

# Meet the Members

by Todd Wilkof

*The Kaye Family  
Naomi, Brian, Fran & Josh*



## **BJC: What brought you to Oakland, and Beth Jacob?**

When our daughter, Naomi, started Oakland Hebrew Day School during its first year of existence, we were living in Castro Valley and looking for a shul to join. Through OHDS we met Rabbi Howard and Linda Zack and other members of Beth Jacob and they encouraged us to come to services here. When we saw the older men in the congregation giving candy to the kids and wishing them "Good Shabbes," we knew Beth Jacob was a special place. We loved the rabbi and the people here, so we joined the shul. A few years later, we decided to move within walking distance of Beth Jacob so that we could become fully Shomer Shabbat.

## **BJC: Tell us about yourselves.**

Fran is originally from Brooklyn, but was born there by "accident," as she really has a California *neshama*. After she came to U.C. Berkeley to study paleontology in graduate school, she realized that she was a Californian at heart. She is currently a "professional" volunteer and Renaissance woman wanna-be.

Brian was born in Detroit and grew up in Palo Alto. He is a physician (rheumatologist) practicing in Berkeley.

## **BJC: How did you two meet?**

We ate at the kosher dining hall and played in the orchestra together at Princeton University. Our first date was going to an Itzhak Perlman violin recital.

## **BJC: Tell us about your children.**

Our daughter Naomi, almost 21, is a graduate of the first class at both Oakland Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community High School of the Bay. The joke in our family was that she would have to attend a college that already existed! She is now a senior at Sarah Lawrence College in New York. She spent last year studying in Prague and Jerusalem. She is a passionate creative writer and loves the other creative and visual arts as well.

Josh, almost 18, is also a graduate of Oakland Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community High School of the Bay. He is now studying at Yeshivat Shvilei HaTorah in Jerusalem and will matriculate at Brandeis University the following year. Josh has been very active at Beth Jacob serving as gabbai, coordinating the concluding Shabbat services, and serving on the NCSY Board. He is a passionate and knowledgeable baseball fan and also enjoys many other sports.

## **BJC: What are your interests and hobbies?**

Fran has been a violinist since age six. She is now an avid chamber musician and plays regularly with a string quartet and attends a chamber music workshop in southern California each summer. She also enjoys reading, listening to classical music, and learning about as much as possible.

Brian's major hobby these days is volunteering in the Jewish community. He has been president of Beth Jacob, Oakland Hebrew Day School and the Jewish Community High School of the Bay, as well as having served on the Federation Executive Board. He is also a genealogist, philatelist, and enjoys reading, studying Jewish texts, and listening to classical music and college lectures on tape.

## **BJC: Tell us something about yourselves that most people may not know.**

Fran discovered the first whole dinosaur egg (Maisaurus) found in the Western Hemisphere and the first egg of a carnivorous dinosaur (Troodon) ever discovered in the world.

Brian's favorite food is jelly beans, especially Jelly Bellys!

*"Meet the Members"* is a feature of the BJ Beat, intended to help the wonderful members of our community get to know each other (and place a name with a face!)