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Rabbi's Message

RABBI FELICIA L. SOL

"To believe in freedom is to believe in events, namely to maintain that human beings are able to escape the bonds of the

processes in which they are involved and to act in a way not necessitated by antecedent factors. Freedom is the state of going out of the self, an act of spiritual ecstasy, in the original sense of the term. Who, then, is free? The creative person who is not carried away by the streams of necessity, who is not enchained by processes, who is not enslaved to circumstances."

—From *God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism*, p. 410

We read these words of Abraham Joshua Heschel on Kol Nidre as we entered the extraordinary event of Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur has now passed, the Sukkah has been disassembled, the Torah has begun again with Bereshit. Where are we? Has the event of Yamim Nora'im had impact on the processes of our daily lives? Have we made any different choices?

It is easy to return to "normal" living after a month of the *haggim*. It is almost a relief—finally a full week of school or work. However, we should be wary of growing too comfortable in that routine, too excited by the liberation from

(continued on page 10)

Bringing a Torah to Israel

ROBIN FLEISCHNER &
 CHEN BEN OR TSFONI

In a torch-lit procession through Moshav Nahalal in northern Israel, sixty of us marched, sang, and lovingly passed the Torah from shoulder to shoulder, as we

approached the chuppah where the Niggun Halev community awaited us. Like parents accompanying a bride to the wedding canopy with overflowing hearts, we rejoiced as we handed to our Israeli friends and soul mates the Torah BJ commissioned for them. Niggun Halev is the prayer community of Hamidrasha, one of BJ's closest Israeli partners, which provides secular Israelis opportunities for meaningful, modern Jewish education and spirituality. The Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony was a highlight of BJ's July 2007 trip to Israel, charging both communities with the challenge of giving and receiving Torah as a gift and an obligation to pursue relevant paths to Judaism.

Niggun Halev opened the ceremony by reading a beautiful Ketubah they wrote, a reference to the commitment of a groom and bride to each other:

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BJ Responds: Once a Year Social Action Events

We hope you will join us in the New Year.

Jews in Spandex Raise \$17,000: Hazon Environmental Bike Ride

Why did 12 BJ members spend Labor Day weekend dressed in spandex, sweatily pedaling 100+ miles on their bikes? We were cycling in support of Hazon, a Jewish environmental organization that works to create a healthier and sustainable Jewish community as a step toward a healthier and more sustainable world for all. The ride was preceded by a pluralistic, joyful and downright fun Shabbaton which included a Shacharit service on a mountaintop, a tour of the Adamah organic farm (where a generation of young Jews are learning about sustainable farming while deepening their Jewish studies), and a panel with Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli alumni of the Arava Institute for environmental studies (a beneficiary of Hazon funding) discussing their work on both

co-existence and renewable energy in the Middle East. So far, we've raised \$19,226.50 toward our goal of \$25,000. We thank the many BJ members who sponsored us with generous contributions to Hazon, and encourage you to join us on the ride (as riders or as crew) next year—you'll increase your physical, spiritual and environmental fitness! To learn more about Hazon, check out their fantastic website at www.hazon.org.

For more information, please contact Elissa Meth at emm2@cornell.edu or Heidi Sadowsky at hsadowsky@gmail.com. ■

—Jenny Eisenberg

Komen for the Cure

This year, the BJ team for the Komen for the Cure race/walkathon, which raises funds to combat breast cancer through research, awareness and treatment, had 43 enlisted members and has raised over \$13,000, \$2,000 beyond our goal. Contributions continue to arrive; the donation period ends on October 31. Even more gratifying is the feeling of membership with this team. During our pre-Race/Walk breakfast on September 9, we shared our stories, fears and hopes about the disease, and we prayed together. Rabbi Brent Spodek, whose reading of Psalm 59 was an inspiration for anyone struggling with illness or a difficult situation, led our spiritual service with Joni Brenner, whose calming words and yoga warm-ups helped us feel even more like a sharing community. The weather was excellent, the march spirited, and while we chatted and got to know new people, the

5k walk became a delight, not a physical challenge.

Eleven years ago when I founded team Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, we had five members, the bare minimum. Year after year, even when our numbers were low, we remained enthusiastic and dedicated. People who kept their battle or their sadness for friends and relatives secret are now speaking out about their experiences with breast cancer. It matters so much to each of us that we can do something to raise awareness about breast cancer. In 5768, let us increase our ranks and our fundraising to new heights, and contribute to the battle against breast cancer. We welcome new members to our team. For more information, please contact Glenda Frank at glfrank@verizon.net. ■

—Glenda Frank

BJ Bi-Annual Blood Drives

Giving—each of us measures how much and what we are willing to give. What is the sacrifice to us, to our way of life and our choices? We often conceptualize this giving in terms of gain and loss. However, giving blood is different in that most of us have the capability to give the gift of life, of health, of hope, of repair and restitution with either little effect, or positive effect on us.

This year, our fall blood drive drew 48 potential donors and 36 blood donations. With our spring blood drive, we nearly doubled our numbers, drawing in a whopping 77 potential donors and 64 blood donations. We were very heartened by this increased participation, and hope to continue to grow our numbers with your support.

We support and promote a BJ Blood Drive in the spring and fall of each year because we believe that as a community, everyone, whatever their financial status, should be able to give, and give profoundly. This gift, of blood and of life, is a privilege for those who partake and for the community, which respects and supports the opportunity to donate.

With respect and appreciation for your efforts, please consider giving the gift of life in the New Year: BJ Fall Blood Drive, November 14, 2007, 4:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary

For more information, please contact: Trudi Levine at TrudiL531@aol.com or Sharon Messitte at shasiem@aol.com. ■

—Trudi Levine

AIDS Walk

The AIDS Walk has been a part of BJ's commitment to social action for as long as my family has been a part of BJ. In a fast growing congregation looking to have an impact on a terrible disease in New York City, the level of participation grew to over 350 participants in the mid- to late-90s. The names of the walkers, in small print, filled the entire back of the Kol Jeshurun! It was a happening, drawing families with small children including my daughter, now almost 18, singing and carrying banners. It was simply something we all did together each year.

As BJ has grown, so have the demands on our time and so have the causes that need our support. AIDS has evolved to a disease that many of its victims have fought and conquered. However, BJ houses the memory of a number of those who did

not survive it and, in their memory, we continue to walk each year—now, together with our sister congregation Tehillah. In 5767, the Congregation B'nai Jeshurun/Tehillah team had 32 registered walkers and raised a total of \$12,391.00. In 5768, let's make a renewed effort to grow our ranks and continue to make a meaningful contribution to the work of GMHC, which ensures that thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS can access life-sustaining care and direct services each year. Please join the BJ team this year for AIDS Walk New York on May 18, 2008.

For more information, please contact: Loren Brenowitz at lorenb@nyc.rr.com or Channa Camins at ccamins@bj.org. ■

—Ellen Corenswet

B'nai Jeshurun Is Going Green

In ways you might have noticed—and in some ways you probably haven't—our synagogue and its members are going Green. The aim of the Greening BJ campaign (led by the Environmental Action Hevra of Panim el Panim: BJ's Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative) is tikkun olam at its most literal: to help heal the earth by reducing BJ's collective impact on our planet's over-stressed and endangered environment. This two-year campaign is proceeding on two fronts—the synagogue and the congregation.

On the institutional level, the Hevra is working with the synagogue administrators to ensure that our facilities are as sustainable and environmentally benign as possible. For example, the lights in the synagogue building on 88th Street are being converted to compact fluorescents (CFL) or light-emitting diodes (LED), which will reduce both consumption of energy and emissions of global-warming gasses by up to eighty percent. We also expect to be purchasing "green energy"—electric power from renewable sources. Motion-activated light switches will be installed in less-used areas of the building, so that lights don't stay on all the time.

To ensure that we recycle resources—it's not only the "green" thing to do, it's also the law—separate recycling bins are being placed at all our catered events. For this bit of tikkun olam to succeed, of course, they have to be used, and that's where the roles and responsibilities of the synagogue and the congregation come together.

In Bereshit, the Torah tells us, "God placed humankind in the garden of Eden, to till it and to protect it." And in the Midrash, God admonishes Adam and Eve, "Do not spoil and destroy My world, for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it." Thus the ultimate goal of Greening BJ is to help every member of the congregation become a steward of creation by taking small, easy steps toward an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

You can start by entering into the Brit Adamah, the Earth Covenant, which can be found at www.bj.org/green/brit. Through the Brit Adamah, you can commit yourself greening practices in your home—from energy-saving and recycling to using non-toxic cleaning products and eating locally grown, organic foods. More than 100 member households have already embraced the Brit Adamah. Their names are inscribed on the leaves of the beautiful Etz Hayim ("Tree of Life") that hangs in the lobby of the synagogue. There are still many blank leaves waiting to be inscribed with your name! ■

—Gil Kulick,
a co-chair of Panim el Panim's Environmental Action Hevra

The aim of the Greening BJ campaign ... is tikkun olam at its most literal: to help heal the earth by reducing BJ's collective impact on our planet's over-stressed and endangered environment."

—Gil Kulick

Update on the Kol Nidre Annual Partnership Appeal

On Kol Nidre, we asked you again to recommit to the BJ community with your heart, with your time and with your financial resources. We thank, with deep gratitude, all of you who answered our call to contribute to BJ's Kol Nidre Annual Partnership Appeal.

...

The Kol Nidre Partnership raises 30% of our \$6 million budget, critical funds in making BJ what it is. The dollars we raise enable us to sustain and strengthen our programs and further our vision of a relevant, sacred community.

...

If you haven't already contributed, please help us achieve our goal of 100% participation by the members of our community in the Kol Nidre Partnership. You can contribute online at www.bj.org or by mailing in your check to the BJ offices, 2109 Broadway, Ste. 203, New York, NY 10023. For information or if you wish to make a pledge and pay later, contact our Director of Development, Aviva Raichelson at araichelson@bj.org or 212-787-7600 x242.

Mazal Tov

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

Jasper Soloff	Sarah Perelson-Gross
Sam Brunswick	Jacob Moscona-Skolnik
Jonathan Manocherian	Owen Kaye-Kauderer
Benjamin Jacobs	Kate Braun
Margot Motulsky	

To the following members and their families (through October 4):

Stan Silver, who received the MDA Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

Talia and John Sadres, Dina and Jack Farhi, and Tamar Baumgold on the birth of their son, grandson, and great-grandson, Jacob Solomon Sadres.

Jerald Abrams, Eilat Gubbay, Naomi Abrams, and Danielle Gubbay Abrams on the naming of their daughter and sister, Judianna Leora.

Samuel and Silvia Gornstein on the namings of their granddaughters, Clara Julia and Emma Lily.

Michael and Nancy Mostow on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah Cate Mostow, to David Irving.

Gabrielle and Nadav Hazan on the birth of their daughter, Daniella Eden.

Condolences *(through October 4)*

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Ruth Ursula Fink. and extends sincere condolences to her family and loved ones.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Ruth Ostwald and extends sincere condolences to her family Julie, Jacob, and Rebecca Lowy and Susan Ostwald Barnes on the death of their beloved mother and grandmother.

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

Arthur, Aaron, and Nicholas Fleisher and Lisa Halprin Fleisher on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law and grandfather, Norman Fleisher.

Bill and Vicky Abrams on the death of Bill's beloved mother, Anne B. Sobel.

Sheila and Norman Bleckner on the death of Sheila's beloved brother, Bernard Kushner.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				1
4  • 4:30 PM – Tzedaka in Action/Community in Action, 88th St.	5  • 5:00 PM – Dalet Mispaha, 88th St.	6	7	8
11 ROSH HODESH KISLEV • Bar Mitzvah – Noah Offitzer	12 Veteran's Day BJHS CLOSED	13  • 5:00 PM – Sixth Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter, 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.8)	14 • 4:00 PM – BJ Blood Drive, 88th St. (SEE P.2)	15  • 5:00 PM – Gimel • 7:00 PM – Lecture by Dr. Halbertal, Teacher-in-Residence
18	19	20	21 • 7:00 PM – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Church of St. Ignatius of Antioch, 87th St. and West End. Ave. (See the Kol Jeshurun and www.bj.org for more information)	22 Thanksgiving BJHS CLOSED BJ OFFICE CLOSED
25	26	27	28	29

SERVICE TIMES

Morning Minyan (88th Street):

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

Kabbalat Shabbat: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

• November 2: 6:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • 7:30 PM 88th Street Sanctuary

Beginning November 9: 5:45 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • 7:15 PM 88th Street Sanctuary


• *Additional Services* November 2: Family Service 5:45 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • Wandering Minyan 5:45 PM 88th Street Frankel Hall

• *Additional Service* November 30: Contemplative Shabbat Service 5:45 PM 86th St. Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning:

• 9:30 AM 86th Street • Children's Services 10:45 AM 86th Street Chapel and Parlor

• *Additional Services* November 3, 17: Junior Congregation 10:30 AM 86th Street Social Hall

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 6:00 PM Service - Gan HS Family Dinner, 86th St. Social Hall 6:00 PM - Wandering Minyan, 88th St. Frankel Hall 7:30 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 7:30 PM Service - Oneg Shabbat, 88th St. (SEE P.9) 	<p>3</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, 86th St. Chapel and Parlor Bar Mitzvah - Max Kantor Bar Mitzvah - Adrianna Schein-Futerfas 4:00 PM - Shabbat: A Sanctuary in Time and High Holy Days Volunteer Recognition, 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.9)
	<p>9 SERVICE TIMES CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 5:45 PM Service - New Member Orientation Program Dinner, 88th St. Frankel Hall 7:15 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>10</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 - Drew Adler Following Services - Community Kiddush, 86th St. Social Hall 4:00 PM - Minha/Ma'ariv, 88th St. Bat Mitzvah - Sydney Goldberger 4:00 PM - Women's Rosh Hodesh Group, 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.9) 7:00 PM - Contemplative Havdalah
<p>mel Mispaha,</p> <p>Dr. Moshe</p> <p>idence, 88th St.</p>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 5:45 PM Service - Shabbat B'Yahad dinner with Dr. Moshe Halbertal, 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.9) 7:15 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. <p> BJHS 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Reach for Shabbat Retreat begins</p>	<p>17</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, 86th St. Bar Mitzvah - Avi Raber 4:15 PM - Minha/Ma'ariv, 88th St. Bar Mitzvah - Shay Tsfo 4:30 PM - Havdalah with Dr. Moshe Halbertal, 86th St. Social Hall
<p>D</p>	<p>23 BJ OFFICE CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:15 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 86th St. 4:30 PM - Minha/Ma'ariv Bar Mitzvah - Joseph Brill
	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 5:45 PM Service - B'nai Mitzvah '07-'08 Dinner, 88th St. Frankel Hall 5:45 PM - Contemplative Shabbat Service, 86th St. 7:15 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	

ADULT CLASSES

Please see the BJ website, www.bj.org, for more information and how to register.

Monday

- Introduction to Judaism 7-9 PM (through May)

Tuesday

- The Book of Genesis 8:10-9: AM (through May)
- For Tze'irim—The Things We Never Learned: Finding Our Way Into Shabbat 7-8:30 PM (remaining class November 6)

- Learning The Liturgy: Feeling At Home With The Siddur 7-8:30 PM (November 27, December 4, 11, 18)

Wednesday

- Contemplative Practice at BJ: Creating Space for Quiet 7-9 PM (remaining classes November 7, 14, 21)
- Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah 6:30-8 PM (remaining classes November 7, 14, 28, December 5)

- Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake? 12:15-1:15 PM (November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2)

Thursday

- Parashat HaShavu'a: Study of the Weekly Torah Portion 7-9 PM (through May)

YOUTH CLASSES

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

November 2	5:34 PM
November 9	4:26 PM
November 16	4:20 PM
November 23	4:15 PM
November 30	4:11 PM

Parashat HaShavu'a

November 3	Hayyei Sarah
November 10	Toldot
November 17	Vayetze
November 24	Vayishlah

Havdalah Times

November 3	6:33 PM
November 10	5:26 PM
November 17	5:20 PM
November 24	5:16 PM

Sixth Grade Families Cook for the Shelter

Every month, a different grade of students and their families are invited to prepare a simple meal for the guests of the BJ/SPSA homeless shelter. This is a community program for all families, both those with children in the Hebrew School and those whose children receive their Jewish education in other settings. We gather in

Frankel Hall, downstairs at BJ's synagogue on 88th Street, at 5:00PM to cook, set and decorate the table, and engage in age-appropriate study and discussion about the Jewish value of feeding the hungry. We wrap up by 6:30PM. Check the *Kol Jeshurun* and Community Email for the November coordinator's contact information to sign up. ■

Reach for Shabbat Retreat

It is with great excitement that we announce the addition of a family retreat to the Hebrew School curriculum for students in Gimmel, Dalet and Hey this year. Based on the tremendous success of the retreat in our pilot Reach for Shabbat Dalet class in the fall of 2006, we believe a retreat will enable the students and their families to forge profound and lasting connections with one another. These connections, and the sense of community they bring to the classroom, will serve to deepen the learning that is possible at Hebrew School. The retreat will also enable us to experience and practice Shabbat, the focal point of the Hebrew curriculum, in "real time" with our educators and rabbis in a beautiful, natural setting. We are looking forward to

spending this weekend with you.

The retreat will take place the weekend of November 16-18, 2007 at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Connecticut. Meals and some services will be communal, and other programming will be grade-based. Housing will be by family, with a private room and bath for each family. More details will be available soon.

We are able to offer the retreat as an integrated part of the curriculum for these grades, thanks in large part to the generosity of the Miriam L. Siroky Fund for Family Education, along with a Legacy Heritage Innovation Project Grant. ■

Important Dates for November

- Friday, November 2**BJHS Gan Dinner following the 6:00PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- Saturday, November 3** Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall
- Sunday, November 4**Tzedakah in Action/Community in Action, starting at 4:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary
- Monday, November 5**BJHS Dalet Mishpaha Family Learning Program, 5:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary
- Monday, November 12**BJHS Closed for Veterans Day
- Tuesday, November 13**Sixth Grade Families Cook for the Shelter*
- Thursday, November 15**BJHS Gimmel Mishpaha, 5:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary
- Friday, November 16**BJHS 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Reach for Shabbat Retreat,
Friday through Sunday, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, Falls Village, CT
- Saturday, November 17** Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall
- Thursday, November 22**BJHS Closed for Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 30**B'nai Mitzvah Class of 2007-2008
Community Shabbat Dinner, following the 5:45PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service

▪ **Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ**

Friday, November 2 • Following the 7:30PM service • 88th Street Sanctuary • Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services and gather with old and new friends. The BJ Shabbat Onegs are designed to create a welcoming community for all, taking us on a journey through the powerful beauty of Shabbat with traditional rituals, live music, joyous dancing, singing and food. As the sanctuary fills with the sounds of passionate Shabbat melodies, played by the popular Jewish band Soul Farm, an intimate and sacred time and space is created.

Help BJ provide the necessary elements that go into making the onegs a magical part of Friday evenings. For information on how to support this program, please contact x242.

▪ **Shabbat: A Sanctuary in Time and High Holy Days Volunteer Recognition**

Saturday, November 3 • 4:00PM • 86th Street Social Hall. Join us for a special se'udah shlishit honoring our High Holy Days volunteers. The rabbis will continue with the study of Heschel's *The Sabbath* that was begun last year, and will focus on chapter 8. We will conclude with havdalah.

▪ **Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with Dr. Moshe Halbertal**

Friday, November 16 • Following the 5:45PM service • 88th Street Frankel Hall. Dr. Halbertal will teach at the dinner. To sign up, please visit www.bj.org or contact Yael at x255.

▪ **FOR TZE'IRIM (20s AND 30s, SINGLES AND COUPLES)**

The Things We Never Learned: Finding Our Way Into Shabbat
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

4 Tuesdays (remaining class November 6) • 7:00-8:30PM • Home of Rabbi Felicia Sol; last class will be held at a venue on the Upper West Side • Free; registration required, please register online at www.bj.org or call x233. BYOB to share, light snacks provided. Uncover the mysteries and keys to Shabbat in the tradition in order to make it meaningful and accessible for today. Come to understand how the layers of tradition built the Shabbat experience, the practical do's and don'ts, the whys and the why nots and the structure of the Shabbat liturgy. The final class will be devoted to pursuing the challenging question of how to build a Shabbat life and community in NYC in 2007.

▪ **BJ Contemplative Practice**

Rabbis Marcelo R. Bronstein and Rachel Cowan

7 Wednesdays (remaining classes November 7, 14, 21) • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary (November 14 only: 86th Street Chapel) • Free; registration required. Join us for an opportunity to engage in regular meditation practice. The evenings will include seated and walking meditation, niggunim, and discussion. Open to all, no experience needed.

▪ **Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah**

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

7 Wednesdays (remaining classes November 7, 14, 28, December 5; no class Thanksgiving week) • 6:30-8:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. We resume our study of Rabbi Heschel's gigantic work on rabbinic thought in observance of his centennial year. *Heavenly Torah*, recently translated into English, explores the polarity in Judaism between transcendence and immanence, and between mysticism and rationalism. Heschel also invites us to look at contemporary issues through the lens of classical rabbinic discussions. Please bring the book to class (available in paperback); no photocopies will be distributed. New participants are welcome.

▪ **A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake?

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

6 Wednesdays (November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2) • 12:15-1:15PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. Meet monthly to discuss Dr. Rachel Adler's book *Engendering Judaism*, which raises the deep questions of what it means to sustain and create a Judaism that is alive, relevant and inclusive for both men and women, while acknowledging the complicated reality of the "tradition" which is patriarchal at its essence and yet what we've received over thousands of years. Full participation in the discussion will require purchasing the book and reading the chapters in advance of the discussion. We will begin on November 7 with the Introduction.

▪ **Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Kislev**

Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol and Marshall T. Meyer Fellow
Chen Ben Or Tsfoni

Saturday, November 10 • 4:00PM • 86th Street Chapel • Free; registration not required. Each new month on the Hebrew calendar, we will have an opportunity to study, discuss, celebrate and pray together on this holiday traditionally associated with women. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian kosher snack to share with the group as part of the celebration of Rosh Hodesh.

▪ **Learning The Liturgy: Feeling At Home With The Siddur**

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

4 Tuesdays (November 27, December 4, 11, 18) • 7:00-8:30PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration not required. This class will explore the basic history of the compilation of the siddur, the structure of the liturgy and the rhythm of our davening in order to help students unlock a deeper prayer experience because they will feel more at home with the siddur and its liturgy. The class will focus primarily on the Shabbat liturgy. The two middle classes will take place during Hanukkah and the Hanukkah will be lit in class.

Please see the BJ website, www.bj.org, for more information and how to register.

Rabbi's Message RABBI FELICIA L. SOL *(continued from page 1)*

countless hours in shul and the deep questions that arose or the searching that it initiated. We will know whether Yom Kippur and the Yamim Nora'im were an event based not on how we experienced them in the moment (the highs, the lows, the tears, the exhilaration), but if who we are now and the actions we take reflect any of the freedom and creativity that was prompted by them.

We spoke on the first day of Rosh Hashanah about how halakhah is a way to keep the most relevant and meaningful questions of life at the forefront, in our daily practice. Have we made any shifts? If we are spending too much time at the office and have committed to release ourselves from work controlling our life—how might our Shabbat practice reflect that change? If we decided we would make an effort to take care of the environment, what practices might help us live out that decision (there is a Brit Adamah that BJ's environmental hevra has put together to help us with that commitment—check the BJ website, www.bj.org)? If we were inspired by Heschel's words about restlessness and that Judaism requires us to be restless, where are we going to direct our restlessness? What issues are we most passionate about and where would we like to put our

efforts? (Panim el Panim is having a listening campaign to engage more people on the advocacy issues that we are working on in our hevras and with Manhattan Together, the interfaith city-wide social justice coalition.) If we are lonely and isolated, in what way are we going to shift our patterns of life to create more connectedness, more community (there are endless ways to do this at BJ)? If we are committed to striving for a more complete and integrated Jewish life, in which areas do we need to stretch ourselves—Prayer? Study? Acts of loving kindness and justice?

The month following Tishrei (the month of Yamim Nora'im, etc.) is Heshvan, or Marheshvan (the bitter Heshvan), as it is often called because of its lack of holidays. It could be a month of emptiness, of lack, but if we allow the echo of Yamim Nora'im, of the choices we made, the freedom we asserted, to sound stronger in our ears, in our souls and in our actions, perhaps we might turn the bitterness of this month into something sweet. Perhaps we might find that we are stronger, wiser, more audacious, more loving, more peaceful and more committed than ever to asserting the divinity in our own humanity. ■

Bringing a Torah to Israel ROBIN FLEISCHNER & CHEN BEN OR TSFONI *(continued from page 1)*

"This Torah will join us to the community of generations that preceded us and we will bestow it unto our future generations...."

This Torah understands difficulty and soul searching and will know how to accept us—we will be true to it, continuing to explore the way until we reach it....

This Torah, if it tries to coerce us with darkness and outdated ideas—we will enlighten it with new sources of light....

This Torah will nurture and provide for our spiritual world—and we will create for it a Temple in our hearts so that it dwells among us....

We sign here in Nahalal among our friends, members of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation from New York and the Niggun Halev community...."

Just as Niggun Halev spoke poetically of their new Torah as a palpable symbol of spiritual quest, BJ's rabbis have challenged us: "Based on our belief that we must continue to challenge ourselves and find relevant paths to modern Jewish practice, we charge every BJ member to visit Israel." The struggle of our Israeli partners to create meaningful modern ritual based on our ancient tradition inspired us to challenge ourselves to deepen our relationship to Israel and Judaism, as our rabbis ask of us: "Just as BJ is a catalyst for Jewish renewal in Israel, our fate as a congregation is linked to engagement with Israel." Moving from a theoretical vision of Israel to a real encounter with fellow seekers enriches us and Israel. ■

Robin Fleischer is a Vice President of B'nai Jeshurun and Co-Chair of the Israel Steering Committee. Chen Ben Or Tsfoni is the spiritual leader of Niggun Halev and a Marshall T. Meyer Fellow.

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(through September 24)

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Helena Diamant Glass in memory of Flora Steinman's beloved husband, Paul Steinman
 Helena Glass Diamant, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Whelan, granddaughter of Flora Steinman
 Helena Glass Diamant, in honor of the birth of Noa Spodek, daughter of Rabbi Brent and Allison Spodek
 Lana Kalickstein in honor of Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein

Flower Fund

Fran Collins in loving memory of her beloved parents, Annette and Louis Collins, and her aunt Nettie Berlin
 Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax in honor of Rabbi Felicia Sol's sabbatical and return to BJ
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 Joseph Rubin and Corinne Winston in memory of Joe's beloved mother, Geraldine Rubin
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 Samara Minkin in honor of Belinda Lasky and Sofia Hubscher
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Harold and Helen Lehrman in anticipation of Larry Riskin's complete recovery

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Samara Minkin, in honor of Carol Gelles for her wonderful leadership at JALC
 Jessica and Robert Sabat in honor of their son, Nathaniel, becoming a Bar Mitzvah
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Tze'irim Fund

Lana Kalickstein in honor of Jeremy Hamburg's commitment, endless work and dedication to Tze'irim
 Lana Kalickstein in honor of everyone who journeyed through Israel together with Tze'irim this summer

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 The Membership Committee in honor of the marriage of Dan Guttman and Lisa Ferrisi
 Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax in honor of the Rabbis
 Daphna Mor and Daniel Freedman in memory of their grandmothers, Luna Ben-Shushan and Judit Shwartz
 Sherry Moss
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 Charlotte Schluger in honor of the marriage of Susanne and Shelley Harrison's son, Daniel Harrison to Adee Ishakov
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 Adam and Mina Warech in honor of Sheldon Ostro, in appreciation of his friendship and kind gestures
 Susan Viuker Landau in memory of her father Joseph Viuker

Homeless Shelter Fund

Shelly and Larry Rubenstein in memory of Judy Drucker's beloved mother, Ina Bursyn

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Harriet Abraham in memory of her father, Saul J. Abraham
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