

inside:

2 **Social Action/Social Justice**
 Kibbud Av v'Em—
 Honoring Your Parents
 Facing Housing Issues?

3 **Helen's Calling Circle**

Community Events

4 **Interfaith**
 Theologies and Ancient Tradition
 Through an Interfaith Lens

5 **Announcements**

6 **Calendar**

8 **Youth and Family Education**
 Our Teen Retreat:
 Making Meaning Out of Mitzvah
 Important Dates for November
 Save the Dates!
 BJ Celebrates Rosh Hodesh

9 **Upcoming Limud**

11 **Donations**

12 **Contacts**

Opening The Soul
One congregation's unique approach to Jewish worship

ALAN H. FEILER
 Managing Editor, *Baltimore Jewish Times*

The following article is excerpted with permission from the Baltimore Jewish Times.

“music opens the soul,” said Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon, BJ’s longest-serving spiritual leader. “It’s a sledgehammer against our armor. It penetrates and breaks the walls of your soul. In some ways, God lives in the music, if you let God in. You have to make an opening for God to reside there, and prayer is an effort. It doesn’t just happen. Singing, music, helps make that happen.”

Simply put, Chazzan Priven views music—which is virtually non-stop at BJ’s services—as a tool of the trade.

“Music is one of the most important vehicles for prayer for a community, and also it’s one of the most inviting qualities for someone who comes [to a service] for the first time. It’s the tip of the iceberg for many people,” he said. “Music helps build a community and a bridge to other cultures. We purposely don’t use only one type of music or composer, so that you might only be familiar with some of the melodies.

“We have our act together in using material that makes sense to us and inspires us,” he said. “I’m a proponent of participatory prayer and not passive listening. The experience with [congregational singing] has the opportunity to go higher spiritually.”

In part, Rabbi Matalon attributed the emphasis on music to the Argentinian roots of himself, Rabbi Bronstein and Chazzan Priven, as well as the air of informality at BJ. The synagogue’s clergy tend to be referred to by congregants simply by their first names.

“Some of the Latin American spirit and approach to Judaism and music is here. That’s part of the ethos,” said the soft-spoken Rabbi Matalon. “Not being so uptight, that attracts people, to let yourself go without going completely crazy, to believe, to pray, to have faith, to be a Jew. You can’t be too guarded. In too many of our synagogues, there is too much formality, an absence of the ability to fly, to dream, to let go, to not be like you are in an office.

“In a synagogue, you have to make yourself vulnerable. Too often, synagogues are cold places where people don’t clap or sing or put their arms around the person next to them or let the prayer book touch them. You shouldn’t know exactly what’s going to happen next at service. You need to let God move you.” ...

“The vision is mostly ours,” he said. “It emanates from the rabbis, and the board

(continued on page 10)

Kibbud Av v'Em—Honor Your Parents

The fifth commandment, *kibbud av v'em* (Exodus 20:12), compels us to honor our parents so “that [our] days may be long upon the land which Adonai gives [us].” Gersonides' medieval Torah commentary argues that a lengthy life is not a reward but rather a natural result of fulfilling that commandment. What does he mean by a lengthy life? Does the fact that we honor our parents necessarily result in a long life for our children? I imagine not. I suspect that he is not referring to human life but rather to the life of our values. Respect for our parents ensures that our values will continue to be a living entity as long as each generation reevaluates and nurtures those values.

As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I am the product and expression of their values. My parents were the personification of what it meant to survive—to survive despite the sufferings of persecution, imprisonment, starvation and the loss of family and friends. Survival meant the opportunity to mend the broken tablets of their lives and the lives of their progeny.

They were placed in the land of *mitzrayim* (the place of narrow straits) precisely because they did not abandon their identity as Jews. It is perhaps not a coincidence that I was born in

Poland—the beginning of their journey of healing from the place of their persecution. The healing continued as we immigrated to Israel and then to America. The process of healing continues to this day, through my work as a community organizer and as a Jewish educator. I have served those who have been marginalized and disenfranchised in our society, and I do it proudly as a Jew to commemorate the struggles my parents went through.

BJ is a community that personifies the meaning of the directive *Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof* (justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live.)

Nor is it an accidental occurrence that I arrived at BJ in August to be the new Director of Social Action/Social Justice. What a perfect shidduch (a match made in heaven) it is for me to merge my two labors of love in the midst of a Jewish community that so strongly values the work of healing and repair! BJ is a community that personifies the meaning of the directive *Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof* (justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live. (Deut. 16:20). Why “justice” twice? As my teacher, Rabbi Arthur Waskow (shlita) teaches, this directive compels us to “pursue the goal of justice through means that are just and to pursue justice for ourselves and justice for the other.”

The journey of repair continues, but, oh, how strong the mended parts will be! ■

—Bella Zuzel, Director of Social Action/Social Justice

Panim el Panim wants to know: Are you or friends and family facing housing issues?

Are rent increases in rent-stabilized buildings a problem? Is finding affordable housing, or losing yours an issue? Are you/others in your building having problems with the landlord? Whatever the issue, we want to know.

Our BJ Panim el Panim Manhattan Together Hevra is part of an interfaith coalition (Manhattan Together) which is fighting for affordable housing. We are now on a BJ fact-finding mission. When we have our information, we can act in our community's interest. Your stories are a vital part of our fact-finding.

Please let us know your issue. Call x432, say “housing issue” and leave your name and phone number, or contact us at panim@bj.org. A Hevra member will contact you to learn the full details of your issue. Remember, your stories are critical as we advocate for change. Your privacy will be respected.

Helen's Calling Circle

As a long time insomniac, I get to see lots of late night television, some of it fun and some annoying. But I must confess that each time I see the "Help I've Fallen and Can't Get Up" commercial, I can't help but wonder what would happen to me in that situation. I'm in good health (relatively), and certainly don't want to walk around with a "help" button around my neck—so what would happen? I live alone, I work on my own schedule, and I don't see anyone more regularly than once a week. Who would know if something happened to me? You don't have to be old or infirm to be in this situation.

We are putting together a number of groups that will be "calling circles." Each group will consist of seven people, each of whom will phone a BJ "mailbox" or email a BJ site once a day by a given time. This site will be monitored daily by one member of the group (each member will do it once a week). If someone does not check in, they will be called at their home, on their cell phone, and at their office. If they do not answer at

any of those numbers, an emergency contact (who will be in possession of that person's keys) will be called and will go to the apartment to make sure there is not a problem.

This program is inspired by my friend Helen Radin, who fell when no one was home. Fortunately someone in the community happened to call her and was able to get her help in a timely fashion. Joining a calling circle will take you less than one minute a day and could save your life.

If you live alone or for some other reason would like to belong to one of our calling circles, we will have a meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 6:00-8:00PM, in the Conference Room at the BJ office, to introduce the program and form groups for those who would like to participate.

Please contact Elizabeth Stone at x233 if you have any questions. ■

—Carol Gelles

• **Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon for the Whole Community**
Saturday, November 1 • Following Shabbat morning services
 • 88th Street Frankel Hall. The entire BJ community is invited to an intergenerational Shabbat Luncheon hosted by Ledor Vador. Schmooze with friends, dine on a delicious meal, celebrate what it means to come together for Shabbat. Please RSVP at x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Also, send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with "Ledor Vador 11/1" on the memo line. Children are welcome to attend free of charge.

• **Peace Feast: Faiths Celebrating and Noshing Together**
Sunday, November 2 • 5:00-7:00PM • 86th Street Social Hall. Building on the community that we established at our Interfaith Break-Fasts and Green Feast, we will gather with Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists to engage in dialogue about peace on many levels, share music, enjoy a variety of traditional breads and spreads, fruit and dessert, and find new friends and old! All ages are welcome. To R.S.V.P., contact peacefeastNY@gmail.com or call the Interfaith Committee at x379. Preference will be given to BJ members until October 15.

• **New Member Shabbat Dinner and Orientation Program**
Friday, November 7 • 5:30PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall. Calling all new members! If you joined BJ in the past few months, join us for a special Shabbat dinner for new members following the early service. 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 in the many exciting programs at BJ. Space is limited. Contact Sarah Verity at sverity@bj.org or x250 for more information or to register.

• **Congregational Meeting**
Thursday, November 13 • 8:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary. Please join us for the first of two congregational conversations with the Rabbis. These conversations will allow the Rabbis to discuss the progress of projects and visions that were shared at last year's annual meeting. Coffee and dessert will be served.

• **Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ**
Friday, November 14 • Following the 7:30PM service • 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall. Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. Following the 7:30PM service, BJ member and non-member singles ages 35-55 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 Pharaoh's Daughter, who will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat music.

• **Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service**
Wednesday, November 26 • 7:00PM • 86th Street: Join with our neighbors of all faith traditions to give thanks on the eve of Thanksgiving. There will be a light reception after the service. Clergy from several churches and synagogues will be participating, and money raised that evening will be donated to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

Theologies and Ancient Tradition Through an Interfaith Lens

Last spring, Linda Golding, a member of the BJ Interfaith Committee and partner of Diane Wondisford, was invited to deliver a short sermon at the Pentecost service at the Church of the Holy Apostles where she and Diane are also members. Inspired by the interfaith classes taught at BJ, our rabbis, and other teachers, Linda spoke passionately, connecting personal theologies with our ancient tradition. An excerpt of her sermon follows.

Oh Lord, open up my lips that my mouth may proclaim your praise.

A teacher of mine told me that there is no magic marker we can use to edit our sacred texts. We can edit commentaries on the texts by writing new ones but not re-write the original texts. There are passages in the Torah, the Old Testament, that I, as a modern Jewish woman, would happily edit—passages that are misogynistic, homophobic, xenophobic, generally divisive.

I daresay there might be a few items in the New Testament each of you sitting here would like to edit. But this cannot be done. I can avoid or dismiss passages or I can embrace the texts I find problematic, celebrating that my tradition encourages me to take these texts, applying head, heart and soul to find a way towards my own understanding of central texts and ideas, enriching my experience of faith and life, finding my own Torah.

The Gospel of John 20:19-20:23 we just heard includes the line "...and the doors were locked for fear of the Jews..." That is surely a line, a translation, I would like to see edited.

As a Jew, this line is the only one in this week's scheduled readings that I could possibly address. And I was stunned—why was this the Gospel reading the week I was invited to speak? As I reviewed the reading with the equally stunned clergy, it quickly became apparent that this line simply did not leap out for others as it did for me. Another Gospel section was offered. After careful consideration, I decided to respond to the original selection.

Pentecost is often described as the beginning of the Church and the Christian community—the time when the Apostles – the still Jewish Apostles—began to take the teachings of Jesus, their rabbi, out into the—well—Jewish world. The Jewish festival of Pentecost, Shavuot, is celebrated 50 days after the first day of Passover. (Does that 50 sound familiar?) Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah to the Israelites while they were still in the literal and metaphoric desert, having left their place of enslavement. Shavuot may be seen as the beginning of the Jewish community.

Three of us were invited to speak today to comment on our experiences at Holy Apostles, its ministry and

community. For me, this invitation is an example of Holy Apostles' well-known radical hospitality—offer a stranger your hand, show her your heart, give her room to do the same, offer sustenance, seek an equal exchange.

My partner Diane and I came to Holy Apostles after we met Larry Gifford and Joe Antenson at an Interfaith event at B'nai Jeshurun, our synagogue. Larry and Joe immediately invited us to join them at Holy Apostles. Diane had been wanting to join a community of faith but had not found one where the attraction was mutual; I very much wanted Diane to find such a community because of the great gifts I had found in the synagogue. We came to Holy Apostles for Easter in 2007 and never left. The strong connection between Diane and the Holy Apostles community has made it easier for my Jewish faith to grow. I spend my weekend, like Joe and Larry, in spiritual engagement—my learning in the synagogue is increased because of my learning here in the church, and vice versa. At home, the unspoken tension between the different faiths is gone and we have a greater context from which to question and learn, strengthening our relationship. We are both, I think, stronger in the world. We both, the Jew and the Episcopalian, have a home here at Holy Apostles.

So, back to the line "...and the doors were locked for fear of the Jews..."

Which Jews? The other Jews? The ones with different beliefs or insights? The ones who stood for the past? The immigrant, the sick, the lonely, the hungry, the ones in need of help? The ones pounding on the door to be let in? The other? Ourselves?

I grew up here in New York City as a mostly secular Jew. And as a Jew, I always felt like the other. Come to think of it, even in Hebrew school I felt like the other because I lived such an otherwise non-Jewish life. In the year I have been with you here at Holy Apostles, I have come to see that it is really only in the presence of **an**-other that we have the chance to become who we really are. We witness and experience each other's faith through words and actions opening the door to each other. As we learn together, we reduce the fear of the other across the way and the other inside ourselves. As we bump up against each other, we rub the rough edges and like a diamond, the sparkle shines through.

During the weeks between Passover and Shavuot, some Jews (including, sometimes, me) practice an ancient ritual of daily spiritual refinement.

It is a version of the journey from the Egypt of enslavement to the freedom of the Torah and Mount Sinai. Today is Day 21, expressed as the Nobility of Compassion. This is a fitting day to stand here and say thank you. ■

—Linda Golding

Mazal Tov

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

William, Benjamin and Michael Zurier and Linda Movich on William becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Michael Bendit and Ora Shtull and Carmel, Noa and Amitai Bendit-Shtull on Carmel becoming a Bat Mitzvah at the "Snoa" Synagogue in Curacao (Mikve Israel Emanuel) on August 16.

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

Aviva, Moe and Henry Raichelson on the birth of their daughter and sister, Hannah Yael.

Barbara, Eric, and Gwen Schwimmer on Gwen's wedding to Ian Desberg.

Bonnie Roche and Charles Bronfman on their wedding.

BJ musician Jessie Reagan and Timothy Mann on their engagement.

Karen Mendelson and Adam Skolnick on their wedding.

Jake Kirsch, Ellen Corenswet, John Morgan and Brianna Morgan on the wedding of Jake to Nicole Hildebrandt.

Paula Cohen and Sam Heff on their wedding.

Debby, Michael, and Jesse Lissaur on the naming of their daughter and sister, Valerie Heather Joy Lissaur.

Alexandra Newman and Adam Kofina on their wedding.

Yasher Koah

Dr. Paula Rackoff on receiving the Community Service Award from Kateri Residence at their annual benefit.

Tony Kushner, who was named the first recipient of the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award.

Condolences (through October 10)

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

Sara Pasternak Levine, Mathew Levine, and Mimi, Max, and Joseph Pasternak Levine on the death of their niece and cousin, Katie Rachel Pasternak.

Judy and Michael Steinhardt, Sara Berman, Daniel Steinhardt, and David Steinhardt, and Ellen Abrams and John Stossel, Lauren Stossel and Max Stossel on the death of their mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Ruth Abrams.

Martin Schneider, Debra Fine, Jordan, Abigail, and Philip Schneider, on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Beatrice Schneider.

Sonny Greenwald on the death of his beloved sister, Jean Blumenfeld.

Heidi Cohen and Larry Aronson on the death of their beloved brother and brother-in-law, Andrew Wilk Cohen.

David, Benjamin, and Ariel Fitterman, and their entire family, on the death of their mother and grandmother, Rita Fitterman.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
2 <i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i> • 5:00 PM – Interfaith Peace Feast, 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3)	3	4 Election Day  • 5:00 PM – 6th and 7th Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter, 88th St. Frankel Hall	5	6
9	10	11	12 • Evening (time TBD) – Climate Change Presentation, 88th St.	13  • 5:00 PM – Mishkan Learning Program • 7:30 PM – Congregation 88th St. (SEE P.3)
16	17	18	19 • 4:00-9:00 PM – Blood Drive, 88th St.	20  • 5:00 PM – Mishkan Learning Program
23 30	24	25	26 • 7:00 PM – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 86th St. (SEE P.3)	27 Thanksgiving D BJ OFFICE CLOSED BJHS CLOSED

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, November 7, 6:00 PM 88th Street
Wandering Minyan, November 7, 6:00 PM 86th Street Social Hall

Shabbat Morning:

• 9:30 AM 86th Street. • Children's services, 10:45 AM 86th Street
• Additional Services: Junior Congregation, November 1, 15 10:30 AM 86th Street

DAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1 • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bat Mitzvah: Alison Schalop • 9:30 AM – 5th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Program, 86th St. Chapel • 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall • 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St. • Following Services – 3rd and 4th Grade Community Lunch, 86th St. Social Hall • Following Services – Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon, 88th St. (SEE P.3) • 5:45 PM – Minḥa, 88th St. • Bar Mitzvah: Braden Bochner
	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • Following 6:00 PM Service – New Member Dinner, 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3) • 6:00 PM – Wandering Minyan, 86th St. Social Hall • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • Bar Mitzvah: Maxell Baren • Bar Mitzvah: David Krasner • 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St. • Following Services – Community Kiddush, 86th St. • 4:30 PM – Minḥa • Bar Mitzvah: Adam Gross
<p>mpaha Family n, 88th St. nal Meeting</p>	<p>14  • 10:30 AM – Frankel Fridays, 88th St. Frankel Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • Following 7:30 PM Service – Singles 35-55 Shabbat Dinner, 88th St. (SEE P.3) • 10:00 PM – Friday Night Off-Broadway with Pharaoh's Daughter, 88th St. (SEE P.3) 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • Bat Mitzvah: Clio Sherman • 10:30 AM – Junior Congregation, 86th St. Social Hall • 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St. • Following Services – K-2 Grade Community Lunch, 86th St. Social Hall • 4:30 PM – Minḥa • Bar Mitzvah: Liad Mansky
<p>mpaha Family n, 88th St.</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • Following 6:00 PM Service – Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with Teacher-in-Residence Jeffrey Goldberg, 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.9) • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • Bar Mitzvah: Jonathan Nachmany • Bat Mitzvah: Sophie Bokor • 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St. • Following Services – Community Kiddush, 86th St. • 4:00-6:00 PM – Teacher-in-Residence Jeffrey Goldberg, 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.8)
<p>ay D</p>	<p>28 BJ OFFICE CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. • 7:30 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 88th St. 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Services, 86th St. • Bat Mitzvah: Dani Lewittes • 10:45 AM – Children's Services, 86th St. • Following Services – Community Kiddush, 86th St. • 4:15 PM – Minḥa

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 (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 (remaining classes November 4, 11, 18)
- Contemplative Practice at BJ: Creating Space for Quiet 7:00-9:00 PM (November 4, 11, 18, 25, December 2, 9, 16)

Wednesday

- Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah 6:30-8:00 PM (remaining classes November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17)

Thursday

- Parashat Hashavu'a: Study of the Weekly Torah Portion 7:00-8:30 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

October 31	5:35 PM
November 7	4:27 PM
November 14	4:20 PM
November 21	4:15 PM
November 28	4:12 PM

Parashat HaShavu'a

November 1	Noah
November 8	Lekh-Lekha
November 15	Vayera
November 22	Hayyei Sarah
November 29	Toldot

Havdalah Times

November 1	6:34 PM
November 8	5:27 PM
November 15	5:21 PM
November 22	5:17 PM
November 29	5:14 PM

Our Teen Retreat: Making Meaning Out Of Mitzvah

On September 12, almost 30 teenagers headed off to Camp Ramah Nyack to explore the meaning of mitzvah, to build community and, of course, to have some fun! We had students in 8th grade and students in 12th grade, students who had previously traveled on one of our service learning programs, and students who are brand new to the teen program. And yet, none of it mattered. Each participant brought their own, unique perspective to the learning and programming, and the group came together seamlessly.

From tefillah to group discussion, to our Shabbat afternoon soccer game, everyone participated fully, with enthusiasm, insight and thoughtfulness.

As we studied that week's Torah portion, Ki Tetze, we had an incredibly challenging and eye-opening conversation about the meaning of mitzvot. Introducing the concepts of obligation and opportunity, we were able to talk about things that we felt obligated to in our lives. I felt blessed to hear our students sharing that they believed they were obligated to respect their parents, to be a good person, and to make a difference in this world. We then discussed the difference between simply being obligated to do something, versus the opportunity to take on the obligation of doing something.

As we closed the program after havdalah on Saturday night, each participant made a commitment to take on something new as an obligation. They wrote their commitments on small cards that they could put in their pockets and keep with them after the weekend.

And, as each of them took away a new obligation, I left with great respect for our students' integrity, enthusiasm driven by their passion and great, great excitement for the year ahead! ■

—Kerrith Solomon, Director of Teen Programming

Important Dates for November

Saturday, November 1:

Fifth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Program, 9:30AM, 86th St. Chapel
Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 86th St. Social Hall, followed by 3rd and 4th Grade Community Lunch

Monday, November 3:

Parent Torah Reading Class, 5:00PM

Tuesday, November 4:

6th and 7th Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter, 5:00 PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall

Friday, November 7:

Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:00PM, 88th St.

Monday, November 10:

Parent Torah Reading Class, 5:00PM

Thursday, November 13:

Mishpaha Family Learning Program, 5:00PM, 88th St.

Friday, November 14:

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

Saturday, November 15:

Junior Congregation, 10:30AM, 86th St. Social Hall, followed by K-2 Grade Community Shabbat Lunch

Monday, November 17:

Parent Torah Reading Class, 5:00PM

Thursday, November 20:

Mishpaha Family Learning Program, 5:00PM, 88th St.

Monday, November 24:

Parent Torah Reading Class, 5:00PM

Thursday, November 27:

BJHS CLOSED for Thanksgiving

Save the Dates!

Introductory B'nai Mitzvah Meeting

Wednesday, December 3 • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary. Parents of children in 4th grade, or whose birthdates fall between September 1998 and December 1999 are invited to take the first step on their family's Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey. More information, including a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Application, will be mailed the first week of November. For questions, please refer to the B'nai Mitzvah link (under "Limud") on the BJ website, www.bj.org.

Hanukkah Storytelling and Klezmer Concert Extravaganza

Thursday, December 18 • 5:15-6:15PM • 88th Street Sanctuary. Join Yale Strom and his Klezmer group as they tell the story of "The Wedding that Saved The Town." Dancing, singing, and sufganiyot! Questions? Contact Rebecca Rosenthal at rrosenthal@bj.org.

(continued on page 9)

• **Myth or Reality: Finding Truth in Religious Life**
A Class for Tze'irim (20s and 30s)

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

4 Tuesdays (remaining classes, 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 (remaining classes, 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.

• **Contemplative Practice at BJ: Creating Space for Quiet**
Rabbis Marcelo R. Bronstein and Rachel Cowan

7 Tuesdays (November 4, 11, 18, 25, December 2, 9, 16)

• 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Sanctuary • Free; registration required.

The core of many religions is a contemplative practice involving meditation, reflection, deep listening and cultivation of loving-kindness, compassion, truthfulness and clarity. BJ has been in the forefront of renewing this tradition in a synagogue setting. This class combines regular practice for experienced meditators with instruction suited for beginners. Rabbi Rachel Cowan received her rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and is the author of *Growing up Yanqui* and co-author with the late Paul Cowan of *Mixed Blessings*. She is the Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality

• **Teacher-in-Residence Shabbat with Jeffrey Goldberg**
In memory of BJ Member Ceil Merritt z"l

Friday, November 21: Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner and Teaching Following the 6:00PM service • 88th Street Frankel Hall To sign up, please visit www.bj.org or contact Guy at x255.

Saturday, November 22:

D'var Torah during Shabbat morning services
Teaching on Shabbat afternoon • 4:00-6:00PM • 86th Street Social Hall

Jeffrey Goldberg is a National Correspondent of *The Atlantic*. Before joining *The Atlantic* in 2007, he was Middle East correspondent and Washington correspondent for the *New Yorker*. His book *Prisoners* has been hailed as one of the best books of 2006. Goldberg is the recipient of the 2003 National Magazine Award for Reporting for his coverage of Islamic terrorism. He is also the recipient of the 2005 Anti-Defamation League Daniel Pearl Prize.

Youth & Family Education: BJHS Celebrates Rosh Hodesh *(continued from page 8)*

Rosh Hodesh is one of the most frequently overlooked holidays. This year at Hebrew School, in an effort to raise awareness about Rosh Hodesh and educate all our students, we're celebrating Rosh Hodesh in a new way. If you visit the Hebrew School on Rosh Hodesh, you'll see all our teachers and staff in special Rosh Hodesh T-shirts that celebrate the cycle of the new moon and new month on the front, and list all the Hebrew months on the back. We'll also learn about special traditions and holidays associated with the celebration of each new month throughout the year.

We asked some of our Hebrew School teachers how they celebrate Rosh Hodesh, and we here's what some of them said:

"I wear special, nicer clothes"

"I eat a special meal in honor of Rosh Hodesh."

"I get to sing Hallel (special psalms of praise) in honor of Rosh Hodesh."

"I try to eat a new seasonal fruit or vegetable."

We look forward to celebrating Rosh Hodesh at Hebrew School this year! ■

Opening The Soul ALAN H. FEILER *(continued from page 1)*

helps us shape it. We debate and discuss, and they challenge and join us. The congregation helps us perfect our vision, and they internalize it, and we tweak it. Sometimes, we fail, but they give it a shot. They allow us to experiment, even if at first they're not sure about it."

Rabbi Sol emphasized that the congregation and its leaders are on a level playing field, as symbolized by the synagogue's lack of a bimah or large, regal chairs positioned by the aron kodesh to be occupied by synagogue machers during services.

"We don't want that kind of hierarchy and distance," she said. "We don't want the synagogue to be a staid place. Davening should be for everyone, not a show or performance. People should see me as a person, not a rabbi. Here, we all play the role of shlihei tzipur [emissaries to the congregation]. Everyone is a participant."

If it all sounds (especially for stereotypically cynical, world-weary New Yorkers) a bit too congenial and "Kumbaya," as one of BJ's detractors summed it up, that's just fine with Rabbi Matalon. He makes no apologies, while admitting that some more progressive congregations that he has visited make him uncomfortable with their physicality and excessive friendliness.

"Some people find it too touchy-feely here," he said of BJ. "That's OK. I don't mind touchy-feely. Life itself is touchy-feely. We all have different boundaries. BJ is not meant to be for everyone. I don't get offended. But as rabbis here, our job is help make the experience happen. It's not about us. We're here to make people aware and to try harder—wake up!"

.....

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon has heard the criticism before. The gentle, soft-spoken senior spiritual leader of B'nai Jeshurun—an unaffiliated synagogue on the Upper West Side considered a national model for Jewish rejuvenation and innovation—doesn't flinch when hearing that some people criticize his congregation's services for being geared more toward pulling heartstrings than stimulating intellects. ...

"Prayer is more for the heart than the head," Rabbi Matalon said. "We don't stop and reflect on the prayer. That is something that can be done on Wednesday nights in a class. You have to study prayer outside of prayer. You can't do it during prayer. Prayer is an activity of the soul, not the mind. Study of Torah is for the mind. ...

.....

"We often mix things together that you don't often see mixed, and people are often stunned by this," [said Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein]. "One guy once visited BJ and watched and said, 'I'm sorry, but this is not Jewish.' I said, 'Why?' And he said, 'It's just too happy.'"

.....

Because it came together in the late '80s and early '90s in an urban center with a large number of young Jews, with a charismatic spiritual leader and at the start of the "Being Jewish is Cool" movement, BJ is the result of a "perfect storm" of factors that made it a success that cannot be duplicated, according to writer and former congregant Sue Fishkoff.

Rabbi Bronstein, for one, is not so sure about that. "Nothing can really be replicated fully, except maybe Starbucks," he conceded, chuckling. "But I'm positive that if we had a congregation in Baltimore or elsewhere, it would happen there. At my old congregation in Santiago [Chile], you saw the same type of energy. It's all about the passion, and that's contagious. We believe everyone has that passion and wants to change the world and make it better.

"It might not happen elsewhere in the same manner as here. But elements could resonate in other places, if you apply the essence of BJ."

To export this "essence," the synagogue has mentored several congregations around the country and produced a booklet expounding on the BJ model. In addition, BJ has a rabbinic fellowship program to train rabbinical students from all of the denominations' seminaries.

"It's not all just about the Upper West Side," Rabbi Bronstein said. "You can see this happening in other places, too. There's a new way of doing things which is not the same way. It takes a lot of mentoring and humility and courage and wisdom to change your ways. It's difficult."

Congregations should take the spirit of BJ but reinterpret it according to their own traditions, history, culture and demographic situation, advised Rabbi Matalon.

"We don't believe in copying or emulating. Different communities and geographic areas may take some of the ruach [spirit] and intentions and put it in their own context," he said. "But the spirit of this community can be done most anywhere. It won't be identical, but on the inside it's the same thing, the same connection to Torah.

"The key is to build in areas where you have the trust of your congregation," Rabbi Matalon added. "Use that credit and try things, but not all at once. Do it with love, and not with power or anger. Begin somewhere meaningful, and don't be afraid. Synagogue should be a place that's alive, filled with love and community and song and joy. That's what brings people to Torah." ... ■

.....

This article may be read in its entirety at www.jewishtimes.com/index.php/jewishtimes/article/opening_the_soul/ and www.jewishtimes.com/index.php/jewishtimes/article/congregation_bnai_jeshurun_in_manhattan/

Adult Education Fund

Barbara Schwimmer and family in memory of Robert Schwimmer, husband, father and grandfather

Children's Services Fund

Raymond and Glenda Schwarz in honor of Leah Edelson's recovery

Etz Hayim Fund

Michael Gertzman and Carole Balin in memory of Jennifer Sylvor's cousin, Susan Lichter

General Fund

John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in honor of Sally Gottesman and Rachel Tiven on the birth of their son, and in memory of Guy Austrian's grandmother, Bronka Austrian Orfus

Harriet Causbie

Seth Kasten in honor of Mim Warden's birthday

Adina Schechter in honor of BJ's great work and community

Bernice Todres in memory of Bobbye Goldstein's husband, and in memory of Fred Goldstein's father

Abby and Arthur Eshaghpour in memory of Abby's father, Robert Sinkler, and Arthur's father, Mehdi Eshaghpour, in support of Teen Tzedakah

Helen Radin Memorial Zayin Adar Annual Teaching Fund

Michael and Joan Salit in memory of Helen Radin

Hevra Kadisha

Ellen and Arnold Block in memory of Liz Genn

Glenn Marlowe and Judy Geller-Marlowe in memory of Liz Genn

High Holy Days Flower Fund

Nancy Bravman in memory of her mother, Muriel Bravman
Hal and Helen Lehrman in memory of Hal's parents, Minnie and Louis Lehrman, and Helen's parents, Jesse and Beatrice Bernheim

Social Action Fund

Joan and Israel Brenner in honor of their grandson, Elijah Brenner

Gail Ressler in appreciation of Rabbi Felicia Sol and the BJ delegation's hospitality and work

Richard and Roberta Sol in honor of Jenny Eisenberg's Bat Torah

Yizkor Fund

Livia Asher in memory of her sister, Miriam Siroky

Tzvi Barak and Marion Maienthou-Barak in memory of Hinda Borushak

Irwin and Arlene Brandon in memory of Irwin's mother, Kitty Brandon

Jeanette Brizel in memory of her father, Irving Brizel

Alan and Mimi Frank in memory of Mimi's father, Leon Levy

Lisa Halprin Fleisher and Arthur Fleisher in memory of Lisa's father, Dr. Gerald M. Halprin

Stephen and Dede Kessler in memory of Dede's aunts, Ruth Berger Haber and Annette Berger Gerson, DeDe's cousins, Howard Haber and Scott Haber, and Dede's parents, Lettie Berger Glicksman and Jack Glicksman,

Mimi Lox in memory of her mother, Elsie Lox

Marcia Miller in memory of Barbara Goldman's mother, Miriam Kasdan and Michael Mostow's mother, Dianne Mostow

Hella Moritz in memory of her mother, Margot Hanna

Eugene and Ilene Nadel in memory of Eugene's father, Milton Nadel and Ilene's mother, Helen Trager

James and Laurie Oestreich in memory of Jim's father, Abraham Oestreich

Elenor Radzivilover in memory of her beloved father, Cantor Matus Radzivilover

Jerry and Sheila Rothman in memory of Barbara Goldman's mother, Miriam Kasdan; Michael Mostow's mother, Dianne Mostow; and Rabbi Diane Leibovitz

Bill and Alisa Stein in memory of Bill's mother, Sylvia Finkelstein

Leonard and Barbara Sugin in memory of Barbara's father, Herman Gruberg

Mim Warden in memory of her husband, Jack

Scott Weiner and Beth Siegel in memory of Beth's father, Murray Siegel

Barry and Joan Winograd in memory of Barry's father, Maxwell Winograd

KOL HADASH • NEW VOICE
November 2008

All material is the property of
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and cannot
be reprinted without permission.

Editor & Designer: Harriet R. Goren

SYNAGOGUE:

257 West 88th Street

OFFICES:

2109 Broadway (Ansonia), #203

Main Telephone Number

212-787-7600

Fax Number (2109 Broadway)

212-496-7600

Website

www.bj.org

Committees & Services:

Accounts Payable227
 Accounts Receivable237
 Adult Education Information233
 Bar/Bat Mitzvah223
 Bekef255
 Bikkur Holim256
 BJ Reads.....391
 Conversion.....264
 Daily Minyan232
 Deaf & Hard of Hearing.....
 e-mail: clzak@aol.com
 phone: 212-628-7061

Development
 & Donation Information.....228
 88th Street Rental223
 Family Activities: Hotline318
 Hakhnasat Orh'him255
 Havurot255
 Hevra Kadisha256
 Homeless Shelter212-339-4250
 Interfaith Committee 379
 Kiddush Scheduling255
 Kol Jeshurun242
 Kol Hadash242
 Ledor Vador224
 Life Cycles256

Lunch Program.....338
 Membership Information.....224
 Ralph Bunche School Partnership...301
 Shabbat B'Yahad255
 Social Action259
 Telephone Language Companion
 212-721-9037
 Teen Programming253
 Torah/Haftarah Reading.....232
 Tze'irim264
 Ushering305
 Volunteer Information.....255
 Youth & Family Education225

Rabbis:

Marshall T. Meyer (1985-1993)
 J. Rolando Matalon
 Marcelo R. Bronstein
 Felicia L. Sol

Hazzan and Music Director:

Ari Priven

Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellows:

Rabbi Esther Lederman
 Ezra D. Weinberg

Executive Director:

Harold Goldman, x248

**Director of the Religious School,
 Interim Director of Education**

(Youth & Family):
 Ivy Schreiber, x225

**Director of Social Action/
 Social Justice:**

Bella Zuzel, x259

Director of Membership:

Belinda Lasky, x224

**Director of Development
 and External Affairs:**

Aviva Raichelson, x242

**Director of Finance &
 Administration:**

Ron Seitenbach, x226

Director of Facilities:

Roma Serdtse, x350

Assistant to Rabbi Matalon:

Sarah Guthartz, x234

**Assistant to Rabbi Bronstein
 and Hazzan Priven:**

Naomi Goodhart, x240

**Assistant to Rabbi Sol
 and Harold Goldman:**

Elizabeth Stone, x233

Board of Trustees:

Jonathan Adelsberg^g
 President

Susan Kippur^{g*}
 Chair

Harriet Abraham^g
 Vice President

Robin Fleischner^g
 Vice President

Stephen Stulman^g
 Vice President

Debra Fine^g
 Treasurer

Jeannie Blaustein^g
 Secretary

Robert Buxbaum
 Susan Etra
 Jeff Feig
 Rochelle Friedlich
 Christina Gantcher
 Barbara Glassman
 Barbara Goldman
 Sofia Hubscher
 David Karnovsky
 Joel Kazis

Beth Kern
 Debbie Lerner
 Andrew Litt
 Russell Makowsky
 Henry Meer
 Andrea Newman
 Benjamin Ross
 Marian Warden

Honorary Trustees

Virginia Bayer*
 Ted Becker*
 Frederic Goldstein
 Marcy Grau*
 David Hirsch*
 Richard Janvey*
 Robert Kanter
 Joan Kaplan
 Sara Moore Litt*
 Naomi Meyer
 Judith Stern Peck*

General Counsel

Richard Kalikow

^g Executive Committee Member
 * Past President



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 530
 New York, NY