

An Element Called BJ: The Third Act BY RABBI MARCELO BRONSTEIN

“We have developed a culture that will keep opening up, and we are committed to the process of experimentation and renewal.”

“I use the term ‘The Element’ to describe the place where the things we love to do and the things we are good at come together. I believe it is essential that each one of us find his or her Element, not only because it will make us more fulfilled but because, as the world evolves, the very future of our communities and institutions will depend on it.”

— Sir Kenneth Robinson, English author and international advisor on education

Collectively, we have created an “Element” called BJ. Historically, I see the story of BJ as a play in three acts. The First Act, which could be divided into many chapters, is the story of our community from 1825 to 1985. As mentioned in many American Jewish history books, today’s BJ is mounted on the tremendous glory of a long past. Giant figures in that past contributed to the makeup of Judaism in America and modern Israel, such as Louis Marshall and Rabbis Judah Magnes and Stephen Wise.

As I see it, that was a First Act that few of us witnessed, but we honor it and are grateful for it. Closing the First Act, there was an unfortunate period of deterioration — until 1985 when a handful of visionaries, led by Judy Peck, started the Second Act. Rabbi Marshall Meyer was brought to BJ, and was joined a few months later by a young, just-ordained rabbi, Roly Matalon.

In 1993, Marshall died too soon after only eight years at BJ. I was invited to join in 1995. Hazzan Ari was already part of the team and later came Felicia, first working in the Youth and Family Education department, later as a BJ Rabbinic Fellow, and finally staying on as a rabbi. This Second Act has included tremendous creativity, passion, and risk taking.

Each of these Acts demanded a different expression of that passion and creativity to be The Element that was needed for that particular time. During this Second Act, we have collectively created a model of how synagogue life could be in America. We were, and still are, joined every Shabbat by rabbis and congregants from all over the world who want to see what we do. They want a “BJ Style” experience at home.

Steven Spielberg, through his Righteous Persons Foundation, put together a team of scholars to help us deconstruct what I am referring to here as “The BJ Element.” These scholars wrote an academic paper, edited by past BJ president Sara Litt, entitled “BJ: A Model for a Revitalized Synagogue Life” (read it at www.bj.org/bj-amodel). This paper explains that what makes BJ unique

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BJ Young Families Celebrate Shabbat



PHOTO: GALIT LOPATIN BORDEREAU

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SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

A Seat at the Table: Experiencing the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

By Larissa Wohl, Social Action Coordinator

for over 27 years, the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program, named in loving memory of a BJ member killed on Pan Am Flight 103, has been serving meals to guests in our local community. Created in 1986 by Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer and a small group of dedicated congregants that handed out brown bag lunches, the program has grown into a weekly sit down meal where up to 150 guests are served a nutritious lunch each Thursday afternoon. It is overseen by volunteer co-chairs, and BJ members, Susan Samuels, Robin Tunick and Esta Rose. BJ members Carol Gelles and Doug Leblang are also central to the program, as Carol oversees the group of volunteers that cook every Wednesday evening, and Doug graces the guests with fantastic music a couple of times a month.

The Lunch Program holds a unique space both at BJ and in our community as a place that welcomes a diverse group of people. All of our guests bring different needs when they join us for lunch. Some experience food insecurity while others are, as Susan notes, "...genuinely lonely and come for the social

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experience as well. We have noticed over the years that many guests have made friends with each other, continuing to sit in the same places week after week."

In talking to volunteers and groups, Susan, Esta and Robin try to get across that we serve "people just like you and me, whose luck has turned for a couple of months or have had a big loss in their lives. There are so many factors that go into why people come to the program, and it is not our job to judge or make assumptions. We are here to serve, to welcome, to foster a warm environment where guests can enjoy their meal as they please."

With recent cuts to SNAP (the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) already affecting food insecure New Yorkers,



it is all the more important that programs like ours exist and continue to provide needed support. Accordingly, the Lunch Program committee is thrilled to announce that we have received a special grant for food supplies through HPNAP (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program) and United Way of New York City, in addition to ongoing funding and food from New York City's EFAP (Emergency Food Assistance Program).

What makes the new grant particularly exciting is that it requires 15 percent of purchases to be fresh produce — an option that would not be possible without the grant. This fall, we were able to purchase delicious corn and apples from local farms to serve to our guests. The grant will continue to put fresh food on our community table, particularly in the winter months when CSA donations are no longer available.

Although the Lunch Program is kosher and vegetarian, we try to cater to every guest who comes through our doors, regardless of age, background, or culture. On the outset, this approach seems simple and straightforward. Yet, the impact it has is far-reaching, tangible, and fosters an exceptionally welcoming environment. The co-chairs and volunteers of the program have created a culture of relationships that, as Susan



PHOTOS, PAGES 2-3: LARISSA WOHL



Breaking Down Stereotypes

By Larissa Wohl

When I first started working at BJ, I was particularly excited to get involved with our lunch program, largely because of an experience I had in high school with a youth group serving a meal to homeless individuals at a New York City church. I came to that volunteer opportunity not knowing quite what to expect.

As a 14-year-old, I already had preconceived notions of “homelessness,” “hunger,” and “social services.” For the first half of the evening, my assignment was to introduce myself to people in the recreation area before dinner was served. I’m not usually a shy person, but in this situation it took a lot for me to initiate conversation; however, it didn’t take long for me to open up and start speaking with a woman who was about my mother’s age. She told me she had a son who was a member of the NYPD and lived in the area with his wife and children. As we continued our conversation, it struck me that my previously held notions of the faces of homelessness, what their lives looked like, and how I compared to them were completely off.

For my 14-year-old self, that was a big moment. It really shaped how I’ve lived my life and has informed my choice of work, including becoming the Social Action Coordinator for B’nai Jeshurun. Assumptions about the people our volunteer opportunities serve are not meaningful, and can shut us off to those around us. They certainly don’t create a welcoming space for those who are seeking it. This is why, when I came to BJ, I was thrilled to work with a program whose mission is to throw away those stereotypes and provide a simple, yet warm and inviting service to those who wished to come and eat. ■

Photos: Top, Rabbi Jonah Geffen leading a pre-lunch teaching for volunteers. Bottom left, Rabbi Jonah Geffen with program co-chairs Susan Samuels, Robin Tunick and Esta Rose, and volunteer Susan Newman. Below, top: A welcoming table set up. Below, bottom: Bags with extra food and donated items for post-lunch distribution.



says, “...become like a little bit of a family among volunteers and guests.” In particular, our volunteers are very caring, not just about the meal at hand but about what’s happening to our guests before and after their meal. Volunteers have no expectations of what they may receive in return; however, they often mention how much more they get out of their time on Thursdays than they give, and how much they look forward to it each week.

A Challenge

The Lunch Program can get a bit hectic, especially towards the end of the month as food stamp funds are running out and the number of guests increase. Volunteers are crucial to maintaining the lunch program’s special environment — and we can always use more hands on deck each Thursday, particularly morning preparation staff and lunch servers from 11:40AM to 1:15PM. A small amount of your time is an opportunity that truly makes a huge difference in someone’s day. If you work or live in the area and are able to donate your morning or lunch break once a month, we are always looking to add to our lunchtime crew. We also welcome members’ friends and co-workers as volunteers — it’s a mitzvah worth sharing.

To find out more about volunteering for the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program, please contact Susan Samuels, susanzsamuels@gmail.com, or Larissa Wohl, lwohl@bj.org. ■



COMMUNITY

Welcoming New Members to B'nai Jeshurun with a Special Orientation Program

By The Membership Committee

during the summer, when many of our members are happily on vacation, the BJ office is at its busiest, preparing for the High Holy Days and readying programming plans for the coming new year. Without exception, each busy volunteer and staff member agrees that the highlight of this crazed season is welcoming the incoming bevy of new members to the BJ community.

This year's new members come from a variety of different backgrounds, running the gamut from college students to empty nesters. At the time of this article's writing, we are welcoming 53 new BJ families with 47 of their children, as well as 63 individual new members. And if the past is a good predictor of the future, we can look forward to welcoming more new congregants throughout 5774.

Every year, our new members are welcomed into the community with a series of events geared towards helping them navigate the myriad of spiritual, volunteer and social opportunities that are available at BJ. Kicking off these events is our New Member Orientation Program (NMOP), where new members have the opportunity to meet each other and several longtime members, as well as the rabbis and hazzan.

Although the specific content of the NMOP has evolved and changed over the years, we always ask our new members about what inspired them to join BJ. Hearing the "whys" never gets old for our membership volunteers, so we invited a few of our new members to share their varied stories with the greater community:

"Growing up, my family had been BJ members. In fact, my father was one of the founders of BJ's social justice movement. So, when I moved back to the city, I was predisposed to BJ. And it took just one Tze'irim dinner, where everyone was so welcoming, to convince me to join."

— Ariel Isaacs

"I started attending services at BJ several years ago, when my mother passed away, and found them enormously comforting. Then, after my father passed away more recently, BJ's services connected me even more deeply to both my parents. I'm drawn to BJ by the reflective thinking of the rabbis and the way in which they urge the congregants to consider not only where they are in their lives, but all the possibilities for where they can go."

— Allyson Aborn

"I had babysat the children of friends who are BJ members, and found their bar and bat mitzvahs to be spiritually and musically beautiful. As a musical person, the way BJ incorporates music into its services is important to me. So, when I felt I wanted a deeper connection to my own Judaism, BJ was the obvious place for me. I'm hoping it will allow me to serve the community and develop lasting relationships."

— Erin Branch

"My daughter gave me my membership as a gift, because she knows how connected I feel to my religion and how much I love B'nai Jeshurun and its clergy."

— Phyllis Sherman

▀▀ **This year's new members come from a variety of different backgrounds, running the gamut from college students to empty nesters."**

"Years ago, I attended just one Friday night service at BJ. But I really enjoyed it, and the experience stuck with me. Then, as a doctoral student in Buenos Aires, I was studying Argentina's brutal military rule of the 1970s. In my studies, I often came across the civil rights work of Rabbi Marshall Meyer in Argentina during this period. Later, of course, he was the rabbi who came to New York and revitalized B'nai Jeshurun. So my desire to join came from both my personal experience years ago and my admiration for Marshall Meyer."

— Paul Katz

New members of 5774: the BJ community welcomes you with open arms! We pray that BJ is able to reach your hearts and souls as it has for so many of our members. Dig in and get dirty with us — it's quite amazing what can happen at BJ if you do. ■

Below: New members learn how to get involved with BJ's many programs at a New Member Orientation Program in November 2013 at the home of Judith Felsenfeld.



PHOTO: SETH GREENE

B'nai Jeshurun Welcomes New Members to the Community

Renewed Members From 2012-2013 as of Mid-November 2013

Hilary Agin and Jonathan Summer	Stephanie Glenn and Gideon Katz	Gilbert Lederman	Beverly Rubman and Mark Goldfus
Eve and Serge Appel	Rabbi Lisa Goldstein	Meira Lee	Rachel Ruskin
Elliot Ashrey	Ricky Goldwasser and	Carole Levy	Chantal and Andy Russell
David Baily	Eran Rosenthal	Geoffrey Lewis and Amy Caplan	Wendy Sales
Shirley Bakal	Arthur and Natalie Grand	Daniel Linson and	Alicia Samuels and Eric Rosenstock
Sarah Barris	Marco Greenberg and Stacey Nelkin	Jacqueline Xuereb	Edna Schachter
Kyle Berkley	Sara Grubman	Rebecca M. Litt	Diana Senechal
Hannah Berkowitz	Benjamin Gruenstein and	Katy Marcus	Seth and Jennifer Shaifer
Samantha and Marc Berman	Rebecca Roiphe	Netalie Matalon	Emily and Russell Shattan
Nina Birnbaum	Elena Guz	David and Glenda Minkin	Jodi Smith
Joan and Keith Cardell	Asaff Harel	Marcia Moosnick	Roslyn Spector and Carolyn Spector
Rachel Chodorov	Sylvie Heyman	Rachel Morris	Dale Stern
Marci Cohen and Paul Solomon	Jane Jablons	Andres Jonathan Neiman	Shelley Stile
Micah and Amy Cohen	Marlene Jurman	Linda Neiman	Karsten Struhl and Olga Bukhina
Michael A. Cooper	Carole Kahn	Jessica Novick	Anna Treiman
Douglas Davis	Ellen Tobey Klass	Abra N. Nowitz	Dorothy and Lawrence Tydings
Michael Feldstein	Adam Klotz and Kori Darling	Mark Ozer and Ava Huang	Susan Waysdorf and
Rose Field	Nicolas Kogan and Anabella	Cheryl and Mitchell Patt	Mary O'Melveny
Spencer Friedman	Troconis Kogan	Fredda Plesser and Andrew Turtel	Joshua Zuckerman
Andrew and Kara Gelb	Laura Kurek	Elliott Rebhun	Annette Zygmunt and
Alan and Darby Ginsberg	Lindsay and Mark Landman	Julie and Jeff Rosenblum	Jonathan Legum
Mara Glassel			

New Members From 2013-2014 as of Mid-November 2013

Jennifer Abcug	Sara Greenberg	Dena Levin	Gregory Scruggs
Allyson Aborn and Bruce Doniger	Rebecca Greif	Erica Levin	Linda Senat and Don Patterson
Matthew Aborn and Monica Judge	Max Grodnick	Richard and Kathleen Levin	Susan Servetnick and Gregg Golden
Sol and Vita Abrams	Jane Gronau	Seth Levin	Ari Shechter and Alexandra Drake
Kathy Adler	Rebecca A. Halfon	Jamie Levy	Cynthia Sheps
Nancy Alpert	Allan Harari	Rachel S. Levy	Martha Sherman
Maurice Arlos and Michelle Heinz	Barbara Harrison and	Ann Lieb	Phyllis Sherman
Michael Bar and Gabriel Katz	Adam Kayman	Michael Littenberg-Brown	Susan Sherman
Anita Belew	Michelle Harrison	and Andrea Varadi	Judith and Jeffrey Siegel
Meredith and Andy Blechman	Jennifer Heettner	Beth Lobel	Louise Silberfeld
Erin Branch	Diane Imbert	Renata Lowenbraun	Stuart Slavin and Hannah Bayer
Avery Brandon and Gary Hennion	Ariel Isaacs	Joseph Marsano	Tanya Sparer
Elana and Mitchell Brody	Rebeca Izquierdo and	Stacey Mayrock	Sarah Steinberg
Barbara Cohen	Paimaan Lodhi	Myra Meskin	David Steinhart
Emily and Joshua Cronin	Isabelle and Jeffrey Kahan	Orit Mihaeli	Adam Stelzer
Tracy Dansker	Debra Kalmuss and Richard Katz	Julia Moskin and Darren Kapelus	Marilyn Strozak
Howard Dessau	Marjorie S. Kaplan	Reeva Nowitz	Paul Tuchmann and Deborah Coen
Naomi Eskin and Thomas Heckroth	Rachael Kaplan	David Pecker and Abby Kornfeld	David Vogel
Shirley Feldman	Nathan Karnovsky	Rosemary Pritzker and Lee Hirsch	Daniel and Elissa Wechsler
Samantha Fisher	Paul Katz	David and Deborah Rasiel	Rachel S. Wechsler
Sol Freedman	Anna Katz Brenner	Claire Reyner and Michael Kraus	Julia Wertheim and
Hope Gany	Talia Klein	Stanley and Ruth Rintel	Michael Schnabel
Ellen and Larry Garber	Marcy Kopakin	Lori Rubinson	Susan Wexner
Ted Geiger	Alexandra Koutelos	Deborah Sagner and	Jeffrey Wilf
Judith Glassman	Howard Kovacs	William Dineen	Alison and Cory Wishengrad
Whitney Goldstein	Robert Krulwich	Jennifer Sales and Zachary Murov	Berkan Yildiz
Lola and Michael Goodstein	Mara Lasky	Victoria Sanger	Julia Zilberquit and
Shirley Gordon	Michael and Marilyn Lebowitz	Talia Sasson	Solomon Zlotchenko
Jacqueline Grabois	Jeffrey Levicki	Allie Schwartzman and	
		Jorge Waisburd	

MEMBER VOICES

Spiritual Vitamins

By Anne Millman

I was rather surprised when a friend with a strong Jewish background and long connections with Judaism told me that she learned more about spiritual practice from Eastern traditions than from her own. Perhaps I shouldn't have been so surprised since the number of "JuBus" (Jews who adopt Buddhist practices) seems to be growing rapidly.

I have done my share of meditation — it's a part of my regular spiritual practice. But I've also found a deeply meaningful daily sacred practice based on Jewish sources that has sustained me for many years.



PHOTO: ALLEN ROKACH

Anne with two of her blessings,, her grandchildren, Shoshi and Danny.

One of the things I've learned during 20 years at BJ is to take traditional texts and find ways to apply them personally. For example, at the very beginning of the Book of Genesis, Bereshit, God creates the universe in six days. At the end of each day, God pauses and notes that each day's creation was good. On the seventh day, Shabbat, God abstains from further creation and sanctifies this special day. We are also told in the Holiness Code in Leviticus 19:2 that we should strive to be holy because God is holy. That is, we should attempt to walk in God's ways or to imitate God.

Some years ago, I put these two ideas together and decided that at the end of each weekday, just as God did, I would look back and find the good that was in it. I connected my practice to the bedtime Sh'ma, when we say "Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One." This most basic and essential prayer of Judaism reminds us to take notice and pay attention to manifestations of the Divine Presence in our lives.

So each night I would recite the Sh'ma and think back on my day. I began by looking for the blessings — anything that let me experience the sense of God's protection, providence, grace or bounty. Maybe someone said something kind or insightful to me; or I heard a beautiful piece of music; or I got a payment I had been waiting for; or a useful idea or solution popped into my head. Whatever it was, I would focus for a few moments on this blessing and find myself filled with gratitude and well-being. What a lovely way to head toward sleep!

But what about those days that seemed grim and hopeless and empty of all blessings? I realized that blessings are a two-way street, and that even on the bleakest of days I had the capacity to bring blessings to others. I could be the one to call a friend in need, or do something kind for someone. I made a point of including such mitzvot into my daily routine. Now, even on days that seemed dark, I had created something good — no matter how small — to reflect on for my bedtime spiritual practice.

Sometime later, I was walking to Shabbat services and thought to take all these blessings of the week with me into Shabbat as a walking meditation. I struggled to recall all the things I had counted each night. A few came back to me but I had forgotten many of them. How easy it is to forget our blessings!

I began taking an index card to bed and jotting down a few words that would remind me of the blessings I recalled each night. By Thursday night, the index card was full. I reviewed it on Friday afternoon and was able to take into Shabbat the many blessings of the past week.



PHOTO: DENISE WAXMAN

So each night I would recite the Sh'ma and think back on my day. I began by looking for the blessings — anything that let me experience the sense of God's protection, providence, grace or bounty."

This simple spiritual practice, which takes only a few minutes each night, truly transformed my life. While I may not have achieved the traditional goal of saying 100 berakhot each day, I found myself noticing more instances of the Divine Presence manifesting in my life, lifting my spirits both in the moment and in general.

I also actively sought to be a blessing to others, in whatever way I could. In our morning prayers, there is a short passage from the Torah, another from the Mishnah, and a third from the Gemara. These became my morning "spiritual vitamins" — the minimum daily requirement of what I should focus on in the coming day.

In particular, the Gemara passage lists "deeds which yield immediate fruit and continue to yield fruit in the time to come" including honoring parents; acts of loving-kindness; providing hospitality; visiting the sick; attending the dead; probing the meaning of prayer; and making peace between one person and another. As I would read the list each day, ideas popped into my head about how to take these suggestions and turn them into actions. These became part of my "to-do list" and integral to my plans for each day. This simple practice has greatly enriched my life — and, hopefully, made a difference to others as well.

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Finding Community at B'nai Jeshurun

By Tatyana Dvorkin

When I moved to New York City two years ago for graduate school, making new friends was difficult. My days were spent in the computer lab, reading, writing, or setting up my new home. I got along well with my grad school classmates, and we shared professional and academic interests, but people with whom I made lasting friendships were few and far between. It's not easy to be an introvert in a new, fast-paced city, especially when it isn't appropriate to walk up to strangers and say, "Hey, will you be my friend?"

In California, I hadn't attended shul regularly because I couldn't find a community I clicked with. When I moved, I didn't anticipate that it would be possible to do so here. Then, at a bar on the Upper West Side, I met a couple that went to B'nai Jeshurun. They sang its praises, citing beautiful services, younger attendees, and egalitarian attitudes. It sounded good in theory, so I decided to give it a try.

Right away, I noticed that I had walked into something completely different. The Hebrew at services is a major plus for me. And the word "egalitarian" doesn't even begin to describe this community that is so culturally diverse, has a female rabbi, hosts interfaith events with the church down the street, and held a celebration, complete with a *huppah*, in honor of the passing of marriage equality in New York state. BJ is definitely the kind of place where a Jewish tree-hugging, campaign-organizing, kosher but tattooed, immigrant punk like me can find a home.



I've gone to several events, including Tze'irim dinners, happy hours, and parties. I've always had a nice time, but the moment B'nai Jeshurun really became MY synagogue came later, at the Tze'irim *Hanukkah* party. I met a fellow member I'd seen around at other events, and we spent a good portion of the party talking about books. Two weeks later, at Shabbat services, he invited me to sit with his friends. Since that evening, I rarely miss a Friday night service. In finding what I affectionately refer to as the "Shabbat Crew," I didn't just find a place to go to services. I found a home, friends, and connections.

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Every Friday after services, we spend time together laughing and talking long into the night. Smaller groups of us hang out during the week as well. I have found friends for all facets of my personality: the fellow cocktail connoisseur who enjoys spending hours at museums; the running and biking partner who has become one of my best friends; two girls with whom I meet to solve the *New York Times* crossword. But Shabbat is really the cornerstone of our group of friends. It's where we check in to see how everyone is doing, share a meal, and meet new people. It's rare that a Shabbat service at BJ ends and we haven't picked up a new member of the Crew. Some join us only once. Others stick around permanently. I get a lot out of services spiritually, but it is these connections with current and new friends that fill me with excitement as I come to services every Friday night.

When BJ membership renewal forms come out, I renew the same day. There is no question in my mind that BJ, and the people that come with it, are my community and my home. I am lucky to have this place and these friends in my life.

Tatyana Dvorkin was born and raised in Ukraine, spent her teens in California, and moved to New York City in 2011. She works as a Technology Integrator at a private school, and spends her free time cycling, practicing yoga, and playing video games — though usually not all at once. ■

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I've mentioned these practices to friends and some have adopted the ideas for themselves and their families, including children. If you're looking for a simple Jewish practice that will lift your spirits, make a difference to others, and enrich your Shabbat, you may want to try it too.

A BJ member since 1995, Anne Millman has been blessed with careers in education (as a teacher, staff developer, and union activist); in public relations; and as the author of eight books and countless articles on nature, travel, people and photography. She serves on the ADL's New York Regional Board, and launched their No Place for Hate anti-bias education

program, now in nearly 100 city schools. She received BJ's Leadership in Social Action Award in 2013, following 15 years as co-chair of the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. She is married to Allen Rokach, and has two grown children and three grandchildren. ■

DEVELOPMENT

Save the Date: March 8 is the Night of 100 Dinners

By Andrea Newman

One of my favorite things to do is to have friends, old and new, sit around my dinner table for good food, great conversation, and a few laughs.

To me, a dinner at home with friends is surely at the heart of what community means. Dinner parties allow us to savor and enjoy each other, and share ideas, food and drink while bringing us a little closer in an intimate and connected way.

A BJ dinner party does that 100 times over — and in service of the entire community.

That's right: The Night of 100 Dinners is back! Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 8, 2014 for the BJ dinner of all dinners! Plan on spending an evening in the company of others who love BJ, so together we can support our programs and services through this benefit event.

The 100 Dinners

Here's how it works: Hosts will cover the cost of the dinner, and guests will make a \$180 (or more, if you can!) dinner donation to BJ. While hosts will prepare and serve dinner, they will hold out on dessert.

Following the meal, dinner guests are invited to a spectacular After-Dinner Dance Party in the 88th Street Sanctuary featuring

fabulous desserts, fun raffles, and a few other surprises.

The 101st Dinner

The Rabbis' Dinner offers an alternative way for members to participate in this special night. Join Roly, Marcelo and Felicia at a special catered dinner in the 89th Street Community House, and continue on to the After-Dinner Dance Party for the same \$180 donation. The cuisine will be special and the company engaging.



PHOTO: SARAHMERIAN.COM

The After-Dinner Dance Party

Can't join us for dinner? Everyone is welcome to enjoy the entertainment, refreshments and company at the After-Dinner Dance Party. Join us for the Party of the Year, even if you don't attend one of the dinners, for a contribution of \$50.



We look forward to seeing you at The Night of 100 Dinners!

Andrea Newman, a BJ member since 1997, has served on many committees and was a member of the BJ Board from 2006-2011. She now chairs the Development Committee, supporting Kol Nidre appeal efforts, special events, and grant writing. When not on the Upper West Side or at BJ, Andrea can be found lakeside in her Columbia County cottage with friends, family and her terrier, Isabel. ■

Be a Host!

Choosing to host a dinner party might be your greatest gift to BJ. Your generous contribution of time, energy and food, in turn, encourages the generosity of your guests to BJ. And your hospitality will nourish the bonds of our community.

You could go very formal, hire a chef, open that fantastic bottle of wine...or create an informal buffet with a variety of wonderful selections. All we ask is that the meal be kosher or vegetarian/dairy/fish. You may host as many people as you have room for, hopefully at least six.

We would love to have 100 Dinner Parties and enough spaces to accommodate all who want to attend. So we hope you will consider stepping up and being a host. Creating your guest list is easy: think family, friends, colleagues, and those folks at BJ that you've been meaning to get to know better.

Learn everything you need to know about hosting at www.bj.org/dinnerhost, or contact Lisa Steinberg at lsteinberg@bj.org or 212-787-7600 x228.

A New Year Means New Staff!

By Billie Di Stefano, Monty Miller, Beth Tarson, and Belinda Lasky

new services, new members, new initiatives: B'nai Jeshurun is a place of continued growth supported through partnerships between volunteer leadership and professionals. We are delighted to introduce three new BJ staff members to provide assistance and guidance for our members: Billie Di Stefano, Monty Miller and Beth Tarson.

Program Associate and Assistant to Rabbi Felicia Sol, Beth Tarson coordinates many holiday programs, including Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim, and Pesah. Beth works closely with staff members in various departments to create programs that meet the needs of the community. In addition, she handles the logistics for Limud, Rosh Hodesh, Women's Retreats, and the Community Retreat.

Beth comes to BJ with an unusually varied background. She previously worked in publishing public relations, was an assistant at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and managed a local independent store. In her spare time, she volunteers for the 9/11 Memorial, cheers on the New York Yankees, loves to take walks with her dog Bailey, and enjoys traveling to a new locale every year. A baker since she was a very little girl, Beth finds great pleasure sharing a wide variety of tasty treats with the office.

Since joining BJ last May, Beth has been enjoying the friendly and collaborative office, getting to know many of the members, planning events, and becoming a part of the vibrant community. When you are in the office, please stop by her desk and say hello.

Membership Associate Monty Miller has been with B'nai Jeshurun since January 2013. He enjoys working with BJ's amazing group of volunteers on the New Members Team and Tze'irim. Additionally, Monty organizes Friday night visiting groups with their warm, welcoming Kabbalat Panim hosts. He also assists Belinda Lasky with processing membership applications, distributing entrance cards for the High Holy Days, and coordinating volunteers at each High Holy Day location. Monty grew

up in California, and has been making his way east for the past six years. He attended Northwestern University, where he double majored in Political Science and Religious Studies.

Before joining the BJ staff, Monty worked on President Obama's 2012 election campaign in New Hampshire. After giving political science a shot, he decided to become involved with the Jewish community here in New York City. While he does miss the Southern California sunshine, Monty loves soaking in everything New York City has to offer. Monty's favorite "only in New York" activities include Broadway shows, taking a walk in Central Park, the modern marvel of public transportation, and more live music than he could ever hope to see in one lifetime. On an average Friday night, you can find him at Kabbalat Shabbat services at BJ with the rest of his Tze'irim friends, dancing and singing his way around the sanctuary. If you or your friends have questions about membership at BJ, he's happy to talk to you!

Rabbinic Department Manager Billie Di Stefano coordinates lifecycle events for the BJ community. She works with the rabbis, hazzan, student hazzan, rabbinic interns, and rabbinic assistants to make sure the department runs smoothly within the rest of the busy BJ office. She also helps to support the community during birth, death, marriage, and illness, working with the rabbis and appropriate committees including Hevra Kadisha and Bikkur Holim.

Her background as a stage manager and producer for off-off Broadway musicals comes in handy when working with various projects and people at BJ. Ask her for her latest show recommendations! In addition to her past theatrical pursuits, Billie



From left: Billie Di Stefano, Beth Tarson, and Monty Miller.

coordinated community education around North America for the Jewish Theological Seminary, as well as continuing education for rabbis, High Holy Day services, and the weekly Torah commentary publication.

Billie loves working at BJ because all of her colleagues, both staff and volunteer, care deeply about what they do. It is incredibly moving and meaningful to her to work in a place such as this, where the good of the community is always at the forefront of everything that happens.

Please introduce yourself to these new staff members when you see them in any of our buildings. They will be happy to share more about themselves, and welcome the opportunity to get to know you, too. ■

Share the Love: Creating Community at Home

By Kristen Kersey, Administrative Assistant

Rav Dimi of Nehardea said: *Hakhnasat orhim (the welcoming of guests) takes precedence over the beit midrash (the house of study).*

Rav Judah said in Rav's name: Hakhnasat orhim (the welcoming of guests) takes precedence over welcoming the shekhina (the divine presence of God herself).

— Shabbat 127a

"Celebrating Shabbat with my young family has been a joy that's been enhanced when we invite and are invited by friends," Galit says. "When we first began Hebrew School, we really enjoyed meeting families with children our children's ages, and found the most meaningful connections as guests during home-hosted Shabbat and Havdalah dinners. These occasions allowed us to expand our children's Jewish education

Our families are excited for the opportunity to make new friends and share in a home-based Shabbat experience."

"My goal in creating Three Cups of Tea," Galit explains, "was to allow young families, in the comfort of each others' homes if possible, to forge friendships and embrace Shabbat with their children, whether this is a long standing practice or something quite new."

This program for children in kindergarten through second grade pairs families together and gives them the tools to create meaningful Shabbat experiences outside of the synagogue. With the support of the Advisory Committee, families are invited to host a Shabbat dinner, lunch or Havdalah at home, creating rich memories for our youngest Hebrew School families and allowing them to experience many different Shabbat rituals.

"So far, the initial feedback from families has been heartwarming," says Galit.

Our families are excited for the opportunity to make new friends and share in a home-based Shabbat experience. We invite your family to join us in the Three Cups of Tea experience. We hope this program will be another way to build community and help families create a more meaningful Shabbat practice. ■

Photo, above: Galit Lopatin Bordereau, Samuel Bordereau and their son, together with the Steinhardt and Margolies families, gather for a quick picture before lighting the Shabbat candles and sitting down to dinner.



PHOTO: GALIT LOPATIN BORDEREAU

The task of creating community isn't a small one, but it's one that Galit Lopatin Bordereau comes to easily. The mother of three boys at the BJ Hebrew School, Galit is known for bringing parents and children together for a variety of Jewish activities outside of Hebrew School walls.

Last year, Galit gathered her sons' friends and their families for Shabbat lunches in Riverside Park and Havdalah in their home. She planned outings to Brooklyn to sample Yemenite food and a trip to a Jersey apple orchard around Rosh Hashanah. Galit often follows up after the event to send a few pictures around to all of the parents, and asks them when they're free for future gatherings.

beyond the classroom, modeling for them the joy and friendships developed from these shared experiences."

It's this ability to bring people together to create community and make Jewish memories that has spurred Galit into her next project. This past fall, in coordination with the Hebrew School Advisory Committee, Galit spearheaded the launch of a new initiative called "Three Cups of Tea," based on the Balti proverb that says, "The first time you share tea, you are a stranger; the second time you take tea, you are an honored guest; the third time you share a cup, you've created community."

“Ba” is for “Baruch”

By Wendy Waxman

Taking an infant to her first “class” is a major rite of passage for a new parent. For me and my two-month-old daughter, Rosalie, attending Bim Bam marked that special moment.

Although Rosalie was fast asleep before the session began, I was immediately awakened by the first chords of “Bim Bam” and flooded with memories of Shabbat as a child. I marveled at the children giggling and singing about spending Shabbat with a dinosaur and putting their favorite foods of every flavor into a pot of Shabbat chicken soup. How the Shabbat repertoire had changed since growing up in the early 1980s!

The fun-loving songs evoked laughter and smiles, but more importantly they seemed to spark a love of the spirit of Shabbat and the warm feeling of community among the children and parents. The beautiful introduction to lighting the candles and the moving tune for the blessing of the children

breathed new life into a distant tradition from my childhood.

Rosalie is now 18 months old. She has participated in every Bim Bam session since that first day. She smiles as she does the hand motions to “Bim Bam” every time we walk by BJ. She circles her hands, covers her eyes, and says “Ba” for “Baruch” when we light the candles. My husband, who did not grow up with Shabbat traditions at home, sings the tunes we learn at Bim Bam and says Kiddush. Together, we bless Rosalie using the wonderful tune we learned at Bim Bam, a practice we would not have normally done.

Bim Bam has been instrumental in helping my family take pleasure in Shabbat. It has inspired and enriched our Shabbat experience, and provided the fertile ground from which our own Shabbat family traditions are growing.



PHOTO: MATTHEW WAXMAN

Above: Wendy and daughter Rosalie take a break from making art to smile for the camera.

Wendy Waxman is a Kitah Aleph teacher at the BJ Hebrew School, and serves on the Families with Young Children committee. She, her husband Matthew, and daughter Rosalie have been members of BJ since 2011. ■

Wrestling with Shabbat

By Jessica Braginsky

Observing a day of rest is not easy. Even if you believe that you are taking the day off, you are susceptible to the societal message to be productive. You may feel subtle pressures —

often self-induced — to achieve, to make yourself into the perfect friend, mom, student, husband. Overwhelming stimuli urge you to buy things or look for other experiences. Often, these messages are



PHOTO: DENISE WAXMAN

invisible. Making the conscious decision to turn these messages off for a day is pushing against the mores of our modern society.

I have wrestled with these messages for much of my adult life. Growing up with the traditional Hebrew School education, I never observed Shabbat beyond lighting candles

on Friday night. Later in life, during my law school years and inspired by my mother’s personal spiritual journey, I decided to make Shabbat my “Jewish day of the week.” Any Jewish thing I did, I did it on Shabbat. I pushed myself to bake hamentashen; I built a sukkah. I did not see that what I was doing was pushing myself to be more productive, to be perfect.

One day I needed to put up a mezuzah, so I grabbed my copy of *The Jewish Catalog* for instructions. It mentioned that one is not supposed to put up a mezuzah on Shabbat because it is work. For me, this was a small epiphany. Trying to do everything, to be the perfectly productive human, was work. Shabbat was not meant for that. Thinking of Shabbat this way opened my eyes to the pressures society puts on me, and the pressures I put on myself, to constantly strive to be perfect. It also meant that some of my Jewish activities had to be done on a Thursday or a Sunday. I couldn’t have a Jewish day; I had to have a Jewish life.

“Making the conscious decision to turn these messages off for a day is pushing against the mores of our modern society.”

Letting go of the urge to create, to remake, or to acquire is not natural for me, but I am learning. Now, Shabbat is truly a day of rest for me; a day to turn off society’s pressures and reconnect with a deeper and more authentic life.

Jessica Braginsky is currently working at BJHS as an Educational Leadership Intern as she finishes her Masters in Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. As an intern, Jessica is mentored by Ivy Schreiber, Director of Education for Youth and Family, and is excited to study about all aspects of leading a diverse and vibrant Hebrew School and creating engaging family learning. Jessica is the mother of four boys and lives with her family and their dog, Yofi, in Port Washington. In her free time, Jessica practices yoga, kayaks, and volunteers for Hadassah. ■

On Tu Bishvat: Considering the Line Between Stewardship and Dominion

By Alex Braver and Sarit Horwitz, BJ Rabbinic Fellows

though Rosh Hashanah is long behind us, we are approaching another type of Rosh Hashanah in January: “Rosh Hashanah L’Ilan”, the “New Year of the Trees” which is the source in rabbinic literature for the holiday of Tu Bishvat. Just as our more familiar Rosh Hashanah provides us with a time to reflect on our relationships with each other and with the Divine, so too can this “new year” be a time to think about how we relate to nature.

When we think about doing teshuvah with our friends and families, we know that we approach our prayers as equals, all made in the image of God and engaging in the same process of reflection. But how do we think about repairing our relationship with the natural world? Bereshit describes God as telling adam hakadmon (the first human) to “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,

and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” But what does it mean to have dominion over all the living things of the earth? If we have been given this world to fill, to subdue, and to dominate, do we not have free reign over the environment, to exploit it as we see fit?

The ancient rabbis, in the collection of exegetical midrash known as Bereshit Rabbah, describe the type of “dominion” that they envisioned God giving to us.

Rabbi Chanina said: “If one is worthy, then [God commands], ‘have dominion.’ If not, God says, ‘he will be brought down.’” In Hebrew,

to ‘have dominion’ is ‘r’du,’ and ‘he will be brought down’ is ‘yir’du.’ The addition of the tiny letter “yod” is the only difference between these Hebrew words. With the right intention, we can erase the letter ‘yod,’ and move away from “being brought down” toward a responsible stewardship of our planet.

Rabbi Yaakov, in the same midrash, responds to Rabbi Chanina with his understanding of what it means to be worthy to have dominion over the earth. He writes that this worth is not based on our deeds, but whether or not we see ourselves as created in God’s image. We then become stewards of the world in God’s stead, instead of people controlling the world.



When we think about doing teshuvah with our friends and families, we know that we approach our prayers as equals, all made in the image of God and engaging in the same process of reflection. But how do we think about repairing our relationship with the natural world?”

In the midrash’s model, God does not give humanity a blank check to rule over the world. Instead, God demands stewardship rather than dominion. Only “worthy” behavior can fulfill God’s command. Unworthy behavior, however, will destroy the earth and bring all of humanity down with it. As the midrashist points out, the line between stewardship and dominion is very thin. Dominion is not just a gift, but an awesome responsibility that can quickly slide into disaster.

Perhaps, then, Tu Bishvat can be a time for us to examine the way in which we and our communities interact with the environment. When we are able to accept the responsibility for taking care of God’s creations, we elevate our own purpose in this world. It is not just about using the earth and her resources to our own advantage, but forcing ourselves to ask how the Creator of the earth would want her to be treated. ■



PHOTOS: TOP RIGHT, CC IMAGE COURTESY OF BEAMILLION ON FLICKR. BOTTOM LEFT, CC IMAGE COURTESY OF AMANDBHSLATER ON FLICKR.

An Element Called BJ: The Third Act BY RABBI MARCELO BRONSTEIN continued from page 1

is our ability to mix things that usually do not mix. The scholars called this approach “bricolage.”

Bricolage creates The BJ Element, where opposite poles live together and generate a creative tension, such as: Surprise–Constancy; Tradition–Innovation; In–Out of the Box; Edgy–Mainstream; Conservative–Progressive; Inter Faith–Inner Faith; Ecstatic–Contemplative; Serious–Playful; Programmatic–Spontaneous; Israel–Diaspora; and Past–Present–Future. These tensions have been at the heart of BJ’s essence, and will continue to shape our future as we renew and discover anew what is needed and relevant for the moments in which we find ourselves.

Today, the questions are different than they have been in the past. We are at the dawn of a new paradigm shift in American Jewish life which calls for flexibility, permeability and boldness; to visualize and create and try new models; to bring new minds and voices to the conversation.”

We have created many opportunities for our community to live and experience these tensions in intimate settings. This year alone, there have been three trips to Israel. I went with a group of teens in February, Roly with adults in November, and Felicia in December with families — and we look forward to more trips in the future. We hold retreats for the community, for women, for mindfulness. The Youth and Family, Social Action, and Israel Desk departments are each worlds of creativity, each with their own opportunities for connection and engagement with the dynamic tensions described above. On the second Shabbat of each month, we now have three simultaneous services: Family Service, a Mindfulness Service, and a Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 88th Street, each designed to hold and challenge, to welcome and connect BJ



PHOTO: MICKEY THURMA

members to one another and to our traditions in innovative and spiritual ways.

I believe that we are at the early stages of a Third Act at BJ. With this Third Act, I am most excited and curious about how the creative poles mentioned earlier will play out. We have developed a culture that will keep opening up, and we are committed to the process of experimentation and renewal.

Today, the questions are different than they have been in the past. We are at the dawn of a new paradigm shift in American Jewish life which calls for flexibility, permeability and boldness; to visualize and create and try new models; to bring new minds and voices to the conversation.

The Element called BJ will give new responses to new questions. That said, I have an intuition that one of the most important poles that will be activated in this Third Act is that of “Security-Freedom.” Our young people are doing incredible social projects in America

and around the world. They are in search of answers in nature experiences, ashrams or yoga centers, often opting out of organized Jewish life because it does not respond to their questions. Their world is fluid, not static. They are tired of internal, boring fights. They are marrying outside the faith in great numbers, and seeking out other spiritual practices. We need spiritual openness without judgment, embracing the next generation with compassion, caring and wisdom.

And yet, we also need security, warmth, and the homey feeling of togetherness in a fragmented world, where we can exercise our Jewishness, where we are known and seen and heard. In this Third Act, we will dwell in the security and warm embrace of community with the courage to create a new future.

I believe that this Third Act will be incredible. Fasten your seatbelts — the best is yet to come. ■

COMMUNICATIONS

Status Update: B'nai Jeshurun is Lively on Facebook

By Denise Waxman, Director of Communications

We know you love BJ. But do you **LIKE** BJ?

If you do, you know:

- Hannah Kass, one of BJ's talented Hebrew School teachers, was honored at the Jewish Education Project Annual Gala as one of five Young Pioneers in Jewish Education.
- Emily Walsh, BJ Hebrew School's Assistant Director of Education gave a talk on JDOV, "the Jewish TED," about why we need "text people, not text messages."
- The moment Rabbis Matalon, Bronstein and Sol's Devrei Torah and their High Holy Day sermons for 5774 were ready to be streamed on the BJ website.
- BJ's Hazorim CSA launched a new blog and offered a reusable grocery bag as it entered its fourth season of partnership with Free Bird Farm.
- A wonderful four-minute video of BJ's 2012-2013 Annual Highlights can be viewed online.
- The BJ Hebrew School kicked off the school year with some pizza in the sukkah at its Back to School Dinner with over 150 students, parents, siblings and friends in attendance.
- Rabbi Matalon appeared on Richard Heffner's Open Mind!



We are sharing BJ stories on Facebook daily: BJ news, pictures, awards and accomplishments, Divrei Torah, and more. Plug in to what's happening: **LIKE BJ!**

- BJ's Rabbinic Fellows Alex Braver and Sarit Horwitz shared reflections with the world three times a week during the month of Elul.

News bits and details like these about daily life at BJ are reported regularly on BJ's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bjnyc. You can also find out right away when new events and trips are scheduled, see great snapshots of the people and goings on around BJ, and be able to easily share any of this with friends and family. Share your own experiences or ask a question by using the comment feature.

We are the most "Liked" synagogue in New York — and need your help to retain that honor. So please, take a moment to **LIKE** BJ on Facebook and stay connected to the community on a daily basis. With just a click, you can help us continue to say (echoing Sally Field at the Oscars), "They **Like** us! They really **Like** us!" ■



Screen shots from recent BJ Facebook page content.

KOL HADASH new voice • WINTER 2014

The *Kol Hadash* is published four times a year. We would love to print your stories and articles about BJ! For submission guidelines, contact communications@bj.org. All material is the property of B'nai Jeshurun and cannot be reprinted without permission.



The *Kol Hadash* is printed using soy-based inks on 50% recycled paper by an online, eco-friendly printer at a substantial cost saving compared to traditional printing methods.

Designer: Harriet R. Goren

Mazal Tov

To the following members and their families on their B'nai Mitzvah (October, November, and December):

Molly Fraser	Talia Roth	Sophia Reiss
Milo Truppinn	Ben Kern	Hannah Goldberg
Jane Forman	Adam Kern	Eliza Brail
Samantha Ratner	Amalia Pass	Samuel Widman
Bella Kaplan	Lana Gesinsky	Laura Goldstein
	Simon Pelzman	

To the following members and their families (through November 15):

- Matt Turk, Ilana Arazie, and Matt's mother, Ellen Turk, on Matt and Ilana's wedding.
- Jordana Levine, her parents Laurie Blitzer and Sam Levine, and her brother Josh and sister Aerin Levine, on Jordana becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Israel.
- Adam Skolnick and Karen Mendelson on the naming of their daughter, Hannah Aliza Skolnick.
- Marilyn and Herbert Levy on their 60th wedding anniversary.
- Amalia Smith on her engagement to Carlos Cesar Valle.
- Galit Ben-Joseph, Neil, Rachel and Joshua Einhorn on the birth of their son and brother, Jacob Daniel Einhorn.
- Eileen Lowenstein and Gary Fass on their engagement.
- Rachel Rosenthal and her entire family on her being honored as Kallat Bereishit at Darkhei Noam.
- Shelly Ostro on his granddaughter, Julia Chait, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Ari Shechter and Alexandra Drake on their wedding.
- Howard Blas, long-time BJ educator, on receiving the 2013 Covenant Award in recognition of his deep commitment to Jewish Education for children with special needs.
- Tova and Diego Syrowicz on the birth of their twin daughters, Silvia Amelie Syrowicz and Alicia Margot Syrowicz.
- Dina Meyers and Chris Davino on the birth of their son, Zak Meyers Davino, as well as to Naomi Meyer.
- Jeff and Shelley Kehl on the engagement of their son, Alex Kehl, to Ilana Dworin.
- Jordana Horn Gordon, Jon Gordon, Zev and Rami Marinoff, and Gabriella and Orli Gordon on the birth of their daughter and sister, Aliza Madeline Gordon.
- Miriam Palmer-Sherman and Rabbi David Vaisberg on the birth of their daughter, Nava Shira Sherman-Vaisberg, as well as to Joanne Palmer and Andy Sherman.
- BJ musician Uri Sharlin and the DogCat Ensemble on the release of their album "Back to the Woods" featuring musicians of Irish, Brazilian, Klezmer, and orchestral backgrounds.
- Laurie and Jim Oestreich on the marriage of their son, Daniel Oestreich to Jessy LaHood.

Condolences (through November 15)

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

- Elie Housman, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Elaine Housman, and their entire family.
- Howard Bisgeier, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife Shirley Bisgeier, their daughter Bonnie Bisgeier, and their entire family.

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

- Larry, Lisa, Benjamin, Hannah and Michael Davidoff on the death of Larry's mother, Esther Davidoff.
- Stephen Arpadi, Terry Marx, Adina and Charlotte Marx-Arpadi on the death of Stephen's mother, Adele Zang Arpadi.
- Bradley, Carolyn, Sarah, Hannah and Daniel Abelow on the death of Bradley's father, Herbert Abelow.
- Abby, Arthur, Julia, Clara, and Eli Eshaghpour on the death of Abby's mother, Marie Sinker.
- Henry and Ann Schwartzstein on the death of Henry's father, Samuel Schwartzstein.
- Willard Knox on the death of his father, John Robinson Knox, Sr.
- Renee Schlesinger Vaccaro, Vincent, Jeanne, and Benjamin Vaccaro on the death of Renee's mother, Ruth Levy Kramer.
- Stephen Zeldes, Judy Roth, Miko and Tema Zeldes-Roth on the death of Stephen's father, Jacob D. Zeldes.
- Gary Langer, Catherine Rice, Gavriela and Eliana Langer on the death of Gary's father, Stephen V. Langer.
- Stephanie Weiner, Lawrence, Ethan, and Arielle Geismar on the death of Stephanie's father, Irwin M. Weiner.
- George Kaplan and Miriam Harris-Kaplan on the death of George's father, Edward Kaplan.
- Reva and Barbara Egdal on the death of their mother, Shirley Egdal.
- Matthew Butcher, Rebecca Posner, Noah and Hannah Butcher on the death of Matthew's brother, Jordan Butcher.
- Lizzie Leiman Kraiem, Ruben, Renée, and Leon Kraiem on the death of Lizzie's father, Leonard Leiman.
- Judith Rosenbaum on the death of her father, Max Rosenbaum.
- Sam Eskenazi and Julie Ratner on the death of Rebecca Eskenazi, Sam's sister.
- Alison, Joshua, Jonah, Eden and Tate Holden, on the death of Alison's mother, Robbie Glicksman.
- Ellen Perlstein and David Dosamantes on the death of Ellen's mother, Dorothy Garfield.
- Leslie Nelson, Jill Hayman, Micah and Remy Nelson on the death of Leslie's mother, Julia Nelson.

Yasher Koah

- To our BJ Community! For Yom Kippur this year, BJ members donated over \$32,000 to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger—that's enough to keep their emergency food pantry supplied with healthy food for three weeks.
- To Jules Love, on his induction into the Brandeis University Hall of Fame for his support of the university and his lifetime work with young people at home and in Israel.

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