

Fall 2022/5783

KOLEINU

קולנו

Happy Hanukkah!



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TBZ

FROM THE PRESIDENT: STAYING ON THE BIKE

by Carol Kamin

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On Rosh Hashanah, Rav Claudia did not confess to us grievous misdeeds. Instead, after much suspense, she confessed to us that she never learned to ride a bike.

Why was this relevant to Rosh Hashanah? Because as she said, the phrase, “Don’t worry, it’s like riding a bike,” often refers to our ability to re-learn something that we long-ago learned or do something that we haven’t done in a long time.

So, despite her lack of biking ability, she used that metaphor to talk to us about the challenge of getting back to “normal” after these two and a half pandemic years. For some of us getting back on the bike was easy, yet for many of us, for a myriad of reasons, it’s been rough going.

I am writing this very soon after the High Holidays. My heart is still bursting with love and gratitude for those moments during the services when I felt whole and joy-filled. During *Neilah* (the concluding service of Yom Kippur), when the voices of our community sang out the verse that guided us these High Holidays, I felt close – *karov* – spiritually.

But what happens now? How do I – how do we – not only get back on life’s bike, but get back on it with joy, with purpose and with loving kindness?

I’m struggling, as I believe many of you are too. For me, my personal answer is to be in community and to be in

fellowship with others. And, together with the TBZ Board and our professional leadership, to make certain that both our physical and spiritual foundations are strong and resilient.

As president of TBZ over these past months, I’ve been in awe of the ability of our clergy and professional staff to support our growth and all that we do and love at TBZ. From fulfilling the spiritual needs of each of us at moments of joy and vulnerability to ensuring that the administrative and building requirements are met, the TBZ spiritual leaders and staff perform with unmatched skill, compassion and professionalism.

I’ve also grown to admire all of our lay leaders and volunteers. Whether at the *bimah* during services, providing transport for those members in need, reaching out to new members to ensure their connection to the community, or grappling with the challenges facing a growing community and an old building, our lay leaders and volunteers are there for us.

TBZ is thriving with a membership of almost 450 households. From elders to families with new babies and from 20 somethings to empty nesters, our community is growing. With that growth comes two fundamental challenges.

Continued...



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TBZ

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First is to guarantee connectedness among our diverse membership so that each and every one of us can find closeness to one another and to our Jewishness. And second is to make sure that our lovely, yet old, building has the infrastructure necessary to move us confidently into the future.

So for me as TBZ president, to stay on the TBZ bike means committing to work hard to ensure that our staff remain strong, our volunteers supported, and the creaks and groans of our building get fixed. I look forward to working with the entire TBZ community to realize that commitment.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

More Opportunities coming in our Winter/Spring Lifelong Learning and Programming Booklet

The Hidden Heroine of Hanukkah, with Judith Kates

Thursday, December 8, 12:00 - 1:30pm

We don't usually hear about or read a story traditionally associated with Hanukkah in which a remarkable woman, Judith, is depicted as the savior of the Jewish people. In this class, we'll explore the Book of Judith, with its heroine who both challenges and enriches conventional depictions of women in biblical narratives. We'll also engage with the book's challenging use of sexuality and violence as part of its imagined rescue story. We'll take some time to see how this literary masterpiece builds on older biblical stories to create new perspectives on our national story.

This "Lunch and Learn" hybrid will be held at TBZ and on Zoom. Please bring a vegetarian lunch if you are attending live.

Eat, Pray, Learn

Wednesdays, 8:00am (in person only)

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

Please email rkelman@tbzbrookline.org if you would like to be added to the email list.

Reflect and Connect, a pilot program facilitated by Rabbi Sam Seicol

Monday evenings, 7:00 - 7:40pm (online only)

Using photos and brief texts to stimulate reflection, meaningful sharing and conversation, this group can be joined at any time. *Sponsored by the Aging in Community Committee, but open to all.*

Israeli Folk Dancing, with Maxine Lyons

Sunday, December 4, 2:00 - 3:30pm (in person only at TBZ)

Come and share the joys of movement and the beauty of some of the traditional Israeli folk dances that are so lively! Maxine has been dancing for many decades, enjoying both Israeli and international folk dances. She welcomes the opportunity to share circle dances with you. *Sponsored by the Aging in Community Committee, but open to all.*

Adult B'Mitzvah Program Information Session

December 12, 7:30pm (Zoom only)

Never had a B'Mitzvah ceremony? Or had one, but it didn't mean anything at the time? Maybe it did, but would mean even more now. Whatever your reason, if you're interested in affirming yourself as a Jewish adult, TBZ will be offering an adult B'mitzvah class starting in January of 2023 with a B'Mitzvah date of February 2024! That's a full year of learning and growing toward this important milestone.

RSVP to ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org for the Zoom link.



Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 - 6:00pm (in-person only)

Adult Learning with Rabbi Ebn Leader • Puppet Show • Beeswax Candlemaking
• Lego Hanukkah Contest • Jewpardy • Dreidel: Will you lose all of your gelt?

5:00pm: Community Candlelighting

Bring your own Hanukiyah with two candles to light while we sing and welcome the first night of Hanukkah together! Followed by Hanukkah treats!

Bring a donation for the Brookline Community Food Pantry.

Our Journey of Reflection: Boker Tov TBZ, Elul 5782 by Adam Teller

In the Jewish tradition, the month of *Elul* is a time of reflection, introspection, and preparation for the New Year and the High Holidays. So this September, the Boker Tov TBZ minyan decided to use the opportunity of meeting together in prayer every morning to engage in this practice and, together, make the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashana a time of reflection for all of us.

The idea was simple. We sent out a note on our mailing list: "Elul is the time to prepare for the High Holidays and the spiritual renewal which comes with true repentance, *teshuva*. So, each day, one of us will add to the prayers their own reflection related to *teshuva* or preparing for the New Year. It might be a thought, a quotation of some kind, or a poem – in fact, anything that feels relevant. The only stipulation is that it does not last more than two or three minutes."

As always with Boker Tov, there was no shortage of volunteers and so began our month-long act of spiritual exploration together. There was an additional bonus, however, for the voices we heard were new, those of friends who do not usually speak up during prayers. This year, it was their wisdom that guided us on our path of preparation.

Each day, at one of the most reflective moments of the service, between singing Psalm 150 and reciting

the *Shema*, one of those present spoke up and took us another step on our journey. We were asked to think about how we speak to each other and how we listen, the meaning of suffering, loss, and regret, the importance of hope and the possibilities of change, as well as the power of art and music among other things. We also shared some of our favorite poetry to illustrate our thoughts. The landscape we passed through together was beautiful, sometimes even scary, but it always stirred the emotions and made us think. Day after day, the whole month.

By the end, this Boker Tov mosaic of voices – the minyan's hallmark unity in diversity – had enriched the spiritual journey of each one of us with a whole range of new perspectives on *Teshuva* and the High Holidays. It was a beautiful and very moving experience.

That was not the end, however. Self-reflection is not limited to *Elul*. Once Yom Kippur was over, we gathered our thoughts, words, and beloved poems together to share with the whole TBZ community. If you look on the credenzas outside the sanctuary, you will find one or two copies in printed form; the office can send them to you as a PDF with links to the art and the music. We hope that you will find reading our reflections as meaningful as we did, writing and listening to them all *Elul* long.

HONoured TO BE HERE

by Benjamin Maron

It's hard to believe that I joined TBZ's staff just five months ago. Since walking into the corner office, you've welcomed me, shared stories from the past and hopes for the future, and made helpful suggestions along the way. I feel honoured to be working in such a warm and inclusive community, one that's both rooted in its past and open to the possibilities that the coming years can bring.

For those whom I have not yet had the privilege to meet, please stop by the office to introduce yourselves, say "hi" when I'm at services, or stop in as you pick up your students from Beit Rabban. Let me put a face with the name (or email address). Let me know what it is that you love about TBZ and what keeps you coming back; what you envision for the future of this synagogue, and what you

see as our strengths and weaknesses. And for those of you who have stopped by to introduce yourselves and share your thoughts and opinions – thank you, I'm glad that you did.



With the assistance of our wonderful staff and rabbis, Board members and lay leaders, I look forward to continuing to have conversations about TBZ, making changes, and honoring traditions along the way. With your support, I look forward to growing in my role as executive director while helping TBZ continue to flourish as well.

Rooted at TBZ, Ready to Grow

by Sara Berz

Growing up as a member of this progressive, social justice-oriented, "come as you are" synagogue has had a profound impact on the person I have become. Temple Beth Zion is welcoming to Jews of all backgrounds. The inclusive environment here has allowed me to feel as comfortable attending a URI (Union of Reform Judaism) overnight camp for many years as I did spending a summer in Israel learning from both Orthodox Jewish and Palestinian women. Many Jewish people I have befriended along the way are observant, some are Jews by choice, and some engage in Judaism by celebrating the occasional holiday: I consider them all part of my Jewish community. The interconnected web of Jewish people serves as my safety net. This is an irreplaceable gift.

Judaism has also given me a greater awareness of the world around me, which I learned, at a young age through *tikkun olam*, the idea that individual people can make the world a more accepting, equitable and tolerant place. From the time I was a toddler, I brought spare change to Hebrew school as *tzedakah*, or "charity", to donate to local organizations. I distinctly recall searching the corners

of my house for coins, delighted at the opportunity to give something of mine to help someone else. Later, Rav Claudia encouraged me to volunteer at Jewish Family and Children's Services to deliver groceries to Jewish elders in my area.

I loved seeing the joy on people's faces when I handed them their next week's meals. Eventually, my passion for service flourished beyond the walls of our shul and into my school and Boston's immigrant community.

As the president of my high school's Jewish Culture Club (JCC), I aspire to engage our community by passing along what I have learned from the teachings of *tikkun olam*. In addition, as the JCC representative to my school's Affinity and Alliance Board, I have participated in discussions and collaborations with leaders from other religious and cultural groups across campus in an effort to make my school community more accepting and informed. I look forward to doing the same at college both on campus and within the greater community.





Tikkun Olam at TBZ

Susan Bookbinder, susanbookbinder@comcast.net

Rachel Goodman, rachgood@verizon.net

Co-chairs Tikkun Olam Steering Committee

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. In the past few months, and now going forward, here are examples of what we've been up to:

GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization)

TBZ has been actively engaged in GBIO, a multifaith coalition of 62 institutions fighting for social and racial justice, since its founding in 1998. This year, we've continued our active support of GBIO's platform issues. These include Housing, Mental Health/Substance Use & Recovery (MH/SU&R), and Reentry for citizens returning from incarceration. TBZ has a "Core Team" of 12 members which is an action group of the TBZ Tikkun Olam Committee. **All** TBZ members are considered GBIO members, as we are a dues-paying member institution. There are many opportunities to be involved in this work in big and small ways!



pass the omnibus bill – especially members of the TBZ Therapists group, led by Jen Wofford.

An incredible expansion of the City of Boston's Office of Returning Citizens was also cheered at the Assembly. The testimony of GBIO Reentry Steering

Members at Boston City Council hearings was instrumental in achieving this. TBZ member Jerry Levine acts as our Reentry Action Team captain, and has led efforts to bring awareness to the challenges facing returning citizens, like the ability to obtain state identification cards and licenses upon release from incarceration. Another huge challenge for returning citizens is finding housing, as many landlords will not rent to persons with criminal records.



TBZ members caucusing at the Delegates' Assembly on November 10th

On November 10th, GBIO held a Delegates' Assembly to deliberate on a Housing Justice Campaign Proposal and to hear updates from the Mental Health/Substance Use & Recovery Action (MH/SU&R) Team and the Reentry Team.

The MH/SU&R Team celebrated the passage of an omnibus mental health bill by the state legislature, and reported on research efforts to identify opportunities for action focused on community-based services. TBZ member, Gary Kaplan, helped lead these efforts as part of GBIO's Steering Team for MH/SU&R, and many TBZers engaged in calling and writing our state legislators to help

A detailed overview of the Housing Justice Campaign proposal was presented at the Delegates Assembly, and in GBIO style, many stories from people with lived experience of housing injustice were heard. The proposal was overwhelmingly approved. The proposal calls for a multi-pronged, comprehensive, statewide Housing Justice campaign to include: public housing, affordable rental and homeownership, and housing access.

TBZ member Rosalind Joffe, our GBIO Housing Action Team captain and an active steering team member of GBIO's public housing steering team, has collaborated with TBZ's Tikkun Olam Housing Action Group in education and advocacy efforts across several housing justice issues. Our own housing expert, Jonathan Klein, led a series of trainings.

There will be many upcoming chances for TBZ members to support GBIO's efforts in the Housing Justice Campaign,

as well as the continuing work on Mental Health/ Substance Use & Recovery and Reentry. One way – in addition to providing our “people power” to support GBIO’s work in organizing for change - is to help fund GBIO’s amazing paid organizing staff by donating to the Impact

Fund. TBZ member Aileen Grossman is chairing our efforts to support GBIO develop power with “organized money.” To find out more how to get involved, please contact TBZ’s GBIO liaisons: Jane Daniels - janedaniels36@gmail.com and Rachel Goodman - rachgood@verizon.net.

Gun Violence Prevention

This Ain't Normal.... but TBZ's Participation Is

At a TBZ Gun Violence Prevention Action Group event Wednesday evening, November 9th. TBZ chaverim joined with others at Temple Beth Elohim (Wellesley) to watch highlights from the award-winning film *This Ain't Normal* followed by a powerful panel discussion. The featured panelists included Dr. Alisha R. Moreland, Director of Trauma Informed Response at McLean Hospital; Donald Osgood Sr, Boston Street Outreach Worker; and Coach Dennis G. Wilson, who co-produced this award-winning film. Janet Goldenberg, President Emerita, of the Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence (MACOPGV) moderated the discussion.



TBZ's Gun Violence Prevention Action Group attended an event on November 9th

The film provides an insider’s look into the world of Boston gang-involved youth and those working to save and change lives. In their own words, young men shared their stories and day-to-day realities. The film is a vehicle to change the narrative of violence – to use storytelling to educate, promote conversation, to organize, and to have an impact on individuals, families, and communities. This is a call to action.

In her introductory remarks, Ruth Zakarin, Executive Director of the MACOPGV, described the gathering as a Ministry of Presence, which comes from the writings of Henri Nouwen. Thanks to all the TBZ members for their presence. There will be many more opportunities to engage in the weeks and months to follow. For further information, please contact Judy Schechtman, TBZ Gun Violence Prevention Action Group chair, j_schecht@hotmail.com.

Defending Democracy

To support voting rights and voter education we continue the work of the past few years supporting Get Out the Vote efforts all over the country to expand the electorate and encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote. Post-carding, phone-banking and marching in community-wide demonstrations whenever necessary are our primary modes of action. In addition, we have selected abortion access and abortion rights as a key theme of our work for the year ahead. We will do this in partnership with JCRC and others to amplify all our voices. Please join us! For questions, comments or more info please contact Fran Adams, franaca.adams@gmail.com or Julia Freedson, jfreedson@yahoo.com.



TBZers get together for a postcarding action event.

Continued...

Affordable Housing

Housing affordability has been a challenge for decades and the situation is only becoming more dire. This is true in Greater Boston – even in Brookline. Work with TBZ's Housing Action Group which works in coalition with GBIO and others, to reform restrictive zoning, support new affordable housing developments in our Brookline neighborhoods, and increase funding for public housing. To get involved in this work, contact Jonathan Klein, jklein728@gmail.com or Rosalind Joffe, rosalind@cicoach.com.

The Partakers Empowerment Program

TBZ members can serve as mentors to formerly incarcerated women and men who are enrolled in a 12-week virtual workshop offered by the Partakers Empowerment Program. Mentors are matched with mentees who communicate by Zoom and phone to help navigate the challenges that fall outside the bandwidth of these workshops. The goal is to help and be there for formerly incarcerated people so that they can more fully integrate into society and their families in a positive way. In December Partakers will offer an information meeting for any TBZ member who are interested in becoming a trained tutor for incarcerated individuals studying for college degrees. To learn more about these opportunities, contact Maxine Lyons, maxineiris@comcast.net or Steve Lewis, steveelliotlewis3@gmail.com.



Look for our monthly Tikkun Olam tables at Shabbat Kiddush lunches to ask questions or tell us your ideas. And come join in our work!



TBZ's Climate Action Group at Chase Bank

Climate Action

The TBZ Climate Action Group is now a Dayenu Circle, part of a national Jewish climate movement focused on bold action. In September, in partnership with Dayenu and the Environmental Voters Project, we met to contact voters and encourage votes for environmental justice. In October, in partnership with Mothers Out Front, we offered a program on decarbonizing our homes. Please join us in this critically important work! Contact Stephane AcelGreen, stephaneacelgreen@gmail.com or Felicia Kaser, feliciakazer@gmail.com.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Following the DEI training that concluded in September, we will be planning forums for discussion and learning, channels for activism, and the tools to become competent allies within TBZ and the wider community. This will soon be announced, and all are welcome to join in bringing to life the Jewish belief that every person is made in the image of God.

Immigration/Refugee Resettlement Action Group

We're a member of the Newton-Brookline Asylum Resettlement Coalition (NBARC), an interfaith group of Boston-area churches and synagogues that helps resettle local asylum seekers and refugees. Currently we're working with an Afghan family of two parents and four young children who were evacuated from Afghanistan a year ago. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with English learning, acculturation, driving, and other needs. We're also looking for someone from TBZ who is interested in helping to think through issues as they come up. Please contact Jenny Berz, jbberz@gmail.com to find out more.

Supporting Each Other: TBZ MEN'S GROUP

by Louis Gippetti

I jumped at the chance to offer a first-person reflection about our TBZ Men's Group. Even though I find it hard to write down my thoughts, I feel like my involvement with the Men's Group has had a transformative effect on my life, and I wanted to share that with you, my TBZ community.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with our Men's Group, we meet weekly, mostly on Zoom since the pandemic, and we each have a chance to express how we're feeling about whatever is going on in our lives that we choose to share. What I love about the group is that it's a safe space to be as deeply personal about ourselves as we want to be. We divide up the time equally based on the number of men in the session, which usually numbers from 12-15 participants. The other men simply listen to whomever is speaking without interruption, without judgement, without giving advice. We do have occasional breakout sessions where we can receive feedback if we ask for it, and men can and do follow up with each other outside the sessions themselves.

In my previous personal experience, I'd never been all that comfortable around men; from adolescence onward, much of my interaction with men felt like they were more interested in "winning" than with communicating. And I sometimes find it hard to express myself fully, which made such interactions even harder and riskier. It took me a while to accept that the men in our Men's Group were not like that. Over successive sessions, I came to trust them more and more and grew confident that they wanted to hear from me which made it easier to show more of myself.

Hearing other men's stories about their lives can also be a gateway to learning more about myself. I often am reminded of my own experiences when they describe the things that are on their minds and how they're handling them. It can open me up to fresh thinking about how I've approached similar issues in the past and how I might apply these learnings to my present life. In that way, our interactions can have a therapeutic effect for me, even though the group is by no means a therapy group.

My life has been a journey that has brought me closer and closer to adopting a Jewish identity. I have always found my associations with Jewish people to be more reliably comfortable and nourishing than with the population at large. Having married a Jewish woman, my children were raised Jewish and I've delighted in their Jewish expression and in the acceptance I've felt from the extended family. But it has been my involvement with the wonderfully accepting TBZ community and in particular my interaction with the warm and welcoming men in our Men's Group that has been like a window to the richness of living a full Jewish life. Together these experiences have led me to decide to formally convert to Judaism. I'm looking forward to studying with Rav Claudia in the coming year. And I will continue to gain nourishment from the meaningful relationships with the men I have come to know in our Men's Group.



OUR INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY:

Engaging with Anava (Humility)

by Rav Claudia

Early November we had the first community-wide dinner at TBZ since before the pandemic started. It was such a wonderful celebration! Over 125 people of all ages attended. We had three tables of children; one for younger kids, one for pre-teens and one for teenagers. We had two tables of our new *Dor Hadash* (New Generation, 20s and 30s) members and friends – a new group that continues to grow at TBZ. And we had adults of all ages joining in this joyous meal. We sang and connected, and met new and old friends. At the end of the night when I and other parents were trying to leave the building we were held back by the kids, especially the teens who did not want to leave. They were having a great time hanging out at TBZ in community, in the space that has been their home since they were young. I was moved by their enthusiasm, and by the energy of TBZ members of all ages and walks of life coming together to celebrate Shabbat.

There are so many things I love about our community. One of the things that I am most proud of is being part of an intentional intergenerational community. As you read this *Koleinu*, you will hear from so many people in our community, from Wise Aging to Beit Rabban and so much more.

Being part of a multi-generational community where we invest in developing relationships between people in different stages of lives is not something we see or experience often enough. Usually, many of us hang out mainly with people in our own cohorts, and of course that is wonderful, but the possibility of bridging older and younger, single and partnered, empty-nesters and new parents is unique and something that we celebrate at TBZ.

As a parent, I love seeing my children connect with people of all ages, it teaches them values like respect and encourages them to see themselves beyond their own reality as children. The truth is that this applies to everyone of us. As we encourage children to learn from elders, our tradition also teaches that we learn from all people, as we read in *Pirkei Avot* 4:1 (Ethics of our Ancestors) “Who is Wise? One Who Learns from All People.” We are not told to learn from people who are more experienced and knowledgeable than us, we are told that our human experience is enriched by opening ourselves to learn from all: people that are different from us, people of different ages. The Talmud goes even further quoting Rabbi Chanina who declared that, “I have learned much from my teachers, more from my

colleagues and most from students.” (*Ta’anit* 7a). This is part of what we try to do at TBZ in our educational program. You can read more about this in Rav Tiferet’s piece on page 14.

For each and every one of us to be able to engage in real relationships with other people, especially those different from us in age, and background, means to deepen our sense of humility. Humility, or *anava*, is a central trait in *Mussar* (a virtue-based ethics – based on the idea that by cultivating inner virtues, we improve ourselves). Rabbi David Jaffe explains in his book *Changing the World from the Inside Out: A Jewish Approach to Personal and Social Change*, that “Humility is knowing the proper amount of space to take up in any situation and not rigidly holding on to one’s predilection to take up a lot or little space (page 129). He also writes that, “Humility is knowing what is needed from you in the moment and responding accordingly whether this means boldly stepping up or refraining from responding even when this means setting aside your personal inclinations and prior plans” (page 114). *Anava* is a powerful tool for growth, for depth, for relationships, for showing up in the world with our gifts and our shortcomings and being open to whatever we might encounter. (I am excited to announce that Rabbi David Jaffe will be teaching a ten session program at TBZ with Rav Tiferet using the curriculum: Dismantling Racism From The Inside Out. Stay tuned for more information in our Winter/Spring programming book and read more about it in Rav Tiferet’s piece on page 14).

Being part of an intentional multi-generational community means deepening our connections to groups, and people who are not just of our own cohort; being open to learn from each other; not assuming that one generation knows better than another and knowing that we are much better together. As I shared in my Yom Kippur sermon, there is a known concept in our tradition: **או חֲבֻרָה אוּ מִיתוּתָא** (O havruta o mituta) – Either friendship or death. The concept of *havrutah* is the concept of a partner or friend, traditionally a torah learning partner who you are in a relationship with learning Jewish text. *Havrutah*

“Being part of an intentional multi-generational community means deepening our connections to groups, and people who are not just of our own cohort; being open to learn from each other; not assuming that one generation knows better than another and knowing that we are much better together.”

is usually not a one time encounter, but a lasting relationship centered on learning and in deep personal connection. This concept appears in the Talmud in the Tractate of *Ta’anit* 23a, following the well known story of *Honi Hame’agel*, the circle maker, that we tell around *Tu B'Shvat* (New Year of the Trees). Honi, who sleeps for seventy years, wakes up to a world that doesn’t recognize him, that does not see him, he has no partnership, no friendship. He is lonely. Honi becomes very upset, prays for mercy and dies. This is an example of this concept: Either friendship or death. Perhaps we can understand it as the essentiality of being in relationship with others, of being part of a real community, otherwise there is nothing, no growth, no possibilities, no opportunities.

I believe and hope that TBZ allows friendship, connection, to happen and my hope is that each and every one of us takes advantage of this opportunity, truly and honestly. Engaging with humility with each other in deep and meaningful ways, not just with our friends but with everyone.

As we begin to prepare to celebrate Hanukkah may each and every one of us bring light to those around us and may we receive the lights that others share with us.

Rav Claudius

Torah as Drama

by Reb Moshe

Over the last years in our weekly Torah study, we have had an opportunity to broaden our depth of insight and experience by emphasizing the performative nature of the text.

Years ago, Peter Pitzele in a wonderful book, *Our Father's Wells: Personal Encounters with the Myths of Genesis*, introduced us to Bibliodrama, a method of entering the text by reenacting and embodying the characters in its stories as flesh and blood actors. These re-enactments are a form of modern midrash.

As we play the roles of the Torah's protagonists or see the dramatic staging of the encounters in text, we enjoy the visceral experience of performance. It is precisely in conjuring up the drama of these passages, particularly in *Sefer Bereishit*, that we can achieve what the Greek theatre tradition calls catharsis. For the Greeks catharsis was purification or purgation of emotions primarily through Art.

Biblical stories have been rendered in pictorial art throughout the millennia. Among the works of the Italian Masters (Caravaggio and others) these stories are brought to life in a visceral way conveying the viewer to catharsis.

In our re-enactment of the *Avodah* ritual of the *Kohen Gadol* on Yom Kippur we aim for a spiritual renewal and a release from our fear and trembling. A more literal translation of Yom Kippur is Day of Purgation. We leave this re-enactment, assured of its veracity in our processes of *teshuva* (repentance).

When we employ these techniques our insights into the Torah text are enhanced. When we conjure up the incidents in the Torah by placing them on a large stage, we see the protagonists standing before us in different tableaux that catch the eye.

There are so many dramatic encounters in the Abraham and Sarah stories. For instance, the two passages we read



on Rosh Hashanah, the expulsion of Hagar and the binding of Isaac, offer dramatic dialogue, drama, and setting.

The story of the expulsion has Sarah stage right, Hagar and Ishmael center stage, and Abraham stage left – the dialogue ensues with the silent Hagar and her child are subject to the dialogue between Sarah and her husband, Hagar. the subject of their altercation. The voice of God speaks to Abraham in the form of Ishmael's voice.

The next scene finds Hagar still center stage surrounded by wilderness, she tosses Ishmael onto a pile of soft bulrushes, and a voice in the form of a babbling brook awakens her from her stupefaction. She sees the child and hears the babbling blessing of the brook. Curtain.

So too in the binding of Isaac. Stage left Abraham arising in a state of confusion. He puts the pillow over his ears to smother a harassing whir. He tosses, turns, and sees the slow sunrise. He joins the members of the expedition center stage. He takes Isaac's hand. Their poignant dialogue ensues.

An altar appears stage right. The expedition disperses to stage right as Abraham and Isaac ascend the mountain.

The scene moves to stage right and Isaac places himself on the altar. We hear the soft bleating of a ram in the distance. As he lifts his knife the rhythmic bleating gets louder and louder. God's voice is heard in the ram's bleating.

Abraham drops the knife and falls to his knees hugging his legs shouting out in agony, *hineni* – I am here. Awakened to his attempted murder of his son he moves quickly to help Isaac off the altar. They hug and cry. These cries turn to laughter as Isaac's name denote. They exit to the sound of the loud rush of flapping wings.

There are countless opportunities to embody our Biblical tradition. Making the characters of our Torah real helps us to internalize them as our original family.

In opposition to the Greco-Roman theatre where God or gods appear in the third act to function as a *Deus ex machina* to overcome the essential conflicts of the plays, our Torah texts has God on stage throughout

the drama and enters into conversation with the actors throughout the play. God, as a hovering voice over the deep brings us into conversation with Divine, the ultimate force of reconciliation of these conflicts.

I bring this to you as an invitation to regular Torah study. The Torah as drama is a potentially a new way for us to explore our Torah text in a visceral way, making our relationship with its protagonists alive and in the moment. Using our imagination, we continue a rich rabbinic tradition of interpretation. Imagination and interpretation are cornerstones of our Jewish way of studying Torah.

Go and study.

“VOICES OF OUR RABBINIC INTERNS”

by Sarah Rovin

I have been fortunate to have had a bit of space the last couple weeks to reflect on the whirlwind that has been the start to my rabbinic internship at TBZ. I feel like I have grown exponentially in my short time here and I am so grateful for the community's warm welcome and embrace. Almost instantly I could see what a special community we have at TBZ, truly intergenerational with folks of all ages participating in every aspect of the shul. My favorite part of every week is when we bless each other on Shabbat morning and see the faces of each generation smiling and sending their blessings to one another. Although I have just begun my learning here I already have so many stories and moments of learning and connecting with the folks in the family service, my Beit Rabban learners, and the members who chat with me and tell me their stories. I feel blessed to be learning and growing in this community and look forward to the abundance of this year!



by Josh Greenberg

After spending the last two years working with some of our youngest learners in Beit Rabban, this year I am returning to working with our TBZ B'Mitzvah group. Not only do I get to learn with our soon-to-be adult members every Wednesday – as well as many Shabbat mornings during WonderMinyan – but I also have the opportunity to learn with them one on one as I help each of them craft the *d'var Torah* (words of Torah) they will share during their b'mitzvah.



My role when working individually with these budding Jewish adults is little more than secretarial. Really, as I explain to them, I'm only there to help them organize their thoughts into a cohesive and genuine teaching. Although the lifting I do is minimal, I am consistently and simultaneously inspired and humbled by their entirely unique takes on the parsha they have worked so hard on mastering. This experience has allowed me to understand each of the learners on a far more fundamental level. It's one thing when we learn together as a cohort during our Wednesday evening sessions; each voice is indispensable to the chorus of our learning. It is another thing entirely to hear their solo voices, putting the thoughts of their hearts into a teaching that reflects their truest self.

Our Wellspring of Potential

by Rav Tiferet

The Talmud of Shabbat 119b says *ain ha'olam mitkayem*, the world could not sustain itself, were it not for the *hevel* of the children of Beit Rabban. Often translated as “breath,” Rabbi Rami Shapiro translates *hevel* as impermanence. In an educational setting, *hevel* can be a thought. A thought is an impermanence, something that passes, something that can change and even though we say, “hang onto that thought,” how could we? Thoughts are *hevelim*, fleeting. So, we can understand the Talmud as teaching us that the world would not be able to come into existence, to fulfill its potential, were it not for the thoughts of the children of Beit Rabban! Those thoughts, those musings, those ideas, are the sustenance of our world. Our children are the wellspring of our fullest potential. And, as educators, parents, and Jewish community, our shared responsibility is helping to bring forth these world-sustaining thoughts. *Mah nora!* How awesome! An opportunity full of awe, both fear and wonder.

What exactly is Beit Rabban? Beit Rabban literally means “house of rabbis.” This is the name that Rav Claudia intentionally chose for our youth education program (don’t call it a Hebrew school! I’m happy to explain why!). Coming into a *beit rabban*, a house of rabbis, allows for learners to experience Judaism lived and practiced in a meaningful way, where every inhabitant is a resource. For me TBZ itself is a *beit rabban*, a house of learned folk, that serve as resources for each other.

At TBZ, there are so many wonderful opportunities for meaningful Jewish engagement. Besides our thriving Beit Rabban Youth Education program, we welcome young Jews for WonderMinyan from 0-12 (and 0-12 at heart!).

At WonderMinyan, we immerse our youth in the joy, spirituality, and meaning of our Jewish prayer traditions. With guitar, drums, and song, we celebrate Shabbat and the wonders of our world. We have a new cohort of JLiT (Jewish Leaders in Training - 8th Graders) that gathers twice a month, as well as teens who join with other Jewish learners from the Greater Boston area at The Tent (hosted at Temple Israel).

Something we learned from the survey last spring is that you are looking for ways to engage deeply with one topic. One offering that I am very excited to present is with Rabbi David Jaffe, **Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out through Mussar**. The Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar is designed to get the heart to feel what the head knows through concrete action. The language of the heart is practice and Mussar is a discipline of concrete acts of practice. Mussar uses a framework of middot/character traits (such as *Anavah* – humility, see Rav Claudia’s piece on page 10) to organize a program of growth, drawing on Torah wisdom about the traits and concrete practices to integrate ideas into the whole self.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions for programming, I’m happy to hear them.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

December 10, 6:00pm



Please come for our first in-person Annual Community Meeting



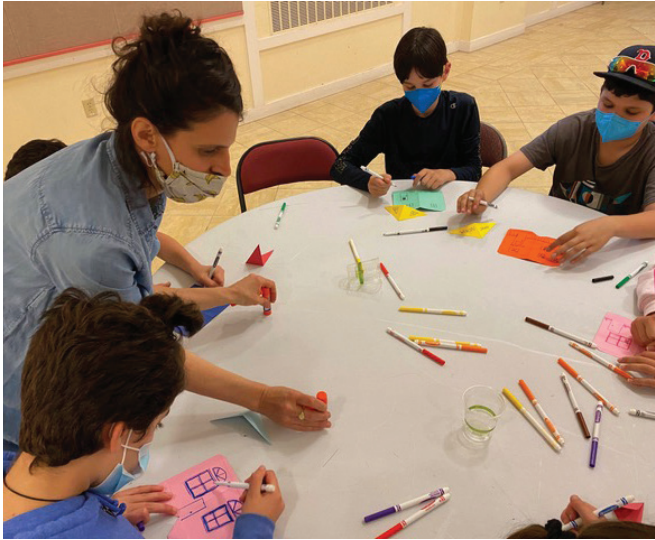
since the pandemic started! We want to see your faces and make a party of it!

Join in our joyous Havdalah service with wine and cheese (non-alcoholic and gluten-free options)

followed by voting on the slate of nominees for election to the TBZ Board of Directors.

All ages are welcome!

Beit Rabban in Action



Above: Beit Rabban students learn through art



Above: Apple Picking at Honey Pot Hill Orchards



NEWS FROM NISHMAT HAYYIM:

The Breath of Life Meditation Project at TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

Our Contemplative High Holiday Services

Norman Fischer teaches us – “When we sit we recognize the crucial, divine importance of absolutely everything that arises—every thought, every feeling, every breath, every unspeakable, unnameable impulse. But also we recognize the ultimate importance of the others—of the sky, of all the sounds inside and outside the room. As the mind becomes a little more quiet the sacredness of everything within and without becomes clear to us.”

We were humbled to be asked again to offer this service to the TBZ community. One participant reflected on the experience:

“I have always had trouble with the spiritual aspect of Yom Kippur. This year was different. Stretching myself to open to new experiences, I attended the Nishmat Hayyim service, perhaps TBZ’s best kept secret. Finally, I found a deep and personal (also communal) spiritual meaning in that awe-ful day. The small venue and limited (yet high-quality) in-person attendance made the service feel intimate. Each of the four leaders had moving messages, and the selection of prayers and piyutim (poems) was perfect. Sheila’s singing and guitar playing was gentle and inspiring, touching the heartstrings. Reb Moshe’s stirring voice-- and his spiritual as well as earthly wisdom--were a privilege to hear. Best of all, the service offered a period of silence after each prayer, so that one could hold the content in a quieter and more spacious perspective.

Thank you so much, all four leaders, for making this service available at TBZ. Please continue to offer this service and others like it.” -Tammy Mitchell

Seasonal Opportunities to Build a Meditation Practice

With winter approaching we may spend more time inside our homes as cold air and powerful storms pass through our communities. This may be a wonderful opportunity to begin or strengthen your contemplative practice. You may have extra time to meditate during the day or evening. If you are a lover of winter, walking mindfully outside allows you to notice the changes in the environment that winter brings – glistening snow and icicle covered trees. Meditating on the lit Shabbat or Hanukkah candles is another winter option. There are so many ways one can weave meditation and mindfulness practice into any moment of one's daily life.

Friday Morning Meditation Mindfulness sessions 9:30 - 11:00am at TBZ

Each Friday sit begins with a niggun (chant), followed by brief instruction, a 40 minute meditation sit, silent walking meditation/mindful movement, a teaching to deepen our practice, Q&A/reflections, and a closing.

New Meditation Program with Beit Rabban

This year, Bobbi Isberg, a core team member of Nishmat Hayyim, will be offering monthly meditation/teaching sessions for parents as a way for parents to experience, deepen, or start a practice. We are thrilled that Rav Claudia and Rav Tiferet will weave these sessions into Beit Rabban as we seek to further interconnectedness within TBZ.

Whether joining a Friday morning meditation practice group, a contemplative Shabbat, or having your own Shabbat afternoon sit, we have become a practice community built on shared experiences that nurture each other. In our meditation sits, in community or alone, we witness the unfolding of 'being'. We witness what arises from deep within us moment to moment, embracing these moments with compassion. What arises is the very fabric, the essence, that weaves our journey toward a greater understanding of 'being' in the world, bringing light to the dark and warmth to the cold, and filled with gratitude for this wondrous, sacred journey called life. Heshel writes:

"Awareness of the divine comes with wonder – an authentic awareness of that which is. And if we believe that we were made in God's image, then that which 'is' – is the truth of the moment, perhaps the holiness of the moment even if it may be pain, or happiness, or sadness, or anger, or compassion, or fear."

Contemplative Shabbats as well as retreats will be coming in the new year.

Join us for any of our offerings which are posted on the TBZ calendar and in Happenings.

Contact nishmathayyim@tbzbrookline.org with questions.

Wishing everyone a light filled Hanukkah, and a happy secular New Year!

Scenes from Recent Special Events at TBZ



Above: The Literary Mafia with Josh Lambert



Above: The Pearl and the Flame at TBZ

A VIEW FROM JERUSALEM: GIVING AT TBZ

by Sarah Fendrick, Vice-President Development

I write this while sitting in an old stone house café that glows like honey in the late autumn sunlight. I'm in Jerusalem, on Rehov Emek Refaim, indulging my senses with cardamom coffee and buttery chocolate rugalach while listening to the cacophony of Hebrew, English and Russian voices mixing with the birds calls from the trees above my table . . . at this moment, all is very well. So let me pause in my reverie and convey to you, the TBZ membership, what needs to be said:

As Development Chair I have the pleasure to report that because so many of you have given to the Annual High Holiday Appeal so far, I am confident that by the end of 2022 we will meet our goal of \$170,000 towards TBZ's organizational budget. To those who have participated in this year's Appeal – thank you! And to those who haven't yet, I urge each of you, for whatever reason that moves you, please give to this year's Appeal, and if you can, please give a little more than last year to help us get to our goal.

Why do I give to the Appeal? As I breathe in the spirit of Jerusalem, I appreciate TBZ even more. Jerusalem is such an intense place – a spiritual kaleidoscope that dazzles, perplexes, excites, exhausts, and sometimes overwhelms. In Jerusalem, my daughter has been struggling to come to terms with who she is as a Jew and I am relieved that she has found a comfortable community (Pardes) in which to explore her ideas, learn new skills, provide context, and connect with other people who share her journey. And I am delighted that after a few years of exploration, her journey has led her to Jewish renewal – what we do so well at TBZ. Jewish renewal has renewed her spirit, as it has mine, and I look forward to the time when she may be the next generation of TBZ. As Development Chair and as the mother of a seeker I have been thinking a lot about the concept of *l'dor v'dor* – what the next generation will receive from us that will sustain and strengthen them so they too can give to the generation that follows them. I give because of the importance of *l'dor v'dor* – to show my gratitude for what our community values



and to help preserve TBZ for those future seekers and doers like my daughter.

There is a Talmudic story of a man planting a carob tree in a field in Jerusalem in the 1st century. A traveler comes through his field and asks the man: “How long will it be until this tree to bear fruit?” The man replies, “Seventy years.” Says the traveler, “But will you live another 70 years to eat its fruit?” The man replies, “Probably not. But, my entire life I have eaten from the carob trees that my father and grandfather planted. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting so that my children and grandchildren will eat the fruit from these trees.”

I thank each of you, for what you do for the TBZ of now and for the TBZ we are planting for the future.

A love Letter to Sukkot

by Rebecca Mautner

Twelve years ago, on the first day of Sukkot 5771, I came to TBZ for the first time. I always associate Sukkot with TBZ, but didn't realize until the holiday that there are many reasons for this, beyond that coincidence of my first arrival.

Many people consider Yom Kippur the peak of our religious year, and yet in many ways, I think it is just preparing us for Sukkot. In fact, there is evidence that in ancient times, Sukkot was The Holiday of the year. (In the Torah and *Ketuvim* (Writings, the final section of the Hebrew Bible), Sukkot is referred to in *Vayikra* (Leviticus) and *Malachim* (Kings) as *haHag* (the holiday). It was the time of the public reading of the Torah (*Devarim* (Deuteronomy) 31:10-13). Some scholars think that Yom Kippur was all a ritual to prepare the Temple for the big holiday of the year, Sukkot.

The major themes of Sukkot illustrate why I think Sukkot is The TBZ Holiday!

Sukkot is about joy.

It is called *zman simchatenu* – the holiday of our happiness.

- At TBZ, we worship with joy. Our mission statement says we are committed to “joyful participatory worship.”
- My daughter is a high school junior and we are beginning to prepare for her moving on. During one of our more exuberant moments of Yom Kippur musaf, I realized I needed to let her know that not every Jewish community celebrates Yom Kippur with so much joy. “You know, at some synagogues, Yom Kippur is kind of somber,” I said to her. She was shocked.

Sukkot is about journeying.

One of the themes of Sukkot is that a sukkah is a temporary dwelling, it signifies the Jews' journey from Mount Sinai to Eretz Israel. The sukkah symbolizes the way God travels with us in the desert.

- Everyone at TBZ is on a Jewish journey. For some of us, we come to TBZ from a secular life and it is our way into Jewish practice. Others of us had a more traditional

background, but were seeking more *ruach* (spirit) or focus on *tikkun olam*. We have many in our community who were not raised Jewish and are beginning their Jewish journeys at TBZ. One thing we have in common is we are all journeying.

Sukkot is about engaging in the physical world.

We celebrate the harvest. We decorate the sukkah. In stark contrast to Yom Kippur, when we face death and retreat from the physical world, Sukkot is about celebrating engagement in the material world. At TBZ:

- We enjoy the physical world – we have beautiful art, like the faith quilts.
- We eat lots of food together every Shabbat.
- We make our TBZ family activities abundant with construction paper, glitter, wax to make candles, pipe cleaners, snacks!

Sukkot is about vulnerability.

- The sukkah must be fragile enough that a strong wind will knock it down.
- Our DEI initiative requires all of us to be vulnerable – Jews of color to share openly, and white Jews to face our racism. On Yom Kippur, Rav Claudia reminded us how we all need to face where we act in oppressive ways. She modeled vulnerability by sharing a time she acted out racism without realizing it.
- Our Tikkun Olam efforts are a response to recognizing how vulnerable our planet is, how in danger many people are due to oppression in our world.

Sukkot is about community.

- One wall of the sukkah is open to the world
- We invite guests – both real and ushpizin, (historic figures), whom we “invite” to our table.
- Building community is a hallmark of TBZ.



May Sukkot always bring you the right mix of vulnerability and enjoyment of community and the physical world.

Todah Rabah!

We wish a hearty **thank you** to all of the volunteers who helped make the holidays at TBZ run smoothly.

- To our ushers and greeters, with a special thanks to Eddie Taub: Ariadne Valsamis, Becca Plaut Mautner, Bernie Plovnick, Beverly Sky, Carol Kamin, Dan Kirschner, Daniel Langenthal, David Ofsevit, Debbie Korn, Debbie Lipton, Eddie Taub, Heva Valentine, Ilana Margalit, Jane Daniels, Jen Klein, Jonathan Klein, Joshua Blouwolf, Judith Epstein-Fisher, Kenneth Reich, Larry Kraus, Leah Abrahams, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Liz Aeschlimann, Louisa Ould Ouali, Lyle Greenman, Mark Barnett, Mark Dinaburg, Michael Krieger, Nikki Horberg Decter, Rachel Goodman, Rebecca Blouwolf, Sandy Taub, Sara Smolover, Sarah Fendrick, Sue Kahn, and Wilson Kapanga-Ndjibu;
- To the congregants who gave out honors and did “bimah duties,” with special thanks to Renee Rudnick and Sara Smolover: Alan Weisner, Amy Bullock, Cindy-jo Gross, David Cherenon, Deb Gaffin, Deb Stang, Eddie Taub, Fran Adams, James Cohen, Jay Zagorsky, Jonathan Klein, Lauren Garlick, Rachel Goodman, Rebecca Blouwolf, Sandy Taub, Sarah Fendrick, Sue Kahn, Susan Bookbinder, and Susan Farber;
- To the congregants who shared their wonderful personal prayers and inspiring words: Alan Weisner, Ben Billingsley, Rabbi Daniel Klein, Jen Klein, Josh Lambert, Judith Kates, Lila Decter, Mara Accl-Green, Rachie Lewis, and Sarah Rovin;
- To our wonderful Nishmat Hayyim team for leading contemplative services and other offerings: Reb Moshe, Bobbi Isberg, Reggie Silberberg, and Sheila Yocheved Katz;
- To Rabbi Sam Seicol and Josh Greenberg for leading study sessions on Zoom and in person, and Rav Tiferet for leading a special Yizkor gathering on Zoom.
- To our Torah and Haftarah readers, with special thanks to Larry Kraus: Alan Weisner, Amit Segal, Cindy-jo Gross, Rabbi Ebn Leader, Gary Cohen, Joshua Blouwolf, Judith Kates, Molly Silver, Prina Lahav, Renee Rudnick, Richard Bennet, Ronnie Levin, Sara Smolover, Sheila Katz, and Susie Rodenstein;
- To Kim Meyers, Rebecca and Benjamin Zagorsky, and David and Lilly Feldman for blowing shofar on Rosh Hashanah;
- To Alma Kreiman-Leader and Noah Weinberg for blowing shofar at the end of Yom Kippur;
- To Phyllis Brawarsky for making sure all of our whites were laundered for the High Holidays;
- To Rabbi Ebn Leader for leading in Selichot, the shofar service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and the contemplative Simchat Torah celebration;
- To Eva Kates for playing cello on Kol Nidre;
- To Josh Greenberg, Noah Weinberg, Sarah Rovin, and Rav Tiferet for leading joyous Family Services and family programming together with Ezra Klauber on flute, Eiden Margalit, Hailey Kaplan-Byrnes and Valea Lindauer-Cohen on drums, and everyone who read, had honors, and participated in the Jonah Play;
- To Josh Henrich, Louisa Ould Ouali, Natalie Henrich, Irina Posternak, Rav Tiferet and Galya for decorating the TBZ sukkah;
- To the Board of Directors for their work ensuring that the High Holidays would be meaningful for all;



Thank you to all who helped with our preparation for the High Holy Days!

- To Sarah Fendrick and the Development Committee for their work;
- To 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 in community safely;
- To Jack Daniels for his help getting the building ready, and his commitment to averting and resolving crises;
- To Micah Klein and Gabriel Krause-Grosman for being an amazing tech team and making sure people at home can enjoy our joyful services on Zoom and YouTube;
- To our amazing davening team who lift us up during these holidays: Noah Weinberg, Aviva Herr-Welber, Michal Shein, Rafi Ellenson, Sarah Rovin and Amit Segal;
- To those who helped Rav Claudia with beautiful and thoughtful editing of sermons: Jordan Namerow and Rabbi Or Rose;
- To our childcare providers and helpers, Etleva Gashi and Tatiana Becker, and our teen helpers, Amira Barnett, Emma Acel-Green, Maya Bitton, Rachel Krause-Grosman, Ruby Marx, and Samuel Acel-Green;
- To Maira Samayoa for serving us break fast, to Amy Schottenfels and Jonathan Klein for organizing it, and to Edna from Ora Catering;
- To the Signal 88 Security team, including Melvinson, Nerina, James, Venson, Carlos, Donald, Kenny, and Ebuka;
- To our TBZ staff, including executive director Benjamin Maron, Rochelle Kelman, Stephanie Dyer, and April Ropes. And to Sandy Garcia, our custodian, who makes sure that our sanctuary and building are always ready for us.

**Todah rabah, thank you.
We couldn't have done it without
each and every one of you!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Simone Albeck
Eva & Ben Armour and their children, Annie & Amos
Simeon & Margo Atha
Simcha Barkai & Lucy Msall
Ilana Ben Harav
Benjamin Billingsley
Annette Bogot
Susan Crimmins
Anita Feld & Norman Saranovitz
Lina Feuerstein
Daniel Gipetti
Alissa & Peter Golbus and their son, Aaron
Laurie Gould
Robert Greenberg
Ken Grossman & Dorothy Zachmann
EmmaRose Joffe & Dylan Nelson
Susan Kahn
Tamar & Jeremy Kaim Doniger and their daughter, Hanna Lise
Daniel Kamin & Klaire Kamin-Rankin
Nancy Lipman
Gila Lyons & Joel Stanley and their son Judah
Liz Miraglia
Celia Moses
Tina Odin-O'Neal
Ken Reich & Susan Rosbrow-Reich
Joe Reimer
Nina Robinson & Michael Rozensher
Joel & Laura Segel
Amy Simon
Hannah Swartz & Eric Moskowitz and their children Arlo & Izzy
Rebecca Swartz and her son Reuben
Lorraine & Michael Tempel
Marcos Torres
Aliza Wasserman
Chuck Weinstein
Michelle Wexelblat

Why I joined TBZ:



Our child attends Rashi, a local Jewish day school. Kabbalat Shabbat at Rashi is a raucous affair with jumping and dancing and call-and-response shouting. We attended a variety of synagogues and did not find that *ruach* (spirit). Then we met Rav Claudia. We also appreciate not being among the most knowledgeable in the room. We are so glad we found TBZ and are glad to have it be our home.

- Peter Golbus

We come from different Jewish backgrounds. Rachie grew up Orthodox and Liz grew up Reform. We didn't think we'd find one Jewish home that would speak to both our minds and hearts, and have spent many years cultivating different communal commitments. But, as regulars at Shabbat Nariya for years, through our affiliation with Kavod, we slowly but surely began to feel at home at TBZ. And having such a warm and spirited shul "to go to" during the pandemic was so important for us. We are both very grateful to be a part of such a soulful, intergenerational community committed to joyous prayer and powerful justice work.



- Rachie Lewis & Liz Aeschlimann



I refer to the book of Arthur Green, *Judaism's Ten Best Ideas*, "don't look beyond the stars G-d is right here". And it's true in TBZ, when I am going to my shul, it is my feeling: seeing G-d in each person who attends the Shabbat service on Friday, just by opening my eyes and listening to Rav Claudia, I definitely have the sensation of belonging to people who, "struggle with G-d", to belong to Israel. So for that I say: thanks TBZ for this wonderful opportunity.

- Louisa Ould Ouali

CONDOLENCES

- To Seth Alper and Bobbi Isberg and their entire family on the death of Seth's sister, Naomi Alper.
- To Sandra Turyn and her family on the death of her husband, Richard Turyn.
- To Barbara Segal and Howard Brown and their family on the death of Barbara's father, Alvin Segal.
- To Stephanie Dyer and her family on the death of her father, Barry Sherman.
- To Sandra Krumholz on the death of her partner, Ayton Kohn.
- To Mark and Yelena Dwortzan and their family on the death of Mark's father, Bernard Dwortzan.
- To Pnina Lahav and her family on the death of her brother, Yosef Rahav.
- To Michael Broshi and Karen Lange and their family on the death of Michael's mother, Deborah Broshi.
- To Alan and Carol Kamin and their family on the death of Alan's sister, Aviva Kamin.
- To Philip Cole and Rhonda Alani and their family on the death of Philip's father, Leonard Cole.
- To Rabbi Margie Klein Ronkin and Jeremy Ronkin and their family on the death of Rabbi Margie Klein Ronkin's mother, Harriet Bograd.
- To Shoshanna Korn-Meyer and Stanley Meyer and their family on the death of Shoshanna's father, Saul Korn.
- To Lila Rose Kaplan and Jarrett Byrnes and their family on the death of Lila Rose's father, Marvin Alan Kaplan.
- To Daniel Langenthal and his family on the death of his father, Herschel Langenthal.
- To Rabbi Michael Swartz and Rabbi Carol Glass and their family on the death of Rabbi Michael Swartz's mother, Evelyn Swartz.
- To Paul Cooperstein and Maria Merloni, and to Beverley Schultz and Zach Cooperstein on the death of Paul and Beverley's son and Zach's brother, Adam Cooperstein.

May their souls be bound up in the Bonds of Eternal life. המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

L'Chaim

- To Sivahn Sapirstein on being named a 2022-23 NIF (New Israel Fund) Fellow.
- To Suzanne Gelber on the celebration of her second Bat Mitzvah.
- To Lenny Marcus on the publication of his recent book.
- To Max Mnookin and his family on his becoming Bar Mitzvah.
- To Emma Aczel-Green and her family on her becoming Bat Mitzvah.
- To Carole Greenfield on having three poems published recently.
- To Alan and Carol Kamin on the birth of their grandson, Zeke Earnest Kamin, born to Heather Weyrick and David Kamin.
- To Susie and Howard Rodenstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Lily Shira Rodenstein, daughter of Ari and Becca.
- To Marjie and Rabbi Mark Sokoll on the wedding of their son David to Danielle.
- To Deborah Kalin on the wedding of her daughter Arielle Kalin Klagsbrun to Sean Wispy Damon.
- To Josh Greenberg and Tatiana Becker on their wedding.
- To Evelyn Kosa and her family on her becoming Bat Mitzvah.
- To Eliora Ancovitz and her family on her becoming Bat Mitzvah.
- To Ian Falck and his family on his becoming Bar Mitzvah.
- To Rabbi Susan Schnur and Lenny Fishman on the wedding of their daughter Anna Schnur-Fishman to Carolyn Klassen.
- To Debbie Gardner on the wedding of her daughter Susan Gardner to Brian McMahon.
- To Annie Braudy and David Rothberg on their wedding.
- To Mariana Mapes and Rebecca Harris on their wedding.
- To Henry Perdue on becoming Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem.
- To Rabbis Carol Glass & Michael Swartz on the birth of their grandson.
- To Michael Zalis and Barbora Hoskova on their wedding.
- To Rabbi Lev and Joyce Friedman on the birth of new granddaughter, Selah Rose to Ariel and Jonathan.
- To Jack Eiferman, Myra Musicant and Howard Cohen for being honored at Hebrew College's Centennial gala.

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