



BHBE's Pride Weekend, June 23-25

Welcome to Pride Shabbat! We hope today's service provides us with a platform to think about and discuss how our Jewish values inform us to be advocates for LGBTQ+ rights, equality, and inclusion.

Today's kiddush has been sponsored by members of the BHBE LGBTQ+ Inclusion Committee and enhanced by many congregants, and a Sisterhood donation. Thank you to each of you who contributed to the kiddush as well as to the expenses for this weekend.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Crane who has been 100% supportive of BHBE Pride Weekend and has offered his wisdom in its planning. A sincere thank you to Rabbi Crane, Cantor Roytman, Rabbi Dickman, Jay Goldstein and Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg for their efforts to make today's services meaningful to each of us. Special thanks to Cynthia Lerner, our BHBE President, for her full support of this initiative, and to Jessica Littmann for her wise advice.

Many, many thanks to the members of the LGBTQ+ Inclusion Committee for contributing their time, talent, and financial donations to make this weekend a success. Very special thanks go to Rabbi Crane for helping defray the costs of BHBE's participation in the Pride Parade, to Jay Goldstein and Marc Matlin for a generous gift, to Randi and Rob Feder and Laurie and Joel Feinstein for underwriting the cost of the Pride Parade t-shirts, to Randi Feder for organizing our Pride Parade participation and publicity efforts, to Shoshanna Reynolds for spearheading the amazingly successful challah sale, to Harriet Ost-Robbins for writing the handout of LGBTQ+ Inclusion history at BHBE, to Marcie Eskin for her *Library Lines* article in the *May/June Bulletin* focusing on LGBTQ+ books with Jewish content and for the Rotunda display today, to Jay Goldstein, Rabbi Crane and Michael Kahn for getting BHBE included in Keshet for LGBTQ Equality in Jewish Life's *Equality Directory*.

A TREMENDOUS thank you to the people behind the scenes who make sure everything runs smoothly. They have bent over backwards to help with this weekend: Michael Kahn, Jackie Ernest, Marsha Lyons, Barbara Ungar and Percy Ferguson. *Their contributions cannot be underestimated.* We're very happy that BHBE is partnering with other synagogues and Jewish organizations, under the umbrella of Keshet for LGBTQ Equality in Jewish Life. Keshet and Jackie Maris, Keshet's Chicago Education & Training Manager, have been invaluable resources.

We hope you enjoyed kicking off the weekend at Shabbat at the Beach and that we'll see many of you tomorrow marching with us in the 54th Annual Chicagoland Pride Parade. See the BHBE website and newsletter for details.

Shabbat shalom,

Susan D. Kay, Chair (pronouns: she/her/hers)

Current members of the BHBE LGBTQ+ Inclusion Committee

Diane Cotton Caplan
Rabbi Nate Crane, Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Rene Dickman, Annette W. and
Mel F. Seidenberg Director of Youth and Family
Randi Feder
Joel Feinstein
Laurie Feinstein
Louis Freeman
Jay Goldstein

Marc Matlin
Shoshanna Reynolds
Harriet Robbins-Ost
Ellen Rodin
Melissa Schiffman
Laura Stone
Karen Thirman
Max Weiner