

COMMUNITY

of a congregation on Boston's South Shore. Before entering rabbinical school, he taught at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, worked at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and New England, and was a youth director at Northfield's Am Yisrael Conservative Congregation.

"Working with young adults is my passion," Ezra said. "When I saw this job, it was really a lot of our interests in one place. It's intentional, it's immersive in that part of the experience is being in our apartment. You're coming into a Jewish world that we are intentionally curating for the people who come into it."

In his previous positions, Ezra found meaning in offering guidance and mentorship to young adults during a "piv-

otal moment in their lives."

"Young adults have an intelligence about them that allows them to ask meaningful questions about the world around them, but there are still a lot of pieces missing from their lives and they don't necessarily know what that is or how to put them in place," Ezra said. "There's a creative energy that comes with working with this population that is exciting and limitless."

Students, young adults, and community members gathered in August to dedicate Ezra and Laura's new home by affixing mezuzahs to the home's doorposts.

"If the first event was any indication of the upcoming year," Cohen said, "the new Base is going to be great." ■



Judy Baar Topinka's son, Joseph, presenting the artwork to Nasatir. Inset: Judy Baar Topinka speaking at a JUF rally in support of Israel in 2012.

A gift from a friend

LATE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER and comptroller Judy Baar Topinka loved estate sales. And if she saw something she thought might make a good gift for someone, she bought it.

When her son, Joseph, discovered the Israel poster in the photo above among her possessions, he knew it belonged at JUF.

In July, Joseph presented it to JUF President Steven B. Nasatir, who fondly remembered Judy as "a true friend of Israel and the Jewish people." Among several examples were her purchases of Israel Bonds for the state.

She also was an increasingly rare type of leader, Nasatir said, eager to engage people of all backgrounds and willing to work with members on both sides of the aisle to make the state and its residents better. Many instances of those efforts are detailed in Joseph's young-adult civics text and biography about his mother, *Just Judy: A Citizen and Leader for Illinois*. ■ ~Joel Schatz

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