

BJEP



**A welcoming, innovative, and independent Jewish Sunday school program
Grades K-7**

Learn with our all-Brandeis student teachers
BJEP@Home remote program
Eventually, back on the Brandeis University campus

Thank you! We are so grateful to collaborate in many ways with Brandeis University, Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), Gateways, PJ Library, Jewish Families & Children's Services, Brandeis Heller MBA Social Impact Program, Waltham Cultural Council, Brandeis Manginah A Capella, and more organizations.



Learn more: www.bjep.org

Engage:   @BJEP1

Community Director Rabbi Myra Meskin
Director@bjep.com, 781-386-7278

Rabbi Myra's Desk: Welcome to BJEP!



Thank you for taking the time to learn about how BJEP's program will build your child's Jewish identity, and provide the necessary tools to help guide your family on your Jewish journey.

When I attended BJEP's first-ever *virtual* Town Hall, soon after joining as BJEP's Community Director, I was overwhelmed by the warmth in this community's welcome, and of the possibilities to lead at this critical moment. A little bit about me: I have a background in experiential Jewish education, and use these skills, along with my training as a Rabbi, to build BJEP a strong learning environment for our children, and a meaningful community for our families. Together with the Board and our wonderful Brandeis college-aged teachers, I am deeply invested in providing you with an innovative, high quality, and fun BJEP experience.

I want to acknowledge that the events of the past year have been a difficult time, and each of us has been affected in different ways. What is heartening though, is that the BJEP community has adapted to new models of learning. While the pandemic may have forced the pace of adoption, the option for remote learning presents a path forward for hybrid learning that will outlast these unprecedented times. On snow days we can easily transition to our remote learning model for BJEP@home, and we can continue to open ourselves to new opportunities - like we did for our virtual pop-ups for Shabbat, our teacher-led Zoomy Purim Spiel, Matzah baking, and the first night of Hanukkah, and a guided virtual museum tour live from Tel Aviv - that we would never have pursued otherwise.

Following the trend of other local programs like ours, we maintained a remote learning program this year, and provided our Brandeis student teachers with new training in engagement on virtual learning platforms, and leveraged innovative remote learning tools. As well, we took the time to update our curriculum, enhance our Hebrew instruction methodology, and think creatively about community and adult programming. In our 54th year, we will look for opportunities to gather in safe, outdoor spaces, such as our October Sunday spent at Autumn Hills Orchard for learning about eco-Judaism. We will continue to monitor Brandeis guidelines for when our organization can return to campus.

Our Jewish community - its support through difficult times, and its capacity for filling our lives with meaning - is ongoing, and has survived more difficult trials than this. Our task is to rise to the challenge, and to continue investing in future generations of the Jewish people, by renewing our dedication to our children's growing Jewish identities. Check out [this link](#) from BJEP's 2020 virtual Town Hall to hear about [my personal history](#) and vision for BJEP, as well as some of our new program offerings for the 2020-21 academic year. Hear from our current teachers in this [Welcome message](#).

May this be a year where we are able to see our values brought to life through the beauty and joy of community. I am here to talk with you about the BJEP program, and should you choose to join our community officially, I look forward to hearing how I can support you as your community Rabbi. Please get in touch to say hello.

Warmly,
Rabbi Myra

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myra'.

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Rabbi Myra Meskin
Community Director, BJEP
director@bjep.com | <http://bjep.org/>
pronouns: she/her/hers



BJEP Board / Welcome

Welcome to BJEP, and thank you in advance for considering entrusting us with the Jewish education of your child(ren) and making us your family's future 'Sunday morning home.'

We believe that a Jewish education matters more than ever these days, helping our students navigate a complicated and changing world. Our program builds a Jewish identity for our kids, showcases our culture and reflects our Jewish values, morals and social responsibility. When you consider why BJEP, note that BJEP offers

- An inclusive, welcoming community that offers flexibility for our families;
- Passionate Brandeis college-age teachers who deliver engaging lessons, model Jewish values, and bring their energy and excitement to their classrooms.
- Program where our children enjoy experiential learning through an engaging curriculum that offers hands on activities for our younger students and electives starting from grade 3, such as cooking, music, art, Krav Maga and the 6-minute story.
- Time-efficient, meeting just once a week in a central location at Brandeis University, and for now, with BJEP@Home, our remote learning offering.
- Cost-effective, especially compared with other membership-based education programs.
- Not just for kids. Parents, family members and caregivers can learn during BJEP hours too, with family education and adult programs, such as Parenting Through a Jewish Lens.

As a parent cooperative, we invite parents to choose a parent/caregiver role based on your interests, skills, or where you see a good fit to help the school run smoothly. Examples of roles include: Zoom support, supporting our Purim Carnival, greeting families and guests at our High Holiday family services, managing content on our website and in social media, fostering community with parents and, joining the Board to implement BJEP's strategic plan. We are so grateful in 2021 to welcome Nick and Sazia to the BJEP Board, who join us from the Brandeis Heller MBA Social Impact Program.

Rabbi Myra Meskin has led a dynamic program and group of Brandeis teachers in our BJEP@Home program, and we look forward to her second year to guide, teach, inspire and bring joy to our children and families. And, for years to come. Find Rabbi Myra's blog post on [What does Jewish community do for me](#) on our website. The values that Rabbi Myra articulates in her piece are the values we strive to instill at BJEP, and that Brandeis University student teacher, [Alex Friedman](#), shared with his 7th grade class: *'I'll tell you why I'm here. I'm here for you. This 'being Jewish' thing, it's permanent when almost nothing else ever is.'*

BJEP is a special place to learn and grow, and each family adds to our unique character and culture. We sincerely hope you choose to become a part of our vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community.

Feel free to get in touch with questions: bjepboard@bjep.com. We look forward to speaking with you and, hopefully, to speaking with you @Home and eventually back on the BJEP quad in our corner of the Brandeis campus.

Warmly,

BJEP Board of Directors: Jodi, Aly, Dana, Louis, Karen, Nick, Rachel, Sazia and BJEP's Advisory Council

BJEP Calendar 2021-2022

March 2021, subject to adjustments

Grades K – 7th grade

Reference separate Seedlings calendar

	Learning Sessions *Parent chat w/Board ^Open Board Meetings	Family Programs / Community-wide and Public programs Meets on the Brandeis campus unless otherwise noted as a *BJEP@Home event*
June		*June – Community program, details forthcoming*
July		*July 25/10am - New Family Open House, RSVP*
Aug		Aug 22/4pm – New Family Open House, RSVP* Aug: Teacher Orientation
Sept	19*, 26	Sept 5: BJEP@Home cooking event Sept: Rosh Hashanah Family Services, details to follow Sept 16: Yom Kippur Family Services, details to follow Sept 19: Opening Day! All Family and Grades Opening Day Zoom “Circle” + parent chat Sept 26: Sukkot on the Farm
Oct	3, 10, 17*, 24^	Oct 17: Parent walk & Brandeis Rose Art Museum tour *Oct 29: All family Welcome Shabbat *Oct 31 (tbc): B’Nai Mitzvah Parent information session + chat*
Nov	7, 14*, 21	*Nov 28: Hanukkah Lights Pop-up Candle lighting, Singing loudly optional*
Dec	5*, 12^	Dec 5: Community wide Hanukkah festivities, all family welcome program Dec 24: Gift wrapping at local toy store fundraiser
Jan	16*, 23*, 30	*Jan 9 – New Family Open House (virtual)* Jan 16, 10-11 – Mitzvah Day/Tu B’Shvat Jan 23 – New Family Open House
Feb	6*^, 13	*Date tbc: Family Pop up event*
Mar	6*, 13, 20*, 27	*Mar: Family Program Purim Pop-up Spiel* Mar 20: Purim Carnival and 2022-2023 Enrollment Opens
Apr	3^, 10*, 24	Apr 10 – All Family Passover Seder Apr 24: 6 th grade Legacy Program Showcase* Apr 28: Yom HaShoah community wide event
May	1*	May 1: Grade 7 Graduation and all school End of Year Celebration *Town Hall, date forthcoming* *May date: B’nai Mitzvah Program meeting* *May 16: New Family Open House, RSVP*

Electives/Grades 3-7: themes change weekly, prior year included Krav Maga martial arts, Jeopardy, Baking, Dance, 6-minute story writing workshop, Art, Debate and more. Registered families receive weekly emails with added details.

Other Partnership Opportunities: [Family Table](#) food pantry and distribution (with Jewish Family & Children Services), Parenting Through a Jewish Lens adult learning class (through Hebrew College) date(s) to be confirmed Spring 2021. Learn about the [PJ Library](#) program that sends free award-winning books to your child at home. Find a full list of those [organizations we collaborate with here](#).

BJEP Calendar 2021-2022 / Seedlings program only, ages 4 and 5

March 2021, subject to adjustments

BJEP Seedlings Program: Through movement, song and art, we offer your child a joyful day enriched with Jewish traditions and values. Our Brandeis student teachers lead a warm, fun, family oriented, Jewish learning environment which builds a community of families with young children. *We are excited to meet your family and begin this Jewish journey together!* Learn more: <http://bjep.org/programs/seedlings/>

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July		*July 25/10am - New Family Open House, RSVP*
Aug		Aug 22/4pm – New Family Open House, RSVP* Aug: Teacher Orientation
Sept	19* 26	Sept 5: BJEP@Home cooking event Sept: Rosh Hashanah Family Services, details to follow Sept 16: Yom Kippur Family Services, details to follow Sept 19: Opening Day! All Family and Grades Opening Day Zoom “Circle” + parent chat Sept 26: Sukkot on the Farm/Orchard (optional for Seedlings)
Oct	17*	Oct 17: Parent walk & Brandeis Rose Art Museum tour *Oct 29: All family Welcome Shabbat
Nov	14*	*Nov 28: Hanukkah Lights Pop-up Candle lighting, Singing loudly optional*
Dec	5*	Dec 5: Community wide Hanukkah festivities, all family welcome program Dec 24: Gift wrapping at local toy store fundraiser
Jan	16*	*Jan 9 – New Family Open House (virtual)* Jan 16, 10-11 – Mitzvah Day/Tu B’Shvat
Feb	6*^	*Date tbc: Family Pop up event*
Mar	20*	*Mar: Family Program Purim Pop-up Spiel* Mar 20: Purim Carnival and 2022-2023 Enrollment Opens
Apr	10*	Apr 10 – All Family Passover Seder Apr 24: 6 th grade Legacy Program Showcase* Apr 28: Yom HaShoah community wide event
May		May 1: Grade 7 Graduation and all school End of Year Celebration *Town Hall, date forthcoming* *May 16: New Family Open House, RSVP*

High Holiday Family Services @BJEP's Jewish Sunday school



Family Services: September 2021



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Your invitation awaits to join the BJEP community's all welcoming, inclusive and joyful service for High Holiday Family Services, from the comfort and safety of your home. Participate in community, find meaning in the prayers, sing loudly, learn more and reflect on the year as a family. BJEP's Jewish Sunday School High Holiday family services integrate tradition and creativity, and we welcome all to join us.

Friends and family welcome to join us !

Rabbi Myra Meskin, BJEP Community Director, leads our community in prayer and music as we enter the Jewish New Year (5782). Services run a little over an hour. While children of all ages are welcome, the experience will be most meaningful for children ages 4 and up.

We will learn soon about BJEP's return to the Brandeis campus, and share more about our ability to conduct in-person services or @Home services. On Rosh Hashanah, in lieu of a Kiddush on site, we invite our guests to welcome the New Year with a glass of wine or juice, apples and honey, challah and or food item of your choosing, immediately following the service.

RSVP/Per family ticket pricing: *Coming soon !*

Per family ticket Price: \$136 per BJEP family, BJEP alum, Brandeis community. All others \$180. Find the [PayPal](#) link on our donation page. Other Questions? please contact our Director at director@bjep.com.



BJEP 2021-2022 Tuition and Registration Checklist

1. Review our [Enrollment and Information Guide](#).
2. Complete the online [Registration form](#).
3. Complete or schedule tuition payment (we can help, find more details when you register)
4. Send a family picture to Rabbi Myra director@bjep.com

Summary of Tuition and Program Fees**:

BJEP Seedlings (Pre-K/K: 4 & 5 year olds): 8 Sessions Once per month between September and April	\$318
Grades K, 1-2	\$1,250
Grades 3-7, includes Electives and additional programming	\$1,650
Credit card payments added \$50 convenience fee per student	\$50
BJEP Strong & Chesed/Caring Community Fund	At Family discretion, during registration
Tickets for High Holiday Family Services (Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur).	\$136 per BJEP family, BJEP alum, and member of the Brandeis Community. \$180, all others.
New Family discount (code 'BJEP2021), by June 1, 2021 (all non-Seedlings program)	(\$150)
Sibling discount	(\$100) for additional child

Payment options available, inclusive of monthly payments via Smart Tuition. A non-refundable **and** non-transferable deposit of \$250 per child reserves a place in the class. No tuition refunds are granted after the third session of classes.

Parent Cooperative Jobs: we rely on families to help make the BJEP program tick, as many hands make light work. Each parent signs up for **at least one** BJEP parent role per student registered during registration. We love - and are very grateful - when we see families take on more than one job and lend their talents in various ways. Serving on BJEP's Parent Board counts as a job, and is a time efficient way to lend your voice and give back. Please contact us with any job-related questions, or skills we can tap into.

Madrichim Teen Program: BJEP Graduates are encouraged to continue as Madrichim in grades 8-12. Madrichim are an integral part of our classroom communities and are paid a stipend. They assist classroom teachers, support student learning and provide continuity for the BJEP community. They are required to attend all BJEP sessions and staff development trainings. Get in touch with Rabbi Myra to discuss the Madrichim program.

Learn more: [BJEP Registration page](#).

**BJEP is committed to providing a quality Jewish education for any child – if cost is prohibitive for your family, please reach out to our Community Director, Rabbi Myra Meskin at director@bjep.com.