



B'NAI JEHOSHUA BETH ELOHIM
where *community* matters

Volunteer Appreciation Shabbat

May 19, 2023

28 Iyar 5783

*"And all of the people who volunteered to contribute to the work of the
Eternal, gave their gifts freely and of the heart."*

Exodus 35:29



A Blessing of Gratitude

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ:

Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'rek

You sustain and nourish us
with the sacred wisdom and traditions of our people,
Teaching Torah to us and to our children:
may God bless you and keep you.

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:

Y'a-eir Adonai panav eilecha vichunecha

You work alongside us to bring
the light of justice and compassion to God's broken world:
may God's face shine upon you,
and may God always be gracious to you.

יֵשָׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיֵּשֶׁם לָךְ שְׁלוֹם:

Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yaseim l'cha shalom

You bear witness to our lives and accompany us on our journey;
you help us elevate our consciousness
and search in every hour for God's presence in our lives:
for your dedication to our community,
may God lift your hearts
and grant you wholeness, fulfillment, and peace.

We are so grateful to all of our volunteers! If you are looking for ways to get involved, please see below for the opportunities and programs that we have at BJBE.

BJBE Caring Community

Contact: Erin Rosenberg (erin.rosen@gmail.com)

Our Caring Community does the sacred work of supporting members of our congregational community during times of need. We provide meals and rides to grocery stores and doctors' appointments, make wellness calls and monthly check-ins for folks unable to leave their homes, prepare and send condolence cards and bags of hope for grieving congregants, and call every member of the congregation during the High Holy Days.

Project Nourish

Contact: Merrilee Waldron (memi660@aol.com)

Once a month, volunteers gather in BJBE's kitchen to pack and deliver lunches to help feed people who are food insecure. The lunches are distributed to neighborhood residents at a church near the United Center and at Staben House in Waukegan.

PADS (Providing Advocacy, Dignity, and Shelter)

Contact: Ruth Miller (oogiyot@comcast.net)

PADS of Lake County is a community-based organization that provides trauma-informed support, resources, and shelter to individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis.

Nourish our Northshore Neighbors

Contact: Laurie Weissler (lweissler@senecastrategy.com)

BJBE supports the Moraine Township Monthly Food Bag Program by providing food to local students and their families who are in need. Our program allows students at Oak Terrace Elementary School in Highland Park to go home each Friday with a backpack filled with food for the weekend.

Gleanings

Contact: Melanie Berkowitz (melanie.h.berkowitz@gmail.com)

Once a month during the summer and fall, BJBE members volunteer at the Deerfield Farmers Market, collecting unsold produce and distributing it to individuals in need. This is a great project for families with young children.

Deerfield Free Store

Contact: Erin Dubin (deerfieldfreestore@gmail.com)

Deerfield Free Store's mission is to provide recently immigrated refugees and displaced individuals with essential household items, enabling them to create a home environment in their new surroundings within the Chicagoland area.

Refugee Welcome & Resettlement Campaign

Contact: Joel Newton (joel74@gmail.com)

In early 2022, BJBE cosponsored an Afghan refugee with HIAS / JCFS Chicago. This year, BJBE welcomed and continue to support a Ukrainian family. Please reach out to Joel if you would like to be a part of this or similar efforts.

Social Justice Taskforces

Are you looking to get more involved in the social justice work of the synagogue? Congregants have come together to form three taskforces to relate, learn, and act. Reach out to the people below to learn more!

Abortion Access Task Force - Contact: Marti Greenberg (martigreenberg@gmail.com)

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group - Contact: Melanie Berkowitz (melanie.h.berkowitz@gmail.com)

Addressing Antisemitism Working Group - Contact: Joel Newton (joel74@gmail.com)

RAC-IL

Website: <https://rac.org/take-action/rac-your-state/rac-il>

The Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL) is organizing the Reform Jewish community to act collectively to build a more just and compassionate Land of Lincoln for All.

Maot Chitim

Contact: Brian Aronson (briana@aronsonassociates.com)

Twice a year, at Rosh Hashanah and Passover, we partner with Maot Chitim to pack and deliver boxes of food to people in the Chicago area who are in need. Participants must be at least 12-years-old to participate in warehouse activities.

Fall & Spring Blood Drives

Contact: Rich Goldberg (bjbeblooddrive@gmail.com)

BJBE volunteers coordinate a blood drive with Vitalant to help Chicagoans in need of blood and blood products. Even those who cannot donate are welcome to support our drives.

BJBE Sisterhood

Contact: infobjesisterhood@gmail.com

Sisterhood volunteers run the Judaica shop, organize the rummage sale and the Chanukah Boutique, and create social, holiday, and interfaith programs and celebrations. Sisterhood also fundraises for BJBE, our education programs, Shabbat Oneg, and local, national, and international charities.

BJBE Libraries

Contact: Shelley Riskin (bookjoy1@gmail.com)

Our library in the Village Center and school library in the JLC are lovingly cared for by volunteers. We purchase and accept donations of high-quality, high-interest, mostly new books for congregants and guests to enjoy. The displays rotate based on the holiday and season.

In addition to the efforts above, we honor and extend gratitude to all of our volunteers:

Backyard Bash Committee
BJBE Board of Trustees
B'nai Mitzvah Date Setters
Candidate Forum Organizers &
Volunteers
Education Committee
High Holy Day Choir
L'dor Va'dor Ensemble
High Holy Day Musicians
High Holy Day Ushers
JLC & Chava Center Volunteers

Kol Simchah Junior Choir
MLK Day of Service Volunteers
Rabbi Fenster Farewell Committee
Search Committees
SYG Board
Office & Yahrzeit Plaque Volunteers
Purim & Spiel Committees
Torah Chanters
Virtual Sukkah Builders
Volunteer Fair Team

Upcoming Events

Spring Havdalah

Saturday, May 20th | 4:00-5:30pm

P'nei Shabbat - Shabbat in the Round

Friday, May 26th | 6:00pm

Fenster's Favorites

Monday, May 22nd | 7:30pm

Shabbat Service

with Consulate General of Israel Yinam Cohen

Friday, June 2nd | 6:00pm

Time to (Torah on) Tap Out!

Wednesday, May 24th | 7:30pm

Rabbi Fenster Farewell

Shabbat Service and Festive Oneg

Friday, June 9th | 6:00pm

Community-wide Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Thursday, May 25th | 7:00pm | at Am Shalom

Rabbi Fenster Farewell

Kol Shabbat Service and Luncheon

Saturday, June 10th | 9:30am

Shavuot Festival Service with Yizkor

Friday, May 26th | 9:30am