

Dear Friends,

The TBZ Inclusion Committee is working together with TBZ leadership to bring a greater awareness of inclusion to our community and enhance our commitment to embrace and welcome congregants and guests needing accommodations. We strive to ensure that each of us feels we belong to this community no matter what our differences may be. As we approach the High Holidays we would like to suggest some ways all of us can show *derech erez* (respect) for each other as we head into the New Year.

- You might notice that we now have designated seating areas to accommodate people using walkers and wheelchairs. Please leave these spaces open for those who need them.
- People who have visual and/or hearing impairments are invited to arrive a bit earlier to choose seating that can support their needs. All of our leaders will be using microphones during the services. If you are having difficulty hearing in the sanctuary, please let our ushers know and they can assist you.
- Please be mindful that at times noise made by children is directly related to inclusion issues (autism, sensory issues, anxiety, or trauma). Please keep this in mind when addressing noise levels in the congregation.
- We expect to be sitting close to one another in the sanctuary! There are a number of community members with chemical sensitivities for whom it can be difficult sitting in close proximity to others wearing scents. We recommend that we all be aware that others may be sensitive to the heavy use of perfumes, colognes, and scented body lotions. Please be mindful as you are preparing to go to TBZ of what scents you are using. We like you just the way you are!

We look forward to continuing to think about inclusiveness at TBZ. With the upcoming building renovations comes the opportunity to make our building more accessible. In future High Holiday services we will have a lift to access the third floor, handicapped accessible bathrooms, and a designated quiet space on the third floor for members who might need a break during services.

It has been a pleasure working to make TBZ more accessible. If you have feedback for the Inclusion Committee please contact us at inclusion@TBZbrookline.org.

Sincerely,

Rav Claudia and Reb Moshe,

Sue Brent, Suzanne Gelber and Danya Handelsman, Committee Chairs