

Lifelong Learning and Programming at TBZ



WINTER/SPRING 2025/5785

WELCOME

Dear TBZ Community,

What a rich season of learning that is coming upon us! After the election, we heard from a few people that they felt like they could not engage in joyful programming at TBZ because they felt a need to redouble their political efforts. As Rav Claudia reminded us in her Shabbat N’Kabla message immediately after the election, the commandment *ve’ahavta le’reacha kamocho* (Leviticus 19:18), to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, is indeed a conditional one! We have to love ourselves first in order to have a full well from which to give love and care to others.

One of the best ways to do this is together in community, as recommended by Rabbi Sharon Brous (who will be in conversation with Rav Claudia about this topic on March 27th!), and this booklet offers opportunities to replenish your well and opportunities to care for others!

This season, we will also welcome Rav Leah back from parental leave and learn with her on several occasions, including at our annual Women’s Retreat, during our Adult B’Mitzvah classes, on Shabbat, and more! Near the end of the spring, we will also welcome Noah back from Israel and experience his musical growth and wisdom from his months away.

It is important to note that most of the offerings in this booklet are offered by TBZ members or suggested by members. If you would like to share your talents with the TBZ community, please let us know. We would love to learn with you!

Tze u’lamed, go and learn,

Rav Claudia
Senior Rabbi

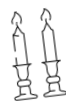
Rav Tiferet
Rabbi, Congregational Learning
and Programming

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 (in person)

Shabbat mornings at 9:00am in the Meeting Room

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

Shabbat with Commentary (in person)

During Shabbat morning services, upstairs in Room Gimel

February 1, March 1, April 12, May 3

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! (in person and online)

February 21, March 21, April 25, May 23, June 20



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. Services at 6:00pm followed by community potluck dinners 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 (in person and online)

February 14, March 7, April 4, May 9, June 6



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!)



Yoni Avi Battat is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer, playing violin, viola, and oud in collaborative and interdisciplinary projects that explore 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.

Men's Group Shabbat (in person and online)

February 1

For more than 15 years, the TBZ Men's Group has engaged participants in stimulating conversations about what really matters in their lives.

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.

Beit Rabban Shabbat (in person and online)

February 8

Join the students of Beit Rabban together with Rav Claudia, Rav Tiferet, Rav Leah, and Akiva for a Shabbat for all *dorot*, all generations! This year, our learners will participate in Shabbat morning services as well as have services downstairs just for them. A fun and participatory Shabbat for people of all ages!

**For up-to-date information about all of these events,
please visit www.tbzbrookline.org/calendar**

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

February 15

Refugee Shabbat is a moment for congregations, organizations, and individuals in the United States and worldwide to dedicate a Shabbat experience to refugees and asylum seekers. People seeking asylum are being turned away at borders around the world. The number of forcibly displaced people is rapidly growing and the climate crisis exacerbates the effects of violence, conflict, and economic instability on already vulnerable populations. This is a critical moment for all of us to reaffirm and redouble our support for refugees, asylum seekers, and those forcibly displaced, as well as an opportunity to step back, reflect, and celebrate the work we have already done. Come learn about TBZ's important work with refugees and asylum seekers.

Be the Change Shabbat: Kickoff for Mother's Day Walk for Peace!

March 22

Be the Change is an art and activism initiative inspired by the Jewish tenet of *tzedek*, justice, and drawing from the Tzedakah box. In Boston, Cincinnati, L.A., and online, *Be the Change* helps viewers connect to issues of injustice and empowers them to become agents of change. *Be the Change* aims to help us all become “artists” – activists through art.



Conceived and organized by Israeli-American artist Caron Tabb in partnership with the Jewish Arts Collaborative (JArts), Tabb was inspired to create the exhibit concept in partnership with Ruth Messinger (former CEO and President of American Jewish World Service). This year, we are thrilled to partner with the **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute as we kick off our annual participation in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace!**

Our service and subsequent kiddush talk will feature *Be the Change* co-founders Ruth Messinger and Caron Tabb, artist Jordan Hendrickson and LDBPI Founder, President, and CEO Chaplain Clementina Chéry to share on the power of art and bringing the community together through action.

Community Dinner

Friday Night, March 28

This is an opportunity to bring people together for a Shabbat Dinner. Community Dinners are a chance to sit down with old friends (even from outside of TBZ, they're invited too!), meet new friends, and discover shared interests. Many new members come to Community Dinners, so come get to know who's new to TBZ. Sign-up is required.



B'MITZVAH CELEBRATION

April 26 - Noam Krakower

Graduation Shabbat: May 31

**Honoring Graduates (from Kindergarten to Grad School and beyond!)
and New Rabbis, including our own rabbinic intern Akiva Nelson.**

Email your graduates to Sarah at SarahOtt@tbzbrookline.org by May 22nd.

Pride Shabbat

June 20

Shabbat Nariya celebrating Pride @ TBZ.

KIDDUSH TALKS & TABLES

(in-person)

Tikkun Olam Tables

February 8, March 22, April 19, May 17, June 21

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 is necessary!

HIAS: February 15

More information to come.

Gilad Skolnick of Leket Israel: February 22

Leket Israel is the leading food rescue non-profit based in Israel, serving 330,000+ people weekly. Leket Israel rescues surplus agricultural produce and collects excess cooked meals for redistribution throughout Israel via its network of 200+ nonprofit organization (NPO) partners. Gilad Skolnick will cover the state of Israel's agriculture challenges and the latest innovations in food rescue, especially since October 7th.

Professor Devora Steinmetz: Why Rain Comes From Above: March 1

In *Why Rain Comes From Above: Explorations in Religious Imagination*, Devora Steinmetz invites readers into the imaginative space created by deep engagement with biblical and rabbinic texts. Each of her six poetic and scholarly essays leads us through a web of texts, drawing us into stories, images, and experiences that open us to new ways of thinking and new worlds of meaning. Steinmetz's explorations show us how imaginative engagement as a form of religious reading can transform our relationship with the world around us, awaken us to the ethical commitments to which we are called, and give us ways of thinking about our lives, our world, and God.

***Be the Change* Co-founders Ruth Messinger and Caron Tabb, Artist Jordan Hendrickson, and LDBPI Founder, President, and CEO Chaplain Clementina Chéry**

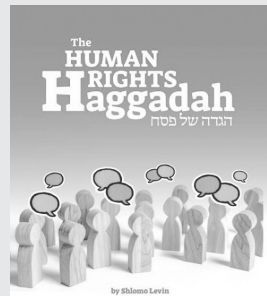
March 22 (see page 5)



***The Human Rights Haggadah* with Rabbi Shlomo Levin**

March 29

The Human Rights Haggadah highlights fifteen human rights issues that come up in the classic text. It provides Jewish and secular sources for each along with questions for discussion. Rather than promote any specific viewpoint, whether on social issues or Israel, this Haggadah views human rights as a shared language for dialogue to enhance understanding. Shlomo will explain how the Passover seder may be an ideal time to discuss human rights and how this can enhance the meaning and relevance of our seders. The conversation will center on human rights and Jewish values, and model examining a particular human rights issue from the Haggadah much like we would at the seder.



Shlomo Levin received ordination from The Israeli Chief Rabbinate and Yeshivat Hamivtar, and also holds an M.A. in International Law and Human Rights from the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica. For many years he served as a Rabbi, but now he writes about human rights issues of interest to the Jewish community and is the author of *The Human Rights Haggadah*. You can find him at www.hrhaggadah.com.

HOLIDAYS

TU BISHVAT

Community Tu BiShvat Seder led by Beit Rabban

Wednesday, February 12, 5:15-6:00pm (in-person)

Join Beit Rabban students for an exploration of the four worlds, four seasons, four questions, and four qualities of being. All are welcome!



Trees as Medicine for Tu BiShvat with Mo Katz-Christy

Sunday, February 16, 1:15-2:45pm (in-person)



Co-Sponsored by Kavod. Trees play a powerful role in medicine, both herbally and extracted in our pharmaceuticals. In this class, we will learn which herbal actions trees most commonly have. We will explore the chemistry behind those actions and the benefits they offer the trees and humans. We will taste some local tree medicines and learn about some of the trees used in Jewish rituals.

Come celebrate Tu BiShvat by learning a new way to love trees!
Part science, part taste test, this class will be as playful as it is educational.



PURIM

Join the TBZ community to celebrate Purim, our people's wild, upside-down, joyful celebration of our survival, commemorating the Book of Esther and the downfall of Haman (boo!).

Hamentaschen Baking, *Mishloach Manot* Packing, and Purim Deliveries

Sunday, March 9

Help with our annual hamentashen baking, *mishloach manot* (goodie bags) packing, and deliveries to our neighbors at 1550 Beacon Street. Every year we try to bake more than the year before! Can you deliver?



10:00am-2:00pm Baking

12:00-1:30pm Packing *mishloach manot* and pick ups for delivery to all TBZ members

1:30-2:00pm Deliveries to 1550 apartments

2:00-2:30pm Singing at 1550 Community Room (3rd floor of 1550 Beacon)

2:30-3:00pm Come back to TBZ to help clean up!

Purim Carnival run by Beit Rabban followed by Shpiel and Megillah reading

March 13

5:00-6:00pm Carnival For All (in person) Community Room

5:30-6:00pm Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

6:00-6:30pm BYODinner

6:30pm Megillah & Shpiel (in person)



PASSOVER

First Seder - Saturday Night, April 12

Passover Seder Matching Deadline

March 31

Once again, we will all have the opportunity to bring the light and joy of *Pesach* into our homes together with our TBZ friends and family. We will match guests and hosts so we can all have an opportunity to spend time and a meal with each other! This is another chance for us to sweeten and deepen our community relationships.



Deadline to sell *Hametz*

Thursday, April 10

Hametz is leavened food and is forbidden on *Pesach*. Jews may not own, eat or benefit from hametz during Passover. Where disposing of hametz will result in considerable financial loss, it is permissible to temporarily sell one's *hametz* to someone who is not Jewish, who owns the *hametz* during *Pesach* and relinquishes it after *Pesach*. Rav Claudia will sell TBZ's *hametz* to the Rector of All Saints Parish, Rev. Richard Burden on the morning of April 10th. Check Happenings for the form to complete to sell your *hametz*!

First Day Service

April 13 10:00am

Seventh Day Service with Yizkor

April 19, 10:00am

Yom Ha'Zikaron: Joint Israeli-Palestinian Event

Tuesday, April 29, 12:00-1:30pm (online)

The Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day reminds everyone that war is not a predetermined fate, but a human choice. The joint ceremony seeks to sow the seeds of hope among the two sides and to bring to an end wars that have taken the lives of our cherished loved ones. The ceremony takes place every year on the eve of Memorial Day (*Yom HaZikaron*) for Israeli and Palestinian fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. The ceremony was initiated by Buma Inbar, whose son was killed in Lebanon in 1995, and other peace activists, together with the Combatants For Peace movement. Since the first ceremony in 2006, the number of people who attend has gradually grown, and today counts thousands of people, bereaved Israeli and Palestinian family members. The choice to hold the event on the same day as Israel's Memorial Day aims to relay a message to both sides, calling them to recognize the joint pain and hope, and to try to prevent the next victims from this fate.

Megillat HaAtzmaut (Scroll of Independence)

Reading at the Kotel

Wednesday, April 30, 11:30am (online)

Israel's Declaration of Independence, read from the Egalitarian section of the *Kotel* (the Western Wall) is a festive event held every year between *Yom HaShoah* and *Yom Ha'atzmaut* by the World Zionist Organization. It is broadcast live in different languages to the entire Jewish world as a way of celebrating Israel's Independence Day (*Yom Ha'Atzmaut*) and strengthening the sense of Jewish peoplehood in Israel and abroad.

SHAVUOT

Brookline Community *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*

Sunday, June 1 (in person)

Join teachers from around the greater Boston area for all-night learning and snacks!

***Tikkun Zoom Shavuot* with Temple Israel Boston**

Sunday, June 1 (online)

Co-Sponsored by TBZ, Learn alongside people from around the world as dozens of teachers, artists, and facilitators lead us in study, prayer, art making, music and more over 25 hours in the zoomosphere. Online sessions run back to back all night and day, and you can pop in for an hour or two, or brew a pot of coffee and stay with us for the long haul.

FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

WonderMinyan

February 8, 22, March 8, 22, April 5, 19, May 3, June 7

10:30-12:30am (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

Wednesday afternoons, 4:00-6:00pm

Last Day/Graduation May 28

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 members in grades K-7. We engage our children and families in meaningful, joyful, and experiential learning. We strive



to grow young Jews who will value learning, be curious about their link in the Jewish chain of history, think critically about their role in the present moment, and be empowered to create the future. We welcome volunteers and teachers from the TBZ community! For more information or to register for Beit Rabban, contact Rav Tiferet (ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org).

Parents' Learning with Rav Claudia & Rav Leah

February 12, March 5, 19, April 2, 16, 30, May 14

4:20-5:20pm (during Beit Rabban)

While your children are learning, join Rav Claudia, Rav Leah, and other Beit Rabban parents to learn together. Each week, we'll read together a different chapter from Rabbi Sharon Brous' newest book, *The Amen Effect*. Come for one session or all! And, join Rav Claudia for a conversation with Rabbi Brous on March 27th (See pg. 19)

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

February 8, March 8, April 5,

Sunday, May 4 (field trip), June 7

After Shabbat services, 1:00-2:30pm,

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 Visit to the Baker St. Cemetery
with the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (JCAM)
Sunday, May 4, 10:00am**

Learn about the practice of *geniza* (burying sacred books) and the process of caring for, restoring and documenting gravestones. Weather permitting, we'll get to participate!

**5th Grade Families Intro to B'Mitzvah Process
April 30, 6:00-7:00pm (in person)**

Families with 5th graders, this is for you! Learn about the b'mitzvah process at TBZ with Rav Tiferet and Rav Claudia, experience the family learning from our monthly B'Mitzvah Group, and begin the journey towards becoming b'mitzvah as a family. Dinner included!

The Tent

Monday nights, hosted at Temple Israel of Boston

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 Boston area congregations. Under the "Tent," our teens make new friends, experience other 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 through May 19th! The third trimester starts March 17th and goes through May 19th. Learn more here: <https://www.tisrael.org/the-tent/>

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**Community Dinner
March 28 (See page 6)**

GROUPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Israel Palestine Affinity Group (in person and online)

February 2, 10:30am (this meeting is in person)

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 online and once in person at TBZ. Meetings are facilitated by a member of our workgroup (Liz Aeschlimann, Leah Hagar Cohen, Hasia Diner, Rosalind Joffe, and Deborah Kalin) and include opportunities for personal reflection, sharing (in pairs and with the group) and brainstorming possible individual-led, community-wide actions and activities. 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. For more information, please contact Rosalind Joffe.

Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery

Sundays at 10:30am (Now on ZOOM!**)**

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...*

About the book: A rabbi, a psychiatrist, and many recovering Jewish people share their understanding of the 12 Steps of Recovery from addiction of all kinds based on conversations with each other and with God. They present a Jewish perspective on the 12 Steps and offer consolation, inspiration, and motivation for recovery for people of all faiths and backgrounds by drawing on traditional and contemporary Jewish sources and by sharing what recovering people say about their experiences. They explore why some Jews are uncomfortable with the 12 Steps, as well as how the Jewish understanding of the 12 Steps differs from the Christian understanding of it. Contact Peter Golbus (pgolbus@gmail.com)



if you're interested and to learn more and email Jewish12Steps@tbzbrookline.org to join our mailing list!

Electronic Jerusalem: Ecstatic Dance Parties

Saturday Nights, February 8, March 8 (in person)

When the nights get colder and darker, we can warm them 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. Suggested donation: \$10.

Jewish Arts Festival

February 23, 11:00am-3:00pm at Temple Israel, Boston

Co-sponsored by TBZ. Join us for the first-ever Winter Arts Festival - a vibrant celebration of Jewish culture, creativity, and community. This exciting event will feature an eclectic mix of art, music, food, and interactive experiences for all ages. From showcasing stunning visual art and handmade goods to captivating performances and engaging workshops, the festival will offer a unique opportunity to share your craft, talent, or passion with a wide audience.

On the Ground: Jewish Peace Activists in the West Bank

Thursday, February 27, 7:00-8:30pm (in person and online)

Join us for an evening of learning, discussion, and storytelling with local Jewish activists who have recently returned from solidarity work in Palestinian villages in the South Hebron Hills, a region of the West Bank facing ongoing harassment and displacement. The event will feature a presentation outlining the key challenges facing Palestinians in the South Hebron Hills, as well as how those dynamics have changed since October 7th and their implications for a just and peaceful future. The activists will also share firsthand stories about what they saw in the region.

LOOK OUT FOR INFO ABOUT THE SPRING FUNDRAISER!

13th ANNUAL TBZ WOMEN'S RETREAT: BAT MITZVAH!

Sunday, March 2: 8:30am-3:30pm (in person)

For TBZ Members Only



Through shared experiences, our women's gathering helps create a collective memory for us as well as moments that carry throughout the year. It allows us to celebrate and get to know each other, discover insights about ourselves, and deepen our connections to

others, to TBZ, and ourselves. Sign up and more information to come.

Photo Exhibition: HaTikva, The Struggle for Israel's Future

Monday, March 3, 7:30-8:30pm (in person)

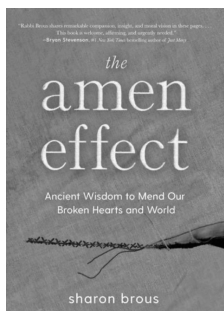
Dr. Tanya Zion-Waldoks is a gender scholar, feminist activist, and mother, blending her academic pursuits with social justice work. Since January 2023, and particularly Oct 7th, she has become a protest photographer, capturing the ongoing struggle for democracy, peace, and the return of hostages.

This exhibit represents a small selection from the vast body of work produced by members of the "Sayeret," a collective of volunteer photographers, driven by a profound concern for Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state.

The civic struggles showcased here are a testament to Israelis' dedication to their country, and their commitment to Israel's historic mission and values, as outlined in its Declaration of Independence. Formed in 2020, the Sayeret works tirelessly to document, in real time, the ongoing civic struggle to preserve Israel's democratic character, while advocating for renewing public trust via elections and bringing home the hostages. By July 2024, hundreds of photographers from across Israel contributed to this effort. The images they capture are widely distributed and shared through mainstream media and social media platforms in Israel and abroad. When viewed together, the images illuminate the breadth and intensity of Israel's unprecedented pro-democracy civil protest movement. The photographers view their role as chronicling a pivotal moment in the nation's history—a fight for Israel's fundamental values and for hope itself (*hatikva*).

COMMUNITY BOOK READ

The Amen Effect by Rabbi Sharon Brous



This Winter, Rav Claudia encourages us all to read the short book *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World*, by Rabbi Sharon Brous. Beit Rabban parents have already started reading this book together. In a time of loneliness and isolation, social rupture and alienation, what will it take to mend our broken hearts and rebuild our society? Brous contends that it is through honoring our most basic human instinct – the yearning for real connection – that we reawaken

our shared humanity and begin to heal. This kind of sacred presence is captured by the word amen, a powerful ancient idea that we affirm the fullness of one another’s experience by demonstrating, in body and word: “I see you. You are not alone.”

The Amen Effect:

Rav Claudia in conversation with Rabbi Sharon Brous

Thursday, March 27, 7:00pm (online)

Rav Claudia will share the screen with Rabbi Sharon who makes the case that when we sit with each other in “celebration, sorrow, and solidarity,” we are connecting in ways that not only forge deep and lasting relationships, but contribute to a larger healing in our communities and in the world. She will share experiences from her own life where she’s succeeded and where she’s failed. None of us do this perfectly, and so often we feel like we don’t even know how to. Rabbi Sharon gives herself (and us!) grace for now always showing up for people the way we could have, and also practical advice to help us see how we can do this better.

COMMUNITY RETREAT

**Community Retreat on Cape Cod:
May 16-18**

A Besere Velt Evening Concert

Sunday, May 4, 7:00pm (in person)

A Besere Velt – A Better World – is a vibrant 80-member intergenerational community chorus that weaves the heartache and irrepressible idealism of Yiddish music into a vision of justice and humanity for the 21st Century. From haunting melodies to workers’ anthems, the songs come alive with multi-layered harmonies and allow us to express Jewishness and social justice in the same breath—it’s called radical *Yiddishkayt!*

28th Annual Louis D. Brown Mother’s Day Walk for Peace

May 11

Join Team TBZ for The Mother’s Day Walk for Peace (MDW4P), a beloved 28-year-long Boston tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. The 4.3-mile walk will raise visibility on the issue and generate much-needed support for the important work of the Peace Institute in their goal to empower survivors and communities impacted by murder, trauma grief, and loss and to cultivate cycles of peace. *Join us for a kickoff to the walk during services on Shabbat, March 22nd!*

Circle of Connection (in person)

6 sessions, Dates TBD

The past year has highlighted some of the challenges of being Jewish in today’s world. Join trained co-facilitators and TBZ members Dr. Evelyne Dreyfuss and Rabbi Carol Glass for a peer support group exploring and processing personal feelings and experiences related to being Jewish these days. The circle will be closed after the first meeting and consistent attendance and strict confidentiality are expected. Interested? Be in touch directly with Rabbi Carol (seaglass1453@gmail.com) or Evelyne (evelynedreyfuss@gmail.com).

“Jewish-Adjacent” Group

Do you come to TBZ and you’re not Jewish? Do you look around services and assume everyone is Jewish but you? We’re creating a gathering space for spouses, partners, and families of people who are in Jewish families but not Jewish themselves. Let’s get together one Sunday morning, we’ll provide childcare (but children are not required!). If you’re interested, please contact Eva Silverman (silverman.eva@gmail.com) or Jack Cook (jackthromblycook@gmail.com).

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out (DRIO) Kickoff Event **Thursdays, January 23 and 30, 6:00-8:00pm (in person and online)**

Join us for a two-part introduction to Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out (DRIO), a course and community of practice grounded in the Jewish spiritual tools of Mussar that supports participants in their practice to discover and heal implicit and internalized racism and other biases within ourselves and learn to encounter others who feel and believe differently than you. With the election behind us, these skills are needed now more than ever. Not only does this practice allow us to grow in our spiritual footing, but it empowers us to take meaningful action in the world.

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.

We hope these two nights of learning will be interesting and inspire you to continue on with the course. However, this day is open to everyone and does not commit you to the next sessions, which will be held over **5 Thursday evenings starting in February: 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, and 4/3**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rav Tiferet (ravtiferet@tbzbrookline.org) or Ellen Krause Grosman (ellen.krausegrosman@gmail.com).

Israeli Songs on the World Stage: Eurovision Contenders **4th Mondays: February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23** **7:30-9:00pm (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.

Wise Aging (in person)

Mondays: March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 28, May 5, 12 from 6:30-8:30pm

There is no set of instructions for getting older—for the shifts in our social and support networks, the feeling of invisibility, the angst of dealing with aging parents, the mixed signals of entering retirement, or the surprising turns in our relationships with ourselves, our partners, friends, and colleagues. On the other hand, those of us currently in this stage can count ourselves as part of an extraordinary, history-making generation—pioneers in understanding and making the most of this “third chapter” of life. Many of us will be blessed with unprecedented healthy years ahead, full of potential for learning and growth. Join TBZ’s 8th cohort of Wise Aging! Together, we will 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. **Attendance at all sessions is necessary.** Participants must purchase the book *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit*. For questions, contact Rachele Rosi-Kessel (rachele@rosi-kessel.org) or Evelyne Dreyfuss (evelynedreyfuss@gmail.com)

A Shayna Maidel: Join the TBZ Theater Trope! (in person)

Rehearsals Sundays: March 23 & 30, 11:00am-2:00pm

Performance: April 6, 11:00am-2:00pm

Step into the actors’ shoes exploring the play *A Shayna Maidel* by Barbara Lebow, with director, Judy Epstein-Fisher (aka Judy Braha)... “a powerful and poignant drama about two sisters trying to reconnect after years of separation brought on by the rise of the Nazis.”

We will investigate and enliven the play together, discuss how theatrical storytelling uniquely captures the human condition and enables us to view the present differently. Our work will culminate in a reading, open to the TBZ community. To best give voice to the play, we need a variety of cast members (all genders) and ages (including high schoolers!). In addition, we have a need for non-acting roles, such as stage manager, narrator, assistant directors, etc. Sign-up is required, no prior theater experience needed! Space is limited!

Transmitting Your Values: *Pirkei Avot* with Rabbi Suzanne Offit **Wednesdays, March 19 and March 26, 7:00-8:30pm (in person)**

A course for empty nesters, soon to be empty nesters, grandparents or parents of young people. Using the timeless wisdom of *Pirkei Avot*, the Ethics of Our Ancestors, we'll explore how we pass along the values and ideas that are important to us. Week one will focus on the context of *Pirkei Avot* and the contextual urgency for transmitting values. Week two will focus on some of the more well-known pieces of this text and what makes them timeless. Dessert included!

MINYANIM

Come and pray every day with TBZ!

Boker Tov TBZ

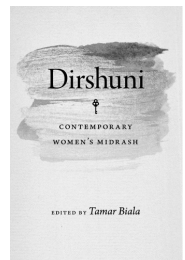
Weekday Mornings, 8:00-8:45am (online only)

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: *Davening* and Learning Together

Wednesdays, 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 begin the day 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) to be included in the Eat, Pray and Learn list.



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 using the QR code above.

Hebrew with Rabbi Sam Seicol

Sundays, 10:30am-12:00pm (online)

Deepen your knowledge of the Hebrew of the *Tana"kh* (Jewish Bible) as well as our prayers and blessings. These sessions use Hebrew text with English translation provided to all members of the group. Knowledge of the aleph-bet and a basic ability to read Hebrew is suggested but not required. Sessions will explore vocabulary, grammar, and evidence for variant worldviews and social structures in the text. There is a 6-session basic Hebrew primer available on TBZ's YouTube page to help you feel prepared to join this class.

Knitzvah

Sundays: February 16, March 16, April 6, May 4, June 8

6:30pm

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 together! We meet about once



a month, from late Fall through spring, at members' homes or virtually – and spend the evening knitting and crocheting (we teach/support from beginners to advanced) or doing any handiwork people choose to bring along with them. We make baby hats when there's a new baby in a TBZ member's family, and we make Caring Wraps (lap blankets and shawls) to bring to members who are ill or going through particularly challenging times. At meetings, we enjoy catching up with each other, as well as letting the group know of Community news and who might need something from us, the Hesed Committee, or the Rabbis. We're a drop-in group – come once or as often as you'd like. Meetings are announced in *Happenings*. If you would like to be on our mailing list, email 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 participants are always 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, check *Happenings* for the Zoom link!

February 9: *Friendly Fire* by A.B.Yehoshua (F)

March 9: *Message from My Father* by Calvin Trillin (NF)

April 20: *Jerusalem Maiden* by Talia Carner (F)

May 11: *The Genius of Israel: The Surprising Resilience of a Nation in a Turbulent World* by Dan Senor and Saul Singer (NF)

June 8: *A Play for the End of the World* (F) by Jai Chakrabarti

July 13: *A War of Return* by Adi Schwartz and Einat Wilf (NF)

August 10: *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok (F)

MONDAYS

Poetry “Potluck” with Rabbi Suzanne Offit

February 3, 24, March 3, 17, April 7, 21, and May 5, 19

(check *Happenings* to confirm), 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 pot-luck.” 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!

To share 15 copies you may 1) come at least 15 minutes early to class and photocopy in the TBZ office OR, 2) email your poem the Sunday night before class to suzanneaoffit@gmail.com 3) If your poem is in a book, simply take a photo of the poem and email it to Suzanne.

WEDNESDAYS

TBZ Therapists’ Connection

Wednesdays: February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28, June 25

1:00pm (online only)

TBZ members who are mental health professionals are welcome to join this every-other-Thursday online support group to come into community to discuss current societal and mental health topics and how these may affect our work. This group began in March 2020 and has been ongoing and well-attended. Our conversations are group-generated and informal, we operate on a “come when you can” basis, and we welcome regulars and newcomers alike! It’s a wonderfully supportive community and we hope you’ll join us! Please contact Beth Marx at bethsmarx@yahoo.com for more information.

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 Seicol!



FRIDAYS

Friday Morning Meditation

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

Nishmat Hayyim: The Breath of Life Friday Morning Sits offer a weekly opportunity to deepen and continue the meditative discipline together, cultivating wisdom, compassion, happiness, and the ability to respond to this complex life and world. All levels of meditators, beginners and experienced, who want support for starting or deepening a regular practice are welcome! Led by highly experienced TBZ meditation teachers, these 90-minute sessions include chants, a 45-minute silent sit, teachings from Jewish, Buddhist, and other mindfulness texts, discussion, and check-ins about our practice.

LOOKING AHEAD

First Day of Beit Rabban: September 3

Erev Rosh Hashanah: September 22

Yom Kippur: October 2



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Save the Dates!
May 16-18
Community Retreat on Cape Cod

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