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RABBI'S MESSAGE

Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Rabbi Dara Frimmer

In parashat Behukkotai, in the book of Vayikra, we read the following verses: *"I will be ever present in your midst: I will be your God, and you shall be My people. I, Adonai, am your God, who brought you out of the land of the Egyptians to be their slaves no more, who broke the bonds of your yoke and made you walk upright."* (Leviticus 26:12-13)

*I am the One who broke the bonds of your yoke.
I am the One who made you walk upright.*

Two expressions of liberation might be appropriate for an essay on freedom; but for the Torah, a sacred text that uses words sparingly and cautiously, only one is necessary to communicate the sentiment. Is it not obvious that a broken yoke would result in an immediate physical adjustment? Why does God identify as the One who broke our bonds and as the One who made us walk upright?

According to Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehudah Berlin, 1817-1893, God used two expressions of liberation in order to show us the depth of God's commitment to B'nai Yisrael: *"The image presented by this verse is one of an ox that is accustomed to wearing the yoke made for it. The ox keeps its head bowed even when it is not wearing the yoke, as though it knows that the yoke will be placed upon it at any moment. Even when the yoke is taken off, the ox is ready to accept it again after a short while has passed. **The ox is so accustomed to the yoke that even if he sees his master break the yoke and understands from this that he will not be required to plough ever again he nevertheless keeps his head bowed from force of habit, until his master comes and trains him to lift up his head and walk upright.**"*

One expression of liberation would have been enough if God had only released us from slavery; but God brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, taking us on eagle's wings to Har Sinai, and then onto the Promised Land.

One expression of emancipation would have been enough if God had only broken our yoke of oppression; but God remained with us: teaching us, guiding us, and protecting us, as we journeyed through the wilderness.

So, this is what it means to break the yoke and to make one walk upright: It is not enough to break the bonds of oppression; we must also teach one another how to look up and see the world anew. It is not enough to lead someone on the path to freedom; ultimately, we must walk side by side. We cannot only act as redeemer; we must also be a true and enduring partner. This is how we create true and sustainable change. It is about commitment, endurance, partnership and promise: *I will be ever present in your midst.*

...

For two years I've had the privilege of serving as a Marshall T. Meyer Fellow at B'nai Jeshurun. Before that, I was a member. Looking down from the balcony (right side/aisle seat), I thought I saw the secrets to BJ's success. The rich and textured music, the insightful kavannot, the authenticity of leadership, the acceptance of all types of prayer: kinesthetic, charismatic, reflective... But I was

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SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

Showing Our Faces: Panim el Panim, Out and About

This past year has been a busy one for Panim el Panim, BJ's Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative. Even while taking action around BJ on the environment, marriage equality, and women's rights, we've been out and about—building relationships with elected officials, community groups, and other local congregations. And we were featured at a major national conference on congregation-based community organizing (CBCO) in California!

Getting Some Sun

As the February winter gripped New York, eight members of Panim el Panim, together with Guy Austrian, BJ's Director of Social Action/Social Justice, landed in Santa Clara, California for "K'hilot K'doshot: Holy Congregations, Just Communities," sponsored by Jewish Funds for Justice. We were joined by 300 lay leaders and clergy representing 63 synagogues from across the country and across denominations. All are either engaged in, or considering, CBCO to address social justice issues in their communities.

"I experienced firsthand the capacity to build relationships by telling my personal story and really hearing those of others."

—Judith Trachtenberg

Arriving after a six-hour flight, the BJ group hit the ground running and kept at it from 3:00PM on Sunday until noon on Tuesday. Our days and nights were packed with inspiring discussions and workshops, multi-denominational davening, and one-on-one conversations with old and new friends. We also attended a public action at Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, Calif., where 500 congregants and allies put their elected officials on the bimah and won commitments from them to help get health coverage for all the county's residents.

Congregation-based community organizing brings together members of congregations from diverse religious, racial, and economic backgrounds, to form a civic power base capable of advocating for—and winning—concrete improvements in schools, affordable housing, health care, and other dire community needs. At the heart of CBCO are one-on-one conversations that explore our individual passions for pursuing justice as people of faith. Participatory decision-making, leadership development, and engaged spirituality are also hallmarks of this model.

Panim el Panim has been using the CBCO model at BJ, "face to face," for four years. Yet even the "veterans" among us were energized and reinvigorated at the conference. It was transforming to witness and to be part of a large, diverse gathering of Jews (and a few non-Jews!) committed to working together, with kavanah, to tackle some of the most entrenched problems affecting our society.

Finally, as the only synagogue invited to present a workshop at the conference—"Incorporating Spirituality into Synagogue Organizing"—we drew a crowd of 50 people who came to hear about BJ and Panim el Panim. We had them singing a niggun, studying Jewish texts, learning about Marshall T. Meyer, and meditating in silence! The participants also shared their challenges and aspirations as they weave social action themes into services and engage in Jewish learning, spirituality, and music to nourish our responsibility to engage in tikkun olam. The biggest hit was BJ's "Spiritual Foundations of Social Action/Social Justice," a handout with seven key Jewish texts—you can find it at www.bj.org.

"I learned about tzimtzum, contraction, from Rabbi Jonah Pesner who said, 'Power comes from how much space we create for others.' It's so moving because we're imitating God, who created a new world by making space for it. It's a whole other way of thinking about power as developing the leadership of others."

—Rochelle Friedlich

Shaking it Up and Going Out More

Panim el Panim continues to develop and grow and invest in the future. The conference was just one part of this year's exciting efforts. We began the year with a little restructuring. We created a new Coordination Team that is a subset of the Panim el Panim Task Force, our main lay leadership body. The Coordination Team includes representatives from our three action hevras as well as the Task Force co-chairs. It meets twice a month to implement and hone our strategies for moving forward. The Task Force also created a new Relationships Committee to build more bridges among members of the hevras and between Panim el Panim and the broader BJ community.

Meanwhile, we created a new initiative to reach out to city and state elected officials who represent clusters of BJ households. We've been meeting with them to let them know about our priorities and our growing stature as a Jewish community devoted to social justice. And in a fruitful collaboration with BJ's Interfaith Committee and our direct service programs, we've been sitting down with local congregations of various faiths to get to know them and their priorities, in the hopes that we might be partners in making our city a more sacred place. ■

—Rochelle Friedlich, Amy Lavine, Judith Trachtenberg, and Joan Westreich

To find contact info for Panim el Panim's action hevras, see www.bj.org under "Social Action" or call Guy at x259.

UPCOMING LIMUD

Please see the BJ website, www.bj.org, for more information and how to register.**Jewish Practice Skills Workshop: Lifecycle Skills**
Rabbi Dara Frimmer, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow3 Tuesdays (remaining class May 1) • 7:00–8:30PM
• 86th St. Chapel • Cost: Free, registration required.

Explore rituals and practices including bikur holim, shiva, Brit/Baby naming, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, conversion, and funeral.

On The Path To Shavuot: Opening The Heart Through Song
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon5 Wednesdays (remaining classes May 2, 9, 16) • 7:00–8:15PM •
88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration required. As
spiritual preparation to receive Torah on Shavuot, we will
learn piyutim (liturgical poems) and verses from the book of
Psalms set to melodies from different parts of the Jewish
dispersion.**Accompanying A Parent In Their Last Chapter of Life****Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow**3 Thursdays (remaining class May 3) • 7:00–8:30PM • 88th St.
Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration required. When we
accompany our parents standing at the brink, near death, we
experience strong emotions. We will address these experiences in
the light of the psalms and relevant midrashim.**Shabbat: A Sanctuary in Time****Rabbi David Ingber, Chapter 6**Saturday, May 5 • 5:30PM • 86th St. Social Hall
• Cost: Free, registration not required. During the course of
Abraham Joshua Heschel's centennial year, we will read
together as a community Heschel's *The Sabbath*. On the first
Shabbat of each month, a different rabbi/teacher in our
community will teach one chapter through various sources. All
are encouraged to buy the book and bring it to the Shabbat
afternoon sessions (copies of each chapter *will not* be
distributed).**Jewish Practice Skills Workshop: Tzedakah and Gemillut
Hasadim****Rabbi Dara Frimmer, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow**

2 Tuesdays (May 8, 15) • 7:00–8:30PM • 86th St. Chapel • Cost:

Free, registration required. What is tzedakah? In what manner
are we expected to give? How much? How often? To whom?
And what about giving of ourselves beyond money? This class
will explore the nature of giving based on our Jewish textual
tradition and the practices of our modern Jewish community.**Teacher in Residence Shabbat: Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg
In Memory of BJ Member Ceil Merritt z"l***Throughout the course of the year, we will have the
opportunity to have an intensive Shabbat learning experience
with distinguished visiting teachers. To sign up, please visit
www.bj.org or contact Amanda at x233.***Lecture: Jonah: a Fantasy of Flight**

Thursday, May 10 • 7:30PM • 88th Street

Cost: \$10/\$20 (registration at the door; doors open 7:00PM)

Lecture: Desire in the Desert

Shabbat afternoon, May 12 • 5:00PM • 88th Street

Cost: Free; registration not required.

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg holds a B.A. and Ph.D. in English
Literature from Cambridge University and studied Advanced
Jewish Studies at Gateshead Seminary and the Jerusalem
College for Women (Michlala). She has developed an original
approach to the learning of Torah, weaving literary,
psychological, and philosophical elements into her reading of
the Biblical and Midrashic narrative. Dr. Zornberg lectures
widely and is the author of two books: *Genesis: The Beginning
of Desire* (JPS), which won the National Jewish Book Award in
1995, and *The Particulars of Rapture: Reflections on Exodus*
(Doubleday). She appeared with Bill Moyers on the PBS series
"Genesis: A Living Conversation."**Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Sivan**Thursday, May 17 • 7:00PM • 88th St. • Cost: Free, registration
not required. Join Rabbis Felicia Sol, Dara Frimmer and Lauren
Holtzblatt to study and pray together on this holiday
traditionally associated with women. Please bring a
dairy/vegetarian/kosher snack for everyone to share.**Rabbi's Message** (continued from page 1)

a Friday night member, and my outlook was limited.

As a Fellow, I was able to see how our sacred Shabbat space
fills up during the week: a daily morning minyan, lunch
programs, Hebrew school classes, b'nai mitzvah rehearsals,
Torah study, Hevra meetings, film screenings, the homeless
shelter. Sitting in a new seat at services, I could now see the
hundreds of people who volunteer and participate in the daily
life of BJ: welcoming new members, visiting the sick,
comforting the mourners, hosting guests for Shabbat meals,
and reaching out in partnership to community groups and
organizations.During the month of May, we will transition from the book of
Vayikra to the book of *Bamidbar* and our journey, *bamidbar*, in
the wilderness, will resume with a census of the whole Israelite
community, *kol adat B'nai Yisrael*.I had to change my seat. I had to show up on a different day.
And then, I finally understood: It's the entire community, *kol
adat B'nai Yisrael*, which makes BJ strong, dynamic, and
creative. It's each person who is counted. It's our participation
that leads to transformation. Together, we create the lives we
want to live and the world we want to see. ■

INTERFAITH

Meeting Our Muslim Neighbors

Jacob said to Esau: I have seen your face as if seeing the face of God and you have received me favorably. (Genesis 33:10)

We were sitting in the *masjid* (mosque sanctuary) of the Islamic Cultural Center here in Manhattan. Gathered around Imam Samir Alraey and Imam Omar Abu-Nous were congregants from BJ and SPSA. The majority of those who attended, all eager to learn about their Muslim neighbors, were from our own BJ congregation. For participants in the “Meet Your Muslim Neighbors” program, sponsored by BJ’s Interfaith Committee, this was a unique experience—most had never been inside a mosque before that day.

On our visits to the ICC, those who arrived early had the opportunity to enter the downstairs section of the *masjid* and observe the Muslim afternoon prayer ritual. As I looked around the room at our group, women shrouded in an assortment of colorful scarves and shawls, it was hard to distinguish us from the Muslims visiting the center on this winter afternoon.

The *masjid* at the ICC provides space, not unlike BJ’s 88th Street sanctuary, for many uses. There are moveable walls that had partitions to accommodate the classes and events that are taking place. The Islamic laws that govern the appearance of the mosque are similar to Judaic law. There are no images displayed in the *masjid*. This is so that worship is focused on the absolute divine.

Each of the sessions culminated in question and answer sessions. There was much interest in women’s place in Islam, the distinctions among the Sunni, Shia, and Sufi sects of Islam,

shariah or Islamic law, the concept of paradise and hellfire, and the balance between Islamic faith, law, and spirituality. We also discussed tribal and cultural customs that are portrayed in the media as being Islamic but actually deviate from Muslim teaching.

The first step in the process of building interfaith and multicultural understanding is to learn about those among whom we live our everyday lives. That has been the goal of this program, which began by honoring the request of a small group of BJ congregants who wanted to experience Islamic ritual and culture. Building mutual respect and understanding is an ongoing process. In the perfect world, we would repeat this program at a variety of mosques and Muslim community centers. I hope that our experience will encourage those who participated in this program to take it upon themselves to further explore the diversity among our Muslim neighbors. If there is only one tenet that people take away from interfaith experiences like this one, it should be the awareness that no one Muslim can speak for all Muslims, just as no one Jew can speak for all Jews. We are as diverse within our own communities as we are among the peoples of the world.

As BJ and SPSA already serve as an interfaith touchstone of unity, may our endeavors to create a just and loving community extend beyond the boundaries of Judaism and Christianity to include our Muslim neighbors. ■

—Alice Fisher

Alice Fisher is a diversity, interfaith, and community-building consultant, who serves on the NY steering committees of the NY/Jerusalem Dialogue Project and the Muslim-Jewish Network of NY. She is a member of the Interfaith Committee.

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

TUESDAY, MAY 22

Erev Shavuot

Evening Service followed by Tikkun leil Shavuot:

8:30PM – midnight 88th St. Sanctuary
 midnight – 5:30AM 88th St. Frankel Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

First Day Shavuot

Sunrise Services in Riverside Park 5:30AM
 Morning Services, 88th St. Sanctuary 10:00AM
 Children’s Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall 11:15AM

Community Picnic,

Riverside Park (weather permitting) 1:00PM

Second Evening Shavuot

Evening Service, 88th St. 9:00PM

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Second Day Shavuot

Morning Services (includes Yizkor), 88th St. 9:30AM
 Children’s Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall 10:45AM



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families on their b'nai mitzvah (through April):

Elias Birnbaum Michal Rizowy

Olivia Case

To the following members and their families (through April 6):

Tanya Cohen and David Reiff on their recent wedding.

Julie Spiegel on the naming of her daughter, Solya Violet Spiegel.

Michelle, Jeff, and Zachary Feig on the birth of their son and brother.

Jennifer and Mark Pearlman on the birth of their son, Ari Conrad.



CONDOLENCES (through April 6)

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Judah Gubbay, and extends sincere condolences to Alexis, Ariella, Tamar, and Talya Gubbay and Eilat, Jerry, Naomi and Daniella Abrams on the death of their beloved husband, father, son, brother, brother-in-law, and uncle.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to the following members and their families:

Ilene Rosenthal and Lou, Amelia, and Cara Geser on the death of their beloved sister-in-law and aunt, Karen Rosenthal.

Elain Calmon and her family on the death of her beloved grandmother, Liselotte Jakobowitz.

Abby, Arthur, Julia, Clara, and Eli Eshaghpour on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Robert Sinker.

Albert and Joanna Bukszpan on the death of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Rebecca Bukszpan.

Alan, Jan, Benjamin, and Max Pickman on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Simme Pickman.



Alan, Jan, Benjamin, and Max Pickman on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Simme Pickman.

Stacey Shubitz on the death of her beloved grandmother, Ida Brown Goldstein.

Susannah Heschel and Jacob, Gittel, and Avigael Aronson on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Sylvia Heschel.

Linda Golding and Diane Wondisford on the death of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Millicent Golding.

Bonnie and Joseph Rapaport on the death of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Lillian Schachter.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
		1  OMER: Tonight begins Day 29	2 OMER: Tonight begins Day 30	3 OMER: Tonight begins Day 31
6 LAG BAOMER OMER: Tonight begins Day 34	7 OMER: Tonight begins Day 35	8  • 5 PM – 7th Grade Families cook for the Shelter, 88th St. Frankel Hall OMER: Tonight begins Day 36	9 OMER: Tonight begins Day 37	10 • 7:30 PM – Dr. Aviva Zornberg lecture, 88th St. OMER: Tonight begins Day 38
13 OMER: Tonight begins Day 41	14 OMER: Tonight begins Day 42	15 • 7:00 PM – Film Screening, Renee Kaufman Memorial Program, 88th St. (SEE P.10) OMER: Tonight begins Day 43	16 OMER: Tonight begins Day 44	17 LAST DAY OF BJHS FOR THURSDAY STUDENTS • 7:00 PM – Rosh Hodesh Group, 88th St. (SEE P.10) OMER: Tonight begins Day 45
20 CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT OMER: Tonight begins Day 48	21 LAST DAY OF BJHS FOR ALL STUDENTS OMER: Tonight begins Day 49	22 EREV SHAVUOT Evening Service followed by Tikkun leil Shavuot: • 8:30 PM – midnight, 88th St. Sanctuary • midnight – 5:30 AM, 88th St. Frankel Hall	23 1ST DAY SHAVUOT BJ OFFICE CLOSED • 5:30 AM – Sunrise Services, Riverside Park • 9:30 AM – Morning Services, 88th St. • 11:15 AM – Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall • 1:00 PM – Community Picnic, Riverside Park • 9:00 PM – Second Evening Services, 88th St.	24 2ND DAY SHAVUOT BJ OFFICE CLOSED • 9:30 AM – Morning Services, 88th St. • 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall
27	28 MEMORIAL DAY BJ OFFICE CLOSED • Bat Mitzvah: Emma Holland	29	30	31

SERVICE TIMES

MORNING MINYAN (88TH STREET)
 • Monday–Friday 7:30 AM • Sunday & National Holidays 9:30 AM

KABBALAT SHABBAT
 • Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • 7:30 PM 88th St. Sanctuary
 • Additional Services May 4: Wandering Minyan 6:00 PM 88th St. Frankel Hall • Family Service 6:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary
 • Additional Service May 25: Contemplative Shabbat 6:00 PM 86th St. Sanctuary

SHABBAT MORNING
 • 9:30 AM 86th St. Sanctuary • Children's Services 10:45 AM 86th St. Chapel
 • Additional Services April 7, 21: Junior Congregation 10:30 AM 86th St. Social Hall

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>4</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Family Service, 88th St. Sanctuary • 6:00 PM – Wandering Minyan, 88th St. Frankel Hall • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Sanctuary • Following 7:30 PM Service – Oneg Shabbat, 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.10) <p>OMER: Tonight begins Day 32</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. • 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. • Bat Mitzvah: Maya T. Miller • 5:30 PM – Study of <i>The Sabbath</i>, 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3) <p>OMER: Tonight begins Day 33</p>
	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. <p>OMER: Tonight begins Day 39</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. • Bar Mitzvah: Alexander K. Winter • Following Services – Ledor Vador Luncheon, 88th St. (SEE P.10) • 5:00 PM – Dr. Aviva Gottlieb Zornberg lecture, 88th St. (SEE P.3) <p>OMER: Tonight begins Day 40</p>
	<p>18 ROSH HODESH SIVAN</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • During 6:00 PM Service – BJHS Zayin Moving On Ceremony • Following 6:00 PM Service – B’nai Mitzvah Class of 2006-2007 Dinner, 88th St. Frankel Hall • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. <p>CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT OMER: Tonight begins Day 46</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. • 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. • Bat Mitzvah: Beth Weinshtank • Bar Mitzvah: Josh Wetzler <p>CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT OMER: Tonight begins Day 47</p>
	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Contemplative Shabbat Service, 86th St. • 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • Following 6:00 PM Service – Shelter Volunteer Appreciation Event, 88th St. Frankel Hall • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. • 3:00 PM – Minha, 88th St. • Bat Mitzvah: Sophia Lesser

ADULT CLASSES

MONDAY

- Introduction to Judaism, 7-9 PM

TUESDAY

- Gems of Genesis, 8:10-9 AM
- Jewish Practice Skills Workshop: Lifecycle Skills 7-8:30 PM (remaining class May 1)
- Jewish Practice Skills Workshop: Tzedakah and Gemillut Hasadim 7-8:30 PM (May 8, 15)

WEDNESDAY

- On The Path To Shavuot: Opening The Heart Through Song, 7-8:15 PM (remaining classes May 2, 9, 16)

THURSDAY

- Parashat Hashavu'a, 7-8:30 PM
- Accompanying a Parent In Their Last Chapter of Life 7-8:30 PM (remaining class May 3)

YOUTH CLASSES

MONDAY

- 4-5:30 PM, K-1st Grade
- 4-6 PM, 2nd-7th Grade

TUESDAY

- 5-7 PM, Lishma

THURSDAY

- 4-5:30 PM, K-1st Grade
- 4-6 PM, 2nd-6th Grade

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY-THURSDAY

- BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter 7 PM

WEDNESDAY

- Kesharim 2 PM

THURSDAY

- Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12 PM

CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

May 4	7:36 PM
May 11	7:43 PM
May 18 (Erev 1st Day Shavuot)	7:54 PM
May 23 (Erev 2nd Day Shavuot)	9:01 PM
May 25	7:57 PM

PARASHAT HASHAVU'A

May 5	Emor
May 12	Behar-Beḥukotai
May 19	Bamidbar
May 26	Naso


HAVDALAH TIMES

May 5	8:40 PM
May 12	7:43 PM
May 19	8:57 PM
May 24	9:02 PM
May 26	9:04 PM



YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

First Year Reflections



What an exciting year! As I reflect on my first year as the Assistant Director of Education for Youth and Family, I cannot help but think about how fast the year flew by and how many wonderful things happened during this time. It has been an exciting and rewarding year meeting so many BJ students and families, spending Shabbat in Sprout Lake with the Reach for Shabbat families, helping the Ozrim learn and grow both in their Jewish study and as teen leaders, learning together with so many of our b'nai mitzvah families, having a fabulous Model Seder in the Hebrew School, and participating in the 8th/9th grade Teen Service Trip to New Iberia, Louisiana! It's terrific to see Jewish education embodied in such a variety of ways!

As I look ahead, I am filled with even more enthusiasm about the coming year. I am particularly looking forward to a new B'nai Mitzvah Retreat in the Spring of 2008, expanded b'nai mitzvah family programming, a growing Ozrim program, special holiday and family programs within the Hebrew School, and continuing to learn and grow together with our children, our grown ups, and our energetic team of professionals. I am grateful for your warm reception this year, and I am eagerly anticipating sharing new experiences with the BJ community in the coming year.

—Ivy Schreiber, Assistant Director of Education
(Youth & Family)

Another First Year Reflection...

At the first annual BJ Purim Carnival this year, a parent came up to me and said, "Events like the Purim Play and Carnival are wonderful because it gets all the kids to be together, the younger kids and the older kids and the Hebrew school kids and the day school kids." Two children, one from Hebrew school and one from day school, who met one another in the Purim play asked to lead a prayer together in Junior Congregation. A family who told me in September that they feel like they don't know anyone at BJ now regularly has play dates with a child their daughter met in children's services.

When I began this job as Shabbat and Holidays Coordinator last June, one of the goals of my work was to create spaces where families could meet one another and form relationships in a Jewish context, and I have spent the last year working on projects that will bring our family community together. I am so glad to hear and see that these programs have taken root. I have enjoyed watching the growth of Junior Congregation and the expansion of holiday programming, and I thank you all for your enthusiastic

feedback and participation. From Junior Congregation and children's services services, to the sukkah decorating party, to the Tu BiShevat Seder, to all the Purim excitement, to our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, it has been wonderful getting to know all the BJ families this year and I hope you have gotten to know some new people as well. I look forward to continuing the work of building a community of families here at BJ!

—Rebecca Rosenthal, Youth & Family Education
Shabbat and Holidays Coordinator

Teens at BJ

We hope that you have seen lots of our teenagers around B'nai Jeshurun lately—helping out in children's services and Junior Congregation, reading Torah in the main sanctuary, serving as teacher's aides in the Hebrew School and volunteering at the Purim Carnival—among many other places. But if you have not seen them around, you might also be looking in some of the wrong places.

This year our teens took on travel and community service with a vengeance. Over the course of the past six months they have made a difference with their hands and with their time in ways that were not as easily observed. Many of them traveled to Israel with BJ in December and explored the country while serving as role models for the younger participants and as inspiration for all of us as they helped to create a holy space as we celebrated a bat mitzvah, raced us up Masada and excavated caves in Beit Guvrin.

Not so long after our return, more than twenty of our 8th and 9th graders joined BJ and JFSJ on a service program in New Iberia, Louisiana. They spent Martin Luther King weekend learning about and witnessing firsthand the destruction of Hurricane Rita and building bonds with the people of New Iberia and each other.

And lest our 10th, 11th and 12th graders got jealous—they had their own incredible program to look forward to. Right before Pesah our older students got to form new bonds with Park Avenue Synagogue just across town as they began a great adventure together—all the way down to Mexico to participate in our second American Jewish World Service.

Each of these programs was designed with the intent for our students to return to BJ armed with ways to articulate their experiences and relate them back to our community. So next time you see them around—whether in shul, Hebrew School or on the streets of the Upper West Side—take a moment to ask them about their experiences this past year as they have so much to share.

—Kerrith Solomon, Family Life Educator

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Important Dates for May

Please note that unless indicated otherwise, all of these events are open to the ENTIRE BJ community!

- Tuesday, May 1, 5:00PM, BJ Office:*Lishma Teen Program
- Wednesday, May 2, 7:00PM, 88th Street:*BJHS Bet to Gimmel Transition Meeting
- Friday, May 4, 6:00PM, 88th Street:*Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- Saturday, May 5, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall:*Junior Congregation
- Tuesday, May 8, 5:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall:*7th Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter
- Thursday, May 10:*Ozrim Development Session
- Thursday, May 17:*BJHS Staff Meeting
- Thursday, May 17:*LAST DAY OF HEBREW SCHOOL FOR THURSDAY STUDENTS
- Friday, May 18, at the 6:00PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service:*BJHS Zayin Moving on Ceremony
- Friday, May 18, following the 6:00PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th Street Frankel Hall:*
.....B'nai Mitzvah Class of 2006-2007 Dinner
- Saturday, May 19, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall:*Junior Congregation
- Monday, May 21:*LAST DAY OF HEBREW SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS
- Wednesday, May 23, 11:15AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall:*Children's Services for Shavuot
- Thursday, May 24, 10:45AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall:*Children's Services for Shavuot

Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon: Teens in Action

Saturday, May 12, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Ledor Vador's spring Shabbat luncheon will be truly intergenerational. BJ's teen program is based around the concepts of building Jewish identity, social action and experiential education. Join us as students share photos, stories and challenges from two of this year's programs—the 8th and 9th grade program with JFSJ in Louisiana and the 10-12th grade program with AJWS in Mexico. Alums of last year's program in El Salvador will also be in attendance. Please RSVP to x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Register online or send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with "Ledor Vador 5/12" on the memo line. Children under 18 are welcome to attend free of charge.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Shabbat Oneg: A Taste of the World to Come!

Friday, May 4, following the 7:30PM service, 88th Street

Shabbat in the 21st century doesn't have to look like the traditional meal of generations past—maybe there's live music, maybe there's no Manischewitz. You bring the kosher wine/grape juice (we ask everyone to contribute) and we'll provide light finger food and a great space to socialize.

19th Annual Renee Kaufman Memorial Lecture: Screening of the Award-Winning Documentary *Encounter Point*

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00PM, 88th Street: In memory of Renee Kaufman, Norman Kaufman and his family welcome the screening of *Encounter Point* followed by a discussion with the movie's creator, Ronit Avni. *Encounter Point* is about a former Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother who risk their lives and public standing to promote a nonviolent end to the conflict. The film explores what drives them and thousands of other like-minded civilians to overcome anger and grief and work for grassroots solutions—a film about the everyday leaders in our midst.

Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon: Teens in Action

Saturday, May 12, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Ledor Vador's spring Shabbat luncheon will be truly intergenerational. BJ's teen program is based around the concepts of building Jewish identity, social action and experiential education. Join us as students share photos, stories and challenges from two of this year's programs—the 8th and 9th grade program with JFSJ in Louisiana and the 10-12th grade program with AJWS in Mexico. Alums of last year's program in El Salvador will also be in attendance. Please RSVP to x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Register online or send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with "Ledor Vador 5/12" on the memo line. Children under 18 are welcome to attend free of charge.

Membership Renewal 2007-2008

Membership renewal season is upon us! In late May, you will receive your membership renewal packages for 2007-08 and applications will be available on our website. Please make every effort return your forms as quickly as possible so that we can assign you High Holy Day locations. We are excited about this year's service sites. You'll find adult and children's services at 88th Street, 86th SPSA, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. The family service will move to Symphony Space. Stay tuned for more details.

Memorial Plaques

We are again offering the members of our community the opportunity to make a special contribution in the memory of a loved one and have their name permanently inscribed on black granite plaques at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one in this way, please send the name along with a \$1,400 donation per name to B'nai Jeshurun, Attention: Deborah Pinsky, by July 15, 2007. If you are memorializing a couple, the donation amount is \$2,000 (providing that the names total less than 32 characters including spaces). The names will be inscribed before the High Holy Days and a ceremony in their memory will take place in January. Please include the name of the person to be memorialized, your name and a phone number where you can be reached. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Pinsky at x254.

Donate to the High Holy Days Flower Fund

This year, the High Holy Days are in the middle of September. One way to help enhance the beauty and atmosphere of our services is by making a donation to the Flower Fund in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Please contact Naomi Goodhart at x228.



DONATIONS (through March 16)

Bikkur Holim Fund

Robbie Horwitz in memory of Rhoda Horwitz Harold and Helen Lehrman for the speedy recovery of Larry Riskin

General Fund

Don and Rochelle Cohen with thanks for the continued good health of their family

John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in memory of Sam Greenblatt's mother, Ann Greenblatt and in memory of Judge Harold Berger's brother, David Berger
 Lana Kalickstein in honor of the birth of a daughter to Julie Sissman and Phil Richter, in honor of the birth of twins Max Ben-Azi and Shira Alisheva to Lowell and Deborah Kirschner, to

the Rosh Chodesh group in honor of Rosh Chodesh Adar, in honor of the teenagers' mission to New Iberia Louisiana and their inspiring report on Shabbat Zachor, and with thanks for an awesome Purim party Staci Light in honor of the birth of a son to Mark and Jennifer Pearlman
 Ronnie Reden

Meredith and Eliot Rubenzahl
 Charlotte Lyman in honor of Elizabeth Richards
 Mark and Mindy Sotsky

Hebrew School Fund

Helene and Seymour Schechter in memory of Seymour's father, Moisha Aaron Ben Avraham
 Temple Sinai of Washington, D.C.



DONATIONS *(continued)*

Homeless Shelter Fund

Elliott and

Toby Bird in memory of Elliott's parents, Rose and Philip Bird
Estelle Burton
Douglas Lerner in memory of Mildred Katz
Eileen Mullen in honor of her friend, Elaine Nevins
Barbara Simon for the speedy recovery of Larry Riskin

Israel in Crisis Fund

Ella Lidsky in memory of her father and brother, Rav Leib Cwik and Aba Cwik
Alison Pepper in memory of her aunt, Marilyn Sonenshine

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Debra Dash in memory of her parents, Muriel and Sam Dash

Ledor Vador Fund

Lana Kalickstein in honor of Tziporah Salamon and her enjoyable presentation

Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund

Stanfred and Phyllis Silver in memory of Phyllis' father, Allan Waller and in memory of Stan's father, Joseph Silver

Morning Minyan Fund

Elaine Nevins in memory of her mother, Frances Goldstein

Shira Palmer-Sherman Memorial Fund

Lana Kalickstein in memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman with thanks for the Shabbat Shira Havdalah lecture with Rabbi Samuels

Yizkor Fund

Ellen Schechter and James Altman in memory of Ellen's mother, Pearl Schechter
Alan Bernstein and Carol Bowen in memory of Alan's father, Seymour Bernstein
Ida Brown in memory of her husband
Joanna and Albert Bukszpan in memory of Joanna's father, William Miller
William and Gail Cohen in memory of William's father, Michael Cohen
Sylvia Dresner in memory of her father, Sylvain Dresner
Richard Frank and Kathleen Peratis in memory of Richard's father, Samuel Frank
Victor Friedman and Victoria Schonfeld in memory of Victoria's mother, Hildegard Schonfeld
Bonita and Harvey Ganot in memory of Harvey's father, Philip Gorodetzer
Jeffrey and Laurie Goldberger in memory of Laurie's grandmother, Gertrude Hornstein
Hilda Greenberg in memory of her maternal grandmother, Bella Rachel Peiros, her paternal grandmother, Betty Weiss and her husband, Rabbi Sidney Greenberg
Paul and Carol Jackson in memory of Paul's mother, Victoria Jackson
Howard and Joshua Jacobson and Kathryn Wolfson in memory of Sally Wolfson, mother and grandmother
Ruth Joseph in memory of her mother, Juliette Hinderstein

Lana Kalickstein in memory of Judith Einstein, grandmother of Gregg Schwartz, in memory of Evelyn Harlem, mother of Phyllis Harlem and in memory of Bernice Shostack, grandmother of Leora Frankel
Jeffrey and Shelley Kehl in memory of Jeffrey, Shelley, Alex and Danielle's father and grandfather, H. William Kehl
Florence Keller in memory of her father, Sam Glick
Hindy Kisch in memory of her husband, Dr. Edward Sachar
Estee Konor in memory of her grandmother, Dorothy Lewis-Enright
Amelia Korn in memory of her father, Jakob Korn
Gertrude Litowitz in memory of her husband, Joseph and her son, Robert
Gerald and Shirley Margolis in memory of Shirley's father, Harry Smiley
Devorah Posner in memory of her parents, Nathan and Rose Posner
Steven and Linli Yan-Rosenberg in memory of Stephen's mother, Roslyn Rosenberg
Eric Schlagman in memory of his father, Herbert Schlagman
Jerome Siegel and Phyllis Harlem in memory of Jerome's father, Harold Siegel
Alan Slifka in memory of Sylvia Slifka
Carl and Miriam Stern in memory of Carl's father, Julius Stern
Janet Sullivan and Armand Pierro in memory of Amely Sullivan
Zelda Weiss in memory of her father, Benjamin Prenskey

Jeanette and Dorothy Winter in memory of their mother and father, Fannie and Joseph Winter
Mildred Wood in memory of her mother and her husband

KOL HADASH
New Voice
May, 2007

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