

Winter 2019-20

TEMPLE BETH ZION
KOLEINU

קולנו

עוֹלָם חֶסֶד יִבְנֶה

Olam Hesed Yibaneh

WE WILL BUILD THIS WORLD FROM LOVE!

- Psalm 89:3



Scholar In Residence: Rabbi David Jaffe

Message from Reb Moshe

Photos from Rav Claudia's Installation

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

president@tbzbrookline.org

Our community gathered on Hol Hamoed Sukkot to usher in a new era at TBZ, with Rav Claudia formally installed as our Senior Rabbi. If you were lucky enough to be there for all or part of the Shabbat services, Installation, or celebration, you were part of history in the making. Our communal cup overflowed with blessings from Reb Moshe, Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Reb Ebn, Rabbi Margie Klein and with the joy of everyone who participated. Many of you have asked me to share the words I spoke that evening, and so they are printed here. You'll have to imagine Irwin Pless standing up and telling the assembled members and guests how grateful he is to see how TBZ has blossomed into the dynamic congregation that it is today. And you'll imagine the beautiful colorful tallit that I presented to Rav Claudia on behalf of the congregation, and the purple tinted mezuzah from Israel that she presented to the shul to be placed at the main outside door on the sanctuary level. But, so you don't have to imagine everything, there is a YouTube video of the Installation for you to enjoy! [Search for TBZ's channel on www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

Finally, I want to thank the creative and hard-working committee that made this whole weekend happen: Jen Klein, Micah Klein, Sam Mendoza, and Barrie Wheeler. They did an amazing job!

Shavuah tov and Moadim l'simcha!

My name is Sara Smolover and I am privileged to serve as the President of TBZ. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire congregation, I welcome everyone to this joyous and important occasion.

To the leaders of the local Jewish Community, esteemed Rabbis, teachers and colleagues of Rav Claudia, and TBZ friends—*Bruchim HaBaim*—we are honored to have you.

And to Rav Claudia's family who has traveled from Israel and Peru to be here—Shalom and Bienvenidos!

Reb Ebn—we are so lucky that the gift of your partnership with Rav Claudia allows our congregation to be blessed with your wisdom and true love of Torah.

And Alma and Ariel, thank you for being here, in your seats! When your Ima is the Rabbi of a shul you get to spend a lot of time here at TBZ, or watching her text, or having meetings, or making phone calls, or studying Torah. We thank you for your patience and for sharing her with all of us!

A couple of weeks ago I watched a video on YouTube of Reb Moshe's installation. It was in this very sanctuary—with wooden pews and a wrought iron partition in front of the bimah—that exactly 20 years and 4 months ago Reb Moshe was installed as the Rabbi of Temple Beth Zion, a dwindling congregation that had come to realize that their hope to stay alive depended on the fresh energy and new ideas of this newly minted, unorthodox, Rabbi.

In the video you see images of Temple Beth Zion members, many no longer with us. You hear Cantor Sheyngart singing and speaking in Yiddush, while Reb Moshe translates. You hear messages of reflection and recognition from Reb Moshe's teachers. And then you see the President of TBZ at the time, Irwin Pless, take to the pulpit. Irwin, can you please stand up?

"Irwin, do you remember what you said that afternoon?

You announced that Reb Moshe had signed a five year contract, and that you envisioned that at the end of those five years he would "be the model for all future Rabbis." If by this you meant a deeply knowledgeable, innovative, somewhat unconventional, joy-filled spiritual

Continued...

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Reb Moshe Waldoks, Founding Rabbi ext. 12
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Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg
Nominating Committee: Sue Kahn
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Family Table: Alan Weisner, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers
Tikkun Olam: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson, Carol Kamin
Climate Change: Mark Dwortzan, Anne Marie Codur, Fran Adams
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GBIO: Susan Bookbinder, Rosalind Joffe
Newton-Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee :
Jenny Berz, Jed Shugerman
Resistance: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson
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Torah Readers: Larry Kraus
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leader, than I think you have to agree, your prophecy has come true!

Thank you, Reb Moshe, for infusing us with your love of Torah, and your relentless call to grow and evolve our relationship to every aspect of Judaism. You, along with a devoted cadre of early adopters, built the strong foundation on which we now stand, poised to begin this new chapter in the journey of TBZ. We are so happy that you are continuing with TBZ in your new role as Founding Rabbi.

In 2006 Reb Moshe had the inspiration to invite Rabbi Claudia Kreiman to join him at the High Holiday pulpit. The congregation was blown away by her energy, the Latina sensibilities she brought to *tefillah* (had we ever seen anyone clap that fast?), and her deep insights into life and Torah. We recognized that, together, their leadership would bring TBZ to another level.

Rav Claudia began serving as Assistant Rabbi in 2007, with a focus on attracting families and children with innovative education and programming, and forming a community that could grow together. In those early years of Beit Rabban we had just six families with children. Today we have nearly 60!

We learned quickly that Rav Claudia had an exceptional ability to attend to both the tiniest details and the big picture—ensuring that every event, class, or service ran smoothly, and that the overarching goal was always in sight—to engage everyone in a Judaism that was alive and joyful, and rooted in Torah.

She infused everything she did with her unabashed love of our tradition, one fostered from birth as the daughter of a Rabbi and a Jewish educator. You may have heard that as a little girl she once dressed up for Purim as a rabbi, complete with a long black coat and beard—emulating her father, and every other rabbi that she'd seen. How could she even imagine that a Rabbi could wear orange pants and bright teal nail polish?

Along with her insights into Torah, Rav Claudia taught us about tragedy and resilience, bringing her personal story of loss to her rabbinate, and forging a deeper connection with our members.

As Rav Claudia moved through phases as Associate Rabbi, then as Rabbi, she grew our Beit Rabban and Mishpachot programs, organized Community Retreats, taught Torah, led joyous davening, committed to Inclusion, hired talented staff, and developed, along with Reb Moshe and our Board, a strategic plan to grow TBZ.

Rav Claudia is passionate about her love of Judaism and about social justice, as we have heard her say so many times: social justice IS her torah. She marches alongside our members at



rallies. She speaks at many programs, sharing her vision of ending suffering and confronting the injustices of our world today.

She continues to build on Reb Moshe's successful efforts to foster coalitions and relationships both in the larger Jewish community and with people of other faiths, urging us to learn with and from each other, and to support one another.

She inspires us to commit our energy and time to tikkun olam and helps us balance our sense of urgency with the steady pace necessary to replenish ourselves for the long journey ahead.

And now, as she begins her tenure as Senior Rabbi, Rav Claudia calls on us to build a world of Hesed "*olam Hesed yibaneh*". What a deeply inspiring and timely directive for all of us to accept. With her leadership we will build on our strong foundation and become an even more connected community, a more compassionate community, and a more committed community.

Rav Claudia has set 5 pillars of her leadership as Senior Rabbi:

- Spiritual leader
- Team and Community Builder
- Pastoral Counselor
- Teacher
- Advocate for Social Justice

As you can see from this list, she is a rabbi for all of us.

Earlier this year the board enthusiastically approved, and Rav Claudia signed, a six year contract. Irwin, if I may paraphrase your quote, I predict that Rav Claudia Kreiman will be the model for all future Rabbis, as she leads our community with Hesed into the future, inspiring all of our children to imagine they can become powerful leaders rooted in Torah, whether in black robes or orange pants.

Rav Claudia—I am so happy to be your (lay leader) partner. It is a privilege—and a lot of fun—to participate with you in leading TBZ forward.

Y'shar kochech! May you—and TBZ—go from strength to strength!

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

Eat, Pray, Learn

Join Rav Claudia and members of our community in this new initiative. Each morning begins with joyful and intentional davening, followed by breakfast and text learning. Check the website for more details and to sign up. A minyan is required. tbzbrookline.org/eatpraylearn

Wednesdays, 7:30 am

Kiddush Talks

Women of the Wall

Join Tammy Gottlieb, Vice Chairperson of Women of the Wall, an organization fighting for women's right to pray aloud, with Torah scrolls and tefillin at the Kotel. This is a rare chance to hear from a strong, resolute woman who stands at the front lines of our battle.

December 7: 12:30 pm

Science Training Encouraging Peace (STEP)

Learn about STEP from Kim Kronenberg. STEP is a US-based program that funds the tuition of graduate-level health science education to pairs of graduate students, each pair is comprised of one Israeli and one Palestinian. STEP Fellows study in the same program or laboratory and are required to work together and interact as a pair. Each pair is currently studying in accredited academic institutions in Israel. Each STEP Fellow has an academic mentor who oversees his/her fulfillment of academic requirements, and facilitates cooperation with his/her STEP partner.

February 1: 12:30 pm

Take-Out Theology

In this 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. With Rabbinc Intern Tyler Dratch.

Mondays, December 2, 9, 16: 7 - 8:30 pm

Olam Hesed Yibaneh: Building a Community of Hesed with Rav Claudia

We know that we are supposed to care for the sick and comfort mourners, and engage in many other acts of hesed, loving-kindness, but how do we do this in a Jewish way? Together we'll learn the textual sources and grapple with these mitzvot in our own lives as we build community at TBZ.

Mondays, January 27, February 3, 10: 7 - 8:30 pm

For meditation learning opportunities with Nishmat Hayyim see page 8.

Scholar in Residence Program

Join Rabbi David Jaffe, a writer, rabbi and spiritual seeker in learning about his journey and how we might connect spiritual practices to our social justice work. His first book, *Changing the World from the Inside Out*, explores how to walk a holy path that integrates deep spiritual wisdom with the daily work of peacemaking and social change.

January 10

D'var Torah

January 11

D'var Torah and Kiddush learning

**SAVE THE DATES FOR
FOLLOW UP CLASSES:**

February 13, 27, March 5, 12

7 - 8:30 pm

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Community Dinners

Please join us for monthly community-wide Shabbat dinners immediately after 6:15 Kabbalat Shabbat service. These special evenings are a great opportunity to meet new people, connect with old friends, sing songs with our musicians (bring your instruments), dance and have a delicious and catered Shabbat meal! Adults and children welcome.

Dec 6, Jan 10, Feb 21

Community Meeting

Please join in electing our new slate of officers and thanking the departing board members who have given so much to our community over the past year. Be updated on the State of the Shul and learn more about how we'll move into the future. December 15: 4 pm (Childcare provided.)

Wonder Minyan

Former known as Tfilot Mishpachot, Wonder Minyan is an opportunity for children to wonder; to connect with our prayers, traditions, and blessings, and to what's going on in the world in song and in joy. Led by Rav Tiferet, Noah Weinberg and Tyler Dratch. After their service the children will join the adults in the sanctuary to be blessed.

December 7, January 11, 25, February 8, 29: 11:30 am

TBZ Goes Solar

CORRECTION: In the last issue of Koleinu, an article incorrectly stated that TBZ is the first Boston-area synagogue to install solar panels on its rooftop. Several Boston-area synagogues and churches had already gone solar prior to TBZ's installation, and we join them in supporting this encouraging trend.



NEWS FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE

We are excited to announce that the TBZ Inclusion Committee is planning a special Shabbat during February, which is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. After Kiddush on February 8, we will be sponsoring an open discussion based on our community-wide reading of Daniel Jackson's wonderful book, *Portraits of Resilience*. Jackson, who lives in the Boston area, presents in photographs and moving first person accounts the stories of nearly two dozen individuals' struggles with depression and anxiety. Rather than discuss the whole book, we will be focusing on six stories, which are excerpted on Jackson's website. You can access those stories by going to the 'excerpts' section of his site. We encourage you to visit www.portraitsofresilience.com.

About the book: At once a photo essay and compendium of life stories, Portraits of Resilience brings us face to face with twenty-two extraordinary individuals, celebrating the wisdom they have gained on the front line of a contemporary battle. With astonishing honesty and openness, they describe their experiences of depression and anxiety; how they endured their darkest moments and ultimately found purpose and meaning in their struggles. These wise people give us not only solace and reassurance as we face our own challenges, but also the inspiration that even apparently insurmountable challenges can be faced and sometimes overcome—and that happiness, while elusive, can eventually be found.

TBZ's inclusion effort has been inspired and supported by the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP), which is a partnership between the Ruderman Foundation and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. This past year, RSIP has been focusing on mental health. TBZ joins them and many other area synagogues in their Mental Health Initiative. RSIP has offered us rich resources for all our inclusion work. For more information, please visit rudermanfamilyfoundation.org. Also, please feel free to contact us with any questions and concerns: inclusion@tbzbrookline.org

We will be sending out our second inclusion survey soon. We hope that all TBZ households will participate. Your feedback is invaluable as we try to understand what we, as a community, can do to continue to make TBZ more inclusive.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

News from Family Table

Thank you dear Rav Claudia for your beautiful Rosh Hashanah 5780 teachings on how we can all build a world from love, olam hesed yibaneh. In the Rosh Hashanah booklet you prepared for us, there is the reference to the text, Sotah 14a, "Rabbi Samlai taught: The Torah begins with an act of kindness and ends with an act of kindness." As the Family Table co-coordinators for TBZ, Alan and I are asking everyone in our TBZ community to continue to focus on hesed and the act of loving kindness involved with feeding the hungry. Family Table's mission is to end hunger in the Greater Boston Jewish community while serving people who need 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. TBZ's collection assignment each month involves the gathering of 50 boxes of whole grain crackers and 45 cans of Kosher, vegetarian low sodium soups. However, if we, as a community collect more than our assignment that is an extremely important act of hesed because the contribution helps meet the needs of our extended community that is facing food insecurity.

Please join us on TBZ's Mitzvah Day, the morning of **Sunday, January 26, 2020** at Family Table in Waltham at Jewish Family and Children's Services for an important day of learning about tzedakah, hesed, and tikkum olam. You will have the valuable opportunity to learn more about food insecurity in the greater community and have a hands-on experience of gathering groceries and making deliveries to families and individuals in need with other members of TBZ. Let's all remember to build a world from love every time we have a chance to do this, olam hesed yibaneh.

Love to all of you,
TBZ Family Table co-coordinators,
Marilyn Glazer-Weisner and Alan Weisner

News from Beit Rabban

The first day of TBZ's Beit Rabban Hebrew School was amazing thanks to our team of educators led by Rav Tiferet Berenbaum! — with Avi Davis, Lisa Kipen-Hershenson, Zach Mayer, Rachel Davenport, Tyler Dratch, Jessica Woolf, David Winship and Josh Greenberg.



On September 25 in Beit Rabban a midrash from Kohelet Rabbah reminded us that we must care for our Earth because there is no one after us to fix it. Beit Rabban then staged a Climate March all the way to Washington...Square! We were inspired by the notion of praying with our feet, carrying a Torah and blasting shofarot along the way!



Weekly Shabbat Times

6 pm Meditation; 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
9 am Shabbat Torah study; 10 am services followed by Kiddush lunch

SPECIAL SERVICES

Intergenerational Shabbat

December 14

Rosh Hodesh Shabbat

January 19: 10 am

Men's Group Shabbat

January 26

Inclusion Shabbat

February 8: 10 am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hannukah

December 22-30

Community Hannukah Party

December 22: 4 - 6 pm

Tu B'Shvat (Be on the look out in Happenings for details of our celebration)

February 9-10

ADULT LEARNING

Take-Out Theology

December 2, 9, 16: 7 - 8:30 pm

Valuing Life and Limb

December 2, 9: 10:30 am - noon

Kiddush Talks

December 7, February 1: 12:30 pm

Meditation Class with Reb Moshe

January 14, 28, February 11, 25, March 10, 24: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Olam Hesed Yibaneh

January 27, February 3, 10: 7 - 8:30 pm

BAR/BAT MITZVAH 10 am

December 21: Ezra Klauber

January 4: Tovah Falck

January 18: Yahli Anter

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT EVENTS

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat followed by dinner at TBZ

December 14, January 11: 5:30 pm

Wonder Minyan

December 7, January 11, 25, February 8, 29: 11:30 am

BOOK CLUB

December 8, January 12, February 9: 6:30 - 8 pm

COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

December 6, January 10, February 21: 7:30 pm

COMMUNITY MEETING

December 15: 3 pm

MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP: FRIDAY MORNING

Dec 6, 13, 20, 27, Jan 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21, 28: 9:30 - 11:00 am

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

December 1, January 5, January 26, February 22: 1:30 pm

Winter brunch: Sunday, December 16: 10 am

MITZVAH DAY (be on the look out for details in Happenings)

January 13

ROSH HODESH GROUP

(for committed participants)

December 29, January 26, February 23

SHABBAT AFTERNOON MEDITATION SITS

December 14, January 25, February 29: 1:30 - 3 pm

SHABBAT NARIYA and POT LUCK SUPPER

December 20, January 3, February 7

TIKKUN OLAM KIDDUSH CONVERSATION

December 14, January 25, February 22: 12:30 pm

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Check Happenings for the program and sign up information

February 2: 8:30 am - 3 pm

NEWS FROM NISHMAT HAYYIM: THE BREATH OF LIFE MEDITATION PROJECT AT TBZ

As winter approaches and the days are shorter, we may find ourselves spending more time inside our homes. This extra time may be a great opportunity to either begin or strengthen a contemplative practice. Consider participating in one of our many offerings that nourish and support each of our inner journeys toward greater awareness and compassion.

Whether it is joining a Friday morning practice group, a contemplative Shabbat, a Shabbat afternoon sit, or our new weekday special class focusing on contemplative practice through

a Jewish lens, we become a practice community built on shared experiences that nurture each other. In our meditation sits, in community or alone, we witness the unfolding of 'being'. We witness what arises from deep within us moment to moment. Whatever arises is fine. What arises is the very fabric, the essence, that weaves our journey toward greater understandings of 'being' in the world, bringing light to the dark and warmth to the cold. Come join us for any of the following possibilities listed below to enrich and deepen your practice.

New Bi-Monthly Tuesday Night Meditation Class with Reb Moshe

Begins Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 - 8:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Registration will begin mid-December. Everyone will be notified via email and TBZ Happenings.

Nishmat Hayyim: The Breath of Life Meditation Project at TBZ is excited to present an evening opportunity to sit together in community. Many who attended our September sessions on Contemplative Preparation for the High holidays expressed their desire for a mid-week evening session. We hope that you will take advantage of this marvelous option for both beginners and more experienced meditators to benefit from this practice. The hour will include an opening chant, meditation instructions, 20-30 minute sit, walking meditation, Q & A/discussion, and an ending sit. Drop-ins are welcome.

Friday AM Meditation/Mindfulness Practice Group

Every Friday in December, January, and February — except for January 3, 9:30 - 11:00 am in the sanctuary.

Please register so that we have your contact info in case of a schedule change.

To register visit the TBZ website or call the office, ext 17.

These sessions have become a home for the Jewish meditation community, helping to both deepen and continue this challenging discipline together, cultivating wisdom, compassion, happiness, and the ability to respond to this complex life and world. The 90 minute sessions include chant, a 45 minute silent sit, teachings from Jewish, Buddhist, and other mindfulness texts, Q & A/discussion, and check-ins about our practice. All levels of meditators, beginners and experienced, who want support for starting or deepening a regular practice are welcome! Registration not required.

Monthly Shabbat Afternoon Meditation Sits

December 14, January 25, February 29, 1:30 - 3:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Coming together in stillness to be with the truth of what arises and passes in each moment, without fixing or adding anything. Be fully alive to the hidden essence of Shabbat *vayinafash*. Stop and ensoul. "*Hineh ma tovu'ma nayim shevet achim gam yachad*." How good and skillful it is for brothers and sisters to sit together. Includes chant, 45 min sit, walking meditation and stretch/break, contemplative Torah study, Q & A/discussion, and a closing Sit. Registration not required. Everyone is welcome

All of our events are promoted via email, TBZ Happenings, flyers, and word of mouth. Please refer to the online calendar at the TBZ website if you are not sure of a date. We look forward to sitting with

you at one or more of our community-centered contemplative possibilities. We wish everyone a bright, light-filled Hanukkah that is imbued with joy, learning, acts of loving kindness, and community.

Warm up the Winter by helping us Repair the World

by Jonathan Klein, Tikkun Olam Steering Committee Member

The warmth of the High Holidays and Rav Claudia's Installation at TBZ are long past as we head into the dark, cold days of winter, but we can all stay warm spiritually by remembering the phrase from Psalms Rav Claudia taught us to chant over and over, "*Olam Hessed Yibaneh*, We Must Build this World with Love". And, more than remembering and chanting, acting! At TBZ Tikkun Olam, we invite you to join us as we focus our "building through love" on actions to repair the world. It is a daunting task, and easy to become overwhelmed, but we always keep in mind the wise words of *Pirkei Avot*: "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

This past fall has been full of Tikkun Olam activities at TBZ:

- On September 23, we had diverse group of about 20 TBZ members for our program on **Pathways to Tikkun Olam**, an evening exploring the many Tikkun Olam activities at TBZ.
- On October 26, over 25 members came to a **Kiddush Talk by Ruth Zakarin**, executive director of the Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, to learn about the scope of this local and national crisis, its rippling effects across communities and generations, and actions we can take to make a difference. (For more information, contact Judy Schechtman, j_schecht@hotmail.com.)
- Our **TBZ Resistance Group** has held multiple actions, including advocacy for the Roe Act – a bold piece of state legislation that re-affirms the right to safe, legal abortion and guarantees its accessibility and affordability to all people – and action evenings to support voter registration in under-represented minority communities. (For more information, email resistance@tbzbrookline.org.)
- On November 4th, TBZ had an impressive delegation at the **GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) Healthcare Reform Action "Rise up for Healing" at the IBEW** (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Hall in Dorchester, where over 750 GBIO members of all faiths stood up for the need to control drug prices, improve access to mental health services, and eliminate "surprise billing," among other critical issues. (For more information, contact

Joel Feldman, joel@finkelfeldman.com or Rosalind Joffe, rosalind@cicoach.com.)

- And on November 10, TBZ joined with three of our neighboring synagogues, Temple Sinai, Temple Israel and Temple Ohabei Shalom, for a program on **"Organizing for Housing Justice in Brookline"** held at Ohabei Shalom, where we learned about the history of government sponsored racial discrimination in housing, how it has impacted our communities, and what we can do to bring more integrated, affordable housing to Brookline. (For more information, contact Jonathan Klein, jklein728@gmail.com.)

How can you join us? Maybe the easiest way is to come to one of our Tikkun Olam Kiddush Conversations. We started these last year and they were a big hit, so after a short pause they are resuming in December. Every month, one or two members of the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee (see more below) will host a table at Kiddush after Shabbat Services to discuss our work. Sometimes we'll have a specific topic for discussion, and other times we'll have an open table for your questions, concerns and ideas. It's an easy way to talk about issues of the day, find out what we are up to, and how you can participate. No commitment necessary! Here are the dates for those who want to add them to your calendars, and they will always be announced in Happenings and from the bima: **December 14, January 25, February 22, March 21, April 25, May 16, and June 13.**

Finally, many of you have asked about **Tikkun Olam Steering Committee**. We are a group of nine members (plus Rav Claudia) who have committed to meet monthly and who have each committed to take the lead in organizing one area of our Tikkun Olam work: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson, Carol Kamin (our "tri-chairs"), Susan Bookbinder, Rosalind Joffe, Jonathan Klein, Jed Shugerman, Judy Schechtman, and Tali Walters. We **meet on the first Monday of every month from 8:45-10:15** in the Meeting Room on the ground floor. Meetings are open to all TBZ members; please feel free to join us, and do please let us know in advance (by email to tikkunolam@tbzbrookline.org) if there is a specific issue you want to discuss so we can make time for it on our very full agenda.

So, let's all stay warm this winter by remembering that we must build the world with love, and channeling our love into action through Tikkun Olam!

Olam Hessed Yibaneh

WE WILL BUILD THIS WORLD FROM LOVE!

- Psalm 89:3

Dear TBZ community,

The season of the High Holidays is behind us. We are now in the midst of 5780. Our calendar is full of programming for all ages and interests—from Aging in Community to our Wonder Minyan to the celebration of several B'nei Mitzvah of TBZ children who have grown-up in our community. Our community continues to grow with new members and new connections and I am incredibly grateful to be leading this unique and vibrant community.

During the High Holidays I invited you to join me on a journey guided by one word: Hessed (חסד), translated alternatively as love, loving-kindness, compassion, and mercy.

We explored this theme through sermons, kavanot and personal prayers. We asked what it means for us to live a life of חסד. We explored the implications of turning towards ourselves, our friends and family with חסד. We reflected on the ways in which חסד is and could further become the foundation of our community. We also talked of חסד in the context of our ongoing commitments to social justice, to healing the world, to fighting for justice and fairness and as a response to hatred towards minorities and specifically towards the Jewish Community.

The first night of Rosh Hashanah I shared the following story from Martin Luther King:

In 1955 Martin Luther King gave a sermon titled “The Death of Evil Upon the Seashore”. He ended that sermon with a story of a visit he and Coretta took to the southernmost point of India. As he tells it, one evening, they went out to the farthest tip of the beach. They sat together, surrounded and “enthralled by the vastness of the ocean and its terrifying immensities.”

Facing west, they watched the sun descend into the sea like a great cosmic ball of fire. Then, just as it was almost out of sight... they turned around and saw the moon rising out of the same sea, “its radiant light shining supreme.”

Dr. King realized: *Isn't this what always happens in life? “We all have experiences when the light of day goes out and we are left standing in some dark and desolate midnight—moments when our noblest dreams are shattered and our highest hopes are blasted; moments when we are the victims of some tragic injustice and some terrible exploitation. During these moments our spirits are almost eaten away by gloom and despair; we feel that there is no light anywhere. But ever and again, when these moments come, we find ourselves taking the eastward look, only to discover that there is another light which shines even in the darkness.”*

This would be a miserable, terrible and unbearable world if God had only one light. But we can be consoled by the fact that God has two lights—a light to guide us in the brightness of the day when hopes are fulfilled and circumstances are favorable and a light to guide us in the darkness of midnight when frustrations are real and the slumbering giants of gloom and hopelessness are on the verge of rising up in our souls. Therefore we never need to walk in darkness.”

As winter approaches and the days are darker and shorter, I am reminded of this teaching once again. It reminds all of us that these lights that guide us in the brightness of the day and in the darkness of the

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 10)

night, these lights of God are the lights of hesed, of love and compassion.

At the end of December we will be celebrating Hanukkah. During Hanukkah we will light candles each night adding one more light, enhancing and growing our light each day. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, a rabbi in London, writes in a beautiful teaching about Hanukkah:

"...light expresses companionship, creativity, hope, and inspiration. Put a candle in a dark room, and all at once the space has a center, everyone looks toward the flame as if the small dancing fire has the power to unite our spirits and harmonize our thoughts. Even a small candle illumines a large area, even the littlest flame creates a community around it. Its radiance spreads beyond the immediate circle." (*The Eternal Journey, Meditation on the Jewish Year*, Jonathan Wittenberg, page 106).

This is how I suggest we think about our community, individually and collectively. Each of us, even the smallest candle, has the capacity to be a light to others, illuminating and creating community. And TBZ, as a whole, is a collective candle that lights the darkness that surrounds us, that inspires with its brightness and joy.

In January 10 and 11, we are excited to be welcoming Rabbi David Jaffe as our scholar in residence. Rabbi David Jaffe is a writer and rabbi whose life work seeks to integrate spiritual wisdom, social justice, reconciliation and deep personal growth. His new book *Changing the World from the Inside Out* is about ancient wisdom and practices to build our inner world, and change the world. My hope is that in our learning with Rabbi Jaffe we can further the integration of our spiritual personal work, the way we connect with each other and the way we interact with the world. (for more information page 4)

I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you, the journey of lighting the world with Hesed, with love and compassion; lighting our own lives, lighting our community and lighting the world together. We will continue to enhance our activism and our commitment to hesed.

B'vracha,
With Blessings,



TBZBROOKLINE.ORG

P.S: Hesed at TBZ happens in many different ways. First and foremost, If you are ill or in need of support via meals, transportation or errands, know that YOUR community is here with you. Please contact hesed@tbzbrookline.org or call us at 617-566-8171. Please notify me (ravclaudia@tbzbrookline.org or 617-566-8171 ext 11) directly if you would like to talk about your situation.

If you would like to be involved in our inclusion efforts at TBZ, please connect with our Inclusion committee via e-mail: inclusion@tbzbrookline.org.

If you would like to support these or other efforts of building a community of Hesed at TBZ with your time or other talents please email the Hesed or the Inclusion committee at the addresses above.

Other opportunities to be involved in the work of building this world from love are through our Tikkun Olam work. Email tikkunolam@tbzbrookline.org for more information. Through the Literacy project which partners with a school in Brighton to foster a love of reading early. Email literacytutors@tbzbrookline.org for more information. And as always by bringing crackers and canned vegetarian soup when you come to TBZ for Family Table at Jewish Family Children & Services.

I invite you to also save the date for a class I will be teaching on the topic of Hesed.

Olam Hesed Yibaneh:
Building a Community of Hesed
with Rav Claudia

Mondays, January 27, February 3, 10 (please note slight change of dates from what was announced previously)
We know that we are supposed to care for the sick and comfort mourners, and many other acts of hesed, loving-kindness, but how do we do this in a Jewish way? Together we'll learn the textual sources and grapple with these mitzvot in our own lives and as we build community at TBZ.

PHOTOS FROM RAV CLAUDIA'S INSTALLATION



THOUGHTS FROM REB MOSHE

I was *schepping nakhes*, (not schlepping or dragging) all through Rav Claudia's inspirational installation Shabbat. *Nakhes*, by the way, is not a corn chip, but rather it is a sense of tranquility (*menucha*) brought on by dipping deeply into the well of the past and drawing from it the gems of your life. TBZ is one of my most precious gems.

It is gratifying to see the outpouring of love in our community for the place TBZ plays in their lives. We have, together, created a space which grounds us, but also permits us to fly. There are few places where we can combine our deep love for our traditions and our capacity to challenge them at the same time.

I am also gratified to occupy a "new" position, that of Founding Rabbi. TBZ is my pride and joy and to be associated with its inception is very fulfilling.

We are a community of raucous joy and silent contemplation; a community of self-reflection and of awareness of what is around us. Our support of Rav Claudia in her new role is predicated on her ability to take TBZ forward along these two paths that need not diverge.

Our path at TBZ continues to emerge before us.

In the Torah reading on Shabbat of the installation weekend in *Sefer Shemot* (Exodus) we read that Moshe asks HaShem to show him God's face. The faithful shepherd is placed on a cleft at the side of *Horev*, the mountain of Sinai. HaShem passes by, and shows him, in a manner of speaking, his backside. We can only fathom what has passed and we can't predict the future.

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

www.tbzbrookline.org

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TBZ is fortified by the Now. It looks to the past for wisdom and is open to the future horizons before us, but it is in this present moment where we find ourselves. TBZ is a place to find yourself.

By appreciating the Now, we serve as a more ego-less vessel, a less judgmental conduit for the past into the future.

We can learn from the past but we cannot reshape it.

All we can do about the future is to shout out our hopes and aspirations. We offer these hopes and aspirations as a down payment on the lives we will continue living.

With blessings to Rav Claudia and to all of us to continue our raucous joy and times of contemplative self-reflection in health for many years to come.

Save the Date
December 22: 4 pm - 6pm



Community Hannukah Party

FILLING THE TBZ CUP

by Susan Diller, TBZ Executive Director

One afternoon, a few weeks into my first month at TBZ, a woman pops her head into my office. "I'm just going to pick up the table cloths and take them home to wash."

One morning, a man climbs up onto the roof to rake the acorns and leaves out of the drains after a neighbor calls to say there's a pond growing on our roof.

Another day, a woman calls me to remind me to take out two challahs from the freezer because she will be setting up for Oneg Shabbat.

The Men's Group organizes the siddurim for the High Holidays. People show up to polish the silver-plated Torah ornaments. Boxes of crackers and soup spill out onto the floor and get picked up and shuttled to Family Table.

I've only been the Executive Director at TBZ since mid-August, and now that I have been through the High Holidays and through Rav Claudia's installation, I've been stunned by how much of what happens at TBZ happens quietly, behind the scenes by our fabulous rabbis, dedicated members and the small but mighty TBZ staff. Their diligence and knowledge, professionalism and kindness, have already taught me so much about how I hope to contribute also to life at TBZ.

I've gotten to see Beth Ehrenreich cheerfully greet each adult and child—at Beit Rabban, when folks drop by to pick up holiday tickets, when you call to ask about yartzheits or tuition or where and when a class is being held. She answers the phone, the door. She answers my questions a hundred a day. I think we could have a column in Happenings called, "Ask Beth".

I've seen Lindsey Eagle, diligently design Happenings and email notifications, and online invitations, so no matter what the important message is, they all get shared—Tikun Olam, Family Table, High Holiday Appeal, Installation, Adult Courses, Events, Dinners, Talks and lectures. Lindsey's work helps TBZ break through the noise so that Happenings stands out.

Leo Monterroso-Silva arrives every morning, often before most of us are awake. He cleans and sets the stage for each day's events. He arranges the sanctuary, the community room, the meeting room, and the classrooms for Shabbat, for Nariya, for Beit Rabban, for lectures and events. When you step into the Community Room for Oneg, the tables and chairs are there because Leo put them there. And when you return the next day for Kiddush, or for a Bat Mitzvah, Leo was here to re-arrange and re-set.

Maira Samayoa comes with joy and dedication, proud of her ability to provide for each of us food for sustenance and celebration. I've seen Maira whip up her tuna salad and worry that there needs to be more, to ensure no one should go hungry, or be wanting.

I'm proud to join this staff and this community and look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months. Stop by and introduce yourself and I'll share pictures of my two children, all grown and living in Seattle and Brooklyn, and if you like dogs, you might meet Roxie, eating a bagel in my office.

The life and the heart of a synagogue is not in its walls or classrooms or pews, but in its community, and TBZ's community cup is filled with ruach and hesed, spirit and love.

CONDOLENCES

- To our former executive director Bob Perlman and Lesley on the death of his brother, Jon Perlman.
- To Amy Bullock, Gayle Stern and their son, Joseph on the death of her mother, Anna (Polly) Bullock.
- To David Alderson and Jason Charles, their wives, Jane and Noy, and to Dave Robbins, on the death of Maria Fisher.
- To Ted Rybeck and Ellen Brodsky and their family on the death of his mother, Sivia Rybeck.
- To Yelena Lebedinsky on the death of her mother, Gitel Lebedinsky.
- To Natalie and Joe Henrich and their family on the death of her mother, Marilyn Chapnik Smith.

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

Lewis Berk and Lucila Halperin
Molly Cohen-Osher and Jason Osher
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TODAH RABAH

It's never too late to say thank you! We would like to extend a hearty Todah Rabbah (thank you) to all of the volunteers who contributed so much to help make the Holidays at TBZ run smoothly. The commitment of so many people made the Holidays at TBZ the incredible experience that they were!

- To our ushers and greeters:

Amy Bullock, Amy Sweigenberg, Anne-Marie Codur, Annie Braudy, Ariadne Valsamis, Barbara Moss, Barbara Sternfield, Becca Mautner, Bernie Plovnick, Brian Gokey, Carol Kamin, Daniel Kleinman, Daniel Langenthal, David Neiman, David Ofsevit, Debbie Lipton, Diane O'Donoghue, Enid Shulman, Geoffrey Stein, Jane Daniels, Jill Feblowitz, Jill Goldberg, Jill Greenberg, Joel Feldman, Jonathan Klein, Judith Epstein-Fisher, Judy Fleishman, Kathy Kates, Ken Reich, Larry Kraus, Linda Brodt, Loraine Levi, Lyle Greenman, Martha Gray, Melissa Kagan, Meredith Joy, Meryl Finkel, Michael Goldberg, Michael Krieger, Priscilla Stein, Rachel Goodman, Rachel Rojanski, Rick Bankhead, Rob Kaim, Sandy Taub, Sara Smolover, Sarah Fendrick, Sergiu Simmel, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer, Steve Lewis, Sue Brent, Susan Bookbinder, Tali Walters.

- Special thanks to Eddie Taub for organizing the ushers and greeters.

- To our Torah and Haftarah readers and Gabbayim:

Larry Kraus, Alan Weisner, Amit Segal, Anne Waldoks, Cindy Jo Gross, Ebn Leader, Flora Berklein, Joshua Blouwolf, Larry Kraus, Lauren Garlick, Miriam Diamond, Molly Silver, Mona Strick, Pnina Lahav, Reggie Silberberg, Renee Rudnick, Ronnie Levin, Sara Smolover, Sheila Katz, Shula Waldoks, Susie Rodenstein, Tamar Duke-Cohan.

- Special thanks to Larry Kraus for organizing the readers and Gabbayim.

- To the congregants that gave out honors and did "bimah duties":

Anne-Marie Codur, Beth Marx, Bobbi Isberg, Cindy-jo Gross, David Cherenon, Deb Stang, Debbie Morley, Diane O'Donoghue, Eddie Taub, Fran Adams, James Cohen, Jay Zagorsky, Jonathan Klein, Julia Freedson, Lauren Garlick, Linda Rosen, Rebecca Blouwolf, Sue Kahn

- Special thanks to Renee Rudnick and Audrey Wagner for organizing the honors and bimah duties.

- To the congregants who shared wonderful personal prayers and inspiring words:

Personal Prayers: Leah Abrahams, Nadav Cohen, Kim Meyers, Gayle Stern and Marga Biller.

Yom Kippur Mincha D'var Torah: Sam Mendoza and Yarden Fraiman.

Kol Nidre appeal: Diane Balser.

- To the Zagorsky-Meyers family (and many others) for blowing the shofar.

- To David Cherenon, Flora Berklein and Paula Korman for organizing and preparing the machzorim!

- To everyone who helped to prepare our sanctuary for the High Holidays, thank you for coming to prep day!

- To Phyllis Brawarsky and Audrey Kadis for laundering TBZ's tallitot.

- To Rabbi Ebn Leader for leading us in Selichot and leading the shofar service on the second day of Rosh HaShanah. Thank you also to Ebn for leading the contemplative Simchat Torah celebration.

- To Ron White for his drumming and for always inspiring us.

- To Noah Berz for playing violin on Kol Nidre.

- To Amit Segal for playing the flute on Kol Nidre and Second Day of Rosh Hashanah.

- To Rav Tiferet and Tyler Dratch for leading joyous Family Services and everyone who participated in them, including Ian Falck, Annie Braudy, Amit Segal and Noah Berz. All the actors of the Jonah play and Rebecca Blouwolf for her help and support in organizing the play.

- To Kim Golden and Richard Bennett, who ensured that there was childcare for all.

- To our childcare providers and helpers, Etlea Gashi, Sarah Clay-Mendez, Adina Kraus, Gaby Toppelberg, Jason Cohen, Maddy Marx, Nadav Cohen, Link Ribner, Samuel Acel-Green.

- To Sandy Taub & Debbie Korn for being with our Teens in the Teen Room.

- To Bobbi Isberg, Tyler Dratch for leading sessions during Yom Kippur afternoon.

- Amy Schottenfels, Jonathan Klein and Rhoda Alan for organizing and shopping for the Community Break Fast.

- To Jack Daniels for setting up our sukkah and all the families that came to decorate our gorgeous Sukkah, including the: Isakavich-Knobel family, Jonas & Noam Parker, Beit Rabban Students, Alma & Ariel Kreiman-Leader and Galya Berenbaum.

- To the Board of Directors for their work to ensure that the High Holidays would be meaningful for all. A Special thanks to Tali Walters for being our Security liaison with Bob Kinder and Signal 88 Security.

- To Sarah Fendrick and Carol Kamin from the development committee for their work.

In addition to our wonderful volunteers, we are grateful to our TBZ staff, our executive director Susan Diller, Beth Ehrenreich and Lindsay Eagle. Maira and her sister Elba for all their support and to Leo Monterroso Silva, our custodian, who makes sure that our sanctuary is always ready for us.

Finally, we are grateful to Reb Moshe for his support and guidance, as well as the entire spiritual and educational team of TBZ, for guiding us in davening, inspiring us in their teaching and leading us in a spirited high holiday journey —Thank You Reb Moshe, Tyler Dratch, Noah Weinberg and Rav Tiferet.

A special thanks to our president Sara Smolover, who together with the entire Board of Directors worked hard to make sure that the High Holidays would be meaningful for all.

L'Chaim

- Mazel Tov to TBZ's new Hebrew College Rabbinic Intern, Tyler Dratch, on his marriage to Emily Sellman.
- To TBZ member Mishy Lesser for winning the Emmy Award for Outstanding Research for the film *Dawnland*.

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