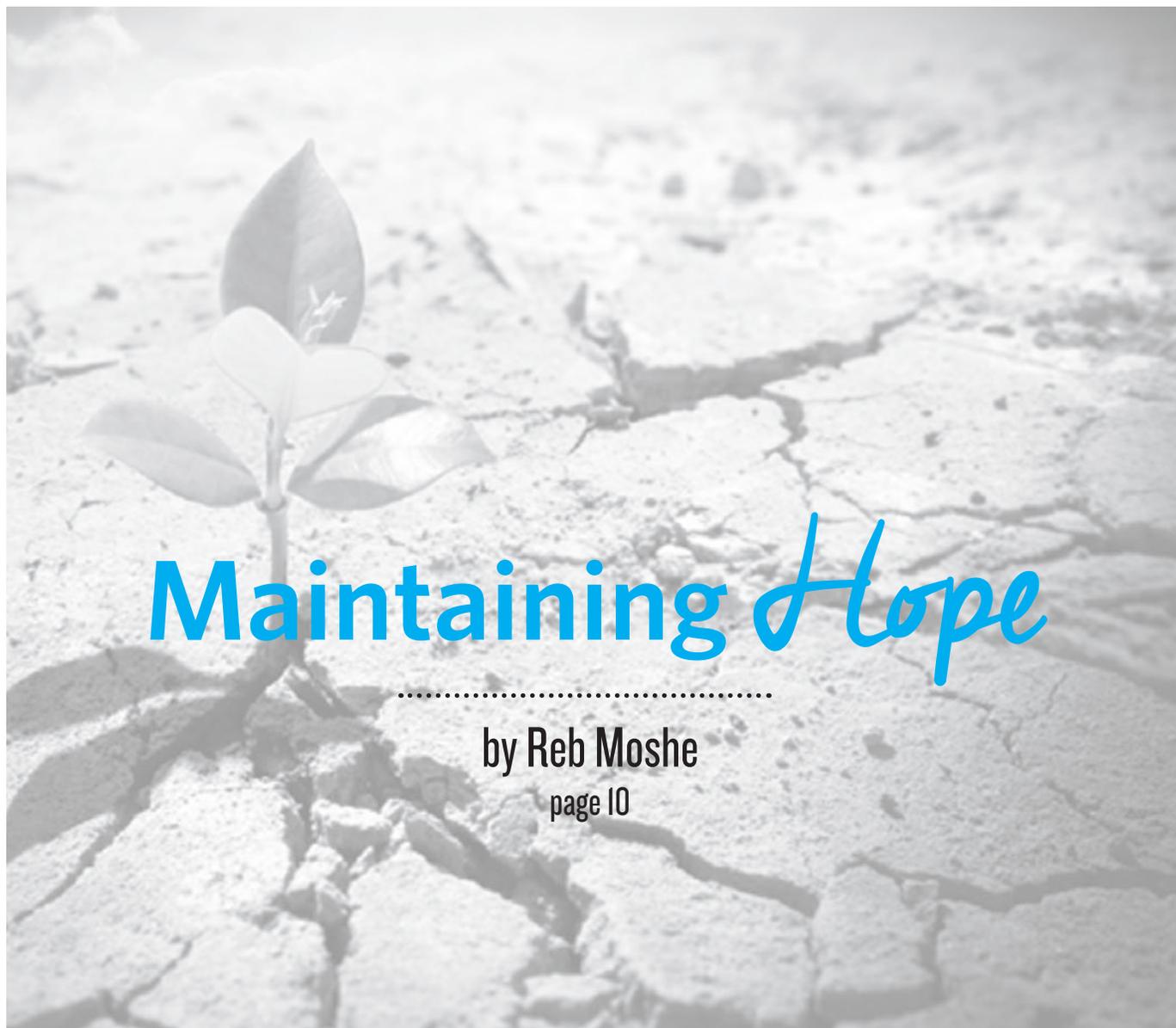


Spring 2017

TEMPLE BETH ZION
KOLEINU

קולנו



Maintaining *Hope*

.....
by Reb Moshe

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NEWS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

by Sara Smolover

As we write this, the TBZ building is literally humming—or even vibrating—with the activity of construction. New walls, new wiring, new spaces, new systems—there is so much “new” happening up above, while at the same time the foundation beneath us is rooted deeply and grows stronger with our new board and leadership in place. Voted in at our Community Meeting in December are new Board Member Eddie Taub and returning member Jenny Berz, our new VP of Spiritual Life Michael Goldberg, returning VP of Finance and Administration, Tali Walters, and VP of External Relations, Carol Kamin. Continuing their terms as at large members are Dan Marx, Diane O'Donoghue, and Geoff Stein, who also serves as Treasurer. I am honored and excited to serve as Co-President under the guidance of and with the partnership of Sue Kahn, who graciously agreed to serve one more year as Co-President. I am learning so much about leadership and the thoughtfulness and foresight that are required for this job. I also want to recognize the strong administrative support that is keeping everything running smoothly in our office under the leadership of Steven Greenberg, Executive Director.

As you know, a major focus of the past year has been raising the money and making the plans for renovating and revitalizing our beloved, timeworn building. In just a short time from now, we will be revealing accessible, bright, clean, well-equipped meeting, learning, and gathering spaces meant for all to enjoy! It's time to imagine the possibilities for fully utilizing these spaces. Beit Rabban, morning playgroups, a meditation/quiet space, friendly foosball competitions, sharing an afternoon cup of coffee in a bright and comfortable

space are just some ideas. Sitting in the intimate lounge space for a heart-to-heart conversation? Moving our new adjustable tables to make room for yoga? With so much additional space we are able to accommodate more people in our programs—so spread the word that the TBZ spirit has expanded and is open to more visitors and members.

Once the spaces are ready, we are prioritizing their use for TBZ programs and members for the first year. We'll get a sense of how and when the spaces are being used, and then determine how to respond to the many inquiries we will receive, and have already been receiving, about renting the space to outside users.

It took a lot of imagination to conceive of this expansion and even more generosity to make it happen. Thanks to so many of you who joined in our vision, participated in various ways, and gave gifts that were meaningful to you. We succeeded in reaching our ambitious fundraising goal of \$1.2 million! As the actual construction got underway, the budget was adjusted upward slightly. So we are still seeking to raise an additional \$200,000 to fully pay for our building revitalization without any long-term debt.

On September 10th we will join together for the dedication of the space as the Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks Lifelong Learning Center. You will hear more about this in the weeks ahead. We extend our deep appreciation to Lauren and Jonathan Garlick for chairing the Dedication. We hope you are excited to expand your own use of our building, as well as deepen your connection to our TBZ Community, and to make it your home away from home.



OUR RABBIS

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Vice-Presidents

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Finance & Administration: Tali Buechler Walters
Member Relations: open
Programming: open
Spiritual Life: Michael Goldberg

Treasurer

Geoff Stein

Secretary

Daniel Marx

At-Large Members

Jenny Berz, Diane O'Donoghue, Geoff Stein, Eddie Taub

Past Presidents

Gabriel Belt, Irwin Pless, Howard Cohen, Myra Musicant,
Erid Shulman, Jay Zagorsky, Fran Adams, Jonathan Klein,
David Cherenson, Jenni Seicol, Tali Buechler Walters

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Adult Learning: Phyllis Goldstein, Maxine Lyons
Beit Rabban Steering Committee: Rebecca Blouwouff, Julia Freedson
Book Club: Suzanne Gelber
Building: Jack Daniels
Building Revitalization: Jonathan Klein, Ken Wexler
Development: Carol Kamin, Jill Goldberg
Garden: Rick Bankhead
Hesed: Debbie Morley, Linda Rosen
Inclusion Committee: Sue Brent, Suzanne Gelber, Danya Handelsman
Israel Committee: open
Membership: open
Men's Group: Mark Dwortzan, Steve Lewis
Mishpachot: Kathy Kates, Shoshanna Korn-Meyer
Nishmat Hayyim: Reggie Silberberg
Nominating Committee: David Cherenson
Rosh Hodesh: Judy Epstein-Fisher, Susan Farber
Social Action
Family Table: Alan Weisner, Marilyn Glazer-Weisner
GBIO: Susan Bookbinder, Rosalind Joffee
Literacy Project: Kim Meyers
Tikkun Olam: Judy Schechtman, Michael Goldberg
Synagogue Practices: Jed Shugerman

Koleinu Editor: Beth Harris

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Inclusion Committee request for our members with scent/chemical sensitivities.

Use of perfume, aftershave even scented dryer sheets can literally make some people sick with headaches, hives and other symptoms. Please refrain from wearing scents or scented products when attending services or events at TBZ. Thank you for your consideration.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS

This is 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.

Beit Rabban Shabbat

During our joyous celebration of student learning our young members will lead parts of Kabbalat Shabbat with their classmates and teachers, and take an active role in greeting guests, serving the meal, and leading activities after dinner. For Beit Rabban families. Registration required. Friday, March 3, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

Community Retreat May 12 - 14

Our 9th Annual Community Retreat will take place at beautiful Craigville Retreat Center Cape Cod. Please join us for a Shabbaton (weekend) of meaningful services, delicious meals, interesting programming and amazing community building. All TBZ members are encouraged to attend. There will be programming and services for people of all ages. Sign up on the TBZ website. Early bird deadline March 15. Registration closes April 15.

Family Pesach Program

Biblio dramaturge, Becky Price will conduct a family workshop. Details to follow. Sunday, April 2: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Family Purim Celebration

Please join us to sing, dance and parade our way through the Purim story. Take part in a costume and prop making workshop with the Boston Puppeteers Cooperative, an abbreviated Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel. Sunday, March 12: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot May 30 at Kehillath Israel

Join hundreds of friends and neighbors for a unique educational and cultural experience at the 9th Annual Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot in Brookline. The service will end with shacharit at sunrise led by Rav Claudia and others. Learn, discuss, eat and shmooze all night long. 9pm - 4 am. KI Harvard St. Brookline

Yom HaShoah

Take part in The Greater Boston Community Yom HaShoah (Holocaust) Commemoration to be held in Fanueil Hall. May 1, 10:30 am

Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 7

Please join or sponsor this year's walkers from TBZ, or plan to help with the snack station. Our team will join over 40,000 walkers, 2,000 volunteers and thousands of donors as we raise awareness about hunger in our state and raise funds for programs designed to break the cycle of food insecurity in our communities. More than 700,000 people are chronically hungry in the state. The 2017 Project Bread Walk for Hunger offers us all a chance to make a difference.

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

ADULT LEARNING

Lunch and Learn with Rav Claudia

Class will continue during the spring. Bring your dairy/parve lunch and join with others for discussion around relevant readings. Coffee/tea and seltzer will be provided.

Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 2 pm (specific dates to be announced)

Trope Class with Cantor Becky Khitrik

Learn to chant Torah in just six weeks. Open to musicians, people who believe they are not musically inclined and even those who think (mistakenly!) that they are tone deaf. Participants should have a basic knowledge of how to read Hebrew.

Mondays, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22: 7 - 8:30 pm

Wise Aging Group

Back by popular demand! Join Reb Moshe and Ann Waldoks to explore what Wise Jewish Aging is, and can be, using texts (both Jewish and general) and our relationships with our physical and spiritual selves, and with each other.

Wednesdays, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24: 7 - 8:30 pm

"Colliding Dreams" Film Discussion Coming in May

Jan Darsa will facilitate a series of discussions inspired by the film *Colliding Dreams*. The gripping documentary deepens understanding of the too-often-ignored history of Zionism, one of the most influential, controversial, and political ideologies of the modern era. Over three sessions, participants will view key sections of the film and explore the issues they raise. Be on the look out for details in *Happenings*.

1566 HAPPENINGS

Racial Justice Training for Boston's Jewish Community Sundays, March 5 & 19: 10 am - 2 pm

We are pleased to share that Jared Jackson from Jews in All Hues will be coming to Boston to lead a two part training for Boston's Jewish Community. For many people in the Boston Jewish community, discomfort and disagreement with groups/organizations perceived to be anti-Israel has made it difficult to identify how to take part in the growing movement for racial justice; simultaneously, others have sought an outlet for Jewish connection to their ongoing racial justice work in secular/non-Jewish environments. The first training will focus on personal reflection and analysis as we take on racial justice work. The training will equip participants with skills and a framework to better identify racial bias and white privilege as it emerges in ourselves, our communities, and the world. The second training will be action-focused, training participants in what it means to be an ally to People of Color.

Interfaith Event Sunday, March 19, 2 pm - 5 pm

TBZ's own Sheila Katz will be speaking about her new book *Connecting with the Enemy: A Century of Palestinian-Israeli Joint Nonviolence* Surveying the initiatives of more than five hundred groups across the past century, this timely book reveals how thousands of ordinary Israelis and Palestinians have worked together to end violence and forge connections between their peoples.

Event co-sponsored by TBZ's Adult Learning with CMM (Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries), an interfaith social justice organization, with the support of the Brookline Clergy Association.

NISHMAT HAYYIM

The Breath of Life
Reggie Silberberg, Chair

Friday AM Meditation/Mindfulness Practice Group is in its third year offering three rounds of nine week sessions from September through June as well as hosting open drop-in sessions during the summertime. The program, that began in the Fall of 2014, has become a home (in TBZ's sacred space) to Jewish meditators, both experienced and novices, who seek support in their practice, in forming a community, and in having a place of learning both eastern and Judaic sources of meditation and mindfulness. We currently have 26 people registered. The sessions, like a mini Shabbat, allow participants to 'just be', a phrase Reb Moshe often uses on Shabbat — 'just be'. We meditate and attempt to embrace whatever arises within ourselves with a loving caress and without judgement so that we can 'just be' and have insight. The practice lessens reactivity in our behavior, promotes well-being and being connected to each other, opens our hearts, leads to 'wise action' which benefits others not just ourselves, reveals our core essence and perhaps the divine sparks in each of us. Come join us!

Monthly drop-in Shabbat Afternoon Sit includes chanting a niggun, a meditation sit, then mindful listening hevruta Torah Study or a teaching. We conclude with reflections, kaddish for those who are in mourning or have a yahrtzeit, short period of silence, and a closing prayer.

Annual Contemplative Shabbat is held in a beautiful setting in MA. Participants have the opportunity to deeply connect to their core through the contemplative Shabbat morning davvening service, to meditate, to learn, to enjoy nature, to eat healthy food, and to be in community.

Guest meditation or mindfulness scholars visit us on a Shabbat, lead a Sunday workshop, or give a book talk on a recently published work. We have been blessed and privileged to have such wonderful teachers as Sylvia Boorstein, Zoketsu Norman Fisher, Rabbi Shefa Gold, Rabbi Alan Lew, z"l, Rabbi Jeff Roth, Rabbi Meir Sendor, Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, and others.

Recently we had the opportunity to experience an amazing contemplative TBZ Shabbat morning service and afternoon meditation/mindfulness session both led by Rabbi Jeff Roth, director of the Awakened Heart Project for Contemplative Judaism and cofounder of Elat Chayyim, the Jewish Spiritual Retreat Center.

We invite anyone interested in meditation or contemplative Judaism to participate in our programs. We invite suggestions that will be discussed at our committee meetings. We invite all those who would like to help us continue to blossom.

TBZ NEWS & EVENTS



Beit Rabban News

This year Beit Rabban students and teachers have experienced first hand what it means to be a “wandering Jew”. During the construction of our Life Long Learning Center, many classes were held at 1550 Beacon Street, Hebrew Senior Life. We are grateful to the residents and staff of 1550 for allowing us to become temporary sojourners, and we are very grateful to our students and teachers for their flexibility during the time of transition.

Strengthening intergenerational relationships is our special focus this year in Beit Rabban. All students are taking part in a podcasting project called L’Dor VaDor, where every student is recording one interview with a family member or mentor of another generation. We look forward to sharing these stories with our TBZ family as a way of getting to know one another. Some of the interviews will also be archived in the Library of Congress through the StoryCorps podcast initiative. We encourage all TBZers to take part in this meaningful project!

Rosh Hodesh

The Rosh Hodesh Group is off to a great start this year. In September, we started with a wonderful, enlivening open house bringing current and new members together to brainstorm about the year ahead. Since then we have had an adventure in the Sukkah, personalized the high holidays and had an exploration to invoke more light to overcome the darkness in our lives combined with a latke-filled celebration of Hannukah. In January, members explored the phases of the moon, the fruits of Tu b’shvat and yoga honoring the trees. We are also excited to begin planning together for a Rosh Hodesh trip to see *Golda’s Balcony* at the New Repertory Theater on March 26th as well as our first Rosh Hodesh Shabbat for TBZ on April 29th.



Mitzvah Day at JFCS

TBZ members gathered at Jewish Family & Children’s Services for our annual Mitzvah Day on January 8, 2017. Participants learned about Family Table’s mission, tzedakah, and tikkun olam. Ideas were then put into action with children and adults working together to pack and deliver bags of food for families in need. We’d like to say a heartfelt thank you to all those who participated in Mitzvah Day at the Family Table at JFCS.

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 SERVICES

Beit Rabban Shabbat

March 3, 5:30pm

Rosh Hodesh Women's Shabbat

April 29

Spring Kiddush Fundraiser

May 20

Shavuot

May 30: 9 pm - 4 am All Night Tikkun Leil at Kl (see page 3 for more)

May 31: Shavuot Service (including Yizkor), 10 am - 12:30 pm

HOLIDAYS

Purim

March 5: Hamantaschen Baking, 1 pm - 4:30 pm

March 11: Erev Purim Megillah reading, 7 pm

March 12: Family Purim Celebration 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
(see page 3 for more)

Pesach

April 2: Family Pesach Program, 10:30 am - Noon
(see page 3 for more)

April 10: Erev Pesach

April 11: First Day of Pesach Service 10:00 am

April 17: Seventh Day of Pesach Service (time TBD)

Yom HaShoah (speaker to be announced)

April 23: 7:30 pm

ADULT LEARNING

"The Proverb Project" with Reb Moshe (for registered participants)

March 1, 8, 15: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Lunch and Learn with Rav Claudia

March 2, 9, 16, More dates to be announced: 12:30 - 2 pm

Nina Piken - Mussar Class

(for registered participants)

March 7, 14, 21, 28: 9:30 am - 11 am

Trope Class with Cantor Becky Khitrik (for registered participants)

Mondays, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Wise Aging (for registered participants)

Wednesdays, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17: 7 pm - 9 pm

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Please be part of these community-wide celebrations of our young members by coming to services and sharing in their simcha.

March 4: Akiva Lind

March 18: Eli Bendavid-Val

March 25: Adam Korn

April 1: Maddy Marx

May 6: Gabriel Barnett

May 27: Zachary Handelsman

BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT EVENTS

Beit Rabban Shabbat

March 3, 5:30 pm

T'filot Mishpachot

March 18, April 8, 29, May 20: 11:30 am

1550 Kabbalat Shabbat

March 31, April 28: 6:15 pm

BOOK CLUB

March 5, April 2, May 7: 6:30 pm

COMMUNITY RETREAT (see page 3 for more)

May 12 - 14

MEDITATION/MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

March 10, 17, 24: 9:30 am - 11 am

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

March 18, April 8, 28, May 20: 1:30 pm

SHABBAT AFTERNOON MEDITATION

March 18, April 15, May 13: 1:30 - 3:30 pm

SHABBAT NARIYAH AND POTLUCK SUPPER

March 17, April 21

Please visit www.tbzbrookline.org/community/committees
to find out more about an activity or group

CONDOLENCES

- To Lenny Marcus and Wendy Caplan and their family on the passing of Lenny's mother Marlene Marcus and his father Yitzhak Marcus.
- To Rachel Putterman and her family on the death of her mother Anita Putterman.
- To Stuart Books and Judith Haber and to Roberta Paula Books and their family on the death of Stuart's brother-in-law, Jay Negin.
- To Valerie Morhaime and Eli Epstein and family on the death of Valerie's mother Mollie Behar Morhaime.
- To Joyce Zakim and her family on the death of Edith Wolf Greenspan.
- To Jan and Aaron Darsa and their daughters on the death of Jan's father Philip L. Goldstein.

May their souls be bound up in the Bonds of Eternal life.

המקום ינחם אתם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

TODAH RABAH

- To everyone who participated in Mitzvah Day at JF&CS.
- To the congregation for their prompt replies to the emails regarding the membership directory.
- To the many families that donated cooking oil for the Hannukah Season Cooking Oil Drive and to Zoe and Maia Levitt and Charlotte Rueben for organizing the drive.
- To Natalie Henrich and Rebecca Mautner for organizing Beit Rabban's second annual "Shabbat B'Yachad".
- To Sharon Morganbesser for heading up the upcoming Beit Rabban Shabbat.
- To the Building and Design Committees for dealing with all the details surrounding our renovation project.
- To Jeffrey Borenstein, Amit Segal and Mona Strick for serving on the board.
- To Sharon Morganbesser for organizing the TBZ Host at Homes Shabbat.

NEW MEMBERS

Katerina Anderson

David Barry

Clifford Craine and Dr. Susan Linn

Susan Hogan

Robert and Melissa Kagan

L'Chaim

- To Amy Mates and Billy Mencow on the birth of their grandson.
- To James Cohen, former Beit Rabban and Mishpachot Coordinator Rabbi Suzie Jacobson and and Talya Sokoll, daughter of Margie and Mark, on being named as 2017 Chai in the Hub honorees.
- To Elana Steinberg on the birth of her twins.
- To Joyce Zakim and the late Lenny Zakim on the marriage of their son Joshua.
- To Izzy Samuels on becoming Bat Mitzvah December 17.
- To Zachary Solomon on becoming Bar Mitzvah January 14.
- To Allen and Kim Kronenberg on the birth of their grandson to Janet and Jacob Taylor.
- To Helen and Alan Leviton on the birth of their granddaughter Charlotte Michelle Leviton.
- To Janet Echelman on being named 2016 USA Fellow by United States Artists, a Chicago-based nonprofit that aims to cultivate creative work across the nation.

To our upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Our young members and their families hope that all members of the congregation will lend their voices and support by coming to these joyful celebrations!

- Akiva Lind: March 4
- Eli Bendavid-Val: March 18
- Adam Korn: March 25
- Maddy Marx: April 1
- Gabriel Barnett: May 6
- Zachary Handelsman: May 27

To stay up-to-date on all the exciting events taking place, go to:

www.tbzbrookline.org/about/tbz-kehilla and find us on

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline

CONFRONTING EVIL WHILE MAINTAINING *Hope*



.....
by Reb Moshe

In a recent conversation with an esteemed elder in our community I admitted that even in light of our current events I am an optimist. He replied that he was a pessimist.

Optimists, he said, are always disappointed with what comes down the line, while pessimists are always delighted if good things happen.

This conversation brought me back to my doctoral dissertation. I described its subject, the well-known journalist thinker, Hillel Zeitlin (1871-1942), as a “prophetic pessimist” In his early work *HaTov vahaRa* (Good and Evil) published serially from 1899-1901, he says:

The nation Israel, in its prophetic weltanschauung (worldview), understood well the great power of Evil; that anguish and misfortune are present in the world. It knew well that the path of life was not strewn with roses; that “the wicked dominate the righteous” – that the earth has been given over into the hands of the wicked. But they had a greater ideal before themselves. They battled the mighty of this world and were often consumed by them. Yet the spirit still lives, exists and continually struggles for its existence. This ethical idealism (of the Prophets) led to hope. Hope them led to life, and life to the highest level – *ahavat hayyim* – the love of life.

March, April and May are packed with opportunities to test this “prophetic pessimism of confronting Evil while maintaining hope. In the stories of Purim, Pesach, Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha’Atzmaut and concluding with Shavuot we run the gamut of human emotions.



Purim turns Evil on its head and offers us the topsy-turvy nature of existence that leads to merriment and the overcoming of fear.

Pesach confronts the inevitability of enslavement in a totalitarianism society and remembers that it was the Israelites' resolve to be free that begins the Exodus.

Yom HaShoah plunges us into the *mysterium tremendum*, the unfathomable capacity for devastating human cruelty under another totalitarian regime.

While Yom HaAtzmaut reveals the resolve of our people to fashion our own destiny free of persecution.

Finally this string of commemorative dates bring us to Shavuot, a time of harvesting our first fruits and our choosing the freedom of Torah over enslavement.

Jewish history, and its oscillations, provide us with an opportunity for "positive pessimism". As Jews we are pessimistic about the near future. Yet, in these days of upending political circumstances,

we have much more power to fight any reduction of the church-state divide and the upsurge of xenophobia. Our actions over the next two years to elect a Democratic Senate majority, will serve as a test of our ability to create true alliances with others as we strive to restore a stronger check on the Executive branch.

Jews have always been optimistic in the long run. Our Messianic hope of a world redeemed must not wane. On the contrary, this hope must be strengthened so we do not fall into despair. This hope calls for action and a long term view of Jewish history and the unique reality of our continued existence as a people.

Our continued existence as a people is testament to resilience and faith in our future. *Netzach yisrael lo yeshaker*- the Eternity of Israel is no lie.

My family joins me in wishing you a *freilichn Purim un a kushere un zissn Pesach*, a merry Purim and a sweet Passover

REB MOSHE'S 10 TIPS FOR MAKING PASSOVER BOTH JOYOUS AND KOSHER

If you've never kashered your home for Pesach before, don't try to do everything this year. Remember it's not "all or nothing." As my Rebbe, Reb Zalman, has taught, we need "Fervor without fanaticism."

1. Make at least one counter and one kitchen cabinet Pesadik. Cover counter with thick clear plastic (available at most hardware stores) or heavy duty aluminum foil. Tape down to secure. Cabinet should be cleaned and new shelving paper put down. Simply tape all cabinets you're not using.
2. Use only paper plates and cups and good plastic utensils that can be washed and used again. All-metal silverware can be kashered for Pesach. New GLASS dishes can be purchased cheaply in separate colors to become your Pesach dishes for years to come.
3. Clean out your fridge. (It's about time, don't you think?) Toss all of the non-Pesach stuff. (Closed items can be donated to a Mazon food drive. Kasher other appliances.
4. Make Passover week a time for fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh fish (fins and scales), low fat or regular dairy products, and whole-wheat (or regular) matzah, omelettes, etc. Elders and children with digestive issues are permitted egg matzos. Avoid soda and juices made with corn syrup. Quinoa is a non-hametz grain.
5. Purchase kosher-for-Pesach products. Coffee, tea, sugar, salt, and most spices are OK for Passover, if you start fresh containers.
6. Brown-bag to work.
7. Avoid whiskeys, etc. Stick to wine..
8. Drink lots of water. This will also help the system deal with all those matzot. Dried fruit compote won't hurt either.
9. Try to enjoy at least one sweet Passover treat every day. You deserve it.
- 10 Call us with questions and for information on kashering items.

This year the 1st seder is sundown on April 10.



MARCHING AS A JEW, MARCHING ON SHABBAT

by Rav Claudia

On January 21st, I joined hundreds of thousands of people at the Women's March in Washington DC. As soon as I heard that the march was happening, a few days after the elections, I knew I had to be in DC, to march for human rights and women's rights, and to join the voices of resistance against the bigotry and hatred evidenced by the new president and his administration. I also knew I had to take my older daughter with me to introduce her to what I expect will be years of hard work. Many people at TBZ, started to talk about going and organizing ourselves as a group from the synagogue to go together. It was clear to me, that if I was going to do this, I had to do it in the context of my shabbat practice and with my community.

Finding a place to stay and have a shabbat meal on Friday wasn't hard. I was invited by former TBZ members and friends, Amy Mates and Billy Mencow to stay with them. I was more anxious about how would I find everybody without using my phone on Shabbat, as is usually my practice. And then I learned that the Jewish community was organizing a pre-gathering, on shabbat morning, which allowed us to come together, not only members of TBZ but also Jews from all over the country, to start our walk together.

Our morning began as we walked to the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, a non-denominational, non-membership, non-traditional Jewish synagogue located at the corner of Sixth Street and I Street, NW in the Chinatown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. There, we joined Jews for a morning gathering organized by Jews United For Justice, T'ruah, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Women's Archive and many more progressive Jewish organizations. As soon as we arrived, I put on my tallit and decided I would wear it all day, to remind myself that I was marching on Shabbat and as a Jew and as a woman rabbi. We sang, we prayed and we heard words of Torah that inspired us for the day. As I walked with Jews from all over the country and with people from our own TBZ, I felt proud of the Jewish Community, walking together, in this march.



TBZ marches in DC

The rest of the day was more inspiring than I could have imagined. Our group included many children. The kids were excited, engaged, ready to protest and ready to ask for a better future. We were all wearing our pink pussy cat hats. My favorite moment was when the kids led us in chanting, calling - "Tell me what democracy looks like" and we responded (with many people around us)- "This is what democracy looks like".

During the day, I had the chance to have many conversations with my daughter Alma, about the march, the signs, about women's rights and immigrants and muslims and healthcare and hatred and so much more.



TBZ marches in Boston

At times we walked, and at times we stood still, because there was nowhere to go, no space to move. But we kept going. The Torah reading of that day, Parshat Sh'mot kept coming to mind. The story is of a new pharaoh that comes to power and the story of the many women that enabled redemption to happen, especially the midwives, Shifra and Puah. We don't know much about these two women other than they helped in the birth of the redemption. In one of the moments when we were standing still, unsure when we could next continue our march, I imagined that after that very narrow place we would encounter an openness to something bigger. The same way that redemption happened, from Mitzrayim (Egypt) which means the narrow place, to the openness of the desert.

Something like that did happen, suddenly, we started to move and we didn't stop moving for a few hours. As my daughter kept saying, there were marches all over, everywhere we went. People were walking, singing, walking, laughing, walking, talking, walking, connecting.

At some point I saw a woman with a minister's collar walking and I introduced myself. She was a minister from Brooklyn walking with her wife and children. There we were, marching together, a minister

and her family, a rabbi from Brookline and her daughter, talking about interfaith, talking about God, and walking side-by-side. We got as close as we could to the White House. We spoke for a few minutes with a police officer who told us this has been the most peaceful demonstration he had witnessed. He also told us that there were so many people that there was no one route, and people were walking, just walking.

We were walking, and we were praying with our feet. This is how I felt. I felt that my shabbat was complete, was beautiful, was sacred. And my prayer was real. I was praying with my feet, as I learned from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and I knew that this praying with feet was going to be something we will need to do more and more often over the next few years.

Eventually we decided to walk back to Sixth and I. Again, we met our fellow Jews, shabbat observers. We sat and shmoozed and ate some dessert and eventually joined for ma'ariv (evening service) and havdalah (the service that concludes shabbat). It felt so sacred. So important to end the day, this holy shabbat, separating the holiness of the day from the routine. Knowing that sacredness of this day, of this fight, of this march must continue, everyday.

SAVE THE DATES

Pride Shabbat
June 2, 3
Liturgical additions and special readings for Pride

Community Meeting
Sunday, June 11, 3 pm - 5 pm

THE REBIRTH OF TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ

by Judy Schechtman and Jed Shugerman



Rev. Dr. Regina Walton of Grace Episcopal, Rav Claudia, Rabbi Daniel Berman of Temple Reyim, Rev. Stacy Swain of Union Church in Waban, Sr. Minister Sean Witty of First Baptist

This past fall, many TBZ members began to experience a ground swell of impassioned commitment to act in response to the drastically changing political landscape. That energy led to a rebirth of Tikkun Olam at TBZ with a new structure and a fierce commitment to mobilize. The new Tikkun Olam Steering Committee has two co-chairs, Judy Schechtman and Jed Shugerman, joined by Rav Claudia, Julia Freedson, Carol Kamin, Tali Walters, Susan Bookbinder, and Rosalind Joffe, to define our focus and priorities.

This is a very exciting time in the life of Tikkun Olam at TBZ, and a time of tremendous fear and challenge in our country. The need is great, and the passion and commitment greater. Together we shall work hard to advocate for human rights and dignities, building stronger relationships across diverse groups, and fighting for our planet. In our meetings this winter, we have committed to the following actions and organizations, and we invite your input.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)

TBZ is proud to be an active member of The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (www.GBIO.org). GBIO is a collaboration of Boston area synagogues, churches, and mosques to organize local power, influence legislation and policy, and work for the public good. Last spring, TBZ members took part in an assembly of nearly 1000 people that asked our state legislators to commit to specific actions on affordable housing, health care reform, criminal justice reform, and gun control. This fall, we worked to get out the vote for a successful ballot initiative to create more affordable housing in Boston. On December 11, TBZ members participated in a gathering organized by GBIO and partners at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center to demonstrate the unity and support in our community. Join us! Rosalind Joffe (rosalind@cicoach.com) and Susan Bookbinder (susanbookbinder@comcast.net)

Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)

In January, the Tikkun Olam steering committee voted unanimously to join the Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) in creating a "cluster" of interfaith congregations with four Newton congregations to support asylum seekers in Boston. RIM has been supporting refugees since 1986 with an inspiring track record of success and sustainable



Judy Schechtman, Rosalind Joffe, Susan Bookbinder, Julia Freedson, and Jed Shugerman

interfaith relationships. The RIM success rate is almost 100% in achieving independence and legal asylum for each individual or family. They only take on clients once a lawyer has reviewed and taken their case pro-bono, after finding that the asylum case has merit and will likely succeed. The cluster structure is designed to spread out the work so that clusters can continue long-term. We are looking for additional volunteers on our cluster committees. Please contact Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) if you're interested or if you have any questions.

Sanctuary Network

The steering committee voted to create a Sanctuary action group to participate in a sanctuary network, led by the MA Communities Action Network (MCAN) and JCRC. The network protects immigrant families from discrimination and unjust deportation. Contact Tali Walters, if you are interested (tkwstr@gmail.com).

TBZ Resistance Group

The TBZ Resistance Group is a new action group under the umbrella of Tikkun Olam at TBZ. The TBZ Resistance Group is a group of shul members who are resisting the assault on American democracy. If you would like to participate in this new group please start by joining the general Tikkun Olam mailing list (see below).

The first meeting of the TBZ Resistance Group will be a community wide gathering on February 13, 7pm-9pm in the community room. All participants will walk away with a personalized and achievable action plan for participating in efforts to defend American democracy. Join us! Contact Julia Freedson with questions jfreedson@yahoo.com

Sign up for email! Volunteer!

Join us as we carry forward our rich Jewish traditions of social justice. Please contact Jed Shugerman (jshugerman@gmail.com) or Judy Schechtman (j_schecht@hotmail.com) with any questions or interests in Tikkun Olam at TBZ. You can subscribe by e-mailing: tbz_tikkunolam+subscribe@googlegroups.com (no subject and no text needed) and you will be approved by one of the managers. If you are having trouble subscribing, please email Beth at rabbisadmin@tbzbrookline.org.

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." —Rabbi Tarfon

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Sheine Wizel and Joel Kershner
Benjamin Zagorsky
Roger Zimmerman and Jane Liebschutz

Renovation

Reb Moshe, Rav Claudia and other TBZ members left their mark on our building in a different way recently. Under their watchful eyes a new 62 foot beam that will support the new third floor was installed in the sanctuary. Those who witnessed the event were invited to inscribe the beam with their good wishes for our new space.



SPRING KIDDUSH FUNDRAISER

Save the Date
for
TBZ's Annual Spring
Kiddush Fundraiser

SATURDAY, MAY 20

"Celebrating our Spirit—Embracing our Future"

and

recognizing the commitment of these leaders to the future of TBZ:

Sue Kahn, Jonathan Klein, Tali Walters, and Ken Wexler

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