Celebrating Nishmat Hayyim:
The Breath of Life Meditation Project

A Letter to My Newly Born Grandson, by Reb Moshe

News from Beit Rabban

Tikkun Olam at TBZ
NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sara Smolover

Have you felt the energy? Have you noticed the constant hum of activity at TBZ this late winter and early spring? And no, it’s not the sound of hammers and saws anymore. It’s the activity filling our renovated building and beyond with education, tikkun olam, spiritual practice, and celebration.

In the weeks leading up to and since Pesach we have had fascinating classes and TBZ Talks led by our own smart, passionate, and creative members: Adam Teller, Len Rosen, Lisa Gilinsky, Shelly Tenenbaum, Leah Cohen, and Osvaldo Golijov. Next up this month is a fascinating class for our elders, boomers, and especially those who missed this era: “Jews on the Radical Left in the 50s and 60s” with Stephen Hodin.

We are fortunate to have such a deep well of knowledgeable and talented people within our community who are generous in sharing their areas of expertise with us.

Have you heard the music? We’ve hosted a deeply inspiring Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) event featuring Joey Weisenberg, and celebrated Israel’s 70th birthday with a Yom Haatzmaut party complete with singing and dancing. Our first Mimouna birthday with a Yom Haatzmaut party complete with singing and dancing. Our first Mimouna birthday with a Yom Haatzmaut party complete with singing and dancing.

Our Spring Kiddush Fundraiser was a huge success, both financially and bringing in our community together to honor our Nishmat Hayyim leaders: Bobbi Isberg, Sheila Katz, and Reggie Silverberg. The service that Reb Moshe and the leaders created that day inspired us to be present in the moment, to revel in the opportunities that Torah gives us to deepen our understanding, and to embrace Shabbat as a way to create much needed space for relaxation, reflection, and community. Our Co-Chairs, Sarah Fendrick and Beth Harris, did an outstanding job envisioning, organizing, and creating this beautiful day. As I write this our very successful Urban Retreat has just finished. Cindy-jo Gross and Ariadne Valsamis co-chaired this first ever stay-at-home retreat and worked tirelessly, along with Reb Moshe, the committee, and the office to create a vibrant and diverse program for everyone.

A big thank you and yashar kochechem to all of the volunteers and leaders who use their time and energy for the betterment of our TBZ Community with these ‘signature’ programs and all the other events that happen at TBZ.

There’s much more I could reflect on. Our calendar is truly a reflection of our Mission: TBZ is an independent, inclusive Jewish congregation whose members of all ages are committed to each other, to joyful participatory worship, to meaningful Jewish learning, spiritual growth and acts of social justice.

If you are looking for a place to engage, let me know! I’d love to listen to your ideas and your concerns.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sara
Celebrate PRIDE!
Center Communities of Brookline in conjunction with St. Paul’s and TBZ are hosting a party with music, refreshments and special guest Reverend Jeff Mello. Wear bright colors to support LGBTQ inclusion. June 7, 7 pm, 100 Center St. Brookline.

Hesed at TBZ
Be part of this important work helping those in need in our community. The Hesed Community is seeking new members—no meetings, all contact via email. Help your fellow congregants occasionally with rides, phone calls, errands and general acts of kindness. Contact hesed@tbzbrookline.org.

Summer Shabbat Picnic in the Park
Bring your own picnic dinner and celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat outdoors. Friday, July 27, 5:30 pm. Griggs Park, Brookline.

Yom HaShoah
Join with Boston and the surrounding community for the annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration, “Rededication to Resiliency” at the newly renovated Faneuil Hall. Reb Moshe will participate again this year. The commemoration will feature Rabbi Alan Turetz, of Temple Emeth in Chestnut Hill, a second-generation Holocaust survivor, survivor testimony from Esther Adler, and the winners of the 12th annual Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest. Sunday, June 10, 10:30 am Faneuil Hall, Boston.

Membership Renewal
Once again you will be receiving a Membership Commitment Form with your dues notice in early July. Everyone in the office appreciates your sending these cards back as they assist us in better understanding what we can expect from you, our members, in the coming years. We appreciate your consideration.

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**1566 HAPPENINGS**

**Nishmat Hayyim at TBZ**
by Reggie Silberberg, Chair

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the TBZ community and beyond for supporting our Nishmat Hayyim Meditation/Mindfulness programs and contributing so generously to the Spring Fundraiser in our honor. As a team we are thrilled to offer contemplative opportunities that nurture spiritual growth and foster community building. We love what we do and we hope that those of you who have never attended will attend in the near future. We look forward to having you join us.

Summertime is upon us and we will be having drop-in Friday AM sessions and a couple of monthly Shabbat afternoon sessions. These will be posted in TBZ Happenings as well as emails to the NH list serv and tbzkehilla list serv. Stay tuned!!

Wishing everyone a lovely rejuvenating summer of fun, learning, relaxation, and of course meditation and mindfulness.

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**COMMUNITY MEETING: JUNE 10, 3-5 PM**

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**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.

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**TBZ Membership Commitment Form 2018-2019**

I plan to use the following payment plan:

☐ I will pay in full by Rosh Hashanah (or check is enclosed)
☐ I will pay half by Rosh Hashanah and the second half by Dec. 31
☐ I will contact the office by Aug. 10 to set up an alternative payment plan
☐ I wish to continue to receive the same level of financial assistance I received last year.

Payments may be made by check, Visa or MasterCard using your ShulCloud account. Please note, we do charge a convenience fee of 3% for all online payments. Please contact the office if you have questions about accessing your account.

For questions about your statement contact, Steven Greenberg, exodirector@tbzbrookline.org or Beth Ehrenreich, assistdirector@tbzbrookline.org at TBZ - 617.566.8171.

Household Name(s) (Please return by August 10, 2018)
We who have chosen TBZ as our community feel blessed to belong to a synagogue that is forward thinking, non-denominational, egalitarian, diverse, welcoming, multi-generational, experimental, musical, spiritual, contemplative, caring, compassionate, dedicated to social action, and actively engaged in study. When TBZ was revitalized almost 20 years ago, there were no other synagogues like it in the Boston area, and it filled a niche for Jews who were seeking a Judaism that felt connected and relevant to their modern lives.

As Reb Moshe often says, however, “We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.” TBZ, known more formally as Temple Beth Zion in its previous incarnation, was a flourishing, vibrant institution, where Irwin and Gloria Pless found a meaningful home. Over time, though, the congregation dwindled. Irwin and Gloria were determined to prevent their beloved shul from fading away, and prescient in seeing exciting possibilities for TBZ’s future, if some changes were made. They were visionaries who took a big risk, a risk that paid off in our present thriving spiritual community.

Because of his deep respect for TBZ’s past and gratitude for all the synagogue has meant to Gloria and him over these many years, Irwin has been keen to ensure that TBZ’s history is not forgotten, that members know when our shul was founded and how it evolved, even as TBZ continues to grow and change in response to the times and members’ needs.

With that goal in mind, Irwin, assisted by Geoffrey Stein, created several displays throughout the building of historical artifacts, photos, and documents, starting from TBZ’s inception. Please take some time to enjoy and appreciate these exhibits. As you view them, keep in mind, too, that someday people will be looking back at what we are building now.

Priscilla Stein
Reflections from the Spring Kiddush Fundraiser
Celebrating Nishmat Hayyim

**Bobbi:**
I was touched by the many people who came up to say how much Nishmat Hayyim has impacted their lives. Several people who have not yet come to any sits shared that they were now inspired to join us.

It was wonderful to have Noah and his terrific musician friends play for us. I was so moved by their dedicating songs to us, and their ability to bring the energy of our meditation practice into their music. Noah was inspired to add a new line to one of my favorite songs, “This little light of mine.” He added, “Breath by breath, I’m gonna let it shine.” I will continue to sing that line, with great delight!

**Reggie:**
For me the day was about holding opposites in oneself, the ‘ehad’...everything is one. On one side, I was very sad and missing my mom, and on the other side, I was thrilled and inspired by our Shabbat service and the celebratory ambiance honoring the fruition and essence of Nishmat Hayyim. Having the opportunity to offer kavannot, teach, and leyin Torah was a deepening and bonding experience with our sacred community. The dedication to my mom of Ahava Raba Ahavtanu chant and my Torah reading, touched my very opened heart. That this sacred community was able to taste those delicious holy moments of silence throughout the morning was just awesome!

**Sheila (Yocheved):**
I was especially honored to be honored with Bobbi and Reggie, whose hard work and open-hearted giving I see close up everyday. I think we three agree that the work we’ve done to serve Nishmat Hayyim comes from the selfish yearning to have people to sit with in meditation, and to watch lives transform from the practice. It’s deeply gratifying, and an honor in itself to do this holy work in this holy community.

**Reb Moshe:**
Yocheved, Bobbi and Reggie are glowing examples of what is called mesirut nefesh, passing on the soul of our work to the larger community.

May we all be blessed with marvelous opportunities for celebration in the years to come.
Keshet Event

Keshet honored Raffi Freedman-Gurspan with the Hacham Lev award in recognition of her contributions to LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life in Boston and around the country.

Urban Retreat

Over 100 members gathered for TBZ’s 10th annual community retreat on May 11 and 12. Our Urban Retreat featured a variety of activities celebrating our community and Shabbat. We began with yoga and Torah study, held an intergenerational service, enjoyed meals and games, sang together and shared. Retreat workshops led by congregants included a play reading, origami folding, an exploration of Jewish communities in Africa, and a discussion of sleep and dreams. We laughed, lounged, and learned; an intrepid group even went out to play in the rain. The retreat culminated in our annual talent/variety show; this year’s acts included a whip cream facial, acrobats, singers, hula-hoopers, magicians, and other unusual talents among our community members age five and up. We ended the evening with a group Havdalah ceremony, dinner, and more games. Join us next year in Craigville!

Rosh Hodesh Group

On Thursday April 19th some of the Rosh Hodesh “Sisters” celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Israel’s Independence by attending the performance of Yael Deckelbaum and the Mothers. In the words of RH member Judith Woodruff, “It was inspiring and hopeful to see Yael and a Palestinian singer/musician on stage together along with a young people’s chorus of singers from diverse backgrounds. The program concluded with an interview with Yael in which she shared an incident that happened to her and how it set her thinking. While in Spain she got off a train and needed directions to a place. A woman kindly directed her and inquired what country she was from. Israel, she replied. The woman immediately changed her tone, saying that the Palestinians must be freed. Yael agreed but felt helpless about what she could do. However, the incident got her thinking. Last year she traveled to Berlin to march with other women for peace and justice. Being actively involved in the peace movement, sharing her hopes and songs with people around the world as well as in Israel and marching with women from many countries, made her proud to be Jewish and Israeli. She felt she was living the values she was raised with, reflecting the best of both Judaism and of Israel. I enjoyed her spirit and her talent. It was particularly meaningful to share it with other Rosh Hodesh members of TBZ.”

June will be our final meeting of the year and then we’ll take a break until September when we’ll hold our annual Open House to invite new TBZ women to join the group. To find out more about TBZ Rosh Hodesh group, email roshhodesh@tbzbrookline.org.
TBZ CALENDAR

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

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

**Graduation Shabbat**
June 2

**Pride Shabbat**
June 15 and 16

**HOLIDAYS**

**Tish’a B’Av**
July 22: Service, 8:30 pm

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Celebrate Pride! (see page 3)**
June 7, 7 pm

**ADULT LEARNING**

Jews of the Radical Left in the 50s and 60s with Stephen Hodin
June 6, 13, 20: 7:30 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.

May 26: Talia Raisner-Thompson
June 23: Jonah Neiman (mincha)
June 30: Vera Knobel

**BEIT RABBAN AND MISHPACHOT**

June 2, 9, 16: T’filot Mishpachot, 11 am

**BOOK CLUB**

June 24, July 8, August 12: 6:30 pm

**COMMUNITY MEETING**

June 10, 3 - 5 pm

**MEN’S STUDY GROUP**

June 9: 1:30 pm

**SHABBAT NARIYA AND POTLUCK SUPPER**

June 15

**SUMMER SHABBAT PICNIC IN THE PARK**
(see page 3)
July 27, 5:30 pm

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

**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

**TBZ NEWS & EVENTS**

**Walk for Hunger**

TBZ raised well over $8,000 during this year’s Walk for Hunger!
A Letter to My Newly Born Grandson

by Reb Moshe

Dear Eli,

We were so happy to see you when you were born. You were much more handsome than your sonogram pictures yet your gestures were familiar. Your mother, Brina, had you close to her heart physically and emotionally throughout her pregnancy.

I look forward to our getting to know each other in the years to come.

When you emerged in your tiny-ness and innocence four weeks ago I was swept up in a torrent of emotions. Becoming a zayde launched me onto an emotional roller coaster. I will probably be there for a long while.

Eli dear, your bris was on Yom haShoah. As a child of parents who lost their families in that Catastrophe, I only had a Grandma, who survived with your grandbubbe, Brayndl and her sister, Tante Genia, after years in a Nazi slave labor camp. Your great-grandzeyde, Yidel’s family was entirely obliterated and there were no Bubbe and Zaydeh on that side. I lost my parents years ago and they only knew our children in their infancy. I really have no role models for zeydehood. It was so gratifying that Anne’s brother and their 92-year-old mother came up from Florida to share in our family’s simkha. Auntie Shula calls her “doublebubbe”.

But I really don’t know how to be Zaydeh, so Eli, don’t hold it against me that I’ll have to learn on the job.

Eli, you’ll never remember your bris, but the others who were there will. The bris represents that momentous moment of continuity. Entering into the covenant of Abraham and Sarah is not to be taken lightly. Each baby is a small victory for the Jewish people. Your Bubbe and Zeydeh, feel a special responsibility of passing on their values and traditions to you for as long as we can.

I wish to bless you with a traditional Yiddish blessing: zolst du vaksn a mentsh. I bless you to be nurtured and grow into a mentsh, a responsive and responsible human being.

This aspirational broche summarizes all of what we want and need to maintain the world.

First and foremost, to be a Jew is to defend and nurture menshlichkayt, being an authentic and humane human being. Our Yiddishkayt offers an ancient wisdom path that, hopefully, leads us to menshlichkayt.

There is a whole array of adjectives to describe what kind of mensh I hope you will be, but you will find your own place on this path and acquire those attributes as you grow. All of life is a path with occasional detours along the way. I hope you never lose sight of our people’s path. It is well trodden over the millennia.

continued on next page...
Eli, let me offer a word of caution. Don’t stop along the way and dig yourself into a rut along the path; a rut so deep that it prevents you from seeing the horizon. Don’t get into a rut so deep that you can’t see others on the path, a rut that prevents your walking arm in arm with those you love. We daven facing east so that we can see the sunrise every morning, to see the beginning of a day filled with new possibilities. Don’t stop along the path, keep walking toward the horizon.

There is not enough space in this letter to express all my wishes and hopes for you. But, rest reassured, my little four-week-old grandson, if I am granted the power and ability to write more letters in the years to come, they too will be filled with wishes that your life, and all other lives, reach their potential. Your values will be a product of your own uniqueness and the man you will grow to be. Bubbe and Zaydeh will, hopefully, add their uniqueness to your growing up. I wish you a life filled with sunshine and the promise of new beginnings.

Much love,
Zeyde

P.S. Dear TBZ’ers,
Anne joins me in wishing all of us a marvelous summer of refreshment and re-creation of our bodies and souls.
b’shalom,
Reb Moshe

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TIKKUN OLAM AT TBZ
by Susan Bookbinder

Do you ever wonder how it is that one thing leads to another at TBZ? As we become a more public presence in the local world of social justice activism, we get approached with new ideas. For example, in March, TBZ hosted a beautiful fundraiser concert put on by the New England Board of Cantors to benefit the Jewish community in Puerto Rico, which suffered (and still suffers) from the last hurricane.

And because of our GBIO connections, we have more opportunities for reaching out to other communities. In October, following our “Out of Many, One” collaboration with GBIO and the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, Anne-Marie Codur, a TBZ member, approached us and said, “In Morocco on the last night of Pesach, Moroccan Muslims and Jews come together for a Mimouna, to eat special delicacies, sing, and celebrate. Do you think we could hold a Mimouna at TBZ with our Muslim friends?” Well, why not?

And so in April, when Pesach ended, we had an amazing Mimouna celebration with 200 people from TBZ, from the Moroccan Muslim community, from other Jewish and Muslim communities—for a wonderful night of Moroccan music and dance, food, and learning about the Moroccan Jewish and Muslim connection. Besides being a night of tremendous warmth and fun, it was a much needed experience of Jews and Muslims getting together just because we want to be together, enjoying each other.

And finally, one of our Muslim GBIO friends, director of a new shelter for Muslim women survivors of domestic violence, wondered if anyone from TBZ would like to come to an open house in April and possibly consider helping them in some way. We had a great turn-out from TBZ and the director wrote to say, “I felt a tremendous sense of support coming from the women of TBZ.” Out of all these events, new relationships are forming and growing. New opportunities for action, to make a better world, begin to take shape.
From Cantor Becky Khitrik
Beit Rabban celebrated a full and enriching 2017-2018 school year. With our biggest enrollment ever, students took a variety of elective classes on top of their Judaica and Hebrew curriculum. Electives included R’kudei Am, Perkei Avot, Piyyut Composition, and a Beit Rabban band. We prepped for the holidays of Yom Kippur and Passover with special all-school days of learning: our second and third graders visited a Sephardic Synagogue, and our fourth and fifth graders taught us how to “green” our homes and our shul. Thanks to the many parents and staff members who stepped up to fill roles while I was on maternity leave and Rav Claudia was on sabbatical. We could not have achieved so much without the help of our community! Next year’s registration can be found at https://www.tbzbrookline.org/school_enrollment.php

From the Parent Committee
The Beit Rabban Parent Committee wrapped up its fourth year of successfully fostering communication between parents and staff, sponsoring special guests and field trips for individual classes, and helping to build community through whole-school events. Thanks to Sharon Morganbesser and Lynda Danzig for organizing another festive and fun Beit Rabban Shabbat in March. Approximately 100 participants gathered to enjoy students-led services, view student work, and share a meal with families and teachers. Students in grades 4 & 5 spent an afternoon brainstorming how to green their homes to fight climate change with Daria Mark from Mothers Out Front in late April as a follow-up to their earlier panel with TBZ’s Tikkun Olam Committee. Join us to celebrate the year’s conclusion with ice cream at Griggs Park at 3 p.m. on June 2, weather permitting.
I am pleased to update you on the state of our annual operating budget for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 and to report that TBZ is doing well financially.

This year’s approved budget had a planned deficit of $21,000, but we are on track to, hopefully, eliminate it with just over a month to go before the end of our fiscal year. Our income is more than originally projected because general donations are up now that the capital campaign is over and we have collected more dues than expected because of increased membership. On the expense side, we have managed, so far, to keep our expenses down from last year even though we had projected a slight increase. I would like to thank the Finance Committee’s efforts and Steven Greenberg’s constant vigilance in achieving this.

Last year’s recommendations by the finance committee have been implemented and have had very positive effects on our bottom line. Our new credit card policy will save us almost $10,000 this year alone. By requesting a membership commitment form, we have received valuable information about our members intentions and also greatly increased our cash flow so we have not had to take operating funds from our interest bearing accounts. The implementation of ShulCloud as our synagogue software has reduced office costs and increased our understanding of our financial picture by providing breakdowns of income and expense items that were not available with our old system. Lastly, the Finance Committee has identified several areas in our expenses where we have been able to recognize savings and will continue to keep up a regular process of lay leadership oversight of our budgeting and financial management.

I also want to remind everyone how critically important their donations are to the operation of the shul. Almost all of TBZ’s income comes from our members and dues are only 53% of what we need to cover costs. We depend on your donations for the rest and TBZ cannot operate without your support. By helping out in any way that you can, you will help ensure that TBZ has the financial foundation needed to keep building and growing the vibrant spiritual community that we love!

Welcome back to Rav Claudia!

...and a huge THANK YOU to David Cherenson, Lev Friedman, Becky Khitrik, Lisa Kipen-Hershenson, Daniel Klein, Mona Strick and Alan Weisner for helping lead services during her absence.
**DONATIONS**

Rick Bankhead
Tali Buechler Walters & Peter Buechler
Jack & Jane Daniels
David & Carole Decter
Jonathan & Deborah Forman
Jill Greenberg
Meredith Joy & Marjorie Siegel
Larry Kraus & Sara Smolover
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Barbara Sternfield
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**KIDDUSH AND ONEG DONATIONS**

Leah Abrahams
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Daniel & Galit Schwartz
Amit Segal & Barrie Wheeler
Sam & Jenni Seicol
Noam Sender
Enid Shulman
Molly Silver
Virginia Soble
Mark & Marjorie Sokoll
Lawrence & Tamar Spiro
Elana Steinberg
Eduardo Stern & Sheila Katz

**CONDOLENCES**

- To Gary Cohen and his family on the death of his mother, Judith Burstein.
- To Susan Bookbinder on the death of her mother, Elaine Robin.
- To Reggie Silberberg and her family on the death of her mother, Frieda Zielonka.
- To Jerry Levine and his partner Susan Farber on the death of his mother, Sylvia I. Levine.

- To Wendy and David Caplan and their family, on the death of her mother, Hilary Caplan.
- To Judith Klau on the death of her partner, Robert Meyers.

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

המְקוֹם יִנָּהֵם אֵם שָרָה אֶלֶל צוֹן וּירֹשְׁלוֹא.
L’Chaim

• To Aileen and Neil Grossman on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Joseph Grossman.
• To Fran Adams on the birth of her granddaughter, Zella.
• To Brina Waldoks Ives and Ian Ives, and Reb Moshe and Anne Waldoks on the birth of their son and grandson Eli Leizer.
• To Gabriel Krause-Grosman on becoming Bar Mitzvah on February 3.
• To Esther Rosi-Kessel on becoming Bat Mitzvah on April 14.
• To Roger Taub on becoming Bar Mitzvah on April 28.
• To Lev Friedman on his ordination as a Rabbi on June 3.
• To Yelena Dwortzan on her graduation from JCDS.
• To Rachel Harris on her graduation from Washington University in St. Louis.
• To Peninah Markus Hodin on her graduation from Boston Latin School.
• To Talia Lanckton on her graduation from Brookline High School.
• To Madeline Marx on her graduation from The Devotion School.

TODAH RABAH

• To Marilyn Glazer-Weisner for all her hard work organizing ten families to host over 40 guests at our successful Host-at-Homes shabbat and for matching up 16 guests with Seder hosts.
• To all the talented musicians and singers who help make our Shabbat Nariya so joyful: Melanie Blatt, Anne Braudy, Maria Fisher, Paula Korman, Sam Forman, Itai Gal, Jim Goldman, Bobbie Isberg, Debbie Korn, Dekel Luban, Jackson Mercer, Dave Neiman, Rebecca Ottinger, Jeri Robins, Amit Segal, Lise Stern, David Strauss, Ezra Weintraub, Ron White, Sheine Wizel, Ari Wyner, Mikaela Zetley and Noah Weinberg.
• To Sarah Fendrick, Beth Harris, Carol Kamin, David Kaplan, Robin Okun, Barbara Segal and Sara Smolover as well as the numerous volunteers who contributed their time, talent and energy to the Spring Kiddush Fundraiser.

To stay up-to-date on all the exciting events taking place, go to:
www.tbzbrookline.org and find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/tbzbrookline
High Holy Days 2018

Erev Rosh Hashanah is September 9

Be on the lookout for service schedules and ticket information in your mail box in mid-August and return your forms to the office promptly!