

December-January/Kislev-Tevet-Shevat 2011-12/5772

Rabbi's Message Reb Moshe

Dear Ones,

As we approach the winter in New England it's important to gear

ourselves both internally and externally.

Externally we are blessed with shelter from the storms we should expect.

Internally there may still be work to be done.

A bright spot at the end of December will be our celebration of Hanukkah.

How can we use the lights of Hanukkah to brighten our perspective?

מאי חנוכה?

Our Sages ask in the Talmud: What is Hanukkah?

In order to diminish the role of the Maccabees military victory the Rabbis emphasized the miracle of the one cruse of oil, enough for only one night, that lasted for 8 nights.

The Books of the Maccabees were not included in the Biblical canon.

These accounts of the military campaigns and the victory of the few against the many is not ignored. It is included in the AI HaNisim על הניסים paragraph that we add to our amidah during the 8 days of Hanukkah.

In the Books of the Maccabbees the celebration of the eight days of Hanukkah (dedication) are established to replace the eight day celebration of Sukkot and Shimini Atzeret, the ultimate

> Temple observance, that was not able to be celebrated because of the occupation of the Temple by the Syrian-Greeks.

> The Rabbis displeasure with the Maccabees derives from the results of the Maccabeean revolt and the establishment of the Hasmonean monarchy. (I call them the Gang of Five.)

The early pre-Rabbinic teachers of Torah, who would later be called the *Perushim*, the Pharisees, were proponents of two essential ideas: the interpretation of torah beyond its literal meaning and the desire for all Jews to engage in practices of ritual purity that were normally reserved for the *Kohanim*, the priesthood.

The Hasmonean rulers persecuted these teachers and asserted their authority from a strict interpretation of Torah which established their authority. These priests were later called *Tzedukim*, the Sadducees.

Another factor that may have influenced the Rabbis who composed the Mishna and Gemara, which comprise the

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Talmud, is that they experienced the brutality of the Roman occupation. This occupation began about 80 years after the Maccabean revolt. The Roman involvement with Palestine began with the Maccabees reaching out to the Romans for aid against the Syrian-Greeks during the revolt and the later Romanization of the Hasmonean monarchy. This also led to close to a century of corruption of the Temple leadership before the Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

The results of this destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple meant the end of the priestly class, the Sadducees, and the rise of what we call Rabbinic Judaism. All streams of contemporary Judaism see themselves as heirs to the Pharisees, the Sages of the Talmud.

This is a story that few of us know. It involves the *realpolitik* of the entire ancient Mediterranean region.

It is the story of the little oil that could that is most accepted as our reason for *Hanukkah* and it is this story that carries the potent message of the necessity for light in the darkest of times in the year. It also points to the use of light to illuminate our own dark places.

The Festival of Lights has become known as the Festival of Freedom. But what does this "freedom" entail? It is not a freedom that leads to a lack of rules, but rather that freedom to return to one's core identities as Jews. This is an essential ingredient of our celebration and it happily coincides with the American experience that allows us to remain authentic to our tradition. The coercion to

turn Hanukkah into a Jewish Christmas decidedly goes against the true meaning of *Hanukkah* and its message of liberation from the forces of assimilation.

The struggle against assimilation is first and foremost an internal one. It reaches into an insecurity that many have about our core identities as Jews. It is fed by feelings of inferiority vis a vis our surrounding culture. There are still many who do not affirm the counter-cultural aspect of Judaism. The longevity of the Jewish people has been based on our capacity to acculturate, that is, to take in the nutrients from the surrounding culture that enhance our capacity to survive and prosper as Jews. These feelings of alienation derive, for the most part, from our lack of knowledge of our traditions.

We here at TBZ provide antidotes to these feelings. Our path of joyous celebration, contemplation and study offer opportunities to do the internal work that has, over the millennium, given us the fortitude to survive the many storms our people have experienced.

I will be posting a number of video messages before Hanukkah to discuss what brought this minor non-Biblical celebration into such prominence.

I hope that you will visit our website www.tbzhrookline.org to see these videos. I hope that you will find that this format of communication will provide greater accessibility to our ongoing relationship in the congregation.

חג האורים שמח, בשלום

Reb Moshe



Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!



- To Dan Bresman and Liz Sosland on the birth of their son, Jonah.
- To Zsolt and Dasha Mark on the naming of their daughter, Avah.

- To Eliza Scharfstein on her bat mitzvah, and to her parents, Sarah Feldman and David Scharfstein.
 - To Casey Corcoran and Margie Skeer on the naming of their daughter, Ariella Dani.
 - To Isabelle Sinclair on her bat mitzvah, and to her parents, John and Paula Sinclair.
 - To Alma Bitran on her bat mitzvah, and to her parents, Iris Berent and Saul Bitran.
 - To Sue Kahn and Dan Kirschner on their 5th anniversary.
 - To Steve Lewis on the anniversary of his bar mitzvah.

Where's



Waldoks?

This year Reb Moshe will begin communicating with us via video. Check out his messages on our newly designed and absolutely spectacular website,

tbzbrookline.org

And many thanks to Amy Schottenfels for her many hours of inspired work building the site.







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Koleinu

Enid Shulman, Editor

Condolences

- To Linda Brodt and Paul Katz on the death of Linda's father, Albert Brodt.
- To Barbara and Bob Katz on the death of their son, Dr. Raphael Rubin.
- To the family and friends of longtime TBZ member, Ed Hurvitz.
- To Sue Goldberg on the death of her mother, Pearle Goldberg.
- To Sheine Wizel on the death of her aunt, Sely Tenenbaum.
- To Anne Freeh Engel and Samuel Engel on the death of Anne's mother, Katherine Freeh.

- To Marilyn Paul and David Stroh on the death of Marilyn's father, Norman Paul.
- To the family and friends of TBZ member of Evelyne Feinson.
- To Alane and Lester Gardner on the death of Alane's mother, Ruth Kassoy.
- To TBZ member Mishy Lesser and her husband, Chris Ives, on the death of Chris' father, Edward Lee Ives.

May their souls be bound up in the Bonds of Eternal life.

HaMakom yenakhem otam im shear avlei Tziyon vYrushalayim.



- To Phyllis Brawarsky for cleaning the torah covers.
- Elise Dwortzan for delivering the Koleinu to bulk mail

Thank you for helping us with the TBZ Sukkah!

- To Jill Feblowitz for helping with the lighting,
- To Jack Daniels for putting up the schach,
- To the Posternak family for decorating, and to Meredith Joy for coordinating.



Co-Presidents' Message

Fran Shtull Adams & Jonathan Klein

We are still glowing from the uplifting High Holiday services at TBZ. From Erev Rosh Hashanah through Simchat Torah we experienced numerous peaks & highlights: singing beautiful Holiday melodies we hear only at this time of year; wiping away tears during emotional personal prayers; swaying glow-sticks at our rock-concert-style Neila, with a sea of children's faces riding above the crowd on their parents' shoulders; chanting and walking slow Hakafot around the Bima; dancing in the street with our Torahs after witnessing the full unraveling of a Torah scroll around our Sanctuary. We feel blessed to be a part of this community at all times, and never more than during the cycle of fall Holy Days. Thank you to our Rabbis and to the enormous group of volunteers who contributed in so many ways. Together, we created a meaningful, joyous, and broadly participatory High Holiday observance - TBZ style.

One new experiment we tried this year was a ticket that was really much more than a simple entry voucher. We polled the community and asked for engagement. There was an opportunity to contemplate

the coming year and "sign up" for personal spiritual growth as well as contributions to TBZ, both volunteer based and financial. We put it out there, and you responded!

Here are some of the ways YOU want to enrich your own spiritual life and the TBZ community as a whole:

So far, we have "pledged" 167 specific volunteer tasks at TBZ in the coming year. Thirty-five of us plan to help with an Oneg or Kiddush; 15 want to join the Tikkun Olam effort; 19 people will be Shabbat greeters in the sanctuary; 31 will contribute soup and crackers to Family Table; 7 want to join our literacy tutoring project at the Winship school; 16 will offer support to our Hesed efforts.

So many of us have responded to the "13 for 13" project. A total of 326 specific intentions for the coming year include: 25 people who plan to attend Shabbat morning Torah study; 36, or "double-chai" who will register for one of our many Adult Learning courses; and 23 who will take on mindful eating for a month. We will create classes for the 12 people who want to learn prayer-book Hebrew and the 9 who want to learn Torah trope, and need just a few more to add to the 5 who want to learn to lead a service and 7 who wish to learn to give a D'var Torah. Many people wish to expand Shabbat consciousness by not spending money on Shabbat (27), staying off the computer or other electronic screens (25), lighting Shabbat candles at home (51) and saying Kiddush and motzi blessings at home (37). 19 people plan to attend a Nishmat Hayyim mini-retreat on a Shabbat afternoon. And we know that far more than the 51 who punched that chad will join us for Shabbat services in the TBZ sanctuary.

There is a separate short piece below by Development Chairs Sue Kahn and Carol Kamin regarding the generous response to the Annual Appeal, with over 100 pledges from Kol Nidre, many more than we have received in the past. Thank you to everyone who pledged, and if you haven't yet, there is of course still time. 100% participation remains our goal.

It is enormously exciting to feel the energy welling up at TBZ. Our annual community meeting on October 30th had almost double the usual number of attendees, and the level of engagement was palpable. There is a sense, in our Bar Mitzvah year, of maturation and of deepening into our identity as a very distinct independent shul.

It has been profoundly gratifying to be a part of this chapter in the life of Temple Beth Zion.

B'shalom,

Fran & Jonathan



YOU DID IT!

Because of the hard work of the TBZ leadership, because of Samuel Engel's moving Kol Nidre appeal, because of our wonderful Rabbis and professional staff, and most important, because of YOU, we have raised over \$115,000 in pleages and gifts made to our annual appeal drive. This is double what was raised last year at this time, and we are well on the way to exceeding our annual goal of \$180,000.

Thanks to each and every one of you for gifts both large and small. It is through the support of everyone in our community, at whatever level that is affordable, that we will maintain our strength, our vibrancy and our commitment to everything that is good and beautiful at TBZ.

We will be reaching out to TBZ members to join our Development Committee to help keep the energy going and to plan a spring event. We'd love to have you join our growing Committee!

Carol Kamin (carol.kamin@gmail.com) & Sue Kahn (susanrkahn223@aol.com)

Development Committee Co-Chairs







Message from Ray Claudia

The Talmud, in Tractate Sanhedrin (37a), asks why God created the human race from one creature, as opposed to creating many people at once. And the rabbis respond, to teach you that whoever destroys a single soul, it is as if you destroyed the whole world; and when you save one life it is as if you saved the entire world. We look at each individual as if he or she were the entire population of the world.

Last month, Gilad Shalit was released after 5 years of captivity. During these 5 years Israelis stood together for his release. His family pitched a tent near the Jerusalem home of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This became home for Shalit's parents Noam and Aviva, as well as some of their supporters seeking to pressure the Prime Minister to win the soldier's release.

Seeing Israeli society's response to Shalit's release reminded me of this teaching. Seeing how one person became the soul of an entire nation echoes the Talmud's teaching that one person is equal to the entire world. If you followed the release as I did, there were two things that were incredibly touching. One of course was seeing Gilad, alive, coming back home. The other was seeing a whole country, often divided by politics and by so many other issues, united in knowing that saving Gilad's life was much more than just saving one life. It wasn't easy and the price was very high. The cost deeply touched those of us who had lost family in terrorist attacks. It was very hard to hold together all these feelings, the joy for Gilad's release and the pain of knowing that terrorists with blood on their hands were walking free and being greeted as heroes.

But despite all the complexities, or perhaps because of the complexities, it is so incredible to live the teaching from the rabbis – saving Gilad's life was not just about his life, but about much more.



Arik Einstein, a famous Israeli singer, dedicated a song to honor Gilad Shalit.

"עכשיו כשאתה כאן" מילים ולחן: גיא בוקאט

ולא נשכח כבר לעולם את הרגע המתוק כששמענו שנגמר ואתה בא להיות קרוב

חיוך של ילדים תמימים כבש את הפנים צמרמורת ראשונה אחרי חמש שנים

עכשיו כשאתה כאן קח את זה לאט אל תרוץ מהר תזכור, תשכח, תצחק תמיד תהיה גיבור מותר לך לבכות זה לא פשוט בכלל לסלוח לגורל

הרג לנו את הלב אנחנו אוהבים לשמוע את שמך עכשיו אתה חוזר ויש כאן אהבה גדולה קח מה שאפשר שלא תעז להתבייש חיכינו רק לתת לך כל מה שתבקש

אבל עכשיו כשאתה כאן... אח, איזה כיף שאתה כאן We will never forget the sweet moment When we heard it was over And you were coming to be close

A smile of innocent children Took over our faces An initial shiver after 5 years.

Now that you are here Take it slowly Don't run too fast Remember, forget, laugh,

You will always be a hero You are allowed to cry. It's not simple to forgive fate

But now that you are here It is possible to love It is possible to hug tightly It is possible to breathe deep.

For five years the heart ticked
A ticking clock of pain
The fear that you might never return
Killed our hearts.

We love to hear your name Now you've returned There is a great love

Take what you can
Don't dare to be embarrassed
We've been waiting to give you
Whatever you ask.

(to listen to the song go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a5QX1Oujaw)

Arik Einstein says in this beautiful song that when one man was saved, everybody began to love and breathe again – everybody was saved. One person became the soul of an entire nation.

Baruch Matir Asurim. Blessed is the One who frees those who are bound. May Gilad Shalit heal physically and emotionally and may all our children be blessed with safety and peace.

* These words are based on a Dvar Torah that Rav Claudia shared with the TBZ community upon Gilad Shalit's release on October 28, 2011.





Sheena Family Visit to Israel

Morgan Sheena

Summer 2011

My name is David Sheena, and I am affiliated with Beth Abraham on Williston Road, just down the street from TBZ. For over 20 years, our N.E. Sephardic Congregation held our Shabbat morning services in the Chapel of Temple Beth Zion, where we made and have kept many dear TBZ friendships.

Last July, my family and I went to Israel to celebrate a family wedding- nine adults and three little children, one just a baby. I have asked my daughter-in-law, Morgan, to write the saga of our trip.

"The wedding was a perfect excuse for our family to join together for a long overdue trip to Israel. Our first logistical decision was: where to stay? We knew that individual hotel rooms would not allow us the common experience of sharing meals and communally caring for our little ones, so we decided to rent a villa in Herzliya Pituach, near Tel Aviv.

The next decision was how to visit our many cousins in Israel who were scattered all over the country. We solved this by inviting them to our rented villa for Shabbat dinner – 52 of us! They all said yes. Where to get the food in short notice? Luckily Israel is a relatively kosher country and we found a fantastic commissary on a local kibbutz that sold prepared foods, especially for Shabbat. We got there at 1:45 on Friday (closing was at 2:00!) and we cleaned them out. Our Kiddush reunion was wonderful. We even created the opportunity for our cousins to reconnect among themselves.

We tried to spend our trip living as Israelis, rather than as tourists. We rented cars and drove everywhere, with the

help of a GPS (which we brought from the States). The GPS was set in English, but there was a problem figuring out how to spell the Hebrew street names in English. The directions were precise and the road signage was better than in Boston – in three languages yet. We recommend the GPS to anyone contemplating driving in Israel.

The Israelis are reputed to have lost more lives on the highways than in all their wars. It's possible – all Israelis think they are F15 pilots. We saw one driver texting – on a motorcycle! We, however, managed quite well, except for showing up at the wedding one hour late, and my husband was supposed to read one of the sheva brachot.

We practiced our Hebrew every chance we got and continued to find out how small the world is getting. English no longer solely belongs to the English-speaking countries. And, whereas we care so much in the U.S. about our origins, we found that in Israel, people do not have to work hard at being Jewish. In Israel, they are just that!

Our cousin found us a very capable American tour guide. Only in Israel will you find a tour guide with tzitzit hanging out along with a gun, or in an Arab market, a stand selling T-shirts extolling the Mossad AND a free Palestine – but that is Israel.

We finished our trip by taking a wonderful archaeological tour of Jerusalem and visiting Or Yehuda, the Babylonian Heritage Museum, to learn about our family's Iraqi background. It is troubling and painful that other civilizations have records going back over a thousand years before the Exodus, but, in Israel, we have only relatively recent finds.

We learned how to travel with small children, and we want to go on another adventure – perhaps again to Israel! It was truly a trip of a lifetime."



Photos Needed!

The Koleinu would love to 'publish' photos that you take of TBZ events.

When you come to the shul—as long it's not shabbat—bring your phones and cameras. Snap away. Small groups of happy TBZers—playing, studying, creating, singing, eating.

Inside, outside, upstairs, downstairs.

Beit Rabban, B'nei Mitzvah kids, Study Groups, Women's Groups, Men's Groups, Book Groups.

Us—doing what we do.

It would be great to have a photo library available to use whenever there is space.

Include as many names as you can or at least the name of the activity.

Simply email your photos to koleinu@tbzbrookline.org.

And don't forget to check the next Koleinu (it is published every 2 or 3 months).

We will print as many as we can.



From the Membership Committee

Let's Have Coffee!



Are you a New Member?

Never been to one of our Coffees before?

Come chat with the Rabbis and meet other new members, in a more intimate setting, at the home of a TBZ member.

Tuesday, December 6

Call Jeralyn in the office for more information.

(617)566-8171 ext. 14

And for our Seasoned Members—

Come get to know each other a little better and maintain closer contact with the Rabbis.

Monday, December 12
Tuesday, January 24

ברוכים הבאים

Welcome to Our New Members!

Irwin Cherniak
Stewart & Marie Cohen
Moshe Givental
Danny & Sarah Goldhagen
Leonard & Barbara Jacobs
Barbara Kellman
Sally Kolodkin
Lori Levi
Klara Levin

Matthew Mason & Lena Zuckerwise Gloria Michelson

Claire Helene Reyner
Anky Siegel

Jackie Slivko

Boris & Olga Smolyar

Devorah Steinberg

Rabbi Stephen & Lisa Steindel

Melvin Welinsky

Boris Zbarsky & Emma Smith Zbarsky



Pre-Hanukkah Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday Night, December 16, 2011
Following Kabbalat Shabbat



A great time to see old friends and meet new ones.

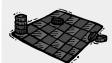
Adults: \$20; Seniors: \$10; Children under 12: Free

New TBZ members are invited to their first community dinner as our guest. Please call Jeralyn to have your name added to the list of attendees.

EARLY reservations make it much easier to order the delicious food from our caterers.

Sign-up deadline: Monday, December 12

Reservations: 617-566-8171, ext. 14



TBZ GAME NIGHT



Saturday, January 28

What's your favorite game?

Bring it along!

Munchies will be served.



Adult Learning at TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, Adult Learning Committee Chairperson

We continue to plan for adult learning with some exciting opportunities for winter and spring. To give you an idea of what's ahead, here's the list:

A Women's Retreat with Rav Claudia and others

Sunday, February 12

Please contact Rav Claudia if you would like to be involved in the planning of the day-long retreat. This is our first women's retreat!

The Art of Tefillah with Rabbi Meir Sendor

Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25, February 1 7-9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Tuition for TBZers and NON TBZers: \$135 by December 24.

Prayer may be our most common shared activity as Jews, and yet, do we really know how to pray? Do we really have the sense that we are in genuine communication with God? How is that really accomplished? We will explore the great spiritual practice of prayer from talmudic, kabbalistic, hassidic and contemporary philosophic perspectives, to help us become more aware and more adept at one of the central spiritual practices of Jewish life.

Learning Torah as a Spiritual Experience with Rabbi Meir Sendor

Wednesdays, March 21, 28, April 11, 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Tuition for TBZers and NON TBZers: \$135 by March 1.

We will study approaches to Torah that regard learning not just as gathering and disseminating information, problem-solving or mental exercise, but as cultivating certain states of mind in deep, active communication with God and with Torah teachers, in this world and other worlds. Texts for this series include a responsum of R. David Ibn Abi Zimra, R. Hayyim Vital's Sha'ar HaYichudim and Sha'ar HaGilgulim, and R. Hayyim of Volozhin's Nefesh HaHayyim. In the course of the class, we hope to try to practice the techniques we will be learning, to enhance our own spiritual awareness.

Two Special Shabbat programs after Kiddush!

A Congolese Jewish Couple Tell of their Harrowing Escape to Freedom in the US

with Wilson Taty Kapanga-Ndjibu Shabbat, December 3,

in the chapel room after Kiddush

Of African of Congolese decent, Wilson, was raised as a Jew by his Jewish mother and African father. He was educated in South Africa, earning a MA in Classic and World Languages. Wilson is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Swahili and other African dialects. He, his wife Naomi, and their two young children are seeking refugee status in the US. They are living with a sponsor from the Refugee Immigration Ministry and hope to move into the Cambridge, Allston, Brighton area when he is working.

They attended services at TBZ for Sukkot and enjoyed the spirit of the service and look forward to sharing their dramatic story of their trek through South America and Mexico to reach the US.

TBZ members, Maxine and Len Lyons, have become the family's friends.

Using Your Breath to Sing at Shabbat Services with TBZ member Raisa Shapiro Shabbat, December 17, in the sanctuary after Kiddush

TBZ member Raisa Shapiro, who teaches voice at Boston College, is an experienced and highly regarded vocalist. Raisa noticed that the TBZ congregation is very fond of singing the Shabbat liturgy (as she is). She believes that teaching members some breathing techniques may enhance the singing and their experience. Her technique teaches people how to get in touch with their spirituality and the true message of the particular prayer or piyyut, and how to enhance the feeling of interacting with each other through singing. Limited to 5 people. Please bring a yoga mat or blanket to the session. To sign up, call the office: (617) 566-8171 ext. 14.

And in the planning stages, is an exciting course on the three Abrahamic Faiths: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, co-sponsored with Hebrew College, Andover Newton Theological School as well as other local houses of worship. We will have fabulous scholars and time for discussion. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting endeavor!

Please sign up for our Rabbi's courses (Everyday Judaism with Rav Claudia) and Women's Study Groups on line so we know how many students to expect.

As always, be in touch if you have a specific idea for a course or learning experience. We would love to hear from you and try to make it happen!











Young Beit Rabban students build their own candy sukkah.

Community Engagement and Structural Change: An Update on our Future

Evelyn Frankford and David Cherenson

In our 13th year of Temple Beth Zion's rejuvenation and transformation into TBZ, an underlying theme has been how we, all together, can foster more engagement and connection with shul activities.

A year ago, TBZ's Board established a Leadership Development Task Force with a mandate to make this happen, to ensure that TBZ be a community where more people want to be involved and feel connections. To support this on-going engagement strategy, the Task Force concluded that we need a new Board structure, one that promotes more active, shared leadership; distributes responsibility among more people; and is more effective at facilitating our many activities.

As a follow-up to last winter/spring's member coffees, where over 100 people described what they are seeking at TBZ, we convened a major community conversation on October 30, at which 70 people started to re-imagine how this TBZ might look. We broke into five groups representing five "pillars" of shul activity, to generate ideas:

- Adult and Children's Learning and Social Experiences
- Prayer Services
- Caring for One Another
- Relating to the Outside World
- Finances, Building, and Human Resources

The notes of these groups are now being collated and the Task Force will report back about the recommendations through additional coffees and community conversations, as well as by trying to speak to many people individually.

At the same time as these community conversations are taking place, the Task Force has been studying the experiences of other synagogues that have made similar changes, to find out how they develop and support leaders. Based on these experiences, a sub-group of the Task Force is looking at Governance changes that would support a more engaged TBZ. Its goal is to deliver a new set of Bylaws over the winter for approval by the TBZ Board and membership.

The working concept is to create a Board structure that designates responsibility for five pillars of communal life, and four overarching activities that encompass all areas (Strategic Planning, Leadership Development, Fundraising and Governance). The starting point for Board composition is: two Co-Presidents, five empowered Vice Presidents for the five pillars, and eight At-Large Directors responsible for the four overarching areas, all of whom will be catalysts for action that promotes involvement and connection.

The community engagement and structural change processes are tied in with the 13 for 13 Project: A bar/bat mitzvah gift to ourselves, whereby we give ourselves a congregational gift. You will be hearing a great deal over the next months about opportunities to be involved and connected, and about changes in our organizational structure that will provide for our next phase of growth. For more information, contact Evelyn Frankford or David Cherenson, Task Force Co-Chairs (efrankford@verizon. net, dcherenson@yahoo.com).

December

Ì	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
On Shabbat Dece Srael. Israeli born o He will speak abor In Israel and the cr (lilturgical poem).	On Shabbat December 10 we will welcome Dror srael. Israeli born of Kurdish descent, Drory is an ec He will speak about the history of the Kurdish im Israel and the current social revolution. He will (lilturgical poem).	On Shabbat December 10 we will welcome Drory Yehoshua , a guest from Israel. Israeli born of Kurdish descent, Drory is an educator and social activist. He will speak about the history of the Kurdish immigration and community in Israel and the current social revolution. He will also teach us a new <i>piyut</i> (lilturgical poem).	y Yehoshua, a guest from ducator and social activist. migration and community also teach us a new piyut	7:00 pm, Meah Class of 2012	2 6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	Parhat Veyetzei 9.00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - Guest: Wilson 10ty Kapanga-Ndjibu (see pg. 8) 11:30 am, Tillot Yeladim 5:00 pm, BBYO Overnight
	5	7:30 pm, New Member Coffee (off-site) (see pg. 7)	4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Everyday Judaism w/Ray Claudia	80	Contemplative Shabbaton (off-site) 9 5:00 pm, Child-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat © 1550 Beacon 6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	Parshat Vayishach Contemplative Shabbaton (off-site) 9:00 am, Shabbat 10:00 am, Shabbat Services (babysitting available) Guest: Drory Yehoshuva 1:15 pm, TBZ Men's Group
	12	13	14	15	16 6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	Parshat Vayeshev 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - Guest: Raisa Shapiro (see pg. 8)
(S)	7:30 pm, Member Coffee (off-site) (see pg. 7)		4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Everyday Judaism w/Rav Claudia		7:30 pm, Pre- Hanukkah Dinner (1) (see pg. 7)	1:00 pm, Bnei Mitzvah Group w/Rabbis
	19	Hanukkah Candle 1 20	Hanukkah Candle 2 21	Hanukkah Candle 3 22	Hanukkah Candle 4 23	Hanukkah Candle 5 24 Parshat Miketz 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat
N 0	7:30 pm, Women's Słudy Group with Rav Claudia		4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Everyday Judaism w/Rav Claudia	7:00 pm, Meah Class of 2012	6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	services (pabysiming available) 1:15 pm, TBZ Men's Group
Hanukkah Candle 6 25 Hi 3:00 pm, TBZ's Hanukkah	Hanukkah Candle ⁷ 26	Hanukkah Candle 8 27	28	29	30	Parshat Vayigash 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services
					6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	

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Saturday	Parshat Vayechi 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - babysitting available	Parshat Shemot	9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services 11:30 pm, Tfilot Yeladim 1:15 pm, TBZ Men's Group	Parshat vaera 21 9:00 am, Torah Study	10:00 am, Shabbat Services - babysitting available	Parshat Bo 9:00 am, Torah Study	10:00 am, Shabbat Services 11:30 pm, Tiflot Yeladim 1:00 Bnei Mitzvah Group w/Rabbi's 7:00 pm, Game Night (see pg. 7)		
Friday	6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	13	6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	20	5:00 Child-Friendly Kabbalat Shabbat @ 1550 Beacon 6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm, Family Yeladim Dinner	27	6:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat		
Thursday	2	2012 - SNOW DAY	7:00 pm, Meah Class of 2012	19	7:00 pm, Meah Class of 2012	26	7:00 pm, Meah Class of 2012		
Wednesday	7	4.00 pili, beli rabbali	4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:00 pm, The Art of Tefillah (see pg. 8)	18	4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Women's Study Group 7:00 pm, The Art of Tefillah (see pg. 8)	25	4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:00 pm, The Art of Tefillah (see pg. 8)		
Tuesday	e	10		11		24	7:30 pm, Member Coffee (see pg. 7)	31	
Monday	2	6		MLK Day 16	BBYO MLK Service Day	23		30	
Sunday	1	00	5:00 pm, Board Meeting	15		22	Family Mitzvah Day - off-site 5:00 pm, 6th Grade visit to Mayyim Hayyim	29	5:00 pm, TC & BBYO 7:00 pm, Rosh Hodesh Group

Hanukkah Meditations

It is customary to use the minutes after candle lighting to meditate on the light of the candles just lit. Sit yourself in a comfortable position gazing at the light. If you are using a usual small Hanukkah candle it might take about 18-25 to completely melt down. If you're using oil or large candles you may wish to only sit for the 18-20 minutes.

Obviously sitting meditatively will be difficult with children present—but I suggest that you make one, two or three of the Hanukkah lighting times into family time: board games, exchanging home-made-gifts, offering gifts of service throughout the year i.e. taking on a chore that one doesn't normally do, or choosing a toy or game to be given away to a child who would not regularly be able to afford one, all to be done in the light of the candle's glow. Following R. Shefa Gold's words below, I would like to suggest 8 meditations you might like to try, one for each night of Hanukkah. Our teacher, Rabbi Shefa, tells us that we can rededicate the holy on Hanukkah by repairing our inner Temple. She says:

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the ancient Holy Temple where our ancestors worshipped. Each year we recall the "great miracle that happened there." Although the Temple no longer stands in Jerusalem, we can still take part in a ritual of rededication of the holy. In our time, God-worship has developed beyond the animal sacrifice that took place in the Temple: Prayer and service are what we offer God. The altar of stone that was swept away finds its true place at the center of the temple of our soul, where the infinite meets the finite, where the spark of God bursts into flame within us. Making our lives into a dwelling place for divine presence, a Mishkan the portable sanctuary that we carry through our wilderness journeys—takes work and attention to detail, a commitment to spiritual practice. The Book of Exodus contains detailed instructions for building the Mishkan. The Mishkan's very purpose is to provide a space within where we can receive the mystery of presence. God says to us (Exodus 25:8): "Make for me a holy place so that I can dwell among you." Inside, among the nation of Israel, and inside our own hearts, God's message to us is that it is possible to stay connected with God at all times, in all places, even as you engage in the life of the world.

But as the story of Hanukkah reminds us, even the holiest place can become desecrated. It is simple, if heartbreaking, to recognize the desecration of the physical Temple. It is a much subtler process to probe the desecration of the inner Temple. We examine the Temple within by asking the very questions that confronted Judah Maccabee upon retaking the Temple: What needs repair? What requires renewal? How shall we kindle the eternal flame? Hanukkah offers us an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the holy, to our connection to God. As the days grow short and the night darkness long, we are invited to enter into the darkness of our own hearts. There, buried beneath the rubble of our disappointments, we find the miraculous spark of our divinity, the awesome knowledge that we are each created in the image of God. This is the spark with which we kindle our menorah. If we heal the personal desecrations we each have suffered and rededicate our lives to holiness. the miracle of Hanukkah happens inside us. Each night of Hanukkah, we light another candle. Each night the light grows brighter, shining its radiance into our own hidden places. It is truly miraculous that the single spark of hope that we excavate from the darkest part of our hearts can ignite the radiant fires of passion that illuminate our way forward, even on the darkest night.

Hanukkah from

8[™] NIGHT

We have crossed the threshold to the transcendent, that which is beyond the natural boundaries. Sense the extraordinary in your life. Contemplate those times when you felt connected to something larger than yourself. Celebrate your capacity to rise up in the fullness of your light and the light of the Divine.

7[™] NIGHT

Sense that we are still in the realm of the natural, the seven days of Creation. Contemplate the way you are natural in your behaviors and where you take on an unnatural poses or persona. Contemplate the fear and anxiety underlying these postures.

6[™] NIGHT

Sense how much we depend on light. Consider the struggle we are in to save our planet from the irresponsible use of all manner of fuels that have come to alter our climates and pollute our air. Contemplate on your own fuel habits and how you can join others in this struggle.

5[™] NIGHT

We begin to contemplate what it really means to bring enlightenment into ourselves and the world. As the light grows we can sense our own power to make change. Contemplate on those areas within yourself and your surroundings that will benefit from more light.

May this Hanukkah and manifold meanings

be-orkha nir-eh or: "In Your light we see light"

Meditations Reb Moshe

4TH NIGHT

Sense the growing light as we are halfway through the journey of rededication. Use this night to sit and contemplate how you are faring so far. What still seems difficult? Sit with either the difficulty or the serenity this practice has engendered in you.

3RD NIGHT

We see and sense the power of birthing, both physical and spiritual. From two comes three overcoming duality. Contemplate the ways in which you overcome duality in your life; how you overcome the either/or way of thinking that prevents synthesis within ourselves. This year the 3rd night is erev Shabbat, as we light the hannukiyah before the Shabbat candles, contemplate how the candles of Shabbat provide an opportunity every week for rededication to the our souls. Think about how Shabbat can enhance your life.

2ND NIGHT

Sense the strength of the coupling of light. Imagine the first two candles as the continuity of the natural world, Adam and Eve, the progenitors of life. Contemplate the power of relationship to another.

1ST NIGHT

The power of light to pierce the darkness is the focus of the first night. The expectation of the First candle remaining lit for one day was a natural assumption. (I don't know why that was a natural assumption, but it sounds nice.) It is natural to see the power of light and dark in the natural world around us. Contemplate how we appreciate the passing of light to darkness.

golel or lifnei khoshekh vekhosekh lifnei or

bring deeper joy to you and those you love.

The Mechanics:

The Hanukkiyah is lit at sundown since Jewish holidays run from sundown to sundown. The only exception is Friday night when the menorah is lit prior to sundown to respect the Sabbath. On the first night, place one candle in the Hanukkiyah's far right slot and also place a candle in the holder for the Shamash. Light the Shamash candle and then say the Hanukkah blessings as you use the Shamash to light the first Hanukkah candle.

First Blessing to Recite

Barukh Ata Adonai Eloyheynu Melekh Ho-olam Asher Kidshanu Be-mitsvotav Ve-tsivanu Lehadlik Neyr Shel Khanuka.

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation. We are grateful for the opportunity of connecting to the Divine with the performance of this action, the kindling of the light of Hanukkah.

Second Blessing to Recite

Barukh Ata Adonai Eloheynu Melekh Ha-olam She-asa Nissim La-avoteynu Ba-yamim Ha-heym Ba-zman Ha-zeh.

Holy One of Blessing, your Presence fills creation. We are conscious of the miracle of life given to our people in its quest for connection to You. This is true today as it was for our ancestors.

Third Blessing, Recited only on the first night of Hanukkah

Barukh Ata Adonai Eloyhenu Melekh Ha-olam Shehekheyanu Ve-kiymanu Ve-higgi'anu La-zman Ha-zeh.

Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation. You are the Source of Life that has preserved and sustained us bringing to this special moment in time

On the he second night, place two candles in the Hanukkiyah's far right (as you face the Hanukkiyah) candle holders. Another candle is placed for the Shamash (helper candle). Say the first two blessings above and then light the candles using the Shamash candle. Light the left-most candle first, the new one, and then light in order, from left to right. Follow this procedure for each night of Hanukkah.

Katherine Gergen-Barnett, Evonne Meranus Co-Chairs, Yeladim Committee

A brief message from Evonne Meranus (new co-chair of Yeladim programs):

Pinat Yeladim: Children's Corner Ever since joining TBZ in September of 2010 with my husband and family, we've been so happy with the family programs and the broader community of warm and welcoming members. And since I know that the programming doesn't just happen, that TBZ members work hard to make it happen, I decided to join my friend Katherine Gergen-Barnet as co-chair and the other wonderful volunteers so I could help achieve the "many hands make light work" proverb and contribute to the quality programming for children and families at TBZ. So many good things are happening at TBZ...and maybe it's just me (I'm still relatively new!) but it seems that there are new families coming to TBZ each week. As we continue to grow, we welcome all those who'd like to help participate in the creation and recreation of the Yeladim programs. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Yeladim

Just a reminder: The Yeladim programs are organized by volunteers who together comprise the Yeladim committee which meets once every 6-8 weeks to achieve a few goals: build relationships, share experiences, learn together, and work toward making the Yeladim programs the best they

can be. The committee is open to anyone who would like to join. You do not have to be a parent to participate! Year-To-Date:

So far this year, we have been enriched by several wonderful events and *mitzvahs*. First, we have had two monthly Family Shabbat services with our neighbors at 1550 Beacon St. Many thanks to Katie Britton for leading the effort to connect with our senior neighbors in a meaningful, spiritual way.

Babysitting for our High Holidays services this year was smooth, successful, and well attended. Many thanks to Jen Klein and Beth Marx for organizing.

As for our Family Education Programs, we had great turn outs for our Rosh Hashanah program in September, complete with arts & crafts, a Rosh Hashanah play and story-telling, and a wonderful service and songs for the Holiday. In October, we had another Family Ed program for Sukkot in the Sukkah. Again the children and parents enjoyed games, arts & crafts, creative movement, snacks, and most importantly blessings in the Sukkah.

Beit Rabban News

The Beit Rabban school year is off to a great start. We have 31 students enrolled across 4 age groups: Ktantanim I (Kindergarten and 1st grade), Ktantanim II (2nd and 3rd grade), Tzeirim (4th and 5th grade), and the Bnei Mitzvah (6th & 7th grade). Suzie Schwartz is our fabulous program director, and our wonderful teachers for these classes are Joanna Lubkin, Micah Shapiro, Laura Held, and Becky Wexler (see below for brief bios of our faculty!). This year Beit Rabban has an exciting new change: a Hebrew specialist! Miriam Diamond will be working with students individually to assess their level and goals in Hebrew learning.

Joanna Lubkin - Ktantanim I Teacher (K-1st grade) (yonaruth@gmail.com) Joanna is thrilled to continue working with *Ktantanim* this year. Joanna has previously substituted at Temple Emanuel's religious school (kindergarten, first, and second grade) and taught music at the JCC in Worcester. She spends her days studying at Hebrew College Rabbinical School, and is looking forward to Wednesday afternoons' joyful singing, learning, and story times. She will also be leading our *Efrochim Tfilot* at TBZ.

Laura Held - Tzeirim Teacher (4th - 5th grade) (lauraeheld@ gmail.com) Laura is really excited to continuing being part of the Beit Rabban teaching staff. Laura studied abroad at Tel Aviv University in 2002, and the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem in '03-04. Laura previously lived at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in CT, first as an Adamah: The Jewish Environmental Fellowship fellow and then as the mashgichah (kosher supervisor). In 2008-2009 she was a teacher at Temple Israel in Longwood teaching 2nd graders. Laura is in a master's program in Agriculture, Food, and Environment at Tufts University's School of Nutrition Science and Policy.

Becky Wexler - Bnei Mitzvah Teacher (6th - 7th grade) (beckywex@yahoo.com) Becky Wexler is a cantorial student at Hebrew College and a klezmer clarinetist who performs throughout the United States and Canada. She has tutored B'nai Mitzvah students since the age of 15 and has enjoyed working in many different capacities in various synagogues in the Boston area.

Miriam Diamond – Hebrew Specialist

(diamond.mir@lycos.com) Miriam Rosalyn Diamond is a Jewish educator who has studied in the U.S. and Israel. She holds a Ph.D. in Education, with coursework in Hebrew, Judaic Studies and supporting people who learn differently. Miriam has deep expertise leading children, adults and families on explorations of Judaism and its relevance to our lives. She has published books and articles on effective teaching, promoting religious literacy and fostering ethical awareness. Miriam is eager to engage all Beit Rabban students in developing greater facility and confidence with the Hebrew language.

Suzie Schwartz – Beit Rabban Coordinator

(beitrabban@tbzbrookline.org) Suzie is currently a rabbinical student at Hebrew College in Boston. Prior to rabbinical school, Suzie received a MA in Jewish Thought from

the University of Chicago Divinity School, a BA in Jewish Philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a BA in American history from Columbia University. Suzie has also been a Jewish educator since college, teaching in synagogues and communities in New York City, Chicago and now Boston. Suzie is active in numerous local Jewish organizations, including Keshet, a grassroots organization dedicated to creating a fully inclusive Jewish community for GLBTQ Jews.

Micah Shapiro is a rabbinical student at Hebrew College. In addition to teaching at Beit Rabban, Micah also teaches

Jewish history, Jewish ethics, and Hebrew at the Sunday School for Jewish Studies in Newton. This past summer, he was the lower camp music director at the JCC Kaleidoscope Arts and Science Camp. Micah is also an active musician outside of teaching, having toured and recorded with multiple groups. He graduated from McGill University with a bachelors degree in Sociology. Micah's family lives in Israel and he has been there more times than he can count. He is excited to bring his spirit and mind to the TBZ community.

Yeladim Calendar January

December

12/25/2011	Sunday Program: Hanukkah Party!	3-5:00 p.m.	
12/24/2011	Babysitting	10:30 a.m12:30 p.m.	
12/21/2011	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.	
12/18/2011	Sunday Program: Deliveries at 1550	10:00 a.m.	
12/17/2011	B'nei Mitzvah Group	1:00 p.m.	
12/17/2011	Tefilot Yeladim Shabbat	11:30 a.m12:15 p.m.	
12/14/2011	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.	
12/11/2011	Mitzvah project for 6 th -8 th graders	morning	
12/10/2011	Babysitting	10:30 a.m12:30 p.m.	
12/9/2011	Friday Night Service @ 1550	5:00 p.m.	
12/7/2011	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.	
12/3-4/2011	Overnight program for High-schoolers (BBYO)		
12/3/2011	Tefilot Yeladim Shabbat	11:30 a.m12:15 p.m.	

1/4/2012	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.		
1/7/2012	Babysitting	10:30 a.m12:30 p.m.		
1/11/2012	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.		
1/14/2012	Tefilot Yeladim Shabbat	11:30 a.m12:15 p.m.		
1/16/2012	BBYO MLK Service Day	TBA		
1/18/2012	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.		
1/20/2012	Friday Night Service @ 1550 followed by Family Dinner	5:00 p.m.		
1/21/2012	Babysitting	10:30 a.m12:30 p.m.		
1/22/2012	Sunday Program: Mitzvah Day	TBD		
1/22/2012	6th graders: Visit to Mayyim Hayim	5:00-6:30 p.m.		
1/25/2012	Beit Rabban	4:00-6:00 p.m.		
1/28/2012	Tefilot Yeladim Shabbat	11:30 a.m12:15 p.m.		
1/28/2012	B'nei Mitzvah Group	1:00 p.m.		



Don't miss the upcoming



on December 25!



Please contact Rebecca Weintraub (rlweintraub@gmail.com) or Liz Bitton (eliabethbitton@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Donations

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Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

Gary & Roslyn Sanders

- IHO the *yahrzeit* of Abraham Pelzman by his wife, Zina Pelzman, his daughter, Zina Pelzman, his grandchildren and Jeffrey Borenstein.
- Judith and George Mark IHO the babynaming of their granddaughter, Avah Mark.
- Joel Kershner and Sheine Wizel IHO the yahrzeit of Joel's mother, Pearl Kershner.
- Sarah Feldman and David Scharfstein IHO the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Eliza.
- Linda Brodt and Paul Katz IHO the Kiddush-Oneg Committee for all of their hard work.
- Bobbi Isberg and Seth Alper IHO the *yahrzeit* of Bobbi's father, Emil Isberg.
- Amy Schottenfels and Jonathan Klein IHO the yahrzeit of Amy's mother, Dulcy Schottenfels.
- Nick and Jan Goldman with gratitude to TBZ's
 Hesed Committee for all of the help and care that
 was given to their daughter Jennifer when her wrist
 was broken.
- Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfels IHO the yahrzeit of Jonathan's father, Albert Klein.

- Casey Corcoran and Margie Skeer Corcoran IHO the babynaming of their daughter, Ariella Dani.
- Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfels IHO the yahrzeit of Jonathan's grandmother, Leah Myers Supowit.
- Molly Silver and John Burstein IHO Molly's 50th birthday.
- Jay Zagorsky and Kim Myers IHO Jay's 50th birthday.
- John and Paula Sinclair IHO the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Isabelle.
- Saul Bitran and Iris Berent IHO the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Alma.
- Tali Walters Buechler and Peter Buechler IHO the yahrzeit of Peter's mother, Betty Buechler.
- Steve Lewis IHO the anniversary of his bar mitzvah.
- Sue Kahn and Dan Kirschner IHO their 5th anniversary.
- Rebecca Arnoldi IHO the yahrzeit of her grandfather, Jacob Hornstein.







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The TBZ Leadership Development Task Force could use your help

2-3 hours per month for 5 months

Contact efrankford@verizon.net



Save these Dates

WOMEN'S ALL-DAY RETREAT @ TBZ

February 12, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

If you are interested in being part of the planning committee contact Rav Claudia at ravclaudia@tbzbrookline.org

TBZ'S ANNUAL
COMMUNITY RETREAT

March 16-18

Prindle Pond Conference
Center

TEMPLE BETH ZION 1566 Beacon Street Brookline, MA 02446

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