

Winter 2017-18

TEMPLE BETH ZION
KOLEINU

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Re-energizing in Israel:

A Note About Rav Claudia's Sabbatical

by Rav Claudia Kreiman page 8

Welcome New Members

Community Meeting

Tikkun Olam at TBZ

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

by Sue Kahn and Sara Smolover
(copresidents@tbzbrookline.org)

Before the High Holidays fade further into our rear view mirrors, we want to take this opportunity to recognize the inspiring leadership of our outstanding spiritual leaders, Reb Moshe and Rav Claudia, our phenomenal office staff who kept everything moving and under control, and the many TBZ members who volunteered to make services run so smoothly. Yashar Koach to all!

So much of what happens at the High Holidays relies on volunteers: being greeted by smiling faces, having access to a hearing device or large print mahzor, finding the Mahzorim under the seats, having our Torahs dressed in their beautiful holiday attire, and more. Even the efficient flow of our services was a result of our honors volunteers making sure everyone was prepared and on time to play their part. Thank you to everyone who answered the call to volunteer. We especially want to recognize Michael Goldberg for his hours of work and enthusiasm refining our usher system and preparing our ushers; Renee Rudnick and Audrey Wagner who thoughtfully and diligently made sure every honor was distributed to a wide swath of members; and David Cherenon for bringing his years of know-how to Prep Day. Everyone who gave their time to usher, who had an honor, or who helped set up the sanctuary felt appreciated and supported by these leaders. Thank you. For those of you who didn't take the opportunity to pitch in this year there's always 5779! We'd love to have you.

After the holidays, the Board of Directors met for a "retreat" in our beautiful Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center. We wanted to revisit the goals that the Strategic Thinking Group (STG) set three years ago which were based on community surveys and Board input, and to assess how far we've come and where we still want to go. We spoke about the STG report at a community meeting when it was completed. As a refresher, here are, in brief, the 3-5 year goals that were set in 2014:

1. To strengthen and deepen our COMMUNITY
2. To provide excellent and innovative PROGRAMMING

3. To significantly invest in our BUILDING
4. To add STAFF to our current team
5. To achieve FINANCIAL STABILITY

We were delighted to revisit Goal #3 from our perch overlooking the sanctuary--a place that had only been a dream a short three years ago! While we don't have the space here to give a detailed assessment of progress in all areas, here's a sampling of some advancements we've made: joined our teens to the program at The Tent, became a Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project congregational affiliate, grown our Beit Rabban program, evolved our Shabbat experience with Shabbat Nariya, added to our office and education staff and much more.

The Board has chosen two areas to address as goals for the coming year, in partnership with all of you, by working on these questions:

How do we take care of our members?

How do we sustain and build the active core of lay leaders and regular participants?

Stay tuned for more about this at our **Community Meeting on December 10th from 3-5pm.**

In closing, we want to acknowledge and thank Dan Marx for his service to the Board and as Secretary for the past 4 years. His thoughtful perspective served to move us forward.

Note from Sara: Last but not least, this will be Sue Kahn's last "From the Co-Presidents" column as she steps down after serving 3 years. Much more to say than there's room for here, but suffice it to say that our congregation has been fortunate to have been the recipient of her devotion, intellect, vision, humor, and much more. Sue's guidance and partnership have encouraged and inspired me since I stepped into the role of Co-President and I will be forever grateful to have been mentored by this outstanding leader.



OUR RABBIS

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

SYNAGOGUE STAFF

Steven Greenberg, Executive Director ext. 10
execdirector@tbzbrookline.org
Cantor Becky Khitrik, Education Coordinator ext. 14
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Beth Ehrenreich, Assistant Director ext. 17
rabbisadmin@tbzbrookline.org
Ed Kleiman, Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@tbzbrookline.org

office@tbzbrookline.org

OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

Co-Presidents: Sue Kahn, Sara Smolover
copresidents@tbzbrookline.org

Vice-Presidents

External Relations: Carol Kamin
Finance & Administration: Tali Buechler Walters
Member Relations: open
Programming: open
Spiritual Life: Michael Goldberg

Treasurer

Geoff Stein

Secretary

Daniel Marx

At-Large Members

Jenny Berz, Kathy Kates, Diane O'Donoghue, Geoff Stein, Eddie Taub

Past Presidents

Gabriel Belt, Irwin Pless, Howard Cohen, Myra Musicant,
Enid Shulman, Jay Zagorsky, Fran Adams, Jonathan Klein,
David Cherenon, Jenni Seicoll, Tali Buechler Walters

Committee Chairs

Adult Learning: Phyllis Goldstein, Maxine Lyons
Beit Rabban Steering Committee: Rebecca Blouwolf, Julia Freedson
Book Club: Suzanne Gelber
Building: Jack Daniels
Building Revitalization: Jonathan Klein, Ken Wexler
Development: Carol Kamin
Garden: Rick Bankhead
Hesed: Debra Morley, Linda Rosen
Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Suzanne Gelber, Danya Handelsman
Israel Committee: open
Membership: Kathy Kates
Men's Group: Rob Kaim, David Neiman
Mishpachot: Shoshanna Korn-Meyer
Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg
Nominating Committee: David Cherenon
Rosh Hodesh: Meryl Finkel, Rachel Goodman
Social Action
Family Table: Alan Weisner, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers
Tikkun Olam: Judy Schechtman, Jed Shugerman
GBIO: Susan Bookbinder
Resistance: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson
Synagogue Practices: Michael Goldberg
Torah Readers: Josh Blouwolf
Young Adult Committee: Courtney Bergan, Caitlin Feuer
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.

Community Meeting

Nominations for new members to the Board of Directors have taken place and the Nominating Committee is getting close to finalizing the slate for new and returning Board Members, which will be presented to the entire community for a vote at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10 from 3-5 pm. Please join us.

Hannukah Celebration

Join us for our Community-wide Hannukiah lighting along with games, singing, latkes and sufganiyot. Please bring donations of winter clothing for children to help hurricane victims from Puerto Rico. Activities from 4-5 pm. Candle lighting and food 5-6 pm. Adult learning with Ebn Leader at 4 pm.
December 17

Mitzvah Day

Gather at Jewish Family & Children's Services to learn about Family Table's mission, tzedakah and tikkun olam. Work together with children and adults to put these ideas into action by packing bags of food for families in need. Check TBZ Happenings for registration information.
January 7, 10 am - 1:30 pm

TBZ Host @ Homes

Eat, party, sing and connect with other TBZ members over small, intimate vegetarian meals in their homes. Be hosted for Shabbat evening meal on February 2. Check TBZ Happenings for sign up information.

Tu B'Shvat Community Dinner and Havdalah

Late January may be the middle of winter in New England but in Israel the earliest blooming trees will be emerging from their winter sleep to begin a new fruit bearing cycle. Come celebrate Rosh HaShanah La'llanot, the New Year for Trees on January 27, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, with Havdalah and a community dinner. All are welcome to attend.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Many thanks to all of the new members who attended our new member kiddush on October 28. Many of you came up for an aliyah, and had the opportunity to meet the rabbis and lay leaders over lunch. For those of you who were not able to attend, we hope to meet you at our next new member kiddush in the spring. HOWEVER there is no need to wait!

Do you have questions about membership?

Would you like to connect with members with shared interests?

Or with a family with children of similar ages?

Are you interested in volunteering in any capacity: membership, spiritual life, tikkun olam, development, LGBT (the list goes on...)

Please reach out to us- we are more than happy to help. membership@tbzbrookline.org

NEW MEMBERS

Maxwell Bauman

Martha Bebinger

Joy Binder

Miriam Brown

Suzan Chin

Risa Dunbar

Jason Giannetti

Lisa & Marshal Gilinsky

Joseph Grossman & Sarah Housman

Mark Grossman and Laura Ortiz

Daniel Kleinman and Susan Bernstein

Mark Knobel and Isabel Isakovich

Florence (Penny) Kohn

Jonathan and Galina Lipton

Zachary Mayer

Mayra Guzman and Ed Lieberman

Nomi Levy-Carrick and Richard Carrick

Kavi Patel

Cantor Jeri Robins

Susan & Arnold Rosenberg

Michael & Jacqueline Stephenson

Emma Stickgold

Jessica Woolf

William Yeskel

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Rosh Hodesh Group

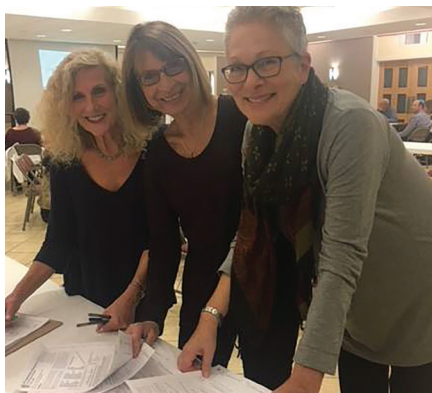
The TBZ Rosh Hodesh group is off to a great start this year. Susan Schnur hosted an open house in September in her lovely home. (Thanks Susan!) The open house included a mix of new and returning members. The group's first official meeting was in late October, and was a chance for group members to start to get to know each other. We had a "speed dating" event organized by new

member Joy Binder and returning member Meryl Finkel where we shared thoughts and experiences relating to the high holidays. We're looking forward to continuing to get to know each other at our November meeting, and also to starting to plan for TBZ's second annual Rosh Hodesh group-led Shabbat which is scheduled to take place in January.

The Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center Dedication



**Reversing
Climate Change:
What We
Can Do to
Uphold the
Paris Climate
Agreement**



**"Out of Many, One"
GBIO Teach-in and Solidarity
with Boston Muslim
Community on October 22**



TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Community Meeting

Agenda Topic:

Proposed Change to By-laws

Definition of Membership

Over time, it has become clear that our de facto practices regarding Membership definitions are not completely matching the written by-laws. The Board explored this issue with a goal to align what we say we should be doing with what we actually are. The Board proposed that we bring this issue to the community at our **December 10th Community Meeting** and ask for a vote to change our by-laws. Here is the proposed change*:

"Non-Jewish members of Jewish households and people going through a conversion process can be full members with all rights and privileges up to and including serving on the Board of Directors. These members may not serve as a VP or President but may serve as Treasurer and/or Secretary. These members may serve on any committee. They may chair any committee exclusive to a ritual committee such as the Synagogue Practices Committee."

It is important to note that this change is specific to Members' participation in community volunteer and leadership roles and that Ritual inclusion of members in this category is not being addressed at this point. This proposed change to the by-laws will not change any of our current ritual practices; nor will TBZ be inquiring as to the Jewish 'qualifications' of any proposed member.

*Our current by-laws may be found on our website: www.tbzbrookline.org/tbz-bylaws. Membership rules are in the first section.

Please come and participate in this discussion about the future direction of our community.

Nishmat Hayyim

Come join us at our Winter Friday AM Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group (Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 3, 9, 23, Mar 9, 16, 23). All sessions are 90 minutes, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, and include an opening chant, a 45 minute silent sit, teachings from Jewish, Buddhist and other mindfulness texts, discussion, and check-ins about our practice. These are not drop-in sessions. Registration is required for all participants. The program is free for TBZ members, \$180 for non-TBZ members, \$135 for returning participants. Registration deadline - December 22. All levels of meditators, beginners and experienced, who want support for starting or deepening a regular practice are welcome. We look forward to 'being' with you, 'sitting' with you, as we together cultivate wisdom, compassion, happiness, and the ability to respond to this complex life and world.

We will also have a few drop-in sessions for the Friday AM Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group and invite you to bring friends. The dates are: December 1, 8, 15, and Jan 5. There will also be Shabbat Afternoon Sits on Dec 9, Jan 27, and Feb 24, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, in the TBZ sanctuary.

Sunday morning, December 17, 10:30 - 12:30.

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, beloved and renowned meditation teacher, will be giving a talk on her recent book, *God Loves the Stranger*.

In this inspiring collection of stories, blessings, poetry, divine teachings, and meditation exercises, Rabbi Sheila conveys a single, powerful message: Let us not be strangers. God loves us all.

From teaching us how to handle suffering and aversion in positive, productive ways; how to learn creative skills for mindfulness, meditation, and retreat practice; and how to bring the roots of love and gratitude into our everyday lives, this book is a comprehensive tutorial for navigating today's interpersonal and situational challenges with grace, spiritual fulfillment, and understanding.

Rabbi Sheila served as a congregational rabbi for 17 years and has published widely on such topics as feminism, spiritual direction, parenting, social justice and mindfulness from a Jewish perspective. She is the creator and co-leader of the Jewish Mindfulness Teacher Training Program.

And lastly, we hope to soon confirm a Spring date for our day-long meditation retreat at Just Right Farm.

Please stay tuned via NH emails and TBZ Happenings — our weekly TBZ email of announcements for upcoming events for all of our NH programs.

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

Human Rights Shabbat

December 16: 10 am

Purim

February 28:

4 pm: Purim Carnival and Megillah reading for families

6 pm: Abbreviated Megillah reading and Spiel

8 pm: Full Megillah reading

Rosh Hodesh Shabbat

January 27: 10 am

SPECIAL EVENTS

Hannukah

December 12 -19

Community Hannukah Party

December 17: 4-6 pm

Tu B'Shvat Community Dinner and Havdalah

January 27: 6:30-8:30 pm

Hamantaschen Baking

February 25: 1 pm

COMMUNITY MEETING

December 10: 3 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.

December 2, Zoey Heinrich

December 9, Maya Lynn Zimmerman

January 13, Sara Berz

February 3, Gabriel Krause-Grosman

BOOK CLUB

December 10, January 7, February 11: 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY MEETING

December 10: 3 pm

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT

Tfilot Mishpachot

December 2, 16, January 6, 20, February 10, 24: 11:30 am

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat followed by dinner at TBZ

December 8, January 12, February 3: 5:30 pm

Sign up here:

www.tbzbrookline.org/form/1550shabbatdinner

Beit Rabban Shabbat

Friday, March 9

ADULT LEARNING (see page 14 for more opportunities)

Book Discussion: The Tremble of Love by Ani Tuzman

December 3: 10:30 am

iEngage Class (Hartman Institute)

For registered participants

Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6, 7:30 pm

Reb Moshe's Winter Class

January 18, 25, February 1, 8: 7 - 8:30 pm

Wise Aging (for registered participants)

November 29, December 6, 13: 10 am - 12 pm

HOST@HOMES

February 2

MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

December 2, 9, Open House for all: 9:30 am - 11 am

New session: 9:30 am - 11 am

Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 10, 17, 24, Mar 10, 17, 24

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

Dec 2, Jan 6, 20, Feb 10, March 3: 1:30 pm

MITZVAH DAY

January 7

ROSH HODESH GROUP

(for committed participants)

December 17, January 14, February 12

TBZ CALENDAR

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

Weekly Shabbat Times

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

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SITS

Dec 9 Jan 7, Feb 11, Mar 18: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

WOMEN'S RETREAT

January 21: 8:30 am - 3 pm

SHABBAT NARIYAH AND POTLUCK SUPPER

December 15, January 19, February 10

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

NEWS FROM BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT

Veteran Beit Rabban Parent Committee Chairs Rebecca Blouwolf and Julia Freedson are thrilled to convene the largest-ever Beit Rabban Parent Committee, comprised of 10 class coordinators and 4 special event coordinators. These dedicated parents of Beit Rabban students facilitate communication between parents and staff, sponsor special guests and field trips for individual classes, and help build community through whole-school events. We kicked off the year in September with ice cream in Griggs Park, and then held Shabbat b'Yachad in November, where Beit Rabban families host one another for Shabbat meals. Mark your calendars now for our biggest event of the year, Beit Rabban Shabbat, which will feature student-led davening, a delicious dinner, and fun activities— all on **Friday, March 9**.



Hamantaschen Baking and
Delivery of Mishloach Manot at I550
February 25 at 1:00 pm
For more Purim info, see the calendar on page 6



TODAH RABAH



We would like to extend a hearty Todah Rabbah (thank you) to all of the volunteers who contributed so much to make the High Holidays at TBZ run smoothly. It truly takes a village.

To our ushers and greeters:

Steve Hassan, Annie Braudy, Ken Reich, Jonathan Klein, Tali Walters, Amy Bullock, Sara Smolover, Sandy Taub, Eddie Taub, Amy Sweigenberg, Sue Brent, Rob Kaim, Jill Greenberg, Aaron Darsa, Rachel Goldberg, Debbie Morley, Caitlin Feuer, Judith Epstein-Fisher, Sergiu Simmel, Courtney Bergen, Enid Shulman, Julie Reuben, Debbie Gardner, Phyllis Brawarsky, Wilson Taty, Naomi Kapanga, Joshua Blouwolff, Ariadne Vaslamis, Meredith Joy, Samuel Engel, Carol Kamin, Sarah Fendrick, David Ofsevit, Geoffrey Stein, Diane Balser, Priscilla Stein, Michael Krieger, Sue Kahn, Dan Kirschner, Brian Gokey, Rick Bankhead, Anna Spool and Rachel Goodman.

Special thanks to Michael Goldberg for organizing the ushers.

To our Torah and Haftarah readers, and Gabbaim:

Larry Kraus, Lauren Garlick, Irene Rudnick, Anne Waldoks, Ronnie Levin, Alan Weisner, Sheila Katz, Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, Susie Rodenstein, Amit Segal, Molly Silver, Reggie Silberberg, Sara Smolover, Joshua Blouwolff, Miriam Diamond, Cindy-jo Gross, Tamar Duke-Cohan and Wilson Kapanga-Ndjibu.

Special thanks to Joshua Blouwolff for organizing this.

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

David Cherenon, Rebecca Blouwolff, Jill Goldberg, Steve Hassan, John Powell, Fran Adams, Bobbi Isberg, Beth Marx, Adam Klauber, Adam Teller, Lauren Galick, Jonathan

Garlick, Diane O'Donoghue, Dan Marx, Jay Zagorsky, Eddie Taub, Julia Freedson, Ken Wexler, Irwin Pless, Sue Kahn, Larry Kraus, Priscilla Stein, Pnina Lahav, Sue Brent, Robert Kaim, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner, Sara Smolover, Dan Marx, Tali Walters, Dan Kirschner, Linda Rosen, Anne-Marie Codur, Mark Sokoll, Jonathan Golden, Debbie Morley, Cindy-jo Gross, James Cohen, Rick Sands and Jonathan Klein.

Special thanks to Renee Rudnick and Audrey Wagner for organizing this.

To the congregants who shared their wonderful personal prayers:

Arturo Falck, Danya Hendelsman, Maia and Zoe Levitt, Mel Brown, Fern Fisher and Jan Darsa.

To Ezra Burstein for giving the D'var Torah at the mincha service on Yom Kippur.

To Lenny Marcus for the Yom Kippur appeal.

To Alan Weisner for leading the Mincha service on Yom Kippur.

To Reggie Siberberg and Jonathan Golden for leading the afternoon sessions on Yom Kippur.

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

To David Cherenon for organizing and preparing the machzorim and ensuring that the right ones were out and ready for us!

To Rabbi Ebn Leader for leading us in Selikhot, in the shofar service on the second day of Rosh HaShanah and also for leading the contemplative Simkhat Torah celebration; and to Cantor Becky

TODAH RABAH

Khitrik for leading us in Selikhot, leading the Mishpachot Simkhat Torah celebration with Melanie Blatt, and for all her wonderful work.

To Ron White for drumming.

To Aviva Selling for playing violin on Kol Nidre.

To Jed Shugerman and Mark Barnett for leading insightful and thought-provoking (and well attended) programming for our 6th-9th graders on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

To Jonathan Decter for the reading of Jonah at the Mishpachot service and ALL the children who volunteered to lead parts of the Mishpachot services.



To Kim Golden, who ensured that there was childcare for all, and our childcare providers, Etleva Gashi, Julia Goldberg, Tader Shipley and Zoe Levitt and teen madrichim, Adina Kraus, Maia Levitt & Matthew Hassan.

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

To Jack Daniels and the Chin, Carrick and Henrich families for building and decorating our gorgeous Sukkah with additional help of Julia Freedson, Sara Fendrick and the Sisterhood of Saalam/Shalom.

A special thanks to our co-presidents Sue Kahn and Sara Smolover, who together with the entire Board of Directors worked hard to make sure that the High Holidays were meaningful for all.

In addition to our wonderful volunteers, we are grateful to our TBZ staff, Steven Greenberg, Beth Ehrenreich, and Cantor Becky Khitrik, and to Leo Monterroso Silva, our custodian, who makes sure that our sanctuary is always ready for us.

We apologize if we missed this opportunity to recognize someone for their contributions to the High Holidays at TBZ. If we missed you, please let us know and we will add it to our next Happenings newsletter.

In gratitude,

Rav Claudia and Reb Moshe

P.S. Missed the personal prayers or divrei torah on the High Holidays? Read them on our website.

L'Chaim

- To Julie Arnow and Michael Rosenbaum on the birth of their granddaughter, Eden Ruth.
- To Shoshana Narva on the birth of her son, Jonah Matan, and grandparents Rabbi Ma'ayan and Rick Sands.
- To Maira Samayou on the birth of her granddaughter, Stella.
- To David Breakstone and Sharon Bauer on the birth of a granddaughter, Sophia Charlotte.
- To Rabbi David Winship and Jasmine Gothelf on their marriage.
- To Alan and Carol Kamin on the birth of a granddaughter, Rosalind Simone.
- To Zoey Henrich on becoming Bat Mitzvah on December 2.
- To Maya Lynn Zimmerman on becoming Bat Mitzvah on December 9.
- To Sara Berz on becoming Bat Mitzvah on January 13.
- To Gabriel Krause-Grosman on becoming Bar Mitzvah on February 3.
- To Beth Ehrenreich on her new position as Assistant Director at TBZ.

Re-energizing in Israel

by Rav Claudia

Dear Haverim and Haverot,
As you know, I am getting ready to go on sabbatical. My family and I will be leaving for Israel on February 6 and returning June 16. I feel grateful for this opportunity and look forward to spending time with my family and friends in Israel, as well as more time with Ebn and my daughters. We will be living in Jerusalem. If you are traveling to Israel while I am there, please contact me through Beth Ehrenreich at the office. Please note that I will not be checking my email during the sabbatical. I look forward to coming back re-energized from this time off and from being in Israel, which has always been for me a place that fills my soul, heart, and mind.

During my absence, if you need any assistance, please contact Beth -- she will know how to direct you. Reb Moshe, of course, will be leading services, and he has already reached out to many TBZ members to help him lead services and Torah study. If you would like to help, please contact Reb Moshe directly.

Cantor Becky will be, G'd willing, back from her maternity leave and, with the support of the Beit Rabban and Mishpachot committees, will continue working on programming for families and children. Please do not hesitate to contact her (starting February), if you can support her in any way and if you have any questions. Becky will also work together with Reb Moshe on the B'nei Mitzvah celebrations happening during the spring.

The one program that we have decided to cancel this year is our Community Retreat. After many conversations with our wonderful Community Retreat co-chairs (Cindy-jo Gross and Ariadne Valsamis), we realized that between my being away and Becky having a newborn, this wonderful event that takes great effort from professional and lay leadership will

fall mostly to our lay-leadership. The community retreat takes many hours of planning and we realized that it would be challenging to do it this year. Instead, Reb Moshe will be working with our lay-leadership in having an In-House Shabbaton on that same weekend (May 11-13); a kind of a community retreat AT TBZ, for all ages. You will hear about this program soon. Please contact Reb Moshe if you would like to be involved in this. I am looking forward to our 10th Community Retreat in the spring of 2019! We will all be excited to come back after a one year break.

Lastly, I would like to thank the TBZ community and the board of directors for this wonderful opportunity to take a sabbatical with my family. I have been working at TBZ for over 10 years now! My time at TBZ has been amazing, filled with challenges and opportunities to grow as a leader. I have built meaningful relationships with many of you. It has been also very intense, and as a spiritual leader, I know that for me to be a successful leader, I need to also take care of myself, spend time with my family, and have a little break - which is what a Sabbatical provides. People ask me what I am planning to do, and my answer is - I am planning to just BE present and not DO much.

I am still around until the Shabbat of February 5, and I look forward to connecting with you until then and, of course, when I return.

B'vracha,
Rav Claudia



More from Rav Claudia...

On a different note: #metoo

Like many of you, I am sure, I have been thinking a great deal over the past month about the horrifying accounts of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape that occurred with regularity in Hollywood circles and other circles of power. We have begun to learn more about the role of enablers and all those who simply look the other way. The #metoo campaign on social media has allowed women to raise their voices. So many victims have come forward, and we have begun to realize that #metoo stories reveal an unpleasant but pervasive part of our culture. Some people have questioned which stories should “count” as sexual harassment, but there’s really no such thing as acceptable levels of sexual harassment. This campaign has helped me realize the extent to which we live in a society that has normalized sexual harassment. Like many, I have my stories of experiencing harassment, but it never before occurred to me to call them harassment because I perceived them as just what it was like to live as a woman. Our Jewish tradition, in its more traditional views, has at its core a misogynistic belief that men have the power to decide women’s future for them. But this same tradition requires from us to treat all people as created in the image of G’d. It is up to us to make sure that we find in our tradition the strength to change the reality so that our children don’t grow up thinking harassment is normal.

I want to share with you a prayer written
by Rabbi Jill Berkson Zimmerman

called **prayer-poem #metoo**

(<http://www.ravjill.com/2017/11/09/prayer-poem-metoo>)

prayer-poem #metoo

Blessed are those who reveal painful truths,
and blessed are those who bear witness.
Blessed are those whose unspoken story
simmers underneath,
affecting some parts of life,
or coloring everything.

May our hearts be large enough to hold them all.

Let us make each community a tapestry woven with honesty,
a safe space filled with deep trust
so that wounds needing healing
are gently, patiently, urgently held,
where shame is unraveled,
and the fabric of our souls can be rewoven
in wholeness, once again.

Let us not hide from what is difficult.
Help us when we are afraid to keep opening,
knowing that we, our community, our sisterhood, our loved ones
will hold us in the warm folds
of an embrace knitted with love.

Embolden our community to take account of itself.
Give us strength to shine the light
on every dark place where power is or can be abused.
Give us the courage to break apart
the structures that keep secrets hidden.

May we commit to holiness in every relationship,
May we truly learn to see the Divine in each other’s faces,
valuing the right of each person to say yes or say no, or not yet –
please help us understand how to respect sacred boundaries:
My body, My consent, My dignity.

May this uncovering and revealing and working through
transform our stories and our pain into holy wisdom
that repairs and lifts up, that blesses and heals.

Rabbi Jill Berkson Zimmerman

TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ

"Acts of Social Justice" is a core tenet of TBZ's mission statement. TBZ Tikkun Olam is the anchoring place for our congregation where Jewish traditions, texts, and perspectives translate into social justice action directed at healing our world. We provide opportunities for our entire community to try on, embrace, and bring to life our Jewish call to action. As part of our commitment to build capacity, community, and effect change, TBZ Tikkun Olam joins together with Jewish, interfaith, and other coalitions, locally and beyond, to work on critical issues to correct injustice, to unite, and to empower.

Sanctuary Network

The forty people who are part of TBZ Sanctuary Action Committee Group have committed to supporting immigrants without proper papers who are seeking physical sanctuary, a safe space to stay in the U.S., while their cases are dealt with by the courts. Working with six other congregations that are core members of the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative, TBZers and their friends helped with tasks such as the installation of a shower and fire door, painting, cleaning, and securing household goods so that the Parish of St. Paul in Newton would be ready to accept its first guests. Committee members have completed the initial training. This month, we begin fundraising to cover the annual cost of food and personal needs for the family in sanctuary, physical improvements to the church living space, a legal fund, and a contingency fund for emergencies. Along with guest specific activities, we continue to support the immigrant community by attending rallies and vigils, as well as by calling and meeting with our elected representatives to promote immigrant friendly legislation such as the Safe Communities Act in Massachusetts and the "clean DACA" national legislation. If you have questions and/or want to get involved please contact Marion Freedman-Gurspan: freedgur@aol.com

Resistance Group

The Resistance effort at TBZ continues to focus on the critical issues of human rights; threats to our democracy under the current administration; equality, including wealth disparity and fair wages; affordable high-quality healthcare for all; climate change...and more. We do this by joining together to take action in the form of rallies, phone-banks, letter-writing campaigns, demonstrations and by educating ourselves about these issues and how we can support legislation to benefit the common good. We join coalitions of like-minded organizations to have greater impact and to amplify our voices. Each quarter we try to highlight a specific topic and offer an action plan to help make a difference. This fall, we held an event called "Reversing Climate Change: What We Can Do to Uphold the Paris Climate Agreement" with guest speaker Daria Mark from Mothers Out Front to kick off our year-long campaign, "Moving Towards 100% Renewable Electricity". Many of us "took the pledge" that night to reduce our carbon footprint in concrete, measurable ways. Instead of feeling fearful and overwhelmed, we emerged with a sense of purpose and hope. With so much to accomplish on a grass-roots level, we hope to engage many more TBZ members in this effort. Please join us! For questions or more: Fran Adams (franaca.adams@gmail.com) or Julia Freedson (jfreedson@yahoo.com)

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)

GBIO has taken on a new action, "Out of Many, One," to build relationships among all our member communities and our Muslim brothers and sisters. To this end, TBZ hosted a wonderful afternoon of solidarity and learning with the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC). We had a teach-in about the stresses that Muslims face today in Boston and in our country as a whole, and we had the chance to have one to one relational meetings with someone we didn't know, often someone from a different faith community. Nearly 60 TBZ members came, along with almost one hundred folks from other GBIO member institutions - Muslim, Christian, and Jewish. It was a deeply moving experience for all of us and we plan to build actions on

continued on next page...

...from previous page

to this foundation, working in partnership with the ISBCC. 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 Susan Bookbinder (susanbookbinder@comcast.net) or Rosalind Joffe (rosalind@cicoach.com).

Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)

We have been supporting two families in an apartment in Brookline Village: "I" and her one-year-old daughter "G," from Cameroon; and "G" and her two children, three-year-old "T" and newborn "C," from Ecuador. Both families are doing well. "I's" English has improved dramatically with the help of a few dedicated tutors from our group. She has prepared a resume (with the help of our Employment Committee) and is hoping to receive her work authorization in November (though we have learned not to count on things like that happening on time!). She has received preliminary job counseling from Brookline Housing and is connecting with Jewish Vocational Services as well. Her daughter, little "G," celebrated her first birthday in August with a party at the home of Jenny Berz. It was a wonderful celebration, and she herself is a wonder – walking, playing, starting to talk – vibrant and full of life! Adult "G" gave birth in late June, and has been getting used to life with two young ones! Luckily, "C" is a good sleeper and "T" is in daycare (at The Children's Center of Brookline) three days a week. "T" is a fun and energetic young boy who has been thriving at TCC (little "G" is one of his biggest fans – she follows him around the apartment and cries when he goes off to daycare). "G" has an asylum hearing next August, and we are hoping for the best. Her english is improving as well, to the point where she has started correcting her

interpreter's translations at her medical appointments! In addition to working with our volunteers, she has been attending ESL classes through Brookline Housing and the Brookline Library.

Our next challenge (barring the unexpected!) is to continue to work with both women on english and job training, and to ensure that the families have the resources they need to succeed.

While our primary focus has been on the families in the Brookline apartment, we were also able to assist another asylum seeker with paying his utilities over the summer. As of September, he has been taken on by the RIM Arlington cluster, which is now supporting him. 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! Please contact Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com) or Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) if you're interested or if you have any questions.

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 any questions or interests in Tikkun Olam at TBZ. You can subscribe by e-mailing: tbz_tikkunolam+subscribe@googlegroups.com (no subject and no text needed). If you are having trouble subscribing, please email Beth at rabbisadmin@tbzbrookline.org.

"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.

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה ותומכיה מאושר

The Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center

JANUARY TO JUNE 5778/2018

ADULT LEARNING CLASSES

All presenters are TBZ members.

Wednesday, December 6 — Reb Moshe

What is Hannukah?

Wednesdays, January 24, 31, February 7 —

Prof. Diane Balser

Jewish roots and a Jewish lens on Modern U.S. Feminism

Tuesdays, February 13, 20, 27 — Prof. Michael Grodin

Jewish Bio-Ethics: Dilemmas in Modern Medicine

Tuesdays, March 13, 20, 27 — Prof. Adam Teller

Spiritual Turning Points in the Development of Modern Judaism

Wednesdays, March 14, 21, 28 — Novelist, Len Rosen

A Novelist looks at the Bible

Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24 — Prof. Shelley Tenenbaum

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

Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22 — Profs. Leah Cohen and Osvaldo Golijov

What is Real? How Art Perceives the World

Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20 — Prof. Stephen Hodin

Jews of the Radical Left in the 50s and 60s

All classes start at 7:00 pm. Preregistration recommended.

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

LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesdays, January 31, February 7, 14, 21

12:00 - 1:30 pm — Prof. Judith Kates

"Doing Better the Second Time":

The Book of Esther

Preregistration recommended. We will also be presenting other day time classes in cooperation with the Brookline Senior Center

TBZ TALKS

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

- December 9 — Tali Walters Buechler
- January 20
- February 17 or 24
- March 24 — Fredrique Maglin-Apfel
- April 21
- May 19
- June 23

Other presenters and topics will be announced in weekly Happenings.

WISE AGING

Wise Aging will be presenting evenings devoted to:

The Conversation Project, February 7

Recent Research on the Aging Process, March 7

Housing Options as We Age, April 25

Creating Ethical Wills, May 23

All sessions from 7-8:30

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

DONATIONS

AUGUST 13, 2017 - OCTOBER 28, 2017

Francine Aaron	Paula Korman
Seth Alper and Roberta Isberg	Larry Kraus and Sara Smolover
Mark Barnett and	Deborah Leabman
Katherine Gergen Barnett	Judith Lepor
Rina Bloch	Lenny Marcus and
Jeffrey Borenstein and	Wendy Caplan
Lilly Pelzman	Jordan and Evonne Meranus
Katie Britton	Alex Milstein
Steven Broder and	Barbara Moss
Amy Summit Broder	Irwin and Gloria Pless
Howard Brown and	Francine Price
Barbara Segal	Stuart Rose
David and Betty Buchsbaum	Glenn Rothfeld
Tali Buechler Walters	Ruth Saltzman
Debbie Cohen	Velda Shaby
Jonathan and Savyon Cohen	Enid Shulman
Jack and Jane Daniels	Molly Silver
David and Lynda Danzig	Claire Stampfer
Aaron and Jan Darsa	Deb Stang
Ed De Vos and Judy Schechtman	Geoffrey and Priscilla Stein
Samuel Engel and	Laurie Stein
Anne Freeh Engel	Barbara Sternfield
Judith Epstein-Fisher and	Rabbi Moshe and Anne Waldoks
Richard Fisher	Sam and Gloria Weinreb
Wallace and Cecily Feldman	Joel Ziff
Louis Gippetti	
Gail Goldman	
Frances and Frances Goroll	
Cindy-jo Gross	
Beth and Mitchel Harris	
Muriel Heiberger	
Claudia Herman	
Joshua and Rhonda Jacobson	
Dan Kirschner and Sue Kahn	
Robert and Susie Kaim	
Judith and William Kates	
Sheila Katz	
Judith Klau	

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Rina Bloch	Amy Sweigenberg
Annie Braudy	Sheila Vernick
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Noam Sender	
Enid Shulman	
Molly Silver	
Larry and Tamar Spiro	
Deb Stang	

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Rosana Kapeller-Libermann and
Towia Libermann
Cindy Kaplan
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Kira Karpovskaya
Kathy Kates
Barbara Katz
Robert and Barbara Katz
Barbara Kellman
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Daniel Kleinman and Susan Bernstein
Paula Korman
Larry Kraus and Sara Smolover
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Sandra Leabman
Yelena Lebedinsky
Gabriella Lee
Jessica Lerner
Mishy Lesser
Klara Levin
Ronnie Levin
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Alan and Helen Leviton
Shara Lewis
Steve Lewis
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Dan and Beth Marx
Nancy Mazonson
Samuel Mendoza
Harvey Meranus
Kim Meyers
Marilyn Miller Lipman
Sharon Morgenbesser
Myra Musicant and Howard Cohen
David Neiman and Patricia Lotterman
Nomi Levy-Carrick and Richard Carrick
Peter Weinstein and Robin Okun
Penny Roberts
Lawrence Pensack
Irwin and Gloria Pless
Alex and Irina Posternak
Francine Price
Kenneth and Stephanie Reich
Naomi Ribner
Howie and Susie Rodenstein
Rachel Rojanski

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Michael Rosenbaum and Julie Arnow
Susan Rosenberg
Rachele Rosi- Kessel
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Glenn Rothfeld
Sara Rubin
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Amit Segal and Barrie Wheeler
Jenni and Rabbi Sam Seicol

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Alan Shapiro
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Jane Siegel
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Sergiu Simmel
Bennett Simon and Roberta Apfel
Jim and Susan Snider
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Richard Tuck
Elanah and Elanah Uretsky
Alan Weisner and Marilyn Glazer-Weisner
Janice Weiss
Michelle Wexelblat
Ken and Barbara Wexler
Ron White
Francine Aaron
Dmitry Zaporojets
Emma and Boris Zbarsky

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Kiddush: May 5th

CONDOLENCES

- To Seth Alper and Bobbi Isberg on the death of Seth's mother, Freda Alper.
- To Beth and Mitch Harris and their family on the death of Beth's father, Robert DeMers.
- To Mark Housman and Mona Strick and their family on the death of Mark's father, Edward Housman.
- To Myra Musicant and Howard Cohen and their family on the death of Myra's father, Morry Musicant.
- To Jenny Berz on the death of her aunt, Patricia DiCraiker.
- To Deb Stang and her family on the death of Deb's mother, JoAnn Taggart Stang.
- To Farah Ganjei Gron and Paul Gron and their family on the death of Farah's father, Haghnazar Ganjei.
- To Rabbi Art Green and his family on the death of his wife, Kathy Green.
- To Marga Biller, and her daughter Mia on the death of father and grandfather, Armin Biller.

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

המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

TBZ Annual Community Meeting

Sunday, December 10th

from 3-5pm

The slate for new and returning Board members will be presented to the entire community for a vote. There will also be a vote on a proposed change to TBZ's By-laws (see page 5 for more information.)

Please join us!

Childcare will be available.

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