

Lifelong Learning and Programming at TBZ



WINTER/SPRING 2026/5786

February - June 2026

INTRODUCTION

January 2026

Tevet 5786

Dear TBZ Community,

This booklet is your guide to what's unfolding at TBZ in the months ahead, and it reflects the richness, creativity, and curiosity of our community! Inside you'll find opportunities to stretch body and spirit with Rav Leah for Shabbat Morning Yoga, sharpen your skills by learning to chant Torah with Rabbi Ebn Leader, dive deeply into text and story by Facing the Megillah with Dr. Judith Kates, and even gather around the table with our new MahJong group, and so much more.

Finally, this booklet is not the final word. Thanks to the many offers that came in through the High Holiday Appeal cards, more classes and workshops are on the way, shaped directly by your willingness to teach, lead, and share your gifts with the community. We're already working to add new offerings, including a pre-Passover workshop, to the calendar. In fact, most of TBZ's programming grows out of your requests and your offerings. Please continue to be in touch about what you want to learn, explore, and experience together in the months ahead.

May these pages spark your curiosity, fill your calendar, and remind you that TBZ is something we build together.

Rav Claudia
Senior Rabbi

Rav Tiferet
Rabbi, Congregational Learning
and Programming

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SHABBAT AT TBZ

Shabbat services are all in-person and online,
unless otherwise noted.

Friday night services, 6:00pm

Saturday services, 10:00am



Torah Study

Shabbat mornings, 9:00am in the Meeting Room (in person)

Taught by Rav Claudia, Rav Leah, or other rabbis and teachers from our TBZ community. Join us to study and discuss before Shabbat services.

Note: No Torah study on Feb 7 (Adult B'Mitzvah service will begin at 9:30am), April 4 (Passover), May 23 (Shavuot)

Shabbat with Commentary

February 21, March 14, April 11, May 23

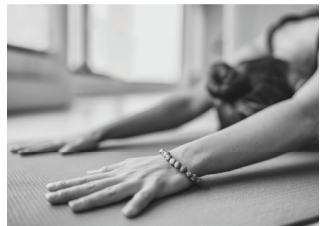
During Shabbat morning services 10:00am, upstairs in Room Gimel (in person)

Once a month, join TBZ community members and rabbis to answer questions about services while services are happening! Learn how *tefillah* (prayer) works, get insights into the structure and meaning of various elements of the service, and get to know how services can be a meaningful tool for increased spiritual living.

NEW Shabbat Morning Yoga

February 28, 9:00-10:00am (in person)

Come as you are, breathe where you are, and see how movement can be another way into Shabbat. This is a gentle, grounding practice; no prior yoga experience is expected. We're offering a one-time Shabbat Morning Yoga session to see who's interested. If you are interested but can't attend this session, please let Rav Leah know.



Special Shabbatot:

(all in person and online, unless otherwise noted)

Shabbat Nariya: Shabbat Sing Out! 🎵

February 20, March 20, April 17, May 8, June 19*,

6:00pm (in person and online)

Co-sponsored by Kavod Boston & BASE Boston.

Once a month, we raise our voices, move our bodies, catch our breath, and gather strength as we create a circle of sound with voices and instruments to welcome Shabbat. Services at 6:00pm followed by a community potluck dinner and more singing. For the potluck, please bring dairy or *parve* food to share, serving utensils, and an ingredients label. You are also welcome to bring wine (no *hechsher* needed) to share. Water and paper goods are provided. People are welcome to sit in the community room or bring their food outside to the *sukkah* area or the front stairs.

***June 19th is a special Pride Shabbat.**



NEW “Pre-neg”: Oneg before Nariya For Young Members and their Families

February 20, March 20, April 17, May 8, June 19

5:30-6:00pm (in person)

Join families with young children for snacks/dinner before Nariya. Bring your own snack or snacks to share. Eat and play together in the meeting room and meet new and old friends.

Shabbat Zimrah 🎵

February 27, March 13 (followed by Community Dinner), April 10, June 12,

6:00pm (in person and online)

Shabbat Zimrah brings the mystical sounds of Arab Jewry to the TBZ sanctuary. Co-led by artist-in-residence Yoni Battat on the oud, this service will utilize traditional and original melodies to chant excerpts from *Shir Hashirim* and the psalms of *Kabbalat Shabbat*, followed by *Ma'ariv*. (Reading Song of Songs is a Mizrahi Friday night tradition practiced year-round - not just on Shabbat Shira!)



Repro Shabbat

Shabbat Morning, February 14

Repro Shabbat, an initiative started by the National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW), falls on the Shabbat when Jews read *Mishpatim*, the Torah portion with the verses that form the basis of the Jewish approach to reproductive freedom: the story of an accidental miscarriage that teaches us much about how Judaism does and doesn't regard the personhood of a fetus. Join us for a *d'var Torah* and kiddush learning on this very important topic. You can also learn about TBZ's support for the Women's Health Center in Brookline.

Men's Group Shabbat

February 21

For more than 15 years, the TBZ Men's Group has engaged participants in stimulating conversations about what really matters in their lives. Members have built and strengthened relationships with other men in the TBZ community and beyond. On this Shabbat, the Men's Group will take a leadership role in services, including reading Torah.

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

March 14

Refugee Shabbat is a moment for congregations, organizations, and individuals in the United States and worldwide to dedicate a Shabbat experience to refugees and asylum seekers. People seeking asylum are being turned away at borders around the world. The number of forcibly displaced people is rapidly growing, and the climate crisis exacerbates the effects of violence, conflict, and economic instability on already vulnerable populations. This is a critical moment for all of us to reaffirm and redouble our support for refugees, asylum seekers, and those forcibly displaced, as well as an opportunity to step back, reflect, and celebrate the work we have already done. Come learn about TBZ's important work with refugees and asylum seekers.

Community Dinner

Friday Night, March 13 (after Shabbat Zimrah)

This is an opportunity to bring people together for a Shabbat dinner at TBZ. Community Dinners are a chance to sit down with old friends (even from

outside of TBZ, they're invited too!), meet new friends, and discover shared interests. Many new members come to Community Dinners, so come get to know who's new to TBZ. Sign-up is required.

Kickoff for Mother's Day Walk for Peace

April 11

Each year, TBZ walks and fundraises for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace (and last year we were in 1st place for fundraising among houses of worship!). The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss in the Boston area. With gun laws in jeopardy, ever-present gun violence and hatred, and evaporating funds, join us for a kiddush talk that will offer hope and pathways to create more peaceful communities, affirming our humanity and our interconnectedness.

International Hot Fudge Sundae Shabbat

April 18

In loving memory of Fran Spiegel Lewis, Jenni Seicol's mother (today would be her 113th birthday!), who always asked: "Are you living creatively?"

Beit Rabban Shabbat

Parshat Emor, May 2

Join the students of Beit Rabban together with Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet, Rav Leah, and Beit Rabban teachers for a Shabbat for all *dorot*, all generations! Our learners will participate in Shabbat morning services in the sanctuary, our oldest learners will read from the Torah together, and our younger learners will help us deepen our understanding of the Torah portion. A fun and participatory Shabbat for Jews of all ages!

Shabbat Shalom at Home

Friday evening, June 5

Bring the warmth of Shabbat into your home – and share it with others. Shabbat Shalom at Home is a new initiative inviting members of our community to open their homes and their tables to fellow congregants for Shabbat meals. Whether you sign up to be a guest or a host, this is an opportunity to deepen connections, celebrate sacred time together, and experience the richness of *hachnasat orchim*, Jewish hospitality.



Hosts and guests will be matched based on shared interests, neighborhoods, or availability. Whether you're a longtime member or newly connected, there's a seat for you at the table! Sign up to host or be hosted!

Honoring Graduates

(from Kindergarten to Grad School and beyond!)

Shabbat Morning June 6

Email your graduates to Sarah at sarahott@tbzbrookline.org by May 29.

Shabbat Nariya celebrating Pride @ TBZ

June 19

Join us for our June Shabbat Nariya at TBZ as we celebrate Pride, with special *kavanot* (intentions), teachings, and readings. Come as you are. Stay for the potluck.



B'Mitzvah Celebrations

Adult B'Mitzvah Celebration, February 7 (starts at 9:30am)

Sam Linvill, March 7 (*Mincha*)

Jacob Schwartz, March 21

Diego Azar-Wolfe, March 28

Nora Klein, April 25

Klaire Kamin-Rankin, May 9

Ayda Zisfein-Shea, May 30 (*Mincha*)

Sadie Biernbaum, June 6

Isaac Engel, June 13

Leora Zbarsky, June 20

Kiddush Talks & Tables:

in person, after Shabbat services, during kiddush

Tikkun Olam Tables

Each month, members of the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee (TOSC) host a table at kiddush after Shabbat morning services to discuss our social justice initiatives. No commitment is necessary!

Repro Shabbat: February 14 (see page 6)

Men's Group: February 21 (see page 6)

Facing the Megillah with Dr. Judith Kates: February 28

For many years at TBZ, we have gathered before Purim to learn and prepare for the Megillah, honoring it as a complex and layered text, one that invites feminist readings and challenges us to reflect on the movement from victimhood to power. This shared learning has become a cherished tradition, allowing us to engage deeply with the text before the holiday itself, when our focus turns more fully toward joy and celebration. Judith will lead us in a exploration entitled, "Doing Better the Second Time" where we will explore the gender issues as well as interconnections, both narrative and linguistic, with other Biblical texts such as the Joseph story and the story of Saul, both ancestors of Esther and Mordechai.

Meketa with TBZ Member Semeon Risom and Bryce Diamond, Meketa Board members: March 7

The Jewish population in Ethiopia is ancient. While many have left Ethiopia for Israel, there are many still in Ethiopia, though they want to be in Israel. This talk will tell the history of the people: their origins, Jewish practice, movement within Ethiopia, and journey to Israel. For those who remain, it will explain reasons why, the impact on their lives, the economics of the community today, and their current religious practice. The discussion will then introduce the sister organizations, Meketa UK and Meketa USA, and the roles they play in the possibilities for the future of Ethiopian Jews, whether they go to Israel or remain in Ethiopia.

HIAS Refugee Shabbat: March 14 (see page 6)

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mothers' Day Walk for Peace:
April 11 (see page 7)

The Erotics of Rocks: An Unexpected Inspiration with Carole Greenfield: April 18

How a geology textbook inspired my poetry journey: TBZ member Carole Greenfield had been writing poetry for as long as she could remember, but it was finding a geology textbook while working at a science research company, more than thirty years ago, that provided the 'Aha!' moment and changed the direction of her writing. Come learn about how Carole found a way to use geology as a metaphor to honor and to mourn, to praise and to elegize the people and places that have marked her heart. You'll never look at rocks the same way again!

HOLIDAYS

Tu Bishvat

Trees as Medicine for Tu Bishvat

Sunday, February 1, 3:30-5:00pm (in person)

Join herbalist Mo Katz-Christy for a dive into the herbalism of Tu Bishvat. We will explore the meaning of this holiday and this season as diasporic Jews on Turtle Island, as the sap begins to rise from the roots of our local trees! Using text, ecology, and our own bodies as our guides, we will study the different parts of trees and the medicine they offer.



Come sip some warm tree teas and taste other local tree medicine together as we prepare for Tu Bishvat rooted in our bodies and ecosystem!

Community Tu Bishvat Seder led by the Beit Rabban

Wednesday, February 4, 5:15-6:00pm (in person)

Join Beit Rabban students for an exploration of the four worlds, four seasons, four questions, and four qualities of being. All are welcome!



Purim

Join the TBZ community to celebrate Purim, our people's wild, upside-down, joyful celebration of our survival, commemorating the Book of Esther and the downfall of Haman (boo!).

Hamentaschen Dough Making

Wednesday, February 25, 5:00-7:00pm (in person)

Come help make dough for our hamentaschen! You've never seen so much butter in your life! The community room is transformed into a dough-making space, with lots of laughter, flour, and good memories.

Kiddush Talk: Facing the Megillah with Dr. Judith Kates

February 28, 12:30pm (see page 8 for more information)

Hamentaschen Baking, *Mishloach Manot* Packing, and Purim Deliveries

Sunday, March 1 (in person)

Help with our annual hamentaschen baking, *mishloach manot* (goodie bags) packing, and deliveries to our neighbors at 1550 Beacon Street. Every year we try to bake more than the year before! Can you deliver?

10:00-2:00pm Baking

12:00-1:30pm Packing *mishloach manot* and pick-ups for delivery to all TBZ members

1:30-2:00pm Deliveries to 1550 apartments

2:00-2:30pm Singing at 1550 Community Room (3rd floor of 1550 Beacon)

2:30-3:00pm Come back to TBZ to help clean up!

Purim Carnival run by Beit Rabban, followed by Shpiel and Megillah Reading:

March 2 (in person)



5:00-6:00pm Carnival For All -
Community Room

5:30-6:00pm REHEARSAL IN THE
SANCTUARY

6:00-6:30pm BYODinner

6:30pm Megillah & Shpiel (in person)

Passover

***Pesach* (Passover) Prep Session: March 15**

More information to come.

First Seder: Wednesday Night, April 1

Passover Seder Matching (Deadline March 22)

Once again, we will all have the opportunity to bring the light and joy of *Pesach* into our homes together with our TBZ friends and family. We will match guests and hosts so we can all have an opportunity to spend time and a meal with each other! This is another chance for us to sweeten and deepen our community relationships.



Deadline to sell *Hametz*: Wednesday, April 1

Hametz is leavened food and is forbidden on *Pesach*. Jews may not own, eat, or benefit from *hametz* during Passover. Where disposing of *hametz* will result in considerable financial loss, it is permissible to temporarily sell one's *hametz* to someone who is not Jewish, who owns the *hametz* during *Pesach*, and relinquishes it after *Pesach*. Rav Claudia will sell TBZ's *hametz* to the Rector of All Saints Parish, Rev. Richard Burden, on the morning of April 1st. Check *Happenings* for the form to complete to sell your *hametz*!

First Day Passover Service: April 2, 10:00am (in person and online)

Seventh Day Service with Yizkor: April 8, 10:00am (in person and online)

Yom HaShoah

Hitkansut: A Yom HaShoah Gathering (in person and online)

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00-8:30pm

Join us for an evening of ritual remembrance as we lift up the Holocaust narratives connected to TBZ and others. As the generation of Holocaust survivors passes, we must find new, meaningful ways to commemorate the *Shoah* (Holocaust). The Hartman Institute in Israel developed *Hitkansut*, a ceremony of remembrance. Similar to the Passover seder, *Hitkansut* is guided by a *haggadah* which weaves together texts, testimonies, discussions, prayer, and moments of silence to which participants are invited to contribute their own voices. This event is open to all, and if you would like to include your family's Holocaust story, contact Rav Tiferet.

Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'Atzemanut

Yom Ha'Zikaron: Joint Israeli-Palestinian Event

Monday, April 20, 12:00-1:30pm (online)

The Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day reminds everyone that war is not a predetermined fate, but a human choice. The joint ceremony seeks to sow the seeds of hope among the two sides and to bring to an end to wars that have taken the lives of our cherished loved ones. The ceremony takes place every year on the eve of Memorial Day (*Yom HaZikaron*) for Israeli and Palestinian fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. The ceremony was initiated by Buma Inbar, whose son was killed in Lebanon in 1995, and other peace activists, together with the Combatants For Peace movement. Since the first ceremony in 2006, the number of people who attend has gradually grown, and today counts thousands of people, bereaved Israeli and Palestinian family members. The choice to hold the event on the same day as Israel's Memorial Day aims to relay a message to both sides, calling them to recognize the joint pain and hope, and to try to prevent the next victims from this fate.

Megillat HaAtzmaut (Scroll of Independence)

reading at the Kotel

Tuesday, April 21, 11:30am (online)

Israel's Declaration of Independence, read from the egalitarian section of the *Kotel* (Western Wall) is a festive event held every year between *Yom HaShoah* and *Yom Ha'atzmaut* by the World Zionist Organization. It is broadcast live in different languages to the entire Jewish world as a way of celebrating Israel's Independence Day (*Yom Ha'Atzmaut*) and strengthening the sense of Jewish peoplehood in Israel and abroad.

Shavuot

Brookline Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, May 21 (in person)

Join teachers from around the greater Boston area for all-night learning and snacks!

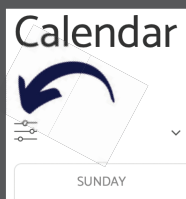
Tikkun Zoom Shavuot with Temple Israel, Boston

Thursday, May 21 (online)

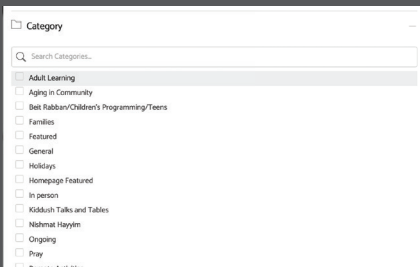
Co-sponsored by TBZ, learn alongside people from around the world as dozens of teachers, artists, and facilitators lead us in study, prayer, art making, music, and more over 25 hours in the Zoomosphere. Online sessions run back to back all night and day, and you can pop in for an hour or two, or brew a pot of coffee and stay with us for the long haul.

Did you know that you can search by categories on the TBZ website calendar?

Click on the these 3 lines at the top of the calendar page.



Choose your search category from the list:



FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WonderMinyan

February 14, 28, March 14, April 4, 18, May 2, 30

10:30am-12:30pm (in person)



At WonderMinyan, young Jews begin to learn Shabbat morning and holiday prayers, the weekly *parasha* (Torah portion) through stories and plays, as well as build a community of friends.

10:30-11:00am Shabbat Shabbreakfast in the Meeting Room

11:00-11:30am Age-appropriate *parasha*/Shabbat engagement throughout the building:

Littles (babies-1st grade); **Middles** (2-4 grades); **Olders** (5-7 grades)

11:30am-12:00pm *Tefillah* (prayers) and songs in the Meeting Room

12:00-12:30pm Activity/Shmooze time in the Meeting Room (before joining the end of services in the Sanctuary as we bless the children)

Please note: Families with children of all ages are welcome to come to TBZ Shabbat services every week, even when there is no WonderMinyan! Please feel free to use the quiet play area in the sanctuary or use one of our 3rd-floor rooms overlooking the sanctuary (where services can also be seen and heard).

Beit Rabban: TBZ's Afterschool Jewish Education Program

Wednesdays starting September 10, 4:00-6:00pm (in person)

Last Day/Graduation May 27

In the Talmud, *beit rabban*, which literally means “house of our rabbis,” is where students would go to learn the wisdom of our tradition and prepare to engage Jewishly with the world. Beit Rabban is for members in grades K-7. We engage our children and families in meaningful, joyful, and experiential learning. We strive to grow young Jews who will value learning, be curious about their link in the Jewish chain of history, think critically about their role in the present moment, and be empowered to create the future. We welcome volunteers and teachers from the TBZ community! For more information or to register for Beit Rabban, contact Rav Tiferet.

Parents' Learning with Rav Claudia

5:00-6:00pm during Beit Rabban, (in person, twice/month)

Between work, errands, and waiting for your kids during class, it's easy to let the afternoon slip by without pause. For many years, a group of Beit Rabban parents has joined Rav Claudia for learning. This has been a meaningful time in community and a wonderful opportunity for Rav Claudia to get to know parents. It's a quiet, intentional hour to pause, reflect, and connect with Jewish learning. Step away from the constant "doing," take a moment for yourself, nourish your spirit, and connect with other parents. We're reading a different piece from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's seminal work, *The Sabbath*. It's a book that reminds us that meaning isn't found in constant productivity but in taking time to be fully present. This small commitment can bring perspective, calm, and connection into a busy week.

From a participating dad: *"Parental learning was an excellent way to connect with other parents at TBZ and discuss what it means to be Jewish in modern (turbulent) times."*

B'Mitzvah Family Group

After Shabbat services, 1:00-2:30pm

February 28, April 18, and May 2 (In-Person)

For families of 6th and 7th graders who are enrolled in TBZ's B'Mitzvah program. Join Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet, and Rav Sara to prepare for becoming a b'mitzvah family! Using the Moving Traditions B'Mitzvah Family Education Program, sessions inspire connection to Jewish community by centering on human development and the parent-child relationship. These sessions help navigate this life stage by addressing the joys and challenges of becoming and parenting a teen.

5th Grade Families Intro to B'Mitzvah Process

April 29, 6:00-7:00pm (in person)

Families with 5th graders, this is for you! Learn about the b'mitzvah process at TBZ with Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet & Rav Sara, experience the family learning from our monthly B'Mitzvah Group, and begin the journey towards becoming B'Mitzvah as a family. Dinner included!

Events for the Whole Family!

Community Dinner: March 13 (See page 6)

Teen-BZ: The Tent (in person)

Monday nights, hosted at Temple Israel of Boston

TBZ is a founding partner of The Tent: A Jewish Learning Community for Greater Boston Teens at Temple Israel on Monday nights. The Tent is a pluralistic learning community made up from Boston area congregations. Under the “Tent,” our teens make new friends, experience other synagogue cultures, and learn from incredible clergy and faculty from the Brookline area. The Tent begins in 8th grade and continues through high school, with many TBZ teens going on to hold leadership opportunities. *The Tent is arranged on a trimester system to allow for teen sports schedules.* Start in the Fall, Winter, or Spring! **The third trimester starts in March and goes through May.** Or, join only for special events like trips to NYC or a Civil Rights tour to Alabama. Learn more here: <https://www.tisrael.org/the-tent/>

Ice Cream in the Park

May 30, during kiddush, around 1:00-2:00 pm at Driscoll Park (in person)

Come hang out with other kids and families from TBZ! Enjoy good company, ice cream, and (weather permitting) playing outside. A relaxed, joyful way to connect and celebrate together, including celebrating another year of Beit Rabban and another year of WonderMinyan! Everyone welcome!

Community Retreat on Cape Cod

May 15-17

Get ready for our most exciting spring retreat yet: TBZ’s Annual Community Retreat is May 15-17, 2026 at the gorgeous Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, with programs for all ages! Registration available in March.



GROUPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Gen X Beit Midrash with Rav Leah: Psalms

January 24, February 21, March 14, April 11, May 30

After kiddush on the 3rd floor (in person)

Looking for a space to connect with community while navigating life's many demands? Gen X Beit Midrash continues, where we dive into the poetry, power, and timeless relevance of *Tehillim* (Psalms). Together, we'll explore how these ancient words speak to the joys and struggles of our lives today – parenting, purpose, aging, work, faith, and resilience. No prior text study experience required—just bring your curiosity and your lived experience.

This is a space for learning, honest conversation, and connection with fellow Gen Xers navigating the middle chapters of life with depth and heart. Attendance at all sessions is encouraged.

Jewish Arts Festival

February 1, 3:00-7:00pm (in person)

Hosted by Temple Israel Boston, join us for the 2nd Annual Winter Arts Festival – a vibrant celebration of Jewish culture, creativity, and community.

The Boston Jewish Arts Festival is a joyful, family-friendly gathering that brings together musicians, visual artists, dancers, chefs, makers, and Jewish culture-lovers of every age. Guests can shop a juried marketplace of local artisans, taste Boston's best Jewish food, learn Israeli & international folk-dances, and enjoy continuous live performances on our main stage. With an expected 400+ attendees and promotional reach to 10,000+ households, the Festival offers sponsors an unparalleled opportunity to align their brand with creativity, community, and Jewish heritage. This exciting event will feature an eclectic mix of art, music, food, and interactive experiences for all ages. From showcasing stunning visual art and handmade goods to captivating performances and engaging workshops, the festival will offer a unique opportunity to share your craft, talent, or passion with a wide audience. Come support TBZ artists, check Community Chat/*Happenings* to see who is participating!

Welcoming Interfaith Guests at St. Paul's Sunday Worship

Sunday, February 8 at 10:00am

in person at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Join us as we welcome **Rabbi Leora Ezrachi-Vered** and **Father (Abuna) Saba Haj of Spirit of the Galilee**, an organization dedicated to advancing pluralism, mutual understanding, and cooperation among the diverse denominations, religions, and cultures of the region—Arabs and Jews alike. Spirit of the Galilee is deeply invested in building a shared society in the Galilee as a model for the country, the region, and the world.



Rabbi Ezrachi-Vered and Father Haj will join the
10:00am Sunday service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(15 St. Paul's Street, Brookline, MA 02446)
together with Rav Claudia Kreiman and
Rev. Won-Jae Hur (Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church).

We will gather for prayer at **10:00am**, and continue after the service from **11:45am–1:00pm** for an in-depth conversation about **interfaith dialogue in the Holy Land**. To learn more about Spirit of the Galilee and to support their work, visit:
<https://www.spiritofthegalilee.org.il>



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Israel Palestine Affinity Group

February 1, 10:30am (in person)

We are a lay-led group that generally meets twice a month—once online and once in person at TBZ. Through evolving formats and participants, we remain committed to holding a safe-enough, brave-enough space for those wishing to share the complexity of feelings around Israel while foregrounding the need to address both the current violence and the ongoing structural oppression of Palestinians. Meetings are facilitated by a member of our workgroup (Liz Aeschlimann, Leah Hagar Cohen, Hasia Diner, Rosalind Joffe, and Deborah Kalin) and include opportunities for personal reflection, sharing (in pairs and with the group), and brainstorming possible individual-led, community-wide actions and activities. Please join us, whether it's your first time or you've been coming regularly, whenever you're able. If you want to receive our emails, please contact info@tbzbrookline.org to be added to the IPAG listserv.

Chronic Illness Gathering

February 8 (online), March 15 (in person), April 12 (in person),

May 17 (online), noon

Are you a TBZ member who is living with chronically difficult health that may (or may not): wax and wane, be invisible, be unpredictable? Does fatigue, pain, impaired mobility, brain fog, you name it, keep you isolated? Might it feel meaningful to meet with other TBZ'ers who share a kinship with your experience within a spiritual framework? **Whatever your age, gender identity, or health issue, do join us.** Here's a sprinkling of the feedback from our gatherings:

"...the commonalities across experiences"

"the vulnerability and trust [established]... within only an hour"

"I had not realized how much pain I was carrying around all these years."

"I feel seen in this community"

Questions or concerns? Please contact Rosalind Joffe, convener and fellow chronic illness traveler.

Everything You Have Is Yours Screening

February 11, 7:00-9:00pm (in person)

Join for a screening of the documentary, *Everything You Have Is Yours*, in which dancer-choreographer Hadar Ahuvia interrogates the roots of the Israeli folk dances she grew up dancing with her mother in the U.S. Confronting

romanticized stories about her grandparents, settlers in 1930s Palestine, Ahuvia embarks on a personal journey to reckon with the founding mythologies and transgressions of Zionism. Through her work, a web of artistic portraits emerges of Jewish, Israeli, and Palestinian dancers living in New York City grappling with the questions of what we inherit and what we embody to carry forward. The screening will be followed by a talkback with the subject of the film, dancer-choreographer (and Hebrew College rabbinical student) Hadar Ahuvia.

Words & Music through the Generations: Explore the Works of Israel's Popular Singer-Songwriters with TBZ member Dr. Miriam Diamond

February 23, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 27, 7:30-9:15pm (online)

From Naomi Shemer to Nunu, Arik Einstein and David Broza to Harel Skaat – Israeli songwriters have hit the charts and won over fans by performing their own compositions. Join us to discuss and enjoy the lyrics and tunes of Israel's decades-long soundtrack. Texts will be provided in Hebrew and English. To register and receive the link, email Sarah in the office: sarahott@tbzbrookline.org.

AAAG TLC Kit Packing

Sunday, March 15, 10:00am-12:00pm (in person)

Please join the Abortion Access Action Group in person to support the Women's Health Services (WHS) in Brookline. We will assemble the items the community collects into attractive "TLC kits" for patients. Each will include a hand-written note-card expressing our support, which we will write and decorate collectively. Stay tuned for items to donate.

An Evening with Author & TBZ Member Shulamit Reinharz

Thursday, March 19, 7:00pm (in person)

at Hebrew College, 1860 Washington Street, Newton

Co-sponsored by Hebrew College. On the release of her newest book, *Hiding in Holland: A Resistance Memoir*, join Shula for an evening of learning. She has crafted a unique form of Holocaust memoir, describing it as a "piano duet" between her father's extensive writings and her own historical commentary. The result is a careful interplay between memory and historical verification. Shula's scholarship bridges her roles as academic, daughter, and custodian of memory. *Hiding in Holland*, already a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award

in Holocaust memoirs, stands as both a historical document and a meditation on love, friendship, resilience, and the responsibility to preserve stories across generations.

MahJong Club

Join our new mahjong club at TBZ and build community through strategy, laughter, and time together around the table. Check Happenings for dates and come play with us! Email info@tbzbrookline.org to be added to the mahjong email list.

14th ANNUAL TBZ WOMEN'S RETREAT *Vayinafash: A Re-Souling*

**Sunday, March 22: 8:30am-3:30pm (in person)
For TBZ Members Only**

Vayinafash is a verb from Genesis 2:2, often translated as “God rested,” but meaning more deeply “God caught God’s breath” or “God became refreshed” on Shabbat, linking to the Hebrew word for soul (*nefesh*). This reminds us that Shabbat is not just about not working, but it is a sacred pause for spiritual renewal. Our retreat will be a mini sabbath, an opportunity for sacred pause and spiritual renewal on 3 planes of soul: *nefesh*, *ruach* (spirit), and *neshama* (breath). Join us for part or all of the day to experience connection, learning, a new lunch menu, and a re-souling for the weeks and months to come!



29th Annual Louis D. Brown Mother's Day Walk for Peace

May 10 (in-person)

Join Team TBZ for The Mother's Day Walk for Peace (MDW4P), a beloved 29-year-long Boston tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. The 4.3-mile walk will raise visibility on the issue and generate much-needed support for the important work of the Peace Institute in their goal to empower survivors and communities impacted by murder, trauma grief, and loss and to cultivate cycles of peace.



Join us for a kickoff to the walk during services on Shabbat, April 11th.

Spring Fundraiser and Concert

June 4

Save the date for our annual Spring Fundraiser, a joyful celebration of the TBZ community that uplifts what inspires us, brings us together in music and meaning, and raises vital support for our shared future, with honoree and musical artist details coming soon.

Annual Meeting

June 15, 7:00pm (in person)

Come for the shmooze, stay for the news! Join us at TBZ as we get down to business, with reports on the state of our shul from the Board of Directors, voting on our slate of Board nominees, and a celebration of our dedicated volunteers and committee members, plus time to shmooze and enjoy a light nosh together.

“Jewish-Adjacent” Group

Do you come to TBZ and you're not Jewish? Do you look around services and assume everyone is Jewish but you? We're creating a gathering space for spouses, partners, and families of people who are in Jewish families but not Jewish themselves. Let's get together one Sunday morning, we'll provide childcare (but children are not required!). If you're interested, please contact Eva Silverman (silverman.eva@gmail.com) or Jack Cook (jackthromblycook@gmail.com).

Chosen Paths: A Monthly Discussion Group for Converts at TBZ

Kickoff gathering: February 1, 2:00-3:30pm (in person at TBZ)

Subsequent meetings: Monthly in members' homes

Are you a Jew by choice navigating questions about tradition, identity, and belonging? Join us for a supportive monthly gathering where converts can explore the unique aspects of our Jewish journeys together.

This group offers a welcoming space to discuss the experiences that many converts share, like creating our own Jewish traditions when we didn't grow up with them, integrating our family histories into our Jewish identity, deciding how we observe Shabbat and kashrut, navigating relationships with non-Jewish family and friends, and finding where our stories fit in a community rich with shared history.

Each month, we'll dive into one or two topics, exploring the questions we bring, what we wrestle with, what we're learning and discovering. This is a space for honest conversation, mutual support, and the celebration of our varied paths to Judaism.

Convened/facilitated by Amberly Polidor and Mark McElroy. All TBZ members who are converts are welcome.

LOOKING AHEAD

Erev Rosh Hashanah: September 11

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 & 2: September 12 & 13

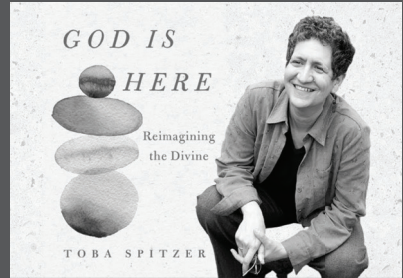
Kol Nidre: September 20

Yom Kippur: September 21

Community Book Read

***God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine* by Rabbi Toba Spitzer**

In *God Is Here*, Rabbi Toba Spitzer argues that whether we believe in God or fervently disbelieve, what we are actually disagreeing about is not God at all, but a metaphor of a Big Powerful Person that limits our understanding and our spiritual lives.



Going back to the earliest sources for Judaism as well as Christianity, Spitzer discovers in the Hebrew Bible a rich and varied palette of metaphors for the divine, including Water, Voice, Fire, Rock, Cloud, and even the process of Becoming. She addresses how we can access these ancient metaphors, as well as those drawn from rabbinic tradition and modern science, to experience holiness in our daily lives and to guide us in challenging times. In the section on water, for instance, she looks at the myriad ways water flows through the Biblical stories of the Israelites and emerges as a powerful metaphor for the divine in the Prophets and Psalms. She invites us to explore what it might mean to “drink from God,” or to experience godly justice as something that “rains down” and “flows like a river.”

Each chapter contains insights from the Bible and teachings from Judaism and other spiritual traditions, accompanied by suggestions for practice to bring alive each of the God metaphors. Rabbi Toba Spitzer has helped many people satisfy their spiritual hunger. With *God Is Here* she will inspire you to find new and perhaps surprising ways of encountering the divine, right where you are.

God is Here is available in print, ebook, and audio formats

**Rav Claudia will be in conversation with Rabbi Toba
on Wednesday, March 18th, 7:00pm (in person)!**

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Wise Aging

Mondays: April 13, 27, May 4, 11, 18, June 1, 8, 15 from 6:30-8:30pm (in person)

There is no set of instructions for getting older, for the shifts in our social and support networks, the feeling of invisibility, the angst of dealing with aging parents, the mixed signals of entering retirement, or the surprising turns in our relationships with ourselves, our partners, friends, and colleagues. On the other hand, those of us currently in this stage can count ourselves as part of an extraordinary, history-making generation: pioneers in understanding and making the most of this “third chapter” of life. Many of us will be blessed with unprecedentedly healthy years ahead, full of potential for learning and growth. Join TBZ’s 8th cohort of Wise Aging! Together we will explore what Wise Jewish Aging is and can be, using texts (both Jewish and general) and our relationships with our physical and spiritual selves and with each other. Attendance at all sessions is necessary. Participants must purchase the book *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit*. For questions, contact Rachele Rosi-Kessel or Evelyne Dreyfuss.

“What Actually is Antisemitism?” with Professor Adam Teller

March 11 and March 18, 7:00pm

After a successful fall class with Professor Adam Teller’s *What Actually Is Zionism?*, we are pleased to offer What Actually Is Antisemitism? on Zoom, March 11 and 18 at 7:00pm, with more information coming soon. It is not a continuation, so you do not have to have been in that session to participate in this one.

Learn to Chant Torah with Rabbi Ebn Leader

Mondays: March 9, 16, 23, April 13, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 7:30-9:00pm

Join Rabbi Ebn Leader for an 8-session, in-person journey into the art of Torah chanting. This class is for those who already know how to read Hebrew and want to learn trope, the musical system that gives Torah its rhythm, structure, and meaning. Together we will build skill and confidence in a supportive, thoughtful learning environment, deepening both our technical ability and our connection to the text. Open only to TBZ members, requires

a minimum of 8 participants and a maximum of 12. The cost is on a sliding scale of \$180–\$360. If finances are a barrier to taking the class, please reach out to the office for adjusted tuition. Register by February 27th so we can confirm whether the class will run. We look forward to learning and chanting together!

Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out with Rav Tiferet and Ellen Krause-Grosman

Alternating Thursdays, January 29 - March 26 (in person and online)

6:00-8:00pm

Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out (DRIO), a course and community of practice that equips participants with daily concrete Jewish spiritual tools of *Mussar* to confront, subvert, and heal implicit and internalized racism within ourselves and others, supporting the collective organizing, advocacy, and service-work efforts to dismantle racism systemically. Led by Rav Tiferet and Ellen Krause-Grosman, both trained through the Kirva Institute, participants will be introduced to the balance of care paradigm and explore broadly applicable, practical skills to support TBZ members in strengthening their muscles to navigate an increasingly challenging reality to be our most effective selves in the world.

MINYANIM

Come and pray every day with TBZ!

Boker Tov TBZ

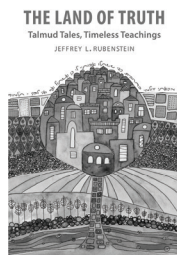
Weekday mornings, 8:00-8:45am (online)

Boker Tov (Good Morning) TBZ is a daily morning prayer group, led by TBZ rabbis, rabbinic interns, and the Boker Tov community. It started from a desire for daily connection during the pandemic and has persisted and grown into a supportive community for members saying *kaddish*, as well as an opportunity to learn and grow in prayer practice and develop a community of friends.

No Boker Tov on the following dates: February 16 (Presidents' Day), April 1-3 and 8-9 (*Pesach*), April 20 (Patriots' Day), May 22 (Shavuot), May 25 (Memorial Day).

over by 9:45 or 10:00 (in person)

Join Rav Claudia and members of our community for a spirited beginning to your day! We begin the day with joyful and intentional *davening* (praying), followed by breakfast and text learning. We will be learning from the new book *The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings*. Through the prism of Talmud tales, Talmud scholar and author Jeffrey Rubenstein also offers timeless insights into suffering, beauty, disgust, heroism, humor, love, sex, truth, and falsehood. Email Rochelle (rkelman@tbzbrookline.org) to be included in the Eat, Pray, & Learn list. **(No EPL February 18, April 1, 8, 22. Final session: June 10)**



Sundays

See *Happenings* for upcoming dates

TBZ partners with Family Table, through Jewish Family & Children Services (JF&CS), volunteering to pack and deliver groceries each month.

The volunteer location is IF&CS (2430 Main Street, Waltham).

Find out more and sign up using the QR code >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



Sundays, 10:30am-12:00pm (online)

This ongoing online weekly exploration of the Torah continues on Sunday mornings. Areas covered include: Hebrew reading practice, understanding Torah Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and issues of translation, the possible diverse Biblical authors, and discussions on the relevance of the text for today. Each weekly session explores 5-8 verses. All are welcome to attend any or all sessions! No Hebrew reading ability is required for the text study portion. If you want to receive reminder emails, please contact Rav Tiferet to make sure you are on the Learn Hebrew email list.

Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery: Book Study and Conversation

Sundays at 10:30am (online)

In partnership with Our Jewish Recovery, open to people of any or no religion.

Each week, we meet to explore the steps common to all 12-Step Recovery Programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, from a Jewish perspective, using the book *Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery*. We read a chapter, share our experience, strength, and hope from our journeys, and make connections to our practices of Jewish living. Conversations can touch on struggles with Purim and alcohol, Shabbat as a sugar addict, or the strong connections between the steps of *teshuva* (repentance) and the 12 Steps. This meeting welcomes all. You do not have to identify as an addict or a family member of an addict. You don't even have to be Jewish! If you are interested in having conversations about the 12 Steps, recovery, and Judaism, you have come to the right place! Contact Peter Golbus (pgolbus@gmail.com) if you're interested or to learn more. Join our email list at: jewish12steps@tbzbrookline.org.

Knitzvah

Sundays: February 1, March 1, March 29, April 26, May 24, June 21 (possibly)

6:00-7:30pm

Knitzvah is a part of Hesed (lovingkindness) at TBZ. We contribute to the sense of warmth, of being cared about and known within the community by knitting together! We meet about once a month, from late Fall through spring, at members' homes or virtually, and spend the evening knitting and crocheting. We make baby hats when there's a new baby in a TBZ member's family, and we make Caring Wraps (lap blankets and shawls) to bring to members who are ill or going through particularly challenging times. At meetings, we enjoy catching up with each other, as well as letting the group know of community news and who might need care. We're a drop-in group – come once or as often as you'd like. Meetings are announced in *Happenings*. If you would like to be on our mailing list, email knitzvah@tbzbrookline.org.

Men's Group Weekly Meetings

Sundays, 7:00pm (online)

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

men in the TBZ community and beyond. For more information, contact Mark Dinaburg through the TBZ office.

TBZ Book Club

For TBZ members only. Our monthly meetings on Sunday evenings feature lively discussions of books by or about Jewish people, alternating fiction (F) and non-fiction (NF) selections. New participants are always welcome! You may find yourself reading books you never knew about or thought to read, and meeting other book lovers! Please join us at any time during the year! Check *Happenings* for the Zoom link!

February 15: *Rising out of Hatred: The Waking of a former White Nationalist* by Eli Saslow (NF)

March 8: *Displaced Persons* by Joan Leegant (F)

April 12: *No Room for Small Dreams* by Shimon Perez (NF)

May 3: *A Boy with the Star Tattoo* by Talia Carner (F)

June 14: *Impossible Takes Longer* by Daniel Gordis (NF)

July 12: *Loving Kindness: A Novel* by Anne Rophe (F)

August 9: *City of Stone: Hidden History of Jerusalem* by Meron Benvenisti (NF)

Mondays

Poetry “Potluck” with Rabbi Suzanne Offit

February 2, 16, March 2, 16, April 6, 20, May 4, 18, Noon

(check *Happenings* to confirm dates)

Bring your own dairy/pareve lunch so we can learn and eat together!

In addition, our souls also need nourishment, so bring your favorite poem to share for a “poetry potluck.” Please bring poems that are meaningful to you.

Come prepared to share a little about the poet. You will need 15 copies (this is the potluck part!) To share 15 copies, you may 1) come at least 15 minutes early to class and photocopy in the TBZ office, 2) email your poem the Sunday night before class to suzanneaoffit@gmail.com, or 3) if your poem is in a book, simply take a photo of the poem and email it to Suzanne. Sponsored by Aging in Community, everyone is most welcome!

For up-to-date information visit: www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar

Wednesdays

TBZ Therapists' Connection

Alternating Wednesdays, (check *Happenings* to confirm dates)

1:00pm (online)

TBZ members who are mental health professionals are welcome to join this every-other-Thursday online support group to come into community to discuss current societal and mental health topics and how these may affect our work. This group began in March 2020 and has been ongoing and well-attended. Our conversations are group-generated and informal, we operate on a “come when you can” basis, and we welcome regulars and newcomers alike! It’s a wonderfully supportive community and we hope you’ll join us! Please contact Paula Fuchs at pafuchs@comcast.net for more information.

Aging In Community: Informal Coffee Meet-Up

Wednesdays, 2:30pm at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel Lobby,

40 Webster St., Brookline

If you are looking for some informal camaraderie within the Aging in Community at TBZ, please join us on Wednesday afternoons at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Coolidge Corner for coffee (you need to bring your own beverage!) and a nice, casual chat. In nice weather, we will meet outside in the courtyard. NO NEED TO RSVP, just come, look for Jenni Seicoll!

Fridays

Friday Morning Nishmat Hayyim Meditation Practice

Fridays, 9:30am-11:00am (online)

Nishmat Hayyim: The Breath of Life Friday Morning Sits offer a weekly opportunity to deepen and continue the meditative discipline together, cultivating wisdom, compassion, happiness, and the ability to respond to this complex life and world. All levels of meditators, beginners and experienced, who want support for starting or deepening a regular practice are welcome! Led by highly experienced TBZ meditation teachers, these 90-minute sessions include chants, a 45-minute silent sit, teachings from Jewish, Buddhist, and other mindfulness texts, discussion, and check-ins about our practice.



TBZ

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Save the Dates!

May 15-17

Community Retreat on Cape Cod