



Be'chol Lashon *in* 2023

MISSION

Be'chol Lashon celebrates and prioritizes diversity as a Jewish value by uplifting the historic and contemporary racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the Jewish people and in doing so, strengthens the entire Jewish community.

VISION

Be'chol Lashon strives for a Jewish future where the history, holidays, stories, and experiences of Jewish people from racially, culturally, and ethnically diverse backgrounds from around the globe are celebrated by all Jews as an integral part of what it means to be Jewish.

Be'chol Lashon Staff and Board gathered to reflect on our long legacy. During this strategic vision meeting, we updated our Mission and Vision statements.

Over **7,000** people
across **30** organizations

participated in Be'chol Lashon Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) trainings in 2023.



Be'chol Lashon Staff & Board enjoying an Indian feast hosted by Eddna Samuel & Ambassador Jonathan Miller.

AMPLIFYING DIVERSE JEWISH STORIES WITH A NEW WEBSITE

We believe in the power of storytelling. For over a decade, our blog Jewish& has been an outlet for Jews of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to share their unique perspectives and experiences with the world. This year we relaunched Jewish& as its own publication with a **dedicated website** **JewishDiversityStories.org**. Now these stories can shine even brighter than before.

We also launched our **new and improved website**, globaljews.org, where you can find all of our services, educational resources, speakers bureau, and more.





CELEBRATING JEWISH DIVERSITY THROUGH COMICS

Be'chol Lashon was **co-organizer of the inaugural Jewish Comics Experience (JewCE)**, a Jewish comic book convention held at the Center for Jewish History in New York, ensuring that diverse Jewish voices were represented at the event.

Not only did we play a role in **developing educational resources for attendees**, but we also **developed our own comics anthology for the event: Hyphen**.

Be'chol Lashon's Director of Education, Rabbi Ruth Abusch-Magder, Creative Director, Tani Prell, and COO Julian Voloj worked with folks in our network, helping them to tell their stories in comic book form. The anthology, published in partnership with FairSquare Comics, showcases the wide range of diverse Jewish real-life experiences.



Julian Voloj (COO) with illustrator Siona Benjamin.

M² FELLOWSHIP & SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Beza Abebe participated in a ten-month virtual fellowship with M²'s Jewish Pedagogy Fellowships. In this program, Be'chol Lashon researched and developed educational practices that enrich the field of Jewish Peoplehood education and cultivate Jewish collective consciousness.

AMPLIFYING MINORITY VOICES THROUGH STORYTELLING
DR. BEZA ABEBE

What Are We Teaching Towards?
 A Symposium on Jewish Peoplehood and Wellbeing

JOIN US > March 18, 2024
 12:00-2:30 PM ET

At the end of the ten months, each educator presented their pedagogy at the M² Symposium focused on Jewish Peoplehood and Wellbeing. **Dr. Abebe presented her storytelling pedagogy, highlighting the power of authentic storytelling** where a specific Jewish community shares their own experiences. She emphasized that including these stories in mainstream Jewish education is critical for

building Jewish peoplehood. She also presented the Dream Accordion Curriculum as a sample tool to teach the story of Sigd, an Ethiopian Jewish holiday.

Z3 CONFERENCE

At the annual Z3 Conference in November, hosting over 1,200 Jewish professionals and educators, **Dr. Beza Abebe presented the families of the Israeli hostages as an example of the power of storytelling.**



CONNECTING CULTURES: A DANCE & CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Director of Strategic Advancement **Melina Rosenberg represented Be'chol Lashon in the 2023 cohort of the We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate**, a JCRC initiative in partnership with the Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes. This was our second year participating in the fellowship.

We spearheaded a Juneteenth celebration, harnessing the arts to foster intercultural connections through dancing, food, and meaningful conversation: Melina also taught a partner dancing class and had everyone smiling! The event was organized with fellowship members Fit4Dance, Anomalous Theatre and the Sephardic Community Center and in partnership with NYC's Mayor Adams initiative "Breaking Bread Building Bonds".



Above: Leaders & participants after the NewStyle Hustle dance class
Left: WAABFAH fellows (left to right) Norman Mandel, Jeremy Goren, Laci Chisolm, Melina Rosenberg

GROWING DIVERSE JEWISH LEADERS AT CAMP BE'CHOL LASHON

We saw another successful year of Camp Be'chol Lashon at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma. **Over 60 campers** enjoyed learning about global Jewish diversity, exploring Jewish identity, arts & crafts, outdoor activities, and fostering friendships.

This year our unique multicultural Jewish leadership camp was **featured in an article in AP News.**



Impressions from Camp Be'chol Lashon by AP photographer Jacqueline Martin

SHARING ETHIOPIAN JEWISH CULTURE WITH SIGD CELEBRATIONS

In November we put on a number of **educational and community events to celebrate the Ethiopian Jewish holiday of Sigd.** In Atlanta, Dr. Beza Abebe spoke to 4 classes, totaling **250 students**, at the Epstein School. In addition, Rabbi Ruth Abusch-Magder hosted a **Sigd celebration dinner** at her home with 15 attendees who heard from Beza about Sigd traditions.

We also conducted a **webinar with VCU Hillel** (Richmond, Virginia) and supported a **community Sigd celebration at Tsion Cafe** in New York City.



Ethiopian Jewish families and friends celebrate Sigd at Harlem's Tsion Cafe.



Sigd gathering at the home of Rabbi Ruth in Atlanta.

CREATING A THRIVING JEWISH FUTURE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The inaugural Freedom Campaign launched on Passover in support of our programming. Our yearly campaign runs from Passover, through Shavuot, to Sukkot. The three major festivals in Judaism teach us that freedom comes in many forms: freedom from oppression and slavery (Passover), spiritual freedom and the gift of the Torah (Shavuot) and freedom from economic restraints (Sukkot). It is our call to action: only by working together can we achieve freedom fully.

We are deeply grateful to all those who donated to the inaugural year of the Freedom Campaign, increasing their impact on the Jewish community by helping us secure the full amount of an additional \$125,000 in matching funds.

The Be'chol Lashon Campership Fund launched on Chanukkah for the 15th year of Camp Be'chol Lashon to ensure we keep the lights shining on our future and nurture the Jewish identities of our youth. We have always provided assistance to campers, directing them to the network of available local and national camp scholarship resources, but we have seen the increase in need.

We are deeply grateful to all those who contributed to our Campership Fund. Every child should have the opportunity to experience Jewish joy, and a lack of funds should not be the obstacle. **Thanks to your generosity, all the campers in need were able to receive the financial aid necessary for them to be able to attend camp.**

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

