



Make the World a Better Place

TBZ TIKKUN OLAM

**"Justice, justice
shall you pursue."**

(Deuteronomy 16: 20)



Affordable Housing UNITE Jews Muslims Christians Correct Injustice Refugees Human Rights
CLIMATE CHANGE RIM Tikkun Olam Jewish Locally-Beyond
RESISTANCE Coalitions Listen Empower Vote Impact ACTION TBZ GBIO EQUALITY
Affordable Healthcare Democracy Interfaith Equality Criminal Justice Reform RELATIONSHIPS

Dear TBZ Community,

Prayer and ritual interlaced with a serious commitment to work for social justice, that's the secret sauce of what makes TBZ the special community that we love. Under the umbrella of the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee (TOSC), TBZ offers many pathways for our members to put into action, as Jews, our desire and commitment to help build a more just and equitable world. Whether your interest is in person-to-person work, community organizing, or joining in on marches and demonstrations, we hope you'll take a look at what we're doing now and find a spot that really speaks to you. Come join us!

Susan Bookbinder (susanbookbinder@comcast.net)

Rachel Goodman (rachgood@verizon.net)

Co-chairs Tikkun Olam Steering Committee

**The next Tikkun Olam Meetings will be held on
October 24 & November 28 at 7:00pm at TBZ
(with the possibility of joining on Zoom).**

**Please contact Susan or Rachel (*emails listed above*)
if you would like to join the meeting(s).**



Tikkun Olam Actions and Opportunities



If you are interested in becoming involved with any of the active groups listed in this booklet, please reach out to the contact(s) listed below the group description. Be sure to check out *Happenings* (our weekly events email) and the website calendar (www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar) regularly for information about upcoming events and meetings.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Demonstrate, rally, write, and call voters to help protect democracy. We are working on issues such as voter registration and voter education, abortion rights, affordable healthcare, and more. Join us!

Contacts:

Fran Adams (franaca.adams@gmail.com)

Julia Freedson (jfreedson@yahoo.com)

“Our whole family enjoyed the event to write post cards for voter registration. It was a great educational opportunity for our children.”

—Rebecca Blouwolf

GBIO ACTION GROUP

TBZ is a proud, founding member of GBIO. The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization founded in 1998, is a broad-based organization that works for the public good by coalescing, training, and organizing people across religious, racial, ethnic, class, and neighborhood lines. Our membership consists of 62 congregations and institutions in Greater Boston, representing more than 107,000 individuals. GBIO's current platform is focused on the areas of **housing, mental health/substance use disorders, and reentry for citizens returning from incarceration**. There are many ways to participate: from joining an action by emailing or calling your legislator, showing up on Zoom or in person for an assembly, or becoming part of an action team. The TBZ GBIO Core Team coordinates our participation in GBIO actions and organizes with the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee to build relationships and power in our shul.



Contacts:

Jane Daniels (janedaniels36@gmail.com)

Rachel Goodman (rachgood@verizon.net)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing affordability has been a challenge for decades and the situation is only becoming more dire. This is true in Greater Boston and throughout the country. Work with TBZ's Housing Action Group, in coalition with GBIO and others, to reform restrictive zoning, support new affordable housing developments in our neighborhoods, and increase funding for public housing.

Contacts:

Jonathan Klein (jklein728@gmail.com)

Rosalind Joffe (rosalind@cicoach.com)

THE PARTAKERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

PEP is in its 2nd year of our reentry initiative, enrolling formerly incarcerated women and men into a 12-week virtual workshop. For our part, TBZ will serve as mentors and will be matched with formerly incarcerated individuals (mentees) who communicate by Zoom and phone to help navigate any challenges that fall outside of the bandwidth of the workshops. The goal is to help and be there for former incarcerated individuals, enabling them to more fully integrate into society and their families in a more positive and beneficial way.

Contacts:

Maxine Lyons (maxineiris@comast.net)

Steve Lewis (steveelliotlewis3@gmail.com)

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM AT TBZ

Help a child learn to read and help Repair the World! 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 23 years and have 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. We will begin again in October. The students are eager to meet you!

Contact:

Kim Meyers (kmeyers1@gmail.com)

FAMILY TABLE

Family Table, run by Jewish Family & Children's Services (JF&CS), is the largest kosher food pantry in New England. It provides healthy food on a monthly and emergency basis to more than 1,000



individuals and families in need. TBZ, one of 65 Jewish organizations that keep Family Table going, is responsible for providing 35 cans/boxes of vegetarian soup and 65 boxes of whole-wheat crackers every month. Members can contribute by bringing a can of soup or box of crackers every time we come to shul and placing them in one of the large black bins located on the first floor. This simple, anonymous action is a form of tikkun olam even the busiest among us can do. Other ways to volunteer include helping to bring our donations to JF&CS or packing and delivering food one Sunday morning a year. TBZ also holds an annual community Mitzvah Day when we join together for learning and Family Table deliveries.

Contact:

Alan Weisner (aweisner@comcast.net)

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The GVP Action Group at TBZ is committed to deepening our understanding of the impact of gun violence, regardless of how close we are to the “target”. The ripple effects of gun violence are staggering, touching public health, mental health, the economy, criminal justice, education, and racial equity. Greater understanding leads to action and strengthens our impact. We partner with the following groups:

The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, whose legislative priorities for 2022-2023 include: crime gun data analysis legislation, juvenile justice reform, and the intersection of trauma and gun violence.

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which provides highly effective services for gun violence survivors (victims and perpetrators). TBZ has supported the Institute’s Mother’s Day Annual Walk Fundraiser since 2018. PLEASE JOIN US! We have an active and engaged group and the need is great!



Contact:

Judy Schechtman (j_schecht@hotmail.com)

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

The TBZ Climate Action group has now formed as a Dayenu Circle, part of a national Jewish climate movement focused on bold action. The newly re-formed group began meeting monthly on Zoom to select two areas of focus for the coming year. The first effort is in partnership with Dayenu and the

Environmental Voters Project, kicking off on the evening of September 20 to contact voters and encourage votes for environmental justice. The second is a program in partnership with Mothers Out Front in mid October on decarbonizing our homes. All are welcome to join us in this critically important work!



Contact Co-chairs:

Stephane Acel-Green (stephaneacelgreen@gmail.com)

Felicia Kaser (feliciakazer@gmail.com)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

TBZ is committed to anti-racist work with the goal of becoming a welcoming, culturally competent, and inclusive anti-racist synagogue community. The TBZ community will provide forums for discussion and learning, channels for activism and the tools to become competent allies within TBZ and in the wider community. All are welcome to join in bringing to life the Jewish belief that every person is made in the image of God.

Contact:

Sue Kahn (susanrkahn223@aol.com)

Leah Hager Cohen (pchelele@gmail.com)

IMMIGRATION/REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ACTION GROUP

The TBZ Immigration/Refugee Resettlement Action Group works to engage with and support immigration initiatives in the greater Boston area. Currently, TBZ is a member of the **Newton-Brookline Asylum Resettlement Coalition (NBARC)**, an inter-faith group of congregants from Boston-area synagogues and churches that helps resettle local asylum seekers and refugees. Activities include providing housing, English language and job training skills, acculturation, and other needs during the time clients are awaiting their work authorization and court dates. Two TBZ members sit on the Steering Committee, and many TBZ members serve as volunteers, particularly in helping to resettle a local family that was evacuated from Afghanistan last summer. We are currently looking for more volunteers.

Contact:

Jenny Berz (jbberz@gmail.com)

TBZ Tikkun Olam provides our community with
opportunities to follow Rabbi Tarfon's injunction:

“You are not expected to complete the task, but neither
are you free to desist from it” (*Pirkei Avot 2:21*).

ACT, ENGAGE, LEARN, SHARE, IMPACT alongside
your fellow TBZ community members.