There is Always Light

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NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Sara Smolover
president@tbzbrookline.org

It’s been a year since my last message in Koleinu, which focused on how we were facing the challenges of distance, isolation, and Zoom while keeping our community strong. At that time, I reported many successes and reminded all of us of the continuing need to keep our more vulnerable members on our minds and at the receiving ends of calls and helpful outreach.

One year later, I am so grateful to report on how we have thrived as a community, innovating in all directions to bring people together in person when possible, and creating opportunities for people to connect on Zoom for learning, socializing, and spiritual growth. We have brought many new members into our congregation from near and far, and are starting to see those tiny Zoom squares come to life in the flesh in our sanctuary each week. We have reached out to keep folks connected and supported throughout this tumultuous year.

And yet, we’re still having snacks outside for kiddush after services, while longing to sit around our Community Room tables for a shabbos shmooze over egg salad.

We’re still facing the challenge that our youngest children are unvaccinated and can’t fully engage in activities within our building. We’re not kissing the Torah – or each other – on Shabbat, and our voices raised in song sound a bit muffled through our masks.

And yet, the energy of gathering together in one space has been palpable! If you were in the sanctuary for the High Holidays – or if you made it to Tashlich or Neilah outdoors – you could feel us reaching heights we hadn’t in a long time. I am so looking forward to the day when all of us feel it’s time to reenter the building, to sit in the sanctuary, to share Shabbat meals indoors, and to let down our masks to see our beautiful smiles once again, face to face. We will continue to rely on and be grateful for our physician advisors and our reentry committee who set the guidelines for our safe practices, and to keep our community informed of any changes. God willing, these changes will only lead us toward more connection and more openness with the passage of time.

We’ve been working hard as a Board and on our Committees this year to continue to implement our mission, including forming a new Strategic Plan for the next 3-5 years to shape the direction of our work and where we put our volunteer and professional energy. Elsewhere in Koleinu you can read articles from our Tikkun Olam Steering Committee, Nishmat Hayyim, Boker Tov TBZ, and more – and find something on our fall calendar that interests you it to Tashlich or Neilah outdoors — or if you made it to the sanctuary, to share Shabbat meals indoors, and to let down our masks to see our beautiful smiles once again, face to face. We will continue to rely on and be grateful for our physician advisors and our reentry committee who set the guidelines for our safe practices, and to keep our community informed of any changes. God willing, these changes will only lead us toward more connection and more openness with the passage of time.

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I want to draw your attention to two specific endeavors that make me proud to be a TBZ member. First, we are embarking on a deep exploration of what it means to become a truly intentional community around diversity,
equity, and inclusion. Many of us have been on this journey as individuals; now TBZ will be guided through this process by a consultant and leaders from within our community. You’ll be hearing more throughout the year on how you can contribute to this process of learning and growth. We are grateful for several TBZ members who are providing the financial support for this important work.

I’m excited, too, that we are planning a trip to Israel for February, joining with members of Temple Sinai in Brookline to explore the multiple narratives that can make our love of Israel feel so complicated. This promises to be a journey that will leave us deeply moved, with a better understanding of the conflict, and strengthened relationships with both Israelis and Palestinians.

As we look to the future we have a gorgeous new website and a brand new logo! As I’m writing this I don’t know yet which one our community will choose, so I’ll say that I hope you have fun participating in making our final choice!

Finally, as we look to December and our next Community Meeting, I recognize that this is the last Koleinu column of my presidency. The Nominating Committee led by Past President, Sue Kahn, will be presenting an impressive slate for our 2022 Board of Directors, including Carol Kamin as nominee for President. After five years serving in this role, it’s time for new leadership at TBZ. I couldn’t possibly have imagined what the arc of my time as leader would entail, but what I knew for certain was that I had other committed members around me to do the work, find the inspiration, make the hard decisions, and lead beside me. I truly loved serving the community in this role. I have cherished my time as a partner to our rabbis and professional staff. I have loved being pushed out of my comfort zone of semi-introversion to actually enjoy making announcements, greeting members and guests, leading meetings, and presenting to our B-Mitzvah kids. I have learned from so many leaders who came before me and I hope that I’ve served as an example for others to follow – in their own way. Please join me at our community meeting on December 12th to elect our new slate of officers and welcome Carol to her new role.

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**Boker Tov TBZ: An Evening in the Sukkah**

A beautiful sukkah, a clear evening with a hint of fall, and the company of good friends – new and old. These were the surroundings for the Boker Tov TBZ’s dinner gathering in the sukkah. Many of us met for the first time in person, after more than a year of sharing our lives in worship and conversation on Zoom. There was food and wine to share, great conversation, and shehechyanu, an acknowledgement of our gratitude for being together, in the sukkah.

The TBZ Boker Tov group has become a steady part of our days during these difficult times. We meet every weekday except during holidays, led by one of our rabbis or rabbinic interns on Mondays and Thursdays, and lay-led the rest of the week. This morning minyan has given us an opportunity to share what we are grateful for, to pray for healing and to say Kaddish in community. We celebrate together, try new tunes, learn from each other and then schmooze in breakout groups. Please join us! Zoom links for services are in the weekly Happenings email, or you can email Beth in the TBZ office to be added to the Boker Tov list.
The hallways and offices, classrooms and meeting rooms, have sat quietly – without you – for far too long. But late in the spring, and into the just past High Holidays, the sounds of singing, of prayer, of chit chat, have started to return to TBZ. One day soon, it won’t be surprising to see people gathering on a weekday in the Community Room for a meeting. One day soon, everyone who wants to be here, in person, will feel that this place is safe for them.

Although it’s been quiet here, there’s still lots going on at TBZ. We’ve paid close attention to health and safety – requiring masks, vaccines, and our big fans that not only refresh the air, but that also cleanse viruses (including COVID and the flu) from the environment. We’ve also paid attention to the needs of our building – fresh paint on the ground level, new windows in the rear (coming this spring), and more plans to follow.

We’ve also paid attention to some new and long term needs such as hiring Rochelle Kelman, Rav Claudia’s personal assistant. Having Rochelle part of the team means Rav Claudia can spend less time organizing the little things and more time doing the big things – like inspiring our community in her words, her prayers, and her joyful vision.

We’ve also been thinking about the TBZ of tomorrow. The Strategic Planning Committee has been testing ideas and digging deep, with your feedback, to consider the way forward for all that TBZ is and wants to be – inclusive, joyful, diverse, intentional, and welcoming.

Beit Rabban is back and in person for the first time in over a year and the hallways have begun to echo the voices of children again. And the quiet is not so loud anymore.
We won the Brit Hazon Challenge!

The Brit Hazon Challenge is a personal commitment to greening our lives for the future of the earth. TBZers signed the pledge (aka ‘Brit’) to commit to take action on climate change. Hazon awards a $1,000 grand prize to the site/organization with the most commitments made and we won! This gift will help us to move forward our Climate work at TBZ.

We are excited to restart, re-constitute and re-empower our climate change action group under the umbrella of our Tikkun Olam work. If you would like to get involved, please let the chairs of Tikkun Olam steering committee know – Fran Adams, Julia Freedson and Carol Kamin by emailing tikkunolam@tbzbrookline.org.

TBZ in collaboration with NBARC to Welcome an Afghan Family to Brookline

TBZ is one of six local congregations that make up the Newton Brookline Asylum Resettlement Coalition (NBARC). NBARC is a multi-faith group of three Jewish Congregations and three Christian Congregations. The group is entirely volunteer run and led by a steering committee made up of members of each congregation. TBZ member Jenny Berz is the Co-Chair of the NBARC steering committee and welcomes you to learn more about their work at www.nb-arc.com.

NBARC was founded in 2016 and since then has helped resettle individuals and families from around world. Most recently, NBARC was approached by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and Catholic Charities to be among a small group of local organizations to help resettle recently arrived Afghan families.

TBZ, along with NBARC, will be hosting an Afghan family in an apartment in Brookline starting around November 1st. We welcome all interested TBZ members to become involved in this Tikkun Olam effort. Currently we are seeking volunteers, in-kind donations, as well as financial support. To make a tax deductible donation, please go to www.nb-arc.com/donate. To sign up to volunteer, please go to www.nb-arc.com/volunteer.

TBZ is honored to have this opportunity to “welcome the stranger.” We will be sending regular email updates about this effort. You can also find updates in TBZ’s Happenings. If you have any questions, contact Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com) or Tali Walters (tkwstr@gmail.com).
TBZ has always held close to our hearts the words “tzedek tzedek tirdof” - justice, justice you shall pursue. It is one of our core values as Jews. The structure at TBZ for enacting that pursuit is the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee (TOSC), a group of TBZ leaders who count on our large group of volunteers to engage in a wide array of social justice initiatives. We are on the cusp of an exciting “refresh” of this group in order to expand our reach and bring more members into the active core.

TBZ members have the opportunity to join the efforts of many different “Action Groups”, such as Immigration; Gun Violence Prevention; GBIO; Defending Democracy; Affordable Housing and more. Each group adapts and changes to developments in local, national and international events. For example, our Immigration Group is currently fast-tracking the welcoming of an Afghan family into our community, with upcoming roles for many volunteers. New this year is a group focusing on Affordable Housing, one of the critical issues facing Brookline and communities around the country.

A reconstitution of our Climate Action Group will be grounded in the principles embedded in the Shmita year, a chance to use our Jewish values to address perhaps the most pressing issue of our time. And the shul as a whole is embarking on a year of anti-racist learning along with a DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) consultant and a dedicated lay-led group of TBZ members who will help us all reflect, discover, plan and finally act on what we learn on this journey.

Stay tuned for upcoming news about how to jump in and join forces with fellow members to make a difference in the world! In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to co-chairs Fran Adams, Julia Freedson and Carol Kamin at tikkunolam@tbzbrookline.org. We are committed to holding a one-on-one meeting with any member who wishes to learn more and find the right fit for their own expression of Tikkun Olam. Please join us!

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**Students at Brighton’s Winship School need help with their reading. Will you help teach them?** Join the TBZ volunteers who have been tutoring Kindergarten through 3rd grade students for 22 years and helped hundreds of students improve their reading skills. You can help a child learn to love reading. We provide training and support. You provide the enthusiasm. All it takes is one hour per week.

Please contact kmeyers1@gmail.com for more information. The students are eager to meet you!
This year the Nishmat Hayyim team – Reb Moshe, Bobbi Isberg, Sheila Yoheved Katz, Reggie Silberberg – provided its first ever contemplative services for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for the TBZ community. We were grateful for the privilege and humbled to be part of your High Holiday experience. Our services included both silence and chanting to deepen one’s spiritual experience; kavanot for prayers to connect their essence with meditation and mindfulness; group aliyot for the Torah service to allow many attendees to participate when drawn to a particular kavanah; and contemplative introductory interpretations for different parts of the services.

Below are excerpts of kavanot so that you may share in our aspirations for these services.

**Rosh Hashanah Excerpts**

**Opening**

Rosh Hashanah is the day the world burst into being out of nothing ... Every moment of our lives, the world bursts into being out of nothing, falls away, and rises up again. Every moment we are renewed by a plunge into the void. This void, Rabbi Lew calls, “heaven.”

Throughout the service there are minutes of silence. What to do in the silence? Wake Up! The universe is unfolding all around you and within you. Bursting into being. Can we watch the world burst into being with each in-breath, and let it all fall away with each out-breath?

In the silence, enter into intimacy with this Divine Unfolding. And when the mind takes us away into past or future or judging the present, that is not a mistake. It is not failure. Rather it is a fresh opportunity for Teshuva, to turn, return, and be turned back into connection with Reality Unfolding, with Divine presence. –*Sheila Katz*

**Kavanah for Sh’ma Yisrael**

We are asked to hear, to listen, to heed the ultimate truth of the Oneness and interconnection of all things. We teach the sh’ma to our children at an early age and we hope that we will have the clarity of mind to recite it before we die— that the Ehad, our declaration of Oneness will reverberate and echo forever with our very last breath.

Let’s recite the sh’ma this morning as if it was our last proclamation before our death. As we die and are reborn this Yom Kippur let our sh’ma resonate in us as it did in the innocence of our childhood and throughout our lives. –*Reb Moshe*

**Kavanah for Malchiyut**

Malchiyut, Kingdom of God, Queendom of God, sovereign principle of the universe.

I want be with You in the infinite ways you arise in me and surround me. Mimalay kol almin, ve’sovev kol Almin, U’mi-baladecha, ayn shum mitziut klal. You fill all the world, you surround all the worlds, and without you there is no reality at all. In our practice, we sit and surrender in each moment to that which is clamoring inside and out. We develop a sense that everything is imbued with holiness. –*Sheila Katz*
**Yom Kippur Excerpts**

**Opening**

Many of us are here because we have found, in meditation practice, and in the teachings that guide this practice, something that was missing in our earlier Jewish education. For me, the clarity of Buddhist teachings on impermanence illuminated so much about the cause of personal suffering. We are taught that everything that arises passes, and the attempt to hold on to things is futile and causes much suffering. In sitting meditation, we develop this gut sense, in our *kishkas*, of what it means to be with the arising and passing of all sensory experience. We learn to stay present with change in meditation and in our lives.

For years, I wondered why there was no Jewish teaching on impermanence that was so clear, so experiential— until I finally realized that Yom Kippur, which I automatically observed every year, IS our great teaching on impermanence, as we enact our process of dying, and being reborn. —Bobbi Isberg

**Kavanah on the 13 Attributes**

Opening our hearts in this moment….to enter into an expanded spacious awareness of God…. being one with God’s energy…. as we cry these words outwardly and inwardly humbly asking for forgiveness.

Can we imagine being embraced by divine forgiveness? Cultivating these God qualities, *betzelem elohim*? Using this time of crying out for forgiveness, to activate connectivity, healing…to go deeper into our core being, that spark of God, and allow it to transform ourselves?

“Our mission as human beings is to actualize the divinity latent within us. That’s the work that is truly transformative” – Rabbi Marc Margolius.

—Reggie Silberberg

**Kavanah for Unetaneh Tokef**

Leonard Cohen reminds us, with the verses we just sang of “If it be Your will,” that much of what happens in life is not within our control. This challenge, of how to live with uncertainty, is the theme of *Unetaneh Tokef*.

How do we understand its words: that “teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah” transform the evil decree” of death? Rabbi Alan Lew explains that meditation, prayer, and acts of compassion “will not change what happens to us, but will change us.” This inner work of the holiday season can change the way we experience death, can guide us to greet what arises in the coming year with openness, curiosity, and compassion for ourselves and others.

—Bobbi Isberg

**Kavanah for Leviticus 16:31-34 for Yom Kippur**

……. resolve to purify our inner sanctuaries, to change hurtful behaviors — that resolve brings us nearer to God, to our true nature, on this Shabbat of Shabbats. Today we are reborn with the possibility to live holier lives – with more compassion and love for each other, the stranger, and ourselves. …May our sacred spaces and temples of time inspire us to come closer to the divine each day of our lives, grateful to experience the unfolding of BEING and the awareness that we are surrounded by holiness in every given moment. —Reggie Silberberg

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**Multiple Narrative Trip to Israel & the West Bank**

for the Temple Sinai & Temple Beth Zion communities

col-led by Rabbi Andy Vogel and Rabbi Claudia Kreiman

**February 13-22, 2022**

See *Happenings* or contact Rochelle Kelman (rkelman@tbzbrookline.org) for more information.
BEIT RABBAN IS OFF TO A WONDERFUL START!

After a year and a half of learning virtually our talmidim (learners) were thrilled to come back together, both in our sanctuary and in our building. We were sad to say goodbye to long time teacher and tutor Cantor Jessica Silverberg Wolff but we send her blessings of hatzlacha, success, in her new position in Providence, RI. We also said goodbye to Rabbi Noam Lerman, who learned with our Rimonim (7th graders) last year. We are grateful to welcome back Debbie Gardner to learn with Shorashim Alef (K-1), HC Rabbinical student and TBZ community member Josh Greenberg with Shorashim Bet (2-3) and Zach Mayer (4-5). We are happy to welcome long time TBZ B’Mitzvah tutor Cantor Maayan Harel to serve as our B’Mitzvah coordinator and Mechina (preparation-6th Grade) teacher. Our Rimonim (7th Graders) will have the opportunity to learn with Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet and Reb Moshe as they practice Jewish living together and build their spiritual and ritual toolkits. We are also happy to welcome back TBZ member Dr. Miriam Diamond to serve as Beit Rabban’s Hebrew specialist. It is wonderful to have community members involved in Beit Rabban because it helps to ensure our program truly reflects the values of TBZ.

Update on the TBZ High Holiday Annual Appeal 2021

From Sarah Fendrick, Chair Development Committee

Our community is truly stepping up to ensure we will meet the goals set in our budget and be able to welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of our community, regardless of their financial circumstances. Your generosity has sustained us through 2 High Holiday Annual Appeals, 2 virtual Spring Fundraisers, and many donations to recognize lifecycle events and more. As of October 15, we have raised over $110,000, with 130 member households, or 37% of our membership contributing to our goal of $185,000. We are getting closer to our financial goal, and we hope to achieve 100% participation in giving to TBZ. In considering your own giving to the High Holiday Annual Appeal please also think about these members’ reasons for supporting TBZ:

“I love that we are a part of a multigenerational community... supporting TBZ financially is important to keep the synagogue flourishing and I am happy that we are able to contribute to help make that happen.”

“Giving to TBZ helps me to feel like I am investing in the community for myself, and also is a way to honor all the gifts of friendship, support, and community our family has received...”

“...I want to be sure that TBZ can continue to do all that it does to nurture and enhance the lives of so many, both today and in the years to come. I give with the hope that TBZ can continue to pass on the wise and beautiful values that our Jewish heritage embodies.”

“When I give to TBZ, I feel proud to give to a congregation which not only helps itself but genuinely helps others.”

To meet our expenses this year, we need to reach our goal of $185,000. If you have given already we thank you and if haven’t yet had a chance it’s not too late! Please make a contribution and experience the joy that comes with stepping up to the call of supporting your TBZ community. TBZ gives each of us so many reasons to be grateful! Thank you for helping TBZ remain strong and thrive! Every amount is welcome and will make a difference!
Coming Back Together
by Rav Claudia

When I was a kid, we used to drive two hours from Santiago to Viña del Mar, a beautiful city on the coast of Chile. I remember the long drive having two long tunnels that cut through the mountains — the Cordillera de la Costa, the Chilean coastal range. I remember being afraid of entering and of being in what seemed like an endless, narrow, tunnel. And I remember how I would begin to feel much better as soon as I could see the far light at the tunnel’s end.

My parents would often tell us, as we drove, that when they were younger and went to Viña del Mar for their honeymoon, there was no tunnel at all and they had to drive many more hours — up and then down the mountains. I remember thinking what was better? A much longer drive, in sunlight, or this shorter drive through the dark tunnel. My parents were grateful for the shorter drive, but what I remember most was that every time we drove to Viña del Mar, every time we entered the tunnel, and everytime, even when I could see the light ahead, the drive still seemed much too long, longer than I wanted, longer than what I hoped.

Lately, this image has been coming back to me and I have been remembering that tunnel through the mountains on our way to Viña del Mar. The journey of this pandemic is much too long, longer than any of us ever wanted, hoped or imagined. We all had hoped that by now, we would be almost at the end of the tunnel of this pandemic, even perhaps beyond it, arriving at the beautiful ocean. And though it seems that we are still in the tunnel and not yet, fully out of it, I have been feeling incredibly grateful for the moments of light and openness that we have been encountering together.

In June, we carefully re-opened our building for shabbat morning services in-person and since then we have been slowly adding more to our in-person opportunities. This past month, Beit Rabban (TBZ’s Hebrew school) came back to the building, filling its walls (and all outside spaces) with the laughter and learning of children.
And our Friday night (Kabbalat Shabbat) and our Wednesday morning (Eat, Pray & Learn) services are now also happening in-person. If you have been to any of our in-person offerings, including the High Holy Days, you know and you have seen the joy in my heart for these opportunities to connect and be in community. Of course, we are continuing to offer programming online and in hybrid forms, so we can include all in our community – those who are not yet ready to come back in-person, those who live far away and those with special needs for whom the virtual options have facilitated their inclusion in our community.

Throughout the Pandemic we have all learned much, about ourselves and about others. I know that I have learned so much about myself but also about our community during this time. Over the past nineteen months, I have come to realize more than ever the power of community. We have found ways to stay connected, to strive for belonging even while separated and even when we were alone. Staying connected, feeling a part of community has been difficult for some, easier for others, and for some near impossible. But as never before I have felt in the past year the importance of being part of a relevant, intentional and meaningful community. As a Rabbi, I have never felt my role as facilitator in strengthening and deepening our community more deeply. The first Shabbat that we had people in the Sanctuary in early June, as I invited those present to do a call and response and I heard the voices of people singing back, I broke into tears, feeling the void of a sanctuary empty for so long dissipate. And despite the Shabbat morning joy of being together I felt the sadness coming back on Fridays, when walking back home after leading a service, all alone and yet I felt tremendous gratitude for our community, for belonging. I am hoping that in whichever ways we are reentering, some at a slower pace and some at a faster pace, we have the capacity to do it in community, and with others as we illuminate the path forward.

I have quoted the Book of Ezra several times in the past months, because it speaks so much for me about this moment of re-entering this new stage of life. The Book of Ezra begins with the telling of the story of the first return of exiles and the completion and dedication of the new Temple in Jerusalem.

As the story of return to Zion is told, we read how the Priests and the Levites and the chiefs of the clans came back (Ezra 3:12-13):

Many of the priests and Levites and the chiefs of the clans came back wept loudly at the sight of the founding of this house. Many others shouted joyously at the top of their voices.

The people could not distinguish the shouts of joy from the people’s weeping, for the people raised a great shout, the sound of which could be heard from afar.

(Continued on page 12)
The elderly, those who have seen the first temple wept loudly, perhaps wept for the destruction, for the pain, for the loss, for the exile, for what could have been. And the others shouted joyously at the top of their voices. In celebration, in joy because the new temple was rebuilt, because there was a new opportunity, a new hope.

The cry, the pain, the weeping, and the joy and the hope and the possibility became one. One, without distinction. We hold in ourselves the pain, the loss, the suffering of the many months. But, hopefully, we also hold the joy of this moment. We are still driving through this tunnel and we are also driving through new openings of light. In darkness and in light, the most important thing is that we are doing this in community.

My hope and blessing to all of us, is that the lessons learned in the past nineteen months drive our continued journey in community. Perhaps the image of a tunnel is not a perfect one because we know that there will always be moments of darkness and moments of light and moments where it is hard to distinguish one from the other. But the blessing of TBZ is here to stay. We are thriving as a community because we need each other and because we have learned that our tradition and our community has so much to offer us as we walk through life. May our community continue to inspire us.

Rav Clauding

THOUGHTS FROM REB MOSHE

One of the many roles of a rabbi is to provide tools for creating literate Jews with robust self-understanding. These tools encourage us to reach into the abundance of our tradition as a guide for our psychic and intellectual inquiries in order to enrich our lives and that of our community. What are the essential components that sustain us on this quest? What follows is a synopsis of my Rosh HaShanah talk.

THE FOUR “I”s
Interpretation, Imagination, Integration and Inspiration.

Interpretation
The School of R. Ishmael taught: “As a hammer shatters a rock” (Jeremiah 23:29) – just as a hammer subdivides into many different sparks, so does the biblical verse extend into many different interpretations (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin 34a).

The jewel and underlying principle of our interpretative tradition is contained in R. Ishmael’s remark which leads to the concept of shivim panim leTorah, the 70 faces or facets of the Torah. The Torah was delivered in 70 languages, the number 70 is seen as the 70 nations of the world. Every letter of the Torah, each word, each story, each mitzvah lays itself open to a multiplicity of interpretation and Jewish tradition demands we interpret our tradition, our Torah, so that it applies to the times in which we live.

These interpretations are a link in a very long chain of tradition that stretches from the past to the future, and every one of us is a link in this endless chain. Our insights in our Torah study are valuable ways we embrace these illustrious traditions of interpretation. Without it, it would be impossible for a living and breathing Torah to be passed to our coming generations.

In a more colloquial manner, the great writer and interpreter Geoffrey Hartman late of Yale University’s illustrious English department said it this way: “Interpretation is like a football game,” Professor Hartman wrote in “The Voice of the Shuttle,” a 1969 essay. “You spot a hole and you go through. But first you may have to induce that opening.”
Imagination

Imagination is the ability to form a mental picture of something that is not perceived through the five senses. It is the ability of the mind to build mental images of things that do not exist, are not present, or have happened in the past.

The ability to imagine things pervades our entire existence. It influences everything we do, think about and create. It leads to elaborate theories, dreams and inventions in any profession from the realms of academia to engineering and the arts. Through imagination we explore beyond the constraints of our environment and our reality, into a world of dreams, where creativity and invention are at their strongest. The process of teshuvah functions at its best through the power of imagining ourselves as a ‘different’ person as we strive for teshuvah and transformation.

Jewish tradition is, too, an imaginative project. We, as Jews, live in an “as if” construct. This is particularly evident in our nurturing of Shabbat, in our striving for a taste of olam habah – the redeemed world to come. Our Messianic vision speaks of universal redemption. Imagination provides an avenue for our perceptions and projections of God and the world to come – olam habah.

Integration

Fully functioning persons are characterized by a unity in thought, emotion, and action that amounts to “being someone” or having “an integrated self.” The integrated person is defined by psychologist Carl Rogers as unified within him/herself at all levels and with low discrepancy between the present self and the desired self. Optimal functioning of a person occurs when the various aspects of that person are integrated into a relatively harmonious organization.

Inspiration

Inspiration awakens us to new possibilities by allowing us to transcend our ordinary experiences and limitations. Inspiration propels a person from apathy to possibility, and transforms the way we perceive our own capabilities. It gives us both the means and the motivation to rise above, be creative, grow closer to our goals, learn from others, and achieve enhanced well-being.

Inspiration is the feeling of enthusiasm, of possibilities, you get from someone or something, and is one of the biggest influences on our behavior and pursuit of a better life.

Many social scientists have suggest inspired people do the following:

- express love and appreciation openly
- foster equality
- are emotionally healthy and healed
- believe in collective power
- strive to make a difference

I find all of these traits in our TBZ community.
FALL/WINTER PROGRAMMING @ TBZ

All programs subject to change.

FRIDAY NIGHT:
Kabbalat Shabbat, Every Friday at 6:00 pm
In person and Live Stream

Nariya: Sing Out Shabbat, 1st Friday night
Nov 5, Dec 3 at 6:00 pm
In person and Live Stream
Raise your voices, move your bodies, catch your breath and gather strength as we create a “circle” of sound to welcome Shabbat.

SHABBAT MORNING:
Torah Study at 9am
In person

Shabbat Morning services, Every Saturday at 10am
In person and Live Stream

WonderMinyan, 1st and 3rd Shabbat of the month
Nov 13, Dec 4 at 11:30am
In person
Join Rav Tiferet, Noah and our rabbinic intern, Danny, as we immerse our youngest members in the joy, spirituality, and meaning of our Jewish prayer traditions.

B’nei Mitzvah Group (after Kiddush)
Nov 13, Dec 11
In person
Monthly Meetings for the students and parents preparing for their B’nei Mitzvah at TBZ

Beit Rabban Community Shabbat,
Nov 13, Dec 11
In-person
Once a month, get to know other Beit Rabban families! WonderMinyan for all ages of Beit Rabban as well as opportunities for parent conversations during kiddush!

Upcoming B’nei Mitzvah Celebrations at TBZ:

November 6, Michael Schwartz
November 20, Amira Sky Barnett
December 18, Sophia Knobell

Click on the “Live Stream” button on the home page of the TBZ website (www.tbzbrookline.org) to access Zoom and YouTube for each live streamed event.
**DAILY, MONDAY- FRIDAY**

Boker Tov TBZ, Weekdays, 8am

SUNDAYS

Hebrew with Rabbi Sam Seicol, 10:30am

TBZ Book Club, 6:30pm
Nov 14: *Hannah’s War* by Jan Eliasberg
Dec 12: *Witness: Lessons from Eli Weisel* by Ariel Burger

Rosh Hodesh Group
Nov 7, Dec 5, 6:30pm

Men’s Group Weekly Check-ins, 7pm

MONDAYS

Women of the Megillot: Ruth – Creating a Future, Renewing Faith with Rabbi Jamie Kotler
Nov 1, 8, 10am

The Tent, 5:45-8:30pm
For teens, grades 8 through 12

Mizmor Le’David: Psalms with Rav Claudia
Nov 8, 15, 29 & Dec 6, 7pm

Rachel and Lea in Words and Music with Dr. Miriam Diamond
Nov 22, 7:30-9:00pm

TUESDAYS

The Fragility of Democracy: The Rise of the Nazis and its Lessons for Today with Jan Darsa
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec 7, 7:30-9:00pm

WEDNESDAYS

Eat, Pray and Learn, 7:30am
Join us in-person for a morning of prayer, community and learning with Rav Claudia. 7:30am Morning Service in the Sanctuary; 8:15am Bagels, coffee and community in the Community Room (distanced), followed by learning Talmudic text, and ending at around 9:30am. At present we are studying text from: *A Bride for One Night: Talmud Tales*, by Ruth Calderon. Calderon rewrites talmudic tales as richly imagined fictions, breathing new life into an ancient text and offering a surprising and provocative read, both for anyone already intimate with the Talmud or for anyone interested in one of the most influential works of Jewish literature. Come every week or whenever works for you!

Beit Rabban, 4-6pm
TBZ’s Youth Education Program, K-7

Weekly Torah Study with Reb Moshe, 7:30pm

A Better Future for Israelis and Palestinians: Affirming the Sacredness of All Human Life
November 10, 7:30-9:00pm

THURSDAYS

TBZ Therapists’ Connection, 1pm

Shmita 5782: A Year of Release, Healing and Balance, with Dr. Rabbi Natan Margalit
Nov 4, 18, Dec 2, 9, 16, 7-8:30pm

FRIDAYS

Nishmat Hayyim Morning Meditation Mindfulness Practice Group, 9:30am

Coming Soon...

From Orchard Street to Bloomingdales: Transformations of American Jewish Life with Shelly Tenenbaum
Mondays February 7, 14 and 28

10th Annual Women’s Retreat!

Jewish Feminism Movie Series with Diane Balser in March

Colliding Dreams: The History of Zionism as Told through the Eyes of its Inhabitants with Jan Darsa
Hanukkah @ TBZ

First night Sunday, November 28

Wednesday, December 1
Beit Rabban Hanukkah lighting. All are welcome!

Thursday, December 2
Hanukkah with the Maine Rebetzen (more info to come)

Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, December 3
Shabbat Nariya

Sunday, December 5 from 4-6:00pm

Hanukkah Party

Join us to celebrate Hanukkah in Community!
Games and activities for all ages including adult Learning and a tzedaka project, as well as our community-wide Hanukkiah lighting, singing, latkes and sufganiyot!

A NEW LOGO FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE

Be on the look out for your chance to weigh-in on these two final options for our new TBZ logo!

Survey coming to your inbox soon.
We would like to extend a hearty todah rabbah (thank you) to all of the volunteers who helped make the holidays at TBZ run smoothly. This was an especially complicated year as we planned multi-access offerings and we could not have done this without you. Your commitment made the High Holidays at TBZ an incredible experience of community and caring.

Our ushers and greeters:
Diane O'Donoghue, Nikki Decter, Kathy Kates, Jen Klein, Nora Klein, Lior Namerow-Klein, Larry Kraus, Daniel Langenthal, Bernie Plovnick, Barrie Wheeler, Donna Hirt, Joshua Blouwolff, Rebecca Mautner, Sarah Fendrick, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Judith Epstein, Carol Kamin, Jonathan Klein, Eddie & Sandy Taub, Mark Barnett, Myrna Patterson, Joan Hyde, David Cherenson. **A special thanks to Eddie Taub for organizing.**

Our Torah and Haftarah readers:
Danny Stein, Rabbi Mona Strick, Rabbi Ebn Leader, Molly Silver, Ronnie Levin, Josh Blouwolff, Sara Smolover, Amit Segal, Pnina Lahav, Alan Weisner. **A special thanks to Larry Kraus for organizing.**

The congregants that gave out honors and did “bimah duties”: Rebecca Blouwolff, Beth Marx, David Cherenson, Sue Kahn, Eddie Taub, Alan Weisner, Jay Zagorsky, Adam Teller, Alan Weisner, Larry Kraus. **A special thanks to Renee Rudnick and Audrey Wagner for organizing.**

The congregants who shared their wonderful personal prayers, and inspiring words:
**Personal Prayers:** Jen Wofford, Jordan Meranus, Jordan Namerow, Carole Greenfield, Gary Kaplan, Bernie Plovnick.
**Introductions to Torah Reading:** Judith Kates, Rabbi Jen Gubitz, Danny Stein.
**Yom Kippur Mincha D’var Torah:** Becca Mautner.
**Kol Nidre Appeal:** Felicia Kazer, David Vitale-Wolff, Debbie Korn.

We also send our heartfelt gratitude to:
**Kim Meyers** for blowing shofar at TBZ and **Benjamin Zagorsky** for blowing shofar at Tashlich.
**Phyllis Brawarsky** for making sure all our whites were laundered for the High Holidays.
**Rabbi Ebn Leader** for leading in Selichot and leading the shofar service on the second day of Rosh HaShanah. Thank you also to Ebn for leading the contemplative Simchat Torah celebration.
**Noah Berz** for playing violin on Kol Nidre.
**Rav Tiferet, Noah and Danny** for leading joyous Family Services.
Our childcare providers and helpers **Tamara Stein, Joel Berenbaum, Etleva Gashi and teens Sara Berz, Gaby Toppelberg and Amira Barnett.**
To **Alan Weisner** for bringing the machzorim to Neila in the park and to Alan and **David Cherenson** for making sure we packed back everything.

Our wonderful Nishmat Hayyim team for leading contemplative services and other Nishmat Hayyim offerings: **Reb Moshe, Reggie Silberberg, Sheila Yocheved Katz, Bobbi Isberg & Rabbi Carol Glass.**

**Rabbi Sam Seicol and Danny Stein** for leading study sessions on Zoom.
**Rav Tiferet** for leading a special Yizkor gathering on Zoom.

**All the TBZ families** that helped decorate the Sukkah.

**The Board of Directors** under the leadership of **Sara Smolover** for their work to ensure that the High Holidays would be meaningful for all.

**Sarah Fendrick** and the Development Committee for their work.
**Beth Harris** for stuffing the development envelopes.

A special thanks to **Tali Walters** and **Lenny Marcus** for being our security liaison with Bob Kinder and Signal 88 Security.

The re-entry committee chair **Larry Kraus** and especially **Doctors Asaf Bitton, Katherine Gergen-Barnett** and **Rebecca Weintraub** for their wise and helpful advice which allowed us to come together safely in community.

In addition to our wonderful volunteers, we are grateful to our TBZ staff, our **Executive Director Susan Diller, Beth Ehrenreich, Rochelle Kelman** and **April Ropes. And to Sandy Garcia** our custodian, who makes sure that our sanctuary and building is always ready for us.

To **Micah Kraus, Lev Brown** and **Micah Klein** for being an amazing tech team and making sure people at home could enjoy our joyful services on Zoom and Youtube.

We are so grateful for our amazing Davening team who lifted us up during these holidays. **Noah Weinberg, Aviva Herr-Welber, Yoni Battat, Rafi Ellenson, Danny Stein, Rav Tiferet, Reb Moshe** and **Rav Claudia.**
• To Manny Tolkoff on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Eiden Margalit on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Steven Lewis on the 55th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.
• To Bennet Simon on the 75th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah.
• To James Cohen on his recent marriage to Andres Velez.
• To Mike Sotkowitz Stephenson and Jackie Story Stephenson on the birth of their daughter, Solveig Winfield Stephenson.
• To Alan Weisner on the marriage of his daughter, Talia Michal, to Will Yolen.
• To Claude David Levy Carrick on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Aya & Orli Goldwasser on becoming B’not Mitzvah.
• To Rosalind and Jake Joffe on the marriage of their daughter, EmmaRose Joffe to Dylan Nelson.
• To Julie Arnow and Michael Rosenbaum on the marriage of their daughter, Navah Rosenbaum to Logan Uretsky.
• To Noa Handelsman for being selected to be part of the ICC Diller Fellowship.
• To Marianna Mapes on completing her conversion to Judaism.
• To Rabbinic Intern, Danny Stein and his wife Tamara Stein, on their recent marriage.
• To Karen Brody on the birth of her third grandchild, to parents Debra and Yisroel Daitchman.
• To Jacqueline Joyce (Jackie) on completing her conversion to Judaism.
• To Maricelle (Mari) Ramirez and her daughter Rose on completing their conversion to Judaism.
• To Mickey, Aimee and Jacob Salins on the birth of their baby, Aaron Kenneth Salins.
• To Linda Brodt and Paul Katz on their recent marriage.
• To Michael Schwartz on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Tyler Dratch on his recent ordination as Rabbi.
• To Rachel Tali Kaplan on her recent ordination as Rabbi.
• To Beit Rabban teacher, Jessica Woolf-Silverberg, on her recent ordination as Cantor.
• To Jonah Blouwolff on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Beth Ehrenreich on the birth of her granddaughter, Navah Rosenbaum to Logan Uretsky.
• To Caleb Meranus on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Amy Bullock on winning a National Jewish Book Award for 2020 for his book: Judaism for the World: Reflections on God, Life, and Love.
• To Adam Teller on winning a National Jewish Book Award for 2020 for his book: Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century.
• To Rabbi Arthur Green on winning a National Jewish Book Award for 2020 for his book: Judaism for the World: Reflections on God, Life, and Love.
• To Carl Wolf on his recent ordination as Rabbi.
• To Beit Rabban teacher Debbie Gardner on the engagement of her daughter, Susan Arna Gardner to Brian Francis McMahon.
• To Jack Eiferman and Fern Fisher on the birth of their grandchild, Ronit B Eiferman Powell, to parents Reva Eiferman and Henry Powell.
• To Barrie Keller & Steven Kaufman on the birth of their daughter, Emma.
• To Jonathan Golden on being elected Town Meeting Member (Precinct II).
• To Howard Cohen and Myra Musicant on the birth of their granddaughter, Jodie Cohen Wu Yehudit, to parents Molly and Baishi.
• To Kim Meyers and Jay Zagorsky on the birth of their first grandson, Gideon Harold Zagorsky, to parents Benjamin Zagorsky and Natalie Feldman.
• To Calleigh Bellow on becoming Bat Mitzvah.
• To Sammy Lipton on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Renee and Hal Rudnick on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma.
• To Rabbi Arthur Green on receiving an important grant-award for his community-based dialogue approach to building trust in COVID-19 vaccines in communities of color.
• To Carl Wolf on his recent ordination as Rabbi.
• To Beit Rabban teacher Debbie Gardner on the engagement of her daughter, Susan Arna Gardner to Brian Francis McMahon.
• To Lily Pelzman and Jeffrey Borenstein on the birth of a grandson, Henry Myles, to parents Ben and Lesley Levitt.
• To Linda and Len Rosen on the birth of a granddaughter, to parents Jonathan Rosen and Anna Rosofsky.
• To Barrie Keller & Steven Kaufman on the birth of a grandson, Gabriel Shai Mandel.
• To Ronna Tapper-Goldman and James Goldman on the birth of twin grandchildren, to parents Melissa Tapper-Goldman and Aubrey Clayton.
• To Nathan Taub on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Jonathan Garlick for being named Heroes of our community by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts.
• To Caleb Meranus on becoming Bar Mitzvah.
• To Mohammad Esposito.
• To Jonathan Golden on being elected to the Select Board of Brookline.
CONDOLENCES

• To Janet Echelman and David Feldman, and their family on the death of Janet’s brother, Michael Echelman, on the death of her stepfather, William Fleece and on the death of her mother, Anne Kantor.

• To Judith Haber and her family on the death of her husband, Stuart Books.

• To Heidi Berenson and Marc Berenson and their family on the death of their father, Mort Berenson.

• To Priscilla and Geoff Stein, their children Adam and James, their granddaughter Hazel and their family on the death of Priscilla’s mother Barbara Grant.

• To Scott Jacobson, Hillary Schwab and their family on the death of Scott’s father Frank (Dick) Spencer Jacobson.

• To Bernie Plovnick and the family of Aida Belansky on her death.

• To Anne Pomerantz Waldoks, Reb Moshe, and their children Shula Waldoks: Brina, Ian and Eli Ives: Risa Waldoks and Ira Blum on the death of Anne’s mother Marjorie Diana Pomerantz.

• To his Betty Buchsbaum and her family on the death of her husband, David Buchsbaum.

• To Molly Silver and her family on the death of her brother, Marc Silver.

• To Ira Krotick and his family on the death of his mother, Selma Krotick.

• To Josh Steinberg and his family on the death of his mother, Devorah Steinberg.

• To Alex and Irina Posternak and their family on the death of Alex’s mother, Etya Posternak.

• To Deborah Chassler and David Lucal and their entire family on the death of Deborah’s mother, Elizabeth Chassler.

• To Roger Zimmerman and Jane Liebschutz and their family on the death of Roger’s mother, Pearl Zimmerman.

• To Alyssa Altman and her family on the death of Alyssa’s father, Frederick Altman.

• To Chris Ives and Mishy Lesser on the death of Chris’s mother, Marilla Halsted.

• To Dan Levitt, Ariadne Valsamis, Zoe and Eli and to David Levitt on the death of David’s wife and Dan’s mother, Lore Levitt.

• To Sarah Fendrick, David Kaplan, Jonah and Naomi on the death of Sarah’s mother, Beverly Fendrick.

• To Meredith Joy and Marjorie Siegel on the death of Meredith’s father William P. Joy Jr.

• To Julie Reuben, Lisa Lovett, Phoebe & Charlotte on the death of Julie’s mother, Paula Reuben.

• To Marjorie and Rabbi Mark Sokoll and family on the death of Marji’s mother, Phyllis Ullian.

• To Susan and Steve Bookbinder and their family on the death of Susan’s father, William Robin.

• To Aviva Herr-Welber and Noah Weinberg on the death of Aviva’s grandmother, Lucille Herr.

• To Katherine Ellin and family on the death of her father, Morton J. Ellin.

• To David Kaplan and Sarah Fendrick, on the death of David’s father, Basil Kaplan.

• To Lori Levi, on the death of her brother, Phillip Handler.

• To the family of Janice Weiss on her death in Jerusalem.

• To Jill and Michael Goldberg and their daughters Rachel and Julia, on the loss of Jill’s beloved Aunt, Mildred Drees.

• To Stan Meyer, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer, Ezra and Nate on the death of Stan’s father, Ned Meyer.

May their souls be bound up in the Bonds of Eternal life.
Hila Lopez
Julie Reuben & Lisa Lovett
Joanna Lubkin
Michael Luckens
Jessica Kate Meyer
Myron Miller
Abbe Neumann
nomi Levy-Carrick & Richard Carrick
Diane O'Donoghue & Kimball DiCero
Suzanne and Andrew Offit
Ally Love
Rick and Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands
Julie Arnow & Michael Rosenbaum
Barrie Wheeler & Amit Segal

HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL
Stephanie and Mara Acel-Green
Laureen Alpert & Barry Weiss
Miriam Aschkenas
Rick Bankhead & Kemper Thompson
Barbara Sternfield
Beilah Ross & David Mattes
Susan and Arny Rosenberg
Julie Arnow & Michael Rosenbaum
Suzanne Gelber
Deborah Gardner
Elenna and Mitchel Harris
Bennett Simon & Roberta Apfel
Sara Kippur & Josh Lambert
Barth and Mitchell Harris
Robert and Melissa Kagan
Gary Kaplan & Kimberly White
Leeza Kapuler & Svetlana Monidrus
Kathy and Thomas Kates
Barrie Wheeler & Amit Segal
Boris and Emma Zbarsky
COMMUNITY RETREAT

SAVE-THE-DATE: MAY 6-8
for our Annual Community Retreat
(Covid-permitting)
At The Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod

Join us for a Shabbaton (weekend) of meaningful services,
delicious meals, interesting programming and community building!

TEMPLE BETH ZION
1566 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02446

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED