May there be peace within your walls, serenity in your palaces.

Reflections on Israel and Parenthood.
By Rav Claudia Kreiman
UNDERSTANDING TBZ FINANCES

Jonathan Klein

Now that 5776 is well underway, we want to give TBZ members an overview of our finances. Almost all of you have paid or are paying your annual dues for the year, and many of you have made your contribution to the High Holiday Appeal (if not, there is still time – we’d love to get all the contributions in by December 31!). Since members provide virtually all the money to fund TBZ, you deserve a full accounting of how we use your funds. This presentation of “TBZ Finances 101” may be a little dry – but I want to make sure everyone in the community has access to the basic information about how we operate.

TBZ Membership consists of about 340 households who pay dues. Our membership is very diverse:

- 40% are families with children
- 35% are households with 2 adults
- 25% are single adult members.
- 20 complimentary memberships (mostly residents of 1550 Beacon)
- 15 rabbinical students and “Friends of TBZ” each pay $180/year.

Adding it all up, we currently have about 600 adults and 200 children (with 60 enrolled in Beit Rabban) – a grand total of about 800 individuals of all ages.

TBZ Expenses will be about $925,000 this year, up from about $725,000 five years ago. Our budget has grown as we have increasingly needed to make repairs for our building and added staffing to support our growing community. They fall into these major categories:

Staff Expenses: 5.5 “full time equivalents”
- Reb Moshe, Rav Claudia and Executive Director Carol Nathan work full time.
- Education Coordinator, Cantor Becky Khitrik, works 25 hours per week managing the Beit Rabban and Mishpachot programs.
- Abigail Carpenter-Winch, the Rabbis’ Assistant, who also updates our web site and publicizes programs, works 30 hours per week.
- Eric Gerber-Weiss, our new Office Manager works 30 hours per week.
- Ed Kleinman, bookkeeper, works about 1 day a week.

Altogether, salaries, taxes and employment benefits for our employees are about $585,000, or approximately 63% of our expenses.

Program Expenses are about $115,000, or about 13%, but most of these have significant offsetting income (see below)
- Adult Learning
- Nishmat Hayyim
- Mishpachot programs
- Beit Rabban

Building Expenses and other
- Maintenance and repairs, utilities, grounds upkeep and janitorial expenses for our aging building are about $105,000, or 11%
- “Ceremonial” expenses, including food for Kiddushes, purchasing or repairing siddurim, chumashim and our Torahs, and High Holiday expenses, are about $35,000, or about 4%.
- Administrative and miscellaneous expenses (such as insurance, office supplies, computers, etc.) are about $85,000, about 9%.

All in all, our staff is extremely conservative on spending, and we are a pretty lean operation.

TBZ Income. Almost all of our income is from our members. Dues provide about $475,000, or just over half of our income. High Holiday ticket sales provides another $45,000. Donations provide an additional $260,000 or 28%, thanks to your generosity
- Annual Appeal $170,000
- General: tribute and yahrzeit donations $40,000
- Oney/Kiddush donations $20,000
- Spring Kiddush celebration $30,000

Miscellaneous income of $145,000 includes program income, rental income from the parking and building events, and a small withdrawal from our building reserve to cover some of the building upgrades this year.

Reserves. We do not have a traditional endowment, as some synagogues do, other than our mortgage-free building that was left to us by our predecessors at Temple Beth Zion. We do have working capital and cash reserves of about $300,000, enough to cover about 4 months expenses, which has been built up in good years when we have had a modest surplus. We would like to see this number grow each year, to at least $500,000.

In summary, TBZ is in solid financial shape, although we run on a thin margin, and this year our budget is only a little above break-even. These numbers are approximations, and are based on the Board approved budget for fiscal year 2016, which began last July 1st and runs until June 30, 2016. Anyone who wants more information about the budget and our financial status is welcome to contact me or Sue Kahn. Our email is copresidents@tbzbrookline.org.
TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

These are only a sample of the exciting events happening at TBZ! Check out our website to learn more about our programming and committees, and help us continue to grow our dynamic and spirited community.

Welcome Eric Gerber-Weiss, Our New Office Manager

Eric has an extensive background in administrative and executive management support. Having worked at Congregation B’nai Israel in Boca Raton for almost three years, he is well acquainted with the challenges and joys of the business side of synagogue life. He moved back to the Boston area in the spring of 2013 and has had positions at the New England Aquarium and CJP. He and his husband live in Sharon with their one-year-old son, Avi and their three Papillon dogs.

Shabbat Nariyah - The Shabbat Sing Out!

The last Shabbat in October was our first Shabbat Nariyah! A new experiment for our Friday night services, it was a total success with close to two hundred people participating. Shabbat Nariyah is a new kind of spirited Kabbalat Shabbat led by rabbinical student Micah Shapiro (former teacher at TBZ). Last year, while in Israel, Micah wrote original music to the psalms for Kabbalat Shabbat. Led by musicians and singers from the community (mehallelim), we created a circle of sound, making beautiful music together to welcome in Shabbat. There was a great energy in the room and we look forward to the next one! Save the dates: Jan. 15 – Feb. 26 – March 18 – April 15.

Beit Rabban (TBZ’s innovative Hebrew School)

It is hard to believe that this is Beit Rabban’s eighth year! We began with seven students, and this year we have grown to over 60 students, with a committed teaching staff led by Cantor Becky Khitrik, our education coordinator. Five new families joined the Beit Rabban community this year. The Beit Rabban Parent Steering Committee, an energetic group of Beit Rabban parents led by Debbie Korn and Rebecca Blouwolff, is working with our professional staff to make Beit Rabban an even better experience for our children.

COMMUNITY HANNUKAH PARTY

Please join our Hannukah fun on Sunday, December 6th, 4-6pm! There will be singing and playing dreidel, face painting and candle making, latkes and sufganiyot. Please bring your Hannukiah plus two candles.

TBZ HOST @ HOMES

Eat, pray, sing and connect with other TBZ members over small, intimate vegetarian meals in their homes. Be hosted for Shabbat evening dinner, or seudah shlishit and havdalah on Saturday afternoon. January 29-30. Contact Sharon Morgenbesser, sharondianne18@yahoo.com with questions.

TU B’SHVAT SEDER

Late January may be the middle of winter in New England but in Israel the earliest-blooming trees will be emerging from their winter sleep to begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Please join in celebrating Rosh HaShanah La’ilton, the New Year for Trees, on Sunday, January 24, 10:30am-12:30pm. All are welcome to attend our annual community-wide seder. There will be activities for all ages including an adult learning session.

L’Chaim

• To Sharon Morgenbesser on her engagement to Barry Kesner, and to their daughters Danielle and Aurora.
• To Brina Waldoks and Ian Ives on their marriage.
• To Dina, Lee, and Sadie on the birth of Lev Aronzon Biernbaum, who was born on July 31!
• To Mark Housman and Mona Strick on the birth of their grandchild, Avi Robert Cohen.
• To Marcel Sulitjeanu and Sergiu Simmel on the birth of Dax Alexander Weber (Marcel’s first great-grandchild, and Sergiu’s first grandchild).
• To Joyce Krenskey and David Strauss on the birth of Jonah Miles Solomon, their first grandchild.
• To Reb Moshe who was appointed Chair of the Brookline Clergy Association

1566 HAPPENINGS

Learner’s Minyan with Jewish Discovery Institute - Now is your chance to make yourself comfortable with the beautiful and inspiring liturgy of the Jewish tradition. Join us as we unravel the structure, choreography, and meaning of the traditional Jewish prayer service. No previous background in Hebrew or Jewish education necessary, just the desire to learn. Classes meet at Temple Beth Zion Saturday mornings 9:30 – 11:00am Dec. 12 & 19, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 6 & 20. Suggested Donation: $90. $75 for members of TBZ. Contact info@jewishdiscoveryinstitute.org or 617-219-9775 with any questions.

Nishmat Hayyim continues to offer extraordinary programs this winter with Rabbi Jeff Roth’s program Meditation, the Divine Presence and Jewish Teachings on Monday evenings from 7:15-8:45pm in the TBZ sanctuary. This program seeks to cultivate an awareness of the Divine Presence along with the qualities of wisdom, compassion and kindness from a Jewish perspective. For more information contact reggiesilberberg@gmail.com.

Game Night - Break out of your January doldrums and join fellow game enthusiasts for a night of Scrabble, Backgammon, Apples to Apples, Trivial Pursuit plus others. Saturday, January 23rd. Be on the lookout for more in TBZ Happenings.

Movie Night - Connect with other cinephiles over a Jewish themed movie to be screened on Saturday, February 13th. More information will be available in an upcoming issue of TBZ Happenings.
TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

Monday Night School (MNS) for Teens

For the last eight years Rav Claudia has been working with a strong team of educators and lay leaders in developing our Beit Rabban (Hebrew school program) which continues to grow.

It is now time to think about what’s next: opportunities for our post-b’nei mitzvah students. We have partnered with Temple Israel in Boston and Kehillath Israel in Brookline for the Monday Night School - A Boston Neighborhood Teen Program. As students continue their Jewish education in the teen program, they are challenged to clarify their own ideas about Judaism and their Jewish identities. Students participate in a mix of grade-specific and mixed grade classes that cover topics in four key identity areas: Critical Readers, Reflective Ritual Practitioners, Social Justice Advocates, and Zionists in America. There are three TBZ teens participating in this program this year, and we are looking forward to this becoming a continuation of our Beit Rabban program for all TBZ teens!

As part of the MNS, we are involved with the CJP Boston-Haifa Connection, creating a partnership between a MNS and school in Haifa. The students will learn together with joint curriculum, and the Israeli teens will travel to Boston, and the MNS students will be able to travel to Haifa. We are now in the planning stages of this project – Rav Claudia looks forward to sharing more about it.

Wise Aging Group
Taught by Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks, PhD

Adult Education

Maimonides: a Jewish Thinker in the Islamic World
Jonathan Decter will lead an examination of the life and works of Moses Maimonides as a Jewish thinker within the Islamic world. Explore Maimonides’ engagement with trends in philosophy, theology, and jurisprudence among Islamic thinkers and also look at his attitudes toward Islam. Discuss competing interpretations of Maimonides that have emerged in the medieval and modern periods. Led by Jonathan Decter on Dec 2, 9, 16. Registration required.

The Origins of Hasidism
Hasidism, a populist, mystical, movement has become, for many, the most visible face of Judaism. What is Hasidism? How did it begin, and how did it develop? What are Hasidism’s different manifestations today? Come join Reb Moshe to explore this remarkable religious phenomenon. Jan 20, 27, Feb 3 at 7pm.

Women’s Retreat
Our annual day of learning, prayer and friendship will take place on Sunday, January 31st, from 8:30-3:30. An array of classes and workshops led by TBZ members will be offered. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Registration required. Be on the lookout for more information.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.tbzbrookline.org.
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<td>Sunday, Jan 10</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Jan 13</td>
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May there be peace within your walls, serenity in your palaces.

Reflections on Israel and Parenthood.
By Rav Claudia Kreiman

DEAR HAVERIM AND HAVEROt.
I am writing this message to you a few weeks after returning to TBZ from my parental leave. I am full of gratitude to have been able to be with my family during this special time. Thank you for your well wishes and blessings! It is wonderful to be a part of this community, and be able to raise my daughters surrounded by so much love.

It was invigorating to come back and worship with you during the High Holidays, and I truly appreciate everyone who played a role in making the High Holidays at TBZ a success.

After the High Holidays, I took my daughters to Israel for two weeks. We mostly stayed in Ra’anana, where my sister lives, and in Jerusalem, where many of my friends live. Both Ra’anana and Jerusalem were subjected to terrorist attacks this past October, and I was in Israel when this cycle of violence began.
I would like to share with you two experiences that represent the contradictory emotions of my trip.

The first: my oldest daughter, now in first grade, wanted to go to the Kotel. By the time we arrived in Jerusalem, a couple of attacks had already occurred, and I didn’t know if spending time in the Old City with my children would be wise. At the same time, to not go meant that I was letting fear guide my decisions, something that I would not do. We went to the Kotel, and I took precautions, including minimizing walking and spending only a short time at the Kotel. I was saddened that I needed to explain to my daughter why we couldn’t walk around, and heard in my own voice a sense of hopelessness.

The second experience, however, reminded me that hope is not lost. Just a few days after visiting the Kotel, I spent Shabbat with friends, mostly rabbis and educators. I was inspired by the different initiatives they are involved in, working towards dialogue and paths for peace. They are working to create a new interfaith beit midrash (a house of study) for Palestinian and Jewish teens, and opportunities for Jewish Israelis to learn Arabic, which opens paths to continue conversation with their Israeli Arab and Palestinian neighbors. These people are striving tirelessly for a different reality. I remembered that it should not be fear that guides us, but rather the belief that we are all created in the image of God, and that it is upon us to build a society that is always cognizant of this.

If you are asking yourself what you can do at this challenging time, I suggest supporting organizations in Israel that share our values, and that are working relentlessly to support peace and dialogue, and advance democracy and equality for all.

I am sharing these words with you, because I truly believe that we have to do all that we can to find solutions to this conflict that has taken so many lives from both sides, and to bring about the fervent hope expressed in Tehillim (Psalms) Yehi Shalom Becheilech, Shalva Bearmonotaich (May there be peace within your walls, serenity in your palaces).

As I come back to TBZ I am excited to continue working on new and ongoing programs that are strengthening our community this year. Please check the News section on pages 3 and 4 to learn about our new Shabbat Naryiah, and Monday Night School and to hear about the growth of Beit Rabban!

Hanukah is around the corner. Let me end with a teaching and a blessing for all of us! Hanukah is the celebration that progresses and intensifies from day to day. The Talmud tells us of a famous debate between Beit Hillel and Beit Shamai as to the number of candles to be lit each day. Beit Shamai believed that on the first day we should light eight, and work our way down to just one light on the last day. Beit Hillel argued that we should do just the opposite, which is what we do today. The rationale given by Beit Hillel is “Maalin Bakodesh v’een Moredeen” we increase in kedusha in holiness, and do not decrease. Clearly the act of adding another light every night symbolizes the increased intensity of the holiday. I wish for all of us the capacity to work to increase holiness, to bring more light to the world, to our loved ones, to our community, and beyond.

DEVELOPING THE INNER LIFE
By Reb Moshe Waldoks

Nishmat Hayyim, the Breath of Life Project, has become a hallmark of our congregation over the years. Through Nishmat Hayyim, we have developed a wonderful path for those seeking to strengthen their inner lives, something that I believe is a vital ingredient for the future of synagogue life in the United States, and throughout the world. Through contemplation, meditation, and mindfulness we are able to explore not only our own lives, but also engage a new perspective on studying Torah. By seeing the Torah’s deeper meanings, we enrich our connection with the mythic structure of Jewish identity.

If you’ve never experienced these practices, I invite you to experiment with them, as I am certain that they will enrich your being and will lead you to a spiritual framework for yourself. Contemplative practice enriches all of Jewish ritual, by creating a grounding for these acts that comes from within. In ancient days, the Talmud tells us that the sages spent an hour before prayer in focused thought, in order to create the spaciousness needed for all the words that we have in our tradition.

Take advantage of our Monday night meditation series (drop-in attendance) with Rabbi Jeff Roth, a leading meditation teacher, and our ongoing Friday morning sessions (pre-registration is required) led by Reb Moshe and TBZ members Bobbi Isberg and Sheila Katz.

We are surrounded and filled with the Divine Presence in the Universe. We are enriched by the vibrancy in the tension between the Transcendent and the Imminent, what is beyond and within. This tension stimulates our desire to be at one with the One.
DONATIONS

Leah Abrahams
Stephane and Mara Acel-Green
Seth Alper and Bobbi Isberg
Laurie Alpert and Barry Weisz
Julie Arnow and Michael Rosenbaum
William Bachman and Megan Berger
Diane Balser
Rick Bankhead
Doreen Beinart
Mort Berenson
Marga Biller and Jeffrey Rosenberg
Nancy Blacksin
Ted Bloomstein and Tzviyah Rosenstock
Joshua and Rebecca Blouwolff
Paul Davidovits
Kimbell DiCero and Diane O’Donoghue
Marcia Director
Jonathan and Tamar Duke-Cohan
Samuel Engel
Eli Epstein
Razelle Epstein
Judith Epstein-Fisher and Richard Fisher
Arturo Falck and Julia Feedsen
Susan Farber
Jill Felbowitz
Maria Fisher
Marion Freedman-Gurspan
Annette Furst and Jim Miller
Anita Garlick
Betsey Glaser
Marilyn Glazer-Weissner
Jill and Michael Goldberg
Jonathan and Kim Golden
James Goldman and Ronna Tapper-Goldman
Rachel Goodman
Jill Greensberg
Cindy-jo Gross
Neil and Aileen Grossman
Mitchel and Beth Harris
Steve Hassan and Missa Landau
Muriel Heiberger
Claudia Herman
Marie Hermann
Dr. Philip Hershberg
Rosanna Hertz and Robert Thomas
Shelly Hoon and John Keith
Mark Housman and Mona Strick
Scott Jacobson and Hillary Schub
Sue Kahn and Daniel Kirschner
Robert and Susie Kaim
Alan and Carol Kamin
Sheila Katz and Eduard Stern
Barrie Keller and Steven Kaufman
Barbara Kellman
Judith Klaub
Adam Klauber and Rebecca Weintraub
Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfeld
Paula Korman
Debbie Korn and Bob Stickgold
Larry A Kraus and Sara Smolover
Michael Krieger
Ira Krolik
Prina Lahav
Yechezkel (Ken) Lawrence
Deborah Leibman
Mishy Lesser
Klara Levin
Ronnie Levin
Alan and Helen Leviton
Steve E Lewis
Steven Lipman and Maniilin Miller Lipman
Polina Lokshina
Mark Magid
Rabbi Nathan and Ilana Margalit
Dan and Beth Marx
Rebecca Maatner
Mayor and Bronislava Maystravski
Maurice Medoff
Norman Meisner
Svetlana Mondrus
Sharon Morgenbesser
Emma Smith Zbarsky and Boris Zbarsky

Kiddish and Oneg Donations

Seth Alper and Bobbi Isberg
Ed De Vos and Judy Schechtman
Betsey Glaser
Steve Hassan and Misia Landau
Sue Kahn and Dan Kirschner
Joel Kerschner
Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfeld
Steve E Lewis
Jane Liebschutz and Roger Zimmerman
Dan and Beth Marx
Sharon Morgenbesser
Zina Pelzman, Lilly Pelzman and Jeffrey Borenstein
Irwin and Gloria Pless
John Sano and Julie Seeger
Sam and Jenni Seicol
Enid Shulman
Marjorie Siegel
Sheila Vernick
Ken Wexler and Barbara Wexler
Sheine Wizel & Joel Kerschner

CONDOLENCES

• To Razelle and Fiona Epstein & Jon Pollack on the death of Razelle and Fiona’s Mother, Gertie Epstein.
• To Jill and Michael Goldberg and their family on the death of Jill’s sister, Lisa Gail Wenig.
• To Mitchell, Beth, Rachel and Jacob Harris, on the death of Mitchel’s father, Jordon Harris.
• To Fran Adams and her family on the death of Fran’s mother, Beatrice (Bebe) Goroff Shtull.
• To Jon Pollack and Fiona Epstein, on the death of Jon’s father, Jason Pollack.
• To Aileen and Neil Grossman on the death of Aileen’s father, William Shulman.

May their souls be bound up in the Bonds of Eternal life.
HaMakom yenakhem otam im shear avlei Tziyon vYrushalayim.

המוכוים ינאה חומיםút שאר אבד לציון וירושלים.
It’s never too late to say thank you! We would like to extend a hearty Todah Rabbah (thank you) to all of the volunteers who contributed so much to help make the High Holidays run smoothly. The commitment of so many people helped to make the High Holidays at TBZ the incredible experience that they were!

Todah Rabbah to

Special thanks to Jane Siegel for organizing the ushers (this year was her first time).


Special thanks to Deborah Chassler for organizing the readers and Gabbaim.


Special thanks to Priscilla Stein for organizing the bimah duties.

The congregants who shared their wonderful personal prayers: Hannah and Matthew Cole, Evelyn Frankford, Mark Dworzan, Judith Klaau, Fran Adams, Pamela Cole, Douglas Starr.

Thank you to Diane O’Donoghue for giving the D’var Torah at the mincha service on Yom Kippur.

Jonathan Garlick for his Yom Kippur appeal.

Scott Tepper for leading the Mincha service on Yom Kippur.

Jane Leibshutz and the Zagorsky family for blowing the shofar.

David Chersonson for organizing and preparing the machzorim, and ensuring that the right ones were out and ready for us!

Rabbi Ebn Leader for leading us in Selikhot and leading the shofar service on the second day of Rosh HaShanah. Thank you also to Ebn for teaching a class on Shabbat Shuva, and leading the contemplative Simkhah Torah celebration; and to Cantor Becky Khitrk for leading us in Selikhot, leading the Mishpachot Simkhat Torah celebration with David Winship, and leading services on Shabbat Shuva with Avi Davis.

Ron White for drumming and Alan Wiesner for joining during Neila, and Noah Berz for drumming at the Mishpachot service and for playing violin during Kol Nidre.

Jesse Garlick, son of Jonathan and Lauren Garlick, for writing a play about Jonah for the Mishpachot service.

Jed Shugerman, Mark Barnett and Beth Marx for leading insightful and thought-provoking programming for our 6th-9th graders on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

Jen Klein, whose tireless work ensured that there was childcare for all, and our childcare providers, Kat Myers and Julia Goldman, and teen madrichot, Charlotte Rubin, Zoe Levitt, and Peninah Hodin.

Everyone who helped to prepare our sanctuary for the High Holidays.

Jack Daniels and the Posternack family for building and decorating our gorgeous Sukkah.

Mel Brown, Bobbi Isberg and Jonathan Golden, who all taught invigorating yom Kippur afternoon classes.

Molly Silver and Lauren Garlick, outgoing Synagogue Practice Committee Co-Chairs, and to our co-presidents Sue Kahn and Jonathan Klein, who together with the entire Board of Directors work hard to make sure that the High Holidays would be meaningful for all.

Special thanks to Enid Shulman, who has been helping in the office when we needed it the most!

In addition to our wonderful volunteers, we are grateful to our TBZ staff, Carol Nathan, Abigail Carpenter-Winch, and Cantor Becky Khitrk, and to Leo Monterroso Silva, our custodian, who makes sure that our sanctuary is always ready for us.

We apologize if we missed this opportunity to recognize someone for their contributions to the High Holidays at TBZ. If we missed you, please let us know and we will add you to our next Happenings newsletter.

In gratitude,
Rav Claudia and Reb Moshe

P.S. Missed the personal prayers or d’varei torah on the High Holidays? Read them on our website!
SAVE THE DATE
for the Community Retreat!
Friday, May 6 – Sunday, May 8

We will be returning to the Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, the beautiful site of our 2015 retreat.

Activities will include Shabbat services, workshops, early morning hikes, Torah study, and late night games and singing. There will be opportunities to practice yoga, meditation, and learn from our rabbis, other rabbis and teachers in the community. Programming for children will engage all ages; sports, games, drama and theater activities, singing and making music. Childcare will be available at all times throughout the retreat, except during Shabbat services.

MITZVAH DAY

The largest kosher food pantry in New England provides healthy food on a monthly and emergency basis to individuals and families in need.

Come learn about Family Table’s mission, tzedakah and tikkun olam and work together with children and adults to pack food for distribution.

Our annual Mitzvah Day in partnership with Jewish Family & Children’s Service will take place on

Sunday, January 10, 10am-1pm
TBZ SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10AM-12PM

Learn about the state of the shul and vision for the future from co-presidents Sue Kahn and Jonathan Klein and enjoy brunch with our TBZ community.

Come hear a progress report from the Building Revitalization Committee.

New officers and board of directors will be elected.

Child care will be provided.

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TEMPLE BETH ZION
1566 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02446

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED