

Lifelong Learning and Programming at TBZ



TBZ



FALL 2026/5787

September 2026-January 2027

WELCOME

Dear TBZ Community,

It is a joy to present our newest collection of learning and engagement opportunities for the season ahead. As always, this booklet is only the beginning. New ideas and opportunities will continue to emerge throughout the fall and winter, including a three-part series sponsored by Aging in Community exploring friendship, housing, and experiences of loss.

We are deeply grateful to the many community members who took the time to respond to our recent engagement survey; you'll hear more about the findings from Rav Leah in the coming months. Your reflections have already begun to shape our planning in meaningful ways. One theme emerged again and again: relationships matter as much as programs themselves. Learning together builds community, and our community is hungry for opportunities to deepen connections over time.

One way we are responding to that desire is through the launch of our new TBZ Scholars in Residence initiative (see p. 23). Rather than offering a single or few sessions, each scholar will help build a sustained learning experience that invites participants into thoughtful conversation and shared discovery. Through classical texts, philosophy, history, literature, film, art, contemporary issues, and more, these scholars will explore the questions that most animate them and, we hope, inspire all of us to discover new ways that we can infuse Jewish wisdom into our lives. We are thrilled to launch this exciting new initiative and cannot wait to learn alongside you.

As we enter a new year filled with possibility, we hope you'll find opportunities in these pages to learn something new, meet someone new, deepen an existing relationship, and continue shaping this living and thriving community that we are building together.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah (a Good and Sweet New Year),

Rav Claudia
Senior Rabbi

Rav Tiferet
*Rabbi, Congregational
Learning and Programming*

Rav Leah Carnow
*Assistant Rabbi, Director of
Community Engagement*

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ELUL PROGRAMMING

The month of *Elul* begins Thursday evening, August 13, 2026



Rosh Hashanah Meal Matching

Deadline Friday, August 28

While we all have an opportunity to spend Rosh Hashanah together at TBZ, we want to extend our community experience outside the sanctuary as well. This Rosh Hashanah, we are doing a meal match for TBZ members, matching guests and hosts together as another chance for us to sweeten and deepen our community relationships.



Please note: This opportunity is for TBZ members only. Matches are not guaranteed, but we will do our best. If you can host or would like to be a guest, please sign up by Friday, August 28.

Encountering God in the Modern World with Rabbi Sam Seicol

Wednesdays, August 26, September 2 & 16 (in person)

6:30-7:15pm Dinner, 7:15-8:30pm Learning (see page 23 for more info)

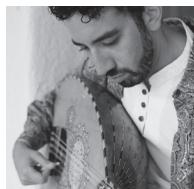
Kiddush Talk, Rabbi Lenny Gordon: Creating Your Personal High Holiday Experience with *Mahzor Lev Shalem*

Saturday, August 29, after services (in person)

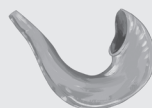
A year ago, TBZ began using a new High Holiday *machzor* (prayer book), *Lev Shalem* (full heart), designed to speak to the diverse experiences, questions, and spiritual yearnings of contemporary Jewish life. Join TBZ member Rabbi Lenny Gordon, a member of the *Mahzor Lev Shalem* editorial team, to explore some of the *mahzor's* poetry, commentary, translations, contemporary readings, and spiritual insights, as well as consider how they can deepen our experience of the High Holy Days. Whether you are a seasoned *davener* (pray-er), new to Hebrew prayer, or simply searching for meaning and connection during the High Holy Days, this conversation will help you enter the new year with a fuller heart and a deeper appreciation for the many voices and pathways found within *Lev Shalem*.

Preparing Your Heart: Sephardi Morning *Selichot* Services
led by Rabbi Ebn Leader and
TBZ's Artist-in-Residence Yoni Battat
co-sponsored by Hadar Boston
Tuesday, September 1 & Wednesday, September 9,
8:00-9:00am (in person)

The paradoxical coexistence of joy and awe is built into the very fabric of the High Holiday season. Come prepare for it with Rabbi Ebn Leader as he leads us in the soul-searching, poetic melodies of the Syrian/Kurdish Jewish tradition, played by Yoni Battat. Sign up via *Happenings*.



Brookline Community *Selichot*



Saturday, September 5

(in person at Hebrew Senior Life and TBZ)

Join us for a soulful beginning to the High Holy Days with an evening of meditation, learning, and inspiring prayer.

At 1550 Beacon Street (Hebrew SeniorLife) (in person)

6:30pm Early session with Hebrew Senior Life Leadership

7:30pm *Havdalah* with Hebrew Senior Life Leadership

8:00-9:00pm Early *Selichot* with Hebrew Senior Life

At TBZ (in person and online)

9:30-10:15pm Opening Meditation Practice

10:30-11:30pm Learning with Rabbi Elie Lehmann
of Hadar Boston

11:30pm *Selichot* with Rabbi Ebn Leader
and the TBZ *Davening* Team

HOLIDAYS



Join us for the High Holidays,
Welcoming 5787!

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Friday, September 11

Rosh Hashanah Day 1: Saturday, September 12

Rosh Hashanah Day 2: Sunday, September 13

Shabbat Shuva Kiddush Learning with Rabbi Ebn Leader:

Saturday, September 19

Kol Nidre: Sunday, September 20

Yom Kippur: Monday, September 21

Sukkot Day 1 Services: Saturday, September 26

Shemini Atzeret Services: Saturday, October 3

Simchat Torah Evening: Saturday, October 3

Simchat Torah Day with Rabbi Ebn Leader: Sunday, October 4

For more information and a schedule of services and events,
visit our website: tbzbrookline.org

Poetry in the Sukkah with TBZ member Cail Casserly

Thursday, October 1, 7:00-9:00pm (in person)

Cail will lead an evening of ekphrasis, exploring the hut as a creative space, open to all members and all experience levels. Come learn about ekphrastic poetry, listen to traditional and contemporary poetry related to the *chag* (holiday), and create your own poetry inspired by our time together outside.

About Cail: Cail began attending TBZ in 2025, and is an English professor, poet and painter. They specialize in ekphrastic poetry, which are traditionally poems about works of art. They love being at TBZ whenever they aren't home in northeastern Vermont, where they live in an off-grid cabin.

Shemini Atzeret and Beyond:

Preparing the Soul for Winter with Rav Tiferet

Thursdays, October 15 and 22, 7:00-8:30pm (in person)

As the Jewish calendar turns toward the quieter, darker months of the year, Shemini Atzeret invites us to pause, gather in, and embrace a different kind of spiritual work. The festival marks a sacred transition from the intensity of summer and the High Holy Days into the season ahead. Drawing on Jewish texts, spiritual wisdom, and insights from Kari Leibowitz's book *How to Winter*, join Rav Tiferet, a recovering winter hater, to examine how winter can become not merely a season for us to endure, but an opportunity for growth, rest, connection, and renewal. Through discussion, readings, and practical exercises, we will discover how Jewish tradition and contemporary psychology can help us cultivate warmth, meaning, and joy during the coldest months of the year.

TBZ Annual Hanukkah Party

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



Join us to celebrate the third night of Hanukkah in community! Games and activities for all ages, including adult learning, a *tzedakah* (charity) project, and our community *hanukkiah* lighting, singing, latkes, and *sufganiyot* (doughnuts). Bring your own *hanukkiah* (menorah) and four candles

to light together! Also, bring a donation for the Brookline Community Food Pantry!

Greater Boston Hanukkah Celebration at the Museum of Fine Arts

Thursday, December 18, 5:00-10:00pm (in person)

Come together for an evening of art, music, and activities for all ages as we celebrate Hanukkah with a community gathering full of performances, art that highlights the diversity of Jewish cultures and identities, and much more!

Community Tu BiShvat Seder led by the Beit Rabban

Wednesday, January 27, 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!

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, 9:00-10:00am 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.

NO TORAH STUDY ON HOLIDAYS: September 12, 26 & October 3

Shabbat with Commentary

November 21, December 12, January 9

**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.

Special Shabbatot:

Shabbat Nariya: Shabbat Sing Out!

**October 16, November 20,
December 18, January 15, 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



6:00 pm followed by community potluck dinners 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. **Before Nariya, kids and families are welcome to join for “Pre-Neg,” see page 16.**

Shabbat Zimrah

October 9, November 13, December 4, 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* (evening service). (Reading Song of Songs is a Mizrahi Friday night tradition practiced year-round, not just on Shabbat Shirah!)



Yoni Avi Battat is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer, playing violin, viola, and oud in collaborative and interdisciplinary projects that explore both Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Jewish expression. Yoni's music has been described as “an education for the ear and the soul,” inviting listeners to find healing, meaning, and joy in the experience of being human.

Shabbat Shalom at Home

Friday evening, December 11

Shabbat Shalom at Home is an initiative to bring TBZ members together to have Shabbat meals at home. 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! If you are interested in hosting, please email Rav Leah at ravleah@tbzbroadline.org.



Shabbat Morning Yoga with Rav Leah

Saturday, December 5, 9:00am (in person)

Join Shabbat morning yoga with Rav Leah (certified yoga teacher, RYT-200) to breathe, center, and move together. This will be a slow-flow practice weaving Jewish wisdom with yoga asana, postural practice. No prior yoga experience is expected. Please sign up in advance, bring your own mat and wear comfortable clothing you can move in.

Hesed Shabbat

Saturday, December 5

As we gather during Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, we celebrate the many ways that acts of *hesed* (lovingkindness) bring light into our community. Hesed Shabbat is dedicated to honoring the volunteers who have responded to the needs of our congregation with generosity, compassion, and care. We also recognize those who have allowed our community to support them, reminding us that receiving help is as much a part of sacred community as offering it. Like the Hanukkah candles whose light grows brighter night by night, each act of kindness strengthens our connections and illuminates our shared life. Together, we will celebrate the relationships of giving and receiving that make our congregation a place where no one stands alone.

Men's Group Monthly Meeting

September 26, October 24, November 21, December 19, January 23

After Kiddush, 1:30-3:00pm, Room Gimmel (in person)

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.

Community Dinner

Friday, November 13, after Kabbalat Shabbat Services

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. Sign-up is required.

**Hineni: Welcoming What Arrives,
A Shabbat Retreat at Kripalu
with Rav Claudia**



October 29-November 1, sign up on Kripalu's website

Practicing Shabbat is like exhaling into a deeply renewing yoga posture. Join Rav Claudia and gifted teachers Cantor Lizzie Shammash and Rabbi Cantor Danielle Bensimhon for a retreat that draws on Jewish spiritual

practices of mindfulness, prayer, chant, meditation, and study to help us enter and “hold the pose” of Shabbat. Rooted in the themes of hospitality, presence, love, rupture, and the call of *hineni* (“here I am”) from the week’s Torah portion (*Parashat Vayera*), this retreat invites you to gently explore what it means to show up to your life with openness and courage.

Kiddush Talks & Tables:

After Shabbat services, during kiddush

Tikkun Olam Tables

October 31, December 5, January 9

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!

August 29

Rabbi Lenny Gordon (See Elul Programming page 4)

September 18

Shabbat Shuva learning with Rabbi Ebn Leader

September 26

**Not All Homes Are Temporary with David Weisberg,
Executive Director of World Jewish Relief USA**



What can the holiday of Sukkot teach us about home, vulnerability, and our responsibility to one another? David Weisberg draws on Jewish tradition, personal experience, and insights gained during a visit to Ukraine earlier this year to explore what it means to create safety, dignity, and hope in an uncertain world.

October 10

***Bereshit* (Genesis) and other Creation stories in the Ancient Near East
with TBZ Member Céline Debourse**

We will explore the opening chapters of Genesis alongside the creation stories of ancient Israel’s neighbors. Together we will discover how reading

Bereshit in its ancient context can deepen our appreciation of its timeless message. Come learn with Céline one last time before she moves away!

October 31

Ready to Turn the World Upside Down: Jewish Women and the Remarkable Achievements of Radical Feminism with Joyce Antler

Stay tuned for more details.

December 5

TikTok Torah with TBZ Member, Rabbi Jenna Turow

Join Rabbi Jenna Turow for a bite-sized conversation where Torah meets today's culture. We'll explore the *parasha* (Torah portion) alongside what's happening in the world around us: movies, music, television, sports, social media, and more. Together, we'll ask: What can Torah teach us about the stories, trends, and moments everyone is talking about? And what can today's culture reveal about timeless Jewish wisdom?

December 19

What Do We Learn as We Age? The Case of Joseph in the Bible with TBZ Member Joe Reimer, Professor Emeritus at Brandeis University

Who is Joseph in the Bible? Isn't he the one with the amazing technicolor dream coat? The one with all the dreams whose brothers hate him and throw him in a pit? Yes, that is Joseph at age 17. But what happens as Joseph ages? How does adulting change this familiar figure in ways that many have not appreciated?

January 30

Action Reconciliation Service for Peace with TBZ Member Rachele Rosi-Kessel

Have you ever considered hosting an international volunteer in your home? Come learn about a unique opportunity through Hebrew SeniorLife and Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, a German organization that sends young adults to serve in communities impacted by the legacy of the Holocaust. Rachele will share her experience hosting one of these remarkable volunteers, offering insight into the meaningful relationships, cross-cultural learning, and support for older adults that emerge from this program.



B'Mitzvah Celebrations

Sidney Golden, October 17

Annie Armour, October 24

Lilia Miller, November 7

Avi Krakower, November 14

FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WonderMinyan

September 26, October 10, 31, November 21,

December 5, 19, January 9, 23

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 Song 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

Wednesday afternoons, 4:00-6:00pm (in person)

Starting September 23 for Shorashim Alef ONLY

September 30 for all other grades

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. Our 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.



Monthly Parents' Learning with Rav Claudia

October 21, November 4, December 2, December 16, January 13

5:00-6:00pm during Beit Rabban (in person)

While your children are at Beit Rabban, join Rav Claudia for an hour of meaningful Jewish learning, thoughtful conversation, and community with other parents. For years, this gathering has offered parents a chance to pause, reflect, and connect, both with Jewish wisdom and with one another. It's also an opportunity to build relationships beyond drop-off and pick-up, all in the welcoming space of Rav Claudia's office (often with yummy snacks!). Consider planning your Wednesday work or errands so you can give yourself this gift of learning. Just one hour a month can bring perspective, connection, and renewal to the middle of 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.”*

Beit Rabban Volunteers at Family Table (4th-7th Grades only)

Sunday, November 22, 8:45-11:00am at JF&CS in Waltham

Join Beit Rabban families for the *mitzvah* (good deed) of packing and delivering groceries to neighbors in need. We regularly have volunteers from TBZ on select Sundays throughout the year, but this is a special chance for Beit Rabban families to go and deepen relationships over a *mitzvah*!

Beit Rabban: From Bean-to-Gelt: A Hands-on Exploration of Chocolate, Judaism, and the Sweetness of Hanukkah

Wednesday, December 2, 4:00-6:00pm (in person)

In this 2-hour program for our *Ilanot* students and older, Beit Rabban learners will explore the history of chocolate and its connections to Jewish culture, and make chocolate from start to finish, or “bean-to-gelt,” creating something meaningful with their own hands! Led by Alex Voynow, a former chocolate maker at Dandelion Chocolate, Youth Programs Associate Director at Wilderness Torah, educator at the Jewish Farm School, Teva Learning Center, and Eden Village summer camp, and current Master’s candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Alex brings a unique expertise in creating highly engaging educational programs based in Jewish life and culinary culture!

B’Mitzvah Family Group

October 10, November 21, December 19, January 23

After Shabbat services, 1:00-2:30pm (in person)

For families of 6th and 7th graders who are enrolled in TBZ’s B’Mitzvah program. Join Rav Claudia, and Rav Tiferet to prepare for becoming a b’mitzvah family! These sessions help navigate this life stage by addressing the joys and challenges of becoming and parenting a teen.

B’Mitzvah Family Group Shabbat Dinner

Friday Night, January 8, after services

Gather with other TBZ B’Mitzvah families for a Shabbat dinner hosted by Rav Claudia! Over dinner, adults will share memories and experiences from their own B’Mitzvah experiences, and young people will have opportunities to share what’s exciting for them and to experience/try Shabbat dinner practices such as full Kiddush and singing *zemirot* (Shabbat table songs).

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. 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! Or, join only for special events like trips to NYC or a Civil Rights tour to Alabama.

Learn more here: www.tisrael.org/the-tent/

Monthly Young People’s Kiddush Book Club

During Kiddush, stay tuned for dates!

Join librarian David Vitale-Wolff and TBZ members of all ages to discuss a Jewish children’s book during kiddush. Email David at dvitalewolff@gmail.com with any questions. Children and adults of all ages are welcome!

Apple Picking & More at Shelburne Farm in Stow, MA

October 18, 10:00am-1:00pm



Returning to our “new” location from last year, join TBZ for an apple picking delight! Each participant will get an Apple Picking Pack, which includes an adult apple picking bag (approx. 7 lbs. per guest), a hayride, and covers our reserved picnic table where we enjoy cider donuts (approx. 2-3 per guest) and hot cider. In addition, young ones get to visit the small barnyard animals and all-day access to children’s attractions. There is musical entertainment and also hard cider and food for purchase. \$25 per pack.

“Pre-neg:” Oneg before Nariya

For Young Members and their Families

October 16, November 20, December 18, January 15, 5:30pm

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

Community Dinner

Friday, November 13

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.

Sign-up is required. **(See page 10)**



GROUPS, CLASSES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Mahjong, Sundays

October 11, November 1, 15, 22, December 13, January 10, 24

Mahjong has come to the TBZ community! Come play with us! Please bring your own card! One person per game will need a set and racks. No house rules, NMJL only (no blanks, etc.). Email info@tbzbrookline.org to be added to the mahjong email list.

Chosen Paths

September 6, October 25, November 15, December 13, January 10

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* (dietary laws), 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. Email info@tbzbrookline.org to be added to the Chosen Paths email list.

Spiritual Companionship with Rabbi Carol Glass

September 28 (in a home *sukkah*), October 26, November 23, December 21

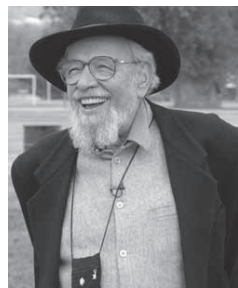
Jewish Group Spiritual Companionship is a practice wherein a small number of people come together regularly to witness and assist one another in deepening an awareness of God (however God is imaged) in all of life. Guided by a trained facilitator, participants share their spiritual stirrings, experiences, questions, and struggles in a sacred, confidential space.

This group is currently closed.

He Loved Us to God: A four-week exploration into Reb Zalman and Jewish Renewal with Reb Moshe

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, online, 7:00-8:30 pm

Many of us speak of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (“Reb Zalman”) as a teacher whose influence continues to shape Jewish life today. But who was he, and why does his legacy matter? A visionary, innovator, and spiritual guide, Reb Zalman challenged Jews to reconnect with the living heart of Judaism. He believed that Jewish tradition was not meant to be an empty relic of the past, nor confined by denominational labels,



but continually renewed by returning to its essential spiritual core. Many practices that feel commonplace in Jewish communities today, from creative prayer experiences and colorful *tallitot* (prayer shawls) to a more personal, intimate relationship with God, bear the imprint of his influence. We’ll explore Reb Zalman’s transformative teachings through readings, videos, and discussion while tracing their lasting impact on contemporary Judaism. Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions, as each builds on the others. Ample time will be provided for discussion and questions.

Marking October 7: A Community Evening of Remembrance and Reflection

Wednesday, October 7, 7:00-9:00pm (in person at TBZ)

Join members of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Sinai Brookline, Hillel B’nei Torah, and TBZ for an evening of remembrance, reflection, and conversation as we mark the anniversary of October 7th. Rabbis Toba Spitzer, Andy Vogel, Aliza Schwartz, and Claudia Kreiman will begin with a brief ceremony

honoring the lives lost, those taken hostage, and those whose lives have been forever changed by the events of that day and its aftermath. Then we will watch *Holding Liat*, the 2025 award-winning documentary directed by Brandon Kramer. The film follows the Israeli-American family of Liat Beinon Atzili after she and her husband, Aviv, were kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, 2023. Through the family's experience, the film captures the anguish of captivity, the efforts to advocate for her release, and the emotional and ideological complexities that emerge as a family and community navigate an unimaginable moment. The film invites us to sit with the complexity of October 7th and its aftermath: the trauma, the human stories behind the headlines, and the difficult questions facing Israelis, Palestinians, and all of us trying to find a way forward.



Torah Roots of *Pesach* (Passover) with Rabbi Sam Seicol **Sundays, starting October 11, 11:00am-12:00pm**

Hebrew reading practice from 11:00-11:15am.

No Hebrew knowledge required for the 11:15am-12:00pm session.

Discover the Torah behind the *Haggadah*! Journey back to the biblical roots of the Passover *seder* while strengthening your Hebrew reading skills through close study of the Torah text itself. Together we'll explore the passages that gave rise to the *Haggadah* and many of the rituals that shape our *seder* today. Along the way, we'll investigate the Torah's diverse presentations of Passover, wrestle with texts that seem to contradict one another, and uncover how the Rabbis wove these verses into the *Haggadah* we know today. As Passover approaches, our learning will turn toward practice, exploring how these insights can enrich your own *seder* table and bring new depth and meaning to the holiday. The course will run from the end of the fall holidays to the beginning of Spring.

55+ Game Night (in-person) **November 7, 7:00 pm**

Something for Everyone: Join us for games, conversation, laughter and cookies! More details to come.



AAAG TLC Kit Packing

Sunday, November 8, 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.



DRIO *Va'ad* Gathering with Rav Tiferet

Thursday, November 12, 7:00-8:30pm (online)

Join us for a gathering of TBZ's Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out (DRIO) *va'ad*, as we bring together participants from all 3 cohorts for connection, reflection, and renewal. Grounded in the *middah* (soul-trait) of *ratzon* – deep desire/motivation, we will explore how this essential quality can guide and sustain our being and our justice work, both individually and collectively. Whether you've stayed close to the practice or have been walking your path quietly, this is a chance to reconnect with each other, re-engage with the DRIO Balance of Care framework, and reaffirm our shared commitment to healing and justice from the inside out.

Recollections of a Survivor: Presentation by Joel Fabian

Wednesday, November 4, 6:30pm

TBZ is honored to welcome Joel Fabian, U.S. Army veteran, Holocaust survivor, and dear friend of Rav Tiferet, back to share lessons for Jews today. He begins his presentations to students by introducing himself in German. The guttural sound of the foreign tongue always gets his audience's attention right away—but what keeps them captivated is the story he weaves about his family's unlikely survival "hiding out in plain sight" within the larger picture of the Holocaust. He takes pains that his audience will understand that Jews were not the only targets for annihilation during the dark war years, speaking about LGBTQ, black, and intellectually disabled victims and others. Doing so, he said, helps today's students grasp the universal lessons he wants them to take away from his presentations. "We Holocaust survivors were given a

mandate by those who didn't survive," he said. "They told us that if you talk about us, people will know we were alive." At 86 years of age, this is one of our last opportunities to witness and to learn.

Brookline Interfaith Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 22, 4:00-5:00pm

Join TBZ and many other Brookline houses of worship for our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service for all ages. With readings, music and prayer, we will honor our blessings and share them with the Brookline Food Pantry.

Adult B'Mitzvah* Class starting in January 2027!

Info session, Wednesday, December 9, 7:00-8:00pm

Never had a b'mitzvah* ceremony? Had one, but it didn't mean anything at the time? Maybe it did, but now it can mean something different? Whatever your reason, if you're interested in affirming yourself as a Jewish adult, TBZ will be offering an adult b'mitzvah class starting in January of 2027 with a b'mitzvah date of February 19, 2028! That's a full year of learning and growing toward this important milestone with a cohort of other learners.

**At TBZ, we use the term b'mitzvah when we refer to the collective or when gender is not specified. B'mitzvah is a gender-neutral word which means "of the commandment" and allows us to refer to all of our students, regardless of gender.*

Chinese Food and a Movie

Thursday, December 24, 4:00-8:00pm

Join us for the traditional Jewish observance of the Christmas holiday: Chinese food and a movie! We'll again order vegan Chinese food from Grasshopper and personalized TBZ fortune cookies! And of course, conversation with other TBZ members about the meaning of Jewishness. Do you have suggestions for which Jewish film or Jewish TV episodes we could watch together that would spark interesting conversation and make us laugh? Let Rav Tiferet know!



Israel Palestine Affinity Group

Check *Happenings* for dates (in person and online)

We are a lay-led group committed to holding a safe-enough, brave-

enough space in which we can explore the complexities of the situations in Palestine and Israel. Although we share a range of opinions and perspectives, we converge around the reality of the historical and constant structural oppression of and violence perpetrated upon Palestinians by the state of Israel and global Mideast interests. We invite you to join us, whether you have attended before, or would be coming for the first time. To be added to the informative IPAG email group, or to register for a meeting, please contact info@tbzbrookline.org.

Chronic Illness Gathering

Check *Happenings* & flyer for dates

We gather to bravely share and explore our experience of living with chronic health challenges. We do this with curiosity, loving hearts and through a Jewish lens. There are no rules for self-identification as living with chronic illness—come as you are and be seen. Please email info@tbzbrookline.org to be added to the email list.

Learn to play Mahjong!

October 25, November 1, November 8, 2:00-4:00pm

We are offering a series of classes on Sunday afternoons. Participants will learn how to play and learn about the history of the game, including its Chinese roots and Jewish-American history. In addition, students will go home with materials to review, resources for buying mahjong sets/cards/books, and information about how to practice between classes.



TBZ Member Prices:

\$36/person for Oct 25 and Nov 1; \$54/person for Oct 25, Nov 1, and Nov 8

Discounted Prices (members only):

\$20/person for Oct 25 and Nov 1; \$30/person for Oct 25, Nov 1, and Nov 8

Non Member Prices:

\$54/person for Oct 25 and Nov 1; \$72/person for Oct 25, Nov 1, and Nov 8

Participants must commit to the first two classes (October 25th and November 1st). November 8th is optional but recommended.

Introducing TBZ Scholars in Residence

The TBZ Scholars in Residence series celebrates the depth of wisdom, creativity, and scholarship that exists within our own congregation. Each gathering invites us into thoughtful conversation led by a TBZ member sharing the subject that most inspires them: their personal passion.

Together, we'll explore ideas that speak to Jewish life today through a wide range of lenses, including Jewish texts, history, art, film, contemporary fiction and nonfiction, philosophy, and the enduring questions that shape the human experience. These evenings are more than classes. Starting with dinner beforehand, they are opportunities to get to know other TBZ members, learn together, engage in meaningful discussion, and discover how timeless ideas continue to inform the way we live, think, and act as Jews in the modern world. Come learn from the remarkable scholars in our midst—and be part of the conversation.

- **Kickoff with Rabbi Sam Seicol in *Elul* (see below)**
- **Rav Claudia: November 9, 16 & 23, 7:30-9:00pm.**
- **Rabbi Jonah Steinberg on Non-Ordinary States of Consciousness**

Encountering God in the Modern World with Rabbi Sam Seicol **Wednesdays, August 26, September 2 & 16 (in person)**

6:30-7:15pm Dinner, 7:15-8:30pm Learning

Join us to kick off our TBZ Scholars in Residence initiative! Using the film “Oh, God!” starring George Burns and John Denver as the main text, this series will explore the idea of prophecy from Biblical times and its possibility in the 21st century. Attendees will watch the film in sections over the weeks, and share thoughts and discussions in a relaxed and affirming atmosphere. Some questions to be explored will include:

- How did Biblical prophets know they were talking to or receiving communication from the Divine?
- Who decided when this ended?
- What form(s) of human/Divine communication developed in Judaism?
- How would a Biblical prophet be treated today?

MINYANIM

Come and pray every day with TBZ!

Boker Tov TBZ

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

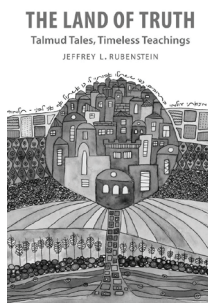
Boker Tov (Good Morning) TBZ is a daily morning prayer group, led by TBZ rabbis and the Boker Tov community. It started from a desire for daily connection during the pandemic and has persisted and grown into a supportive community for members saying *kaddish*, as well as an opportunity to learn and grow in prayer practice and develop a community of friends. **No Boker Tov: 9/7 (Labor Day), 9/21 (Yom Kippur), 11/26-27 (Thanksgiving), 12/24-25 (Christmas), 12/31-1/1 (New Year's).**

Eat, Pray, & Learn (EPL)

Wednesdays davening and learning together

**Resumes September 9, 8:00am (*Shacharit* [morning] prayers),
8:45am (breakfast and learning), 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, intentional *davening* (praying), followed by breakfast and text study. We are learning from the book *The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings*. Through the prism of Talmud tales, Talmud scholar and author Jeffrey Rubenstein 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: 11/11 (Veteran's Day), 11/25 (Thanksgiving), 12/30 (New Year).**



**For up-to-date information about all of these events,
please visit www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar**

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

Sundays

Family Table: Monthly

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 JF&CS (2430 Main Street, Waltham).

Find out more and sign up here using the QR code to the right.



Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery

Sundays at 10:30am (online)

A weekly opportunity to explore the 12 Steps of AA from a Jewish perspective using the book *Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery: A Personal Guide to Turning From Alcoholism and Other Addictions—Drugs, Food, Gambling, Sex...* Contact Peter Golbus pgolbus@gmail.com if you're interested and to learn more, and email Jewish12Steps@tbzbrookline.org to join the mailing list!

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. For more information, contact Mark Dinaburg through the TBZ office. (See page 10 for a fuller description.)

TBZ Book Club

September 6, October 11, November 8, December 7, January 10

For TBZ members only. Our monthly meetings feature lively discussions of books by or about Jewish people, alternating fiction (F) and non-fiction (NF) selections. New participants are always welcome! Check *Happenings* for the Zoom link!

Mondays

Poetry “Potluck” with Rabbi Suzanne Offit

October 5, 19; November 2, 16; December 7, 21; January 4

12:00-1:30pm (in person)

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. Sponsored by Aging in Community, everyone is most welcome!

Words & Music through the Generations:

Explore the Works of Israel’s Popular Singer-Songwriters with TBZ member Dr. Miriam Diamond

October 26, November 23, December 21, January 25

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 sarahott@tbzbrookline.org.

Tuesdays

Knitzvah

Final Sunday, September 6;

Now on Tuesdays: October 6, November 3, December 1

6:00-7:30pm (in person)

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’re a drop-in group – come once or as often as you’d like. If you would like to be on our mailing list, email knitzvah@tbzbrookline.org.

Wednesdays

TBZ Therapists' Connection

Alternate Wednesdays, September 9, 23; October 7, 21; November 4, 18; December 2, 16; January 13, 27

1:00pm (online)

TBZ members who are mental health professionals are welcome to join this every-other-Wednesday online support group to come into community to discuss current societal and mental health topics and how these may affect our work. 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 (in person)**

If you are looking for some informal camaraderie within Aging in Community at TBZ, please join us 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 Seicol!

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.

Save the Dates

February 20: Men's Group Shabbat

February 28: Women's Retreat!

March 22: Purim Megillah & Spiel

May 14-16: Community Retreat on Cape Cod

June 5: Beit Rabban Shabbat



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