

TEMPLE BETH ZION



Lifelong Learning  
& Programming

**FALL 2024/5785**

September 2024-January 2025

# Welcome

Dear TBZ Community,

It is such a pleasure to present our seasonal programming offerings to you! Behind every entry that you hold in your hands is an unseen amount of phone calls, emails, Zoom meetings, and more to ensure that TBZ's programmatic offerings remain fresh and meet the needs of our community of learners. At some point, we have to go to print on this booklet, but there are still programs in development, such as welcoming Rabbi Sharon Brous to teach us about her new book, *The Amen Effect*, and meeting with bereaved family members in partnership with The Parents Circle, a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 700 families who have lost a close family member to the conflict and have chosen a path of reconciliation instead of revenge.

In order to maximize the energy of our staff and teachers, we are utilizing sign-ups, RSVPs, and minimum participants required for programs to run. So, if you are interested in something, please make sure you sign up by using the links available in the monthly programming email, weekly Happenings email, or calling Sarah in the office to help you register.

We are excited to welcome Akiva Nelson as our new rabbinic intern. Akiva is a rising 5th year rabbinical student at Hebrew College. He is dedicated to building an inclusive, accessible, and enlivening synagogue community and he regularly leads Jewish meditation and chanting. We are excited to announce classes and mindfulness opportunities with him soon.

Many of these programs come from your requests. Rav Leah is busy getting to know you and your interests, so keep letting us know how best to engage you on your Jewish learning journey. As you will also see, many TBZ members offer their time and talent to share their passions with us. We are truly blessed by the quantity and quality of expertise in our community!

*Tze u'lamed*, go and learn,

Rav Claudia  
Senior Rabbi

Rav Tiferet  
Rabbi, Congregational Learning  
and Programming

# Elul Programming

Elul begins Monday evening, September 2, 2024 

## Preparing Your Heart:

### Sephardi Morning *Selichot* Services

led by Rabbi Ebn Leader and

TBZ's Artist-in-Residence, Yoni Battat

co-sponsored by Hadar Boston

Mondays, September 9, 16, 23, 7:30am at TBZ

(in person)

Prepare for the High Holidays with morning *selichot*, as Rabbi Ebn Leader leads the community in the soul-searching poetic melodies of the Syrian/Kurdi Jewish tradition. Sign up via Happenings.



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

## Scholar-in-Residence: Melila Hellner-Eshed, Ph.D.

Shabbat, Sept 6, 7 (in person)

TBZ is thrilled to welcome scholar and activist Meilila Hellner-Eshed to help us consider how to approach Elul and the High Holidays after this difficult and painful year for Jewish and Palestinian people. She will speak at Friday night services and offer a Kiddush Talk on Shabbat morning. She has been a professor of Jewish mysticism and Zohar in the Department of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for over two decades. For the past three decades, she has been a central figure in the Israeli renaissance of the study of Jewish texts by Israeli adults of all paths of life in various frameworks. She has taught and worked with Jewish communities in North America, Europe, and the former Soviet Union for many years. Melila also



serves on the faculty of the Institute of Jewish Spirituality in the U.S. and is active in the 'Sulha' – a reconciliation project that brings together Israelis and Palestinians.

**Kiddush Talk - From Rock Bottom to Return:  
The Steps of *Teshuva* and the Steps of Recovery  
with Rabbi Carol Glass**



**Shabbat, September 21, after services (in person)**

As Jews, it is incumbent upon us to continually practice the Steps of *Teshuva* (repentance). This is especially true during the month of *Elul* as we enter the High Holidays and the Days of Awe. This practice shares much in common with the practices of Alcoholics Anonymous. Despite their Christian-informed roots, there are many deep similarities between the Steps of *Teshuva* that the Jewish tradition prescribes to prepare for the High Holidays (and all year round) and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Join Rabbi Carol Glass for an exploration of these practices, their steps and the parallels between them and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and a discussion of how this knowledge can help inform your experience of Elul and the High Holidays. This program will also serve as the kickoff event for a new season of a weekly Jews and Addiction group which will meet at TBZ on Sunday mornings at 10:30am, starting Sept 22. Come on the 21st for more details! Open to all!

For up-to-date information about all of these events,  
please visit [www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar](http://www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar)



## Brookline Community Selichot

**Saturday, September 28, 6:30pm-1:00am**

Join us for a soulful beginning to the High Holy Days with an evening of meditation, learning, and inspiring prayer featuring our teacher TBZ member Rabbi Or Rose.

**At 1550 Beacon Street: (in person)**

6:30pm Early session with teacher Rabbi Rachel Tali Kaplan of Hebrew Senior Life (HSL)

7:30pm *Havdalah* with HSL

8:00-9:00pm Early *Selichot* with HSL

**At TBZ: (in person and online)**

9:30-10:15am Meditation led by Nishmat Hayyim:

The Breath of Life Project @ TBZ

10:30-11:30am Learning with Rabbi Or Rose

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



*Rabbi Or Rose*

# Holidays



Join us for the High Holidays  
Welcoming 5785

**Erev Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, October 2**

**Rosh Hashana Day 1: Thursday, October 3**

**Rosh Hashana Day 2: Friday, October 4**

**Shabbat Shuva Kiddush learning with Rabbi Ebn Leader: October 5**

**Kol Nidre: Friday, October 11**

**Yom Kippur: Saturday, October 12**

**Sukkot Day 1 Services: Thursday, October 17**

**Shemini Atzeret Services: Thursday, October 24**

**Simchat Torah Evening: Thursday, October 24**

**Simchat Torah Day with Rabbi Ebn Leader: Friday, October 25**

For more information and a schedule of services and events,  
visit our website: [tbzbrookline.org](http://tbzbrookline.org)

## **Unearthing Sarah's Story with Creativity and Spirituality with guest teacher Tzivia Govner**

**Sunday, October 20, 11:00am (in person)**



Prepare for Simchat Torah and restarting the Torah reading cycle in a powerful way! It might seem that to gain the full stories of the matriarchs of the Hebrew Bible we need to read between the lines. But there is also much to discover and explore within the texts themselves where hints and information about these powerful women are hiding in plain sight. In this workshop, author, poet, and Certified Dreamwork Professional Tzivia Govner will share her process of rediscovering the biblical matriarch Sarah and invite participants to find their place in this foundational story as well. Using text study, guided discussion,

and creative writing we will dive into key passages about the first Hebrew matriarch, Sarah, to rediscover her on the pages of our sacred texts, and as an archetypal presence within ourselves. Everyone is welcome, whether they consider themselves a writer or not, and at all levels of Jewish education, experience, and all gender identities.

## Rededicating Your Light: A Pre-Hanukkah Shabbat Yoga Retreat with Rav Claudia and Cantor Lizzie Shamash at

**December 12-15**

Enjoy a pause from your busyness and take time to rest in the spacious awareness of being that the Sabbath—and the upcoming holiday of Hanukkah—offer. This retreat will draw upon the Jewish and spiritual practices of mindfulness, prayer, chant, and study to hold the pose of Shabbat. This program is appropriate for all levels of yoga practitioners. More info and registration on Kripalu’s website.

## TBZ’s Annual Hanukkah Party

**Sunday, December 29, 4:00-6:00pm (in person)**

Join us to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah in community! Games and activities for all ages, including adult learning and a *tzedakah* project, as well as our community-wide *hanukkiah* lighting, singing, latkes, and *sufganiyot*. Bring your own *hanukkiah* (and 6 candles!) to light together.

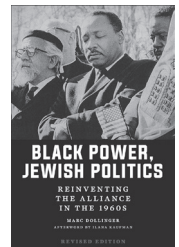
Also, bring a donation for the Brookline Community Food Pantry!



## MLK Weekend Guest Teacher: Marc Dollinger

**Shabbat, January 17-18 (in person)**

Join the author of *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing The Alliance In The 1960s* for a new look at the break-up of the black-Jewish alliance, focusing on how American Jews borrowed ideas from the Black Power movement to revitalize American Jewish life. His talks will offer a new and different interpretation of the black-Jewish alliance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. years, challenging historical memory about how and why Jews participated in the movement.



# Shabbat at TBZ

Shabbat services are all in-person and online,  
unless otherwise noted.

**Friday night services, 6:00pm**

**Saturday services, 10:00am**



## Torah Study

**Shabbat mornings, 9:00am in the Meeting Room (in person)**

Taught by Rav Claudia, Rav Leah, or other rabbis and scholars from our TBZ community. Join us to study and discuss before Shabbat services.

## Shabbat with Commentary

**November 2, December 14, January 4,**

**During Shabbat morning services 10:00am, upstairs in Room Gimel  
(in person)**

Once a month, join TBZ community members and rabbis to answer questions about services while services are happening! Learn how *tefillah* (prayer) works, get insights into the structure and meaning of various elements of the service, and get to know how services can be a meaningful tool for increased spiritual living.

## Special Shabbatot:

**Shabbat Nariya: Shabbat Sing Out!**

**September 20, November 15,**

**December 20, January 17, 6:00pm**

**(in person and online)**

**Co-sponsored by Kavod Boston &**

**BASE Boston**



Once a month, we raise our voices, move our bodies, catch our breath, and gather strength as we create a circle of sound with voices and instruments to welcome Shabbat. Followed by community potluck dinner and more singing. For the potluck, please bring dairy or parve food to share, serving utensils,



and an ingredients label. You are also welcome to bring wine (no *hechsher* needed) to share. Water and paper goods are provided. People are welcome to sit in the community room or bring their food outside to the *sukkah* area or the front stairs. Shabbat Nariya typically meets on the 3rd Friday of the month.

## Shabbat Zimrah

**September 13, December 6, January 10 (in person and online)**

Shabbat Zimrah brings the mystical sounds of Arab Jewry to the TBZ sanctuary. Co-led by artist-in-residence Yoni Battat on the oud, this service will utilize traditional and original melodies to chant excerpts from *Shir Hashirim* and the psalms of Kabbalat Shabbat, followed by *Ma'ariv* (reading Song of Songs is a Mizrahi Friday night tradition practiced year round – not just on Shabbat Shira!).

## Shabbat HaDorot

**November 9, Parshat Lech Lecha (in person and online)**

Join Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet, and Akiva for our annual Shabbat where all dorot (generations) come together for joyful and participatory Shabbat services and Torah learning. It's an opportunity to glean wisdom from those older and younger than you!

### Schedule for the Day:

9:00-10:00am Torah Study (9:30am play rehearsal)

10:00-10:30am Shabbat ShaBreakfast for all ages (muffins, coffee, hot chocolate, GF/vegan options available)

10:30am-12:30pm Shabbat Morning Services with Rav Claudia, & Akiva

10:30-11:15am 5th-7th Graders prepare *parsha* study with Rav Tiferet

11:15am Torah Service begins, including our annual *parsha* play!

(Want to be an actor? Email Rav Tiferet: [ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org))

1:00-2:30pm B'Mitzvah Group meeting

## Men's Group Shabbat

**In early 2025**

For more than 15 years, the TBZ Men's Group has engaged participants in stimulating conversations about what really matters in their lives. In the process, members have built and strengthened relationships with other men

in the TBZ community and beyond. On this Shabbat, the Men's Group will take a leadership role in services, including reading Torah.

## **Community Dinner**

### **Friday Night, November 22**

Practice for Thanksgiving dinner! This is an opportunity to bring people together for a Shabbat Dinner. Community Dinners are a chance to sit down with old friends, meet new friends, and discover shared interests. Sign up required.

## **B'Mitzvah Celebrations**

### **November 2, Mincha-Shabbat afternoon**

Daniel Myers

### **November 16, Mincha-Shabbat afternoon**

Reuben Spool

### **December 7, Shabbat Morning**

Eliza Mnookin

## *Kiddush Talks & Tables:*

After Shabbat services, during kiddush

### **Melila Hellner-Eshed, Ph.D.**

**Shabbat, September 7** (See the description in Elul on page 3)

### **From Rock Bottom to Return: The Steps of *Teshuva* and the Steps of Recovery with Rabbi Carol Glass**

**Shabbat, September 21** (See the description in Elul on page 4)

### **Rabbi Ebn Leader**

**Shabbat, October 5**

In honor of Shabbat Shuva, and in accordance with the tradition of giving a special *drasha* (sermon) on this special Shabbat between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

## Tikkun Olam Tables

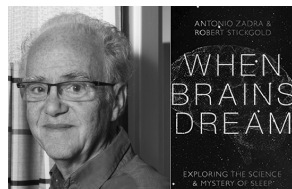
**Shabbat, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21, January 11**

Each month, members of the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee (TOSC) host a table at Kiddush after Shabbat Morning Services to discuss our social justice initiatives. No commitment necessary!

## The Science of Dreams with Bob Stickgold

**Shabbat, January 4**

While we read in the Torah about Joseph, his dreams, and his ability to give meaning to those dreams for others, we'll consider the scientific aspect of dreams and dreaming with Dr. Bob Stickgold. Questions on the origins and meaning of dreams are as old as humankind, and as confounding and exciting today as when nineteenth-century scientists first attempted to unravel them. Why do we dream? Do dreams hold psychological meaning or are they merely the reflection of random brain activity? What purpose do dreams serve? Joseph certainly had an answer!



Bob's book, *When Brains Dream: Exploring the Science and Mystery of Sleep*, co-authored with Antonio Zadra, addresses these core questions about dreams while illuminating the most up-to-date science in the field.

## Kiddush Talk with TBZ Member

**Leah Hagar Cohen: *To & Fro***

**Shabbat, January 25**

Ani, journeying across a great distance accompanied by a stolen kitten, meets many people along her way, but her encounters only convince her that she is meant to keep searching. Annamae, journeying from childhood to young adulthood alongside her mother, older brother, and the denizens of her Manhattan neighborhood, never outgrows her yearning for a friend she cannot describe. From their different worlds, Ani and Annamae reach across the divide, perhaps to discover—or perhaps to create—each other.



# For Younger Members & Their Families

## WonderMinyan

Shabbat, September 14, 28, October 19,  
November 9, 23, December 14, Jan 11, 25

**Wonder**  
Minyan

10:30am-12:30pm (in person)

At WonderMinyan, young Jews begin to learn Shabbat morning and holiday prayers, the weekly *parasha* (Torah portion) through stories and plays, as well as build a community of friends.

10:30-11:00am Shabbat Shabbreakfast in the Meeting Room

11:00-11:30am Age-appropriate *parasha*/Shabbat engagement throughout the building:

**Littles** (babies-1st grade); **Middles** (2-4 grades); **Olders** (5-7 grades)

11:30-12:00pm *Tefillah* (prayers) and Song in the Meeting Room

12:00-12:30pm Activity/Shmooze time in the Meeting Room (before joining the end of services in the Sanctuary as we bless the children)

Please note: Families with children of all ages are welcome to come to TBZ Shabbat services every week, even when there is no WonderMinyan! Please feel free to use the quiet play area in the sanctuary or use one of our 3rd floor rooms overlooking the sanctuary (where services can also be seen and heard).

## Beit Rabban: TBZ's Afterschool Jewish Education Program

Wednesdays starting September 11, 4:00-6:00pm (in person)

In the Talmud, *beit rabban*, which literally means “house of our rabbis,” is where students would go to learn the wisdom of our tradition and prepare to engage Jewishly with the world. Beit Rabban is for TBZ members in grades K-7. We engage our children and families in meaningful, joyful, and experiential learning.



## Parents' Learning with Rav Claudia

**Dates to be announced, 4:20-5:20pm (during Beit Rabban) (in person)**

While your children are learning, join Rav Claudia, Rav Leah, and other Beit Rabban parents to learn together. Each week, we'll study a different Jewish concept to build a basic vocabulary of Jewish spiritual life and consider how we share these ideas with our children and families.

From a participating parent: *"Parental learning was an excellent way to connect with other parents at TBZ and discuss what it means to be Jewish in modern (turbulent) times."*

## B'Mitzvah Family Group

**September 14, October 19, November 9, December 14, Jan 11**

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

*For families of 6th and 7th graders who are enrolled in TBZ's B'Mitzvah program. Join Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet, and Akiva to prepare for becoming a b'mitzvah family! Using the Moving Traditions B'Mitzvah Family Education Program, sessions inspire connection to Jewish community by centering on human development and the parent-child relationship. These sessions help navigate this life stage by addressing the joys and challenges of becoming and parenting a teen.*

## B'Mitzvah Group Havdalah, Pizza, and a Movie:

**"You're So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah!"**

**November 23, 5:30-8:00pm, location TBD**

**(in person only)**

Stacy and Lydia are BFFs who've always dreamed about having epic bat mitzvahs. However, things start to go comically awry when a popular boy and middle school drama threatens their friendship and their rite of passage.



## B'Mitzvah Family Group Shabbat Dinner

**Friday Night, January 24, after services**

Gather with other TBZ B'Mitzvah families for a Shabbat dinner hosted by Rav Claudia. Over dinner, adults will share memories and experiences from their own b'mitzvah experiences, young people will have opportunities to share

what's exciting for them, and we'll experience/try Shabbat dinner practices such as full Kiddush and singing *zemirot* (Shabbat table songs) together.

## The Tent

### Monday nights, starting September 16

TBZ is a founding partner of The Tent: A Jewish Learning Community for Greater Boston Teens at Temple Israel on Monday nights. The Tent is a pluralistic learning community made up from many Boston area congregations. Under the "Tent", our teens make new friends, experience new synagogue cultures, and learn from incredible clergy and faculty from the Brookline area. The Tent begins in 8th grade and continues through high school with many TBZ teens going on to hold leadership opportunities. The Tent is arranged on a trimester system to allow for teen sports schedules. Start in the Fall, Winter or Spring! Learn more here: <https://www.tisrael.org/the-tent/>

## Events for the Whole Family!

### Apples & Honey: Apple Picking & More at HoneyPot Orchards in Stow, MA Sunday, September 22, 10:00am-2:00pm

Join TBZ for this annual tradition! Each participant will get a Farm Fun Adventure Pack, which includes ½ peck picking bag (10-12 apples), a hayride, Monster and Small hedge maze admissions, a caramel apple, a cider donut, and a 16 oz cider guzzler. \$25 per package. (Ages 3 and under are free to accompany the group with activities but will not receive a Farm Fun Adventure Pack.)



### Shabbat HaDorot

November 9, Parshat Lech Lecha (in person and online) (See page 9)

### Community Dinner

Friday Night, November 22 (See page 10)

# Groups & Special Events

## **Welcoming Rosh Hodesh with Rav Tiferet**

**September 4, November 2, December 1, December 29, January 29**

**(in person)**

*Rosh Hodesh* (the new moon) represents the start of a new Hebrew month and a new energy. In Judaism, the rabbis teach that Rosh Hodesh is a holiday given to women. The moon is considered a symbol of *Shekhina*, the everpresent feminine aspect of God. In this group, TBZ members who experience the world as women come together to share deeply with each other about living as women (fertility, cycles, relationships), learn about the energy and significance of Hebrew months from a Kabbalistic and spiritual perspective, and explore Jewish texts related to historical and current archetypes of women. Come when you can and be nourished by caring community.

## **Israel Palestine Affinity Group (in person and online)**

**Online: September 9, October 7, November 4, December 9, January 6**

**In person: September 26, October 24, November 21, December 19, January 23**

Early this past winter, a group of TBZ members came together wanting to share our sadness, confusion, anger, and deep loss over the situation in Israel and Gaza. From that, we formed the TBZ Israel Palestine Affinity Group (IPAG). Through evolving formats and participants, we remain committed to holding a safe-enough, brave-enough space for those wishing to share complexity of feelings around Israel while foregrounding the need to address both the current violence and the ongoing structural oppression of Palestinians.

We are a lay-led group. We generally meet twice a month, once on Zoom and once in person at TBZ. Please join us whether it's your first time or you've been coming regularly, whenever you're able. If you want to receive our emails directly, please email to join our mailing list, [ipag@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:ipag@tbzbrookline.org). For more information, please contact Rosalind Joffe or Leah Cohen.

## **Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out (DRIO) Kickoff Event**

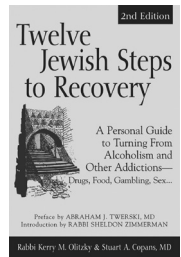
**Sunday, November 17, 10:00am-4:00pm**

Open to everyone! This one-day event is an introduction to Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out (DRIO), a course and community of practice that equips participants with daily concrete Jewish spiritual tools of Mussar to confront, subvert, and heal implicit and internalized racism within ourselves and others, supporting the collective organizing, advocacy, and service – work efforts to dismantle racism systemically. Led by Rav Tiferet and Ellen Krause-Grosman, both trained through the Kirva Institute, participants will be introduced to the balance of care paradigm, and explore broadly applicable, practical skills to support TBZ members in strengthening their muscles to navigate an increasingly challenging reality to be our most effective selves in the world.

## **Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery**

**Sundays starting September 22, 10:30am**

We have books for you! A weekly opportunity to explore the 12 Steps of AA from a Jewish perspective, using the book *Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery: A Personal Guide to Turning From Alcoholism and Other Addictions – Drugs, Food, Gambling, Sex...*



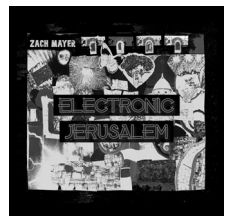
Contact Peter Golbus [pgolbus@gmail.com](mailto:pgolbus@gmail.com) if you're interested and to learn more and email [Jewish12Steps@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:Jewish12Steps@tbzbrookline.org) to join our mailing list! Check out the introductory kiddush talk on September 21. (See page 4.)

## **Electronic Jerusalem: Ecstatic Dance Party**

**Saturday Nights, November 9, December 28, January 18 (in person)**

**Suggested donation: \$10**

When the nights get colder and darker, we can warm up together with dance! Join Master Musician Zach Mayer for an Electronic Jerusalem Ecstatic Dance Party! Electronic Jerusalem is Zach's newest project, incorporating the sounds and rhythms he collected while studying Middle Eastern classical music in Jerusalem, into modern electronic dance music. It's pulsing- it's Ecstatic Dance/Trance. Imagine a shuk- of music! Performed live with synthesizer and saxophone.





## Israel's Uneasy Multiculture with Author Joan Leegant

Thursday, December 5, 7:30pm (in person and online)

Mark your calendars for a special appearance by award-winning author Joan Leegant, who will speak to us about her stunningly timely story collection, *Displaced Persons*, which shines a light on American Jewish life and Israel, especially relevant in these times. Joan will focus on Israel's uneasy multi-culture: it's not just the Ashkenazim and Sephardim anymore—and never was. Who is Israel today? They're Filipino caretakers, Thai farmworkers, African refugees and asylum seekers, along with Druze, Bedouins, Russians, Arabs, and Jews from across the Middle East. We'll also look at how they are (or aren't) part of Israeli life, and how they've been affected by October 7.



This event is open to all. **Books are now available for purchase through TBZ and will be available at the event and for signing for \$18. For more about Joan and her work, visit [www.joanleegant.com](http://www.joanleegant.com).**

## Adult B'Mitzvah\* Class starting in January, 2025!

Info session, Wednesday December 18, 7:00-8:00pm

Never had a b'mitzvah\* ceremony? Had one, but it didn't mean anything at the time? Maybe it did, but now it can mean something different? Whatever your reason, if you're interested in affirming yourself as a Jewish adult, TBZ will be offering an adult b'mitzvah class starting in January of 2025 with a b'mitzvah date of February 7, 2026! That's a full year of learning and growing toward this important milestone with a cohort of other learners.

**December 18, 2024** Info session and registration opens

**January-March 2025** First session – Judaic content learning

**April-June 2025** Second session – Torah Trope & Hebrew

**July-September** Third session – *Tefillah* (Prayer)

**October-December 2025** Forth session – “Independent Study” and/or Tzedek/chesed project

**January 2026** Final Preparations

**February 7, 2026** Adult B'Mitzvah Celebration

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

## Christmas First Night Hanukkah Chinese Food and a Movie

December 25, late afternoon

In the traditional Jewish observance of the Christmas holiday, join other TBZ members for Chinese food and a movie! This year, Christmas falls on the first night of Hanukkah, so we'll light candles, eat together, learn a little about Jewish experiences of and with Christmas, and enjoy a movie!

## Workshops & Classes

### Israeli Songs on the World Stage: Eurovision Contenders

4th Mondays, beginning September 23, 7:30-9pm (online)

"Halleluyah," "Chai," "Diva," "Toy"... Since 1973, Israeli singers have performed in the famed international Eurovision contemporary song competition.

From poignant and topical to romantic, upbeat, and silly, Israeli performers have presented a wide variety of musical numbers. Join Dr. Miriam Rosalyn Diamond to explore these songs as well as the artists, stories, and controversies behind them. Knowledge of Hebrew not required. To register and receive the link, email [SarahOtt@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:SarahOtt@tbzbrookline.org).

### Hebrew 101 with Rabbi Sam Seicol

Shabbat mornings: November 2, 9, 16, 23 and December 1

During/after Kiddush

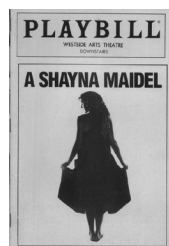
Join Rabbi Sam for a course in basic Hebrew reading with exposure to some grammar and vocabulary. The focus will be on Hebrew prayers. No writing is required.

### Delving Deep: A Theatrical Adventure into Plays focused on the Jewish Family, with TBZ member Judy Epstein-Fisher

5 sessions: Wednesdays, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11

7:00-9:00pm (in person)

Step into the actors' and directors' shoes, exploring 2+ plays over 5 weeks, starting with *A Shayna Maidel* by Barbara Lebow, "...a powerful and poignant drama about two sisters trying to reconnect after years of separation brought on



by the rise of the Nazis.” Followed by a contrasting piece by a significant Jewish writer, TBA, and snippets from other works to compare and contrast. Sign-up is required, space is limited!

Participants will read, explore historical context, interpret scenes, and delve into the journey of the play and articles written about it. We will enliven each play together and discuss how theatrical storytelling uniquely captures the human condition and enables us to view the present differently. Note: No prior theater experience needed!

## **Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out with Rav Tiferet and Ellen Krause-Grosman**

**Thursdays, January 23, February 6, 20, March 6, 20, April 3**

(Check out the intro session on November 17 in the events section, page 16!)

Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out (DRIO), a course and community of practice that equips participants with daily concrete Jewish spiritual tools of Mussar to confront, subvert, and heal implicit and internalized racism within ourselves and others, supporting the collective organizing, advocacy, and service-work efforts to dismantle racism systemically. Led by Rav Tiferet and Ellen Krause-Grosman, both trained through the Kirva Institute, participants will be introduced to the balance of care paradigm, and explore broadly applicable, practical skills to support TBZ members in strengthening their muscles to navigate an increasingly challenging reality to be our most effective selves in the world.



# Minyanim

**Come and pray every day with TBZ!**

## **Boker Tov TBZ**

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

(NO Boker Tov three Mondays September 9, 16, 23 during *Selichot Sefaradiot*.)

*Boker Tov* (Good Morning) TBZ is a daily morning prayer group, led by TBZ rabbis, rabbinic interns, and the Boker Tov community. It started from a desire for daily connection during the pandemic and has persisted and grown into a supportive community for members saying *kaddish*, as well as an opportunity to learn and grow in prayer practice and develop a community of friends.

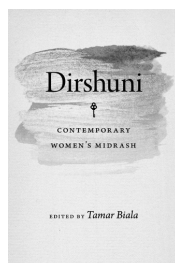
## **Eat, Pray, & Learn**

**Wednesdays davening and learning together**

**Resumes September 11, 8:00am (*Shacharit* prayers),  
8:45am breakfast and learning, over by 9:45 or 10:00.**

**(in person)**

Join Rav Claudia and members of our community for a spirited beginning to your day! We start with joyful and intentional *davening* (praying), followed by breakfast and text learning. We will learn from the book *Dirshuni*, a unique compilation of contemporary women's *midrashim*. Email Rochelle ([rkelman@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:rkelman@tbzbrookline.org)) to be included in the Eat, Pray, and Learn list.



**For up-to-date information about all of these events,  
please visit [www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar](http://www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar)**

# Ongoing Programming

## Sundays

### **Family Table: Monthly**

See *Happenings* for upcoming dates

TBZ partners with Family Table, through Jewish Family & Children Services (JF&CS), volunteering to pack and deliver groceries each month. Packing takes 30-45 minutes and deliveries are convenient to the volunteer's hometown. Young children are welcome to participate and learn the value of helping others! The volunteer location is JF&CS (2430 Main Street, Waltham).

Find out more and sign up here using this QR code.



### **Hebrew with Rabbi Sam Seicol**

**Sundays, 10:15am-12:00pm (online)**

Deepen your knowledge of the Hebrew of the Tanakh (Jewish Bible) as well as our prayers and blessings. Sessions explore vocabulary, grammar, and evidence for variant worldviews and social structures in the text. Hebrew text with English translation are provided. Knowledge of the aleph-bet and a basic ability to read Hebrew is suggested but not required. Join the Hebrew 101 sessions in November to get ready for this ongoing group. (See Classes section, page 19.)

### **Knitzvah**

**Sundays (and one Monday): September 15, October 14 (Monday),  
November 17, December 15, January 19**

**6:00-7:30pm**

The Knitzvah Group is a subgroup of the Hessed Committee at TBZ. Our mission is to contribute to the sense of warmth, of being cared about and known within the community by knitting or crocheting together! We meet about once a month at members' homes or virtually. We make baby hats when there's a new baby in a TBZ member's family, and make lap blankets



and shawls for members who are going through challenging times. We're a drop-in group – come once or as often as you'd like. If you would like to be on our mailing list, email [knitzvah@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:knitzvah@tbzbrookline.org)

## Men's Group Weekly Meetings

### Sundays, 7:00pm (online)

For more than 15 years, the TBZ Men's Group has engaged participants in stimulating conversations about what really matters in their lives. In the process, members have built and strengthened relationships with other men in the TBZ community and beyond. For more information, contact Mark Dinaburg through the TBZ office.

## TBZ Book Club

*For TBZ members only.* Our monthly meetings on Sunday evenings feature lively discussions of books by or about Jewish people, alternating fiction (F) and non-fiction (NF) selections. New members are welcome! You may find yourself reading books you never knew about or thought to read and meeting other book lovers! Please join us at any time during the year by contacting the coordinators at [tbzbookclub@tbzbrookline.org](mailto:tbzbookclub@tbzbrookline.org)

**September 8** - *Yiddish: Nation of Words* by Miriam Weinstein (NF)

**October 20** - *Enemies: A Love Story* (F)

**November 10** - *The Jew in the Lotus* by Rodger Kamenetz (NF)

**December 8** - *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer (F)

**January 12, 2025** - *Palestine 1936: The Great Revolt and the Roots of the Middle East Conflict* by Oren Kessler (NF)

Mondays

## Poetry “Potluck” with Rabbi Suzanne Offit

### 1st and 3rd Mondays (check *Happenings* for dates) at Noon

Bring your own dairy/pareve lunch so we can learn and eat together! In addition, our souls also need nourishment, so bring your favorite poem to share for a “poetry potluck.” Please bring poems that are meaningful to you. Come prepared to share a little about the poet. You will need 15 copies (this is the potluck part!). Sponsored by Aging in Community, everyone is most welcome!

# Wednesdays

## **Aging In Community: Informal Coffee Meet-Up**

**Wednesdays, 2:30pm at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel Lobby,  
40 Webster St., Brookline**

If you are looking for some informal camaraderie within the Aging in Community at TBZ, please join us Wednesday afternoons at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Coolidge Corner for coffee (you need to bring your own beverage!) and a nice, casual chat. In nice weather, we will meet outside in the courtyard. NO NEED TO RSVP, just come, look for Jenni Seico!



# Thursdays

## **TBZ Therapists' Connection**

**Alternate Thursdays, 1:00pm (online)**

TBZ members who are mental health professionals are welcome to join this 23 online support group to discuss current societal and mental health topics and how these may affect our work. Our conversations are group-generated and informal, we operate on a “come when you can” basis and welcome regulars and newcomers alike! Please contact Jenny Berz at [jbberz@gmail.com](mailto:jbberz@gmail.com) for more information.

# Fridays

## **Friday Morning Meditation**

**Fridays, 9:30am-11:00am (online)**

Nishmat Hayyim: The Breath of Life Project offers weekly sessions to help start and/or deepen practice together, cultivating wisdom, compassion, happiness, and the ability to respond to this complex life and world. All levels of meditators welcome! Sessions include chant, silent sit, teachings from mindfulness sources; discussion; and check-ins about our practice.

# Save the Dates

**February 8: Beit Rabban Shabbat**

**March 2: Women's Retreat**

**March 13: Purim Megillah & Spiel**

**May 16-19: Community Retreat on Cape Cod**



1566 Beacon Street  
Brookline, MA 02446