



January-February/Tevet -Sh'vat-Adar I
2014/5774

Reb Moshe's Message

Dear Haverim and Haverot,

These winter months are, for many of us, a time for hunkering down with family and friends.

Fireplaces will glow and our tables will be bounteous. We are truly blessed.

Amid these winter months there are two harbingers of spring: *Tu B'Shvat* (The New Year of the Trees) and the weekly Torah portions that talk about the Exodus from Egypt, *matan torah* (the giving of the Torah) and *khet ha-Egel* (the Golden Calf incident).

In mid-January we look to the land of Israel and the hopefulness of early spring, the blossoming of the almond buds; the changing of the heavy rains of fall to the misty moisture of early spring. At TBZ it is a time to celebrate at a *Tu B'Shvat seder*, Wednesday evening, January 15 at 7:30 pm (more information on the back page).

Our Torah study continues and it is heartening to see the many new faces that have joined our Shabbat morning gathering. There is always room for more of you to enjoy our weekly review of the *parshiot* of *Sefer Shmot*, the book of Exodus.

The Exodus from *Mitzrayim* is our paradigm of redemption. It is mentioned at least twice a day in the liturgy as one of the blessings surrounding the *S'hma* declaration. Leaving *Mitzrayim* has both national and individual implications. Over the centuries the hope of *yetziat mitzrayim* has served us well in treacherous times.



The *Mitzrayim* experience has informed us, a nation that supports the fight for justice and empathy for the stranger. *Ger hayiti b'erezt mitzrayim*

—I was a slave in the Land of Egypt— is not a slogan but a mission statement. The admonition to love the stranger appears over 30 times in the Torah, far many more times than the *mitzvah* of loving God or your neighbor. It is said that the reason many Jews, who live in the middle or upper middle class, vote for economic justice and against their own self-interest is that when they enter the voting booth they recall that they were once slaves in *mitzrayim*. This is the power of our redemption paradigm.

Our commitments to providing a safety net for all Americans; our deep desire to see folks pull themselves, with our support, out of a cycle of poverty; our

Continued on page 3

חזקת
KOLEINU

Inside:

Rav Claudia's
Message.....pg. 5
Adult Learning....pgs.8-9
NishmatHayyim....pg. 12
Calendar.....pgs. 10-11
TOG.....pg. 13
Mishpachot.....pgs.14-17

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Hannah Lindhom, Micah Shapiro,
David Winship

*A HUGE yasher koach to
AVA BERINSTEIN for our
fabulous Community Dinner
in December, for all the other
amazing dinners that she
has prepared, and for the
endless time and energy she
has given in her position as
chair of the ONEG/Kiddush
Committee these last 3 years.
THANK YOU AVA!*

Thank you!

- Ann Marie Codur for bringing the award winning documentary **"Tinghir-Jerusalem: Echoes from the Mellah"** by French-Moroccan filmmaker Kamal Hachkar.
- Betsey Glaser and Ellen Kraus-Grosman for updating our name tags.
- Ginni Hamburg for bringing our bulk mail to the Newtonville Post Office.
- Linda Brodt, Maggie Stein and Mona Strick for working on the mailing.

(continued from page 1)

openheartedness about immigration policy, are not the result of "liberalism", but rather emerge from the core experience of *yetziat mitzrayim*.

When Moses demanded of the Pharaoh to *shelakh et ami sheya'avduni*- let my people go so they shall serve Me, it was the beginning of our millennial objection to human tyranny wherever we have dwelled. We worship the All, the One that is within and without us, and this, too, is a result of our exodus experience.

As we read these tales of redemption and the creation of the covenant with the Eternal, the Divine, we understand that we serve higher ideals than self-gratification. This isn't always a popular position as we see so many forms of greed and self-indulgence all around us. We are capable of better. We are instructed to tell this story so that its deep values are transmitted from generation to generation.

Don't wait for the Pesach seder to bring these values to the fore in your life and that of your friends and family. When you are challenged by others who question these values, remind them that they were once strangers in the Land of Egypt. We all have the merit of our ancestors to succeed in our struggles to leave our personal *mitzrayim*, those narrow places that constrict our creativity, stamina, and zeal for a just world. It is personal liberation that leads to the Redemption we believe is the destiny of our planet and those who dwell on it.

With *shalom* and *berakha*, Peace and blessing,

Reb Moshe



Time to Consider Buying a Cemetery Plot

TBZ's Cemetery at Baker Street, on the border of Newton and W.Roxbury, is available for individual and family plots. Most folks delay making this kind of decision until immediately following a death, yet there are many advantages to not waiting and to purchasing a plot now.

The first is financial: over the last 12 years the cost of plots has more than doubled. Second, it permits one to choose the site of the plot.

And third, purchasing now relieves loved ones of some of the many decisions they will need to make in the challenging days following a death.

Plots may be repurchased by the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts if plans do change.

I urge you to consider this and I hope you will not have to use them for many, many more years to come.



Condolences

- To Julie Seeger, John Sano, and their son Sam on the death of Julie's father, Lou Seeger.
- To Sue Schneider on the death of her uncle, Lawrence Mark.
- To Aileen and Neil Grossman on the death of Aileen's mother, Sybil Shulman.
- To the friends and family of Ted Siegel. Ted was a TBZ member for 40 years.
- To Debbie Cohen on the death of her great aunt, Rosalie Lewis Tanzer.
- To Jenni Seicol on the death of her cousin, Rosalie Lewis Tanzer.

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

HaMakom yenakhem otam im shear avlei Tziyon vYrushalayim.

Co-Presidents' Message

David Cherenon & Jenni Seicol

As we settle into the coziness of winter, it's a nice time to think about all the warmth, light and love there is at TBZ. People often tell us that they feel so welcome here, that we are an unusual community in our openness and responsiveness. People say, "It's real here. People care here."

Of course, David and I love to get this kind of feedback about TBZ. We are fortunate that in our roles as co-presidents, we get to have so many wonderful interactions with members and as we look out at the TBZ landscape we see so many people building meaningful relationships.

However, it's important to acknowledge that we hear other voices too, voices that reflect a different experience. Feeling part of a new community takes time, and can be difficult. We urge you all to think about ways we can reach out to people more, ways we can better foster warmth, light and love.

Lori Levi, a member of the Synagogue Practices Committee, is organizing "Greeters" for Friday Night and Saturday morning services, so that everyone feels welcomed when they enter our beautiful sanctuary. Please be in touch with her if you would like to be a "Greeter". This is a great way to promote a tone of friendliness and warmth. But surely we can do more!

So, here are a few thoughts for our consideration. How can we reach out more to people we don't know so well? Can we mix things up and sit with new people at Kiddush occasionally? Can we invite someone we haven't seen for awhile out for a cup of coffee and a nice chat? How might we create an atmosphere here, where everyone feels valued and included?

We would love to hear your ideas. Let's talk!

B'shalom,

Jenni & David



ברוכים הבאים

Welcome to Our New Members!

Laurie Alpert and Barry Weiss

Susannah Heschel

Debra Raisner-Thompson and Eli Thompson

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!



- To Lee Silverstone-Bakalchuk and Phillip Bakalchuk IHO the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Adam.
- To Thalia and Douglas Krakower and big brother Noam on the birth of Avi.
- Irene Abrams and Jonathan Solomon IHO of the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Daniel.



Community Meeting

At TBZ's recent Community Meeting on Dec 8th, we engaged in a teaching on welcoming led by Reb Moshe; heard a report from TBZ's Strategic Thinking Group on the many opportunities and challenges ahead of us as a growing, evolving, intergenerational community; and voted to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees to TBZ's Board of Directors.

We welcome new At-Large Directors Audrey Kadis and Deb Stang. Audrey has been a member of TBZ for more than five years. During that time she has taken responsibility for organizing our High Holiday ushers. In her professional life, she has worked with a variety of non-profits, and has broad business experience in the for-profit world, including expertise in the implementation of technology projects. Audrey is also TBZ's new Treasurer.

Deb Stang has been an active member of TBZ since 2007. She has served as Family Table coordinator, co-chaired the Heshed Committee, and currently participates in the Rosh Chodesh and Tikkun Olam Groups. In her work outside of TBZ, Deb is a pediatric nurse practitioner in primary care.

We look forward to an exciting 2014!



Message from Rav Claudia

Dear Haverim v'Haverot,

Last November I had the opportunity to join a rabbinic delegation to Immokalee, Florida, with *T'ruah* - the Rabbinic call for Human Rights. It was a transformative experience for me. We spent two days learning from and with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, (CIW), a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of corporate social responsibility, community organizing and sustainable food. The CIW is also a leader in the growing movement to end human trafficking due to its groundbreaking work to combat modern-day slavery and other labor abuses common in agriculture.

We started our visit learning about Modern Slavery, the history of CIW and the daily life of the farm-workers. The first morning we awoke before five to visit the parking lot where workers go daily to find work. We met with Laura Germino, CWI coordinator of anti-slavery efforts and with Judge Laura Espinoza who runs the Fair Foods Standards Council. We learned about the Fair Food campaign and how this is transforming the industry. We visited Pacific Tomato Growers and heard about the campaign from the perspective of the owners. Together with some workers from CIW, our delegation of rabbis protested at the Publix Supermarket that has refused to sign the Fair Food Campaign. The last day, one of my colleagues and I had the opportunity to speak (in Spanish!) on Radio Conciencia, the radio station of the CIW, which is continually educating the workers about their rights. (Following this article you can read more about CIW and the Fair Food Campaign).

Listening to the stories of the workers, seeing their strength, their hope and their true belief in the possibility of change was a powerful reminder of the capacity we have to bring about change. It was painful to be reminded that there is so much injustice so close to us. On my way to Florida, I thought that this trip would be hard and sad and indeed it was, but I came back with a profound sense of hope



and faith. There is so much that needs to be done and there is so much that we can do. As I write this, many congregations in North America are commemorating Human Rights Shabbat during the month of December. (National Human Rights Day was December 10th). At TBZ we will have an opportunity to do so on **January 25th**. At this time I will share more with you about this experience and ways to get involved. We will also have guest speakers from the Jewish Labor Committee. (see pg. 6)

Article four in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, reads: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms". And the Torah teaches us: "Do not oppress your neighbor and do not rob him. Do not keep the wages of the worker with you until morning" (Leviticus 19: 13) and "You shall not abuse a needy or destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay his wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for he is in need and his life depends on it." (Deuteronomy 24:14-15). It is our duty as Jews to fulfill this mitzvah, and as consumers we are responsible to do what we can to reduce the oppression in our midst.

During these two days in Immokalee, our rabbinic delegation used the one meeting room of the CIW which was next to the Radio Conciencia, to pray, chant and sing. It was a profound moment of integration of Judaism and Justice, to *davven shacharit* (the morning prayer) in the same space that the workers of the coalition organize to bring about change.

In the picture below, the growers who own the farms, the workers, faith organizers and rabbis stand together in hope and true belief that change is possible. When this picture was taken, I felt something I haven't felt in a long time...perhaps *Ge'ula*, the possibility of redemption, is not as far away as we think.

Rav Claudia

Continued on next page...



Radio Conciencia



Owners, Workers and Rabbis

...From previous page

About the Coalition of Immokalee Workers:

The CIW works in three broad and overlapping spheres:

- **The Campaign for Fair Food:** The CIW's national Campaign for Fair Food educates consumers on the issue of farm labor exploitation – its causes and solutions – and forges alliances between farmworkers and consumers in an effort to enlist the market power of major corporate buyers to help end that exploitation. Since 2001, the campaign has combined creative, on-the-ground actions with cutting edge online organizing to win Fair Food Agreements with eleven multi-billion dollar food retailers, including McDonald's, Subway, Sodexo and Whole Foods, establishing more humane farm labor standards and fairer wages for farmworkers in their tomato suppliers' operations.
- **The Fair Food Program:** In 2010, the Campaign for Fair Food resulted in the creation of the CIW's Fair Food Program (FFP), a groundbreaking model for social responsibility based on a unique partnership among farmworkers, Florida tomato growers, and participating buyers. Under the FFP, the CIW conducts worker education sessions, held on-the-farm and on-the-clock, on the new labor rights set forth in the Fair Food Code of Conduct; the Fair Food Standards Council, a third-party monitor created to ensure compliance with the FFP, conducts regular audits and carries out ongoing complaint investigation and resolution; and participating buyers pay a "penny per pound" premium which tomato growers pass

onto workers as a line-item bonus on their regular paychecks (Between January 2011 and May 2013, over \$10 million in Fair Food Premiums were paid into the Program). The FFP standards are backed by the market consequences established in the CIW's Fair Food Agreements, in which participating buyers commit to buy Florida tomatoes only from growers in good standing with the FFP, and to cease purchases from growers who fail or refuse to comply with the Program. The FFP has been called "a brilliant model" and "one of the great human rights success stories of our day" in a Washington Post op-ed.

- **Anti-Slavery Campaign:** The CIW's Anti-Slavery Campaign has uncovered, investigated, and assisted in the prosecution of numerous multi-state, multi-worker farm slavery operations across the Southeastern U.S., helping liberate over 1,200 workers held against their will; pioneered the worker-centered approach to slavery prosecution; played a key role in the passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act; and co-founded the national Freedom Network USA and the Freedom Network Training Institute, which is regularly attended by local, state and federal law enforcement officials. The implementation of the Fair Food Program has ushered in the newest phase of the CIW's anti-slavery efforts, that of prevention, whereby the market consequences built into the FFP, including zero tolerance for forced labor, encourage participating growers to actively police their own operations, and the worker-to-worker education program at the heart of the FFP informs and empowers tens of thousands of workers to serve as monitors to identify and expose slavery operations wherever they might be present.

Save the Date

Human Rights Shabbat at TBZ

January 25, 2014

Join our congregation on January 25, 2014, as we join more than 150 other communities in the US and Canada to celebrate Human Rights Shabbat, a project of **T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights**. We will be collaborating with the **New England Jewish Labor Committee**.

Our commemoration will include guest speakers:

Francesca Contreras: Massachusetts Campaign Coordinator for the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Marya Axner: Director of the New England Jewish Labor Committee

Now in its 6th year, Human Rights Shabbat is an opportunity to study human rights in Judaism, to learn about contemporary human rights issues and to commit ourselves to action.

Kabbalat Shabbat Time Change for the month of January...

A Kabbalat Shabbat Task Force was created last year to look at our Friday Night Service with fresh eyes. While we at TBZ are grounded in tradition, we also evolve along with our growing community.

After much discussion the Task Force created a survey to look at ways our Friday Night Service might better serve our community. In response to your suggestions, it has recommended we experiment with the starting time.

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY: Friday night services will begin at 6:30. Doors will open at 6:00 for a 20-minute meditation and the service will begin (promptly) at 6:30 and end (promptly) at 7:45. Followed, as always, by an Oneg.

January has 5 Fridays, and this will give us an opportunity to decide if we want to continue.

We are hoping this will make it easier for you to attend after your workday is over, and that people who have previously not been able to come will find it more convenient. Join us. Let us know what you think.



Divrei Torah

If you occasionally miss services, you do not need to miss out on the wonderful *Divrei Torah* given by our members.

Here is the link: <http://www.tbzbrookline.org/resources/community-dvrei-torah/shabbat-divrei-torah-by-tbz-members/>

If you have given a *Divrei Torah* and would like to see it posted, send it to ravclaudia@tbzbrookline.org.



Save the Date!
Purim Party
March 15

Save the Date

Celebration!

The first adult *b'nei mitzvah* class of TBZ will be celebrating its 13th anniversary of becoming *b'nei mitzvot* by reading Torah on **January 18**, parashah Yitro. The congregation is invited to celebrate with **Lois Cohen, Naomi Cotter, Joan Figler, Kim Meyers and Judy Wurtman** at Kiddush following services.



Adult Learning at TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, former chair

Lunch & Learn with Reb Moshe

An ongoing class.

Tuesdays at noon, Resumes on Jan 7

Torah Study

Offered every Shabbat morning at
9 am except on holidays,
followed by our 10 am service.

Our Third Annual TBZ Women's Day Retreat Sunday, January 26, 2014, 9 am - 3 pm.

Open to all TBZ women.

This is an opportunity to meet new women from TBZ, take part in large and small group discussions, prayer, food, and sisterhood.

We will be learning in classes and workshops led by Rav Claudia and TBZ members.

Babysitting will be provided.

We hope you will be able to participate all day however if you can only come for part, we still request that you sign up.

\$20 includes a catered lunch, coffee and nosh.

For scholarships, contact Rav Claudia.

Register online at www.tinyurl.com/tbzwomen2014

or call the office at 617-566-8171 ext 14.

An Honest Relationship with God

with Rav Claudia

Mondays, Jan 27, Feb 3 & 10

7:30-9:00 pm

In this course we will study and discuss the theology of Rabbi David Hartman, focusing on his last book "The God Who Hates Lies: Confronting & Rethinking Jewish Tradition". Rabbi Hartman, who passed away this year, was one of the important Jewish theologians in the 20th century, and his influence spread from the center he founded in Jerusalem, throughout the Jewish world and across denominations. The book we will read addresses topics such as the possibility of an honest and

meaningful relationship with God, prayer, Torah study, gender and a Jewish understanding of the role of God in history. Rabbi Hartman offered fresh ways to respond to the challenge and call of religion in contemporary times. Participants are encouraged to read the whole book. The specific chapters that will be discussed in each class will be emailed as a PDF to those who sign up. The book can be purchased online and in bookstores.

Register on the TBZ website:

<http://www.tbzbrookline.org/registration/>

Acts of Hope and Loving-Kindness at Life's End

New Jewish Perspectives

Teach us to number our days that we may be wise-hearted. (Psalm 90)

Thursday evenings, March 6, 13, 20, 27,

7:30-9:00 p.m.

An exploration of important questions sponsored by four Brookline synagogues:

Congregation Kehillath Israel, Temple Beth Zion, Temple Ohabei Shalom & Temple Sinai

in cooperation with Hebrew Senior Life, Hospice Care.

Sign up online in this link: tinyurl.com/endoflifetbz

or by calling the TBZ office 617-566-8171 ext 14.

Kibud Av v'Aim:

Caring for Aging Parents and Others

Thursday, 3/6/14 at Temple Ohabei Shalom

Questions, decisions and dilemmas that arise when elders are faced with illness and decline. Following a brief look at the *mitzvah* to honor our parents, we will learn together from real-life situations. A medical ethicist, a social worker and a rabbi will discuss each case.

What We Can Do When the Doctor Says, "There is Nothing More We Can Do."

Thursday 3/13/14 at Temple Beth Zion

How can we respond when aggressive, life-prolonging treatment is no longer an option? For answers we will look at the world of Palliative and Hospice Care. What values does Jewish tradition bring to choosing comfort care at the end of life? A case history will frame the discussion with professionals in end of life planning.



When Life Has Ended

Thursday 3/20/14 at Temple Sinai

Jewish tradition guides us at the time of death and bereavement, just as it suggests behavior throughout life. We will study the foundational values on which the traditions and rituals for mourning are built, paying special attention to the reemergence of *tahara* (spiritual preparation of the body) and the idea of a Community *Hevrah Kadisha* (Burial Society).

We will also explore ways to talk with children about death, and about healing from loss.

Having "The Conversation"





3/27/14 at Kehillath Israel


Few people like to talk about life's final days and their wishes for medical treatment, if faced with grave illness. Yet such conversations- between parents and their adult children or with spouses, partners, best friends, leading to the preparation of an advanced directive- are a precious gift. They are also very Jewish.

This will be a hands-on workshop using the materials of 'The Conversation Project'.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please note that for the month of January, Kabbalat Shabbat will begin at 6:30 pm. Doors will open at 6 pm for a 20-minute meditation.			New Year's Day Offices closed	2	3 5:30 pm, Child-Friendly Kabbalat Shabbat @1550 Beacon (see pg. 13) 6-6:20 pm, Meditation  6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	4 Parshat Bo 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - babysitting available
5 10:00 am, Organic Torah of Shmita 10:00 pm, Board Meeting 6:30 pm, Teen Girls Rosh Hodesh	6	7 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	8 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban	9	10 6-6:20 pm, Meditation  6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	11 Parshat Beshalach 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services 11:30 Mishpachot Services 1:00 pm, Bnei Mitzvah Group 7:00 pm, Game Night
12 10:30 am, Family Tu B'Shvat & Adult Learning (see pg. 14) 7:00 pm, Rosh Hodesh Group	13	14 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	15 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Tu B'Shvat Seder (see back page)	16  Tu B'Shvat	17 6-6:20 pm, Meditation  6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	18 Parshat Yitro 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - babysitting available Adult Bnei Mitzvah Celebration (see pg. 7)
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Offices closed	21 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	22 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Evolving Dharma w/ Jay Michaelson (see pg. 12)	23	24 6-6:20 pm, Meditation  6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat Mishpachot (see pg. 13)	25 Parshat Mishpatim 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - Human Rights Shabbat (see pg. 6) Mishpachot (see pg. 13) 11:30 am, Mishpachot Services 1:30 pm, Meditation Retreat
26 9:00 am, Women's Day Retreat (see pg. 7)	27 7:30-9:00 pm, Honest Relationship w/ God (see pg. 8)	28 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	29 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban	30	Rosh Hodesh Adar 31 5:30 pm, Child-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat @1550 Beacon (see pg. 13) 6-6:20 pm, Meditation  6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February, Kabbalat Shabbat will begin at either 6:00 or 6:30 pm We'll let you know!						1 <i>Parshat Terumah</i> Rosh Hodesh Adar 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - Babysitting Available 6:00 pm, Havdallah & Movie Night Gr. 6 & 7
2 Tikun Olam Member Retreat - off-site 5:00 pm, Board Meeting 6:30 pm, Teen Girls Rosh Hodesh 7:00 pm, Rosh Hodesh Group	3 7:30-9:00 pm, Honest Relationship w/God (see pg. 8)	4 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	5 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban 7:30 pm, Synagogue Practices Committee	6	7 6:00 or 6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat 	8 <i>Parshat Teitzaveh</i> 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services 11:30 am, Mishpachot Services 1:00 pm, Bnei Mitzvah Group
9 1:30 and 3:30 pm, Pottery Workshop (see pg. 14)	10 7:30-9:00 pm, Honest Relationship w/God (see pg. 8)	11 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	12 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban	13 7:30 pm, Israel Committee	14 6:00 or 6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat 	15 <i>Parshat Ki Tisa</i> 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services - Babysitting available
16	17 Presidents' Day Offices Closed	18 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	19	20	21 6:00 or 6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat 	22 <i>Parshat Vayakhel</i> 9:00 am, Torah Study 10:00 am, Shabbat Services 11:30 am, Mishpachot Services
23	24	25 12:00 pm, Lunch and Learn with Reb Moshe	26 4:00 pm, Beit Rabban	27	28 5:30 pm, Child-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat @1550 Beacon (see pg. 13) 6:00 or 6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat 	

Nishmat Hayyim at TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, chair

For the month of January we will begin Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services with a 20-minute meditation led by Reb Moshe, beginning at 6 pm. Please join us.

Evolving Dharma: Understanding the Meditation Revolution

with Dr. Jay Michaelson

Wednesday, Jan 22, 7:30-9 pm

in the sanctuary

The last twenty years have witnessed a revolution in the West's embrace of meditation. Mindfulness is now everywhere: schools, hospitals, prisons, even in the U.S. Marines. But the most radical changes are yet to come. With new scientific data showing how meditation changes the brain, contemplative practice is set to explode. Based on his new book, *Evolving Dharma: Meditation, Buddhism, and the Next Generation of Enlightenment*, Jay will talk about our unique historical moment, in which everything we know about the mind and the brain is shifting.

Dr. Jay Michaelson, writer and activist, has authored 100s of articles as well as five books, most recently *Evolving Dharma: Meditation, Buddhism and the Next Generation of Enlightenment*. He is currently an adviser to the Varieties of Meditative Experience project at Brown University.

Shabbat Afternoon

Meditation Retreats

with Bobbi Isberg and Sheila
Yoheved Katz

Jan 25, Feb 22 & Mar 29

1:30 – 5:30 pm in the TBZ sanctuary

Introduction to Jewish Contemplative Practice

with Reb Moshe, Bobbi Isberg, Sheila
Yoheved Katz, and Reggie Silberberg

Sunday, Feb 9, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

This will be offered monthly.

Save the Date:

A Meditation Workshop with Norman Fischer

Sunday, May 18, 10 am – 4 pm, details to follow early spring

Norman Fischer is a Zen Buddhist priest, teacher, poet, and former abbot of San Francisco Zen Center. He is founder and teacher of the Everyday Zen Foundation (www.everydayzen.org) dedicated to sharing Zen teaching and practice with the world. Along with Rabbi Alan Lew (z"l), he co-founded Makor Or, a San Francisco based Jewish meditation center.

He is an author of both nonfiction and poetry, most recently *Sailing Home: Using Homer's Odyssey to Navigate Life's Perils and Pitfalls* (2008).

Photos from Hanukkah Party



From prayer to social action...

TBZ's Tikkun Olam Group

creating opportunities to make a difference as a Jewish community

by Sue Brent

The Tikkun Olam Group (TOG) is a vibrant group of committed individuals who come together to put Jewish values into action. Whether it's participating in the Walk for Hunger or writing to our representatives to enact social justice, we create a place for all TBZ members to help repair the world.

- On October 13th, over 3000 people joined the Massachusetts Down's Syndrome Congress Buddy Walk around Quannapowitt Lake in Wakefield. Due to advances in medicine and pedagogy, people with this condition are now able to live longer, fuller, healthier lives. The MDSC works to increase acceptance and inclusion of people with Down's Syndrome through events such as the annual Buddy Walk. TOG members Galit Schwartz and her husband, Daniel (and their children) participated in the walk. In all, our community raised nearly \$500 in support of MDSC's efforts this year. Yasher Koach!

For more information on the Buddy Walk and Down's Syndrome, please go to <http://www.mdsc.org>

- On October 26th, Leah Mitula, Proprietor of Denur Crafts, Kenya, returned to TBZ after her first visit last year. She spoke at services on Saturday morning and told the Congregation about Denur Crafts which is



a Collective that operates as an informal group of (primarily) unemployed mothers who work together to design and construct authentic Kenyan jewelry and other handcraft items. These are sold to help raise the funds needed to send their children to school (parents must pay for their child's education or they cannot attend school). Denur Crafts was started in 1994 with just four women and has grown to a membership of over 41 women which is currently educating 79 children and is growing.

There was a lot of enthusiastic support for the work Leah is doing on behalf of Denur Crafts. She returned to TBZ on Sunday, October 27th to sell the jewelry and handcrafted items. The generosity of those who came was very touching. Goods purchased and contributions made, made it possible for 11 children to attend school for the year! Last year, 6 children were able to go to school because of TBZ's support. Leah extended a warm thank you on behalf of Denur Crafts for TBZ's support. She will return to Kenya in January and will forward pictures of the children at the schools.



Pinat Mishpachot



Save the Date: 2014

TBZ Community Retreat

May 9-11, 2014, Location TBA

All are invited to join us for our 6th Annual Community Retreat, May 9-11, 2014. At the time of this printing, we are still trying to determine the best location for our retreat this year - we can promise that wherever we go, we will have a wonderful time praying together, spending time in nature, learning and playing. There will be special programming for adults and children of all ages.

Registration for the Retreat will open on February 1. Please contact Suzie Schwartz Jacobson at beitrabban@tbzbrookline.org if you have any questions.

B'nei Mitzvah Class Learns how to Hone their D'verei Torah Skills

by David Winship, Bnei Mitzvah Teacher

In our studies at *Beit Rabban* this year we have been delving into the issues and connections between social identity, personal identity, ethics and law. In taking on any ethical question we first start by gathering our own thoughts as a base from which to grow, and then, because it is *Beit Rabban*, we delve into the Jewish text. We often look at texts in the book of Genesis because it is filled with stories that show characters dealing with a great number of ethical conundrums. Once we examine the text with discussions, debates, and a good helping of *midrash*, we are ready to *d'rash*!

The challenge of any good student and teacher team is to take the material and make it relevant, make it worth knowing. This is achieved through the process of *d'rash*, a process of crafting one's own explanation, one's own point of view. We push each other through class presentations, debates, and discussions to sharpen our ideas, sometimes sticking to our own point of view and sometimes playing games where we try to support all sorts of different opinions.

Once we have pushed each other, then we delve back into the text to be pushed again into the teachings of the

rabbis. We use sections of *Sefer Ha-aggadah*, a book that is a collection of Talmudic teachings arranged mostly by subject. The rabbis were trying to take the stories of the Torah and turn them into precepts by which a society could function. As we study them, we try to crack this rabbinical code, asking ourselves: What did the rabbis think of as being positive? What effect were the rabbis trying to have on the world? Do we value the same things as the rabbis? How can we use these laws to positive effect in the world?

Then, we craft and give a *dvar*. Speaking in front of people is a hard thing to do, but in order to create change someone needs to speak up. We work on how to craft a convincing speech and provide opportunities to practice delivering them. There is something powerful in standing in front of your classmates and telling them your point of view, how you have internalized the last month of study, and letting us learn deeply from you.

I believe people who do great things in this world exist because at this age someone told that child that their voice matters, that they should take on the responsibility to speak up. That, in my humble opinion, is the real beauty in *b'nei mitzvah* students: that we give them an opportunity to share their voice, and assure them that their opinion has been heard. I can't wait to hear the rest of my students give many more *d'verei torah*.



Hanukkah Party

On December 4, over 150 TBZ members of all ages joined together to celebrate the 8th night of Hanukkah. A huge *yashar koach* and thank you goes to Liz Bitton who organized the whole event!

Mishpachot Committee is growing!

On December 15 the *Mishpachot* committee had a great mini-retreat. 15 parent leaders met together with TBZ rabbis and staff to discuss the mission and vision of the *mishpachot* committee and the *mishpachot* program. Together, we re-organized the way we work together, creating several teams and recommitting ourselves to a leadership model based on partnership and family engagement. Currently parent leaders are working together on an ongoing basis to drive the vision and decision making of our *tefillah* program, *Beit Rabban*, the community Retreat and *mishpachot* communications. We are excited to engage more parent leaders in this structure, and invite you to get involved. Contact Jenny Berz for more information.

Jenny Berz, *Mishpachot* Chair (jbberz@gmail.com)

New Opportunity for Beit Rabban Students— Zman Ivrit—Hebrew Immersion

For 8 weeks in February and March, we will be holding an optional Hebrew immersion program for *Beit Rabban* students. The program will be held on Monday afternoons/early evenings (exact time TBD) and will be taught by Suzie and Miriam Diamond, our *Beit Rabban* Hebrew learning specialist. The goal of this program is to help your student achieve one distinct, personal learning goal around Hebrew—for example, your student might want to learn to read Hebrew more fluently, learn their vowels, learn some basics of spoken Modern Hebrew, work on prayer Hebrew, etc. We will be tailoring the program to the needs and interests of the students by pairing them in small groups with individual learning plans. We hope that this will be a model for future learning opportunities for *Beit Rabban* students. The cost for *Zman Ivrit* is \$120, and we need 7 students signed up to hold the program.

In special circumstances, we might open the program to non-*Beit Rabban* students.

For more information and to register, please contact Suzie at beitrabban@tbzbrookline.org.

Mishpachot Kabbalat Shabbat @ 1550

Every month, TBZ families join together for a joyful, musical *kabbalat shabbat* next door, with our neighbors at Hebrew Senior Life (1550 Beacon street). Our upcoming family *kabbalat shabbat* services will be on **January 3, January 31 and February 28**.

Please email Suzie Schwartz Jacobson at beitrabban@tbzbrookline.org for the entry code to 1550.

MishpaHOST — Shabbat is Coming to a Neighborhood Near You!

We are excited to announce our second annual *MishpaHOST*! On January 24 and 25th, 2014, TBZ families will host small vegetarian potluck Shabbat dinners and *seudah shlishit*/ *havdalot* gatherings in their homes. At the meals, we will eat, sing, pray and have fun together. This is a great chance for everyone to enjoy *Shabbat* in a fun, relaxing environment closer to home.

TBZ members are invited to sign up at www.tinyurl.com/MishpaHOST2014 for a meal.

We look forward to spending Shabbat with you!

TBZ Teen Girls' Rosh Hodesh Program— Join us for our Second year!

Last year we debuted a new Teen Girls' *Rosh Hodesh* Group, and this year we are off to a great start. Each month, 8th, 9th and 10th grade girls join facilitator Suzie Schwartz Jacobson to delve into the month's holidays and themes, learn more about themselves and each other, and have a great time. All 8th and 9th grade girls at TBZ are invited to join. Here are our upcoming dates for the year:

Shevat: Jan 5

Adar 1: Feb 2

Adar 2: March 2

Nissan: March 30

Ayar: May 4

Sivan: June 1

For more information and to sign up, please contact Suzie Jacobson at beitrabban@tbzbrookline.org.

Ongoing Programs:

Babysitting: January 4, 18, February 1, 15

Tfilot Mishpachot: January 11, 25, February 8 and 22

Bnei Mitzvah Group: January 11, February 8

Beit Rabban: January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 26

Calendar for all Mishpachot events in our website:

<http://www.tbzbrookline.org/learning/children-family-education/mishpachot-calendar/>

If you would like to be added in our TBZ parents google list:

Please e-mail Jenny Berz:
jbberz@gmail.com

October 2013 TBZ Mitzvah Day at JF&CS Family Table**Mishpachot Pottery Workshop****Feb 9, 1:30-3:00 pm and 3:30-5:00 pm**

Join us at our annual pottery workshop to create Seder Plates for your home with artist Sasha Bergmann Lichtenstein.

We will have two sessions, 1:30 - 3:00 pm and 3:30 - 5:00 pm, each limited to twelve families.

RSVP needed. You must sign up and pay to reserve your place. Cost: \$20 per family. To sign up, go to www.tinyurl.com/TBZPottery2014.

Scholarships available—please contact Rav Claudia.

Artist bio: Sasha is the ceramics and sculpture teacher at Gann Academy, and teaches ceramics at JCDS. She sells her pottery at Kolbo and the Arsenal Center for the Ceramic Arts and enjoys completing many personalized commissions. Sasha had a one-woman exhibition at the Mayyim Hayyim Gallery. In addition, Sasha has created collaborative art projects nation-wide and in Israel where she brings communities of people together through large-scale sculptural art projects. Visit her website at: www.sashacreations.com.

**Family Tu B'Shvat Seder****in partnership with Ganei Beantown Jewish Gardens****Sunday, January 12****10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Join us for a joyful celebration of the New Year of the Trees.

We will sing, drink grape juice and eat different fruits as we honor the gifts of the earth.

The program will include an adult learning session. More details to follow.

To register for one or both:

<http://tinyurl.com/FamilyTuBShvat2014>



Havdallah and Drumming
December 14, 2013



Babies Gathering
December 15, 2013



Donations

(Donors 10/11 - 12/3/13)

Fran Shtull Adams
Seth Alper & Roberta Isberg
Lester & Esfira Annenberg
Richard Bankhead
Morton Berenson
Harris Berman & Ruth Nemzoff
Jonathan & Jennifer Berz
Nancy Blacksin
Mark Blogier
Anne Braudy
Phyllis Brawarsky & Noah Fasten
Sue Brent
Katie Britton & Allan Telio
Michael & Margaret Bromberg
David & Betty Buchsbaum
Tali Walters Buechler
Debbie Cohen
Howard Cohen & Myra Musicant
Jonathan & Savyon Cohen
Andre & Marilyn Danesh
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Jack Eiferman & Fern Fisher
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Klara Levin
Ronnie Levin & Joel Schwartz
Cynthia & Sandy Levinson
Alan & Helen Leviton
Lisa Lovett & Julie Reuben
Rabbi Natan & Ilana Margalit
Nancy Mazonson & David Ofsevit
Maurice Medoff
David Neiman
Irwin & Gloria Joan Pless
Alex & Irina Posternak
Diane & Martin Richler
Howie & Susie Rodenstein

Rabbi Or Rose & Judith Rosenbaum
Leonard & Linda Rosen
William & Beverly Rosen
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Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

- Lee Silverstone-Bakalchuk and Phillip Bakalchuk IHO the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Daniel.
- Ronnie Levin IHO the 90th birthday of her mother, Vivian Levin.
- Maria Fisher IHO the *yahrzeit* of her father, Harry Fisher.
- Joel Kershner and Sheine Wizel IHO the *yahrzeit* of Joel's father, Morris Kershner.

- Irene Abrams and Jonathan Solomon IHO the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Daniel.
- Sara Smolover and Larry Kraus IHO the *yahrzeits* of their mothers, Irene Smolover and Charlotte Kraus.



Would you like to sponsor a Kiddush?

Visit our website to find out more:

<http://www.tbzbrookline.org/membership/sponsor-a-kiddush/>



Save the Date

Celebrate Tu B'Shvat



Tu B'Shvat Seder

Wed, January 15, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Please Join us for Our Annual

Tu B'shvat Seder: With song and food we will celebrate
the joyful New Year of the Trees.

Sign up at: www.tinyurl.com/tubshvat2014tbz

We will also have a Family Seder on Sun, Jan 12, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

See pg. 16 for more info.



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