

# BETH ISRAEL JUDEA BULLETIN

## *Celebrating*

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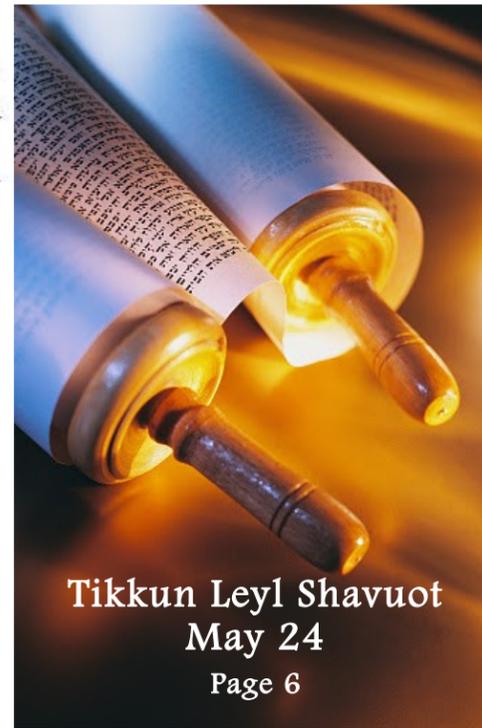


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***BIJ - Your Community for Life***

# 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. Original articles and reviews are appreciated, but we cannot guarantee publication. Submit ideas by email to: [rgoodman@bij.org](mailto:rgoodman@bij.org) in simple Microsoft Word format or in the body of your email. **Deadline** for the upcoming July/August issue is: **Monday, June 1.**

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## 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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## Office Hours

**CLOSED Mondays**

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

**Friday:** 10 AM to 3 PM

Did you know?  
**The BIJ Bulletin is available online!**

<http://bij.org/news-blogs-a-photos/newsletters>

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## From the President

By Joshua Goodman



Fellow members of BIJ:

Our Annual Meeting is right around the corner. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> please join us for an annual update of the comings and goings at BIJ. In addition to thanking outgoing Board members, voting on nominees to the Board, and reviewing BIJ's finances, we will discuss two important developments. I will outline both for you here.

First, after five years as President of the Board of Trustees of BIJ, I will be stepping down and assuming my role as Immediate Past President. As an aside, I cannot thank Carol Mills enough for her long and important tenure on the Board, including her role as President and five years as Immediate Past President. I am thrilled to let everyone know that Deborah Schweizer and Nancy Greenberg will be taking over as Co-Presidents for a two-year term. I had previously asked Alisa Law to be President, but for personal reasons it made sense to defer her presidency. Alisa remains on the Board and is part of the lay leadership of BIJ.

As most of you know, Deborah and Nancy have long and deep ties to BIJ and I know I speak for the entire Board when I say that BIJ will be in very good hands under their stewardship. Deborah has been on the Board for six years and has been instrumental in many of BIJ's most important initiatives, including development and revision of our governance structure. Nancy has been on the Board for two years and has assumed a leadership role. Both are on the Executive Committee. And of course, Deborah and Nancy will be supported by a dedicated Board of Trustees.

The second important development at BIJ concerns our governance structure and lay leadership. We have known for some time that we have two related governance problems. We are too reliant on staff and we are too reliant on the President. The result is that our staff is overburdened, important initiatives do not get taken, and lay leadership is concentrated among too few people. To solve these problems we have been working this past year with a consultant, provided through a grant from the Synagogue-Federation Partnership, to develop and implement a more effective governance structure with Board and non-Board members assuming direct responsibility for many of BIJ's core functions.

A task force of the Board has been working for months on the development of an improved leadership structure. This

involved considerable work with the entire Board to identify BIJ's core and supporting functions, to arrange them in towers so that related functions all fall under the overall leadership of a team leader, selected from the Board, and to detail the "job descriptions" for all lay leadership and staff positions. We discovered that one significant impediment to having lay leaders assume responsibility for BIJ functions was the absence of a clear understanding as to what was expected of each lay leader and what was required to oversee each core function. In the process, we have engaged in a very important exploration of what BIJ's core functions are. Our goal is to have a more participatory and shared lay leadership with Board members responsible to make sure that the work of the synagogue gets done.

One important aspect of this new governance structure is that it is dependent upon not just Board members taking responsibility for BIJ's activities but non-Board members doing so as well. As we roll out and implement this new governance initiative, we will be asking non-Board members to participate by volunteering to accept responsibility for specific tasks. Priority needs relate to assisting with teams connected to: membership, community development and outreach, communications, in-reach, running the building and physical plant, our relationship with Or Shalom, adult or youth education, and spiritual practices.

Not only will this allow BIJ to function more effectively and with less reliance on an overburdened staff, but it will engage more members in the running of our congregation. That is a good thing. I speak from personal knowledge when I tell each and every one of you that participating in the running of BIJ is remarkably rewarding and is better for both the member who participates and for the community as a whole. I encourage all of you to be open to service to BIJ.

*L'Shalom,*

*Joshua Goodman*

President, Board of Trustees

### BIJ ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, May 3, 10:00am**

- ⇒ Learn about the State of the Synagogue
  - ⇒ Elect new Board Members
  - ⇒ Presentation from our B<sup>3</sup> Students
  - ⇒ Be a part of the future of BIJ!
- Coffee and noshes provided, of course!

# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## Reading Texts and Faces

By Rabbi Danny Gottlieb



My classmate from the Leo Baeck College in London, England, Rabbi Kenneth Cohen, writes the following:

Legend has it that during the Gulf War, a yeshiva student overheard the news on a radio on his way to the house of study. His knowledge of geopolitics was, to say the least, not stellar. "Where is Bagdad?" he asked

his rebbe. "You will find it in the Talmud, tractate Berachot 54b," replied the old man.

When I was a rabbinical student in London, my class was divided into two parties, the "into text" people and the "into counseling" people. The two groups were not particularly fond of one another and tensions between them were significant. Student politics orbited around these two distant suns.

The "into text" people espoused an ethic something like this: "I am not training to be a psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker, but rather a rabbi. It behooves me to learn to be competent in the reading of classical texts, because it is from the Talmud and commentaries from which I derive my authenticity and uniqueness as a rabbi. Members of other helping professions can't do that. This is what makes me different." The "into text" people would dismiss the "into counseling" people as pop-psychologist hacks and superficial do-gooders.

On the other hand, the "into counseling" people would counter by saying "our congregants aren't going to ask questions about the Talmud. They need us to be there for them emotionally and empathically. The last thing they need us to do is to start quoting text." They would dismiss the "into text" people as out of touch, insensitive bumpkins who shut out the world while hiding behind their big folio volumes of Jewish classics.

Rabbi Cohen was one of the "into text" people then, and I was one of the "into counselling" people. And today I am still one of the "into counselling" people, but my love for texts and text study has steadily grown. And I realize the wisdom of my teachers at the Leo Baeck College in London, who combined their academic study of texts with the rabbinic prism through which they were able to use their text learning as the foundation for their own teaching and their own spiritual practice, which allowed them to be empathetic counsellors and supporters to their students and congregants.

In my own rabbinate, I discovered that it was through my personal devotion to study and spiritual practice (disciplines that I learned at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality) that I was able to develop the skillset which has helped me be the rabbi I have become.

I am still not a psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker nor would I try to be one. When I counsel, I do so within the context of the Jewish tradition. I do not attempt to validate every choice made by people in terms of their individual quest for fulfillment. Some choices are clearly wrong in the eyes of the tradition and need to be challenged by traditional values. When people seek guidance on how to do the right thing, the tradition can help them reach their goal and move toward holiness. When people desire to be good and to be able to think of themselves as good, the tradition can provide insights to help them on their way. I believe that my counsel, rooted in the tradition and its texts, supports them in their quest.

A wise teacher once said that a good rabbi needs to be able to read two things: texts and faces. If being a rabbi was only a matter of reading texts, we would not need rabbis in congregations at all. We could have a crew of rabbinic experts in New York who could answer questions of Jewish law via e-mail and the internet, who could transmit their answers to the most remote Jewish community instantaneously. But a congregational rabbi who knows his people, who becomes familiar with the traditions and values of his congregation, and the faces of his people, is able to support, guide and lead the community.

Once a student was refused ordination by his rabbi. "But rabbi!" protested the young man, "I know all four sections of the Code of Jewish Law thoroughly!" "Yes," replied the teacher, "but you don't know the fifth section: people and their needs." As a rabbi, I understand that The Torah "is not in heaven," nor is it "beyond the sea" but it is "very near to you" (Deuteronomy 30:13-14). Bringing Torah close to people, and thereby bringing people closer to God, is the work that I try to do in our community. A concluding story, one of Rabbi Cohen's favorites:

Once a man came to a rabbi asking for instructions on how to build a house. "Look on page such and such in the Talmud. There you will find instructions on how to build a house." So the man built his house exactly as described in the Talmud. But when he drove in the last nail, the house fell down. He ran to the rabbi and protested "I did everything precisely as prescribed in the Talmud. But when I drove in the last nail, the house fell down. Why?" "Ah" said the rabbi, "Rashi asks that question!..."

Be well through these days of the Omer, and come join us at Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, where we can read texts and faces together.

Shalom,

*Rabbi Danny Gottlieb*

# THE CANTOR'S VOICE

## Remembering with Yahrzeit By Cantorial Soloist David Morgenstern

This end of May will mark the first year following my father's death. In Jewish tradition, this day of memorial remembrance is called the Yahrzeit, Yiddish for a year's span of time. To prepare, I'm setting up a reminder event in my calendar app, buying a special Yahrzeit candle to light on the day, as well as establishing a permanent memorial with our congregation for his Yahrzeit. The creation of the memorial is straightforward - call Sara at the BIJ Office and write a check. However, the creation of a recurring event that corresponds to a date in the Hebrew calendar isn't possible in most English-language calendaring apps.

The built-in settings in calendar software for weekly, monthly and yearly recurring events make it easy for us to remember birthdays, anniversaries and meetings. Of course, the developers haven't bothered to incorporate settings for our Jewish lunar calendar. We can't click a button in our app to set 29 Iyar as a yearly, all-day event. Instead, we have to rely on an internet service, such as the excellent Hebcal.com, which can create a personal subscription calendar that can then be linked with your computer's calendaring program of choice.

On Hebcal.com's front page is a button titled "Yahrzeit + Anniversary Calendars," which takes you to a form for yahrzeits, anniversaries or birthdays. Simply fill in the secular date and it will be automatically translated into the Hebrew calendar. Then it generates an address for the subscription.

### Birthday vs. Yahrzeit

When entering my dad's data, I wondered whether the trouble stemming from these additional and not-so-easily-accomplished steps might lead some people to memorialize their dead loved ones on birthdays (the usual secular custom), rather than on the yahrzeit (the Jewish tradition). Of course, there's nothing wrong about observing a death on the birthday, but the Yahrzeit offers us an opportunity to connect to the deep set of Jewish traditions. [BTW: In a column from 2013, I wrote in more detail about some Yahrzeit customs such as saying Kaddish at a worship service, donating to a charity, and lighting the 24-hour candle, as well as attending Yizkor memorial services during the Festivals and Yom Kippur.]

It's my understanding that the scriptural source for Yahrzeit is Ecclesiastes 7:1, "A good name is better than fragrant oil, and the day of death than the day of birth." The Talmud expands on this:

Rabbi Pinchas said, "when a person is born, all rejoice; when a person dies, all cry. It should not be so. When people are born there should be no rejoicing, because it is not known whether they will be righteous or wicked, good or bad. However, if a person departs the world in peace, with a good name, there is cause for rejoicing when that person dies."

Of course, this sounds like a bit of rabbinic exaggeration - there's no "rejoicing" when someone dies, no matter how much popular culture wants to portray mourning as a "celebration of life."

I was recently struck by an essay by Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand in the book *May God Remember: Memory and Memorializing in Judaism*. She writes that in Judaism, simply mentioning past events, or "abstractly remembering them" are insufficient. Instead, memories are tied to observance, or doing something. During the first days of mourning, she writes, we try to work with family and friends to fix a shared impression of the person we have lost. But in the Yizkor memorial service, the act of remembering is different.

It is not intended as a time to reflect our memories accurately; rather, it is designed to allow those memories to adapt, without the corrective of actual physical evidence or the balance provided by others' recollections. Yizkor provides us our own private ongoing relationship as opposed to allowing it to be frozen in time.

She says the Yizkor practice of remembering someone over and over again could be called Yishkach, "Forgetting," since over time, we reinforce the memories that can sustain us and forget the ones that do not. "The purpose of Yizkor is to allow us to access the person we have lost and keep their memory alive."



The BIJ office has Yahrzeit candles available. There are beautiful holders for them, including this "Garden of Memories Yahrzeit Memorial Candle Holder" by artist (and BIJ member) Aimee Golant.



How rich and deep are our traditions. Please consider bringing Yizkor and Yahrzeit into your 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'racha* (with blessing),

*David Morgenstern*

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Mindfulness Meditation Friday Mornings, 8:30-9:30 AM



Mindfulness meditation is a spiritual practice that allows us to create for ourselves an extended period of silence, in which to focus on our inner self without the distractions of life's constant noise. It is a gift that we can give to ourselves, for getting in touch with our inner self and strengthening our spirit. We allow time to sit together quietly in silent Jewish practice, before heading off to our work or daily routine. This is a flexible work-in-progress, welcoming suggestions and open to evolving.

### Omer Study Series: The Book of Job Faith, Doubt, Blame and Blasphemy With Rabbi Katie Mizrahi May 5, 12 & 19, 7:30-9:00 PM

Why do the innocent suffer? How should this impact our theological beliefs? What are the most useful or damaging ways we can respond to the suffering of others? Explore how these timeless and troubling questions underlie the poetry and storyline of the ancient Book of Job.

A part of the Southside Jewish Collaborative, the series runs every Tuesday night during the counting of the Omer.

### Basic Hebrew: Siddur May 14, 28; June 11, 25, 6:30-7:30 PM

Are you interested in learning to read Hebrew? A new class is now forming! Contact Ricki Weintraub for more information: [ricki.weintraub@me.com](mailto:ricki.weintraub@me.com). Meanwhile, our semi-monthly intermediate Hebrew course continues. This class is designed for those who are interested in improving sight-reading Hebrew texts with vowels. You will continue developing the building blocks of Hebrew grammar and vocabulary of the Siddur (prayer book), as well as translating passages from the Siddur. \$10/session.

### Monthly Craft & Schmooze May 17 & June 14, 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.



## HOLIDAYS

### Golden Thursdays: Lunch & Learn with Rabbis Gottlieb, Levin, Melamut & Mizrahi May 21, 12:00 NOON at B'nai Emunah June 18, 12:00 NOON at BIJ

Designed for people with flexible schedules who would like to come to the synagogue for a bite, learn with the Rabbis, and socialize. The Lunch and Learn sessions usually take place the third Thursday of the month, are led by Rabbis Gottlieb, Levin, Melamut, and Mizrahi and rotate among all three locations. A light lunch is provided.

### Sunday Study Circle May 10; June 14, 28, 10:00AM-12:00PM

On the second and fourth Sunday mornings of the month, all are invited to join the Sunday Study Circle in the Fireside Room. The Study Circle meets for an exploration of the Ta-NaKh, Hebrew Bible. The study is interactive, with lots of discussion. The group is led by members of Or Shalom, with occasional participation from our rabbis.

### Women's Rosh Chodesh Group May 20 & June 17, 7:00 PM

The Women of BIJ celebrate the new moon each month. Led by Ricki Weintraub, we begin with a short ritual welcoming the new moon followed by discussions, activities and meditations that help us find ways to connect more deeply to Judaism, ourselves, our lives and each other.

### Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Saturday Evening, May 23, 7:30 PM

Potluck dairy dessert, Havdalah, Torah Service and Learning with Rabbis Gottlieb, Levin, Melamut, and Mizrahi:

Early Session – Four Rabbis talk about their paths to becoming rabbis and their take on the key to success of the Jewish people in the future. Later Session – Choose between *Ruth and Conversion* or *Tikkun Olam and Caring for the Needy*.

### Shavuot Festival & Yizkor Services May 25, 9:45 AM at B'nai Emunah

Join us for the Shavuot Festival & Yizkor Services.



### Confirmation & Kabbalat Torah May 29, 7:30 PM

This special Erev Shabbat Service will include *Divrei Torah* (words of wisdom) from our Confirmation Class of 5775/2015. We will also honor new students to our B<sup>3</sup> Youth Education Program in a Kabbalat Torah (receiving the Torah) ceremony. See details on page 10.

# SHABBAT AND B'NAI MITZVAH

## Shabbat Mornings:

### 9:00 AM Torah Study / 10:00 AM Service

Rabbi Danny Gottlieb and/or Cantor David Morgenstern lead all Shabbat morning services except the first Saturday of the month which are joint services with Or Shalom, led by their clergy.

## Corey & Taylor Wolff become B'nai Mitzvah Saturday, June 27, 10:00 AM Service



Corey

Born in San Francisco, Corey and Taylor moved to Pacifica when they were two years old and where they live with their parents and older brother, Logan. They enjoy the parks surrounding Pacifica where they love to hike and ride their bikes and also the beaches where they enjoy visiting the tide pools, collecting sea glass and boogie boarding, on the few days warm enough to play in the water.

Corey and Taylor are in seventh grade at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School in Pacifica. Corey's favorite subjects are math, science and art. He is a member of the school's Math Club. Taylor also enjoys math and science and is a percussionist in the school band. He also participates in marching band performances and competitions. They both represent their school as members of the golf team. Taylor loves track but is taking a break from running this year because of his other commitments.

Computer technology, video game design and robotics are a shared passion. They have recently begun learning about 3-D printing and are designing creative projects that are "built" on the 3-D printer. They are also designing apps for cell phones.



Taylor

## 1<sup>st</sup> Friday: Shabbat Shelanu May 1 & June 5

- 5:45 PM Tot Shabbat Service
- 6:30 PM Catered Dinner
- 7:30 PM Family Friendly Musical Service

Shabbat Shelanu (Our Shabbat) is a time to celebrate Shabbat, eat together and highlight the learning of our students. We celebrate together with our friends from Or Shalom and B'nai Emunah! Our Rabbis and Song Leaders lead us in a fun-filled Shabbat and monthly birthday celebration!

RSVP <http://bij.org/events-donations/registration>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday: Shabbat in the 'Hood

### May 8, 7:30 PM in Oceanview/Outer Mission

### June 12, 7:30 PM in Diamond Heights/Glen Park

On the second Friday of each month, we take our Shabbat service "on the road" to different neighborhoods in San Francisco and the Peninsula. Members host the chavurah-style services in their homes, led by Rabbi Danny Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub. This provides 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 with us in an informal way. If you are interested in hosting a Shabbat in the 'hood this year, please contact the BIJ Office. **There will be no BIJ-led service at BIJ; all are welcome to attend Or Shalom's Service at 7:00 PM.**

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

A free, catered Shabbat feast! Welcome Shabbat with tableside blessings, then enjoy delicious fare and each others' company. After *birkat hamazon*, the grace after meals, a special program for the adults takes place; children may retreat to the Fireside Room for supervised activity. Invite friends who have never been to BIJ! This monthly event is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your friends to our BIJ Community.

## San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi May 15, 6:30 PM

Sheriff Mirkarimi will speak about the Sheriff's Department, how it differs from the Police Department, its programs in and out of the jails, including the Five Keys Charter High School and partnerships with San Francisco faith-based communities. There will also be time for an open forum, addressing your questions or concerns. **Sisterhood-The Women of BIJ will award the Rabbi Morris Scholarships. RSVP to [Sisterhood@bij.org](mailto:Sisterhood@bij.org) by May 7** (include childcare if needed).

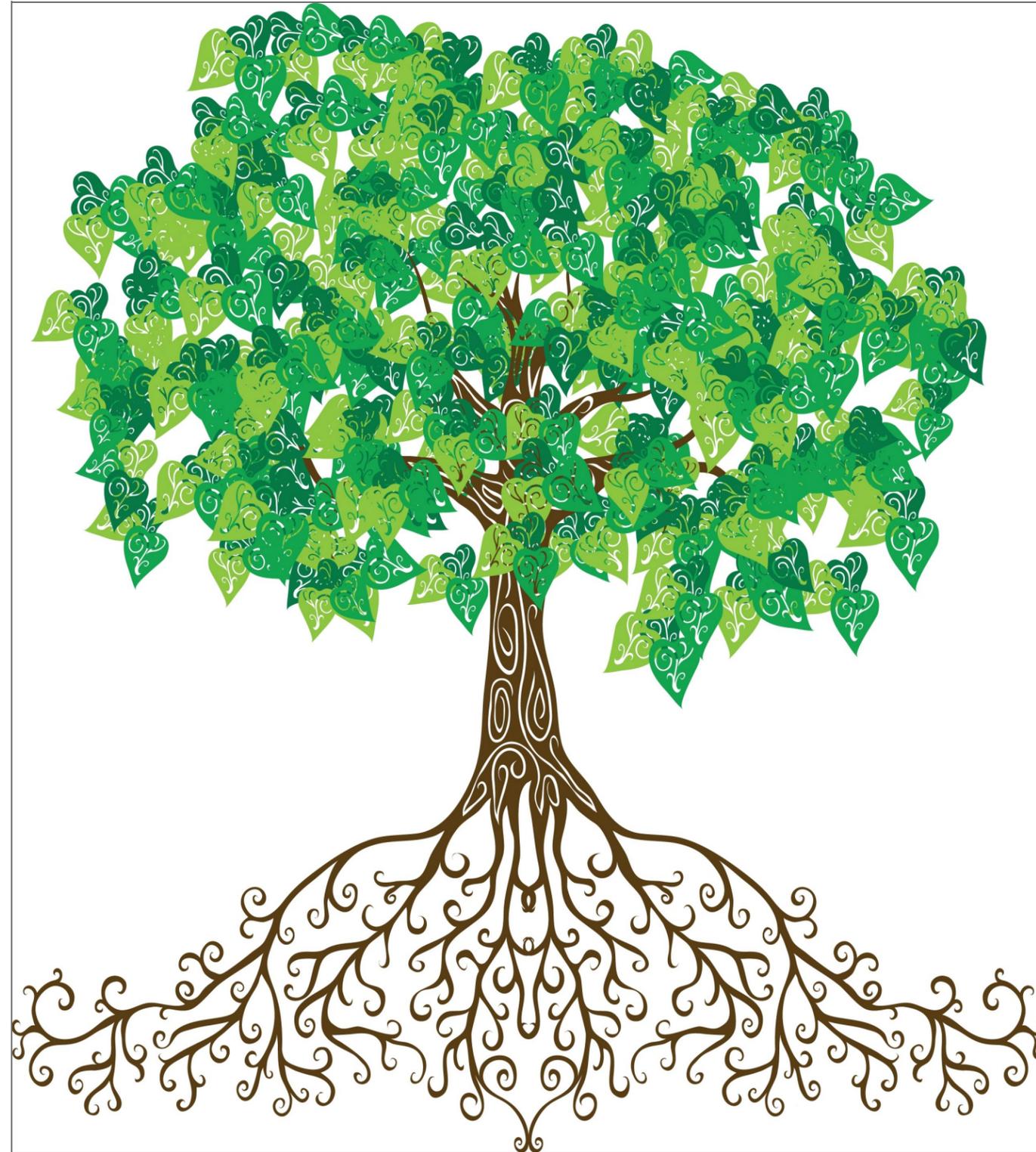
## Challenges of Progressive Judaism June 19, 6:30 PM

Charlie Rothschild, Secretary of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, will speak about "The Challenges of Progressive Judaism in Europe and South America." We also dedicate our June Feast to thanking all the wonderful volunteers in our community and all the BIJ donors. Join our congregation as we honor those that make BIJ possible! **RSVP** (include childcare if needed) to [Sisterhood@bij.org](mailto:Sisterhood@bij.org) by June 11.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Friday: Sacred Hebrew Chant and Drum May 22 & June 26, 7:30 PM

BIJ is joined by Or Shalom for this 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 follows. Please bring a treat to share. **Tell a friend – all are welcome!!!**



### **BIJ ACKNOWLEDGES ITS 2014-2015 DONORS**

Our Synagogue is the Tree that represents the Life of the community. We are acknowledging all our donors for investing in our community through Membership Commitments, our Annual Fund and all other contributions 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.

<b>Ilan/Tree: \$25,000 or more</b>		
Joshua Goodman & Karen Kerner		
<b>Payrot/Fruit: \$15,000-\$24,999</b>		
Deborah Schweizer		
<b>Perach/Flower: \$10,000-\$14,999</b>		
Nancy Greenberg	Martin Segol	Anonymous
<b>Henetz/Bud: \$6,000-\$9,999</b>		
Lori Ganz & Peter Wolff, Jr.	Blair & Sue Horst	Jeffrey Kallman & Ann Morgenstern
<b>Alim/Leaves: \$3,000-\$5,999</b>		
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Eric & Barbara Hammel	Judy Morris	David & Shirley Zeff
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Edward & Edna Egert	Elaine Reynolds	Marvin Zukor & Vivian Rain-Zukor
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Irving & Pam Boxerbaum	Marge & Robert Levy	Pauline Smith
Brian Friedlander	Hannah Lima	Katherine Snyder & John McCormick
John & Joan Friedlander	Howard & Janet Lockshin	Joyce Strauss
Susan Greenspan	Claire Mikowski	Tracey Vanik
Rose & Richard Greenspun	Regina Pasyukova & Ilan Erenstein	Robert Warner

# YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION - B<sup>3</sup>

## So Much to Be Thankful For! An End-of-Year Wrap-Up

By Rebecca Goodman, RJE; Director of Education



When I stop and think about what I am thankful for, the first thing that comes to mind is my daughter (already 17 months old) and my family. As I expand my thoughts I quickly think of my extended family at BIJ and B'nai Emunah.

I am so thankful for the staff at BIJ: Rabbi Danny, Sara, David and Neil! I am also thankful to Rabbi Mark for his leadership with our B3 program and for being a wonderful partner in educating our students.

Of course the year would not have been possible without our fantastic faculty! I am immensely thankful for their dedication to our students and Jewish learning. The school runs smoothly only in part due to my work behind the scenes. The real work is done each week by our teachers, planning and implementing wonderful lessons for our students! I am thankful for their dedication. When you see each of these fabulous individuals, please take a moment to say *todah rabbah* (thank you very much) for their devotion to Jewish education.

- ✧ Jennie Dahl, preK & K
- ✧ Rebecca Goodman, grades 1-2
- ✧ Mark Katz, grades 3-5
- ✧ Rachel Levitt Ades, grades 6 & 7
- ✧ Andrew Nusbaum, grades 8-10
- ✧ Ricki Weintraub, fabulous music!
- ✧ Rabbi Danny Gottlieb, Confirmation
- ✧ Cantor David Morgenstern, B'nai Mitzvah



It has been another successful year of our combined educational program of BIJ and B'nai Emunah. We've expanded our reach to include Or Shalom on some events, including our Parshat Noach visit to the SF Zoo and the Jewish Community Library's presentation of *Mitzvot Petel*.

I want to send a special *todah rabbah*, thank you very much, to Rabbi Danny Gottlieb. Without his trust and support my job would not be as enjoyable as it is. I can count on him for words of wisdom or a fun caveat. He provides guidance when needed, ideas for programs, and troubleshooting throughout the year! David Morgenstern, Sara Heckelman, and Neil Bronstein - *todah todah*, thank you thank you - for all of their dedication and assistance in helping attain a successful year!

*Asir todah*, ever so thankful, to Rabbi Mark Melamut from Congregation B'nai Emunah, my "partner in crime" in B<sup>3</sup>. He is a sounding board, a source of great ideas and support for me and our faculty each week. He leads tefillah, sits with students 1:1, visits classrooms for "Ask the Rabbi" and always has a smile on his face! It's always a pleasure to brainstorm new ideas together; I can't wait for you to see what we have planned for next year!

Our classroom education comes to a close on May 3, but there are always more opportunities to learn at these important elements of our educational program. We hope everyone will join us for the end-of-year festivities:

### Saturday, May 9, 2:00-5:00pm – Lag b'Omer Picnic

Our fantastic year concludes with a late afternoon picnic at Frontierland Park in Pacifica. We'll commemorate the traditional fires of Lag b'Omer while we roast marshmallows and make s'mores. Please bring a snack/dessert/side dish to share and any sports equipment you'd like to use.

### May 29, 7:30pm – Confirmation & Kabbalat Torah

This special Erev Shabbat Service will include *Divrei Torah* (words of wisdom) from our Confirmation Class of 5775/2015. They will read, from the Torah, the Ten Commandments and the events of the revelation at Sinai. We will also honor new students to our B<sup>3</sup> Youth Education Program in a Kabbalat Torah (receiving the Torah) ceremony. Please join us in celebrating with:

#### CONFIRMATION

- ✧ Shiloh Atkinson, daughter of Beth Alberts & Gordon Atkinson
- ✧ David Jenkins, son of Alissa & David Jenkins
- ✧ Jacob Lefkowitz, son of Ann Comoglio & Matt Lefkowitz
- ✧ Seth Siegel, son of Michele & Gary Siegel

#### KABBALAT TORAH

- ✧ Nina Espinosa, daughter of Lisa Weinberg & Hernan Espinosa
- ✧ Ezra Golani, son of Lisa Wolf & Yehuda Golani
- ✧ Kaleb Golant, son of Aimee Golant Casella & David Casella

# B<sup>3</sup> CONTINUED

# TIKKUN OLAM

- ✧ Isaac Landman, son of Louis Landman
- ✧ Eva Richey, daughter of Gina Silverman & Reagan Richey
- ✧ Daniel Zuzovsky, son of Amy Cohen & Guy Zuzovsky

### June 12-14 – Camping Shabbaton

If you have not signed up, we hope you'll join us for the day... at our second annual joint congregation camping trip at Del Valle Campground in Livermore.

### REGISTRATION for 2015-2016 / 5776

Registration for next year will be online again this year. Starting in mid-May, check your email, the BIJ app (see page 14 for download directions), and the BIJ website for more information. Our first day of "regular" programming will be Sunday, September 27, 2015.

*L'shalom,*

*Rebecca Goodman*

Director of Education

## Todah Rabbah - Thank you!

We are deeply grateful to the JCF Catalyst Initiative for the Synagogue School Scholarship support. This award was made possible by the Jewish Community Federation and its Endowment Fund, through a grant to the Synagogue Partnership. For more information, visit [www.sjcf.org](http://www.sjcf.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Collaborative Tikkun Olam

### Sandwich Making



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

Our four synagogues are well underway in activities to help alleviate hunger in San Francisco. Since January, we have fed over 500 people with our sandwich making program!

We will continue making sandwiches following Lunch and Learn on the third Thursday of each month. You're welcome to enjoy lunch and the discussion led by one of the rabbis of the

Southside Jewish Collaborative starting at noon. Or just come and make sandwiches starting at 1:30. The location rotates between the four synagogues: May 21 at B'nai Emunah and June 18 at BIJ.

We also make sandwiches every other month on a Sunday at BIJ. Our next assembly lines will be on May 3 & July 12 at 1:00pm. Even if you can't come to help assemble sandwiches, you can help out by bringing one of the non-perishable items we use: peanut butter, jam or granola bars. These food and monetary donations to Tikkun Olam are greatly appreciated so that we can continue our activities to feed the hungry in San Francisco.

### San Francisco/Marin Food Bank

The Tikkun Olam Project is sponsoring volunteering as a group at the SF Food Bank on the last Sunday of the month. The upcoming dates are: May 31 and June 28, 9:00 - 11:00am.

If you have volunteered at the Food Bank before, you know it is a very rewarding experience. If you haven't, we think you will enjoy it, but please be aware of the following to make sure it is the right activity for you:

The SF Food Bank is a large warehouse that stores and distributes food to a multitude of community agencies that help feed the hungry. When volunteering, tasks can involve putting rice, oatmeal, beans or oats into 1 lb. bags, or sorting mixed cans and food boxes, or sorting oranges or other fruit to remove the spoiled fruit. There is some lifting and no chairs are provided, so one must be able to stand for nearly two hours while working; however there is a rest area if needed. Dress in layers as it can be chilly in the warehouse (cement floors).

Children as young as 4 can volunteer on Sundays with an adult family member so it's a great family activity. We are allotted a specific number of volunteer slots, so we must know if you are coming. If you'd like to join us, please RSVP to Lori Ganz ([ljangz@yahoo.com](mailto:ljangz@yahoo.com)) or Steve Roditti ([whoopisterev@aol.com](mailto:whoopisterev@aol.com)).

*L'shalom,*

*Lori Ganz and Steve Roditti*

Tikkun Olam Committee Members

### RSVP for FOOD BANK

Lori Ganz [ljangz@yahoo.com](mailto:ljangz@yahoo.com)

or

Steve Roditti [whoopisterev@aol.com](mailto:whoopisterev@aol.com)

Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ Present

# Josh Kornbluth

An Afternoon of Comedy

*Red Diaper Baby* is Josh's raucously funny recounting of his childhood in New York as the son of Jewish Communists. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll reconsider your views on Johnson's Baby Powder!

"A treasure! You emerge from *Red Diaper Baby* as you do from a finely wrought novel, reluctant to let go of characters who have come to feel like new friends."

– *New York Newsday*



**RED DIAPER  
BABY**



**June 7, 2015 at 2pm @ BIJ**

Doors open at 1pm

**Tickets \$20.00 in advance • \$25.00 at the door**

All tickets are on a Will Call List

**Reserve a table for 8 for family and friends - Advance sales only!**

Ample Parking • Refreshments Provided

For information contact Sherrie, [sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com) or 415-902-8293

Buy tickets online at: [www.bij.org/events-donations/registration](http://www.bij.org/events-donations/registration)

Or make your check payable to BIJ Sisterhood

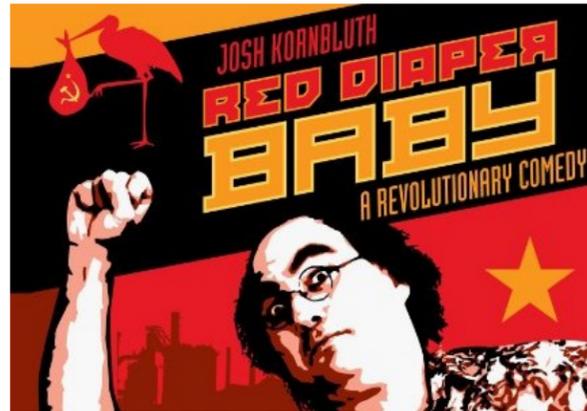
mail to BIJ Sisterhood, 625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94131

# SISTERHOOD - THE WOMEN OF BIJ

## Sisterhood -- The Women of BIJ

By Sherrie Rosenberg, President

We have a very special comedy event coming up on **Sunday, June 7, 2015 at 2:00pm Josh Kornbluth will perform *Red Diaper Baby***. I had the good fortune of reading his book of the same name and I loved his autobiographical story and his humor. The section about himself on his website begins, "I was raised by Jewish Communists in New York City." Since reading his book, I have seen him perform a different show and heard him in a dialogue with his rabbi about Israeli – Palestinian relations. Josh was part of an adult B'nai Mitzvah celebration in Israel. He is very funny and he is a wonderful mensch. Please join us and bring your friends and family for a terrific afternoon (details on page 12).



\*\*\*\*\*

I know this is early because Passover just passed but I want to tell you about some special seders and experiences from this year so you can keep them in mind for next year. I hope everyone had lovely Passover seders. I am sad to say that I missed BIJ's community seder this year, especially because I know from the comments on our app and from what people told me, it was wonderful.

The special evening where Rabbi Gottlieb taught us how to make his grandmother's gefilte fish and Ricki Weintraub taught us how to make her *chrain* (horseradish) recipe was really delightful. We had a lovely group of women and men and each took part in every step of the cooking. If they offer it again next year, I urge you to attend.

This was the first year we held the Mystical Seder, based on Heather Mendel's beautiful Haggadah, *Towards Freedom: A Feminist Haggadah for Men & Women*. Heather and Ricki Weintraub co-led the seder and included beautiful music. It was enlightening to learn about some of the extraordinary women

in our biblical history. I bought the Haggadah so I can re-read it and get a deeper understanding about the contributions of our matriarchs. We had a beautiful write-up about it by Lyn Davidson in the J. on April 3, 2015, page 5. I hope you, your families, and your friends will come next year.

I also went to a public Social Justice Seder at the University of San Francisco (USF). USF's Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice (JSSJ) is probably the only program of its kind in the world. Their sixth annual Social Justice Passover Seder was led by long-time social justice activist, acclaimed writer and poet, and JSSJ faculty member Andrew Ramer. He led us through the seder focusing on the imperative to take better care of our physical world. Most in attendance were USF students and for many of them, this was their first seder. The students and I learned a lot and enjoyed the experience. Light, organic, and locally sourced Kosher-for-Passover snacks were served. Each year the Social Justice Seder follows a different theme.

L'shalom, *Sherrie*

sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com  
or 415.902.8293



Women of BIJ Meeting

June 14 @ 10:30am

# COMMUNITY

## BIJ Community App

We, BIJ Members, have our own app, available for FREE only to members in the Apple App store and Google Play Store.

What is the BIJ app? It's a place to:

- **Discuss** - A place for any member to start conversations, share photos, and read announcements
- **Photos** - A shared photo album
- **Events** - BIJ events at a glance - along with reminders and RSVPs
- **Members** - A member directory, with phone numbers and emails

### Download it today.

The BIJ app is members-only and free!

You can find it in the app stores by searching: congregation beth israel judea.

If you're not automatically approved, it means we do not have your current email address. Provide current information and you will be approved without delay.



[bit.ly/bij-apple](http://bit.ly/bij-apple)

Or, type the appropriate url into your browser:



[bit.ly/bij-android](http://bit.ly/bij-android)

## We welcome to the Jewish community:

FEIVEL EPHEMUS PIERCE OZTOK arrived on January 13, 2015 in Lancaster, England. Happy parents are Abra Pierce and Murat Oztok. Proud grandparents are Heidi and Gregory Pierce of San Bruno. Overjoyed great-grandmother is Millie Shelton (as well as another great-grandmother in Turkey). Abra, Heidi, and Millie are former members of BIJ.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yael Aleeza Shapira arrived on March 21, 2015, at 10:03pm. She measured up at 9lbs, 2.4oz. She has already met her twin brothers, Elijah and Eitan, and looks forward to meeting you. Her proud parents are BIJ members Jocelyn and Doron Shapira. Yael is pictured here with her parents at her Simchat Bat on April 19.



## Neighborhood Resiliency Project / Empowered Communities Program

We have the rare opportunity to become part of a Brotherhood Way resource in the event of a major disaster - the next "big one?"

The City of San Francisco is working with neighborhoods to develop action plans in preparedness and response strategies. Miraloma, Diamond Heights and Bayview are three communities already in the program, and we are at the formation stage here.

If you are passionate about preparedness, resiliency and broader community engagement, we need you to become part of the team to spearhead the project jointly with the other faith-based communities on Brotherhood Way (and possibly Park Merced, SF State University and others).

Go to [www.empowersf.org](http://www.empowersf.org) for more information.

Contact the BIJ Office now!  
415.586.8833 / [office@bij.org](mailto:office@bij.org)

If you are considering making a donation to BIJ, the area most in need is the General Fund.

## Todah Rabbah - Thank You!

### Annual Fund

Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein and Gerald Bernstein  
Anne and John Fuchs-Chesney  
Yvonne Lorvan  
Bonnie Orendorff  
Martin Segol

### Elijah Fund

Daniel Growald  
Gabriel and Sarah Isaacs  
Cassandra Spacek

## GIFTS & DONATIONS

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

### *Friday Night Feast*

Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ

#### *General Fund*

**Anonymous**

**Benjamin and Debra Braun**

In gratitude for Friday Mindfulness Meditation

**Jeanette Bronstein**

In memory of Charles Rosen

**Don and Trude Fineman**

In memory of Nathan Fineman

**Joan Lapedis**

In honor of Marty Segol's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Claire Mikowski**

In memory of Isak Mikowski

**Richard and Anne Marie Ruben**

In memory of Walter Obermeyer

**Valeriya Pasynkova**

In memory of Inna Pecherikhina

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

**Beverly Flaum**

In memory of Benjamin Flaum

In memory of Martin Flaum

In memory of Sol Nockowitz

#### *Music & Cantor Fund*

**Shirley and David Zeff**

In memory of Ann Blumenfeld

In memory of Morris Jack Blumenfeld

#### *Rabbi Gottlieb Discretionary Fund*

**Geoff Rothman and Beth Edwards**

In appreciation of Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub

#### *Youth Awards & Scholarship Fund*

**Daniel Bennett & Devorah Uriel**

In honor of the wedding of Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub

**Julie Robbins-Cinti and Robert Cinti**

In memory of Rita Robbins

#### *Gift-in-Kind*

**Deb and Benjamin Braun**

Donation of food for the Seder

**Lori Ganz and Peter Wolff, Jr.**

Donation of food for the Seder Sacks

**Natalie Melendez-Ortiz**

Table linens, catering service and utensils for Pesach Seder

\*\*\*\*\*

Donations received after April 17

will appear in the next bulletin.

**THANK YOU to all our volunteers,  
and a special THANK YOU to:**

#### *Bulletin*

Lynne Rappaport

Reeva Safford

Adam Safford

#### *House*

Blair Horst

Terry Levy

#### *Office*

Faith Appel

Judy Bader

Amy Gottlieb

Ron Appel

Lori Ganz

Gail Harden

#### *BIJ Community Seder*

A HUGE THANK YOU to **Deb Braun**, Seder Coordinator and Team Captain. The great success was in large part due to your efforts, plus:

Barbara Hammel

Nancy Greenberg

Ann Morgenstern

Eric Hammel

Natalie Melendez-Ortiz

David Morgenstern

**and the many more who made it such a success!!!**

#### *Seder Sacks Delivery*

Lori Ganz

Corey and Taylor Wolff for embracing Seder Sacks for their Mitzvah Project as they become B'nai Mitzvah.

Stella Lorvan

#### *Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ*

**Friday Night Feast**

Barbara Hammel

Lynne Rappaport

Natalie Melendez-Ortiz

Sherrie Rosenberg

#### *B'nai Mitzvah Gifts*

Sarah Glew

#### *Jewish Home Luncheon*

Diane Ehrlich

Valerie Rudee

#### *Rabbi Morris Scholarship Committee*

Judy Bader

Diane Ehrlich

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

# Congregation Beth Israel Judea

625 Brotherhood Way  
San Francisco, CA 94132

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*You are Cordially Invited*

to our

## **BIJ ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, May 3, 10:00am**

**Please join us for our annual meeting:**

- ⇒ Learn about the State of the Synagogue with an update from the Board of Trustees
- ⇒ Elect new Board Members
- ⇒ Presentation from our B<sup>3</sup> Students
- ⇒ Be a part of the future of BIJ!

Coffee and noshes provided.



## **CONFIRMATION AND KABBALAT TORAH**

**Friday, May 29, 7:30pm**

This special Erev Shabbat Service will include *Divrei Torah* (words of wisdom) from our Confirmation Class of 5775/2015. They will read, from the Torah, the Ten Commandments and the events of the revelation at Sinai. We will also honor new students to our B<sup>3</sup> Youth Education Program in a Kabbalat Torah (receiving the Torah) ceremony. Please join us in celebrating with:

CONFIRMATION	KABBALAT TORAH
✧ Shiloh Atkinson	✧ Nina Espinosa
✧ David Jenkins	✧ Ezra Golani
✧ Jacob Lefkowitz	✧ Kaleb Golant
✧ Seth Siegel	✧ Isaac Landman
	✧ Eve Ritchie
	✧ Daniel Zuzovsky

