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Rabbi's Message

RABBI MARCELO R. BRONSTEIN

Adam's Return: Men's Havurah

I cannot imagine the world before the feminist revolution, with women not able to vote or to choose freely about any aspect of their lives. Today, what my kids take for granted was earned with the struggle to change the consciousness of the Western world. We have seen the continuation of the gender discussion in the upcoming election; this is still an ongoing conversation. Women have asserted themselves and feminine views have become clearer. Tenderness, kindness, openness, and sensitivity have all become identified as feminine attributes. When a male makes a remark generally attributed to women, we say he has developed his feminine side. We men are not so clear these days about what is masculine, aside from the obvious brutal and forceful associations. We have accomplished gender equality regarding human rights, but have lost the capacity to understand that we are not the same, and that the struggle for total equality is far from over. Even to say what I am saying has become politically incorrect because of the fear of returning to the caves of inequality.

Men have oppressed and repressed women for thousands of years, and only now can we face a reality that is based not upon a power struggle for domination, but upon equal rights. Sometimes we enter into another equation in the relationship between genders that is not of domination, but of victimhood and guilt—which is another type of trap.

While fighting for equality, women have developed rituals, gatherings, and voices of self-expression. In the Jewish world, the women's seder, the rededication of Rosh Hodesh as a female ritual, retreats, and the mikvah as an old-new way to embrace different life moments are just a few examples.

Most of our Western society has embraced this change of vision of the world as a reality, as what it *should* be, but at the same time I believe men have been left a little bit lost. We are not very clear about what it means to be a male, aside from the common macho associations.

Today the liberal synagogue is fast becoming the realm of the feminine, and the Orthodox synagogue remains the realm of the masculine. Men are participating much less than women in today's liberal synagogues in America. There are many who say the synagogue has become too feminized, too sensitive, and too emotionally available.

(continued on page 10)

We Talked, We Listened, We're Moving On It!

Panim el Panim, BJ's Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative, engaged over 200 BJ members in a round of 20 house meetings last winter—a "community conversation" about social justice and the issues that interest and concern us. In response, Panim el Panim's lay leadership and staff pursued six months of follow-up, recruitment, and campaign research. (Along the way, we hosted a 150-person follow up gathering in January and a 600-person assembly with the Manhattan Together Interfaith Coalition in April.)

This summer, the Panim el Panim Task Force—our lay leadership body—met at its annual Strategy Retreat to approve some new directions and adjustments to our work. As always, our priorities and strategies are evolving and will continue to do so. We're excited about our campaigns for the coming year and invite you to join in as we carry forward BJ's mission to be a kehillah kedoshah—making our city and state more just and livable for us and our neighbors.

Below is more information about our new lineup of action hevras (committees) and campaigns. To get involved, please call Panim el Panim's voicemail at 212-787-7600 x432 or write to panim@bj.org.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION HEVRA

This hevra will make a shift from its internal "greening" focus to more external action and advocacy with two new campaigns:

1) Solar Power: to incentivize the growth of solar power in NY State through legislation and other policy prescriptions designed by an existing coalition of advocacy groups. Solar power is a key way for New York to reduce its carbon emissions and contribution to global warming.

2) Green Streets: to create greener and more livable streets on the Upper West Side through participation in the "NYC Streets Renaissance—Upper West Side" initiative of the organization Transportation Alternatives. This will be a cluster of small-scale, local, hands-on projects

to transform the UWS with bike lanes, green space, traffic calming, and other measures.

Our "Greening BJ" project has come to the end of its two-year timeframe. 250 households have signed the Brit Adamah ("Earth Covenant") and BJ has taken a number of measures to green the synagogue at a cost of thousands of dollars. A team of hevra members will continue to work with the BJ administration and our community members to implement additional greening steps, such as a focus on improved recycling.

■ MANHATTAN TOGETHER HEVRA

Following the house meetings, we established the Manhattan Together Hevra to develop our relationship with that coalition and to explore potential action in the areas of affordable housing, public education, and immigrants' rights. At this time, it looks like we will continue to pursue housing and immigration, but not education, based on members' interest.

Affordable Housing

1) We will continue to support Manhattan Together and its member institutions on local and citywide campaigns, in particular:

a) Public Housing: Securing \$300 million of public and private money to improve quality of life and maintenance in NYCHA (public housing) through an Integrated Pest Management program. The campaign aims to transform the image of public housing—the largest stock of affordable housing in the city, home to over 400,000 people—from a deteriorating burden to a civic treasure.

b) Supportive Housing: Winning the right to build a tower with 350 units of supportive housing (both low- and middle-income) above the Morgan Annex, a US Postal Service facility in Chelsea.

2) The BJ community: We will reach out to our members in various ways to encourage you to bring your own local housing issues to the attention of Panim el Panim. The aim is to find local issues that we can organize around collectively and publicly, in response to members' needs, including middle-income and rental situations.

3) Senior Housing: We will continue our involvement in the issue of senior housing at the Atria assisted living facility on 86th Street. Residents, including BJ members, have faced rent increases as high as 12% annually. Meanwhile, the workers who care for the residents are trying to organize a union against heavy resistance by management. The campaign also seeks to pass state legislation requiring such facilities to disclose their histories of rent increases—so you'd know what you might be getting into!

We invite you to join in as we carry forward BJ's mission to be a kehillah kedoshah—making our city and state more just and livable for us and our neighbors.

Immigrants' Rights

1) We will continue to support Manhattan Together and its member institutions on local and citywide campaigns, including **Access to Financial Services**, efforts to persuade bank branches to open accounts for people without social security numbers. It is legal for banks to do so, but many do not. Immigrants without access to traditional financial services are at high risk for robbery, excessive fees, and other kinds of exploitation.

2) We are also considering joining one or two campaigns relating to one of the following issues: **deportation** cases that separate immigrant parents from US-born children; our relationships with **domestic workers** (most of whom are immigrant women) who care for our children and our elderly relatives; and the working conditions of **restaurant workers** and other service workers (again, mainly immigrants) at businesses we patronize in our neighborhoods. Stay tuned!

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■ **MARRIAGE EQUALITY HEVRA**

Our analysis suggests that if the November elections produce an LGBT-friendly majority and leadership in the State Senate, we have a strong chance of winning passage of state legislation in June 2009. The hevra has successfully organized an increasing number of BJ members for educational programs and lobby meetings—over 40 of our members went to Albany last April with Rabbis Felicia Sol and Brent Spodek! Yasher koah to the hevra for its courageous commitment to our LGBT members, families, and friends—and for supporting a civil rights and economic justice issue that matters to our entire community.

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■ **ELDERCARE/HEALTHCARE EXPLORATORY TEAM**

In our last round of house meetings, many BJ members expressed concern about eldercare and healthcare. We formed an exploratory team with a six-month mandate to figure out whether BJ could take on either of these new areas. The team got quite involved in the campaign at the Atria West Side assisted living facility. However, the team concluded that although interest is broad in the community, there are not enough people willing and able to take strong leadership. Instead of forming a new hevra, we are encouraging our other hevras to pay special attention to how seniors are affected by the issues we are working on. The process has also generated new collaboration and relationships between Panim el Panim, Ledor Vador (BJ's intergenerational programming committee), and Bikkur Holim (BJ's volunteers who visit ill and homebound members of our congregation).

PUBLIC OFFICIALS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Over the past two years, Panim el Panim has embarked on a systematic campaign of outreach to local elected officials at the city and state levels of government. About 30 members have taken part in nearly 20 meetings with elected officials— mostly in local district offices—to share our priorities, build relationships, and explore collaborations. In the coming year, we hope to add executive branch officials, such as city agency commissioners, to our set of relationships. This initiative, which has helped to establish BJ as a recognized force in local issues, has led to concrete progress in our campaigns, and has opened new possibilities for the future.

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LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our members' growth as community leaders, as Jews, and as public citizens—through training, practice, support, and feedback—is an essential part of what Panim el Panim is all about. Being a community leader means, in large part, building our relationships with each other so that we can be responsive to each other's needs and interests, and so that we can come together as a community with the power to take action. This committee is dedicated to fostering the leadership and relationships that make social change possible—not to mention collaborative, challenging, and fun!

We are always looking for more people interested in getting to know more BJ members and putting BJ's Jewish values into action. We welcome your input and participation. ■

Being a community leader means, in large part, building our relationships with each other so that we can be responsive to each other's needs and interests, and so that we can come together as a community with the power to take action.

Schedule of Services • High Holy Days 2008/5769

Selihot

Saturday, September 20

Kabbalat Selihot

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

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 29

First Evening

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

Tuesday, September 30

First Day

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street,
 Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC)* 9:00 AM

Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall, 88th Street Frankel Hall,
 JALC.....10:30 AM

Family Service (ages 7-12)

Symphony Space10:30 AM

Study followed by Tashlikh

88th Street Sanctuary4:30 PM
 Riverside Park.....5:30 PM

Second Evening

88th Street7:00 PM

Wednesday, October 1

Second Day

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street9:00 AM

Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall ONLY10:30 AM

Junior Congregation (ages 7-12)

88th Street Frankel Hall10:30 AM

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, October 3

Kabbalat Shabbat

Family Service, 88th Street6:00 PM
 Wandering Minyan, 86th Street Social Hall6:00 PM
 88th Street7:30 PM

Saturday, October 4

Morning Services

SPSA 86th Street9:30 AM

Junior Congregation (ages 7-12)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall10:30 AM

Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Chapel10:45 AM

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 8

Kol Nidre

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC*5:45 PM

Thursday, October 9

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC*9:00 AM

Children's Services (ages 0-6)

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall, 88th Street Frankel Hall,
 JALC.....10:30 AM

Family Service (ages 7-12)

Symphony Space10:30 AM

Minhah and Ne'ilah

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC*4:15 PM

Children's procession

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC6:45 PM

Teki-at Sofar and Havdalah

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC.....7:05 PM

Sukkot

Monday, October 13

First Evening

88th Street.....6:45 PM
 Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....following Services

Tuesday, October 14

First Day

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

Children's Services

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

Second Evening

88th Street.....6:45 PM
 Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....following Services

Wednesday, October 15

Second Day

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

Children's Services

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

Friday, October 17

Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot Evening

88th Street6:00 PM
 88th Street7:30 PM

Saturday, October 18

Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot Day Services

SPSA 86th Street9:30 AM

Junior Congregation

86th Street Social Hall10:30 AM

Children's Services

SPSA 86th Street Chapel10:45 AM
 Kiddush, Sukkah at 86th Street.....following Service

Hoshana Rabbah

Monday, October 20

Morning Service

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

Shemini Atzeret

Monday, October 20

Evening Service

88th Street.....6:45 PM

Tuesday, October 21

Morning Services (Yizkor)

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

Children's Services

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

Simhat Torah

Tuesday, October 21

Erev Simhat Torah

Family Service
 88th Street Frankel Hall.....6:00 PM

88th Street6:45 PM

Wednesday, October 22

Morning Services

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

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).

* Based on pre-assigned location for services

Mazal Tov

To the following members and their families (through August 8):

Ira Seidman and his family on his upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

Rebecca Wade and Jonathan Schaffer on their recent wedding.

Margie, Robert, Jordana and Julia Imershein on the recent wedding of Rachel Imershein and Jeffrey Gross.

Elana Shneyer and Adam Kaufman on their recent engagement.

Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok on the marriage of her daughter Arielle Shanok to Martin Lan.

Marty Dravis on his engagement to Yael Gabriel.

Marco Acevedo and Deborah Siegel on their recent wedding.

Estare and David Weiser on the birth of their granddaughter.

Ari and Sharon Fox on the birth of their son.

Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax on the birth of their twin girls, Stella Mae Minkin Gegax and Harriet (Hattie) Lynn Minkin Gegax.

Julie, Alex, Leo, and Truman Margolies on the birth of Imogen Belle Margolies.

Barbara Schwimmer on the upcoming wedding of her daughter Gwen Schwimmer to Ian Desberg.

Condolences (through August 8)

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Rachela Weisstuch, and extends sincere condolences to her son, Mark Weisstuch, her daughter-in-law Diane Weisstuch, her grandchildren Joshua and Liza, and her entire family.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Emanuel Brechner, and extends sincere condolences to all his loved ones.

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

Barbara Goldman on the death of Barbara's beloved mother, Miriam Kasdan.

Michael and Nancy B. Mostow on the death of Michael's beloved mother, Dianne Mostow

Carole Polly on the death of her beloved brother, Francis Scott Travis.

Whitnee, Jack and Stephen Shulman on the death of Whitnee and Jack's beloved mother, Barbara Nalley.

Rose Bell on the death of her beloved mother, Sylvia Furman.

Harvey, Stephanie, Alexandra and Lindsey Newman on the death of Harvey's beloved father, Sam Newman.

Susan Grobman, and Blake and Sophie Myers, on the death of Susan's beloved father, Aaron Grobman.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	1 ROSH HODESH ELUL LABOR DAY BJ OFFICE CLOSED	2 • 7:00 PM – Rosh Hodesh Women's Group, 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.9)	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29 ROSH HASHANAH, 1st EVENING BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED BJ OFFICE CLOSSES AT 1:00PM • 6:30 PM – Services, 86th St., 88th St.	30 ROSH HASHANAH, 1st DAY BJ OFFICE & BJHS CLOSED • 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 • 4:30 PM – Study, 88th St. • 5:30 PM – Tashlikh, Riverside Park ROSH HASHANAH, 2nd EVENING • 7:00 PM – Service, 88th St.	October 1 ROSH HASHANAH, 2nd DAY BJ OFFICE CLOSED • 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	2

SERVICE TIMES

Morning Minyan (88th Street):



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

Kabbalat Shabbat: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

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

Shabbat Morning: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!

• 9:30 AM 86th Street. • Children's services, 10:45 AM 86th Street
 • Additional Services: Junior Congregation, September 6, 20, October 4 10:45 AM 86th Street

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>5 SERVICE TIMES CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM – Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 6:00 PM – Wandering Minyan, 86th St. Social Hall 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>6 SERVICE LOCATIONS CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Kline Bat Mitzvah: Rebecca Wartels 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St.
	<p>12</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM – Frankel Fridays, 88th St. Frankel Hall 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. Following 7:30 PM Service – Oneg Shabbat, 88th St. (SEE P.10) 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. Bar Mitzvah: Griffin Bassman Bat Mitzvah: Morgane Stuart 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. Following Services – Community Kiddush, 86th St.
	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. Bat Mitzvah: Madeline Parrash Bar Mitzvah: Matthew Gracer 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. 9:45 PM program, Midnight service – SELIHOT, 88th St.
	<p>26</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM – Frankel Fridays, 88th St. Frankel Hall 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. Bat Mitzvah: Charlotte Mandler 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. Following Services – Community Kiddush, 86th St.
	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM – Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 6:00 PM – Wandering Minyan, 86th St. Social Hall 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>4 SHABBAT SHUVAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. Bar Mitzvah: William Zurier 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St.

ADULT CLASSES

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

Wednesday

- Preparation for the High Holy Days 7:00 PM

YOUTH CLASSES

Monday, September 8: 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 5	7:03 PM
September 12	6:52 PM
September 19	6:40 PM
September 26	6:28 PM
September 29	6:23 PM (First Evening Rosh Hashanah)
September 30	7:21 PM (Second Evening Rosh Hashanah)
October 3	6:16 PM

Parashat HaShavu'a

September 6	Shoftim
September 13	Ki Tetze
September 20	Ki Tavo
September 27	Nitzavim
October 4	Vayelekh

Havdalah Times

September 6	8:01 PM
September 13	7:49 PM
September 20	7:37 PM
September 27	7:25 PM
October 4	7:13 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 rosenthal@bj.org or x243. ■

Davey Rosen, Family Educator

Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish year, is a time of reflection and excitement as we prepare for new beginnings. Our lives are full of experiences that teach us what it means to live a Jewish life and that provide us with opportunities to respond to the world as Jews. As I begin my new position at BJ as Family Educator, Rosh Hashanah provides me with time to reflect on my past experiences and consider how I will face new challenges and create new learning opportunities for families at BJ.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, family and communal experiences, such as Shabbatons and Israel trips, laid the foundation for my life as a Jew. My time at Camp Ramah in Canada helped me understand the importance of being a role model; how my actions not only influence myself, but others as well. As an American Jew, my understanding of the role Israel has in my life was greatly expanded on two long-term Israel programs, Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim, the Ramah Jerusalem High School program, during the spring semester of 11th grade, and Young Judaea Year Course, a year program after high school. As a college student at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, I learned the importance of contributing to a Jewish community—Judaism requires personal investment, community doesn't just happen. Spending one year at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies challenged me to determine how I want to focus my passion for Judaism and in 2004 I moved to New York City to work for Young Judaea supervising informal Jewish programs for children and teens.

Recognizing there is always more to learn, I went to the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, focusing on informal and communal education. JTS was a spiritual and intellectual experience in which I gained new educational skills as well as deepened my understanding of what it means to be a committed Jew. One of the key educational concepts I learned was that because my past experiences can never be duplicated, how I find meaning in Judaism will not be same for someone else, as we all have our own experiences, with our own beliefs and reasons for living a Jewish life.

While I am new to the Family Educator position, I am very familiar with the BJ community, playing guitar and singing for children's Shabbat and holiday services since the summer of 2007. Being a part of children's services has introduced me to a community that is committed to vibrant communal Jewish experiences. It is crucial for me to continue to get to know you, the BJ community, as I work to facilitate new experiences for children and families.

As we blow the Shofar and say "Hayom Harat Olam, today is the birthday of the world," I look forward to a year of new experiences that enhance our lives as individuals and as a community.

L'shanah tova,
—Davey Rosen, Family Educator

Important Dates for September

Please see the complete listing of Children's Services, Family Services, and Junior Congregation for the High Holy Days on page 4 and at www.bj.org.

Thursday, September 4

BJHS Teacher Orientation

Saturday, September 6

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

Monday, September 8

First Day of Hebrew School

Friday, September 12

Frankel Fridays, 10:30AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall

Friday-Sunday, September 12-14

Teen Shabbaton

Saturday, September 20

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

Friday, September 26

Frankel Fridays, 10:30AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall

Monday, September 29

BJHS closed for Rosh Hashanah

Special Needs Class Expands 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. In our ongoing commitment to provide a Jewish education to as many of BJ’s children as possible, we will again offer a MATAN class on Monday afternoons from 4:00–6:00PM, geared towards children in 5th and 6th grades with visual and auditory processing disabilities. The MATAN class will be integrated with the other 5th and 6th grade classes for periodic school-wide programming and our Mishpaha Family Learning Programs.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that we will add a second MATAN class for children in 3rd and 4th grades. These classes are open to both BJ members and non-members.

For more information about the MATAN classes, or to enroll, please contact Ivy Schreiber at ischreiber@bj.org or x225. ■

Rosh Hashanah: Taking It Home

We spend so much time in synagogue on Rosh Hashanah, but what can we do to extend that special New Year feeling to our homes?

Eat some new fruit on the second day of the holiday. To prepare, take a family trip to the grocery store and look for a fruit that none of you have ever eaten before, or haven’t eaten in a long time. When you eat it on Rosh Hashanah, you can “taste” the new year.

Before Rosh Hashanah, ask everyone in your family to think about how they would complete the sentence, “This year I am going to learn to...” At Rosh Hashanah dinner, go around the

table and ask everyone to share what they are going to try to learn. You can check in with people in a few months (around Hanukkah) to see how they are doing.

Add a more concrete element to *tashlikh*, the ceremony where we go to the river and cast out our sins using breadcrumbs, by turning the preparation into an art project. Children can paint, with watercolors, what they wish to get rid of in the coming year. When you float the drawings in water (in your sink, don’t throw them in the river!), these unwanted habits will magically disappear. ■

—Rebecca Rosenthal

• Rosh Hodesh Women’ Group for Elul

Facilitated by **Rabbis Felicia Sol and Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow**

Tuesday, September 2 • 7:00PM • 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 with the group as part of the celebration of Rosh Hodesh

• Preparation for Yamim Nora'im

Rabbi Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

3 Wednesdays (September 3, 10, 17) • 7:00–8:30PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. During the month of Elul, we reflect on the year now past. Traditionally called a Heshbon Nefesh—literally, an “accounting of the soul”—we ask whether we were our best selves and what is the atonement we are in search of. Often, we find ourselves in a similar place to where we were a year before, struggling to make the change we seek real, angry that we missed the mark yet again. Using stories and texts, we will learn about the difficulty of change, the role of anger, and how we can move together towards repentance and at-one-ment.

▪ **Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ Friday, September 12** • 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. At 10:00PM, the entire BJ community will be invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with Soul Farm, who will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat songs.

▪ **Ushering For the Yamim Nora'im 5769**
Now is the time for BJ members to sign up to usher during the Yamim Nora'im. Ushering at BJ has always been a special community experience; at least 250 people are needed to insure that prayer at services will be comfortable for all. Please fill out the form that has been sent to you in the mail and send it to Sarah Verity at the BJ office, indicating which services and times you prefer, along with the site where you will be praying.

Fall Service Schedule Changes

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Please note change of time!
Beginning **Friday, September 5**, and throughout the year, 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 6**, Shabbat morning services will start at 9:30AM, again at 86th Street.

Rabbi's Message RABBI MARCELO R. BRONSTEIN *(continued from page 1)*

What if there really were a reason for the Men's Club and the Sisterhood (*I am not advocating for this*)? What if the issue of gender is not an either/or equation, but a positive together/apart equation? What if we depart from the premise that we are all equal in every aspect of reality and recognize that there has to be a time to celebrate our uniqueness, as well?

Adam has left the shul; we have to make him return.

I have led men's workshops many times at BJ. They have been very illuminating experiences. This is the time to start something new: a **Men's Havurah**, to see what happens when we men daven (pray) together, study together, and do things together. This havurah will **not** be a men's workshop; we are **not** going to gather **to talk** about gender, but will be together in our Jewish home, finding our unique voices to subsequently contribute to the larger group.

If you are interested, please come to our first gathering for a Shabbat Minḥa experience and some davening, some studying and maybe a little schnapps (please bring something you would like to share; if wine, it must be kosher). You just have to be male, whether straight, gay, single, married, or in any other self-definition. Our first encounter will be just before Rosh Hashanah, on September 13 at 6:30PM at 88th St. A committee was formed, including Michael Yoeli, Moshe Horn, Nahum Precel, Chuck Gold, Jonathan Adelsberg, Bob Kanter and myself, to plan our initial effort. After this gathering we'll welcome more ideas, with a commitment to work. See you there. ■

Bikur Holim Fund

George and Sharon Golden in memory of Louis J. Metzger
Howard Mandell in honor of Barbara Goldman
Harriette Weisman in memory of Bertha Saland

Daily Minyan Fund

Morty and Bernice Levine in honor of Irv Rosenthal and Ruth Jarmul on the arrival of their grandchild

Etz Hayim

Ellen Schechter in memory of her beloved father, George Schechter

General Fund

John Bonavita and Harold Goldman
Albert Brunn in honor of Helen and Hal Lehrman's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Alan and Mimi Frank
Helen Hanan
Rosalie Sacks Levine
Lilli Platt
Benjamin and Yvette Rosen
Adina Schechter

Helen Radin Memorial Zayin Adar Annual Teaching

Hal and Helen Lehrman in memory of Miriam Kasdan, and Dianne Mostow

Homeless Shelter Fund

Carol Dikman in memory of David Weiser's mother, Sarah Weiser
Barbara Simon in honor of Joan Goldstein's election
Barbara Simon in memory of the Himmel family's beloved father, father-in-law and grandfather

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Morty and Bernice Levine in memory of Sarah Weiser
Barbara Schwimmer in honor of her daughter Gwen Schwimmer's marriage to Ian Desberg

Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund

George and Sharon Golden in memory of Abraham A. Golden

Yizkor Fund

Myriam Abramowicz in memory of her beloved parents, Mendel and Lea, and in honor of Frances Greenberg and Barbara Goldman
Rose Alpert in memory of her beloved son, Gordon M. Alpert
Jacqueline Braverman in memory of her beloved mother, Dora Becker
Rise Dimson and John Hatleberg in memory of David Weiser's beloved mother, Sarah Weiser
Kathleen Peratis in memory of her beloved father, Jim Peratis
Sheila Gabins in memory of her beloved father, Michael David Gabins
Rhoda Glass in memory of her beloved father, Henry Ginsberg
Laurie Graff in memory of Gary Feinstein
Sonny Greenwald in memory of his beloved mother and father
Kathryn Wolfson in memory of Shel Wolfson, Kathryn's father and Joshua's grandfather
Amelia Korn, Shelly Bernard, Shelia Schwid, Rose Alpert, Cecile Rodau, and Kallia Bokser in memory of Inez Meisels, and Sheila Dekel

Stefan and Mary Krieger in memory of Vivien and Norman Krieger, and James Kelliher
Sarai, Terry and Rachel Levine in memory of their father, father-in-law and Zayde, Max Berenstein
Kenneth Levin in memory of Larry Riskin
Irving and Dorothy Litt in memory of David Litt
Allan Malz and Karin Bruckner in memory of Allan's beloved mother, Manya Malz
Sara Pasternak Levine and Mathew Levine in memory of Sara's beloved mother, Laura Shulman Pasternak
Ruth and Samuel Perelson in honor of Andrew Kisch, upon his graduation from high school
Penelope Raphaely in memory of her beloved mother, Miriam Berman
Evelyn Rothstein in memory of Eugene Rothstein
Charles and Amy Rudnick in memory of Amy's beloved mother, Luba Rudnick
Irene Siegel in memory of her beloved husband, Norman Siegel
Mervin and Gittel Silverberg in memory of Gittel's beloved father, Gershon Taitelbaum
Felicia Sol in memory of her beloved grandmother, Helen Sol
Mark and Robyn Tsesarsky

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