

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Welcome Rabbi Gottlieb!

By Joshua Goodman



Fellow members of our BIJ family: As this is my first bulletin article since our new rabbi joined our congregation, let me welcome Rabbi Danny Gottlieb and Ricki Weintraub to our family. Since his arrival on August 1st, we have had

four meet-and-greet events in members' homes (with more to come!), a Friday Night Feast and several extended Kiddushim following Shabbat services. Many of you have taken the opportunity to get to know our new rabbi and to learn first-hand how warm and impressive he is. You have also given him a chance to meet you and begin his journey of discovery into what is BIJ.

Of course, I have had many of my own opportunities to speak with Rabbi Gottlieb and to experience him as our rabbi. After only a few short weeks, it feels like he belongs. That is, I suppose, a tribute to his experience, his ease with people, and his sincere desire to be our rabbi. But most of all I have been thrilled to speak to so many of you who have met Rabbi Gottlieb. I am not surprised at the uniformly positive reactions but it is welcome to hear nonetheless. People have responded to his sermons and stories, to his sensitivity and sincerity, and to his obvious love of Judaism and of being a rabbi. Services with Rabbi Gottlieb and David Morgenstern have been a complete pleasure. We are fortunate to have both of them.

As I have watched our new rabbi become part of our community I have given some thought to what we should expect in the coming months. Some things will be different, though many more will be the same. Personally, I am looking forward to new experiences, whether it is Rabbi Gottlieb's guitar playing, different prayers or melodies, some variations in our traditions, or Ricki's beautiful singing. With the help of feedback from and discussions with our community, I am confident Rabbi Gottlieb will strike a good balance with our many beloved traditions.

I would encourage each of you to be as much a part of this transition as possible. Meet the Rabbi, come to services, join Rabbi Gottlieb for his Elul class (preparation for the High Holidays) on four successive Tuesdays starting September 6th, call the office and ask how you can help. Most of all please help welcome Rabbi Gottlieb and Ricki into the BIJ family. And while you are doing that, share your hopes and dreams for BIJ. There is no better way for Rabbi Gottlieb to learn about BIJ than from our members.

Friends, the High Holy Days are right around the corner. It is a time when we each take stock of ourselves and take a sort of mental and moral inventory. It is also a time when we come together as a community. I can think of no better time for all of us to be a community together with Rabbi Gottlieb and to make BIJ the vibrant Jewish home we all desire.

Joshua Goodman

President, Board of Trustees



Become a 'Shabbat Greeter'

At BIJ, we pride ourselves on our warmth and hospitality. We want everyone who visits our congregation to be able to say, "I felt welcome at BIJ."

As an important member of our community, please consider participating as a Shabbat service greeter any time you arrive early to a service.

No need to sign up, just stand at the sanctuary entrance and greet your fellow congregants with a friendly smile and a "Shabbat Shalom."