

BETH ISRAEL JUDEA BULLETIN

Celebrating

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Welcome Or Shalom!



*Happy Purim and
Pesach from BIJ!*

See details on page 10.



BIJ - Your Community for Life

WELCOME TO BIJ

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The BIJ Bulletin

The BIJ Bulletin is published in January, March, May, July, September and November each year by Congregation Beth Israel Judea.

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We encourage committees to submit articles. Original articles and reviews are appreciated, but we cannot guarantee publication. All articles should be submitted by email to: sheckelman@bij.org in simple **Microsoft Word** format or in the body of your email.

Deadline for articles for the upcoming May/June issue is: **Friday, April 11.**

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Office Hours

CLOSED Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 AM to 5 PM

Friday: 10 AM to 3 PM

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES:

Tuesday, April 15th

Tuesday, April 22nd

Happy Pesach!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome Or Shalom!



Fellow members of our BIJ family:

Life at BIJ is about to change.

Judaism is an old religion. The first Temple was built about 3,000 years ago and the revelation at Sinai was about 500 years before that (the time frame of the Exodus from Egypt is hotly debated, but according to I Kings, Chapter 6, the Exodus was 480 years before Solomon commenced construction of the Temple). In that 3,500 years, Judaism has seen many changes. It went from a Temple-based religion with a priestly class and animal sacrifice to a synagogue-based rabbinic religion focused on prayer. More recently, the Reform movement underwent such significant changes that today's Reform worship would have been rejected by the Reform congregations of even 40 years ago.

BIJ has been no stranger to change. In 1969 it was formed by the merger of a 100+ year old Conservative Congregation and a 16 year old Reform Temple. We all have the visionaries of the 1960s Temple Judea and Congregation Beth Israel to thank for the BIJ we know and love today. Many are still members and I have spoken to people like Arthur Becker, of blessed memory, and Marty Segol about those challenging times.

Well, we are at it again. On February 23rd Or Shalom Jewish Community marched one of their Torah scrolls the three miles from Quintara and 22nd Avenues to Brotherhood Way to their new home. Beginning on that date, Or Shalom and BIJ now share the sacred space that is our home. We will co-exist as two separate Jewish communities, sharing a sacred space in partnership.

People say that change can be frightening. But I find it exciting. I cannot tell you exactly how the relationship between our two communities will develop, but I can tell you that in working with the staff, clergy and lay leadership of Or Shalom over the past few months, the possibilities are exhilarating. I have found them warm and gracious and sincerely interested in creating a vibrant Jewish home for both communities.

Our two communities are different. Far from being an impediment, that is a strength. We will each learn from the other and will benefit from an expanded menu of services, adult education and programming. Rabbi Katie Mizrahi and many Or Shalom members participated in our January and February Sacred Hebrew Chant and Drum services, with the Rabbi sitting in with the house band as a drummer, and it seemed like a natural fit. I am sure we at BIJ will be exposed to and discover services and programming through Or Shalom that we will find enriching and rewarding.

So please join me and the BIJ Board of Trustees in welcoming Or Shalom and its members to Brotherhood Way throughout the coming months.

There is one other item of change at BIJ that is noteworthy. I am now in my fourth year as president of the Board of Trustees, and until now have not had a Vice President. I am thrilled to announce that at its last meeting the Board voted unanimously to approve Alisa Law as Vice President and my eventual successor. Alisa has already begun to take on an expanded leadership role and I hope you will all join me in congratulating and thanking her for agreeing to take on this role.

Joshua Goodman

President, Board of Trustees

Did you see the coverage in the SF Chronicle and the J. Weekly?

You can go to www.sfgate.com and find "Foot procession conveys venerable Torah to new home" in the February 24 issue or to www.jweekly.com and find "With great pomp, Or Shalom marches to new home" in the February 27 issue.

And watch for more (including pictures!) about the February 23 Welcoming Celebration in the May/June issue of the BIJ Bulletin.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A New Chief Rabbi (and a Step Backward for Jerusalem)

By Rabbi Danny Gottlieb



As you know, there is no place on earth that Ricki and I enjoy being as much as Israel, and Jerusalem is that very special place at its heart. *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*—Jerusalem of Gold. With every turn, from one neighborhood to the next, one can experience different episodes of Jewish history. Streets are named for the great figures of our past—King

David, Shmuel Ha-Nagid, Moses Maimonides—and for historical figures of more modern times—David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Josef Trumpeldor.

Over the past decade, religious life in Jerusalem has become more divisive, with clearly observable “religious” and “secular” neighborhoods, and the tensions between the *Haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) and the liberal Jewish streams (Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist) have become more evident in the issues of gender-segregated buses and sidewalks, mixed gender prayer at the Kotel, and government salaries for non-Orthodox rabbis to name a few.

One of the blessings of the past decade is that there has not been an official Rabbi for the City of Jerusalem during this period. The reason that I consider this a blessing is that until now, all official City Rabbis have been Orthodox rabbis, and they have imposed their will upon all residents of their cities. Now, Jerusalem's Mayor, Nir Barkat, has decided to appoint a new Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem. One might have hoped that Mayor Barkat, who has been open and supportive of the non-Orthodox streams, would appoint a Chief Rabbi who was similarly open-minded when it comes to matters of religious pluralism. Instead, the mayor is backing Safed's Chief Rabbi, Shmuel Eliyahu.

In the Newsletter of the Israel Religious Action Center, Anat Hoffman writes, “Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu is a highly controversial figure who is known for his racist views, for opposing army service for religious girls, and for a host of other notorious statements. For example, as chief Rabbi of Safed, he operated a hotline for residents to call and complain against neighbors who were willing to rent their apartments to Arabs. Rabbi Eliyahu would then call himself and try and convince the offender not to take Arab tenants. Imagine bringing this type of racism to Jerusalem.”

As you might imagine, the possibility of Rabbi Eliyahu becoming Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem would have the effect of setting back all of the efforts toward religious pluralism in

Israel's capital city, the world center of the Jewish religion. Not too long ago, Rabbi Eliyahu was a candidate for the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, but thanks to thousands of emails from all over the world, his election was prevented. It is time, again, for the strength of Diaspora Jewish support to be used to prevent Shmuel Eliyahu from gaining a new position of power as Jerusalem's Chief Rabbi.

The Israel Religious Action Center is part of a coalition of organizations that is working relentlessly to prevent Shmuel Eliyahu's appointment to City Rabbi. I am joining them in asking you to send letters to Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat, Minister of Justice Tzipi Livni, and Minister of Religious Affairs Naftali Bennett telling them that Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu is the wrong man for the job. Please go to the following website, where you will find a form you can use to email them with one click: www.irac.org and http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50494/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=13119

Jerusalem needs a Chief Rabbi who will help shape a city where coexistence and equality prevail. I am asking you to help make this happen.

Adar I and Adar II – Be Twice as Happy!

Often heard is the expression, “Be happy, it's Adar!” The Hebrew month of Adar is the month of Purim, and its festive nature inspires joy throughout the Jewish world.

This year is a “leap year” on the Jewish calendar, and so there are TWO months of Adar—an opportunity to be twice as happy. The 15th of Adar II this year is Purim, and we will be celebrating with our friends from Or Shalom, B'nai Emunah and Ner Tamid. Saturday evening, March 15th will be the Megillah Reading and Purim Shpiel, with a children's Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 16th. All events will be here at BIJ.

Pesach Community Seder

Tuesday, April 15th will be our annual Second Night Community Seder. Please join us as David Morgenstern and Ricki Weintraub join me in leading the seder. It promises to be, once again, a joyful celebration of our exodus from Egypt and our journey to freedom. The Community Seder is also a great opportunity to bring your family and friends and introduce them to our congregation. All are welcome.

B'vracha, with blessing,
Rabbi Danny Gottlieb

THE CANTOR'S VOICE

Between the Four Corners of the Tallit: Part One By Cantorial Soloist David Morgenstern

On the day that a young person becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at BIJ, there's a moment early in the service when we call the parents up to the bimah to present a tallit that their child will wear. The parents hold up the tallit before the child, who then recites the blessing and puts on the tallit. This is occasionally one of the tallitot that the congregation offers for worshipers; or it can be a tallit from a previous generation, one that was owned by a grandparent or great-grandparent (they might have called it a "tallis," with the Ashkenazi "s" at the end). Often parents purchase a tallit for the occasion. Whatever the choice, it's a moving part of the service.

Now, many parents have asked me what kind of tallit they should buy. How can I answer this question, since there are so many choices in tallitot? And since it's an article of clothing, albeit a ritual one, there are considerations of style and personal preference. Still, I will offer some pieces of tallit lore over the next few Bulletins that may help you with a future purchase. So let's start with some basics about tallitot.

First, there's no such thing as a "standard tallit" and almost every element of the tallit is customizable. Yet one thing that *all* tallitot have are the tzitzit, the knotted tassels at the four corners. In fact, the tallit is the vehicle for these tassels. In the service, we repeat the commandment for the wearing of tzitzit in the third paragraph of the Shema (found on Page 53 in our Siddur Eit Ratzon):

Numbers 15:37–41 The LORD said to Moses as follows: Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner. That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of the LORD and observe them, so that you do

not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful urge. Thus you shall be reminded to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God. I the LORD am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I, the LORD your God.



This text is from the New Jewish Publication Society translation of the Torah, not the one used by our siddur, and it shows the bit of confusion over the English word "fringe"



when applied to a tallit. Our siddur uses the Hebrew "tzitzit" instead of "fringe." Why would this be preferable? Many tallitot include a tied decorative fringe along the short sides, as well as having the necessary tzitzit attached at the corners. The fringes are decoration; it's the tzitzit that are the point of the mitzvah. I prefer to use the word "tassel" for tzitzit, but I've seen it both ways: fringe and tassel used interchangeably. Oy!

As we see from the Torah, the tzitzit are a visual reminder of the mitzvot, the commandments. After all, we are vision-centric beings and our eyes may lead us to do the wrong thing. But there's a hope that the visual reminder from our knotted tassels on corners of our clothing may prevent us from doing wrong — or help us to do right, depending on the circumstance. We've just scratched the surface of this terrific ritual garment. More on tallitot and tzitzit in future columns.

Friends: May each day lead us to more wisdom, more creativity, more holiness, more peace, and closer to the Holy One of Blessing.

*B'vracha, with blessing,
David Morgenstern*

B³ EDUCATION PROGRAM

In Review / Coming Up

By Rabbi Mark Melamut and Rebecca Goodman, RJE

January & February in Review by Rabbi Mark Melamut

In January B³ celebrated a special New Year of the Trees, as Baruch Sienna guided us through an interactive presentation and discovery of the mystical Four Worlds. We identified trees, watched a moving YouTube video on the theme of gratitude, and noshed on the fruits and nuts of the Tu B'shvat seder. Following our seder, we planted parsley seeds in anticipation of Passover. Together, as rabbis, educators and families, we each play an essential role in cultivating and caring for our children. Nourishing them with meaningful Jewish experiences and education, we look forward to watching them grow, develop, and become *b'nai yisrael*, the essence and future of the Jewish people.



As part of our B³ Art theme, we enjoyed a field trip to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in early February. Guided by the wonderful museum educators, we toured the exhibits on Kibbutz, and Frog and Toad. Following Frog and Toad, our younger children created their own story boards and dice games. In the following week, we completed our art unit, as Sharon Blevis taught us in an all-school art project, how to write our Hebrew names in calligraphy. In this project we learned that each of us, as individuals with unique names, is an important part of our sacred heritage and tradition.

***Special note:** Havdallah at Rabbi Gottlieb's home – moved from March 1 to April 26 (6:30-8:00pm)

***Save the date:** Camping Shabbaton – May 2-3 at Del Valle Campground (tent camping) – space is limited so please **rsvp by March 10** to rabbimarkm@gmail.com to save your spot.

Coming Up in March & April by Rebecca Goodman

And, I'm back! After a wonderful – all too fast – maternity leave, it's time for me to return. I look forward to introducing all of you to Sarah Hannah Goodman, born on December 19, 2013. She's very sweet and smiles a lot! Of course, the last two months of B³ will not disappoint. We're still packing in the learning and experiencing Judaism. Don't miss any of the great activities. Highlights include:

Cooking challah, hamantaschen and making Mishloach Manot followed by our annual Purim carnival, all in March! The month doesn't end there, we conclude focusing on Pesach and our third B'nai Mitzvah Family Education session.

April kicks off strong with our second Family Education day (our theme is, of course, Pesach). You may be familiar with G-dcast's weekly animated *parsha* films or interactive Jewish apps. On April 6, the staff of G-dcast offers "Gaming the Torah," a free app prototyping workshop for 4th-8th graders. Students will playfully engage in Jewish learning, learn about game-making, app vocabulary, gaming mechanics, and paper-prototyping, using classic Jewish texts. They will see examples of apps created previously by G-dcast and work in pairs or groups to creatively brainstorm gaming concepts on paper.



April concludes with Havdallah at Rabbi Gottlieb's home and our final session focusing on Israel. There are two additional opportunities to hang out and learn with the B³ community in May: the first weekend is our camping trip and May 18 is our annual Lag B'Omer picnic.

I look forward to seeing everyone and introducing you to baby Sarah!

415.625.3613 | rgoodman@bij.org



B3 Events

- 3/2: Our theme is cooking; join us as Rabbi Mark teaches us how to make challah. Hevruta Hebrew will take place at the regular time.
- 3/9: Our cooking theme continues as we shift our focus to Purim. We'll make the traditional hamantaschen and Mishloach Manot.
- 3/16: Purim!
- 3/23: Regular schedule theme = Pesach; B'nai Mitzvah Family Ed 12:00-1:30pm
- 3/30: Regular schedule theme = Pesach
- 4/6: Family Education theme = Pesach & G-dcast workshop for teens
- 4/13 & 20: No School – Happy Passover!
- 4/26: Havdallah at Rabbi Gottlieb's house
- 4/27: Last day; theme = Israel
- 5/2-4: Camping Trip
- 5/18: Lag B'Omer Picnic at Frontierland Park in Pacifica

SHABBAT

Shabbat Morning

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:00 AM Shabbat Morning Service

We begin a new rotation on Shabbat mornings with Or Shalom. Rabbi Gottlieb and Cantor David will lead our services on all Saturday mornings except the first Saturday of each month, when we combine services, with Or Shalom leading. B'nai Mitzvah will supersede regular rotation.

1st Friday - Family Shabbat

March 7, 6:30 PM



Our Social Hall is filled with families celebrating Shabbat together. Tables are adorned with candles, *challah* and wine. Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub lead us in a fun-filled musical Shabbat & monthly birthday celebration! Family Shabbat Services follow the dinner.

Please bring a 'milchik' dish (vegetarian/dairy/fish) to share with 10 people or a dessert for the *oneg*.

April 4, 6:30PM @B'nai Emunah

Please note: our First Friday Family Shabbat in April will take place at B'nai Emunah, with the same schedule as BIJ. *There will be no Erev Shabbat services at BIJ this night.*

2nd Friday - Neighborhood Shabbat

March 14, 7:30 PM - PACIFICA

April 11, 7:30 PM - ST. FRANCIS WOOD

On the second Friday of the month, we take our Shabbat service "on the road." Members host the chavurah-style service in their homes, led by Rabbi Danny Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub, an opportunity for our members who find it difficult to travel at night to attend, as well as to invite neighbors who are not yet members of the BIJ family to engage in an informal way. For details, or if you are interested in hosting, please contact the Office.

Note: While there will be no BIJ-led Erev Shabbat services these nights, all are welcome to attend the Or Shalom Friday Night Service at 7:00 pm.

3rd Friday - Friday Night Feast

March 21, 6:30 PM

Join us on the third Friday night of the month for a free, catered Shabbat feast. We welcome Shabbat with tableside blessings, then enjoy delicious fare and good company. After dinner, we have a special program for the adults; children are welcome to go into the Fireside Room for supervised activity.

URJ Biennial Report. BIJ President Joshua Goodman, Karen Kerner, Sherrie Rosenberg, Robin Winburn-Woll, Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub will share experiences from the recent Biennial Convention, including study sessions and workshops that addressed current issues facing synagogues across the country; Shabbat dinner and services with over 4,000 people; and rousing Shabbat song sessions.

Annual Fund Donors. We will also honor those who have strengthened our community by their generous donations to the BIJ Annual Fund.

RSVP for the Feast to the BIJ Office by March 13th.

There will be no Friday Night Feast in April during Pesach. Rather, there will be a combined Friday Night Service, led by the Or Shalom clergy team, at 7:00pm.

4th Friday - Erev Shabbat Sacred

Hebrew Chant and Drum

March 28 & April 25, 7:30 PM

Join us for our unique Sacred Hebrew Chant and Drum service. Our joyful band of vocalists and drummers lead us as we welcome Shabbat in an uplifting evening, creating a sacred space. A potluck Oneg Shabbat and schmooze to follow. Please bring a treat to share.

Jared Kasoff Becomes Bar Mitzvah

March 29, 10:00 AM

Jared was born in San Francisco. He is a 7th grader at Brandeis Hillel Day School where his favorite subjects are Social Studies and Spanish. He loves video games that require strategy and playing online with his friends. After school, Jared likes to play ultimate frisbee and has joined many leagues and played in many tournaments, including being named MVP last year. Jared has also found a new interest in volleyball and is part of the Brandeis team this season.



Jared is very proud of his school project to bring awareness and donations to an organization that is dear to his heart, Autism Speaks. He has an older brother who is autistic and has invited him, Jonah, to be part of his Bar Mitzvah during the service, and to share in the experience and honor of becoming Bar Mitzvah. Jared also has an older sister Ariel, who became a Bat Mitzvah at BIJ in 2008.

Jared has enjoyed and appreciates the Bar Mitzvah lessons and time spent with Cantor Morgenstern and thanks him for his devoted time and tutoring. Jared also thanks Rebecca Goodman for enhancing his learning and preparation for becoming a Bar Mitzvah in an enjoyable manner.

HOLIDAYS / ADULT EDUCATION

Kitchen Kashering

Mark your calendar—

On Sunday morning, April 13 (time TBA), we will be kashering the BIJ kitchen in preparation for Pesach. Volunteers are needed to make this happen, and it's a prime opportunity to learn about the process. Please contact the Office if you are interested:

office@bij.org / 415.586.8833

Erev Pesach—First Seder Monday Evening, April 14th

Have a wonderful seder at home with your family!
Chag Sameach!

Community Seder—Second Night Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 PM

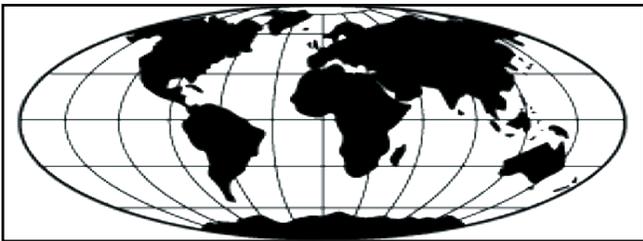
Join us for our annual Community Seder on the second night of Passover!

Yizkor Services Tuesday, April 22, 9:45 AM @B'nai Emunah



Pesach Festival and Yizkor services will be held on Tuesday, April 22nd at B'nai Emunah.

Current World Affairs March 4 & 18, and April 1, 10:30AM



Join us for stimulating discussion, vigorous debate and intellectual exploration of global events and the Jewish approach to issues facing our international community. Discussion is facilitated by Eric Gattmann, Professor Emeritus in Social Sciences, College of San Mateo.

***Please note: there is no Current World Affairs meeting on April 15th due to the Pesach Festival.**

Thursday Night Series Continues March 13 & 27, April 10 - last three sessions

Basic Hebrew: The Siddur, 6:30 pm

Do you want to learn to read Hebrew? Do you read Hebrew, but you want to read more fluidly? Do you want to learn the meaning of Shabbat evening and morning prayers? Join Ricki Weintraub on a journey that begins with the Alef-Bet and continues on into the pages of the siddur. \$10/session.

Jewish Legends and Legendary Jews, 7:45 pm

Join Rabbi Gottlieb for an in-depth look at the personalities and ideas that have shaped Jewish life throughout the ages. Meet the rabbis and sages of Medieval and Modern times, and study the great Jewish texts that they wrote and debated amongst themselves. Free.

Golden Thursdays: Lunch & Learn With Rabbi Gottlieb and Rabbi Melamut 3rd Thursday of the month, 12:00 NOON March 20 at B'nai Emunah

April 24 at BIJ*

This program is designed for people with flexible schedules who would like to come to the synagogue for a bite, learning with the Rabbis, and some socializing. The Lunch and Learn sessions will be led by Rabbi Gottlieb and Rabbi Mark Melamut of B'nai Emunah and will alternate between the two synagogues. A light lunch will be provided.



*April Lunch & Learn is on April 24th, after Pesach.

Pirke Avot: Lessons from our Sages With Rabbi Gottlieb

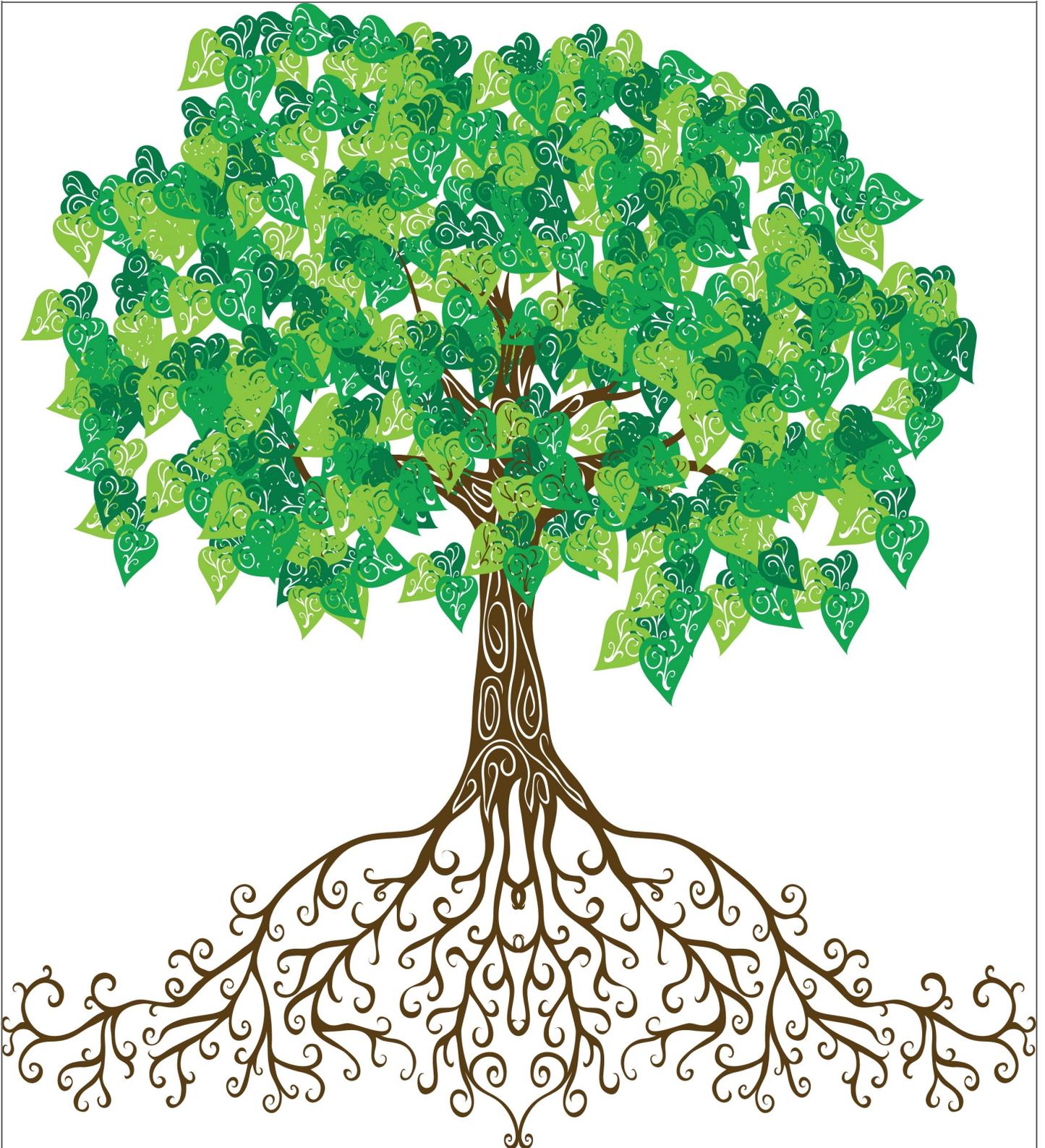
April 24, 7:00 pm - Six Sessions

Explore the wisdom of the sages of the early Rabbinic period.



This collection of their teachings, contained in the Mishnah (c.200CE), reveals the richness of the rabbis' ideas on how to live a moral and ethical life.

Text in Hebrew and English.



BIJ ACKNOWLEDGES ITS 2013-2014 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Our Synagogue is the Tree that represents the Life of the community. We are acknowledging our donors to the Annual Fund: as tiers on this Tree. The foundation of the Tree is its roots, supporting the main trunk which then branches out. And on those branches form the leaves, buds and flowers which finally bear fruit.

The top tier represents the Tree as a whole.

Ilan/Tree:	\$25,000 or more	
Payrot/Fruit:	\$15,000-\$24,999	Joshua Goodman & Karen Kerner
Perach/Flower:	\$10,000-\$14,999	
Henetz/Bud:	\$6,000-\$9,999	Nancy Greenberg
		Martin & Judy Segol
Alim/Leaves:	\$3,000-\$5,999	Blair & Sue Horst
		Ann Morgenstern & Jeffrey Kallman
		Deborah Schweizer
		Jeffrey & Lin Stillman
		Robin Winburn-Woll
Anaf/Branch:	\$1,000-\$2,999	Bruce Alberts
		Gerald Bernstein & Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein
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Shoresh/Roots:	\$1-\$499	Beth Alberts & Gordon Atkinson
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		Eleanor Aronovsky
		Jorge & Clara Luz Aucar
		Sheyla Aucar
		Gary & Judy Bader
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		Deborah Bouck
		Debra & Benjamin Braun
		Michael Castleman & Anne Simons
		Alexander Chinchilla
		Edith Dinn
		Eileen Downey
		Alexander Dukhovny & Yevgeniya Malamud
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		Carole K & John D Winston

SISTERHOOD-THE WOMEN OF BIJ

Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ Presents

Will Durst

An Afternoon of Comedy

Comedy for People Who Read or Know Someone Who Does!

Sunday, March 9, 2014

2:00 p.m. (New Time)

\$20 Advance & at Door

Daylight saving time starts March 9th

Congregation

Beth Israel Judea

625 Brotherhood Way, S.F.

Ample Parking! Refreshments Provided.



Baby-sitting will be provided upon request. Please email Sherrie Rosenberg at sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com to reserve space ASAP. Cost is \$15 per child.

Reserve your seats by mailing a check for \$20 per person. Make check payable to "BIJ Sisterhood". Mail check to: BIJ Sisterhood, Congregation Beth Israel Judea, 625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132. (Your name will be put on a reservations list: no paper tickets issued.)

For more information, contact Sherrie Rosenberg at sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com or 415-902-8293.

Number of Tickets _____

Amount of Check _____

Reserve a Table of 8 _____

Please enclose check for \$160.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

*Please provide names of all 8 guests for reserved tables for our reservation list! Thank you

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Artists in our Midst: Meet Eileen Downey!



"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Picasso

Every fall in San Francisco since 1975, hundreds of artists open their doors to the public in the largest and oldest event of its kind in the country, ArtSpan's SF Open Studios. Over four consecutive weekends, art lovers visit over 800 artists' spaces, nibble on munchies, sip

wine, and most importantly, have the incredible opportunity to talk to the artists themselves and view their work. This year BIJ was proud to have two congregants included in Open Studio's 38th annual event-- painter **Eileen Downey** and metalsmith **Aimee Golant**. [Editor's Note: The Bulletin profiled Aimee in its January/February 2014 issue.]

Eileen Downey has rented Studio 206 out at Islais Creek in the Bayview since 2009. Combined with all the studios at nearby Hunters Point Shipyard, more than 300 artists have a dedicated space to make art.

This past October, Eileen's Open Studio exhibit was San Francisco Streets, a series of 13 oil paintings depicting street scenes in Pacific Heights. Her love of street scenes comes out of doing street theater in the 1960's in New York City. When she lived in Lower Pacific Heights, she walked around the neighborhood at different times of day, and was struck by the beauty of the houses, gardens, streets, sky, and views of San Francisco Bay. Her meanderings covered a ten block stretch near the Broadway hill, from Laurel to Divisadero. She made ten drawings looking up the hill, and another ten looking down, and from these came the oil paintings. They were featured in a solo show in 1992 at the Ebert Gallery in downtown SF.

A native San Franciscan, Eileen studied at UC Berkeley and earned a BA in Drawing and Painting and an MA in Painting. Years later, she also earned an MA in Drama from SF State University. Eileen's work has been seen in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Bay Area, as well as nationally and internationally. Her method is to fill her sketchbook with drawings of people and places when she's out and about, then go back to her studio and work from there. Eileen works in both watercolor and oil at different times.

Having benefited from an excellent art education, and with several educators in her family, it was natural for Eileen to turn to teaching. Her mother, a former grade school teacher with six children, very practically insisted that Eileen matriculate at UC Berkeley for her MA degree. At first, free-spirited Eileen questioned that plan, and thought she would just be an artist, but to keep peace in the family, she acquiesced.

Following grad school and a year of travel abroad, Eileen settled in New York on the lower West Side in what is now Soho, the arts district. Her first job teaching art was with 2nd graders at the Henry Street Settlement House in lower Manhattan. She taught art, crafts, and using a laundry basket full of dress-up clothes, enacted well-known children's stories. She spent seven years as a painter and performance artist in New York, and then returned to SF.

Eileen then recognized her mother's wisdom: the MA degree became the ticket to a good job. In 1973, she was hired as an instructor at the John Adams campus in the Adult Division of City College of SF. She stayed for 25 years, teaching Theatre Arts, English, Art, and other subjects to a multicultural, multi-ethnic population at the high school level. Many of her inner city students excelled, in particular, in a course she developed for them, Art Appreciation and Practice. Often struggling with low self esteem, they benefited from the genuine enthusiasm with which their teacher and others praised their efforts.

In between maintaining her own painting and exhibition schedule, as well as her teaching hours at CCSF, Eileen taught watercolor painting to adults at the SF Jewish Community Center, the Art School in Belvedere, and the Sierra Club. An avid hiker and lover of the outdoors, Eileen had the habit of carrying her paints and watercolor paper in her backpack on Sunday Sierra Club excursions. Noticing this, a Sierra Club organizer asked her to teach landscape painting in North Lake Tahoe. She did that for seven summers in a one-week art program. Students hiked in the morning, painted in the afternoon, and presented a critique of the day's work in the evening. This became an annual summer vacation for some students.

Eileen began attending the Sacred Hebrew Chant and Drum Service at BIJ in 2011. A year later she became a member. She enjoys singing with the choir for High Holy Day services and attending Torah Study on Saturday morning. She says, "My weekly attendance at BIJ gives shape to each seven-day interval. By suspending my usual activities and taking the time to worship, I'm better able to concentrate on my art and my life. I make better choices and gain perspective."

To see samples of her work, visit

www.artspan.org/artist/eileendowney.

Author's note: At BIJ we may see only certain facets of one another when we come together to worship, socialize and build our congregation. Artists usually work in solitude, and we are often unaware of the talented people in our midst. Open Studio provides a glimpse, a window, into the artist's world, and gives them a chance to communicate to the rest of us whatever they are striving to express in their art. Thanks to Eileen for her generous help on this piece.

By Lynne Rappaport

MEMBERS SPEAK

It's OK to Go Alone

BIJ Member Marilyn Wacks talks about her personal journey and spiritual life at BIJ

Yesterday my husband asked for my advice about how to help a friend of his. His friend wanted to know how he could motivate his wife to attend services and other Jewish events at our synagogue. They are empty nesters and he wants to grow their Jewish practice. My husband turned to me because I am the family psychologist, a.k.a., the in-house armchair analyst. While I am sympathetic to our friend's situation, my answer may not have been the one he was looking for: "He can't."

For most of my life, I engaged with Judaism to please my family, not because it was something that I wanted or because it was my idea. It was easier for me to participate than it would have been to explain why I did not "feel it." I always experienced a strong attachment to the music, the food and to Israel but these are not religious motivations, they are cultural. Sometimes I wonder where the line is between culture and religion.

Spirituality is personal. I am not sure how the flame gets going. Some have it from birth, others find it as a result of a life-changing experience, and for me it appeared during my first visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem a few years ago. My internal flame was lit near midnight on a warm summer evening in Jerusalem.

When I returned home from Israel, I went looking for a Jewish community to join and I found one in San Francisco. From that first Shabbat morning, I always felt welcome and never self-conscious about showing up alone. There were always plenty of other people who came alone, just like me. Some were single, some with partners who chose not to go or who stayed home with their children or aging parents. We sat together at services and saved seats at the table for each other at events. Not once did I ever feel the awkward loneliness that can creep into one's consciousness while going solo in a group setting. The positive experience I had the first time motivated me to try it a second, and then a third, and so on, until I joined the community as an official member.

Since then, I have married and my husband and I go to synagogue together. I no longer go alone but I know that I can, any time I want or need to. A while ago I heard a fellow congregant speak at a panel discussion about how, as a divorced parent, she has found her village in our community. She no longer feels awkward about attending as a single parent and comes to temple events a lot now. She even comes alone when her children are with their father. I have another friend who is always at Shabbat morning services and is rarely accompanied by his partner who works too hard and desperately needs the "Day of Rest" for actual horizontal rest.

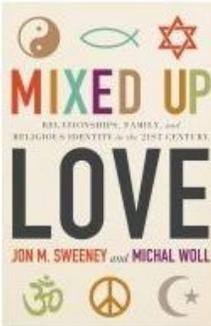
I suggested to my husband that his friend could try joining us once or twice without his wife to see how he feels about walking in alone. Once he is inside, he will be joined by friends, swept away by the gorgeous opening song, and carried through the morning by Rabbi's calm guidance of our prayers. Our friend may find out that his inner flame of spirituality can be nurtured through the warm and uplifting embrace of our community in San Francisco. He may also discover that the impression he walks away with is contagious.



This article first appeared as a blog on the InterFaithFamily website on January 23, 2014.
<http://www.interfaithfamily.com/blog/iff/synagogues/its-ok-to-go-alone/>

SPECIAL EVENT

Mixed Up Love: Relationships, Family, and Religious Identity in the 21st Century March 20, 7:00 PM, with Authors Michal Woll and Jon M. Sweeney



Dating, commitment, kids, and family — it's all hard work, and it's even harder when you come from different religious backgrounds. Jon, a Catholic writer, and Michal, a Reconstructionist Rabbi, live out the challenges of an interfaith relationship every day as husband and wife, and as parents to their daughter Sima, who is being raised Jewish. Authors Rabbi Michal Woll and Jon M. Sweeney explore how interfaith relationships affect dating, weddings, holidays, raising children, and family functions — and how not to just cope, but thrive. This will be a fascinating and inspiring event — not to be missed!

Michal Woll is a gifted rabbi, liturgist, pastoral counselor, physical therapist, and yogi with 25 years of experience and three advanced degrees. After graduating from Northwestern University and MIT in bio-engineering, she worked in the medical device industry developing dialysis and burn-care products. There she discovered a passion for medical ethics and quality of life issues, eventually turning to clinical medicine and chaplaincy. After years of lay leadership in her communities, she entered seminary.

Jon M. Sweeney is an independent scholar and writer of popular history. He lives in Evanston, Illinois and Vermont, is married, and the father of three children. He writes and reflects on religion and culture in books, articles, reviews, blogs, and on television, and he works in book publishing. Jon was the cofounder and editor-in-chief of SkyLight Paths Publishing in Vermont for many years. Since 2004 he has been the editor in chief at Paraclete Press.

Join InterfaithFamily/Bay Area with partners Beth Israel Judea, Or Shalom, B'nai Emunah & Ner Tamid for a presentation and discussion.

COMMUNITY

National Day of Unplugging Shabbat, March 7-8

Do you have multiple cell phones? Ever find it hard to get through a conversation without posting an update to Facebook? Is your computer always on?

We increasingly miss out on the important moments of our lives as we pass the hours with our noses buried in our iPhones, chronicling our every move through Facebook and Twitter and shielding ourselves from the outside world with the bubble of “silence” that our earphones create.

If you recognize that in yourself – or your friends, families or colleagues— join the National Day of Unplugging, and start living a different life: connect with the people in your street, neighborhood and city, have an uninterrupted meal or read a book to your child.



For more information, and to sign the “Unplug Pledge,” go to the Reboot website at www.rebooters.net/

GENDER SCHMEAR
KESHET'S SEXY, SAUCY
JOYOUS, JUICY, SCHMOOZY, JEWISY
LGBTQ PURIM PARTY!
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 7-11PM
111 MINNA GALLERY, SAN FRANCISCO
MUNI & BART ACCESSIBLE

Gender Schmeer

March 13, 7:00 pm at 111 Minna St, SF

Celebrate the queerest of holidays with Keshet! Observe Purim by dressing in your best drag and celebrating until you can't tell the difference between Queen Esther and Haman. We'll have food, drink, dancing, a photo booth, a costume contest, and fabulous performances by Jill Feltafish, Arty Fishal, and Starr 69. MCed by Ms. Shechina Weena. Come blur your boundaries and schmeer your gender - whether you're Jew-ish, queer-ish, or something else entirely, you'll feel like a Purim Queen before the night is through!

COMMUNITY

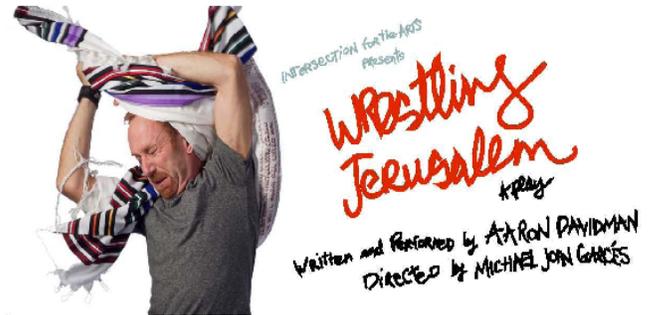
San Francisco
Workshops and
more at the
JCCSF



3200 California St, SF

Developing Your Pitch
Thursday, March 20, 7-9pm
Job Strategy Cafe
Tuesday, March 25, 3-5pm

To learn more about these offerings and register, visit the online calendar at www.jvs.org/calendar (Select the JVS San Francisco location, under search options.)



Please join us for a series of special matinee performances of **WRESTLING JERUSALEM**.

Wrestling Jerusalem follows one man's journey to understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following each Sunday performance, New Israel Fund and Intersection for the Arts will offer the **Peace Café**, an opportunity to break bread and engage in vibrant, open, thoughtful community conversation facilitated by Rachel Eryn Kalish, founding facilitator of the Year of Civil Discourse.

We encourage you to bring someone *with whom you do not agree* on the Middle East conflict. All are welcome to share their feelings in this space created for civil dialogue.

- ★ Sunday, March 16 - 2:00 PM
- ★ Sunday, March 23 - 2:00 PM
- ★ Sunday, March 30 - 2:00 PM
- ★ Sunday, April 6 - 2:00 PM

Intersection for the Arts – 925 Mission Street in San Francisco

(Additional performance dates available—see the website for more information.)

PURCHASE TICKETS: www.wrestlingjerusalem.com

Aaron Davidman's solo performance is a personal story that grapples with the complexities of identity, history and social justice. Giving voice to a dozen different characters, the play sheds light on one of the most entrenched conflicts of our time.

The New Israel Fund (NIF) is the leading organization advancing democracy and equality for all Israelis. Learn more at www.nif.org.

הקרן החדשה לישראל
New Israel Fund
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

DI MEGILEH OF ITZIK MANGER



A YIDDISH MUSICAL די מגילה פון איציק מאנגער

A STAGED CONCERT PRODUCTION WITH ENGLISH SUPERTITLES BASED ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER AND "SONGS OF THE MEGILEH" BY CELEBRATED YIDDISH POET ITZIK MANGER, WITH MUSIC BY DOV SELTZER

PRESENTED BY THE



INFORMATION AND TICKETS AT
JEWISHMUSICFESTIVAL.ORG

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BEREL ALEXANDER • LINDA HISSCHORN
HEATHER KLEIN • ELIANA KISSNER
JOEL FLEISHER • JOSIAH POLHEMUS
LAURA SHEPPARD • GERRY TENNEY
EVYLEE DELFINO SALES POSCH
DIANE WIRSCHAFTER
FULL CHORUS & CONCERT BAND

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 AT 8PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 8 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 9 AT 3PM
MONDAY, MARCH 10 AT 1PM

AT THE JCC EAST BAY
1414 WALNUT STREET, BERKELEY

Di Megileh springs to vivid life in a whimsically-staged concert production featuring the Bay Area's biggest names in Jewish music and theater, a full chorus, concert band and English supertitles. With one foot in 1930's Eastern Europe and the other in biblical Persia, *Di Megileh* recounts the Book of Esther from the eyes of Esther's jilted lover, Fastrigoseh the Tailor. Love...Betrayal...Homentashen!

PRODUCED BY THE YIDDISH THEATER COLLECTIVE, A FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECT OF KLEZCALIFORNIA

Hazon Food Festival April 27, 6:00 am—1:00 pm Oshman Family JCC, Palo Alto

Spend your day learning, celebrating and hands-on doing at the intersection of food, sustainability and Jewish life

From “shtetl skills” to revive traditions of Jewish homesteading, to text study about whether or not eating a locust is kosher, Bay Area foodies, beekeepers, rabbis, nutritionists, chefs, farmers, vegans, and omnivores will come together in celebration of the values of the Jewish Food Movement: local, accessible, healthful food, crafted by people who are treated fairly, and grown or produced in a way that promotes a healthy, sustainable, and diverse environment.

The Festival will showcase Bay Area purveyors of local, sustainable food, art, crafts, and other goods. Choose from a variety of interactive, DIY workshops on beekeeping, cheese-making, kombucha-brewing, and more! Complimentary goodies and give-aways, music, and fun for the whole family!

\$18 General Admission (\$25 at the door)
\$15 Seniors and Students (\$20 at the door)
Tickets on sale April 1 at www.hazon.org

GIFTS & DONATIONS

Adult Education Fund

Barry and Evelyn Adler

February Lunch & Learn, in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary (apologies for the error in the weekly email)

Nancy Greenberg

March Lunch & Learn

Ricki Weintraub

Care and Concern Fund

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In memory of Zachary Goodman

Donald and Trude Fineman

In memory of Nathan Fineman

Robert Slater

In memory of Frieda Slater

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Friday Night Feast

Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ

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In memory of Arthur Becker

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In memory of Zachary Goodman

Michael and Annette Cohn

In memory of Arthur Becker

Eileen Downey

In honor of Sara Heckelman

Jane Field

In memory of Jerome Field

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In memory of Zelda and Murray Goodman

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In memory of Zachary Goodman

Dean Hedani

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Margaret Kaplan

In memory of Arthur Becker

In memory of Meyer Kaplan

Shel and Remi Klein

In memory of Mary Klein

In memory of Ralph Klein

In memory of Anita Osborne

Corinne and Jennifer Kopatz

In memory of Sol Berger

Sharon and Frank Krhoun

In memory of Arthur Becker

Stephan and Arlene Krieger

In memory of Arthur Becker

Carl Levitt

In memory of Betty and Rudy Grunsfeld

Jesse Levy

In memory of Arthur Becker

Sharon McConnell

In memory of Arthur Becker

Walter Miller

In memory of Arthur Becker

Ann Morgenstern and Jeffrey Kallman

In memory of Marry Lou Morgenstern

Paula Newhouse

In honor of William Krasow's 95th birthday

Bonnie Orendorff

In memory of Zachary Goodman

Patricia Osganian

In memory of Arthur Becker

Mel and Marianne Pinsler

In memory of Arthur Becker

Stephen Roditti

In memory of Reva Roditti

Wayne and Iva Rose

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Grace Rosenberg

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In memory of Harry Ruben

In memory of Ethel Ruben

Sheldon Sandman Family Foundation

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Meyer Segal

In memory of Frances Segal

In memory of Abraham Segal

Carolyn Small

In appreciation of Rosh Hashana Services

Pauline Smith

In memory of Nathan Shapiro

Sidney Weintraub

In honor of William Krasow's 95th birthday

Robin Winburn-Woll

In memory of Arthur Becker

David Zeff

In memory of Ann Zeff

Jeffrey Zorn

In appreciation of BIJ's support during Ann's passing

Martin & Gregg Flaum Library Fund

Theodore Flaum

In honor of Marty Flaum's birthday

Music and Cantor Fund

Joshua Goodman and Karen Kerner

In memory of Zachary Goodman

Stacey Herrera

In memory of Sid Rudin

Marjorie Hilsenrad

In appreciation of the Sacred Hebrew Chant & Drum Service

Corinne and Jennifer Kopatz

In memory of Erna Spade

Elaine Reynolds

In memory of Albert Graf

In memory of Robert Moldovan

William Krasow

In memory of Arthur Becker

*Donations received after February 20 will be listed in the next BULLETIN

OUR VOLUNTEERS

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Barry and Evelyn Adler

In memory of Adam Adler

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In loving memory of Zachary Goodman

Youth Awards and Religious School Fund

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Gifts in Kind

Claudia Bravo Silverman

Toaster

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The Women of BIJ

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Terry Levy, Gail Harden, Sarah Glew,

Sherrie Rosenberg, Robin Winburn-Woll

**THANK YOU to our
volunteers:**

Bulletin

Lynne Rappaport

Adam Safford

Reeva Safford

Office

Faith Appel

Ron Appel

Judy Bader

Gail Harden

Amy Gottlieb

**and a VERY SPECIAL THANK
YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO
GAVE OF THEMSELVES IN
PREPARING FOR THE OR
SHALOM MOVE-IN:**

Gordon Atkinson—design for Or

Shalom office renovation

Blair Horst—numerous maintenance and
“handy man” projects

Michele Siegel, Robin Winburn-Woll,

Johanna Gendelman—Team Leaders for

organizing BIJ offices and Welcoming

Celebration

and

Elie Aharon

Ann Comoglio

Edith Dinn

Nancy Greenberg

Alfred Herpe

Sue Horst

John Fuchs-Chesney

Terry A. Levy

Ann Morgenstern

Sherrie Rosenberg

Deborah Schweizer

Lily Siegel

Dan Weisberg

...all those who cooked, baked and/or
decorated for the Welcoming Celebra-
tion.

*Please forgive us if we inadvertently
omitted your name....*

Congregation Beth Israel Judea

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San Francisco, CA 94132

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Erev Shabbat Schedule

1st Friday: Family Shabbat Potluck Dinner and Service

6:30 PM Blessings and Dairy/Fish/Veggie Dinner, followed by family service with storytelling and music with Rabbi Danny Gottlieb and song leader Ricki Weintraub. Potluck dessert Oneg Shabbat follows.

2nd Friday: Neighborhood Shabbat

7:30 PM BIJ goes "on the road..."

3rd Friday: FREE Friday Night Feast

6:30 PM Tableside Shabbat Blessings & Community Dinner. Includes program. RSVP to office.

4th Friday: Sacred Hebrew Chant & Drum

7:30 PM Soulful singing, joyful rhythms and meditative worship. Potluck Dessert Oneg Shabbat to follow - please bring goodies!!

Weekly BIJ Saturday Morning Services

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:00 AM Shabbat Services

Light Kiddush follows

Beth Israel Judea Mission Statement

Congregation Beth Israel Judea is a center for progressive, egalitarian Judaism located in southwest San Francisco.

Our multigenerational, participatory community welcomes all Jews and interfaith families along with their partners and friends.

We value celebrations of the spirit, Jewish culture, our children's education, and life-long learning, music, social justice and Tikkun Olam.



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REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
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