

The Path to Freedom BY RABBI J. ROLANDO MATALON

“Only a freedom movement that holds a courageous and radically inclusive social vision, committed to fighting ignorance and opening the mind, will not succumb.”

In December 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi, a 26-year-old street vendor, set himself on fire in protest of continued harassment that was inflicted on him by local Tunisian authorities. His suffering ignited a rebellion that brought down the Tunisian government and shook the Arab world. Soon the rage spread throughout many Arab countries, and major street protests erupted against oppressive regimes, targeting their human rights violations and political corruption. Summoned by the then-new social media, millions of people filled the streets, particularly young men and women craving freedom and a future beyond despair. For a brief moment, the light of hope shone bright.

It is hard to believe what has since happened to the Arab Spring. With the exception of Tunisia, aspirations for freedom and democracy have been quelled by repressive dictatorships or civil war, utter chaos and gruesome violence. In recent months, we have witnessed some of the most shocking cruelty at the hands of ISIS as well as horrific terrorist attacks in the East and in the West. Thousands of young people in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and America find hatred and extreme violence so compelling that they run to enlist with the forces of evil and darkness. As we watch the downward spiral, we can feel the prophet Isaiah’s despair: “...behold distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish, and outspread thick darkness.” (Is. 8:22)

What happened to the call for freedom? As a person of faith, I have no doubt that freedom will come—sooner or later. Freedom is part of the divine design, and there is nothing that can stop it from taking root in humanity. The soul is free and is incompatible with oppression and repression. The Creator placed freedom at the core of the human soul because only free men and women can fully serve God, only free men and women can truly love and create.

But only a freedom movement that is embedded in humility and selflessness can survive. Only a freedom movement that is embedded in a rigorous discipline of honest questioning and self-criticism will not be extinguished by the forces of obscurantism and evil. Only a freedom movement that holds a courageous and radically inclusive social vision, committed to fighting ignorance and opening the mind, will not succumb. Any “freedom movement” based on misogyny, racism, anti-Semitism, or anti-intellectualism will not stand. Any freedom movement that stands for less than humanity and peace will not survive.

These are some of the lessons that Pesach comes to remind us of, lest we forget and our freedom degenerate. However, only if we allow the festival to draw us into serious exploration,

(continued on page 7)

The Teen Civil Rights Trip



See story and more photos on pages 6-7.

Social Action/Social Justice	2-3
The Israel Dialogue Initiative	3
Trips and Retreats	4-5
Youth and Family Education	6-7
Yom HaShoah	8-9
Development	10
Announcements	11
Contacts	12

inside:

BJ Students Learn About Farmworker Justice	2
Two Prayer Retreats, Two Paths to the Soul	4
Civil Rights Through a Jewish Lens	6
On Facing Yom HaShoah	8
Night of 100 Dinners	10

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

BJ Students Learn About Farmworker Justice

By Nina Loftspring, Assistant Director of Education for Curriculum and Learning, and Larissa Wohl, Social Action Coordinator

during the fall, over 50 4th-6th grade BJ Hebrew School students involved in the Jewish Journey Project (JJP) engaged in learning about the lives of farmworkers in the United States. Our students explored the connections between the food they eat, how it is grown, and the people who harvest their food.

This three-week collaborative Social Justice unit, created by Assistant Director of Education for Curriculum and Learning Nina Loftspring and Social Action Coordinator Larissa Wohl, focused on the Economic Justice Hevra’s work on the Farmworker Justice Campaign, geared toward the passage of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act, which would grant farmworkers in New York state the rights they are currently denied.

Based in texts from the Torah, Talmud and Midrash, the unit allowed the students to form a holistic view of Jewish perspectives on the treatment of farmworkers and taking care of the environment. Students were able to visit a mock farmers’ market, where they interviewed the “owners” (BJHS teachers) about how they treated their workers, what amenities they provided (including housing, transportation, water in the fields, etc.), and their financial resources. They also learned about the historic exclusion of farmworkers from

federal labor laws that protect most hourly wage workers, a vestige of the Jim Crow era. Students were inquisitive and asked engaging questions, digging deeper into the reasons why farmworkers are not treated fairly in this country.

Students were introduced to the social and economic limitations that farmworkers

Based in texts from the Torah, Talmud and Midrash, the unit allowed the students to form a holistic view of Jewish perspectives on the treatment of farmworkers and taking care of the environment.



Photos, pages 2 and 3: BJHS JJP students writing letters to elected officials.



face, including hiring practices, immigration status, wage regulation, access to housing, and humane working conditions. It is not a conversation we as a society often have about our food system, and our students approached the topic with maturity and intrigue. While we often have conversations about the food we put into our bodies, this joint program gave our students the opportunity to discuss issues reaching beyond how food is grown.

As a faith community, we embrace the great responsibility of caring for the needy and vulnerable, and we invite our members to work for systemic change. For example, BJ students cook for the BJ/SPSA homeless shelter and have engaged in classroom conversations about hunger. The farmworkers unit allowed the students to expand their understanding into the realms of ethical consumption and food systems in a manner that is rooted in ancient Jewish texts and values, acknowledging the laborers often hidden from their view.

At BJ, sometimes we pray in the sanctuary. Sometimes we pray with our feet, marching

in the streets with our brothers and sisters. Sometimes we pray with our hands, writing advocacy letters to politicians. After encountering various farmworker narratives and reflecting on what they had learned, students wrote insightful letters to Governor Cuomo, advocating for the passage of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. As a result, we mailed more than 50 letters to state legislators. For more information on the Economic Justice Hevra, visit www.bj.org. Below are some of our students' thoughts, as expressed to our elected officials:

4th grade:

"I think the farmers should get paid so they can provide a living to their families."
—Isabella

...

"They should be given equipment to protect them in the heat."
—Alexander

...

"Each day I come home and I think about how lucky I am to have a nice bedroom, a loving family, and lots of toys and clothes."
—Sabina

5th grade:

"In our very Declaration of Independence, it says 'all men are created equal.' I think these men [and women] deserve as many rights as you and I do."
—Jacob

6th grade:

"... I know that in order for meat to be kosher, it needs to be slaughtered painlessly. By making these workers have inequality, the crops that are sent to the stores aren't kosher because the workers don't harvest the crops painlessly. These workers only work at farms because they are suffering through poverty and have limited choices for work."
—Lucy

...

"We rely on our parents to bring home the money for food every day. However, the people who grow our food do not necessarily have enough food themselves."
—Abigail



...

"Farmworkers are workers too, and serve as a crucial part of our society...they put in the same hard work and effort as any corporate 'yes man,' so they should be treated the same way."
—Ethan ■



The Israel Dialogue Initiative

SAVE THE DATES!

We want to thank those of you who took the time to complete the BJ Israel Survey.

We are excited to present the results and invite you to our upcoming Israel Dialogue Initiative (IDI) events, which will provide opportunities for our community to build dialogue across multiple points of view about Israel. These events will include communication-building workshops, community discussions, and spiritual and educational programming

See right for a schedule; registration information may be found at www.bj.org/IDI.

We look forward to seeing you.

— Shira Nadich Levin, IDI Co-Chair
— Suzanne Schechter, IDI Co-Chair

ISRAEL DIALOGUE EVENTS

• D'var Torah by Rabbi Weintraub Saturday, April 18

Join us at Shabbat morning services. Rabbi Melissa Weintraub is an educator and thought leader who trains leaders and builds programs at the intersections of Israel, Jewish thought and conflict resolution.

• Presentation and Dialogue on Israel Survey Results Sunday, April 19 | 4:00-6:00PM

Rabbi Weintraub will present the results of the BJ Israel Survey, followed by small group discussions. Children's activities will be provided so that parents can attend.

• Spring Workshops: Speaking Across Conflict Dates Vary (see below)

Strengthen your capacity to speak, listen and learn through disagreements. While we will

practice these skills by discussing views on Israel, they will be transferable to other contexts, including communication in the face of differences and tensions. Various dates available: April 18 (Shabbat afternoon) at 3:00-6:30PM; April 28 at 6:00-9:30PM; May 2 (Shabbat afternoon) at 3:00-6:30PM; May 6 at 6:00-9:30PM.

• BJ Town Square with Resetting the Table Sunday, May 3 | 4:00-6:30PM

Trained facilitators will support participants in small groups to express their views on Israel-related topics, discuss differences constructively, and hear each other with clarity and depth.

• Reflections on Israel with Rabbis Matalon, Bronstein and Sol Tuesday, June 9 | 6:30-8:30PM

More details to follow.

TRIPS AND RETREATS

Two Prayer Retreats, Two Paths to the Soul

BJ Prayer Retreat at Menla Mountain

By Sian Gibby

how to describe the transcendent communal Jewish experience of the BJ Prayer Retreat? A complete picture isn't possible; living it happened in multiple dimensions, some of them not communicable in writing. Below, then, a sketch.

The Menla Mountain Center, a Tibetan Buddhist retreat in the Catskills, is tucked in among frosty forested peaks, almost giving one the sense of being in the Himalayas, particularly on the retreat's first days, when temperatures fell below zero, and the wind blew furiously outside, making the center itself all the more cozy and warm. Our gathering room was curved into a gentle oval and painted gold, with heated terracotta tile flooring, and windows facing the snowy hills.

Forty voices davened together three times daily using melodies some of us didn't already know or even know were possible, in strange, lovely harmonies that seemed plucked out of the thin, holy mountain air. When we weren't praying, we were either studying or singing piyyutim. What time remained went to eating (delicious, fresh

vegetarian food) and sleeping. If it doesn't sound like a vacation, it wasn't. If it doesn't sound like fun, let me assure you that it was.

The study, led by our beloved rabbi Roly Matalon and four close Israeli friends, Yair Harel, Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum, Chani Kroizer, and Uri Kroizer, covered every aspect of prayer: using the voice, experiencing place, body, heart, movement. It centered on the most fundamental elements of tefillah, the Shema and the Amidah, as well as on the dimensions and possibilities of petitionary prayer.

We came to this retreat from many different places in our relationships to prayer, faith, and Jewish practice—not as experts, but as seekers who trusted one another, sharing our struggles with the journey of prayer, and exploring both where we were on that path and where we might go, as individual souls and as a Jewish kahal. ■

Sian Gibby is a writer/editor at the Calandra Institute and the copy editor for Tablet Magazine.





BJ Mindfulness Retreat in Nature

By John Ruskay and Robin Bernstein

Providing alternate, nontraditional methods of Jewish prayer is a resource BJ thinks is important to offer our community. One of these approaches to prayer, spearheaded by Rabbis Rachel Cowan and Marcelo Bronstein, we call mindfulness davening. Recently, Marcelo and a group of BJ members came together at the BJ Mindfulness Retreat in Nature, in one of the world's most picturesque settings: Costa Rica. Here's what BJ members John Ruskay and Robin Bernstein had to say about their profound experience exploring this unique method of prayer as a path to the soul.

John Ruskay:

The Mindfulness Retreat was a magnificently crafted program which enabled me to journey far deeper into prayer and Jewish text and explore more intimate levels of my heart and soul. Marcelo and Rachel sculpted and led a week of perfection, and I use that word rarely. The program elements—meditation, prayer, study, visits in the community; the gorgeous physical setting, the sequencing—further enriched my appreciation of the richness of our people and our tradition. Throughout the week, bonds deepened with congregants who I have known for decades from afar. In sum, to participate in the retreat was both a gift and a privilege.

Robin Bernstein:

Simply said, the Mindfulness Retreat allowed me to discover in a profound way both God and prayer for the first time in my life. Since the age of eight, when my father suddenly died, I have been trying to make sense of the notion of God and have sought to find meaning in prayer. Until the retreat, prayer has just been a lot of words that I didn't understand in Hebrew, and in English the words did not move me. When I signed up for the retreat, I was intimidated by the notion of a daily prayer service, but I was curious about the mindfulness aspect and the idea of a

Simply said, the Mindfulness Retreat allowed me to discover in a profound way both God and prayer for the first time in my life."

meditation retreat in Costa Rica. Marcelo's facilitation of prayer moved me to the core. I spent a week weeping gentle tears throughout morning prayer and Shabbat. I don't yet fully understand the tears but believe that they were important tears for me to shed. I am a person who has led an extraordinary and, by many standards, successful life, from the head up. I have

been in search of connecting my head to my heart and through the brilliant facilitation of both Rachel and Marcelo they provided those of us at the retreat with simple tools to do just that, tools that I am continuing to use back home. I returned home with a more opened heart. The trip was an extraordinary gift.

A multidecade BJ member, **John Ruskay** served as Education Director of the 92nd Street Y, JTS Vice Chancellor, and CEO of UJA-Federation. He is a partner with Robin in JRB Consulting Services and is enjoying/exploring life in this personal "post fast track" era.

Robin Bernstein joined BJ 14 years ago when she married John. She worked at the Educational Alliance in a variety of positions for 26 years, the last 15 as the CEO. She stepped down from that position a year ago and is now a partner with John in JRB Consulting Services. They have five children between them, and seven grandchildren. ■

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Civil Rights Through a Jewish Lens

By Ayala Wasser, Teen Coordinator

Over the weekend preceding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, B'nai Jeshurun traveled with 21 8th- and 9th-graders to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Atlanta, on a journey to explore the civil rights movement and struggle throughout U.S. history—and how it is relevant to our Jewish lives today.

In just three and a half days, we visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, The Rosa Parks Museum, The Southern Poverty Law Center, The AIDS Memorial Quilt, The Temple, and more. We met with fascinating speakers, such as Bishop Woods—a reverend who, as a civil rights worker in Birmingham in the '50s and '60s, had dogs and hoses turned on him—and Joanna Bland—a woman who was beaten and imprisoned at age 11 while marching from Selma to Montgomery. Hearing these first-hand experiences helped bring the stories of the civil rights movement to life.

Over the weekend, we celebrated Shabbat and Havdalah with our B'nai Jeshurun community, then rejoiced in and commemorated the life of Dr. King with the Ebenezer Baptist Church community during their Sunday morning worship service. The trip was an unforgettable experience, leaving our teens wondering what they—as Jews—

Getting to hear first-hand experiences from people during the Civil Rights Movement made the stories they told feel like they happened yesterday, instead of in a textbook.

can do to help ensure a bright future for humanity.

“I was amazed at the way the teens took in so much information over the course of the week. I was also surprised to see how quickly a group of students can—when taken out of their daily lives and given an intensive experience together—form deep bonds with one another. In our many discussions, I could tell that they were working to process and integrate all of this new knowledge of the civil rights movement with their understanding of our deepest Jewish values. It was a real privilege to talk, pray and explore with them all!”

— Alex Braver, BJ Rabbinic Fellow

“This trip was an overall amazing journey. We dually enjoyed amazing once-in-a-lifetime experiences—like listening to first-hand experiences of the civil rights movement—as well as becoming extremely close with the BJ community. I learned so much from this trip, and will always refer and connect back to it.”

—Lana Gesinsky

“Going to the Ebenezer Baptist Church was such an amazing experience, specifically because of how unbelievably welcoming and enthusiastic the members were. They created a comfortable, energetic and upbeat environment, making us feel at home and engaged during the service.”

—David Schalop

“Seeing the Kelly Ingram park was a truly amazing experience. This park once held Montgomery civil rights protests that helped sway the way of life for African Americans. There were sculptures signifying the wild dogs and the water hoses that were unleashed against the protesters. The park was so amazing because the sculptures brought to life things I had only heard and read about.”

—Joey Gertzman



“Everything we learned was so interesting and so well presented. I really got to understand how the civil rights movement changed the South by seeing it with my own eyes. On top of everything, getting to know and hang out with my friends was a really good experience. I feel closer to BJ, to the Jewish community, and even to God after this trip. Amazing experience.”

—Molly Fraser

“My favorite part of the trip was when we went to Ebenezer Baptist Church. It was amazing being immersed in southern culture, and it felt like we were actually a part of their community. It was also fun to see what church services are like, and experience the jubilant and welcoming congregation.”

—Josh Mantel





● “Meeting fascinating people and hearing their personal stories during the civil rights movement, spending time getting to know new people, and sharing new experiences with them made this the amazing trip it was.”
—*Laura Goldstein*

● “I had such an incredible time on this civil rights journey. I especially loved listening to everybody’s incredible stories, specifically Bishop Woods and Joanna Bland. Overall, the trip was an amazing experience and a lot of fun!”
—*Sabina Sternklar Davis*

● “The civil rights trip was one of the best trips I’ve been on my whole life. On top of all

of the interesting civil rights learning, I had a great time ice skating on the last night. It was a bonding experience for everyone, and a way for us to be together.”
—*Lara Caligor*

● “Even though we did not use our regular bus due to the rules of Shabbat, it did not prevent us from having an amazing day. We walked through the park together and had a peaceful and beautiful Shabbat service along the Alabama River. We sang and prayed together in the sunlight, and chanted the Torah together. We also had the opportunity to walk by the water and in the grass during our personal prayers, feeling a closer connection to nature, God and each other.”
—*Mariel Priven* ■

● “Getting to hear first-hand experiences from people during the civil rights movement made the stories they told feel like they happened yesterday, instead of in a textbook. It was fascinating.”
—*Talia Kurlansky*

The Path to Freedom

BY RABBI J. ROLANDO MATALON (continued from page 1)

and questioning will freedom have a chance to grow and expand in and around us. Questions are at the center of the Pesah seder and the remembrance of the Exodus. The mitzvah to tell the story of the Exodus comes as a response to the Four Questions and the Four Children. We are urged to ask, and our questions must be inquisitive, sharp—even subversive—and they must open us to honest self-criticism. Our questions must be followed by firm answers and actions.

For example, our call of, “Let all who are hungry come and eat,” must be true and must become a commitment. There will be no freedom while hunger and poverty persist. In addition, our narrative of the Exodus must expose not only the Pharaohs outside ourselves, but also those inside

us. Anything inside our soul, or inside our own communities and our own people that represses souls, bodies or minds must be confronted.

As we retell the story of the Exodus, we must ask: What does it mean to give each person their place and to honor their existence? We must also know that the issue of freedom doesn’t end with Pesah. It is the path from Pesah (the celebration of our liberation) to Shavuot (the moment of the covenant with God at Sinai) that gives freedom its true meaning and purpose. Freedom *from* oppression is never sufficient and is never the ultimate goal. It is the freedom to choose to live by the unwavering commitment to a vision greater than ourselves, a vision that advances God’s

purpose of justice, dignity and peace for all, that secures and elevates our freedom.

The world is going through hard and perplexing times, and I believe that precisely at this time the Jewish people have a calling to model the true meaning of freedom. Our liberation from Mitzrayim, the narrowest and most oppressive of places, was for the sake of our learning and internalizing so that we could teach humanity, by example, how to use our freedom to serve God’s purpose in the world. I pray that we may take our role seriously and be worthy of our calling.

This year the world is still enslaved; next year may it be freer. ■

On Facing Yom HaShoah

By Daniel LeDonne, Marketing Communications Associate

just around this time last year, I was visiting Yad VaShem. It was my second time at the museum and first time visiting so close to Yom HaShoah, which added another somber note to an already doleful experience. Out of all the images from the first visit—and there are many—the one that continues to haunt me is the Hall of Names at the far end of the museum. I stood inside this large, echoing conical structure, looking up. Hung on the walls, ascending to a point so high I had to crane my neck to see them all, were pictures of victims. After inquiring, I learned that there are about 600 photos in the hall. So many photos, yet they only account for one-ten-thousandth of the total number of Jews murdered, a statistic so horrifying that it was easier to put it out of my mind than to dwell on it for too long.

“The idea for The Reading of the Names started when Myriam happened upon a reading emanating from a lecture hall at Vassar College.”

Almost a year later, I sat down and spoke with BJ member, filmmaker, and enthralling storyteller Myriam Abramowicz about The Reading of the Names that she spearheaded two decades ago. As a new employee at BJ, I was unaware of what takes place in our community during Yom HaShoah. The Reading of the Names Myriam described to me seemed as important as it was daunting—hour after hour of Name after Name, lost in a manner so horrific I still find it difficult to contemplate. As I listened to Myriam speak, the stark truth began to reveal itself: I didn't know if I had the strength to listen to those Names. With the images, stories and feelings that these particular Names call to mind, I wondered how anyone could.

The idea for The Reading of the Names started when Myriam happened upon a reading emanating from a lecture hall at Vassar College. After working through the concept with Roly, Myriam started the process of gathering Names, which involved coordination (pre-Internet, mind you) with sources throughout Europe. This sounded

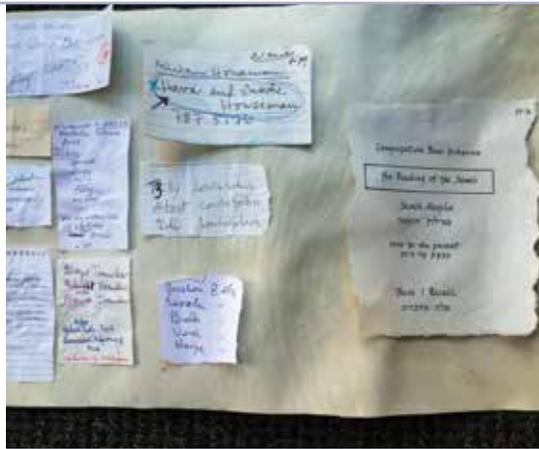
like a task I couldn't hope to achieve—and that's assuming I could work up the emotional reserve necessary to look at a single sheet filled with the Names of those murdered, and then ask for another one.

As I listened to Myriam detail this process, I thought about how I resisted coming face to face with the horror depicted at Yad VaShem and thought: How can anybody be strong enough to face this? Thankfully, Myriam and many others appreciate one very crucial truth—it is painful to say the Names, although to not say them would lead to something far more painful.

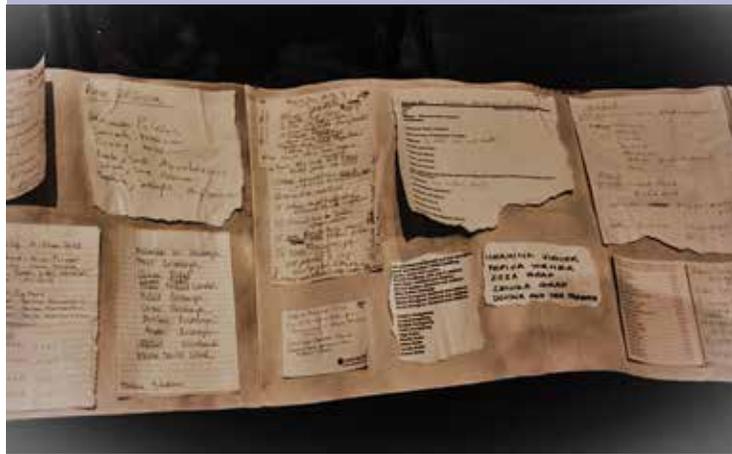
“Thankfully, Myriam and many others appreciate one very crucial truth—it is painful to say the Names, but to not say them would lead to something far more painful.”

If the Upper West Side Jewish community can come together and read those Names and undertake the necessity of their preservation and what they represent—no matter how painful an image that may be—isn't it the least I could do to make my voice a part of it? This time, I see a catharsis in the sharing of our pain, something that people like Myriam thankfully realized a long time ago. Now I'll say a Name out loud and accept everything that comes with it, and not bury it, and not fear it. This time, I'll speak—because even more devastating than the thought of talking about it is the thought that the conversation could end. ■

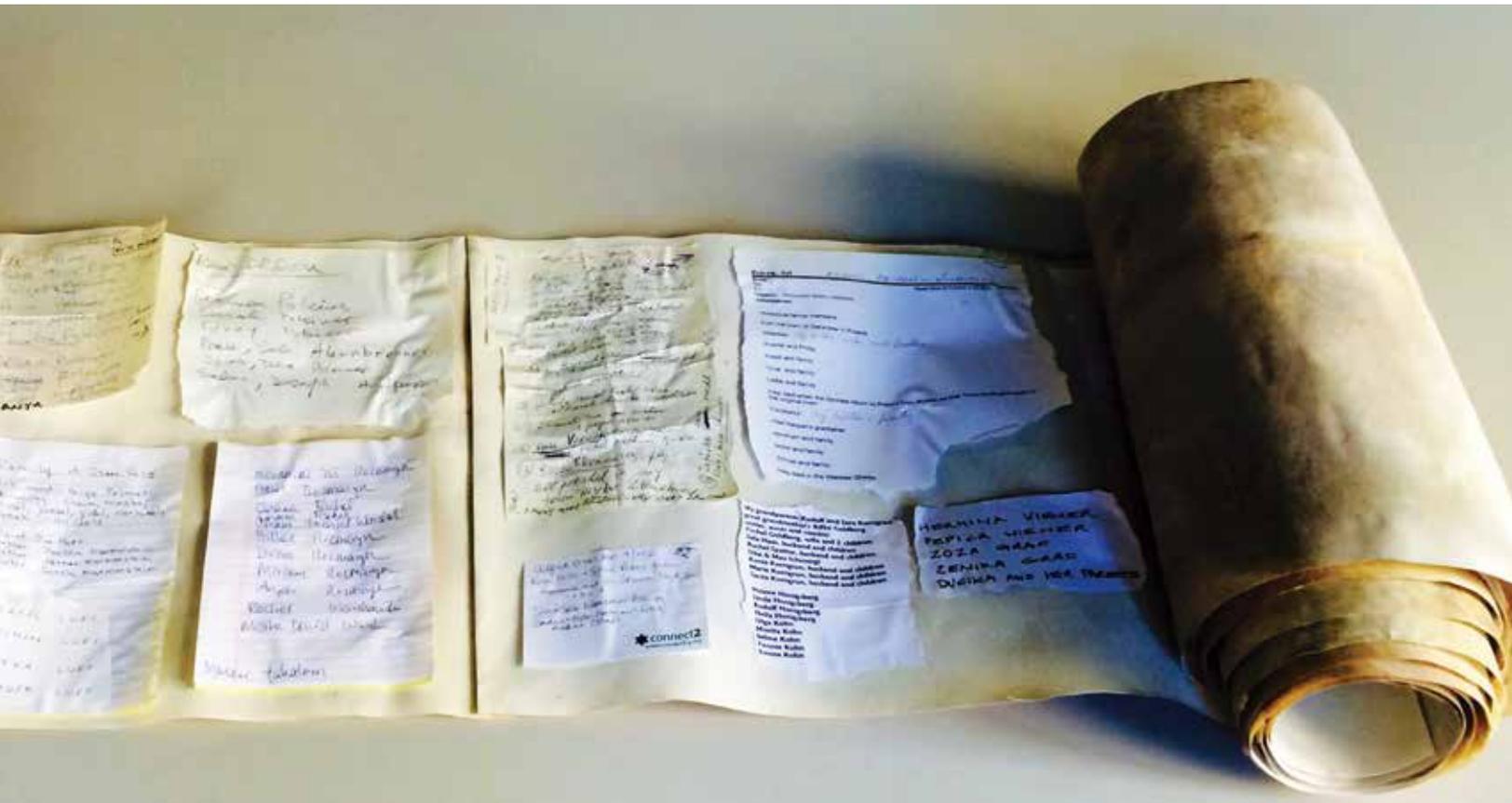




Join us for our Yom HaShoah Commemoration on Wednesday, April 15, in the 88th Street Sanctuary. Services begin at 6:45 PM, followed by The Reading of the Names by BJ members, their families, and friends of those killed during the Shoah—including Names from our Shoah Megillah, which have been gathered since 1995.



The BJ Shoah Megillah, created in 2014, comprises thousands of Names gathered since 1995 from BJ members and their friends or their family members murdered during the Shoah. Myriam enlisted the help of Sandee Brawarsky, Judy Geller-Marlowe and Caron Brown to assemble the Megillah onto parchment from Israel.



DEVELOPMENT

Night of 100 Dinners

a chilly January evening was transformed into a warm celebration as over 400 BJ members came together to raise more than \$120,000 to support our wonderful and varied programs. We danced and mingled in the violet-lit sanctuary, celebrating our community and honoring Sara and Andy Litt—longtime BJ members who have given so much of themselves—with the Spirit of B'nai Jeshurun Award. Relive the magic of the night with these photos. ■



KOL HADASH new voice • SPRING 2015

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 with traditional printing methods.

Designer: Harriet R. Goren

Mazal Tov

To the following members and their families on their B'nai Mitzvah (January, February, March):

Nir Tsfo	Avital Leah Springer Rosen
Ella Rosenthal	Abigail Sylvor Greenberg
Jessica Katzman	Arielle Davis
Abby Finkle	Gabriel Neuman
Sophia Gabriella Freed	Billy Kapelus
Gavriela Langer	Nathan Murray
Julia Schwarz	

To the following members and their families (through March 6):

- Linda and Bob Marshall on the birth of their grandson, Ezra David Marshall, and also on the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Marshall, to Yossi Haroush.
- Nancy and Paul Freireich on the birth of their grandson, Zachary Jacob Freireich-Weinsier.
- Rae and Richard Janvey on the birth of their grandson, Asher Janvey.
- Ruth Lazarus and Michael Feldberg on the birth of their grandson, Abraham Scott Levin.
- Elana and Mitch Brody on the birth and naming of their son and daughter, Ezra and Jordan Brody, and to big brother Jaden Brody.
- Amanda Levy, Joel Ryzowy, Tovah Feldshuh-Levy and Andrew Levy on Amanda and Joel's marriage.
- Josh Nathan-Kazis, Emily Seife, Joel Kazis, Sara Nathan, Saul Nathan-Kazis, and Amy and Howard Seife on Josh and Emily's marriage.
- Rebecca Rosenthal and Adam Arenson on the birth of their daughter, Madeline Rose Arenson, and to big brothers Simon and Leo Arenson. We also extend a hearty mazal tov to Irv Rosenthal and Ruth Jarmul, and Rachel and Sarah Rosenthal, on the birth of their granddaughter and niece.
- Andrew Borrok, his wife Tanya, their daughter Katherine and Andrew's father Charles on Andrew's election as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, and his induction held on December 11, 2014.
- Sharon Stein on the engagement of her son, Peter Seth Stein, to Cindy Bomzer.
- Elizabeth Szancer and Tom Zoufaly on the birth of their grandson, Ezra Ian Rosen.
- Merryl and Ralph Klein on the birth of their granddaughter, Samantha Miriam Eisenberg.
- Alex Drake-Shechter and Ari Shechter on the birth of their daughter, Bay Joy Drake-Shechter.
- Jessica Radin and Joseph Salvatore on the birth and naming of their daughter, Ella Jean Salvatore.
- Eileen Loeb and Russell Shapiro on the naming of their daughter, Sasha Dylan Loeb Shapiro.
- Steven Goldman on the birth of his granddaughter, Elle Rose Mezvinsky.
- Mel and Barbara Berger on their daughter Molly completing her service in the Israel Defense Forces, as well as on Molly's engagement to former lone soldier, Adam Bachner, Golani Brigade.
- Hilary and Nathan Schumer on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Blaisus Schumer.
- Miriam Herscher on the birth of her granddaughter, Maya Rose Herscher.

Condolences (through March 6)

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

- Shelly Sherry, and we extend our sincere condolences to her entire family.
- Bernice Levine, and we extend our sincere condolences to her entire family.
- Margrit Rustow, and we extend our sincere condolences to her entire family.

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

- Debbie and Eric Lerner and their sons Matthew, Jeremy and Daniel Lerner, on the death of Debbie's father, Herbert Rader.
- Ellen Corenswet, John Morgan, Brianna Morgan, Jake Kirsch and Nicole Hildebrandt on the death of Ellen's brother, Robert Corenswet.
- Diane Glass and her son, Nathaniel Glass, on the death of Diane's father, William Glass.
- Marjory Paganelli on the death of her father, Howard Goldberger.
- Amichai Lau-Lavie, Sally Gottesman, Rachel Tiven, and their children Alice, Ezra and Charlotte Tiven-Gottesman, on the death of Amichai's father, Naftali Lavie.
- Robin Reif and her daughter Sophia Reif on the death of Robin's mother, Natalie Reif.
- Lisa Schachner on the death of her mother, Helen Schachner.
- Jerry Korman, Mira Rivera, and their children Arielle and Ben Korman, on the death of Jerry's mother, Mona Korman.
- Joanne Palmer and Andy Sherman, Miriam Palmer-Sherman and David Vaisberg, and Nava Shira Sherman-Vaisberg, on the death of Joanne's father, Joseph Palmer.
- Lorraine Korn on the death of her brother, Sheldon Korn.
- Sheryl Checkman on the death of her mother, Berenice Checkman.
- Micki, Jonathan, Teddy and Sophia Reiss on the death of Micki's uncle, William Gamzon.
- Bob Owens and Evie Klein, and their children Gustie and Henry Owens, on the death of Bob's father, Herbert Owens.
- Valerie Garten and her daughter Michele Garten on the death of Valerie's mother, Beatrice Garten.
- Jenny Golub on the death of her father, Ralph Golub.
- Maia Michaelson and her son Henry Michaelson on the death of Maia's mother, Lorna Michaelson.
- Bernice Todres and Nadia Todres on the death of their son-in-law and brother-in-law, Christopher Nash.
- Mark Horn on the death of his mother, Hannah Horn.
- Larry Bromberg, Renee Rachele, and their children Stephanie and Joshua Bromberg on the death of Larry's father, S. George Bromberg.
- David and Ilana Adelman, and their children Max, Sarah and Sophia on the death of David's father, Lawrence Adelman.
- Holly Zabitz on the death of her father, Harold Zabitz.
- Michael and Diane Palmer on the death of Michael's mother, Beatrice Gross.
- Irma and Arthur Gottesfeld on the death of Irma's brother, Jonas Miller.
- Marsha and Dominique Boer on the death of Marsha's father, Harold Cohen.
- Sandy Rocks, and her children Benjamin and Deborah Plum, on the death of her mother, Mary Rocks.
- Jerrold Kohn, Amy Murray, and their children Danielle and Robin Kohn, and Max and Nathan Murray, on the death of Jerrold's father, Dr. Ernest Kohn.

KOL HADASH new voice • SPRING 2015

SYNAGOGUE:

257 West 88th Street

OFFICES:

270 West 89th Street

Main Telephone Number
212-787-7600

Fax Number (270 West 89th Street)
212-496-7600

Website
www.bj.org

Committees & Services:

Accounts Payable.....	227	Family Activities.....	260	Panim el Panim.....	259
Accounts Receivable.....	237	Hakhnasat Or ^h im.....	250	Social Action	272
Adult Education Information	264	H ^e vre Kadisha	264	Space Rentals	255
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	233	Homeless Shelter	272	Teen Programming.....	242
Bikkur Holim.....	264	Interfaith Committee	224	Torah/Haftarah Reading.....	232
BJ Reads	272	Kiddush Scheduling	255	Tze'irim	250
Communications.....	275	<i>Kol Jeshurun</i>	275	Ushering.....	264
Community Programs	255	<i>Kol Hadash</i>	275	Visiting Groups.....	250
Conversion	261	Life Cycles.....	264	Volunteer Information	255
Daily Minyan.....	232	Lunch Program.....	272	Youth & Family Education	225
Development		Mekusharim.....	224	Yozma.....	224
& Donation Information	228	Membership Information.....	224		

Rabbis:

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

Hazzan and Music Director:

Ari Priven

BJ Rabbinic Fellows:

Alex Braver, x262
Sarit Horwitz, x261
Bryan Wexler, x223

BJ Student Hazzan:

Shoshi Rosenbaum, x242

Interim Executive Director:

Michele Slifka, x266

Director of Membership and Community Engagement:

Amy Greenstein, x224

Director of Education for Youth and Family:

Ivy Schreiber, x225

Director of Social Action/ Social Justice:

Channa Camins, x259

Director of Israel Engagement:

Orli Moss, x229

Director of Development:

Lisa Steinberg, x228

Director of Marketing and Communications:

Stephanie Berger, x275

Chief Financial Officer:

Alyce Gunn, x226

Rabbinic Department Manager and Life Cycles Coordinator:

Billie Di Stefano, x264

Assistant to Rabbi Matalon:

Leah Michelson, x234

Assistant to Rabbi Bronstein and Rabbi Sol:

Sandra Ghorzo, x240

Assistant to Interim Executive Director Michele Slifka:

Heidi Niederhausen, x239

B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator:

Beth Tarson, x233

Program Coordinator:

Jo Icaza, x241

Director of Operations:

Suzy Burstein, x255

Board of Trustees:

Irv Rosenthal^o
President

Jeannie Blaustein^o
Chair

Sally Gottesman^o
Vice President

Frank Kern^o
Vice President

Debra Lerner^o
Vice President

Emily Weiss^o
Vice President

Anna Winderbaum^o
Secretary

Alan Mantel^o
Treasurer

Board Members:

Galit Ben-Joseph
Dale Bernstein
Anne Ebersman
Nancy Freireich
Moshe Horn
Franklin Kern
Samara Minkin
Josh Penzner

Bernard Plum
Suzanne Schecter
Jack Stern
Judith Trachtenberg
Scott Weiner
Michael Yoeli

General Counsel:

Ellen Corenswet

Hebrew School Advisory Member:

Melanie Sherman, *BJHS Representative*

Tze'irim Representative:

Jason Herman

Honorary Trustees:

Jonathan Adelsberg*
Virginia Bayer*
Ted Becker*
Frederic Goldstein
Marcy Grau*
David Hirsch*
Richard Janvey*
Robert Kanter
Joan Kaplan
Susan Kippur*
Sara Moore Litt*
Naomi Meyer
Judith Stern Peck*
Stephen Stulman, *Trustee Emeritus*

^o Executive Committee Member

* Past President