Lifelong Learning and Programming at TBZ

Winter/Spring

JANUARY - JUNE

2022/5782

www.tbzbrookline.org
“[Jewish institutions] as a primary setting, along with the home, where American Jews confront the most fundamental question of American Jewish life: how to live in two worlds at once, how to be both American and Jewish, part of the larger American society and apart from it. This question, a variant on one that all post-emancipation Jews face, is what Jewish education in America is all about, and always has been. Ultimately, Jewish education serves as the vehicle through which we train successive generations of Jews to negotiate their own way, as Jews, in the American arena.”


What a powerful idea, that the purpose of Jewish education is to help us live in two worlds at once, or rather, to integrate the Jewish and American parts of our identities into one coherent whole. This season, as in seasons past, TBZ is proud to offer an array of opportunities to engage Jewishly in order to make meaning of Jewishness as well as apply the meaning of Jewishness to the world around us. From the parents wearing their babies at WonderMinyan to older adults contemplating their next moves in life, TBZ offers ways to engage Jewishly and meaningfully with others on a similar path. Flip through these pages and find a new way in this winter or coming spring. Or, enjoy a returning favorite! Our offerings are driven by you and your desires, so if there’s something you are waiting to see, please let Rav Tiferet know and she’ll be happy to explore how we can bring that learning to TBZ.

We wish you a season of health and curiosity!

*Tze u’lamed, go and learn!

Rav Claudia
Senior Rabbi

Rav Tiferet
Rabbi of Congregational Learning and Programming
**Special Events**

**February 12 - Shabbat HaDorot**  
*(Formerly, Intergenerational Shabbat)*

Join us for an all day experience for all ages! Services begin at 10:30am, preceded by Torah study.

- **9:00-10:00am - Torah Study**
- **10:30-12:00pm - Services for all ages**

Join us for a fun and vibrant service in the sanctuary! The service will include a shorter, musical Shacharit service and Torah service with a Parsha play performed by TBZ adults and children. It will be a joyful celebration of our growing intergenerational TBZ community! Please don’t think this is a “kids” service. It truly is an opportunity for our whole community to worship together.

- **12:30-2:00pm - B’Mitzvah Group on Repairing the World:**  
  What’s a Mitzvah?
- **2:00-3:00pm - Board Games in the community room**
- **6:15-8:30pm - Havdalah & Beit Kolnoa (Movie House):**  
  *Fiddler on the Roof, Pt. 1*

**February 19: Men’s Group Shabbat**

For more than 15 years, the TBZ Men’s Group has engaged participants in stimulating conversations about what really matters in their lives. In the process, members have built and strengthened relationships with other men in the TBZ community and beyond.

**Sunday, March 6: 10th Annual Women’s Retreat!**  
**8:30am-3:30pm**

Featuring an intimate performance of the play *Conflict Zone*. *Conflict Zone* is an original one-woman play by Israeli-American artist Leahy Ardon (Ish-Shalom). The show follows the journey of a young Jewish immigrant to the US, as she battles with an eating disorder. *Conflict Zone* explores the connections between internal and external war, examining how the protagonist’s Jewish-Israeli identity plays a role in her fight for recovery. Through a compelling
storyline, combined with music and poetry, the show takes the audience on a ride through laughter and tears giving food for thought and room for hope. *Conflict Zone* has been praised by members of the Jewish community in Boston and beyond, by eating disorder professionals, survivors, and their families. Most recently, the production was awarded a grant from the CJP with the goal of bringing *Conflict Zone* to further audiences in the greater Boston area.

**Rabbis in Residence**

**February 4-5: Shabbat with Rabbi Menachem Creditor**

Rabbi Menachem Creditor serves as the Pearl and Ira Meyer Scholar in Residence at UJA-Federation New York. Named by Newsweek as one of the fifty most influential rabbis in America, he is the founder of Rabbis Against Gun Violence, and has served in leadership positions for American Jewish World Service, AIPAC, the Rabbinical Assembly, and the One America Movement. Among his 18 books and six albums of original Jewish music are “Holding Fast,” “Primal Prayers,” and “Olam Chesed Yibaneh/A World of Love.”

**March 3-5: Shabbat with Rabbi Igael Gurin-Malus**

Rabbi Igael “Iggy” Gurin-Malous is a renowned Talmud teacher, spiritual counselor, artist, and educator. He grew up between Belgium, Israel, (so expect him to be well dressed and blunt) and the United States in a traditional Jewish Orthodox home. He is a frequent author, speaker, teacher and contributor on subjects ranging from Talmud, Jewish text, spirituality, Addiction, recovery, fatherhood, and LGBTQI+ issues. Today he is the founding rabbi and CEO of T’shuvha Center, a new long term Jewish recovery community in Bedstuy Brooklyn. Formerly the Director of Spiritual counseling at Beit T’Shuvah in Los Angeles. He is also Temple Israel of Hollywood Talmud Scholar in Residence, teaching weekly classes on Interpreting Talmud. Igael also serves on the board and faculty at the Academy of Jewish Religion of California.

**TBZ Community Retreat: May 6-8**

After two years away, the TBZ community is thrilled to return to the Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod for a *Shabbaton* (weekend) of meaningful services, delicious meals, engaging programming and, of course, strengthening our community.
connections. The Community Retreat is a wonderful opportunity to deepen TBZ friendships and to spend Shabbat together relaxing, breathing deeply, praying, and enjoying true Shabbat m’nucha (rest). All TBZ members are encouraged to attend! There will be programming and services for people of all ages.

Art of the Spirit: Celebrating the Faith Quilts: June 1st
6-8:00pm
Come and meet the creators of the faith quilts, the cornerstones of our Sanctuary and view the short film about their creation. You can expect a good movie, delicious food, and good conversation!

TBZ Celebrates Pride Month (June)
  Pnina Lahav LGBTQ+ Equality in Israel:
    The Danilowitz case
  Nariya Pride Shabbat, June 17th

Holidays

Tu BiShvat Seder
Sunday, January 16, Zoom, 7-8:30pm
Tu BiShvat is often thought of as “Jewish Arbor Day,” but it has deep agricultural and Kabbalistic roots. Today, TuBiShvat serves as a reminder of our commitment to environmental justice and this year we will celebrate with a seder that addresses the four elements of our world, their power and meaning in our tradition and how we can act for them as our climate changes. Learn with Rabbi Shoshana Friedman of Dayenu about how we can take action now!

PURIM
Facing the Megillah, Monday, March 14, 7:00pm, Zoom
TBZ has a tradition to face and address the sexism that is so much a part of the Purim story. Just as we do with the traditional Yom Kippur Mincha reading (a
text that is challenging to LGBQT people and their allies), we’ve had a member of the community reflect on some of the messages about women and sexism that are part of the Purim story and celebrations. This talk creates an important opportunity for us all to make connections between the megillah, sexism and our current lives.

**TBZ Purim Celebration**
**Wednesday March 16, 5:30-8pm**
(In Person and Online)
Starting at 5:00, young people can join our Beit Rabban leaders for a carnival of epic (or at least, novel) proportions! (in-person only). Followed by the Megillah reading and shpiel starting at 6:30pm. By the end of the night we won’t know the difference between “Blessed be Mordechai” and “Cursed be Haman” (Booooo)!

**PESACH**
**April 3rd: Pre-Pesach Learning and Celebration with Kehilat Moriah in Haifa, Israel (Boston’s Sister City!)**

**April 9th: Nishmat Hayyim Contemplative Shabbat in Preparation for Pesach**
**Seder plan TBD closer to Pesach, COVID permitting**

**YOM HASHOAH**
**April 27: Book Talk with Author Mel Laytner: What They Didn’t Burn**
What if you uncovered a Nazi paper trail that revealed your father to be a man very different from the quiet, introspective Dad you knew...or thought you knew? Growing up, author Mel Laytner saw his father as a quintessential Type B, passive and conventional. As he unearthed the documents the Nazis didn’t burn, another man emerged—a black market ringleader and wily camp survivor who made his own luck. Like Laytner’s father, every Holocaust survivor has an amazing story. If they didn’t, they wouldn’t have survived. Yet if the stories sound too amazing, they risk being dismissed as exaggerations, or worse. At a time when the Holocaust itself risks becoming a cliché, how do we show the truth, especially to younger generations further and further removed from the war? Read more TBZ’s website.
“Can’t you just explain the Israel situation to me? In, like, 10 minutes or less?”

This is the question Daniel Sokatch is used to answering on an almost daily basis as the head of the New Israel Fund, an organization dedicated to equality and democracy for all Israelis, not just Jews, Sokatch is supremely well-versed on the Israeli conflict. Sokatch’s latest book, *Can We Talk About Israel?*, is the story of that conflict, and of why so many people feel so strongly about it without actually understanding it very well at all. It is an attempt to grapple with a century-long struggle between two peoples that both perceive themselves as (and indeed are) victims. And it’s an attempt to explain why Israel (and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict) inspires such extreme feelings—why it seems like Israel is the answer to “what is wrong with the world” for half the people in it, and “what is right with the world” for the other half. As Sokatch asks, is there any other topic about which so many intelligent, educated and sophisticated people express such strongly and passionately held convictions, and about which they actually know so little?

**SHAVUOT**

**Erev Shavuot Saturday night June 4th**
Stay tuned for Brookline Communities Tikkun Leil Shavuot!

**Nishmat Hayyim:**
**TBZ’s Breath of Life Project**

**Weekly Friday Morning Sits, Every week 9:30am**
These sessions help to both deepen and continue the challenging discipline together, cultivating wisdom, compassion, happiness, and the ability to respond to this complex life and world. All levels of meditators, beginners and experienced, who want support for starting or deepening a regular practice are welcome! The 90 minute sessions include chant, a 45 minute silent sit, teachings from Jewish, Buddhist, and other mindfulness texts, discussion, and check-ins about our practice.
March 20th: Full Day Retreat with Zoketsu Norman Fischer
Nishmat Hayyim is so thrilled to host Zoketsu Norman Fischer via Zoom. Mark your calendars now. More details to follow. Zoketsu Norman Fischer is a Zen Buddhist priest, teacher, poet, and a former abbot of San Francisco Zen Center. He is founder and teacher of the Everyday Zen Foundation (www.everydayzen.org) dedicated to sharing Zen teaching and practice widely with the world. He is one of the most highly respected Zen teachers in America. Fischer and Rabbi Alan Lew (z”l) in January 2000 co-founded Makor Or, a San Francisco based Jewish meditation center that brings Jewish meditation to a new level by providing daily meditation, weekly classes, monthly retreats and a yearly intensive along with contemplative preparation for the holidays and these continue to be co-lead by Norman. An author and poet, you can view his works on both NormanFischer.org and EverydayZen.org. Norman’s poetry traces a consciousness well aware, albeit often enough puzzled, by the ever changing conditions of self/ other/ environment/ language. His writing reminds us of the idea that language is at once an avenue of imprisonment and liberation, and we may never be altogether certain which. We hope you’ll be able to join us for this unforgettable experience!

April 9: Contemplative Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30am
Come join us for a special Shabbat service. Share the full beauty of Shabbat in prayer, chant, study, and meditation.

• Experience the power of Jewish contemplative prayer through chant and davvening.
• Deepen your relationship to and understanding of Torah.
• Opportunity for silent lunch
• Stay for the Shabbat Afternoon Sit!!

Open to the entire Boston community, sponsored by Nishmat Hayyim at TBZ. Feel free to bring your friends and family members who have been searching for a way to integrate their meditation and Jewish practices.

May 3rd: Day Retreat at Just Right Farm
More details to come.
Ongoing Offerings

Daily Monday- Friday Boker Tov TBZ, Weekdays, 8am
Boker Tov TBZ is our morning minyan. At 8:00 am every weekday we gather for thirty minutes in front of our computers, each in our own zoom box, to recite and sing together a selection of prayers from the traditional shacharit service.

Mondays & Thursdays: Led by Rav Claudia & Rabbinic Intern Danny Dubin
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays: Led by members of the community

SUNDAYS

Hebrew with Rabbi Sam Seicol:
10:15 -10:45am, Hebrew Alefbet and Vowel review
Alefbet and Vowel review for those who feel they need some extra work.
10:45am-12:00pm, Torah learning
On-going Genesis reading practice and translation studies.

TBZ Book Club, 6:30pm
For TBZ members only. Monthly meetings on Sunday evenings feature lively discussions of books by or about Jewish people, alternating fiction and non-fiction selections. New members are welcome. You may find yourself reading books you never knew about or thought to read and meeting other book lovers! Please join us at any time during the year by contacting the Office.

January 9: The Slave by Isaac Singer
February 13: The Aleppo File by Matti Friedman
March 13: The Song of the Jade Lily by Kirsty Manning
April 10: My 15 Grandmothers: A Biography by Vanessa L. Ochs
May 15: The Assistant by Bernard Malamud
May 22: Vote for books for 5782
June 12: At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew’s search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land by Yossi Klein Halevi

Men’s Group Weekly Check ins, 7pm
For more than 15 years, the TBZ Men’s Group has engaged participants in stimulating conversations about what really matters in their lives. In the
process, members have built and strengthened relationships with other men in the TBZ community and beyond.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**Eat, Pray and Learn, 7:30am** *(Eat, will be depending on health guidelines)*

**In person.** Join Rav Claudia and members of our community for a spirited beginning to your day! We will begin the day with joyful and intentional davening, followed by breakfast and text learning.

**Beit Rabban, 4-6pm**

TBZ’s Youth Education Program, K-7

**Beit Rabban Parent learning**

**January 12, 26, February 9, March 2, 30, April 27, May 11, 25**

4:15-5:15pm

Drop off your child and then join Rav Claudia and other Beit Rabban parents for an exploration of Rabbi Art Green’s Book *Judaism’s 10 Best Ideas*.

**Weekly Torah Study with Reb Moshe on Zoom, 7:30pm**

**THURSDAYS**

**TBZ Therapists’ Connection, 1pm**

Open to TBZ Members only. Therapy is typically a place where the focus is on the client’s concerns and the therapist usually does not share her or his personal stories or information. Do we leave our personal lives out and focus only on the client’s concerns? Are there any “right” ways of doing this? Come be part of the discussion. If you are interested in participating, contact Jenny Berz.

**FRIDAYS**

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

(See Nishmat Hayyim section)
Shabbat at TBZ

Kabbalat Shabbat, 6pm (Zoom and In-Person)
Join us weekly for a soulful service, both joyous and touching. We sit, sing and contemplate together, and sometimes even dance together.

Shabbat Nariya:
The Shabbat Sing Out
January 21, February 4, March 18, April 1, May 20, June 17, 6:00pm
Co-sponsored by Kavod, Once a month, we raise our voices, move our bodies, catch our breath and gather strength as we create a circle of sound with voices and instruments to welcome Shabbat.

SHABBAT MORNINGS

Shabbat Morning Torah Study, 9am in the Community Room, in-person

Shabbat Morning, 10am, in-person and streamed

WonderMinyan, in-person
January 8, 29, February 12, March 5, 19, April 2, May 21, June 4
Twice a month, join Rav Tiferet and Noah as we immerse our youngest members in the joy, spirituality, and meaning of our Jewish prayer traditions. With guitar, drums and song we celebrate Shabbat and the wonder of our world, separating for age-appropriate Torah encounters and concluding together in the main service with a blessing.

B’nei Mitzvah Group, 1:00-2:30pm, after Shabbat services
January 29, February 12, March 19, April 2, May 15 (Trip to Mayyim Hayyim), June 4
Kiddush Talks: 
After Shabbat Services

January 8: Steve Hassan
A Year From Jan 6, 2020: Where are we now and what can we do?
Steven Hassan, PhD is a mental health professional and expert in undue influence tactics used by authoritarian leaders and destructive cults. His expertise includes harmful influence in cases of destructive religious and political cults, human trafficking, extremist and terrorist groups, one-on-one relationships, families, parental alienation, mini-cults, therapy and self-improvement groups, professional and institutional abuse, corporate and multi-level marketing programs, and harmful belief systems. He is the author of four books including *Combating Cult Mind Control, Freedom of Mind* and *The Cult of Trump*. He is a translated author with books in 10 languages. He is the Founding Director of the Freedom of Mind Resource Center, which provides training, consulting and support to individuals who are struggling to leave or recover from a cult and to families and organizations that are concerned about cult behaviors.

February 5: Rabbi Menachem Creditor
(See the Rabbis in Residence section on page 4)

March 19: Author Leah Hager Cohen on Loyalty
Leah Hager Cohen is the author of five works of nonfiction, including *Train Go Sorry*, and six novels, including *The Grief of Others*, which was longlisted for the Orange Prize and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Her latest novel, *Strangers and Cousins*, was published in 2019 and named one of the ten best books of that year by The Washington Post. She is the Barrett Professor of Creative Writing at the College of the Holy Cross.

April 9: Shabbat HaGadol (Pesach-related)
Adult Learning

Thursdays: Talmud with Danny
Ayin Tachat Ayin: An eye for an eye?
January 6, 13, 20, In person: 7-8:30pm
How does our tradition interpret “An Eye for an Eye?” Join TBZ’s Rabbinic Intern Danny Stein as we dive into the Talmud and explore how the early rabbis revolutionized this classic biblical passage. We will explore what it means to be responsible for one another, how to critically apply Jewish values to ancient texts, and what it means to create a just society. No prior knowledge necessary!

“From Orchard Street to Bloomingdales: Transformations of American Jewish Life” with Shelly Tenenbaum
Mondays February 7, 14 and 28, 7-8:30pm
We will begin the course with a broad discussion of ways that American Jewry has transformed over the generations. We will then turn our attention to the history of Jewish immigration to the United States with an emphasis on the mass influx of East Europeans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the final class, we will build on our sociological and historical foundation to explore economic transformations and social mobility. Although our focus will be on American Jews, participants will gain analytic tools to understand why some immigrant groups move up the economic ladder faster than others.

A Dialogue of Devotion:
Thomas Merton and Zalman Schachter-Shalomi
6 Tuesdays, April 26, May 3 May 10, May 17, May 24, May 31, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
$195, generous financial aid is available through Hebrew College
In partnership with Hebrew College Me’ah Select.
Taught by TBZ member Rabbi Or Rose.

Between 1961-1968 Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (d. 2014) and Father Thomas Merton (d. 1968) developed a close friendship through an exchange of personal letters, published and unpublished writings, and in-person
meetings. This relationship not only had a significant influence on these two spiritual virtuosos, but by extension, on the countless numbers of people—Jews, Catholics, and many other seekers—they touched through their teaching, counseling, and writing. In this presentation, we will explore the context—biographical and historical—in which these men met and their intellectual and spiritual affinities. In so doing, we will also explore the legacy of this relationship as a model for interreligious engagement today. Open to all learners. Registration will be available in January. For more information, contact Marilyn Stern at meah@hebrewcollege.edu.

Colliding Dreams: The History of Zionism as Told Through the Eyes of its Inhabitants, In May (Dates TBD), with Jan Darsa
By using the film Colliding Dreams (and other resources) by acclaimed filmmakers Joseph Dorman and Oren Rudavsky, this three session course will explore Zionism’s history. We will listen to scholars and regular citizens debate about Israel, Zionism and their connection to the land. Triggered by recent conflicts, discussion is often guided by emotion rather than substance. This film is not an attempt to provide answers, but rather to explore the questions and provoke thoughtful and meaningful discussion on this fraught topic. The film and other sources we will bring to the conversation will include a wide range of Israeli and Palestinian views.

Racial Justice & DEI Learning Opportunities for the TBZ community
Cycles of Rest, Release and Liberation: Antiracism and Shemitah as Spiritual Practice
The Institute for Jewish Spirituality is offering this program in collaboration with Yavilah McCoy, CEO of Dimensions Educational Consulting. This four-part, six-month program will combine Jewish text, antiracism teaching, and opportunities for reflection with the goal of helping participants better understand and undertake antiracism as Jewish spiritual practice. The program includes four live webinars led by Yavilah McCoy, each followed by two optional caucus space sessions. The caucus groups will be organized according to the self-defined racialized identities of participants, in order to help them process the course material with others from similar backgrounds.
Free to TBZ members. Starts January 12.
Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out
The Inside Out Community of Practice is offering this program in collaboration with Rav Tiferet Berenbaum. This ten-session course will help you gain practical tools, based in Jewish wisdom, for building relationships and taking action outside of the constraints imposed by racism. It draws from both racial justice training and the Mussar tradition. Each two-hour session fully integrates both disciplines. The course is run as a Mussar group/va’ad and participants are expected to engage in practice on a daily basis. **Starts in March.**

If you have questions about either of these opportunities or would like to talk about other ways to connect with the racial justice community at TBZ, please feel free to contact Rav Tiferet at rrvttiferet@tbzbrookline.org.

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**Jewish Feminism Movie Series**
facilitated by Diane Balser,
Tuesdays, 7:00pm

**March 15 - Yentl (1983)** Rebbe Mendel is a single father who teaches the Talmud, a sacred text of Judaism, to the boys of his small Polish town. Behind closed doors, he also instructs his daughter, Yentl, despite the fact that girls are forbidden to study religious scripture. When Yentl’s father dies, she still has a strong desire to learn about her faith – so she disguises herself as a male, enrolls in a religious school, and unexpectedly finds love along the way.

**April 5th - Disobedience (2017)** New York photographer Ronit Krushka flies to London after learning about the death of her estranged father. Ronit is returning to the same Orthodox Jewish community that shunned her decades earlier for her childhood attraction to Esti, a female friend. Their fortuitous and happy reunion soon reignites their burning passion as the two women explore boundaries of faith and sexuality.

**May 17th - TBD**
B’nei Mitzvah celebrations at TBZ:

- Moshe (Mookie) Lahav - January 22
- Alma Kreiman-Leader - March 26
- Eitan Segal - April 30
- Sardoine Kapanga-Ndjibu - Sunday Rosh Hodesh, May 1
- Lilah Zarwan - May 14
- Isaac Moellman - May 21
- Ezra Eichler - June 11

Visit: www.tbzbrookline.org for more info about programs at TBZ, including Zoom links to our livestream events and classes.