

## Renewal at 90

Every year during the High holiday season, we chant *Hashiveinu*, “Return us!” the last line of Lamentations. We conclude our plea: *chadeish yameinu kekedem*, “Renew our days as of old.” This year, the High Holidays kick off TBI’s 90<sup>th</sup> year of existence, and the familiar line invites us to wonder: what were those days of old like? What does it mean for us to aspire to renew our days as of old?

When institutions are first being built, they are full of possibility. When everyone has “beginner’s mind” (to borrow a term from Zen Buddhism), they are willing to try things that might or might not work, to be curious and to be grateful for each success, excited about each new connection made. Once institutions are older, there are more subtle gifts: the insight of elders, the relationships already built, the knowledge of hardships overcome and of our own strength.

The trick is to remember to tap these gifts by keeping those memories alive. As we approach TBI’s 90<sup>th</sup> year and another new year, I hope you’ll join me in exploring the gifts of TBI’s history. The Board has decided that *Mesoret* – “tradition,” and particularly TBI tradition, will be our community’s theme this year.

I am putting together a working group to plan a series of events through the spring that will explore what our community was like in its early years and how our community has evolved. From questions of Interfaith and LGBTQ participation to women’s leadership, to the food and music of our community, we’ll look to the past in order to gain perspective on the present, and, hopefully, to renew our commitments for the future. Please reach out to me if you’re interested in helping work on any part of this (and if you’re an old-timer at TBI, if you’d be willing to speak at any of these events!)

In the meantime, I’ll look forward to celebrating the High Holidays with you, and hope that you’ll save the date for the first of our TBI Traditions events on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>: a retrospective concert featuring the music and musicians in our community, past and present.

We never actually go back to the way things were, not yesterday and certainly not 90 years ago, nor would we realistically want to. But by appreciating those who got us here and how far we’ve come, may we renew ourselves for the future.