

Spring 2024/5784

# KOLEINU

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# FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By Jen Klein and Larry Kraus

In these challenging times in the world around us, we feel so grateful that TBZ can be such a positive and affirming space for all of us. It has been a very busy six months at TBZ and we wanted to share some of the things that are going on.

We are excited that we have hired Leah Carnow as our Assistant Rabbi, Director of Community Engagement! This position was identified as a central need by our Strategic Planning Committee in 2022, and since then our membership has only continued to grow. Since 2020, our membership has increased about 160%, from approximately 310 to almost 500 households! We want to be engaged with each of you, and Leah will help make sure that people are meaningfully plugged in.

We have only been able to reach this point through the support of so many of you in our revitalized development efforts. We appreciate all of the hard work of the Development Committee, and the leadership of VP of Development Samuel Mendoza. We welcome financial support from everyone in the community at a level that is meaningful for them, with a little stretching where possible. Given the focus we have needed to place on fundraising, it is important to

continue to say loudly and clearly: our community is and will always be open to everyone, regardless of financial means.

Engagement at TBZ means something different to everyone. Some people engage through our vibrant prayer experiences—whether every week, or whenever they are moved to join. Some engage through one of our many regular classes or educational offerings. Others engage through the camaraderie of serving our community through a committee, like Membership, Hesed, Synagogue Practices, or Aging-in-Community. Some people read Torah. Some engage through Beit Rabban and our family programming. Some engage through our vibrant and diverse social action efforts under our Tikkun Olam Committee. There's no reason to wait until Leah begins to take the first step in getting engaged!

We are so honored to be able to serve and lead this beautiful community, and the work we put in is outweighed by the fulfillment we glean. We are available to you to discuss what's on your mind—your ideas, your hopes, and your concerns. Please contact either of us at [president@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:president@tbzbrookline.org) and we will be back in touch with you.

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# Eat, Pray, & Learn

by Leah Hager Cohen

Wednesday mornings we climb the wide stone steps, some ten or twenty or even thirty of us, to enter the sanctuary for *shacharit* (morning prayers). We *daven* and sing, then make our way down to the community room for bagels and coffee, before pulling out our copies of *Dirshuni: Contemporary Women's Midrash* for an hour of rich and often boisterous communal study. This is the rhythm of Eat, Pray, & Learn, a group I'd wanted to join for years. Finally my work schedule made it possible; I've attended regularly ever since the group started up this fall after the High Holidays.

That first day, October 18th, the air seemed to tremble under the weight of grief. Certain passages in the *siddur* (prayer book) rang with terrible immediacy: "We have sat and wept as we recalled our kin who were slaughtered, suffocated, and burned to ashes." "I am weary with sighing and weeping; nightly my pillow is soaked with tears." It was meaningful to look into the faces of people, to join in shared sorrow and to practice these humble acts of the living: nourishing ourselves, embracing one another, being curious together, witnessing our common pain.

I was conscious of a more private pain I carried, too, something I've been struggling with for some time. It's the

question of whether I belong at TBZ, whether there's space in our community for a person like me. A person whose thoughts about Israel and Palestine differ from those given voice in the dominant conversation at synagogue. For years I have felt caught between desire and obligation: the desire not to cause hurt to people I care for, and the obligation to speak truthfully and be useful in working toward justice and freedom.

Since October 7th, this struggle has intensified. I'm more sharply aware than ever of what I experience as troubling speech and even more troubling silences. And yet – when I look around the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings, and around the table where we sit with our books and bagels – I see the faces of people I respect and learn from and hold dear. Hillel says, "Do not separate yourself from the community." What I cherish most about Eat, Pray, & Learn is the opportunity it affords to keep coming together, to be and to grow in community. I haven't laid down my struggle; it accompanies me each week. Perhaps that's a sign that there is space for someone like me at TBZ: the simple fact that week after week I feel called to return, troubled and hopeful, to climb those stone steps in company.

## Save the Date for TBZ's Spring Fundraiser! May 30th, 7pm



Honoring Judith Kates

with the music of Yoni Battat



# TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ

“Repairing the Word”

## ABORTION ACCESS ACTION GROUP

The Abortion Access Action Group at TBZ has continued to work on multiple fronts to support legitimate abortion providers as well as to expose fraudulent Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs). These anti-abortion centers pretend to offer pregnancy counsel and free medical services when in fact they do not offer any comprehensive medical treatment and serve only to “save the unborn” with little concern for the bodily autonomy of the actual decision-maker. We discovered that not only are CPCs prevalent in “red” states but are even present in great numbers (at least 30) in Massachusetts, with one operating right down the street from TBZ at 1180 Beacon Street. Our group decided we needed to help expose the fake clinic in our midst.

We currently have two primary ongoing actions in addition to our goal of self-educating at every gathering so that we are up-to-date on the swiftly changing landscape of reproductive rights since the fall of Roe.

We have partnered with a local abortion provider in Brookline to help support every individual who seeks care there as well as the dedicated workers at Women’s Health Services. Turning to the always generous TBZ community, we have successfully completed two large campaigns to collect and assemble hundreds of “comfort kit” bags containing wish list items requested by clinic staff. In addition to tea, socks, snacks, heating pads and more, each bag contains a hand-written, decorated card offering words of support and solidarity. Watch out for our next collection in the spring and join us Sunday morning, May 5th, as we learn, write supportive cards, and prepare the bags.

Our second ongoing action is a monthly standout in front of Your Options Medical, the CPC right here in Brookline.



Every third Wednesday of the month a group of five or six of us stand for an hour, mainly silently, holding signs in front of the building and offering informative handouts to curious passers-by. Each time, we have encountered many locals who were shocked to learn that this facility, heavily financed by anti-abortion religious groups, is operating in our town. This action was inspired by an earlier campaign that we participated in through the leadership of the Indivisible Feminist Action Team of Massachusetts, based on Cape Cod. We are currently considering partnering on a second campaign with them to counter-protest at local Planned Parenthood facilities being targeted by anti-abortion demonstrators.

There is much more work to be done defending democracy in this country and state. Please join us and add your power!

Contact Fran Adams, Sara Smolover, Bobbi Katz and Julia Freedson at [aaag@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:aaag@tbzbrookline.org)



# Reflections on a Protest for Choice

By Michael Krause-Grosman

In March, when I heard that a group out of Texas was going to be organizing a 40-day protest at Planned Parenthood offices in Massachusetts, I wanted to take action. I volunteered to stand in front of the Planned Parenthood building on Commonwealth Ave from 1:00 - 3:00pm as part of a counter-protest to '40 Days for Life,' on day 24 of 40.

I biked over and was pleased to find six other men already there. I took a sign and stood on the sidewalk. The protesters were further down the sidewalk, outside the 25-foot exclusion zone, which, while it had been painted, was a little worn for wear. The protesters had a speaker and were setting up a religious service, which happened from 2:00 to 3:00pm.

It was a peaceful demonstration. There was one woman who really wanted to stand in front of the door to the building. Since it was Sunday, and the building was closed, there was no reason she couldn't be there, but we had one man stand in front of her, with a "Support Choice" sign. There were also two people with a "Honk if you Support Choice" sign standing by the road. A woman from the 40 Days group engaged our honk sign holders, and said, gleefully, "Look, I have a sign too." It said "Honk Twice for Life." She offered a couple of our guys snacks, which I later learned were packages of lifesavers. They politely declined, and then she went closer to her group to hold her sign.

I started off on the sidewalk next to the wall of the Planned Parenthood building. It was so interesting to watch some faces of passers-by go from disgust to joy as they found out

that there were people supporting their point of view as well. One woman, maybe in her 70s, smiled at us, and gave each of us a big thumbs up as she passed. When she got to the other group, she changed fingers and gave each of them a different greeting. Many cars honked, 3 MBTA buses honked. About 1/2 way through, I switched and held a "Honk for Choice" sign. I lost count of how many honks of support we received. And more than a couple of the double honks didn't see the honk twice for life sign because it wasn't up at the time. I counted three cars that seemed to be honking to support the 40 Days folks.

I was impressed with how many people who passed me read the signs. After the service was over, the '40 Days' people left, and we put our signs away. I heard another story of a woman who came up to one of our counter-protesters to apologize. Apparently, she flipped him the bird, thinking he was with the protesting group, and wanted to let him know she was very sorry, and really appreciated that he was there. He hadn't seen her gesture. I was wished a good day by one of the protesters as they departed, and I gave a friendly reply. I had a vision of the old looney tunes cartoon where the whistle blows at the end of the day and sheepdog and wolf stop their jobs, and as they head home, wish each other a good evening while punching out at the time-clock. I really appreciated how civil both sides were. I intend to do this again.

## RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP

The Racial Justice group supports TBZ's institutional commitment to anti-racist work, with the goal of becoming a welcoming, culturally competent, and inclusive anti-racist synagogue community. Recently members participated in learning communities at TBZ through Kirva's "Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out" Mussar practice. We also coordinated with TBZ leadership to advance welcoming and inclusive practices, and researched Jewishly-focused anti-racist learning and practice opportunities to begin in the spring. Want to participate or learn more? Contact Jessie Stickgold-Sarah at [jstickgold@gmail.com](mailto:jstickgold@gmail.com)

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR INCARCERATED & FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

TBZ members continue to focus on supporting incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals through both individual acts of chesed (lovingkindness) and through legislative initiatives (tikkun olam).

On December 9th, TBZ (as well as many congregations across the U.S.) participated in an annual Human Rights Shabbat. At the Kiddush Talk that day, about 50 TBZers listened to and learned from formerly incarcerated women about the challenges of this population. The women who spoke at the Kiddush Talk displayed much courage and were quite impactful. We learned about opportunities to get involved in legislative initiatives to promote parole for elderly incarcerated women and to create alternatives to incarceration and pathways home from incarceration.

TBZ continues to be involved in the Partakers organization to support mentoring incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Through the College Behind Bars (CBB) Program, TBZers are mentoring incarcerated individuals who are getting college degrees behind bars. The CBB mentors meet monthly in-person with incarcerated mentees to provide guidance, caring, and support. Through the Partakers Empowerment Program

(PEP), TBZers are also mentoring recently released individuals as they transition from prison to freedom. During a 12-week period, the PEP mentors provide weekly mentoring via Zoom as the recently released mentees learn about important transition skills regarding obtaining employment, finding housing, financial literacy, computer literacy, etc. PEP mentors are a significant part of this transition, which has resulted in major reductions in recidivism.

**If you are interested in getting involved in these very important Chesed and Tikkun Olam incarceration-related matters, please contact:**

### **Legislative Initiatives:**

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### **Partakers CBB and PEP Programs:**

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## REFUGEE SHABBAT

TBZ celebrated HIAS' Sixth Annual Refugee Shabbat on February 2, 2024. Refugee Shabbat is an invitation for congregations, organizations, and individuals to express their solidarity with the global Jewish movement for refugee protection and welcome.

TBZ has been actively involved in asylum seeker and refugee resettlement since becoming a founding member of the Newton Brookline Asylum Resettlement Coalition (NBARC) in 2016. Since that time, we have helped resettle a dozen families in Greater Boston, thanks in large part to many TBZ members who stepped up to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure!

This year we were honored to welcome NBARC's most recent clients, the wonderful "K" family from Afghanistan, to share some words with us at our refugee Shabbat



service. Mom, dad, and the oldest two of their four children, Ayesha (age 9) and Asma (age 7), spoke about their lives in Afghanistan, including the things they loved (the friendliness and safety of their small mountain town) and



the things they miss (the delicious food and wonderful smells of the food markets, as well as their beloved parents and grandparents); what it was like to move to and live in America (“scary but then we met so many nice people”) and how grateful they are for all the help they received from the NBARC volunteers.

In the two years that the Ks have been living in the Boston area, they have learned many things: how to use a gas stove, how to ride a school bus, and how to speak, read, and write in English. Mrs K. is particularly grateful to all the volunteers who have been helping her and her husband learn English, as well as to all the school teachers who have been educating her daughters. She knows that had they stayed in Afghanistan, her daughters would never have the opportunity to be educated, especially since the Taliban passed a law in 2021 banning girls older than age 12 from all schools. Now she beams with pride when her oldest daughter says how much she loves to write and wants to be a teacher someday, and when her middle daughter says she wants to be a doctor because she loves to help people. She knows that as hard as it was to leave

her country and her loved ones behind, she can see a bright future ahead for her family.

As HIAS states, “Refugee Shabbat is a critical moment to reaffirm and redouble our support for refugees, asylum seekers, and the forcibly displaced.” There are currently 36 million refugees and 114 million displaced people in the world today. This is a total of 150 million people who cannot live in their home country due to lack of safety. I want to encourage everyone to become a “welcomer.” If you know how to ride the subway, shop in a grocery store, use a library card, open a bank account, register a child for school, fill out a job application, or pay a bill, you are qualified to be a welcomer. There are so many ways to help and so many people who are ready and waiting to be welcomed. If you are interested, please contact me at [jbberz@gmail.com](mailto:jbberz@gmail.com) or check out President Biden’s brand new initiative called Welcome Corps at [welcomecorps.org](http://welcomecorps.org).

Finally, many thanks to all who have volunteered with NBARC and with refugee resettlement of any kind. Your generosity is so appreciated and means so much to the families you support.

## GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION



by Jane Daniels

“Everyone deserves a home!” That is the refrain GBIO has been chanting across the Commonwealth at In-District Meetings this past fall and winter. Dozens of TBZ members have been actively engaged with GBIO in planning, attending, and volunteering at these meetings with our state senators and state representatives. These in-district meetings are an important part of GBIO’s long running housing justice campaign, which has influenced the Governor to draft favorable housing justice provisions in her Affordable Homes Act; things that GBIO has been fighting for these past 18 months. The In-District Meetings are meant to organize GBIO “people power” to influence our legislators to pass this act and support housing justice items in next year’s budget!

TBZ members have attended these In-District Meetings in Hyde Park, Arlington, Newton, Cambridge, and other towns. These events are a show of power by diverse, multi-faith coalitions of constituents, and they are truly something to behold. At one meeting held on January 29th at Union Church in Waban, 15 TBZ



members helped to pack Union Church with 230 people to hold their elected accountable to act on housing justice. Senator Cindy Creem, Rep. Kay Khan, Rep. Tommy Vitolo, Rep. Ruth Balser, and Rep. Alice Peisch were in attendance. They listened to

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stories from GBIO leaders including public housing tenants, returning citizens and neighbors lacking affordable low and middle income options to rent or buy. We directly asked our legislators for their support on moving the governor's housing bond bill, passing the real estate transfer fee, making direly needed improvements to our state public housing, and taking actions to make housing accessible to returning citizens. And our legislators listened and said they were impressed.

The GBIO Housing Justice Campaign will continue through the spring and summer. There will be a very big action on house and senate leadership in March. Many GBIO members will show up for legislative hearings to lend their support to GBIO leaders giving testimony. There will be emails and phone calls to make to legislators as the votes come up.

**All of the people who act** – those who show up at a meeting or hearing, or volunteer at an event, or make calls or send emails to legislators, or give a ride so GBIO members can show up in power – **help to move the needle a little closer to housing justice.**



We hope many TBZ members will join us in GBIO's Housing Justice efforts. There are many different ways – big and small – to get involved. To find out more contact a TBZ GBIO Core Team Member.

The TBZ GBIO Core Team

Susan Bookbinder, Jane Daniels, Rachel Goodman, Aileen Grossman, Rosalind Joffe, Gary Kaplan, Barrie Keller, Ira Krotick, Sarah Langer, Jerry Levine, Deb Stang, Jen Wofford

## TBZ HOUSING JUSTICE TEAM

Last September, the TBZ Housing Justice Team joined with Abundant Housing Massachusetts (AHMA) and others to sponsor a panel discussion with Richard Rothstein, co-author of *Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted under the Color of Law*, and Karilyn Crockett, author of *People Before Highways*. They discussed how to challenge housing segregation and build people-centered communities. Both books explore how community groups can work to create victories that can begin to undo residential segregation and help remedy America's profoundly unconstitutional past.

That well-attended event inspired us to offer a five-week program, lunch-and-learn on *Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under The Color of Law*. Led by Jonathan Klein, we had a robust and interesting conversation regarding housing history and what we can do to respond to housing injustice.

In November, the TBZ Housing Team worked with our TBZ GBIO Core Team to help pass key legislation around

MBTZ zoning compliance. We helped to achieve a strong vote at November's Brookline Town Meeting for a plan that could increase housing stock over time within 15-25% affordability.

Over the winter, we focused our efforts on working with GBIO to lobby for Housing Justice in support of Governor Healey's Affordable Housing Act. This includes \$4.1 BILLION for affordable housing over 5 years, including \$1.6B for public housing as well as other key initiatives to improve Housing Justice in MA. This will be our primary focus for the next six months.

If you want to learn more, share concerns and or get involved, please contact:

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TBZ Housing Justice Team co chairs



# Hope Diaries Project

By Shirah Rubin

I believe in the power of diaries. I have filled over 200 diaries and have experienced their potential for introspection, healing, and growth. Making diary covers with groups is part of my art practice and I recently facilitated workshops for groups of rabbis, educators, and children. Creating diary covers personalizes the diary-making process and encourages the use of a journal for reflection.

In response to the war in Gaza, I wanted to contribute something so I decided to adapt the diary cover workshops for adolescents to make what I call Hope Diaries for children in Israel funded by CJP. Twenty Beit Rabban students here at TBZ contributed to this project..

The Hope Diaries project was intended as a *mitzvah* (good deed) project based on empathy. Empathy is like a muscle that requires flexing and toning. Empathy needs to be practiced to grow and flourish. This project was designed to plant some seeds of empathy for young people here in our local community as well as the Haifa branch of the unique Yad b'Yad - Hand in Hand School. Founded 27 years ago the six Yad B'yad Schools are comprised of Israeli Jewish and Arab students. These schools share an education, fostering a new generation of Arabs and Jews equipped to live side by side, as partners and peers. The curricula in Hand in Hand's schools are based on values that reflect the cultures, languages, and narratives of both Jews and Arabs.

In November and December, I conducted four workshops with students in which we discussed what gives the Beit Rabban students hope and comfort in their lives. I also introduced the Hand-in-Hand School's inspiring co-existence model to them with the idea that Israeli and Arab children were learning in school together, having difficult conversations, requiring empathy and that this model of educating for peace could provide them hope. Afterwards, students made collages, cutting out and



arranging bright shapes using repetition and variation as guiding aesthetic principles. In particular, the art making was a collaborative one which was intended to create a space for students to listen and visually respond to one another's collage works. The students made their work and then were requested to pause and swap their collages with a partner, discussing and listening to each other's hopes while reflecting upon each other's works-in-progress. This process was framed as an exercise in empathy and collaboration - seeing another's art work and trying to emphasize, highlight, and continue their visual creation. After the conversation, the pairs continued their own work. Creativity and imagination are processes that encourage empathy and connection to each other.

Rav Claudia was the *shliachat-ha mitzvah*, a messenger who kindly delivered the diaries to the point person in Israel from the Haifa Hand-in-Hand School.

The Hebrew College Arts Initiative displayed copies of the covers in an exhibition during January, 2024. This exhibit featured diary covers created by Boston-area fifth through eighth graders from TBZ, JCDS, SSDS, and Metrowest Day School reflecting on what hope means to them.

# TRANSFORMING Grief, EMBRACING Joy

by Rav Claudia

הִפַּכְתָּ מִסִּפְדֵי לְמַחֹל לִי פִתַּחְתָּ שִׁקִּי וְתֹאזְרֵנִי שִׂמְחָה.

You turned my lament into dancing, you undid my sackcloth and girded me with joy. (Psalm 30:12)

Since October 7th, every time I read this verse, which is part of the daily liturgy, I pause and ask myself, “Is this possible? Can we imagine our grief, our pain to be transformed into joy, into dancing.”

My dad, Rabbi Angel Kreiman-Brill (z”l), used to speak about the work of transforming our pain into joy. He started speaking this way shortly after my mother was killed in a terrorist attack in Buenos Aires nearly 30 years ago. At first, this notion that my pain, anger, and sadness could be transformed into joy made me more angry. How could I ever imagine embracing life at its fullest after this terrible tragedy? How could I move on?

The day the *shiva* (seven days of mourning) ended for my mom, we attended the wedding of my parents’ students. I remember clearly being at the ceremony with my family and holding both the joy for this couple, with whom my family was very close, and the terrible pain of having lost my mom. I did not know if my heart could bear both.

Last fall, when I was at a dance and yoga class, the teacher invited us to connect to our joy from within as a way to find resilience during these very hard times. My first reaction to her invitation was “no way” – I have no joy within myself, and even if I did have it, I can’t access that joy. All that I have within myself is sadness, pain, confusion, and fear. I even felt angry at such a request to access my joy. I felt guilty, too, for being in a space that would allow me to experience joy, that would invite me to embrace hope. By the end of that

class – with tears and lots of deep breaths – I realized something simple, something that I have always carried in my heart: Accessing my joy does not mean I care less; accessing my joy and hope means that we don’t give up on the world, that we don’t give up on humanity, that we don’t give up on ourselves.

I will be honest: the months following October 7th have been among the most difficult of my life, both professionally and personally. As a rabbi, I have struggled with how to continue to share a Torah that gives us hope, that believes in humanity, and that expresses how all humans are created in God’s image. I have wrestled with my assumptions about humanity and with some of my basic theological views. I have, and do, feel more fear for my loved ones than I have felt in the past. I feel sad, angry, and hopeless more than I have felt before. Hostages are still being held captive by Hamas in Gaza, young Israeli soldiers have died in battle, and far too many Palestinians have been killed in the midst of a growing humanitarian crisis. Israel is led by an extremist far-right wing government and the prospect that we could one day live in peace – or at least not in war – feels further and further. It is easy – and expected – to feel hopeless, angry, sad, and heart-broken. How can I feel anything but that, how can I, how can we, allow ourselves to embrace joy and hope. Can the verse from Psalm 30:12 be a statement rather than a question?

There is a story in the Babylonian Talmud, in the Tractate of Sanhedrin 98a, where Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi approaches the Messiah who is sitting at the



entrance of the city of Rome, dressed as a poor man. Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi greets the Messiah and asks them: “When will you come? “The Messiah’s answer is unexpected:” **Today, sometime today.**”

This is such a powerful teaching that we can hold onto. Our sages imagine redemption coming **today**, even when redemption sits in the gates in the midst of the poor, even when it seems that there is no redemption at hand.

Now, the story ends, with a caveat: Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi is disappointed, because clearly the Messiah did not arrive that day. Was this all a lie?

This story ends with the words from Psalm 95:7 **אם בקולו תשמעו היום** - **Today**, if you will listen to God’s voice. Redemption will come today, only if you, if we, if humanity can figure out a way back to the teachings and values that guide us. It is only us that can bring redemption back. I read this to mean today, redemption will come, if you do not give up on the possibility of humanity making the right choices.

When I officiate a wedding, before the breaking of the glass, I often say that the act of smashing a glass reminds us of the brokenness of the world; that even in the happiest of moments we should be mindful of this imperfect world, so that we can gather our strength and our will to bring change and make this world a better place.

I wish there was some sort of opposite ritual, similar to the breaking of a glass, for when hopelessness overtakes us. Something that, in a snap, reminds us that not all is broken.

But perhaps there is: the practice of gratitude, so embedded in our tradition. The first words that come out of our mouth as we wake up, based on our tradition are **מוֹדָה/מוֹדָה אֲנִי** *Modah Ani/Modeh Ani*: “I am grateful.”

It is bold to allow ourselves to practice gratitude, even when we feel exhausted, hopeless, or are not sure we can get out of the darkness.

In January I spent six days in Israel, three visiting family and friends, and three in a solidarity mission with a group of 12 women leaders from the Boston Jewish Community. This visit was very difficult and intense in so many ways. I had been wanting to get on a plane to Israel since October 7th. I knew in my heart and mind that I needed to be there, first and foremost to hug my family and friends, to listen to their experiences, to bear witness to the atrocities that occurred on that day, and to learn what people are feeling and doing. I knew that this trip was not going to be easy and, of course, it wasn’t. While there, I cried and felt my heart breaking again and again, both as I learned more about the reality on the ground and as I grasped the uncertainty about what would happen next. But I was surprised to glean some hope – or at least a reminder not to lose hope – while meeting with different women who are leading courageously to chart a path forward.

Today, I offer this verse from Psalms, not as a statement and not as a question, but as an aspiration; one that reminds me that the way we fight darkness, is through our capacity to practice gratitude and to hold into the belief that today, redemption, is at hand. We don’t give up on hope, we embrace joy and we aspire for a time when our grief can be transformed. During this holiday of Passover, the time of liberation, may we access joy and hope, opening ourselves to the possibility redemption and giving us the strength to continue to work for the freedom of all human beings.

הַפְּכֵת מִסִּפְדֵי לְמַחֹל  
לִי פִתְחֵת שִׁקִּי וְתֹאזְרֵנִי שִׂמְחָה.

*You turned my lament  
into dancing,  
you undid my sackcloth and  
girded me with joy.*



# Reflection

by Leah Carnow

אור זָרַע לְצַדִּיק, וּלְיִשְׂרָיִל־לֵב שְׂמֵחָה

*Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright.  
(Psalm 97:11)*

One of my favorite images from the Zohar is a description of the primordial garden, the garden of Eden. During creation, God, who is the gardener, planted light like seeds, row by row by row.

In times of spiritual exile, says the Zohar, God is not in the garden. But even though there is no gardener, those seeds of light continue sprouting, which is why the verse says *or zarua*. *Or*–(light), is *zarua*–(sown). This being sown is in the passive tense. It does not need active tending to grow. Now of course it would be better if the garden was tended, watered, and actively cared for. But there is still light, continuously being sown, continuously emanating, and the world is sustained by those seeds of primordial light.

I shared this piece of Zohar at Torah study for *parshat Bereshit*, hoping that it would inspire some amount of hope in the recent aftermath of October 7th. This Torah continued to bring me hope throughout a very dark time because it reminds me that both light and joy continue in the dark times. The more I oriented toward seeing that light, the more I found it. And my time interning at TBZ has felt like bright seeds of light. I found light in the Boker Tov community–of people sharing gratitude that opened my own eyes to goodness and feeling inspired by brave souls who volunteered to chant *Ashrei* out loud in community. I found light in the heartfelt prayer at Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services leading with Noah, Rav Claudia, Yoni, and Rafi. I found light in the kindnesses exchanged over the kiddush lunch buffet table and Friday night schmoozing. I saw light as my Shorashim Bet students (2nd and 3rd graders) asked amazing questions and created artistic *midrash* (stories) about Lot’s wife and Jacob’s dream. Our emphasis on community, on showing up for each other, on continuing to hold each other through joy and sorrow and everything in between–that was the biggest light of all.

And I personally know that it’s hard sometimes to let the light in, but we should not feel guilty for experiencing such light or joy in the hard times. Because as the Zohar teaches, *or zarua*, that light is already sown and it will continue shining through. If we can’t keep the light from shining, we may as well look for it and spread it to others, even–and especially–in times of darkness.

Thank you, to the entire TBZ community, for being a manifestation of light for me this year.



# THE ROLE OF THE BOARD AT TBZ

by Sara Smolover  
(Past President and Nominating Committee Co-Chair)

Synagogue boards are unique among non-profit institutions in that board members' spiritual and religious lives are entwined in the institution they lead. Board leaders make decisions about their own place of worship and study, the place where they celebrate and grieve, and where they find community and spiritual guidance. I've always found this fascinating, that board leaders make decisions that impact their own experiences as TBZ members.

The role of the TBZ Board has changed with time and reflects the development of our institution from its start-up phase, through growth and developing consistency, and into a more mature stage of sustainability, where we are now. At one time not long ago, the Board was a hands-on, task-oriented group of people who literally made the egg salad for kiddush, folded letters and licked stamps for mailings, and made flyers for events. As our professional staff grows to support our growing community, our Board has been able to focus on policy and the 'big picture' and less on the day-to-day functioning of the synagogue. The Board is composed of individuals with skill sets and approaches to problem solving that are creative, thorough, respectful, and reflect a diversity of opinions and perspectives. The Board takes the long view, seeking to ensure TBZ's future as a vibrant, healthy organization, and also responds to pressing issues of the day that need consideration and/or policy oversight.

Congregation members are encouraged to bring ideas and concerns to board members. We are a diverse community, with a variety of perspectives and priorities; the task of leadership is to weigh these interests, to explore issues with diligence, and to make the best decisions for the community in partnership with our Senior Rabbi and Executive Director.

The TBZ Board is elected by slate, with the nominations put forth by the Nominating Committee. Each year, there is a range in the number of open positions. To be considered for the slate, potential Board members need to have spent time on committees and/or projects that deepen their knowledge of the TBZ community, including

both the people and the processes that keep our shul operating well. Nominating Committee members seek out individuals who are committed to the sustainability and success of our shul through giving their time and talents. In our conversations with members we explore a person's potential to work with others in collaboration and shared responsibility for the future of TBZ and who are ready to grow into becoming leaders of the community. We look for people who can bring their skills, knowledge and background to the board; whether it is development, finance, organizing, or other areas. Our community thrives and grows on the ideas and energy of our members, and joining a committee that aligns with your interests is a great way to participate in the growth of our community and can lead to more community leadership.

If you would like to have a conversation about getting more involved on the path to Board leadership, please reach out to Carol Kamin ([carol.kamin@gmail.com](mailto:carol.kamin@gmail.com)) or Sara Smolover ([smoloverkraus@gmail.com](mailto:smoloverkraus@gmail.com)), Nominating Committee Co-Chairs.

**Save the Date for  
TBZ's Annual  
Community Meeting**

**JUNE 17**

**Come to learn about the  
state of the shul and  
about TBZ's plans and leadership.**



# Reflections on the Men's Group: The Evolution of a Vibrant Community

by Mark Dwortzan

When snow falls from the sky, it can take awhile before a coating forms on the ground. But once that coating is in place, it enables another coating to stick to it, and then another on top of that. That first coating becomes an inch, and that inch becomes six inches, and so on. With each coating, a collection of individual snowflakes rises to greater heights.

Founded some 18 years ago, the TBZ Men's group has risen, like accumulating snow, to greater heights.

When the group—originally called the Men's Study Group—held its first meeting in this sanctuary, its co-leaders, David Buchsbaum of blessed memory and Allen Spivack, laid down the first coating: we would meet about once a month to share what was going on in our lives in the first hour, and discuss a text or issue facilitated by one or more members in the second. In discussions, we would have the opportunity to deeply explore our identities and behaviors as men, Jewish men, and human beings in a rapidly changing society. In personal check-ins, each man would be encouraged to speak his truth—his challenges, successes, questions and insights, all in confidentiality—while the listeners witnessed with no cross-talk, judgment or advice-giving. The speaker would close by saying “*Dibarti*/I have spoken;” the listeners would then respond, “*Shamati*/I have heard you.”

Over the years, we have laid down many more coatings. Some have enhanced our structure, from timing each other's check-ins to adding an annual TBZ Men's Group Shabbat in honor of Larry Diamond of blessed memory, one of our earliest co-leaders. But the most important coatings have strengthened our relationships over time. By showing up with and for each other month after month, year after year, from engaging in nonjudgmental, deep listening to checking in on men going through hard times,

we have cultivated an atmosphere of acceptance, mutual support, and brotherly love.

Nurtured by the group's growing levels of acceptance, mutual support, and love, I, too, have reached greater heights, like accumulating snow. In my first years in the group, I often struggled to offer a word of commentary during text discussions or to be fully present during others' check-ins. But within a few years, I found myself contributing frequently to those discussions and listening much more closely to each personal sharing. As I grew more confident and present at our meetings, what was once unthinkable for me became thinkable: I stepped up to serve as co-leader of the group, and soon after that as co-leader of an entire Jewish Men's Retreat, and soon after that as Chair of the Board of Menschwork, the umbrella organization for the Jewish Men's Retreat.

Our group's foundation of acceptance, mutual support, and love also made what might seem unthinkable thinkable when we moved to an online weekly format in the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the multiple coatings of connectivity that we had laid down over the years, we actually grew closer on Zoom than we had in person, turning the concept of social distancing on its head. As we met weekly rather than monthly, sometimes in breakout groups, we became far more intimate with each other's story than we had pre-pandemic. And, in the process, more invested in each other's well-being.

In remarks on what he calls “the wound of separation,” Charles Eisenstein, author of *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible*, says, “People in indigenous societies, in tribal societies, or in agrarian villages . . . were enmeshed in a matrix of relationships that gave them a strong identity. Everybody who they saw on a daily basis knew them really well. There was no stranger. Everybody

knew you better than almost any modern person knows their neighbors, because we are immersed in stories from the internet, and from television, and from the outside. We don't know the stories of our neighbors, but in a traditional setting, everybody knew your story.”

Since the start of the pandemic, group members have checked in every Sunday night, typically sharing four-minute chapters of the unfolding stories of their lives. Through speaking and listening every week over the past three years (and once a month in person in the past year), we have come to know one another much better than most of us know our neighbors.

While many of our personal story chapters have been uplifting, from the publication of a book to the birth of

a grandchild, some have been distressing, from the loss of a job to the death of a loved one. And since October 7th, the crisis in Israel and Gaza has affected each of us. Through our storytelling and deep listening over the years, we have formed a vibrant community—one that enhances life, empowering each member to grow individually, care for one other, and evolve together. We are snowflakes ascending, one by one, and as a whole, to touch the sky.

As Rav Claudia says in b'nai mitzvah blessings, “may you be part of vibrant communities.” I say, we would do well to pay more attention to that blessing every time we hear it. May we all find ways to participate in, support, or form vibrant, life-enhancing communities, and in the process, grow to our full potential individually and collectively.

## BEIT RABBAN

by Rav Tiferet

“I wish we could have Beit Rabban every day!” said an enthusiastic first grader at WonderMinyan a few weeks ago. Frankly, I do too! His genuine and concurrent joy and disappointment were palpable. I wish we could spend more time intentionally with our young people, allowing them to experience the magic of TBZ. This young TBZ member and I longed for the “good old days” when learners had concrete Jewish education daily.

Back then, supplemental Jewish education was meant to supplement secular school as learners went for religious instruction daily before their school day. Nowadays, we have fewer hours, and we compete with many other “options” for afterschool and weekend engagement. At TBZ, we have two concrete hours per week. And still, we are blessed with a rich after-school Jewish education program for our K-7th graders, driven by a committed and talented team of educators. We have 49 learners enrolled (what a number, but that’s another article for another day!), which is the most in my five years at TBZ.

What makes our youth education program successful in Jewish literacy is that our education happens beyond the two hours of Beit Rabban. Families come for Friday night services, Shabbat morning services (even when there is no WonderMinyan!), holiday celebrations and more. Many of our parents understand that they do have a choice and they are choosing Jewish community at TBZ, not only for their children but for their whole families. And this, we know, is the most successful path. Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, once said that sending kids for Jewish learning without reinforcing the importance at home and as a family unit was like heating the house with the windows open. It’s not a total waste, but it would be more effective with a more conducive environment. I am proud to be a part of a synagogue community that prioritizes Jewish literacy for its younger members and seeks out ways to bring in (and keep in!) youth of all ages. This gives me the most hope for the Jewish future and the world that is coming.





# Two Reflections on Traveling to Costa Rica

## Recipe for a Breathtaking Retreat by Randi Cohen Coblentz

Take a rabbi from TBZ, infuse noted international intellectual and spiritual guides, whisk in 17 participants from part of greater Boston, Long Island and Washington DC area. Sauté with Jewish learning, marinate with meditation and steep for 4 days.

Voilà! The still small voice of the soul within ourselves is reconstituted.

Rav Claudia brought 17 intrepid travelers to Montaña Azul – a mountain retreat in Costa Rica for four glorious days in bountiful natural beauty. Facilitated by Karina Zilberman and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein with the musical talents of Noah Aronson, this breathtaking retreat was a dynamic blend of Torah study, meditation, music, movement, nature, and nurture.

It is not possible to adequately describe the beauty of the setting, and we were deeply cared for by the choices made on our behalf – from the delicious organic food, to the pristine accommodations in nature - even the stars came out to greet us and guide us nightly.

‘Pura Vida,’ meaning pure life, is a phrase encapsulating the culture of Costa Rica. It is used in many iterations as we would use ‘shalom.’ I found our experiences of creating community and honoring ourselves to be grounding and will serve as a reset for my energies and intentions going forward.

## Bird Songs, Blessings, and Embodied Joy by Susan Farber

In early February 2024, 14 TBZers and three of our friends had the privilege of joining Rav Claudia at La Montaña Azul Retreat Center in Costa Rica. Led by Rabbi and psychologist Marcelo Bronstein, his wife, the multitalented Karina Zilberman, musician and composer Noah Aronson, and Rav Claudia, we were taken on a psycho-spiritual journey that nourished our minds, souls, and senses. We began each day in silence, surrounded by the gorgeous mountains and rich vegetation and flowers that overlooked the valley below.

We were treated to the early morning bird songs which filled the air, and the ever-changing clouds and mist over the mountains. We held our silence through our morning meditation, movement activity and breakfast. And our meals were delicious, organic, and lovingly prepared and served.





We continued our day with mindful prayer, where we looked deeply at our morning liturgy or studied a bit of Torah. We had conversations with G-d.

Every day included some kind of movement activity, singing, embodied learning, journaling, and deep, moving and thoughtful conversations based on texts or poetry. What kind of blessing did we need for our journey? Where had we found joy and connection with our Divine Soul over the course of our lives? What choices do we have? What Torah is emerging in us? How do we live and manage the paradoxes that emerge in our lives? What takes us away from the Divine within us? What are we each ready to do right now to live our life to its fullest?

One afternoon we took a small hike to the beautiful river nearby, and immersed ourselves in the pure and cool water. On another day, we each had a mikvah experience in two man-made local ponds, where we asked ourselves what we were ready to let go of in our lives.

Dressed in all white, our Shabbat was celebrated in joy. And, our farewell gathering around the campfire and under a sky full of stars included a musical havdalah and a sweet personal invitation to commit to some important change in our life. The Costa Rica Retreat created a safe and loving community where each participant could grow spiritually and personally. We are grateful to Rav Claudia for taking us on this beautiful journey.



# Becoming New Parents at TBZ

by Liz Aeschlimann and Rachie Lewis

Our trip to the TBZ Community Retreat was our first night away from home as new parents. We packed the car with a travel crib, bags full of baby clothes, diapers, and bottles, and brought our 7-week old to Craigville Retreat Center. Raya was quickly swarmed with admirers.

So we can say with confidence: If you want to rustle up a cadre of enthusiastic babysitters, try attending the TBZ Community Retreat. And if you want a break from holding your baby, there's no better place to be than TBZ on a Shabbat morning. Bringing our now one-year-old into the community has opened up a whole new set of relationships—to other parents, to Raya's consistent fans, and to everyone she crawls up to or waves at from across the room.

We joined TBZ in part because after years in young adult communities, we wanted to be part of intergenerational Jewish life. Even before we had a baby, we loved hearing children playing in the back corner, praying for the sick, celebrating an engagement, and reciting the mourner's kaddish—all in a single service. As new parents, we see glimpses of the future in the bands of kids roaming the building like they own the place, celebrating b'nei mitzvah, and getting shout outs from the *bima* when they visit from college. Perhaps there is a part of us that longs for an extended sense of kin that can't quite be replicated by a single age group. But there is something else, too. Watching the TBZ community support and accompany people through the full tapestry of human experience reassures us that as we too celebrate, mourn, age, and change, we too will be held.



When Raya was born, we knew not only that we wanted Rav Claudia to lead her *brit bat*, but that we wanted to hold the ritual in the TBZ building, to welcome her into the community in a place we hope will always feel like a second home. Surrounded by our family and friends, and members of the TBZ community, we were asked to make the following commitments to Raya. "Will you promise to delight in Raya for exactly who she is? Will you love and support her through the joys and challenges of life? Will you accompany Raya as she learns and grows, finding her own path of meaning, relationship, repair, and wonder?"

We will, we said, as her parents. We will, our family responded. We will, echoed all in attendance - Raya's community. From our experience as TBZ members, we know that you will.



# Todah Rabah!

## Thank You So Much!

We are always grateful to all volunteers that help make things happen. Without all of you, TBZ would not be the place we are today. It is impossible to mention each volunteer, but we want to highlight people who have taken new roles and helped us in recent events:

### We are especially grateful to those who have taken new leadership positions this past year:

- Barrie Wheeler and Beth Harris for jumping into their roles as new Hesed co-chairs.
- Jordan Namerow and Idit Klein for becoming the new co-editors of *Koleinu*, with this as their first issue!

### TBZ members who come every Wednesday to teach at Beit Rabban as volunteers: Carol Kamin and Miriam Pieper.

And to the volunteers for special events, most recently:

#### The Women's Retreat!

- Leah Carnow, Nancy Lippman, Naomi Ribner, Debra Morley, Judy Epstein-Fisher, Judith Rosenbaum, Bobbi Isberg, Judith Klau

### And the Purim celebration!

- Natalie, Jessie and Josh Henrich, Emma and Liora Zbarsky, Carol Smith, Evan Jones, Jon Frankel, Sharon and Danielle Morgenbesser, Elaine Bakal, Jen Klein, Liora Blouwolf, Ari Decter, Alma Kreiman-Leader, Stephanie Carey Maron and Anna Maron, Eddie and Sandy Taub, Steve Lewis, Bobbi Katz, Irina Posternak, Deb Stang, Sue Kahn, Dan Kirschner, Marc Schultz, Susan Bookbinder, Tamar Winter, Louisa Ould Ouali, Rob Kaim, Rebecca Blouwolff, Renee Rudnick, Hal Rudnick, Barrie Keller, Priscilla Stein, Maxine Lyons, Doug Lutz, Alan Weisner, Sara Smolover, David Vitale Wolfe, Molly Silver, Rabbi Mona Strick, Julie Seeger, Ronnie Levine, Judith Rosenbaum, Rabbi Ebn Leader and all those who made Purim possible.

## Celebrating Purim!





# A Message from Reb Moshe

Dear Ones,

Anne, I, and our entire family want to thank you for all of your blessings upon my retirement.

The tribute book moved me very much. It was wonderful to read how our lives intersected over the years. Other tributes not in the book also helped sweeten this transition.

I leave this position. I do not leave this community we built together.

Give blessings to each other and learn to receive them. Please receive this blessing: May it be your Will and the Universal Will that we continue to flourish as a community despite the anxious times we are living in. May it be your Will that we will be able to Unite in the face of our challenges as Jews and humanity.

*B'vracha* – With blessing in all we do.

Reb Moshe



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## CONDOLENCES

- Maira Samayoa (TBZ's long-time *kiddush* helper) and her family on the death of Maira's brother, Víctor Israel Samayoa.
- Craig Harris and Audrey Wagner on the death of Craig's mother, Judith (Leigh) Harris.
- Jean Weinberg and her family on the death of her mother, Judith Zahler Weinberg.
- Amy Bullock, Gayle Stern, Joseph Bullock, and their family on the death of Amy's sister, Anne Vulcano.
- Janet Echelman and her family on the death of her father, Dr. Gilbert Echelman.
- Paula Fuchs and her family on the death of her father, Víctor Fuchs.
- Janet Echelman, Sam Feldman, Lilly Feldman, and their family on the death of their husband and father, David Feldman.
- Bobbi Isberg, Seth Alper, and their family on the death of Bobbi's sister, Emily Isberg Reardon.
- Larry Summers, Lisa New, and their family on the death of Larry's mother, Anita Arrow Summers.
- Susan Bernstein and Daniel Kleinman, Flora Berklein and Christopher Stadler, and their family following the death of Susan's brother and Flora's uncle, Jonathan Bernstein.
- Stephanie Clayman and her family on the death of her mother, Janet Crandall Clayman
- Rafi Ellenson and his family on the death of his father, Rabbi David Ellenson.
- Tali Buechler Walters on the death of her husband, Peter Buechler.
- Daniel and Lindsay Palazuelos and their family on the deaths of Daniel's parents, Roberto Palazuelos and Sheila Peckham.
- Joy Wasserman, Rob Weinberg, Noah Weinberg, and their family following the death of Joy's father and Noah's grandfather, Sam Wasserman.
- Moshe Cohen, Barbra Batshalom, and their family on the death of Moshe's father, Hanania Cohen
- Celia Moses, Ben Stanger, and their family on the death of Celia's mother, Barbara Moses.

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

# Mazel Tov!

- All graduates, young, old, and everywhere in between.
- Ahitza Gonzalez who became a US Citizen.
- Talia Bitton and her entire family on her becoming a bat mitzvah.
- Donna Rae Hirt on the birth of her grandson, William Keegan.
- Carole Greenfield, who had two poems published in *Crowstep Journal*. One of the poems was inspired by photographs of a desert landscape in Israel. Another poem, "Compost," was published in the anthology, *Alchemy and Miracles*. "Equilibrium Line," was nominated for the Pushcart Prize and her poem, "Reframing," was published on [autumnskypoetrydaily.com](http://autumnskypoetrydaily.com). She also has a new poem featured in *Sky Island Journal* and two poems published by *RedRoseThorns Journal*, "Within Pandora's Box" and "Blue-Green Sky."
- Nick Hyman and Rachel Chao on the birth of their baby, Luna Sylvie Hyman-Chao.
- Ariel Decter and her entire family on her becoming a bat mitzvah.
- Nadav David and Mikaela Zetly on their marriage.
- Ryah Lichtenstein, who graduated in flute performance at UMass Amherst.
- David Ofsevit and Nancy Mazonson whose son, Ari Ofsevit, married Elena Glassman.
- Nancy Smith, whose daughter, Sarah Smith, married Ari Eisen.
- Gary Kaplan on his retirement from 35 years of service to veterans as a psychiatrist in the VA Healthcare System and was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University.
- Meryl Finkel and Joel Feldman whose daughter, Sarah Feldman, is engaged to Josh Vega.
- Jay Zagorsky and Kim Meyers on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Zagorsky Tian.
- Rachie Lewis, who has published her second book, *The Rabbi Who Prayed for the City*.
- Phoebe Reuben and Alexander Luckmann on their wedding, and to the mothers of the bride, Lisa Lovett and Julie Reuben.
- Fern Fisher and Jack Eiferman on the birth of their granddaughter, Ida Eiferman Powell.
- Bridgette Lappe and Jake Shapiro on their engagement.
- Esteban Garcia, Simeon Atha, Marc McElroy, Tina Odum-O'Neil, Rowan Mattox, Bridgette Lappe, and Louis Gippetti who completed their conversion to Judaism and were celebrated with their first aliyah to the Torah!
- Yarden Fraiman, MD, MPH on being named a 2023 faculty recipient of the Harvard Medical School Equity, Social Justice, and Advocacy Award.
- Larry Kraus, who was named as the next chair of Foley's Pro Bono Committee. Larry is a Litigation Partner in the Boston Office of Foley and Lardner LLP and will step into this role effective October 1st.
- Rabbi Sam and Jenni Seicol, whose son Ben received his PhD in neuroscience from The Ohio State University.
- Yarden Fraiman and Samuel Mendoza de Fraiman, who welcomed their baby son.
- Rochelle Kelman and Moti Hodis, who welcomed their 6th grandchild.
- Rabbi Jen Gubitz, who had a piece published in the *LA Times*, "With this grief, I thee wed: How to celebrate a wedding after a loved one dies."
- Rabbi Danny (TBZ's former rabbinical intern) and Tamara Stein on the birth of their daughter, Ruthie Lyn Dubin Stein.
- Rabbi Sam and Jenni Seicol whose son, Ben Seicol, married Hanna Rossio.
- Nina Segal and her entire family on her becoming a bat mitzvah.
- Jeremy Eichler on the publication of his new book, *Time's Echo*, which is also a finalist for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction (the UK's premier annual prize for non-fiction books).
- Louisa Ould Ouali, whose daughter, Tassadit, recently became an OBGYN doctor.
- Eric Levine, who welcomed a new granddaughter, Olivia.
- Sarah Langer and Rachel Fichtenbaum, who welcomed their baby daughter.
- Leah Abrahams, who was inducted into the National Association of Women Artists in November, based on her work as a fine art photographer. She currently has two photos juried into the international show "Art in Motion: Exploring Movement Through Art," sponsored by the Artist League of Rhode Island.
- Sheila Katz, who received the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence at Berklee College of Music.
- Debbie Korn, who received the Francine Shapiro Award from the EMDR International Association for advancing the EMDR therapy world in a significant way.
- Jenny Berz, who was accepted into the 2023-2024 American Jewish Committee Global Advocacy Fellowship program.

# Mazel Tov!

- Baby Luna Sylvie Esther Hyman Chao, daughter of Nick Hyman and Rachel Chao, who immersed in the mikveh, affirming her place in the Jewish community.
- Erina and Julia Spiegelman on the birth of their baby, Bloom Donnelly Spiegelman.
- Jen Wofford for organizing the Unity Gathering for All! Info about the event appeared in *The Boston Globe* on November 6.
- Mark Housman and Rabbi Mona Strick on the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Hannah Grossman.
- Jennifer Goldman, whose essay, “Brain Rest and the Unwelcome Guest,” has been published in the new book *Dear Migraine: Migraine and Headache Inspired Essays, Poems and Art by 64 Contributors*.
- Jesse Garlick, son of Lauren and Jonathan, who played Papi in the Huntington Theatre & Speakeasy Stage production of “The Band’s Visit.”
- Jonathan Klein, who successfully worked with Rosalind Joffe and folks from TBZ/GBIO as well as the TBZ Tikkun Olam core team to help a large coalition pass a big win for Brookline Housing!
- Susan and Steve Bookbinder whose granddaughter, Eve, celebrated her bat mitzvah and gave Susan the opportunity to read Torah for the first time.
- Reuben Freedman-Riles and his entire family on his becoming a bar mitzvah.
- Ronnie Levin, whose cost-benefit analyses incorporated greater health consequences of lead exposure. This work strengthened the EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule by targeting 9,000,000 lead pipes instead of the initial 500,000 and reducing the allowable time to make the repairs from 30 years (replacing “100% of the lead pipes in water system service lines across the country over the next 10 years”).
- Julie Reuben whose quilt, “Apparition X,” appeared in the show, “The Art of the Quilt” at the Menino Art Center in Hyde Park. She also had three quilts accepted to Quiltcon, an international show of the Modern Quilt Guild.
- Mike and Barbora Zalis who welcomed a baby boy, Amos Daniel.
- Gloria and Irwin Pless, who welcomed a great grandson, Cameron Pless.
- Jordan Namerow on the publication of her children’s book, *Like the Sea and the Sky: A Mysterious Mollusk and Its Magical Blue Ink*.
- Rabbi Susan Schnur and Len Fishman, who welcomed a new grandchild, Alma Schnur-Klassen (daughter of Anna Schnur-Fishman and Carolyn Klassen).
- Marjie and Rabbi Mark Sokoll on the engagement of their daughter, Talya Sokoll, to Tim Follo.
- Marilyn and Steve Lipman on the birth of their grandson, Julian Alexander DeCesare Lipman.
- Wyatt Lipman who won a seat on the Ridgefield, CT Board of Education as a candidate of the Democratic Party.
- Rav Claudia, who offered a benediction at the State House following Gov. Maura Healey’s State of the Commonwealth. (The benediction can be seen on the Governor’s YouTube channel.)
- Jeremy Eichler, whose book, *Time’s Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance*, was named the book of the year by the Jewish Book Council and will be awarded a National Jewish Book Award.
- Beverly Sky, whose tapestry, “The Waters of Life,” has been installed in the permanent collection at Mayyim Hayyim. The tapestry has ties to TBZ: parts were made from antique TBZ Torah mantles; and Dorothy Kahane, one of the lead stitchers of the Faith Quilts, helped sew and construct the piece.
- Shulamit Reinharz, who gave the “talk back” at the March 7 performance of the one-woman show, “Golda’s Balcony” at the Emerson Paramount Center on Washington Street in Boston, starring award-winning actor, Annette Miller.
- Enid Shulman on the birth of her granddaughter, Talia Avery Strauss.
- Rabbi Jen Gubitz, whose piece, “Our Embryos Aren’t Children but I Wish They Were,” was published in *Lilith Magazine*.
- Jay Zagorsky and Kim Meyers on the birth of their grandson, Isaac Wolf Zagorsky.
- Nina Robinson and Mike Rozensher on the birth of their son.
- Danielle Morgenbesser, who had the lead role of Patrick Star in the Brown Middle School production of “The Spongebob Musical.”
- Ezra Silver Burstein, child of Molly Silver, who was admitted to the University of Pennsylvania’s Master’s of Science in Education Urban Teaching Residency Program (M.S. Ed.), designed for people who are committed to ending inequities in urban education.
- Moshe Cohen and Randi Cohen for their roles in Hadassah’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference. Moshe gave a keynote address on the “Art of Negotiating” and Randi was a conference planner. Friends since high school, the two Cohens engaged over 80 women



# Mazel Tov!

from 5 states in Wilmington, DE for a weekend of learning and community.

- Michael & Ellen Krause-Grosman celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. Join us at shabbat lunch for a JP Lick's Ice Cream Cake!

- Matan BenYishay & Rabbi Jen Gubitza for welcoming their son, Ori Shir Gubitza-BenYishay, on Friday, March 22, in Minneapolis. Jen and Matan are eternally grateful to their friend, Rabbi Jill Avrin, for serving as Ori's gestational carrier. Ori dressed as a taco for his first Purim.

MAY 23, 2023-MARCH 31, 2024

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# HIGH HOLY DAYS 2024

**Erev Rosh Hashanah is October 2.**

**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!**

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