



Welcome to BJEP!

My name is Cantor Jeri Robins and I am BJEP's Education Director. We are so excited to welcome you to see our engaging and innovative program. I have been working in Jewish education for the last decade, in the classroom, at overnight camp, and in administrative roles, in addition to working in synagogues as a Cantor. I have a passion for Jewish education and lifelong learning.

What makes learning possible?

As a student and a teacher, a parent and a clergyperson, I think about learning and what makes a successful learning experience. First is feeling free to be yourself and having the space to grow. Second is being part of a nurturing, caring community that provides relationships that allow us to be open to trying new things and taking risks. Third is creating experiences that are fun and "sticky" - the things that stay with us beyond "what did you do today?" after a morning of classes. Finally, all of these elements need to come together in an environment that fosters learning and supports a variety of learning styles. BJEP is that kind of place.

How do we build Jewish identity?

BJEP is special for many reasons. While our families hail from a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds, they are all here to provide a strong Jewish educational experience for their children. We have families with one partner who comes from a faith tradition other than Jewish, single-parent households, and members of the LGBTQ community. We have families who belong to a synagogue and many who do not. Wherever you are on your Jewish journey, we are here to support you and your choices. BJEP is that kind of place.

Our teachers are Brandeis students, with experience as camp counselors and as *Madrichim* (classroom aides) in their home religious schools. They bring energy, a love of Judaism and children, and a desire to inspire the next generation to all of their lessons. Together, we form a home-school partnership that works to instill a strong sense of Jewish values and identity through our stories and learning to read Hebrew that will take our students through to Bar/Bat Mitzvah and beyond. BJEP is that kind of place.

I am always available to answer your questions. I welcome your feedback, ideas and friendship.

L'Shalom / Towards peace,

Cantor Jeri Robins

BJEP Director

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