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Rabbi's Message

RABBI J. ROLANDO MATALON

On January 6, I embarked on another unforgettable journey with the American Jewish World Service. I flew to Ghana to spend twelve days as

scholar in residence for a delegation of twenty-five rabbinical students and three staff members. We stayed in the rural village of Gbi Atabu, in the Volta region, a five hour drive from the capital Accra. Each morning we woke up at dawn and, after Shāharit prayers and a quick breakfast, we proceeded to work on the building of a community center. Hand in hand with the local community, our delegation mixed concrete, made bricks and laid the floor of the building. Each afternoon we learned about some of the economic, educational, environmental and public health issues of the developing world, and we worked on forging a Jewish perspective through the use of classical and contemporary Jewish texts as well as Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's book *The Dignity of Difference*. We also visited local NGO's that are recipients of AJWS grants, and we had an enlightening session with a doctor at the local hospital. In the evenings we enjoyed some of the rich, beautiful culture of Ghana through conversation with the residents, both young and old, and by witnessing exhilarating drumming circles and choir singing. Back at the house late at night, we unwound after each long and full day.

The students, representing different Jewish streams and schools (Reform—HUC Cincinnati, LA and NY; Orthodox—Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, NY and Yeshiva University, NY; Conservative—JTS, NY and American Jewish University, LA; Reconstructionist—RRC, Philadelphia; Transdenominational—Academy for Jewish Religion, LA), struggled and ultimately succeeded in creating a pluralistic, cooperative and supportive community. We served and studied together, we prayed, shared our meals, and celebrated a wonderful Shabbat together. While in Ghana, the students explored concrete ways to continue to make a difference through advocacy once they would be back in the US. They learned diligently about the \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) towards the relief of AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis in Africa. But as they witnessed the reality on the ground and spoke with local NGO's, they saw that the conditions attached to PEPFAR, such as abstinence-until-marriage education, seriously limit the ability of the plan to save as many lives as it could. Upon returning home, the students wrote a strong letter* and have organized a phone campaign urging congressional representatives—in particular, members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, rabbis and other Jewish leaders—to push for change in PEPFAR and the removal of the controversial conditions.

The education of rabbis and Jewish leaders in the 21st century can no longer be restricted to what are thought to be the particular issues and interests of the Jewish community. Our universe of responsibility has expanded beyond the Jewish community and Israel. It is becoming amply clear that local and global social justice is a Jewish issue. ■

* http://ajws.org/assets/uploaded_documents/rsd_pepfar_letter_from_the_field.pdf

When Discrimination Stings: Fighting Marriage Inequality in New York State

Have you ever felt discriminated against because you were the “wrong” color, religion, gender, or social class? Have you ever been told you cannot do something simply because somebody else thinks it is a bad idea? Our society was built on the concept of freedom, yet equality is still an issue we struggle to achieve. We all should be treated with respect and fairness!

Everyone deserves the chance to marry the person he or she loves. This right is taken away from same-sex couples as they continually face discrimination. At this time, individual states have the power to deny same sex couples the right to marry. New York State denies approximately 1,300 other rights and responsibilities that a civil marriage provides for heterosexual couples. Some of these protections include inheritance rights, access to Family Court, and the ability to make medical decisions for one’s spouse.

Congregation B’nai Jeshurun is a synagogue committed to social action and social justice. I am proud to be part of a congregation that believes in the power of change and wholeheartedly commits itself to helping to create that change. I am proud to be part of the Marriage Equality Hevra, a group within Panim el Panim, BJ’s Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative, which is dedicated to ensuring that the New York state legislature passes legislation granting legal marriage for same sex couples. I became a member of B’nai

Jeshurun a year and a half ago, and as soon as I heard about this Hevra, I contacted the committee chair about becoming involved.

As a little child, I could never understand why people were treated differently based on skin color, religion, or gender. I think what bothered me more was that nobody could provide me with a good reason when I asked them that question. As an adult, I still cannot understand it. I joined this

Hevra because I was inspired by its very existence. It consists of a group of people asking the same questions I have been asking my entire life, but at the same time fighting for change. For me it was not only my choice but also my duty to join this Hevra and become involved in something I feel so strongly about. I have people very close to me who want to be legally able to marry their partner one day, and I look forward to sharing in that moment with them. I believe it can and will happen.

Our group advocates for same-sex couples to have the freedom to marry. We are working hard to change New York state legislation, and our hope is that you, too, will join with us in this fight. **We are working with Empire Pride State Agenda to bring hundreds of people to Albany on April 29,**

2008, to help win marriage equality. On that day, people from across New York will be brought together to discuss the importance of marriage equality. The most powerful voices are our own, and elected officials need to see how much we care individually and collectively.

As a part of this community, we all have something in common, and we were all drawn to BJ for one reason or another. Imagine being on a bus on its way to Albany that is filled with your fellow congregants who also care about this issue. The power of a synagogue like our own, one well known in the community, is immeasurable. Together we can make a huge difference.

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous speech in which he stated, “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” We believe that all human beings are created b’tselem elohim (in the divine image), and as such the law must be inclusive of every person and applied equally. Although some laws have changed, not enough has been done. Discrimination directed toward any individual or group diminishes our humanity and is inconsistent with our Jewish values. Not all people are equal until everyone is treated equally under the law. Martin Luther King, Jr., showed us how one person with a dream can make a difference. Write to your representatives, attend rallies, educate friends and family about this topic, and work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations to create a fair and just society where anyone can marry his or her loved one. Together we can continue to realize the dream. ■

—Jessica Moskowitz

We believe that all human beings are created b’tselem elohim (in the divine image), and as such the law must be inclusive of every person and applied equally.

Get on the bus! • April 29, 2008

Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and the Marriage Equality Hevra in Albany to lobby our legislators in support of marriage equality

Please contact Amy Lavine at amylavi@nyc.rr.com or Marlene Halpern at jacobhw@msn.com, or call Guy Austrian at the BJ office at x259 to say you’ll join us.

MTM Fellow Rabbi Katie Mizrahi Installed at Or Shalom Jewish Community in San Francisco

As I told my new congregation in the weeks leading up to my rabbinic installation, I prefer to think of such events in terms of art, rather than plumbing fixtures, though perhaps both parallels have their value. In much of the rabbi/congregation world, “being installed” is what happens a few months after a rabbi begins a new congregational post. It is a gathering during which a community and their new leader ritually mark their sacred commitments to one another and celebrate their mutual new beginnings. Usually, the ceremony is officiated by a mentor of the rabbi, and ideally, it is both a compelling work of ritual art, as well as being a practical new step in the construction of community.

For me, this moment came about 18 months after I finished my year as a full time Marshall T. Meyer (MTM) Fellow at BJ. At the end of this past January, Marcelo traveled across the country to “install me” in my new post as the sole rabbi of Or Shalom Jewish Community in San Francisco. It turned out to be not only a meaningful event but also another example of how BJ and the MTM fellowship continue to nurture my rabbinate, even from afar.

Now, this may come as a shock to you, as it was to me when I moved here, but not everyone in San Francisco has heard of BJ. When I have tried to describe it to my new community—the music, the social justice work, the rabbis, the active community—they usually think it sounds great, but that is different from experiencing a living model. In the weeks leading up to my installation, I tried to explain how special it would be to have

Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein come. Only after experiencing his leadership directly did they “get it” in a new way. Most importantly, we were able to create an event which inspired the congregation to dream much bigger, and to see their own potential. It was particularly delightful for me to see my new community through Marcelo’s eyes—to see his excitement at their spirit, music and warmth.

The visit was also a joy and a gift for me beyond the installation. We had some nice long juicy catch-up sessions, during which he gave me some practical and spiritual advice about adjusting to a congregation at a very different life-cycle moment than BJ. The most valuable part was not a specific idea or moment, but instead, the way that our time together continued to build our relationship, which is the foundation of all of the learning and growing to which the Fellowship aspires.

18 months out, I find myself missing BJ a lot. I miss services. I miss the people. I miss the rabbinic colleagues. I miss New York. But I am also tremendously grateful for the chance to build something of my own out here in a place where my soul feels more at home. It won’t be BJ, but I hope that some measure of the vibrancy and the plain old good ideas can transplant and take root. Please come to visit if you ever find yourself in San Francisco. ■

—Rabbi Katie Mizrahi

Rabbi Katie Mizrahi can be reached at rabbikatie@yahoo.com. Her new congregation is Or Shalom Jewish Community of San Francisco, California.

SAVE THE DATE:

The 7th Annual BJ Women’s Retreat

Preparing for Shavuot

Rabbi Felicia Sol, Marshall T. Meyer Fellows Esther Lederman and Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, and a delegation of fifteen women from Hamidrasha in Israel

May 16-18 • Camp Isabella Freedman, Falls Village, CT

There is a midrash that each person receives the Torah according to her strengths and abilities. Come spend time on the retreat preparing and opening yourself up to the receiving of Torah on Shavuot.

Retreat Costs:

Triple: \$245 per person

Double: \$275 per person

Single: \$325 per person (no guarantee of private bath)

There are additional charges for non-members, registration after April 18, and bussing to and from the retreat site. Space is limited and the retreat will sell out. Register today at www.bj.org to reserve your spot. For more information, contact Yael Hammerman at yhammerman@bj.org or x255.

Community
Events

▪ ***A Delightful Compendium of Consolation: A Fabulous Tale of Romance, Adventure, and Faith in the Medieval Mediterranean***
Thursday, April 3 • 7:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary. Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky discusses his new book, which brings to life the world of Mediterranean travelers on the high seas and caravan routes of the 11th century. A Professor of Rabbinic Literature, Burton L. Visotzky has spent three decades teaching and researching the stories that make up the heart of this novel. His active role in Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue has brought him to Rome, Cairo and Qatar—and he has a deep personal investment in promoting the kind of Jewish-Muslim harmony that prevails throughout much of the novel. The book will be available for purchase and signing by the author. There will be time for questions after the discussion. Free, registration not required.

▪ **Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ**
Friday, April 4 • Following the 7:30PM service • 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall. Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. Following the 7:30PM service, BJ members and non-members in their 20s and 30s are invited to share an intimate Shabbat dinner together in Frankel Hall. Please visit www.bj.org to register. (BJ members and non-members in their 40's, 50's and 60's will be invited to a similar dinner on Friday, May 2!) At 10:00PM, the entire BJ Community will be invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with Pizmon, the Jewish *a cappella* group of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Pizmon will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat songs.

▪ **Contemplative Retreat**
Rabbis Marcelo R. Bronstein and Rachel Cowan
April 11-13 • Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center. The registration deadline has passed for this retreat, but please contact Naomi at ngoodhart@bj.org if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

▪ **Community Kiddush**
Saturday, April 12 • Following Shabbat morning services • 86th Street Social Hall. Please join us for a special family-friendly Kiddush that will welcome the entire BJ community. You can help make Kiddush a time and space for creating stronger connections in our community by coming to the Kiddush with old friends and meeting new people.

▪ **Yom HaShoah**
Wednesday, April 30 • 6:45PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Following services, join us for the annual Reading and Hearing of the Names of relatives of BJ members and friends who were murdered during the Shoah. Our commemoration service will be followed by a screening of the award-winning film *Rene and I: From Auschwitz to America* followed by Q & A, moderated by Myriam Abramowicz, with film subject Irene Hizme. The all-night vigil of The Reading and Hearing of the Names will be held at the 88th Street Sanctuary from 10:00PM-8:00AM. The BJ reading slot will be at 10:30PM. The vigil will continue on Thursday, May 1 from 8:00AM-6:00PM at the JCC, 76th St. and Amsterdam Ave.

Upcoming
Limud

▪ ***Ilu Hotzianu: Preparing for Pesah through Study and Song***
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
3 Wednesdays (April 2, 9, 16) • 6:30-8:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required • Code: 829. As spiritual preparation for Pesah, we will study relevant classical texts and learn piyutim (liturgical poems) and Haggadah selections set to melodies from different parts of the Jewish dispersion.

▪ **A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake?
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol
7 Wednesdays (remaining classes April 2, May 7) • 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.

▪ **Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Nisan**
Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol and Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow
Sunday, April 6 • 6:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • 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.

▪ **Israel through Music and Literature (for Hebrew speakers)**
Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow
4 Tuesdays (April 8, 15, 22, 29) • 7:00-8:30PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. The role of the Land of Israel has provoked both criticism and boundless love. In this course we will meet poets, composers, rabbis and others who have addressed the Land of Israel in their work.

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

Mazal Tov

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

Michael Luzmore	Dylan Small
Jonah Eastzer	Griffin Small
Samantha Lubliner	Anders Halperin
	Benjamin Davidoff

To the following members and their families (through March 7):

Alan and Mimi Frank on the upcoming marriage of their son Jarod to Ilana Toorans.

Daniel and Caren Begun on the naming of their daughter, Sarah Mila.

Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and Ari Holtzblatt, and Marjory Thomas, on the birth of their daughter and granddaughter, Noa Sasha Blu Holtzblatt.

Layla Horan and George Herzog on their recent wedding.



Condolences (through March 7)

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Sheila Dekel, and extends sincere condolences to her family and all her loved ones.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Sonia Resnick, and extends sincere condolences to her family and all her loved ones.

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

Jimena Martinez and Michael, Amalia, and Gabriel Hirschhorn on the death of Jimena's beloved father, Edgardo Martinez.

Lisa, Steven, Alex, and Teddy Owen on the death of Lisa's beloved father, Richard Mednick.

Lucy and Eliana Slurzberg on the death of their beloved sister and aunt, Lynda Schachne.

Raquel Rosenfeld on the death of her beloved father, Alfredo Federico Rosenfeld.

Joyce Gottlieb on the death of her beloved cousin, Harriet Smith.

Virginia Bayer and Robert Hirt on the death of Virginia's beloved mother, Molly Jeane Bayer.

Sasha Frank on the death of her beloved brother, Alan Ira Frank.

Jeffrey, Hilah, Evan and David Krasner and their loved ones on the death of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Sonya Krasner.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
		1	2	3 • 7:00 PM – Rabbi Burton lecture, 88th St. (SEE P.4)
6 ROSH HODESH NISAN • Bat Mitzvah – Felicia Kornreich • 6:00 PM – Rosh Hodesh Women's Group, 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.4)	7	8	9	10
13 <i>Contemplative Retreat</i>	14	15	16	17 BJHS CLOSED
20 1ST DAY PESAH— 2ND SEDER • 9:30 AM – First Day Pesah Services, 88th St. • 10:45 AM – Pesah Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 1</i>	21 SECOND DAY PESAH BJHS CLOSED • BJ OFFICE CLOSED • 9:30 AM – Second Day Pesah Services, 88th St. • 10:45 AM – Pesah Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 2</i>	22 HOL HAMOED PESAH <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 3</i>	23 HOL HAMOED PESAH <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 4</i>	24 HOL HAMOED BJHS CLOSED <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 5</i>
27 EIGHTH DAY PESAH— YIZKOR • 9:30 AM – Eighth Day Pesah Services, 88th St. • 10:45 AM – Pesah Children's Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 8</i>	28 BJHS CLOSED <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 9</i>	29 • Marriage Equality Lobby Day in Albany (SEE P.2) <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 10</i>	30 EREV YOM HASHOAH • 6:45 PM – Yom HaShoah Service, Film Screening, and Reading of Names, 88th St. (SEE P.4) <i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 11</i>	

SERVICE TIMES

Morning Minyan (88th Street):


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

Kabbalat Shabbat:

• 6:00 PM 88th St. Sanctuary • 7:30 PM 88th Street Sanctuary
• Additional Service April 4: Wandering Minyan 5:45 PM 88th St. Frankel Hall

Shabbat Morning:

• 9:30 AM 86th Street • Children's Services 10:45 AM 86th Street Chapel and Parlor
• Additional Services April 5, 19: Junior Congregation 10:30 AM 86th Street Social Hall

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
on L. Visotzsky)	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 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.4) 	<p>5</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 - Henry Richey Following Services - "Reach for Shabbat" Lunch, 86th St. Social Hall 7:00 PM - Minhā/Ma'ariv, 88th St. Bat Mitzvah - Lydia Dubois 
	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM - Frankel Fridays, 88th St. Frankel Hall 6:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 6:00 PM Service - 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Dinner, 86th St. Social Hall 7:30 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. <p><i>Contemplative Retreat (SEE P.4)</i></p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 86th St. Following Services - Community Kiddush (SEE P.4) 7:15 PM - Minhā/Ma'ariv Bat Mitzvah - Eliana Langer <p><i>Contemplative Retreat</i></p>
	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>19 EREV PESAH—1ST SEDER</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.
PESAH	<p>25 HOL HAMOED PESAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat and Seventh Evening Pesah Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat and Seventh Evening Pesah Service, 88th St. <p><i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 6</i></p>	<p>26 SEVENTH DAY PESAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM - Shabbat and Seventh Day Pesah Morning Services, 86th St. 10:45 AM - Children's Services, 86th St. 8:30 PM - Eighth Evening Pesah Service, 88th St. <p><i>OMER: Tonight begins Day 7</i></p>
gins Day 5		

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)
- Israel Through Music and Literature (for Hebrew Speakers) 7:00-8:30 PM (April 8, 15, 22, 29)

Wednesday

- Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake? 12:15-1:15 PM (remaining classes April 2, May 7)
- Ilu Hotzianu: Preparing for Pesah Through Study and Song 6:30-8 PM (April 2, 9, 16)

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

April 4	7:06 PM
April 11	7:13 PM
April 18	7:21 PM
April 19 (First Evening Pesah)	8:23 PM
April 20 (Second Evening Pesah)	8:24 PM
April 25 (Seventh Evening Pesah)	7:28 PM
April 26 (Eighth Evening Pesah)	8:31 PM

Parashat HaShavu'a

April 5	Tazria
April 12	Metzora
April 19	Aharei Mot
April 26	Pesah

Havdalah Times

April 5	8:07 PM
April 12	8:15 PM
April 21	holiday ends 8:25 PM
April 27	holiday ends 8:32 PM

BJ 8th and 9th Graders Travel To Louisiana With JFSJ—Part 2

Over Martin Luther King weekend almost 20 of our 8th and 9th graders traveled to Cameron Parrish, Louisiana with BJ and Jewish Funds for Justice (JFSJ) to do Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief work. In the spirit of Dr King's call to action, our students tackled the difficult task of tikkun olam, fixing this world, both with their hands in physical work, and with their minds as they engaged in conversations of privilege, power, government and faith. There are countless stories about our shared experiences, but they are, of course, best told in the students' own words. This is the second installment of writings. For the first, please refer to the March issue of the Kol Hadash.

As much as I loved last year's Louisiana trip, this year was the year that I finally was able to connect and feel the pain of the Katrina/Rita survivors. Even though I saw that these people had nothing and heard it over the news, it wasn't until this trip that I felt their pain and was able to put myself in their shoes. Now that I can, I think I will be able to double my efforts on helping these people and sharing what I have seen.

—Ethan Kline

Even though I saw that these people had nothing and heard it over the news, it wasn't until this trip that I felt their pain and was able to put myself in their shoes.

Looking back on my trip to Louisiana, I have mixed emotions. I want to go back, but this experience has been really eye-opening for me. The first few days were really fun, but Sunday was one that made me think about things. The work was harder and it was more tedious. At least I had Laura to keep me company! Meeting the family, though, made me feel very uncomfortable. I think I just kept looking at the mom's teeth and thinking, "How can we live in a country who can let someone live with something that should be had by everyone?" I also felt the piece of white power was put into perspective. Anyway, the trip was amazing. I will definitely want to do this again.

—Matthew Gottesfeld

I am VERY glad I went on this trip. When I was helping paint that family's house, I felt so glad to be able to. I felt as though we were changing their every day lives by simply giving them something fresh to look at and how easy doing that was. It was so simple that I am surprised more people don't do it as well.

—Laura Miller

When we arrived in LA I did not really know what to expect. I knew it would not be as bad as what I had seen on TV, but other than that I would just have to wait and see. When we were driving to the hotel and Larry told us what he did to help, I was amazed. So many people went to help without even being asked, they just wanted to help. And that is what we were here to do. We helped many people who I am sure are all so grateful that people will still come after two and a half years.

—Sophie Klein

We just finished our second and last day of work. After a Shabbat day of meaningful relaxation, I entered this work with a new perspective on what I was doing. Although I was extremely tired, I perked up immediately at hearing what work needed to be done. I spent most of the day with Ivy and Kerrith putting a new hardwood floor in the family's living room. Our knees ached, but we soon got into a rhythm and the experience became not only rewarding, but fun. I continually thought of the miracle that was occurring before our eyes: When the home owners left their home in the morning they had a floor that was falling apart, and lots of cracked, peeling paint; when they returned later that day, they had brand new flooring and many more painted walls. I was honored to have the opportunity to witness their reaction first hand. Meeting the family who was being assisted by our work was a truly moving experience. I had no doubt that all my labor was entirely worthwhile. Yesterday we spoke of the power prayer has to give us strength, motivation and inspiration. Today this was proved completely true to me.

—Meredith Ruskin

The range of activities and experiences that we are able to take part in, in one day, amazes me. The way Lisa was eager to come to dinner with a group of Jewish teenagers that she had never met and easily become friends with us, showing us another part of life in Louisiana, proves that one person can make a difference. It also strengthens the idea of our Jewish community and supports my favorite song ever, "wherever you go, there is always someone Jewish" to help you feel comfortable in a new situation or culture.

—Abby Schneider

So, I have never met other Jews before, These NY Jews are absolutely crazy, but amazing. They are so nice but I wish I could get to know them more! I loved spending time with them and I want to go back to NY with them.

—Lisa Congiundo (from Louisiana)

(continued on page 9)

Pesah Schedule of Services

Saturday, April 19

First Evening PesahNo Service

Sunday, April 20

First Day Pesah

88th Street.....9:30 AM

Children's Services

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

Second Evening PesahNo Service

Monday, April 21

Second Day Pesah

88th Street.....9:30 AM

Children's Services

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

Tuesday, April 22–Friday, April 25

Hol Hamo'ed Pesah

88th Street.....7:30 AM

Friday, April 25

Shabbat and Seventh Evening Pesah

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

88th Street.....6:00 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

88th Street.....7:30 PM

Saturday, April 26

Shabbat and Seventh Day Pesah

86th Street.....9:30 AM

Children's Services

86th Street Chapel and Parlor.....10:45 AM

Eighth Evening Pesah

88th Street8:30 PM

Sunday, April 27

Eighth Day Pesah (Yizkor)

88th Street.....9:30 AM

Children's Services

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

Enjoy

HaLailah Hazeh: The Music of Pesah at BJ

Order your BJ Passover CD now!

Also available:

Glimpses of Passover, stories, recipes, menus and traditions from the kitchens and lives of BJ members

Go to www.bj.org and click on "BJ CDs, Songbooks, & Music" to order both.



BJ 8th and 9th Graders Travel to Louisiana With JSFJ (continued from page 8)

We are currently working in the family's home. I feel so good to be cleaning up their house and to making their home more "homey." We tore down the entire living room ceiling, which had water damage and mold. We are putting up a new ceiling, installing wood floors, fixing up a bathroom and painting the exterior. The family will be very thankful. We were told yesterday by the Executive Director of "Rebuilding Together" that the nine year old boy of this family prayed for a leak-proof roof for Christmas. Well—he finally got his wish. Though the people we are helping are clearly lucky and blessed, I too feel blessed. I feel blessed that I am privileged enough that I can afford to come down here. I feel privileged to be surrounded by

other kids my age who are also passionate about fixing our broken world. I feel so lucky that I will return to a safe, insulated, home where I will be able to go to sleep at night without worrying about a flood or storm. Most importantly, I am grateful that I have this opportunity to give some of my time and work with people less fortunate than I. I am thankful for that rewarding feeling of accomplishing a good deed. I pray that God will watch over the families here in Louisiana, and along the rest of the coast. I pray that God will keep them safe from natural disaster and that God will provide these families with means of survival.

—Maya Liran ■

Save the Dates:
Yom Ha'atzmaut

Israel at 60: BJ Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration Events and Activities

<p>Saturday, May 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Congregation • Children's Services • Israel Community Conversations for Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult learning for parents with young children (children are invited) • Family learning for families with school-aged children (parents and children learning together) • Teen learning • Celebrate Israel's 60th Anniversary with the BJ community. Join us in intimate conversations about Israel hosted in members' homes*. • Conversations will be followed by a festive Israel party featuring an Israeli DJ, delicious Israeli food and dancing all night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall • 10:45AM, 86th Street Parlor and Chapel Both services will have an Israel focus. • 4:00PM, Members' Homes • 6:45PM, Members' Homes • 9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary
<p>Sunday, May 4</p>	<p>Family 60th Birthday Celebration Extravaganza With games, Israeli dancing, crafts and food.</p>	<p>12:00-3:00PM, Riverside Park</p>
<p>Monday, May 5 and Thursday, May 8</p>	<p>Hebrew School Celebration Snacks, dancing, fun and educational activities about Israel.</p>	<p>4:00-6:00PM, Heschel School and 88th Street</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 7</p>	<p>Yom Ha'atzmaut Observed Festive service and presentation of documentary film.</p>	<p>7:00PM, 88th Street</p>
<p>Thursday, May 8-Sunday, May 18</p>	<p>Celebrate 60 with Hamidrasha's delegation</p>	
<p>Saturday, May 10</p>	<p>Community Se'udah Shlishit Explore Israel's six decades of challenges and creativity and how they continue to impact our lives today. Including a premier showing of photos from our "Israel Trail Encounters" hike.</p>	<p>7:00PM, 88th Street</p>
<p>Thursday, May 15</p>	<p>Social Action-Social Justice Event with Hamidrasha For those traveling with BJ to Israel in June and BJ's Social Action/Social Justice volunteers, please join the delegation of women from Hamidrasha for a discussion of the challenges of social justice in the ever-changing Jewish State from the eyes of women leading initiatives for social change.</p>	<p>7:00PM, 88th Street</p>

*To participate, R.S.V.P. to Sarah Guthartz, sguthartz@bj.org, by Friday, April 11 or register online at www.bj.org.

Donations

(through February 22)

Adult Education Fund

Bernice Todres in memory of Helen Radin
Bernice Todres in honor of Deborah Pinsky
Scott Weiner in honor of Gloria Roemer

Bikkur Holim

Michael and Nancy Mostow in memory of Inez Meisels

Daily Minyan Fund

Frances Greenberg in honor of Morty and Bernice Levine's 65th anniversary

Etz Hayim Fund

Helena Diamant Glass in cherished memory of her beloved mother, Regina Landwirth Diamant
Barbara and Steven Friedman in honor of Donna Nadler
Donna Nadler Gould and Arthur Belkin in memory of Miriam and Al Belkin

General Fund

Robert and Susanne Bianchi in honor of Carl Stern's 80th birthday
Robert Durk
Sofia Hubscher and Adam Wallach in memory of Felicia Zigman
Dinah and Marc Kramer in honor of Carl Stern's 80th birthday
Allan Malz and Karin Bruckner in honor of Aviva Malz' Bat Mitzvah and Abby Eshaghpour reading Torah
Arthur and June Nislick in honor of their grandson, Joshua Nislick, becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Susan Reinhardt
Bonnie and Abe Reiss in honor of Carl Stern's 80th birthday
Hilde and Werner Straus in honor of Carl Stern's 80th birthday
Nancy and Rena Steinbach in honor of Carl Stern's 80th birthday

Carl and Miriam Stern in honor of Carl's 80th birthday
Lois Tobin
Jack Topal

Helen Radin Memorial Zayin Adar Annual Teaching

Sofia Hubscher and Adam Wallach in memory of Helen Radin
Edward Miller and Bena Green in memory of Helen Radin
Mary Margaret Richards in memory of Helen Radin

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Naomi Goodhart in memory of Helen Radin
Barbara Schwimmer in honor of her grandson, Ethan Gabriel Schwimmer becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund

Stanfred and Phyllis Silver in memory of Phyllis' beloved father

Miriam L. Siroky Fund for Family Education

Ilene Rosenthal, Lou, Amelia and Cara Geser in memory of Karen Rosenthal

Shabbat Oneg Fund

Michael Brochstein

Social Action Fund

Irma and Robert Radus in memory of Helen Radin

Teen Programming

Rachel and Mark Klein in honor of Felicia Sol, Kerrith Solomon, and Ivy Schreiber

Yizkor Fund

Vanderlei and Susan Pereira in honor of Beth Weinsbank and Arielle Korman becoming Benot Mitzvah

Yizkor Fund

Myriam Abramowicz in memory of her beloved parents Mendel and Lea
Tamar Baumgold in memory of her beloved father, Marc Riwlin
Alan Bernstein and Carol Bowen in memory of Alan's beloved father, Seymour Bernstein
Peter Bokor and Jeannie Blaustein in memory of Morton Katz Blaustein
Irwin and Arlene Brandon in memory of Irwin's grandmother, Rose Brandon, and Arlene's mother, Lillian Kimmel
Bernard Cohen in memory of his beloved mother
Sylvia Dresner and Bronia Dresner in memory of her beloved husband and father, Sylvan Dresner
Juliette Elias in memory of her beloved husband, Albert Elias
Samuel and Phyllis Feder in memory of Sam's beloved father, Chazzan Louis Feder
Jules and Susan Frankel in memory of Jules' beloved father, Fred Frankel
Lawrence Goldberg and Eve Birnbaum in memory of Eve's beloved father, Jack Birnbaum
Sylvia Grau in memory of her beloved husband, Seymour Grau, and father-in-law, Harry Grau
Sheldon and Helen Gross in memory of Sheldon's beloved mother, Susan Gross
Sofia Hubscher in memory of Manny Hubscher
Howard Jacobson and Kathryn Wolfson in memory of Howard's beloved sister
Richard and Rosemary Kalikow in memory of David Gerof
Stephen and Susan Kippur in memory of Judith Stern
Riklis

Mona Kreaden in memory of Mona's beloved mother and father, Norma and Sydney Kreaden

Enrique and Lucia Malamud in memory of Enrique's beloved brother, Rafael Malamud

Susan Mason in memory of her beloved father, Murray Schaefer, and cousin, Lois Cullen

Michael and Nancy Mostow in memory of Vivian Yale's beloved brother, Arthur Gordon

Michael and Nancy Mostow in memory of Michael's beloved father, Richard Mostow

Cecile Rodau in memory of her beloved husband, Leonard

Mervin and Gittel Silverberg in memory of Mervin's beloved mother, Helena Silverberg

Carl and Miriam Stern in memory of Rosel Stern
Mark and Diane Weisstuch in memory of Mark's beloved father, Victor Weisstuch

Barry and Joan Winograd in memory of Barry's beloved mother, Mary Winograd
Robin Willner in memory of Robin's beloved father, Samuel Willner

Vivian Yale in memory of Helen Radin, and her beloved stepmother, Rea Glauber

Holly Zabitz in memory of her beloved grandfather, Abraham Chesler

KOL HADASH • NEW VOICE
April 2008

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