

Fall 2018

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
**KOLEINU**

גדל

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# FACING CHALLENGES AND STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER



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[News from Beit Rabban](#)

[Tikkun Olam at TBZ](#)

[High Holiday Schedule](#)

# NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

president@tbzbrookline.org

Welcome back from summer! I hope that you and your families had some fun, relaxing times, and are rejuvenated for the New Year. In just a few days (aren't they early this year?) we will join together to celebrate the High Holidays. For some of you, the High Holidays are your primary connection to our services, our building, and each other. For others, these services are another stop on the year-round calendar of shul-going. For all of us, it is a time to relish the community we have built that allows for us to be engaged and connected at whatever level works for each individual.

In June, about 50 members of our community met at our semi-annual meeting to vote on the proposed amendment to TBZ's Bylaws, formalizing the membership status of members of Jewish households who are not Jewish. Fully supported by the Rabbis and the Board, the nearly unanimous vote affirmed that TBZ is committed to embracing all members of families who want to be a part of our community. We did not vote on changing the path to leadership for these members, as - based on the extensive community conversations we held on this issue - we felt more reflection was necessary to build consensus. I am proud to be a part of a community who could move forward with this Bylaws change in a respectful and open way. The effect of this vote has already had an impact. The affirmation that our active, non-Jewish family members have received has been powerful and heightened their commitment to TBZ.

The other focus of our June meeting was to parse our Mission Statement into the categories 'how we are doing' and 'where do we want to go'. To remind you, our Mission states:

"TBZ is an independent, inclusive Jewish congregation whose members of all ages are committed to each other, to joyful participatory worship, to meaningful Jewish learning, spiritual growth and acts of social justice."

Here are just a few examples of this engaging exercise:

#### "Independent"

- We chart our own course/ponder questions/respectfully/open to a variety of experiences/always stretching

#### "Inclusive"

- Ruderman inclusion project successes and new mental health initiative

#### "Members of All Ages"

- continue connections for post-bar mitzvah/post Beit Rabban young adults

#### "Committed To Each Other"

- New "Opt out" approach for Hesed

#### "Joyful Participatory Worship"

- More drumming, music, a choir?

#### "Meaningful Jewish Learning"

- Request more training in ritual leadership (leyning, leading prayer)

#### "Spiritual Growth"

- How to deepen connection to prayer?

#### "Acts of Social Justice"

- Involve teens

I want to highlight one suggestion that will be implemented this year. You will be hearing more about it from our Hesed Committee Co-chairs soon. Our Hesed Community is going to become an "opt-out" community, meaning that all TBZ members will be added to the email list that informs us about needs in the community. If you don't want to receive these emails, you will easily be able to 'opt-out'. Let's operate from the assumption that we all want to care for and help each other, and that some of us have more time and space to do that than others.

I recently participated in a shiva minyan for one of our members and was approached by a participant who belongs to a different local Temple. She expressed how moved she was by the warmth, support and "connectedness" of the TBZ community. She could barely put

(Continued on next page)



#### OUR RABBIS

Reb Moshe Waldoks, Senior Rabbi ext. 12  
rebmsh@tbzbrookline.org  
Rav Claudia Kreiman, Rabbi ext. 11  
ravclaudia@tbzbrookline.org

#### SYNAGOGUE STAFF

Steven Greenberg, Executive Director ext. 10  
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Beth Ehrenreich, Assistant Director ext. 17  
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Ed Kleiman, Bookkeeper  
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Lindsay Eagle, Office Assistant ext. 13  
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#### OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sara Smolover  
president@tbzbrookline.org

#### Vice-Presidents

External Relations: Carol Kamin  
Finance & Administration: Michael Goldberg  
Member Relations: Tali Buechler Walters  
Programming: Diane O'Donoghue  
Spiritual Life: open

#### Treasurer

Geoff Stein

#### Secretary

Eddie Taub

#### At-Large Members

Jenny Berz, Nikki Decter, Kathy Kates, Larry Kraus, Geoff Stein, Eddie Taub

#### Past Presidents

Gabriel Belt, Irwin Pless, Howard Cohen, Myra Musicant,  
Enid Shulman, Jay Zagorsky, Fran Adams, Jonathan Klein,  
David Cherenson, Jenni Seicol, Tali Buechler Walters, Sue Kahn

#### Committee Chairs

Adult Learning: Jill Goldberg, Ken Reich  
Beit Rabban Steering Committee: Rebecca Blouwolf, Jordan Braunig  
Book Club: Maxwell Bauman, Tammy Mitchell, Lilly Pelzman  
Building: Jack Daniels  
Building Revitalization: Jonathan Klein, Ken Wexler  
Development: Sarah Fendrick  
Garden: Rick Bankhead  
Hesed: Debra Morley, Linda Rosen  
Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Danya Handelsman  
Israel Committee: Karen Naimier, Allen Taylor  
Membership: Kathy Kates, Enid Shulman  
Men's Group: Rob Kaim, David Neiman  
Mishpachot: Shoshanna Korn-Meyer  
Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg  
Nominating Committee: Sue Kahn  
Rosh Hodesh: Meryl Finkel, Rachel Goodman  
Social Action  
Family Table: Alan Weisner, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner  
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers  
Tikkun Olam: Judy Schechtman, Jed Shugerman  
GBIO: Susan Bookbinder, Rosalind Joffe  
Resistance: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson

Synagogue Practices: Eddie Taub

Torah Readers: Josh Blouwolf

Young Adult Committee: Courtney Bergan, Caitlin Feuer

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(Continued from page 2)

into words how different the feeling in the room was from the feeling she gets from her own Temple's shiva minyanim. Of course, I encouraged her to join us more often! And then, I thought more about her words...and how we got to be this community that she observed.

First and foremost, it is our rabbis, who lead us with authenticity, spiritual grounding, a passion for learning, and the imperative that we care about and for each other. Second, it's that our members are 'seekers' who reflect these same qualities: we are authentic,

spiritually growing, passionate to learn, and consistently show up for each other in times of need. Finally, our lay leaders are 100% committed to ensuring that these values—and more—are expressed with integrity, responsibility, and continual reflection on how we can best meet our challenges.

Thank you for your participation, your commitment, and your support of TBZ. I look forward to greeting you in these next days and wishing you and your family a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah.

## News from the Inclusion Committee

**Last year, Temple Beth Zion was honored to become a Congregational Partner of the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP), a joint program between the Ruderman Foundation and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. The mission of RSIP is to create communities where people of all abilities are valued equally and participate fully. Included in this honor was a grant of \$5,000. This past year, we have used these funds in a variety of ways. In the sanctuary, we have created accessible seating by adding arms to some chairs and spaces for wheelchairs. We have also purchased assistive hearing devices, magnifiers, and fidget tools for those with hearing, vision, and attention issues, respectively. During kiddush, we have accommodated those with food sensitivities by adding a table filled with gluten-free and other allergen-free foods. Throughout the year, we have promoted understanding of the issue of inclusion by hosting talks and workshops.**

**For the coming year, RSIP is turning its attention to the issue of mental health and is coming up with a range of initiatives. We are excited to announce that TBZ will be joining with RSIP, and other synagogues in the greater Boston area, to focus on this often hidden disability. We will be working to increase our general awareness of this issue and to learn what we, as individuals and as a community, can do to support those with mental health needs. We are putting out a call to our members—mental health professionals and anyone who would like to help us with this initiative. The Inclusion Committee welcomes your support and warmly invites you to join us. If you are interested in participating, please contact our co-chairs, Sue Brent and Danya Handelsman at: [inclusion@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:inclusion@tbzbrookline.org). Please feel free to contact us at that address with any feedback and concerns. We assure you that all communications will be kept confidential.**

**Finally, we are grateful for the strong support of our rabbis, leadership, and RSIP. Please stay tuned for more inclusion news.**

## TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

This is only a sample of the exciting events happening at TBZ! Check out our website to learn more about our programming and committees, and help us continue to grow our dynamic and spirited community.

### Bruchim HaBa'im Welcoming Shabbat

Do you know someone looking for a new spiritual home? Spread the word and invite your friends to join our vibrant and diverse TBZ community as we celebrate a special Welcoming Shabbat! Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, September 7 at 6:15 pm. Saturday, September 8 join us for Torah study at 9 am. Our Torah service begins at 10 am and will be followed by a festive Kiddush and opportunity to meet our dynamic rabbis!

### Family Table and Tikkun Olam:

#### Fix the World by Helping to End Food Insecurity



Marilyn Glazer-Weisner and Alan Weisner are TBZ's co-coordinators of Family Table. Their efforts in leading us to address food insecurity are quite remarkable. They've made everything from refrigerator magnets to key fobs to bracelets all imprinted with words to help

us remember to **bring soups and crackers** every time we come to TBZ. Most recently, at the TBZ Urban Retreat, they launched their newest innovation to build memory: musical jingles to help us remember to bring soups and crackers to TBZ. Sheila Vernick wrote a jingle to the tune of "Dovid Melech Yisrael". Army Rosenberg wrote one to the tune of "Young and Foolish". Deb Stang's melody is "Happy Birthday". Marilyn's own jingle is to the tune of "Love and Marriage" by Frank Sinatra. Sara Smolover created a jingle to the tune of "Hava Nagilah". Finally, Anne Waldoks wrote one inspired by the song from Oliver, "Food, Glorious Food". Why are they working so hard to get us to remember to **bring soups and crackers every time** we go to TBZ? Have you ever gone hungry? Have you ever worried about where or when you would get your next meal? There are members of our community who face these terrible challenges. Help mitigate food hunger: let Marilyn and Alan know which jingle you'd like to hear when you see them next.

### High Holiday Sanctuary Pizza and Prep

Put in a little labor near Labor Day by helping to beautify our shul for the High Holidays. Volunteers wanted. Contact Eddie Taub (etaub@intellectgames.com) for more information or to sign up.

Thursday, September 6, 5:30 pm - 8 pm

## 1566 HAPPENINGS

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### Lighting The Way:

Images from the Tag Meir Coalition  
October 9, 2018

TBZ will be hosting this world premiere exhibition, put on by the New Israel Fund (NIF) and opening the evening of Tuesday, October 9, 2018. The exhibit will feature collected photography of Tag Meir's work to build a shared society between Jews and non-Jews in Israel and to deter violence against minorities. Founded by NIF, Tag Meir is a coalition of over 50 organizations, many of them from Israel's Religious Zionist sector, that responds in real time to hate crimes through hundreds of demonstrations, meetings, vigils, and activities throughout the year to influence public discourse and to encourage police investigation.

The Lighting The Way exhibition will showcase what it looks like for diverse communities to come together in solidarity instead of hate, and the powerful message of peace this sends. NIF speakers will put the photos into context. Light refreshments and live music will accompany the program.

Registration, sponsorship, and additional details are available at [www.nif.org/lightingtheway](http://www.nif.org/lightingtheway).



## TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

### Help a Child Learn to Read

Would you like to join us and help a child learn to read? Working one-on-one with students, we make reading fun. Each tutor partners with a teacher at Winship School in Brighton, and goes in one morning a week for one or two hours. Training is available, including ideas for how to work with students. The students love being with us! And their reading really improves with our help. Come volunteer with us! Email Kim Meyers: [kmeyers1@gmail.com](mailto:kmeyers1@gmail.com)



The TBZ Literacy Tutors completed another wonderful year at Winship School. Here we are celebrating with some of our students. Eight volunteers from TBZ helped students in Kindergarten through grade 3 improve their reading.

### Men's Group

Men's Group meetings will be held at 1:30 pm (after Kiddush) on the 3rd floor on Sept 22, Oct 13, Nov 3, Dec 1. We'll finish off the fall with our annual winter brunch on Sunday, Dec 16. For more information please contact David Neiman, [dneiman@alumni.brown.edu](mailto:dneiman@alumni.brown.edu) or Rob Kaim, [RobertKaim@msn.com](mailto:RobertKaim@msn.com)

### New Water Bottle Filler

Help reduce use of plastic cups and water bottles by using our new water dispenser located in the lower lobby.



### Navigating Nuance: Talking to Children About Israel

Have you ever struggled with how to explain a newspaper headline to a child? Or worried that current Israel education isn't striking the right balance between fostering love and connection, but also understanding complexity and nuance? Join Rabbi Claudia Kreiman and the New Israel Fund for this afternoon discussion and workshop on how to talk to children about Israel.

Free childcare provided.

Sunday, November 4, 4 - 5:30 pm

### Rosh Hodesh

TBZ's Rosh Hodesh group for 5778 held our final meeting of the year on June 17. Leah Abrahams shared some songs written by her sister raising interesting ideas around the theme of Interfaith issues. The music and lyrics were very moving and sparked lively discussion. In our previous month's gathering, Susan Schnur and Judy Epstein-Fisher lead us through an examination of women's prayers. We wrote and then shared some of our personal prayers. With these as our backdrop, the group brainstormed ideas for the coming year. We look forward to a planning meeting in the Fall building on the highlights of this year's experience. Our Rosh Hodesh group will be hosting an Open House in September (watch Happenings for details) and we invite any TBZ women who are interested to learn more about the group to contact either Meryl Finkel at [meryl@finkelfeldman.com](mailto:meryl@finkelfeldman.com) or Rachel Goodman at [rachgood@verizon.net](mailto:rachgood@verizon.net) or [roshhodesh@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:roshhodesh@tbzbrookline.org).



Rosh Hodesh group at musical performance by Yale Deckelbaum and the Mothers in April

## TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

### Shabbat Nariya and Pot Luck Dinner

Be part of our special musical Shabbat Nariya service and pot luck dinner. Please contribute a vegetarian food item, if you can (include a list of ingredients) and join us for a night of music, singing, food and fellowship.

October 19, November 16

### TBZ Reads *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

In this moving book Stevenson writes about his work fighting passionately against racial injustice in the criminal justice system. The TBZ/GBIO team invites you to study in the sukkah as we discuss the themes, realities, and challenges *Just Mercy* presents to us. There will be opportunities for readers of all ages to participate. We hope this whole experience will encourage you to join us in upcoming actions!

The book is widely available. For more information, contact Sarah Fendrick, [sarahfendrick@gmail.com](mailto:sarahfendrick@gmail.com)  
Thursday, September 27, 7 pm

### Young Adult Connection

Three years ago, Diane Abrams and Jill Goldberg started the TBZ Young Adult Connection. Their goal was to share with our college students and young adults how important they are to our TBZ community and how much we value them. In November, TBZ sends each young adult a Hanukah package consisting of a warm letter from our rabbis, a Hanukah-related article from a respected Jewish journal, a Dunkin' Donuts gift card (for sufganiyot or coffee), a dreidel, and Hanukah gelt. The packages are mailed before Hanukah directly to the young person's college or home address.

This year, with your help, we can send Hanukah packages to every college student and young adult in our TBZ community. Please email Jill Goldberg, [jillwgoldberg@gmail.com](mailto:jillwgoldberg@gmail.com), the name and current address of your young adult for this coming year as soon as you know it.

Keeping our young adults connected to TBZ is not only important for our sacred community, but also helps to preserve and expand their Jewish identity as they venture out into the larger world. We hope to hear from the parents of those young adults this coming fall!

## TBZ CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS

#### Saturday, September 1

Selikhot - Brookline Community: Join us for a soulful beginning to the Holidays with an evening of meditation, learning and inspiring prayer.

#### Hebrew Senior Life 1550 Beacon St. Brookline

6 - 7 pm Early Learning Session

8 pm Havdalah with Rabbi Jim Morgan

8:15 - 9 pm Early Selikhot with Rabbi Jim Morgan

#### Temple Beth Zion

9:15 pm - 10 pm Meditation Session on Opening the Heart to

Compassion with Reb Moshe, Bobbi Isberg, and Sheila Yoheved Katz

10:30 pm - 11:15 pm Session with Rabbi Or Rose

11:30 pm - 1 am Selikhot Service with Rabbi Ebn Leader and Cantor Becky Khitrik

#### Sunday, September 9

Erev Rosh Hashanah

6 pm - 7 pm: One service in the sanctuary

#### Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah 5779

Early Service, 8 am - 11 am: Includes Shakharit and Torah Service

Late Service, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm: Includes Torah Service and Musaf

Family Service for all ages (begins in Community Room, joins service in Sanctuary to hear shofar): 11 am - 12:30 pm

Tashlich, 5:30 pm: Cleveland Circle Reservoir

#### Tuesday, September 11

Rosh Hashanah, 9 am - 1:30 pm

#### Tuesday, September 18

Erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre - Early Service, 6 pm - 7:45 pm

Kol Nidre - Late Service, 8:15 pm - 10:15 pm

#### Wednesday, September 19

Yom Kippur

Early Service, 8 am - 11 am: Includes Shakharit and Torah Service

Late Service, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm: Includes Torah Service and Musaf

Preteen and Teen High Holiday Program (6-10th graders),

11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Family Service for ALL Ages, 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Yizkor, 3 - 3:30 pm: Sanctuary

Minkha, 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm: Sanctuary

Choice of meditation or text study or guest speaker, 5 pm - 6 pm  
(details will be in Happenings)

Ne'ilah, 6 pm - 7:30 pm, The Closing of the Gates, Sanctuary

**Note: High Holy programming for B'nai Mitzvah kids and teens will be included with your tickets.**

## Weekly Shabbat Times

6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - meditation; 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
9 am Shabbat Torah study; 10 am services followed by kiddush lunch

## SPECIAL SERVICES

### Sukkot First Day Service

Monday, Sept 24: 10 am

### Shmini Atzeret Service (includes Yizkor)

Monday, October 1: 10 am - 12:30 pm

### Simchat Torah Service

Monday, Oct 1: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

### Simchat Torah Service with Rabbi Ebn Leader

Tuesday, Oct 2: 9 am - 1 pm

### GBIO Shabbat

November 3

## ADULT LEARNING

Introduction to Jewish Meditation with Reb Moshe

Tuesdays, 7 - 8 pm: Oct 9, 16

Exploring Yossi Klein-Halevy - Letters to My Palestinian

Neighbor with Jonathan Golden

Tuesdays, 7 - 8:30 pm: Oct 23, 30, Nov 6

The Holistic Spiritual Journey: Jewish Paths to Connection,

Creativity and Fulfillment with Natan Margalit

Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 pm: Nov 7, 14, 28

Wise Aging with Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks

(for registered participants)

Wednesdays, 10 am - Noon: Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 28

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH, 10 am

Please be part of these community-wide celebrations of our young members by coming to services and sharing in their simcha.

Oct 13, Sasha Kagan

Oct 20, Dylan Freedman

Oct 27, Nadav Margalit

Nov 10, Isaac Spool

Nov 17, Gabriel Grossman

Dec 1, Samuel Moellman

## BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT EVENTS

Tfilot Mishpachot, 11:30 am

Oct 6, 20, Nov 3

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat followed by dinner at TBZ, 5:30 pm

November 2

## BOOK CLUB, 6:30 pm

Sept 16, Oct 14, Nov 18

## COMMUNITY DINNER, 8 pm

November 30

## LIGHTING THE WAY EXHIBIT

(details on page 4)

October 9, 7 - 9 pm

## MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP,

**9:30 am - 11 am** (for registered participants)

Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 12, 19, 26, Nov 9, 16, 30

## MEN'S STUDY GROUP, 1:30 pm

Sept 22, Oct 13, Nov 3, Dec 1

## NAVIGATING NUANCE DISCUSSION

(details on page 5)

November 4, 4 pm - 5:30 pm

## NISHMAT HAYYIM WORKSHOP

With Zoketsu Norman Fischer

(for registered participants)

October 21, 10 am - 4 pm

## SHABBAT NARIYA and POT LUCK SUPPER

Oct 19, Nov 16

## TBZ READS *Just Mercy*

Thursday, Sept 27, 7 pm



# A PLACE TO CALL HOME

by Rav Claudia

Dear Haverot and Haverim,

I write this message a month after returning to TBZ from my sabbatical. I am very grateful for the time I had in Israel with my family. I am very grateful for the time away. It was a gift to my soul, and my family. I am also very grateful to have come back to such a caring and loving community.

Our sabbatical was mostly a time of resting, a time of family, a time of learning and a time of connecting. I had the opportunity to spend time with extended family as well as dear friends; most importantly, it was a time for me to slow down. I took the opportunity to do some learning, which was a luxury for me. One class on Talmud tractate of Nadarim was with well-known writer and Talmud teacher Dr. Ruchama Weiss at the Israeli program of the rabbinical school of Hebrew Union College. I also took a class at the Conservative Yeshiva with Dr. Shayia Rothberg about Human Rights, specifically focusing on the status of the Non-Jew in Israel from an halachic point of view and from the Human Rights perspective. I look forward to sharing some of my learnings in the weeks and months to come.

We traveled a great deal as a family both to the north and to the south. I had the chance to teach rabbis and rabbinical students and to go to many different shuls. It was wonderful to see the many TBZers that visited Israel!

The times were and still are difficult in Israel. Being there reminded me of how important it is that I work to advocate for a democratic, just, egalitarian and inclusive Israel. I love Israel and support Israel. I also believe that we are facing some of the most challenging times in Israel. Much in the same way that we are facing some very challenging times here in the United States.





Author, David Grossman

Yom Hazikaron, Remembrance Day in Israel, is a day when we remember all those who have fallen defending the State of Israel and a day that holds much pain, sadness and complexity. I had

the opportunity to hear renowned Israeli author David Grossman, who received The Israel Prize this year, an award handed out by the State of Israel, its highest cultural honor. He spoke at the Yom Hazikaron ceremony in Tel-Aviv organized by Parents Circle Families Forum and Combatants for Peace, two organizations that work tirelessly for dialogue and a path of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. This ceremony was a powerful reminder of the painful reality of war in Israel. We heard stories from families who have lost loved ones, on both sides. David Grossman lost his son Uri. He spoke about his vision of Israel. He truly touched my soul. Here are some of his words:

*"This week, Israel is celebrating 70 years. I hope we will celebrate many more years and many more generations of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who will live here alongside an independent Palestinian state, safely, peacefully and creatively, and—most importantly—in a serene daily routine, in good neighborliness; and they will feel at home here.*

*What is a home?*

*Home is a place whose walls — borders — are clear and accepted; whose existence is stable, solid, and relaxed; whose inhabitants know its intimate codes; whose relations*

*with its neighbors have been settled. It projects a sense of the future.*

*And we Israelis, even after 70 years — no matter how many words dripping with patriotic honey will be uttered in the coming days — we are not yet there. We are not yet home. Israel was established so that the Jewish people, who have nearly never felt at-home-in-the-world, would finally have a home. And now, 70 years later, strong Israel may be a fortress, but it is not yet a home."*

*"Israel is painful for us. Because it is not the home we want it to be. We acknowledge the great and wonderful thing that happened to us, by having a state, and we are proud of its accomplishments in many areas, in industry and agriculture, in culture and art, in I.T. and medicine and economics. But we also feel the pain of its distortion."*

*"Home. Where we will live a peace and safe life; a clear life; a life that will not be enslaved — by fanatics of all kinds — for the purposes of some total, messianic, and nationalist vision. Home, whose inhabitants will not be the material that ignites a principle greater than them, and supposedly beyond their comprehension. That life in it would be measured in its humanity. That suddenly a nation will wake up in the morning, and see that it is human. And that that human will feel that he is living in an uncorrupted, connected, truly egalitarian, non-aggressive and non-covetous place. In a state that runs simply on the concern for the person living within it, for every person living within it, out of compassion, and out of tolerance for all the many dialectics of 'being Israeli.' Because 'These are the living words of Israel.'"*

These words have been an inspiration for the work I would like to continue to do for an Israel that I love and care for deeply.

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Of course, these words are also relevant to our reality here in the United State. Seeing the state of Moral Emergency we are facing, with inhumane immigration policies, gun violence, voter suppression, anti-LGBTQ rights and immoral leadership, we know that it must be up to each of us to continue working to save this land, this home.

On Tisha B'av, the ninth day of Av, the day we commemorated the destruction of the two Temples of Jerusalem, many of us joined in a Public Lament demonstration for our Broken Immigration System, held at ICE headquarters in Burlington. Hundreds of people in the Jewish community stood together that day. I had the chance to share a few words and said that our tradition explains that Mashiach (the Messiah) is born on Tisha B'Av. Redemption comes from this place of darkness and pain. The messianic era arises from this brokenness. Our Jewish calendar has seven weeks between Tisha B'Av and Rosh Hashanah. During this time we move from the brokenness of where we are now and start the process of introspection that leads to the New Year, when we begin preparing ourselves for what's next.

We are facing challenging times, in the United States, in Israel, and in the world, but we need to hold each other together as a community, to move forward, fighting for justice, caring for each other and believing that life is measured by its humanity. We rise to meet this moment, raising our voices and taking decisive actions.

My blessing for all of us is that TBZ be a source of inspiration, a community that we call home, a place where we find kindness and where we care for each other with compassion, a community who encourages us to work toward justice, for a better future, here, in Israel and the world.



*TBZers visit with Rav Claudia in Israel*



*Tisha B'Av Vigil held at ICE office on July 22*

# NEWS FROM BEIT RABBAN

## From the Parent Committee

The Beit Rabban Parent Committee is delighted to welcome new and returning members for the 2018-19 school year. We are especially excited to welcome new co-chair Jordan Braunig, Beit Rabban parent and former Beit Rabban teacher, who will join Rebecca Blouwolff in her swan song year leading the group! We will continue with our mission of building community, facilitating parent-staff communication, and providing special programming to classes throughout the year.

Classes begin September 26, and we'll celebrate a new year of learning with ice cream in Griggs Park (weather permitting) on Saturday, September 22 at 3 p.m. We welcome all Beit Rabban families to join us for sweet treats, play, and fun!

## From Cantor Becky Khitrik

We are looking forward to another year of rich educational programming at TBZ.

Our Beit Rabban community continues to grow, and our parent steering committee has been working hard over the summer to plan enriching programs for our classes. In the interest of cultivating intergenerational relationships, our school has also been working with the Tikkun Olam group to create awareness about greening TBZ (thanks to all who were involved in advocating for and planning the installation of our new bike rack). And in November, our older students will learn from congregant Mishy Lesser and Beit Rabban alumna Zoey Henrich, who are presenting a workshop on Mishy's documentary First Light. We are pleased this year to renew and re-focus our commitment to our littlest members and to our quickly growing cohort of teens. As always, we are offering full and rich Mishpachot programming, with Shabbat services, dinners, special holiday programs, and opportunities for engaging in Mitzvot and Tikkun Olam. Be sure to check the TBZ website and read "Happenings" to keep abreast of the many events planned between September and June!



*In May, the 2nd and 3rd grade class at Beit Rabban took a field trip to Beth Abraham, a Sephardic congregation in Brookline. The students met with the Temple's cantor and their president/founder. They learned about the similarities and differences of ritual and cultural life at Beth Abraham and TBZ.*



# NISHMAT HAYYIM AT TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

Do you ever wonder what meditation is? What Jewish meditation is? Why people meditate? Are you curious about how your mind works? How meditation fits into your Jewish life? What the benefits of meditation are? What the obstacles to developing a daily meditation practice are? How meditation affects one's life and behavior? How meditation affects the mind, the emotions, and the body? Are there other questions you may have about meditation and mindfulness?

We have been preparing ourselves for the High Holy Days through this month of Elul. We reflect, we question, we make amends, we contemplate God, we confront ourselves....the good and the not so good, and we try to experience the world anew. In this new year, we invite you to join us, to explore and participate in our mindfulness/ meditation offerings as a way to answer the above questions through your personal experience of meditation and in a way continue what we do in the month of Elul throughout the year. Our offerings are well suited for both experienced and beginner meditators.

As always, we are so pleased to offer our mindfulness/ meditation programs to you. Our nine week session for the Fall Friday AM Mindfulness/Meditation Practice Group begins on September 14. If you haven't registered yet, please do so on the TBZ website. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of an on-going supportive group of meditators who seek well-being, enlightenment, and to align meditation and mindfulness with their Judaism. We inspire each other's meditation practice, learning during these sessions that meet Friday mornings, 9:30 - 11 am in the TBZ sanctuary during the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Check the calendar on page 7 for dates. Be on the lookout for drop-in sessions Friday mornings in December.

In addition to the Friday AM practice group, we have monthly Shabbat afternoon sessions, 1:30 - 3 pm in the TBZ sanctuary, which include a sit, mindful Torah Study, a Mincha chant, and personal reflections. Check the

calendar for dates. These sessions extend Shabbat into a mindful realm of meditating, studying, and sharing our thoughts about the learning and meditation experience. Hinei ma tovu...How good it is to sit with my brothers and sisters!

This year we are planning two day-long retreats with guest teachers. One with our beloved Zoketsu Norman Fischer on Sunday, Oct 21, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm at TBZ. Using Norman's translation of psalms, *Opening to You: Zen-inspired Translations of the Psalms*, we will contemplate these great ancient poems as a template for spiritual practice. Most of the day will be spent in silent sitting and walking meditation, with some guided meditation, and informal talks/discussions to open out the psalms as they touch the heart. No experience in meditation or Jewish liturgical practice necessary. Being in the presence of Norman Fischer is a unique opportunity to sit with a great master of meditation whose humble being is delightful and deeply insightful.

Our second workshop this year will be June 2, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm at TBZ, so please SAVE this DATE. More details will be forthcoming in the next Koleinu.

In closing, as we approach the new year, the Nishmat Hayyim Team would like to extend a very sweet Shanah Tovah to everyone in the TBZ community and to our larger Nishmat Hayyim community. May this year bring you abundant blessings and love, good health, inspirational learning, enhanced and renewed relationships between family members and friends, and peace in the world. And of course, may it bring continued mindfulness in all aspects of your lives.

# TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ

*"Justice, justice shall you pursue." (Deuteronomy 16: 20)*

Practice justice—one of the highest demands asked of us as Jews. Pursue justice—do not wait—actively seek opportunities.

We are living in times of increasing moral decay...the urgency can feel crushing at times. TBZ Tikkun Olam offers opportunities for us to come together, heal together and fulfill our moral and religious imperative to build a better

world. TBZ Tikkun Olam offers a supportive, welcoming place with an array of action opportunities. We want to hear from you, act with you, and increase our impact and strength together. Please contact any action group leaders and/or the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Judy Schechtman (j\_schecht@hotmail.com) and Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) to learn more and share your ideas for future actions.

## **"Praying With Our Feet": TBZ Resistance**

We demonstrated, rallied, wrote and made calls on issues such as immigration (ending family separation at the border); climate change; AVR (automatic voter registration) and more. Together, we rode the T to the State House for prayer vigils, presentations of petitions and meetings with our representatives. We wrote hundreds of postcards encouraging citizens to exercise their right to vote and we will continue that effort throughout the fall, targeting both swing states and our own. We are excited to continue engagement with our neighbors in Mattapan, writing personal notes and following up with in-person voter registration drives and even helping get voters to the polls on election day. There is power in doing this work together.

Join us! Fran Adams (franaca.adams@gmail.com) and Julia Freedson (jfreedson@yahoo.com)



### **Getting Ready for November**

TBZ members joined together to send over 200 postcards reminding people to vote in November!

## **The Fight for Economic Justice: JALSA/JLC**

TBZ has a long history of working with JALSA (Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action) and JLC (Jewish Labor Committee) on behalf of workers throughout our commonwealth to ensure fair, just, and equitable work conditions.

Our Economic Justice Action team has been a key part of the JALSA (Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action) and RaiseUpMA Coalition's years-long effort—successful this year!—to adopt a \$15 Minimum Wage and Paid Family and Medical Leave for all workers in Massachusetts. It only happened because many, many volunteers collected 350,000 signatures (nearly 2,000 by TBZ alone!), lobbied the legislature, and organized to win these changes, which were passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Baker on June 28, 2018. These are historic victories for workers in Massachusetts, who will now get minimum wage increases from \$11 to \$15 over 4 years, and who will be able to take job-protected paid time off from work to take care of themselves or a family member after a medical emergency or the birth or adoption of a new child.

To become involved or get more information, please contact Judy Schechtman (j\_schecht@hotmail.com) JALSA and JLC Liaison



# TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ (continued...)

## Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)

Over the past year, we have supported five families in Brookline. Three families are now independent and moving forward successfully. We continue to host “I” and her 1-year-old daughter “G,” from Cameroon, as well as a Yazidi Zoroastrian family seeking asylum from Iraq and Syria. We are now seeking to add a new family.

Our interfaith cluster—three synagogues and three churches in Newton and Brookline—continues to grow stronger. We are incredibly grateful to all the volunteers (too many to name) who have generously donated their time, as well as to all our donors, whose contributions make this work possible. Thank you! Please contact Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com) or Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) for more. Donations can be made here: <http://sites.google.com/view/nbarc>

## Protecting Immigrants: TBZ Sanctuary

July 23 celebrates the one year signing of the Sanctuary Covenant that allows the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative (an interfaith effort) the opportunity to offer safety and security to an undocumented mother and her two children. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Newton continues to provide sanctuary and assistance, thanks to the over 500 volunteers.

Contact David Woodruff (davewoodr@aol.com) to join the volunteer effort.



### TBZers Protest Family Separation

On June 30 many TBZ members took part in the Together & Free - Rally Against Separation in downtown Boston

# TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ (continued...)

## **Ensuring Justice For All: GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization)**

By the end of July the GBIO/TBZ team held eight house meetings where 60 TBZ members shared what concerns them most about the issues confronting our greater Boston community. Thank you to everyone who participated in these heartfelt conversations! Several members of our community then joined in a gathering of GBIO participants from across the city to help determine, based on the house meetings, which justice issues GBIO will address in the coming year. In late October we hope you will join us in a large TBZ contingent at a 2000 person pre-election action getting specific commitments to act for justice from candidates for district attorney and governor. Senator Warren will be among our guests. More information coming!

Our Criminal Justice Reform team, headed up by Sarah Fendrick, held a TBZ campaign to educate those of us who live in Middlesex and Suffolk counties on the need to vote on September 4 for District Attorney. To understand more about the need for criminal justice reform, we invite everyone to participate in "TBZ Reads *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson". On Thursday, September 27 at 7 pm we will meet in our sukkah to discuss the themes, realities, and challenges presented in the book related to racism and our criminal justice system.

On November 3rd we will hold a GBIO Shabbat. Come learn more about what we're doing and how you can join us in our work. To get involved now, or to ask questions, contact any one of us: Rosalind Joffe (rosalind@cicoach.com), Susan Bookbinder (susanbookbinder@comcast.net, Barrie Keller (barrie.keller@gmail.com), Lauren Garlick (lauren@laurengarlickgroup.com) or Sarah Fendrick (sarahfendrick@gmail.com).

## **Transgender Equality Task Force: Vote Yes on Question 3!**

In 2016 the Massachusetts legislature outlawed discrimination against transgender people in places of public accommodation, hospitals, stores, restaurants, bars and busses. This law also made clear that that transgender people could use the bathroom that matched their gender identity, as they have been doing in public schools since 2012.

Now these basic rights are under attack and, as part of TBZ's commitment to Tikkun Olam, the TBZ Transgender Equality Task Force is fighting to preserve these basic human rights.

The opposition to these rights has placed a question (Question 3) on the November ballot asking voters if they want to keep the law. The answer must be a resounding YES!

The opposition is choosing to ignore the fact that there have been no incidents related to this law in Massachusetts nor in the other 18 states with such protections. Their goal is to stoke fear in the minds of voters.

The Task Force is working hard to protect all transgender people in Massachusetts. The outcome will have a direct impact on all of us, including those who are members of our TBZ family. Your "Yes" on Question 3 will make a difference.

TBZ is hosting a phone banks bank every Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. until election day to urge voters to vote YES on Question 3. Look for the Brookline designation under Volunteer Recruitment Phone Banks, and sign up now at <https://secure.freedomma.org/page/s/boston-pbs>

If Thursdays don't work, then sign up for other locations and activities.

For more information about the Freedom for All Massachusetts campaign, contact Marion Freedman-Gurspan, [freedgur@aol.com](mailto:freedgur@aol.com), (617-835-1190) or Melinda Strauss at [melindastrauss@gmail.com](mailto:melindastrauss@gmail.com).

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Elana Steinberg  
Mayor Maysrovsky & Bronislava Vishnevetskaya  
Rabbi Moshe & Anne Waldoks  
Alan Weisner & Marilyn Glazer-Weisner

## CONDOLENCES

- To David Cherenson and his daughter Naomi on the death of his mother, Ann Cherenson.
- To Myra Musicant and Howard Cohen and their family on the death of her mother, Sarah Musicant.
- To David Neiman and his family on the death of his father, Franklyn Neiman.

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

המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Bobbi Katz  
Michael & Maria Khidekel  
Ammi Kohn  
Valerie & Joseph Levy  
Helen Onthank  
Jonathan & Carol Opas



## L'Chaim

- To Steven Greenberg on the birth of a grandson, Zola Greenberg Norsigian.
- To Talia Raisner-Thompson on becoming Bat Mitzvah on May 26.
- To Jonah Neiman on becoming Bar Mitzvah June 23.
- To Vera Knobel on becoming Bat Mitzvah on June 30.

## TODAH RABAH

- To outgoing Beit Rabban co-chair Julia Freedson who fostered many Tikkun Olam connections with the Beit Rabban community during her tenure.
- To Molly Silver for donating the books of Megillot.
- To everyone who has staffed the recent phone banks.
- To Carol Kamin for her service to the Development Committee.
- To Tali Walters for organizing the recent summer Shabbat picnic.

### Kabbalat Shabbat Picnic in Griggs Park on July 27



To stay up-to-date on all the exciting events taking place, go to:

[www.tbzbrookline.org](http://www.tbzbrookline.org) and find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline](https://www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline)







# *L'Shanah Tovah*

**Invite your friends to join us for the High Holidays.**

**Tickets are available in the office.**



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