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 **RABBI'S MESSAGE**

*Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon*

“You shall live in booths (sukkot) seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Mitzrayim, I Adonai your God.”

The main spiritual practice of Sukkot is to dwell in the sukkah so as to experience the fragility and transitory nature of life. By either sleeping in the sukkah or eating one's meals in it during the week of the holiday, weather permitting, we relearn that true security does not come from our homes and other material accomplishments alone, but rather through faith, justice and peace. According to Jewish law, the sukkah must be a temporary structure erected in the open air, under the sky, not in a room or under a tree. The sukkah consists of four walls constructed of any material but those with an offensive odor, and a covering, called s'khakh, made of materials that grow from the soil, usually branches, reeds or plants. Through the s'khakh one must be able to see the sky. In the sukkah we experience joy, beauty, hospitality, peace and celebration.

My family and I spent the three weeks leading to Tisha Be'Av and Shabbat Nahamu in Tel Aviv. As rockets began falling throughout Israel's north, people there were told to leave their homes and seek temporary refuge in bomb shelters or reinforced rooms in their homes. A reinforced room, called by its acronym, *mamad*, in Hebrew, is a legacy of the Gulf War when Scud missiles were launched against Israel and consists of an inner room with no external walls. Those who could afford it or who had relatives in other parts of the country left southward. Those who couldn't huddled with their neighbors into

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 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Susan Kippur*

By now you've probably received the mailing of BJ's new packet that describes what makes our community unique, what's involved in keeping our community vibrant and fiscally sound, and how critical your annual Kol Nidre Partnership donation is to our ability to sustain the essence, spirit, and myriad programs that make BJ BJ. As we approach the holiest moments of the year, the rabbis will be speaking with both clarity and passion about the holy nature of synagogue giving. As background, and to support that message, I'd like to explain why we developed this packet and how this year at BJ will be noticeably different from a fundraising perspective.

Over the last several months—through informal discussions, focus groups, interviews, and the wisdom of an experienced development consultant—it has become increasingly apparent to the board and rabbis that we have not done a good job of articulating the case for giving to BJ. Many people, through no fault of their own, are unaware that we work very hard each year to cover our substantial staff and operating costs with a modest budget for a synagogue of our size, stature, and programmatic range. Most assume that we are much more richly endowed than we are. Others are unaware of the vast array of programs and services that we provide, despite that modest budget. Still others have no idea that typically 50% of our members ignore the opportunity to support BJ through Kol Nidre giving. And so, to begin to rectify this situation

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## SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

## Partnership with God

From Pesah to the High Holy Days, the nature of our relationship to God undergoes a profound change. On Pesah, we relive the experience of God bringing us out of Egypt with a “strong hand” (Exodus 6:1) and an “outstretched arm” (Exodus 6:6). God brought ten plagues on the Egyptians, led us out of Egypt, parted the sea, and gave us manna to sustain us. During the forty years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites’ garments did not wear out and their feet did not swell (Deuteronomy 8:4). A fledgling nation, Israel was the beneficiary of God’s care and compassion, much like an infant dependent on its parent for its sustenance.

By Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, however, the nature of this relationship has changed. God is close to us during these Yamim Nora’im, but we are expected to do heshbon hanefesh (a moral inventory) and to seek forgiveness for our misdeeds. Israel has matured and God now demands partnership. But, what exactly is expected of us in this partnership with God? Moses asks and answers this question in Deuteronomy 10:12:

Now, O Israel, what does Hashem your God ask of you? Only to fear Hashem, your God, to go in all God’s ways and to love God; to serve Hashem, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, to observe the commandments of Hashem and God’s decrees which I command you today, for your benefit.

What does it mean to “go in all God’s ways”? According to the midrashic collection Sifre Deuteronomy, the ways of the Holy One are: “gracious and compassionate, patient, abounding in kindness and faithfulness, assuring love for a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin...” (Exodus 34:6). The commentary deduces, therefore, that, just as God is gracious and compassionate, you too must be gracious and compassionate. Rashi similarly teaches that “going in all God’s ways” means imitating his acts of kindness and concern for those in need. In the daily morning blessings, we are reminded that God gives sight to the blind, clothes the naked, releases the bound, and raises the downtrodden—and so too must we seek to assist others and to create justice.

Yet how could “going in God’s ways and observing His commandments” be *for our benefit*? We asked members of our community who participate in BJ’s social action/social justice programs to answer this question. Below are some composite quotes that tell of the impact our work has on our own community and on the people we work with: living from the heart, learning about others and ourselves, connecting with pride to the Jewish community, and much more. Here’s what they said:

**BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter**

“It was our pleasure to cook for the shelter this summer. My friend and I were so proud of our kids and their friends, who were so helpful, and thoughtful about the meaning of what they were doing while having fun.”  
—*Jamie*

**BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership**

BJ’s volunteer Reading Partners “helped the Ralph Bunche School reach out to parents [of our reading students], share information they could relate to, talk openly and in a non-threatening atmosphere, and feel that this is truly ‘a village’ that is concerned about their children. [Parents] have expressed their gratitude over and over again.”  
—*Donna Conwell, Reading Specialist, The Ralph Bunche School*

**BJ Reads**

“Last year, my fifth year as a BJ Reads volunteer, my first grade partner was shy and wary at first. As we read together, he became more confident, expressing his ideas and opinions more smoothly. His parents proudly informed me that he became an avid reader at home, and looked forward to BJ Reads.”  
—*David Finkel*

**Darfur Response Committee**

“Volunteering for Darfur offered me a chance to live from my heart.”  
—*Doug Miller*

**Environmental Action Hevra**

“I know that I can’t save everything, but I can contribute towards improving it. Being part of the Hevra gives me the opportunity to leverage my interests with others. I am learning so much about community and working together in relation to values in Judaism.”  
—*Sara Levine*

**Hazon Jewish Environmental Bike Ride**

“My involvement with Hazon has profoundly impacted my life. Since my first ride, I have reconnected to the Jewish community (and joined BJ in the process), become an avid cyclist, raised over \$20,000 for organizations doing important things in the world, and am taking positive action to preserve the earth’s precious resources.”  
—*Heidi Sadowsky*

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## SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE *(continued from page 2)*

### Health Care Hevra

"I was moved to hear from Leonor Bodre, a Bushwick resident, about her experiences with asthma caused by mold and vermin in her home. Her landlord has done nothing to correct the situation, and the city has done nothing to enforce its own regulations. Together with the grassroots organization Make the Road by Walking, we are pushing to have existing the code strengthened and more vigorously enforced."

—Michael Davidovits

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### Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

"Our volunteers often say that the rewards of working in the lunch program are so great that they sometimes feel guilty: we get so much more than we give."

—Susan Samuels

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### Marriage Equality Hevra

"Being an active member of the Marriage Equality Hevra has helped me bring together what I thought were disparate parts of who I am—being part of the Gay and Lesbian community and being Jewish."

—Linda Golding

### Race for the Cure

"The Race for the Cure has become a special annual experience for me, and a way to connect with my loved ones who have succumbed to breast cancer. By using the gifts of health and stamina with which I have been blessed, I can help find a way for others to avoid this tragic fate, while participating with others from my community."

—Bob Gruenspecht

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### Women's Rights Hevra

"I was astonished to learn about the lack of comprehensive sex education for NYC public school children. I've learned a lot about the legislative process, had a chance to lobby in Albany, and I feel good to be doing something positive about so important an issue."

—Renie Rutchick

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### *What step will you take toward God?*

Rashi comments (on Deuteronomy 11:12) that people commonly approach Rosh Hashanah with resolve that this new year will be the year. Time winds on, the resolve weakens, and we slide back into our old habits until, by the time the year is over, it is the end of just another year. Make this year count in your partnership with God—get involved in social action at BJ!

For more information about any of these efforts, contact Guy Austrian, Director of Social Action/Social Justice at x259. ■

—Rochelle Friedlich

## RABBI'S MESSAGE *Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon (continued from page 1)*

shelters under disgraceful, filthy and smelly conditions. Under the Tammuz and Av sun, the outside temperature was in the 90's, inside the shelter where you must not be able to see the sky, there was no air conditioning, and no showers. With nothing to do all day long, both adults and children were going out of their minds. As mass killing and mass destruction spread on both sides of the border, all citizens of the north of Israel dwelled in shelters for seven days, then another seven days, and another seven, and on and on. These shelters were no sukkot of peace, beauty or celebration.

At first, people were willing to sacrifice in the expectation that their lives would be safer when it would be all over. They suspended judgment about the justness and the morality of

the war, they suspended judgment about the class rift that left in bomb shelters those who couldn't afford to flee, with the expectation that once there is peace, the social issues that have been forever postponed will be addressed once and for all. Tragically, wars come and wars go, occupations come and disengagements go and the unfortunate in Israel—both Jew and Arab—wait indefinitely as the social gap grows.

This year, as we enter the fragile sukkah, it is incumbent upon us to look at the material vulnerability brought upon so many here, in Israel and around the globe because of the lack of serious interest and efforts to end poverty and to bring about justice and peace. ■

## JEW-RY DUTY

## Kaddish and Jew-ry Duty

On July 22 (26 Tammuz, 5766), Rabbi Dara Frimmer spoke about the ritual of Mourner's Kaddish and BJ's effort to support morning minyan through a new program called Jew-ry Duty. The following is an excerpt from her sermon:

Every year, a few weeks before the anniversary of my father's death, my mother has called or emailed to ask about the "right" time to say Kaddish. Should it be on the English date or the Hebrew date? Should she light one candle or two? In spite of the ritual complexity, my mom is very committed to the tradition of saying Kaddish and lighting yartzeit candles. But if you ask her why, she won't talk about the afterlife or halachic requirements.

She says Kaddish because every Jewish community to which she belonged has said, "This is an Important Jewish Ritual," and my Mom listens to that message. And because the death of loved ones requires special attention and Kaddish is one of the many Jewish rituals around death and mourning that give us order in a time of chaos and support when we are weak. And because, the Kaddish gives her permission and encouragement to remember, to reconnect, and to mourn through a tradition that has been practiced for centuries.

In truth, the Mourner's Kaddish as we know it today only became an official observance in the Middle Ages. Before then, we see records of prayers said on behalf of the dead, but no story from the Talmud describes a rabbi asking the mourners to stand at the end of the service to recite Kaddish. Instead we find stories of the community gathering for prayer and study when someone has died; and as a result of this ritual gathering, the mourners seem to benefit as much as the one who has died.

For the living, the ritual of Kaddish provides structure and boundaries. Anita Diamont in her book *Saying Kaddish* writes: "Saying Kaddish regularly is a way of both giving grief standing and containing it." (*Saying Kaddish*, p.144) For the living, the ritual of Kaddish provides strength and support. Our tradition requires a minyan in order to say Kaddish. As a result the mourner is never alone as s/he performs this ritual of remembrance. Surrounded by family, friends, congregants, complete strangers...because of the requirement, a community has formed to acknowledge the loss and the need to address that loss through ritual.

One of our new initiatives here at BJ is a program called Jew-ry Duty where we invite every Jewish adult member of our community to attend morning minyan one time over the period of a year. You may not know this, but the mission statement of BJ includes the phrase "to inspire and require."

That being said, I want to suggest that in our community today, we are more responsive to inspiring than requiring. So let's talk about what's inspiring.

Harold Kushner writes: "When it comes to congregational prayer, I am tempted to suggest that the congregating is at least as important as the prayers we offer. Praying with a congregation offers us the message that we are not alone in our hopes, our fears, our aspirations. It invites us to transcend our individual isolation and lose ourselves in the group, to experience the sense of being part of something greater than oneself. (*To Life!*, p.204) How many of you have ever found yourself caught up in the music and dancing of a Friday night service? Have you lost yourself for even a minute and realized that you are part of something greater?

It's hard to create that feeling alone. We need one another to feel supported in song and prayer, so that when our voice breaks, there is another voice there filling in the words. Better yet, and this is the part we might often forget, we are that supportive voice and presence for someone else. We provide the words that fill in the space when someone else catches their breath.

Now think about Kaddish: We are asking a mourner to stand up in public and speak Aramaic as a ritual associated with the loss of a loved one. This is not an easy thing; but we support them because our voices are filling in the spaces.

Mourner: *Yitgadal v'yitkadash shemei rabbah*  
You: *Amen*.

The Talmud says: Greater is the one who says Amen than the one who says the blessing. (Berachot 53b) Amen! It's about the importance of affirmation. I am listening. I am witnessing. I am present. That's it. That's what we do when we show up for morning minyan. Our role as community members is far more significant than we realize: Kaddish provides the words but we create the sacred space. Kaddish begins a conversation but we are present to offer a response.

All of this is a microcosm of our larger goal for building a strong, dynamic community that serves one another and the world at large. We bring tikkun, healing, to one another, and we are bringing tikkun to the world. Let us not lose sight of this goal as we embrace the daily activities that can bring about our vision for a more perfect world filled with justice, compassion and peace. ■

—Rabbi Dara Frimmer



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MAZAL TOV

**To the following members and their families on their bat/bar mitzvah (through September):**

Andrew Berson	Andrew Sklar
Perry Small Wolfman	Sophie Browner
Ethan Kline	Jack Zurier
David Mann	Rachel Blankfein
Ross Gitlin	

**To the following members and their families (through August 28):**

Helen Radin, Jennifer Radin, Sanjay and Olivia Puri, Jessica and Simeon Fishman on the birth of their grandson, son, brother and nephew, Aidan Puri.

Brian, Martha and Elena Zipp and their family on the birth of their son and brother, Jack Hillman Zipp.

Michael Kelberg on his engagement to Becky (Rebecca) Soriano.

Peninnah Schram on the wedding of her son Hazzan Mordechai Schram to Sonia Gordon-Walinsky.



### CONDOLENCES *(through August 28)*

*The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member, Martha Deutscher, and extends sincere condolences to her entire family.*

*The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends condolences to the following members and their families:*

Rena Aghyeva and Scott Koenig on the death of Rena's beloved father, Yusif Aghayev.

Richard Chused, Elizabeth Langer, Benjamin Langer Chused, Samuel Chused Langer and their family on the death of Richard's beloved father, Joseph Chused.

Ira and Perry Wolfman, Evan Levine, and Ronda Small on the death of Ira's beloved father, Aaron Wolfman.

Hadley Allen on the death of her beloved mother, Annette Trafford Hadley Allen.



Paul, Michelle, Suzannah, Matthew, and Katie Grobman on the death of Paul's beloved mother, Roslyn Grobman.

Joshua and Vivian Kestenbaum on the death of Joshua's beloved father, Joseph Kestenbaum.

Robert, Helen and Brielle Stark on the death of Robert's beloved father, Irving Stark.

Mira Rivera, Jerry, Arielle and Benjamin Korman on the death of Mira's beloved mother, Aurora Oteyza Rivera.

Karen, Jeffrey, Jack, Mathew and Ryan Hogan on the death of Karen's beloved brother, Samuel Hanovice.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>1</b> <b>KOL NIDRE</b> • 6 PM – Services, 88th St., 86th St., Symphony Space	<b>2</b> <b>YOM KIPPUR</b> • 9 AM – Services, 88th St., 86th St., Symphony Space • 10:30 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St., 86th St., Thalia Theater • 10:30 AM – Family Services, Rose Theater • 4:30 PM – Minḥa & Ne’ila Services, 88th St., 86th St., Symphony Space • 7:00 PM – Children’s Processions • 7:17 PM – Teki’at Shofar, Havdalah • 7:30 PM – Cmty. Break-Fast, 88th St.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  • 4 PM – Family Sukkah Decorating Party, 88th St.	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b> <b>SUKKOT, 2ND DAY</b> • 9:30 AM – Sukkot Services, 88th St. • 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St. • 12:30 PM – Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah (open afterwards) • 7-9 PM – SPSA Sukkah open for guests and Shelter volunteers	<b>9</b>  • 5 PM – BJHS Mishpaha Gan and Aleph, 88th St. • 7-9 PM – SPSA Sukkah open	<b>10</b> • 7-9 PM – SPSA Sukkah open	<b>11</b> • 6:30-9 PM – Environmental Action Hevra Sukkot Event, SPSA Sukkah (SEE P.8)	<b>12</b> • 7-9 PM – SPSA Sukkah
<b>15</b> <b>SIMHAT TORAH</b> • 9:30 AM – Services, 88th St.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  • 5 PM – BJHS 88th St.
<b>22</b> <b>ROSH HODESH HESHVAN</b> • 7-9 PM – BJ Book Group, 88th St. (SEE P.8)	<b>23</b> <b>ROSH HODESH HESHVAN</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**SERVICE TIMES**

MORNING MINYAN (88TH STREET)  
 • Monday-Friday 7:30 AM • Sunday & National Holidays 9:30 AM

KABBALAT SHABBAT

- 6 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • 7:30 PM 88th St. Sanctuary
- October 6: Family Service 6 PM 88th St. Sanctuary; Wandering Minyan 6 PM 88th St. Frankel Hall; 7:30 PM 88th St. Sanctuary
- October 26: Contemplative Shabbat Service 6 PM 86th St. Sanctuary; 6 PM 88th St. Sanctuary; 7:30 PM 88th St. Sanctuary

SHABBAT MORNING

- 9:30 AM 86th St. Sanctuary • Children’s Services 10:45 AM 86th St. Chapel



DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p><b>6</b> <b>EREV SUKKOT</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM – Family Service, 88th St. Sanctuary</li> <li>• 6 PM – Wandering Minyan, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> <li>• 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Sanctuary</li> <li>• 8:30 PM – Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah</li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b> <b>SUKKOT, 1ST DAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM – Sukkot &amp; Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>• 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St.</li> <li>• 12:30 PM – Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah (open afterwards)</li> </ul> <p><b>SUKKOT, 2ND EVENING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30 PM – Services, 88th St. followed by Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah</li> </ul>
ah open	<p><b>13</b> <b>HOSHANA RABBAH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30 AM – Services, 88th St.</li> </ul> <p><b>EREV SHEMINI ATZERET</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>• 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>14</b> <b>SHEMINI ATZERET</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM – Shemini Atzeret &amp; Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>• 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St.</li> </ul> <p><b>EREV SIMḤAT TORAH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM – Family Services, 88th St.</li> <li>• 7 PM – Services, 88th St.</li> </ul>
Mishpaha Bet,	<p><b>20</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>• Following 6 PM service – BJHS Gimmel Family Dinner, 88th St.</li> <li>• 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>21</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>• 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation</li> <li>• 4:00 PM – RE-IMAGINE Family Havdalah, 88th St.</li> <li>• 5:30 PM – Rosh Hodesh Women's Group, 88th St. (SEE P.8)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>27</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM – Contemplative Shabbat Service, 86th St.</li> <li>• 6 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>• Following 6 PM service – BJHS Dalet Family Dinner, 88th St.</li> <li>• 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>• 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St.</li> <li>• Bar Mitzvah: Aaron Grau</li> <li>• Bar Mitzvah: Matthew Gottesfeld</li> </ul>

## ADULT CLASSES

### MONDAY

- Me'ah, 7-10 PM (begins October 16)
- Introduction to Judaism, 7-9 PM (begins October 23)

### TUESDAY

- Gems of Genesis, 8:10-9 AM (begins October 24)
- For Tze'irim (20s and 30s): Study of Heschel's *Quest for God* and Mishnah Berakhot, 7-9 PM (begins October 24)

### WEDNESDAY

- Contemplative Practice, 7-9 PM (begins October 18)
- Heschel's *Heavenly Torah*, 6:30-8:00 PM (begins October 25)

### THURSDAY

- Parashat Hashavu'a, 7-8:30 PM (begins October 26)

## YOUTH CLASSES

### MONDAY

- 4-5:30 PM, K-1st Grade
- 4-6 PM, 2nd-7th Grade

### TUESDAY

- 5-7 PM, Lishma

### THURSDAY

- 4-5:30 PM, K-1st Grade
- 4-6 PM, 2nd-7th Grade

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY-THURSDAY

- BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter 7 PM

### WEDNESDAY

- Kesharim 2 PM

### THURSDAY

- Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12 PM

### CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

October 6	6:13 PM (1st Evening Sukkot)
October 7	7:10 PM (2nd Evening Sukkot)
October 13	6:02 PM (Erev Shemini Atzeret)
October 14	6:59 PM (SimḤat Torah)
October 20	5:51 PM
October 7	5:41 PM

### PARASHAT HASHAVU'A

October 7	Sukkot
October 14	Shemini Atzeret
October 21	Bereshit
October 28	Noah

### HAVDALAH TIMES

October 8	7:08 PM (Sukkot ends)
October 15	6:57 PM (SimḤat Torah ends)
October 21	6:49 PM
October 28	6:40 PM



indicates Family Life and Hebrew School events

## YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION



## *Reach for Shabbat*: Linking Hebrew School, Families, and the BJ Shabbat Experience

Imagine what it would be like as a fourth grade BJ Hebrew School student to learn about Kiddush in your Thursday afternoon Hebrew School class and to then make Kiddush at 88th Street with your classmates on Shabbat, together with your parents. Or to discuss the meaning of Shabbat in class by reading texts and studying prayers and to then experience a 24-hour “In-Town Shabbaton” with classmates and parents, beginning with Kabbalat Shabbat and ending with Havdalah.

This fall, a group of 17 BJ fourth graders and their families will participate in a new pilot program at the BJ Hebrew School which will do this and more. Funded by the Miriam L. Siroky Fund for Family Education and called *Reach for Shabbat*, the program results from the work of the RE-IMAGINE Task Force, a diverse group of BJ members, education staff, and the rabbis formed in 2004 to explore how to “reimagine” educational programming for children at BJ. The work of the Task Force led to a new mission statement for learning at BJ, entitled “Building a Learning Community for BJ Children and their Families,” which can be found at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org). The mission statement sets forth key principles to guide education at BJ, emphasizing that learning experiences should build connections between children and families and the congregation.

Working in close collaboration with Hollis Gauss, BJ’s Director of Education (Youth & Family), the Task Force designed *Reach for Shabbat* as a pilot program to breathe life into the mission statement. *Reach for Shabbat* will expose kids and their

families to the full Shabbat experience through a combination of classroom teaching and ritual moments intended to make powerful connections between “learning” and “doing.” Beginning with a two-day retreat in November, continuing through the school year with Friday evening and Shabbat morning programs, and ending with a unique In-Town Shabbaton, *Reach for Shabbat* will allow fourth graders to take what they have learned in Hebrew School and put it into action. Parents will join in the special programming and also have the opportunity to participate in adult learning of their own. Hannah Kass, who taught third grade at the BJ Hebrew School last year, will be the *Reach for Shabbat* classroom teacher and will participate in all programs during the year, along with the rabbis, the rabbinic fellows, and BJ education staff.

The RE-IMAGINE Task Force will monitor and evaluate the program during the school year. In the spring, the Task Force will decide on next steps. Possibilities include expanding or retooling the program, but there is no prescribed recipe for the next phase of this pilot. Whatever happens next, BJ and the Task Force will continue to “reimagine” Jewish education for our children using the mission statement as a guide and inspiration.

For more information about the Task Force, please contact David Karnovsky ([davidkarno@aol.com](mailto:davidkarno@aol.com)) or Debra Fine ([debra@finecapitalpartners.com](mailto:debra@finecapitalpartners.com)). ■

—David Karnovsky, RE-IMAGINE Leadership Team Member

### **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:** *Susan Kippur* (continued from page 1)

and more fully educate our members, we created the “case for giving” packet and timed it to kick off this year’s Kol Nidre Partnership campaign.

The case packet is emblematic of the huge priority that fundraising in general—specifically, our Kol Nidre Partnership campaign—assumes in this year’s agenda. Unlike in years past, Kol Nidre giving is our only major fundraiser. Precisely because we want to concentrate all of our efforts on truly maximizing this annual giving opportunity, this year we will not hold a Spring event. No one will ask you to buy an ad in a journal, to

host guests for one of 100 community dinners, or to make a financial commitment to a moving and personally meaningful Torah portion.

So it is with deep gratitude for all of the people who make BJ unique, and with deep appreciation of this community’s power and potential that I ask you to dig deeply into your hearts to find a Kol Nidre gift that truly expresses a holy commitment to all that we are, and all that we can become. LeShanah Tovah Tikatevu. ■



## YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION



### Important Dates for October

- Events *in ITALICS* are for Teens
- Events in REGULAR FONT are for the Hebrew School
- Events in **BOLD FONT** are for the Families community

Monday, October 2 .....BJHS Closed for Yom Kippur

*Tuesday, October 3, 5PM, BJ Offices .....Lishma Teen Learning Program*

**Wednesday, October 4, 4PM, 88th Street .....Family Sukkah Decorating Party**

Monday, October 9, 5PM, 88th Street .....BJHS Gan & Aleph Mishpaḥa Family Learning Program\*

**Tuesday, October 10, 5PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall .....6th & 7th Grade Families Cook for the Shelter**

*Monday, October 16 .....BJHS Ozrim Development Session*

Thursday, October 19, 5PM, 88th Street .....BJHS Bet Mishpaḥa Family Learning Program\*

Friday, October 20, following the 6PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service .....BJHS Gimmel Family Shabbat Dinner

**Saturday, October 21, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall .....Junior Congregation**

Monday, October 23, 7PM, Heschel School .....BJHS Back to School Night

Friday, October 27, following the 6PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service .....BJHS Dalet Family Shabbat Dinner

\*The Hebrew School's Mishpaḥa Family Learning Program, when parents are invited to come learn with their children, meets twice each year for each grade. To accommodate all of the families in Gan, Aleph, and Bet, when children attend either Monday or Thursday, one Mishpaḥa session per year is scheduled for a Monday afternoon and the other is scheduled for a Thursday afternoon. We hope your family will be able to plan ahead and attend both sessions, both the one that occurs on your "regular" Hebrew School day and the one that occurs on the "other" day.

#### Family Sukkah Decorating Party

Come join us for a Sukkah decorating extravaganza! There will be sukkah decorating, learning about Sukkot, stories and games. Children and families will have an opportunity to meet new people and renew old friendships while helping us to beautify the BJ Sukkah. We'd love your family's help!! Contact Rebecca Rosenthal, rrosenthal@bj.org or x243, with questions or to RSVP. ■

#### Junior Congregation

Calling all children in 2nd grade and above! The next Junior Congregation is on October 21st at 10:30 downstairs in 86th Street. We'd love your child to lead or participate! If your child would like to learn or lead any of the prayers, please contact Rebecca Rosenthal, at rrosenthal@bj.org or x243. ■



## UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Sukkot Celebration with a Difference

**Wednesday, October 11 • 6:30PM • Sukkah at SPSA, 86th Street and West End Avenue**

What is the environmental legacy that we hope to leave our children? If we continue to treat our environment heedlessly, then rising temperatures, seas, and cancer rates, more hurricanes, and loss of wild places are what they will inherit. But we have a choice. To see some simple things we can all do here and now to protect our planet's environment, come to the BJ Sukkot organic harvest celebration and environmental expo. To find out more or to RSVP, please contact x366 or e-mail Gil Kulick at [gil\\_kulick@yahoo.com](mailto:gil_kulick@yahoo.com), Jenny Eisenberg at [jenny Eisenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:jenny Eisenberg@yahoo.com), or Carol Schiffman-Durham at [Carol.Durham@VNSNY.org](mailto:Carol.Durham@VNSNY.org)

### Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Heshvan

**Saturday, October 21 • 5:30PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration not required**

Join Rabbis Felicia Sol, Dara Frimmer and Lauren Holtzblatt to study and pray together on this holiday traditionally associated with women. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian/kosher snack for everyone to share.

### BJ Book Group

**Sunday, October 22 • 7:00PM • 88th Street**

Please join us to discuss *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, the extraordinary memoir of Israeli writer Amos Oz and the first book on our agenda this fall. Next (date and time to come) we'll talk about the autobiography of contemporary Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld, *The Story of a Life: A Memoir*.



## DONATIONS (through Augusts 29)

### Adult Education Fund

Nancy Greenblatt in celebration of the engagement of Sandee Brawarsky and Barry Lichtenberg and in honor of Sandee Brawarsky's birthday

### Etz Hayim Fund

Helena Diamant Glass in honor of Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon's 20th anniversary at BJ  
 Norman and Sheila Bleckner in honor of Norman Kaufman

### General Fund

Tamar Baumgold

### General Fund

Tamar Baumgold in honor of Harvey Israelton  
 Norman and Sheila Bleckner in honor of Sofia Hubscher's marriage to Adam Wallach  
 Alan J. and Mimi Frank

Helena Diamant Glass in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash

Mark E. Goldstein in honor of Ted Fisher's birthday  
 Jack and Rivka Haim in honor of Jack D. Haim's aliyah

Sofia Hubscher in honor of Rabbi Felicia Sol  
 Stefanie and Marshall

Jacobowitz in appreciation of Helen Radin

Melissa Kraft and Kenneth Miller in honor of Rabbi Anne Ebersman

Rabbi Neil Kurshan  
 Donny Lee in honor of Judy Meibach

James Posner and Jill Prosky  
 Martin Stern in honor of his aunt and uncle

Dr. Katia Tiutiunnik in honor of Katia and Hamzah Tiutiunnik

Nina Zimmerman

Randi Zuller in memory of Elga Stulman

### High Holy Days Flower Fund

Alan J. and Mimi Frank  
 Ralph Klein in honor of Meryll Klein

Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in honor of the marriage of Hazzan Mordechai Schram to Sonia Gordon-Walinsky  
 Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in memory of Paul Grobman's mother, Roslyn Grobman

Donna Weinstein in memory of Ezra Teitelbaum's mother, Fannie Teitelbaum

### Homeless Shelter Fund

Eileen Mullen in memory of Hadley Allen's mother, Annette Trafford Hadley Allen

Elaine Nevins in memory of Hadley Allen's mother, Annette Trafford Hadley Allen

Barbara Simon in memory of Hadley Allen's mother, Annette Trafford Hadley Allen

### Israel Partnership Fund

Enid Ringer  
 Saul Robbins  
 Kirk Zachary

### Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Ellen Peregman in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
 Cynthia Wineburgh

### Social Action Fund

Malcolm and Estelle Newman in memory of Clara Glotzer  
 Sheila Tronn and Michael and Adam Cooper-Tronn in memory of Dena K. Tronn, mother and grandmother

### Yizkor Fund

Harriet E. Abraham in memory of her father, Saul J. Abraham  
 Gail Amsterdam in memory of her father, Theodore Amsterdam  
 Dr. Tzvi Barak in memory of Hinda Borushak



## DONATIONS *(continued from p. 10)*

Tamar Baumgold in memory of Rose Alpert's son, Gordon Alpert  
 Tamar Baumgold in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
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 Meredith Berkman and Daniel Mintz in memory of Judith Cossin Berkman, maternal grandmother of Noa, Caleb and Avital  
 Isabel Berkowitz in memory of her mother, Helen Berkowitz  
 Norman and Sheila Bleckner in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
 Arlene Brandon in memory of her mother, Kitty Brandon  
 Edward Brill and Michele Levin in memory of Seymour Brill  
 Jeanette Brizel in memory of her father, Irving Brizel  
 Paul Broches and Julie Spain in memory of Catharina Pothast Broches  
 Dan Caligor and Anne Ebersman in memory of Lee and Judy Caligor  
 Joel and Ulrika Citron in memory of Richard Janvey's mother, Molly Janvey and Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
 Congregation Habonim in memory of Mira Rivera's mother, Aurora Oteyza Rivera  
 Shirley Dorfman in memory of Harry Dorfman  
 Ted Fisher in memory of his mother and father, Lucille and Irwin Fisher  
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 Nora Gaines in memory of her grandmother, Minnie Stadler and her uncle, Nat Berg

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 Mark Kleinberg in memory of Stephenie Hochman  
 Lorraine Korn in memory of her father, David Korn  
 Lorraine Korn in memory of Gordon Alpert, Rose Alpert's son  
 Jonathan, Miriam and Jacob Kose in memory of their mother, mother in-law, Bubbe, Mrs. Toby Kaufman  
 Belinda Lasky in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
 Belinda Lasky in memory of Ira Wolfman's father, Aaron Wolfman  
 Belinda Lasky in memory of Hadley Allen's mother, Annette Traford Hadley Allen  
 Harold and Helen Lehrman in memory of Helen's father, Jesse Beinheim

Kenneth Levin in memory of his father, Joseph Levin  
 Barbara Blum in memory of her brother, Bernard Blum  
 Jules and Judith Love in memory of her father, Tobias Zwerdling  
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 Hella Moritz in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
 Ilene Nadel in memory of her father and mother, Louis and Helen Trager  
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 Sherwood and Sallie Newman in memory of Anna Silverman  
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 Charlotte Rashti and Dr. Richard Cooper in memory of their grandparents, mothers, father and sister  
 Blanche Saia in memory of her brother and parents  
 David Salz in memory of his father, Herman Salz, his mother, Sylvia Salz, his father, Sandy Leavitt, his mother, Selma Leavitt, his aunt, Molly Shapiro  
 Lisa Schachner in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash  
 Lisa Schachner in memory of Robert Stark's father, Irving Stark  
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 Sharon Zane in memory of her father and grandfather, Manuel D. Zane, MD  
 Anne Ziff in memory of Asya Berger's mother, Lea Eliash

KOL HADASH  
 New Voice  
 October, 2006

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