

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

A Time of New Beginnings By Rabbi Danny Gottlieb



As I look back upon this year's High Holy Day services, my first here at BIJ, I cannot remember a year in which the services were so wonderful for me. The participation of the congregation in music and prayer, and the welcome that you gave to me and Ricki, gave me a sense of wholeness and well-being and renewal. The warmth and spirituality of those days remains with me as the New Year unfolds. Many of you have shared your good wishes with me, and I am looking forward with confidence to the year ahead. I am excited for our present and our future...

First a word of thanks to all of those who worked so hard to make our High Holy Day services so beautiful. In particular, I want to thank the following people:

David Morgenstern

Inara Morgenstern and the BIJ choir

Our synagogue musicians: Ricki Weintraub, Elie Aharon, and Ariela Morgenstern

All of the readers, service participants and shofar blowers

Rabbi Norman Mendel

Sara Heckelman and all the office volunteers

Rebecca Goodman and the staff of our children's programs

All of our greeters and ushers

David Morgenstern and Blair Horst, who arranged and managed the webcasting of our services to those who were homebound

Sarah Glew and Phil Hartman, for their assistance with our sound system

Neil Bronstein

Joshua Goodman, our Past Presidents and the members of the Board of Trustees

The beauty and harmony of our High Holy Day worship has set the tone for what I hope will be many successful Temple events and programs in the year ahead. May it be a year of peace and blessing for us all.

Following Up

Together with this Bulletin, you will receive a copy of the flyer and the itinerary for our BIJ Summer Israel Trip. I have already had some positive responses, and I hope that you will consider making this the year that you visit Israel. Ricki and I

are looking forward to travelling with you, and we hope to hear from you soon. By the way, the trip is open to your family and friends, whether they are members of BIJ or not. You will also find the ARZA Membership Form. If you are not already a member of ARZA, please join us and support our Movement in Israel.

Looking Forward

These next months will see a flurry of activities, as the High Holy Days give way to our ongoing Temple calendar. Check the weekly email for information about adult and family education programs and workshops, Sisterhood programs, movie nights, and Havdallah gatherings. And join us for Shabbat services—there is a wide variety of service offerings, potluck and catered Shabbat dinners, as well as our special Shabbat morning Torah study breakfast before services—each week. Be a part of our expanding menu of community activities, as we reinvigorate our *chesed* and *tikkun olam* programs, “reaching in” to our own community and “reaching out” to the community-at-large.

Gilad Shalit is Home

As I am writing this message, the news has come from Israel confirming the safe return of Gilad Shalit to his family and his homeland after five years of imprisonment at the hands of Hamas in Gaza. As she has done in the past, Israel has paid a high price for Gilad's return. The price of *Pidyon Shevuyim*—Redeeming the Captives—is always high, but never too high. In this case, Israel reluctantly agreed to release over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, many of them responsible for the deaths of Israeli citizens. On Yom Kippur, Ricki and I sang “*Al Kol Eleh*”, Naomi Shemer's song that speaks of the “honey and the bee sting, the bitter and the sweet.” This is how it is in Israel. Nevertheless, our joy is greater than our misgivings, and we rejoice in Gilad's return. “...*shebechyanu v'kejimanu, v'higyanu lazman hazeh.*”

Looking forward to seeing you often over the coming months, and to the warmth of our gatherings,

Shalom,

Rabbi Danny Gottlieb

See pg 10 for more from the Rabbi and our *chesed* program...