvedow kicked off the planning for High Holy Days by giving such an inspiring presentation of this “big but joyful task” that Theresa St–John Siegel volunteered to serve as “understudy” this year and Co–Chair for 5765 when Cliff and Lissy plan to step down. Lissy passed around a sign–up sheet to sign up for various duties for 5764. There are many larger and smaller jobs available, and even the large jobs are not too much work. Please be in touch with her and Cliff if you were not at the meeting and are able to help out with High Holy Days this year.

Janice Fine updated the congregation on the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, a social action organization made up of mostly faith–based organizations in the Boston Area which CDT is considering joining (please see the June Issue of the CDT Newsletter for details). She invited anyone who is interested in getting involved with the organization and the congregation’s decision about joining to attend a meeting on June 8 with GBIO staff and an Organizational Action Meeting with Governor Mitt Romney on June 10. [Note: 19 members of CDT attended the GBIO action with Governor Romney on June 10.]

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We plan to hold our first Shabbat morning services in our new space on September 13. James Kaplan outlined various efforts getting underway to prepare the space. Clifford Goldsmith is heading up Demolition and Construction, Wendy Gedanken is coordinating decoration, Wendy Frankston is coordinating the physical move, and Lisa Schneier is planning an inaugural event on Sept 13. Please be in touch with any of them to get involved. At the close of the meeting, Cheryl Sacks led a tour of the Second Church space and Rabbi Toba led a ma’ariv minyan (an unofficial first service in the new space) for those needing to say kaddish.

To all CDT members who have served in leadership positions in the past year and are now stepping down to allow others to serve: a huge todah rabah for your dedication to and work on behalf of our community! —

Chayim Herzig–Marx, Tessa Goldsmith, Mark Farber, Jon Gordon, Paul Hattis, Ellen Pashall, Betsy Hinden, Jill Volk, Ira Schor, Louise Enoch, Linette Liebling, Paul Carson, Dinah Moeller.

Dear Dorshet Tzedek Chesed Committee and all those beloved congregation members who helped feed, ran errands, and never ceased to send love and support to Lynne S. Brandon and Jyl Lynn Felman for the last FIVE months while Lynne recovered from surgery and sixteen weeks of chemotherapy:

Both Lynne and I were and remain greatly moved by the generosity of spirit, friendship, and food that members of the Dorshet Tzedek community provided us during this very difficult time. It was especially meaningful to come home to a hot meal, beautifully prepared, after five hours in the chemo ward or ten hours in the hospital! Everything was delicious! And the notes and cards that came with the fantastic food deliveries made everything feel personal. Neither of us has ever felt so loved and nourished by a congregation.

Dorshet Tzedek is more than a special congregation as many of us already know, but in addition, there is much heart and soul to be offered in times of great need. Lynne and I feel very blessed to have been touched by so much love, including from many people we had never even met! We only hope that in the future our meals will taste as good and be delivered with such panache. Happy Spring!

Todah Rabah, v Shalom Rav —Lynne and Jyl.

Unity Shabbaton

An Adult Weekend of Study and Prayer
August 8–10, Chelmsford, MA
Sponsored by the Synagogue Council of Mass.

Join members of Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist congregations from around the state for a wonderful Shabbat experience, including a variety of study opportunities with local rabbis and Shabbat service options. For more information or a brochure, call 617-244-6506 or e-mail info@synagoguecouncil.org.
Bat Mitzvah of Leah Brooks Netsky

We joyfully invite the Dorshei Tzedek Community to join us as our daughter Leah Brooks Netsky is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 30 at 9:45 am. Leah is entering the eighth grade at Day Middle School. She loves hip-hop music and dancing and playing soccer and basketball. She also very much enjoys being around little kids. Leah’s Tikun Olam Project was helping prepare and serve meals at Rosie’s Place in the South End, the first drop-in and emergency shelter for women in the United States.

Beth, Hankus, and Leah’s sister Mira cordially invite you to a Kiddush following the service.

—Beth Brooks and Hankus Netsky

Top Six Reasons for Ordering a High Holiday Machzor

If you were at Dorshei Tzedek’s High Holiday services last year, you may be aware of the great machzor (prayer book) Shortage of 5763. To prevent this from happening in 5764 and onward, we are asking Dorshei Tzedek members to consider purchasing a machzor for your own use. Also, by purchasing a machzor and bringing it to services with you (and bringing it home afterward), you will be helping to conserve Dorshei Tzedek storage space, which is bursting at its seams already.

If this isn’t enough to convince you of how much of a mitzvah it would be for you to purchase a machzor, the Ritual Committee has come up with these top seven reasons to buy your own personal machzor:

• You can come to High Holiday services late and still have a book.
• Carrying the machzor (which is pretty heavy) to and from services will buff you up.
• Use them to prepare and become a High Holiday maven.
• You’ll use them 100% of the time if you come to services only at High Holidays.
• You might be the first person on your block to have your own machzor.
• You can spend the summer reviewing it and looking for typos.
• Impress your friends with your familiarity with the High Holiday liturgy.

So, don’t delay. Use the order form to order your High Holiday Machzor today! Order by August 15, 2003.

High Holy Day Machzor Order Form

Enhance the Judaica section of your home library. Use this form to order the Reconstructionist High Holy Day Machzor for your family. To ensure that your Machzor will arrive in time for Rosh Hashanah, please place your order by August 15, 2003.

Name: ____________________________ Address: ____________________________
City, State, Zip: ______________________ Phone: ____________________________
e-mail: ____________________________ Quantity _________ @ $30.00 each: Total _________

Please send the completed form or equivalent information on a piece of paper with check payable to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Machzor Order Form, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465. You can also e-mail your request to office@dorsheitzedek.org.
Dorshei Tzedek Receives Renaissance Educator Grant

We are pleased to have received a Renaissance Educator Grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education. This three-year grant will provide funding to help us create a full time position for Miranda Phillips. For this coming year Miranda will continue to teach the Gan, Aleph and Gimmel classes, as well as our Family Education programs. Her new position will also include some programmatic responsibilities within the school, one of which will be her new role as nai Mitzvah Coordinator. In this role she will oversee all the b'nai mitzvah tutors for our students, and will serve as a liaison for families as they are preparing for the bar/bat mitzvah service. We are delighted to be bringing Miranda on full time!

Registration for the 2003–2004 School Year

Registration for the coming school year is ongoing through July 31. If you need forms please contact Diane in the office. If you are considering enrolling your child for the first time, please contact our Education Director, Cindy Shulak–Rome, at 617-965-0330 if you are in need of financial assistance.

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. In addition, donations can be made to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. This 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 importantly, to help out congregants in need. Donations to this fund are encouraged, in addition to (not instead of) your contributions to help support the congregation. Checks should be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. Please contact Rabbi Spitzer directly at 617-965-0330 if you are in need of financial assistance.

When sending a contribution, please include a note with the names of the donors, and the dedication, if any, as you wish them to be printed in the newsletter. Mail to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

School News

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5763: A Great Year at our School!

by Cindy Shulak–Rome

It’s hard to fathom that another academic year has just flown by. Each year we give the students an opportunity to fill out an evaluation to give us some feedback about their experience this past year. This year, as I reviewed those reports, I found myself grinning from ear to ear as I read these, particularly the responses to “Something I wish we

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could change about Dorshei Tzedek Religious School is……”. The response to this question was overwhelmingly positive, as the most frequent answer we received was “nothing!” Here is a sampling of what kept me smiling as I read these:

- “nothing particularly, I think it’s great”
- “I love doing midrashim”
- “I love Hebrew School! Maybe sometime you can get your own building instead of sharing with the church”
- “I wish there was a library so we could read if we finished projects early”
- “There is nothing I would change, because there is the right amount of fun and learning.”

We are clearly doing something right here! I glean so much pleasure from seeing happy Jewish learners every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. This is the result of our labors; not from any one person, but a great collaboration from our students, our parent body, and our educators.

I want to take this opportunity to appreciate everyone for their role in making this a joyful and productive school year. First, to our students, who come to school with inquisitive, open minds and bright spirits. Thanks to all of the parents, for bringing these wonderful students through our door each week and for all you have done to support your child’s Jewish education and our school. And finally, I am ever so grateful to our teaching staff, Miranda, Rachel, Lesley, Meg, Steven, and Ilana, whose tireless enthusiasm and creativity keep our classrooms alive and our students smiling. A special todah rabah to Elaine Pollack, who has been working with us as a Master Educator throughout the school year. Elaine will be starting Rabbinic School at Hebrew College this fall and her regular presence will be missed on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the community for the personal support you have given me this year and the lovely gifts at our closing assemblies. I am honored to do this work and look forward to continuing on as our Education Director.

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**Mazel Tov**

*Mazel tov* to our graduates of the *Me’ah* program, a two-year, 100-hour course in Jewish Studies: Stan and Jacqui Fleischman, Laura and Joel Katz, Cindy Rivka Marshall, and Amy Mazur all completed the course this spring.

*Yasher koach* to all of you!

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**Erev Shavuot**

by Lisa Schneier

On *Erev Shavuot* a group of hardy souls gathered at the Bruckner’s home to study until midnight. We started with a brief service, and then began the first of four study sessions that would lead us to midnight—when, according to tradition, the heavens open.

In the first session, Gina Fried led a study of the Book of Ruth (traditionally studied on Shavuot) by tracing the movement verbs in the text, particularly those that describe “goings and comings.” This study led us to see patterns in the text that were new and even startling.

In the second session, Caryn—Amy King read aloud passages that were filled with varied images of the revelation at Sinai. We then used these images to do some “torn paper midrash” (which, as Caryn—Amy pointed out, was a leveling experience, since no one in the room was likely to have much experience with this particular material!). We made collage-like pictures representing the images of the revelation at Sinai that were most compelling to us. By the end we had a gallery of images to look at and describe.

In the third session, Kelli Kirshtein led us in a study of several poems by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai. This was another experience of the opening of text, as we heard each poem read aloud and then spent time discussing it, finding our way together into the various possibilities of the poem.

In the fourth and final session, Elaine Pollack described the life and teaching of Rabbi Kalonymus Shapira, the Piaseczner Rebbe, also known as the Warsaw Rebbe. She began by describing some of the events of his life, particularly his experience with severe loss, and then gave us brief encounters with his teachings, which were testaments of profound faith. Throughout this session, Elaine also gave us a sense of what it was like for her to read his texts directly, both the difficulty and the fascination.

There were themes that emerged and reemerged through the evening, themes that spoke to the holiday of Shavuot, which celebrates both harvest and revelation. One question that pursued us through the evening was that of the relationship between these two motives for celebration. As the evening went on, we saw this and other questions in the light of the different texts that we had studied. Another thread, not talked about so much as experienced, was the revealing power of words, also in keeping with this holiday commemorating God’s giving of the Torah—a revelation through the medium of words.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Set-up/Clean-up and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jul 12</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service <em>Parshot Chukkat and Balak</em></td>
<td>at the home of Cindy Bittker (see page 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Jul 26</td>
<td>10 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service <em>Parshot Pinchas</em></td>
<td>at the home of Cindy Bittker (see page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Aug 1</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td><strong>Erev Shabbat Family Service and Potluck</strong></td>
<td>at the home of Ellen Hemley and Mark Bronstein (see page 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Aug 9</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Aug 15</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td><strong>Erev Shabbat Service</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Aug 16</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>Sat Aug 23</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat Aug 30</td>
<td>9:45 am - 12 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Morning Service <em>Bat Mitzvah of Leah Brooks Netsky</em></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Events and services are held at the First Unitarian Society of Newton, 1326 Washington Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. An asterisk (*) denotes Rabbi Spitzer’s weekend off. Free child care is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor (but inquire about childcare during summer.)

Setup/cleanup people: The coordinator for your event is labeled “(c)”. Please contact that person to coordinate your work at least 10 days before the event.

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