

inside:

- 2 **Social Action/Social Justice**
Panim el Panim:
The year in reflection, the year ahead
- 3 **Esther Lederman,**
BJ's new Marshall T. Meyer Fellow
- 4 **Schedule of Services:**
High Holy Days 2007/5768
- 5 **Announcements**
- 6 **Calendar**
- 8 **Youth and Family Education**
Supervision for our children during
the Yamim Nora'im

New Special Needs class
Teacher training initiatives at BJHS
Important dates for September
- 10 **Upcoming Limud**

Fall Service Schedule

You may have noticed a change!
- 12 **Contacts**

Rabbi's Message

RABBI MARCELO BRONSTEIN

Is forgiveness possible?

He presents responses from different writers, thinkers, and religious leaders. He is asking the question with the smoke of the Holocaust still burning in the survivor's memory. He is trying to grapple with this issue on the face of the most ultimate evil. We are not facing the most terrible evil, but instead, the complexity of life and the pain that comes after profound hurt. On the more human level, still, is forgiveness possible?

We have created a mega-ritual trying to deal with this dilemma. The drama is called *Yamim Nora'im*, the awesome or fearful days. On these days we have to navigate the caves of failure, mistakes, judgment, victimization, powerlessness, repentance and forgiveness.

Yom Kippur is a day dedicated to this concept. We have consecrated a full day to this word. It is the only holy day that has a name dedicated to what we want to achieve. We call it: Forgiveness Day. It becomes a massive ritual where we are bathed in prayers with the idea that we have made mistakes and we want to be pardoned.

On Yom Kippur it is very clear that we are the transgressors and God is the one who pardons. The equation is vertical and not horizontal. To be pardoned by God is easier than to be pardoned by human beings.

(continued on page 9)

SIAN GIBBY
 Participant, BJ 2007 Israel Trip

What is holiness?

What does holiness look like? After going on the summer trip to Israel with BJ, I have more answers to this question than before. Holiness looks like the face of G-d mirrored in innumerable human faces we encountered throughout Eretz Israel. The face of Sheikh Ghassan, for instance, a religious leader who carefully threaded 60+ BJ members through the labyrinthine streets of the Muslim Quarter in Jerusalem and talked about Sufism's quest for harmony and love. Or the sweetly handsome

The Yamim Nora'im are approaching, when we shed our selfish selves and immerse in holiness. What is holiness? What are its characteristics?

(continued on page 9)

Panim el Panim: The year in reflection, the year ahead

As summer ends and we head full-speed into a frenetic NYC autumn, Panim el Panim (“face to face”), BJ’s community organizing and advocacy initiative, is gearing up for a momentous year that builds upon the achievements of the past 12 months.

About Panim el Panim

Our tradition demands that every person work to eliminate poverty, speak out against injustice, and shape a more caring and peaceful society. Since 2003, Panim el Panim has been a conduit for our community members to effect systemic change and address the root causes that underpin the need for social service programs. Through hundreds of one-to-one conversations, as well as house meetings and community forums, we have built deeper relationships among congregants, identified issues of shared concern, and advocated for social change in partnership with other communities.

In the past year, we have enjoyed some major advances in our work.

The Women’s Rights Action Hevra has been working to pass state legislation, the Healthy Teens Act, which would provide funding for comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sex education programs. The hevra is also exploring strategies to mandate sex ed in NYC public schools. Key achievements in the past year included:

- Co-founding SEANYC (Sex Education Alliance of NYC); BJ is the first faith-based organization to work with this coalition.
- Hosting 60 BJ members at a learning session on sexuality and Judaism.
- Conducting a house meeting for BJ parents about the Healthy Teens Act.

The Marriage Equality Hevra has been partnering with the Empire State Pride Agenda to support the attainment of civil rights and economic justice for same-sex couples by working for passage of the Marriage Equality Act in New York State. Key achievements this last year included:

- Organizing 27 members of the BJ community, including 2 rabbis, to join in lobbying legislators in Albany and in their district offices. The bill passed the New York Assembly. Now on to the State Senate!
- Reviving the Stonewall Seder at BJ, at which 80 people created a sacred place for and celebrated the voices of all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

The Environmental Action Hevra has been promoting environmentally sustainable practices in our synagogue and homes, and building a movement among local congregations to do the same. Key achievements during the last year included:

- Developing a proposal for Greening BJ that assessed the

institution’s environmental impact and suggested a strategy for improvements.

- Implementing the Brit Adamah (“Earth Covenant”), which encourages a commitment from each BJ member household to go green.

BJ community members involved in these initiatives often remark that through their work they feel more connected to fellow congregants, to life at BJ and to living their Judaism.

A New Stage for Panim el Panim

In the spring of 2007, B’nai Jeshurun joined an interfaith social justice coalition called Manhattan Together. The goal of this partnership is to help us amplify our synagogue’s justice work—both in our impact on injustice and in our partnership with other New Yorkers, across faith, race, and class.

The mission of Manhattan Together, a local affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), a national network of interfaith community organizing groups, is to improve the quality of life of all Manhattanites. Nearly 30 institutions are currently members—mainly religious congregations from black Baptists to Latino Catholics to white Episcopalians, as well as two synagogues, the Society for the Advancement of Judaism and West End Synagogue.

Manhattan Together is focusing on three issues considered critical to the future of the borough:

- Preservation and production of more affordable housing
- Improvement of public education
- Integration of immigrants into the city’s mainstream

Panim el Panim members are participating in shaping the strategies and will have the opportunity to play a significant role in their implementation.

Fall Listening Campaign

Later this fall, Panim el Panim will launch a series of community conversations through one-to-one discussions, in house meetings and large-scale gatherings. The purpose of this initiative is to explore more deeply how our community is connected to the issues that Panim el Panim is working on: what are our stories and experiences? We hope that the conversations will encourage participation from our members and build vibrant new connections among us. We invite you to join the dialogue! Stay tuned for details.

Join Us

Throughout BJ’s 181-year history, we have forged new paths, stood up for justice, and helped those in need. We are a people of deeds, and we build on a rich history of activism. Please join with us in Panim el Panim to continue this holy and rewarding work. ■

—Lisa Safier, Rochelle Friedlich, and Ben Ross

For more information and how you can get involved, contact Guy Austrian, BJ’s Director of Social Action/Social Justice, at 212-787-7600 x259.

Esther Lederman, BJ's new Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

Esther Lederman isn't one of those people who grew up knowing that she just absolutely had to be a rabbi. Although her connections to the Jewish world are deeply rooted in her childhood and her family, there were other directions in which she could have gone. Her connections to Israel, where she began spending her summers and has lived for many years, are similarly complex, realistic, and profound, but they did not have to lead her to rabbinical school.

Esther was born in 1973 in Ottawa, Canada's capital, where she grew up "actively Jewish," she said. Her father worked for Environment Canada, a government agency that, as its name implies, works to maintain and preserve the country's vast wilderness, and her mother, a psychologist, works in a mental hospital. Both are "very very liberal."

Esther went to Jewish day school, as many Canadian Jewish children do. The family first belonged to an Orthodox shul and then moved to a Conservative congregation when she was 11. "I wanted a bat mitzvah," she said. Such a dream was out of the question in Canada's Orthodox world and only barely possible in the Conservative one. Judaism in Ottawa when she grew up was the opposite of liberal; that contradiction was the first of many with which she has come to terms. She went to Jewish camps that belonged to the Habonim Dror North America, the Labor Zionist youth movement, and at 16 spent her first summer in Israel.

After high school Esther went to live on a kibbutz; having grown up with the image of the kibbutz as the height of romantic socialism, she was somewhat taken aback to learn that for Israelis that romance had long since died. "People our age were in the army, and when they came to visit they made fun of us and asked us why we were there," she said. She majored in political science and Middle Eastern studies at McGill University in Montreal; her junior year abroad was at Tel Aviv University. That year was 1994-95. "I was there for a month when there was a bombing three or four blocks away. It was a rough year.

"I loved it but I was also extremely frustrated and disillusioned," she said. Rabin's assassination, soon after she returned home, was a major blow. "These are my people killing my people," she remembers thinking. "It started to destroy a little bit my faith in humanity and peoplehood and the enterprise we call the Jewish people and the state of Israel."

After she finished college, Esther came to the United States to run a camp, Moshava, that was connected to her youth movement, and then she became Habonim Dror's national

director; the movement hires young people, who have to leave, like boy band members, once they age out. Her parents, who thought her well suited for a career in international development, suggested that she join the Canadian Peace Corps, but her pull toward Jewish things was too strong. Next, she moved to Washington to be assistant director of the Israel Policy Form's office there. She had not been affiliated with a synagogue for years, but "I knew something was missing in my life. I needed a spiritual community." She found an egalitarian minyan, but still it wasn't entirely working for her. "The language was familiar to me, but it wasn't speaking to me then."

In 2000, Esther moved to New York to work for the Reform movement's commission for social action; her job involved activities that would promote peace in Israel. The second intifada started the day after her job did. "No one wanted to talk to me," she said. To do her job, she had to go to Reform synagogues, and "I really liked what I saw. I met people who helped me see that religious Judaism didn't have to be what I thought it was. It presented me with a different vision.

"I went to speak a synagogue and someone asked me if I ever wanted to be a rabbi. I laughed—but I filed it away in my head."

Three years later, after more and more people asked her that question, and she started asking it of herself, Esther applied to rabbinical school at HUC, where she is now a fifth-year student. "I could have done public policy—sit in a room and think of a lot of policies that someone either will or will not use, or I can go into the rabbinate and work with people and help them, one by one. If I can meet congregants and talk to them face to face and just hear their stories, figure out what motivates them, and help them get engaged, I'll be doing my job." ■

—Joanne Palmer

If I can meet congregants and talk to them face to face and just hear their stories, figure out what motivates them, and help them get engaged, I'll be doing my job."

—Esther Lederman

Schedule of Services • High Holy Days 2007/5768

Selihot

Saturday, September 8

Kabbalat Selihot

88th Street Sanctuary	9:45 PM
Coffee Hour.....	11:15 PM
Service.....	Midnight

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 12

First Evening

The Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew (SPSA) 86th Street, 88th Street*	6:30 PM
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Thursday, September 13

First Day

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC)*	9:00 AM
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Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall, 88th Street Frankel Hall, JALC.....	10:30 AM
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Family Service (ages 7-12)

Symphony Space.....	10:30 AM
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Study followed by Tashlikh

88th Street Sanctuary	4:30 PM
Riverside Park.....	6:00 PM

Second Evening

88th Street.....	7:30 PM
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Friday, September 14

Second Day

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street	9:00 AM
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Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall	10:30 AM
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Junior Congregation

88th Street Frankel Hall	10:30 AM
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Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 14

Kabbalat Shabbat

88th Street	6:00 PM
88th Street	7:30 PM

Saturday, September 15

Morning Services

SPSA 86th Street	9:30 AM
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Junior Congregation

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall	10:30 AM
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Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Chapel	10:45 AM
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Yom Kippur

Friday, September 21

Kol Nidre

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC*	6:15 PM
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Saturday, September 22

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC*	9:00 AM
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Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall, 88th Street Frankel Hall, JALC.....	10:30 AM
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Family Service (ages 7-12)

Symphony Space.....	10:30 AM
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Minhah and Ne'ilah

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC*	4:45 PM
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Children's procession

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC	7:15 PM
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Teki-at Shofar and Havdalah

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC.....	7:34 PM
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Sukkot

Wednesday, September 26

First Evening

88th Street	6:30 PM
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Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....	following Services
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Thursday, September 27

First Day

88th Street.....	9:30 AM
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Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....	10:45 AM
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Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....	following Services
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Second Evening

88th Street.....	7:30 PM
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Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....	following Services
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Friday, September 28

Second Day

88th Street.....	9:30 AM
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Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....	10:45 AM
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Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....	following Services
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Hoshana Rabbah

Wednesday, October 3

Morning Service

88th Street	7:30 AM
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Shemini Atzeret

Wednesday, October 3

Evening Service

88th Street	6:30 PM
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Thursday, October 4

Morning Services (Yizkor)

88th Street.....	9:30 AM
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Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....	10:45 AM
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Simhat Torah

Thursday, October 4

Erev Simhat Torah

Family Service 88th Street Frankel Hall	6:30 PM
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88th Street	7:15 PM
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Friday, October 5

Morning Services

88th Street.....	9:30 AM
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* Based on pre-assigned location for services

88th Street Services are at the B'nai Jeshurun Synagogue, 257 W. 88th Street (between Broadway and West End Avenue).

SPSA Services are at the Church of Saint Paul and Saint Andrew, 86th Street at West End Avenue (1 block off Broadway).

Jazz at Lincoln Center Services are at Jazz at Lincoln Center at the Time Warner Center, Broadway at 60th Street.

Symphony Space Services are at Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway (Broadway at 95th Street).

Mazal Tov

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

Eli Akabas
Nathaniel Sabat

To the following members and their families (through August 10):

Lisa Ferrisi and Dan Guttman on their wedding.

Gerald Rosenfeld on receiving the American Jewish Committee's 2007 Herbert H. Lehman Human Relations Award.

Eleanor Harrison Bregman and Peter, Isabelle, and Sophia Bregman on the birth of their son and brother.

Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek and Alison Spodek on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Noa.

Meredith Berkman and Daniel, Noa, Caleb, and Avital Mintz on the birth and naming of their daughter and sister, Yael Berkman Mintz.

Jill and Jeff Marcus on the naming of their daughter, Priya Kaia.

Sheila Tronn and Alvin Tannenbaum on their engagement.

Jerry Abrams, Eilat Gubbay, Naomi and Daniella Gubbay Abrams, and Talya and Tamar Marge Gubbay on the birth of their daughter, sister, niece, and granddaughter, Judianna Leora Gubbay Abrams.

Adam and Eli Klotz and Cori Darling on the birth of their son and brother, Isaiah Klotz.

Susan Schwartz on the birth of her grandson, Daniel Haden Levy.

Condolences (through August 10)

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Daniel Baldinger, and extends sincere condolences to Marjorie, Toby, Howard, Jennifer, Lauren, and Jack Baldinger and Rosalind and Sy Glass on the death of their husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, and brother-in-law.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Nicholas Catinella and extends sincere condolences to Susanne, Francesca, Matthew and Sal Catinella on the death of their husband and father.

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

Richard Pasternak, Mathew Levine, and Sara, Mimi, Max and Joseph Pasternak Levine on the death of their beloved wife, mother-in-law, mother, and grandmother, Laura Shulman Pasternak.

Stan and Phyllis Silver on the death of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Rhea Greenstein Silver.

Judy Gray on the death of her beloved aunt, Thelma "Timmy" Kabak Walsh.

Naomi, Steven, Joshua and Aaron Brunnlehrman on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Ursula Brunn.

Marilyn and Joseph Stone on the tragic death of their beloved son, Daniel Stone.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
2	3 LABOR DAY BJ OFFICE CLOSED	4	5	6
9	13	11	12 ROSH HASHANAH, 1st EVENING BJ OFFICE CLOSURES AT 3:00PM BJ OFFICE CLOSED 9/13 & 9/14 • 6:30 PM – Services, 86th St., 88th St.	13 ROSH HASHANAH, 2nd EVENING • 9:00 AM – Services, 88th St., JALC • 10:30 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St., JALC • 10:30 AM – Family Services, 88th St., JALC • 4:30 PM – Study, 88th St., JALC • 6:00 PM – Tashlikh, Rivlin Hall ROSH HASHANAH, 3rd EVENING • 7:30 PM – Service, 88th St.
16	17  First Day of Hebrew School	18	19	20  First Day of Hebrew School for Thursday Services
23	24  •4:00 PM – Family Sukkah Decorating Party, SPSA Sukkah	25	26 SUKKOT, 1st EVENING BJ OFFICE CLOSURES AT 3:00PM • 6:30 PM – Services, 88th St. • Following Services – Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah	27 SUKKOT, 1st DAY BJ OFFICE & BJHS CLOSURES • 9:30 AM – Services, 88th St., JALC • 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, Frankel Hall • Following Services – Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah SUKKOT, 2nd DAY • 7:30 PM – Service, 88th St., JALC • Following Services – Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah
30 HOL HAMO'ED SUKKOT				

SERVICE TIMES

Morning Minyan (88th Street):
• Monday-Friday 7:30 AM. • Sunday & National Holidays 9:30 AM

Kabbalat Shabbat: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!
• September 7: 6:00 PM 88th St. • 7:30 PM 88th Street

Shabbat Morning: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!
• September 1: 9:30 AM 88th Street • Children’s services 10:45 AM 88th Street Frankel Hall
• Beginning September 8: 9:30 AM 86th Street. • Children’s services 10:45 AM 86th Street

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 88th St. 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St.
	<p>7 SERVICE TIMES CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following services - Tze'irim Fall Kickoff Potluck Dinner, 86th St. 	<p>8 SERVICE LOCATIONS CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 86th St. Bat Mitzvah - Arielle Korman Bat Mitzvah - Sarah Revesz 9:45 PM program, Midnight service - SELIHOT, 88th St.
<p>13 ROSH HASHANAH, 1st DAY 86th St., 88th St., Services, 86th Symphony St. Park 2nd EVENING St.</p>	<p>14 ROSH HASHANAH, 2nd DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM - Services, 86th St., 88th St. 10:30 AM - Children's Services, 86th St. Social Hall 10:30 AM - Junior Congregation, 88th St. Frankel Hall 6:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>15 SHABBAT SHUVAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:30 AM - Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St. Following Services - Community Kiddush, 88th St.
<p>Hebrew School Students</p>	<p>21 KOL NIDRE BJ OFFICE CLOSING AT 1:00PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM - Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC 	<p>22 YOM KIPPUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM - Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC 10:30 AM - Children's Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC 10:30 AM - Family Service, Symphony Space 4:45 PM - Minhah & Ne'ilah Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC 7:15 PM - Children's Processions 7:34 PM - Teki'at Shofar, Havdalah
<p>CLOSED 8th St. Services, 88th dush, SPSA NG h St. dush, SPSA</p>	<p>28 SUKKOT, 2nd DAY BJ OFFICE CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Services, 88th St. 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall Following Services - Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah 	<p>29 SHABBAT HOL HAMO'ED SUKKOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:30 AM - Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 88th St. Following Services - Kiddush, SPSA Sukkah

ADULT CLASSES

Wednesday

- Elul: Retelling Our Stories 6:30-8:00 PM (remaining class September 5)

YOUTH CLASSES

Monday, September 17: First Day of Hebrew School

Monday

- 4-5:30 PM, Kindergarten and First grade
- 4-6 PM, Second through Sixth grade

Thursday

- 4-5:30 PM, Kindergarten and First grade
- 4-6 PM, Second through Seventh grade

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Sunday-Thursday

- BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter 7 PM

Thursday

- Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12 PM



indicates Family Life and Hebrew School events

Candlelighting Times

September 7	7:02 PM
September 12	6:53 PM (First Evening Rosh Hashanah)
September 13	7:51 PM (Second Evening Rosh Hashanah)
September 14	6:50 PM
September 21	6:38 PM (Erev Yom Kippur)
September 26	6:30 PM (First Evening Sukkot)
September 27	7:26 PM (Second Evening Sukkot)
September 28	6:26 PM

Parashat HaShavu'a

September 8	Nitzavim-Vayelekh
September 15	Ha'azinu
September 22	Yom Kippur
September 29	Sukkot

Havdalah Times

September 8	7:59 PM
September 15	7:47 PM
September 22	7:35 PM
September 29	7:23 PM

Supervision for our children during the Yamim Nora''im

The Yamim Nora'im are fast approaching and we wanted to take this time to discuss some safety and security issues involving children during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We welcome children to our services, both in the main service and at children's services. However, in recent years the number of unsupervised children in all of our locations has posed a safety hazard for everyone in our community.

When children's services are not in session, it is inappropriate and unsafe for children to be anywhere in 88th street, SPSA or Jazz at Lincoln Center without adult supervision. In order to

make the Yamim Nora'im a safe experience for all our members, children will not be permitted in these locations without an adult. Ushers and security guards will be sending unsupervised children back into the main sanctuary to sit with their families. We recognize that this may pose an inconvenience for some families, but the safety of the children in our community is our priority.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Rebecca Rosenthal, Youth and Family Shabbat and Holidays Coordinator at rrosenthal@bj.org or x243. ■

New Special Needs class at BJHS

For the past several years, the Hebrew School has worked in partnership with MATAN: The Gift of Jewish Learning for Every Child. MATAN, on its website, states that it "is a multi-disciplinary team of Jewish educators, special educators, and mental health professionals committed to designing and implementing modifications that enable Jewish day schools and supplemental schools to serve all children regardless of ability. Whether enrolled in dual curriculum or supplemental Jewish education programs, children face the demands of learning a second language, managing frequent transitions, organizing materials for many classes and coping with an extended day. These factors may be significant for all grade-school children, but for children with educational, attentional or behavioral difficulties, extra support is necessary in order to succeed in the enriched environment of a Jewish educational program."

BJHS has worked with MATAN to provide additional support to students, families and teachers in the Hebrew School. MATAN has provided the Hebrew School with consultation to help us develop and modify our curriculum to reach more learners. This year, as an extension of our commitment to provide a Jewish education for as many of BJ's children as possible, we are pleased to announce a new class for students in fourth and fifth grades with visual and auditory processing delays.

This new class will meet on Monday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00PM at the Heschel School. In addition to classroom learning about Hebrew, Jewish history and holidays, students in this class will also interact with the rest of our 4th and 5th grade students in our music program, periodic school-wide programming, and our Mishpa'ha Family Learning Program. The class is open to both BJ members and non-members. For more information, or to enroll, please contact Hollis at hgauss@bj.org or x244. ■

Important dates for September

Please see the complete listing for Children's Services, Family Services and Junior Congregation for the High Holidays on page 3 and at www.bj.org

- Thursday, September 6**BJHS Teacher Orientation Part I
- Monday, September 10**BJHS Teacher Orientation Part II
- Friday, September 14**Rosh Hashanah Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall
- Saturday, September 15** ...Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, SPSA Social Hall
- Monday, September 17**First Day of Hebrew School
- Thursday, September 20** ..First Day of Hebrew School for Thursday Students
- Tuesday, September 24**Family Sukkah Decorating Party, 4:00PM, in the Sukkah
- Thursday, September 27**BJHS Closed for Sukkot

Teacher training initiatives at BJHS

Every year, parents give voice to some of our fears and concerns about our teachers. While we are blessed to be in a city full of all kinds of loving, talented, smart people with flexible afternoon schedules who want to teach at BJ, the other side of this blessing as that schedules change, people graduate, get full-time employment, or leave the city, and our teacher turnover is high (although no higher than other Hebrew Schools in Manhattan or in other urban areas around the country). In order to help our teachers, both the new ones and those whose commitments to BJ's children have spanned the past several years, start the school year from a place of strength, we have placed new emphasis on teacher training for the 2007-2008 school year. Teacher training honors our teachers by investing in them, and also honors our students and their families by striving to provide academic excellence in the Hebrew School. Before school begins this fall, all of our teachers will undergo a Ramapo for Children training on classroom and behavior management, to begin the year by creating a classroom with an atmosphere conducive to learning. In addition, four of our teachers will participate in the Yesodot program in October, a "crash course" in pedagogy for new teachers. ■

Rabbi's Message: Is forgiveness possible? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We have three words in Hebrew to convey what we call in English forgiveness: *Selichah*, *Mechilah* and *Kaparah*.

Selichah: The root is *Samach*, *Lamed*, *Chet*. In the Bible, this root is always connected to forgiveness. If we check in different dictionaries the root is also related to the idea of "to drip or to flow." Forgiveness becomes a sprinkler that cleanses us. In the *Talmud (Yoma 85b)* Rabbi Akivah in the uses the *mikveh* analogy to describe this day "Just as a *mikveh* purifies the impure, the Holy one Blessed be *Yah*, purifies Israel." For Rav Soloveitchik, *Selichah* and *Kaparah* try to erase the metaphysical aspect of our transgression. What we do has an effect on God's creation; it alters the balance in the cosmos and God is the only one who can repair it.

Mechilah: The root is *Mem*, *Chet*, *Lamed*. The first appearance means to "remit a debt" or "to blow out" or "to destroy." Rav Soloveitchik (*On Repentance*) translates *Mechilah* as "pardon". "Pardon, therefore, means the remission of punishment, in the same way as release from a debt." (page 271). In his book *Before Hashem* you shall be purified. The Rav says that only God "has the ability to grant *selichah* and *kaparah*." In contrast, under specific circumstances *Mechilah* can be granted by people (page 109).

Kaparah: The root is *Chav*, *Pei*, *Reish*. There are different

meanings attached to this root. It would be too long to include them all and their base on the sacred texts. The first discussion among rabbis is on the meaning of the expression "*akaprah panav*"—"propitiate him," or "I will end his anger," on the moment of Jacob meeting Esav (Genesis 32:20-21). The meaning is "to wipe off." It is to be acquitted from sin. *Kaparah* removes the need for punishment.

If there is something in common among all these concepts it is the idea of reducing suffering. Not to pardon or not to be pardoned is a way to keep our connection with the origin of the pain. When we stay there we constantly recreate the vivid tension between victims and victimizers. We stay stagnated. Another element that we get from these three concepts is that two belong to God. It is very difficult to forgive when we have to elevate ourselves closer to God to do it. Maybe the best thing we can do is "to release a debt" meaning to let go, maybe real forgiveness is God's business, but we can help God by easing the suffering, by releasing ourselves from the attachment to the pain.

May we all be more released and cleansed to embrace a New Year freer of past patterns to embrace the best of each one of our potentials. ■

Shana Tovah ve Chatima Tovah. ■

What is holiness? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

face of Father Franz, leader of a Catholic monastery at Emmaus, where French and German nuns and monks live and study texts humbly with their Jewish neighbors. Or the sad and beautiful face of Yulie Cohen Gerstel, a documentary filmmaker who's made a movie about her family's difficult relationship with Zionism. And the face of our beloved Marshall T. Meyer fellow Chen as she reeled about, embracing the new sefer Torah of Niggun Ha Lev, dancing and celebrating, with light shining through the tears in her eyes like dark gems.

What does holiness sound like? I heard holiness as we walked from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to the Kotel over the shiny-smooth cobblestone streets of Jerusalem and suddenly the muezzin's voice rang out, echoing through the alleyways and bouncing off the soft, flesh-colored stone, calling people to midday prayer. I heard it when I sat in the sunny room at the monastery and listened to a handful of Christians and a big group of Jews singing together in Latin and Hebrew the words of Psalm 117: "Praise the Lord, all you nations; Hallelujah." In Yair Dalal singing "Zaman el Salaam," "Time for peace," at his studio

in the ancient port of Yafo. I heard it at the Holocaust museum Yad VaShem, in the tearful admission by a BJ member, upon hearing a poem by our tour guide, written and recited in German, that his little poem's beauty had made that language sound lovely to her ears for the first time in her life.

What does holiness feel like? Holiness feels like chanting, "Sh'ma, Israel" and knowing that the entire nation, the entire people, can hear you and are listening. It feels like looking around a table covered with delicious food on a cool night at Kibbutz Ginosar and realizing you are surrounded by friends and kindred spirits, American and Israeli. It feels like walking together joyfully into a new beit kneset to bring a sefer Torah to a burgeoning and wrestling Jewish spiritual community. It feels like lying in the dark in the Galilee and sensing the succat sh'lomo, G-d's sheltering peace covering us all.

May G-d's peace continue to hover over us and over all Israel and all the denizens of the earth as we prepare our spirits for the High Holy Days. ■

Upcoming
Limud

• **Elul: Retelling Our Stories**

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

2 Wednesdays (August 29 and September 5) • 6:30–8:00PM
88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required

We are always telling ourselves stories about ourselves—it's how we as individuals and as Jews construct the realities in which we live. Come study texts in which classic and contemporary Jewish thinkers such as Rav Kook, Abraham Joshua Heschel and Robert Cover consider the role narrative stories, or aggadah, play in our religious realities, and consider how retelling these stories during the Yamim Nora'im can be an important part of teshuvah.

Fall Service Schedule

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Please note change of time!

Beginning **Friday, September 7**, the early service will start at 6:00PM and the late service will start at 7:30PM, both at 88th Street.

Shabbat Morning Services: Please note change of location!

Beginning **Saturday, September 8**, Shabbat morning services will start at 9:30AM at 86th Street.

You may have noticed a change! We have changed our logo. Like our congregation, the new BJ logo incorporates tradition and innovation. The typeface used for the English "BJ" is classic and traditional, while the Hebrew typeface (translated to B'nai Jeshurun) is current and bold. Inspired by our vibrant congregation, our new logo reflects the synergy between these characteristics.

Dontations

(through August 1)

Adult Education Fund

Susan Landau and Thomas Reiner in memory of Karen Siegel

Beba Bronstein Scholarship Fund

Mark Grumet

Bikur Holim Fund

Inez Meisels
Jan Silverman in honor of Morning Minyan

Daily Minyan Fund

Rose Alpert in honor of Morty Levine's birthday
Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday and the teachings of Rabbis Dara Frimmer and Lauren Holtzblatt

Flower Fund

Alan and Mimi Frank

General Fund

Joel and Judith Berger
John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in honor of the birth of Rabbi Brent and Alison Spodek's daughter,

Sadie Noa, in memory of Deborah Pinsky's uncle, and in memory of Harold's mother, Rebecca Bronstein Goldman

Sandee Brawarsky in honor of Glenn Marlowe's birthday and special honor Robert Kanter
Ronnie Reden
Jonathan and Micki Reiss in honor and appreciation of holding the Torah on Shabbat

Hebrew School Contribution Fund

Jonathan and Andrea Feldman in appreciation of Tot Shabbat services

Hevra Kadisha Fund

Richard and Roberta Sol in appreciation of Roly, Marcelo and Ari

Homeless Shelter Fund

Elaine Nevins in memory of her friend, Binnie Schaler
Barbara Simon in honor of Elaine Nevin's grandson Elan's high school graduation

Kiddushim Fund

Susan Margolis in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday
Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday
Wendy Nagel in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday
Penelope Raphaely in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday
David and Estare Weiser in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday
Vivian Yale in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday and her son David's birthday

Lunch Program

Lynn Davidson in honor of Carol Gelles' birthday
The Food Pantry in honor of Hilda Greenberg's 85th birthday
Marian Gass in honor of Rose Alpert's birthday
Carole Lurie and Susan Samuels in memory of Joe Gold's mother, Aurelia Gold

Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund

Evelyn Lewis-Enright in honor of Rabbi Dara Frimmer and Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in honor of Morty Levine's birthday and the birth of Rabbi Brent and Alison Spodek's daughter, Sadie Noa

Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellowship Fund

Irving Weitzman and Marlene Halpern in honor of Rabbi Dara Frimmer

Shabbat B'Yahad Fund

Havurah Haverim Tovim in memory of Mildred Fein

Social Action Fund

Richard Revesz and Vicki Been in honor of Sarah Revesz
Womens' Rights Hevra in memory of Chaim Bronstein's beloved grandson, Michael Evans

Donations *(continued)*

Tze'irim Fund

Leonard Gross in honor of Rabbi Dara Frimmer's leadership

Yizkor Fund

Scott Allen in memory of his mother, Sylvia Allen
 Howard and Shirley Bisgeier in memory of Howard's father and Shirley's mother
 Henry Blumner
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 Jacqueline Braverman in memory of her beloved mother, Dora Becker
 Sandee Brawarsky in memory of Judah Gubbay
 Edward Brill and Michele Levin in memory of Seymour Brill
 Daniel and Amy Cantor in memory of Harvey Adelsberg
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 Susan Fine and Debra Fine in memory of Phil Fine
 Simone Franco in memory of her beloved parents, Isaac and Karen Franco
 Linda Frankel in memory of Gary Femmer
 Nancy Kahn in memory of her mother
 Sheila Gabins in memory of Victor Carl Goldberg

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 Albert and Naomi Levine in memory of Albert's beloved father, Max Levine
 Joel Levy and Barbara Blum in memory of Barbara's mother
 Richard Lieberman and Susan Farkas in memory of Richard's beloved grandfather, Samuel Gottlieb Sherwin and Wendy Liff in memory of Wendy's beloved father, Jack Vhugen
 Irving and Dorothy Litt in memory of Edward Olan
 Suzy Lowinger in memory of her mother, Anne Lowinger
 Allan Malz and Karin Bruckner in memory of Allan's beloved mother

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon and family in appreciation of Roly's beloved grandmother, Celia Matalon, beloved grandfather, Moises Matalon and uncle Miguel Teubal
 Eileen Mullen in memory of her beloved father, William Mullen
 Eugene and Ilene Nadel in memory of Ilene's beloved father and mother, Louis Trager and Helen K. Trager and Eugene's father, Milton Nadel
 Andrea Newman in memory of Anna Silverman
 Ellen Perlstein and David Dosamantes in memory of Ellen's father, Irving Garfield
 Deborah Pinsky in memory of Rabbi Felicia Sol's grandmother and in memory of Jane Erbs' husband and Sybil Garry and Michelle Erbs' father
 Penelope Raphaely in memory of her beloved mother, Miriam Raphaely
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 Jessica Sharzer and Paul Gutrecht
 Irene Siegel in memory of her beloved husband, Norman Siegel and her beloved mother, Esther Lanster

Jerome Siegel and Phyllis Harlem in memory of Fannie Siegel
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 Marian Weinman in memory of her mother
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 Kathryn Wolfson in memory of her beloved father, Shel Wolfson
 Vivian Yale in memory of her beloved husband, Milton Yale and her father, Jacob Gordon
 Holly Zabitz in memory of her grandmother, Julia Zabitz and in memory of her beloved mother, Leila Zabitz

KOL HADASH • NEW VOICE
 September 2007

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Accounts Payable227
 Accounts Receivable237
 Adult Education Information233
 Bar/Bat Mitzvah223
 Bikkur Holim308
 BJ Reads.....391
 Conversion.....264
 Daily Minyan232
 Deaf & Hard of Hearing
 e-mail: CLAZK@AOL.COM
 phone: 212-628-7061
 Development
 & Donation Information.....242

88th Street Rental223
 Family Activities: Hotline318
 Haknusat Orhim.....351
 Havurot222
 Hevra Kadisha212-496-0616
 Homeless Shelter212-339-4250
 Interfaith Committee 379
 Kiddush Scheduling255
 Kol Jeshurun254
 Ledor Vador224
 Lunch Program338
 Membership Information224
 Ralph Bunche School Partnership...301
 Shabbat B'Yahad Committee233

Social Action259
 Telephone Language Companion
 212-721-9037
 Teen Programming.....253
 Torah/Haftarah Reading.....232
 Ushering305
 Volunteer Information.....255
 Youth & Family Education.....244

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