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## Rabbi's Message

RABBI FELICIA L. SOL

As Ivy Schreiber (our Interim Director of Education, Youth and Family, and the staff member who coordinated the trip) and I travelled on the bus to the

airport to meet the BJ group accompanied by our Director of Social Action/Social Justice, Guy Austrian, I overheard our tour guide Ron Sinai (who had also been a guide for last year's summer trip) tell the bus driver (in Hebrew, of course), "This trip is going to be a unique trip. They've come here to experience all the problems of Israel." And while I wouldn't have described the trip that way to most, it is true that Americans rarely go to Israel to encounter its complexities. We often visit to experience the "holy" sites, the heroes of the Jewish people, the miracle of the State's existence, or to marvel at the fact that the State's rhythm is build on our religious tradition. We go to fall in love.

That first night at the opening circle at Mount Zion Hotel in Jerusalem, overlooking the old city in the cool evening air of Jerusalem, we said a lehayim to the possibilities of what the trip would be, acknowledging the love and gratitude that had brought us to this moment and the complexities that would challenge us in days to come.

Thus said Rabbi Yoḥanon: The Holy Blessed One said, "I will not enter heavenly Jerusalem until I can enter the earthly Jerusalem."

—*Babylonian Talmud, Masekhet Ta'anit*

And so that night in the magnificence of the view, there was some ambivalence in the air. What would these next ten days mean for each person's relationship with Israel as we encountered earthly Jerusalem with its challenges and complexities?

And then our trip began. We met representatives from the New Israel Fund and Shatil, who gave us an overview of their work trying to build civil society in Israel. We spent a morning with Bema'agle Tzedek (Circles of Justice) and heard three young Modern Orthodox women share their passion for making sure religion is not only about ritual and deeds of compassion but also building a just society. To this end, they are working on a social seal of kashrut to ensure that restaurants are paying their workers fairly. We visited the community of Yotzer Or, under the leadership of Rabbi Uri Ayelon, in a poor neighborhood of Talpiyot, and were inspired by his life project of building community based upon the shared needs of diverse members of society. We met the leaders of the Jerusalem Open House as they prepared frantically for the Gay Pride Parade in Jerusalem. We went to a check point with Mahsom Watch, an organization of women who stand at checkpoints and try to be witnesses for what happens there. We met Ruhla, a Palestinian women who is passionate about creating a language of repair in her own society as well as building bridges with Israelis. We heard the painful stories of Ibrahim, whose son was killed by a Jewish settler, and Tal, whose sister was killed in a suicide bombing, and how they have chosen light over darkness and a

(continued on page 4)

## Snapshots of Teen Participation in BJ Social Action/Social Justice

*Over the course of the year B'nai Jeshurun teens have engaged in a variety of social justice programming. The social justice work that energetic B'nai Jeshurun teens do by organizing for the AIDS Walk, by volunteering at our shelter, or by participating in service trips helps to invigorate our congregation. In addition to some of the activities profiled in this article, 15 B'nai Jeshurun teens attended a house meeting as part of the Community Conversations organized by Panim el Panim and subsequently a few teens attended events including the Gathering for Action in January and the Manhattan Together Assembly in April. Teens, as vital members of our community, help us to ensure that we continue to live out our Jewish values of tikkun olam and social justice now and into the next generation.*

For the first fifteen years of my life, B'nai Jeshurun was my cozy escape from society. I would go to synagogue just to sit and relax, and contemplate my week. I never participated in activities at BJ; this could be attributed to my physical distance from synagogue or my reluctance to develop a community outside of my small town in Westchester. This all changed in December of 2006, when I went on a trip to Israel with BJ for my sister's Bat Mitzvah. I began thinking about my priorities in life during this time, and by August of 2007 I decided to lead Family Services with Rabbi Anne Ebersman for Rosh Hashanah at Symphony Space. These two experiences helped me to feel more comfortable with BJ and my Judaism, but I really became a member of the BJ teen community when I signed up for the AJWS Mexico Program.



**Making a difference is not done alone—it requires the cooperation of a strong community, and that is what has happened with the teens of B'nai Jeshurun."**

I was enthusiastic about the program when I first heard about it because I have a passion for helping others, but I was worried about how I would get along with the other teens going on the program. To my surprise and excitement I absolutely loved every single person who I met at our first meeting for

Mexico. As the months passed, I developed strong bonds of friendship that I hope will never be broken. When I returned from Mexico, part of a strong BJ teen community, my passion for helping others had grown stronger. It became clear to me that I should take a proactive role in helping to better the lives of others, and I took the first chance that was offered to me. I joined the Social Action/Social Justice One Time Events Committee, helped plan the BJ AIDS Walk Team and will be joining BJ for the Breast Cancer Walk in September. I worked with two fellow BJ teens that I had not yet met, and together we spread the word about the AIDS Walk, and raised money. My positive experiences with the AJWS program and organizing the AIDS Walk have reinforced my desire to affect the lives of people who have not had the same opportunities that I have had.

Becoming a member of the BJ teen community has taken time. It was daunting at first to connect with kids who I did not know, but once I got over that I rapidly became more involved with BJ. Each time I participate in a Tikkun Olam project, I feel stronger, and more valuable to the BJ teen community. Making a difference is not done alone—it requires the cooperation of a strong community, and that is happening with the teens of B'nai Jeshurun.

—Jacob Lowy

I spent hours making a slideshow that lasted less than two minutes. The slideshow had pictures of smiling children and adults, beautiful scenery, and a song that made me smile every time I heard it. It wasn't a normal slideshow, for me it was a way to convey my feelings. I had volunteered to make the slideshow for the B'nai Jeshurun Teens Take Action event. The event was created so that BJ teens, including myself, could talk about and

show the amazing experiences we had in Mexico and Louisiana on BJ community service programs.

I knew I couldn't put my feelings into words, so I thought pictures would be best. After spending a long time, collecting pictures and putting them in the right order, I was so excited to show everyone.

The meeting started off with speeches about participants' personal experiences and thoughts on the programs. The speeches were great, and looking around the room, I was so happy to be part of a synagogue that cared this much to come out to listen. It was a nice day in May, and they could have been doing so many other things, yet each person came so they could hear about our experiences. It made me so much more excited to share my own.

Throughout the slideshow, I could see people smiling as they looked at our memories from the community service trip to Mexico. It was a great way for me to share my experiences and feelings with others in my community.

After the slideshow, everyone started to talk to each other. Adults mixing with teens, everyone eager to either hear about our experiences or to tell about them. I've always thought of BJ as a great community, however, seeing all these people coming together, made me realize how lucky I was to be a part of this community and a group of people who care about what everyone has to say.

—Sara Ginsberg

**Cooking for the fine people who attended the shelter was calming, allowing me to do something I enjoy that would benefit others."**

When I began cooking for our homeless shelter at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, I searched for a friend with whom I could share good times cooking and who I knew to be a caring, community-serving gal. In my friend from

school, Eliza Montgomery, I saw these outstanding traits. Every Sunday we were available, Eliza and I would get together and plan our next cooking fete. The first of our numerous cooking successes was the classic meatloaf dish, served with a mixed salad, mashed potatoes, and our signature chocolate chip cookies, courtesy of Mr. Pillsbury. After dropping off our first meal, Eliza and I waited to say hello to the guests at the

BJ/SPSA shelter. Once dinner was served, the guests greeted us with a round of applause. I was pleased to see they liked the meal. Maybe they were just showing their gratitude, but really I was the one who was grateful. Cooking for them was incredibly fulfilling and was truly my pleasure. Eliza and I had a great time preparing the meal and others enjoyed the fruits of our labor. No activity could have been more satisfying.



Next Eliza and I chose to make baked ziti, salad, and, of course, our scrumptious chocolate chip cookies. Our other dishes included a 22-pound turkey with broccoli, two plump chickens, asparagus, grapes and mandarin oranges, and we always included our favorite chocolate chip cookies.

Cooking for the fine people who attend the shelter was calming, allowing me to do something I enjoy that would benefit others. I find cooking to be much more rewarding when I get to feed others. Dinners are always great occasions for people to get together, enjoy a meal, and relax, while forgetting about the long day that preceded or the long day to come. Dinner can be such a relief; I was so happy to provide that sometimes-needed relief for our dinner guests.

I will be continuing cooking for BJ/SPSA Shelter in the year to come and hopefully Eliza will, too. I look forward to every meal and I hope the guests can say so too. I would like to thank Anne Millman and Barbara Ginsberg for providing me this opportunity that I hope to get others involved in as well. I am forever in your debt, Anne and Barbara, for enriching my life with this meal-serving opportunity.

—Anna Salzman

Photos: Anna Salzman

Upcoming Limud & Community Events

• **Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Av**  
**Facilitated by Rabbis Felicia L. Sol and Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow**  
**Saturday, August 2 • 12:30PM • 86th Street Social Hall**  
 • Free; registration not required. Each new month on the Hebrew calendar, we will have an opportunity to study, discuss, celebrate and pray together on this holiday traditionally associated with women. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian kosher snack to share.

• **Ushering For the Yamim Nora'im 5769**  
 Now is the time for BJ members to sign up to usher during the Yamim Nora'im. Ushering at BJ has always been a special community experience; at least 250 people are needed to insure that prayer at services will be comfortable for all. Please fill out the form that has been sent to you in the mail and send it to Sarah Verity at the BJ office, indicating which services and times you prefer, along with the site where you will be praying.

• **Calling all Tze'irim!**  
 We need your help! We need ushers for most High Holy Day locations and shifts. Please consider giving to the BJ community over the High Holy Days by ushering at your service location. Shifts are each about two hours; pick one or pick one for each day of services. Please sign up as soon as possible to ensure you get the location and shift you most desire. Each year we need at least 250 people ushering to insure that prayer at services will be comfortable for all, and we would value representation from Tze'irim. Please fill out the form that has been sent to you in the mail and forward it to Sarah Verity, or contact sverity@bj.org.

**Rabbi's Message** RABBI FELICIA L. SOL *(continued from page 1)*

path to try to understand one another and create a different society so people will no longer need to enter their circle of bereaved families. We travelled to the Negev and heard from Ra'ad and witnessed with our own eyes the enormous hardships of the Bedouin population. We met with the diverse staff of Shatil, representing the complex ethnicity and peoples of Israeli society, and were moved by the work each and every one of them is doing to build a more sustainable Israel. We met Shevi at the Hotline for Immigrant Workers and listened to an account of their incredible work regarding issues of refugees and migrant workers. We served food and organized supplies at Meir Panim, an organization dedicated to helping the poor, and we picked celery with Project Leket so that the hungry will be fed with food in Israel that would normally go to waste.

And yes, we toured the rooftops of the old city and visited Yad Vashem and Mount Herzl, and toured Jerusalem and Tel Aviv neighborhoods. And yes, we ate falafel and bought food at Mahane Yehuda on Friday afternoon in the rush of preparing for Shabbat, and yes, we listened over and over again to the holy

language of Hebrew in its day-to-day existence and yes, we had two incredible Shabbatot—one in Jerusalem with our friends at Kol Haneshama, and one in Tel Aviv with our partner synagogue Beit Tefila, with Kabbalat Shabbat at the port overlooking the Mediterranean Sea as the sun set. And yes, we talked with our friends from Hamidrasha and Nigun Halev about their lives and what it means to live in this Jewish State. And yes, we studied some incredible texts from our study guide and formed a community of 37 people who shared an incredible experience which raised many questions about what it means to be a Jew in our world today, and what our covenant is with the Land of Israel and the State of Israel. And many left with more questions than answers.

And together we know her better, this Land, this State, these peoples who live on her soil. It was the closing circle of our trip when one participant shared that her relationship with Israel had morphed from being a love affair to a marriage. We see her in all her complexity, ready to love, support, challenge and understand. Ready to build a lifelong commitment. ■

## Mazal Tov

**To the following members and their families on their b'nai mitzvah (through July):**

Jared Kandel-Fishman	Tess Wagman
Simone Kolleeny	Basia Tess Rosenbaum
Matthew Povich	Hannah Teush
Saskia Naegele	

**To the following members and their families (through June 27):**

Jack and Marian Krauskopf on the birth of their grandson, Elias Jacob.

Stephen Kaufman and Marina Pinto Kaufman on the birth of their granddaughter, Ruby Vera.

Carla Lewis and Bob Gruenspecht on their wedding.

Rena Chelouche Fogel and Anne Bogart on their wedding.

Rabbi Leana Morrith on her ordination by the Academy for Jewish Religion.

Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay and Rabbi Howard Mandell on their ordination by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Meg and Seth Akabas on being honored and presented with the Bonei Beit Rabban Award by the Beit Rabban Day School at their Annual Benefit on May 29.

Beth and Jonathan Kern on being honored for their exceptional dedication and service to the Heschel School at the school's Annual Benefit on May 29. And to Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok, Virginia Bayer, and Shira Nadich Levin for being honored for their leadership as former presidents of the Heschel School's Board of Trustees.

Susan Grobman and Blake Myers on the birth of their daughter, Sophie Rose Myers.

Rabbi Emanuel Gold on the birth of his grandson, Zachary Jacob Gonta.

Peninnah Schram for being promoted to a full Professor at Yeshiva University.

Eric and Stacey Tavel on the naming of their daughter, Alexandra Izzy Tavel.

Heidi Cohen and Larry Aronson on their wedding.

Shirley Dorfman on the engagement of her son, Jeffrey Dorfman, to Karen Cohen.

Rebecca Rosenthal and Adam Arenson, Irv Rosenthal and Ruth Jarmul, and Sarah and Rachel Rosenthal on the birth of their son, grandson, and nephew, Simon Raphael Rosenthal Aronsen.

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## Condolences (through June 27)

***The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved members:***

Larry Riskin, and extends sincere condolences to his wife, Andrea Bigelisen Riskin, and their entire family.

Ketty Yoeli, and extends sincere condolences to her son Michael Yoeli, her daughter-in-law Susan Etra, her grandchildren Matthew, Dahlia and Belle, and her entire family.

Henry Kleiman, and extends sincere condolences to all his loved ones.

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

Arnon, Allison and Pamela Mishkin and Susan Fine, and Jonathan, Sarah, Naomi and Benjamin Mishkin on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Esther Mishkin.

Edward, Kayla, Sarah and Adin Joyce and Linda Gerstel on the death of Ed's beloved mother, Carol A. Joyce.

Jane Brody and Jill Linder on the death of Jane's beloved father, Robert Brody.

Phyllis, Arthur, Debbie and Josh Rovine and their entire family on the death of Phyllis' beloved mother, Mar Hamburger.

Karen Wexler, Doug Waite, Ben and Joshua Wexler-Waite on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law and grandfather, Frank Wexler.

Rebecca Miller on the death of her beloved mother, Florence Miller.

David, Ariel and Eli Kaminsky and Miriam Akabas on the death of David's beloved mother, Rosalind Kaminsky.

Ted, Adam and Jesse Metzger and Robin Fleischner on the death of Ted's beloved father, Louis J. Metzger.

David and Estare Weiser on the death of David's beloved mother, Sarah Weiser.

Daniel Kestin and Elissa Meth on the death of Daniel's beloved mother, Henriette Rita Kestin.

Barry Lichtenberg and Sandee Brawarsky on the death of Barry's beloved father, William Lichtenberg.

Leonard Bloom on the death of his beloved partner, Gary Topchik.

Sharri and Jonathan Posen, Danielle Posen Mindlin and Alex Mindlin on the death of their beloved father and grandfather, Harry Silbergait.

Lotte and Otto Knoller on the death of Lotte's beloved brother, Harry Weigel.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
3	4	5	6	7
<b>10 TISHA BE-AV</b> • 9:30 AM - Morning Services, 88th St. • 6:30 PM - Mincha Service, 88th St.	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
..... <b>31 ROSH HODESH ELUL</b>				

SERVICE TIMES

**Morning Minyan (88th Street):**

• Monday-Friday 7:30 AM • Sunday & National Holidays 9:30 AM

**Kabbalat Shabbat:**

• 7:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary

**Shabbat Morning:**

• 9:30 AM 88th Street • Children's Services 10:45 AM 88th St. Frankel Hall

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 ROSH HODESH AV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St.</li> <li>10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St.</li> <li>12:30 PM - Rosh Hodesh Women's Group, 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.4)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St.</li> <li>10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St.</li> </ul> <p><b>EREV TISHA BE-AV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 PM - Evening Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St.</li> <li>10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> </ul>
	<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St.</li> <li>10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> </ul>
	<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St.</li> <li>Bar Mitzvah - Ira Seidman</li> <li>10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> </ul>

## ADULT CLASSES

Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for more information and how to register.

### Coming up in September:

- Beginning Tuesday, September 2: The Book of Exodus following Morning Minyan
- Wednesday, September 3: Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Elul 7:00 PM
- Beginning Wednesday, September 3: Preparation for the High Holy Days 7:00 PM

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

### Sunday-Thursdays

- BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter 7 PM

### Thursday

- Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12 PM

### Candlelighting Times

August 1	7:53 PM
August 8	7:45 PM
August 15	7:36 PM
August 22	7:26 PM
August 29	7:15 PM

### Parashat HaShavu'a

August 2	Masei
August 9	Devarim
August 16	Vaethanan
August 23	Ekev
August 30	Re'eh

### Havdalah Times

August 2	9:22 PM
August 9	9:14 PM
August 16	9:04 PM
August 23	8:54 PM
August 30	8:43 PM

## Reach for Shabbat Program Continues on its Success

We're excited to enter the third year of our Reach for Shabbat Program! In the second year of Reach for Shabbat, the program was expanded to include third, fourth and fifth grade students in the Hebrew School and their families. In addition to several Shabbat programs for the fourth and fifth grades, all third, fourth and fifth grade families attended the first annual Reach for Shabbat retreat in November. We asked the teachers, parents and students what they learned from their Reach for Shabbat experience and here is what they had to say:

### From the Educators

"Nothing is more powerful than an immersion experience, like the retreat."

"The larger BJ community has been changed by the participation of the Reach for Shabbat families, many of whom were not Shabbat 'regulars' before last year."

### From the Children

"It made Hebrew School more fun —it's boring to learn it and then not use it."

"It raised the standards for Hebrew School because we were expected to learn more."

"You can't always have time for play dates with your HS friends, so at the Reach programs you got to hang out with them."

### From the Parents

"My child made very good friends through Reach. He is eager to see his friends at Hebrew School, and is much more open to learning as a result—i.e., they like to chat, but they also like to learn together. Our family has shared meals and events with other families we met through Reach."

"I felt that there was not enough to encourage parents to get to know each other independently of their children. We are drawn to our children's friends' families or those we already know. More could have been done to have parents socialize without their children present. Although time is limited, parents need to socialize to form friendships, not just learn in directed activities."

### Register Now!

Reach for Shabbat will continue for third, fourth and fifth grade families in the Hebrew School. For more information, or to register for this exciting program, contact [bjhs@bj.org](mailto:bjhs@bj.org).

## Reach for Shabbat 2008-2009 — Save the Dates!

- Saturday, September 20**, following Junior Congregation ..... Reach for Shabbat Kick-Off (Dalet and Hey)
- Friday December 12-**  
**Sunday December 14** ..... Reach for Shabbat Retreat (all BJHS Gimmel, Dalet and Hey students and their families)
- Saturday March 7, 2009**, following Junior Congregation ..... Dalet Reach for Shabbat Program
- Saturday, April 4**, following Junior Congregation ..... Hey Reach for Shabbat Program
- Saturday, May 9**, Havdalah ..... Reach for Shabbat Closing Program (Dalet and Hey)

## Fifth and Sixth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Family Learning Programs—Save the Dates!

BJ's B'nai Mitzvah programs are for all students (and their parents!) who will become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at BJ, no matter where they receive their Jewish education.

All programs will take place from 9:30-10:30AM in the SPSA Chapel. All students and their parents are encouraged to join Junior Congregation at 10:30 in the Social Hall downstairs at SPSA.

Contact Davey Rosen, Family Educator, at [drosen@bj.org](mailto:drosen@bj.org) for more information on the B'nai Mitzvah Family Learning Programs.

### Fifth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Learning Programs

Saturday, November 1, 2008

Saturday February 7, 2000

### Sixth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Learning Programs

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Saturday, December 6

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Saturday, May 2

### Sixth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat

May 8-10, 2009

## Information About Your Membership Renewal

### RENEW ONLINE OR BY MAIL

- Please visit [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) to fill out your renewal membership application.
- If you wish to renew by mail, please complete the membership application mailed in late May.
- Staff regularly updates our database according to the information you provide on your application. Please complete this form in full.
- It is important that we receive birthdates for all members of your family so that we may include everyone in age-appropriate mailings such as B'nai Mitzvah, family programs, events based on age group etc.
- If you have multiple e-mail addresses, please provide the address to which you want to receive BJ communications.

### FOR ALL RENEWING MEMBERS

- **In order to ensure you receive your High Holy Day entrance cards, you must first pay your outstanding pledges and balances.** Our policy states that any payment received by B'nai Jeshurun will be used to pay off the oldest outstanding pledges and balances first. For example, if you have membership balances that pre-date the current year, your new payment will be used to pay the oldest balance first.
- We also remind you that if you have not yet fulfilled your 2007 Kol Nidre Partnership pledge, you may send a check to the BJ office or click on "Make a Donation" at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org). If you would like to speak to someone about your pledge, please call Erzsébet Ragyina in the Development Department at x228.

### HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

- **Your location for High Holy Day services is assigned on a first-come first-served basis.**
  - **The earlier you return your membership forms, the more likely it is you will be placed at your preferred location.**
  - **Space at some locations fills up within a few weeks so please consider sending your location request as soon as possible.**
  - **If your family and friends wish to be at the same location, you must all renew at the same time.**
  - **You may choose to attend services at Jazz at Lincoln Center or 86th Street SPSA; the 88th Street Sanctuary is filled.**
- Special Needs seating will only be available at the BJ Sanctuary on 88th Street and the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew on 86th Street.
- In order for us to provide entrance cards for Rosh Hashanah, membership applications must be in our office and date-stamped by **Friday, September 12.**
- In order for us to provide entrance cards for Yom Kippur, membership applications must be in our office and date-stamped by **Friday, September 19.**
- Entrance cards will be mailed starting late July. Entrance cards will not be mailed after Wednesday, September 10. Beginning Monday, September 15, entrance cards will ONLY be available for pick up in the B'nai Jeshurun office.

**Remember to return your membership application no later than Friday, August 15, 2008!**

Questions? Contact Belinda Lasky, Director of Membership, at [blasky@bj.org](mailto:blasky@bj.org) or x224.

## Announcements: Mazal Tov (continued from page 4)

BJ staff member Sarah Guthartz and her husband Seth on the birth of their son, Jonah Max Guthartz.

Ezra Teitelbaum and Barbara Simon on their wedding.

Paula Cohen on her engagement to Sam Hess.

Lauren Rott and Daniel Juceam on their engagement.

Steve Stulman on the birth of his grandson, Orion Cooper.

Alex and Mindy Opper on the naming of their daughter, Emily S. Opper.

## Outgoing President's Message

*(This article is excerpted from the President's Report at the June 5 Annual Meeting, where Susan Kippur spoke in her role as outgoing President of BJ's Board of Trustees.)*

In May I had the pleasure of attending BJ's Women's Retreat along with more than 100 women, including 14 Israeli women from Hamidrasha. The thematic focus of the Shabbat weekend was Shavuot and, more specifically, "Taking Our Place at the Mountain." Expertly led by Felicia and our Marshall T. Meyer Fellows Chen and Esther, we prayed together, sang together, ate together, and explored in depth the concept of received wisdom and its relevance to our lives—spiritually, personally, and collectively. It was an enormously moving weekend. And it was at this retreat that one of the participants made a special point of coming up to me and suggesting that I must be very proud of BJ—a simple, straightforward comment, but one that has echoed in my mind from that moment.

**... I am extraordinarily proud because we are a community that truly seeks to live our values."**

I am unbelievably proud of BJ for so many reasons, most especially because of the huge number of people—both volunteer and staff—who make it their business to reach out within and beyond our community. We're a community that has engaged over 950 volunteers this past year. Think about that: 950 people giving freely of themselves to make BJ what it is today. It is quite extraordinary.

More than a third of these volunteers have worked tirelessly to extend our reach in the social action/social justice arena—through Panim el Panim and our action *hevras*, through BJ Reads, the Ralph Bunche School Partnership, the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter, and the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program.

Several hundred of our volunteers have dedicated time in order to build our community and serve the needs of our new members, our growing population of 20s and 30s, our families and children, singles, couples and, elders... to welcome and usher us at services, and to bring care and comfort to those in our community who are ill and in mourning.

Still others have invested huge amounts of creativity and energy to support our vision and dreams through improved fundraising and enhanced communication.

We're a community that—in the past three years—has deepened our connection to Israel by sending more than 360

people on BJ trips to Israel geared to different populations and themes, and by engaging more than 500 people in the celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary.

We're a community that has sent more than 35 kids and 12 young adults on service learning trips in conjunction with the American Jewish World Service. And this is just the beginning of these profound educational experiences.

We're a community that has inspired members to participate in more than 140 different Limud learning sessions throughout the year taught by our rabbis and MTM fellows... and that has sponsored a host of stimulating Interfaith events and study sessions.

I'm incredibly proud too of our dedicated, active trustees and committee chairs, and I've been blessed with an Executive Committee comprised of smart, caring people who always, always made themselves available for advice and counsel.

And last, but definitely not least, I am extraordinarily proud because we are a community that truly seeks to live our values. I participated in countless meetings over the past three years with Ari, the rabbis, Deborah Pinsky, Harold Goldman, and BJ staff members in which—in the throes of decision-making or problem solving or planning—someone wisely remembered to steer us back to our values as a guidepost for figuring out what we needed to do.

And so—first and foremost— we are a community that is committed to being:

A synagogue where the centrality of the Divine is present

A synagogue where the membership is engaged and participatory

A synagogue where Jewish practice creates something new, exciting, and unexpected

A synagogue that is inclusive, diverse, and egalitarian

A synagogue that is a model and inspiration for others to follow

All of this makes me very, very proud to be a member of this wonderful, vital force in Jewish life. ■

—Susan Kippur

**Adult Education Fund**

Susan Landau and Thomas Reiner in honor of Mim Warden  
Anne Ziff in memory of her beloved mother, Helen C. Finkelman

**Beba Bronstein****Scholarship Fund**

Mark Grumet in memory of his beloved father, Alexander Grumet, and uncle, Harry Both

**Daily Minyan Fund**

Morty and Bernice Levine in memory of Larry Riskin

**General Fund**

Lilli Afan  
Shelley Bernard  
John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in memory of Susan Kippur's beloved aunt, Bebe Lavin, in memory of Michael Yoeli's beloved mother, Ketty Yoeli, in honor of the birth of Rebecca Roesenthal and Adam Arenson's son, and in memory of Ted Metzger's beloved father, Louis Metzger  
Avery Brandon in appreciation to Anne Ebersman for officiating Skyler Eliana Liat Hennion's Simḥat Bat  
Anne Clemons in honor of Debra Lerner's birthday  
Gisela Fobar  
Alan and Mimi Frank  
Jane Fuchsberg  
Martin Garfinkel  
Paulette Gray  
Betty Grumet  
Dr. David Hochman in honor of his aliyah on his 96th birthday  
Joel Kazis and Sara Nathan, Ted Becker and Christine Lin, Joan Hochman and Christopher Reid, Bob Kanter, David Karnovsky and Sue Kaplan, Andrew and Sara Litt, Theodore Metzger and Robin Fleischner, and Ronald Tafel and Stacey Merel in honor of Susan Kippur's presidency  
Jonathan and Ellen Litt in memory of Bebe Lavin  
Janice and Charles Honig  
Marc and Linda Luxemburg in memory of Bebe Lavin  
Membership Committee in honor of Carl and Miriam Stern's 50th anniversary  
Hella Moritz in honor of Esther Lederman's graduation and ordination  
Lilli Platt, in gratitude for receiving an aliyah on Shavuot  
Maury and Constance Povich  
Sharon Roling  
Phyllis Schatsky in honor of Sam Schatsky's 80th birthday  
Adina Schecter  
Richard and Lisa Sobelsohn in honor of Felicia, Ari, Rebecca Rosenthal, Jerry Korman, and Mira Rivera for their support of Rachel becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
Leonard Wasserman in appreciation of being honored with the Haftarah  
Emily Weiss  
Robert and JoAnn Werbel in appreciation of Robert's aliyah on April 5th in honor of his 70th birthday

Beit Sefer B'yahad in honor of the United Jewish School's 9th Grade visit to BJ  
Temple Beth Emeth in appreciation of welcoming their 8th grade students to BJ's Shabbat service

**Hebrew School Fund**

Herb and Sydelle Rader in honor of Debra Lerner's birthday  
Jonathan and Micki Reiss for the honor of Teddy leading part of the Torah service at Junior Congregation  
Sheri Wagner in honor of Debra Lerner's birthday

**Homeless Shelter Fund**

Helen Hanan in memory of her beloved father, Nathan Hanan  
Stefan and Mary Krieger in memory of Amy Wachtel's beloved aunt  
Sara Sadin

**Helen Radin Memorial Zayin Adar Annual Teaching**

Havurah Haverim Tovim in memory of Helen Radin

**Judith Bernstein Lunch Program**

Scott and Rae Ann Allen in honor of their aufruf  
Mark and Melinda Feinstein in memory of Ketty Yoeli  
Grace Gold and Janet Gold  
Frances Greenberg in memory of Ketty Yoeli  
Rosemary and Richard Kalikow in memory of Ketty Yoeli  
Carole Lurie in memory of Michael Yoeli's beloved mother, Ketty Yoeli  
Glen and Judy Marlowe in memory of Ketty Yoeli  
Stephen and Susan Samuels in memory of Michael Yoeli's beloved mother, Ketty Yoeli  
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program volunteers in memory of Michael Yoeli's beloved mother, Ketty Yoeli

**Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund**

Phyllis Silver in memory of her beloved aunt, Anne Lieberman, and father, Allan Waller

**Social Action Fund**

Malcolm and Estelle Newman in memory of their beloved parents  
Stephen Olderman in honor of Susan Olderman's retirement from the New York City Transit Department of Buses  
Raul Tapiero in memory of Ester L de Jazan  
Robert Wolfson

**Yizkor Fund**

Myriam Abramowicz in memory of her beloved parents Mendel and Lea  
Rose Alpert in memory of her beloved mother, Ida Wilfand  
Anita Altman and Gil Kulick in memory of Anita's father, Jack Altman, friend, Gordon Zaloom, grandmother, Anna Coffin, grandfathers, Max Altman and Zadich Coffino

Tamar Baumgold in memory of her beloved husband, Ted Baumgold  
Ann Birstein in memory of her beloved father, Rabbi Bernard Birstein  
John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in memory of Anita Sibony's beloved grandfather  
Charles Borrok in memory of Maurice Borrok  
Sande Brawarsky in memory of Michael Yoeli's beloved mother, Ketty Yoeli, and Rabbi Judah and Hadassah Nadich  
Emily Campbell in memory of Herbert Lebowitz  
David Eisikovits in memory of his beloved mother, Sylvia  
Beverly Engelman in memory of her beloved parents, Ann and Alexander Engelman  
Ted Fisher in memory of Phyllis Kaplan  
Anita Chanko in memory of her beloved father  
Ted Fisher and Edward Kane in memory of Mort Levy  
Richard Frank and Kathleen Peratis  
Rochelle Friedlich in memory of Ana Herz  
David Fitterman in memory of Larry Riskin  
Emanuel Friedman and Nancy Kahn in memory of Nancy's father, Abbott N. Kahn  
Martha Ginsberg in memory of her beloved father, Harold Ginsberg  
Marshall Goldberg and Gale Robinson in memory of Gale's beloved mother and father Roz and Meyer Robinson  
Sonny Greenwald in memory of his beloved mother  
Irwin and Yvette Greiff in memory of Pauline Israelton  
Curtis Hayworth in memory of his beloved wife, Miriam Bath Abraham, and his father and mother  
David and Ina Helfand in memory of Larry Riskin  
Janice and Charles Honig in memory of their beloved son, Gary David Honig  
Sofia Hubscher and Adam Wallach in memory of Ruth Bisgeier Hubscher  
Howard Jacobson and Kathryn Wolfson in memory of Howard's beloved father, Paul Jacobson  
Joan Kaplan, Nathan, Ed, and Joe Kaplan in memory of their beloved husband and father, Richard M. Kaplan  
Elayne Kesselman in memory of her beloved father, David Kasselman  
Barbara Klein and Brina Klein in memory of their beloved father and grandfather, Bernard Klein, and their beloved uncle and granduncle, Irving Klein  
Amelia Korn in memory of Larry Riskin  
Fred and Ellen Levine  
Albert and Naomi Levine in memory of Laura Pasternak and Maurie Levine  
Trudi Levine in memory of her beloved sister, Judy Levine, and her father, Jack Levine, and Sharon Messitte's father, Sydney  
Tovah Feldshuh-Levy in memory of Sidney Feldshuh  
Jonathan and Ellen Litt in memory of Harold Grosnass

Roly Matalon, Yahel and Maya Matalon, and Talia Hatzor in memory of Roly's beloved grandfather, Moises Matalon, and uncle, Miguel Teubal  
Sharon Messitte and Harvey Greenberg in memory of Sidney Messitte  
Ted Metzger and Robin Fleischner in memory of Robin's beloved father, Harold Fleischner  
Bruce and Lorrie Millman in memory of Lorrie's beloved father, A. David Liss  
Martin and Andrea Mosbacher in memory of Andrea's beloved mother, Muriel Brand  
Dennis Neier and Marisha Krupkin in memory of Dennis' beloved mother, Kitty Neier  
Harvey Newman in memory of Harvey's mother, Bertha Newman  
Maury Povich and Lynn Povich in memory of their beloved father  
Irma and Robert Radus in memory of Laura Radus, and Irma's beloved aunt, Mary Plager,  
Jonathan and Micki Reiss in loving memory of Micki's beloved father, Tevis Kaplan  
Fretta Reitzes in memory of Jack Reitzes  
Andrea Roman in memory of her beloved grandfather, Fred Reis, and Max Roman  
Herman and Myrna Rosen in memory of Herb Weiner and Ruth Bertenthal  
David Rosenberg in memory of his father, Marvin Rosenberg  
Suzanne Schecter and Todd Ruback in memory of Jules Gerson  
Alfred and Renee Schwartz in memory of Renee's beloved parents, Samuel and Lillian Gerstler  
Irene Siegel in memory of her beloved parents, Esther and Louis Lanster, and her beloved husband Norman Siegel  
Sharon Stein in memory of Michael Yoeli's beloved mother, Ketty Yoeli  
Sharon Stein in memory of Larry Riskin  
Marian Warden in memory of R.Earle Marcus  
Leonard Wasserman in memory of Larry Riskin  
JoAnn Werbel in memory of her beloved father, Julius Perelman  
Erica White in memory of her mother  
Holly Zabitz in memory of her beloved uncle, Nathan Chesler, and Julia Zabitz

KOL HADASH • NEW VOICE  
August 2008

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