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 **RABBI'S MESSAGE: VISION**

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

The summer months have finally arrived and many of us are anticipating a breath of fresh air as the weather grows warmer, the park beckons, the ocean calls, the city empties out, and the normal NYC rush slows—at least a little bit.

For those of us who grew up at Jewish summer camp, the levity of our time came to a bit of a halt on Tisha Be'Av, the day we mark the destruction of both the First and Second Temples, the expulsion from Spain and England and countless other tragedies of the Jewish People. Some fasted, programming was less intense, we sang mournful songs and one year I remember we even spent an extraordinary amount of time building this big beautiful cardboard Temple painted in gold and then by the end of the day it had “been destroyed.” Our counselors wanted to get us in touch with the feelings of loss associated with destruction (I don't remember how sad I felt but it certainly felt dramatic). The Shabbat that precedes Tisha Be'Av is called Shabbat Hazon (Vision), named for the opening word of its haftarah which contains Isaiah's vision of the destruction of Jerusalem. Rabbi Kalonymos Kalmish Shapira's teaching on this Shabbat seeks to understand the uniqueness of this particular Shabbat. Why is it named after its haftarah, when there are 3 Shabbatot of rebuke that precede Tisha Be'Av—why aren't each named for the haftarah? He gives the following answer (the date of the teaching is July 18, 1942):

We learn in the midrash Shir HaShirim Rabbah 3:2, “There are ten expressions of prophecy, but which is the harshest of all? R. Eliezer said, ‘A vision is the harshest,’ as it is written (Isaiah 21:1) ‘A cruel vision was told me.’” ...We have previously spoken about how apparent it has become that hearing and speaking of pain and suffering is a very far cry from actually experiencing it. Hearing and speaking of it is vastly distant from having to witness it, let alone understanding it, God forbid...Therefore, of the various levels of suffering revealed to the prophets—whether through a verbal prophecy, the Divine Voice heard from heaven, or other types of prophecy—the harshest level of all was when prophets were shown a “vision.”

The prophecy that Isaiah receives is a visual one—the most dramatic and the harshest because he sees it. Rabbi Shapira's Torah for Shabbat Hazon was most profound given the reality in which he was living—the Warsaw Ghetto. Vision is the most powerful call.

Rabbi Shapira's Torah of Shabbat Hazon was Isaiah's words put into his own reality as a witness and victim of the destruction of his time with his very own eyes. As Tisha Be'Av approaches this summer, let us not hide from the visions of destruction that abound in our midst—there is much to lament, there is much harshness, there is also much apathy and turning a blind eye.

When we think of the word “vision” in English, it often has positive connotations—our hope for the future, what is possible, imagining, dreaming etc. Rabbi Shapira's teaching on Shabbat Hazon ends with notion of hope and salvation with the words of Daniel, “Open Your eyes, and see,” and also the conclusion of the Haftarah for Shabbat Hazon, “Zion will be redeemed with justice, and her captives with charity (Isaiah 1:27).”

(continued on page 4)

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Please note: There will be no separate issue of the Kol Hadash for July;
our next issue will arrive in August.
.....

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hope and Action: BJ Responds to the Genocide in Darfur

"Darfur draws me in because it happened to my mother in Auschwitz. Now it's happening in Darfur. My mother survived, but without her parents, sister, or brothers. I see the connection to her experience in the horrors of burning villages, rapes, slaughter, all with the force of ethnic hatred. I understand the effects of the violence and loss of homes on those who survive. I feel the unequivocal necessity to speak out against genocide." —Josie

One spring evening last year, a group of BJ members gathered at the BJ office to mobilize our community to attend the Rally for Darfur in Washington, D.C., on April 30, 2006. With the enthusiastic staff support of Charles Lenchner, the group formed the BJ Darfur Response Committee. We committed ourselves to raise awareness, to educate ourselves and others about the atrocities in Darfur, to contribute to humanitarian aid, and to advocate for change through political lobbying.

Over three hundred BJ members filled six buses to D.C. on April 30. We followed up by organizing educational house parties with American Jewish World Service, and by organizing 150 BJ members to another rally, this one in Central Park on September 17, 2006. We gathered for a moving teaching from Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt before the rally, and we were proud to hear Roly give an invocation from the stage based on High Holy Days liturgy.

"Songs for Darfur," a concert benefiting Darfur that we cosponsored with the Church of Saint Paul and Saint Andrew, was another high point. The concert in November 2006 raised funds for the United Methodist Committee on Relief and American Jewish World Service. "Songs for Darfur" allowed us to express our dedication to Darfur and our connection to our community through the arts. At BJ, we express emotion through music. We celebrate, mourn, and grow spiritually through song.

Here are two easy ways to get involved:

1. All you need is one minute of your time and the cell phone in your pocket. Call the hotline set up by Genocide Intervention Network at 1-800-GENOCIDE. They'll connect you to your elected officials to demand action on Darfur.
2. Join the BJ Darfur e-mail list to learn about upcoming action opportunities. To sign up, or for more info, contact us at lizlasky@gmail.com and msjosine@aol.com.

"I feel a unique pull to the Darfur Response Committee. When I attended the Rally for Darfur in Washington, D.C., I was unaware that it would turn into a defining moment for me. I didn't realize that it would profoundly inspire me the way it did. That day opened my eyes to the possibility of our community coming together in response to the crisis in Darfur. I realized that every individual, including myself, has the power to make a difference.

"I am incredibly lucky to have been raised by parents and a community that has taught me to be socially aware. But being socially aware must be coupled with being socially responsible and active. I feel responsible to respond to the situation in Darfur, and I choose to commit myself to social action on personal, professional, and religious levels." —Liz

We have been impressed with the ingenuity of the humanitarian community in finding ways to provide food, water and protection to refugees within Darfur and bordering Chad. Humanitarian assistance continues to be an urgent need. But it has become clear that only policy changes, advocacy, and political pressure can stop the violence in Darfur.

Darfur activists around the world are focusing on targeted divestment from companies whose business supports the Sudanese government's military operations against the people of Darfur. BJ is looking into our own funds to see whether any of them are invested in targeted companies. Activists are also focusing pressure on China, a major political and economic supporter of the Sudanese government.

We were hopeful that our committee would not need to exist for this long. We were hopeful that enough attention would be given to this issue by the government, policy makers, and our community. We were hopeful that strong peacekeeping forces would be sent to Darfur. We were hopeful that the genocide would end. Sadly, our hopes have not yet been realized. We need you to join us in responding to this crisis.

We are like many of you: busy New Yorkers with a laundry list of commitments and obligations. But we make time for this cause because we feel it's impossible to ignore the catastrophic events in Darfur. And it's impossible to ignore our status as educated individuals, living in the United States, who can influence policy, funding, and awareness for this cause. ■

—Liz Lasky and Josie Shapiro,
co-chairs, BJ Darfur Response Committee

My Eleven Months

I didn't go to minyan when my father died. I didn't go to minyan when my mother died. It was too early in the morning, too religious, not important enough. And too demanding: the Hebrew, the strangers, the daunting prospect of a year of mourning.

Then Alexander died. My darling son. Killed by a truck while riding his bicycle, heading back to Yale from the final crew practice before the championship race. Excited about the race to come, thrilled with a last successful row, eager to start a 4000 mile cross-country bicycle trip for Habitat for Humanity that would begin the next week. Full of plans, full of joy, full of love and laughter and intelligence, kindness, goodness, fun. Full of life at 20.

I got the call no parent ever wants to get. And I went to minyan. I went once, then again, and again. Through my agony, through my unbearable sorrow, which never lightens, never lessens, the kindness of strangers held me up. Their warmth embraced me, from a respectful distance. We sat next to each other, around a rectangle of folding tables, early in the morning, and I read the English until I became comfortable with the Hebrew. And I said Kaddish, twice, each morning. And I read the translations, and sometimes stopped at a word, or a phrase, and wondered about it, got lost in it. During the Amidah, when others were reading, I was always quiet. I tried to open up, to be completely there, an empty vessel, and often through the silence I heard inside my head a word, a phrase from my son to me, teaching me, showing me the way. And sometimes, most times, there were just tears, unexpectedly, coming at such random moments.

Listening to the other voices, some soft and gentle, some loud and off-key, some melodious and deep, all joining together in praise of G-d, I found strength. I was held by the beauty of the words, the kindness. The extreme kindness.

After minyan a stranger asks, looks in my eyes, takes my hand. The warmth, the caring, it is more than I can ask for, allowing me to weep, safely, to sing, to be held... and little by little, to reach out to someone new who has fresh pain, fresh sorrow.

For me, it is still raw. When I allow myself to realize what has happened, my knees go weak. I expect the tears, the panic, the yearning, the grief will be with me forever. In two days it will be 11 months, and I am to stop, officially, the mourning, the saying of the Kaddish. It is another sense of loss. Of acknowledgment of Alexander's death and of time passing. It has been 11 months of minyan, and it has flown by.

I will continue to go, to be there for someone else who needs a hand to hold, eyes to look into, a gentleness of spirit to be part of, a body to lean on.

It is such a kindness to come to minyan for others. Please come, whoever reads this. In life the more we give, the more we receive. I cannot begin to thank those who have so quietly been there for me. I have learned much, there is so much yet to learn. We are all in this together. ■

—Karen Capelluto
April, 2007

UPCOMING LIMUD

Please see the BJ website, www.bj.org, for registration information.

Shabbat: A Sanctuary in Time

Rabbi Mychal Springer, Chapter 7

Saturday, June 2 • 6:00PM • 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.

Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Tammuz

Saturday, June 16 • Potluck lunch following Shabbat morning services • 86th St. Social Hall • Cost: Free, registration not required. Join Rabbis Dara Frimmer and Lauren Holtzblatt for a potluck lunch to welcome in the month of Tammuz. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian side dish or dessert for 8-10 people.

Exploring "Holiness" in Israel: Prepare with Roly for BJ's Summer Israel Trip (open to the public)

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

Remaining class Wednesday, June 6 • 88th St. Sanctuary • Cost: Free, registration not required.



Please come...

**Celebrate Our Achievements and Meet Other
Congregants, Our New Rabbinic Fellows,
and Board Members...**

**Hear About The Theme for This Year's
Yamim Nora'im... and Learn About an Exciting
Real Estate Prospect For BJ!**


BJ ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 7 • 88th Street Sanctuary

Join us for BJ's Annual Meeting on Thursday evening, June 7. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00PM to elect new members to BJ's Board of Trustees but, in a new format, we will begin informally from 6:00–7:00PM so as to provide an opportunity for socializing as well as deepening your involvement in our exciting programs and projects for next year. During this first hour, BJ committee chairs, membership representatives, trip participants, and members of the newly formed Creating Community Steering Committee will be available. For more information, contact dpinsky@bj.org

INTERFAITH

Introduction to Islam, A Course for Jews and Christians



For four cold Thursday evenings this past February, a group of more than 60 adults met for study in the Chapel at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew. Most were BJ members, though each week there were several members of SPSA present. The subject was Islam, and what we should know in order to have a more informed conversation with our neighbors of that faith. Nearly simultaneous with this course, some members of the class also took advantage of Sunday afternoon visits to the big mosque on 96th Street, where the imams met with the group to answer questions and show guests the beautiful worship space there.

The teacher for the Thursday night class, Rabbi David Freidenreich, Ph.D., taught through lecture and small group text study, providing the group also with a substantial list of outside readings which could deepen and enhance our understandings. Each week brought a new subject—the Qu’ran and its interpretation: the history (formative stories) and traditions of Islam; current practices by people in various streams of Islam; and finally, presentations by three Muslim speakers of various backgrounds and perspectives. Though the current world scene was never far from anyone’s mind, this was not a class about politics and conflict. It was a chance to learn about the religious underpinnings of this powerful religion, which has so many adherents world-wide.

Dr. Freidenreich, whose doctoral study was in the field of Comparative Religions, is currently preparing a book on the subject of his dissertation, food customs in the three Abrahamic traditions (which includes the aspect of who can eat with whom and under what conditions).

The more the class became engaged with the texts, the more we realized how much there is to learn about this latest addition to the Abrahamic family (it was established in the 7th century of the Common Era). Things that Jews and Christians had wondered about became clearer, and certain myths that have acquired the status of presumed truth were examined and sometimes shown to be untrue, or only partially correct. Most interesting for some participants was learning about the ways Islam is itself in the process of studying its own past in light of modern thinking.

The course was funded by a generous gift in memory of Dr. Stuart Polly, himself a student of comparative religion, from his widow, Carole Polly. Mrs. Polly was present for most of the sessions, and helped us all feel that we knew something about her late husband and how much he would have wanted to be a part of this study.

Many of the students in the class wished for more time to continue the learning—and several BJ’ers asked that next season we take a similar approach to understanding Christianity. Planning is now underway for just such a course. Look for more information about it in upcoming publications, if you have any interest in learning about the things our faith traditions share and those elements that are particular to each group. As Abraham Joshua Heschel famously said, “No religion is an island!” ■

—Mim Warden

Mim Warden is a member of the Interfaith Committee and the Board of Trustees, as well as a theologian who has studied at Union Theological Seminary.

Rabbi’s Message (continued from page 1)

These summer months are a time to spend opening our eyes to what is possible—the visions that we have for ourselves, for our community and our world. The slower pace, the long days, the expansiveness of being outdoors are all an invitation to try to see what the most profound vision of what our lives can be. I believe there is a reason that the tradition confined the commemoration of the majority of the catastrophes of the Jewish People to one day (Some felt that the commemoration of the Holocaust should also take place on Tisha Be’Av). It is a profound statement about the need to mark these moments as well as the desire to confine their all encompassing (fasting, mourning etc.) commemoration to only one day a year. For our

visions as a people and as human beings can most certainly not be built on the destructions of the past but on our ability to open our eyes for the future. If Rabbi Shapira could do this in 1942 in the Warsaw Ghetto, why can’t we?

I hope and pray that all of us will be blessed with a summer of new visions for ourselves and our world. I am very grateful to have this time to be on sabbatical and cultivate new visions too. I look forward to returning to the community in mid August with the haftarat of comfort that will help us to deal with the harshness of the world while letting the profound vision of hope guide us to search for new dreams. ■



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZAL TOV

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

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Maya T. Miller | Josh Wetzler |
| Alexander K. Winter | Sophia Lesser |
| Beth L. Weinshank | Emma Holland |

To the following members and their families (through May 11):

Alan and Mimi Frank on the wedding of their daughter Samantha to Jason Wexler.

Mark and Valerie Gerstein on the naming of their daughter, Mia Ann.

Orli and Jonathan Silver on the wedding of their son Elliot to Rebecca Kristol, daughter of William and Susan Kristol.

Eli Shouela and Lisa Wolman-Shouela on the birth of their son, Jack Morgan.

Deborah and Lowell Kirschner on the naming of their daughter, Shira Elisheva.

Harriet and Marc Suvall on receiving this year's American Jewish Committee Service Award.

CONDOLENCES *(through May 11)*

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member David Oliner and extends sincere condolences to Barbara, Elizabeth, and Benjamin Oliner on the death of their beloved husband and father.

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

Guy, Louisa, and Anders Halperin on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Jerome R. Halperin.

Laurie, Jeffrey, Perry, Sydney, and Cody Goldberger on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Eugene Goldman.

Lisa Halprin Fleisher and Arthur, Aaron and Nicholas Fleisher on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Bonita (Bonnie) Halprin.

Jonathan Adelsberg on the death of his beloved father, Harvey Adelsberg.

Bernice Todres on the death of her beloved sister-in-law, Ada Todres.

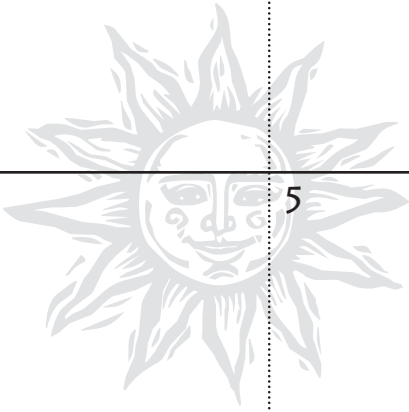
Sue Fein on the death of her beloved mother, Mildred Fein.

Ivy and David Schreiber on the death of David's beloved grandmother.

Richard, Juliana, and Eric Pretsfelder and Liliana Vaamonde on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Ernest Pretsfelder.

Leonard Brauner and Beth Moritz on the death of their beloved father and father-in-law, Jack Brauner.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|---|
| | | | | |
| 3 • 7:00 PM – BJ Book Club, 88th St. (SEE P.10) | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 • 7:00 PM – BJ Annual (SEE P.3) |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 ROSH HODESH TAMMUZ | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 • 11:00 AM – Silent nature walk in Central Park (SEE P.10) | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |



SERVICE TIMES

MORNING MINYAN (88TH STREET)

• Monday-Friday 7:30 AM • Sunday & National Holidays 9:30 AM

KABBALAT SHABBAT: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

• Through June 15: Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • 7:30 PM 88th St. Sanctuary


• Beginning June 22: **one service only**, Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary

• Additional Services June 1: Wandering Minyan 6:00 PM 88th St. Frankel Hall • Family Service 6:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary
• Contemplative Service 6:00 PM location TBA

SHABBAT MORNING: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!

• Through June 16: 9:30 AM 86th St. Sanctuary • Children's Services 10:45 AM 86th St. Chapel

• Beginning June 23: 9:30 AM 88th St. Sanctuary • Children's Services 10:45 AM 88th St. Frankel Hall

| DAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------|--|---|
| | JUNE 1  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM – Family Service, 88th St. Sanctuary 6:00 PM – Wandering Minyan, 88th St. Frankel Hall 6:00 PM – Contemplative Shabbat Service and potluck dinner, location TBA (SEE P.10) 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Sanctuary Following 7:30 PM Service – Oneg Shabbat, 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.10) | 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. Bat Mitzvah: Eliana Resnick Minḥa, 88th St. Bar Mitzvah: Joshua Musto 6:00 PM – Study of <i>The Sabbath</i>, 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3) |
| Family Meeting | 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. | 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. Bar Mitzvah: Sam Blum Bat Mitzvah: Anna Blum 5:00 PM – Minḥa, 88th St. Bat Mitzvah: Tanya Niesvizky-Kogan |
| | 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. | 16 ROSH HODESH TAMMUZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. Following Services: Women’s Rosh Hodesh Group (SEE P.3) Bat Mitzvah: Simone Levine Policano Minḥa, 88th St. Bar Mitzvah: Isaiah Frankel |
| | 22 SERVICE TIMES CHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. | 23 SERVICE LOCATIONS CHANGE GAY PRIDE SHABBAT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St. |
| | 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. | 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St. |
| | BJ ISRAEL TRIP (THROUGH JULY 8) | |

DATES FOR JULY:

- July 4: Independence Day, BJ Office closed
- July 16: Rosh Hodesh Av
- Tisha Be’Av
Monday, July 23:
Evening Service, 8:30PM, 88th St.
Tuesday, July 24:
Morning Service, 7:30AM, 88th St. • Minḥa Service, 6:30PM, 88th St.

ADULT CLASSES

WEDNESDAY

- Exploring “Holiness” in Israel: Prepare with Roly for BJ’s Summer Israel Trip (open to the public) 6:30–8:30 PM (remaining class Wednesday, June 6)

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY–THURSDAY

- BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter 7 PM

THURSDAY

- Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12 PM

CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

| | |
|---------|---------|
| June 1 | 8:02 PM |
| June 8 | 8:07 PM |
| June 15 | 8:10 PM |
| June 22 | 8:13 PM |
| June 29 | 8:13 PM |
| July 6 | 8:12 PM |
| July 13 | 8:09 PM |
| July 20 | 8:05 PM |
| July 27 | 7:59 PM |

PARASHAT HASHAVU’A

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| June 2 | Beha’alotekha |
| June 9 | Shelah |
| June 16 | Korah |
| June 23 | Hukkat |
| June 30 | Balak |
| July 7 | Pinhas |
| July 14 | Matot-Masei |
| July 21 | Devarim |
| July 28 | Vaethanan |


HAVDALAH TIMES

| | |
|---------|---------|
| June 2 | 9:10 PM |
| June 9 | 9:16 PM |
| June 16 | 9:19 PM |
| June 23 | 9:21 PM |
| June 30 | 9:21 PM |
| July 7 | 9:20 PM |
| July 14 | 9:16 PM |
| July 21 | 9:10 PM |
| July 28 | 9:03 PM |



YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Teen Service Learning Trip to Muchucuxca, Mexico



In March, a group of BJ teenagers joined teens from Park Avenue Synagogue to travel to Mexico with American Jewish World Service for a week of service learning. Here are two of their stories.

Check back in the fall for more.

Looking back on my trip to Muchucuxca, Mexico, I realize that nothing (the meetings, the orientation, and even the emails) could have prepared me enough for such an adventure. I entered a group of kids I hardly knew, and emerged with a new group extremely close friends. I entered the trip being known as “the most-excited one” there, and I returned home with even more enthusiasm for the trip than I thought possible.

Looking back I think about what I will miss the most. The work on the community center, although one of the toughest things I’ve ever had to do, is at the top of the list, followed by the talks, jokes, and songs that accompanied our labor (and of course, rock gathering, water drinking, and bus rides). I’ll miss rocking to sleep in my hammock and listening to the bugs chirping at night from my palapa. I’ll miss our host families, the children, the attempts at communication when all we understand from each other is the genuine joy of a smile. I’ll miss the discussions and text studies, the demonstrations of Maya culture. I’ll miss our inside jokes that belonged to everyone. I’ll miss my meal group and my palapa mates. I’ll miss the routine that we got so accustomed too, even when we had to wake up at a ridiculously early hour. But I know that with everything I will miss, there is so much that I still have back at home. I have my friendships, my thoughts, and my memories of what was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and for that I am extremely grateful.

—Nora Landis-Shack

During the entire trip, I couldn’t ignore that when I would return home, the first Pesah seder would be 24 hours away. While I knew it was significant that Pesah came very shortly after this intensive community service program, I couldn’t articulate why. I drew all of the parallels I could, starting from the simplest: on Pesah, we eat matzah, the bread of poverty, while the families in Muchacuxca eat simple flour tortillas at every meal which are very similar to matzah. There has to be a bigger parallel between Pesah and this trip. I realized that while the people of Muchacuxca were in no way slaves like we were in Mitzrayim, in many ways, just like slaves, the mayan community didn’t, until recently, have control over their lives.

Because many can’t afford to go to secondary school, the vicious cycle of poverty kept turning, and the people of Muchacuxca couldn’t break the cycle. Because the government won’t help these people in the slightest amount, the grassroots organization, El Hombre Sobre la Tierra, helps them get around this cycle and finally take control over their lives. Through teaching Mayan women how to create crafts (including the beautiful hammock I quite comfortably slept in all week), and sustain ecologically friendly gardens, and the men how to farm, the people of Muchacuxca are slowly gaining control over their own lives. Especially on Pesah, it’s very important to realize that although there aren’t slaves like we once were in Mitzrayim, there are other types of slavery, and many people have no control over their lives. When talking about slavery, it’s important to look at the broader term, and realize just how lucky we are to be free, in every sense of the word. ■

—Leah Silver

Important Reminders for June

- School reopens for the 2007–2008 school year on *Monday, September 17*.
- Children’s Services on Shabbat morning move to 88th Street Frankel Hall starting *Saturday, June 23*.
- Avoid paying the late registration fee—send in your Hebrew School applications *before June 30*.



Information About Your Membership Renewal

RENEW ONLINE!

- You may renew your membership online. Please visit www.bj.org to fill out your membership application.
- We strongly encourage that all members wishing to pay by credit card use this online option. You may use your American Express, Visa or MasterCard.

RENEW BY MAIL

- If you wish to renew by mail, please complete the membership application mailed in May.
- Make sure to note all changes in your membership that have occurred within the last year, including updated employment information. This will help us to ensure that our database has current information.
- It is important that we receive birthdates for all members of your family so that we may include everyone in age-appropriate mailings such as B'nai Mitzvah, family programs, events based on age group etc.
- Please make your check payable to "Congregation B'nai Jeshurun" and return it to the BJ office no later than **Friday, July 20**.

FOR ALL RENEWING MEMBERS

- Please be aware that our policy states that any payment received by Congregation B'nai Jeshurun will be used to pay off the oldest outstanding balances. For example, if you have membership balances that pre-date the current year, your new payment will be used to pay the oldest balance first. **In order to ensure your High Holy Day entrance cards, you must first pay your outstanding balances.**
- We also remind you that if you have not yet fulfilled your 2006 Kol Nidre Partnership pledge, you may send a check to the BJ office or click on "Make a Donation" at www.bj.org

HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

- Your location for High Holy Day services is assigned on a first-come first-served basis. The earlier you return your membership forms, the more likely you will be placed at your preferred location. Please make sure that if your family and friends wish to be at the same location, you all renew at the same time.
- In order for us to provide entrance cards for Rosh Hashanah, membership applications must be in our office and date-stamped by Thursday, September 6.
- In order for us to provide entrance cards for Yom Kippur, membership applications must be in our office and date-stamped by Monday, September 17.
- Please note that Special Needs seating will ONLY be available at the BJ Sanctuary on 88th Street and the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew on 86th Street.
- The Ushering form gives members the opportunity to volunteer at the 88th Street Sanctuary, SPSA on 86th Street, and Jazz at Lincoln Center.
- Entrance cards will be mailed starting in late July. Please note that no entrance cards will be mailed after Friday, August 31. Beginning September 5, entrance cards will ONLY be available for pick up in the B'nai Jeshurun office.

Remember to return your membership application no later than Friday, July 20, 2007!

Questions? Contact Belinda Lasky, Director of Membership, at 212-787-7600 x224 or blasky@bj.org

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Summer Service Times

As of the weekend of June 22, all Shabbat services (Friday nights and Saturday mornings) will move to the 88th Street Sanctuary for the summer. Starting that weekend, instead of two Friday night services, there will be one service at 7:00 PM. Saturday morning services will be held, as usual, at 9:30AM (Children's Service at 10:45AM). There will be Family Kabbalat Shabbat and Wandering Minyan services on June 1, but neither service will happen in July, August or September. We will return to our normal schedule and locations following Labor Day weekend.

Contemplative Practice: Making Room for Quiet

For additional information on these events and the Contemplative *Havurah*, please contact Naomi Goodhart at ngoodhart@bj.org

Friday, June 1, 6:00PM, location TBA: Join us for a special service and potluck dinner. The davening will include chanting, kavannot and silence.

Sunday, June 24, 11:00AM, meet at the Park entrance at 85th St. and Central Park West: Join us for a silent nature walk in Central Park.

Shabbat Oneg: A Taste of the World to Come!

Friday, June 1, following the 7:30PM service, 88th Street Shabbat in the 21st century doesn't have to look like the traditional meal of generations past. 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. Featuring Cantor Ari Priven and BJ musicians.

BJ Book Club

Monday, June 3, 7:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall
 Join us for a reading of Allegra Goodman's *Intuition*, a modern epic, a suspenseful version of a 19th-century classic, a narrative about large social forces, and a novel of many strands in which ethnicity, economics, science, love and passion are all part of the tableau.

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 Erzsebet at x228.

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 April 20)

Adult Education Fund

Saralynn and Sheldon Glass in honor of the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Glass to Martin Cornstein

Arthur P. Morgan Fund

Judith and Carl Felsenfeld in honor of Elias Birnbaum's bar mitzvah
 Stephen and Susan Samuels in honor of Elias Birnbaum's bar mitzvah
 Frances Greenberg in honor of Elias Birnbaum's bar mitzvah
 Dorothy Hilf in honor of Elias Birnbaum's bar mitzvah
 Gertrude Litowitz in honor of Elias Birnbaum's bar mitzvah
 Carole Lurie in honor of Elias Birnbaum

Beba Bronstein Camp Scholarship Fund

Deborah Pinsky in memory of Gordy Wolfe

Bikkur Holim Fund

David Solomon in memory of Ilene Rosenthal's sister-in-law, Karen Rosenthal
 Leonard and Lois Sharzer in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg

Children's Services Fund

Deborah Goldman in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg

Etz Hayim Fund

Helena Diamant Glass in memory of her father, Karl Diamant

General Fund

Myriam Abramowicz in honor of Bella Rector
 Judith Ackerman
 Dan Caligor and Anne Ebersman in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg
 Ana De Souza & Michael Shapero in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg

Aliza Felix in honor of Deborah and Lowell Kirschner and the birth of their twins, Shira Elisheva and Max Ben Azai

Harvey and Audrey Feuerstein in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg

Ted Fisher in honor of the birth of twin grandchildren, Natalie and Garrett to the Arnold Levin family
 Karina and John Hogan, the students of the Theology department and the Office of Residential Life at Fordham University with thanks for a moving prayer service and to Rabbi Sol for her inspiring D'var Torah

Janice and Charles Honig in honor of their Aliyah on the last day of Passover

Amy and Andrew Horowitz in memory of Allan Horowitz
 George Kaplan and Miriam Harris-Kaplan in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg and in memory of Mildred Fein

Susan Kohlmann in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg

Fred and Ellen Levine
 Albert Lerner
 Trudi Levine in appreciation of Hillel Friedman and Felicia Sol for their teaching

Cindy Levy in honor of Herbert Steinhardt's 75th birthday
 Eva Meir for the speedy recovery of Alex Pelossof

Ted Metzger and Robin Fleischner in honor of Stephen Kippur's and Andy Litt's birthdays

Michael and Nancy Mostow in honor of Vivian Yale's birthday

Evelyn Rothstein in honor of the bar mitzvah of Elias Birnbaum
 Ron Seitenbach in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg

Lynne and A.N. Stark in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg



DONATIONS (continued)

Debra and Bruce Track in honor of Dan Senor officiating at Joanna and Jon's wedding ceremony
Emily Weiss in honor of our amazing women rabbis
Vivian Yale in honor of Deborah and Lowell Kirschner's twins

Hevra Kadisha Fund

Mira Rivera in honor of her mother, Aurora Rivera
Paula Wisnik in memory of her mother, Lillian Wisnik

Homeless Shelter Fund

Shelly Ostro in honor of his daughters and grandchildren

High Holy Day Flower Fund

Alan and Mimi Frank in honor of the engagement of their son, Jarod Leland to Ilana Toorans

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Ceil Kraus in memory of her sister, Shirley Bernstein
Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in honor of Myriam Abramowicz's work at BJ
Deborah Pinsky in honor of the Glasser family

Morning Minyan Fund

Morty and Bernice Levine in memory of the son, brother and uncle of the Gubbay family

Shabbat B'Yahad Fund

Harriet Goren in memory of Mildred Fein

Social Action Fund

Marcia Annenberg in memory of her mother

Tze'irim Fund

Lana Kalickstein in honor of Faye Lederman and in honor of Paul Freireich and the Sunday morning minyan

Yizkor Fund

Myriam Abramowicz in memory of her parents, Menahem and Lea
Tzvi Barak and Marion Mienthau-Barak in memory of Tzvi's father, Yaacov Borushak
Lori and Harley Bassman in memory of Lori's father, Lawrence Lennon
Isabel Berkowitz in memory of her father, Max Berkowitz
Howard and Shirley Bisgeier in memory of Howard's mother
John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in memory of John's father, Anthony Bonavita
Ed Brill and Michele Levin in memory of Ed's mother, Beulah Brill and Ed's aunt, Ruth Bernstein

Emily Campbell in memory of Esther Cohen Lebowitz
Laurie Davis in memory of her parents, Neil and Sonia Davis
Sylvia Dresner and Bronia Dresner in memory of their father and husband, Sylvan Dresner
Stephen and Helen Freidus in memory of Felix and Ethel Laine
Ruth Lazarus and Michael Feldberg in memory of Ruth's mother, Udys Lazarus
Lisa Halprin Fleisher and Arthur Fleisher in memory of Al Halprin and Jack Horwitz
Linda Frankel in memory of Ethel Jane Femmer and Max Edwin Femmer
Sheila Gabins in memory of her father, Michael David Gabins
Gladys and Michael Gansl in memory of Gladys' father, Eugene Reich
Bonita and Harvey Ganot in memory of Bonita's sister, Elizabeth Chaney
Rhoda Glass in memory of her mother, Etta Ginsberg
Marion Glickman in memory of her husband, Mortimer
Laurie and Jeffrey Goldberger in memory of Laurie's mother, Judith Goldman
Beverly Gordon in memory of her mother and father, Esther and Herman Reigot
Jonathan Green in memory of his grandmother, Anne Mayer
Nancy Greenblatt in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg
Elaine and Richard Heffner in memory of Elaine's mother, Sarah Segal
Dorothy Hilf
Seth Hochman and Cindy Horowitz in memory of Rachel and Jack Hochman
Ellen Bloch and Jeffrey Johnson in memory of Ellen's beloved mother, Sylvia Bloch
Janice and Charles Honig in memory of their families
Janice and Charles Honig in memory of their son, Gary Honig
Howard Jacobson and Kathryn Wolfson in memory of Howard's father, Paul Jacobson
Joan Jankell in memory of her husband, Richard Jankell
Audrey and Joseph Kalaf in honor of Audrey's aunt, Yonah Kalaf
Andrea Kantor in memory of her father, Cyril Kantor
Beth and Jonathan Kern in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg
Barbara and Brina Klein in memory of their father and grandfather, Bernard Klein and uncle and great uncle, Irving Klein

Marina Pinto Kaufman and Stephen Kaufman in memory of Marina's mother, Vera Pinto
Jeff and Harriet Klein in memory of Harriet's father, David Dickter
Elizabeth Szancer Kujawski in memory of her mother, Irena Szancer
Sarai, Terry and Rachel Levene in memory of their mother and grandmother, Frieda Berenstein
Morty and Bernice Levine in memory of their departed family and friends
Trudi Levine in memory of her father, Jack Levine and Stephen Peck
Eric and Debbie Lerner in memory of Arnold Lerner
Sherwin and Wendy Liff in memory of Sherwin's mother, Sylvia Liff
Suzy Lowinger in memory of Anne and Arthur Lowinger
Gerald and Shirley Margolis in memory of their parents, Harry and Rose Smiley and Harry and Tammie Fogel
Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in memory of Glenn's father Daniel, Judy's brother Mel and Judy's mother, Mildred
Inez Meisels in memory of her mother, Mildred Zuckerman
Audrey Melkin in memory of her father, Gilbert Melkin
Ted Metzger and Robin Fleischner in memory of Harold Fleischner
Leana Moritt in memory of the Hon. Fred Moritt
Ilene and Eugene Nadel in memory of Ilene's cousin, Rhoda Reich
Dennis Neier and Marisha Krupkin in memory of Dennis' mother, Kitty Neier
Stanley and Marcey Pantowich in memory of Stan's mother and father
Sara Pasternak Levine and Mathew Levine in memory of Sara's sister-in-law, Sandi Pasternak
Deborah Pinsky in memory of Jonathan Adelsberg's father, Harvey Adelsberg
Nancy and Charles Posternak in memory of Nancy's father
Susan and Alan Preis in memory of Susan's parents, Gertrude and Hubert Sundheimer
Irma and Robert Radus in memory of Irma's father, Harry Glassman
Charlotte Rashti and Richard Cooper in memory of Charlotte's grandmother, Estelle Daly
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Herman and Myrna Rosen in memory of Regina Weiner, Irving Weiner, Herbert Weiner, Ruth Bertenthal and Jeanie Godsberg
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Helen Rosenfeld in memory of her father, Julius Rosenfeld and her grandmother, Jennie Barnett
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Amy and Albert Schindler in memory of her father
Irene Siegel in memory of her parents, Esther and Louis Lanster and her husband, Norman Siegel
Mervin and Gittel Silverberg in memory of Mervin's father, Sam Silverberg
Alan Slifka in memory of his father, Joseph Slifka
Catherine Smith and Stephen Silverman in memory of Catherine's mother and mother-in-law
Lisa Siegel Solomon and David Solomon in memory of Lisa's father, Eugene Siegel
Judy and Michael Steinhardt in memory of Judy's father, Arthur Abrams
Emanuel and Elizabeth Stern in memory of Stephen Peck
Enid and Mitchell Stuart in memory of Enid's father, Mickey Kravitz and sister, Linda Pinchoff
Mim Warden in memory of her father, R. Earle Marcus
Joan Westreich in memory of her father, Sam Westreich
Vivian Yale in memory of her cousins, Lola and Harry Loiterstein

KOL HADASH

New Voice
 June/July, 2007

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