

BETH ISRAEL JUDEA BULLETIN



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: office@bij.org in simple Microsoft Word format or in the body of your email. **Deadline for the upcoming September/October issue is Friday, August 5.** 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 lifelong learning, music, social justice and Tikkun Olam.



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*Michele Siegel

*New Board Members—see page 12

Sisterhood Representative

Michele Siegel

BIJ Staff

Danny Gottlieb Rabbi
rabbigottlieb@bij.org / ext 22
Ricki Weintraub.....Cantorial Soloist & Head
of School / rweintraub@bij.org / ext 28
Sara Heckelman Synagogue Administrator
sheckelman@bij.org / ext 25
Neil Bronstein Security/Maintenance

Contact BIJ

625 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132
415-586-8833 | www.bij.org | office@bij.org

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

CLOSED Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 AM to 5 PM

Friday: 10 AM to 3 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Co-Presidents by Nancy Greenberg & Deborah Schweizer

Thoughts from Deborah

This past May we were blessed as a community to celebrate the completion of the first year of religious school and the giving of Torah to our youngest students, witness the Confirmation and statements to continue living “Jewish values” of our confirmands, and share the excitement of sending members of our community off to college. We also came together as a community at our Annual Meeting to acknowledge and revel in our collective accomplishments over the past year: We comforted each other in times of great grief. We rolled up our sleeves and helped with the many projects and tasks that make BIJ run – from painting walls and cleaning out closets, setting up and breaking down tables and chairs, sweeping and mopping, cooking and baking, cutting up and setting out food, making sandwiches and putting together eder sacks, serving as greeters, learning and chanting Torah and Haftarah, participating in and running Shabbat services and Torah study, opening homes for chavurah-style worship and community gatherings, creating new program ideas and working to make them happen. Member commitments and generosity helped us reduce a projected deficit of \$40,000 to an estimated \$12,000. We are grateful for the dedication and leadership of our clergy and staff who work so hard making sure that volunteer efforts are supported and the wonderful services, holiday worship, adult and youth learning, and social programs continue. We are grateful to our committed and caring Board of Trustees for their leadership and support and to our entire BIJ community, without whom we would not be where we are today.

As July and August approach, we begin our new fiscal year, and start to plan and prepare for the year ahead. We welcome three new Board of Trustees: Michele Siegel, Cassandra (Sandie) Spacek and Natalie Melendez-Ortiz. We also announce next year’s team leaders: Lori Ganz, Education; Reeva Safford, Operations; Deb Braun, Community Outreach/Membership; and Aimee Golant Fundraising. Together with our continuing Board of Trustees - Matt Lefkowitz, Barbara Hammel, Lynne Rappaport, Johanna Gendelman, Gail Harden, Deborah Bouck, Josh Goodman - Nancy and I, as your Co-Presidents, look forward to continuing to move forward with the Community Participation Plan and build on the accomplishments of this year. We invite each of you to participate to the extent you are able and be a part of bringing about the good things that make BIJ special. Let us hear from you! See you soon!!

Thoughts from Nancy

May and June are months of celebration: graduations, four in Marty’s and my families, and Marty’s twin granddaughters B’not Mitzvah. These celebratory events cause us to reflect back and look to the future. Our Annual Meeting was a celebration of our State of the Synagogue, a look at our past and much to be hopeful for in our future. Your Board of Trustees has worked very hard to prepare a financially sound 2016/2017 budget and we continue to expand our lay leadership. Be sure to read the Annual Report, it tells it all. If you were not at the Annual Meeting and would like a copy, contact the BIJ Office.



This year has been very gratifying for me. I have had an opportunity to work with people whom I only knew as synagogue members and now I know them as caring, creative professionals who desire to have a vibrant and healthy BIJ. Our team leaders have worked tirelessly on a variety of projects. Again, you can read about them in the Annual Report.

The future is in your hands. Support comes in many different ways - monetary, voluntary, participatory, choose yours, and see you in shul!

Nancy Jane and Deborah

Yes, that’s our beautiful new roof!

A big round of applause to Gail Harden for managing the repair of our roof, and to everyone else who made it happen. Come by soon and see it in person!



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

SUMMERTIME...AND THE LIVING IS DIFFERENT!!

By Rabbi Danny Gottlieb



Everything seems to change when summer comes. Our work schedules change. Our workloads are a bit lighter. Our routine is broken. Our kids are out of school. Perhaps they are away at summer camp, or working at a summer job. Things change here at the Temple, too. Our B³ school is not in session. The rabbi goes away for a time. There is a little bit less going on (except in the Office, which is gearing up for the High Holy Days).

But some things never change. The end of the week still brings Shabbat, and we continue to mark Shabbat with services and Torah study. People remain hungry and on the streets, and we continue to make sandwiches and volunteer at the Food Bank. I hope you will join with us in these sacred activities over the summer months.

This past year at BIJ...

This year has been filled with ongoing services and programs and new initiatives, reaching out and engaging more and more of our members in participation and in leadership.

Our Shabbat morning worship has seen ever-growing participation from members chanting Torah and Haftarah, including many of our B'nai Mitzvah who have returned to chant *maftir* on the anniversary of their celebration. Elie Aharon merits a special mention, for serving as our *gabbai* (Torah service assistant) and *chazkan sheni* ("back-up" service leader), and Jamie Morgenstern who has steadily increased his role as a *ba'al koreh* (Torah chanter). Several other members have begun to learn how to lead the service, and in the fall we will begin a Torah and/or Haftarah chanting class. Shabbat evenings have also grown in participation, whether it was Shabbat Shelanu (with B'nai Emunah and Or Shalom), Shabbat in the 'hood, Friday Night Feast or Chant & Drum. A special "thank you" to all of our volunteers, and especially to our Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ, who make it possible for us to hold our Friday Night Feasts by their ongoing sponsorship.

It was also a busy year for adult education, with Adult Hebrew, Lunch and Learn, Southside Jewish Collaborative courses and lectures, and a very successful and engaging Mussar Class, which Ricki and I led through the winter and spring. Watch for our annual Elul study series, which will begin this year in early September.

Tikkun Olam projects continued this year, with our Hunger Relief programs (sandwich-making for the homeless and volunteering at the Food Bank) and a number of food and clothing drives as well. Our Care and Concern Team, led by Lynne Rappaport, has reached out to members in need to let them know that we are here to support them, as members of one extended family.

Our B³ school had another successful year, culminating with Kabbalat Torah and Confirmation in May. Sadly, we must say goodbye to Rebecca Goodman, who has raised a generation of our children, providing leadership and direction for our Religious School over the past seven years. We wish Rebecca much happiness and success as she moves on to new opportunities in her professional life, and we welcome Ricki Weintraub as our new Head of Religious School.

Most important of all, however, has been the increasing role of our lay leaders, assuming responsibility for the various aspects of synagogue programming and management, partnering with our Temple staff - Sara Heckelman, Rebecca Goodman, Neil Bronstein and me - to make BIJ a community of dynamic programs, engaging worship and learning, and close personal relationships.

Time to Reach Out...

The summer is a good time to reach out to friends and family who are not part of a synagogue community, and to invite them to join with us. Bring them along to a Friday Night Feast or a Shabbat in the 'hood, where they can meet members of BIJ and discover the intimacy and the connection that is possible here. Bring them to Torah study or Lunch and Learn, where they can enjoy the gift of life-long learning. Bring them with you to make sandwiches or volunteer at the Food Bank, where they can see that repairing the broken parts of our world is done through small but meaningful acts of kindness and social responsibility. Make these connections real by bringing them with you to our Elul study series and to High Holy Day services in the fall.

Our lives are so busy, so complicated and, at times, overwhelming. Allow these summer months to breathe some "easy" into your life. Make time for yourself and your family. Make time for your soul and your spirit. Make time for your BIJ community. We'll be watching for you...

Rabbi Danny Gottlieb

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.)

1st Friday: Shabbat Shelanu

July 1 & August 5

- 5:45 PM Tot Shabbat Service
- 6:30 PM Dinner –main dish provided/bring sides & dessert
- 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 over the summer. Our Rabbis and song leaders guide us in a fun-filled Shabbat and monthly birthday celebration! RSVP <http://bij.org/events-donations/registration>

July 1 will be a special celebration of summer with an early Fourth of July cookout - hot dogs and/or hamburgers and of course a vegetarian option. Please bring a pareve/non-dairy side dish or dessert this month since we will be having a meat main course.



2nd Friday: Shabbat in the 'hood

July 8, 7:30 PM, The Excelsior, SF August 12, 7:30 PM, Ingleside Terrace, SF

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 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.

3rd Friday: Friday Night Feast

July 15 & August 19, 6:30 PM

A free, catered Shabbat feast, sponsored by Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ! 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. Invite friends who have never been to BIJ! This monthly event is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your friends to our BIJ Community.

July 15: Anita Rees, Executive Director of the Pacifica Resource Center will be joining us to speak about her agency's work to provide a safety net of food, housing assistance and other critical services. She will discuss how changes in the Bay Area are affecting the social and economic stability of individuals and families in our communities.

RSVP to Sisterhood@bij.org by July 8 or on www.bij.org

August 19: Our speaker will be BIJ member Michael Castleman, who will speak about Medical Marijuana and the Past and Future of the Marijuana Industry.

RSVP to Sisterhood@bij.org by August 12 or on www.bij.org

4th Friday: Sacred Hebrew Chant & Drum

July 22 & August 26, 7:30 PM

BIJ is joined by Or Shalom for this unique 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!!!



5th Friday: Shabbat at Camp Newman Santa Rosa, CA

July 29, 4:00 PM

Join your Beth Israel Judea community at URJ Camp Newman on July 29th for a Camp Shabbat. Get a taste of camp life with a special reception with the camp directors and a moving Shabbat service followed by dinner, singing and dancing! Festivities are from 4pm to 9:30pm. Register: Campnewman.org/summer-camp/visitors



Tisha B'Av Observance

August 13, 7:30 PM

We will gather with our Southside Jewish Collaborative partners to observe Tisha B'Av with an evening program, service, and reading from *Eicha*, the Book of Lamentations at Congregation Ner Tamid. Light nosh will be provided.

SHABBAT

Ari Espinoza Becomes Bar Mitzvah! August 27, 10:00 AM



Ari was born in San Francisco and has lived here his whole life with his parents, Lisa and Hernan, and his sister Nina. He attends Aptos Middle School where he will be an 8th grader this year.

After trying several instruments (piano, violin and trumpet), Ari settled on percussion and now plays percussion in the Aptos concert band and Jazz band. He also earned a spot in the San Francisco All City Middle School Band last year.

In his free time, Ari relaxes by reading and playing with his cats, Apollo and Artemis. He especially enjoys reading graphic novels and comic books. He has a few obsessions, which include: chemical elements, myths and folktales (especially of the classical period), and role-playing games (RPGs). He has designed his own role-playing adventure which features a variety of species who fight monsters, search for treasure and travel.

In the summer, Ari plays baseball and attends a variety of summer camps. He has especially enjoyed "improv" camp where kids learn how to be funny in unexpected situations. Recently Ari visited Ireland with his family where his favorite activity was flying a Harris hawk.

Ari is grateful to his teachers, Mark and Keren, and thanks Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki for helping him reach this milestone.

Special Lay-Led Shabbat Morning August 20



Join us for a morning when Torah Study and Shabbat Services will be led by our members. This is an opportunity to experience a Shabbat morning completely conducted by our members who have learned to lead various parts of the service, and chant both Torah and Haftarah.

Would You Like to 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

ADULT EDUCATION

call at 415.586.8833 or send him an email at: rabbigottlieb@bij.org to schedule and discuss the details.

Or Would You Like to 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 publicly on Shabbat mornings? What about being able to chant an aliyah when your child or grandchild is celebrating 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.

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.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

August 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.



NOTE: There will be no Rosh Chodesh meeting in July.

Craft & Schmooze

July 10 & August 21, 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, usually on the second Sunday. We are meeting on the third Sunday in August because Tisha B'Av falls on August 14.



ADULT EDUCATION

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

July 21, 12:00 NOON at Ner Tamid (R. Gottlieb)

August 18, 12:00 NOON at BIJ (R. Melamut)

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 & Learn sessions 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, followed by sandwich making at 1:30 pm for Hunger Relief Project.



High Holy Day Choir 5777



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Once again, the Nashira Choir will enhance our High Holy Day worship. They need **your** help to make it a success!

If you're interested in lending your voice on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, contact Ricki Weintraub at

rweintraub@bij.org or call the BIJ Office

BIJ VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Sunday, July 31, 9:00 AM

It's that time of year again, to bring a little sparkle and shine to the building before the New Year. A little cleaning here, a little paint there, and some minor repairs... Lend a hand with others in the BIJ family!

Please contact the office by July 22, let us know what skills you have. We'll put your name on a sign-up sheet and organize teams.

Bagels and coffee will be provided.

Even if you don't think you have any know-how to offer, you do!



BIJ COMMUNITY

COME JOIN US --YOUR COMMUNITY WANTS YOU!!

I volunteered as a way of giving back, but I received so much more!"

-BIJ Volunteer

Under our new Community Participation Plan, we have created opportunities for members to help out in ways that interest you while making it possible for BIJ to continue to offer the many spiritual practice, lifelong learning, social and social action events and programs that mean so much to us all. If you want to help out, meet and get to know more of your BIJ family, and/or just have a good time while doing something that needs to be done, please contact one of the Co-Presidents, Nancy Greenberg or Deborah Schweizer, or one of our team leaders listed below. We can always use a hand:

- Setting up and cleaning up at Friday night Shabbat
- Shelanus and Friday Night Feasts
- Identifying and inviting speakers for Friday Night Feasts
- Finding locations and hosting Shabbats in the 'hood
- Website design and maintenance
- Picture taking (photography)
- Small repair and maintenance
- Article and press release preparation
- Newsletter publication
- Administrative support for B³ – the religious school

We want to get to know you and invite you to join an activity. Please feel free to contact us.

Co-Presidents:

Nancy Greenberg, nancyjanegraphics@gmail.com

Deborah Schweizer, deborah@schweizerlawfirm.com

Team Leaders (members of the Board of Trustees):

Membership/Community Outreach:

Deb Braun, debraun@me.com

Fundraising/Events:

Aimee Golant, info@aimeegolant.com

Operations/Facilities:

Reeva Safford, reevasafford@yahoo.com

Education:

Lori Ganz, ljganz@yahoo.com

Also Judaism has helped me overcome moral obstacles in my life which occurred at school, where I was forced to make decisions that were hard and where often I was placed between friends and had to pick a side based on what was right. That is where Judaism came along and guided me in making the right decision, even though at the time it didn't feel that great. In all, Judaism has helped me through my life so far to be the best person that I could possibly be which is why it is so important to me because without Judaism I would have turned out totally different. I don't know about you, but I like the way that I turned out so that is why it is so important for me to be Jewish.

Key elements of my Jewish identity are helping others, which includes giving a couple of bucks to the homeless man that sits outside of the Walgreen's I go to almost every day, or helping my brother when he gets stuck on a math problem for homework, and keeping the tradition alive. My family was not allowed to be Jewish in the Old Country of Russia and Ukraine, so I do my best to keep the tradition going here because I know that my brother and I are lucky to be able to be openly Jewish.

My family is the biggest source of supporting my Jewish identity and commitments because they constantly tell me to help others whenever I can. They also try to keep me involved with the holidays so that the tradition can be passed onto future generations. Beth Israel Judea also helps me keep my Jewish identity and commitments because it gets me involved with the whole religion. Before I was part of this congregation I only went to the synagogue maybe once a year, for Hanukkah mostly, just so I could have some delicious honey cake. I knew nothing about the religion other than that the symbol of the Jewish People was this weird six-pointed star. As soon as I came here I learned about all the holidays and why they occur. I even learned some of the language spoken. This synagogue has been a huge part in supporting my Jewish identity.

I am quite lucky that I am a Jewish teenager in San Francisco, the most accepting city in America and some could argue maybe the world, in 2016 the most accepting year in recorded history. There are a lot of benefits to this, especially the fact that I can be openly Jewish without being discriminated against like in many other parts of the world that still have lots of problems with anti-Semitism. I get to live my life as freely as anyone else without hiding my religion because I live in such a great city in such a great time, unlike many who had to hide their religion so they would not be persecuted. The pros massively outweigh the cons, of which there only is one little one. I feel a little "out-casted" when a friend of mine asks me what I got for Christmas, but as I said, it is only a little one. All in all, it is great to be a Jewish teenager at this point in time because of the freedom I get.

When I become an adult I will try my best to maintain my connection to Judaism by trying my best to perform mitzvot by helping others. This will be pretty easy considering I have been raised to be used to it. I will also try my best to continue the tradition of celebrating holidays with my family which should be easy, with me living in their basement and all. But on a serious note, I hope to carry on this Jewish tradition for as long as I can by teaching it to my kids.

LOGAN WOLFF, son of Lori Ganz & Peter Wolff, Jr.

Judaism has been a major part of my life, especially leading up to, and after my Bar Mitzvah. It helps to define my outlook on different things that I do, and has helped to build and create my character. There is a saying that says, one way to be a Jew is to "see the world through a Jewish lens." I feel that this saying has applied to how I have begun to view things in my life and has been one of the main ways that I've seen myself living as a Jew.



I was asked to speak about why being Jewish is important to me. I've found that Jewish values such as Justice, Compassion and Honesty align with the way I choose to live my life. Judaism also focuses on the here and now, not as much on what is to come. It offers the idea that what we do in the present is the most meaningful.

My Jewish identity is a combination of many things that I enjoy doing. One of my favorite aspects is Tikkun Olam, a fancy way to say Community Service. Community Service is something that I find depressing, rewarding, exciting and challenging, all at the same time. I have helped to bring clothes to homeless shelters, worked at the food bank, and helped at local schools. I'm glad that I could help make things better for people, but it's also sad that there are so many people in need in our community and globally.

Who can honestly say that they hate holidays? I sure can't! Celebrating all of the different Jewish holidays is another way in which I connect to Judaism. The holidays remind me of our long, sad, joyous and rich Jewish history and it's a time to get together with family and friends and honor our past.

While I don't observe or complete all the 613 mitzvot, when I do complete one, I find that I feel closely connected to my Jewish identity. Like today, I did not kill anybody, and it feels really good! Another example is when I follow the rules surrounding Passover, I feel connected to our long standing traditions.

The final two ways that I connect to Judaism are through the combination of Torah and prayer, as well as education, including both teaching and learning. All of these experiences are rewarding, and have helped to make me a better person.

Being Jewish isn't always the simplest thing. There are still many anti-Semitic people and dozens of deeply embedded misconceptions and stereotypes about the Jewish people. As a result of being Jewish, I have been treated differently than others. At school, I've had classmates who felt they had to be extra kind to me after they learned about the Holocaust in history class, and I have also had classmates who have used derogatory words towards me, because I am Jewish.

While being Jewish can be challenging, being a part of the larger Jewish community is comforting. One of my favorite things about being Jewish is the sense of community that we have. This is in addition to all of the things we have to celebrate, and the fact that being Jewish can be just plain fun.

While today may mark the end of my formal Jewish education as a youth, I hope to continue to learn about Judaism, by continuing to study throughout my adult life. For me, Confirmation really marks the start of a new approach to learning, one I will have to seek out for myself. I hope to continue to go to Temple and to teach what I have learned to future generations, for as long as I can.

SISTERHOOD—THE WOMEN OF BIJ

From the New President of Sisterhood - The Women of BIJ

By Terry A. Levy, President

I would like to introduce myself. I am Terry A. Levy the new President of Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ. It seems both surprising and right to me to be in this place. I admit, outwardly I was reluctant, but inwardly, I wanted to be President. It is surprising because much of my life I was an outsider. I wanted to belong to a group but I didn't fit in because as an introvert; I was quiet and unable to speak up. Yet at the same time it seems fitting. After many years of hard work to overcome my fear of interactions, whether it is talking to someone one-on-one, asking a question, or talking with or before a large group, I have become the more outgoing person I wanted to be.

I also have a vision for Sisterhood that we can create a more involved, active, and growing organization. I want to help guide Sisterhood forward by building our membership, sponsoring new and yearly events, and involving more of our BIJ members of all ages.

I thought for those who don't know me very well, I would give you a peek into my Jewish journey that brought me to BIJ. I have been a member of BIJ since 2011 and have been attending events here since about 2007. At that time I was looking for a Jewish community that was closer to home than the one I had been attending in Berkeley, sometimes with my brother Tom, and sometimes alone. It was a long way to go on a Friday night. I went to several synagogues in San Francisco and on the Peninsula to see what their Friday night services and events were like and if I felt comfortable. One of the main reasons I came back to BIJ was the most hearty welcome I got from David Morgenstern z"l that first night; it made all the difference in my returning.

My Jewish lineage comes through both my parents. Neither were raised Jewish nor were my siblings and I. I received no religious instruction of any kind as a child. My education in Judaism started in about 1995 when my brother and his friend co-hosted a Passover Seder. It was my first Jewish holiday experience. I enjoy learning from activities rather than books, so I started learning about Judaism through cooking. I bought my first Jewish cookbook and made a couple of dishes for that first Seder. Through the years between finding BIJ and my first Seder, I participated in other holidays, went to different locations to learn, and cooked more meals. I now have a much larger cookbook collection and many are Jewish.

On June 18, 2011, I was one of eight women at BIJ to become Nashot Mitzvah. I am at times a reluctant learner but find that when I learn with others, especially with my "sisters" like at the Rosh Chodesh women's group, it can be a wonderful and fulfilling experience and not the tedious one I have had when I am alone.

I look forward to the coming year and beyond as I start my two-year term as Sisterhood President. I hope you are all looking forward to it too and are thinking about how we can work together to enhance our vibrant community for our entire Sisterhood and BIJ members to enjoy.

Shalom,

Terry

Note new email address: terryalevy45@gmail.com
or 415.334.1005

Afternoon Tea

August 28, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Sisterhood -- The Women of BIJ proudly presents an Afternoon Tea, benefiting the annual Jewish Home Luncheon held at Tam's Restaurant, a cherished Sisterhood tradition.



Dress up (including hats!) and bring the family! Tea sandwiches, scones and jams, desserts, tea and more. RSVP on BIJ website.

Advance tickets \$25 adults, \$30 at the door; children 14 and under are \$10 in advance or at the door. Come join the

fun! Want to volunteer? Email [Natalie Melendez-Ortiz at \[natymortiz@yahoo.com\]\(mailto:Natalie.Melendez-Ortiz@natymortiz@yahoo.com\)](mailto:Natalie.Melendez-Ortiz@natymortiz@yahoo.com)

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 at sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com

Next Sisterhood - Women of BIJ Meeting - August 7 @ 10:30am

This meeting will focus on the creation of teams of volunteers for the following events:

- Afternoon Tea
- We Were Strangers Too
- Syrian Refugee Crisis
- Hanukkah Fair

The Hanukkah Fair is the largest event the Sisterhood does each year and has the greatest need for volunteers, include a Team Leader. There are many tasks that need to be done before the Fairs - some of them quick and some take longer.

Please step up to put together our events, especially the 2016 Hanukkah Fair.



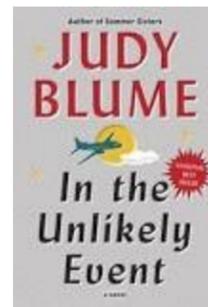
For the past three years, **Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ** has generously sponsored our Friday Night Feasts. Their monetary support makes it possible for BIJ to provide free catered dinners for everyone who is willing to come and share a meal, tableside blessing and enjoy special guest speakers.

At their most recent planning meeting, **Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ** voted to continue their sponsorship of the Friday Night Feasts for this next fiscal year 2016-2017/5776-5777. Without the generosity of our Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ, we would not be able to continue this popular program. We are so grateful. On behalf of our entire community,

Thank You Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ!

The BIJ Board of Trustees

BOOK CLUB



August 3rd, 7PM, Offsite Location

In the Unlikely Event is vintage Judy Blume, with all the hallmarks of Judy Blume's unparalleled storytelling, and full of memorable characters who cope with loss, remember the good times and, finally, wonder at the joy that keeps them going.

Please contact Sherrie Rosenberg at 415.902.8293 or sherrie.rosenberg@gmail.com for location and other details. All are welcome for an enjoyable discussion.

SPOTLIGHT

The Newest Members of Our Board of Trustees

At the Annual Meeting, three new members of the Board of Trustees were unanimously elected to three-year terms: Michele Siegel, Cassandra Spacek and Natalie Melendez-Ortiz. We are lucky to have them join our synagogue leadership. Below is a little bit of information about them.

Michele Siegel is married to Gary Siegel and is the mother of Benjamin, Seth and Lily. Michele and her family have been members of BIJ for close to ten years. Michele previously served on the Board of Trustees several years ago and in the last two years served as Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ liaison to the Board of Trustees. Michele is very active in Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ and in the synagogue generally, having served on youth, school and spiritual practices committees. Michele and Gary will be seeing their eldest son off to Brandeis University in Waltham, MA this fall.

Cassandra (Sandie) Spacek is married to Eddie Spacek, who is retired. Their son Alexander is in the astrophysics doctoral program at Arizona State University. Sandie worked for many years in non-profit social research administration. She is currently working as a teacher of language arts and social science to middle schoolers in the South Bay. Sandie is a Jew-by-choice and started coming to BIJ about two years ago. Sandie threw herself into volunteering and helping out in many different ways. Sandie is serving as Secretary of Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ and will be serving as Board Treasurer.

Natalie Melendez-Ortiz has been a member of BIJ for about four years. She and her daughter Alannie can often be seen at BIJ – preparing food, greeting people, participating and helping out. Natalie is also active in the Sisterhood—The Women of BIJ, serving as one of their Vice Presidents. Natalie cares deeply about healthy eating and helped bring the Health Fair (co-sponsored by the Diabetes Association) to BIJ last year. Natalie has lots of ideas for events and raising money, in addition to being our resident chef for Friday Night Feasts and our Community Seder.

Michele, Sandie and Natalie join Deborah Bouck, Deb Braun, Lori Ganz, Johanna Gendelman, Aimee Golant, Josh Goodman, Nancy Greenberg, Barbara Hammel, Gail Harden, Matthew Lefkowitz, Lynne Rappaport, Reeva Safford, and Deborah Schweizer as your 5776/5777, 2016/2017 Board of Trustees.

TIKKUN OLAM

BIJ member, Steve Roditti has taken the role of Chair of the Southside Jewish Collaborative Tikkun Olam Planning Committee. Please contact him if you have any questions or ideas: whoopisterev@aol.com

The Southside Jewish Collaborative Tikkun Olam Planning Committee has decided to try some new programming for the coming year! We are planning to have a “Tikkun Olam Day” twice a year where there will be a range of activities to participate in at one location. We will also be maintaining our focus on hunger relief by increasing our involvement with St. Anthony Foundation’s meal programming, and continuing our successful efforts with the San Francisco Food Bank and the San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team. Please join us for one or more of these activities. There’s always a nice group of people to work with and your efforts will make a difference in the lives of those in need.

The Tikkun Olam Committee would also like to provide opportunities to our members who are interested in working in the areas of social justice. The URJ is coordinating social justice programming in the Bay Area through its Reform California initiative, but we need a representative who can be our liaison to the local group. If you are interested in being our social justice representative to the URJ, let us know.

Steve Roditti and Lori Ganz

Upcoming Events:

Lunch Sack Assembly– Join us in making lunch sacks to be delivered to homeless individuals living on the streets of San Francisco. You are invited to attend the Lunch & Learn program at 12:00 noon before the assembly of bagged lunches or just come to help at 1:30.

Thursday, July 21 at Ner Tamid

Thursday, August 18 at BIJ

Volunteer at the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank

900 Pennsylvania Avenue

San Francisco

July 31st -- 9:00-11:00

August 28th -- 9:00-11:00

RSVP is not necessary, but if you let us know you will be there, we'll look for you in the crowd!

Lori Ganz (415) 606-8727 or LJGanz@yahoo.com

Fall Tikkun Olam Day – Save the date!!! Join us on Sunday, Sept. 18th from 1:00 to 3:30 at B’nai Emunah. There will be a range of activities to help our community. Help us with one project, or all four!!

- Clean up the beach
- Make blankets for critically ill children (no special skills required!)
- Contribute toiletries for the homeless
- Prepare sandwiches and lunch sacks for people who are homeless

COMMUNITY

SF Jewish Film Festival 36

July 21—August 7

BIJ is once again proud to partner with the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, now in its 36th year. The two films that we are co-presenting are:

FALSE FLAG

Oded Ruskin | Israel | Television

July 30, 6:50pm at the Castro



Not since *Prisoners of War* has there been such a provocative, nail-biting espionage thriller on Israeli TV. In *False Flag* five Israeli citizens wake up one morning to discover that they are suspects in the kidnapping of the Iranian minister of defense. The five become wanted and news coverage turns their world upside down. Their attempts to deny involvement are in vain. Even their loved ones question, could they be guilty?

THERE ARE JEWS HERE

Brad Lichtenstein | USA | Documentary

July 30, 2:10 pm at the Castro

This quirky and poignant documentary examines the challenges of Jewish life in small-town America. Focusing on four tiny Jewish communities, directors Brad Lichtenstein and Morgan Elise Johnson examine in intimate detail what happens to a congregation when there are scarcely enough Jews left to form a quorum for religious activities, much less to maintain a vibrant community. An unusual and intriguing look at a segment of American Jewish life that is rarely examined.



For showings of these films at other dates/times/locations, and for a full description of all the films, visit the Festival website at: www.sfjfff36.jfi.org/

This summer -- ReIgnite: Use your experiences, insights, and passion to make the world a better place, to leave a legacy, to do something more

It's not too late to save the world.

Re-Ignite: An Encore Career Program of the Ignite Institute at Pacific School of Religion for Changemakers in Discernment, in partnership with Mather Life-Ways

Join a new program of discernment, study, and training designed especially for late career or post-retirement individuals seeking to apply their skills and experience as agents of positive social change. This four-day intensive program will facilitate the process of taking personal inventory, of incorporating spiritual practice and social analysis, and of finding meaningful opportunities for immersive, inspiring social change work. Through a combination of lecture, movement, peer discussion, experiential exercises, spiritual practice, and reflection, participants will re-ignite their passion for changing the world.

You will:

- Discern and identify your own spiritual values and achieve greater clarity about the need for social transformation.
- Identify barriers to engaging more effectively with changemaking.
- Deepen your spiritual practice for resiliency and strengthen your commitment to social justice.
- Inspire effective and collective action in the world rooted in theological reflection and social analysis.
- Connect to various networks to build a community of supportive changemakers.
- Develop a practical plan for how to live your legacy.

Begin writing your next chapter today!

For more information or to register, go to www.igniteatpsr.com/reignite

ReIgnite August:

Pacific School of Religion
1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley, CA

Dates: 8/11-8/14

from 8:30-1:30 each day

Cost: \$1,500

CEUs available

Some financial assistance available.

Todah Rabah

The following community members have volunteered their time and talents, generously supporting BIJ in myriad ways during the past year. Our synagogue would not be what it is without them. Thank you so much for all you do!

Barry Adler	Nancy Greenberg	Reagan Richey
Evelyn Adler	Simcha Greenspan	Stephen Roditti
Elie Aharon	Barbara Hammel	Sherrie Rosenberg
Elias Albertson	Eric Hammel	Jonathan Rosenthal
Faith Appel	Gail Harden	Geoffrey Rothman
Ron Appel	Alfred Herpe	Eric Ruchames
Judy Bader	Myra Herpe	Valerie Rudee
Deborah Bouck	Stacey Herrera	Adam Safford
Ben Braun	Blair Horst	Andy Safford
Debra Braun	Sue Horst	Hannah Safford
Ian Brown	Monique Hosein	Reeva Safford
Gerald Bernstein	Harry Huberman	Alannie Santiago-Melendez
Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein	Lee Greenholtz Huberman	Deborah Schweizer
Aimee Golant Casella	Sara Isaacs	Marty Segol
David Casella	Jeff Kallman	Gary Siegel
Michael Castleman	Rebecca Kallman	LilySiegel
Ann Comoglio	Jonathan Kaplan	Michele Siegel
Alex Dukhovny	Karen Kerner	Gina Silverman
Beth Edwards	Arielle Klein	Lori Smith
Edna Egert	Corinne Kopatz	Alisa Sosnick
Diane Ehrlich	Jacob Lefkowitz	Cassandra Spacek
Ari Espinoza	Matthew Lefkowitz	Tracey Vanik
Hernan Espinoza	Terry A. Levy	Lisa Weinberg
Nina Espinoza	Stella Lorvan	Beth Weisberg
Jon Frank	Yvonne Lorvan	Carole Winston
Margo Freistadt	Alta Lowe	John Winston
John Fuchs-Chesney	Geniya Malamud	Corey Wolff
Lori Ganz	Natalie Melendez-Ortiz	Logan Wolff
Johanna Gendelman	Jody Meromy	Taylor Wolff
Apollo Gerona	Carol Mills	Jacqueline Wong
Sarah Glew	Ariela Morgenstern	David Zeff
Nancy Greenberg	Ann Morgenstern	Avril Zielin-Brodey
Susannah Goldenstein	Inara Morgenstern	
Joshua Goodman	Jamie Morgenstern	
Amy Gottlieb	Lynne Rappaport	

We have tried to include everyone. Please accept our apologies if your name was inadvertently omitted.



DONATIONS

Annual Fund

Gerald Bernstein and Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein
Beverly Flaum and Sharon Duque
Stella Lorvan
Martin Segol

Adult Education

The Arthur Becker Trust
In memory of Dyanne Krasow
Gerald Bernstein and Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein
In memory of Dr. Laurence Chaikin

Care & Concern Fund

Robert and Julie Cinti
In memory of Rita Robbins
Robert Slater and Sherri Miller
In memory of Ralph Miller
In memory of Ruth Miller
Joyce Strauss
In memory of Sam Strauss

Elijah Fund

Gerald Bernstein and Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein
Beth Edwards
Deborah Schweizer

Friday Night Feast

Sisterhood – The Women of BIJ

General Fund

Barry and Evelyn Adler
In memory of Bessie Miller
Donald and Trude Fineman
In memory of Goldy Fineman
Apollo Gerona
Bruce and Roberta Gilbert
In memory of Esther LaPedis
Amiee Golant
In appreciation of Shabbat Torah Study
Roger M. Goldberg
In memory of Esther LaPedis
Irina and Oleg Golubtsov
Amy and Steven Gottlieb
In memory of William Gottlieb
Simcha Greenspan
In memory of Louis Greenspan
In memory of David Morgenstern
Sandra Himmelstein
In memory of Fannie Gross
Gabriel Isaacs and Sara Lopez-Isaacs
In appreciation of Shabbat Shelanu
Dorrit Kay
In memory of Paul Kay
Quentin and Mara Kopp
In memory of Gertrude S. Kopp
Ruby Levin
In memory of Hilda Hoskelis

VOLUNTEERS

Yvonne Lorvan

In celebration of reaching 80, and in appreciation of my loving family and BIJ

Adrienne Miller

In memory of Sidney and Mary Miller

Clara Mikowski

In memory of Isak Mikowski

Ann Morgenstern and Jeffrey Kallman

In memory of David Morgenstern

Lynne Rappaport and Jon Frank

In honor of Yvonne Lorvan's 80th birthday

In memory of Ralph Rappaport

Geoffrey Rothman and Beth Edwards

In appreciation of Rabbi Gottlieb

Valerie Rudee

In celebration of Neil Bronstein's 10 years at BIJ

In appreciation of Alfred Herpe

Morris Weinberg

In memory of Esther LaPedis

David and Shirley Zeff

Martin & Gregg Flaum Library Fund

Beverly Flaum

In memory of Hyman Silberman

Music & Cantor Fund

Gerald Bernstein and Kathleen Chaikin Bernstein

In memory of David Morgenstern

Corinne and Jennifer Kopatz

In memory of Ruth Engel

Matthew Lefkowitz and Ann Comoglio

In memory of David Morgenstern

Robert Slater and Sherrie Miller

In memory of David Morgenstern

Rabbi Morris Fireside Room Fund

Vivian and Mark Rain

In memory of Louise Benezra

Rabbi Gottlieb Discretionary Fund

Jeanette Bronstein

In memory of Charles Rosen

In memory of Manuel J. Rosen

The Parents Council of the JCCBW

In appreciation of Rabbi Gottlieb

Corinne and Jennifer Kopatz

In memory of Ruth Engel

Estate of Lorraine Smookler

In appreciation of Rabbi Gottlieb

Youth Awards and B³ School Fund

Johanna Gendelman

Gifts-in-Kind

Nancy Greenberg

Seder Plates and Covers

Stephen Talsky

Books for the BIJ Library

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

Congregation Beth Israel Judea

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San Francisco, CA 94132

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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. RSVP.

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. 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

Wondering why there's no mention of the High Holy Days in this issue? Because they are "late" this year!

A leap month was added to the calendar this past year—a second Adar—so all of our holidays since Purim have been pushed back. Mark your calendars:

October 2: Erev Rosh Hashanah
October 3 & 4: Rosh Hashanah
October 11: Kol Nidre
October 12: Yom Kippur

Look for your High Holy Days mailing in
mid-August.

And watch for Rabbi's
Elul study series, which
will begin in early Sep-
tember.

