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## Singing in Israel's Ears Till She Opens Her Eyes

LEONARD FEIN

*The following article is reprinted with permission from both The Jewish Daily Forward and Mr. Fein.*

Love, as we all know, is a many-splendored thing. Whatever that means. Actually, "many-splendored" calls to mind "irritable bowel syndrome," one of those terms you make up as a catch-all for something you can't explain. And love is difficult if not impossible to explain or even define, as witness the range between Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways," and John Barrymore's "Love is the delightful interval between meeting a beautiful girl and discovering that she looks like a haddock."

Most good love stories—and all great love stories—are complex. Which brings me to American Jews and the celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary. Once, the love—for it was that, for sure—of America's Jews for Israel was born of longing, of guilt, of pride, of dreams. Singing of Jerusalem, we asked, "Were you real, or have we only dreamt a dream?"

Over the years, the longing receded, replaced by the reality of the new state, replaced by swelling pride: the drained swamps, the blooming deserts, the resettled refugees and then in 1967 the lightning victory in the Six-Day War and in 1976 the daring rescue in Entebbe. Pride became love's nest.

Flash all the way forward, and today much energy and many dollars are invested in "branding" Israel, in calling attention to its scientific and technological achievements, its splendid beaches, its dazzling soldiers, its GDP growth, all in an effort to craft a scrim to hide the chronic conflict, the corruption, the tapering of the dream. To prop up the love.

And who today can deny that the love of America Jews for Israel requires some propping up? The empirical data confirm it, and private conversations confirm it: What was once organic, intuitive, is now increasingly in need of props, even some days of life support.

Suddenly, Israel's most ardent lovers discover that they are encouraged (or feel themselves required) to act as Israel's most whiney apologists, moving from boast to rationalization; others, less ardent, simply move to estrangement, if not all the way to alienation.

The causes are multiple. The generational shift from those for whom Israel's creation was epiphanic to those for whom Israel's existence is a matter of (often troubling) fact; Israel's own revisionist historians, who tell a very different story of the early years, shifting the focus of the story from a dogged battle for survival against the odds to a story of ethnic cleansing; the siege and slaughter at Sabra

*(continued on page 10)*

## Creating the Sweetest Wine Possible

Recently, I read a story called "The Barrel" about a town that is having a wedding celebration for some valued members of the community: the Rabbi's intelligent daughter and a kind young man from the village. The mayor instructs all the residents to each bring a bucket of their sweetest wine to a gigantic barrel constructed in the center of town, so that the night of the celebration they may all enjoy together the plentiful sweet wine. As the days go by before the celebration, the barrel appears to be filling, the line of moisture on the outside creeping up with each contribution. Finally, the wedding day is here and it is a very happy day. The mayor goes to tap the barrel and nothing flows from it but light pink water. There is no sweet wine. Each villager thought the other would contribute and so it would not hurt anyone if they put a little water in the barrel. They thought no one would miss their contribution in such a wonderful giving community.

The truth is B'nai Jeshurun is already an incredibly engaged congregation, with a formidable core of committed volunteers who work on issues of social justice, support our neighbors through direct service and strive to deepen their Jewish experience through acts of loving kindness. This is what drew me to this community and it is what makes my job exciting.

This is the heart of the community, which has hooked many a BJ member. But, it is also a large synagogue. For all the committed volunteers who participate there are many who have not yet found their niche. Some of you have not yet found the place in the community where you can make an impact or where you feel enriched. And so, as a community we have not tasted the best wine possible. We will continue to innovate, build relationships with one another, and find ways to create the sweetest wine to enjoy in each other's company.

**We will continue to innovate, build relationships with one another, and find ways to create the sweetest wine to enjoy in each other's company."**

As we are in the midst of the Yamim Nora'im, please consider how you may contribute and how you may deepen your Jewish experience through your participation in this community. Below is a list of our advocacy *hevras*, service programs, one-time events and crisis response work that might meet your interests.

—Channa Camins, BJ Social Action Coordinator

### ■ DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

#### BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

Contact: Anne Millman and Jim Melchiorre, x340, annieMill@aol.com, jmelchi567@aol.com

Since 1985, the Homeless Shelter has reflected BJ's commitment to the *mitzvah* of caring for the most vulnerable strangers in our midst. Sunday through Thursday, homeless

guests are bussed to us from two drop-in centers run by the city. **Needed:** Two to three people per night from 7:00-9:00PM to set up beds, serve a small meal, maintain the storage closets, and interact with the guests; two additional people each night from 9:00PM-7:00AM to sleep over, supervise, help with a light breakfast, collect linens, and put away beds. Volunteers are also needed to cook or order in dinner for our guests. A minimum commitment of one evening per month is requested.

#### BJ Reads...At PS 166

Contact: Ellen Schechter and Sandy Davidson, x391, bjreads@bj.org or sandyd001@rcn.com

BJ Reads offers volunteers the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of elementary school children who are not yet reading at grade level. With the steady presence and enthusiasm of our volunteers, our partners' reading and comprehension skills flourish over the course of the year.

**Needed:** Individuals of all ages to work with children. Minimum commitment is one one-hour session, one morning a week (Mondays or Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00AM) from October through May. Reading takes place at PS 166, 132 West 89th Street.

#### BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership

Contact: Rory Butler and Ilene Richman, x301, rbspartnership@bj.org

The partnership is dedicated to helping children attain literacy, to love and value books and reading, and to enhance basic math skills. Volunteers meet one-on-one with children in Grades 1-3 to support classroom instruction in reading and writing, as well as Grades 3-4 to reinforce math lessons. This partnership is an exciting opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children, one at a time. **Needed:** Individuals to work with an eager elementary school student: literacy sessions from 8:30-10:30AM on Tuesday or Thursday morning, math sessions are on Thursdays from 12:00-1:00PM. If you cannot make a regular commitment, please sign up as a sub. (Times subject to change with the new school year.)

#### Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

Contact: Carole Lurie, Ruth Lazarus, Robin Tunick, and Susan Samuels, x338, sssamuels@aol.com

Join this wonderful, friendly, intergenerational effort by serving lunch to our West Side guests at 88th Street on Thursdays. We care for both body and soul by providing our guests with a meal in a comfortable atmosphere as well as the services of a volunteer social worker. **Needed:** Caring individuals to prepare food, set tables, serve lunch, and clean up on Thursdays from 9:00AM-1:30PM. On Wednesday nights, we need individuals to make soup and salad from 5:00-8:00PM. Help is always needed. Sign up for an hour each week or each month.

■ **PANIM EL PANIM: BJ'S COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & ADVOCACY INITIATIVE**

**Panim el Panim Task Force**

Co-Chairs: Robert Buxbaum and Jenny Eisenberg  
 Contact: Bella Zuzel, Director of Social Action/Social Justice, x259

Panim el Panim aims to transform our congregation by facilitating deeper relationships among our members and between our BJ community and our citywide neighbors. Panim el Panim seeks to address the root causes of injustice by changing power structures, laws, policies, relationships, and practices—complementing the direct service programs that BJ has operated for many years. Our power to make change is developed through a congregation-based community-organizing model including one-to-one relationships, community conversations, leadership development, and participatory decision-making. Right now, Panim el Panim has “action hevras” working on two different issues (environment and marriage equality). And our new partnership with Manhattan Together, an interfaith social justice coalition, offers the chance to work on two more (affordable housing and immigrants’ rights) through Panim’s Manhattan Together Hevra. Together we’re building the power to make our city a better place to live! **Needed:** Enthusiastic people committed to social justice and the BJ community, who want to work with a dynamic, diverse team of leaders on any of our issue areas!

**Environmental Action Hevra**

Contact: Robert Daley, Elizabeth Weiss and Carol Schiffman-Durham, bjgreenhevra@yahoo.com

Campaign: **Greening BJ:** Adopting environmentally sustainable practices in our synagogue and our homes, and building a movement among local congregations to do the same. Becoming a voice for environmental justice in our city.

**Marriage Equality Hevra**

Contact: Amy Lavine, alavine@gaycenter.org, and Marlene Halpern, jacobhw@msn.com

Campaign: **Marriage Equality:** Working to pass legislation in NY State for equal access to the rights and responsibilities of civil marriage for same-sex couples.

**Manhattan Together Hevra**

Contact: Judith Trachtenberg, jtrachte@aol.com, and Robert Buxbaum, rbuxbaum@tdxconstruction.com

Campaign: This hevra will provide a central hub for communication, community, and strategy for all BJ congregants working with interfaith social justice coalition Manhattan Together on the development of three campaign areas including affordable housing, public education, and immigrants’ rights.

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 ■ **BJ RESPONDS**

As always, we seek opportunities to “pray with our feet” by participating in public demonstrations and annual one-day events, and by responding to ongoing crises such as the AIDS and breast cancer epidemics or sudden emergencies such as the South Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. **Needed:** People who are passionate about making a difference in our world! For more information, contact the BJ members below or contact Channa Camins, Social Action Coordinator at x261 or ccamins@bj.org.

**Darfur Response Committee:** Josie Shapiro and Jerry Siegel, darfur@bj.org

**AIDS Walk,** May 2009: Ellen Corenswet, ecorenswet@cov.com

**Blood Drives,** Nov 19, 2008: Trudi Levine, trudi1531@aol.com, and Sharon Messitte, shasiem@aol.com

**Hazon Jewish Environmental Bike Ride,** Labor Day weekend 2009: Mark Lipsy, reMark1@gmail.com and Abby Rothschild, abbymythreesons@aol.com

**Komen Breast Cancer Race for the Cure,** September 2009: Glenda Frank, glfrank@verizon.net and Andrea Bigelisen, andmugs@aol.com ■

## Outgoing, Incoming GUY IZHAK AUSTRIAN

This September, I concluded a journey of almost three years as BJ’s Director of Social Action/Social Justice. And I’ve set out on a new adventure as a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary, here in Manhattan. For me, becoming a rabbi is an extension of the same path: helping to create Jewish communities that integrate justice work with spiritual searching, constant learning, and partnership with others.

A midrash teaches that God created Mount Sinai using only God’s right hand. But when creating Adam and the Holy Temple, God used both hands, left and right.

Why did God need two hands for Adam and the Temple, but just one for Mount Sinai? Perhaps because Mount Sinai was not intended to hold the divine presence for more than a few days, nor would it remain a holy place. But human beings and our sanctuaries must be places for the divine image and divine presence to dwell. It takes both hands to build such vessels.

And in fact, at BJ it takes a whole lot of hands! Some of this work is plain to see. Hundreds of BJ’s lay leaders and volunteers

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## Schedule of Services • High Holy Days 2008/5769

### 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 Space .....10:30 AM

*Study followed by Tashlikh*

88th Street Sanctuary .....4:30 PM  
Riverside Park .....5:30 PM

#### Second Evening

88th Street .....7:00 PM

**Wednesday, October 1**

#### Second Day

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street .....9:00 AM

*Children's Services (ages 0-6)*

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall ONLY .....10:30 AM

*Junior Congregation (ages 7-12)*

88th Street Frankel Hall .....10:30 AM

### Shabbat Shuvah

**Friday, October 3**

#### Kabbalat Shabbat

*Family Service*, 88th Street .....6:00 PM  
*Wandering Minyan*, 86th Street Social Hall .....6:00 PM  
88th Street .....7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 4**

#### Morning Services

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

*Junior Congregation (ages 7-12)*

SPSA 86th Street Social Hall .....10:30 AM

*Children's Services (ages 0-6)*

SPSA 86th Street Chapel .....10:45 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 Space .....10:30 AM

#### Minhah and Ne'ilah

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

*Children's procession*

SPSA 86th Street, 88th Street, JALC .....6:45 PM

#### Teki-at Shofar 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 Street .....6:00 PM  
88th Street .....7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 18**

#### Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot Day Services

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

*Junior Congregation*

86th Street Social Hall .....10:30 AM

*Children's Services*

SPSA 86th Street Chapel .....10:45 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 Street .....6:45 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 on their b'nai mitzvah (through August):**

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Jared Kandel-Fishman | Tess Wagman          |
| Simone Kolleeny      | Basia Tess Rosenbaum |
| Matthew Povich       | Hannah Teush         |
| Saskia Naegele       |                      |

**To the following members and their families (through September 5):**

Susan and Stephen Samuels on the birth of their grandson, Natan Micah to Rabbi Joanna Samuels and Jeremy Hockenstein.

Andrea Simon and Peter Rippon on their wedding.

BJ musician Dafna Mor and Daniel Freedman on the birth of their daughter, Alona Mor Freedman.

Debby Ziff Cook and Jamie Cook, Anne Ziff, Amy Ziff and Jeff Glueck, on the arrival of their son, grandson and nephew, Kostya Constantine Emanuel Cook.

Jenny Eisenberg on becoming a Bat Torah.

Eileen Loeb and Russell Shapiro on their wedding.

Dr. Carla Lewis and Robert Gruenspecht on the birth of their grandson, Moshe Shmuel Gruenspecht.

Laura Goldenberg and Howard Seibel on the birth of their son, David Mark Seibel.

Debbie Mukamal on the naming of her daughter, Zoe Frances Mukamal.

Alison Link and David Fainsilber on their engagement.

Craig, Abigail, and Kate Winer and Sarah Durham on Sarah and Craig's recent wedding.

Ralph, Merry, Seth, and Sara Klein on Sara's wedding to Brett Eisenberg.

Rae-Carole Fischer and Meir Bendavid on their wedding.

Susan, Larry, Jason, and Emily Chinitz on Jason's engagement to Amy Geldzahler.

## Condolences (through September 5)

**The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member** Liz Genn, and extend our sincere condolences to Ralph, Sam, and Eve Brunswick on the loss of their wife and mother.

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

Marvin Davis, Sarah Sternklar and Benjamin and Sabina Sternklar-Davis on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Sylvia Davis. ❖

Michael, Mindy, Jake, and Julia Mervis on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Jerry Mervis.

Guy Austrian and Rabbi Jill Jacobs on the death of Guy's beloved grandmother, Bronka Austrian Orfus.




Joni and Israel Brenner on the birth of their grandson, Elijah Clark Brenner to Daniel and Carmen Brenner.

Laurie and Jim Oestreich on the birth of their grandson, Zachary Dean Denbo.

Alison Pepper on her appointment as the Senior Director of Accreditation Program Support for the Academy of Early Childhood Program Accreditation at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington, DC.

Sally Gottesman, Rachel Tiven, and Alice, on the birth of their son and brother, Ezra Zelig Tiven-Gottesman

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| September 28  | <b>29 ROSH HASHANAH, 1st EVENING</b><br>BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED<br>BJ OFFICE CLOSURES AT 1:00PM<br><br>• 6:30 PM – Services, 86th St., 88th St.                                   | <b>30 ROSH HASHANAH, 1st DAY</b><br>BJ OFFICE & BJHS CLOSED<br>• 9:00 AM – Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC<br>• 10:30 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC<br>• 10:30 AM – Family Service, Symphony Space<br>• 4:30 PM – Study, 88th St.<br>• 5:30 PM – Tashlikh, Riverside Park<br><b>ROSH HASHANAH, 2nd EVENING</b><br>• 7:00 PM – Service, 88th St. | <b>October 1</b><br><b>ROSH HASHANAH, 2nd DAY</b><br>BJ OFFICE CLOSED<br>• 9:00 AM – Services, 86th St., 88th St.<br>• 10:30 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St. Social Hall<br>• 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 88th St. Frankel Hall | <b>2</b>   |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8 KOL NIDRE</b><br>BJ OFFICE CLOSURES AT 1:00PM<br><br>• 5:45PM – Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC  | <b>9 YOM KIPPUR</b><br>• 9:00 AM – Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC<br>• 10:30 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC<br>• 10:30 AM – Family Service, Symphony Space<br>• 4:15 PM – Minhah & Nefillah, 86th St., 88th St., JALC<br>• 6:45 PM – Children’s Services, 86th St., 88th St., JALC<br>• 7:05 PM – Teki’at Shofar |
| <b>12</b><br> • 10:30 AM – Sukkah Decorating Party, 86th St. Sukkah (SEE P.8) | <b>13 SUKKOT, 1st EVENING</b><br>BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED<br>BJ OFFICE CLOSURES AT 3:00PM<br><br>• 6:45 PM – Services, 88th St.<br>• Following Services – Kiddush, 86th St. Sukkah | <b>14 SUKKOT, 1st DAY</b><br>BJ OFFICE CLOSED<br>• 9:30 AM – Services, 88th St.<br>• 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall<br>• Following Services – Kiddush, 86th St. Sukkah<br><b>SUKKOT, 2nd EVENING</b><br>• 6:45 PM – Service, 88th St.<br>• Following Services – Kiddush, 86th St. Sukkah   | <b>15 SUKKOT, 2nd DAY</b><br>BJ OFFICE CLOSED<br>• 9:30 AM – Services, 88th St.<br>• 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall<br>• Following Services – Kiddush, 86th St. Sukkah  | <b>16 HOL HAMO’ED</b>  |
| <b>19 HOL HAMO’ED SUKKOT</b>  | <b>20 HOSHANAH RABBAH</b><br>BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED<br>• 7:30 AM – Services, 88th St.<br><br><b>EREV SHEMINI ATZERET</b><br>• 6:45 PM – Service, 88th St.                        | <b>21 SHEMINI ATZERET</b><br>BJ OFFICE CLOSED<br>• 9:30 AM – Services, 88th St.<br>• 10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 88th St. Frankel Hall<br><br><b>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH</b><br>• 6:00 PM – Family Service, 88th St. Frankel Hall<br>• 6:45 PM – Service, 88th St.   | <b>22 SIMCHAT TORAH</b><br>BJ OFFICE CLOSED<br>• 9:30 AM – Services, 88th St.  | <b>23</b>  |
| <b>26</b><br>• Time TBA – Rosh Hodesh Women’s Group trip to Mayyim Hayyim Mikveh (SEE P. 9)   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>   | <b>29 ROSH HODESH HESHVAN</b>  | <b>30 ROSH HODESH</b>  |

SERVICE TIMES

**Morning Minyan (88th Street):**

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

**Kabbalat Shabbat:**


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

• Additional Services: Family Kabbalat Shabbat, October 3, 6:00 PM 88th Street • Wandering Minyan, October 3, 6:00 PM 86th Street

**Shabbat Morning:**

• 9:30 AM 86th Street. • Children’s services, 10:45 AM 86th Street

• Additional Services: Junior Congregation, October 4, 18 10:30 AM 86th Street

| DAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|
|  | <p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM – Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>6:00 PM – Wandering Minyan, 86th St. Social Hall</li> <li>7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>4 SHABBAT SHUVAH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>Bar Mitzvah: William Zurier</li> <li>10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall</li> <li>10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>5th St., 88th St., Services, 86th</p> <p>ice, Symphony</p> <p>eilah Services,</p> <p>rocessions</p> <p>ar, Havdalah</p> | <p><b>10</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM – Frankel Fridays, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> <li>6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St.</li> <li>Following Services – Community Kiddush, 86th St.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>SUKKOT</b>  | <p><b>17 SHABBAT HOL HAMO’ED SUKKOT EVENING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>18 SHABBAT HOL HAMO’ED SUKKOT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>9:30 AM – 6th Grade B’nai Mitzvah Family Learning Program, 86th St. Sukkah</li> <li>10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall</li> <li>10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St.</li> <li>Following Services – Kiddush, 86th St. Sukkah</li> </ul> |
|  | <p><b>24</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30 AM – Frankel Fridays, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> <li>6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>Following 6:00 PM Service – BJHS Gan, Aleph, and Bet Dinner, 88th St. Frankel Hall</li> <li>7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul> | <p><b>25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</li> <li>10:45 AM – Children’s Services, 86th St.</li> <li>Following Services – Community Kiddush Honoring Bikkur Holim and High Holy Day Volunteers, 86th St. (SEE P.9)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>HESHVAN</b>   | <p><b>31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> <li>7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St.</li> </ul>  |   |

ADULT CLASSES

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

**Monday**

- Introduction to Judaism 7:00-9:00 PM (begins October 27, through May)

**Tuesday**

- The Book of Exodus 8:30-9:30AM (begins October 28, through May)
- Myth or Reality: Finding Truth in Religious Life/A Class for Tze’irim 7:00-9:00 PM (October 28, November 4, 11, 18)

**Wednesday**

- Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Heavenly Torah 6:30-8:00 PM (October 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 4)

**Thursday**

- Parashat Hashavu’a: Study of the Weekly Torah Portion 7:00-8:30 PM (begins October 30, 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**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 29 | 6:23 PM (First Evening Rosh Hashanah)  |
| September 30 | 7:20 PM (Second Evening Rosh Hashanah) |
| October 3    | 6:16 PM                                |
| October 8    | 6:08 PM (Erev Yom Kippur)              |
| October 10   | 6:05 PM                                |
| October 13   | 6:00 PM (First Evening Sukkot)         |
| October 14   | 6:57 PM (Second Evening Sukkot)        |
| October 17   | 5:54 PM                                |
| October 20   | 5:50 PM (Erev Shemini Atzeret)         |
| October 21   | 6:47 PM (Erev Simhat Torah)            |
| October 24   | 5:44 PM                                |
| October 31   | 5:35 PM                                |

**Parashat HaShavu’a**

|            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| October 4  | Vayelekh                      |
| October 11 | Ha’azinu                      |
| October 18 | Shabbat<br>Hol Hamo’ed Sukkot |
| October 25 | Bereshit                      |

**Havdalah Times**

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| October 4  | 7:13 PM |
| October 11 | 7:02 PM |
| October 18 | 6:52 PM |
| October 25 | 6:42 PM |

## The New Youth and Family Education Team Ushers in the New Year

We are excited to begin the new year with new faces in the Youth and Family Education Department!

It's my pleasure to introduce everyone to **Davey Rosen**, our new Family Educator, who joined BJ in July. Davey recently earned his Masters degree in Jewish education at The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at JTS, where he completed his practicum in informal and communal education at United Jewish Communities. You may already know Davey, as he's been a musician at Children's Shabbat and holiday services this past year. In addition to leading the B'nai Mitzvah Program, including family learning programs and tutoring, you will also see Davey in the BJ Hebrew School during Tefillah (prayer services) and Mishpaha (family programs), in Children's Services on Shabbat, and at many of our Youth and Family Programs throughout the year. Davey is excited to bring his passion for Jewish learning and his great musical talent to BJ. Davey can be reached at [drosen@bj.org](mailto:drosen@bj.org) or x244.

Another great addition to our team is **Elana Ayalon**, who joined BJ this summer as a full-time Program Administrator.

Elana provides administrative support for all Youth and Family programs, and is a great go-to person for all your questions about the BJ Hebrew School, B'nai Mitzvah Program, Junior Congregation and Children's Services on Shabbat and holidays, teen programs, and more! Elana can be reached at [eyalon@bj.org](mailto:eyalon@bj.org) or x260.

We're fortunate to have both **Kerrith Solomon** and **Rebecca Rosenthal** continue their tremendous work on the team. Kerrith connects all of BJ's teens as the Director of Teen Programming, and Rebecca oversees Children's Services and Shabbat and holiday programs for all of BJ's families as the Shabbat and Holidays Coordinator. **Arlene Brandon** also continues to provide administrative support to the B'nai Mitzvah Program.

I'm thrilled to be working with Davey, Kerrith, Rebecca, Elana and Arlene—what a great team! Together, we look forward to sharing all the blessings of learning with you and your families in the new year. L'shana Tovah u'metukah. ■

—Ivy Schreiber, Interim Director of Education (Youth & Family)

## Help Create the BJ Sukkah

As little girls, my older sister and I couldn't wait until it was time each year to take the box out of the garage that housed the decorations for our family's sukkah.

We would rummage through the box, examining each piece of shiny plastic fruit and inspecting the paper-link chains to see if they survived the previous year's Florida rains or if we needed to create new ones.

Although my husband, David, and I have never lived in a place where we could build our own sukkah, what continues to stand each year, as strong as ever, is the feeling of togetherness within the community on Sukkot. I encourage each of you to build a sukkah of your own or come share in the community experience of creating the BJ sukkah. Help us create BJ's beautiful sukkah at the Sukkah Decorating program on **Sunday, October 12**, and celebrate the holiday by enjoying one of your meals there as well. I look forward to seeing you in the BJ sukkah! ■

—Ivy Schreiber

## Important Dates for October

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](http://www.bj.org).

### Wednesday, October 1:

Rosh Hashanah Services

### Saturday, October 4:

Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 86th St. Social Hall

### Thursday, October 9:

BJHS Closed for Yom Kippur

### Friday, October 10:

Frankel Fridays, 10:30AM, 88th St. Frankel Hall

### Sunday, October 12:

Sukkah decorating, 10:30am, Sukkah at 86th St.

### Monday, October 13:

BJHS closed for Sukkot

### Thursday, October 16:

BJHS classes visit the sukkah

### Saturday, October 18:

Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 86th St. Social Hall

### Monday, October 20:

BJHS closed for Shemini Atzeret

### Friday, October 24:

Frankel Fridays, 10:30AM, 88th St. Frankel Hall

### Monday, October 27:

Parent Torah Reading Class, 5:00PM, 88th St.



• **Rosh Hodesh Women' Group for Heshvan**

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

**Sunday, October 26** • Time TBA. Celebrate Rosh Hodesh Heshvan with a day trip to the Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center in Boston. Opened in 2004, Mayyim Hayyim is a unique center for Jewish spirituality and learning that reclaims the ancient tradition of mikveh and reinvents the rituals of immersion to serve the needs of a diverse 21st century Jewish community. After a tour of the mikveh we will enjoy lunch in the area before returning back to New York. Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for registration details and costs.

• **Introduction to Judaism**

**Rabbi Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow**

**Mondays** (October 27–May 25) • 7:00–9:00PM • BJ Office, Conference Room 1 • Individuals: \$420 members/\$630 non-members; Couples: \$630/\$945. (Although you must enroll for the entire year, tuition may be paid in two installments.) This course offers an overview of the core beliefs, practices, and history of Judaism and the Jewish people. We hope to deepen the understanding of those just beginning to explore Jewish life, or those who would like to be able to participate more fully in the life of the Jewish community. No prior knowledge or experience necessary.

• **The Book of Exodus**

**Rabbi Hillel Friedman**

**Tuesdays** (October 28–May 26) • 8:30–9:30AM • 88th Street • \$100 members/\$150 non-members. Using both traditional and modern commentaries, the class will study the Book of Exodus (in translation). Rabbi Hillel Friedman, a longtime member of our community, has been teaching adult courses at BJ for the past seven years.

• **Myth or Reality: Finding Truth in Religious Life**

**A Class for Tze'irim (20s and 30s)**

**Rabbi Felicia L. Sol**

**4 Tuesdays** (October 28, November 4, 11, 18) • 7:00–9:00PM •

Rabbi Sol's home; register for address • Free; registration required. Who wrote the Bible? Was there an Exodus? Does the God of the Torah operate in our world today? Often we are confronted with knowledge and scholarship that contradicts our understanding of Judaism or what we've been taught since we were children. How can religious life hold up to the test of scholarship? How can our mind and our soul not be in conflict? Join for 4 sessions at Rabbi Sol's home as we explore these issues together. Please register early, space is limited.

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

**Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon**

**7 Wednesdays** (October 29, November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17; 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.

• **Parashat Hashavu'a: Study of the Weekly Torah Portion**

**Ezra Weinberg, Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow**

**Thursdays** (October 30–May 28) • 7:00–8:30PM • BJ Office, Conference Room 1 • Free for members/\$150 for the year for non-members. A Hasidic story teaches that Moses wanted to reveal more Torah to the people, but God refused, wanting to give the people a sense that there is something hidden among the words for them to discover. This story's implicit message is that we have the power to reveal the hidden parts of Torah. By adding our own understanding of the text, we too become a part of its unfolding story. In this class, as we study the weekly Torah portion with the aid of both ancient and modern interpretations we will reveal its many layers and find ourselves reflected in its stories and teachings.

• **High Holy Day and Bikkur Holim Volunteer Recognition Kiddush**

**Saturday, October 25** • Following Shabbat morning services • 86th Street Social Hall. Join us for a special kiddush honoring our High Holy Day and our Bikkur Holim volunteers. Following the kiddush, the community is invited to attend a Bikkur Holim teaching led by Rabbi Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow.

• **New Member Shabbat Dinner and Orientation Program**

**Friday, November 7** • Calling all new members! If you joined BJ in the past few months, join us for a special Shabbat dinner for new members. Attend Family Services at 88th Street or Wandering Minyan at the 86th Street Social Hall. Following services we will all have dinner together in Frankel Hall. Meet other new members and share a unique BJ Shabbat experience. Also, be sure to register for one of our three New Member Orientation programs in either November, December, or January. These are great opportunities to meet others who have joined at the same time and learn how to get involved at BJ. Advance registration is required for both the Shabbat dinner and orientations. Register quickly as space is limited. Contact Sarah Verity at [sverity@bj.org](mailto:sverity@bj.org) or x250 for more information or to register.

**Singing in Israel's Ears Till She Opens Her Eyes** LEONARD FEIN *(continued from page 1)*

and Shatila in 1982, and the later ascension of the acknowledged chief villain of that calamity to head of Israel's government; growing doubts that Israel is serious in its pursuit of peace.

Add to this list your own disappointments, and then ask whether Shakespeare was perhaps right: "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds." By that tough standard, maybe it was never love, just adolescent infatuation, born of naive idealization, the milk long since curdled, the honey lumpy. The love just a crush, too many alterations, now therefore cast aside, abandoned.

I prefer to think the love was true love, and that in its expression we have neglected the much-quoted wisdom of Rabbi Julius Gordon: "Love is not blind—it sees more, not less. But because it sees more, it is willing to see less."

Enter Congregation B'nai Jeshurun of New York City's Upper West Side, in this respect, as in so many others, a national treasure. Around America, Israel's 60th birthday earlier this year was marked by Israel fairs, by art shows, by concerts, by lectures and symposia intended to rebut the criticism of Israel's enemies and the hesitations of Israel's friends — which is to say that around the country, the 60th was marked by evasion, avoidance, denial. Ladies and gentlemen, check your critical faculties at the door; here we've come to celebrate, no alloys welcome.

At B'nai Jeshurun, the 60th played quite differently. Yes, there were "delicious Israeli foods, dancing and more," and a guest DJ to sustain the enthusiasm. All that began at 9 p.m.; it was preceded, at 6:45, by facilitated "intimate gatherings" in members' homes where people gathered to discuss "A Complex Love Story—Our Relationship With Israel."\* The title alone reflects the difference between the congregation's

approach and the more standard approach. B'nai Jeshurun acknowledges a complexity, while most others seek to simplify; the congregation makes room for the questions, the doubts, the hesitations, all within the context of love, where others hold pep-rallies and seek to train a new generation of cheerleaders.

I am looking at the "facilitator guide" prepared for the "gatherings." It includes, among other items, challenging poems by Yehuda Amichai and equally challenging song lyrics by Ehud Manor. Amichai: "He who loves Jerusalem by the tourist book or the prayer book is like the one who loved a woman by a manual of sex positions." Manor: "I won't be silent because my country has changed its face; I won't give up reminding her, I will sing in her ears until she opens her eyes... I have no other country."

What makes this guide distinctive is that it relates to those who use it as adults. It encourages its readers "to see more," in order to enable them "to see less," thereby loving Israel both wisely and well.

So, Browning, counting the ways:

*I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with a passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints—I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! ■*

\* "A Complex Love Story — Our Relationship With Israel" was compiled by Dasee Berkowitz, MA., Educational Consultant.

**Outgoing, Incoming** GUY IZHAK AUSTRIAN *(continued from page 3)*

have maintained four direct service programs, day in and day out. We have made concrete progress on the "Greening of BJ," electronics recycling, same-sex civil marriage, access to sex education, and more. We have entered into a deepening relationship with Manhattan Together, an interfaith community-organizing coalition that helps us to work across lines of faith, race, class, and sexual orientation. 500 packed the sanctuary for marriage equality; 600 for affordable housing and immigrants' rights.

Behind the scenes, dozens of BJ leaders have learned new skills such as running meetings, giving divrei Torah, planning campaigns, and building coalitions. They have met with elected officials and discovered their own power in civic participation. We have generated new collaborations among our social

action/social justice programs and BJ's other committees, the religious school, our teens, and Tze'irim.

And the work goes on! I will still be at BJ part-time, working on special projects for "creating kehillah," to help build up and deepen our internal community. Please be in touch to share your perspectives.

Finally, I'm excited that Bella Zuzel has become BJ's new Director of Social Action/Social Justice. With many years' experience as a community organizer and Jewish educator, she brings to BJ a great deal of skill and wisdom, humor and fire—as well as another pair of hands! We're privileged to have her leadership. Stay tuned for an introduction from Bella in next month's *Kol Hadash*. ■

**Arthur P. Morgan Fund**

Stephen and Susan Samuels in honor of Kim Birnbaum

**Bikur Holim**

Lilli Platt in memory of Barbara Goldman's mother, Miriam Kasdan

**General Fund**

Leon Feingold  
Judith and Carl Felsenfeld in memory of Carole Polly's brother, Scott Travis  
Alan and Mimi Frank  
Emil and Natalie Kellner in honor of Ron Lissak's birthday  
Membership Committee in honor of the birth of Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax's twin daughters, Stella Mae and Hattie Lynn  
Dorothy Septimus  
Vicky Steinhardt in memory of Barbara Goldman's mother, Miriam Kasdan  
Laura Vogel in honor of Jordan, Tahlia, and Sabra Bliss

**Helen Radin Memorial Zayin Adar Annual Teaching Fund**

Ilana Straznik in memory of Helen Radin

**High Holy Days Flower Fund**

Alan and Mimi Frank  
Sofia Hubscher and Adam Wallach in honor of the birth of Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax's twins, Stella Mae and Hattie Lynn  
Enid and Alexa Ringer in memory of Sylvia Davis

**Homeless Shelter Fund**

Stefan and Mary Krieger in memory of Barbara Goldman's mother, Miriam Kasdan  
Stefan and Mary Krieger in memory of Michael Mostow's mother, Dianne Mostow  
The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

**Judith Bernstein Lunch Program**

Judith and Carl Felsenfeld in memory of Michael Yoeli's mother, Ketty Yoeli  
Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in honor of the engagement of Gabby Maor to Ethan Halter

**Marshall T. Meyer Memorial Fund**

Israel and Julie Lowy in honor of Julie Lowy's 50th birthday

**Yizkor Fund**

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Shirley Abraham and Noah Offitzer in memory of their beloved husband and father, Mark Offitzer  
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Charles Borrok in memory of his beloved father, Alfred D. Borrok  
Susanne, Matthew and Franki Catinella in memory of their beloved husband and father  
Evelyn Chefitz in memory of Barbara Nally, beloved daughter-in-law, and mother of Jack and Whitnee Shulman  
Ted Fisher in memory of his beloved parents, Irwin and Lucille Fisher  
Simone Franco in memory of her beloved parents, Isaac and Karin Franco  
Linda Frankel in memory of Gary Femmer  
Sheila Gabins in memory of Victor Carl Goldberg  
Harold Goldman in memory of his mother, Rebecca Goldman  
Laurie Graff in memory of Harry Melzer  
Martin and Halina Igel in memory of Tauba Igel  
Paul and Carol Jackson in memory of their beloved daughter, Linda Wanger  
Leonard and Abbey Kapelovitz in memory of Barbara Goldman's beloved mother, Miriam Kasdan  
Stephen Kaufman and Marina Pinto Kaufman in memory of Marina's beloved aunt and uncle, Nina and Elias Pinto, Marina's beloved cousin, Alan Benasuli, Stephen's beloved father, Herbert Kaufman, Stephen's beloved sister, Ellen Kaufman Siegel, and Marina's beloved grandfather, Alberto Hassan  
Alexander and Hindy Kisch in memory of Alexander's beloved father and mother, Guido Kisch and Hilde Kisch  
Sherry Kohn in memory of her beloved father

Barbara Blum in memory of her beloved mother, Ruth Adler  
Richard Lieberman in memory of his beloved grandfather, Samuel Gottlieb

Sherwin and Wendy Liff in memory of Wendy's beloved father, Jack Vhugen

Jules and Judith Love in memory of Judith's beloved father, Tobias Zwerdling

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David and Barbara Salz in memory of David's mother and father, Herman and Sylvia Salz, and in memory of Barbara's mother and father, Sandy and Selma Leavitt and Barbara's aunt, Molly Shapiro.

Suzanne Schecter and Todd Ruback in memory of Todd's beloved mother, Mindy Ruback

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Raymond and Glenda Schwarz in memory of Glenda's father, Edel Judah Edelson

Gail Landis in memory of her beloved father, Norman Landis  
Raymond Shanfeld and Lois Rappaport in memory of Lois's beloved father, Philip Rappaport, and beloved uncle, Abraham Rappaport

Jerome Siegel and Phyllis Harlem in memory of Fannie Siegel

Sharon, Peter and Julie Stein in memory of their beloved father and husband, Michael Stein, in memory of Sharon's beloved parents, Sigmund and Lynn Lotman, beloved grandparents, Louis and Gittel Lotman, and her beloved great-aunt, Rose Lotman

Leonard and Barbara Sugin in memory of Larry Riskin  
Janet Sullivan and Armand Pierro in memory of their beloved mother/mother-in-law, Amely Sullivan

Scott Weiner in memory of his beloved stepfather, Irwin Goodglass

Diane, Mark, Liza and Joshua Weisstuch in memory of their beloved father and grandfather, Irving Frimet

Barbara and Robert Willinger in memory of Barbara's beloved mother, Rose Halin, and grandmother to Robert and Jeremy

Alexander Winberg in memory of Dr. Felix Winberg

Vivian Yale in memory of her forever beloved mother, Dora Gordon, husband, Milton Yale, father, Jacob Gordon, Barbara Goldman's mother, Miriam Kasdan, and Michael Mostow's mother, Dianne Mostow

Holly Zabitz in memory of her beloved mother, Leila Zabitz  
Sharon Zane in memory of her beloved father, Dr. Manuel D. Zane

KOL HADASH • NEW VOICE  
October 2008

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