

BJBE Youth Engagement: Make It an AND



Youth Engagement Team

- **Kelly Goldberg**, Director of Youth & Family Engagement and Chai School Principal



- **Lauren Sandoval**, KYG Advisor and Religious & Hebrew School Song Leader
- **Eddie Simon**, JYG & SYG Advisor and 7th grade & Chai School teacher



Eddie and Lauren heading out last summer to the Youth Engagement Conference at HUC!

KYG, JYG, SYG

- BJBE has 3 youth groups for 3rd – 12th grade students!
- We have programs scheduled all year long!



To locate the dates and details of youth group programs:

- Portals book
- Website under the Youth tab
- *This Week at BJBE* email

K'tanim (*little ones*) Youth Group (KYG)

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade

- Young children can experience Jewish community at an early age.



Jack and Jordan really enjoy the variety of programming KYG offers, especially the sporting events! The staff is really great too!

-Steffanie Pinsky, BJBE parent

K'tanim (*little ones*) Youth Group (KYG)

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade

- Young children can experience Jewish community at an early age.
- KYG offers monthly events (overseen by Lauren) in and outside the Temple and also combines with the older youth groups 3x a year.
- KYG is a great way for Hebrew and Religious School friends to connect and have fun!



All Youth Groups Chocolate Passover Seder

Jack and Jordan really enjoy the variety of programming KYG offers, especially the sporting events! The staff is really great too!

-Steffanie Pinsky, BJBE parent

Junior Youth Group (JYG) 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade

- JYG is an amazing opportunity for our teens and tweens to experience Judaism in new ways, make new friends, and have fun!
- We have monthly programming, run by our youth advisor (Eddie).

[My daughter] says that the activities are great because they get to learn a lot of things while having fun! 😊

-Marni Cooper, BJBE parent



JYG volunteers at a Just Harvest!

Junior Youth Group (JYG)

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade

- JYG is an amazing opportunity for our teens and tweens to experience Judaism in new ways, make new friends, and have fun!
- We have monthly programming, run by our youth advisor (Eddie).
- Events happen both within the temple, and also include outings to places like laser tag, soup kitchens, etc.
- JYG also partners with SYG and PADS to cook and serve meals to the homeless throughout the year!

[My daughter] says that the activities are great because they get to learn a lot of things while having fun! 😊

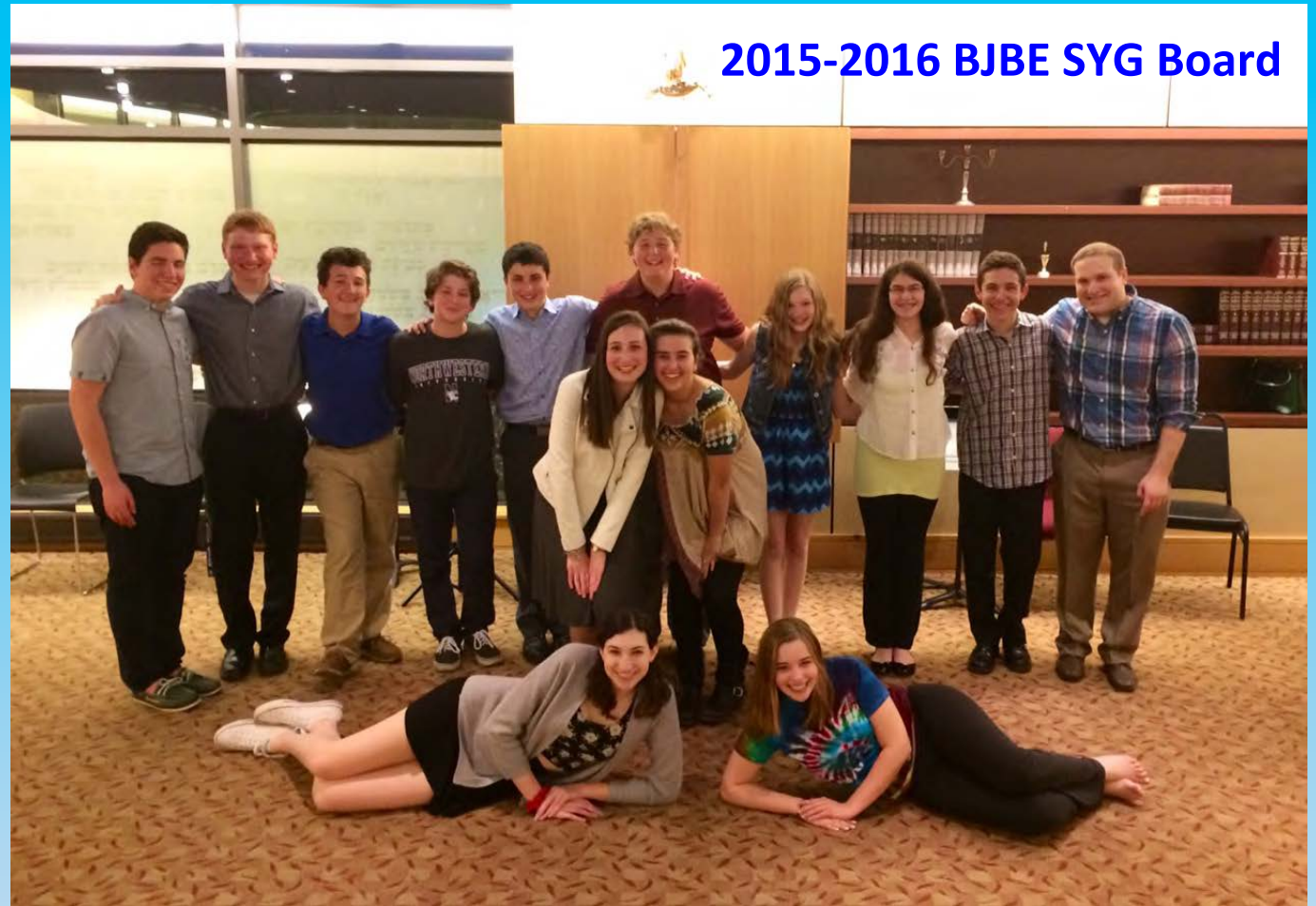
-Marni Cooper, BJBE parent



JYG cooks for PADS!

Senior Youth Group (SYG) 9th-12th Grade

- SYG is an active Jewish community open to all our high school students
- Our SYG is run almost entirely by an elected board of teenagers (overseen by Kelly & Eddie).



"{My son} is full of spirit (religious and woowoo) he loves his community here at BJBE and has loved being involved in youth group. He has a group of friends here, he enjoys being part of something bigger than himself and helping out, not to mention all the fun! His favorite activities have been going to the Bulls games and shul-ins. Youth group has led him to NFTY which he also enjoys, especially at OSRUI retreats!"

-Bonnie Koss, SYG Parent

Senior Youth Group (SYG) 9th-12th Grade

- SYG is an active Jewish community open to all our high school students
- Our SYG is run almost entirely by an elected board of teenagers (overseen by an Kelly & Eddie).
- SYG is a great opportunity for the teenagers of BJBE to continue to explore their Jewish identities in a fun and supportive environment.



Hanging in the city with our friends at Anshe Emet

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Senior Youth Group (SYG)

9th-12th Grade

- SYG has multiple events a month, ranging from planned programs and outings, to community service (such as working with PADS), to just hanging out during monthly free dinner lounge nights!
- SYG also has a very active presence in NFTY-CAR... (see next slide)



First free dinner/monthly lounge night of the year!

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North American Federation of Temple Youth-Chicago Area Region (NFTY-CAR)

- NFTY is a chance for all the youth groups from the area temples to come together!
- During quarterly events, facilitated by the regional board, Reform Jewish teens learn, pray, make new friends and have fun together!



BJBE at NFTY Summer Kallah 2015

North American Federation of Temple Youth-Chicago Area Region (NFTY-CAR)

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- BJBE has a very active presence at NFTY, filling many leadership roles, including the current NFTY-CAR regional president Ashley Jones (who started at BJBE in preschool and grew up going to OSRUI for summer camp!)



**3 of NFTY's Regional Officers are BJBE kids!
Left to Right: Ashley Jones, Julia Dennen, Eli Straus**

Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI)

- Lots of BJBE kids spend their summers at OSRUI.
- And many of them go year after year...
- Until they are old enough to be on **staff**!
- OSRUI brings a lifetime of friends by incorporating Judaism and growth opportunities at an overnight camp that is guaranteed to be....
- A summer of absolute FUN!



**For more information, go to:
[osrui.urjcamps.org!](http://osrui.urjcamps.org)**



Our Machoniks Rock! (Teen Teaching Assistants)

- A machonik is an 8th-12th grade teen who assists Hebrew, Keva, Trop, and Religious School teachers.
- During the 3rd trimester of 7th grade, students can elect to take the Machonik-In-Training (MIT) class with Kelly, Eddie, and Peter Meyerhoff.



- 7th grade MIT's explore different styles of teaching, the importance of meeting all learners' needs, classroom management styles, and optimal classroom environments for learning about Judaism and Hebrew.
- In small groups, each MIT helps prepare and teach a lesson to a Religious School class at Caruso, as the culminating MIT course experience.

Our Machoniks Rock! (Teen Teaching Assistants)

- All 8th-12th grade machoniks gather in August for a start of the year training session. Each year the focus of the training is unique.

*Sir Kenneth Robinson's
[Changing Education Paradigms](#)

*Bernie's Book Bank

*Feed My Starving Children



Our Machoniks Rock! (Teen Teaching Assistants)



- Machoniks gather every 3-4 weeks as a community to discuss their challenges, successes and experiences with Kelly.
- Twice a year, machonik meetings are devoted to lesson planning in small groups, so that the machoniks can teach in their classrooms.
- Many of our machoniks have decided to study education in college because of their experiences as machoniks.
- As machoniks in the K-7th grade Religious and Hebrew Schools, BJBE teens learn how to be leaders in the classroom, collaborative problem-solvers, and serve as role-models to the younger BJBE students.
- And they even earn a small wage 😊.

Chai School: Your teen's Jewish education continues, through friendship and community...



Chai School: Your teen's Jewish education continues...

- After their b'nai mitzvah, our students are ready to take their Jewish identities to the next level.
- Chai school provides our teens the opportunity to explore their adolescent selves through a Jewish lens, while asking *all the right questions* of their trained master teachers and clergy.
- From 12-1:30 on Sundays, 8th-12th graders gather for lunch and community followed by Jewish learning.



Chai School: your teen's Jewish education continues... 8th and 9th Grades

- Every 3 weeks students are divided by grade and by gender to participate in the **nationally recognized, award-winning Moving Traditions program**. Males and females have a chance to discuss challenging adolescent questions in a sacred setting led by trained teachers – Cantor Green, Kelly, Eddie, and Mike Goldberg.
- During the other weeks, students elect to take *Acts of Loving Kindness* or *Jewish Current Events*. Speakers and hands-on-learning are the norm.



Chai School: Your teen's Jewish education continues... Confirmation - 10th Grade

- With the clergy and Kelly, 10th graders explore the question: *Are you a Jew by birth or a Jew by choice?*
- The culminating class experience is a personal essay that articulates why each confirmant's Jewish identity : *I am a Jew because...*
- The students share a portion of their essays during a powerful Confirmation ceremony in May.



Chai School: Your teen's Jewish education continues...

Post-Confirmation - 11th and 12th Grades

- 11th and 12th graders study with the clergy and master teachers in a college seminar-like setting.
- Topics vary according to the questions looming amongst the teens, and have included: the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic BDS movement on colleges; the New Testament from a Jewish perspective; and meditation.
- This year the students will explore their God concepts.



T R I P S The Ultimate Engagement Opportunity

E E N



2/3 of the Kolin/Israel Teen Trip participants of June, 2015

SYG Winter Retreat w/Beth Am & Temple Chai

- Every Winter, SYG joins our friends from two other temples for a special weekend at OSRUI!
- Each aspect of the weekend is **planned** by our **teen leaders!**
- This event is also our introduction into SYG programming for our 8th graders.



L'Taken Social Justice Seminar at the Religious Action Center (RAC)

- Every other year, BJBE's teens join over 200 Reform Jewish teens from all over the country for a weekend in Washington DC.
- Guided by Cantor Frost and Eddie Simon, they meet with staff from the **Religious Action Center (RAC)**, the lobbying arm of the Reform movement.



BJBE Teens heading out to DC!

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- A life-changing weekend that builds character, leadership skills, and life-long friendships for our teens.



Hebrew Union College (HUC) Trip

- Every few years, the teens are invited to accompany Rabbi Stoller to HUC in Cincinnati for a weekend of learning with renowned HUC professors.



- Students also have fun getting to know each other better, as they take in the local culture, as well as learn about the important role Cincinnati played in Reform Judaism.

Kolin/Israel Teen Trip

We Journey home to honor their memories.



Overlooking Prague!



For the past 3 decades, every 3 years, BJBE teens travel to Kolin, Czech Republic. First, they fundraise to ensure that any BJBE teen who wants to journey to Kolin, the town from where our Holocaust Torah Scroll originated, can do so. Then, they journey to the Czech Republic to visit Prague, Terezin (Holocaust concentration camp), and to tend to the graves of those who perished in the Holocaust and would otherwise be forgotten.



Kolin/Israel Teen Trip

From destruction to rebirth, the teens, led by Rabbi Kedar & Ezra, travel to Israel, and experience Israel like no other group. This past June, 27 teens embarked on this experience of a lifetime.



Role of BJBE Parents:

Help Jewish youth engagement be an AND to your children's extra-curriculars

- We = partners!
- Since some of these programs can be expensive, BJBE is here to help! We have full and partial scholarships available. No teen is ever turned away due to financial hardship!
- In addition to the significant time and energy you've committed to your children's Jewish education, help them continue exploring their Jewish selves by selecting from the smorgasbord of youth offerings at BJBE and through NFTY.

Contact us with Questions!

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