

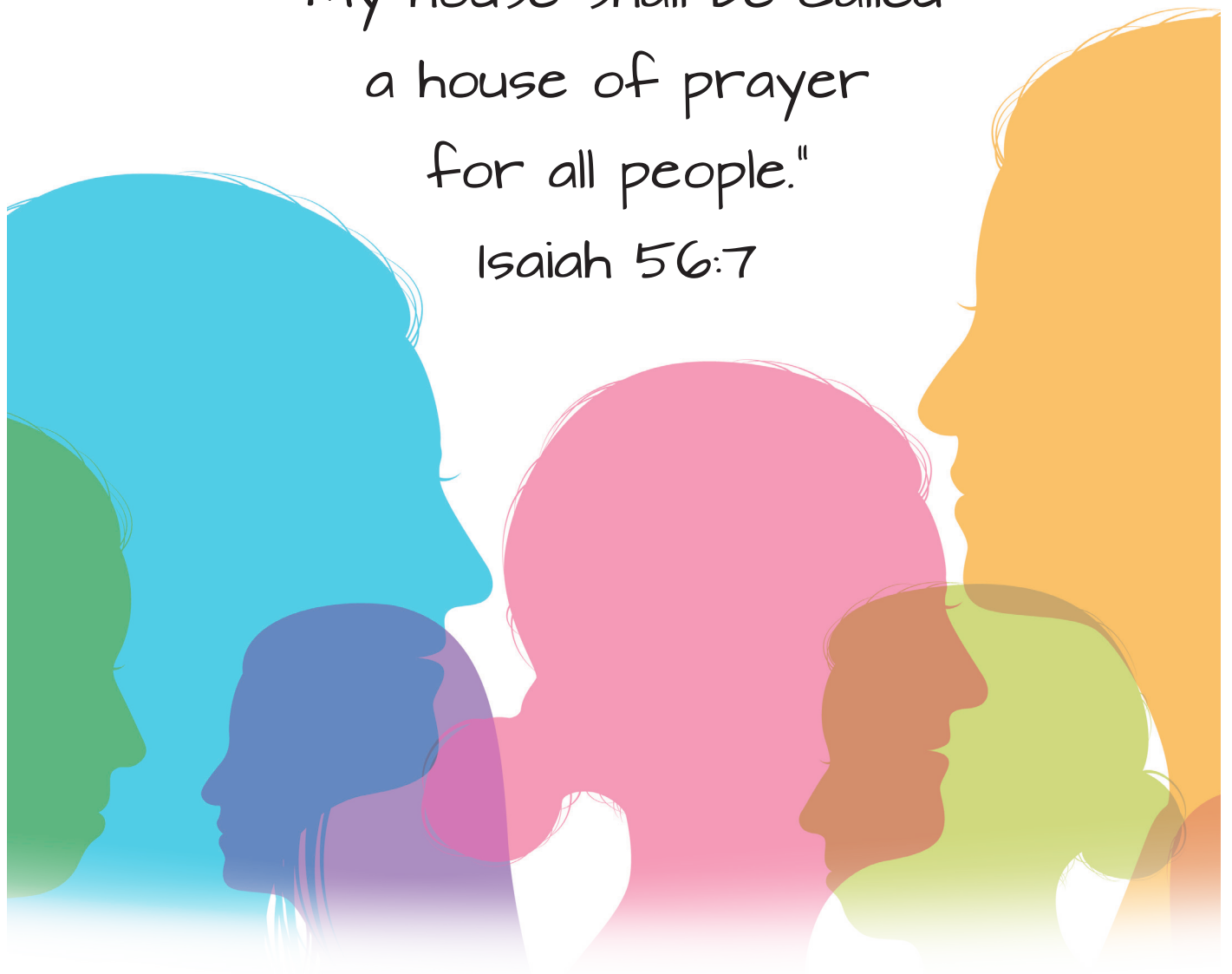
Spring 2020

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
**KOLEINU**

קולנו

"My house shall be called  
a house of prayer  
for all people."

Isaiah 56:7



## TBZ: STRIVING FOR INCLUSION

Kol Isha - Women's Retreat 2020

Inclusion at TBZ: Striving for full participation for all people

Safe Community

# NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

president@tbzbrookline.org

What does it mean to be a part of the TBZ community? Each of us has our own take on this. There are some of us who have one toe in the water, checking out a service or a program here and there. Some members have kids regularly attending Beit Rabban and have yet to get involved in other ways. Some folks gravitate consistently to the one type of program they enjoy and others take a smorgasbord approach to TBZ's offerings. We are here for everyone! I am, however, a big proponent of stretching to try something out of your comfort zone from time to time. "Be curious, not certain" is a useful guiding principle to exploring what TBZ can mean to you and to your family. We have so many ways to pique your curiosity and spur growth. In my own personal example, these past few years I've mostly focused on a leadership path to spiritual growth. I cannot possibly quantify how much the responsibilities of leadership have enriched my relationships, my critical thinking, my appreciation for others' talents and, my deep love of TBZ. Volunteering in any capacity has the potential to enrich our lives, as so many of you know. TBZ has incredible professional leaders, but it is our lay leaders, at every level, that keep the momentum going, the ideas coming, and the direction moving. I am truly in awe of the commitment I see around me by those who have chosen the path of committee and program leadership. Maybe leadership is an area where you can stretch? Reach out for a conversation with any of our committee leaders, board members, nominating committee, or Rabbis if you want to explore how to grow in this capacity.

This year, a new initiative is bringing lay leaders together to learn from and with each other called the "Keshet Council" (Connection Council). With professional support from Rav Tiferet, and Board leadership by VP

Diane O'Donohue, this group will be working together to ensure cohesiveness and promote dialogue around common topics facing committees. For example, they will be learning how to make programs and meetings meet our standards for Inclusion; discussing how to attract and maintain committee members; planting the seeds of succession; looking for opportunities for collaboration; creatively incorporating intergenerational opportunities, and looking at the annual calendar together to ensure a balanced year of opportunities. I am so excited to see how the Keshet Council can develop and support our leaders and, in turn, all our members.

I want to give a special thank you to our outgoing Hesed Co-chairs, Debra Morley and Linda Rosen. They have been tirelessly leading our Hesed community almost five years, connecting those who can provide support and comfort to those who need it. As we all know, any of us can experience both sides of that coin, and we are enriched as a community when we can ask for and receive help from one another. We are so grateful for the time and effort Deb and Linda have given us, and are thrilled that Amy Bullock is stepping into a new leadership role in our Hesed Community. Thank you, Amy, for the work you and your co-leaders will be doing to create an Olam Hesed in our community.

We will be celebrating another of our amazing committees at this year's Spring Kiddush Fundraiser on May 2nd! The work of our Inclusion Committee, led by Sue Brent and Danya Handelsman, has enriched our community in so many ways and is poised to do even more. We look forward to celebrating together with them and supporting our fundraising efforts as we move towards the close of our fiscal year in June.

*Continued...*

## OUR RABBIS

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



## SYNAGOGUE STAFF

Susan Diller, Executive Director ext. 10  
execdirector@tbzbrookline.org  
Rav Tiferet Berenbaum ext. 14  
Director of Congregational Learning and Programming  
ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org  
Beth Ehrenreich, Assistant Director ext. 17  
asstdirector@tbzbrookline.org  
Ed Kleiman, Bookkeeper  
bookkeeper@tbzbrookline.org

## OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sara Smolover  
president@tbzbrookline.org

### Vice-Presidents

Development: Sarah Fendrick  
External Relations: Tali K. Buechler Walters  
Finance & Administration/Treasurer: Geoff Stein  
Member Relations: Diane O'Donoghue  
Secretary: Eddie Taub

### At-Large Members

Susan Bookbinder, Nikki Decter, Kathy Kates, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer,  
Larry Kraus, David Neiman, Eddie Taub

### Past Presidents

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

### Committee Chairs

Adult Learning: open  
Beit Rabban Steering Committee: Rabbi Jordan Braunig  
Book Club: Maxwell Bauman, Tammy Mitchell, Lilly Pelzman,  
Building: Jack Daniels  
Development: Sarah Fendrick  
Hesed: Amy Bullock  
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 Dwortzan, 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

**Temple Beth Zion**  
**1566 Beacon Street**  
**Brookline, MA 02446**  
**617.566.8171 | www.tbzbrookline.org**

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One of the best things I get to do on Shabbat in my role is to officially welcome new B'nei Mitzvah teens into our community with some gifts from the shul and, of great importance, their TBZ nametag! (On that note—I hope you're enjoying our new nametag display and finding it easier to locate your nametag and put it on at kiddush!) If you have been present at any of these B'nei Mitzvah Shabbat simchas, then you know the caliber of our teens: deep thinkers, incredibly talented, brave, and committed to the process of engaging with the text and the entire process of becoming b'nei mitzvah. I love sharing an "intimate" moment with each of them in front of the entire community to express the community's appreciation and congratulations. Please don't shy away from coming to shul when you know there will be a b'nei mitzvah—I promise you will be enriched by the experience of witnessing the next generation of Jewish adults step over the threshold!

And lastly, our Strategic Planning Group is gathering input from our members to set our goals and vision for the future. Look for upcoming opportunities to add your input.

There are so many more things I could write about; fortunately, a lot of them are mentioned elsewhere in this *Koleinu*. Enjoy reading about all the amazing things happening at TBZ and insights from our leaders.

On behalf of my entire family I want to wish you a joyous and fulfilling Pesach.

Sara

## COVID-19 Update

Please check Happenings and other email communications for updates regarding what is up and running and what is being cancelled for the week ahead, as well as new programs that will keep us connected during this time (mostly) apart.

### We ask that you:

- Let us know if you are diagnosed with COVID-19. Please inform our Executive Director Susan Diller, so that we can support you, and take measures to protect others with whom you may have come into contact.
- Let us know if you are not feeling well.
- Reach out if you are feeling isolated.

Thank you for taking care of yourselves, taking care of each other, and remaining connected to our community in the many ways we have available. Although we may not be physically coming together in community, we can share, support and hold our community in spirit.

## TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

### Rosh Hodesh Group

by Meryl Kinkel and Rachel Goodman

In keeping with this year's theme at TBZ of building a community of Hesed, the Rosh Hodesh group, at our January (Rosh Hodesh Shevat) meeting, made two types of vegetarian soup—lentil and vegetable. We chopped, sautéed, tasted, and shared stories of cooking for others as a sign of caring. Making the soups together as a group was a great experience for us, and we hope members of the community will enjoy the results. As needs in the community arise, the Hesed Committee will be sharing the soup with members. Please also feel free to reach out to the Hesed committee at [hesed@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:hesed@tbzbrookline.org).



Rosh Hodesh Soup Making



# FAMILY TABLE

by Marilyn Glazer-Weisner

Thank you once again to dear Rav Claudia for the meaningful and moving Rosh Hashanah 5780 teachings on how we can all build a world from love, *olam hesed yibaneh*. In the Rosh Hashanah booklet prepared for us, for the first day of the holy time 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." I am very grateful to you, our TBZ community, for the opportunity to have invited our community to participate in two beautiful acts of loving kindness.

The first of the two happened on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the weekend of **TBZ Host at Home**. I once again served as the coordinator for matching hosts who have empty chairs to fill at their dinner tables for Friday night Shabbat dinner or Saturday late afternoon *seudah shlishit* (third meal). All of the meals offered that weekend were vegetarian or vegan to make it easy to adhere to Kashrut. The matched guests contributed to the meal by bringing a dish to share. While participation was low due to the COVID-19 situation everyone who took part was happy to have opened their hearts and homes to others in our community.

The second will be at Pesach. Again this year, I will coordinate matching hosts and guests for Passover Seders on Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9. As it says in the Hagaddah, "Let all who are hungry come and eat." Let us open our hearts and our homes to include each other in the commemoration of Passover. Please remember, we each can bring a certain special spark of knowledge, energy, and warmth to a Seder table and to a Seder discussion. It is of utmost importance to welcome members of the

community into our homes for this joyous occasion. Please watch for more news in TBZ Happenings and updates that will come via email. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to me at [mglazerw@comcast.net](mailto:mglazerw@comcast.net) to talk more about these opportunities to help build a world from love, *olam hesed yibaneh*.

In addition, 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 we are then contributing to meeting the needs of our extended community, reaching more individuals who are facing food insecurity, an act of *hesed*.

Feel free to reach out to either Alan at [aweisner@comcast.net](mailto:aweisner@comcast.net) or me at [mglazerw@comcast.net](mailto:mglazerw@comcast.net) with any questions regarding Family Table. Stay tuned for updates regarding matzah donations for Passover too.

Please enjoy these photos from our annual Mitzvah day activity in January at Jewish Family Services where many of our members participated in the program and hand delivered food.





## 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TBZ WOMEN'S RETREAT

# Kol Isha Women's Voices

### Kol Isha - TBZ Women's Retreat - 2020

by Priscilla W. Stein

Each year I look forward to the annual TBZ Women's Retreat.

The Women's Retreat attracts thoughtful, committed members who gather to learn, grow, and deepen our connection to each other, TBZ, and our Judaism. This year's gathering was truly special, full of soul, stimulating, challenging, and charged with warmth and bonhomie.

The theme was "*Kol Isha: Women's Voices*." This means lifting up our voices in song and story, understanding the importance of our perspective as women, looking at how women leaders have changed the world around them, and much more.

The gifted women who planned this event take advantage of the extraordinary talent within our community. Classes are planned throughout the day, and (sadly), we are forced to choose. I wish I could have attended them all.

Upon arrival, we had the option to start the day feeling centered and balanced by participating in a yoga class led by Evonne Meranus.

We then gathered together for a stirring, ruach-filled shacharit service led by Rav Claudia. We were invited to wear tallit and t'fillin, if we wished. Next, we met downstairs in the Community Room. Seats were unassigned, and the tables filled naturally with people who knew each other and those who didn't. The atmosphere was friendly and open as we anticipated the day ahead and got to know new faces.

Our plenary speaker this year was Rav Tiferet Berenbaum, TBZ Director of Congregational Learning and Programming. Rav Tiferet shared her journey of finding herself, becoming a Jew, and studying at Hebrew College to become a rabbi. She described the challenges she faced as a woman and African American. Rav Tiferet is a natural-born storyteller. She was warm and engaging, humble, and willing to laugh at herself and the predicaments she faced as she searched for her true path. Her story, and the way she told it, was inspiring and made us feel closer to her, conveying a deeper sense of who she is. Her willingness to reveal her vulnerabilities, passions, and questions as she strove to become her authentic self was comforting and an honor to hear, as well as a huge encouragement for those still on the journey of trying to be "not Moses, but Zusya" as the beautiful Hasidic story goes. The Zusya story refers to the question we'll be asked as we enter *Olam Ha'ba* ("the world to come"): Were you true to yourself in the life you lived? Not an easy question. Rav Tiferet is certainly a role model for all of us in pursuing our quest to fulfill individual potential. See her plenary session at <https://youtu.be/Jwo4cK45vsU>



*Continued...*

Next was community-wide facilitated text study in Hevruta (partnership learning). We were assigned partners and it was evident that much thought had gone into whom we were assigned to study with. My partners were women I knew casually and whose Jewish background complemented mine. I'd never before had extended conversation on Jewish principles with either of them. Our discussion was lively and deep. The texts concerned lust, modesty, shame, women's voices, among other topics. The discussions were provocative and provided new insights. A feeling of closeness rose among us as we explored ideas and experiences. Rav Tiferet's concluding summation cleared up loose ends we didn't grasp, completing a rewarding session. A door was opened among my study partners, and I look forward to continuing our conversations.

My classes with Pnina Lahav ("Kol Isha: Does the Constitution of the United States Recognize the Legitimacy of a Woman's Voice?") and Judith Rosenbaum ("In the Footsteps of Regina Jonas, the First Woman Rabbi") were outstanding and a privilege to attend. I would show up for anything either woman teaches! They are gifted scholars, experts in their material who give space to their students. Both were extremely skillful in helping to deepen our understanding and uncover nuance.

I was unable to attend the following sessions, but heard from attendants that these sessions, too, offered equal nourishment,

inspiration, and affirmation. They also offered opportunities for multiple forms of expression:

Judith Rosenbaum: film, "Making Trouble," the story of some of the greatest female comic performers of the last century

Susan Schnur: "Writing a Jewish Autobiographical Moment"

Sara Toppelberg: "Kol Isha: Artistic Expression" (creating art)

Susan Bookbinder and Diane Balser: "Challenging Ourselves in Relation to Racism – Explore Our Roots as White Ashkenazi Women and the Effect of Anti-semitism on our Ancestors and Ourselves"

We appreciate their willingness to share their talents with our community and are grateful for their participation in the Retreat.

Rabbi Margie and Rav Claudia concluded the day by inviting participants to explore their voices as women in the TBZ community, individually and collectively, through sound, music, movement, and dance. Each woman was invited to celebrate her full potential.

On behalf of the women of TBZ, thank you to all who made this uplifting day happen. Thank you for your spirit, enthusiasm, vision, and commitment. Your love for our community shines through and we felt it... it lightened our hearts and strengthened our souls as we joined together in this special group.





# SAFE COMMUNITY

by Tali K. Walters

"See something / Say something." Do you remember the first time you heard that campaign phrase?

In the past three years, there has been a significant increase in violent and non-violent anti-Semitic incidents in the US and around the world. The recent commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Auschwitz liberation brought together a moving array of international leaders. Their theme: "Never again."

Why is this relevant to our welcoming, joyful TBZ community? We are committed to keeping our community safe and secure.

Under the guidance of professionals within and beyond TBZ, we have taken both visible and behind-the-scenes measures to keep us secure and minimally disrupted.

Most visibly, you likely have noticed Kevin Nihan, our regular Signal 88 security guard who is present when you arrive for Shabbat services, and remains well into Kiddush. He, or one of his colleagues, is also present for Beit Rabban and all advertised synagogue events. You likely have also noticed the Brookline police officer in front of TBZ during the High Holidays.



*Kevin Nihan, Signal 88 Security Guard*

As it should be, security at TBZ is quietly managed and is seldom seen. Several TBZ leaders and professional staff receive notifications from criminal justice and Jewish organizations who monitor individuals who may pose a risk (i.e., the ADL, Jewish Emergency Management System – JAMS, Boston Regional Intelligence Center - BRIC). Have you wondered about those concrete planters along the sidewalk in front of the synagogue? They are primarily for security. Other security measures are intentionally out of sight.



*Bob Kinder, Owner of Signal 88*

While external security is very important, we know that our TBZ is most secure when each of us plays an active role to create a culture of "paying attention." You hear this same message on the loudspeakers when you pass through Logan Airport. Last January, Lenny Marcus and I lead a community-wide Greeter Orientation. In that training, we taught how to identify and respond to a suspicious person who might come to the building. TBZ's Executive Director Susan Diller and Signal 88's owner, Bob Kinder, are designing an upcoming second training – details will soon be announced.

This is where "See something / Say something" comes in. If you notice someone or something that raises your concern, let us know. Who is us? Voice your concern to me, to Lenny Marcus, Sara Smolover, Larry Kraus, or any other member of the board. You can alert Kevin, or one of his colleagues, who is either standing in front of TBZ or doing rounds in the building. In an urgent situation, call 911. And with general questions and comments, email me after Shabbat ([tkwstr@gmail.com](mailto:tkwstr@gmail.com)) or contact Executive Director Susan Diller ([sdiller@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:sdiller@tbzbrookline.org)).

Increased security measures require increased resources, both volunteer and financial. Thank you to an anonymous donor in 2019 who assisted us in financing our security guard presence. With the guidance of Development Committee Chair Sarah Fendrick, we are applying for a DHS grant in February. If we receive the grant, the monies will be used to enhance hard security measures (i.e., improved lock system).

It is our goal— with all of our participation—to keep TBZ a joyful, welcoming, secure, and safe community.



# The TBZ Development Committee thanks YOU for your ongoing, annual support of our community.

Your gifts, and your dues, impact the everyday workings at our synagogue. This fiscal year alone, we are well on our way to achieving our giving goals with just over **\$168,000** in High Holiday giving. 100% of the TBZ Board, 80% of past TBZ presidents and 43% of TBZ member households have participated in High Holiday giving. Imagine what we could do if 100% of our membership gave?

Why do we ask you to give, when you also pay dues? We ask because everything that TBZ does—rabbinic, staff and faculty salaries and benefits, heat, lights, prayer books, food, office supplies, security—and everything that we offer to our community

is not supported by dues alone. Dues covers 58% of the TBZ annual budget and 14% of our budget is funded by tuition, fees, and grants. The remaining 28% of our budget is funded directly by your gifts beyond membership.

**Our giving goal this year of \$255,000 is within sight, but we have more to do.** Please participate and help us reach our goal—whether you choose to give to the High Holiday fund, the Spring Kiddush Fund raiser, to honor a loved one, to support a rabbi's vision, to increase Jewish learning or to celebrate an important life event, we thank you.

## Your support of TBZ...

**\$168,000 in High Holiday giving, ahead of last fiscal year, by 21% or \$29,000**

**\$512,000 in membership dues**

**164 households participating in High Holiday giving**

**225 households giving to TBZ to honor a kiddush, a yahrzeit, a rabbi, a person, an important life event**

## Makes all this possible...

**16 dozen bagels, 14 lbs of lox, 2 lbs of whitefish salad at Eat, Pray, Love's Wednesday morning minyan**



**\$4,000 a year of savings thanks to our new roof and our solar panels**

**250 children in Wonder Minyan**

**60 lbs of trash saved weekly from the landfill by using compostables**



**80 Members in the Aging in Community Google group**

**44% of members accessing reduced dues**

**15 hours of learning from our scholar in residence program**



**50% more meditation classes**



**Over 500 postcards and letters sent by social action committees**



**156 Adults, 35 Children and 74 Seniors served at our Monthly Community dinners**



**316 hours of security on Shabbat, holidays and major public events**

**35 new adult and 15 new kid members**

**1 full-time Director of Congregational Learning & Programming**

**250 cans of tuna made into tuna salad**



**Over 500 people davening for the High Holidays**

**1 GRAND Installation Celebration featuring 15 pounds of melted chocolate**



**450 mini bags of pretzels for Beit Rabban students who forgot to bring a snack!**



**105 songs sang at Shabbat Nariya**



## Step by Step until Perfection

by Carol Kamin

You're standing at the Bimah as a new bar/bat mitzvah. You've done it! Your family, friends and the TBZ community are beaming with pride. Here comes the Kiddush cup, the certificate, the TBZ name tag and something else not expected. You're handed a plaque that has a quote from Rabbi Tarphon from *Pirkei Avot* that reads: "You are not obligated to complete the work but neither are you free to desist from it."

This plaque, with those words, is telling our newly minted B'nai Mitzvah young people of a fundamental TBZ value. It's telling them, as Rav Claudia often reminds us, that social justice work is a commitment to the values of Judaism both inside the shul (such as taking care of the sick) and outside of the shul (such as working to promote health care for all).

The Tikkun Olam Steering Committee leads efforts at TBZ to work toward justice in housing practices, health care reform, gun violence prevention, support for immigrants and asylum seekers, protecting democracy, and confronting hatred based on anyone's differences. And through non-partisan efforts, it works to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to register to vote in our state and the nation's critical elections.

We are committed to improving the world incrementally, knowing that perfection cannot be reached in one generation and that each generation will improve the world as far as it can.

Please join us in our step by step approach.



**The Tikkun Olam Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 8:45 at TBZ.**

Join us to hear what's happening, to share your thoughts and find ways to participate.

**On March 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**, come to a gathering

—*Pathways to Tikkun Olam*—

to be part of TBZ's efforts to work, step by step, until we achieve a repaired world.



# Ruby's B-Mitzvah

by Rav Claudia

Many of you were there, last November when we celebrated Ruby Marx's B-Mitzvah at TBZ. Like all our B'nei Mitzvah celebrations it was an awesome and joyful day, where we celebrated the coming of age of one of our young members. B'nei Mitzvah celebrations at TBZ are inclusive and joyful, they lift up each child to bring their best self to our community, we celebrate the family, we sing, we learn from the student, we hear them reading Torah. Some of the families have been members of TBZ for a long time, some are newer members, we welcome each of them with open arms, celebrating this milestone in community.

But if you were here for Ruby's you noticed a few different things, first, the name. We called it a B-Mitzvah not a Bat Mitzvah (traditionally for girls) or a Bar Mitzvah (traditionally for boys). Ruby asked us if she could have a B-Mitzvah. This term is being used for gender neutral or gender inclusive ceremonies. For Ruby it was important to not define this ceremony as a ceremony for a boy or a girl, but as the ceremony of a person becoming an adult in the Jewish tradition without specification of gender. Ruby uses the pronoun she, but she does not always conform to society's gender rules that are traditionally expected from girls. Ruby has been exploring and thinking about her gender identity since she was a little kid and TBZ has been a place that has allowed her to feel safe to ask questions and to be fully herself. Her friends, classmates, teachers at Beit Rabban and our community have seen Ruby grow to be the amazing, unique, super cool and rocking young person she is. And this is who we celebrated in her B-Mitzvah.

Four-feet-nine-inches, Ruby came to her B-Mitzvah in her suit and tie, wearing the biggest smile you can imagine. She was proud of who she is, proud of standing in front of her community being her full self, and not trying to be what society expects from her. She wore her tallit, which

her parents had made for her. A rainbow tallit with a big picture of Joan Jett on the back with her guitar and rock'n roll look. Ruby wore her tallit and presented herself with pride, knowing she is loved and cared for by her family and by her community.

In her D'var Torah, Ruby spoke about our matriarch Sarah. Ruby recognized Sarah in the context of her time and the things that traditionally make Sarah a role model in our tradition. But Ruby also challenged that notion of role model for everyone. And she surprised us with a different female role model for her: Joan Jett.



In Ruby's words:

*"Joan Jett became a great rocker even though people told her that girls couldn't do that. Her first encounter with this was her first guitar lesson. The teacher sat down with her and started to teach her country music even though she didn't want to play that. She was kicked out by her teacher and told to come back when she was more ladylike. A big part of her saying no and standing up for herself is when she created her own record label called Blackheart Records. The main reason she did this is because she got rejected 23 times by all these huge record companies. Joan Jett cared about her music, not her looks. I'm not saying that Sarah cared about her looks, but she was for*

(Continued on next page)





sure valued for them and considered “beautiful in appearance.” Joan Jett rejected this and never wanted to be like a model who played music, and she didn’t wear revealing clothes. Her classic look is jeans/leather pants, sneakers/boots, and a black leather jacket....

Finally, Joan Jett chose to never have children and this did not define her. In fact, she has become a true leader, teacher, and an inspiration for a whole generation of women who rock:...

Inspiring girls and gender nonconforming people to be more like Joan Jett who is a person who makes decisions about her life and doesn’t let stereotypes limit her played an important part of my b’mitzvah project.

For my b’mitzvah project, I held a benefit rock concert to share some of the music that I love (including Joan Jett’s cover of “I Love Rock ‘n Roll”) and to raise money for Girls Rock Campaign Boston, an amazing camp that I attended last summer. The reason why GRCB is so important to me is because they didn’t judge me on how I looked or make assumptions. Most of the time people just assume who I am, instead of getting to know the real Ruby Marx. GRCB is also important because it shows girls that there are other people who are like them and it’s really important at a young age to feel that there are people like you.

GRCB is about empowering women, helping them find their voices, and teaching them to rock out”

Ruby’s B-Mitzvah was a milestone for TBZ. It was a celebration of recognizing that gender non conforming children (or gender creative children, another term being used, please see some

resources I list below) and adults are fully welcome in our community. It recognized that our rituals can be shaped to welcome each individual into their community fully. It was a lifting up of TBZ to a place to be yourself, your full self. Ruby’s parents, Dan and Beth, blessed Ruby to continue being who she is. They had us all in tears.

My blessing for Ruby included the following words:

*May you continue being an incredible creative human being, who is tuned in to herself so deeply and tuned out to the opinions of the world that surrounds you. May you continue blessing us with your joy, with your compassion, with your profound caring for the world.*

*You are strong. And Ruby. You ROCK! You are a role model for so many of us, your peers and many of us adults who want to learn from you how you engage the world with so much honesty.*

*Ruby, you are loved and cared for and we are blessed to be part of your community. Keep bringing your full self to the world. The world needs people that don’t shy away from their true self, we will always be there for you.*

I share this story with you, because that Shabbat, through this celebration, many of us felt the power of our TBZ community. TBZ continues to grow and be a community that builds a world with love, with Hesed. TBZ is also in the forefront and leading the way for many on how we make Judaism relevant, meaningful, and inclusive for LGBTQ communities. I am proud to lead the way for young adults like Ruby to be Jewishly engaged and be their full selves in Jewish spaces. We will continue in this task together.

*Rav Claudia*

Rav Claudia

P.S: I recognize that language around gender is new and challenging for some people. On the following page are some resources that might be helpful. We will continue at TBZ learning together and grappling with challenges around it to build an inclusive community.

# Please use the following resources to learn more about Gender Neutrality in the Jewish Community.

Keshet (Organization that works for LGBTQ equality in Jewish Life) has a guide for the Gender Neutral B-Mitzvah. This resource includes several links to articles in the Jewish community around Gender Neutral B-Mitzvah celebrations.

<https://www.keshetonline.org/resources/a-guide-for-the-gender-neutral-b-mitzvah/>

If you haven't heard or want to learn more about different uses of pronouns, these are useful websites.:

<https://www.keshetonline.org/resources/whats-in-a-pronoun/> and <https://www.mypronouns.org>

I recently read an article by a 13 years old boy who speaks about being gender-creative. I encourage you to read it:

<https://raisingmyrainbow.com/2020/02/20/gender-is-over>

An article in the *NYTimes* about gender fluid B'nei Mitzvah

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/27/style/gender-fluid-bar-bat-mitzvah.html>

## Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

10 am (unless otherwise noted)

May 16: Jessica Henrich (Mincha)

May 23: Hannah Levy-Carrick

June 20: Arlan Zbarsky

August 29: Gideon Lind

September 12: Maya Bitton

October 17: Rachel Krause-Grosman

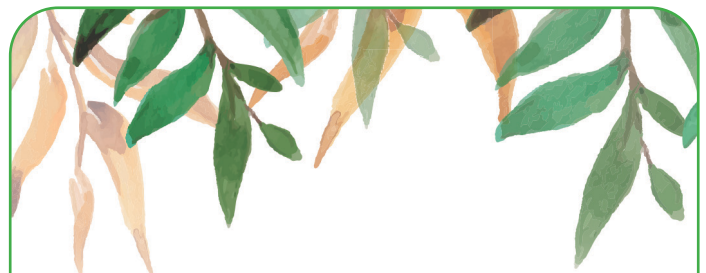
October 24: Altamo Aschkenasy (Havdalah)

October 31: Jonah Eichler

November 7: Micah Weisskopf (Mincha)

November 14: Caleb Meranus

November 21: Sofia Katz



## COMMUNITY RETREAT

**TBZ's Annual Community**

**Retreat on Cape Cod**

**MAY 8-10, 2020**

Registration is now open and closes on April 17.

See the TBZ website for details.

# 'RAV CLAUDIA' INSTALLED AS TBZ SENIOR RABBI

Please enjoy this reprint of an article in *The Jewish Advocate*, written by our own Mark Dwortzan about the outstanding installation celebration for Rav Claudia in October of 2019.

"I will build this world from love. And you must build this world from love.  
And if we build this world from love, then G-d will build this world from love."

"Olam Chesed Yibaneh"

Music and English lyrics by Rabbi Menachem Creditor

**BROOKLINE** – Inspired by the biblical call to love the stranger and pursue justice, a Brookline rabbi is working to literally build – and rebuild – this world from love.

Equating the practice of Torah with the practice of Love, Rabbi Claudia Kreiman – known as Rav Claudia – can often be found shining light on places where love is notably absent. Among other things, she led hundreds in prayer outside the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in downtown Boston at a rally calling for action against harsh U.S. immigration policies. She served on a rabbinic delegation to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a farmworker organization seeking to improve wages and working conditions in a set of Florida-based tomato fields considered ground zero for modern-day slavery. And she urged attendees to welcome refugees at a protest held at the New England Holocaust Memorial to condemn an executive order temporarily banning travel to the U.S. from seven Muslim-majority countries.

In the 18 years since receiving her ordination from the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel, Rav Claudia has often taken Torah to the streets, embodying the prophetic tradition of speaking truth to power to confront injustice. This unflagging pursuit of social justice is but one facet of her work at Temple Beth Zion, where since 2007 she has led services, created educational programs and provided pastoral care.

On Oct. 19, Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, formerly of B'nei Jeshurun in New York and Rav Claudia's teacher and mentor, formally installed her as the congregation's senior rabbi. Rabbi Sharon Cohen-Anisfeld, president of Hebrew College, spoke and bestowed a blessing upon Rav Claudia (created from blessings sent by TBZ congregants), and Sara Smolover, president of the congregation, offered a message on behalf of the community.

TBZ's founding rabbi, Moshe Waldoks, a post-denominational rabbi with a doctorate in Jewish intellectual history, transformed the congregation from a few dozen, mostly elderly members in 1998 to a vibrant and diverse community that comprises 600 congregants. His commitment to wrestling with text and the spiritual growth of every individual was fertile ground for Rav Claudia to begin her career



as a pulpit rabbi, and together they infused prayer services at TBZ with joy, learning and contemplative practices. As 'Reb Moshe' shifts to a part-time role, Rav Claudia is carrying on the founding values of TBZ.

"We are and will continue to be a community of seekers," Kreiman wrote in a statement to the congregation, "where meaningful experiences of prayer, justice, activism, lovingkindness and learning are rooted in Jewish values, and where meaningful education for all ages is part of our daily experience."

Kreiman has helped spearhead a significant expansion in social justice engagement at TBZ through its Tikkun Olam Group, which now confronts myriad societal challenges ranging from criminal justice to climate change.

Rav Claudia is married to Rabbi Ebn Leader, a faculty member of the Hebrew College rabbinical school; they have two daughters, Alma and Ariel.



# FOSTERING INCLUSION

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, members of the TBZ community participated in a wonderfully engaging shabbat program on mental illness. The program, which was sponsored by the TBZ inclusion committee, began with a d'var by Daniel Jackson, author of the recent book, *Portraits of Resilience*, which presents in text and photographs stories of people living with mental illness. Jackson, who is Professor of Computer Science at MIT, took as his point of departure parashat Beshalach, which tells the story of how the Jews crossed the Red Sea as they were being chased by Pharaoh. In a brilliant and thought-provoking twist, Jackson described how mental illness presents a more insidious challenge, one more akin to the battle with Amalek, which came out of the blue and was left unresolved. He invited us to consider the struggle with Amalek as a metaphor for our personal and cultural encounter with depression. He then drew upon the portraits in his book to illustrate the strength and resilience it requires to deal with such a challenge.

After kiddush, members of the congregation returned to the sanctuary for a lively discussion of Jackson's book, moderated by Hadassah Margolis. Participants were divided into four groups, each of which focused on one portrait in Jackson's book. Margolis, who is lead therapist in the Department of Spirituality and Mental Health at McLean Hospital and a clinician at Brandeis University, had prepared a set of stimulating questions, which made for rich and wide-ranging discussion.

Meanwhile, upstairs in the classrooms, the B'nei Mitzvah teens met with Gary Alpert, an educator with Gateways: Access to Jewish

Education, who led a discussion based on the award-winning curriculum *Understanding our Differences*. Gary wove the Torah teaching, "out of darkness there came light" into the discussion and had a guest speaker who shared his experience of living with mental illness.

TBZ has several copies of *Portraits of Resilience*. We strongly encourage you to explore the book when you are in the synagogue. We have also made photocopies of several excerpts. Again, we encourage everyone to read them. The excerpts can also be found on Jackson's website: <https://www.portraitsofresilience.com/excerpts>.

In addition, the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project has a wealth of information and articles on mental illness. In this issue of Koleinu, we are inviting members to read the following article: [https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-34/2/MentalIllnessinOurJewishCommunity\\_NB.pdf](https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-34/2/MentalIllnessinOurJewishCommunity_NB.pdf).

Through community-wide learning programs such as this, we hope to make clear our commitment to include everyone in our community with a caring and open heart.

**In the News:** Jay Ruderman, of the Ruderman Family Foundation, participated in a panel discussion of the film "Crip Camp" at the Sundance Film Festival. The film, which premiered at the festival, tells the story of a group of teens with disabilities attending Camp Jeneen who came together in the 1970s and helped to shape the future of accessibility legislation. Ruderman tweeted: "I know



**STAY TUNED FOR MORE...**

**Save the Date for Temple Beth Zion's  
Spring Kiddush Fundraiser:**

**Fostering Inclusion**  
Celebrating and recognizing

**Sue Brent, Danya Handelsman and Molly Silver**  
for their ongoing work of making TBZ a place of full participation  
for people with all kinds of disabilities

**Saturday, May 2, 2020**  
Shabbat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim  
9:30 am Shabbat Service  
9:30 - 11 am Childcare available  
11 am Mishpachot service  
Followed by Festive Luncheon, Music and Dancing!

"Crip Camp" will spark some change in the way we view #disability. #Sundance. #RepresentMeHollywood."

## A BLESSING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

By Devon Spier

*Come in as you are.  
You do not have to shine yourself up, Or polish off your grit.  
Make your brokenness a blessing. Never using it to harm,  
Or as a hardened defense.  
Come in to honor life.  
To learn  
And to teach.  
Transparency opens us.  
Whereas hiding closes us.  
Pretending reveals nothing,  
Whereas the truth reveals everything. Welcome.  
Come in with all that you have.*

## A PRAYER FOR INCLUSION

By Rabbi Edie Menscher and Rabbi Rick Jacobs

*Holy One, we know you by many names, but still we are part of one human family, Your family.  
Open our hearts and minds so that we see Your reflection in the face of every person on this earth.  
Help us to forge bonds of compassion, dignity, and respect with every person.  
Guide us to fully grasp that disability and difference never lessen a person's need for love, friendship, belonging, respect, and for the opportunity to work, contribute, and lead.  
Let prejudice, stigma, fear, and presumptions never interfere with our ceaseless efforts to assure that each and every person is able to feel the embrace of family, community, and of God.*

## Daniel Jackson's Reflections on Inclusion Shabbat

“Last week, I participated in an inclusion shabbat at TBZ in Brookline. I gave a little derashah and Hadassah Margolis led a discussion based on excerpts from my book. There was an extraordinary sense of engagement and commitment from the TBZ community—50 to 100 people stayed well into the afternoon to discuss inclusion and mental illness. Sue Brent and Danya Handelsman organized the shabbat, and their effort seems to have really kindled a flame in that community—a community that, thanks to Rav Claudia and her passionate congregants, is already taking a leading role in social action.

I was particularly struck by their wise advice to us all that this was a conversation towards a deeper understanding, and that we shouldn't be in a rush to lay out solutions. Obviously I was delighted to see my book having impact, but even more I was just so pleased to be part of this movement towards not only engaging people who have been marginalized but also addressing a challenge that touches everyone to a greater or lesser degree.”

## L'Chaim

- To Rebecca Blouwolff on being named the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' National Teacher of the Year!
- To the Weisskopf-Kaplan family for being honored at Gateways' Annual Gala!
- To Beit Rabban teacher, Hebrew tutor, and beloved members of the TBZ community Rabbi David Winship and Jasmine Gothelf on the birth of a daughter, Zora Gothelf Winship!
- To Eva Kates on becoming Bat Mitzvah on November 2.
- To Ma'ayan and Aviv Rosenbaum on becoming B'nei Mitzvah on November 9.
- To Ruby Marx on becoming B-Mitzvah on November 23.
- To Ezra Klauber on becoming Bar Mitzvah on December 21.
- To Tova Falck on becoming Bat Mitzvah on January 4.
- To Yahli Anter on becoming Bar Mitzvah on January 18.

# THOUGHTS FROM REB MOSHE

The great Irish poet Yeats wrote that “In **dreams** begins **responsibility**,” not necessarily those dreams in our sleep, but more appropriately those that we have when awake. The things we wish to do with our lives are ours to choose, but we are not just responsible for them, we are also responsible for those dreams we have, but never fulfill. In other words, it is our actions that dictate where our lives lead, and we cannot blame others for things we never accomplished.

Pesach is a holiday for dreamers. The yearning for redemption is an integral art of the Jewish story. Psalm 126 tells us that when the Jews in Babylon sang of the return to Zion they saw themselves as *hayinu kekholim*, dreamers. As we are at the tail-end of our preparations for Pesach take time to pause and consider the question: from what enslavement do I wish to be freed, or from what narrow place do I wish to be extricated?

Spring brings a sense of rebirth that is heartening when we consider our connection to the organic world around us. New blossoms appear on tree branches as new aliveness surges all around us. This invigorating energy is not only necessary for preparing for Pesach, but for our efforts to free ourselves from our egos, our narrow perspectives, our unfair demands of ourselves, our feelings of hurt and dejection, and our feelings of despair. We overcome despair by dreaming of *ge-ulah*, redemption; an end to our millennial displacement and exile.

On Rosh Hashanah we celebrated the creation of the Universe and on Pesach we celebrate the beginnings of a people. The new aliveness in this Pesach moment of commemoration and camaraderie offers us the opportunity to also assess our commitments to the continuity of Jewish traditions. We strive towards a world upended. We dream of a time that will end the shedding of innocent blood. We dream of a society of equal opportunity. We dream of the redemption of all people. Jewish tradition sees this universal redemption as our goal.

Thankfully, the Pesach *seder* is not entirely a synagogue observance. The setting of the *seder* in our homes makes the singular message of *yetziat mizrayim*, the exodus from Egypt, the message of freedom, accessible to all. Yet, as our tradition teaches, real freedom is not measured by being unleashed but rather to take on another yoke, the covenant of Sinai.

Freedom rests in our ability to create a civil society where rules are not arbitrary; where rules come to enhance our lives. The countdown to this kind of freedom begins at the second *seder* and for weeks we will build up the capacity to take on responsibility for our action. There are no more taskmasters to control us. We face the challenges of open and free societies. If we dream it, it can be so.



## Hamantaschen Dough Making

Thank you to all the young people who showed up after a long day of school to help us get ready for Purim. The all-kid crew of about 14 worked side-by-side to get the job done with minimal adult oversight. Over 50 batches of batter were made which yielded 1620 hamentashen at the bake-off! A good time was had by all.



# Please tell me more about the Nominating Committee!

By Sue Kahn

The Nominating Committee was my first opportunity at TBZ to be involved on a Committee. It had never occurred to me to participate, but I was asked to serve on it about 10 years ago. It was a great way to meet new people, but more importantly, to understand the role of the Board of Directors and to help match people in our community with this critical leadership role. It's an important role and involves a time commitment, yet one that does not involve a lot of group meetings (which is a question I'm often asked).

First, some background information about TBZ's Board of Directors might be helpful in talking about the Nominating Committee: TBZ's Board has up to 15 people: up to two Co-Presidents, five Vice Presidents (VPs), and eight At-Large Directors. These Board roles are further defined in the by-laws. Each person can serve up to two two-year terms in their role and then they must step up (to VP or President) or step off the Board for at least one year. To allow for smooth transitions, these initial terms were set up so that half of the Board terms are finished at any one time. There has been an effort to maintain this balance since these by-laws were implemented in 2013.

## What is the Nominating Committee?

The main role of TBZ's Nominating Committee is to recommend a slate for the Board of Directors that is voted on at the Annual Community Meeting in December. In addition, the Nominating Committee can make recommendations to the Board of Directors if there are vacancies.

## Who is on the Nominating Committee?

TBZ's by-laws define the composition of the Nominating Committee. In brief, the by-laws state that the Immediate Past President leads the Committee, which is the reason I've been chairing the Nominating Committee since 2018. It has five other members, including two Board members and three non-Board members. Members of the Committee should have either a wide knowledge of or a deep familiarity with a specific segment of the community, have good communication skills, and the ability to objectively assess individuals' qualifications for the roles and keep information confidential.

## How does the Nominating Committee work?

The Nominating Committee assesses which Board vacancies will need to be filled at the time of our Board transition and community election in December each year. It does this by tracking and learning which Board members will be completing their terms or choosing to step off the Board. In general, people on the Board who have not reached their two-term maximum will have the option to renew their term. Additionally, At-Large Directors may be considered for a VP position, and a current VP may be asked to step into the role of President, thus leaving new positions available to be filled. The Nominating Committee will reach out to each Board member to have a conversation about their Board involvement going forward.

The subsequent work of the Nominating Committee is to recommend TBZ members to fill open positions, taking into consideration the following:

- Diversity in age/generation and gender
- Prior engagement or leadership in the TBZ community
- Specific skill sets needed, e.g., finance, legal, strategic planning
- Commitment to TBZ's mission and to the TBZ community
- Collaborative nature
- The Board President and Rabbi may have further inputs on the needs of the Board.

The Nominating Committee then develops a list of TBZ Members to reach out to based on the anticipated Board vacancies and needs. Committee members speak with them about Board Member Responsibilities and Expectations as well as the needs of the Board. In the last two years, the Nominating Committee has reached out to about 40 people to get to know them and to speak with them about their interest in getting involved in TBZ leadership, both in the near-term and perhaps in several years. We invite Board member prospects to speak with current Board members and the President to assess the fit of their interests, talents and the Board's needs before finalizing the slate that is first reviewed by the Board and then presented to the Community.

*(Continued on next page)*

Every year the slate is sent to the TBZ Community by email 20 days before the Community Meeting. There is also a special meeting announced during that 20 day period to provide the community the opportunity to nominate someone who is not on the slate.

### What's Next?

I want to thank the two people who have worked diligently and thoughtfully with me in this role: Nikki Horberg Decter, who is an At-Large Director, and Debbie Korn, who has served in a number

of TBZ leadership capacities. Nikki has served on the Nominating Committee for two years, and Debbie has served for 13 years. Debbie is stepping down from this role in 2020 and I will miss working with her in this capacity.

We will soon be adding more members to the Nominating Committee before focusing on the Board slate process. Please let me know if you have any questions or would be interested in learning more about joining the Nominating Committee. You can contact me at [nominating@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:nominating@tbzbrookline.org)

## CONDOLENCES

- To Robin Okun and Peter Weinstein on the passing of Robin's father Fred Okun.
- To Allen Taylor and Kim Kronenberg on the passing of Allen's sister Nevet Dolev.
- To our members Rick Bankhead and Kemper Thompson on the passing of Rick's mother, Dorothy Bankhead.
- To Judy Epstein-Fisher and Eli Epstein on the passing of their father, Herbert Epstein and their mother, Jean Allen Epstein.
- To Roger Zimmerman, Jane Liebschutz and their family on the passing of Roger's father, Herbert E. Zimmerman.
- The TBZ community is saddened at the passing of a longtime member John Powell.
- To Michael Krieger on the passing of his father, Jacob (Jack) Krieger.
- To Paula Korman on the passing of her father, Bernard Joseph Korman.
- To Ted Rybeck and Ellen Brodsky on the passing of Ted's mother, Sivia Rybeck.
- To Ira Spool and his children Isaac and Reuben on the passing of his father, Theodore Spool.
- To Rabbi Sam and Jenni Seicol and their family on the passing of his mother, Betty Seicol.
- To Yelena Lebedinsky on the passing of her mother, Gitel Lebedinsky.
- To Natalie and Joe Henrich and their children on the passing of Natalie's mother, Marilyn Chapnik Smith.
- To Susan Schneider and her family on the passing of Susan's mother, Gloria Schneider.
- To Anne Marie Codur and her family on the passing of her father, Marcel Codur.
- To Jonathan and Savyon Cohen and family on the passing of Jonathan's mother, Annebelle Cohen.
- To Meir and Claire Stampfer on the passing of Meir's father, Rabbi Joshua Stampfer.
- To Mickey Salins and Aimee Mayer-Salins on the passing of Mickey's father, Ken Salins.
- To Hal Rudnick and Renee Rudnick and their family on the passing of Hal's mother, Barbara Rudnick Greenberg

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

**המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.**

## DONATIONS

Philip Abrams  
 Carole Balin  
 Rick Bankhead & Kemper Thompson  
 Lilly Pelzman & Jeffrey Borenstein  
 Annie Braudy  
 Phyllis Brawarsky & Noah Fasten  
 Vicki Citron  
 Elisheva Dan & Mara Weitzman  
 Ed De Vos & Judy Schechtman  
 James Goldman & Ronna Tapper-Goldman  
 Steven Greenberg  
 Cindy-jo Gross  
 Scott Jacobson & Hillary Schwab  
 Tamar Kaim Doniger  
 Leeza Kapuler & Svetlana Mondrus  
 Kathy & Thomas Kates  
 Barbara Katz  
 Adam Klauber & Rebecca Weintraub  
 Mark Knobel & Nina Isakovich  
 Paula Korman  
 Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover  
 Diane Lavin  
 Rebecca Mautner  
 David Ofsevit & Nancy Mazonson  
 Alex Milstein  
 Diane O'Donoghue & Kimbell DiCero  
 Jonas Parker & Michal Shein  
 Irwin & Gloria Pless  
 Bernie Plovnick & Aida Belansky  
 Alan & Elaine Praysman  
 Rashi School  
 Lindsey Rosen  
 Susan & Arny Rosenberg  
 Ilan Rubinfeld  
 Amit Segal & Barrie Wheeler  
 Sam & Jenni Seicol  
 Reggie Silberberg  
 Emily Singer  
 Jim & Susan Snider  
 Deb Stang  
 Marilyn Tapper  
 Judith Taub  
 Scott Tepper  
 Rabbi Moshe & Anne Waldoks  
 Tali Buechler Walters & Peter Buechler  
 Richard Weinstein  
 Joel Ziff

## KIDDUSH AND ONEG DONATIONS

Leah Abrahams  
 Roberta Isberg & Seth Alper  
 Laurie Alpert & Barry Weiss  
 Diane Balser  
 Lilly Pelzman & Jeffrey Borenstein  
 Sue Brent  
 Daniel Dubin  
 Mark Dwortzan  
 Katherine Ellin  
 Joel Feldman & Meryl Finkel  
 Evelyn Frankford  
 Marion & Stan Freedman-Gurspan  
 Adam Frost  
 Deborah Gardner  
 Michael & Jill Goldberg  
 James Goldman & Ronna Tapper-Goldman  
 Daniel Goodman  
 Steve Hassan & Misia Landau  
 Meredith Joy  
 Sue Kahn & Daniel Kirschner  
 Robert & Susie Kaim  
 Carol & Alan Kamin  
 Kathy & Thomas Kates  
 William & Judith Kates  
 Eduardo Stern & Sheila Katz  
 Barbara Kellman  
 Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover  
 Pnina Lahav  
 Mishy Lesser  
 Steve Lewis  
 Benyamin Lichtenstein  
 Lenny Marcus & Wendy Caplan  
 Dan & Beth Marx  
 Rebecca Mautner  
 Sharon Morgenbesser & Barry Kesner  
 Matthew Morgenstern  
 David Neiman & Patricia Lotterman  
 Irwin & Gloria Pless  
 Len & Linda Rosen  
 Rabbi Or Rose & Judith Rosenbaum  
 Susan & Arny Rosenberg  
 Amit Segal & Barrie Wheeler  
 Sam & Jenni Seicol  
 Reggie Silberberg  
 Allen Spivack & Sherry Grossman  
 Deb Stang  
 Ellie Starr  
 Priscilla & Geoffrey Stein  
 Barbara Sternfield  
 Jill Stopfer  
 David Strauss  
 Tali Buechler Walters & Peter Buechler  
 Alan Weisner & Marilyn Glazer-Weisner  
 Sandy Wheeler

## TODAH RABAH

- To the Women's Retreat Planning Committee: Lauren Garlick, Annie Braudy, Diane Balser, Felicia Kaizer, Rosalind Joffe, Naomi Ribner.
- And for everyone involved with the retreat:
- To Suzanne Gelber and Enid Shulman for taking care of breakfast and snacks
- To Barbara Sternfield for helping with registration
- To Maira for serving us lunch
- To Leo for his help with set-up and clean-up.
- To Edna (Ora Catering) for providing our food.
- To our plenary speaker: Rav Tiferet Berenbaum.
- To all our workshop leaders! (Evonne Meranus, Judith Rosenbaum, Pnina Lahav, Susan Schnur, Sara Toppelberg, Susan Bookbinder, Diane Balser, Rabbi Margie).
- To Rav Tiferet for organizing and running the retreat so smoothly
- To Susan Diller for all her support
- To Beth Ehrenreich and Lindsay Eagle for their logistical and administrative support.
- To Rav Claudia for the vision and energy behind the retreat.
- To Tammy Gottlieb, Vice Chairperson of Women of the Wall, for her Kiddush Talk.
- To Nikki Horberg Decter and Debbie Korn for serving on the nominating committee.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld  
 Bill Elovitz  
 Rachel Kaplan  
 Lise Stern  
 Fernando & Ana Schnaidman  
 Eric Levine  
 Stephanie Woodland  
 Michael & Nancy Grodin

## 1566 HAPPENINGS

### Nonviolent Resistance in the West Bank with Ali Abu Awwad

On January 30 J Street Boston brought Ali Abu Awwad to TBZ to discuss his work to mobilize a movement of nonviolent resistance to the occupation in the Palestinian Territories. At the well attend event he shared what led him to this path, his reception in Palestinian society, his engagement with Israeli civilians and military authorities and his hopes and concerns for the future.



We need you to  
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your business

or suggest a business you use.

Contact Jeff Kahn, [Jkahn@4lpi.com](mailto:Jkahn@4lpi.com)

or (419) 304-7722.

## Me'ah Brookline Collaborative

We arrive at TBZ on Wednesday evenings around 7 pm, warmly greeted by Beth Ehrenreich, Assistant Director at TBZ. She directs the Me'ah participants to the sanctuary while deftly sending Jewish Big Brother Big Sister to the Community room, and others to the third floor classrooms. Not surprisingly many meaningful activities are taking place at TBZ on a Wednesday evening in February, including Me'ah Classic Year One: Brookline Collaborative. The 26 participants, including ten people from TBZ, have committed ourselves to spending the next two years, or 100 hours (me'ah means 100) learning together through readings and discussion. Our first semester was spent at Temple Sinai, with Rabbi Neal Gold, where we grappled with who wrote the Tanakh, when and why, and what is its meaning for us now. During the second semester, titled "Rabbinics", our studies with Rabbi Micha'el Rosenberg have begun with the Second Temple period and will continue as we learn about the evolution of the texts that inform and order our Jewish community, culture and behavior. Throughout our sessions together we struggle with difficult passages, laugh at the humor we find in our readings, share our experiences from childhood and as adults, benefit from the knowledge and perspective our teachers and wrestle with what our studies means for each of us individually while we journey through the class together.





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

by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

We are thrilled about our new Nishmat Hayyim program with Reb Moshe on Tuesday evenings which provides those who are unable to attend our Friday AM meditation program an opportunity for meditation and learning. Many people registered and our hope is that this enriching experience evolves into a core group who will continue to meet regularly on Tuesday evenings. If you are free on Tuesday evenings and haven't registered, feel free to join Reb Moshe in the sanctuary. You may drop-in to these sessions.

We are also thrilled about our second **Nishmat Hayyim Contemplative Shabbat** this year to be held on **March 28, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**, followed by TBZ's regular Kiddush (*with a couple of tables in the meeting room for a silent lunch opportunity*), and then a Shabbat Afternoon Sit. Save this date and spend the whole day with us or any part of the day! We look forward to being with you!

On November 2, Bobbi Isberg and Sheila Katz were invited to the TBZ Men's Group to lead a meditation. Both Bobbi and Sheila felt it was an honor to lead the sit and enjoyed having the opportunity. If others in the community would like to have a meditation sit as part of an event or meeting, please let us know. And a quick note about our Fall NH Contemplative Shabbat: our delight overflowed when attendees came over to us after the service with so much positive feedback and encouragement for us to offer this type of service more often. We are pleased that those of you who attended were nurtured by the experience. And we thank Noah Weinstein for his contribution to the service.

**Shabbat Afternoon Sits continue through June on March 28, April 25, May 16, and June 27.** These are always listed in TBZ Happenings as well as the calendar on the TBZ website.

Future events we look forward to are: **an evening of chant and mediation led by Sheila Katz (date and time TBA); our Day Long Meditation Retreat at Just Right Farm on May 17, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm; a two hour workshop on Insight Dialogue with a Jewish Twist on May 31, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** in the sanctuary with Penina Adelman, author and Scholar-in-Residence at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University and Jan Surrey, teacher of Insight Dialogue retreats internationally and scholar at the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women.

And way in the future—next Fall—a **special Sunday Workshop with Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, a beloved Jewish meditation teacher and Lama John Makransky, Associate Professor of Buddhism at Boston College, on September 6, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm** in the sanctuary. We are telling you this at this early date because it is going to be a very special day with these two amazing teachers. We hope that you save this date...so please mark it on your calendars!

We will send out more information and registration details as we keep you posted on all of the above events through the usual venues of communication at TBZ and NH.

And lastly, please join us for the **Friday AM Meditation and Mindfulness Practice Group, 9:30 am - 11:00 am** which includes a sit, walking meditation, learning, and Q&A. We meet every Friday morning except on holiday weekends and have a core of dedicated participants. We welcome everyone....and drop-ins are fine!!  
xvWe wish everyone a meaningful and liberating Passover with family and friends!

PLEASE CHECK  
HAPPENINGS  
FOR UPDATES

## UPCOMING NISHMAT HAYYIM EVENTS

**NH Contemplative Shabbat Service**  
March 28, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Day Long Retreat at JRF**  
May 17, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**Insight Dialogue with a Jewish Twist**  
May 31, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Shabbat Afternoon Sits**  
March 28, April 25, May 16, June 27

**Friday AM Meditation**  
March 6, 13, 20, 27,  
April 3, (NO SIT on April 10 - Pesach) 17, 24  
May 1, 8, 15, 22, NO SIT ON May 29,  
Jun 5, 12, 19, 26





# KOLEINU IS GOING GREEN!

(and Changing in Other Ways Too)

In the spirit of Pesach and spring re-birth (as well as solar panels and compostable plates) we've made some changes to Koleinu. First of all we're going green! Please say that you'll help save trees and postage by agreeing to receive a digital link that will allow you to read *Koleinu* on your phone, tablet, laptop or desk-top computer. Check Happenings and click on the link to sign-up for digital notification. If the print edition is your preferred method of reading our articles, don't worry, we will continue to print and mail copies as well.

With Happenings acting as a flexible and timely update about all the goings on at TBZ and the annual Programming Book serving as a catalogue of the activities and classes being offered we've elected to change *Koleinu*. It is becoming a place for publishing longer articles and sharing reflections about our varied and richly rewarding offerings, as well as photos, thank yous, Mazel Tovs and the like. Editions will be published twice a year.

Please know that *Koleinu* welcomes your photos, stories and contributions, and feel free to share them with me at [koleinu@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:koleinu@tbzbrookline.org).

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
1566 Beacon Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

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