

WE ARE LISTENING!



*Community Participation Results
see page 5*

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 volunteers. Original articles and reviews are appreciated, but we cannot guarantee publication. Submit ideas by email to: bulletin@bij.org in simple Microsoft Word format or in the body of your email. **Deadline for the upcoming March / April issue is Monday, January 25.** If you would like to help with bulletin production, please contact Deborah at: deborah@schweizerlawfirm.com

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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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BIJ Community App

Stay in touch with your BIJ Community with our FREE app, available to BIJ members in both the Apple App and Google Play Store. Find it by searching: "congregation beth israel judea" in either store.

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 AM to 5 PM
Friday: 10 AM to 3 PM
CLOSED Mondays and also:
JANUARY 1ST FOR WINTER BREAK

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Seeking Everyday Holiness: Upcoming Mussar Training By Rabbi Danny Gottlieb & Interim Cantorial Soloist Ricki Weintraub



In our work as leaders of this sacred community, we have always considered that our primary goal was to build relationships with the members of BIJ and their families. Whether we are leading services, teaching, counseling, visiting the sick, meeting with the Leadership Team or singing on Shabbat, we are always seeking to develop and enhance the relationships and friendships we have with all of you.

Over the years, we have found that we are best able to build relationships with others when we know ourselves well, and work to make ourselves the best people we can be, by paying attention to the character traits by which we hope to be known; character traits like honesty, patience, humility, faith, trust and gratitude. Awareness of these character traits makes it possible for us to know ourselves and each other better, and provides us with criteria by which to measure our personal growth and our lives together.

The Hebrew word for character traits is “middot,” and the system for study and practice of the “middot” is called “Mussar.” As you heard over the High Holy Days, the study of Mussar, which began in the 1700’s in Europe, has been contemporized and made available to the 21st century Jewish community, mostly due to the work of Alan Moranis and the Mussar Institute. Beginning in late January, we will offer a course here at BIJ in conjunction with the Mussar Institute. This course will be called “Seeking Everyday Holiness,” and we invite you to join us.

On Rosh Chodesh Nisan 5773, Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ Sisterhood embarked on a yearlong “Taste of Mussar” course. We learned that Mussar practice *takes practice*. The foundation of the Mussar system of study holds the theory that experience is more effective for bringing about personal change than intellectual knowledge.

We learned that the goal of Mussar practice is to find a balance between “opposite middot” which we tend to refer to as “positive character traits” and “negative character traits.” For example: one of the middot we explored, “z’rizut” (enthusiasm, zeal, alacrity) is a desirable “positive middah.” Busyness, lack of focus, rationalization can play a part in undermining our good intentions. Mussar helps us pay attention to the gaps between our convictions and the way we actually act. It helps us find the right balance, starting with self-awareness.

“Seeking Everyday Holiness” will be a 10-session course, held on alternate Tuesday evenings, beginning on Jan 26th. To register for the course, please email rabbigottlieb@bij.org or call the synagogue office.

Shalom,

Rabbi Danny Gottlieb

and

Ricki Weintraub

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Co-Presidents by Nancy Greenberg & Deborah Schweizer



Nancy's Message:

It seems every time I am writing an article I am somewhere other than home. If you know Marty Segol well, you know he is a Cal sports fanatic. So here we are in Las Vegas at a basketball tournament. So what in the world does basketball have to do with BIJ, synagogue life, or the Union of Reform Judaism Biennial, which is my topic for this article: motivation, support, teamwork, community and connections.

The URJ Biennial in Florida was an incredible experience. This was a first for me and not the last. The sessions were packed with useful information discussing such things as "audacious hospitality," the importance of community and the connections we make to build and support our community, as well as the sacred nature of our work as a Board of Trustees.

Without a doubt, Vice President Joe Biden, our Saturday night speaker, was a highlight. He emphasized the support and friendship between the US and Israel. He spoke about his relationship with the Jewish community, how much he learned from Jewish colleagues, especially Tom Lantos, of blessed memory. He was inspiring!

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ, who is always motivational, didn't disappoint. He energized us, taught us how important unity is: "In our movement, we are working very hard to stay, in a sense, together and unified in the larger goal which is to support Israel. We cannot let divisions keep us from that deep commitment and connection to the State of Israel and to its security and well being."

And then there was a lively debate moderated by Jodi Kantor of the NY Times that included Ari Shavit, Rabbi Eric Yoffe and Stav Shaffir, who is the youngest member of the Knesset and leader of the Tel Aviv Social Justice protest movement.

Shabbat with 5,000 other Jews was an awesome experience, both on Friday night and Saturday morning. Your singing does not have to be on key and you can sing as loud as you want without feeling intimidated. It was joyful, awesome, uplifting and certainly spiritual. Cantor Korn led the Saturday service with his beautiful voice and Rabbi Esther Lederman connected us to our commitment to diversity and social justice.

There were so many other moving and inspirational moments, too many to recount here, as well as funny happenstances such as Marty winning the raffle for attendance at the Scheidt Seminar for new Presidents. Hahaha!

I encourage each one of our Board members to plan ahead and attend in Boston in 2017.

Deborah's Message:

Nancy is quite right that the 2015 URJ Biennial in Orlando in November was a rich and awesome experience. This was my second year attending and I found it every bit as inspirational and thought-and-action provoking as my first Biennial in San Diego two years ago.

This year, I attended a number of sessions in the "Tikkun Olam" track so that I could gather information to share with our "Tikkun Olam" task force and respond to the interests communicated to us by members of our BIJ community who are seeking ways to make a difference in the world. I learned about a number of Jewish social action organizations working on local, state and national levels to address important issues such as the hunger crisis, disaster relief, and gun violence prevention (as examples). I came home with lots of resources for those interested in pursuing such causes. Don't hesitate to contact me if you want to find out more!

I also was quite moved by the thundering call to action addressed by multiple wise speakers including Rabbi David Sapperstien, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Vice President Joe Biden, Ari Shavit, Stav Shaffir, and Rabbi Eric Yoffe on the topic of the urgent need for us – the American Reform Jewish community -- to apply the principles of Tikkun Olam to the State of Israel for the sake of her and our existence. These speakers made the compelling point that the future of the Jewish State of Israel and the Jewish people are inexorably linked – one cannot survive without the other. Each mentioned the damaging effect the "popular" misconception of Israel as a bullying, denier of human rights was having on the next generation, who are finding it easier to disengage from Israel and their Jewish identity. The speakers challenged us all – as American Reform Jews – to break our silence and find a way to articulate support for the Jewish State of Israel even in the face of disagreeing with some of her current policies or politicians. The learned speakers reminded us of the importance of "getting the facts right" and setting the record straight about the history of the Jewish state, what true "Zionism" means, and what the original vision for the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel was. They urged all of us to give voice to what Israeli polls show the majority of Israelis want: peace, a two-state solution and religious equality. In true URJ fashion, attendees were provided with resources to help us continue these important conversations with our own community.

Stay tuned!

Nancy Greenberg and Deborah Schweizer

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION RESULTS!

We Hear You!

by Nancy Greenberg & Deborah Schweizer

At our May 2015 Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees announced the publication of BIJ's "Community Participation Plan," which was the culmination of more than a year's work done by the Board of Trustees to answer the question of how we can best function to sustain ourselves as a community. During the summer and in October, we conducted Community Gatherings in the homes of members of our BIJ community to hear about how people connected to BIJ; to gather information about what people desired from their BIJ community; and to discuss individual roles in the Community Participation Plan. All of our BIJ community was invited to attend. 40 members participated in at least one of the five gatherings conducted.

What we heard about the ways and reasons how/why people connected to BIJ included: Kids, the activities, relationships with people, support for life cycle events, developing Jewish identity, developing Jewish community, Jewish learning, music and liturgy, High Holy Day and Shabbat services, spiritual growth, caring clergy, the intimacy and friendliness, smallness, its comfortable, welcoming, opportunity to be of service and to give back.

Several of your comments:

- "The rabbi is there for me"
- "I appreciate the care of my mom by the Temple"
- "Can't imagine not being a member of BIJ"
- "I feel at home"

When asked to express your desires for BIJ, we heard the following responses:

- More opportunities for social interaction like yoga, film series, dancing, singing, games, parenting group, interfaith family group, off-site Shabbat dinners with congregants.
- More adult learning opportunities including explaining the history and relationship of all the books of the bible and liturgy and how they fit together, the Torah, and the meaning of each service for the various holidays.
- More opportunities for Tikkun Olam. Working together for peace.
- More inter-generational programming.
- More creative programming like outdoor worship in the park or at the beach.
- Continuing the many things we already have like Adult learning, Tot Shabbat, Friday night feasts, Sacred Hebrew Chant and Drum, Shabbat in the 'Hood, Incredible Edibles, Elul learning, collaborations with the Southside Jewish Collaborative. Financial security.
- More volunteers becoming involved in discreet tasks.
- More personal communications and outreach.
- Support for life cycle events.
- Spiritual assistance in times of need.

- Greater support network from within our community. Rides for those who need it. Greater outreach to seniors.
- More opportunities for teens and tweens to engage at BIJ.
- Better and more consistent outreach to new members.
- Services to be more understandable and educational. Services to be shorter.
- The synagogue to reflect a mindset focusing more on personal and environmental health and well-being.
- More small, intimate opportunities to come together. Discussion of current events.

Sample desires for BIJ programs:

- "What I desire is the opportunity to meet new people and remain useful as I age."
- "I desire activities I can drag my atheist Jewish spouse to without too much struggle."
- "I hope to be more spiritually inspired."
- "Supporting those struggling, seeking support when I struggle."

The last part of the Community Gathering sessions was devoted to a discussion of the Community Participation Plan and the ways individuals could participate. Copies of the plan were handed out and reviewed at the meetings. The Plan can be obtained from the office or downloaded from our website at www.bij.org.

The Plan is a way for the essential functions of the synagogue to be divided up into four areas of responsibility that are overseen by four team leaders and implemented by volunteers from our BIJ community. The idea is to relieve over-burdened staff and engage our members. We asked members to let us know if a particular area was of interest to you so we could reach out to you down the road. The teams are: Spiritual Practice, Education, Community Outreach/Development and Community Operations.

If a particular area interests you, it is not too late to let us know. Tell us what you are able to do. There is plenty of room for your input and assistance. Become a part of a single activity or recurring event, whatever suits you best. It is a great way to meet people and do something meaningful for your community. Contact us:

EducationLori Ganz, liganz@yahoo.com
 Spiritual Practice.....Debra Braun, debraun@mac.com
 Community Outreach & Development.....to be filled
 Community Operations..... Gail Harden, grh4@yahoo.com
 Co-President.....Nancy Greenberg, njgraphics@att.net
 Co-President.....Deborah Schweizer, deborah@schweizerlawfirm.com

Let us hear from you, we are listening!!

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION - B³

B³ Updates

by Lori Ganz, Education Team Leader

While Rebecca Goodman is on maternity leave, the fun and learning continues at B3.

In November the first Family Education Day was a day of Tikkun Olam. The kids and parents learned about the Jewish value of helping others through art, song, stories and action. The kids made almost 300 sandwiches packed in sacks with other healthy foods. The meals were delivered to people who are homeless and living on the streets of San Francisco. Our partner, the Homeless Outreach Team from the San Francisco Department of Public Health, came to say thank you to the B3 community for the hard work and then set out to deliver the food to those in need.

Other happenings...

The B3 program has started a Parent Advisory Team. Lisa Weinberg, Johanna Gendelman and Lori Ganz representing Beth Israel Judea have joined three parents from Congregation B'nai Emunah and our respective Directors of Education to find ways families can support the B3 programming and give feedback to help create a stronger program.

This summer, congregation members, rabbis and educators from Or Shalom, Beth Israel Judea and B'nai Emunah began discussions to see if by combining our efforts, we could bring greater educational opportunities to our youth. The planning group decided to try combining our teaching staff to bring a stronger program to the kindergarten through second grade classes. B3 and Or Shalom educators (Rabbi Mark Melamut, Rebecca Goodman, Zehava Dahan) have worked together to develop an age-appropriate learning-packed school year for the kids. In past years, B3 has had one teacher for the three grades. This year we have three teachers – one for each grade -- and more kids learning together in each class. The two schools will continue to participate together in Shabbat Shelanu and are exploring some new opportunities to offer the teens later in the school year. We will evaluate these programs at the end of the school year, and decide if we should proceed with other collaborations. If you have any ideas, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact any of our Advisory Team members: Lori, Lisa and Johanna.



B3 Schedule January/February 2016:

1/3/16	NO B3
1/10/16	Happy New Year! B3 resumes @ BIJ, 9:30 AM
1/17/16	NO B3
1/24/16	B3, 9:30 AM
1/31/16	B3, 9:30 AM
2/7/16	B3, 9:30 AM
2/14/16	NO B3
2/21/16	B3, 9:30 AM
2/28/16	B3, 9:30 AM



Lori Ganz

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.

Sunday Study Circle

January 10 & 24, February 14 & 28

On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, join the Sunday Study Circle for an on-going study of the Tanach. The group is led by members of Or Shalom. What a wonderful opportunity for parents to study while their children are attending B3! Check the weekly emails for location.

Adult Hebrew Lessons

January 14 & 21, February 4 & 18

6:30-7:30 PM

This is an intermediate Hebrew course, where we are working on improving reading skills, developing the building blocks of Hebrew grammar and increasing our vocabulary. We normally meet bi-weekly, but will resume after the Winter Break on January 14. \$10/session. Contact Ricki Weintraub for more information: ricki.weintraub@att.net



Learn to Lead a Shabbat Service

Would you like to learn how to lead a Shabbat morning service? Rabbi Gottlieb is looking for members who would be interested in learning how to lead the Shabbat morning prayers, to assist him on Shabbat mornings and lead the service on occasion when he is away. The learning will be in a small group or private tutorial setting, depending on the number of students. A reading knowledge of Hebrew and familiarity with the morning service is required. Please email Rabbi Gottlieb if you are interested.

Chant a Torah Portion for Shabbat!

Rabbi Gottlieb is looking for Torah and Haftarah readers for Shabbat mornings throughout the year. IF YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW... You are invited to learn a few new verses to leyn for any Shabbat. Or, chant the maftir or your Haftarah on the anniversary of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Give Rabbi a call at 415.586.8833 or send him an email at rabbigottlieb@bij.org to schedule and discuss the details.

Golden Thursdays: Lunch & Learn with Rabbis Gottlieb, Levin and Melamut, PLUS Sandwich Making

January 21, 12:00 NOON at BIJ

February 18, 12:00 NOON at B'nai Emunah



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, and Melamut and rotate among all three locations. A light lunch is provided, followed by sandwich making at 1:30 pm for Homeless Outreach. (Rabbi Mizrahi of Or Shalom is on sabbatical.)

Learn the Torah Tropes

Has it been a while (years?) since you last read from the Torah? Perhaps you never learned to read the Torah but would like to do so? Would you like to occasionally read the Torah publically on Shabbat mornings? What about being able to chant an aliyah when your child is having their Bar/Bat Mitzvah? If so, then consider joining our upcoming adult Torah trope class. Although the starting date is yet to be determined, please let the BIJ office know of your interest.



Seeking Everyday Holiness:

Mussar Training

January 26, February 9 & 23, 7:00-8:30 PM



Mussar is an experiential system of applied values and ethics that can lead to permanent change, so that we "not only do what is right, but are in the habit of doing what is right." Join us in this important class as we learn the practice of Mussar. Conducted in conjunction with the highly regarded Mussar Institute, this 10-session course, held on alternate Tuesday evenings, begins on Jan 26th. Cost for the ten-session course is \$90. For more information, see Page 3 of this Bulletin. You can register online at www.bij.org/events-donations/registration, email rabbigottlieb@bij.org or call the BIJ Office.

Introduction to Judaism

February 4, 7:00 PM

This class will be taught by Rabbi Gottlieb and Rabbi Melamut (of B'nai Emunah), meeting monthly on the first Thursday of the month. For more information, send an email to Rabbi Gottlieb at rabbigottlieb@bij.org or call the BIJ Office.

SHABBAT

Shabbat Mornings

8:45 AM Torah Study / 10:00 AM Service

Join Rabbi Gottlieb each Shabbat morning at 8:45 for an accessible Torah study session, and then be right on time for Shabbat services led by Rabbi Gottlieb. (The first Saturday of the month is led by Or Shalom's clergy and are joint services with Or Shalom.)

Erev Shabbat

Shabbat Café at B'nai Emunah

January 1st at 7:30 PM

What a great way to start 2016! In place of our regular Friday evening service, we'll gather at B'nai Emunah for some Shabbat and soul-full music for a New Year's Café with Saul Kaye. Coffee is served; bring a dessert to share! *There will be no service at BIJ this night.*



1st Friday: Shabbat Shelanu

January 8* & February 5

5:45 PM	Tot Shabbat Service
6:30 PM	Main dish provided, potluck sides & desserts
7:15 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 guide us in a fun-filled Shabbat and monthly birthday celebration! *Please note that for January, Shabbat Shelanu will be held on the second Friday. RSVP <http://bij.org/events-donations/registration>

2nd Friday: Shabbat in the 'Hood

January 29**, 7:30 PM, Pacifica

February 18, 7:30 PM, Sunset District, San Francisco

Typically, on the second Friday of each month, we take our Shabbat service "on the road" to different neighborhoods in San Francisco and the Peninsula. (**This January, our Shabbat in the 'Hood will be the last Saturday of the month.) Members host the chavurah-style services in their homes, led by Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub. This provides an opportunity for our members to enjoy an intimate service and 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 service at BIJ on January 29. All are welcome to attend Or Shalom's service on February 18 at 7:00 PM.*

3rd Friday: Friday Night Feast

January 15, 6:30 PM - Protecting Tenants' Rights

February 19, 6:30 PM - Caring for Our Mentally Ill

January's Friday Night Feast will feature Karen Kerner, BIJ community member, discussing her work helping tenants resolve disputes with their landlords and stay in their homes. Karen has spent 10 years as a tenants' rights counselor through the nonprofit Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco, which gives free, non-legal assistance to SF tenants. Please RSVP by January 8 to sisterhood@bij.org.

Rabbi Natan Fenner, Chaplain and Rabbi at the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, will be February's Friday Night Feast speaker. Rabbi Fenner will be talking with us about how we, as a community and individually, can help care for our friends and community members who are struggling with mental illness. Please RSVP by February 12 to sisterhood@bij.org.

Invite your friends to our Friday Night Feasts! Just remember to RSVP...

4th Friday: Sacred Hebrew Chant & Drum

January 22 & February 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!!!**



TIKKUN OLAM (REPAIRING THE WORLD)

Southside Jewish Collaborative: Upcoming Tikkun Olam Programs

By Lori Ganz



Volunteering at Food Bank

Last Sunday of each month

January 31 & February 28

9:00 to 11:00 AM at SF Food Bank

Our volunteer corps will continue helping at the SF/Marin Food Bank, 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SF. Come help prepare food to be distributed to thousands of people in San Francisco. Let Lori Ganz know if you can make it (liganz@yahoo.com or 415.606.8727) or just come!

Lunch Bag Assembly

Thursday, January 21 at BIJ

Thursday February 18 at B'nai Emunah

1:30 PM Following Lunch & Learn at Noon

Join us for the Lunch & Learn program from 12:00 to 1:30, or just come to help our hunger relief efforts at 1:30 if you'd prefer.



A Special Tikkun Olam Giving Day

Sunday, February 21 at BIJ

Mobile Blood Bank: 11:00 - 4:00 PM

Sandwich Making: 1:00 PM

Help your community save a life by donating blood on Sunday, February 21st. Blood supplies are typically low at the beginning of the year due to fewer donations during the holidays and an uptick in surgeries requiring blood. It's simple, and it's a mitzvah!

The same day we'll also have lunch sack preparation for the homeless in our community beginning at 1:00 PM.

Give blood, make sandwiches, or both! And stay tuned for additional activities on this day.

BIJ COMMUNITY

Jewish Roots

Journey to Europe & Israel

Led by Rabbi Danny Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub

June 26 – July 10, 2016

Registration Now Open!

Land Package Price Per Person: \$3,835

- Airfare and tips not included -

For more information contact Rabbi Gottlieb:

415-586-8833 or rabbigottlieb@bij.org

Or contact Daniel Ehrlich, Keshet's Educational Director,

with any questions about the trip: danny@keshetisrael.co.il



TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

A Look Back at the 2014 BIJ Israel Tour

By Lynne Rappaport



Falafel, Anyone?

Photo by Terry Levy

Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub led a 10-day congregational trip to Israel in October 2014. The Bulletin asked the travelers for their reflections a year later.

“Not a day goes by that I do not think of my fabulous trip to Israel,” said **Lynn Miller**, one of six participants in the BIJ trip to Israel last October. “I was brought into the old world of my Jewish heritage, and connected stronger to BIJ.” Lynn had worked at BIJ teaching second grade in the religious school for four years in the 1990’s. She left that job to start a dog boarding business. The congregational trip was her second time in Israel; she lived on a kibbutz in the Golan Heights in 1973.

“I officially joined BIJ after the trip,” she continued. “Every day Rabbi Danny would read a poem, say a blessing, offer special teachings. In Tzfat we walked the old streets, joining a bar mitzvah procession and singing all the joys of our heart with Ricki. Jerusalem made me cry, to enter the golden stone glowing walls. We met the young IDF soldiers who proudly protect the Land. In Petra [Jordan], I felt so proud to walk through its gates. My words do not express all my feelings.”

Simcha Greenspan was similarly moved. It was her first time in Israel. “I left part of my *neshama* (soul) there for always. Israel is a tapestry woven of ancient and modern...it was exciting, demanding, packed, with many special places. It was so wonderful to explore together with BIJ folks and new friends, too. Rabbi Danny and Ricki are lovely to travel with – relaxed and so knowledgeable. We’d sing in the evenings. I got to practice speaking Hebrew.”

It was also the first time for **Sherrie Rosenberg**. She described the trip in detail in her Sisterhood column in the January 2015 Bulletin: “...Our trip was jam-packed with activities to give us a taste of the whole country. I appreciated learning about efforts to better the world, such as Kibbutz Lotan’s work in ecology; Kibbutz Grofit’s therapeutic horseback riding program for special needs kids; and grassroots peace efforts by rabbis and lay people working with Arabs, Palestinians, Druze and Christians, getting to know one another as people. It made me hopeful.

Some of the highlights were studying Torah outdoors on two Shabbat mornings; meeting the Sisterhood president at a synagogue in Netanya; staying a week longer than the rest of the group. I was alone in Jerusalem and liked having a more relaxed pace. I visited friends and had lunch with (former BIJ) Rabbi Rosalind Glazer, who sent her best wishes to everyone. Tzfat was one of the most special places -- magical, very old, with winding streets and small shops selling beautiful handmade artwork. We visited a very old synagogue, as well as a woman glass artist who gave us a demonstration. The country’s rich history and current vibrancy, along with the tensions from the extremes, make it a remarkable place to live or visit.”



Hula Valley Nature Reserve

Photo by Terry Levy

Terry Levy estimated she took over 1,000 photos on the trip. She particularly liked the Hula Valley Nature Reserve in the Galilee with its water buffaloes and other unusual animals and birds – a photographer’s paradise. As a “coastal person,” she loved the Rosh Hanikra grottoes and seeing the beautiful blue Mediterranean Sea. Photographing the coast near Tel Aviv and Jaffa was “amazing and surreal” with its clouds, waves and tall buildings. She also got some unique shots atop Masada of an Orthodox scribe creating a Torah in a specially built space.

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL (CONTINUED)



A Masada Torah Scribe (Sofer) Photo by Terry Levy

The Ilana Goor Museum in Tel Aviv was another highlight. It showcases Goor's unique collections ("bizarre and amazing") as well as the work of other artists. Terry remarked, "I enjoyed being with people I knew and getting to know them better. The familiarity was nice. Being on the bus was fun – a small group of 13 on a bus that could hold 40!" The trip was Terry's first time in Israel.



Rainy Tel Aviv Photo by Terry Levy

Marty Segol recalled several spiritually meaningful highlights that have stayed with him. "We encountered a bar mitzvah on the streets of Tzfat, then sang songs with Rabbi and Ricki in a beautifully decorated little town square with the sun shining down on all of us. Also special to me were a Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Danny in a lovely park near our Jerusalem hotel, in the warmth and sunshine, and a Friday night service at a Reform synagogue in Netanya. After the service we stayed for dinner with the congregation, where we met many of their members." This was Marty's third trip to Israel.

For **Nancy Greenberg**, with four previous trips (2002 was the last

one), the itinerary offered places off the beaten path that she found "fascinating and educational." These included the Hula Valley Nature Reserve in the north, where birds migrating to Africa stop for food and rest; a visit to three different kibbutzim in the Arava desert in the south; eating with soldiers and hearing their stories; the ancient city of Petra, Jordan; and learning about the architecture and the unique system of choosing justices at the Supreme Court. She treasured being together and sharing what was the best part of each day with the group, making new friends, and learning more about each other. "Hearing Ricki sing 'Jerusalem of Gold' when we first arrived will remain a memory forever – it brings tears every time I hear it."

Ricki Weintraub attended Haifa University in the '70s and has returned to the country many times since then. She reflected, "Israel has changed a lot since the first time I was there in 1972. There are certainly many, many more people there. The kibbutz model has evolved. The highways now look like our highways with many lanes and fast moving cars instead of two lanes (with slow moving tractors often blocking the way).

There are also many things that have not changed. The beautiful, blue Mediterranean, the white cliffs at Rosh Hanikra (my kibbutz), the ancient, spiritual energy that seems to linger in the air in Jerusalem and the awe I feel looking back into history at each archaeological site.

For me, one of the beautiful things about leading trips to Israel is sharing in the excitement and joy of each participant. I am very grateful for the privilege of being able to accompany friends and family to the Holy Land and to share my love for Israel with them. Every trip has its own special personality, and there are always little gems along the way that make me smile when I look back. Reading these recollections of Lynn, Simcha, Sherrie, Terry, Marty, and Nancy brought tears to my eyes as their memories reminded me of some of those gems. I hope you will join us on our next trip!"

Rabbi Gottlieb's trip blog included this comment: "...There is something which is unique and indescribable about Shabbat in Jerusalem. Traffic drops to a minimum, most shops and restaurants are closed. Jews across the spectrum from secular to Ultra-Orthodox share the parks and sidewalks of the city. 'Shabbat Shalom' is heard everywhere. We marked the end of Shabbat with Havdalah and then spread out in several directions for a 'night on the town.' Feeling right at home..."

To learn more about the upcoming BIJ Jewish Roots Journey in June/July, including stops in Poland and the Czech Republic as well as Israel, go to <http://www.bij.org/news-blogs-a-photos/rabbis-blog-sp-994> and click on "Join us in Israel 2016."

SISTERHOOD - THE WOMEN OF BIJ

Upcoming Events and Elections

By Sherrie Rosenberg, President

In November we had another wonderful Hanukkah Fair planned and put together for the second year by Terry Levy. Thank you, Terry. There were lots of booths of handcrafted items and several Sisterhood tables of Judaica. There was a raffle and a silent auction. Another thank you goes to Lynne Rappaport who arranged the entertainment. The Jon Frank Jazz Group played beautifully joined by clarinetist Corey Weinstein from Or Shalom. The quartet also had one of our members, Monique Hosein, singing with them. Lynne also arranged for Claire Mikowski to tell stories to the children of B3, our religious school. Micha Mocha, which raises money to help our students go to summer camp, provided the food. Thank you all.

January 10 will be the Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ Annual Brunch. We hope that you can all attend. If you do, you will be treated to a delectable brunch by the Sisterhood officers and committee chairs. This year we are having local historian, Therese Polleti, speaking about the history of retail in downtown San Francisco, focusing on the Jewish families who founded the stores. The brunch starts at 10:00 and is planned so that B3 families can be part of it. We will have a delightful and delicious event in the New Year.

Also, beyond January, please save some dates. **Saturday, February 27th at 6 pm we will have Incredible Edibles.** In April, we have two very special events. **On Sunday, April 10th at 2 pm, we will have our second comedy afternoon with Will Durst.** With

the race to the November presidential election going on, Will has a lot of very funny material to share with us. **On Sunday, April 17th, at 6:30 pm, we will have our second annual Towards Freedom – A Feminist Seder for the New Millennium led by Heather Mendel and Ricki Weintraub.**

Sometime in May, I will have served as your president for four years, the first two as co-president with Sarah Glew, and the second two alone. **We will have our election of officers at our June meeting this year and I urge all of our women to start thinking now about running for office.** It is extremely rewarding. We have all worked together to become a stronger and more inclusive group that lovingly serves BIJ. I definitely will not run again because I want someone else to have a turn leading. I also believe that an organization is strongest when new leadership continues to be developed. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. I plan on staying involved and if requested, be a mentor to the next president the way that Valerie Rudee was for me. Please consider running for president or any of the other offices and feel free to contact any of our officers with questions.

Thank you.

L'shalom,

Sherrie Rosenberg

sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com
or 415.902.8293

Monthly Events

Craft & Schmooze

January 10 & February 14, 1:00-3:00 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.

- ☆ **The Women of BIJ**
- ☆ **Upcoming Sisterhood Events**
- ☆ **Sunday, January 10th at 10:00 AM**
The Women of BIJ Annual Membership Brunch
- ☆ **Sunday, February 7th at 10:30 AM**
Sisterhood Meeting
- ☆ **Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 PM**
Incredible Edibles
- ☆ **Sunday, February 28th at 10:00 AM**
Sisterhood Offsite Brunch

Rosh Chodesh Women's Group

January 13 & February 10, 7:00 PM



The Women of BIJ celebrate the new moon each month on a Wednesday evening. 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.

SISTERHOOD - THE WOMEN OF BIJ

BOOK CLUB



February 3rd, 7PM, Offsite Location

Our February book is *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi. Named the best science book ever in 2006 by the Royal Institution of Great Britain, *The Periodic Table* is a series of autobiographical stories of the author's experiences as a Jewish-Italian doctoral-level chemist under the Fascist regime and afterwards.

Please contact Sherrie Rosenberg via her email or phone (sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com or 415.902.8293) to verify date, location and other details. All are welcome for an enjoyable discussion.

Incredible Edibles!

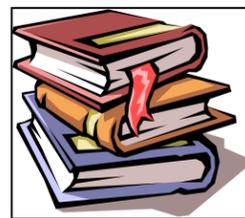
SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday, February 27th, 6PM

Additional Details to Follow Soon...

Beth Israel Judea's Sisterhood Announces the 7th Annual Rabbi Herbert Morris Scholarship



Applications available for:
High School, College and Continuing Education Students

All children, grandchildren and adult members in good standing at BIJ are eligible.

Please contact the office for an application or check online at www.bij.org

Applications due by 2/26/2016
Return applications to Diane Ehrlich c/o Sisterhood BIJ or leave applications for Diane at the BIJ Office.

Need A Lift to Shul?



Please let us know if you would like a ride to and from BIJ for any services or events. Contact Myra Herpe at 650-992-3330, or Sherrie Rosenberg at 415.902.8293 or sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com and we will do our best to get you rides.

COMMUNITY

Join the musical prayer leaders of Nava Tehila for an evening of delight as we usher in the new week. Through original melodies, we will mark the closing of Shabbat with the Havdallah ceremony, followed by a participatory concert that will fill our hearts and uplift our souls.

Hebrew for “beautiful praise,” Nava Tehila has become one of the Jewish world’s most innovative musical prayer communities. The ensemble is an off-shoot of the Nava Tehila Congregation in Jerusalem, a liberal, egalitarian religious community, which has gained a wide reputation for its uplifting music. Rooted in Middle Eastern, Hasidic, contemporary Israeli and world music, Nava Tehila’s original compositions are alternately celebratory, meditative, joyful and reflective.

Co-Sponsored by BIJ!!!



HAVDALAH CONCERT **NAVA TEHILA**

Saturday
January 16
7:30 pm

Sherith Israel's historic sanctuary
2266 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94115



TICKETS: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2467925>

General: \$20 / Ages 6–21: \$10 / Free for ages 5 years and younger

Sliding scale pricing upon request, call 415.346.1720

GIFTS & DONATIONS

Todah Rabbah - Thank You!

Annual Fund

Kenneth and Felicia Aron
William and Diane Ehrlich
Beverly Flaum and Sharon Duque
Jonathan Frank and Lynne Rappaport
Anne and John Fuchs-Chesney
Nancy Greenberg
Sandra and Alan Himmelstein
Bruce and Rhona Kabakoff
Bonnie Orendorff
Alla and Yuri Rykov
Risa Salat-Kolm and Steve Kolm
Martin Segol
Daniel and Beth Weisberg
Carole K. and John D. Winston

Care and Concern Fund

Jonathan Frank and Lynne Rappaport
In honor of your aliyah and opening the ark at High Holy Day services

Friday Night Feast

Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ
Ronald Sosnick
In honor of the B'not Mitzvah of his granddaughters, Olivia and Sophia Law

General Fund

BIJ Board of Trustees
In honor of and gratitude for Sara Heckelman’s five years as Executive Administrator of BIJ
Debra and Ben Braun
For the honor of an aliyah on Shabbat
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu
Jeanette Bronstein
In memory of Arthur Rosen
Amy Cohen and Guy Zuzovsky
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu
Jonathan Frank and Lynne Rappaport
In memory of Allan Amber
Stephen Dobrow
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu
Joshua Goodman and Karen Kerner
In honor of John Fuchs-Chesney’s 70th Birthday
Gabriel Isaacs and Sara Lopez-Isaacs
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu
Janet Jacobs
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu
Margaret Kaplan
Shel and Remi Klein
In honor of John Fuchs-Chesney’s 70th Birthday
Corinne and Jennifer Kopatz
In memory of Michael Spade
Dan Lieberman
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Myrna Melgar

In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu

Semyon and Dina Royzen

Anne Marie and Richard Ruben

In memory of Carol Lipton

In memory of Harvey Bachman

In memory of Jack Kadesh

Martin Segol

With congratulations to Anne and John Fuchs-Chesney and the SF Giants

With congratulations to Joshua Goodman and the SF Giants

With congratulations to Steven Gottlieb and the SF Giants

Gina Silverman and Reagan Richey

In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu

Lorraine Smookler

In memory of Harry Smookler

In memory of Hyman Smookler

In memory of Lawrence Smookler

In memory of Jack Smookler

Martin & Gregg Flaum Library Fund

Beverly Flaum and Sharon Duque

In memory of Gregg Flaum

Music and Cantor Fund

Gerald Bernstein and Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein

In memory of Dr. Abraham Chaikin

In memory of Rose Chaikin

In memory of Sheila Chaikin

Elia Redfield

In appreciation and with thanks to Gail Harden

Shirley Zeff

In memory of Sadie Leventhal

Rabbi Morris Fireside Room Fund

Howard and Janet Lockshin

In memory of Frances Weissbaum Shenson

In memory of George Weissbaum

Pearl and Mel Mosk

In memory of Sara Zimmerman

In memory of Sidney Zimmerman

Rabbi Gottlieb Discretionary Fund

Sandra Berger and Sharon Duke

In memory of Mary Entin

In memory of Anne Berger

Sarah Glew

In honor of your aliyah on Yom Kippur

Amy and Steven Gottlieb

In honor of John Fuchs-Chesney's 70th Birthday

In memory of Marty Gottlieb

In memory of Tania Bard

Myra and Alfred Herpe

In memory of Esther Jachimowicz

Elaine Reynolds

In memory of Douglas Becksted

Sacred Texts Fund

Arthur S. Becker Trust

In memory of Walter Miller

Gerald Bernstein and Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein

In memory of Dr. Abraham Chaikin

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

Bulletin

Judy Bader

Lynne Rappaport

Reeva Safford

House

Blair Horst

Office

Judy Bader

Amy Gottlieb

Gail Harden

Arielle Klein

Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ

Hanukkah Fair

Terry Levy

Lynne Rappaport

Simcha Greenspan

Sherrie Rosenberg

And many other wonderful volunteers.

Friday Night Feast

Barbara Hammel

Lynne Rappaport

Sherrie Rosenberg

Gift Shop

Myra Herpe

Terry Levy

Yvonne Lorvan

Please forgive us if we inadvertently omitted your name.

**Donations received after December 15th
will appear in the next bulletin.**

Congregation Beth Israel Judea

625 Brotherhood Way
San Francisco, CA 94132

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MUNI Route 57 Parkmerced bus now stops at BIJ!

Erev Shabbat Schedule

1st Friday: Shabbat Shelanu (Our Shabbat)

5:45 PM Tot Shabbat
6:30 PM Table Blessings and Dinner
7:15 PM A musical family-friendly service. Our Rabbis are joined by our song leaders. 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 for adults. Please RSVP.

4th Friday: Sacred Hebrew Chant & Drum

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

Weekly BIJ Saturday Morning Services

8:45 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.

