

Winter 2018-19

TEMPLE BETH ZION
KOLEINU

קולנו



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that." —Martin Luther King
May the lights of Hanukkah help to illuminate the world with peace and love.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

We Believe in America by Reb Moshe

TBZ Members Push to Heal "This Wounded World"

Adult Learning

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

president@tbzbrookline.org

As I write this, our Jewish world has been shaken at its core by the heinous antisemitic attack in Pittsburgh. Many of you know that Pittsburgh is my hometown, Squirrel Hill my neighborhood, and many friends and family still live in that area. I balance my time these days between my work as a Hospice Volunteer Manager, my increased responsibilities as TBZ President navigating the many challenges this has generated, and reading myriad facebook posts and emails from long-lost friends from high school and even elementary school. It seems that everyone grew up just a few blocks from the Tree of Life synagogue. My heart aches for my little corner of the world, once unknown, now never to be forgotten.

Now, as you read this, a month later, I imagine that this devastating attack has had a profound impact on the Jewish community there and ripples have been felt throughout our and other Jewish communities around the world. I know for sure that we have come together as a Greater Boston Jewish community and as a TBZ community many times in the ensuing month. I know that many of you have been involved in ensuring that our building and those in it are welcomed warmly and feel secure. I depend on the strength of this community to help me face such horrific events and I hope that you do too. Our best response, our greatest strength, is the love we build as a community, which lays the foundation for us to face the most difficult challenges. We are blessed to be able to rely on each other during times of difficulty and to come together so that we may continue to move forward, side by side.

Now, back to the column I wrote prior to October 27th:

If you were with us for the High Holidays, you were witness to a significant moment in our TBZ story. On Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, our rabbis spoke about the future of TBZ; more specifically about their future at TBZ (and if you missed it, you can read their sermons on our website <https://www.tbzbrookline.org/high->

holidays-sermons). In July 2019, we will move into the next stage of TBZ's evolution, when Rav Claudia assumes the role of our Senior Rabbi and Reb Moshe becomes Founding Rabbi, moving to a part-time role. The Board of Directors has been focusing on this impending transition over the past year and a half and it will continue to be a focus of our efforts as we move towards 2019. At our upcoming retreat on November 11, the Board and rabbis will be delving into our vision for the next 5 years after the transition. What additional staffing will support the needs of this vibrant multi-generational community? How do we position our lay leadership to support all of our volunteers? What are the priorities of you, our members, and how are we eliciting your input? I look forward to sharing outcomes from this retreat with you at our Community Meeting on December 16 and to hearing from you at any time with your comments, questions, and concerns.

At our Community Meeting we will be electing a new slate of Officers as well as saying goodbye and thank you to those Board members who are finishing their terms. Please look for the announcements of the new slate along with biographies of the candidates so you can get to know the fabulous people ready to join the TBZ leadership. Voter turnout is not just important in our national and local elections - please plan to attend! Many thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee led by Sue Kahn for the time and energy you committed to identifying rising leaders in our community.

On page 14 in *Koleinu*, you'll read about an exciting proposal that was recently approved by the Board. The Solar Committee, Building Committee, and Finance Committee, along with our Executive Director, have worked together to research the feasibility, options, costs, and benefits of converting our electricity usage to renewable solar energy. As a result of their thorough and visionary process we are moving forward on a plan to install solar panels on the

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OUR RABBIS

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Vice-Presidents

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Programming: Diane O'Donoghue
Spiritual Life: open

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Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Danya Handelsman
Israel Committee: Karen Naimier, Allen Taylor
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Mishpachot: Shoshanna Korn-Meyer
Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg
Nominating Committee: Sue Kahn
Rosh Hodesh: Meryl Finkel, Rachel Goodman
Social Action
Family Table: Alan Weisner, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers
Tikkun Olam: 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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south-facing roof this coming year! Yashar Koach to everyone on the current 'TBZ Solar Team' as well as to those who first began to move us in this exciting direction several years ago. Stay tuned for programming to be developed around this initiative for our entire community.

The future of TBZ is astoundingly bright, with new rabbinic roles, lay leaders, and the power of the sun turning on our lights just around the corner. The strength of our community as we head into this next phase lies in each one of us contributing energy, ideas, time, and financial support to the best of our ability. If you haven't yet participated in the High Holiday appeal we're happy to receive your contribution before the end of the year. If you have been meaning to come to Shabbat services, or Torah study, or a class, why not start now? If you can make a call, give a ride, or support a shiva, stay on

the Hesed notification list and help another congregant when you can. All of these actions, and so many more, will lead to a greater investment and a deeper connection to our community.

We are blessed to have this vibrant community, with its inspirational spiritual leaders, richness of membership, and responsible leadership. Let us continue to rely on each other during times of difficulty, celebrate with each other at times of joy, and move forward into TBZ's future, together.

If I can be helpful in any way, please let me know.

B'Shalom,

Sara

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.

Documentary "13th" Screening

Join us for the screening of the provocative documentary "13th". The film gives the historical context for understanding how we got to our present system of injustice and shows the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States." Pizza will be served and a discussion will follow the movie.

Teens are invited to attend as well!

December 13: 6:30 pm

Hesed

Our Hesed Community has become an "opt-out" community, meaning that all TBZ members will be added to the email list to inform everyone about needs in the community. We want to operate from the assumption that we all want to care for and help each other, and some of us have more time and space to do that than others. If you don't want to receive these emails, you will easily be able to 'opt-out' by sending an email to hosed@tbzbrookline.org.

Host at Home Shabbat Weekend

Be part of the lovely, warm and delicious experience of sharing Shabbat with other TBZ members. Host a family in your home or do as organizer Marilyn Glazer-Weisner and her husband Alan did last year when there were too many hosts - be a guest in someone else's home! Respond to Marilyn at mglazerw@comcast.net by January 15 so she can match you with other members.

January 25 (Shabbat dinner) and 26 (*Seudah shlishit*).

Snow date February 8 and 9.

The Kortelisy Escape by Len Rosen

December 2 at 10:00 am

Join us for TBZ member Len Rosen's reading and signing of his new novel, which is getting rave pre-publication reviews. *The Kortelisy Escape* concerns the lives of an aging stage magician and his fourteen-year-old granddaughter (his apprentice) as they perform their way through a New England tour. Books will be on sale for \$15 (half of the list price). Len will discuss the role of magic, faith and what he call Tabernacle moments in reclaiming lost wonder. Kirkus calls it the work of "a master storyteller [who] weaves a tale of love, pain, and sleight of hand." Come to explore, talk and learn!

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

It's a Knitzvah!



All are welcome to join the TBZ Knitzvah group which meets every 4-6 weeks from November through June. Participants knit and crochet baby hats, "caring shawls" and lap blankets while enjoying a relaxing

and warm evening together. Meetings take place in a member's home, usually in front of a warm fire with spiced (and sometimes spiked) cider. Handmade items are presented to members who might benefit from a visit and the gift of a shawl or blanket because of an illness or other challenge they are experiencing. Baby hats are presented at TBZ services or at home for a baby naming or bris. The group is on a drop-in basis and support/instruction for learners is available. Contact Anne Waldoks at aspw315@yahoo.com if you're interested in participating.

Men's Group Shabbat

Members of the Men's Group will lead Shabbat services on Parashat Yitro. After Kiddush the Men's Group will meet on the 2nd floor.
January 26: 10 am

Mitzvah Day: It's Not Just for Children

Just because our children have grown and we can no longer schlep them with us to mitzvah day does not mean that we should stop participating. Marilyn Glazer-Weisner and Alan Weisner attend Mitzvah Day every year at Jewish Family and Children's Services in Waltham with Rav Claudia and many families with children. As heard last year, "It is just as meaningful now as it was when our children were younger and we were teaching them the importance of tzedakah and performing mitzvot" and, "you do not need to be working on a bar or bat mitzvah project to do the right thing". We welcome all TBZ members to come join us at JF&CS on the next mitzvah day. Come, make a difference in someone's life!"
Sunday, January 13, 10 am

Seudah Shlishit and Havdalah

Save the Date for a shabbat afternoon Seudah shlishit and havdalah with guest speaker Rabbi Jill Jacob of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. The group brings together rabbis and cantors from all streams of Judaism, together with all members of the Jewish community, to act on the Jewish imperative to respect and advance the human rights of all people. Please join us.
Saturday, March 2. Time to be announced in Happenings.

NISHMAT HAYYIM AT TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

This year we are offering open drop-in sessions on the Friday mornings that our practice group is not scheduled to meet. These open drop-in sessions are for everyone: the regular cohort of participants in the practice group, experienced and beginner meditators, and friends and relatives of TBZers who are curious about meditation and mindfulness. The Friday AM sessions during the month of December will be open/drop-in sessions. In January we will continue with the WINTER Friday AM Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group for which registration is necessary. There will also be a SPRING nine week session. Again, in between all the scheduled AM sessions we will offer open drop-in sessions.

We continue to have our Shabbat Afternoon Meditation Sits. Please see the website calendar or TBZ Happenings for upcoming dates.

We are planning to have two more day long retreats in the spring. One at Just Right Farm in May; date to be announced. And the other at TBZ on June 2. The June retreat will feature Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, mother and beloved teacher whom we have had in past years, and a new teacher, John Makransky, who is at Boston College as a professor on Buddhism and comparative theology. John is a Tibetan Buddhist practitioner and has authored many books. More info in the next Koleinu.

Promotional emails for all our events are sent to our Nishmat Hayyim listserv. If you would like to join this list, please send an email to nishmathayyim@tbzbrookline.com. We also send promo emails to tbz-kehilla@googlegroups.com

We wish everyone a bright, lovely, and frailech Hanukkah!! May the candles brighten our world and may our inner lights shine forth and add strength to the Hanukkah candles. And remember that you can meditate on the lights of the candles!! Here are some resources to check out via a google search for hanukkah meditations: my Jewish Learning, ritualwell, chabad, velveteen rabbit, meaningful life, and beliefnet.

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה ותומכיה מאושר

The Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center

WINTER 5779/2018-19

ADULT LEARNING CLASSES

Freud, Vienna, and the Making of an Unconscious

Learn about the environment in which Freud created his psychoanalytic theories. Taught by Diane O'Donoghue, a visual and cultural historian who directs the Program for Public Humanities at the Jonathan M. Tisch College for Civic Life at Tufts University where she is also the Senior Fellow for the Humanities.

Tuesdays, December 4, 11, 18: 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Jews Beyond the Boundaries – Surprising Communities Seeking Jewish Identity

Explore the multiple African communities who see themselves as part of the Jewish people. Taught by Len Lyons who has researched African Jewish communities and is the author of *Ethiopian Jews of Israel: Personal Stories of Life in the Promised Land*.

Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19: 7 pm – 8:30 pm

What is Jewish Renewal?

with Reb Moshe

Wednesdays, January 16, 23, 30: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Israel's Declaration of Independence

with Pnina Lahav

As Israel celebrates its 70th anniversary, join us to study its declaration of independence. In the absence of a written constitution, the declaration has been generally considered Israel's founding charter of constitutional principles, embedding democratic ideals and political and civil rights including the equal protection of the laws. What sources influenced this text? What is the current state of the declaration? How does it compare to the U.S. Declaration of Independence?

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

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



The 6th cohort of **TBZ's Wise Aging** project facilitated by Dr. Anne Waldoks and Reb Moshe is underway. Wise Aging is an open exploration of the issues around the aging process and how to age with grace and equanimity. Participants learn with, and from, each other. Look for opportunities to sign up for this class in the years to come.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Voter Registration Efforts

Thanks to the 30 folks who came out October 10 to write postcards encouraging fellow citizens to register to vote! We wrote, decorated and sent out 270 personalized cards.



Protecting the Environment: the TBZ Bike Rack

Thanks to the collaboration between Beit Rabban students Ian and Tovah Falck and Tikkun Olam, along with the steady leadership of Cantor Becky Khitrik, TBZ is one step closer to helping the community lower its carbon footprint. A shiny new bike rack has been installed on the east side of the building.



TBZ Literacy Volunteers Honored

Rav Claudia and the TBZ Literacy tutor had a wonderful morning at Boston City Hall on September 26. Our own Kim Meyers and the many TBZ volunteers for the Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy who have been tutoring and supporting students of the city of Boston for over 20 years were honored! Thank you councilor Annissa Essaibi-George of Boston for hosting and to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston.



Opening to You: Jewish Meditation Retreat on the Psalms with Zoketsu Norman Fischer on Oct 21 drew over 50 participants. It was a wonderful opportunity to study with a meditation master who bridges Zen Buddhism and Judaism.

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

December 15, March 2

Rosh Hodesh Shabbat

January 19: 10 am

Men's Group Shabbat

January 26

Inclusion Shabbat

February 9: 10 am

Seudah Shlishit and Havdalah (see page 4 for details)

March 2

SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Shabbat Dinner

November 30: 8pm

Hanukkah

December 2 -10

Community Hanukkah Party

December 9: 4 pm - 6pm

Tu B'Shvat

January 20-21 (See Happenings for details of our celebration)

ADULT LEARNING

Freud, Vienna and the Making of the Unconscious

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

Jews Beyond the Boundaries—Surprising Communities Seeking Jewish Identities

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

What is Jewish Renewal?

Jan 16, 23, 30: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Israel's Declaration of Independence

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

Mussar Class (for registered participants)

Dec 4, 11, 18, Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

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.

December 1, Samuel Moellman

January 12, Elan Lipton

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT EVENTS

Tfilot Mishpachot

December 8, January 5, 19, February 2, 9: 11:30 am

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat followed by dinner at TBZ

December 14, January 11: 5:30 pm

BOOK CLUB

December 16, January 7, February 10: 6:30 pm

BOOK READING WITH LEN ROSEN

(see page 3 for details)

December 2: 10 am

COMMUNITY MEETING

December 16: 3 pm

FILM SHOWING OF "13TH"

December 13: 6:30 pm

HOST@HOMES

January 25 and 26 (snow date Feb 8 and 9)

MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS PRACTICE

Drop-in: Fridays, Dec 7, 14, 21, 28: 9:30 am - 11 am

New session: Friday mornings in January (registration required)

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

Dec 1, Jan 5, Jan 26, Feb 16: 1:30 pm

Winter brunch: Sunday, December 16: 10 am

MITZVAH DAY

January 13:10am

ROSH HODESH GROUP (for committed participants)

December 9, January 6, February 12

SHABBAT NARIYAH AND POT LUCK SUPPER

December 21, January 18, February 15

WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 3: 8:30 am - 3 pm

We Believe in America

by Reb Moshe

These words are being written the day after Election Day. Many are gratified that the House of Representatives may serve as a much needed check on the Executive Branch. This will, possibly, slow down the authoritarian path that this Administration embarked on in 2016. Last evening's results help me believe in America.

This is also being written in the wake of the shocking and horrifying massacre of 11 Jews during Shabbat services at the Tree of Life synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh. We are only beginning to process the horror and grief that has overwhelmed us.

TBZ participated in urging that the synagogues of America be full on Nov 3, the Shabbat following the murders. And they were.

I spent that Shabbat in Toronto attending the Parliament of the World's Religions. In Toronto members of the Muslim community encircled synagogues that morning in a sign of solidarity. After a similar incident in a mosque in Quebec at the beginning of 2017, where six worshippers were killed, Jews and other community members formed circles of support around their neighbors' Houses of Worship.



The Parliament attended by 7,500 delegates from around the world offered me a bit of comfort that there are so many people representing thousands of others in doing what they can to repair the world. The world survives by the actions of all of these good people who tip the balance from evil to good every-day. One of the most important themes of the gathering was that we are all working towards a common goal of overcoming the ills of the world and we each carry out these actions deeply rooted in our own traditions. Despite the shock over the event in Pittsburgh it wasn't surprising. In the wake of dozens of mass shootings over recent years we continue to ask ourselves why we, as a society, do not ban assault rifles, whose only purpose seems to be killing people. We are also puzzled that hate-filled websites are not monitored more closely. Shutting these sites down may be counter-productive. Those who inhabit these hate-groups will still spew their scurrilous poison. Better to see it and not push it further into the dark web. Hate-speech is best dealt with by shining our light upon it and dissipating its power with good speech.

While we are still processing the shooting in Pittsburgh we are gratified that the religious and political leaders in Pittsburgh, and many cities throughout the United States have gathered together to show their horror at the shootings and be supportive to those who remain after the murder of their loved ones and the anguish of their communities.

Now to the wider issue of what has instigated the rapid rise of overt anti-Semitism in our country. Over the last decade we have seen the growth of anti-Jewish sentiments. In France anti-Semitic incidents have been inspired by local Muslim outliers. This anti-Semitism is sometimes hidden by anti-Israel sentiments. The proto-fascist movements, which

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are arising throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe, see Jews as opponents of fascist tendencies in the countries where they live. The arousal of such forces in this country over the last years feeds on the fear and resentment of what is assumed as Jewish power. Jews are labeled globalists, not loyal to their countries; they benefit themselves while their neighbors remain downtrodden. Remember, antisemitism has nothing to do with Jews but is a failure of Western Culture to eliminate these myths from within its depths.

We saw the ugly face of anti-Semitism rear its head when marchers in Charlottesville shouted “The Jews will not replace us”. It was no longer impolite to shout out these sordid words. Anti-Semitism is real and we battle this kind of terrorism by remaining true to our values; and by uniting with people of goodwill throughout our nation to overcome hatred of Jews and other minorities.

Jews have benefitted from and contributed to the great success of America since its very beginning. We still believe in America. We still believe we live in a society that will overcome fear and hopelessness from whatever quarters they arise

We do not see our country split into armed camps. We see a place where synagogue doors do not have to be guarded. We see a place where we live a life of security and tranquility. We see an America where all of us have the opportunity of reaching our highest potential.

On the day after the shooting I accompanied a group of b'nei mitzvah students and their parents on a scheduled trip to Newport, Rhode Island to visit the Touro synagogue. It couldn't have been more appropriate. It was in the Newport synagogue that the framework of religious liberty in this country was formulated. George Washington's famous letter to the congregation and his subsequent visit to this first synagogue built in the colonial era, offered this phrase that still rings true, louder and truer than ever.

The Government of the United States should offer “to bigotry no sanction and to persecution no assistance”.

May the memories of those slain in Pittsburgh and the multitudes of massacres we have experienced offer us the strength to continue striving for peace and harmony.

A Rabbi Revisits Terror: Reflections on Pittsburgh

by Rabbi Claudia Kreiman

(From the Jewish Women's Archive blog)

As both the rabbi of a congregation and the daughter of a victim of antisemitic violence, the recent shooting at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh hits very close to home.

My mother was killed in the terrorist attack on the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina (AMIA) in 1994. I was 20 years old.

As the daughter of a victim of terrorism, my first thought each time I hear about a terrorist attack is about the

families. Their lives will never be the same. Never. For years after my mother's death, all I wanted was to go back to the moment before—before the bombing, before I learned that it was at my mother's place of work, before her body was found a week later. But there was no going back, and it took a long while before I could move past the paralysis of wishing with all my heart to undo time.

Last Shabbat, at the time of the tragic shooting in Pittsburgh, I was leading services at Temple Beth Zion in Brookline, MA, where I am a rabbi. We were celebrating

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a bar mitzvah and the sanctuary was filled with a festive crowd. The news filtered in through the back of the crowd, but we made the decision to preserve the feeling of joyous celebration, knowing that all too soon, our mood would shift to one of mourning and reckoning. After kiddush, as the crowd thinned and the room quieted, I sat with a teary congregant who wondered aloud how—if—we could hold onto the innocent joy of the morning, which now seemed forever tarnished by the blood that had been shed in Pittsburgh.

I certainly understood her question, and the yearning to return to the moment before. But I feel that the moment before this attack, we were no less in danger of violence fueled by bigotry than we are now. As Jews, the risk to our actual safety is unchanged.

Though Saturday's attack was the most deadly antisemitic incident in the US, it is hardly the first time this kind of violence has happened. In fact, just last Wednesday, two African Americans were gunned down at a grocery store in Kentucky, in what appears to have been a hate crime. And this was just the most recent in a spate of violent hate crimes over recent years, including the murder of nine African Americans by a white supremacist at a Charleston church in 2015 and the mass shooting at the Pulse gay nightclub in 2016, which killed 49 people. That this kind of targeted attack has now directly impacted a Jewish sacred space doesn't mean the violence is worsening, it just means it's harder for us to ignore.

Now that we are more sensitized to the hate and terror that continue to fester in our country, the real question—the test for the Jewish community—is how we will respond.

One of my strongest, most sustaining memories from the difficult period after my mother's death is the way that the community came together to support one another. The Jewish community, in Argentina and globally, stood as one to mourn and to rebuild. We were also supported by the larger community. Some of the first people to reach out

with messages of love and concern were our friends and colleagues from other faith backgrounds. We are seeing this same outpouring of solidarity and communal strength today, from both within and beyond the Jewish community. Christian and Muslim leaders are calling, showing up, and raising money for the Pittsburgh Jewish community. This demonstration of unity, care, and trust is a powerful repudiation of the hatred and fear that is at the root of all violence and terror. And we must learn from this and be sure, when the next horrible attack takes place, that we bring the same care and attention to the community that is targeted.

I also learned from the painful experience of the Argentina bombing the power that comes from refusing to give in to fear. Fear is, of course, a rational response to terrorism. It is terrifying and destabilizing to feel targeted and vulnerable. But if we allow fear to guide our actions, we have handed over power to the terrorists, who want to shut down our communities, take away our freedom, and taint our joy. Instead, we must continue to live fully and freely, even when it feels scary to do so. This does not mean we should be heedless, but we must continue to place our values at the center. In my congregation, for example, we are taking precautions based on the recommendations of our community leaders and security advisors, but the synagogue will remain open—wide open—for prayer and community.

Finally, we must hold onto hope. In Argentina, where we lived under a dictatorship for so long, we were sadly accustomed to injustice. As a new American citizen, I refuse to sit back and allow this kind of violence, racism, and white supremacy to grow unchallenged. When we become jaded and cynical and believe that violence, hatred, and terror are ordinary, expected parts of daily life, we make space for such things to take deeper root.

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Despite the despair that comes easily these days, we must continue to believe that change is possible and that we have the responsibility to bring it about. Thankfully, we find ourselves at a moment when there is one obvious way to exercise this responsibility—in these final days of the

election season, we must dedicate ourselves to getting out the vote, and using our vote to send a clear message of love and compassion, not fear and hate, for the “other” among us. Doing so is a life-affirming act. Doing so creates a better world for our community today and for future generations.

News from Beit Rabban



Your Beit Rabban Parent Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Rebecca Blouwolff & Jordan Braunig, are happy to report a very successful Ice Cream in the Park welcome event in September where several families gathered to play, chat, and nosh one Shabbat afternoon. It was particularly terrific to welcome some of our new families at the event! Now that the year is well underway,

parent classroom coordinators have met with Beit Rabban teachers to get to know one another and brainstorm special events for each class. We are excited to spearhead a new initiative where 100% of Beit Rabban families will spend one Shabbat meal together at some point over the course of the year. Beit Rabban families and community fans, remember to mark your calendars for Beit Rabban Shabbat, our signature extravaganza, on April 5.



Sukkot at TBZ



Sukkot on the Farm

TBZ MEMBERS PUSH TO HEAL “THIS WOUNDED WORLD.”

By Tali K. Walters

Through Tikkun Olam, TBZ works to bring healing to our local community, to our world, and to our planet. Join with TBZ Tikkun Olam in any of our Action Groups. Or be a leader of your own passion. We enthusiastically welcome new volunteers, new energy, and new ideas. Please don't hesitate to reach out to act, question, and energize.

Here is a sampling of TBZ Tikkun Olam's recent actions:

- In the **Climate Change Action Group**, led by Anne-Marie Codur (codur@hotmail.com), Mark Dwortzan (mark@dwortzan.com), and Fran Adams (franaca.adams@gmail.com), 70 TBZ families took the “personal Paris pledge” to green our own lives and living spaces. TBZ signed up for Brookline 100% Green, reducing our shul's carbon footprint. With the passage of a proposal at the TBZ Board of Directors meeting on October 21, TBZ entered its most exciting venture – Solar Energy on our rooftops! (See page 14 for full details).
- The **Criminal Justice Reform Action Group**, led by Sarah Fendrick (sarahfendrick@gmail.com), convened a discussion in late September of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, on the crisis in our criminal justice system. Opportunities for action emerged - prison visitations, bail reform lobbying, and prisoner mentoring. Upcoming events include the December 13 screening and discussion of the powerful documentary “13th”, putting into historical context the history of the prison system, showing the “intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States.”
- Sixty TBZ members and our rabbis joined over 1,300 members of the Boston interfaith community for the **GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization)** Pre-Election Summit, held at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. This Summit resulted in specific commitments from political leaders on core issues: criminal justice reform, affordable housing, health care cost containment and accessibility, and immigration. Attorney General Maura Healy, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, and gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzalez addressed the crowd. Our own Rav Claudia offered the closing prayer at this most inspiring evening. Join Rosalind Joffe (rosalind@cicoach.com), Barrie Keller (barrie.keller@gmail.com), Joel Feldman (joel@finkelfeldman.com), and Susan Bookbinder (susanbookbinder@comcast.net) in building a better Boston.
- The **Newton Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee** (formerly known as RIM) grows stronger as it begins to support a second generation of families seeking asylum. Four of our past families are now completely independent and moving forward successfully. We continue to host “I” and her 1-year-old daughter “G,” from Cameroon, as well as a Yazidi Zoroastrian family from Iraq and Syria. We are about to add one or two new families. Thank you to volunteers and financial donors. Please contact Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com) or Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) with your interest and questions.
- Our vote is our voice! Prior to November's mid-term



elections, the TBZ Resistance group focused on voter registration and postcard-writing events encouraging voter engagement. We partnered with the Sister District Project; participated in three different post-carding experiments through Voter Participation Center and registered residents of Dorchester. Then we pivoted to canvassing and phone-banking for key ballot initiatives. On Election Day itself, we monitored and offered rides to the polls. **The TBZ Resistance group** continues to address assaults on our democracy, showing up at the state house, rallies, vigils and demonstrations. Contact Fran Adams (franaca.adams@gmail.com) or Julia Freedson (jfreedson@yahoo.com) to join the Resistance.

- With the elections now over we know Massachusetts has retained its leadership role in protecting the civil rights of all citizens. Yet the fight against discrimination based on gender identity must continue. The **Transgender Equality Task Force** thanks each of you who voted Yes on Question 3, who helped get out the vote, who made phone calls, canvassed, wore buttons, drove people to the polls, and supported the campaign office. Through your efforts, TBZ is known to the LGBTQ community as a welcoming space for all. Contact Marion Freedman-Gurspan (freedgur@aol.com) for more information.

To relieve the fear, loneliness, and confusion of undocumented immigrants, Rav Claudia tells them - “HINENI, I am here for you, WE are here with you. YOU Truly exist and you are NOT ALONE.” Join this holy work of TBZ’s Tikkun Olam.

L'Chaim

- To Kim Meyers and the TBZ Literacy Tutors for being honored by the Boston City Council for their important work at the Winship School in Brighton.
- To Charlie Perdue on becoming Bar Mitzvah on August 25.
- To Nadav Cohen on becoming Bar Mitzvah on October 6.
- To Sasha Kagan on becoming Bat Mitzvah on October 13.
- To Dylan Freedman on becoming Bar Mitzvah on October 20.
- To Nadav Margalit on becoming Bar Mitzvah on October 27.
- To Isaac Spool on becoming Bar Mitzvah on November 10.
- To Gabriel Grossman on becoming Bar Mitzvah on November 17.
- To Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfels on the birth of their grandson, Albert Harrison Klein.
- To Lilly Pelzman and Jeffrey Borenstein on the birth of a grandson.

Please visit

www.tbzbrookline.org

to find out more about an activity or group.

REPAIRING THE WORLD, LITERALLY

TBZ Goes Solar as Board Approves Rooftop Photovoltaic Panels

by TBZ “solar team” —Fran Adams, Mark Barnett, Anne-Marie Codur, Mark Dwortzan and Alan Leviton

On October 7 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report showing that the world will need to dramatically reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as soon as possible in order to avoid the worst consequences of global warming, from catastrophic flooding to deadly droughts. Just two weeks later, on October 21, the TBZ Board approved a proposal to deploy solar panels on the rooftop of the synagogue in 2019—one small step toward that goal.

The proposal estimates that the panels will provide approximately half of TBZ’s electricity for about 30% less cost than TBZ’s current rate (set by the Brookline Green 100% renewable electricity plan) in the first year of operation, and up to \$65,000 in savings over the 25-year lifetime of the “power purchase agreement” with the solar electricity provider. All for no upfront expenditure other than re-roofing that was scheduled to happen anyway.

Board approval of the solar rooftop proposal was made possible by the successful functioning of the committee structure and interdependency of constituent groups within TBZ. In June 2017 the Climate Change Action Group, which emerged from the renewed Tikkun Olam Steering Committee, selected as a multi-year campaign “Moving Towards 100% Renewables.” The idea was to begin with the personal (examine changes we can make in our own lives, homes, transportation choices, etc.), move on to the community, in our case TBZ itself, and finally to the “world” – Brookline and our towns, our state, country and beyond. Over 70 members participated in the first stage last year, together taking a “personal Paris pledge” to green our own lives and living spaces.

In 2018 we reached stage two of the project, our communal home. Signing up TBZ for Brookline Green was the first step, initiated in the early spring. Then in May the Climate Action Group began collaborating with in-house TBZ solar experts and members of the Finance and Building committees, to explore and evaluate costs and benefits of various options for solarizing our rooftop. Six months of intense work spearheaded by Mark Barnett (who had led an earlier TBZ solar effort) culminated in the final proposal.

Most important of all, it is the moral and ethical underpinning of Tikkun Olam, the Jewish imperative of caretaking our planet and shouldering our responsibility to future generations, that guided this process every step of the way. We look forward to next year when our solar rooftop will provide 100% renewable electricity while lowering our utility costs, and and, hopefully, inspire many of our members and other faith communities to do the same.

SAVE THE DATE

TBZ’s Annual Community Retreat

on Cape Cod

May 3-5, 2019

Be on the look out for more details in early 2019

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Sheila Vernick
Rabbi Moshe & Anne Waldoks
Tali Buechler Walters & Peter Buechler

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Michael & Carole Greenfield
Danit (Dee) Farwell
Miriam Aschkenasy & Steve Super
Laura Wolfe
Kay Seligsohn-Bullis
Lauren Wasserman
Nina Moliver
Mickey Salins & Aimee Mayer-Salins

CONDOLENCES

- To Martha Gray and Richard Mandell and their family on the death of Martha's mother, Shirley Evelyn Port Gray.
- To David Scharfstein and Sarah Feldman and their family on the death of David's father, Bernard Scharfstein.

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

המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

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

www.tbzbrookline.org and find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline

HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL DONATIONS

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 Ellen & Matthew Weiss
 Ken & Barbara Wexler
 Deena Zakim
 Boris & Emma Zbarsky
 Barbara Zeitler

TODAH RABAH

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

• To our ushers and greeters:

Jill Febowitz, Wilson Kapanga-Ndjibu, Enid Shulman, Annie Braudy, Steve Hassan, Bernie Plovnick, Barbara Sternfield, Judith Epstein-Fisher, Geoff Stein, Amy Sweigenberg, Lori Levi, Ahitza Gonzalez, Aaron Darsa, Jill Greenberg, Penny Roberts, Rob Kaim, Amy Bullock, Rick Bankhead, Kemper Thompson, Brian Gokey, Phyllis Brawarsky, Sara Smolover, Sandy Taub, Sue Brent, Mark Grossman, Roger Taub, Kenneth Reich, Sergiu Simmel, Deb Stang, Samuel Engel, Lenny Marcus, Debbie Gardner, Sue Kahn, Dan Kirschner, Tali Walters, Ariadne Valsamis, Priscilla Stein, Eli Epstein, Ken Reich, Michael Krieger, Joshua Blouwoff, Debbie Lipton, Meredith Joy, David Ofsevit and Rachel Goodman

Special thanks to Michael Goldberg and Eddie Taub 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, Susie Rodenstein, Amit Segal, Molly Silver, Reggie Silberberg, Sara Smolover, Joshua Blouwoff, Cindy-jo Gross, Wilson Kapanga-Ndjibu, Shula Waldoks, Brina Ives, Tamar Duke-Cohan, Pnina Lahav and Flora Berklein

Special thanks to Joshua Blouwoff for organizing our readers.

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

Jay Zagorsky, Linda Rosen, Deb Morley, James Cohen, John Powell, Fran Adams, Bobbi Isberg, Beth Marx, Dan Marx, Alan Weisner, Lauren Garlick, Deb Stang, Renee Marcus Hodin, Samuel Engel, Jonathan Golden, Sue Kahn, Danya Handelsman, Jed Shugerman, Larry Kraus, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer, Eddie Taub, Jill Goldberg, Rebecca Blouwoff, Dan Kirschner, Cindy-Jo Gross, Adam Teller, Sam Seicol, Enid Shulman, Ken Wexler, Kenneth Reich, Tali Walters, Sarah Fendrick, Wilson Kapanga-Ndjibu, Sara Smolover, Bernie Plovnick, Michael Goldberg, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner, Sue Brent

Special thanks to Renee Rudnick and Audrey Wagner for organizing our honors.

• To the congregants who shared their wonderful personal prayers:

Zoey Henrich, Jen Klein, Stephane Acel-Green, Mishy Lesser, Julie Reuben and David Cherenson

- To Eli Levitt and Ariadne Valsamis for giving the D'var Torah at the Mincha service on Yom Kippur.
- To Susan Bookbinder for her introduction to the Torah reading on the second day of Rosh Hashanah.
- To Julia Freedson for her wonderful Yom Kippur appeal.
- To Rabbi Sam Seicol for leading the Mincha service on Yom Kippur and leading Friday night and Torah study on Shabbat Shuva.
- To the Zagorsky family, (and many others) for blowing shofar.
- To David Cherenson and Paula Korman 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 and leading the shofar service on the second day of Rosh HaShanah. Thank you also to Ebn for leading the contemplative Simkhat Torah celebration; and to Cantor

Becky Khitrik for leading us in Selikhot, leading the Mishpachot Simkhat Torah celebration with Jessica Woolf, and all her wonderful work.

- To Alan Weisner for leading Shabbat service on Shabbat Shuva.
- To Ron White for drumming and always inspiring us.
- To Noah Berz for playing violin on Kol Nidre and drumming at Mishpachot Services on Rosh Hashanah.
- To Aviv Rosenbaum for drumming at Mishpachot Services on Yom Kippur.
- To Amit Segal for playing the flute on Kol Nidre and Family Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and for taking pictures during Havdalah.
- To Jed Shugerman, Mark Barnett, Beth Marx and Shoshana Korn-Meyer for leading insightful and thought-provoking programming for our 6th - 9th graders on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.
- To Jonathan Garlick, Katherine Gergen-Barnett, and Rebecca Blouwoff for participating in the Jonah Play at the Mishpachot service and ALL the children who volunteered to lead parts of the Mishpachot services.
- To Kim Golden and Richard Bennett, who ensured that there was childcare for all, and our childcare providers and helpers, Etlea Gashi, Sarah Clay-Mendez, Julia Goldberg, Lita Ribner, Nadav Cohen, Matthew Hassan, Gabriela Toppelberg, Maddy Marx, Jason Cohen and Adina Kraus.
- To Shoshana Korn-Meyer and Sandy Taub for organizing and implementing the third floor space.
- To everyone who helped to prepare our sanctuary for the High Holidays, thank you for coming to prep day!
- To those who led the classes Yom Kippur afternoon: Bobbi Isberg (meditation), Rabbi Sam Seicol (text study) and Rev. Mariama White-Hammond (Guest Speaker).
- Much appreciation for the organization and shopping for the BreakFast by Amy Schottenfels and Jonathan Klein.
- To Rick Bankhead for beautifying our garden and grounds for the Holidays and all year round.
- To Sarah Fendrick and Carol Kamin for their invaluable support of TBZ's development efforts, especially this year's Kol Nidre Appeal.
- As to the unfortunate plumbing situation, thank you to Jack Daniels, Michael Feldman, Jonathan Klein, Amy Schottenfels, Steven Greenberg and ALL the many volunteers that helped out.
- Jack Daniels and the Levy-Carrick and Henrich families for building and decorating our gorgeous Sukkah !
- A special thanks to our president Sara Smolover, who together with the entire Board of Directors worked hard to make sure that the High Holidays would be meaningful for all.
- In addition to our wonderful volunteers, we are grateful to our TBZ staff, Steven Greenberg, Beth Ehrenreich, Lindsay Eagle and Cantor Becky Khitrik. Maira and her sister Elba for all their support and to Leo Monterroso Silva, our custodian, who makes sure that our sanctuary is always ready for us.

COMMUNITY MEETING

December 16

3:00-5:00 pm

Election of new slate of officers

Todah Rabah to those who served our community this past year

State of the shul and more!

Childcare provided

Refreshments

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