

## Let's Get Lunny With the Hebrew Calendar! RABBI EZRA WEINBERG

Once I adjusted my internal calendar to the Hebrew months and the customs that mark them, my view changed in more ways than I could have anticipated."

### BJHS Model Seder



PHOTO: JASON FRUITHANDLER

At the BJ Hebrew School Model Seder in April. Read about other recent Youth and Family Education events on pages 12-13.

Everyone knows that the Hebrew calendar is different from the Gregorian calendar around which our secular lives revolve. Trying to keep track of one calendar is difficult, but two calendars? Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan used to say this is the challenge of "living in two civilizations." To retain our heritage we need to cultivate a capacity to live in multiple time frames. Judaism will not survive without the wisdom embedded within the ancient Hebrew calendar.

Most of us are plugged into the Jewish "life cycle" calendar: our births, weddings, b'nai mitzvot, and deaths. Many more feel connected to the Jewish "yearly cycle," particularly around the holidays of Yamim Noraim, Pesah, and Hanukkah, when we are called to remember our deeper commitments to our Jewish selves. Then there is the "weekly cycle" defined by Shabbat. Most people who walk through our doors on Friday nights connect deeply to the Jewish day of rest. This means that as a community we are connected to Jewish time through the cycles of life, year, and week. It is the lunar calendar, however, that seems to have fallen off our collective radar (although not completely, as evidenced by the monthly women's Rosh Hodesh group). Thinking about Jewish time in terms of our lunar months could enrich all of us.

When I work with conversion candidates, there are very few things I ask them to memorize. Among them are the names of the Hebrew months and the holidays associated with each. I want them to begin thinking in Jewish time. This means understanding our ancient lunar calendar system in light of the solar calendar that governs the larger society. How can we expect Jews by choice to get into the rhythm of our customs if they cannot see the framework that determines the timing of our most sacred celebrations and commemorations? Hebrew months are the building blocks of Jewish time and all Jewish festivals.

For many years, I was disconnected from the Hebrew calendar. Once I adjusted my internal calendar to the Hebrew months and the customs that mark them, my view changed in more ways than I could have anticipated. Becoming conscious of the ancient Hebrew months made time slow down. My awareness of the holidays in relation to the seasons deepened. I also began to notice the moon more often. When the moon was missing or just a sliver, I knew it was Rosh Hodesh. When the moon was full in the month of Tevet, I knew the next three full moons would

*(continued on page 10)*

Social Action/Social Justice	2
Dialogue	3
Community	4-6
Development	6
High Holy Days	7
Interfaith	8
Staff Profiles	9
BJ In Motion	8-9
Announcements	11
Youth & Family Education	12-13
Communications	13
Donations	14
Contacts	16

## inside:

BJ Hazorim CSA in Action	2
Back to the Future Hevruta	3
BJ-Sponsored Softball Hits One Out of the Park!	5
Membership Renewal and High Holy Day Information	7
Religion in Celluloid	8
BJ Teens in Jinotega, Nicaragua	12

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

## BJ Hazorim CSA in Action

Look closely. If you think that you spotted a fellow congregant walking past you on Tuesday with a bag of vegetables slung over their shoulder, you are probably right.

This June, B'nai Jeshurun launches its first ever CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program: the BJ Hazorim CSA. Every Tuesday night through October, members gather at the sanctuary on 88th Street to pick up their organic produce, fresh grown by Free Bird Farm in Palatine Bridge, New York.



The word “Hazorim” in Hebrew means, “the ones who sow or harvest” and comes from a passage in Psalm 126 best known for being the psalm that we sing before “Birkat Hamazon,” or

the “grace after a meal” blessing. This psalm is traditionally said after eating a meal and encourages us to acknowledge our food. It inserts a sense of intention and awareness into eating, similar to what we hope to accomplish as a CSA. We hope we can move our members to take one step closer to becoming a “sower” or “harvester” by connecting with the agricultural process and the land where our food originates.

If you were at services on April 24, you met our farmers Ken Fruehstorfer, Maryellen Driscoll, and their children. Their farm in the



The CSA Core Leadership Team, from left: Tajlei Levis, Jill Rothstein, Paulette Douglas.

Mohawk Valley is a small-scale, diversified farm committed to strict organic and sustainable growing practices. They grow over 60 varieties of vegetables and herbs and raise all their animals—laying hens, chickens, and beef herd—on pasture without antibiotics. A portion of what they grow gets loaded into a truck Tuesday morning, travels south on I-87 and arrives at the BJ front steps in the late afternoon. Our sidewalk will be filled with rich aromas—earth, carrot, basil, and parsley all combined into one deep breath of fresh food. We are also planning a community visit to Free Bird Farm in the fall.

This new CSA furthers our commitment to food justice carried out at the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program, where we feed approximately 150 guests a week who represent a diverse cross-section of New York City’s population. We welcome families with children, homeless men and women, seniors unable to cook for themselves, and members of the working poor—regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, or background. Leftover vegetables as well as donated shares from families vacationing out of town this summer will allow us to incorporate more fresh produce into the home-cooked meal we serve to our guests every Thursday. In addition, some CSA members have made donations so congregants in need can also take part in

**We hope we can move our members to take one step closer to becoming a ‘sower’ or ‘harvester’ by connecting with the agricultural process and the land where our food originates.”**

the CSA. If you are curious, stop by any Tuesday in the late afternoon. You can even volunteer at our distribution site to be a part of all the fun by contacting Hazorim Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Rothstein. Maybe you will be inspired to join us next year.

A CSA is a small step toward building a sustainable future. We are excited to join Hazorim, a Jewish environmental education organization, in its network of Jewish CSAs as a way of becoming part of the growing community-supported agriculture movement.

To learn more about the BJ Hazorim CSA, please visit our web page at [www.bj.org/csa](http://www.bj.org/csa). ■

— Susan Bodnar,  
BJ Hazorim CSA Lead Coordinator

*Susan Bodnar has been a BJ member for almost 20 years. She is a psychologist who, among other endeavors, also explores how environmental issues interact with people’s overall psychological development. She and her husband, David, and her children, Ronen (12) and Binah (10), are always seeking new ways to live sustainably in their urban context.*

## Back to the Future Hevruta

A series of conversations about what has mattered, and what should matter, in our Jewish world

It's in the air.

Questions, as well as some anxiety, about the future of Judaism hover around us all, probably, to one degree or another. We all have occasion to think about, worry about, wrestle with, our ideas about Jewish education, intermarriage, American Jewry's relationship to Israel, peace and social justice responsibilities—the list goes on and on. We talk about these matters constantly—around the Shabbat table, in classes, in letters to the editor of the *Forward* and the *Jewish Week*, in discussions with our rabbis and other community leaders.

In order to harness this energy and to focus the conversation and bring it home, BJ initiated the Dialogue Series on the Jewish Future: What Is Essential? The series kicked off this winter with a Shabbat of conversation and study with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller, who challenged BJ's congregants and leadership to see ourselves in the greater picture of Jewish worship and observance. Subsequent conversations took place between Amichai Lau-Lavie and Michael Steinhardt, Rabbi Irwin Kula and Nessa Rapaport, and Ruth Messinger and Tobi Kahn. During Tikkun Leil Shavuot, there were two dialogues, the first between Dr. Deborah Lipstadt and Jonathan Rosen and the latter between Rabbi David Ellenson and Dr. Devora Steinmetz. These conversations delved into such topics as the Hebrew language, education, social action, and Israel support.

When asked about the impetus for the series, Roly said it was designed to prompt us as Jews to be exposed to new thoughts, new ideas, and new approaches to some of these questions. The rabbis wanted to invite a wide range of concerned and creative thinkers and doers, all of them friends of BJ, to share with us their inspirations and to apply their experience to the following



PHOTO: TOM ZUBACK

questions: What are our most critical challenges today? Where should we be focusing our thoughts and our actions? How should our community (not only BJ but the wider klal) reorient itself to effectively tackle the future? Most particularly at issue: What is the relevant way for our Jewish community to live out Torah?

We have to be actively engaged with these issues that are, or should be, at the forefront of our being, Roly emphasizes. "We can't be on automatic pilot."

The series participants come from diverse backgrounds and denominations. Our rabbis conceived of the discussion pairings, which may at first glance seem unintuitive, as opportunities to shake things up and allow people to think creatively.

**How should our community (not only BJ but the wider klal) reorient itself to effectively tackle the future? Most particularly at issue: What is the relevant way for our Jewish community to live out Torah?"**

The idea of framing these as conversations, rather than simply producing a series of lectures, presented itself as more appealing in a number of ways. Listening to two people in dialogue draws people in; it's more informal, friendly, but still challenging. These are not antagonistic debates; many of the participants have some similar ideas about what we should focus on, what is valuable or dangerous or deserving of our attention. Hashing it out in amicable conversation brings to

light perspectives one or the other participant might not have thought of before. "They wrestle with each other and with these issues in order to bring us to a place of vision," Roly explains.

The community's reception to the series has been very warm and enthusiastic so far. People have thronged to the talks and engaged in thoughtful post-dialogue questioning of the participants. "People are intrigued, also," Roly says appreciatively. "They are open and absorbing." ■

— Siân Gibby

COMMUNITY

## Generations Supporting the Community

**T**he vibrant and active Bikkur Holim committee at BJ supports those with loved ones who need blessings of healing, enables BJ volunteers to visit the sick, brings support to those in our community during times of illness and healing, makes weekly outreach Shabbat calls to homebound congregants, and visits Jewish patients at the Jewish Home and Hospital on 106th Street.

*Amy Korn has been a BJ member for over 15 years. She has been a Friday night usher and has served on The Hevra Kadisha committee and as the Mi Sheberakh team leader. She frequently attends the morning minyan and is a co-founder of the Lincoln Towers Havurah.*

**From Amy:**

I recently accepted the position of co-chair of Bikkur Holim because I believe that caring people build a strong community. Each member can provide support for the ill and expects to be supported when they have a need to be cared for. Bikkur Holim gives me an opportunity to support the ill and hopefully to educate the community at large about issues of aging.

I thought I would be working with the aging but have found myself in the middle of a multi-generation effort. The energy is amazing. Eager volunteers of all ages do a loving job supporting the community through e-mails, phone calls, and home visits. The Hebrew school children are learning to make phone calls when one of their classmates is out sick, while their parents support fellow parents with meals when they are ill or recovering from surgery. We let the homebound members know we haven't forgotten about them with weekly Shabbat calls. A call or visit from BJ has a powerful impact.

With my co-chair, Jeannie Blaustein, we have initiated regular Keshrei Bikkur Holim (Bikkur Holim Connections) meetings where volunteers can connect with each other. Committee volunteers get to know each other, learn skills, share their feelings, and gain support. As a result of these gatherings, the different teams have started to communicate with each other.

Care-givers are able to contact each other, ending some of the isolation involved in the difficult work of giving care to others. Brainstorming together at our bimonthly Keshrei meetings, volunteers have begun to generate other ideas in which our BJ kids and families can get involved with Bikkur Holim.



PHOTO: YAFFA GARBER

*Amy Korn (left) and Jeannie Blaustein*

The more there is to do, the more ideas I have. We now live in a world where you don't need to sit down at your computer to send an e-mail. Remember when blackberry was a fruit? I retired, but I'm now back again in the world of *there's so much to do and so little time to do it*. The pay is good, though. I'm learning and growing and I'm getting lots of love.

*Jeannie Blaustein has been a BJ member for over 10 years and a Bikkur Holim volunteer since 2005. She is married to Peter Bokor and they have two children, Sophie and Livia. Jeannie is a licensed clinical psychologist and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from HUC-JIR.*

**From Jeannie:**

My years volunteering with Bikkur Holim have been powerful and poignant. For me, Bikkur Holim was one of the first things I did at BJ to get involved. I had no idea how deeply connected I would feel to the community through the work of Bikkur Holim, or how grateful I'd feel for this opportunity to serve the community through the mitzvah of visiting the sick. I've been struck again and again by how meaningful it is for people to receive calls and visits from the synagogue. I've understood in new ways how each of us can serve as a bridge between home and community, between

**“I've understood in new ways how each of us can serve as a bridge between home and community, between illness and health, between isolation and connection.”**

illness and health, between isolation and connection.

Trained as a clinical psychologist and pastoral counselor, and also, often quite busy these days as the mother of two adolescent daughters, I'm very much caught up in the day-to-day affairs of my work and family life. Soccer practice and play rehearsals, bat mitzvah tutoring and Hebrew School homework, walking the dogs, supervising HUC-JIR rabbinical students, and getting dinner on the table—such would be the stuff of my days. Bikkur Holim introduces many much-welcomed elements: caring for others; working with fellow congregants; touching gently into the lives of each other at what can be our most vulnerable moments; and finding a way to serve. These are some of the most poignant and powerful blessings of Bikkur Holim.

Working with wonderful partners on the committee has deepened my appreciation for our incredible community. BJ is a place filled with remarkable people, all connected through a shared commitment to creating a kehilah kedoshah, a holy community. As co-chairs, team leaders, and volunteers, we all support each other in this very important mitzvah. We have been blessed with wonderful guidance from our rabbis and support and assistance from Yaffa Garber in the BJ office. Through the work of Bikkur Holim, whether we are delivering soup or making a hospital visit, chatting on a weekly Shabbat call, or calling in to a congregant whose loved one's name is on BJ's Mi Sheberakh list, we find meaning and connection to the Divine and to each other. It's a win-win for visitors and visitees—and we'd love to have more BJ congregants join us.

Please feel free to contact Amy (amykorn@hotmail.com) or Jeannie (jeannieblaustein@nyc.rr.com) or Elizabeth Stone in the BJ office, estone@bj.org or x233, if you'd like to get involved or if you would like Bikkur Holim support for yourself or your family. ■

— Amy Korn and Jeannie Blaustein

## Stepping Up to the Plate: BJ-sponsored softball hits one out of the park!

Over a decade ago and newly transplanted from Los Angeles, I stumbled upon an announcement in the *Kol Jeshurun* about B'nai Jeshurun Softball. I had never played softball or any other organized sport, and I was seeking some way to connect with others. I could not have predicted that this would be my introduction to a community with which I would become deeply involved. I will always be grateful to softball for bringing me fully into BJ, for friendships I made that have lasted over a decade and for allowing me to become part of the BJ community at large. In the intervening years, I have been involved with a number of BJ activities and events: volunteering to feed rescue workers following 9/11, entertaining at the Jewish Home of the Aged with the musicians' havurah, participating in and directing Purim Plays, hosting dinners, life-cycle events with teammates and other BJ friends (including, most recently, attending the b'nai mitzvah of twins I watched grow up). It all started when I stepped up to the plate.

"Commish" Craig Sumberg, the founder of BJ Softball in 1998, recently told me that he saw starting the BJ softball team as a different way to achieve what the various minyans and study groups were after—to make BJ feel a little less overwhelming for a few folks; after joining the team, they'd start to see people they knew at services. (Of course, the fact that he liked playing softball was a bonus!) In this goal he was very successful. BJ softball has introduced a number of people to BJ.

Active team and BJ member, Amy Moses, said, "I started playing with the BJ softball team 12 years ago, in the early years, when we played in Riverside Park. When I joined the team, I had been coming to Friday night services at BJ for years but hadn't met many people until I joined the team and began 'marching with my mitt.' I got a black eye and some injuries along the way, but many fellow teammates have become long-time friends." Veteran BJ softballer Craig

Rosenberg reflects, "I've played softball with BJ for about 10 summers and have made some really good friends, not to mention I've really enjoyed playing."

"It is the only BJ activity where you can get exercise, be outdoors in a beautiful setting, be with people of all generations (toddlers to retired folk and all in between), make new friends you will see weekly with time to talk to, and have fun," said David Fitterman. Tongue-in-cheek, Abby Volin observes that, "When the Rabbi plays on your team, you can really say that G-d is on your side."



*The players in Central Park.*

BJ's weekly pick-up games in Central Park are entering their 13th season, which runs from April 29-August 18. There are players of all levels of experience, ranging from those who own their own cleats to "I've never swung a bat and may I borrow your glove" players. Actors and astrophysicists, men and women, singles, couples, families, folks of all ages gather in Central Park to just play ball. We've even turned some singles to a couple: Meg Parsont and Danny Katz met on the field while playing softball and were married by Rabbi Sol in 2002. Talk about hitting a grand slam!

**There are players of all levels of experience, ranging from those who own their own cleats to 'I've never swung a bat and may I borrow your glove' players. Actors and astrophysicists, men and women, singles, couples, families, folks of all ages gather in Central Park to just play ball. "**

The BJ softball team is unique. We don't play other teams—we simply divide our group into two and play. Without an official umpire, we negotiate and debate over plays and pitches as if they were scholarly texts. There's healthy competition but also a very friendly feeling.

A one-time \$18.00 Chai contribution is collected from players for participating in one or all games, to help establish that we are, as Heschel stated, "praying with our feet." This tzedakah goes directly to the synagogue. Whether you're looking to forge new friendships, let off a little steam after sitting at your desk all day,

or just want to play in a fun game, BJ Softball is for you.

— Jody Prusan

*BJ Softball Commish Jody Prusan has participated in BJ Softball for 12 seasons and Broadway Show League for three seasons. She is an educator, talent manager, actress, and musician and at times a brilliant pitcher. ■*

COMMUNITY

## Shabbatons in the City: Immersive Community Experiences

Last year, BJ participated in a yearlong community-building initiative to explore new ways for members to connect. Through this process we observed two things: that members would like more cross-demographic, community-wide programming, and that they consistently cite retreats and trips as being among their favorite BJ offerings. It became clear that staff and lay leaders should put energy toward revitalizing and expanding BJ's current variety of retreats and Shabbatons, which are proven successes. Immersive experiences allow members to get to know one another, learn together, explore mutual interests, and build community. This year, we experimented with three different models of in-city Shabbatons for different populations to create immersive community experiences here at home.

### Tze'irim In-City Shabbaton

The Tze'irim Shabbaton in February offered an extended Shabbat experience for BJ members in their 20s and 30s. It began with an intimate Shabbat dinner with beautiful

z'mirot led by BJ's musicians. The next day, participants were invited to sit together at services on Saturday morning, and for many it was their first time attending Shabbat morning services at BJ. Tze'irim was also honored with an aliyah. After services, shabbaton attendees participated in a home-hosted potluck Shabbat lunch. The program continued Saturday afternoon with board games, snacks, and a short limud activity and concluded with Havdalah.

### Youth and Family Shabbat Program

In early March, many families engaged in ongoing Shabbat programs offering kids and parents opportunities to learn, bond, and share Shabbat together. Families participated in home-hosted Shabbat dinners, and on Shabbat afternoon, 4th-grade families began their B'nai Mitzvah journey with Rabbi Roly Matalon and educators as they unrolled the Torah and found their bar/bat mitzvah portions. These families were joined by 3rd- and 5th-grade families in attending the Shabbat afternoon service, and then they all shared a special Havdalah together. It was a kids-only movie

night after that! What a great opportunity for families to spend several hours together on Shabbat!

### Social Action/Social Justice Shabbaton

Finally, the entire community was invited to a spirited and thought-provoking Shabbat at BJ with a focus on social justice. Participants had the opportunity to get to know one another, learn together, share music and dance, joy and prayers, and build a stronger community. The Shabbaton included a catered Shabbat dinner on Friday night, a festive home-cooked Kiddush lunch, and a full day of engaging programming including parashah exploration on "Divine vs. Human Justice" and "Power and Privilege," alternative Meditative Minḥa service with Marcelo, and Israeli folk dancing, concluding with Havdalah.

All these programs provided opportunities for members to have a meaningful Shabbat experience, deepen their bonds with other members, and build community without leaving the city! ■

— Sarah Verity

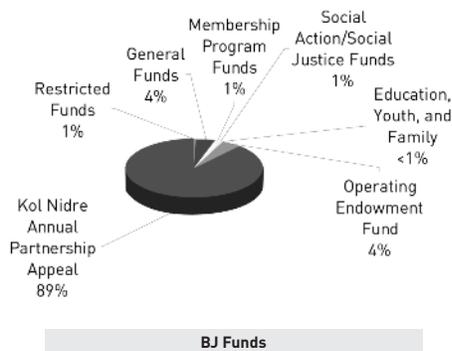
DEVELOPMENT

## Inside the Development Office

As a reader of the *Kol Hadash*, you may know that we identify and publically thank our members and friends for their generous support of BJ in each edition. Have you ever wondered where these donations are directed? The Kol Nidre Annual Partnership Appeal remains our most important and successful giving opportunity, bringing in 89 percent of our overall individual donations and covering over one-third of the total budget. However, we also have 33 other funds through which our members support this incredible community.

These funds fall into six categories: Operating Endowment Fund; Restricted Funds; Education, Youth, and Family; Social

Action/Social Justice; Membership Services; and the General Fund. This year, these funds together have raised over \$275,000. ■ — Erzsébet Ragyina



# Membership Renewal and High Holy Day Information

## A Note From the Membership Department

**m**embership renewal season is here! Renewal applications for 2010-2011 are currently available on our website. BJ is acutely aware of the impact of the economic crisis on our community; therefore, dues have not been increased this year. We are flexible about your membership dues and assure you that no one will be turned away based on financial considerations.

### HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

At BJ, we will do everything possible to make your High Holy Days comfortable and safe. We trust you will do your part by carefully reading the High Holy Day information on this page and on our website at [www.bj.org/yamimnoraim](http://www.bj.org/yamimnoraim). Please note that the holidays begin the week of Labor Day, so kindly submit your membership information in a timely manner.

### NEW THIS YEAR:

- High Holy Day locations have changed to better accommodate our members
- Entrance cards required for children aged 6+
- Earlier deadlines for entrance card requests
- Two "Reserved" signs per family and one per individual will be available and can be used until 11:00AM.
- Special Needs and Ushering forms will be available online
- **Adult and Children's Services will be held at:**
  - 86th Street—Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew at 86th Street and West End Avenue
  - Jazz at Lincoln Center—60th Street and Broadway
  - Symphony Space—95th Street and Broadway
- Family Services will be held at the 88th Street Sanctuary.
- **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 via membership application as soon as possible.**
- **If your family and friends wish to be at the same location, you must all renew at the same time.**

### ENTRANCE CARDS

- Entrance cards will be mailed July 14-August 20. Keep your cards in a safe place; requests for replacement cards will be subject to a reprinting fee.
- In order for us to provide entrance cards for **Rosh Hashanah**, membership applications must be in our office and date-stamped by **Monday, August 23**.
- In order for us to provide entrance cards for **Yom Kippur**, membership applications must be in our office and date-stamped by **Monday, August 30**.
- Beginning **Monday, August 23** entrance cards will ONLY be available for pick up in the B'nai Jeshurun office.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SERVICES

- Entrance cards are required for admission to all services, including Family Services.

All three types of entrance cards will be accepted at the Family Service.

- Seating at services is first come, first served. **Please arrive on time to assure seating**; we cannot guarantee seats will be available for latecomers. Up to two seats may be reserved for family members and one seat for individuals until 11:00AM and additional reserved seating will be available in the balcony of each location.
- High Holy Day services this year will be open **only to members with valid entrance cards**. Members may also purchase entrance cards for their guests.
- Due to space constraints, we unfortunately will not be able to accommodate a non-member line as we have done in the past.
- Children will not be permitted to be in any of the service locations unsupervised. Please make arrangements for your child when children's services are not in session. Unsupervised children will be sent back into the main service to sit with their parents.

To receive a hard copy version of any forms or discuss membership dues and High Holy Day questions, please contact Belinda Lasky, Assistant Executive Director, at x224 or [blasky@bj.org](mailto:blasky@bj.org).

### IMPORTANT HIGH HOLY DAY DATES AND DEADLINES

August 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	<b>23</b> Deadline to request entrance cards for Rosh Hashanah	24	25	26	27	28
29	<b>30</b> Deadline to request entrance cards for Yom Kippur	31				

September 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	<b>6</b> LABOR DAY	7	<b>8</b> Erev Rosh Hashanah	<b>9</b> Rosh Hashanah Day 1	<b>10</b> Rosh Hashanah Day 2	11
12	13	14	15	16	<b>17</b> Kol Nidre	<b>18</b> Yom Kippur

**INTERFAITH**

**Religion in Celluloid**

art often imitates life, or is it the other way around? The BJ Interfaith Committee looked into this question when it produced an Interfaith Film Festival for the 2009-2010 programming year. All the films chosen were based on the theme "Stranger in a Strange Land." Anti-Semitism, the intersections of orthodox religions in the modern Western world, arranged marriages, and interfaith protocol amid harsh realities and tense interpersonal dramas were some of the thorny issues that arose. After screening each film, there was a lively discussion among the large and diverse group of Christians, Muslims and Jews who attended the initial two events.

Screened in October, the first film was "Gentleman's Agreement," Elia Kazan's classic postwar examination of American anti-Semitism. The movie provides a startlingly frank look at this troubling issue, and watching it provoked memories and thoughtful conversation afterward among the audience. For that evening's screening, the Interfaith Committee asked a panel of people to frame the discussion: Marlene Halpern, who spoke about discrimination in the legal profession; Linda Golding, who discussed similar situations in the professional music world; Mim Warden, who shared a story about her conversion

from Christianity to Judaism; and Asya Berger, who told her tale of being a hidden child after the Holocaust. Ted Berger ably led the wide-ranging discussion as moderator.

The second film in the series, screened in February, was "Arranged," a tale of two young women in New York, one a religious Muslim, the other an Orthodox Jew. Both



*Hiam Abbass and Nisreen Faour in a scene from "Amreeka."*

women come from loving families steeped in tradition around matters of women and matrimony, and each finds herself facing the prospect of an arranged marriage. The two become friends, with some attendant difficulties arising in their prospective communities, and try to help each other. This screening was also very well-attended,

**After screening each film, there was a lively discussion among the large and diverse group of Christians, Muslims and Jews who attended the initial two events."**

and after the film ended Renee Cherow-O'Leary from the Interfaith Committee led a wonderful discussion about roles of women in today's society, the changing nature of marriage, and how traditional religions strive, with difficulty sometimes, to integrate into the modern world.

We are pleased to present "Amreeka," the ultimate story of "Stranger in a Strange Land," as the final film in the festival. This touching tale of a mother and son who emigrate from the West Bank to a small Midwestern town highlights the challenges new arrivals face in America. It will be shown on Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30PM at the BJ Sanctuary and will be followed by a panel of BJ members sharing their own immigration stories. This free event is open to the entire community. ■

**— Siân Gibby and Robin Sanders**

*Siân Gibby and Robin Sanders are active members of the Interfaith Committee. Siân has been a member of BJ for 5 years and Robin has been a member for 15 years.*

**BJ in Motion**

1. BJ Musicians Concert, March
2. BJHS Zimriyah, December
3. BJ Membership Committee Tu Bishvat Seder, January
4. BJHS Gan student visits the Torah
5. At the adult Purim service, March



1

PHOTO: SHAHPAR NILI



2

PHOTO: IVY SCHREIBER

## BJ From the Inside Out

**W**hat makes BJ run so smoothly? Who are the people who pay the bills, balance the budget, order supplies, fix the copy machine, and provide benefits? They are the four dedicated Internal Operations staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Let's meet them one by one, just as you would when entering the BJ office.

The first face to greet you is that of **Shakeara Hatchett**, a lovely young mother of three (though you would never know it), who with ease and professional skill assists everyone who walks into our office. She also takes care of all staff mail, tracks the inventory of office supplies, manages the complex BJ calendar of events (most important!), and takes all class registrations. Anything we need or whatever goes wrong, we run to her; her patience and tolerance seem infinite. "It feels like we're a family here," she says. And we do share stories of family, children, vacations, good news and bad. We are lucky to have had her with us for five years so far.

Turn left, and through the first door on the right you will find **Ron Seitenbach**, Director of Finance and Operations, who for the last 10 years has seen to it that "systems and processes are in place." What does that mean? Ron keeps all the BJ books and the

general ledger and meets with the Board to report on our financial health. For the staff he handles the insurance plans, employee benefits, and office equipment. He also oversees the finances of the Hebrew school. This kind of infrastructure, he is proud to say, does not exist in many synagogues; the finances are done by volunteers. Ron is responsible for the three staff members of the Internal Operations and makes sure that all is running like clockwork. He is ever ready to help with any problems; his door is always open. For him "the best thing about being at BJ is BJ." Ron is the father of two teenagers and commutes from Westchester.

Continue down the hallway, and you'll come to **Ebenezer Aryee**, a strong, silent type of young man with a big smile. He diligently takes care of all cash coming in: membership dues, donations and grants, school and class tuitions, and debts. From his corner spot in the office, near the water cooler, he may know the most about what goes on in the office, and he often comes to the rescue of staff needing assistance. He is a native of Ghana, the father of two beautiful young children, and a top-notch photographer.

Pass the storeroom and kitchen and you will come to the office of **Marilyn Perez** on the right. For the last 11 years Marilyn has



PHOTO: SARAH VERITY

*From left: Ebenezer Aryee, Marilyn Perez, Shakeara Hatchett, and Ron Seitenbach.*

capably handled accounts payable, issuing checks for purchased services and the BJ payroll. She meticulously makes sure that everything is approved, follows up with people and companies who have not submitted their bills, and keeps everything she knows confidential. Even dealing with money and people all day, she is so calm and funny that you wonder how she keeps her cool. Marilyn is the mother of an adorable 4-year-old daughter and commutes from New Jersey.

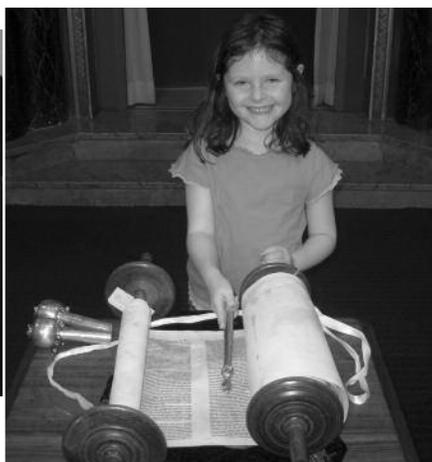
The busiest time of year for this department is, of course, membership season, and the High Holy Days, when the place is bustling. Each staff member is happy to greet members who come to the office during the holiday season. What are these people most proud of? The team work and the way BJ becomes more than a place to work. ■

— Susan Kaley



3

PHOTO: BELINDA LASKY



4

PHOTO: LEORA FRANKEL



5

PHOTO: MAX ORENSTEIN

## Let's Get Lunny! RABBI EZRA WEINBERG *continued from page 1*

mean that Tu Bishvat, Purim, and Pesach would be arriving respectively. The more I thought about the months, the less the Jewish holidays were likely to sneak up on me. My preparation and appreciation for Purim, for example, was bolstered by an awareness of Adar as a month that our tradition asks us to usher in with joy. I couldn't bring Adar in with joy if I didn't know when Adar began. It has since become a personal custom to find ways to celebrate Rosh Hodesh Adar every year. I also realized that, except for Elul and Heshvan, every month in the Jewish calendar has a major festival, a minor holiday, or a fast day. Learning the months encouraged me to truly learn all the special days on the Hebrew calendar.

**Are you ready to claim Nissan-Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz-Av-Elul-Tishrei-Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet-Shevat-Adar as yours? Throughout our nomadic history we have struggled to incorporate the rhythm of the Hebrew calendar into our lives. Today is no different."**

What I find particularly fascinating is how the Hebrew calendar recalibrates itself to the solar calendar through its own unique leap-year system, which adds a second month of Adar to the calendar in seven out of every 19 years.

This distinguishes it from exclusively lunar calendars, such as the Muslim calendar, in which holy days can happen in any season at all. Jewish holidays occur during the same season of year. The structure of the Hebrew calendar affects the Torah reading cycle, for instance when we read a double parasha. Understanding the shifting in the timing of the holidays makes sense when you grasp this system's logic. The Hebrew calendar, one could say, is a marriage between the solar and the lunar calendar. Just imagining how, several thousand years ago and without calculators, the Jews figured out the complicated math to make this system work is mind-boggling.

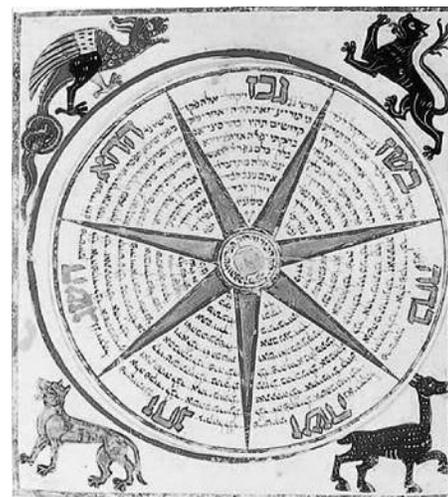


PHOTO: WANDERINGNOME

What really got me excited about my heightened awareness of Hebrew months was the impact on my prayer life. There are interesting shifts in the liturgy based on the Hebrew month. Certain prayers are omitted or added in certain months. In Elul, for example, we add Psalm 27 at the end of the service. In Nissan, the Tah<sup>an</sup>un prayer after the weekday Amidah is removed. My prayer life was deeply enriched when I realized that it mattered to know when you were praying in relation to the months.

A great example is the Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh. It is called Shabbat Mevarkhim, the Shabbat of blessing. This Shabbat happens roughly once every four weeks, and yet it gets its own name! In Jerusalem, my favorite monthly minyan meets every month on Shabbat Mevarkhim. The highlight of Shabbat Mevarkhim is when we recite Birkat HaHodesh, the blessing that dramatically announces the new month, at the last moment before the Torah is put away. In Talmudic times, the new month was announced in even more dramatic fashion. When the new moon was spotted, a great shofar would sound to alert all the neighboring towns. In turn other shofarot were sounded to pass on this news. A chain reaction of shofar blasts would unite the Jewish world. Can you imagine how excited they were? We get a taste of that every Shabbat Mevarkhim.

My favorite liturgical marker of the months is Rosh Hodesh itself the holiest "hidden" day in the calendar and an opportunity for intense exaltation. The peak moment is Hallel, especially at BJ. It is like a condensed version of Kabbalat Shabbat. In the space of 10 to 15 minutes, we sing seven of the most gorgeous tehilim (psalms) to beautiful melodies chosen by Ari and the Rabbis and often linked thematically to the particular month we are celebrating. Hallel also happens on certain holidays, but when it happens on Rosh Hodesh we are invited to celebrate something we often take for granted.



Jewish liturgical calendar, Castile, 14th century

So, here is the challenge: Are you ready to claim Nissan-Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz-Av-Elul-Tishrei-Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet-Shevat-Adar as yours? Throughout our nomadic history we have struggled to incorporate the rhythm of the Hebrew calendar into our lives. Today is no different. Our attention is constantly being diverted away from the different elements of our tradition, including the basic fabric of how we view time. Yet there is tremendous power in our calendar. The Hebrew months, if we are conscious of them and the customs surrounding them, give us crucial access points to prayer, history, and our holidays. But most of all, the Hebrew months give us time. ■

## Mazal Tov

### To the following members and their families on their b'nai mitzvah (April and May):

Cody Goldberger	Tyler Chonoles
Joanna Cohen	Benjamin Sternklar-Davis
Alexa Ringer	Samuel Zieve-Cohen
Talia Dolny-Lipsy	Shira Spivak
Boaz Dolny-Lipsy	Mica Bahn
Ariel Cohen	Andrew Sobelsohn
Ron Guncler	Robert Sobelsohn

### To the following members and their families (through May 7):

Anne Eidelman and Eric Slaim on the birth of their son, Julian Josef Slaim.

Barbara Simon and Wayne, Debbie and Gabrielle Zeiler on their granddaughter, daughter and sister, Rebecca Aviem, becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Paramus, New Jersey.

Former BJ staff member Kerrith Solomon on her engagement to Derek Rosenbaum.

Gregg Schwartz and Breanne Davidson on their engagement.

Elam, Melissa, and Ari Birnbaum on the naming of their daughter and sister, Talia Ruth.

Robin Felberbaum on the naming of her daughter, Isabelle.

Alan Mnuchin and Alessandra Rampogna on the birth of their daughter, Arielle Elaine Mnuchin.

Susan Kalev, BJ's Social Worker, on the birth of her granddaughter, Swan Kalev Lewis.

Barbara Schwimmer on her daughter, Gwen Schwimmer, receiving a PhD in Clinical Social Work.

Robert Mandel and Lois Alexander on their recent wedding.

Brad Hoffman and Faya Gene on their recent wedding.

Craig Charney and Shari Cohen on the birth and adoption of their son, Ariel Nathan.

Joni and Israel Brenner on the birth of their granddaughter, Emilia Rebecca.

Rabbi Felicia Sol and Roberta and Richard Sol on the birth of their son and grandson, Aiden Dror.

Gary, Karen, Ethan, and Zachary Cohen on the naming of their daughters and sisters, Maya and Georgia.

Dan Schreiber and Caroline Jeanjot on the birth of their son, Max Gaston Jeanjot-Schreiber.

Sabrina, Susan, Stephen and Sara Kippur and Joshua Lambert on Sabrina's recent engagement to Craig Herman.

## Condolences (through May 7)

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

**The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member** Saunders Relis, and extends sincere condolences to Nurie and Nirdi Relis on the death of their beloved husband and father.

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

Mark Highman and Rachel Goldfine on the death of Mark's beloved father, Hirsch Highman.

Valerie, Mark, Mia and Liza Gerstein on the death of Valerie's beloved mother, Louisa Levin, and Mark's beloved grandmother, Ina (Wally) Rosenbluth.

Shakeara Hatchett, BJ's receptionist, and Eric Jones on the death of Eric's beloved mother, Jannie Jones.

Margrit Rustow on the death of her beloved sister, Renee Herman.

Henry, Luisa, Isaac and Noah Dlugacz on the death of Henry's beloved mother, Gloria Dlugacz.

David Steinmetz on the death of his beloved father, Norbert Steinmetz.

Alison Pepper on the death of her beloved aunt, Gloria Pamm.

Marc Seidenstein on the death of his beloved brother, Daniel Seidenstein.

Susan Sanders and Gabriel and Daniel Weintraub on the death of Susan's beloved father, Lowell Sanders.

Bonnie Roche-Bronfman and Charles Bronfman on the death of Bonnie's beloved father, Max Boone.

Shari Kenner on the death of her beloved father, Sam Kenner.

Jonathan, Daniella, Abigail and Noah Lipnick and Susan Scheuer on the death of Jonathan's beloved uncle, Rabbi Bernard Lipnick.

Lynn and Maurice Beer, their children Josh, Matthew, and Alex, their daughter-in-law Sarah, and their granddaughter Sophie on the death of Lynn's beloved mother, Elsie Snyder.

Wendy and Sherwin Liff on the death of Wendy's beloved mother, Manette Gabai.

Katherine Kurs on the death of her beloved mother, Pearl Rodin/Reynolds Kurs.

**The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of** Cantor Deborah Togut of B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, Maryland, who tutored many of our b'nai mitzvah during the 90s. We extend sincere condolences to her family, her congregants, and all her loved ones.

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION

## BJ Teens Build Potable Water Systems and Meaningful Friendships in Jinotega, Nicaragua

**O**n February 14, 10 BJ Teens traveled to Nicaragua to help a community achieve access to potable water. These are four reflections from participants.

### *Only the Chocolate Stains Remain*

After three washes, a really strong Detergent, and four scalding Showers, I seem to have defeated The dirt that colonized every crevice Of skin and clothing. Pestering Us, it tickled our eyes and danced In the tilted lights of evening As it enjoyed clogging All our supplies to quickly Besmirch the remnants of our hygiene.

The clothes return to the shelter Of the closet, to the silent Places only reached when steamrolling Through stale sweatshirts And embarrassing hand-me-downs. The quick dry synthetic pants and \$20 Work gloves will patiently wait In hibernation till the next time Travel takes us to where cold water Is a delicacy. Where the days end when the sun Fades and nightlife consists Of telling stories on cement floors As we graze on plantain chips.

There, the dirt honors Him, who shatters the rock We couldn't budge. Unwinding Itself in his bare hands and wrinkles, it defines him like The rings of a tree. Etched in his cheeks it fans out to his temples And sidles behind his ears.

— Abby Schneider

The experience in Nicaragua was unforgettable. We played soccer with a Jinotegan team, went grocery shopping in a market, and enjoyed dinner with host families. For me, the best part was becoming close with Nicaraguans. From children like Reynaldo or Alec whom we played with, to teenagers like Jennifer who

we could relate to, or adults like Victorino a role model who gave us support, the people were the key to making this a true learning service trip that I will remember for the rest of my life.

— Rebecca Lowy

My experiences with BJ in Nicaragua have taught me that community service is a tool for cross-cultural interaction and development of personal bonds with diverse people. The citizens of Chauite Grande did not need our manual labor, only our financial support. However, providing emotional support to physical structures gives special meaning to the water system we built. Those tubes, spouts, and dirt trenches full of red ants represent, to me, a strong connection between American Jewish teens, and a village of Nicaraguan farmers. We were humbled by the lives of our newfound friends, and they were inspired by our contagious enthusiasm to build a more comfortable life.

— Jacob Lowy



PHOTO: IRA J. DOUNN

The BJ teens and group leaders say goodbye to Victorino, founder and Director of AVODEC, the community development organization that we worked with.

When I got home from Nicaragua and faced the challenge of readjusting to my life, which I had been blissfully separated from, my friends and family asked me about the trip. I gave various enthusiastic responses, frequently just saying "amazing" or sometimes going more into depth, describing experiences. I told people about our work, digging



PHOTO: IRA J. DOUNN

The BJ teens and group leaders climb on top of the Blandones bus, our colorful transportation.

trenches to lay pipes for potable water for people's houses. I explained how our group worked with Visions, AVODEC, and the locals of Chauite Grande to bring tangible and necessary life improvement. I was flooded with memories describing some activities we did after work: visiting a collaborative pottery workshop; exploring a beautiful coffee farm on horseback; having dinner with a family of Jinotega; dancing at a discoteca. The group itself had the kind of dynamic, positive attitude that added ineffably to all we did and discussed.

When I reached a new level of connection with someone in my group based on some mutual experience and understanding or broke through the language barrier, creating a bond with Nicaraguans, I found myself in moments that truly made the program special. All we did was magnificent and unique, but it was what we felt that was priceless and in many ways indescribable.

— Meredith Ruskin ■

## How I Learned To Love BJ's Purim Spiel

It was late spring 2008. Purim was a distant memory for everyone except my 7 year-old son, Gabe. His consciousness was still immersed in the 2008 production of BJ's Purim Spiel: *Mission Impossible: Queen*. Songs like "Bohemian Rhapsody" from "A Night at the Opera" had become Purimized; transformed into "Haman Rhapsody." Bits of song lyrics loudly came out of his mouth at awkward moments. "Ima, he'll kill the Jews," he sang out as we stood on the corner of Broadway and 83rd. Passersby were noticing. I tried to pick up the pace hoping to put some distance between us before he got to the next verse where I knew he would belt out "Can you do the Hamdango." Get it? Haman plus "Fandango" becomes "Hamdango." Oy vey.

And so, each and every year, Michael Kelberg, together with Jerry Korman and Mira Rivera, bring to the BJ stage a Purim Spiel based on an original script performed by BJ's kids, kindergarten through 6th grade. Each year the original script parodies the Purim story through modern culture

and music: the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Queen, *Guys and Dolls*, and, this year, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Through what has become an annual ritual for us, our two boys have become veritable thespians. They've experienced the hard work and fun of being part of a theatrical cast, forged strong friendships with fellow cast members, and learned that Shushan, Persia, is as likely to be in Memphis, Tennessee (for the 2006 production based on the life and times of Elvis Presley), as a shtetl in the pale of settlement (*Fiddler* for the 2010 production). In the process, they've become participants in a beautiful Purim Spiel tradition that stretches back to the 1400s, when Ashkenazi Jews began to celebrate Purim with silly monologues. More importantly, Purim has become a part of their internal Jewish calendars—an important holiday between Hanukkah and Pesah.

Not to be underrated are the child-free Sunday afternoons in January and February



2010 BJ Purim Spiel

PHOTO: DAN CALIGOR

that my wife and I enjoy as the cast rehearses the annual theatrical extravaganza. Off they go every Sunday afternoon for a four- or five-hour rehearsal between New Year and Purim, disappearing into the warm dimness of the 88th Street sanctuary at 11:00AM, to re-emerge that afternoon with bright smiles, singing a catchy song about Mordechai, Esther, Ahashverosh, and of course, Haman, and, best of all, not the least bit curious about what their Mom and Dad got up to in the intervening time. Hallelujah. ■

— Jeff Neuman

## Imagine That!

Gathering images for the *Kol Hadash* is one small part of the effort to enliven BJ's publications and website, and we have made a lot of progress in this area. BJ staff members take photos, and two talented professional photographers (and BJ members) volunteered to shoot notable events (including Purim and the Musicians Concert). We have a private BJ Flickr account with more than 2,500 photos. And BJ staff members are learning the ropes so they can each use images more effectively online and in print.

The greater use of images comes saddled with a host of tricky issues: privacy concerns, copyright, and attribution. Last year we adopted a policy to address the privacy concerns of members and visitors, and this year we will make it a more

prominent part of the new and renewal membership process. So, you will be seeing a lot more of yourselves over the coming year. We hope these photos will provide one more way for members to connect with each other. Check out photographs from the Israel Trip 2009, Purim 2010, and the Musicians Concert on the BJ website.

Using copyrighted images is a real challenge for a small organization, so we are using only those that belong to BJ or that are copyright-free. When I need an image we don't have, I use a variety of online resources for unrestricted images. Even where an image is copyright-free, though, using proper attribution of the photographer is both an ethical and legal obligation, and we are developing processes to assure this is done.

One of the best resources out there is Flickr, which has a group for just about every subject and offers hundreds of thousands of images available through a Creative Commons license. We found the photo of a new moon on page 10 there. Dozens, if not hundreds of groups are related just to Jewish life, including "Jews and Judaism around the World," "Old Hebrew Signs," "Sabbath," "Synagogues of the World," "Israelis and Arabs," and "Hebrew Typelography)." In addition, the Flickr Commons contains unrestricted images from the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum, and most recently, the Center for Jewish History in NYC. On the BJ Facebook group I've asked for your thoughts about sharing BJ photos on Flickr. I hope you'll take a few minutes and let me know.

— Denise Waxman

**HAVUROT**

**BJ Sings! A Musical Havurah**

**I**n the spirit of creating community through the havurah program at BJ, a group has been formed called BJ Sings! The vision of the havurah is to extend the enjoyment of the Shabbat through singing a wide variety of song—from traditional Shabbat melodies to niggunim, from contemporary American Jewish compositions to Israeli melodies.

The idea for the havurah came from Jules Frankel who, with decades of song-leading experience, wanted to find an avenue for a more intimate BJ experience through music and song. Joe Antenson provides administrative leadership, while Donna and Tom Divine have graciously hosted the group in their beautiful home.

Since its inception in October, the group has been meeting once a month on Shabbat afternoon. The Divines' apartment has been filled with the "divine" sound of BJ

members singing together. Both familiar and new pieces are sung each month. The goal of the havurah is simply to sing; it is not a performing group. Each gathering also includes one attendee sharing his or her "Jewish journey" so people can get to know one other and create deeper, more meaningful relationships within our large congregation. Each meeting ends with light refreshments and some "schmoozing."

The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. When asked for feedback, one attendee wrote, "As soon as Jules strummed the first chord, everyone in the room responded with a typical BJ rousing chorus. In one moment, a room full of people who did not all know each other, were one." Another expressed, "What a beautiful way to celebrate Shabbat afternoon!" One simply commented, "It was fantastic!"



*Jules Frankel*

If BJ Sings! is of interest to you, please contact Joe Antenson at [joeantenson@me.com](mailto:joeantenson@me.com). Please understand that due to space constraints, BJ Sings! may not initially be able to accommodate all of those who express interest in the group.

— **Jules Frankel**

*Jules Frankel's life mission is to bring Jews closer to Judaism through music. He has founded an alternative Shabbat worship group, Chavurat Kol Haneshama, lead monthly "Shabbat Alive" services, and created music programs for various Jewish organizations. He and his wife, Susan, have been members of BJ since 2002 and have two adult children, Leora and David.*

**DONATIONS** (received as of April 16, 2010)

**Adult Education Fund**

Helena Diamant Glass in memory of Dorothy Kalikow  
Michael and Nancy Mostow in appreciation of Felicia's class  
Bernice Todres in memory of Dorothy Kalikow and Matthew Jacobson  
Susan Viuker Landau in memory of Florence Katz Viuker and Renee Herman

**Bikkur Holim Fund**

Barry and Elain Waldman in memory of Alfred Nussbaum

**BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter Fund**

David Cavill in honor of Sadie Rosenthal  
Stephen Finkelstein in honor of Alisa Stein  
Kieran Kelly in memory of Phyllis Schatsky

Helene and Seymour Schechter in memory of Moshia Aaron  
Barbara Simon in memory of Aida Melamed's sister  
Susan Teitelbaum in memory of Matthew Jacobson

**Children's Services Fund**

Michael and Christina Gantcher in honor of young family programs  
Lowell and Deborah Kirschner

Emily Weiss in honor of the birth of Barry and Elain Waldman's son

**Daily Minyan Fund**

Elenor Radzivilover in honor of Len Wasserman

**Etz Hayim Fund**

Rabbi Roly's Thursday Lunch and Learn class in appreciation of the wonderful teaching and Jonathan Adelsberg's generous hospitality  
Arthur and June Nislick in honor of Zachary Jacob Nislick becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Gilbert and Janet Spitzer in memory of his father, Harry Spitzer

**General Fund**

Myriam Abramowicz in memory of her parents, Mendel and Lea and in honor of Dot and Jen Winter  
Leslie Agisim  
Sharon Anstey in honor of Ari Priven's 20 years at BJ  
Murray and Vicky Batkin in memory of Phyllis Schatsky  
David and Barbara Blumenthal

John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in memory of Dorothy Kalikow and in honor of the birth of Jacob Aaron Feig  
Elizabeth Cohen in honor of Rabbi Pamela Wax  
Congregation Gates of Prayer  
Jonathan and Shirley Feder in honor of Rachel Klein  
George and Arlene Fields in memory of Phyllis Schatsky  
Anne and Jack Fried  
Robert David Goldenberg in honor of the marriage of Jean and Edan Goldenberg  
Paul and Marlene Herring in honor of Sarah and William Herring becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah and Ari Priven's 20 years at BJ  
Carol Joseph  
Richard and Rosemary Kalikow

Adi Kidon and Naomi Kleinberg in memory of Jack Kleinberg and in gratitude to the BJ Rabbis and community  
Amelia Korn in memory of her father, Jakob Korn, and Seymour Fuchsberg  
Andrew and Sara Litt in memory of Dorothy Kalikow and Vivienne Fisher  
Ronnie Reden  
Jason Rico  
Leonard Wasserman and Abigail Moore in celebration of Joshua Jacobson becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**Greening BJ Fund**

Harold and Helen Lehrman in memory of Norbert Steinmetz

**Hebrew School Fund**

Irene Guitter-Mazer and Greg Worley in celebration of Ameila Geser becoming Bat Mitzvah

## DONATIONS continued from page 14

**Helen Radin Memorial Zayin Adar Annual Teaching Fund**

Marcia Kaplan in memory of her mother, Phyllis Kaplan

**Hevra Kadisha Fund**

Jane Fuchsberg in memory of Seymour Fuchsberg and in appreciation of everyone on the Hevra Kadisha committee

**Judith Bernstein Lunch Program**

Martha Faibisoff in honor of her friends and "girls night in"

Ceil Kraus in memory of her sister, Shirley Bernstein

**Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund**

George and Sharon Golden in memory of Cissie Golden

**Shabbat Oneg Fund**

Michael Brochstein in honor of Karen Radkowsky  
Joshua Katzan in honor of the BJ Rabbis

**Social Action/Social Justice Fund**

Ellen and Dale Saltzman in memory of Joseph Saltzman

**Yizkor Fund**

Rose Alpert in memory of her mother, Ida and son, Gordon Livia Asher in memory of her father, Martin Siroky

Tzvi Barak and Marion Maienthou-Barak in memory of Yaacov Borushak  
Harley and Lori Bassman in memory of her father, Lawrence Lennon

Tamar Baumgold in memory of her mother, father and sister

Isabel Berkowitz in memory of her father, Max Berkowitz

Alan Bernstein and Carol Bowen in memory of his father, Seymour Bernstein

Barbara Blum in memory of her father, Philip Blum

Marsha and Dominique Boer in memory of their mothers, Cornelia Boer-Zuiderna and Miriam Cohen

Charles Borrok in memory of his mother, Getrude Traub

Irwin and Arlene Brandon in memory of her father, Nathan

Albert and Joanna Bukszan in memory of her father, William Miller

Emily Campbell in memory of Esther Cohen Lebowitz

Rachel Chodorov in memory of Art and Avital D'Lugoff

William and Gail Cohen in memory of his father, Michael Cohen

Elizabeth Cohen in memory of Pauline Cohen

David Eisikovits in memory of his father, Samson

Irving and Phyllis Exter in memory of Phyllis Schatsky

Susan Fein in memory of her father, James Fein

Ted Fisher in memory of Joseph Weiser, Fred Applebaum and Julia Perle

Jules and Susan Frankel in memory of his father, Fred Frankel

Linda Frankel in memory of Max and Ethel Jane Femmer

Susan Goldberg in memory of her boyfriend, Jeffrey Lang

Jeffrey and Laurie Goldberger in memory of his father, Eugene Goldman

Beverly Gordon in memory of her parents, Esther and Herman Reigot

Sheila Gordon in memory of her parents, Allan and Doris Gordon

Sylvia Grau in memory of her husband, Seymour Grau and Jan Oirich

Sheldon and Helen Gross in memory of his parents, Susan and Al Gross

Don Grubman and Deborah Stein in memory of his father, Moe Grubman

Lisa Halprin Fleisher and Arthur Fleisher in memory of her grandfather, Jack Horwitz and Bonita Halprin

Seth Hochman and Cindy Horowitz in memory of Jack Hochman and Rachel Hochman

Paul and Carol Jackson in memory of his mother, Victoria Jackson

Joan Jankell in memory of her husband, Richard Jankell

Richard and Rosemary Kalikow in memory of Norman Kalikow

Andrea Kantor in memory of her father, Cyril Kantor

Marcia Kaplan in memory of her mother, Phyllis Kaplan

Stephen Kaufman and Marina Pinto Kaufman in memory of Vera Pinto

Jeffrey and Shelley Kehl in memory of H. William Kehl and Sidney Sanders

Florence Keller in memory of her father, Sam Glick

Stephen and Deirdre Kessler in memory of her parents, Lettie Berger Glicksman and Jack Glicksman

Stephen and Susan Kippur in memory of her aunt, Bebe Lavin

Alexander and Hindy Kisch in memory of Edward J. Sachar

David and Miriam Landau in memory of Sam Landau

Ellen Landau in memory of her husband, Lewis Engel

Eric and Debra Lerner in memory of Arnold Lerner

Bernard Levin and Ronnie DuBrow Levin in memory of his father, Simon Levin

Cindy Levy in memory of her uncle, Stan Martin

Sherwin and Wendy Liff in memory of his mother, Sylvia Liff

Gertrude Litowitz in memory of her husband, Joseph Litowitz and son, Robert Litowitz

Jules and Judith Love in memory of her mother, Louise Zwerdling Wolfson

Robert and Iris Markewich in memory of his parents, Milton Grass and Ida Markewich

Susan Mason in memory of her mother, Zina Schaefer

Eva Meir in memory of her husband, David Meir

Audrey Melkin in memory of her father, Gilbert Melkin

Theodore Metzger and Robin Fleischner in memory of her father, Harold Fleischner

Rabbi Leon Morris and Dasee Berkowitz in memory of his father, Jay Morris

Michael and Nancy Mostow in memory of her father, William Beal

Eugene and Ilene Nadel in memory of her cousin Rhoda Reich

Sherwood and Sallie Newman in memory of their parents

Sara Pasternak Levine and Mathew Levine in memory of Dorothy Kalikow, Harriet Granet and Sandi Pasternak

Lilli Platt in memory of her father, Abraham Platt

Charles and Nancy Posternak in memory of her father, George Barron

Irma and Robert Radus in memory of her father, Harry Glassman

Andrea Bigelisen Riskin in memory of her husband, Larry Riskin and her father, Abe Bigelisen

Michael Roffer and Susan Lerner Roffer in memory of Gerald Roffer

Terry Rosenbaum in memory of her father, Henry Osterlitz

Steven and Linli Yan Rosenberg in memory of Roslyn Rosenberg

David Rosenberg and Bernice Leber in memory of their fathers, Marvin Rosenberg and Leopold Leber

Joseph Rubin and Corinne Winston in memory of Alexander Fradkin

Eric Schlagman and Miriam Rothstein in memory of Herbert Schlagman

Raymond Shanfeld and Lois Rappaport in memory of their mothers, Adele Shanfeld and Margaret Rappaport

Jerome Siegel and Phyllis Harlem in memory of Harold Siegel

Alan and Riva Slifka in memory of his mother, Sylvia Slifka

Elliot Sloane and Polly Leider in memory of his mother, Annette Sloane

Lisa Siegel Solomon and David Solomon in memory of her father, Eugene Siegel

Carl and Miriam Stern in memory of his mother, Rosel Stern and her father, Julius Stern

Amy Stevens in memory of Irving Stevens

James Wagman and Anne Landsman in memory of her father, Gerald Landsman

Mim Warden in memory of her father, R.Earle Marcus Leonard Wasserman and Abigail Moore in memory of Dorothy Kalikow and Sarah Zazstein Ashman

Zelda Weiss in memory of her father, Benjamin Prenskey

Elaine R. Werblud-Moore and Monica Werblud-Valenti in memory of their parents, Edith and Jack Senter

Joan Westreich in memory of her father, Sam Westreich

Mildred Wood in memory of her mother and husband, Pauline Kisluk and Maurice Wood

Brett and Dale Yacker in memory of their fathers, Norman Kalikow and Max Yacker and his mother, Bess Yacker

Vivian Yale in memory of her cousins, Lola and Harry Loiterstein

**KOL HADASH new voice**  
June/July 2010

The *Kol Hadash* is published every other month (in 2010: February, April, June/July, September/October, November/December). **We would love to print your stories and articles about BJ! For submission guidelines, contact [communications@bj.org](mailto:communications@bj.org).** All material is the property of B'nai Jeshurun and cannot be reprinted without permission.

Designer:  
Harriet R. Goren

# KOL HADASH *new voice* • JUNE/JULY 2010

## SYNAGOGUE:

257 West 88th Street

## OFFICES:

2109 Broadway (Ansonia), #203

*Main Telephone Number*

212-787-7600

*Fax Number (2109 Broadway)*

212-496-7600

*Website*

www.bj.org

## Committees & Services:

Accounts Payable.....227	88th Street Rental.....223	Membership Information.....224
Accounts Receivable.....237	Family Activities: Hotline.....318	Ralph Bunche School
Adult Education Information.....233	Hakhnasat Orhim.....255	Partnership.....301
Bar/Bat Mitzvah.....223	Havurot.....255	Social Action.....259
Bekef.....255	Hevra Kadisha.....256	Teen Programming.....253
Bikkur Holim.....256	Homeless Shelter.....212-339-4250	Torah/Haftarah Reading.....232
BJ Reads.....391	Interfaith Committee.....379	Tze'irim.....264
Communications.....275	Kiddush Scheduling.....255	Ushering.....305
Community Programs.....255	<i>Kol Jeshurun</i> .....275	Visiting Groups.....234
Conversion.....264	<i>Kol Hadash</i> .....275	Volunteer Information.....255
Daily Minyan.....232	Ledor Vador.....224	Youth & Family Education.....225
Development	Life Cycles.....256	
& Donation Information.....228	Lunch Program.....338	

## Rabbis:

J. Rolando Matalon  
Marcelo R. Bronstein  
Felicia L. Sol

## Hazzan and Music Director:

Ari Priven

## Marshall T. Meyer

### Rabbinic Fellows:

Rabbi Ezra D. Weinberg  
Rabbi Michelle Dardashti

## Executive Director:

Harold Goldman, x248

## Assistant Executive Director:

Belinda Lasky, x224

## Director of Education for Youth and Family:

Ivy Schreiber, x225

## Director of Social Action/Social Justice:

Channa Camins, x259

## Program Director:

Guy Felixbrodt, x255

## Major Gifts Officer:

Nancy Gad-Harf, x262

## Associate Director of Development/ Interim Director of Development:

Erzsébet Ragyina, x228

## Senior Development Associate/ Assistant to Harold Goldman:

Elizabeth Stone, x233

## Communications Manager:

Denise Waxman, x275

## Director of Finance & Administration:

Ron Seitenbach, x226

## Director of Facilities:

Roma Serdtse, x350

## Assistant to Rabbi Matalon and Communications Associate:

Sarah Guthartz, x234

## Assistant to Rabbi Bronstein and Hazzan Priven:

Naomi Goodhart, x240

## Assistant to Rabbi Sol/ Life Cycle Coordinator:

Liz Stone, x256

## Board of Trustees:

Jonathan Adelsberg<sup>o</sup>  
*President*

Susan Kippur<sup>o\*</sup>  
*Chair*

Jeannie Blaustein<sup>o</sup>  
*Vice President*

Robin Fleischner<sup>o</sup>  
*Vice President*

Stephen Stulman<sup>o</sup>  
*Vice President*

Debra Fine<sup>o</sup>  
*Treasurer*

Joel Kazis<sup>o</sup>  
*Secretary*

Robert Buxbaum  
Gene Carr  
Jeffrey Feig  
Rochelle Friedlich  
Christina Gantcher  
Barbara Glassman  
Sally Gottesman  
Sofia Hubscher  
Richard Kalikow  
David Karnovsky

Beth Kern  
Susan Kippur\*  
Debbie Lerner  
Andrew Litt  
Russell Makowsky  
Henry Meer  
Andrea Newman  
Bernie Plum  
Benjamin Ross  
Emily Weiss

## Honorary Trustees

Virginia Bayer\*  
Ted Becker\*  
Frederic Goldstein  
Marcy Grau\*  
David Hirsch\*  
Richard Janvey\*  
Robert Kanter  
Joan Kaplan  
Sara Moore Litt\*  
Naomi Meyer  
Judith Stern Peck\*

## General Counsel

Richard Kalikow

<sup>o</sup> Executive Committee Member

\* Past President