

Summer 2023/5783

# KOLEINU

# קולנו



## Inside

*The (Short) Story of the Pandemic at TBZ by Rav Claudia*

*What Happened at Sinai by Reb Moshe*

*TBZ and Sinai Brookline Israel Trip by Fran Adams*

# FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Carol Kamin and Jen Klein

## From Jen Klein

This is my first edition of *Koleinu* as co-president of TBZ, so I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My husband, Daniel, our two kids (Micah - 15, Nora - 10), and I have been TBZ members for 14 years. I started my TBZ volunteer career organizing child care at services. I moved on to spearheading an annual team of fantastic hamentaschen bakers (still my favorite activity), then to joining the board and now serving as co-president with Carol Kamin. In my professional life, I am an immigration lawyer in the Massachusetts public defender's office.

TBZ is a very special place for me and my family. It is a unique place that provides so much joy, wisdom, and support. It is an honor to serve this wonderful community and help ensure that it continues to thrive and grow. I look forward to getting to know those of you I have not yet met and working with all of you.

## From Carol Kamin

I can't think of anyone that I'd rather have as co-president than Jen Klein. Jen brings to TBZ's leadership smarts, grace, enormous talent and love of our community. She also brings a new generation of leaders who will face and address the challenges of the future.

These challenges include a growing membership. During the pandemic, our membership grew from 330 households in 2019 to our current 2023 membership of 450 households. While these trends have added to our vibrancy and

strength, this growth has challenged our clergy and staff to fulfill the needs and vision of the community.

Additionally, our beautiful TBZ building, which was built in 1948 by Temple Beth Zion's founding generation and which we were blessed to inherit, is experiencing significant structural issues. Patching things up won't work anymore. Whether it's the plumbing, the electrical system or the carpets, we need a full restoration of TBZ's infrastructure. To that end, the board commissioned a study of our building needs that resulted in a twenty-year plan to ensure that we give to our next generation what the previous generation gave to us.

Through a comprehensive development plan led by our VP of Development, Samuel Mendoza Fraiman, we intend to confront these challenges directly as a community. At the community meeting on June 21, Samuel and the Board will share our exciting plans to raise sufficient funds to ensure that the operational needs of our community and the physical needs of our building are met.

Because of your membership and support, we've been able to build a strong and resilient foundation; a foundation that welcomes people of all ages to explore their Jewishness with joy. With the help of each and every one of you, and with the leadership of Rav Claudia and the board, we'll strengthen that foundation.

## OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Rav Claudia Kreiman, Senior Rabbi ext. 104  
[ravclaudia@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:ravclaudia@tbzbrookline.org)  
Rav Tiferet Berenbaum, Rabbi of Congregational Learning and Programming ext. 105  
[ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org)  
Reb Moshe Waldoks, Founding Rabbi  
[rebmsh@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:rebmsh@tbzbrookline.org)  
Noah Weinberg, Musical Prayer Leader  
[noahw@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:noahw@tbzbrookline.org)  
Leah Carnow, Rabbinic Intern

## SYNAGOGUE STAFF

Benjamin Maron, Executive Director ext. 102  
[execdirector@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:execdirector@tbzbrookline.org)  
Sarah Ott, Office Manager ext. 101  
[sarahott@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:sarahott@tbzbrookline.org)  
Rochelle Kelman, Assistant to Rav Claudia ext. 103  
[rkelman@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:rkelman@tbzbrookline.org)  
April Ropes, Communications Assistant  
[aropes@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:aropes@tbzbrookline.org)  
Cantor Maayan Harel, B-Mitzvah Coordinator

## OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

Co-President: s Carol Kamin, Jen Klein  
[president@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:president@tbzbrookline.org)

### Vice-Presidents

Development: Samuel Mendoza Fraiman  
Social Justice: Susan Bookbinder  
Finance & Administration/Treasurer: David Neiman  
Member Relations: open  
Spiritual Life: Larry Kraus

### At-Large Members

Mark Barnett, Rebecca Blouwolf, Rachel Goodman, Felicia Kazer, Steve Lewis, Jordan Meranus, Renee Rudnick

### Past Presidents

Gabriel Belt, Irwin Pless, Howard Cohen, Myra Musicant, Enid Shulman, Jay Zagorsky, Fran Adams, Jonathan Klein, David Chersonson, Jenni Seicol, Tali Walters, Sue Kahn, Sara Smolover

### Committee Chairs

Boker Tov: Annie Braudy, Deborah Kalin  
Book Club: Tammy Mitchell, Lilly Pelzman  
Building: Jill Febowitz, Alan Leviton, Ken Wexler  
Governance and Nominating Committee: Sara Smolover  
Hesed: Amy Bullock  
Men's Group: Mark Dinaburg, Ira Spool  
Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg  
Social Action

Family Table: Alan Weisner  
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers

Tikkun Olam: Susan Bookbinder, Rachel Goodman

Climate Action: Stephane Acel-Green, Felicia Kazer  
Defending Democracy: Fran Adams, Julia Freedson

DEI: Jessie Stickgold-Sarah

GBIO: Jane Daniels, Rachel Goodman

Gun Violence Prevention: Judy Schechtman

Housing: Jonathan Klein

Immigration and Refugee Resettlement: Jenny Berz

Newton-Brookline Asylum Resettlement Committee:  
Jenny Berz

Synagogue Practices: Larry Kraus

Koleinu Editor: Beth Harris

## TBZ

1566 Beacon Street  
Brookline, MA 02446  
617-566-8171  
[www.tbzbrookline.org](http://www.tbzbrookline.org)



# WELCOME OFFICE MANAGER, SARAH OTT



Hello! My name is Sarah and I started as the office manager at TBZ in March. I grew up in Weston, MA and still visit my parents there a couple times a month. I graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2021 and since then have worked in Human Resources doing contract work. TBZ is my first non-temp role and I couldn't be happier to have found it. I love keeping organized, helping people, and having interactions with

people, which drew me to the role of office manager. When I'm not at TBZ, I love cooking, exploring Boston, and hanging out with friends and family. My favorite places to go so far are Union Square, Inman Square, Back Bay, and the North End. I currently live right down the street from TBZ in Cleveland Circle, and love having a walkable commute! I enjoy listening to podcasts on my walks to and from work.

I've really enjoyed my time so far at TBZ and look forward to getting to know more of the community!

## Adult B'Mitzvah:

Save the Date, Feb. 3, 2024 – *Parsha Yitro*

The TBZ Adult B'Mitzvah Class will celebrate a year of learning together with a group B'Mitzvah on February 3, 2024. Our rabbis have aptly chosen *Parsha Yitro*, the giving of Torah at Sinai, for our portion. Fifteen of us started in February with study lessons with Rav Tiferet and Rav Claudia, paired with bi-weekly study partners, *hevruta*, reviewing our foundational texts of Torah and Talmud. Now we are getting to know our prayer book, the *siddur*, with Rabbi Sam. In June, we'll take a field trip, to explore a local Jewish site. Then comes the work of learning Hebrew, trope, and eventually, our designed texts. The 15 of us in the class have varying levels and backgrounds, which gives us so much to learn from each other. Please note the date and we hope you'll join us!

## Knitzvah

We gathered in Brookline on April 30 to knit baby hats and lap blankets for the TBZ community. We also managed to shmooze, eat, and enjoy being together! All knitters are welcome to contribute hats, blankets or shawls.



It's a lovely way to wrap our folks in support and connection. Next meeting is Sunday, June 25. Email Deb Stang ([dstangee@gmail.com](mailto:dstangee@gmail.com)) to RSVP and be added to the Knitzvah group list. We hope to see you soon!

## Men's Group

The TBZ Men's Group is a circle for exploration, sharing and support, open to any TBZ man. We meet weekly on Zoom, where each man can bring his news, thoughts and concerns, and monthly in person at TBZ. Monthly meetings are organized around a specific topic. Membership has tended to skew older (60 +), though younger members are actively encouraged. The group also sponsors an annual Shabbat service, providing both Torah readers and *kiddush* (refreshments). If you are interested in learning more, or joining the group, please email [mark.dinaburg@gmail.com](mailto:mark.dinaburg@gmail.com).

# Reflections on our Women's Retreat

by Rav Tiferet

In April, TBZ women celebrated our 11th annual women's retreat on the theme **Yeridah Le'Tzorech Aliyah: Women Rising**. This theme grew out of our initial planning conversations around why a retreat for women is still relevant in 2023. Our tradition teaches the concept of "yeridah le'tzorech aliyah," descent for the sake of rising up. This year was an important year for people who experience the world as women. On one hand, there were many first women risings, including Massachusetts' first woman governor, showing how high women can go. Yet, we have also descended back into a world without the protection of Roe v. Wade for female-bodied people. For this reason, we decided that having dedicated space for women to gather, learn together, share together, and just be together is still incredibly valuable for our community.

The day was structured into three parts: Presence in Body, Soul Expression, and Mental Exercise. This year, many new TBZ members attended, and we were able to offer a mix of programming from new and older members, old favorites, and new offerings, including a session on Feldenkrais (awareness through movement), Psalms, and memoir writing. We were honored to welcome Rachel Stomel, from the Women's Center for Justice to join us via Zoom to lead two sessions as well as offer our keynote learning. TBZ Member Jonathan Golden made this connection for us and sponsored her visit in memory of his mother, Gayle Golden, z"l who, through her social work career and volunteer work, engaged in numerous projects related to women's empowerment.

From our feedback, this event was quite meaningful for the attendees. They appreciated the interactive sessions and the unique opportunity to be a part of a truly intergenerational space. We are looking forward to creating another successful event next year! Please let me know if you would like to be a part of planning it. ([ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org))



# BEIT RABBAN GRADUATION

*Mazel Tov to all of our Beit Rabban Graduates!*



Talia Bitton  
Liora Blouwolff  
Ari Decter  
Ian Falck  
Asher Lambert  
Max Mnookin  
Eve Schwartz  
Daniel Zbarsky



The 7th grade Beit Rabban class of 2022-2023 / 5782-5783 wanted to share their experience of going through the various steps that it took to have their b'mitzvahs. What follows are their reflections on everything it took in order to reach their day. Although the experience differs for everyone, their thoughts are general take-aways from the process that they went through to become adults both within TBZ and the Jewish community.

Here's a sample:

## **Be Yourself!**

On your mitzvah day, you are called to read Torah, and therefore, become a Jewish adult. But it's more than that. It's about identity. This is a day to celebrate how far you've come not only as a Jew, but as a person. It's your day. Part of this is chanting Torah, reading your *d'var Torah* (teaching of Torah), and talking to a lot of people. But what might be even more important is authenticity. When you get to the bimah, what matters most is that you be yourself, and everything else will fall into place. Don't be afraid to make a joke, or to smile, or even cry if that's how you're feeling. Everyone there is there for you.

So on your b'mitzvah, do yourself a *mitzvah* (good deed)! Let yourself be true to who you are. That's what's most important at the end of the day.



# TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ

**Susan Bookbinder**, [susanbookbinder@comcast.net](mailto:susanbookbinder@comcast.net)

**Rachel Goodman**, [rachgood@verizon.net](mailto:rachgood@verizon.net)

**Co-chairs Tikkun Olam Steering Committee**

The *Tikkun Olam* Steering Committee (TOSC) is the umbrella organization for the many pathways TBZ offers for our members to put into action, as Jews, our desire and commitment to help build a more just and equitable world. The dates and times that TOSC meets are always listed in *Happenings*, and you are more than welcome to attend our meetings. Under TOSC there are so many groups that you can choose to work with, from hands-on work, to marches and demonstrations, to major legislative work with our interfaith allies. Please look at the examples below to see some what's been happening in the past few months and what you can join in on going forward. Come join us in this sacred work!

## Abortion Access Action Group

As part of TBZ's extensive "menu" of *tikkun olam* (healing the world) efforts, an Abortion Access Action Group (AAAG) has formed under our Defending Democracy umbrella. After more than 20 years as a safe, well-studied drug, Mifepristone has come under attack. With dueling court rulings likely headed to the Supreme Court, the most common form of abortion in this country (by medication) is in jeopardy. While Massachusetts remains a safe place for women seeking abortion care, multiple states are facing new laws reducing reproductive rights; in many cases bans begin as early as six weeks, effectively a full ban, and have no exceptions for rape or incest.

This is not the democracy, freedom of choice and body autonomy we need!

A dedicated group of TBZ members have already met several times to brainstorm and create a meaningful campaign. We intend to fight on many fronts, and our first project is local. We have partnered with Brookline-based Women's Health Services (WHS) and, in response to their requests, have planned our first actions.

We will be collecting items to create TLC Kits for patients served by the center. Each bag will contain necessities and treats as well as a hand-written supportive card. The clinic has let us know how much this will help them and the women they serve feel seen and supported. In addition, we are recruiting Spanish and Portuguese speakers who are interested in serving as translators so the clinic can treat the many women now being turned away for inability to understand English. If you have fluency in one of those

languages and wish to volunteer, please contact one of the emails below.

We are also piloting a program of drivers who are willing to give rides to-and-from WHS for patients for whom transportation costs could be a barrier.

Many other ideas are being considered and we'd love to hear yours!

How can you help? Please bring any of the items on the wish list below and drop them in the labeled box on the ground floor at TBZ. If you prefer, you may order items online and have them shipped to the shul. Questions? Ideas? Concerns? Let us know!

Email Fran Adams ([franaca.adams@gmail.com](mailto:franaca.adams@gmail.com)) or Sara Smolover ([smoloverkraus@gmail.com](mailto:smoloverkraus@gmail.com)) or Bobbi Katz ([bjkatz3@gmail.com](mailto:bjkatz3@gmail.com)).

### List of items for TLC kits:

- Adhesive heat patches
- Condoms
- Pads (different sizes, maxi, panty liners, etc.)
- Liquid IV packets (electrolytes)
- Sweets/Snacks (chocolates, lollipops, etc.)
- Herbal teas
- Sheet masks (skincare)
- Chapstick
- Fuzzy socks with grippy bottoms





## GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Update

by Sarah Langer, Rosalind Joffe, and Jonathan Klein  
TBZ GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Team members

According to a recent *Boston Globe* article, “Boston isn’t the most expensive place to live, but it’s pretty close.” This statement is just the beginning of the story. Extraordinarily high housing costs, the result of a legacy of longstanding housing injustice, have led to dramatic inequity in all areas of society.

**GBIO has adopted a multi-faceted, statewide Housing Justice Campaign focused on public housing, affordable rental and homeownership opportunity, and housing access.** We define Housing Justice as the ability for all people to have safe, healthy and clean places to live in their communities. We seek to improve housing access and quality for groups that have been unfairly denied it, and to support financing, zoning and ownership policies that help to close racial and class disparities in the housing market.

GBIO members living in public housing tell us about the intolerable conditions they face daily. GBIO is organizing to dramatically **increase funding for the 43,000 units of state-funded Public Housing.** This covers operations, sustainable upkeep, and deferred maintenance.

Our research reveals that the Legislature and Governor have significantly underfunded what is needed for healthy operations and the ongoing maintenance and repairs required for decades. GBIO and its allies asked for \$184 million. When Gov. Healy proposed \$92 million, GBIO emailed and lobbied the Legislature to increase funding. The House voted to raise it to \$102M. As of this writing, the Senate Budget proposal is \$107M. As we write this, we continue to organize for increased funding to meet the real need.

Most recently, 35 TBZ’ers joined hundreds of other GBIO members in calling and emailing key Senate Leaders asking for an increase in Public Housing funding to the \$184 million that is really needed. We continue to work hard on this priority.

GBIO is backing the **MBTA Communities Act.**

It requires local communities with access to transit to rezone to allow more multifamily housing, at all income levels, and local leaders working within their cities and towns to make meaningful zoning changes.

### TBZ’ers Hard at Work

On March 16, a minyan of TBZ’ers, many pictured below, traveled downtown to join 300 others for a rally on the State House steps to kick-off GBIO’s legislative campaign. It was a chilly but sunny day, with a band and testimonies from public housing residents.



On April 13th, 10 TBZ’ers, along with dozens of other GBIO members, attended a tenant-led action at United Parish Brookline where Brookline Public Housing tenants told compelling stories about their horrible living conditions. We were grateful for the tenants’ organizing and shared vulnerability and left even more committed to fighting for public housing funding.



Continued...

...from page 7

**To increase the funds available for affordable housing**, GBIO will fight for legislation allowing municipalities to levy a **real estate transfer fee**, the funds from which would go towards affordable housing in that city or town. Finally, in partnership with other GBIO action teams, GBIO is fighting for **increased access to quality housing for returning citizens and for individuals with mental health or substance abuse disorders**.

This effort is comprehensive, nuanced, and multi-pronged. At every event and meeting that our TBZ members attend, we hear affecting stories of people living in inhumane conditions. We also know stories from our own families, friends, and communities. In the coming months, there will be many opportunities to act – from 5 minute calls/emails to showing up at rallies and beyond. We hope that our TBZ community will show up for ourselves and our neighbors who are struggling to find and keep safe and dignified housing.

## Literacy Tutors

This year our group of 16 TBZ Literacy Tutors volunteered hundreds of hours at Winship School in Brighton. The teachers were especially grateful as so many of their students started the year below grade level. The lack of in-person schooling during Covid had dramatic effects, and our tutors are a big part of the effort to help students regain their literacy.

In addition we hosted two special events this year. In March, Eve Winter delivered several cartons of books to the Winship library as part of her bat mitzvah service project. You can see how pleased the librarian was with her donation!

In May we hosted poet Quintin Collins for Poem in Your Pocket Day. Tutors Jon Frankel, Sam Seicol and Kim Meyers helped the students write their own poems. The students were enthusiastic and creative!



## Partakers: Volunteer Opportunity

Combine both *hesed* (loving kindness) and *tikkun olam* (healing the world) by becoming a mentor with Partakers, an organization with two very meaningful programs:

- 1) The College Behind Bars Program, in which one mentors a prisoner who is getting a college degree behind bars. Mentoring involves a monthly in-person visit with a prisoner in a Massachusetts prison.
- 2) The Partakers Empowerment Program (PEP), which involves weekly Zoom mentoring during a 12-week period for newly released prisoners who are participating in a workshop focused on their transition and learning many new skills.

TBZ members who have participated as mentors in these programs have found the experience to be very meaningful and bonding with a very vulnerable population. Partakers offers a very personal and rewarding approach to getting involved in criminal justice. If you want to learn more about these programs, please contact Steve Lewis ([steve Elliot Lewis@gmail.com](mailto:steve Elliot Lewis@gmail.com)).

## TBZ Walks Our Faith and Doubles our Goal for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace!

By Sara Smolover

Mother's Day was a beautiful, sunny day with a cool breeze that kept the 1000s of people gathered at Town Field in Dorchester comfortable and uplifted throughout the 4.3 mile walk. Among them were 18 members of the TBZ community who walked shoulder to shoulder with mothers and families deeply impacted by violence and deeply committed to "creating cycles of peace," the theme of this year's 27th Mother's Day Walk for Peace to support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. We heard passionate calls for peace and change by Chaplain Clementina Chery, the Institute's founder and recent speaker at TBZ; Rep. Ayanna Pressley, who exhorted us to hold elected officials of all races accountable to working for peace in every community; Atty. General Andrea Campbell, who pledged her commitment to working for all impacted by violence; and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, who committed her administration to address poverty, climate, economic justice, equity, and housing in order to build on a foundation of peace.

TBZ's organizing committee (Jane Daniels, Barrie Keller, Judy Schechtman, and Sara Smolover) coordinated to inform our community about the Institute and inspire folks to give. Incredibly, the community more than doubled our goal, raising over \$10,000 for the Institute! These funds will directly support people impacted by violence, from Survivor's Outreach Services, to Healing Support, to Community Reentry services for recently incarcerated people, and more. Thank you so much to all our members and their friends who donated!!

Thank you to Dr. Katherine Gergen Barnett who participated in the outstanding panel for our Kiddush Talk and to Rav Tiferet for moderating.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed this year! Next year, the TBZ Community Retreat will be on a different weekend so that more members can Walk their Faith alongside our Boston neighbors. Please mark your calendars for next Mother's Day!



## ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

**June 21, 6:30 - 8:30pm**

Join us in person at TBZ to hear about the state of the shul  
and learn more about our plans for the future.

(Zoom option will be available)



The announcement of the end of the Covid pandemic, which began more than three years ago, inspired me to reflect on these past years together – our TBZ pandemic story. This is how it goes:

None of us knew what we were in for. TBZ's then president, Sara Smolover and TBZ's then executive director, Susan Diller and I, sat in Susan's office trying to figure out what to do. It was Wednesday. Do we close? For how long? What does it mean? The next day we held a board meeting to discuss our response. Most attended in person, but some were not comfortable so we had our first Zoom/hybrid meeting. The decision was made to close for two weeks, or something like that.

The next day was Shabbat – what would we do for Shabbat? What could we offer? We would have a few people leading *kabbalat shabbat* from the sanctuary, using a laptop. We didn't have a good microphone so Rabbi Tyler Dratch, our rabbinical intern at the time, went to buy a Yeti microphone – I had no idea what that was! We upgraded our Zoom account to accommodate 500 people instead of 100, because word was out: we were going to do *kabbalat shabbat* from the sanctuary. And this is how we started. Soon, we knew that we could only have one person in the sanctuary, not more. So I would lead from the sanctuary, sometimes my daughters would join me. Noah would lead from his home, sometimes his roommates would join him. We learned how to use Zoom, how to engage people.

We then asked volunteers to be Zoom *gabbai* (assistant) and help us. We asked Torah readers to record their

chanting and others to record *Divrei Torah*, (teachings of Torah) and more. We had older children read books to younger children. On Fridays we sent an email full of resources for a meaningful Shabbat at home, we would end Shabbat together in a Zoom *havdalah* (end of Shabbat), filling our screens with light.

On the Sunday after everything shut down, I sent an invitation for the next day, Monday at 9am, to say "*boker tov*, (good morning). I called that invitation *Boker Tov* TBZ. I didn't have a plan. Just check in with each other. So many people showed up that I knew: this was not going to be a one time meeting. On the spot I did a short prayer for those who came and I asked if people wanted to come the next day. You know the answer, as three years and two months later *Boker Tov* still meets daily. For the first few months I led *Boker Tov* every day, with my daughter Ariel who was in pre-k. By summer, when some people were returning to work, we moved it to 8 am and lay participants began to lead too. This continues to be an important community of belonging, one that comes together to practice gratitude, support each other and to comfort one another in times of need.

I also remember the phone calls. The leadership and I spent a week or so, calling each TBZ member to check in with them, to see what they needed. Together with Amy Bullock, chair of our Hesed Committee, we created neighborhood teams to support people, making calls, seeing who needed help with groceries or other things. One of our teens, Amira Barnett, organized children to make calls and created a buddy system between children

and older adults, *Kesher Ha-Dorot* (connecting the generations) I know that many of those relationships persist to today.

By May, we had a camera and UV fans installed in the sanctuary. We prepared for our first in-person service, the bar mitzvah of Arlan Zbarsky. Only ten people would be there, all sitting separately. We had big plexiglass dividers separating the leaders of services. And lots of hand sanitizer. Slowly we created a service structure that would work for these unique b'nei mitzvah celebrations and by the fall we had several with guests and friends, not as small as Arlan's, still small and limited while also joyful and celebratory.

Earlier in the pandemic I officiated at the wedding of a couple new to TBZ, Mara and Elisheva, in Griggs Park. People from the community came to help and be part of the joyful celebration.

The first High Holidays arrived, and our TBZ sanctuary was transformed into a TV studio. We led from there, with restrictions and many, many PCR tests for the leaders. People joined from home. We were able to bring TBZ to your homes and be in community, together while physically distant. We even had a small retreat at Isabella Freedman for *Sukkot* and a wonderful *Simchat Torah* at the Gann Farm.

Once vaccines became available, we started to see light, the possibility of being together. It took until early spring to begin regular services. First, people had to sign up and numbers were limited, and later, people could just show up. We had *kiddush* (small meal with blessings)



upstairs – some small snacks outside of the sanctuary, eventually we were able to have our first *kiddush* in the community room. I remember my joy that day. Oh, I walked around the tables and did a *l'chayim* (toast to life) with each table.

What a joy! But, as we all recall, it was back and forth, we moved quickly following the guidelines from the CDC, going back to masks when required, and mask optional when not.

By the second High Holidays we were able to welcome people in person. Still limited in numbers, with many people joining from home, we were able to have a hybrid option for services together. Oh! And what a magical end, with *Ne'ila* (concluding service for Yom Kippur), in the park. Our community and more came in person; *Ne'ila* felt like a rock concert!

The ups and downs continued. We did our best to communicate changes of policies. Not everyone agreed with all our decisions and we heard from our community. But we put both safety as well as connection at the center of all our decisions.

This past year has felt like a more normal year with lots of new and old happenings, and so much new energy. I feel so blessed to be part of the TBZ community, a vibrant, joyful and relevant community.

I am incredibly grateful to all – lay-leadership, staff and each of you – who made these past three years possible. There were very difficult moments. Burying loved ones in funerals that no one could attend, accompanying families in mourning without being able to embrace them. Walking back from the sanctuary, alone, many times in tears, because even though the services were joyful and people participated from home on the screens I could feel the loneliness and the sadness, mine and yours, of that moment. As a parent I struggled to juggle my work and my family, but I was inspired by what we could do as a community. At moments, it seemed that this time would never end, and I didn't know if I would have it in me to keep going. But, I kept going, we kept going, and not only did we survive as a community, but we thrived. In March 2020, TBZ's membership was 326 households, in May 2023, our membership has grown to 450 households. We have thrived and grown in numbers and in spirit! May we go from strength to strength together!



# What Happened at Sinai?

By Reb Moshe

Heaven and earth kissed at Sinai.

The essence of the revelation at Sinai is the discovery of an intimate relationship between the human and the Divine. Moshe is referred to as, *ish Elohim* in the title of Psalm 90, *Tefilla leMoshe ish haElohim*, Moshe as God's "*ish*", God's spouse.

In the story, YHVH descends to the summit of the mountain and Moshe, representing the people, ascends. Amidst fireworks and trepidation, like a bride and groom on their wedding day, the *b'nai Yisrael* (children of Israel) experience the joy of a wedding. As in marriage the combination of apprehensiveness and desire suffuse the ceremony. The guests are hopeful of the new beginnings' marriage portends.

Amidst the fireworks and trepidation, a covenant is revealed, with all the challenges of a marriage, specifically, how to retain the wedding day sparks and fire once the couple re-enters everyday life with its responsibilities and quotidian routine.

Revelation is a sign of intimacy. As our relationships strengthen and grow closer more and more of ourselves are revealed. Revelations offer us an opportunity to find new aspects of ourselves and with those with whom we are in a relationship.

Throughout the Moshe saga in the Torah both God and Moshe are constantly seeking each other. All through our story revelations occur, At the Burning Bush Moses asks for God's name. He replies that "I will Be what I will Be".

In time more will be revealed, when the Israelites transgress, as in the Molten Calf incident, Moshe urges God to reveal his essence and the response is the Thirteen Attributes, still a potent part of our Yom Kippur liturgy. The path to purgation of our weaknesses and foibles offering assurance of forgiveness and the hope for new possibilities. Those in intimate relationships learn to forgive each other.

Moshe seeks to see God's face but all that was revealed was God's back as it whooshed by. Often we only recognize the intimacy of a relationship by looking back upon it.

To reveal oneself in love renews each day the revelation at Sinai.

Basking in the wonder of Sinai is indeed a way to continue the intimacy of the place where heaven and earth kissed.

# FROM OUR RABBINIC INTERNS

## Judaism for Christians By Josh Greenberg

Throughout the month of March I had the opportunity to facilitate four classes for members of local churches in the lead up to Passover and Easter. I had wanted to explore themes that both the Jewish and Christian communities give extra attention to in the weeks prior to and during the springtime holidays. I chose to center each class around one particular theme; suffering, sacrifice, and salvation, including one introductory class where we considered the relationship of all three.



I did this not only for my internship, but also for my capstone for Hebrew College. I was determined to test ways in which I, as a Jewish educator, can more effectively teach Judaism to those who are not themselves Jews. To do this, I thought it best to expose others to Jewish thought and practice in a way that is specifically oriented towards different religions. In other words, the way one might teach Judaism to Catholics should differ from how one would teach it to Muslims.

Over the course of four meetings, I experimented with my theory. Trying my best to avoid a “Judaism 101” sort of class – something easily obtainable with a simple Google search – I introduced our Christian neighbors to numerous perspectives found within multiple classical texts, all concerning themselves with our seasonal themes. In doing this, I also introduced basic terms and texts, like *midrash* (biblical commentary) the *Talmud* (Jewish law), *hevrutah* (small group) style learning, and more.

From my perspective, I thought they went well and were a useful tool for furthering my research. But perhaps more importantly, it allowed me the chance to sit in dialogue with fellow seekers, those who may know a different iteration of the Divine, yet like us, wrestle with living more fully as the Reflection we are all crafted in.

## My Time at TBZ By Sarah Rovin

This year at TBZ has been the most incredible internship experience I could have asked for. The community is truly one of a kind and, from the beginning, welcomed me with open arms and supported me as I learned and grew. During my time with you I have learned so much about the beauty and power of community as I have seen the way each person shows up for each other in every *simcha* (joy) and every challenge. The community is truly there for one another because of the deep relationships formed and nourished here. It has been a great pleasure and honor to facilitate spiritual space and prayer with all of you. I have learned so much Torah from each person and will carry with me all the stories you have shared as I continue on my journey.



## Welcome Leah Carnow, our new Rabbinic intern in June 2023!

Leah is entering her fifth and final year of rabbinical school at Hebrew College. Over the past four years of rabbinical school,



Leah has helped lead prayer with Nava Tehila in Jerusalem, served the Sinai Brookline community as a rabbinic intern and family educator, worked as a chaplain intern at BIDMC, and supported the Miller Center’s PsalmSeason project. Along with her partner Yoni Battat, Leah has been a part of the TBZ community for many years. She is especially looking forward to serving TBZ this year as a rabbinic intern.

# Joy at Our Annual Community Retreat!



**By Lila Rose Kaplan**

I was asked to write you a paragraph about the TBZ Retreat, but I may need to write you a song. This weekend brimmed with the music of pure joy. I've never been part of a gathering like this - an intergenerational experience rooted in spirituality, silliness and everything in between. Laughter was everywhere you went. You could hear new friendships forming, old friends remembering, and kids flying by on their scooters. It was the sound of belonging. It was part camp, part college, and part Rav Claudia extraordinaire.

There were shrieks from brave souls swimming in the freezing ocean and the giggles of kids buried in the sand. There was the miracle of childcare. There were communal meals filled with music and food. There was an extraordinary variety show emceed by the one and only Cindy-jo. Wearing fabulous costumes, TBZers of all ages shared acts ranging from an un-magic show to songs to a soccer display to a tiny expert who wiggled her tooth for all to see.

There was also quiet. (Which is rare for us Jews.) There was peaceful praying in the woods. There was thoughtful Torah Study and the quiet anticipation of candles glowing for Shabbat. There were poems and there were pickles. There was birdwatching and yoga and hikes and and and....there was something for everyone. The nights exploded with fun.

It felt like the first night of camp followed by the last night of camp. Night one was games and songs and a palpable excitement from all ages that we were there. Kids up way past bedtime. Grownups remembering how to smile and not check their phones. Night two was rituals and 'smores and the promise of staying in touch. I feel blessed and changed by this weekend. My family joined TBZ in January 2020 hoping for community. Instead, the world shut down and we met many of you over Zoom. The TBZ Retreat this weekend answered our hope, at long last, with the glorious resounding song of community.





### By David Vitale-Wolff

So much gets passed on at the community retreat. After Saturday dinner, a few dozen members crowded around a long table to sing in celebration of the meal (*benching*). We belted out songs and drummed on the table with unbound *ruach* (spirit). My sons and I didn't know many of the songs, but it didn't matter. We sang nonetheless, and I am so grateful that my sons could learn this ritual in such a safe, inviting and spirited space. What made this moment of celebration and safety possible? All the small conversations and moments of playful connection that happened in the prior 24 hours of the retreat. I am deeply grateful to the TBZ leadership team and fellow community members for making this weekend happen each year. It is certainly a highlight of my family's year!





# NISHMAT HAYYIM AT TBZ

by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

We are thrilled that our Friday morning sessions for meditation, teaching, and Q&A with a cadre of twelve people attending regularly, continue to support contemplative practice for both experienced and novice practitioners. This upcoming year we hope to offer two contemplative Shabbats, high holiday services, and daylong meditation retreats. Below are a couple of excerpts from our Friday morning teachings which you can access on our Nishmat Hayyim Audio Archive which is on the Nishmat Hayyim webpage on the TBZ website. Please be in touch with us if you would like to be involved in NH. We wish everyone a wonderful summer!

## From Reb Moshe

People have asked me as an unorthodox rabbi how I see the role of ritual observance in our tradition.

My reply is that we have a tradition of *kavana* – directed intentionality for actions and *keva* – obligations that serve our community. These are practices we value and want to pass on to the next generation. We all are links in the *Shalshelet haMasoret* – the chain of tradition.

My meditation practice offers me an opportunity to observe what is present in the here and now. Sitting and contemplating the rhythm of my breath I am freed from being stuck in the past and the anxiety for the future. Observance of the present moment provides an opportunity for self-reflection. In this process we may begin to see *mitzvot* (commandments) as imperatives from within. One may observe *mitzvot* as commandments or as connections to the Divine Spirit. For example, I may not “observe” Shabbat because it is written on Tablets of Stone. But rather as an inner imperative that I really need Shabbat in my life. My observation of the world helps me focus on my needs to be a Jewish human being.

Let us strive to bring both *kavana* and *keva* into our lives. We draw our ability to do this from the wellsprings of the human condition. Striving to be an observant Jew is facilitated by sitting and observing our world in its natural beauty and rediscovering the demands of the heart. While we are led by our heads, by our intellect, meditation leads us to enter and re-enter our lives led by our inner life, by our hearts.

## From Bobbi Isberg

As we reflect on the weekly Torah readings in our Friday Meditation Group, we encounter the recurring theme of freedom from oppression and enslavement. Exodus tells the story of our liberation from the narrowness and constriction of *Mitzrayim* (Egypt), so that we may be free to serve God. Leviticus emphasizes that the Israelites are servants of God, and that any earthly master prevents the individual from obeying the word of God. But how would we know what it means to serve God, at any given moment in our lives? Our tradition offers, as always, several different interpretations. Some think that the ten commandments, or the 613 *mitzvot* (precepts) in Torah, represent, literally, what God commands us to do. Or, we may think of the oral commentary, the interpretations and conversations among rabbis, as a more

reasonable set of guidelines. Or, we may have a sense of an ongoing process of revelation, that is accessible to us even now, if we listen (*Shema Yisrael!* - hear Israel). In our meditation practice, we sit and listen: to the sounds of the breathing body, to the sounds of birds, cars, air conditioners, and to the occasional moments of quiet that occur in our busy, active minds. In this practice, we recognize the thoughts, impulses, and mental states that enslave us—that keep us in repetitive patterns that cause suffering for ourselves and others. We learn to recognize

our habitual patterns of thought and behavior that interfere with our responding freely, in each moment, with whatever is needed. In our meditation practice, we discover that quieting the mind can help us recognize what is called for in the moment: seeing and hearing ourselves and others more clearly, less bound by our mind habits, can reveal what is needed in the moment. We may find a path to liberation from the way we enslave ourselves with our beliefs and assumptions, so we can live life more genuinely.

## WRESTLING WITH ZION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



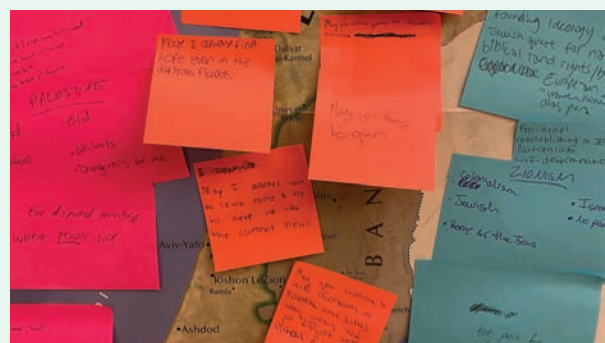
During the Spring 2023 Sinai Brookline and TBZ offered for selected teens to explore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a group of teen peers and with the rabbis. The “Wrestling with Zion Teen Fellowship” provided an opportunity for youth to engage in thoughtful conversation, focused research and honest discussion about the political and moral questions that emerge from the history of Zionism and the State of Israel and the current status of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The fellowship consisted of eight sessions that included group interactions, student-led presentations, facilitated debate and discussion, and presentations providing historical background on the history of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Rabbis Andy Vogel & Talia Stein (from Sinai Brookline), Claudia Kreiman & Tiferet Berenbaum (from TBZ), facilitated the discussions.

The fellowship was funded in part by a generous grant from CJP’s Community Impact Grants Fund, and by the Sinai Brookline and TBZ congregations.

### Reflection from Participant Eva Kates

“I chose to do the Wrestling with Zion Fellowship because I always felt as though I never knew anything about the situation in Israel. When people would talk about Israel I didn’t know what to say. I didn’t want to say the wrong thing or say something that didn’t align with my views because I didn’t know what I thought about Israel. I still don’t fully understand all the complexities but I certainly have a better understanding. In the fellowship, each person presented one important part of Israel’s history, in chronological order. We started with the end of the British Mandate and ended with possible solutions. I think it was really important that we were all given a basic history because we were able to have a deeper understanding of the present by learning about the past. My friend and I chose to present on Jerusalem and I enjoyed being able to learn about a city that has so much history and why it’s so important to so many people. I feel as though through this fellowship I have connected with Israel and now I am excited to go there one day. Throughout the fellowship, we would have discussions and ask questions about the material we were learning about. We learned not only from people’s presentations but also from what they had to say during our lively discussions. Overall, I had a very positive experience in the fellowship and I am very happy that I did it.”



*Wrestling with Zion participants wrote blessings for themselves for their continued engagement with Israel.*

# Dual Narratives: TBZ AND SINAI BROOKLINE ISRAEL TRIP

By Fran Adams

This intense, soul-searing adventure was definitely NOT your grandparents' synagogue trip to Israel! The focus was on a "shared society" and we met countless inspirational figures who are the change agents working to create that brave vision.

Thirty of us traveled, about a third from TBZ and the rest from Sinai Brookline. Leading us were Rav Claudia and Rabbi Vogel; two brilliant tour guides: Ross, a Jewish/Israeli, and Samir, a Palestinian/Israeli, who were in constant respectful dialogue; and numerous specialty guides, teachers, activists and peace-makers. We stayed in historic Jaffa which was a real treat, in Haifa and in Jerusalem. Our bus took us south to Sderot as well as to

several West Bank towns such as Ramallah and Hebron. Evenings were free to relax, explore, eat delicious dinners, and to informally continue the never-ending discussions stimulated by our daily excursions and teachings.

Since it's impossible to transmit the full power of this experience and the myriad details that enlivened every day, I'll share just a few of my favorite experiences.

Gaza is off limits to tourists but we traveled to a kibbutz very close by (Nirim) where we could see the distant troubled territory through barbed wire fences. That day we were led by the Rabbi Nava Hefetz of Rabbis for Human Rights. We visited a resilience center in Sderot,



the most bombarded spot in Israel, where people have just 15 seconds to reach a shelter when the sirens go off. At Nirim a succession of speakers blew our minds: former Knesset member Avi Dabush; a settler, (our most challenging speaker) who described being ousted from his home in 2005; and a pair of teens who ran to shelters throughout their lives yet spoke movingly of how their counterparts, just a few kilometers away in Gaza, are not their enemies but rather people just like them who actually have a much harder life than theirs.

Our day in Hebron was probably the most difficult and memorable of the trip. We were led by Benzi Sanders of Breaking the Silence, and because we were with him our group was stopped and we required military escort for the rest of the day. Benzi walked us through the ghost town of Hebron, once a thriving market now shuttered and off limits to Palestinians. We had lunch at the home of Issa Amro of Youth Against Settlements and heard his story of multiple settler attacks on his body and home.

The trip included a walking tour of LGBT Haifa; a street food tour; the radical feminist center Isha l'Isha (Woman to Woman); and even the controversial Yasser Arafat Museum. On Shabbat we walked through East Jerusalem and lunched at an independent Palestinian bookstore, hosted by the owner. In the Old City we descended into an Armenian Quarter cave where we spontaneously sang our hearts out within the ancient echoing walls.

The upheaval of the potential antidemocratic judicial overhaul now rocking Israel was just beginning and some of us participated in the first mass demonstration in Jerusalem. It was and is a difficult time for Israel. We found a silver lining in Yad B'Yad, a beautiful bilingual school, one of six in the country, where equal numbers of Arabs and Jews in each classroom leads to inevitable friendships and sharing between cultures.

Other outstanding speakers included MK Tehilla Friedman who shared her vision of political confederation; Sally Abed, a remarkable leader of a joint Palestinian/Israeli coalition called Standing Together; and our beloved teacher Arthur Green who managed on our final day to pull together everything we had learned.



## Costa Rica Retreat with Rav Claudia and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein February 6 - 11, 2024

The retreat will include: mindful walks in nature, wildlife contemplations, daily meditation, daily mindfulness prayer, text study sessions and discussions, movement sessions, singing from the heart sessions, journaling, a joyful and contemplative Shabbat, and delicious healthy food.

Learn more here:

<https://tbz.shulcloud.com/form/CostaRica>

# Todah Rabah!

- To Rachel Goodman for organizing the Passover seder matching and to all the hosts for opening their homes.

## **To everyone who contributed to our Purim celebration!**

- To dough makers: Sharon & Danielle Morgenbesser; Emma & Daniel Zbarsky; Aaron Zarwan; Eva Silverman; Natalie, Josh & Jesse Henrich.
- To Jen Klein and Asaf Bitton who organized the baking of the hamentaschen (and the many, many bakers who came, we can't name them all, as there were so many!).
- To Fran Kantor, Aimee Mayer-Salins, and Felicia Kazer for helping to organize the packing and all the people who helped pack the mishloach manot.
- To all the kids and adults who delivered mishloach manot to our neighbors at 1550.
- To Eddie & Sandy Taub who organized the routes and all the details for the delivery of TBZ mishloach manot and all the drivers: Barbara Katz; Alex & Irina Postrenak; Tamar Winter & Aaron Schwartz; Louisa Ould Ouali; Deb Stang; Sue Kahn & Daniel Kirschner; Andrew Halpert; Daniel Langenthal; Renee & Hal Rudnick; Barrie Keller; Eddie & Sandy Taub; Mallory & Doug Lutz; Judith Schechtman & Edward De Vos; Idit Klein & Jordan Namerow; Sarah Rovin & Jack Herman; Steve Lewis; David & Judith Woodruff; Mark Dwortzan; Barrie Wheeler & Amit Segal; Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover.
- To Beit Rabban teachers and students for setting up and running the fun carnival.
- To Megillah readers: Molly Silver, Rabbi Mona Strick, Rabbi Ben Lanckton, Ronnie Levine, Alan Weisner, Sarah Rovin, Rabbi Ebn Leader, Rav Claudia.
- To Lila Rose Kaplan for directing the Purim Shpiel and advising Rav Tiferet in the writing of the play.
- To the actors of our TBZ Purim Shpiel 5783 - An Addams Family Purim: Rose Freedman-Riles; Jessie, Josh & Natalie Henrich; Ian Falck; Sharon Morgenbesser;

Ellen Krause-Grosman; Reena Freedman; Galya Berenbaum; Ariel Kreiman-Leader; Sardoine Kapanga; Hailey Byrnes; Aaron Broshi; Jarrett Byrnes; Danielle Morgenbesser; Nora Klein; Anna Maron; Aviv Kazerwolff; Ari Decter Hannah Barnett; Lior Namerow-Klein; Solomon & Solomon Levi Ender-Brown.

- To Noah Weinberg, Rafi Stern Ellenson, and Sarah Rovin for leading the service joyfully.
- To Rav Tiferet for writing the Purim shpiel and organizing the carnival.
- To Rochelle Kelman, Sarah Ott, and Benjamin Maron for all the behind the scenes work.
- To Sandi Garcia for set up and cleaning.

## **To everyone who contributed to and participated in our Community Retreat!**

- To session leaders Jane Daniels, Stephanie Carey Maron, Rabbi Ebn Leader, Tatina Becker, Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Jake Herman, Barrie Keller, and Cindy-jo Gross for all her work and energy to make the retreat possible.
- To our professional team: Noah Weinberg, Sarah Rovin, Josh Greenberg, Rav Tiferet & Rav Claudia and last but not least Rochelle Kelman for attending to every detail of the retreat.

## **To everyone who contributed to and participated in our Women's Retreat!**

- To our guest speaker, Rachel Stomel.
- To session leaders Nancy Lipman, Reggie Silberberg, Leah Abrahams, Pam Greenberg.

## **To our Spring Fundraiser Committee:**

Rabbi Suzanne Offit, Carol Kamin, Rav Claudia Kreiman and Benjamin Maron.

# A HUGE THANK YOU



## to Beth Harris!

We are so grateful for your dedication and amazing talents. Thank you for your work on *Koleinu* over the past several years!

## WELCOME NEW EDITORS FOR *KOLEINU*

By Beth Harris

In 2016 I responded to a plea in *Koleinu*, from then president Sue Kahn, for an editor for the newsletter. At that time *Koleinu* had just been revamped, by the talented Amy Shottenfels, from an every other month publication and our primary source of membership communication to a quarterly publication of stories, reflections and announcements. Our weekly *Happenings* email was becoming our main source of up-to-the-minute information.

At the time I was a soon-to-be empty nester looking for new ways to get involved at TBZ that didn't involve evening meetings, so jumped at the chance. Longtime editor (10 years!) Enid Shulman mentored and supported me in this new role, helping me to get procrastination prone contributors to adhere to deadlines; to navigate the arcane USPS bulk mailing systems; and to edit, edit, edit!

Over these seven years, *Koleinu* has grown from an eight page black and white publication to a 28+

page full color biannual publication, mirroring the growth in numbers and vibrancy of our beloved TBZ during this same period. I hope you've enjoyed the overview of the shul that I've aimed to provide in its pages.

Now, it's time for *Koleinu* to have some fresh eyes and energy. I'll still be around, just keeping busy with a new job and a new puppy. I welcome **Idit Klein and Jordan Namerow** as your new editors.



Idit Klein



Jordan Namerow

I've loved being first to know about all the wonderful things our spiritual and lay leaders are doing to contribute to our community and the greater world and getting to know so many of you through your writing and endeavors. Thank you to all the contributors over the years, to Enid Shulman for your initial and ongoing support and to April Ropes, our communications expert, for your calm, organized, can-do attitude and creative eye.

## Aging in Community

Our Aging in Community group serves people 55 and over, but our programs are always open to all. We offer a range of programs, including some that are educational and some that are just for fun. But the overall goal is to provide ways for people, as they age at TBZ, to remain connected to each other in community.

This past fall, our dear Rabbi Sam Seicol piloted Reflect and Connect, which ran through the winter and gave us the opportunity to have meaningful conversations stimulated by a photo and accompanying short text.

In the winter, we had a wonderful Hanukkah Lunch and Learn with Judith Kates on the Biblical Judith. And, Maxine Lyons treated us to an afternoon of learning Israeli folk dancing.

Most recently, Jenni Seicol started a weekly meet up group on Wednesdays at 2:30 in Brookline at the Marriott Courtyard in Coolidge Corner. Please do join us!

Please watch for new programs coming in the future, including one facilitated by Rabbi Suzanne Offit using poetry to explore loss and healing.

We welcome your suggestions and participation!



*Aging in Community's Weekly Meeting  
at the Marriott Courtyard in Coolidge Corner*

## Celebrating Purim!



# L'Chaim

---

- To all graduates, young, old and everywhere in between.
- To Beth and Mitch Harris on the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Ari Karchmer.
- To Broch Bender and Luc Poon, out-of-town TBZ members, and their family on their upcoming marriage.
- To Adam Teller and Rachel Rojanski and their family on the marriage of their daughter Osnat Teller to Paolo Panniccia.
- To Asher Lambert and his family on his becoming bar mitzvah.
- To Rabbi Tyler Dratch (former TBZ rabbinic intern) and Emily Sellman on the birth of their daughter.
- To Rav Claudia who was elected as secretary/officer of the T'ruah: Rabbinic Call for Human Rights Board.
- To Gabriel Krause-Grosman who was awarded an Allston-Brighton Scholarship to attend Boston College in September.
- To Eve Schwartz and her family on her becoming bat mitzvah.
- To Andy Offit on being honored by Hebrew College at their Spring Gala.
- To Sheila Katz on her retirement after 36 years of teaching. Berklee College of Music presented her with the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence.
- Kelly Anne Lewis, Louisa Ould Ouali, and Arcadia Yocheved Margulies Hendrix who completed their conversion to Judaism.
- To Carole Greenfield's on the publication of her first full-length collection of poetry, *Weathering Agents*.
- To Allen Taylor and Kim Kronenberg, founders of the organization STEP (Science Training Encouraging Peace), whose Fellows were recently featured and published in the prestigious bioscience journal, CELL.
- To Allen Taylor on his recent interview in *Losing Sight, Finding Hope: Living with Macular Degeneration*.
- To Liora Blouwolf and her family on her becoming bat mitzvah.
- To Lila Rose Kaplan for her article, "Becoming The Dybbuk," published on Lilith.org.
- To Rachie Lewis and Liz Aeschlimann on the birth of their daughter.
- To Raffi Schwartz and his family on his becoming bar mitzvah.
- To Daniel Zbarsky and his family on his becoming bar mitzvah.
- To Marc Daniels on celebrating his first year anniversary as a Sales Development Representative at Buyers Edge in Waltham, MA.
- To Isabel Danielson on her new position at Ariadne Labs as a Project Coordinator.
- To Fran Adams on welcoming a new grandchild.
- To Wilson, Naomi, and Sardoine Kapanga-Ndjibu, on becoming American citizens.
- To Linda and Len Rosen on the birth of their grandson, Julian Rosofsky Rosen to parents Jonathan Rosen & Anna Rosofsky.
- To former TBZ teacher, Rabbi David Winship, and Jasmine Gothelf on the birth of their second child.
- To Eli Wylen and Ina Bachman on the birth of a granddaughter, Evelyn Brooke Beato, to parents Sophie Wylen Beato and Jon Beato.
- To Beverly Sky on having one of her handmade paper/pulp paintings chosen for permanent collection of the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- To Jack Eiferman and Fern Fisher on celebrating the 100th birthday of Jack's mother, Deborah Eiferman.
- To Rabbi Jen Gubitz, Founder and Executive Director of Modern Jewish Couples, and Rabbi Daniel Klein, Dean of Students of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College, for being recipients of the Covenant Foundation Signature Grant.
- To Mark Dwortzan on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of his bar mitzvah
- To parents, EmmaRose Joffe & Dylan Nelson, and grandparents, Rosalind & Jake Joffe, on the birth of Natalia Ivy Nelson.
- To Ed De Vos and Judy Schechtman, Phyllis Brawarsky and Noah Fasten on their grandson, Charlie Drouin becoming bar mitzvah.
- To Leah Abrahams on her photobook, *Do You See What I See?* being juried into the 13th Annual Photobook Exhibition.
- To Sam Lipton and his family on his becoming bar mitzvah.

## CONDOLENCES

- To Sue Kahn and Dan Kirshchner and their family on the death of Sue's father, Laurie Isaac Kahn.
- To Joel Feldman and Meryl Finkel and their family on the death of Joel's mother Florence Feldman.
- To Max Farber and his family on the death of Max's father, Steven Farber. We also offer our condolences to Susan Farber, Max's mother who was married to Steven for almost 40 years.
- To Katherine Ellin, Gilead Tadmor, and their family on the death of Katherine's mother, Carole Ellin.
- To Julia Freedson and Arturo Falck and their family on the death of Julia's aunt Virginia (Gini) Jonas.
- To Boris and Emma Zbarsky on the death of Boris's grandmother, Sarra Blank.
- To April Ropes, TBZ's longtime Communications Assistant, on the death of her father, Roland "Butch" Desreuisseau.
- To Lucy Msall and Simcha Barkai on the death of Lucy's father, Lawrence Msall.
- To Debbie Korn, Bob Stickgold, Jessie Stickgold-Sarah, Emma Stickgold, Adam Korn and their family on the death of Debbie's father, Lawrence (Larry) Korn.
- To Amy Bullock and Gayle Stern on the death of Amy's brother, Michael James Bullock.
- To Tamar and Phil Warburg and their family on the death of Tamar's mother, Sheila Rosenblum.
- To Jonathan, Kim, and Sidney Golden and entire family on the death of Jonathan's mother, Gayle B. Golden.
- To Leah Abrams and her family on the death of her husband, Andrew Schwartz.
- To Seth Alper and Bobbi Isberg and their family on the death of Seth's sister, Naomi Alper.

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

NOVEMBER 22, 2022 - MAY 23, 2023

## DONATIONS

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Leah Abrahams                            | Adam Frost                               | Viktoriya Kovalenko & Boris Furman       | Kenner Reich                                  |
| Diane Abrams                             | Paula Fuchs                              | Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover              | Kenneth & Stephanie Reich                     |
| Irene Abrams & Jonathan Solomon          | Howard & Elfriede Garber                 | Rabbi Claudia Kreiman & Rabbi Ebn Leader | Beverly Rosen                                 |
| Seth Alper & Roberta Isberg              | Esteban Garcia                           | Michael Krieger                          | Navah Rosenbaum                               |
| Laurie Alpert & Barry Weiss              | Deborah Gardner                          | Susan Krieger                            | Arnold & Susan Rosenberg                      |
| Miriam Aschkenasy                        | Suzanne Gelber                           | Pnina Lahav                              | David Rothberg                                |
| Ina Bachman & Eli Wylen                  | Jonathan & Kim Golden                    | Yana Lapkin                              | Glenn Rothfeld                                |
| Jerome & Leah Bass                       | James Goldman & Ronna Tapper-Goldman     | Yechezkel (Ken) Lawrence                 | Deborah Rozelle                               |
| Sharon Bauer                             | Jen Goldman                              | Mishy Lesser                             | Martin Rudomen                                |
| Heidi Berenson                           | Leonard & Nancy Goldstein                | Ronnie Levin & Joel Schwartz             | Ruth Saltzman                                 |
| Beth Bernstein                           | Marcia Goldstein                         | Susan Levin                              | Marisa Schafer                                |
| Rebecca & Joshua Blouwolff               | Rachel Goodman                           | Alan & Helen Leviton                     | Judith Schechtman & Edward De Vos             |
| Susan Bookbinder                         | Alec & Irene Gorokhosvsky                | Nomi Levy-Carrick & Richard Carrick      | Rabbi Susan Schnur & Len Fishman              |
| Roberta Paula Books                      | Francine Grossbart                       | Rachel Lewis & Elizabeth Aeschlimann     | Velda Shaby                                   |
| Jeffrey Borenstein & Lilly Pelzman       | Neil & Aileen Grossman                   | Steve Lewis                              | Alan Shapiro                                  |
| Phyllis Brawarsky & Noah Fasten          | Judith Haber                             | Marilin & Steven Lipman                  | David Krumholz & Sharon Cohen-Krumholz        |
| Richard Brodie & Deborah Danzig - Brodie | Danya Handelsman & Jed Shugerman         | Debbie Lipton                            | Reggie Silberberg                             |
| Michelle Citron                          | Muriel Heiberger                         | Polina Lokshina                          | Molly Silver                                  |
| Gary Cohen                               | Janet Huettig                            | Ariela Lovett                            | Bennett Simon & Roberta Apfel                 |
| James Cohen                              | Israel and Mollie Myers Foundation, Inc. | Yitz Magence                             | Mark & Marjorie Sokoll                        |
| Paul Cooperstein & Maria Merloni         | Lenny Jacobs                             | Arnold Maltz & Aileen Louik              | Anna Solok                                    |
| Naomi Cotter                             | Scott Jacobson & Hillary Schwab          | Rebecca Mautner                          | Sarah & Ori Sonnenfeld-Noked                  |
| Jane & Jack Daniels                      | Jewish Arts Collaborative                | Nancy Mazonson & David Ofsevit           | Allen Spivack & Sherry Grossman               |
| Mark Dinaburg & Jean Weinberg            | Jacob & Rosalind Joffe                   | Maurice Medoff                           | Ira Spool                                     |
| Marcia Dector                            | Sue Kahn & Daniel Kirschner              | Jordan & Evonne Meranus                  | Diane Sredl                                   |
| Mark Dwortzan                            | Robert & Susie Kaim                      | Myron Miller                             | Deb Stang                                     |
| Jeremy Eichler & Karen Naimer            | Carol & Alan Kamin                       | Sharon Morgenbesser                      | Ellie Starr                                   |
| Jack Eiferman & Fern Fisher              | Cindy Kaplan                             | Valerie Morhaime & Eli Epstein           | David Stone                                   |
| Katherine Ellin & Gilead Tadmor          | Gary Kaplan & Kim White                  | Debra Morley                             | Jill Stopfer                                  |
| Fiona Epstein & Jon Pollack              | Leeza Kapuler                            | Gerald Nadler                            | David Strauss                                 |
| Susan Farber                             | William & Judith Kates                   | Preston Neal & Anna Spier                | Kenneth Sugarman                              |
| Joel Feldman & Meryl Finkel              | Roman & Vana Kats                        | David Neiman & Patricia Lotterman        | Gregory Surilov                               |
| Ruth & Ed Feldman                        | Barbara Kellman                          | Nancy Nozick-Grodim                      | Suzanne Salamon                               |
| Sarah Fendrick & David Kaplan            | Nancy & Kenneth Kirsch                   | Diane O'Donoghue & Kimbell DiCero        | Rebecca Swartz                                |
| Leslie Fox                               | Judith Klau                              | Melvin & Joan Odze                       | Wendy Tallman                                 |
| Yarden Fraiman & Samuel Mendoza Fraiman  | Idit Klein & Jordan Namerow              | Robin Okun & Peter Weinstein             | Eddie & Sandy Taub                            |
| Marion & Stan Freedman-Gurspan           | Jonathan Klein & Amy Schottenfels        | Louisa Ould Ouali & Xavier Langlois      | Irina & Alla Tolmach                          |
| Bella Freydina                           | Rabbi Daniel & Jennifer Klein            | Allison Peiser                           | Bronislava Vishnevetskaya & Mayor Maystrovsky |
|  | Ammi Kohn                                | Irwin & Gloria Pless                     |   |
|  | Deborah Korn & Bob Stickgold             | Bernie Plovnick                          |   |

Rabbi Moshe & Anne Waldoks  
Tali Walters & Peter Buechler  
Alan Weisner  
Barrie Wheeler & Amit Segal  
Neal Wolf  
David & Judith Woodruff  
Carl Woolf  
Naomi Zobot  
Emma & Boris Zbarsky  
Jeri Zeder & Paul Pato

## ANNUAL HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

Leah Abrams  
Frances Adams  
Frederique Apffel-Marglin  
Diane Balser  
Mark Barnett &  
Katherine Gergen Barnett  
Richard Bennett & Deb Gaffin  
Paul & Phyllis Berz  
Annie Braudy  
David Cherenon  
Ashley Davidoff & Naomi Fisher Davidoff  
Jeremy Eichler & Karen Naimer  
Jill Feblowitz  
Sarah Fendrick & David Kaplan  
Yarden Fraiman &  
Samuel Mendoza Fraiman  
Neil & Aileen Grossman  
Bella Harris  
Beth & Mitchel Harris  
Robert Hock  
Sue Kahn & Daniel Kirschner  
Carol & Alan Kamin  
Cindy Kaplan  
William & Judith Kates  
Felicia Kazer & David Vitale-Wolff  
Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover  
Karen Lange & Michael Broshi  
Valery & Joseph Levy  
Daniel & Beth Marx  
Mark McElroy

Myron Miller  
David Neiman & Patricia Lotterman  
Robin Okun & Peter Weinstein  
Robert & Lesley Perlman  
Francine Price  
Shulamit & Jehuda Reinharz  
Deb Stang  
Douglas Starr  
Rabbi Mona Strick & Mark Housman  
Sara & Claudio Toppelberg  
Audrey Wagner & Craig Harris  
Rabbi Moshe & Anne Waldoks  
Noah Weinberg  
Rob Weinberg & Joy Wasserman

## SPRING FUNDRAISER

Leah Abrams  
Frances Adams  
Seth Alper & Roberta Isberg  
Naomi Azar & Aaron Wolfe  
Diane Balsar  
Richard Bennett & Deb Gaffin  
Matan BenYishay & Rabbi Jen Gubitz  
Rabbi Tiferet & Joel Berenbaum  
Rebecca & Joshua Blouwolf  
Susan Bookbinder  
Jeffrey Borenstein & Lilly Pelzman  
Annie Braudy  
Phyllis Brawarsky & Noah Fasten  
Scott Cassel & Susan Podziba  
Deborah Chassler & David Lucal  
David Cherenon  
Gary Cohen  
James Cohen  
Susan Acrimmins  
Jane & Jack Daniels  
Jonathan Decter &  
Nikki Horberg Decter  
Hasia Diner  
Mark Dwortzan  
Katherine Ellin & Gilead Tadmor  
Samuel Engel & Anne Freeh Engel  
Reita Ennis  
Fiona Epstein & Jon Pollack  
Arturo Falck & Julia Freedson

Susan Farber  
Joel Feldman & Meryl Finkel  
Evelyn Frankford  
Paula Fuchs  
Esteban Garcia  
Suzanne Gelber  
Patricia Givens  
Phyllis Goldstein  
Rachel Goodman  
Laurie Gould  
Danya Handelsman & Jed Shugerman  
Beth & Mitchel Harris  
Muriel Heiberger  
Claudia Herman  
Anat Hochberg  
Janet Huettig  
Jacob & Rosalind Jofee  
Robert & Melissa Kagan  
Sue Kahn & Daniel Kirschner  
Robert & Susie Kaim  
Deborah Kalin  
Carol & Alan Kamin  
Kathy & Thomas Kates  
William & Judith Kates  
Felicia Kazer & David Vitale-Wolff  
Barrie Keller  
Hanna Kendler  
Judith Klau  
Jonathan Klein & Amy Schottenfels  
Rabbi Daniel & Jennifer Klein  
Deborah Korn & Bob Stickgold  
Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover  
Rabbi Claudia Kreiman &  
Rabbi Ebn Leader  
Pnina Lahav  
Michy Lesser  
Alan & Helen Leviton  
Marjorie Lewis  
Rachel Lewis & Elizabeth Aeschlimann  
Steven Lewis  
Jan Liebschutz & Roger Zimmerman  
Nancy Lipman  
Hilda Lopez  
Lisa Lovett & Julie Reuben  
Charlie Lurio  
Mallory & Doug Lutz

Lenny Marcus & Wendy Caplan  
Rabbi Natan & Ilana Margalit  
Daniel & Beth Marx  
Rowan Mattox  
Monica McAlpine  
Mark McElroy  
Jordan & Evonne Meranus  
Myron Miller  
Sharon Morgenbesser  
David Neiman & Patricia Lotterman  
Neshama: Association of  
Jewish Chaplains  
Diane O'Donoghue & Kimbell DiCero  
Rabbi Suzanne & Andrew Offit  
Helen Onthank  
Irwin & Gloria Pless  
Bernie Plovnick  
Penny Roberts  
Judith Rosenbaum & Rabbi Or Rose  
Michael Rosenbaum & Julie Arnow  
Irene (Renee) & Hal Rudnick  
Judith Schechtman & Edward De Vos  
Leslie & Ira Schonberg  
Anna Schwartz  
David & Lorraine Seicol  
Jenni & Rabbi Sam Seicol  
Rhonda Shifman  
Enid Shulman  
Molly Silver  
Jim & Susan Snider  
Judy & David Sonner  
Diane Sredl  
Deb Stang  
Jessie Stickgold-Sarah  
David Strauss  
Muriel Swartz  
Richard Swartz  
Amy Sweigenberg  
Eddie & Sandy Taub  
Sara & Claudio Toppelberg  
Rosemary Walker  
Noah Weinberg  
Alan Weisner  
Jen Wofford  
Naomi Zobot  
Donna Zahn

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Hasia Diner  
Reena Freedman & Daniel Riles  
Belle Linda Halpern  
Andrew Halpert  
Nicholas Hyman & Rachel Chao  
Mallory & Doug Lutz  
Rowan Mattox  
Ifat Rubin-Bejerano & Yaniv Bejerano  
Jake Shapiro & Bridgette Lappe





# HIGH HOLY DAYS 2023

**Erev Rosh Hashanah is September 15**

**Be on the lookout for membership renewal information,  
service schedules and ticket information  
in your mail box this summer.**

**Please return your forms to the office promptly!**

TEMPLE BETH ZION  
1566 Beacon Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BOSTON MA  
PERMIT No. 1566