

Spring 2019

TEMPLE BETH ZION
KOLEINU

קולנו



Freedom is within our grasp, and Pesach reminds us that we need to reach.

—Bradley Shavit Artson

Pesach 5779

[The Breath of God or Why Jews Love to Study](#)

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[TBZ Members Give to the World in Asylum Seeker Assistance](#)

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

president@tbzbrookline.org

In this issue of our *Koleinu* our lay and professional leadership have much to share about what's exciting at TBZ, so forgive me if I take this opportunity to let their voices speak in favor of mine. Particularly, see the review of our December Community Meeting included here. If you want to know what I've been thinking about recently, please see the Message to the Congregation at <https://tinyurl.com/tbzcommunityletter>. Since then the Board has continued to work to develop ourselves as community leaders and to set the direction of TBZ. As always, I invite you to contact me to talk about anything on your mind. I look forward to connecting!

December Community Overview

by Eddie Taub, Board Secretary

In case you missed our most recent community meeting in December, I wanted to share with you some of the exciting bits of news that we heard from our members and friends who are working hard to keep TBZ a vibrant and action-oriented community. This summary will focus more on breadth than depth; feel free to reach out to the committee chairs to learn more.

First, TBZ is going solar! We are having solar panels installed on the roof, and will be saving money in the long-run while contributing clean, renewable energy to the grid. The only up-front cost is a roof replacement, something we would have to do in a few years anyway. Mark Barnett reviewed the Solar Committee's mission, goals, proposals, costs, and schedule; if you have any questions contact him.

Geoff Stein and Sarah Fendrick gave reports from the Finance and Development Committees respectively. While they touched upon finer details such as budgets, projections, and upcoming fundraisers, their underlying message was loud and clear: dues and donations help fund all of the wonderful things we do at TBZ. They also made a point to thank the community for their past donations, because of which we are in great fiscal shape.

The Inclusion Committee has been active, and Sue Brent touched briefly on some of the many changes that have occurred since the committee first met

in February 2016. Listening to this, it dawned on me that we have really transformed ourselves into a place that is both welcoming and inclusive, not just in terms of policies and tangible improvements, but in terms of culture. Following the lead of the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project, we will focus on hidden disabilities this year. Members will receive a survey in the near future to help influence our next steps.

With all that is going on in the community, let us not forget the upcoming rabbinical transition. This brings with it several changes in roles, as various hats get metaphorically passed around the clergy and staff. Cantor Becky's departure from TBZ in June to become a full-time cantor at Temple Sinai of Sharon comes as bittersweet news. We are overjoyed at the prospects for her future, but we are very sad to be saying farewell to a stellar Education Director, an amazing clarinet player, and a friend to all.

These changes underscore the need to hire for a new position: Director of Congregational Learning and Programming. This ambitious title will be given to the person able to juggle youth and adult education and organize our vast programming. A talented nationwide search committee has already been formed. See page 9 for more.

Tali Walters shared news from our new Emergency Preparedness Group. In response to the tragic event in October and in consideration of both actual and perceived risk, a group was formed to discuss emergency-related education, guidelines, and procedures. The committee recently proposed to the board that we keep the Shabbat Greeters in place at least through March. See page 4 for more.

Last but not least, we discussed new nominations to the board. Sue Kahn introduced the candidates, and each spoke a little bit about themselves. You will be pleased to learn that the slate was unanimously voted in by the community. Shoshana Korn-Meyer, Susan Bookbinder, Sarah Fendrick, and David Neiman have joined the leadership of TBZ. Add in a few title changes and second terms and we now have an almost fully-staffed board.

OUR RABBIS

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Rav Claudia Kreiman, Rabbi ext. 11
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SYNAGOGUE STAFF

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OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sara Smolover
president@tbzbrookline.org

Vice-Presidents

External Relations: Tali K. Buechler Walters
Finance & Administration: Michael Goldberg
Member Relations: Diane O'Donoghue
Adult & Spiritual Life Programming: Michael Goldberg

Treasurer

Geoff Stein

Secretary

Eddie Taub

At-Large Members

Susan Bookbinder, Nikki Decter, Sarah Fendrick, Kathy Kates,
Shoshana 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: Jill Goldberg, Ken Reich
Beit Rabban Steering Committee: Rebecca Blouwolf, Jordan Braunig
Book Club: Maxwell Bauman, Tammy Mitchell, Lilly Pelzman
Building: Jack Daniels
Development: Sarah Fendrick
Garden: Rick Bankhead
Hesed: Debra Morley, Linda Rosen
Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Danya Handelsman
Israel Committee: open
Membership: Kathy Kates
Men's Group: Rob Kaim, David Neiman
Mishpachot: Shoshana 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

Young Adult Committee: Caitlin Feuer, Rachel Goldberg

Koleinu Editor: Beth Harris

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TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

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

Shabbat Afternoon Program with Rabbi Jill Jacobs

Rabbi Jill Jacobs is the Executive Director of T'ruah and author of *Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community* and *There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition*. She has been named three times to the *Forward's* list of 50 influential American Jews, to *Newsweek's* list of the 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America, and to the *Jerusalem Post's* 2013 list of "Women to Watch." Join Rabbi Jacobs and be inspired to continue Tikkun Olam. Refreshments will be served and the program will conclude with a community havdalah.

March 2: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Host or be Hosted for Pesach

Let all who are hungry, come and eat with us! If you have ever been alone or lonely on a holiday, you know how difficult it can be. Please join Marilyn Glazer-Weisner in helping TBZ members make lovely connections with each other over a meaningful commemoration of the celebration of freedom from slavery. If you'd like to be with other TBZ members for first or second Seder please contact Marilyn at mglazerw@comcast.net (please note the "w" after Glazer) and she will take care of matching hosts and guests for all! Mark your calendar for Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20. Also please feel free to share recipes and menus with her; she's game to share ideas for helping make Pesach special for everyone.

Israel: Where Have We Come From and Where Are We Going?

Please join us for this thought-provoking program that will include the one-hour movie "Ben Gurion: Epilogue," followed by a 50-minute conversation with an Israeli expert, former New England Consul General Nadav Tamir, who was also a member at TBZ when serving as consul. This is part of "J Street Boston Film and Lecture Series"

April 3: 7 - 9:30 pm

Pre-Pesach Scholar in Residence

Noam Zion, the renowned author of the *Different Night Haggadah* will join us at TBZ April 13-14. This is a great opportunity to prepare for passover.

Shabbat Sermon (during shabbat services)

Liberating Your Seder: Dispelling 5 Misconceptions About Pesach

Shabbat Kiddush Talk 1pm

Who's the Wicked Child?: The Art, Politics, Psychology and of the Four Daughters and the Four Sons in Israeli and American Haggadot

Sunday Workshop: 10:00am

Guide to the Perplexed Seder Leader: Three Rabbinic Models for a Great Seder (TBZ members free- Non members \$15)

Labor Justice Weekend April 6-7

SHABBAT MORNING

Justice at Work, a nonprofit legal services center which works with low-income immigrant worker groups in Massachusetts, will make a short presentation at Shabbat Services and hold a presentation discussion at 1 pm following Kiddush in the meeting room.

SUNDAY, 4-7 PM

The annual Jewish Labor Seder will be held at Temple Israel, with lots to celebrate this year, including significant victories for the \$15 Minimum Wage, Paid Family Leave, the Marriott workers strike and National Grid lockout. This is always a rousing event, and the Economic Justice Action Group will be organizing a table.

Please join us. For more information, contact Jonathan Klein, jklein728@gmail.com.

Please visit
www.tbzbrookline.org
to find out more about an
activity or group.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Shabbat Greeters

We need you to be a TBZ Shabbat Greeter! Hasn't it felt wonderful to have a warm welcome as you enter the building for Shabbat services? Join the 65 volunteers who have already stood at the "schtender" (Yiddish for podium,) letting all know that we are a safe, warm, and openhearted Shabbat community. When you welcome friends and visitors to our joyful, spiritual, and inclusive services as a Greeter, you also help to keep our community safe. An online video is available to train you how to recognize a "suspicious person," a skill applicable not only at TBZ but also where you work, shop, play, and study. Sign-up opportunities are posted in *Happenings*. Contact preparedness@tbzbrookline.org with questions or comments. We look forward to seeing your smiling face at the door!

Host at Homes

Marilyn Glazer-Weisner had the pleasure of communicating with 95 assorted individuals who either volunteered to be hosts or expressed their desire to be guests at Friday evening Shabbat dinner or Saturday afternoon *seudah shlishit* on January 25 and 26. After getting to know the needs of each couple, family and person the matches were made, and the participants coordinated details through beautiful email conversations. Marilyn shares her joy in helping TBZ members connect through this event and hopes that more and more people take part in Host at Homes in the future!

Annual Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat, on the theme of women's sources of strength and embodiment of power, had lay-led sessions ranging from "The Physical Experience of Power" to "RBG's Torah Ancestors" to "Unity & Division Around the Women's March" and much more. We had a wonderful visit from State Representative Ruth Balser and a moving closing panel of women rabbis, who shared their personal journeys and ended by offering a blessing to Rav Claudia as she prepares to take on the role of Senior Rabbi. Special thanks to Naomi Gurt Lind and the entire planning committee.



Shabbat Tikkun Olam Table Conversations

Join members of the TBZ Tikkun Olam Steering Committee at Kiddush. Learn about TBZ's involvement in repairing the world and inspire yourself to action.

March 9, April 13, and May 11

12:30 pm at the Tikkun Olam designated table

NISHMAT HAYYIM AT TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

Our Friday AM Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group continues with a strong meditation cohort at TBZ. The Shabbat Sits also continue to be well attended with TBZers and people from the greater Boston Jewish community. We have plans to have our annual day long retreat at Just Right Farm on Sunday, April 28 and registration will open soon. Due to a conflict in schedules, we are postponing the day long workshop with Rabbi Sheila Pelz Weinberg and John Makransky, Professor of Buddhism at Boston College to next year.

We are developing a new program for the TBZ community of monthly 1.5 hour evening meditations which will include an opening chant, a 45 minute sit, a teaching, and a Q&A/discussion. Please email Nishmat Hayyim at nishmathayyim@tbzbrookline.org to let us know if you'd like to be added to our list of interested TBZ participants.

New dates for our Spring Shabbat Sits and Spring 9 week Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group (both to begin April 2019) will be announced via email and flyers. Registration for our day long at Just Right Farm will also be announced via emails, flyers and at TBZ. We will keep you posted so stay tuned!

As always we look forward to sitting with you in deepening silence in our beautiful sacred TBZ sanctuary as well as learning together and sharing insights of our practice.

Wishing everyone blessings for a wonderful spring and a meaningful Passover, counting of the Omer, and Shavuot!

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

Intergenerational Shabbat

March 2: 11 am

Beit Rabban Shabbat

April 5: 5:30 pm

Rosh Hodesh Shabbat

April 6: 9:45 am

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

June 1

HOLIDAYS

Purim

March 17: Hamantaschen Baking

March 20: Purim Carnival and Megillah Reading

Pesach

April 7: Matzah Baking with Eden Village, 9:30 am

April 19: Erev Pesach

April 27: Yizkor 11 am

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut

April 22

ADULT LEARNING

Shabbat Afternoon Program with Rabbi Jill Jacobs

March 2, 4:30pm

Shabbat Candles, Hidden Light

March 5, 12, 19: 7 - 8:30 pm

Jews Beyond the Boundaries—Surprising

Communities Seeking Jewish Identity

March 6, 13, 27: 7 - 8:30 pm.

Yiddish: Everything You Need to Know

May 7, 14, 21: 7 - 8:30 pm.

God and Us: Three Jewish Responses to a

Tricky Relationship

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

Aleph-Bet Meditation

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

Mussar class with Nina Piken

Tuesdays 10 am

(for currently registered participants only)

BAR/BAT MITZVAH, 10 am

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

March 23: Dahlia Gilinsky

March 30: Lila Decter

April 26: Lia Zion-Waldoks (7th day of Pesach)

May 11: Samuel Accl-Green

May 18: Noa Handelsman

May 27: Lev Tolko

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT EVENTS

Beit Rabban Shabbat

April 5

T'filot Mishpachot

March 16, April 13, 27 May 18, June 1 :
11:30 am

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat

March 22, April 28, May 10: 5:30 pm

BOOK CLUB

March 10, April 14, May 19: 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY RETREAT

May 3-5

MATZAH MAKING: FAMILY PESACH PROGRAM

April 7: 9:30 am

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

March 9, 30, April 27, May 18: 1:30 pm

MOTHER'S DAY MARCH FOR PEACE

May 12

ROSH HODESH GROUP

(For committed participants.)

March 10, April 7, May 5

NISHMAT HAYYIM: BREATH OF LIFE

Meditation/Mindfulness Practice Group

(For registered participants)

March 1, 8, 15, 29: 9:30 - 11 am

Shabbat Afternoon Meditation Sits

March 23: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Day Long Retreat at Just Right Farm (registration required)

April 28

SHABBAT NARIYA AND POTLUCK SUPPER

March 15, April 12, May 17, June 14
(Note change of date for June)

SPRING KIDDUSH FUNDRAISER

June 1

TIKKUN OLAM TABLE CONVERSATIONS (see page 4)

March 9, April 13, May 11

WALK FOR HUNGER

(Check *Happenings* for details)

May 5

YOM HAATZMA'UT

May 9 (Details to follow)

YOM HASHOAH

May 2 (Details to follow)

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה ותומכיה מאושר

The Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center

SPRING 5779/2019

ADULT LEARNING CLASSES

Shabbat Candles, Hidden Light

Experience the hidden light within you through the writings of the Rebbe of Slonim, the Netivot Shalom. Shabbat is central to sustaining the world. What is our role in this process? We will immerse ourselves in the words of the Slonimer rebbe, as well as our ancient texts to see how they might guide us into a more meaningful Shabbat practice.

Taught by Rabbi Lev Friedman.

Tuesdays March 5, 12, 19: 7 - 8:30 pm

Jews Beyond Boundaries - Surprising Communities Seeking Jewish Identity

Come explore the multiple African communities who see themselves as part of the Jewish community.

Taught by Len Lyons.

Wednesdays March 6, 13, 27: 7 - 8:30 pm

Yiddish: Everything You Need to Know

Dr. Rachel Rojanski, professor in Brown University's Program in Judaic Studies, will share the beginnings of Yiddish, classic literature and Yiddish after the Holocaust in this series of three classes. No previous knowledge necessary.

Tuesdays May 7, 14, 21: 7 - 8:30 pm

God and Us: Three Jewish Responses to a Tricky Relationship

Join in examining the three moments in which tension between Divine and Human Authority in the Jewish tradition exploded into a polemic. Taught by TBZ member, Adam Teller, professor of Judaic Studies at Brown University.

Wednesdays May 8, 15, 22: 7 - 8:30 pm

Aleph-Bet Meditation

Take part in this introduction to mindfulness meditation and stress reduction course taught by Penina Adelman and Elana Rosenbaum.

Tuesdays June 4, 11, 18: 7 - 8:30 pm.

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

TODAH RABAH

- To our dedicated Search Committee members: Jan Darsa, Jonathan Golden, Judith Kates, Rabbi Daniel Klein, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer, Deb Gaffin, Deborah Gardner, Maddy Marx, Sara Smolover, Rav Claudia, Rebecca Blouwolff and Renee Rudnik.
- To Alan Weisner and Marilyn Glazer-Weisner and everyone who contributed to Family Table.
- To Anne Braudy for organizing the Community Dinner.
- To Rabbi Sam Seicol, Rabbi Lev Friedman and Alan Weisner for leading services on December 28 and 29.
- To Beit Rabban parent Emma Zbarsky for chairing Beit Rabban Shabbat.
- To Beit Rabban parents Casey Fishman and Tara Mendola for leading the creation of a Beit Rabban Cookbook.
- To Judy Schechtman and Jed Shugerman for chairing the Tikkun Olam Committee.
- To Beit Rabban parent Thalia Margalit Krakower for coordinating the matches for Shabbat b'Yachad.
- To all who have volunteered to be Shabbat Greeters.
- To the planning team for the Women's Retreat: Naomi Gurt Lind (Chair), Diane Balser, Annie Braudy, Susan Farber, Lauren Garlick, Leah Hager Cohen, and Barbara Segal. To the session leaders for the Women's Retreat: Diane Balser, Judy Epstein-Fisher, Katherine Gergen-Barnett, Naomi Gurt Lind, Leah Hager Cohen, Judith Kates, Kathy Kates, Sheila Katz, Jamie Kotler, Pnina Lahav, Ilana Margalit, and Barbara Segal. To the many volunteers who helped the Women's Retreat run smoothly: Sarah Fendrick, Marion Freedman-Gurspan, Judy Fleishman, Debbie Gardner, Misia Landau, Diane O'Donoghue, Robin Okun, Naomi Ribner, Renee Rudnick, Ma'ayan Sands, Enid Shulman, and Barbara Sternfield.

The Breath of God or Why Jews Love to Study

By Adam Teller, professor of Judaic Studies at Brown University

Last year, I attended a meeting of the Adult Education Committee to help put together TBZ's classes for 5779 and was struck by a remark made by Reb Moshe. He reminded us that what we were doing was important because lifelong study is a crucial aspect of being a Jew.

I had heard this dozens of times but realized that though many people have told me that study is central to the Jewish experience, no-one has ever explained precisely why.

That really bothered me.

Of course, Jews have no monopoly on learning. Everyone learns all the time: how to do their jobs, how to run a family, how to fix their houses. The list goes on because that kind of learning never ends. We call it "acquiring experience" and do it throughout our lives. However, that is all applied learning that we use to solve concrete problems.

Jewish learning is different. It does not deal with anything immediate but aims to deepen our understanding of the Divine and our relationship with God. Though we start from our own experience, we are actually looking beyond what we know into quite a different sphere – that of the spirit. And, as anyone who has done any religious study will tell you, that involves a set of "intellectual muscles" quite different from those we use every day.

They will also tell you that that spiritual learning can take you to places of thought quite different from those you usually visit, an experience of stepping out of the humdrum, that is extremely enjoyable.

Jewish study, however, does not end there because it does not treat the spiritual sphere as something abstract. Quite the reverse, it approaches it in a very human fashion. The only way we can understand the Divine is by understanding our own connection with it, and to do that we must first understand our own souls. That is why so much of Jewish learning really deals with the human condition. Paradoxically, it is only by plumbing the depths of our own spirits that we can begin to see the realm of the Divine.

As a result, Jewish study is an incredibly enriching experience because we come out of it understanding ourselves better. We may not have been thinking about ourselves directly but what we have learned relates directly to our own spiritual lives. That, too, is a wonderful feeling. For myself, after a particularly good class, I often feel as if I am walking on air.

Though this may sound intimidating, it does not feel that way. The Jewish tradition believes that every Jew, however inexperienced, should be able to study and has developed various techniques to help them. One is the close reading of religious texts. Another is the repeated reading of a single text, particularly the weekly Torah portion. It is by revisiting each parashah year after year, every time with different perspectives—especially if we do so in a group—that we can create new ideas and insights every time.

And that is what is exciting and inspiring about Jewish study. It is a truly creative experience—one in which everyone, with no exception, can participate. All you have to do is to relate what you have learned in class to your own feelings and a new idea, entirely your own, will emerge. It will be picked up by the person sitting opposite, who will add their own take on it to make something new, which in turn will be picked up by someone else and so on, until suddenly, without realizing it, you are not only deepening your understanding of yourself but also creating your own special path into the spiritual realm.

The ability for abstract and spiritual thought marks humankind out from the animals. When, so the Torah tells us, God breathed life into the first man, he gave him not just breath (*neshimah*) but also spirit (*neshamah*). Jewish study, in its emphasis on the creation of new spiritual thought, allows us to reconnect with that moment and experience the Jewish version of what astrophysicists call "the echo of the Big Bang"—the distant feel of God's breath on our cheeks.

Who would not give up an hour or two each week for that?

Reflections from Reb Moshe Waldoks

As many of you have read in the letter from our President in mid-January, I will be going on Sabbatical starting April 1.

I will return in August in my new position as Founding Rabbi for the next 5 years (may God grant me those years) and will be here part-time to continue to contribute to TBZ's upward trajectory as Rav Claudia assumes the senior Rabbi role on July 1.

As I approach my 70th birthday this summer, I feel that it is the right time to move to this next stage in my role at TBZ and to provide the space for the generation that follows to assume decision making in the congregation. I also look forward to pursuing other projects I have put on the back burner for many years.

I hope to continue to share thoughts and teachings with you over the coming years. You will also see me on the High Holidays and on various Shabbatot throughout the year. As Sara mentioned, I will be available for consultations and life cycle events.

TBZ is in good hands with Rav Claudia at the helm assisted by our wonderful President, Sara Smolover, and our fantastic Board.

For over 20 years I have harbored the conviction that we at TBZ are a self-selecting group who understands the power of the Holy One of Blessing Whose Presence Fills Creation—the Divine spirit in our lives. We gather in community not only on Shabbat mornings, but all-year round, to engage in learning, social activism and acts of loving-kindness. These are the three pillars that sustain the world.

Our multi-generational character is a delight. We hope that over the coming years, younger members will become involved in our Nishmat Hayyim (Breath of Life) Meditation Project. Anne and I will continue to explore Wise Aging with members of our congregation and train people to facilitate these in the future.

As we enter a very busy period of the Jewish calendar, we will be celebrating Purim, Pesach, Yom HaShoah, and Yom HaAtzmaut. Over the years, I have written about Purim, our springtime break from the cold of winter, in which we warm up by lifting the spirit with the help of all kinds of spirits. We turn things upside down and wear costumes that exhibit our inner souls.

Purim is the warm up for Pesach, which is perhaps the most ordered of our holidays. We engage in arduous preparation and rejoice in the gathering of the generations at the Seder table, as we

follow the order of the Haggadah. The message is loud and clear: there is redemption possible in the darkest of situations.

Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut arrive soon after Passover, offering us an opportunity both to remember, as well as to celebrate. As I will be away on my sabbatical during these observances, I would like to share some thoughts relating to them.

Many see the establishment of the state of Israel as a compensation for the Shoah. While this is somewhat true, it undermines the struggle of Zionism in its cultural and political form that existed for close to a century before 1948. The millions who perished were to be the potential citizens of an independent Jewish State. The obstacles to the establishment of the Jewish state are well known, and we still anguish over the predicament we share with our Palestinian neighbors to this day.

Much to my dismay, many pro-Palestine groups are not pro-Israel and call for the delegitimization of the State. In my opinion, this is due to lack of knowledge of both the history and geopolitics of the region. Unfortunately, the current leadership on both sides of the conflict are not capable of arriving at a satisfactory conclusion. Outside forces will not solve the problem of neighbors having to live alongside neighbors.

A solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict doesn't mean an end to conflict in the Middle East. I am often taken aback when catastrophic events in Syria and the extreme complexity of the region are ignored. The "solution" to the Israel-Palestine conflict will not bring world peace. Both sides will continue to be threatened by hostile forces who, time and time again, will call for the destruction of Israel and will also try to threaten a democratic and progressive Palestine. And while we are sadly accustomed to anti-Semitism from white supremacists and neo-Nazis, and fascism remains fashionable in many parts of our country, it has been disheartening to see the vilification of Israel by so many progressives. The BDS movement has had no effect on Israel and in some cases, it has had a deleterious effect on Palestinians.

TBZ will continue to support the many Israeli and Palestinian organizations, those glimmers of hope, that are engaged in face-to-face diplomacy. There are many groups on both sides of the conflict that are testing the waters of cooperative ventures and are at

(Continued on next page)

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least creating an atmosphere for co-existence. TBZ is an important station on their road towards the light.

As someone who is optimistic about the role Jews will play in world civilization in the future, as it has in the past, I suggest that we must strengthen our spiritual muscles. These will be of enormous help to those who self-identify as Jews without apology. Remember, the

rising anti-Semitism we observe around us has nothing to do with what Jews do. This has been the case for millennia.

I look forward to returning in the fall and continuing to be a member of this fabulous community. We should grow from strength to strength.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Mitzvah Day 2019: TBZ Helps Mitigate Food Insecurity by Marilyn Glazer-Weisner

The congregation overachieved our quota of soup and crackers and then some! Our monthly quota is 45 cans of soup and 50 boxes of crackers. We more than doubled that amount. This intergenerational initiative attracted TBZ members of all types, the common theme being people interested in helping alleviate food insecurity in our community. Rav Claudia led a teaching on the value of tzedakah and how we treat the recipients with

respect and dignity. Adam Korn shared how rewarding it is for him to volunteer at Family Table. After filling grocery bags according to the recipient's wishes, we then drove to several communities to make deliveries. We were personally thrilled with the day because of the range of participants, from families with children to our peer group and we loved having the opportunity to meet the recipients of our delivery!



Alan Weisner with our generation donation of soup and crackers to Family Table



Packing bags of food for families experiencing food insecurity



Rav Claudia leading the Mitzvah Day Volunteers

L'Chaim

- To Rabbi Lev and Joyce Friedman on the marriage of their daughter Mia to Andy Allen.
- To Rebecca Blouwolff for being named Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association.
- To Bobbi Isberg and Seth Alper on the birth of a grandson, Freddie Alper Khomut.
- To our members Joyce Zakim and her husband Peter Greenspan on the birth of their three grandchildren. Son Josh and his wife Grace welcomed a baby boy, as did daughter Shari Zakim Yacouby and husband Phil Yacouby. Daughter Deena Zakim and Jesse Chebot gave birth to a daughter.
- To Terri and Alan Chebot on the birth of their granddaughter.
- To Renee and Hal Rudnick on the birth of their first grandson, Riley Jacob.
- To our member Dr. Jonathan Decter: His newest book *Dominion Built of Praise - Panegyric and Legitimacy Among Jews in the Medieval Mediterranean* received the National Jewish Award for 2018 in the category of Sephardic Culture this week.
- To Elan Lipton on becoming Bar Mitzvah on January 12.
- To Steven and Marilyn Miller Lipman on the marriage of their son Wyatt Lipman to Maria de Cesare.
- To Saul Schapiro & Bella Rosner on the birth of a granddaughter, Emilia.
- To Julie Arnow and Michael on the birth of a granddaughter to their daughter and son-in-law, Sophie and Mike Strom.

NEWS FROM BEIT RABBAN

Beit Rabban students have been enjoying a fabulous year of learning with a variety of wonderful teachers, some new to the program and others seasoned veterans. In January we rolled out a new version of Shabbat b'Yachad where Beit Rabban families are paired to share a Shabbat meal together on a Shabbat of their choice before Pesach. We hope this program will allow families to deepen the relationships and feel more connected to one another. As April approaches, we look forward to our annual Beit Rabban Shabbat extravaganza on April 5. Students will lead Kabbalat Shabbat services with their teachers, and then all Beit Rabban families will enjoy a catered meal. To mark the occasion, we will be creating a Beit Rabban family cookbook featuring student artwork and recipes from our students' families.

Beit Rabban Learns about Genocide in New England

by Mishy Lesser

On November 14th, I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with our Beit Rabban group. I had approached Cantor Becky and Rav Claudia months ago and shared that I co-founded a Boston non-profit, Upstander Project, which blends the skills of an educator (me) and a documentary filmmaker (Adam Mazo) to create social issue films with a focus on genocide. I hoped to bring our latest film, DAWNLAND, to TBZ. The film documents the work of the first government-sanctioned truth and reconciliation commission in the United States, convened to gather testimony on and bear witness to the catastrophic impact of Maine's child welfare practices on the Wabanaki people due to the forced removal and coerced assimilation of their children.

After months of planning with Cantor Becky and with contributions from Zoe Henrich (who moved me at her Bat Mitzvah with her story about being an upstander), we introduced the children to two scalp proclamations signed at the 'Old State House' in Boston in 1755 and read Article II of the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Then the children examined historical photographs, posed their own questions and watched opening scenes of DAWNLAND. The conversation that followed was rich and impressive because of the quality of the insights, inquiry, and comments from the children. They were highly engaged, answered questions before I even had time to pose them, and were eager to learn more. I look forward to my next opportunity to spend time with our Beit Rabban students and to the Bar and Bat Mitzvah teachings they will share with our community in the months and years to come.

From Cantor Becky Khitrik

For the past ten years I have had the enormous privilege to work in this special community. I've watched your kids grow from tots to teens and from b'nei mitzvah to college students. I've davened with you on Shabbat and holidays, I've partied with you at Purim and Simchat Torah, and I've formed deep relationships with you at the Community Retreat. I've had the incredible opportunity to learn from my mentors—your rabbis—Rav Claudia and Reb Moshe—who have taught me so much about how to create sacred spaces for people to pray and work together and to deeply engage in the work of tikkun olam. From the classroom, to the sanctuary, to Cape Cod, and to your living rooms, I feel blessed beyond words to have been on this journey with you.

For a long time I have had a goal to have a full time pulpit as a cantor. Many of you know that I spent the past four years working part time at a reform congregation in Sharon leading Friday night and High Holiday services. This synagogue—Temple Sinai—has offered me a full time pulpit, and I have accepted. While I'll be working closely with their Education Director and school, this position provides me an opportunity to spend more time singing, making music, and using all of the skills I honed while I was a cantorial student at Hebrew College.

My position will begin in July. My last Shabbat at TBZ will be June 15th. I am committed to supporting TBZ with the transition to a new Director of Congregational Learning between now and then. TBZ's educational programming is already very strong. Hiring a full time educator to devote much needed hours and creative input into the school and programming for congregants of all ages will strengthen TBZ even more.

My family will continue to live in Watertown, so while I won't be able to see you on Shabbat, I hope to stay in touch. I look forward to the next few months at TBZ, spending time together, processing and planning, celebrating our past, and looking towards the future.

With profound gratitude to the TBZ Community,
Cantor Becky

Save the Date

TBZ's annual Community Retreat May 3-5

We're back on the Cape this year for a weekend of
davening, playing and being together!

Details and sign up coming soon.

RAV CLAUDIA'S VISION

TBZ is growing. Not just in numbers or programming, but as an organization and as a community. When I came to TBZ more than 11 years ago I came to help TBZ grow into a more intergenerational community. TBZ had a strong adult learning community, meaningful contemplative practice and joyful worship services and was beginning to engage families in the community. I was invited to join the TBZ team to help create programming for all ages, to welcome and engage diverse families and households, and to create an expansive sense of what learning and Jewish life could look like at TBZ for all ages.

As the next Senior Rabbi of TBZ my vision for us is that we continue to grow as an independent and inclusive Jewish congregation with members of all ages committed to each other, to joyful participatory worship, to meaningful Jewish learning, to spiritual growth and to acts of social justice: a place where we come to help each other live lives of meaning and purpose.

For us to move forward and accomplish our goals, we need a strong team. For the last few years, I have been juggling many different tasks in addition to my rabbinic responsibilities as spiritual leader: I have been responsible for planning and organizing programming and supporting our part-time education director. I am excited for the opportunity to bring to our team a dynamic, experienced, energetic and progressive educator as a full time Director of Congregational Learning and Programming. This person will join us to advance educational and programmatic goals for our whole community; help us strengthen existing programs and establish new offerings. The Director of Congregational Learning and Programming will be responsible for:

- Beit Rabban
- Shabbat programming for families and children
- Holiday programming for the whole TBZ community
- Toddler programming
- Oversight of B'nei Mitzvah process in partnership with Rav Claudia
- Teen engagement
- Adult education in conjunction with Adult Learning Committee and Rav Claudia
- TBZ Community Programming including the Annual Community Retreat

The current position that Cantor Becky Khitrick holds (Education Director) focuses mostly on our Beit Rabban program, and is also responsible for some parts of our family programs and some minimal parts around B'nei Mitzvah planning (as a part time role). We are overdue to grow this position and make it fully part of our vision for intergenerational learning and programming at TBZ. I envision the person in this position to be my partner in moving TBZ to its next level and therefore must be a dynamic, solid, experienced educator with strong administrative skills. I also envision hiring a part-time rabbinic intern who will work with me and with the Director of Congregational Learning and Programming to accomplish our goals.

I am grateful to all who have agreed to serve on the search committee, as you will help TBZ find the best person for this holy work.

TBZ Launches National Search for Director of Congregational Learning and Programming

As we all heard recently in our president Sara Smolover's special email message, TBZ is poised to make several important transitions in the near future. Reb Moshe will transition into a part-time rabbinic role while Rav Claudia becomes our Senior Rabbi. Rav Claudia's vision for the synagogue going forward is to hire a full-time Director of Congregational Learning and Programming; a dynamic, experienced, energetic, and progressive educator who will help advance the educational and programmatic goals for our whole community.

The Search Committee's work began in December, as Rav Claudia and co-chairs Rebecca Blouwolf and Renee Rudnick began outlining the Search Committee's charge so that the full committee could kick off strong in 2019. In January, the committee prepared for the launching of the job posting by brainstorming the qualities of a person who would be right for this position and for TBZ. Committee members reached out to their networks to get the word out and disseminate the official job posting. That posting is now out and can be viewed at www.tbzbrookline.org/edsearch. This is a national search for an inspiring and experienced Jewish educator who will partner with Rav Claudia in leading Beit Rabban and Mishpachot and oversee congregation-wide education and programming. The Committee is networking far and wide to post this position, and will begin interviewing in February. Resumes are being accepted on a rolling basis, and our hope is to have finalists in hand by Pesach.

TBZ MEMBERS GIVE TO THE WORLD IN ASYLUM SEEKER ASSISTANCE

by Tali K. Walters

Before 1924, over 2 million Jews immigrated to the US, escaping pogroms, poverty, and anti-Semitism, these were but a harbinger to the peoples who, in the 21st century, continue to face war, violence, and persecution, forced to flee their countries to seek safety. The current administration's executive policies preventing refugees from entering the US, restricting asylum seeker access to the US, and focusing on deportation of undocumented immigrants, created crisis for those seeking safety.

In response to this escalating crisis, TBZ collaborates with area faith communities through the Newton/Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee (NBARC) to provide material, emotional, and financial support to asylum seekers.

Jenny Berz's refugee family history led her to start her career in the field of refugee resettlement. Now a Psychologist, Jenny responded to the distressing culture change of 2016 by donating, marching, and reading the "millions of emails" calling for action. Feeling overwhelmed "counting raindrops," she stopped responding to these calls for action and "decided to pick one thing and go deep." NBARC was her calling as an organizer and leader.

Jenny and her daughter Sara joined forces to prepare the living space in Brookline that would become home to four different families over the next two years. Sara, an 8th grader at The Park School, was a natural partner to join in the settlement and care of asylum seeking families who fled their homes, landed in an unfamiliar country, and had no family to provide support. In anticipation of the first family, a mother and her baby daughter, Sara said, "My friend and I went to this totally empty house. We brought household goods and set up the house for them." With passion for kids, Sara became the official mother's helper. "I just liked playing" with the babies and children "My



Sara Berz and "Gretta" playing in a nearby park

mom suggested I babysit Gretta [pseudonym]" while her mother was learning English. "I would hang out with her, take her to the playground, follow her to make sure she didn't fall." Sara spoke joyfully about watching Gretta play, sing, laugh, interact with other kids, and love life, impressed by how "nice and sweet" she was for "someone who's been through a lot for someone her age."

Without living through it, it is hard to imagine what is involved in resettlement – applying for health insurance, welfare and food stamps, getting a driver's license, signing up for English classes, enrolling your kids in school, training for a job, acquiring household items and clothing. All these things were new, not only to the family but also to NBARC volunteers. They required dedicated support from Jenny who also learned along the way. "I did what I do as a mother, just took care of it. Now I'm training others." Jenny talks proudly about the first family, a mother and infant daughter who just celebrated her second birthday. "She's incredibly resourceful. On top of everything else she was dealing with, she got her driver's license, learned English, learned to swim, and got two jobs."

After successfully settling four asylum seeking families – from Cameroon, Kenya, Ecuador, and a Yazidi family from Iraq – NBARC now hopes to expand its shelter options. Organizers are looking to TBZ for members willing to offer a spare room for 6-12 months. The team will work closely to assure a good fit and will be responsible for organizing financial support and care needs. Contact Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com) if interested.

NBARC launches its annual Passover/Easter fundraiser in March. Funds subsidize rent and a monthly allowance. Make tax deductible contribution to Temple Reyim - NBARC, Temple Reyim, Newton MA, 02466.



Sara and Jenny Berz readying the apartment

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Sharon Abramowitz
Douglas Bellow & Kate Lowenstein
Yonatan Battat & Leah Carnow
Serena Heartz
Ellen Zellner

CONDOLENCES

- To the family of our member Klara (Mayden) Levin to her husband, Gedali, and her son, Daniel, on her death.
- To Mel Brown, his children Lily and Lev on the loss of Mel's mother, Doris Brown.
- To Jill Goldberg, Michael and their children Julia and Rachel on the loss of Jill's mother, Sylvia Wenig.
- To Ilan Bikel on the loss of his wife Ilana Bikel, long time member of TBZ.
- To Charles Lurio on the loss his father, Herbert Lurio.
- To Barrie Wheeler, Amit Segal and family on the loss Barrie's father, Joseph Wheeler.
- To Richard Mandell, Martha Gray and their family on the loss of his mother, Florence Rosalyn Landsman Mandell.
- To Rebecca Mautner and her family on the loss her father, Thomas Plaut.

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

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The poster features a vibrant background with a gradient from orange at the top to blue at the bottom. It is decorated with stylized floral patterns, including large daisies and smaller blossoms, as well as musical notes and a treble clef. The text is arranged in a clear hierarchy, with the event title at the top, the date below it, and the honorees in a central light blue box.

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Celebrating the Contributions of
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and Judy Schechtman

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