

Fall 2019

TEMPLE BETH ZION
KOLEINU

ג'ק"פ

Happy Rosh Hashanah!



LOOKING AHEAD TO 5780

A Message from Rav Claudia

Thoughts from Reb Moshe

Tikkun Olam at TBZ

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

president@tbzbrookline.org

What a beautiful summer! I hope that each of you found some way to enjoy the warm weather, spend time with friends and family, and rejuvenate yourselves for the seasons to come. While the pace has been somewhat slower at TBZ this summer, many significant things have been happening!

We are very excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Susan Diller, who began on August 15th. Susan comes to us from the Touchstone School in Grafton, where she was Head of School for the past 8 years. Her myriad strengths include strategic and financial planning, administration management, relationship building with wide constituencies, and marketing and communications. She is looking forward to getting to know TBZ members and has jumped right in to get us ready for the High Holidays. Please reach out to welcome her and to let her know if you have anything she can help you with.

With Susan on board, Rav Tiferet settling in well, Reb Moshe back from his Sabbatical, Rabbinic Intern Tyler Dratch and Noah Weinberg starting their part-time roles, steadfast Assistant Director, Beth Ehrenreich and Office Manager, Lindsay Eagle taking care of the day-to-day needs of the congregation, and Rav Claudia at the helm, TBZ has never been in a stronger position to meet the needs of our members, connect to the greater community, and thrive!

This spring, more than 90 people contributed their voices to the discussions at our house meetings where Rav Claudia shared her vision and priorities. The amount of wide-ranging input that was expressed is truly astonishing. With the help of Lindsay Eagle, we will have a report synthesizing all the ideas, questions,

and concerns that the Board, along with the professional staff, will use to set our priorities. In fact, these contributions are the beginning seeds from which we can grow our next strategic plan.

I'd like to share one takeaway with you that I believe we can implement right away. I call this our "Generosity of Spirit". Let me explain. It became clear while listening to our members that there are many ways to view the same experience. We have a diverse community! In reality what this means is that what one person finds the best or their favorite aspect of something might simultaneously be someone else's least favorite or even disliked part. For example, one person's favorite tune to a prayer could be another person's least favorite. While the first person's mood is lifted while singing it the other's might be tense, waiting it out until it concludes. How can TBZ work for both of these members? I find the answer in Generosity of Spirit. It means embracing our diversity by recognizing that the same moment you are ecstatically chanting a niggun someone else in the room is merely bearing through it; and silently thanking them for making the space for you to have this joyful moment. And if you are the one waiting for the song to conclude, taking pleasure in the gift you are giving, your generosity of spirit, that allows you to patiently wait for the next thing you fully enjoy to arise that might, in fact, not be someone else's cup of tea. We can't call ourselves a diverse community without having different things we like, different ways we want things to go, or different priorities. This year, let's cultivate our Generosity of Spirit and embrace the things that make us different as much as we do the thing that makes us most alike—our love of and commitment to TBZ.

OUR RABBIS

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Reb Moshe Waldoks, Founding Rabbi ext. 12
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SYNAGOGUE STAFF

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OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sara Smolover
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Vice-Presidents

External Relations: Tali K. Buechler Walters
Finance & Administration/Treasurer: Geoff Stein
Member Relations: Diane O'Donoghue
Adult & Spiritual Life Programming: Michael Goldberg
Secretary: Eddie Taub

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Shoshanna Korn-Meyer, Larry Kraus, David Neiman, Eddie Taub

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Enid Shulman, Jay Zagorsky, Fran Adams, Jonathan Klein,
David Cherenson, Jenni Seicol, Tali Walters, Sue Kahn

Committee Chairs

Adult Learning: Jill Goldberg, Ken Reich
Beit Rabban Steering Committee: Rabbi Jordan Braunig
Book Club: Maxwell Bauman, Tammy Mitchell, Lilly Pelzman,
Building: Jack Daniels
Development: Sarah Fendrick
Hesed: Debra Morley, Linda Rosen
Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Danya Handelsman
Israel Committee: open
Membership: Kathy Kates
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: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson, Carol Kamin
Climate Change: Mark Dworzan, Anne Marie Codur, Fran Adams
Criminal Justice: Sarah Fendrick
Economic Justice: Jonathan Klein, Judith Schechtman
GBIO: Susan Bookbinder, Rosalind Joffe
Newton-Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee:
Jenny Berz, Jed Shugerman
Resistance: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson
Sanctuary: Marion Freedman-Gurspan, Penny Roberts
Synagogue Practices: Eddie Taub
Torah Readers: Larry Kraus
Koleinu Editor: Beth Harris

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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.

ADULT LEARNING

Contemplative Preparation for the High Holidays

Reb Moshe will be leading three sessions that include meditation, our connection to other meditative systems, and a discussion of Rabbi Alan Lew's, *This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation*.

Sept. 10, 17, 24: 7 - 8:30 pm

Eat, Pray, Learn - NEW THIS YEAR!

Elizabeth Gilbert's book *Eat Pray Love* touched the world and changed countless lives, inspiring and empowering millions of readers to search for their own best selves.

Join Rav Claudia to seek self in this opportunity to develop a morning practice.

The mornings will begin with davening at 7:30, followed by coffee and bagels at 8:15.

The sessions will finish with text driven learning on a theme to be chosen together.

Sign up at tbzbrookline.org/eatpraylearn

Wednesdays, Sept 18, 25, Oct 30, Nov 6, 13, 20, 27: 7:30 - 9 am

Valuing Life and Limb Class

Our Torah speaks of retributive justice in the famous verse "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." The Rabbis found retributive justice difficult to accept and sought to reason their way to a different understanding of what "an eye for an eye" could mean. We will study Tanach, Mishna and Talmud to uncover the values that the rabbis are transmitting to us through their discussions. Taught by Rabbi Jamie Kotler.

Monday, Oct 28, Nov 4, 18, 25, Dec 2, 9: 10:30 am - 12 pm

Take-Out Theology

In this three session class we will study diverse sources about key Jewish ideas: God, Torah and Shabbat. We will then take time to create our own reflections, poetry, art and more to embody a Jewish theology that is uniquely ours. Led by Tyler Dratch, a Rabbinical student at Hebrew College and our very own Rabbinic intern.

Nov 4, 11, 18, Dec 2, 9, 16: 7 - 8:30 pm

Soulful Parenting

Soulful Parenting is a guide to caring for that natural intuition and spirituality that is at the center of each soul. Each child is different; each parent is different; and there is no one-size-fits-all solution for how to be a good parent. In this interactive workshop we will draw on ancient Jewish texts that challenge us to embrace the mystery of our children, recognizing that they are not "mini-me's." Each class will include a mixture of text study, personal sharing, journaling and drawing. There will be food and drink and time to schmooze as well. For individuals and couples (think of it as a spiritual date night!). Led by Ilana Margalit

Nov 7, 14, 21: 7:30 - 8 pm

NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The second Inclusion survey will be sent out in the Fall.

The Inclusion Committee, in partnership with RSIP, has been focusing on mental illness this year and some of the survey questions will reflect this.

We are looking forward to hearing from every member household. Your feedback will be invaluable as we begin to integrate RSIP's mental health initiative into our community. Once we have received the survey results, we will share the information with the community. Our goal is for 100% participation. Please help us achieve this goal.

SAVE THE DATE:

TBZ community-wide book reading on **December 7th**. Book title to be announced.

Correction from the Summer *Koleinu*: The "News from the Inclusion Committee" article was incorrectly attributed. The meaningful update was written by Annie Braudy for the Inclusion Committee.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

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 Friday, September 6 at 6:15 pm for Kabbalat Shabbat led by Reb Moshe and followed by Community Oneg with an opportunity to speak with him and other TBZ members. And on Saturday, September 7 at 10 am for our service led by Rav Claudia. Meet Rav Claudia and our lay leaders at the Kiddush following the service.

Community Shabbat Dinners - **NEW THIS YEAR!**

Please join us for monthly community-wide shabbat dinners immediately after our 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat service. These special evenings are a great opportunity to meet new people, connect with old friends, sing songs with our musicians, have a delicious and catered Shabbat meal in community, and if past dinners are any indication, do some dancing as well! Adults and children welcome. Stay tuned for more in Happenings. Friday, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6, 7:45 pm

Growing Older in Community - **NEW THIS YEAR!**

Please come to this first gathering to explore and discuss how TBZ can nourish and sustain us as we age. We hope to discuss this and other questions with you in community. In December of 2018 our Wise Aging group, the first of our Wise Aging programs brought to TBZ by Reb Moshe and Anne, began this conversation that will continue on November 10. If you would like to be part of the planning committee for this event please contact Muriel Heiberger, murielh@comcast.net or 617-661-2638, Susan Farber, sufarber@comcast.net, Suzanne Gelber savtasuz@gmail.com, Phyllis Goldstein, pgoldstein2015@gmail.com or 617-522-1533, Matt Weiss mxweiss2@aol.com.
Nov. 10: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Help a Child Learn to Read

Tikkun Olam means repairing the world. Help repair the world of a child by tutoring them in reading. Join the Winship Tutors. We spend an hour each week at the Winship School in Brighton Center working with one or two elementary school students to help them improve their reading skills.

Please contact kmeyers1@gmail.com if you are interested. We would love to have you join us and so would the children whose lives you will illuminate!

Come volunteer with us! Email Kim Meyers: kmeyers1@gmail.com



TBZ's Spring Community Meeting

Hiddur/Garden Committee

We're looking for a few good hands. After many years of beautifying TBZ both inside and out Rick Bankhead will be stepping away from his position as head of the hiddur/garden committee. If you'd enjoy exercising your green thumb while playing in the dirt please consider taking on this task of gardening and flower arranging that brings joy to all. Seasonal commitment of 3-6 hours per week with no watering or mowing required. Training provided. Contact Susan Diller, execdirector@tbzbrookline.org

High Holiday Sanctuary Prep Day

Come together as a community to help ensure our sanctuary is ready for the Days of Awe and a welcoming place for all. Pizza will be served. Contact Eddie Taub for more information or to sign up.
September 26, 6 - 9 pm

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Kiddush Talks

Tali Ysia, the Woman Who Walked from Ethiopia to Uganda During Operation Moses. Please join us in the community room to learn more about this fascinating journey.

Oct 12: 12:30 - 2 pm

Join the Tikkun Olam Gun Violence Prevention action group in welcoming Ruth Zakarin, Executive Director, Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. We will learn and talk about the devastating impact of gun violence and engage together to learn ways to effect change and act to stop the senseless daily damage and deaths. Please contact Judy Schechtman (j_schecht@hotmail.com) to learn more.

Oct 26: 12:30 - 2 pm

Pathways to Tikkun Olam

Trying to find out more about Tikkun Olam? Or to figure out which endeavor is most meaningful to you? Join us to learn about TBZ Tikkun Olam actions over the past year, and about important ongoing work and new initiatives. You will have the opportunity to contribute your own ideas and find others who have similar interests.

Monday, September 23, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Men's Group

Men's Group meetings will be held monthly after Kiddush on the 3rd floor. The group aims to explore men's roles in a rapidly changing society and to examine issues of mutual concern while engaging with other men on intellectual, spiritual and emotional levels. We aim to share challenges, successes, insights and other aspects of our personal lives in a nonjudgemental, confidential, and respectful manner; creating a community of support with deep and caring connections. We'll finish off the fall with our annual winter brunch on Sunday, Dec 15. For more information please contact David Neiman, dneiman@alumni.brown.edu or Rob Kaim, RobertKaim@msn.com
Sept 14, Oct 5, Nov 2, Nov 23: 1:30 pm

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 15



Knocking at Our Hearts: a Soul-Fulfilling High Holiday Music Experience

Sept 8: 1 - 5 pm

Mayyim Hayyim and Kavod (a lay-led Jewish community focused on social justice) present the 5th annual High Holiday program: Knocking at Our Hearts. Prepare your whole self—body and soul—for the holidays with the power and joy of communal song. Learn more and register: <https://www.mayyimhayyim.org/event-details/knocking-at-our-hearts-2/>

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Rosh Hodesh

TBZ's Rosh Hodesh group for 5779 had another wonderful year, having held our second Rosh Hodesh Shabbat in early April. In May we went to see the play, "Becoming Dr. Ruth" at the New Repertory Theater in Watertown and shared dinner as well. The play chronicled the life of psychologist Dr. Ruth Westheimer and was followed by a Q and A with the actor who played Dr. Ruth. At another gathering the group explored our memories of being Jewish and were encouraged to share items that represented those memories (see photos). As in previous years, we used our final meeting in June to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming year and will also use our first meeting in October to solidify our plans for 5780. Our Rosh Hodesh group will host an Open House on Sunday September 15th from 7 - 8:30 p.m. and we invite any TBZ women who are interested to learn more about the group to attend. For more info please contact Meryl Finkel at Meryl@Finkelfeldman.com or Rachel Goodman at rachgood@verizon.net or roshhodesh@tbzbrookline.org.



TBZ GOES SOLAR CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 15
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

All ages are welcome to celebrate TBZ going solar with blessings and songs (bring your instruments and voices!) Come learn about how TBZ is confronting the global climate crisis. Participate, with Rabbi Ebn Leader and solar technology expert Mark Barnett, in an engaging dialogue on what is at stake and must be done to meaningfully address climate change. Help make signs for inside and outside the synagogue to celebrate the activation of our new rooftop solar panels and inspire others to go solar. Refreshments provided.

RSVP link:

tinyurl.com/TBZsolar



NEWS FROM RAV TIFERET

I hope you had an exciting and rejuvenating summer! I have been settling into my role as Director of Congregational Learning and Programming and it has been a wonderful transition. I began coming to TBZ in my early 20's and have enjoyed reconnecting with people I knew back then and seeing children that I taught in Beit Rabban so long ago who are well into their teens now! It has been blessed.

With regards to Beit Rabban, I am looking forward to welcoming back most of our teachers and am in the process of bringing a new teacher on board. Shuli Natan will not be returning due to her obligations at Gann Academy this year. **First day of Beit**

Rabban is Wednesday, September 11th and the first day of the Tent is Monday September 9th. Registration for Beit Rabban AND the Tent is now open and I hope you'll sign up soon so that we can all plan how to welcome your students. Our fall calendar is busy with rich learning before and after the holidays. I have the pleasure of coordinating both adult and children's learning and have been busy planning with Rav Claudia, the Beit Rabban parent committee and other groups, as well as individuals to make our upcoming year of learning meaningful and deep. I am available to discuss any hopes you have for learning at TBZ and hope you will stop by to share them. Looking forward to learning with you!



Save the Date

Rav Claudia's Installation as TBZ's Senior Rabbi

OCTOBER 18-19, 2019

Shabbat Chol Hamoed Sukkot

Weekend Celebration Includes
Shabbat Nariya, followed by community Potluck
Shabbat Chol Hamoed Service followed by Kiddush
Havdalah and Installation Ceremony

More information to come.
Please join us for a fun and festive weekend.

NEWS FROM FAMILY TABLE

Dear TBZ Community,
I am sharing the letter we received from Jewish Family and Children's Services regarding Family Table with you.

"Dear Marilyn and Alan,

Thank you for your continued dedication to JF&CS Family Table. With the support of your community, we are providing critically needed food and Jewish holiday items to more than 500 households each month. We so appreciate that you are a partner in providing food for our clients.

Family Table's mission is to end hunger in the Greater Boston Jewish community while serving people who need our assistance, regardless of religious affiliation. Family Table fulfills its mission by providing Kosher food, creating a caring Jewish connection, and empowering people to make healthy eating a part of their daily lives.

Thank you for playing a pivotal role in fulfilling this mission by serving as TBZ's Family Table co-coordinators."

TBZ's Collection Assignment

We encourage you to collect as much as your community is able. Our clients depend on your community's support, so we are grateful for any effort you can make to increase your collection.

1. 50 Boxes of Whole Grain Crackers
2. 45 Cans of Kosher Vegetarian Low-Sodium Soup

To continue, I am hoping you see the importance of fulfilling this act of kindness and generosity and at the same time consider the value of your contribution as a form of tikkun olam, fixing the world when it is broken, by helping to end food insecurity in our community.

As always, if you have any questions about your contributions to Family Table, please know you can reach out to me at mglazerw@comcast.net. In the meantime, every time you come to TBZ please bring soups and crackers to help us do the best job of ending hunger in our community.

In gratitude,
Marilyn

TBZ CALENDAR

SCHEDULE FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS

Saturday, September 21

Selikhot - Brookline Community: Join us for a soulful beginning to the High Holy Days with an evening of meditation, learning and inspiring prayer. More details regarding times and sessions leaders will be available in Happenings.

Sunday, September 29

Erev Rosh Hashanah, 6 - 7pm
One service in the sanctuary

Monday, September 30

Rosh Hashanah 5779
Early Service, 8 - 11 am:
Includes Shakharit and Torah Service
Late Service, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm:
Includes Torah Service and Musaf

Children and Family Programming:

- 10 - 11 am, B'nei Mitzvah Group Session (6th & 7th graders)
- 10 - 11 am, Teen Programming (8th - 10th graders)
- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Family Service (Children up to 5th grade with parents)

Tashlich

5:30 pm Cleveland Circle Reservoir

Tuesday, October 1

Rosh Hashanah, 9 am - 1:30 pm

Tuesday, October 8

Erev Yom Kippur
Kol Nidre - Early Service, 5:45 - 7:45 pm
Kol Nidre - Late Service, 8:15 - 10:15 pm

Wednesday, October 9

Yom Kippur
Early Service, 8 - 11 am:
Includes Shakharit and Torah Service
Late Service, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm:
Includes Torah Service and Musaf

Children and Family Programming:

- 10 - 11 am, B'nei Mitzvah Group Session (6th & 7th graders)
- 10 - 11 am, Teen Programming (8th - 10th graders)
- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Family Service (Children up to 5th grade with parents)

Yizkor, 3 - 3:30 pm Sanctuary

Minkha, 3:30 - 4:45 pm Sanctuary

Meditation or Class (TBA), 4:50-5:30 pm

Ne'ilah, 5:40 - 7 pm: The Closing of the Gates, Sanctuary

CHILDCARE

Rosh Hashanah, First Day: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd Day: 9 am - 1:30 pm

Kol Nidre: 6 - 10:15 pm

Yom Kippur Day: 8 am - 7 pm

TBZ CALENDAR

For more details, times and up-to-date information, go to www.tbzbrookline.org/google-calendar or follow us on Facebook.

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, October 14: 10 am

Shmini Atzeret Service (includes Yizkor)

Monday, October 21: 10 am - 12:30 pm

Sukkot on the Farm

Sunday, October 20: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Eve of Simchat Torah

Monday, October 21:

5:30 pm Children's program

6:30pm Service for all

Simchat Torah Service with Rabbi Ebn Leader

Tuesday, October 22: 9 am - 1 pm

Contemplative Shabbat

November 16

ADULT LEARNING

Contemplative Preparation for the High Holidays

September 10, 17, 24: 7 - 8:30 pm

Soulful Parenting with Ilana Margalit

November 7, 14, 21: 7:30 - 9 pm

Take-Out Theology with Tyler Dratch

November 4, 11, 18: 7 - 8:30 pm

Valuing Life and Limb Class with Rabbi Jamie Kotler

October 28, November 4, 18, 25: 10:30 am - 12 pm

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.

November 2: Eva Kates

November 9: Aviv and Ma'ayan Rosenbaum

November 23: Ruby Marx

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT EVENTS

Tfilot Mishpachot, 11:30 am

September 14, 28, October 12, 26, November 16

More info to come about New Tfilot Mishpachot model led by Rav Tiferet, Tyler Dratch and Noah Weinberg.

BOOK CLUB

September 8, October 20, November 10: 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

November 1, December 6: 7:45 pm

KNOCKING AT OUR HEARTS: A SOUL-FULFILLING HIGH HOLIDAY MUSIC EXPERIENCE

(see page 5 for details)

September 8

KIDDUSH TALKS

(see page 5 for details)

October 12, 26: 12:30 pm

MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

September 13, 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, November 8, 15, 22:
9:30 - 11 am

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

September 14, October 5, November 2, November 23: 1:30 pm

RAV CLAUDIA'S INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

(see page 7 for details)

October 19

ROSH HODESH GROUP:

September 15 (open house): 7 pm

October 27 (open meeting): 7 pm

December 1 (for committed participants): 7 pm

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SITS

September 7, Other Dates TBD: 1:30 - 3 pm

SHABBAT NARIYA and POT LUCK SUPPER

September 20, October 18, November 15: 6:15 pm

SOLAR PANELS CELEBRATION

September 15: 10:30 am

TIKKUN OLAM PATHWAYS

(see page 5 for details)

September 23

A Message from RAV CLAUDIA

Dear Haverim v'Haverot:

At a month into my new role as Senior Rabbi of TBZ, I want to express my gratitude to our community for the support and excitement I have received as we embark on this new phase of TBZ and my leadership. I am humbled by the trust of this community and its leadership and I am excited to imagine together what's next for TBZ. I envision how much we can accomplish, realizing the vision for TBZ that we have articulated together. TBZ is a place we come to nurture a love for Judaism, for Jewish learning, ritual, and prayer; where we come to deepen our commitment to justice and compassion; and a place we come to help each other live lives of meaning and purpose. We are and will continue to be a community of seekers, a place where meaningful experiences of prayer, justice, activism, loving kindness and learning are rooted in Jewish values and where meaningful education for all ages is part of our daily experience.

Over the months of May and June, we held five house meetings, our semi-annual Community Meeting, small group meetings of specific cohorts, as well as other individual meetings between members and myself. Between all of these encounters, I had the opportunity to engage with over a hundred TBZ members in conversations about our community. I listened to people's views, thoughts and visions for TBZ, and I engaged in conversations about our shared values and vision for the future of TBZ. I returned from these meetings excited to continue strengthening our mission as 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.

So much was said in these meetings. I would like to share just a few of the things I heard that are now guiding and inspiring me as I look forward to helping us grow and strengthening our community.

WE ARE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY: Our diversity is our strength and at times it's also our challenge. As a community that attracts people from all backgrounds, interests and spiritual journeys, we have different views and interests which make TBZ a unique place. It also means that, at times, everything at TBZ will not work for all. However, as a community committed to diversity and being welcoming and inclusive, we work to create opportunities that respond to people's interests and needs.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF SEEKERS: Over and over during these meetings, we heard from people: we want more. We want more learning, more Torah. We want more opportunities for spiritual growth and practice, we want more opportunities to do social justice work, we want more opportunities for strengthening community, and we want depth in our experiences at TBZ. In essence: we want our Jewish life to be enriched and nurtured here at TBZ.

WE WANT DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS: This is the main reason most of us come to TBZ, because we want to build relationships that matter. We want to be in a community

(Continued on next page)

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that cares and is with us during the challenging seasons of our life, a community to dance with us and celebrate our joys with. We want a community where we will be known and feel seen.

After these meetings we gathered all that we had heard and are now in the process of creating priorities for the next phase of growth and investment in our community. Our Board of Directors and professional leadership are committed to deeply engaging with our members and continuing the conversations that began this spring. We are all committed to developing our community as a community of Hesed, of loving kindness; a community that strengthens its relationships and is deeply committed to each other; a community that cares for each other in our hearts and with our deeds.

Dr. Ron Wolfson, Rabbis Nicole Auerbach and Lydia Medwin write in their book *Relational Judaism*, "It's all about relationships, people will come to synagogues... for programs, but they will stay for relationships". This is what we are about: creating a transformative Jewish community built on relationships.

The transition to my new role as senior rabbi of TBZ is exciting. I am engaging in conversations and hoping to connect to as many members as possible, getting to know those of you that I have not yet had a chance to meet. I am excited that Rav Tiferet Berenbaum has joined us and is already working hard at developing educational programs and so much more for our community (hopefully you have received our Programming booklet with all our exciting offerings for the fall). I am excited to welcome Rabbinical Student Tyler Dratch and Noah Weinberg as a musical prayer leader to our team. I look forward to offering a class in the winter about Building a Community of Hesed as a way to grapple with questions about what does it mean to belong to a community based on relationships and compassion. I am also excited about a few new initiatives we are offering including a monthly Friday night community dinner and a weekly morning minyan



Our spiritual and educational team!

on Wednesday, followed by coffee, bagels and learning. All these are opportunities to engage in community, grow, learn with and from each other and enjoy being in community.

Our new investment in professional roles, such as our Director of Congregational Learning and Programming and our Rabbinic Intern, along with Reb Moshe as our Founding Rabbi in his part-time role, are allowing me to devote my time as Senior Rabbi to engaging with each of you and your spiritual journeys. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any support, pastoral care or if you want to chat and connect.

I am looking forward to the new year, a year when we continue to engage in learning Torah, in spiritual growth, in acts of loving kindness, commitment to social justice and in deepening our relationships.

With blessings of a healthy, sweet and peaceful New Year.
Shana Tova U'Metuka.

Rav Claudia

NEW FALL OFFERINGS FROM NISHMAT HAYYIM MEDITATION COMMUNITY AT TBZ!

Each morning sit begins with a niggun (chant), followed by brief instruction, silent sitting meditation, silent walking meditation, a teaching to deepen our practice, and sharing.

If you are new to meditation, we recommend committing to regularly attending over a three-month period to give yourself a chance to learn what's possible with this beautiful practice.

If you have never sat with us, Elul is a great time to begin! Learn how meditation can help us prepare for the High Holidays by deepening teshuvah as a return into connection with what is essential for our soul.

Meditation heightens our appreciation of the Days of Awe, as it does each of the Jewish holidays/Holy Days. It nurtures spiritual growth,

repairs mental health, mends aching hearts, heals our tattered souls, and recalibrates our actions. It is a compassionate way to approach the habitual ways we fall short or "miss the mark," thus allowing an inherent wisdom to guide us in making amends and taking action.

When we're too busy to pay attention to Elul's inner preparation, even as we go through the motions of holiday rituals, something always happens no matter what. Yet we can easily miss the opportunity for deeper transformation. As we inhale Nishmat Hayyim, the breath of life, our being exhales, lets go, and the wisdom of intimacy with the Divine manifests in unpredictable ways. Arriving at Ne'ilah, in that sea of our communal humanity pouring through the gates, we are propelled, ready or not, into an unknowable future with a freshly-opened heart.

MORNINGS

Fall 2019 Friday AM Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group

The core Friday morning community welcomes both beginner and experienced meditators. All are welcome all the time!

Elul (September) meditations support preparation for the High Holidays.

Plan to arrive before the sit begins to get settled. Please register at www.tbzbrookline.org/nishmathayyim-events if you are planning to attend on any of the dates, so we have your contact information and can notify you of any changes in the schedule.

Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, Nov 8, 15, 22

9:30 -11 am in the TBZ sanctuary

AFTERNOONS

Shabbat Meditation Continues Once a Month After Kiddush

Sept. 7, 1:30 - 3 pm in the TBZ sanctuary

Please refer to the TBZ online calendar and TBZ Happenings for the Oct/Nov dates.

EVENINGS

New class three TUESDAY evenings in Elul with Reb Moshe

"Contemplative Preparation for the High Holidays"

Sept. 10, 17, 24, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

We will be using, z"l, Rabbi Alan Lew's book - *This is Real and You Are Completely Un-prepared*

To register online visit www.tbzbrookline.org/nishmat-hayyim-events or call the office.

SAVE THE DATE

November 16

Contemplative Shabbat Service

More info to follow!

Nishmat Hayyim wishes everyone and their loved ones meaningful High Holidays, and a year filled with blessings, good health, spiritual growth, joy, love, learning, and community.



TBZ's Summer Picnic in the Park

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Good Fight: One Year of Pittsburgh

An Anti-Defamation League community event
on antisemitism cosponsored by TBZ.

More details to come.

Oct 27: 9 am - 3 pm

Neo-Hasidism Day Conference at Hebrew College

Learn more about Neo-Hasidism by taking part
in an upcoming conference in honor of
Rabbi Art Green's new book.
TBZ is invited and encouraged to join.

Information to follow.

Nov. 3

TODAH RABAH

- To Rabbi Lev Friedman, Rabbi Daniel Klein, Rabbi Mona Strick, Rabbi Sam Seicol, Alan Weisner, Noah Weinberg and Cantor Beck Khitrik for helping lead services and Torah study during Reb Moshe's absence.
- To Caitlin Feuer, Rachael Wurtman, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner, Debbie Gardner, Ruth Saltzman, Lilly Pelzman, Jonathan Golden, Jill Stopfer, the Taub family and Tali Walters for volunteering at the Shabbat picnic.
- To Sue Kahn and Fiona Epstein for leading the Search Committee for our new Executive Director and to Meredith Joy, Carol Kamin, Geoff Stein, Sarah Fendrick and Sara Smolover for serving on the committee.
- To B'nei Mitzvah students and siblings Arlan, Daniel and Liora Zbarsky; Maya Bitton; and Tovah and Ian Falck for volunteering their time to help straighten up the Sanctuary. They worked hard to organize all the Siddurim and Chumashim, including placing cards under each chair so that every congregant has access to books.
- To Rebecca Blouwolf for serving on the Beit Rabban Parent Steering Committee for five years.

Tikkun Olam at TBZ

Tikkun Olam Responds to You

by Tali K. Walters

“Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly in God’s world.” (Micah 6:8)

Rav Claudia said, “All humans are created in the image of God. Loving our neighbor and the stranger. All that is in the Torah. Those are our values.”

This past May and June I participated in six House Meeting with over 100 TBZ participants. In each meeting I heard these values echoed in your expression of a desire to be an active participant in the healing of the world through Tikkun Olam. Questions you asked included, How do I participate? How can my children and my parents participate? What work is under way? How can I start a new initiative? Is there a way I can fit Tikkun Olam into my busy schedule? If I don’t want to organize an action but want to act, is there a place for me? Pathways



July Maine voter registration effort - Jill, Marjorie, and Jonathan resist one vote at a time in Maine



Intergenerational opportunities for Tikkun Olam at TBZ

to Tikkun Olam will answer your questions, the ones you asked and the ones you didn’t know to ask.

Join the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee and your fellow TBZ members for **Pathways to Tikkun Olam on Monday, September 23, 7 pm to 8:30 pm.** You will learn about TBZ Tikkun Olam actions over the past year, and about important ongoing work and new initiatives. You will have the opportunity to contribute your own ideas and find others who have similar interests.

Is the racist political rhetoric this summer churning you to action? Do you believe health care and affordable housing are basic human rights?

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 14)



TBZ Members have fun while fighting for reproductive rights

Participate in the GBIO table where you will find out about TBZ's Racial Justice Initiative, efforts towards affordable housing, health care for all, and other collaborations through the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization.

This summer we have seen heartbreaking images of immigrants on our borders, human beings held in unsanitary confinement, children separated from their parents, refugees being denied asylum. What can we, here in Boston, do to fulfill our commitment to Never Again? In collaboration with a faith-based coalition, TBZ provides fresh starts for refugee families to the Brookline/Newton area. Find out about NBARC's (Newton/Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee) volunteer opportunities. Join TBZ's collaboration with GBIO and JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) in an effort to allow individuals without legal status to obtain drivers licenses. TBZ has been an active participant in Sanctuary over the past year and half during which time we assisted an undocumented family as they sought legal status through the immigration Court. Opportunities to learn about actions and how to get involved will be at the NBARC and Sanctuary tables.

On September 15 TBZ celebrates our successful climate change initiative Powered by the Sun. We are the first Boston area synagogue to power our electricity through solar panels on our roof. Earlier this summer, the kitchen went green with all compostable materials. Join fellow TBZ members to influence your family, friends, and TBZ Community to take action and save the planet!

Resistance is fun! Drive to Portland, Maine with fellow TBZ members on a Register to Vote mission. Schmooze with friends (of all generations!) and Brookline neighbors while encouraging residents to vote in flip-able elections through post card writing campaigns. Are you interested in Ranked Choice Voting? This is a hot topic in Resistance conversations. Join the Resistance table and learn how you can be part of the fun while influencing the political landscape.

TBZ has joined with the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence for Shabbat programming on October 26, the one year anniversary of the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting. The Gun Violence Initiative table will give you an opportunity to discuss how you can participate in shaping the gun violence debate.

As Rav Claudia pointed out in last Spring's *Koleinu*, through these varied approaches to social justice, we develop relationship. We deepen already established friendships, realize connections with our fellow TBZ members to form new relationships, and connect with others in the broader world who would not otherwise cross our paths. Through "meaningful relationship, we have meaningful experiences to help us live meaningfully." Pathways to Tikkun Olam provides you an opportunity to commit to our tradition and to Torah.

To stay up-to-date on all the exciting events

taking place, go to:

www.tbzbrookline.org

and find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline

THOUGHTS FROM REB MOSHE

It is good to be back from my sabbatical. I am fortunate to continue serving our community over the next years in a new role as Founding Rabbi.

TBZ, under the leadership of Rav Claudia, continues to be a vibrant congregation at the forefront of the Boston Jewish community in so many ways. May all of our contributions continue to strengthen our path into the future for many years to come.

As the New Year approaches I am reminded of the story of the man who wanted to change his family; his community; his country and the world. After many disappointments, as he reached his maturity, he realized that his failure was due to skipping the most important step of changing himself.

This step of self-examination and self-transformation is the essence of our communal experience during the month of Elul and the Yamim Noraim, those awesome Days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We are blessed with our capacity for change all year round. The High Holidays allows us to take our personal process of transformation into a communal setting.

This offers us the support we need throughout the year. The weekly booster for this process is, of course, our communal celebration of Shabbat. Shabbat offers us the opportunity to express our gratitude and praise for the gift of life.

Gratitude and praise are the vital components in our ability, on Yom Kippur, to face our mortality. At the end of the day our renewal of life exhilarates us to a new energy. This is palpable at our Ne'ilah service. As we conclude Ne'ilah we step over the threshold of the closing gate. We keep the gate ajar by our continued efforts throughout the year to be the best we can be. It's not easy and the everyday pressures we experience in our lives often stifle our deep motivation to move forward in fulfilling our aspirations. This is where our attachment to the Source of Life, to the Ineffable whose Name can only be uttered through our appreciation of being alive, offers us so much.

Our tradition teaches that every day is a gift. We must open our hearts and minds to receive this daily act of *rakhamim*—compassion. We are bolstered in our life journey by our nurturing of that compassion for each one of us, our families, our communities, our countries and our world.

L'Chaim

- To Barbara Segal and Howard Brown on the birth of their grandson, Arthur Moshe Simon.
- To Howard Cohen and Myra Musicant on the birth of their three grandchildren - Mirah to Molly Cohen Wu and Bashi Wu, Marion (Mari) to Margo Lindauer and Joshua Cohen and Samson to Jenny Cohen Gordon and Matt Gordon.
- To Allen Taylor and Kim Kronenberg on the birth of a granddaughter.
- To Reb Moshe on his 70th Birthday.
- To Reb Moshe and Anne on the marriage of their daughter Risa to Ira Blum.
- To Rav Claudia for being named Jewish Chaplain of the Brookline Fire Department.
- To Judith Klau on the birth of her granddaughter, Hannah Rose Klau.
- To Rabbis Carol Glass and Michael Schwartz on the wedding of their son Nadav to Molly Wolfberg.
- To Jen Klein, who was honored by PAIR (Political Asylum/ Immigrant Representation) with the Pro Bono Mentor Award at their annual gala.
- To Ronnie Levin and Joel Schwartz on the marriage of daughter Natalia Levin-Schwartz to Adam Snyder.
- To Nate Korn-Meyer on becoming Bar Mitzvah on June 15.
- To Joshua Danzig on becoming Bar Mitzvah on June 22.
- To Sarah Mautner-Mazlen on becoming Bat Mitzvah on August 3.

DONATIONS

Rick Bankhead & Kemper Thompson
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Barbara Sternfield
Eddie & Sandy Taub
Samuel & Rebecca Tolkoff
Alan Weisner & Marilyn Glazer-Weisner

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Roberta Apfel and Bennett Simon

Katherine Ellin

Tamar Winter and Aaron Schwartz

CONDOLENCES

- To Claudio Toppelberg, his wife Sara and their children, Nathaniel, David and Gabriela on the passing of Claudio's mother, Cecilia Toppelberg.
- To Marilyn Glazer-Weisner and her husband Alan on the death of Marilyn's stepmother, Gloria Levine Glazer.
- To Rick Bankhead, his husband Kemper Thompson, Rick's mother Dorothy Bankhead and their entire family on the death of Rick's brother Kirk Stephen Bankhead.
- To Mort Berenson on the loss of his beloved brother, Lenny Colten.
- To Sue Brent on the loss of her beloved cousin Joan Schwartz-Waine.

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

המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

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L'Shanah Tovah

Invite your friends to join us for the High Holidays.

Tickets are available in the office.



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