Through contemplative observance of the Universe, we discover the faith that lies within us.

Purim and Pesach — a framework for Jewish survival.
By Reb Moshe
TBZ PLANS BUILDING REVITALIZATION

by Jonathan Klein, Co-Chair, Building Revitalization Committee

Eighteen years ago, Temple Beth Zion, led by Reb Moshe, began its transformation into the “TBZ” that we know and love today. We were blessed to inherit the beautiful TBZ synagogue building, which was built in 1948 – nearly 70 years ago! – by Temple Beth Zion’s founding generation. In the last 18 years, we have made upgrades to both the sanctuary and the community room, but the rest of the building, including the entire third floor, the entrances and lobbies, offices, and restroom facilities now needs some love and attention.

In recent years, the number of people of all ages who spend time in our building to engage in study, prayer, fellowship, and celebration has increased, and the building is sometimes filled to capacity – and beyond. Under Rav Claudia’s leadership, we have welcomed many young families with teens, young children and babies, and established an innovative children’s learning program (Beit Rabban) that has grown to over sixty students and is continuing to grow. We continue to have a multitude of Adult Learning programs, including classes, outside speakers, Nishmat Hayyim, as well as community meetings of various committees and groups that need space. While all this activity keeps us vibrant and growing, we now face significant challenges regarding our space and resources.

The building that is our spiritual home could be — and deserves to be — as inspiring as our services, programs and celebrations. Two years ago, the Board of Directors began a planning process that included a member survey and community meeting. As those of you who attended December’s Community Meeting know, last year the Board appointed a “Building Revitalization Committee” (BRC) to create and implement a plan to upgrade our facility. With the Board’s approval, the BRC engaged Leslie Saul & Associates, a local architect and designer with extensive experience working with synagogues, and together they have developed a plan that includes:

• Completely renovating and expanding the third floor to create a Lifelong Learning Center with five modern rooms that will be used by both children and adults to study, share, and grow. We will install a lift and a handicap accessible restroom on the third floor, significantly enhancing TBZ’s accessibility;

• Renovating the lobbies on the ground floor and the second (Sanctuary) floor to make them warmer and more inviting and matching the quality and feel of our beautiful Sanctuary;

• Replacing the three main front doors to provide upgraded security and create a more welcoming entryway;

• Upgrading the restrooms and coat rooms on both the ground and second floors;

• Refurbishing and painting both stairwells, so they match the quality and feel of the upgraded lobbies;

• Making a variety of repairs and updates so that the building is in tip-top shape to serve us for many years into the future.

One of the most important parts of this plan is the lift and accessible restroom on the third floor. Right now, the third floor space is completely unusable for anyone with a disability that prevents them from climbing the stairs. About 15 years ago, we installed a lift from the ground floor to the Sanctuary to make that accessible to everyone, and now it is time to take the next step so that virtually the entire building will be accessible.

Although still a work in progress, the plans are exciting and moving forward. Congregants who attended the December Community Meeting had a chance to hear about the BRC’s exciting vision, pose questions and suggest priorities. A second community meeting scheduled for March 13 will focus on key elements of the plan.

The BRC and the Board are looking forward to hearing your comments as we move forward with this exciting project. We now have an opportunity as a community to ensure that our building can serve for many years as a wonderful spiritual home for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

Community Meeting to Discuss Building Revitalization Plans
Sunday, March 13, 10am-12pm
Please be part of this exciting endeavor!

Koleinu Editor: Beth Harris

Temple Beth Zion
1566 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02446
617.566.8171
www.tbzbrookline.org
NEW KOLEINU EDITOR, BETH HARRIS

Welcome to the third issue of the ‘new’ Koleinu, my second as editor. I encourage you to share with me ideas for content and your reflections on an activity that you have been part of at TBZ. Sharing our stories and journeys helps make our community rich. I hope to have Koleinu serve as an overview of the breadth of our offerings, both those upcoming and those recently passed. Photos enrich our stories so please send them along too! koleinu@tbzbrookline.org

ADULT EDUCATION:

The Origins of Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity with Reb Moshe
March 29, April 5, 12 from 7-8:30pm

One of the most powerful developments in the 1st and 2nd centuries of the Common Era was the rise of Christianity. What are the Jewish roots of this phenomenon? What was the reaction of a newly emerging Judaism to early Christianity? We will explore the history of these developments and its impact on the post-Khurban (destruction of the Jerusalem Temple) Judaism.

Modern Jewish Movements Class with Reb Moshe
May 31, June 7, 14 from 7-8:30pm

How did the different Jewish denominations arise in the 19th century? How did they develop and change in the 20th century? What are the prospects for denominations in the 21st century? What is the impact of post-denominationalism on the American Jewish landscape?

WALK FOR HUNGER SUNDAY MAY 1ST

As our rabbis often say before Kiddush, “We have so much bounty!” But many in Massachusetts are not so fortunate: more than 700,000 people are chronically hungry in the state. The 2016 Project Bread Walk for Hunger offers all of us a chance to make a difference.

Please join or sponsor this year’s walkers from TBZ, or plan to help with our snack station. Team TBZ will join over 40,000 walkers, 2,000 volunteers, and thousands of donors as we raise awareness around hunger in our state and raise funds for programs designed to break the cycle of food insecurity in our communities. In 2015 TBZ raised over $18,000; this year, we hope to raise even more. Whether you can walk one, five, or the whole 20 miles, we welcome your participation!

More information about signing up to be part of the TBZ team, sponsoring walkers and volunteering will be available soon.

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.tbzbrookline.org.

1566 HAPPENINGS

Contemplative Shabbat Retreat
March 25-27 at the Essex Conference Center (www.eccr.com)
Join in a warm, contemplative Shabbat with Reb Moshe Waldoks, Bobbi Isberg, and Yoheved Sheila Katz in an idyllic setting only 45 minutes north of Boston. Share the full beauty of Shabbat in prayer, study, meditation, chant, fellowship, nature walks, yoga, good food, and more in this marvelous natural setting. $295 per person - two night lodging and meals. Scholarships available. Register NOW! For more visit tbzbrookline.org or email nishmathayyim@tbzbrookline.org

At the Hop! Dance Party
Do you remember poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and Brylcreem? Can you do the “jitterbug” and the “stroll”? Whether your answer is “YES” or “No” come to TBZ on Saturday March 26 for a fab evening of rock ‘n’ roll! 8:00 pm, $20/person

Hebrew For You - Level 2
Thursdays, March 17- April 14, 7:00pm – 8:30pm at TBZ
Seeking greater understanding in synagogue or at a Passover seder? Hoping to say more than “Shalom” to your Israeli friends? Hebrew for YOU covers all this and more! (Knowledge of Alef-Bet required.) $75 for TBZ members, $90 for general public. Register at www.jewishdiscoveryinstitute.org or call 617-219-9775. Contact info@jewishdiscoveryinstitute.org or 617-219-9775 with any questions.

POT LUCK SUPPERS
Food, warmth and song are part of our first Friday of the month Pot Luck suppers after Kabbalat Shabbat service. Contributions of vegetarian (fish and dairy are fine) main dishes, salads, appetizers and desserts are welcome, but not essential. No food may enter the kitchen so please leave all potluck items (with serving utensils) in the meeting room. Plates, cups, eating utensils and wine are provided. For more contact Anne@annebraudy.com. Please join us for a wonderful, spontaneous, hamish evening whenever you can!

MEN’S STUDY GROUP
Come together with other men in the study of Jewish and related texts on Shabbat every three weeks after kiddish and for the occasional brunch or movie screenings. Men interested in supporting one another in leading meaningful and fulfilling lives are welcome to participate. Please contact Mark Dwortzan, mark@dwortzan.com or Steve Lewis steve.lewis@fmc-na.com for more information.

BOOK CLUB
If you enjoy reading and sharing books then join the TBZ Book Club at any time during the year. Books selected have Jewish themes and are both fiction and non-fiction. The Club meets on a Sunday evening each month at 1550 Beacon Street (next door to TBZ). After a brief business meeting, led by Book Club Coordinator, Suzanne Gelber, a member facilitates the book discussion. Members rotate leading the discussions. Please join us for lively explorations of some fascinating works. For more information contact tbz-bookclub@tbzbrookline.org
Teen Tu Bishvat Seder

This year TBZ entered into collaboration with Temple Israel of Boston and Kehillath Israel of Brookline to create a program for teens in grades 8-12. The “Monday Night School,” which meets weekly at TI, gathered at TBZ on Tu Bishvat for a special program. The teens learned about the holiday, and its development and meaning. They broke out into several classes that explored aspects of Jewish environmentalism, and then came back together to create and lead a Tu Bishvat seder, complete with activities, words of wisdom, and original poetry.

Rosh Hodesh Group

Meets monthly allowing women to connect with other women. Currently closed to new members the group will have an open house in the fall.

“We sit in a circle in a darkened room, each holding a lit candle, and introduce ourselves by the names of our feminine ancestors—Laya bat Raya bat Sarah. Some know the vintage Hebrew or Yiddish names of their foremothers and others proudly use a modern name. The Rosh Hodesh December program fell on the last night of Chanukah. We brought our chanukiyot, as diverse as ourselves. Beaded, metal, brass, ceramic; old, new, gift, commissioned. After we joined in reciting the blessings, our leaders for the evening, Deb Stang and Susan Schnur led a discussion on the conventional theme of Chanukah — light—by turning it around and focusing on darkness. We heard what thoughts of darkness have inspired in others and then, in small groups we discussed our own experiences with darkness in our lives and how we coped. Later we reconvened as a whole, celebrating each other by having gotten to know a little more about the people in our group. As a newcomer to TBZ I felt welcomed, immersed in a community with the potential to light my life in Boston.”

— Reflection from Leah Abrahams
On January 31st I attended my first ever TBZ women’s retreat and it was wonderful! Most weeks my family comes to Saturday morning services and we socialize with families of children who are close in age to ours. When I arrived at the women’s retreat, davening had ended and everyone was seated at tables with delicious food. I quickly joined a table of women whose faces I recognized but whom I did not know well.

Lisa New led the entire group in a wonderful exploration of the poems of Louise Gluck that related to the retreat’s theme of transitions. As we went around the table I learned that some of us loved poetry, and some of us found it difficult to understand. Yet we were all able to find our way into a meaningful discussion of the poems because of the accessible format and excellent facilitation.

The remainder of the day was spent in a choice of three morning and three afternoon sessions led by TBZ members on topics ranging from Yoga to Torah study to dance to the creation of new life cycle rituals. It was so good to get to know the other women at my table and to experience the gifts of the session leaders. Everyone I spoke to wished that “One tuchas could dance at two weddings”, that they could have attended more sessions. I heard plans being made to “show the film to those who missed it”, and requests, “maybe we could have Yoga sometimes before services?”

The women’s retreat was generative, many good things will flow from it. It made me feel more connected to the rich community that is TBZ.

-by Ellen Krause-Grosman
TBZ CALENDAR

For more details, times and up-to-date information go to tbzbrookline.org/calendar or follow us on Facebook.

Weekly Shabbat Times
6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - meditation; 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
9 am Shabbat Torah study; 10 am services followed by kiddush lunch

SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICES

March 5: Intergenerational Shabbat
March 12: Teen Shabbat
March 19: Men’s Study Group Shabbat

HOLIDAYS

PURIM

March 20: Hamantschen baking, 12pm
March 23: Erev Purim Megilah reading, 6pm
March 24: Purim
March 25: Shushan Purim

PESACH

April 22: Erev Pesach - No Kabbalat Shabbat Service
April 29: Seventh Day of Pesach Service, 10am

YOM HASHOAH

May 4: Yom Hashoah event at Temple Sinai, 7-9pm

ADULT EDUCATION

(see page 3 for more)

March 29, April 5, 12: The Origins of Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity, 7-8:30pm
May 31, June 7, 14: Modern Jewish Movements Class, 7-8:30pm

BEIT RABBAN AND MISPACHOT EVENTS

March 5: Intergenerational Shabbat, 11am
March 11: Beit Rabban Shabbat, 5:30pm
March 12: Teen Shabbat with KI and Temple Sinai, 10am
March 20: Hamantaschen Baking, 12pm
March 23: Purim Celebration and Megilah reading, 4pm
April 9: Tfilot Mishpachat, 11:30am
April 10: Family Pesach Program, 9am-12:30pm
April 15: 1550 Kabbalat Shabbat, 5:30pm
April 30: Tfilot Mishpachat, 11:30am
May 13: 1550 Kabbalat Shabbat , 5:30pm
May 21: Tfilot Mishpachat, 11:30am

BOOK CLUB

(see page 3 for more)
March 13, April 10, May 8

COMMUNITY MEETING

March 13: 10am-12pm

MEMBER COFFEE WITH REB MOSHE

“Building a Spiritual Life: Challenges and Opportunities”
March 13: 7-8pm at the home of Molly Silver and John Burstein

MEN’S STUDY GROUP

(see page 3 for more)
March 19, April 16, May 7

NEW MEMBER COFFEE WITH REB MOSHE

(email membership@tbz.org for location)
March 16: 7:30-8:30pm
May 8: 7-8pm

POT LUCK SUPPER AFTER KABBALAT SHABBAT

(see page 3 for more)
March 4, April 1, May 6

SHABBAT NARIYA

March 18, April 15

SPRING KIDDUSH FUNDRAISER

May 21

TBZ TALKS

March 6 (Sunday): 11am-1pm Tali Walters - “Walking Across Spain”
March 26: 1pm Dan Kirshner
April 23: 1pm Phyllis Goldstein

TIKKUN OLAM MEETINGS

March 17, April 25: 7:30pm

WALK FOR HUNGER

May 1

WISE AGING GROUP

(session is full)
April 30, April 6, 13: 7:15pm
A Framework for Jewish Survival
By Reb Moshe

AN OLD YIDDISH EXPRESSION TELLS US THAT THERE ARE "AZOY FIL HOMENS NOR EYN PURIM" – "SO MANY HAMANS AND ONLY ONE PURIM."

Yes, there are many Hamans that we are facing in the world. So why celebrate the victory of a particular generation over a particular oppressor? Why has this event become the basis of a rabbinc instituted holiday celebration that is added (as is Hanukkah) to the Biblical pilgrimage festivals? What can we learn from the experience of Purim, and what is the importance of its timing (it falls exactly a month before Passover)?

The coming of spring has been a popular time for celebrations for many millennia. Attaching a historical event to a preexisting celebration has allowed for maximum exposure of the historical event. This is illustrated with the placement of Christmas, which is celebrated in December at precisely the time of Saturnalia, the pre-existing Greco-Roman midwinter light festival. So, too, Hanukkah is celebrated near the winter solstice. The Maccabean victory over Antiochus, is layered on top of a pre-existing celebration and observance.

The success of Esther and Mordecai in rescinding the genocidal edict of the foolish Persian King Ahasuerus, who was manipulated by Haman from behind the throne, is a parody of the Persian court. The Purim play was presented at the same time as pre-existing Bacchanalian spring celebrations. The god Bacchus was worshiped by excessive wine drinking, humorous and bawdy plays and sexual excesses. The thrust of the Bacchanalia was to hasten the loosening of the bonds of winter and to usher in the spring season and its fecundity. So, too, on Purim, intoxication, costumes, masks and other revelry is encouraged.

Megillat Esther, the Scroll of Esther, is the earliest example of Jewish humor we have, and has served to generate Jewish humor for over two millennia. So, what is the lesson to be learned from the meglillah? In the absence of Divine intervention, God’s name is never mentioned, unusual for a book in the Hebrew Bible, and the entire story takes place outside Eretz Yisrael, a position that we too find ourselves. The story instructs us that we must rally together to upset the evil designs that are directed against us. We have, so far, succeeded in doing so in the remarkable and exceptional Jewish-American experience. Our rallying together in support of democratic values has proven effective. We are called on to rally together against the antisemitism that has been raising its hoary head in Europe. Jew-hatred is, for now, a phenomenon that exists not only in the form of anti-Zionism but in the classic style of pre-War fascism manifesting itself on the streets of Europe.

There are those who wish to remove the Jews from European culture, a throwback to the times, not long ago, that this ideology extended to physically eliminating the European Jewish community. In our times we are fortunate to find many allies in this struggle for democracy and pluralism in Europe and elsewhere. Simply put, we must be prepared to face these challenges and forge alliances with those like-minded Europeans. Purim teaches us to be vigilant and to use whatever power we possess to upset the schemes of those who would destroy us.

So how does this tie in with Passover? Pesach, with its order and attention to details observes and celebrates Divine intervention into the world. In the competition between God and Pharaoh, God eventually wins by manipulating and exaggerating the natural forces the Egyptians would normally encounter. The plagues are all excesses of the natural occurrences that have always plagued agricultural societies: lack of water, pestilence, extreme weather conditions, and infant mortality. In our Haggadot we will tell of these “signs and wonders”. We will repeat, as we have done for millennia, the tale of God’s outstretched arm and, in the case of the Haggadah the absence of Moses, who recedes from the tale because of Seder’s emphasis on God’s miraculous feats.

Pesach is the celebration of faith, of hope for tomorrow, of righteous indignation as the Israelite slaves finally shout out their pain and suffering. This faith will permit them to follow this stranger, Moses, into the wilderness to a place they do not know. As our progenitors, Sarah and Abraham, who were summoned by their faith to a land they did not know. They were summoned by God to build a new future for their coming generations. So, too, has our faith continued to summon us through the precarious course of Jewish history.

The power of faith, not necessarily doctrinal belief, coupled together with self-reliance and Divine intervention, is the formula for Jewish survival. On Purim, we are left to our own devices, while at Pesach we join together to appreciate that all is not in our hands. Together we worship the grandeur of the Universe and its natural complexity. By contemplative observance of the Universe we discover the faith that lies within us. We carry and enrich our lives with this spirit of the Divine intervention in our own lives.

My family joins me in wishing all of us a joyous Purim and a meaningful Pesach.

Reb Moshe
DONATIONS

Diane Abrams
Fran Adams
Esfira and Leste Annenberg
Roberta Apfel and Simon Bennett
Rick Bankhead
Mark Barnett and Katherine Gergen
Jenny and Jonathan Berz
Bnai Or of Boston
Phyllis Brawarsky and Noah Fasten
Sue Brent
Howard Brown and Barbara Segal
John Burstein and Molly Silver
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Jill and Michael Goldberg
Mark Housman and Mona Strick
Meredith Joy
Jonathan Klein and Amy Schottenfels
Rav Claudia Kreiman and Rabbi Ebn Leader
Deborah Leabman

Jane Liebschutz and Roger Zimmerman
Charles Lurio
Lilly Pelzman and Jeffrey Borenstein
Pnina Lahav
Len and Linda Rosen
John Sano and Julie Seeger
Rabbi Sam and Jenni Seicol
Tali Buechler Walters

NEW MEMBERS

Rina Bloch
Ian Ives and Brina Waldoks

TODAH RABAH

• To Abigail Carpenter-Winch, our Rabbis’ administrative assistant, for her extraordinary editing capabilities, exceptional organization skills and social media moxie. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Abigail as she relocates to Toronto. We will miss her beautiful smile and contributions to our office.

• To Deb Stang for her time and thoughtful service to the board. Deb’s involvement in Rosh Hodesh, Tikkun Olam group and Hesed has enriched our community and the board.

• To Fran Kantor for her many years of thoughtful guidance on the board, including leading the Development Committee and serving as Treasurer.

• To everyone who has attended the Pot Luck Suppers and helped make them a success - Rav Claudia, Reb Moshe, Anne Waldocks, Jonathan Klein and Anne Braudy and so many others!

• To Evelyn Frankford, who recently organized the TBZ name tags and identified the ones that needed to be rejuvenated.

As of January 20, 2016

NEW MEMBERS

Rina Bloch
Ian Ives and Brina Waldoks
CONDOLENCES

- To Jenny Berz and her family on the death of her uncle, Martin Steiner.
- To Steve Budd on the loss of his father, Elihu Budd.
- To James Cohen and his children, Reggie and Jason, on the death of James’s grandfather Dean Sturtz.
- To Lilly Pelzman, Jeffrey Borenstein and their family on the death of Zina Pelzman.
- To Jessica Schwartz on the death of her mother, Mary Schwartz.
- To the family and friends of our dear member Anky Siegel.
- To Jeremy Sher on the loss of his uncle, Barry Gordon Leeven.

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

The word “yahrzeit” literally translates to the annual time allotted for remembering our departed loved ones. This date is usually associated with the Hebrew calendar.

One custom involved in this commemoration is the lighting of a yahrzeit candle that lasts for 24 hours. It is lit in the evening when the new day begins on the Hebrew calendar. (Yahrzeit candles are available at many supermarkets, the Butcherie and the Israel Book Shop.) Many attend services on that day (evening, morning, and afternoon), to be able to recite the Kaddish in a minyan (a quorum of ten necessary for public service).

In Brookline, we support the daily minyan at Kehillat Israel on Harvard Street to ensure that a minyan will always be there. (www.CongKI.org)

Our TBZ custom is to read the names of the upcoming week of yahrzeits on Friday night and Shabbat morning (as per the announcement you receive). Kaddish is recited at all services.

We also invite all those with upcoming yahrzeits to an Aliyah (a call to the Torah) on Shabbat morning where the El Maleh, the traditional memorial prayer is recited.

If you are a member and have not let us know about a yahrzeit in your family — please do so.

It is unfortunate that observances of family yahrzeits have declined. It is our hope that you will take advantage of observing a yahrzeit to strengthen your connection to our community. We can, through these ancient customs, keep memory alive.

COMMEMORATING YAHRZEITS AT TBZ

From Reb Moshe and Rav Claudia

Save the Dates

June 3 & 4: Pride Shabbat  
Liturgical additions and special readings for Pride

June 12 & 13 Shavuot  
Yizkor Service:  
June 12: 10am-12:30pm
Extraordinary Programs are Offered for Those Interested in Jewish Contemplative Practices:

**Monthly Shabbat Afternoon Meditation Retreats**
with Bobbi Isberg and Yoheved Sheila Katz

**Monday Evening Meditation Series**
with Rabbi Jeff Roth
Monday evenings 7:15-8:45, registration required 617-566-8171 ext. 13.

**Friday Morning Meditation/Mindfulness Practice Group**
with Reb Moshe, Bobbi Isberg, and Yoheved Sheila Katz.

Keep abreast of dates and times of Nishmat Hayyim programs by joining the listserv at nishmathayyim@tbzbrookline.org or visit www.tbzbrookline.org
We hope you will attend some of these programs!
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.

www.tbzbrookline.org/communityretreat

TBZ ANNUAL SPRING KIDDUSH FUNDRAISER
SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MAY 21

Come one, come all to our annual Spring Fundraiser. We’re close to achieving our fundraising goal this year and we need your support to put us over the finish line. Connect with the community and be part of ensuring that everything we love about TBZ: our incredible Rabbis, our joy filled inter-generational celebrations, our peaceful Shabbatot, and our wonderful unpretentious atmosphere is celebrated and supported!

Invitations will be sent out but in the meantime mark your calendar for Saturday, May 21st!