

Spring 2018

TEMPLE BETH ZION
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Between Pesach and Shavuot: Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

by Reb Moshe Waldoks page 10

Nishmat Hayyim

Inclusion at TBZ

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

(president@tbzbrookline.org)

I love to talk about TBZ. But something interesting happens when I'm asked what shul I belong to. I answer, "TBZ in Brookline?," kind of assuming the questioner might not be familiar with it. They often ponder for a second and then say, "Oh yeah, that's the one with all the steps!" Funny how what stands out to people who have never been here are the 20 steps leading up to our Sanctuary.

This response leads me to think about the people for whom climbing steps would be difficult: people with disabilities or injuries, parents with strollers, out-of-shape folks, frail elderly. Do they ride by and dismiss the possibility of entering our community because of the steps? We talked about this very thing at a recent Inclusion Workshop for TBZ leaders, undertaken as part of our Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP) grant.

It was easy to decide that a sign was needed on one of the concrete pediments at the base of the steps to point people to our 1st floor accessible entryway. That sign is a message to all that says, "we want you to come in and experience what TBZ has to offer no matter whether you can climb stairs or not". Many other ideas were grappled with in this session, so many that we needed to schedule a "part 2" to get through the powerful presentation by Mia Hyman and Rebecca Redner of Gateways: Access to Jewish Education.

Our Inclusion Committee, chaired by Sue Brent and Danya Handelsman, and supported by the RSIP (with our own Molly Silver as RSIP Manager at CJP) is leading TBZ on a true path of discovery - of our individual and communal values, of our understanding of 'disability' both overt and hidden, of how we understand

'welcoming' as part of 'inclusion' but not its totality. I am so proud and excited about the path we are on to becoming a place that feels warm and welcoming to all, and that ensures that people of all abilities feel they can be active participants in the life of our community.

In December, we met as a Community to hear about the State of the Shul (strong!), to elect our new slate (fantastic new Board Members Nikki Decter and Larry Kraus!) and to discuss two proposed changes to our by-laws. After discussion, one passed easily, which allows the Immediate Past President or Co-President to serve one additional year on the Board of Directors. The other amendment had to do with defining "Who is a Member" in terms of the administration of membership fees, and more importantly how a non-Jewish member who is part of a family that lives a full Jewish life participates in the life and leadership of our community. Not surprisingly, this discussion needed more time so that we could delve more deeply into the questions and allow for all who wanted to contribute to do so. It is always our goal to make important decisions with transparency and the active input of our *kehillah* (community). Therefore, on March 11 from 10 am - noon, we will meet again for brunch and discussion on this topic. Let's explore together the facts of who we are today, what's going on in the Jewish community around us, our values, our aspirations, and what kind of a community we want to be.

Wishing you joy as winter turns to spring,

Sara



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Finance & Administration: Michael Goldberg
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Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Danya Handelsman
Israel Committee: Karen Naimier, Allen Taylor
Membership: Kathy Kates, Enid Shulman
Men's Group: Rob Kaim, David Neiman
Mishpachot: Shoshanna Korn-Meyer
Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg
Nominating Committee: Sue Kahn
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Family Table: Alan Weisner, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers
Tikkun Olam: Judy Schechtman, Jed Shugerman
GBIO: Susan Bookbinder, Rosalind Joffe
Resistance: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson
Synagogue Practices: Eddie Taub
Torah Readers: Josh Blouwolf
Young Adult Committee: Courtney Bergan, Caitlin Feuer
Koleinu Editor: Beth Harris

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www.tbzbrookline.org

Join us for a follow up to our December Community Meeting furthering the discussion: Who is a member?

March 11, 10 am - noon

Brunch will be served. Childcare provided.

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.

Beit Rabban Shabbat

Our joyous Kabbalat Shabbat celebration of student learning will feature student-led davening, a delicious dinner and fun activities. All are welcome to attend.
Friday, March 23, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

Birthday Aliyah

Celebrate your birthday at TBZ with an aliyah and cake! Come to the first Shabbat in your birthday month and be called to the Torah for a group Aliyah. Want to sponsor the birthday cake at Kiddush? Call the office to find out how. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Family Pesach Program

Be part of an art project centered around the Exodus story with Tova Speter of the MEM project. Tova is an artist, art therapist, art educator, and arts administrator with an MA in art therapy. She has 10+ years of experience leading community murals, engaging students in artistic expressions of their Jewish identity, and reaching out to under-served communities through art.
Sunday, March 25, 10 am - noon

Men's Study Group

What do you do for yourself as a Jewish man? What do you do to nurture and grow relationships and connections with other Jewish men? At TBZ's Men's Group, we meet and talk freely in a confidential, nonjudgmental, respectful and supportive environment. We talk about men's issues, Jewish issues, relevant readings and personal experiences, and work to build deep and caring connections. Men are welcome to join us to engage intellectually, emotionally and spiritually at any or all of these meetings. Every 3 weeks on the 3rd floor after Shabbat Kiddush.
March 3, 24, April 14, May 5, 19, June 9

NEW MEMBERS

Hannah Green and Aaron Katz

Geoffrey Lewis and Amy Caplan

Fran Price

Beth Schwartzapfel and Shereen Mohiuddin

Kay Seligsohn-Bullis and Karen Seligsohn

TBZ Host @ Homes

We hope you have chosen to eat, pray, sing, and connect with other TBZ members over lovely intimate vegetarian meals in their homes or be the host for this opportunity in your home. Shabbat evening, Friday, March 2, or seudah shlishit and havdalah on Saturday afternoon, March 3. Please enjoy making these meaningful connections both with TBZ members and with the joys that Shabbat brings to all of us.

New Office Assistant

We welcome Lindsay Eagle to the office staff. Lindsay is an experienced administrator and no stranger to Jewish Life, having served as Boston University Hillel's Office Manager. She also works at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, a museum dedicated to civic education and engagement. Lindsay freelances as a stage actor, director, and producer in the Boston area. She can be reached at office@tbzbrookline.org or ext. 13

Inclusion Committee Initiative: Focus Tools

What are those brightly colored toys in the lobby and why are they allowed inside the sanctuary? While they are often called 'fidget tools', the term 'focus tools' better captures their function. By manipulating them—bending, squeezing, and playing with them—children can calm themselves in a way that allows them to pay attention and listen during services. Some children bring their own focus tools to synagogue. Adults also use focus tools. We hope that having a basket of them readily available will send a message of welcome and inclusion to individuals who might need them. Kindly return them to the basket when you or a family member are done using them. The focus tools were purchased with a generous grant from the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project (RSIP). To learn more: theconversation.com/fidget-toys-arent-just-hype-77456

Tikkun Leil Shavuot at Kehillath Israel

Join hundreds of friends and neighbors for a unique educational and cultural experience at the 9th Annual Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot in Brookline. The service will end with shacharit at sunrise. Learn, discuss, eat and shmooze all night long.
May 19: 9 pm - 4 am. KI Harvard St. Brookline

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

TBZ Community Urban Retreat

While in past years we have headed to the Cape for our annual community retreat, this spring, TBZ will be retreating on Beacon Street. We will include the most popular programs from prior years—including retreat-themed Shabbat services, classes, special children's programming, yoga, a variety show and lots of other activities. The retreat will culminate with a dance party including some of your favorite retreat games for adult and teens. The only thing missing will be packing suitcases and several hours of highway driving. Childcare will be provided throughout the weekend.

Plans are in the early stages! We welcome input and participation from retreat regulars and from members who have not participated in the past. As always, we cannot have a community retreat without community participation. Contact the office, Cindy-jo Gross or Ariadne Valsamis if you would like to help!
May 11-12

Walk for Hunger

Please join or sponsor this year's walkers from TBZ, or plan to help with the snack station. Our team will join over 40,000 walkers, 2,000 volunteers and thousands of donors as we raise awareness about hunger in our state and raise funds for programs designed to break the cycle of food insecurity in our communities. More than 700,000 people are chronically hungry in the state. The 2018 Project Bread Walk for Hunger offers us all a chance to make a difference.

More information about signing up to be part of the TBZ team, sponsoring walkers and volunteering will be available soon.

May 6

Yom HaShoah

Renowned musician Joey Weisenberg comes to TBZ for a powerful program that explores the question: *How can we enter the vibrancy of pre-War Jewish communities by connecting to their Chasidic melodies and nigunim?* Joey will help us to link to this vanished world through music and song at a *Shir Hamaalot* (Rising in Song) at TBZ for the Greater Boston Jewish Community. Co-sponsored by TBZ, JCDS, Boston's Jewish Community Day School and Temple Ohabei Shalom.

April 12: 7 pm

Cantor Becky Update

We wish Cantor Becky and Alex Khitrik a Mazal Tov on the birth of Max Ezekiel.

Many of you know that Becky has had some health challenges after the birth. She is grateful for all the support and love she has received from our community.

Baby Max is also going through some health challenges and we wish him *Refuah Shlema*. We hold him on our prayers.

We will update the community regarding Becky's return to work.



Adult Learning

A number of fans gathered on a Sunday morning to hear Ani Tuzman, the author of *The Tremble of Love*, read from the novel she wrote about the Ba'al Shem Tov and to learn more about his impact on Jewish life in the 18th century and today.



See page 9 for upcoming Adult Learning opportunities.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Beit Rabban

The Beit Rabban Parent Committee continues to facilitate communication between parents and staff, sponsor special guests and field trips for individual classes, and help build community through whole-school events. Beit Rabban students in Grades 4 & 5 enjoyed a wonderful panel by TBZ's Tikkun Olam committee to learn about TBZ's work to repair the world, as you see in the accompanying photo. This led to students' involvement with a fundraiser selling "welcome your neighbor" signs around our community. We are currently gearing up for our biggest event of the year, Beit Rabban Shabbat. Organized by the dynamic duo of Sharon Morganbesser and Lynda Danzig, the evening of Friday, March 23 will feature student-led davenning, a delicious dinner, and fun activities.



Women's Retreat



TBZ Women's Retreat was held January 21st at TBZ. The theme was "Living Our Truth: Finding Resilience and Wisdom in the #metoo movement." The #MeToo movement has empowered women across the country to speak out loudly. Over 90 women in our community came together to tell our stories to one another, share our feelings about power, and process collectively how to respond to the challenges facing women today. After the morning service Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President-Elect of Hebrew College, shared with us how important it is to "hear and be heard" by those we both know well and those who we don't know at all. Various sessions took place over the course of the day. The retreat culminated with Marjie Sokoll guiding a whole group reflection followed by Rav Claudia who led a moving and intimate closing circle. Rav Claudia urged us to continue forming relationships with each other so that the message of this powerful retreat will continue to resonate in our lives.

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

www.tbzbrookline.org/about/tbz-kehilla and find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline

Nishmat Hayyim: Jewish Meditation at TBZ

This spring, at our annual Spring Fundraiser Kiddush, we will celebrate 13 years of Nishmat Hayyim at TBZ. In preparation for this community event, our meditation leaders, Reb Moshe, Bobbi Isberg, Sheila Katz and Reggie Silberberg offer reflections on the question:

“What is Jewish about Meditation?”

Bobbi:

Meditation practice helps us to appreciate the oneness of this very diverse world that appears to be full of separate people and things. It helps us to relate to YHVH, as Jeff Roth says, “the unfolding of being,” a process that cannot be captured by a name or a word. It is a gateway into experiencing the peace of feeling connected to rather than separate from the unfolding of reality. In this way, meditation supports our capacity for prayer, Torah Study, and compassionate connection to others, the three things (“*al shelosha devarim ha-olam omed*”) which sustain the world (*Pirkei Avot*).

Reggie:

I agree with you, Bobbi. Considering that Jews love to talk and schmooze, it is hard to think of meditation as being Jewish. But it really is!! When we meditate we bring our attention on one focal point, the way we bring our attention to prayer on Shabbat morning or to a blessing we recite. My meditation practice is being attentive to the breath. I bring my attention to my breath, breathing in and out. We breathe each other in and out, breathing the same air, in and out. There is a great image: as we breathe out, God breathes in, and as we breathe in, God breathes out.... we are breathing God in and out. In the creation story in the Tanakh, we read that the first human being was formed by God’s breath. In that silent breath, a connection is made and a human being is born.

Sheila:

For me, Judaism and meditation seem *bashert*. On one hand, it seems that all the instructions I need to learn this practice of meditation, I find in the psycho-spiritual spiral of Torah, Hebrew liturgy,

Shabbat, and Jewish holidays day by day, week by week, year by year. You just need to know enough Hebrew, not to completely depend on translation, to see the teachings jump off the page.

And, on the other hand, it seems that vital to learning about Judaism, is this practice of meditation that brings a continually fresh insight and a sense of revelation to Jewish text, prayer, ritual, and *mitzvot* (acts of connection).

Reggie:

When we sit together in silence, walk together in silence, or eat together in silence, we become connected to each other and evolve into a community. Our meditation is like a wordless prayer that connects us to each other and the divine, YHVH. We deepen our awareness of ourselves; of our connection to Judaism, to the Divine; of people around us and of our environment. Meditation guides us straight into our hearts as we open ourselves to our most vulnerable parts, allowing YHVH and those around us to know us and love us in our struggles.

Reb Moshe:

What is vitally important in my own spiritual life is the dissolving of a dialogic sense of *tefila* (that we are here and God—even the One you do not “believe” in—is outside of us) to a unitive internalized path for seeing our place in the Universe as Jewish human beings. It seems simple to understand that *Echad* is Oneness and signifies the interdependence of all life. While this is simple, it is not easy. Our ego-driven lives often serve as a barrier to this expanded consciousness. All of the mitzvot are geared to this principle of humility, interconnectedness with Jewish traditions of the past and the present and our obligations as Jews to move our tradition forward to the generations to come.

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Sheila:

Everything that arises into consciousness wants to be seen, recognized, and loved, whether it is anger or sorrow or yearning or judgment. Meditation practice and Jewish teachings repeat and repeat: *Shema!* Listen, pay attention to This form, intention, return again, say "*Hineini*," "I am here," the only place we can ever be within the one "I am." Breathe out and let go of this life now. Breathe in and behold it arising anew.

Reggie:

Our rituals and blessings, whether it is lighting the Shabbat candles, making *motzei*, or reciting grace after meals, remind us to pause, stop, and take a conscious breath to prepare for this very moment, and then make the blessing being fully present in time and space.

Bobbi:

Jewish practice reminds us, with its daily, weekly, and seasonal prompts, of the many opportunities for contemplative moments and heightened awareness of the present: on arising each morning, Jewish prayers bring our attention to being alive and awake; eating, eliminating, entering and exiting have rituals to remind us to wake up to what we are doing in the moment. And Shabbat is an entire day dedicated to being rather than doing. Jewish practice reminds us to wake up and be present, over and over, in the repetitive minutiae of day-to-day life.

Reb Moshe:

To be an observant Jew one must sit and see, feel, and experience, what is in the present moment. Out of this observation we will recognize how our Halachic observance path makes demands upon us that derive not only from tradition but from our existential need to actively participate in both tikkun olam, repairing the world and tikkun haNefesh, repairing of our souls.

Please join us on May 5th for the Spring Fundraiser where TBZ will celebrate Nishmat Hayyim and honor Bobbi, Sheila, Reggie and Reb Moshe.

Experience Nishmat Hayyim at these upcoming events:

Meditation/Mindfulness Practice Group

Drop-In Session: March 2 from 9:30 am - noon

For Registered Participants:

March 9, 16, 23, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18
from 9:30 am - 11 am

Shabbat Afternoon Meditation Sits

March 17, April 21, May 12 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

May 5

Day Long Retreat at Just Right Farm

(registration required): May 6

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Rosh Hodesh

The TBZ Rosh Hodesh group is going strong. We've had some great meetings over the last few months. In December, in the spirit of Chanukah's focus on creating light in the dark we created beautiful two-sided journals exploring areas of light and dark in our lives. Of course we also enjoyed lighted candles together and eating latkes. In January the group met to study the Parsha for the second annual Rosh Hodesh Shabbat (Beshalach, including the Song of the Sea). Members of the group participated in all aspects of the service – leading portions, reading torah, giving d'var torahs and co-sponsoring the Kiddush.



Weekly Shabbat Times

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

SPECIAL SERVICES

Beit Rabban Shabbat

March 23: 5:30 pm

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

May 5

HOLIDAYS

Purim

March 2: Shushan Purim

Pesach

March 25: Family Pesach Program, 10 am - Noon

(see page 3 for more)

March 30: Erev Pesach - No services

March 31: Shabbat Service, 10 am, No Torah study

April 7: Yizkor, 11 am

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut

TBA

Shavuot

May 19: All Night Tikkun Leil at KI, 9 pm - 4 am

(see page 3 for more)

May 20: Shavuot Service (including Yizkor), 10 am - 12:30 pm

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

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

April 14, Esther Rosi-Kessel

April 28, Roger Taub

May 26, Talia Raisner-Thompson

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT

Beit Rabban Shabbat

March 23

T'filot Mishpachot

March 24, April 7, 21, May 5, May 19 : 11:30 am

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat

March 31, April 28: 6:15 pm

BOOK CLUB

March 4, April 8, May 13: 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Who is a Member?

March 11: 10 am - Noon

COMMUNITY RETREAT (see page 4 for details)

May 11 - 12

NISHMAT HAYYIM: BREATH OF LIFE

Meditation/Mindfulness Practice Group

Drop-In Session

March 2: 9:30 am - noon

For Registered Participants

March 9, 16, 23, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18

9:30 am - 11 am

Shabbat Afternoon Meditation Sits

March 17, April 21, May 12: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

May 5

Day Long Retreat at Just Right Farm

(registration required)

May 6

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

March 3, 24, April 14, May 5, 19: 1:30 pm

SHABBAT NARIYAH AND POTLUCK SUPPER

March 16, April 20

HOST@HOMES

March 2, 3

WALK FOR HUNGER

May 6

YOM HAATZMA'UT

April 22: Details to follow

YOM HASHOAH (see page 4 for details)

April 12, 7-9 pm

Please visit

[www.tbzbrookline.org/
community/committees](http://www.tbzbrookline.org/community/committees)

to find out more about an
activity or group.

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה ותומכיה מאושר
The Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center

SPRING 5778/2018

ADULT LEARNING CLASSES

Spiritual Turning Points in the Development of Modern Judaism

Professor Adam Teller

Tuesdays, March 13, 20, 27: 7 pm

A Novelist Looks at the Bible

Novelist Len Rosen

Wednesdays, March 14, 21, 28: 7pm

From Orchard Street to Bloomingdale's: Transformations of American Jewish Life

Professor Shelley Tenenbaum

Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24: 7 pm

How Art Perceives the World

Profs. Leah Cohen and Osvaldo Golijov

Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22: 7:30 pm

Colliding Dreams Film Discussion

Jan Darsa

Wednesdays, May 23, 30: 7 - 8:30 pm

Jan Darsa will facilitate a series of discussions inspired by this gripping documentary that deepens understanding of the too often-ignored history of Zionism. Over two sessions, participants will view key sections of the film and explore the issues they raise.

Mussar Class

Nina Piken

Tuesdays: 10 am

(for currently registered participants only)

Shalom Hartman Institute iEngage Course

March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5: 7:30 - 9 pm

This course continues to grapple with the ideas and values that shape the meaning of modern Israel, Zionism, and Jewish identity. (For registered participants only)

Please preregister for all classes..

Visit: tbzbrookline.org for details, to sign up, and our faculty's bios.

TBZ TALKS

TBZ Members talk about what they do in their professional lives. Join our Speakers following Shabbat services at Kiddush Lunch.

March 17: Lisa Gilinsky, a holistic health coach and nutritional therapy consultant will discuss Healthy Eating During Passover: How to commemorate the holiday and spiritually connect with our ancestors, without getting sick.

March 24: Frederique Appfel-Marglin, professor of Anthropology will discuss her most recent research on one of the oldest and sustainable soils in the world; it sequesters CO2 from the atmosphere and powerfully mitigates climate warming.

May 19: Leah Abrahams, a memoirist, will discuss the possibilities open to those who wish to write family stories and help participants pass their stories to future generations.

WISE AGING

Wise Aging Group invites the community to a series of talks.

March 7: Recent Research on Aging with Len Fishman

April 25: Options for Senior Housing with Muriel Heilberger

May 23: Ethical Wills with Reb Moshe

All sessions from 7-8:30 pm

The Torah is the Tree of Life and all who cling to Her will be enriched



BETWEEN PESACH AND SHAVUOT: Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

by Reb Moshe

The Shoah runs as a subterranean stream that has altered Jewish identity for all Jews. The War against the Jews with its policy of complete extermination of Jews and Judaism added a new dimension to Jewish life and identity. The racist exterminators were not interested in one's Jewish practice or ideology; a Jewish grandparent was all that one needed to be murdered. Thus, the fact that Jews choose to remain Jews is an act of renewing the covenant, leaving aside our ambivalent relationship with God. The Shoah became an equalizer for Jews. To be a Jew is to remember the greatest catastrophe in Jewish, and perhaps, human history. We must remember that this horror took place in Germany, the center of European Enlightenment, only 75 years ago. This is not ancient history and its residue formed many different ideologies and strategies for Jewish survival.

Why remember these horrible events, particularly when we live such a comfortable life here in the United States? The recent re-emergence of Fascist, white supremacist

groups demands that we remember the results this hatred may have, if left unchecked.

Between Pesach and Shavuot, two modern Jewish days of commemoration and celebration deserve our attention as much as these two Pilgrimage festivals. The first is Yom HaShoah which begins Wednesday night, April 11 and ends the evening of April 12. It is customary to light a Yahrzeit candle after sundown on April 11 in memory of the millions of Jews who left no relatives to light candles for them. The second is Yom Ha'Atzmaut, celebrated at sundown on April 18 and concluding the following evening. The day before the celebration of Israel's founding is Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for those who fell in the conflicts of the last 70 years. If you have been in Israel during this time it is astonishing to see how Yom HaZikaron abruptly turns into Yom Ha'Atzmaut with fireworks and celebration.

At the suggestion of Rabbi Mordechai Nurok - member of the first Knesset and a Holocaust survivor - the fixed

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Hebrew calendar date of 27 Nissan was established as Yom HaShoah on April 12, 1951. This day of memorial was signed into law as a secular “Yom HaZikaron LaShoah veLaGevurah (Remembrance Day of Shoah and Resistance). This year the Hebrew and Gregorian dates coincide.

Yom Ha’Atzmaut, celebrating the founding of the State of Israel and its close proximity to the Shoah, has led to myth of the phoenix rising. It is convenient to see the establishment of the state of Israel as the “payback” for the Nazi attempt to eliminate us from the world stage. But this quid pro quo anthem is deeply flawed. A Jewish State, either as an independent entity, or as part of the British Empire, would have emerged without the Shoah.

The Zionist enterprise began in the 19th century and its goal of self-determination for the Jewish people was based on the correct assessment that anti-Semitism was endemic to European culture. It was hoped that the millions of Eastern European and other Jews would commit themselves to

building the State from within and without throughout the 20th century. Six million murdered Jews did not create the State of Israel.

The State of Israel served as a unifying component for Jewish identity from its inception in 1948 until 1982 when, as a result of the Lebanon fiasco, splinters began to emerge within the American Jewish community. These differences among supporters of Israel have grown in subsequent years and are reaching a crescendo. The major differences today are from those who criticize Israel out of love and commitment to its survival, and those who often use anti-Israel critique as a mask for anti-Semitism.

We celebrate Israel’s founding, a culmination of the traditional millennial yearning of next year in Jerusalem, *l’shana haba-ah biyerushalayim*, and the secular revolution of Zionism that saw the establishment of the State as a prerequisite for achieving normalcy in the community of nations.



Rav Claudia with members of the Boston faith community at the Suffolk County House of Corrections

Rav Claudia Supports Undocumented Immigrants

By Tali K. Walters

“The treatment accorded by a state to the non-citizens living within its jurisdiction is the most accurate indication of the extent to which justice and humanity prevail in that state.” —Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch

Ricardo (pseudonym) ran from Guatemala, leaving behind his wife and ailing newborn baby, to avoid the extreme danger he faced for refusing to work with drug traffickers. In November 2017, Ricardo finally gave up to ICE authorities after 2 weeks in the desert without water. After his initial detention in Puerto Isabel Service Processing Center in Texas, he was moved to the Suffolk County House of Corrections in South Boston, due to lack of space. Ricardo speaks no

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English, has no experience with the US – he is only 21 – and does not know his immigration status. He thinks an assistant to an immigration attorney met with him but is not sure and does not know what to anticipate. He is sad, depressed, and scared, though grateful to have food to eat and safety.

During this time in which our President and his government does not take heed of Rabbi Hirsch's words, there are new immigrants to the US, like Ricardo, who risked their lives to come across the Southern border in an effort to escape real dangers in their home countries. We have friends, neighbors, and relatives in danger of unannounced, abrupt, and heartless removal from their families and homes by ICE agents. Those picked up by ICE are placed in detention, in jail often with inmates serving time for crimes, to await their deportation hearings. These individuals have few rights (i.e., the right to an attorney, proper medical care). It is difficult, if not impossible, for visitors to see their incarcerated loved one due to distance, bureaucracy, and fear of being picked up by ICE themselves. The one group of supporters that has (almost) full access to undocumented immigrant detainees is clergy. In 2017 Rav Claudia joined with Boston clergy from Christian, Jewish, and Unitarian Universalists congregations to care for these members of our greater Boston community. In January, Rav Claudia had the opportunity to provide pastoral care at the Suffolk County House of Corrections to Ricardo, one of the over 200 (as of October 2017) undocumented immigrants held in ICE custody in Boston. Clergy's pastoral care sometimes takes the form of social work as they connect detainees with resources such as pro bono lawyers, translators, social services, and Accompaniment.

In addition to providing pastoral care for immigrants in detention, Rav Claudia and members of faith communities and secular groups engage in Accompaniment of undocumented immigrants. People participating in Accompaniment show up at Court, write letters, attend rallies, offer rides, and help meet other needs of the undocumented

immigrant facing legal difficulties. "Accompaniment is a way of showing love and honor" (Rabbi Lev Meiowitz Nelson in *Mikdash: A Jewish Guide to the New Sanctuary Movement*). In this role, Rav Claudia provides pastoral care to (often Spanish speaking) immigrants who have often been contributing members to the greater Boston community for decades. She writes letters of support to judges and accompanies these individuals to ICE check-ins and Court hearings. Accompaniment of an undocumented immigrant buffers the risk of sudden, unexpected ICE detention. "Escorting immigrants shows that they have our respect – and we hope they will receive the government's as well" (Rabbi Nelson).

Rav Claudia met with Ricardo last month, listened to his "very sad life story," and cried with him as he waited for the possibility of a new, safe life in the US. His immigration hearing, that would have potentially led to his freedom, was postponed due to a personal crisis in the judge's life. Ricardo is in physical, emotional, social, and immigrant limbo. Opportunities for Rav Claudia's involvement in this Tikkun Olam will not diminish in the foreseeable future.

**Join us at TBZ with
the New England
Board of Cantors
in a Benefit Concert
for Hurricane Victims
in Puerto Rico**

**Sunday, March 18
3:30 pm**

FROM THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Dear Ones,

Over the last two years, especially during our renovation, much thought was given to making TBZ an inclusive Shul. This inclusion was not only for external needs such as elevators and bathrooms, but also to make TBZ inviting to those with non-visible disabilities. Both Rav Claudia and I are proud of what our Inclusion Committee has done. There is, of course, more to do. We are eager for your feedback in this important arena for TBZ to show its sensitivity to all who attend our Shul, whether on a regular or infrequent basis. Again, thanks to all those who helped translate ideas into realities.

—Reb Moshe and Rav Claudia

ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMMODATIONS AT TEMPLE BETH ZION

Inspired by our commitment to accessibility and inclusion,
we offer the following accommodations



Elevators are available on every level of the synagogue.



Assistive listening devices and magnifiers can be found on the credenza outside the sanctuary.



Large print prayerbooks for Friday night services are available on the bimah. Please ask one of the ushers.



Focus/Fidget tools are available on the credenza outside the sanctuary. Please return after use.



Mezuzot are also placed at wheelchair-height on the doorposts of the sanctuary and community room.



Preferred seating for people with wheelchairs, walkers, visual or hearing impairments, and other needs is available in the sanctuary. Please ask ushers for assistance.



Accessible restrooms are located on all floors. Changing tables are located in restrooms on the sanctuary level and third floor, including the step up level.



All gender restrooms are located on the sanctuary level and third floor.



Nursing mothers will find privacy and comfort in a lounge on the third floor.



A break room for children and parents is available on the third floor. The service can be heard through speakers located in the room.

Childcare is available in room Alef on some Shabbatot. Please check the schedule.



Highchairs are available during Kiddush for families with small children.



A Kiddush table for those with food allergies or sensitivities has been set aside with gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options. Please partake only if you have such concerns.

Please tell our ushers if there is any other way
we can help to meet your needs.

TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ

TBZ Tikkun Olam translates our traditions into social justice to heal our world. We provide opportunities for our entire community to bring to life our Jewish call to action. We have added a new action group on transgender rights, and there are significant new developments in each action group.

Sanctuary

In January, as partners in the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative, we welcomed the first family into Sanctuary at the Parish of St. Paul in Newton Highlands. TBZ members were very active in preparing the space, and have already volunteered many hours providing companionship. The family is settling in well. As two people are required to be present at all times, we are always looking for additional helpers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact David Woodruff at davewoodr@aol.com. For general questions, contact Marion Freedman-Gurspan freedgur@aol.com or Penny Roberts, penrob49@aol.com, co-chairs of the Sanctuary Action Committee.

Transgender Rights

In 2016, Massachusetts passed non-discrimination protections for our transgender friends, family and neighbors in public spaces. A broad coalition is joining together to defeat a dangerous initiative on the statewide ballot in Massachusetts in November 2018 that would repeal our state's non-discrimination law. Faith leaders, public safety officials, major employers, top educational institutions, labor unions and more are standing together to affirm: Discrimination has no place in Massachusetts! We are working with the Freedom for All Massachusetts campaign to defeat the 2018 ballot measure that would repeal these recently granted transgender rights. On March 3, Pippin Shoults of Freedom for All Massachusetts will discuss the transgender non-discrimination law and how we can protect transgender people during Kiddush. Contact Marion Freedman-Gurspan freedgur@aol.com

Resistance Group

The Resistance effort at TBZ continues to focus on protecting democracy from the many threats it faces under the current

administration – equality, affordable high-quality healthcare for all, climate change, and more. We take action in the form of rallies, phone-banks, letter-writing campaigns, and demonstrations. Each quarter we try to highlight a specific topic and offer an action plan to help make a difference. In November we held a phone-bank and together made well over 120 calls to senators around the country, expressing our outrage and asking them to reject the administration's so-called tax reform. In January, a dozen TBZ members rallied together at the People Persist Rally on the Cambridge Common near Harvard Square in Cambridge on the one year anniversary of the 2017 Women's March.



People Persist Rally, January 20

Please join us as we exercise our democratic rights and take inspiration from one another. For questions or more information contact: Fran Adams & Julia Freedson (franaca.adams@gmail.com jfreedson@yahoo.com)

JALSA/JLC:

Last fall, our TBZ team did a crack job as part of the JALSA/RaiseUpMA campaign collecting over 250,000 signatures state wide to put the \$15 minimum wage and paid family leave bills on the ballot next November. At TBZ, we beat our goal by 50%! Stay tuned – to get these on the ballot we need a second stage of petition gathering in the spring. If you're interested in helping out, contact the action group leader, Jonathan Klein, at Jklein728@gmail.com.

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Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)

We have been supporting two families in an apartment in Brookline Village: "I" and her 1-year-old daughter "G," from Cameroon; and "G" and her two children, 3-year-old "T" and newborn "C," from Ecuador. Both families are doing well. We are now considering supporting a third family seeking asylum. Our cluster—three synagogues and three churches in Newton and Brookline - will hold our fundraising drive for our annual budget of \$40,000 this March, as we approach Pesach and Easter, our interfaith seasons of redemption and liberation. We are incredibly grateful to all the volunteers (too many to name) who have generously donated their time, as well as to all our donors, whose contributions make this work possible. Thank you! Contact Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com) or Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) for more.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)

TBZ joined the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC) in late October to present an informative and deeply moving program on the serious issues facing our Muslim brothers and sisters today. We had one-to-one relational meetings and began to build the trust that is and will be

needed, especially in this political climate.

In the next few weeks we will begin to have house meetings, 90-minute gatherings of 8-10 people, to talk about what's on your mind, what concerns you about life in the Boston area, what you would like to see GBIO take on next as we try to make life better for everyone here in our community. Look for our emails as this project begins and please join us for this opportunity to begin to make a difference.

If you are interested in joining us on this project or on any of our other action groups: health care, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, please contact either Susan Bookbinder (susanbookbinder@comcast.net) or Rosalind Joffe (rosalind@cicoach.com).

Sign up for email! Volunteer!

Join us as we carry forward our rich Jewish traditions of social justice. Contact Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) or Judy Schechtman (j_schecht@hotmail.com) with questions or interests. You can subscribe by e-mailing: tbz_tikkunolam+subscribe@googlegroups.com

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." -Rabbi Tarfon.

CONDOLENCES

- To Fran Kantor on the death of her father, Eli Kantor.
- To Diane and Marty Richler on the death of his sister, Nancy Richler.
- To Deb Morley on the death of her mother, Minna (Avrutin) Morley.
- To Jenny Berz on the death of Nina Sacks.
- To Barbara Zeitler on the death of her father, Sanford Zeitler.
- To Joyce and Lev Friedman on the death of her brother, Robert Rosen.
- To Joyce Krensky on the death of her mother, Beatrice Krensky.
- To Ed Kleiman on the death of his father, Louis Kleiman.
- To Danya Handlesman on the death of her aunt, Sharon Mehl.
- To Jan and Aaron Darsa and their family on the death of her father, Philip Goldstein.

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

המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

DONATIONS

Diane Abrams
Phyllis Brawarsky and Noah Fasten
Ed De Vos and Judy Schechtman
Evelyn Frankford
Jeffrey and Anna Fuchs
Phyllis Goldstein
Helaine Hartman
Peter and Eliana Hashkes
Doug Hirshon and Jerusha Coltof
Sue Kahn and Daniel Kirschner
Sandra Krumholz
Susan Levin
Judith Lepor
Ed Lieberman and Mayra Guzman
Jane Liebschutz and Roger Zimmerman
Susan and Michael Marx
Alex Milstein
Irwin and Gloria Pless
Debra Raisner-Thompson and Eli Thompson
Molly Silver
Yotam Schachter
Joel Ziff

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY MEETING

Sunday, June 10

3 pm - 5 pm

HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL DONATIONS

Alyssa Altman
Geila and Martin Aronson
Tatiana Bivol
Gary Blair
Ellen Brodsky and Ted Rybeck
Kay Bullis
Irwin Cherniak
Peter Cohen and Lauren Budding
Susan Farber
Jeffrey Feldgoise and Danna Remen
Phyllis Fishman
Suzanne Gelber
Michael and Jill Goldberg
Martin Iser
Meredith Joy and Marjorie Siegel
Tamar Kaim
David Kaplan and Sarah Fendrick

Joel Kershner and Sheine Wizel
Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfels
Nomi Levy-Carrick and Richard Carrick
Michael and Rachael Licker
Isaac Limonic
Debbie Lipton
William Litchman
Lisa New and Larry Summers
Jeff Roth
Sara Rubin
Frederic Sachs and Rebecca Elmaleh
John Sano and Julie Seeger
Amit Segal and Barrie Wheeler
Sergiu Simmel
Priscilla and Geoffery Stein
Mitchell and Barbara Wand

KIDDUSH AND ONEG DONATIONS

Francine Aaron
Seth Alper and Bobbi Isberg
David Breakstone
Tali Buechler Walters and Peter Buechler
Rav Claudia Kreiman and Rabbi Ebn Leader
Ed De Vos and Judy Schechtman
Mark Dwortzan
Eli Epstein and Valerie Morhaime
Richard and Judith Epstein-Fisher
Arturo Falck and Julia Freedson
Maria Fisher
Phyllis Fishman
Marion Freedman-Gurspan
Deborah Gardner
Lisa Goodman
Rachel Goodman
Sherry Grossman and Allen Spivack
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Joseph and Natalie Henrich
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Pnina Lahav
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Jane Liebschutz and Roger Zimmerman
Debbie Lipton
Lenny Marcus and Wendy Caplan
Maurice Medoff
Jordan and Evonne Meranus
David Neiman and Patricia Lotterman
Lilly Pelzman and Jeffrey Borenstein
Serge Rekun
Rachele Rosi- Kessel and Adam Kessel
Rabbi Sam and Jenni Seicol
Sara Smolover and Larry Kraus
Deb Stang
Ellie Starr
Elana Steinberg
Alan Weisner and Marilyn Glazer-Weisner

TODAH RABAH

- To the Rosh Hodesh Group for leading a thoughtful and meaningful service.
- To the Women's Retreat Planning Committee: Barbara Segal (chair), Susan Farber (chair), Anne Braudy, Barbara Sternfeld, Diane Balser, Jan Darsa, Leah Hager-Cohen, Lauren Garlick & Judy Epstein-Fisher.
- To the Women's Retreat plenary speaker: Rabbi Sharon Cohen-Anisfeld
- To our Women's Retreat workshop leaders: Barbara Segal, Judy Epstein-Fisher, Barbara Sternfeld, Diane Balser, Susan Schnur, Pnina Lahav, Evonne Meranus, Jan Darsa, Rebecca Tolkoff, Julie Morrill, Judith Rosenbaum and Judith Kates
- To the Women's Retreat closing program leader: Marjie Sokoll
- To Enid Shulman and Suzanne Gelber for organizing breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the Women's Retreat.
- To Barbara Sternfeld for running check-in and registration at the Women's Retreat.
- To Rav Claudia, for her vision and leadership for the Women's Retreat and to Beth Ehrenreich for all her support!
- To everyone who volunteered their time to make the amazing Women's retreat a reality!
- To everyone who participated in Mitzvah Day at JF&CS.
- To Barbara Segal for bringing the iEngage Program to TBZ.
- To Sue Khan for her 3-year tenure as co-president of TBZ, which ended in December. We are grateful for her dedication and work.
- To Dan Marx for serving on the Board and as Secretary.
- To Rebecca Mautner for organizing the Monday minyanim TBZ crew at KI.
- To Natalie Henrich and Rebecca Mautner for organizing Beit Rabban's second annual "Shabbat B'Yachad".
- To Sharon Morganbesser for heading up the upcoming Beit Rabban Shabbat.
- To Rebecca Mautner and Rav Claudia for working to ensure a smooth Beit Rabban experience while Becky Khitrik is away on maternity leave.

L'Chaim

- To Howard Cohen, our founding Board Chair, on being honored by the CJP Real Estate division for his years-long creative contributions to the field of affordable housing. May you go from strength to strength.
- To Jonathan Golden on being named one of CJP's 2018 Chai in the Hub honorees.
- To Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, daughter of Marion Freedman-Gurspan, who is being honored by Keshet with the Hacham Lev award for making extraordinary contributions to advancing LGBTQ equality and justice in the Jewish community and beyond.
- To Howard Cohen and Myra Musicant of the engagement of their daughter Jenny to Matt Gordon.
- To Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks on the engagement of their daughter Risa to Ira Blum.
- To Kim Meyers and Jay Zagorsky on the wedding of their son Benjamin to Natalie Feldman.
- To Esther Rosi-Kessel on becoming Bat Mitzvah on April 14.
- To Roger Taub on becoming Bar Mitzvah on April 28.
- To Talia Raisner-Thompson on becoming Bat Mitzvah on May 26.
- To Joyce and Lev Friedman on the birth of their grandson.
- To Cantor Becky and Alex Khitrik on the birth of Max Ezekiel.
- To Dr. Bill Kates on retiring after 53 years as a physician.
- To Rabbi Suzie Schwartz Jacobson and Jojo Jacobson on the birth of a baby.
- To Allen Taylor and Kim Kronenberg on the birth of their grandson.
- To Pnina Lahav on the birth of her grandson.
- To Helen and Alan Leviton on the birth of their granddaughter Charlotte Michelle Leviton

**Please send information about graduates in your family
so we may offer our Mazal Tovs in the next issue.**

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

A large, stylized pink lotus flower graphic is centered on the page, behind the main text. It has multiple layers of petals, with the outermost layer being the most prominent.

Saturday, May 5

Celebrating

Nishmat Hayyim: Breath of Life Meditation Project

and Honoring:

Bobbi Isberg

Sheila Katz

Reggie Silverberg

Reb Moshe Waldoks

TEMPLE BETH ZION
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Brookline, MA 02446

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