



VA'ERA
 MEVARKHIM HAHODESH

TORAH
ANNUAL: Exodus 6:2 - 9:35
TRIENNIAL: Exodus 6:2 - 7:7
HAFTARA: Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

NEXT WEEK: BO

TORAH
ANNUAL: Exodus 10:1 - 13:16
TRIENNIAL: Exodus 10:1 - 11:3
HAFTARA: Jeremiah 46:13 - 28

**SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY
 OF THE WEEK**

Mitzvah While You Sleep

Volunteer for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter! We need 6-10 new volunteers to do one of the following:

- (1) Sleep at the shelter once a month.
- (2) Volunteer for set-up one evening a month.

Support one of BJ's longest running Social Justice programs. Sign up and contact Shelter Co-Chair, Robert Imershein at rimershein@capstarny.com or (212) 339-4250 for more info.

RABBIS
 Marshall T. Meyer (1985-1993)
 J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol
CANTOR & MUSIC DIRECTOR
 Ari Priven

MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS
 Rabbi Kliel Rose • Katie Mizrahi

January 7 - 14 2005

26 Tevet - 4 Shevat 5765

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service	6:00 PM – 88th St.
Wandering Minyan	6:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:45 PM – 86th St.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

Shabbat Service	9:30 AM – 86th St.
Children's Service	10:45 AM – 86th St.
Bat Mitzvah	Rebecca Gross, 4:15 PM – 88th St.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Morning Minyan	9:30 AM – 88th St.
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MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
Rosh Hodesh Women's Group	7:00 PM – 88th St.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
Gesher	5:00 PM – BJ Office
3rd Grade Families Cook for the Shelter	5:00 PM – 88th St.

ROSH HODESH SHEVAT

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
Gesher	5:00 PM – BJ Office
3rd Grade Families Cook for the Shelter	5:00 PM – 88th St.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
Kesharim	2:00 PM – 88th St.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program	12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a	
MTM Rabbinic Fellow Katie Mizrahi	7:00 PM – BJ Office

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
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TSUNAMI RELIEF

In the wake of the terrible tragedy in Asia, our community can best respond through donations to the relief effort. AJWS (American Jewish World Service) and the AJC (American Jewish Committee) have both set up a emergency funds to help provide basic medical and relief needs for the survivors. Also, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the largest rescue and relief arm of the US Jewish community, is accepting monetary donations. At this critical moment, every dollar helps. Please act quickly and give generously.

- Go to www.ajws.org or send donations to the American Jewish World Service, Asia Tsunami Relief, 45 West 36th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.
- Go to www.ajc.org or send donations to the American Jewish Committee Tsunami Fund AJC, 165 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022.
- Go to www.jdc.org or send donations to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee - Asia Tsunami Relief, Box 321, 847A Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your willingness to help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAMAKOM YENAHEM

- The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the loss of our beloved member, Ann Schulman and extends sincere condolences to her family.

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

- Miriam and Sam Herscher on the death of Miriam's beloved mother, Sylvia Herscher.
- Larry Greenwald and Karen Adler on the death of Larry's beloved father, Emanuel Greenwald.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Rebecca, John, Judy and Elana Gross on Rebecca becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Sara, Merrill and Ralph Klein on the recent engagement of Sara to Gabriel Brodbar.
- Gena and Zosia Zaks on the birth of their daughters, Ruby Bella and Eislyn Harlow.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- **Shabbat B'Yahad with Hazzan Richard Kaplan -**

Friday, January 21, Following the early service at 88th St. Hazzan Kaplan has a BA in Ethnomusicology from UCLA and an MA in Musicology from UC Berkeley. He spent seven years as a Professor of Music at Skyline Community College and since 1997 has been the Cantor of Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland, CA. COST: \$30/members; \$40/non-members. TO REGISTER: Go on-line to www.BJ.org OR you may send a check made out to Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. In memo section of the check write "SBY 1/21/05". Note: All checks must be confirmed received by calling Michael x260. Mail checks to: Attn: Michael, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, 2109 Broadway, Suite 203, NYC 10023. Please include a phone number. DEADLINE: **Thursday, January 13**. If space is available, add a \$10 late fee for reservations received after the deadline.

- **Rosh Hodesh Women's Group**

Monday, January 10, 7PM, 88th St.: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol in welcoming the new month of Shevat. Please bring a dairy vegetarian snack to share with the group.

- **BJ Book Group - "Joy Comes in the Morning"**

Sunday, January 23, 7PM, 88th St.: The BJ Book Group will meet to discuss *Joy Comes in the Morning*, a new novel by BJ member Jonathan Rosen, who will be present to take part in the conversation. The recently published novel, which is set in part on the Upper West Side and features a young woman rabbi, has been described as "a warm, generous, and often funny meditation on family and faith."

- **"DECODING THE TABLECLOTH" - A one-woman show!**

Saturday, February 5, 8PM, SPSA Theatre: Join the BJ Latin America Committee for Gabriela Kohen's New York International Fringe Festival award-winning solo performance, "Decoding The Tablecloth." This autobiographical show looks at the experiences of an immigrant girl growing up Jewish and Latina in New York. Kohen plays twenty-plus characters, from pre-holocaust Poland, to Argentina, to Disco 70's Brooklyn. "...A loving yet unflinching family portrait...Astonishing subtlety of gesture, expression and accent... The audience feels involved in the narrative..." NEW YORK MAGAZINE. Cost \$10 members/\$15 non-members. Tickets are extremely limited. Register online at: www.bj.org For further information, please call: x240, or send an email to: BJLatinAmerica@yahoo.com.

- **Ink Jet Cartridge Collection (Ongoing)**

The BJ Latin America Committee is still collecting used ink jet cartridges (the type used in home and small office printers) for our sister congregation, Bet El, in Buenos Aires. Bet El volunteers refill these empty cartridges and resell them to help support their communal soup kitchen and food pantry. Please bring your empty ink cartridges from Cannon, Epson, HP and Lexmark ink jet printers to the B'nai Jeshurun office: 2109 Broadway, Suite 203. Your efforts will help feed the hungry and aid the environment. For further information, call x240, or email: akohn@bj.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT - APRIL 8-10

Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and MTM Rabbinical Fellow Katie Mizrahi on our Fourth BJ Women's Retreat. Information and applications are now available on-line at http://www.bj.org/womens_retreat.php

LIMUD - WINTER/SPRING 5765

LOOKING TOWARD SHABBAT SHIRA

January 15, 4:15PM, 86th Street Chapel
An Afternoon of Learning in memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman with Dr. Bernie Steinberg. The topic will be, "Loving the Stranger in the Teachings of Maimonides". All are welcome.

THEOLOGY AND MEANING IN THE PRAYERBOOK *Rabbi Felicia Sol*

5 Tuesdays: (January 18, 25, February 1, 8, March 1), 7PM, 86th Street Chapel
The Talmud teaches that we must constantly strive to deepen our understanding of prayer. This class will examine the text of the Kabbalat Shabbat service. We will look at its history, theology, meaning and beauty. Each session will open with a selection from a different theologian and his/her beliefs about prayer. While no advance preparation is required, the following books provide an excellent background in Jewish prayer: Abraham Joshua Heschel's *Quest for God*, Evelyn Garfiel's *Service of the Heart*, Reuven Hammer's *Entering Jewish Prayer*, and Adin Steinsaltz's *A Guide to Jewish Prayer*. Free, registration required. **CODE: 505**

UNWRAPPING THE MYSTERY OF THE TALLIT & TEFILLIN *Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Rabbi Kliel Rose*

Thursday, Feb. 17th, 8 - 9:30PM, 88th St. Sanctuary.
Tallit and tefillin are intended to generate a tangible experience of God. What if it might really be true and we could experience this on a daily basis? Come join us for a one-time learning session on the beautiful and moving rituals of donning ourselves in the tallit and wrapping ourselves with tefillin. *If you own a Tallit or tefillin, please bring them with you to class* Free for members, \$25 non-members. **CODE: 597**

*To register please sign up by calling x221, or write to our address (found below this box), being sure to include your name, address, phone numbers and e-mail, and information about the class.

Online registration at: http://www.bj.org/spring_limud.php

SINGLES

• **Co-sponsored Dance with Ansche Chesed**

Sunday, January 23: The Empire Swings Back! Easy and fabulously fun. Basic swing lesson included with expert instruction (Reba Perez of Empire Dance & Allan Brozek) 7-10PM at Ansche Chesed. Co-sponsored with B'nai Jeshurun.) No experience, partner or reservations necessary. Refreshments served, Cost: \$20 (\$15 AC/BJ/Mosaic members) per dance. Volunteers are needed (in return for free admission). Contact Michael Brochstein at (212) 678-7881 before 9:00PM to volunteer. Full details on-line at www.BJ.org

• **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, February 6,** Singles' Super Bowl & Tailgate Party

• **'Jewtopia' at the Westside Arts Theatre**

Saturday, February 26, 8PM at the Westside Arts Theatre: Jewtopia tells the story of two 30 year old single men, Chris O'Connell and Adam Lipschitz. Chris, a gentile, wants to marry a Jewish girl so he'll never have to make another decision. Adam Lipschitz, a Jew, wants to marry a Jewish girl to please his family, but can't get a date to save his life. After meeting at a Jewish singles mixer, Adam and Chris form a secret pact. Chris promises that he will help Adam find the Jewish girl of his dreams and show him "Jewtopia", but only if Adam will help Chris shed his gentile-ness and bring him undercover into the Jewish world. Stereotypes collide, Cultures clash and chaos ensues! COST: \$65.00, great seats! TO REGISTER: Call Michael at x260 or email Mkelberg@bj.org DEADLINE: January 27, 2005. Space is limited.

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION

• **Teens Cooking for the Shelter**

Starting **January 10,** teens will be cooking for the Shelter at 88th St. the second monday of every month.

• **3rd Graders and their Families Cooking for the Shelter**

Tuesday, January 11, 5PM: All 3rd graders and their families are invited to help prepare a simple meal for the guests of BJ's Homeless Shelter. To volunteer, please contact Beth Kern at beth.kern@att.net or (212) 724-5336.

• **Junior Congregation Family Service**

Saturday, January 22, 10:30AM, 88th Street: We would like to invite you to join us at our second Junior Congregation Family Service, for families with children in kindergarten through seventh grade. Please join us for an interactive service created especially for families with kids this age and modeled after the Family Service on the High Holy Days. We want to thank the volunteers in 3rd through 7th grade who are helping to lead the service. We invite all Second Graders to help lead V'Shamru and Kiddush, and all First Graders to help lead Motzi. A light Kiddush will follow.

• **Family Tu BiShevat Program**

Sunday, January 23, 10AM, 88th St.: Please join us for a Family Tu B'Shvat Celebration with songs, games and other Tu BiShevat activities. All are welcome! For more information, contact Kerrith at x253 or ksolomon@bj.org

• **Kid's Purim Play Auditions**

Tuesday, January 25 and Wednesday, January 26, 4-6PM, 88th St. Sanctuary: Be a part of the Purim play magic this year. Come prepared to have some fun for a few hours of singing, acting and dancing. Dress comfortably. Come either day. Auditions are only required for children ages 7 and up. 5 and 6 year olds will automatically be placed in the chorus and need not audition, though parents and children should stop in one of the audition days to pick up the information sheet and meet our production team. See you at the auditions! Questions email Michael at Mkelberg@BJ.org or x260.

• **Teen Shabbat**

Teen Shabbat is a Shabbat morning service run entirely by teens. We will be celebrating it on **Saturday, January 29.** Teens are needed to read Torah, present d'vrei Torah, lead Shacharit, the Torah Service, and Musaf. Teens can also play music and perform readings that add to the kavanah of the service. For more information, contact Leah Zimmerman at leah.zimm@verizon.net or (917) 748-9668.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• **Panim el Panim: Children's Action Hevra**

Through the Children's Action Hevra, B'nai Jeshurun has formed a partnership with the Ralph Bunche School in Morningside Heights. The BJ/Ralph Bunche School literacy program is well under way with BJ volunteers currently tutoring 40 Ralph Bunche students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10:30AM. Now there is an opportunity for all BJ members to participate in the partnership by helping to provide teachers with the supplies they need to support a quality education. For more information and sign up to contribute to the Teachers' Wish List, contact the Children's Action Hevra at x301.

• **Panim el Panim: Women's Rights - Take Action: Letter Writing Campaign**

In Bush's second term, the replacement of one or two Justices could tip the balance of the court against Roe v. Wade and affect the future of other social issues. Let President Bush know what you really think about his policies on women's health and reproductive freedom. Write a personal letter and Planned Parenthood Action will deliver it to President Bush. Let's flood his office before his January 20 inauguration. Go to: <http://www.ppaction.org/campaign/DearW/step1.tcl> For further information about the work of the BJ Women's Rights Hevra, please call our voice mail at x369 or email pwax@bcn.net to be placed on our mailing list.

HAVUROT

• **Healthcare Professionals Havurah**

Join us for a pot-luck lunch on the third Saturday of each month at 1PM following services. Email your name, address, email, telephone, and profession to Shashdale@aol.com Location of meetings will be emailed to you. For more info, call Sharon at (212) 875-8508.

• **NJ Havarah Startup Phase**

Have you ever wanted to meet with other members who live west of the RIVER? Let's get together in a smaller setting and find out who we are. Come to the first meeting and get your two cents in. We will convene in Montclair at 7:30PM on Wednesday, January 26, with Felicia to help us get started. This location is for the first meeting. For more info, call Sandra Feldman at (973)746-5222.

• **Still Seeking Divrei Torah!**

You have an opportunity to be a teacher of Torah in our community this year! Throughout the year, as you know, a weekly d'var torah on the parashat hashavu'a is disseminated to our community. We have already found people to write divrei torah for some of this year's parashiyot, but there are still many openings for BJ members (first come, first serve). If you are a BJ member and would be interested in writing a d'var torah, please call or e-mail Miya (x256 or mrotstein@bj.org) as soon as possible.

• BJ's **Shabbat Torah Study** is starting up again! Please find Shelly at the back of the sanctuary on Shabbat for more information.

• **BJ@180**

In 2005, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun will celebrate its 180th Anniversary. There are a number of events and initiatives being planned for a year long celebration of our "minyan of chai's." Although we're still in the planning stages, some sort of publication will be produced as a keepsake of this milestone. We'd like to include any personal family histories or memories that our members would like to share with the community - specifically historical anecdotes. We can't guarantee that everything will be published and please be advised that anything you send will become the property of BJ which will retain all rights to the material. Please send your story to Deborah Pinsky at dpinsky@bj.org or to 2109 Broadway, Suite 203, New York, 10023.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kol Jeshurun Layout and Editing: Miya Rotstein

WELCOME TO B'NAI JESHURUN! If you are unfamiliar with our services, see our "Welcome to BJ" brochure at the back of the sanctuary, or ask an usher.

• **Membership at B'nai Jeshurun:** Are you considering joining BJ? Would you like information about becoming a member? BJ is also pleased that visitors choose to connect with us when they are in town. Why don't you consider joining our community as a BJ Friend? Contact Membership Director Belinda Lasky at x224 or blasky@bj.org

• **A Note from the Ushers:** For those at the Friday night service at 88th St., please bring your books to the back as you leave. Place damaged books or tallitot in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary. We ask that men wear kippot upon entering the sanctuary and during services. We do not allow food in the sanctuary. So that we may prepare for the comfort and security of all, doors open 30 minutes before the services begin.

We attempt to be as accurate as possible concerning the information contained in the Kol Jeshurun. Due to the tight deadlines under which we work, errors can sometimes occur. We apologize in advance for any mistakes. If you need any Hebrew words translated, please call Rabbi Kliel Rose, x264.

FOCUS ON ISRAEL

Advancing Equality in Israel by Sally Gottesman and Aviva Arad

How does Israel "give life" to the words in its Declaration of Independence stating that the State will provide equality for all inhabitants regardless of religion, sex, or race? Successive Israeli governments have struggled with the full meaning of equality, particularly when dealing with Israel's Arab minority, which comprises one-fifth of Israeli citizens. Continuing inequality in resource allocation and in Israeli law entrenches an injustice that undermines Israel's democratic underpinning. In 2003, the Israeli government allocated 5% of its budget to Arab citizens -20% of the population. Years of discrimination have resulted in an epidemic of poverty and underdevelopment among Israel's Arab citizens: a report released this November found that 60% of Arab children in Israel live under the poverty line, whereas 20% of Jewish children are poor.

The Mossawa Center (Mossawa means equality in Arabic), the Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens of Israel, is a leader in the struggle for a just society in Israel. Mossawa promotes the social, cultural, economic, and political rights of Arab citizens through advocacy in the Knesset, in the media, through national coalitions, through empowerment of Arab local councils, and in the international arena. The Center recently launched an Anti-Racism Campaign to address the increasingly tense relations in Israel. The campaign seeks to improve civil discourse by using the media and through building coalitions with other Jewish and Arab groups, particularly with other minority groups. Mossawa has recently advocated on behalf of Ethiopian citizens to the Attorney General of Israel saying "racism is racism whether it is directed at Ethiopians or Arabs" and entered a joint venture with New Era, an organization serving Russian immigrants. To learn more about the Mossawa Center, please see www.mossawacenter.org

Sally Gottesman and Aviva Arad wrote this article together. Aviva recently worked in Israel for three years with Arab civil rights organizations and Sally is on the BJ Israel Steering Committee.

 Edited by Robin Fleischner, Co-Chair BJ Israel Steering Committee, robinfleischner@aol.com

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY FOR FLYERS AND MORE INFO ON:

• Welcome to BJ • Membership at BJ • Membership Packets • BJ Annual Catalogue • Limud Catalogue • Bikkur Holim • New Havurot Applications