

Tzedek Committee and Nashua Pride June 2022



TBA members marching in Nashua Pride parade

On June 25, TBA's Tzedek Committee was a sponsor of the Nashua Pride Festival, the culmination of this year's celebration of Pride at TBA. This annual event began with Rabbi Jon's d'var Torah on Saturday the 18th, addressing LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Judaism. On Friday the 24th, Liz Macedo led a Kabbalat Shabbat service outside in our tent, which included readings and songs written or adapted by Queer-identifying Jews.

As we welcome Shabbat with joy, we were privileged to welcome Sarah Mamlet, Keshet Operations Manager, who shared Keshet's mission and resources available to individuals and organizations; from adolescents who may feel isolated from other Queer Jews, to parents and families, to Jewish day schools, summer camps, and synagogues... all with the goal of helping Jewish spaces to become safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ Jewish people. Learn more about Keshet here: <https://keshet.org/>

On Saturday, congregants and friends walked in the Nashua Pride Parade, leading with a Temple Beth Abraham banner. Of those who marched, Marsha Feder, Deb Carp, and others shared how they were welcomed with eager waves and smiles as they walked the parade route. At the festival, following the parade, The Tzedek committee set up a table with resources and a reading list along with many books available for browsing, and was something that really seemed to draw people in. The table also offered some gifts, including TBA stickers, a "kosher" pride sticker (based on a Keshet resource), handouts from Keshet, and information about Temple Beth Abraham.



Kelly Zakar and Judy Carr at the TBA Nashua Pride table

TBA members Judy Carr, Kelly Zakar, Liz Macedo and Deb Carp were surprised by the number of folks who stopped by and asked questions about our temple. Some didn't know that there was a synagogue in Nashua, and were interested to learn about our congregation. They spoke to a woman who had relocated to the Manchester area from Maine and was eager to share her experiences with a lesbian rabbi, and the creation of queer Jewish communities in rural Maine. Another person spoke about wanting to get more involved with a Jewish community, and maybe joining a congregation.

There were several people who asked for more information about Temple Beth Abraham and we were happy to give them Rabbi Jon's business card. Even folks who stopped by to chat with us who may not have been Jewish were very interested in learning about who we are and why we were sponsoring Nashua Pride, and took some material, especially the reading list and the beautiful sticker created by Judy.

Yasher Koach ["more power to you!"] to all involved and Toda Rabah to the Tzedek Committee, Rabbi Jon, and those who made donations to help this happen. We are certainly proud to be a shul that is a welcoming and safe community for LGBTQ+ congregants and their families.

