

# BETH ISRAEL JUDEA BULLETIN

# Celebrating

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**Play,  
Learn  
and  
Grow...  
Together!**

**Scholar-in-Residence  
Weekend  
January 10-12, 2014  
Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**

**SPECIAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5,  
10:00 AM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14,  
6:30 PM

# 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](mailto:sheckelman@bij.org) in simple **Microsoft Word** format or in the body of your email.

**Deadline** for articles for the upcoming March/April issue is **February 10**.

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## Office Hours

**CLOSED Mondays**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:** 10 AM to 5 PM

**Friday:** 10 AM to 3 PM

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## From the President By Joshua Goodman

Fellow members of our BIJ family:

Wow!!! That is the short version of my report on the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial that I just attended with Rabbi, Ricki and several other BIJ members. Four days in San Diego with 5,000 Reform Jews. I participated in many workshops, lectures and other learning events, including one just for Temple Presidents. I listened to moving and beautiful Jewish music and attended unbelievable Shabbat services. I met a surprising number of non-BIJ people I knew and made new friends as well. The Biennial was rewarding and enriching in ways I had not imagined. I will share some of my experiences with you here, though this really does warrant a larger event, perhaps a Friday Night Feast, at which those of us in attendance at the Biennial can share with you our thoughts and experiences in greater depth.

**Learning:** The Biennial provided an opportunity to learn in a wide variety of settings. I went to a presentation by a large congregation from Pittsburgh which had recently merged its religious school with that of a nearby Conservative synagogue. I selected this program because we have combined our religious school with that of B'nai Emunah and I wanted to gain from the experience of others who have done similar things. I also attended a workshop on addressing the needs of the baby boomer generation presented by a rabbi from a large congregation in Los Angeles. This program was quite thought-provoking, both in the information this congregation obtained when they conducted an internal exploration of these issues and in terms on the implications for our community. I attended a fascinating lecture on the future of the synagogue which began with a history of the synagogue and its development in the United States. I also attended a discussion with two rabbis on new types of Jewish communities.

One of the most interesting sessions was a meeting with other temple presidents and Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ and Steve Sacks, Chairman of the Board of the URJ. This included a discussion of what the temples needed from the URJ and what the URJ could provide. This was a remarkable opportunity to speak directly with the leadership of the URJ and several dozen presidents. I came away with a much clearer picture of the assistance and guidance the URJ can provide and how to obtain that assistance and guidance.

All of these sessions provided valuable information about significant issues facing BIJ. What was most interesting, however, was how much we are already doing right. The main theme of the learning sessions was change. The URJ and those assembled did not pretend to have all the answers but they were trying to get us all to think about doing things differently and embracing the idea that we had to reinvent the synagogue. I heard from many presidents how difficult change was and how resistant their clergy and congregants could be. As you all know from the many bulletin articles and communications over recent years, few could accuse BIJ of being afraid of change. We have looked for ways to improve our Jewish community and make it more robust and vibrant, and have implemented many of those changes. This process is ongoing and with the information we obtained at the Biennial, I believe we can continue to make constructive and important changes at BIJ.



**Music and Prayer:** There is not much I can say about the music at the Biennial, other than that I am still humming it. I heard a choir of cantors, a Jewish blues musician and more beautiful, moving and rousing voices and instruments than I can count. The music was truly inspirational.

The Shabbat services were also inspirational. It is an unusual and moving experience to pray with 5,000 Jews. Services were led by amazing rabbis, cantors and song leaders, with a d'var Torah by the outgoing President of the HUC-JIR seminary, Rabbi David Ellenson. I also had my first taste of Storatelling, by Amichai Lau-Lavie, an engaging and fascinating way to tell the stories and lessons of the Torah.

**Community:** I went to the Biennial with members of my own community. What I found was that I was part of a much larger community, one dedicated to the Jewish people and to the preservation and advancement of the synagogue as the central focus of Jewish life. I came back enlightened, uplifted and encouraged.

*Joshua Goodman*

# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## *Al Shlosa Devarim*

By Rabbi Danny Gottlieb



על שלושה דברים העולם עומד

*Al shlosa d'varim ba-olam omed*

“On three things the world stands:”

על התורה

על העבודה

ועל גמילות חסדים

*Al ba-Torah, al ba-avodah, v'al g'milut chasadim*

“On Torah, on worship, and on loving deeds.”

These words, found in the Mishnah in *Pirke Avot* (Sayings of the Fathers), identify the pillars upon which the sacred communities of the Jewish People are built. And nowhere is this more true than here at Beth Israel Judea.

**TORAH is at the center of our congregational life.**

Whether it is Torah study and the sounds of Torah chanting on Shabbat mornings, or child, family and adult education throughout the week, the opportunity is there for every member of our BIJ family to enrich their lives with Jewish learning. Over the past two years, we have expanded the menu of shared learning opportunities with our collaboration partners, B'nai Emunah, Ner Tamid and Or Shalom. And recently we have added a monthly Golden Thursdays: Lunch and Learn, and a *Siddur* (Prayerbook) based adult Hebrew Reading class. The weekend of January 10-12 will be our Second Annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, yet another opportunity for in-depth Jewish learning with Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, one of North America's most dynamic teachers. The rabbis were not shy about extolling the virtues of Torah study "...for it is our life and the length of our days." (Ahavat Olam)

**AVODAH (Prayer) is meant to be at the center of our individual life.** Daily prayers offered privately at home or in a synagogue *minyan* keep us connected to the Holy One of Blessing during the otherwise secular days. Whether these take the form of fixed liturgy—blessings before and after meals, reciting "*Shema Yisrael...*" before going to sleep and again upon rising—or more free-flowing prayers of the heart, offered in moments of gratitude, need or reflection, our prayers can suffuse our spirits and enrich our lives. Shabbat and Festival services bring us together and add the strength and support of community to prayerful moments. At BIJ we worship and pray in a variety of settings, from formal Shabbat morning worship to Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday evening) communal dinners, sometimes with formal services attached and sometimes not. We have services for families, services with chanting and drumming, and soon we

will be adding “Cuddle-Up Shabbat” (a “kabbalat shabbat” experience for our youngest children and their families).

**GEMILUT CHASADIM (Acts of Loving Kindness) is at the center of our communal life.** We begin with our B'nai Mitzvah students, each of whom undertakes a Mitzvah Project that demonstrates their commitment to *tzedakah*, acts of kindness and *tikkun olam*. Over the past year these have included fundraising to provide gift packages for Israeli and US soldiers, volunteering at the SF Food Bank and other community agencies, and currently there is a collection of socks for homeless people living on the streets in the winter cold (you can find the donation baskets just outside the Fireside Room). Our B<sup>3</sup> Religious School Program (with our B'nai Emunah partners) holds two Food Bank volunteering days, and we will soon be adding a monthly adult volunteer day at the Food Bank as well. Visiting our home-bound members and providing Rosh Hashanah and Pesach packages, and rides to and from the synagogue are more ways that we reach out.

The words of *Pirke Avot* are wise, indeed. They present us with a prescription for a life that is good and brings goodness to ourselves and others. The challenge to build our lives and our community upon these pillars is before us. I invite you to join us in meeting this challenge and making a better world.

*Rabbi Danny Gottlieb*

### **A Shabbat Evening “Learning Service”**

**January 31 - 7:30 pm**

- ◇ Do you sometimes feel “lost” in services?
- ◇ Do you wish that you had a better understanding of the meaning of our prayers?
- ◇ Have you ever felt that you wanted to “sing out” but you didn't know the new melody?
- ◇ Never quite sure when to sit, stand, bow, face the ark, face the back of the room?
- ◇ Have you always wondered why the service is put together the way it is?
- ◇ Would you like, just once, to be able to STOP THE SERVICE!! to ask a question?

Join Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub for a Shabbat Evening Learning Service

- ◆ With explanations of the prayers and the service structure
- ◆ With instructions for the choreography of prayer
- ◆ With opportunities to practice old melodies and learn some new ones

Then stay for the Oneg Shabbat and share what you've learned over cake and coffee...

# THE CANTOR'S VOICE

## Memory and Re-Membering By Cantorial Soloist David Morgenstern

Every fall, many of our Shabbat morning services (and the occasional evening Kabbalat Shabbat service) are graced by student visits from St. Ignatius High School here in the Sunset District. The students are taking "Spirituality East & West: The World's Wisdom Traditions," a class where one of the requirements is to attend a Jewish service. None of these students are Jewish and most of them have never been to a Jewish service.

Occasionally, accompanying the students will be a parent or two since, like their kids, few of them have been inside a synagogue. Certainly, these students don't need a chaperone; they are always incredibly polite and never check their cell phones during services — something that I wish I could have said about the Jewish students who attended a recent Bar Mitzvah.

One parent recently remarked after services how impressed she was with marking of the *yahrzeits* being observed during the forthcoming week. She asked me: "You do this every week?" Yes!, I replied. In our tradition, it's our obligation to remember and to act upon that memory.

There are a number of traditions around *yahrzeits*, both in the home and in the synagogue. At home, it's customary to light a special candle that burns for 24 hours. Another tradition is to give *tzedakah* in memory of your loved one. In the *Yizkor* Memorial Service that is observed on the major Jewish festivals and Yom Kippur, there are special prayers each person says for the loved ones they are remembering. It specifically mentions carrying over the good that was done during their lives into the present with *tzedakah* (Pages 129-130 in our *Eit Ratzon* prayerbook): "In her/his memory I pledge to give *tz'dakah* and to do righteous deeds. Through such deeds is her/his memory bound up in the bonds of life." These memorial prayers can be for the traditional remembrances of parents and siblings, but in our modern *siddur* also include extended family members, friends or teachers.

It's also a *mitzvah* to recite *Kaddish* at synagogue services. If you wish, you can be called to take an *aliyah* at the Torah. Often, we ask the individual to say a few words about their loved ones, and Rabbi Gottlieb will give you a special *Mi*

*Shebeirach* blessing after the *aliyah*. Please let me or Rabbi know if you are coming so we will be sure to call on you.

At the same time, it's easy to set up a personal calendar of the Jewish dates in your life using the [www.Hebcal.com](http://www.Hebcal.com) website. Under the Convert Dates section on its home page, click on the button titled *Yahrzeit + Anniversary Calendars*. This takes you to a form to fill out. Each record can be a *yahrzeit*, anniversary or a birthday. You add the secular date and it will automatically translate the date from the Gregorian calendar into the Hebrew calendar. When you're done, the resulting calendar can be subscribed to or downloaded into your personal digital calendar. (In the



Hebcal Holidays Date Converter Shabbat Torah About Help

Generate a list of *Yahrzeit* dates, Hebrew Birthdays, or Hebrew Anniversaries for the next 20 years.

For example, you might enter 20 October 1994 (after sunset) to calculate Reb Shlomo Carlebach's *yahrzeit*.  
If you know the Hebrew but not the Gregorian date, use the [Hebrew Date Converter](#) to get the Gregorian date and then come back to this page.

Annivers	11	April	1976	Wedding Anniversary	<input type="checkbox"/> After sunset
Yahrzeit	20	October	1994	R. Shlomo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After sunset
Yahrzeit	Day	January	Year	Name (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> After sunset
Yahrzeit	Day	January	Year	Name (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> After sunset
Yahrzeit	Day	January	Year	Name (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> After sunset
Yahrzeit	Day	January	Year	Name (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> After sunset

Include Hebrew dates  
 Include *Yizkor* dates

Number of years:

example, you can see I've added two items and assigned each a descriptor, which is an option.)

I've been reading a wonderful book about *Yizkor*, titled *May God Remember: Memory and Memorializing in Judaism*. I was struck by an essay from Ron Wolfson at American Jewish University. He says *Yizkor* can let us remember or "re-member." He writes:

"And then, it struck me. The dead were not simply being remembered; they were being re-membered. Even in death, they were brought back into the memory of their descendants. It was, in a way, a family reunion — the living inviting the dead back into their presence, back into their hearts, back into their memory... As we read the words, our minds overflow with life review, with images of our loved ones — teaching us, feeding us, loving us."

What a great teaching, showing how rich our spiritual tradition can be. Please consider letting more re-membering into your life and spiritual practice.

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

# B<sup>3</sup> EDUCATION PROGRAM

## MAZAL TOV!!!



Welcome to the newest member of the BIJ Staff

**Sarah Hannah Goodman**

Born to Director of Education Rebecca and Jason Goodman

December 19, 2013 / 16 Tevet 5774, 3:44pm

8 pounds, 13 ounces / 20.5 inches

All are happy and healthy!

We are holding a teaching position open for Sarah just as soon as she's ready.

While Rebecca is on maternity leave, Rabbi Mark will assume B<sup>3</sup> directing responsibilities. Please feel free to contact him with any questions, concerns, etc [rabbimarkm@gmail.com](mailto:rabbimarkm@gmail.com)

### B<sup>3</sup> Events

#### Scholar-in-Residence Family Education

Sunday, January 12, 9:30am—12:00pm

*“Judaism and the Environment: Getting Ready for Tu B'Shevat” with Baruch Sienna*

It will be a wonderful day of interactive learning and exploring Tu B'shvat, Jewish thought and meaning from a Kabbalistic perspective.

### B<sup>3</sup> Program Schedule:

January 3—First Friday Family Potluck & Service @BIJ

January 5—regular classes

January 12—Scholar-in-Residence (see above)

January 19—no classes

January 26—K-5 regular classes; 6-9 at the Food Bank

February 2—All school at Contemporary Jewish Museum

February 7—First Friday Family Potluck & Service

@B'nai Emunah

February 9—regular classes

February 16—no classes

February 23—K-5 at the Food Bank; 6-9 regular classes

### SAVE THE DATE: Havdalah

Saturday, March 1, 6:00pm—8:00pm

Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub will host Havdalah at their home in Pacifica.



# ADULT EDUCATION

## Torah Study

### Shabbat Mornings, 9:00 AM

Our ongoing Torah Study Group returns to studying the Parshah (portion) of the week; last year we studied the Haftarah associated with the week's Parshah. Join us on Shabbat morning before services. (And you'll be just in time for Shabbat services at 10:00 am!) All are welcome to attend, discuss and learn!

## Two New Adult Ed Opportunities!!

**Make Thursday Night Your BIJ Night of Jewish Learning**

**Choose One or Both...**

### Basic Hebrew: The Siddur

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 Sessions: Alternate Thursday evenings, beginning January 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm. \$10/session

### Jewish Legends and Legendary Jews

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.

10 Sessions: Alternate Thursday evenings, beginning January 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:45-9:15pm. Free for BIJ Members and Friends

## Learning Together 2013—2014

### A Collaborative Adult Education Program

*Of special interest:*

### Golden Thursdays: Lunch & Learn

**With Rabbi Gottlieb and Rabbi Melamut**

**3rd Thursday of the month, 12:00 NOON**

**January 16 & February 20**

This program is designed for people who are retired and/or have flexible work schedules and would like to come to the synagogue for a bite, learning with the Rabbis, and some socializing with other BIJ and B'nai Emunah members. 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.



### Repairing the World: Tikkun Olam in Jewish Sources

**with Rabbi Melamut at B'nai Emunah**

**January 8, 6:30 pm**

Discover together what our ancient and contemporary Jewish sources have to teach us about tikkun olam, and our responsibility to care for others and the world we live in. Sources in Hebrew and English. This class will begin on January 8 and meet for four sessions.

## Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 5, 10:00 am - 12:00 NOON**

**Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**



**JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS OR SHALOM JEWISH COMMUNITY'S SHARED OCCUPANCY WITH BIJ AT OUR FACILITIES. WE HAVE SCHEDULED TWO MEETING DATES AND TIMES IN THE HOPE THAT ALL WHO WANT TO WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND ONE OR THE OTHER OF THESE MEETINGS.**

# SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend** **January 10-12, 2014** ***Rabbi Elyse Goldstein***



**Friday, January 10, 2014 - 6:30pm: Friday Night Feast Program**  
Free catered Shabbat Dinner - RSVP 415.586.8833 or office@bij.org  
“Looking for God in All the Wrong Places”

**Saturday, January 11, 2014 - 9:00am: Torah Study Breakfast**  
**10:00am: Shabbat Morning Service**  
“The Power of Prayer: Halleluyah”

**Saturday, January 11, 2014 - 6:30pm: Havdallah Program**  
“Women are from Genesis, Men are from Leviticus:  
Do Women and Men Read the Bible Differently?”

Rabbi Goldstein is known throughout North America as an outstanding educator, community activist and public speaker. In addition, Rabbi Goldstein is a prolific writer. Her first book, *ReVisions: Seeing Torah through a Feminist Lens*, was published by Jewish Lights in the fall of 1998 and won the Canadian National Jewish Book Award in the field of Bible. Her second and third books, *The Women's Torah Commentary*, and *The Women's Haftarah Commentary* are anthologies of 54 different women rabbis from different movements on the weekly Torah and Haftarah portions. Her fourth book, *New Jewish Feminism: Probing the Past, Forging the Future*, was a finalist in The National Jewish Book Awards. In 2005 she was awarded North America's highest honor for Jewish Education, The Covenant Award for Outstanding Educators. Rabbi Goldstein is currently the founding Rabbi of The City Shul, Toronto's newest Reform congregation.

# SHABBAT

## 1st Friday - Family Shabbat

**January 3, 6:30PM**

Our First Friday Family Shabbat is an evening not to be missed. 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!



**6:30 PM Veggie / Dairy Potluck Dinner**  
**7:30 PM Family Shabbat Service**

Please bring a '*milchik*' dish (vegetarian/dairy/fish) to share with 10 people or a dessert for the *oneg*. As always, everyone is welcome!

**February 7, 6:30PM @B'nai Emunah**

Please note: our First Friday Family Shabbat in February will take place at B'nai Emunah. Potluck at 6:30pm, then join us for our student-led Family Shabbat Service.

*There will be no Erev Shabbat services at BIJ this night.*

## 2nd Friday - Neighborhood Shabbat

Due to scheduling needs, our "second Friday" in January is our Scholar-in-Residence Weekend (previous page). Our Neighborhood Shabbat is switched to the third Friday in January only.

**January 17, 7:30 PM - THE SUNSET**

**February 14, 7:30 PM - THE OUTER MISSION**

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

*Note: No Erev Shabbat services at BIJ these nights.*

## 3rd Friday - Friday Night Feast

**February 21, 6:30 PM**

**BIJ Member and Artist Aimee Golant**

Join us on the third Friday night for a free, catered Shabbat feast. We'll welcome Shabbat with tableside blessings, then enjoy delicious fare and each others' company. After *birkat hamazon*, the grace after meals, we'll have a special program for the adults; children are welcome to go into the Fireside Room for supervised activity.

If you haven't attended a Friday Night Feast recently, you may not know that catering is now being provided by BIJ member Natalie Melendez-Ortiz; her menus are fabulous!

We are pleased to welcome award winning San Francisco metal artist and BIJ member Aimee Golant to discuss her path to creating Judaica and sharing it worldwide with people of all faiths. She will share her background story as a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, her process in becoming an artist, and her new installation work, which is in process, "Art for Prayer and Peace: a Bridge to Oneness." The talk will include a visual presentation. For more information about Aimee's work, see the Spotlight on the next page, or visit her website at [www.aimeegolant.com](http://www.aimeegolant.com)



RSVP to the BIJ Office by February 13

## 4th Friday—Erev Shabbat Sacred

**Hebrew Chant and Drum**

**January 24 & February 28, 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, layered with harmonies and rhythms, creating a sacred space. A potluck *Oneg Shabbat* and schmooze to follow. Please bring a treat to share. **Tell a friend – all are welcome!!!**

## A Shabbat Evening "Learning Service"

**January 31, 7:30 PM**

- ◇ Do you sometimes feel "lost" in services?
- ◇ Do you wish that you had a better understanding of the meaning of our prayers?
- ◇ Have you ever felt that you wanted to "sing out" but you didn't know the new melody?
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Then stay for the *Oneg Shabbat* and share what you've learned over cake and coffee...

# SPOTLIGHT ON...

## Artists in our Midst: Meet Aimee Golant!

*"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. 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-- **Aimee Golant** and painter **Eileen Downey**. [Editor's note: Eileen will be featured in the next Bulletin.]

Aimee is a sixth generation metalsmith, designer, and jeweler specializing in Judaica. She creates her unique menorahs, mezuzahs, tzedakah boxes, seder plates, yahrzeit candle holders and jewelry in her home workshop in San Francisco. Aimee has worked with metal and designed spiritually infused Judaica for 20 years; she started her business 15 years ago. "When I started metalsmithing, it was as if I took the tools out of my back pocket. It felt right. Clearly this was something I was meant to do...all the time."

Originally from LA, Aimee majored in sociology and minored in metal art at SF State University. She made her first mezuzah in 1993 for a class project on the Holocaust. A grandchild of Holocaust survivors, she wanted to understand how such atrocities can happen. The mezuzah design incorporated barbed wire, flames and jail bars, as well as a Star of David. "In making those pieces and explaining them to the class, I felt the importance of understanding our oneness -- we all breathe, we all bleed, we all experience pleasure and pain...I feel like I have a message to get out through my art," she says. "The Holocaust has really affected my life."

Aimee's grandparents, Mary and Arthur Kleinhandler, were married in a Jewish ghetto in Poland, sent to labor camps and then to concentration camps. They were separated and reunited, finally coming to the US in 1945 and to California in 1963. Arthur was a precision tool-and-die maker.

When she started working with metal, Aimee would bring her usually quiet grandfather her pieces. In this way she forged a connection with him. And when he gave her his tools to work with, she suddenly became inspired to create Judaica that preserves, illuminates and shares the Universal within Judaism. She believes anyone can practice Judaism, without converting. Calling herself a "serial optimist," she adds, "What I'm all about, and what makes me excited to be an artist--to innovate on Jewish thought, and create something unique that will inspire others to develop more understanding and compassion for one another."

Aimee's other passion is teaching. She founded the Metal Arts program at the SF Waldorf High School in 2005, and also teaches at The Crucible in Oakland and at Scintillant Studio. "I love teaching metalsmithing because I know I am of service to people when they learn to work with their hands. It brings me daily happiness," she enthuses.

Among her notable commissions are a custom mezuzah for the front door of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia; a Torah crown for the Women's Torah Project in 2010; and two mezuzahs taken on space missions. In 2003, the 1939 Club, an LA-based organization of Holocaust survivors and their relatives, asked Aimee to make a mezuzah for Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, whose parents were survivors. Ramon's Columbia space shuttle mission ended tragically; six years later, Ramon's widow Rona suggested that Aimee create a replica of that mezuzah for Ilan's friend and fellow astronaut Mike Massimino to take along on his 2009 Atlantis mission.

BIJ is fortunate to have a custom-made piece by Aimee that is used every week during Shabbat morning services. BIJ member and Administrator Sara Heckelman commissioned Aimee in 2010 to create a special gift to the BIJ community--a beautiful Torah reading place holder, in copper and in the shape of a pomegranate, symbolizing fruitfulness and righteousness.

Aimee and husband David Casella joined BIJ in 2012. She had known Sara for a long time, and after moving to a nearby neighborhood, attended a High Holy Day service. They appreciate the welcoming community at BIJ, and its openness to a variety of approaches to Judaism. Four-year-old son Kaleb enjoyed the Yom Kippur children's program this year, and being invited onto the bimah with the other children. Aimee has participated in several BIJ Hanukkah Fairs, with assistance from Michele Siegel.

"I'm always searching for more ways to share the gifts that Judaism has to offer, its values and traditions, with anyone of any religious background who may resonate with these spiritual sentiments," Aimee sums up. Check out her extensive website at [www.aimeegolant.com](http://www.aimeegolant.com).

Author's note: At BIJ we may see only certain facets of one another when we come together to worship, socialize and build our community. 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 Aimee for her generous help on this piece.

By Lynne Rappaport

# B'NAI MITZVAH

## Elissa Glick Becomes Bat Mitzvah

**January 25, 10:00 AM**

Elissa is a life-long East Bay resident, who lives in Oakland with her parents. She is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Oakland School for the Arts, where she is in the Instrumental Music program, and plays clarinet in the middle school orchestra and classical ensemble. Her favorite subjects are science and English, and she especially likes figure skating two days a week during PE class.



Elissa loves to dance, and has taken classes at Danspace in Oakland since she was three years old. She particularly enjoys classical ballet, and has performed in the Oakland Ballet School Nutcracker the last 5 years, and in the "Tapestry" community dance program the last two years in dances she and other students helped choreograph.

In her spare time, Elissa makes jewelry; you may have seen her selling her creations the last three years at BIJ's Hanukkah boutique. She also likes to cook and bake, and occasionally makes dinner for her

parents. Elissa also loves to read. Her current favorite books are "Margot," by Jillian Cantor and "At the Palace of Marie Antoinette" by Bianca Turetsky. She also likes to read "Baby Blues" comics. Two years ago, Elissa was privileged to be one of only two elementary school students to interview a Holocaust survivor as part of the California Holocaust Memorial Project, sponsored by the California State Assembly.

Elissa has been around BIJ since she was a baby. Rabbi Goodman did her baby naming, and she has attended BIJ's school since preschool.

## William Dukhovny Becomes Bar Mitzvah

**February 22, 10:00 AM**

Willie Dukhovny was born on July 10, 2000 in Hayward, CA. Most of his life he has lived in San Francisco with his parents and his younger brother Noah. He is also fortunate to have a large extended family in the Bay Area. Willie lives in a bilingual household, speaking English and Russian.

Willie attended Clarendon, a Japanese bilingual, bicultural Elementary school. Currently he is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at the

Aptos Middle school, where he enjoys science, math and music. Willie is currently a home room representative in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student body. Willie also plays trumpet in his class band, participating in musical performances such as the Crissy Fields Broadcast concert and the charity event at the SF Bulls Hockey Game.

Willie's interests also include drama, performance arts and video games; he really enjoyed summer classes in Digital Film Making and Video Game Design. Willie loves to play ball with his friends, to watch movies and TV sitcoms. He is a fan of comedies, science fiction and gangster genre.



## Logan Wolff Becomes Bar Mitzvah

**January 18, 10:00 AM**

Logan was born in San Francisco but now calls Pacifica home. He is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School where his favorite subjects are math and science. He is also an avid reader and enjoys just about any genre of books. Logan volunteers at school through his leadership class and as a Peer Helper, where he participates in and leads activities to prevent bullying and make the school community stronger.

After school, Logan is Co-Vice President of the Interact Club which is a student-led organization that raises funds to help the community. He also volunteers regularly with the Pacifica Beach Coalition to keep the beaches and ocean clean.



One of his favorite activities is the STEM program where he is able to learn new computer applications and also learn to build and program robots. When not doing homework or volunteering, Logan enjoys hanging out with his friends and his two brothers, Corey and Taylor. Playing video games is his activity of choice whenever there is a free moment.

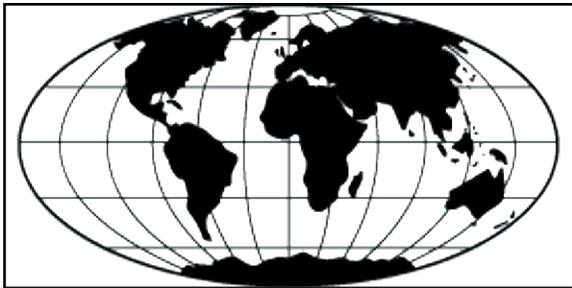
**Read About Logan's Mitzvah Project →**

# HAPPENINGS

## Current World Affairs

**January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, 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.



## Monthly Craft & Schmooze

**January 12 & February 9, 1:00 PM**

Do you enjoy making friends, making or learning crafts or maybe a little knitting? Then join us for a fun afternoon of schmoozing, crafting, artistic and spiritual exploration. We meet on a monthly basis on Sundays in the BIJ Fireside Room.

# TIKKUN OLAM

## Warm Feet for Winter

For my Bar Mitzvah tzedakah project I am collecting socks for St. Martin de Porres. St. Martin de Porres is a non-profit organization. They provide meals and support services to the homeless. One of the other things they do is to provide socks to those they serve. I am collecting socks because I think it could make an impact on people's lives. Now that it's winter, it is becoming very cold out, and having warm socks is a simple way to make people who spend much of their time without shelter more comfortable.

My goal is to collect and donate 250 pairs of socks. St. Martin de Porres needs men's socks that are new and warm. I would appreciate your help in reaching my goal. I will start collecting donations of new socks at BIJ with a box in the lobby.

I appreciate any support that you can provide. Together we can make sure there are warm feet for winter in our community.

If you have any questions you can reach me at [LWolff115@gmail.com](mailto:LWolff115@gmail.com)

Logan Wolff



# SISTERHOOD-THE WOMEN OF BIJ

## Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ

Sherrie Rosenberg, Co-President with Sarah Glew

Incredible Edibles, originally scheduled for February 8, is being rescheduled. Please watch this column in a future Bulletin and the weekly BIJ email for updates...

Our Hanukkah Fair was a lot of fun. We hope you enjoyed it as well as the unique Thanksgivukah this year.

I've just returned from the URJ Biennial in San Diego, along with several members of our congregation. I look forward to reporting to The Women of BIJ about it at our January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our monthly Rosh Chodesh gatherings are very special. We hope to see you there and at our periodic brunches. These are great ways to get to know and enjoy one another.

In all likelihood our Music Fundraiser scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> will not take place. Please keep your eyes on BIJ's eblasts and Women of BIJ emails for possible updates.

L'Shalom,

*Sherrie*

## Rosh Chodesh Women's Group

January 8 & February 5, 7:00 PM



Led by Ricki Weintraub, we begin with a short ritual welcoming the new moon followed by an exploration of the practice of *Mussar*, a practice that can be traced back to tenth century Babylonia.

The word *mussar* means "correction" or "instruction" and in modern Hebrew, "ethics." The core practice of *mussar* is the practice of *cheshbon hanefesh*, "accounting of the soul." We hope you will join us as we explore the soul traits that make each of us who we are and learn techniques to live life consciously with spiritual integrity and authenticity.

Each monthly gathering will stand alone - so if you are unable to make them all, please come whenever you can. Bring a friend (and a nosh, if you are able).

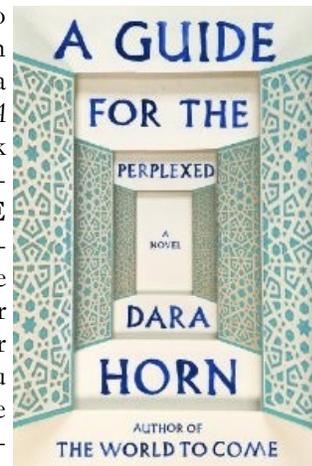
**Next Sisterhood Meeting**

**January 12, 10:30 AM**

## BIJ Book Club

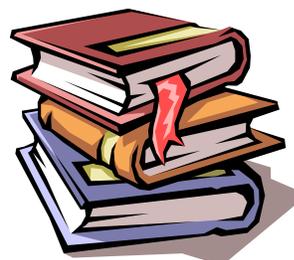
January 22, 7:00 PM - off-site

The BIJ Book Club is open to everyone, men and women alike. Our next book is Dara Horn's suspenseful new novel, *A Guide for the Perplexed*. This book was selected for Jewish Learning-Works' **ONE BAY ONE BOOK** program for 2013 - 2014. Please contact Sherrie Rosenberg at 415-902-8293 or [sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com) for location, and so we can keep you up-to-date if the date changes. We always have an enjoyable evening chatting about many things, including the book. Everyone is welcome!!!



## Sisterhood Beth Israel Judea

Announces the 5th annual  
Rabbi Herbert Morris Scholarship



Applications available for:

High School, College and Continuing Education  
Students

Please contact the office for an application. All children, grandchildren and adult members in good standing at BIJ are eligible.

Applications are also online at [www.bij.org](http://www.bij.org)

**Applications due by 2/28/2014**  
Return applications to  
Diane Ehrlich c/o Sisterhood BIJ

Leave applications at the BIJ Office.

# GIFTS & DONATIONS

## *Annual Fund*

Ronald and Faith Appel  
 Kenneth and Felicia Aron  
 Beth Berkowitz-Dutton and Raymond Dutton  
 Lori Ganz and Peter Wolff, Jr.  
 Carol and Robert Mills  
 Stephen Roditti  
 Risa Salat-Kolm and Steve Kolm  
 Jeffrey and Lin Stillman  
 In memory of Zachary Goodman  
 Daniel and Beth Weisberg

## *Adult Education Fund (Rabbi Herbert Morris Cultural Fund)*

Judy Morris  
 In memory of Rabbi Herbert Morris

## *Building Fund*

Amy and Steven Gottlieb  
 In memory of Martin Gottlieb

## *Care and Concern Fund*

Joyce Strauss  
 In memory of Oscar Koolpe  
 In memory of Bella Elmon

## *Friday Night Feast*

Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ

## *General Fund*

Anonymous  
 Beth Alberts and Gordon Atkinson  
 In memory of Leonard Raznick  
 Judy and Gary Bader  
 In memory of Zachary Goodman  
 Beverly Bavaro  
 In memory of Zachary Goodman

## **Arthur Becker**

In memory of Sam Shapiro

In memory of Rose Kaplan

In memory of Louis Becker

## **Jeanette Bronstein**

In memory of Arthur Rosen

## **Ann Comoglio and Matthew Lefkowitz**

In memory of Zachary Goodman

## **Gail Block**

In memory of Robert Charles Block

## **Jon Frank and Lynne Rappaport**

In memory of Leonard Raznick

## **Amy and Steven Gottlieb**

In memory of Tania Bard

## **Leonard and Hannah Greendorfer**

In memory of Margaret Laschansky

## **Brana Hall**

In memory of Zachary Goodman

## **Myra and Alfred Herpe**

In memory of Esther Jachimowicz

## **Sydney Kapchan and Steven Tulkin**

In memory of Florence Greendorfer Speyer

## **Alta Lowe**

## **Deborah McIntyre**

In memory of Zachary Goodman

## **Stephen Roditti**

In memory of Joseph Roditti

## **Ernest Rosenthal**

In memory of Erich Rosenthal

## **Reeva and Andy Safford**

In memory of Leonard Raznick

## **Susan Schneider**

In memory of Edward Pembridge

## **Pauline Smith**

In memory of Blanche Shapiro

## **Valerie Sopher**

In appreciation of the Rabbi Morris Machzor

## **Robert Warner**

In memory of David Warner

# OUR VOLUNTEERS

## ***Martin & Gregg Flaum Library Fund***

**Beverly Flaum**

For a complete and speedy recovery for Neil Bronstein

**Joyce Strauss**

In memory of Joseph Elmon

## ***Music & Cantor Fund***

**Sandra Berger and Sharon Duke**

In memory of Anne Berger

**Jon Frank and Lynne Rappaport**

In appreciation of our Yom Kippur Aliyah

**Nancy Greenberg**

In memory of Cantor Henry Greenberg

**Howard and Janet Lockshin**

In memory of George Weissbaum

**Lorraine Smookler**

In memory of Harry Smookler

## ***Rabbi's Discretionary Fund***

**Nancy Greenberg**

In memory of Zachary Goodman

**Corinne and Jennifer Kopatz**

In memory of Zachary Goodman

**Howard and Janet Lockshin**

In memory of Frances Shenson

## ***Rabbi Morris Fireside Room Fund***

**Pearl and Mel Mosk**

In memory of Sara and Sidney Zimmerman

**Judy Morris**

In memory of Rabbi Herbert Morris' 10<sup>th</sup> Yahrzeit

## ***Gifts in Kind***

**Blinder-Pasynkova Family**

Percussion "eggs" for Hallel accompaniment

**Sarah Glew**

Cut-glass plateware

**Amy Gottlieb**

Assorted kitchenware and utensils

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

***THANK YOU to all our volunteers, and a special THANK YOU to our members who give of their time, energy and skills:***

## ***Hanukkah Decorations***

David Morgenstern

Joey Reyes

Adam Safford

Deborah Schweizer

Michele Siegel

## ***Office***

Faith Appel

Ron Appel

Judy Bader

Amy Gottlieb

Gail Harden

## ***Bulletin***

Faith Appel

Judy Bader

Lynne Rappaport

Adam Safford

## ***Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ***

### **Hanukkah Fair**

Ann Morgenstern, Michele Siegel, Natalie Melendez, Irada Yuzbash, Karen Kerner, Reeva Safford, Lynne Rappaport, Lisa Isenstein

### **Off-site Potluck Brunches**

Lee Huberman, Natalie Melendez-Ortiz

### **Rosh Chodesh**

Ricki Weintraub

**A very special acknowledgement to the members of the Board of Trustees (and their spouses) - you know who you are - who significantly helped out during the absence of our Facilities Guru, Neil Bronstein.**

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

# Congregation Beth Israel Judea

625 Brotherhood Way  
San Francisco, CA 94132

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## Erev Shabbat Schedule

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday: Neighborhood Shabbat

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday: FREE Friday Night Feast

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

