



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 Katie Mizrahi • Dara Frimmer • Lauren Thomas

November 18 -25, 2005 **16-23 Heshvan, 5766**

VAYERA

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 18:1 - 22:24
TRIENNIAL Genesis 19:1 - 20:18
HAFTARAH II Kings 4: 1 - 23

 NEXT WEEK: **HAYYEI SARAH**
TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 23:1 - 25:18
TRIENNIAL Genesis 24:10 - 24:52
HAFTARAH I Kings 1: 1 - 31

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Tot Shabbat | 5:45 PM – 86th St. |
| Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 6:00 PM – 88th St. |
| Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 6:45 PM – 86th St. |
| Shabbat B'Yaḥad Community Dinner with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller | Following 6:00 PM Service – 88th St. |

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Shabbat Services | 9:30 AM – 86th St. |
| Children's Services | 10:45 AM – 86th St. |
| Bar Mitzvah | Sam Hellerman |
| D'var Torah | Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller |
| Minḥa/Ma'ariv Bar Mitzvah | 4:00 PM – 88th St. Aaron Ladds |

Shabbat Afternoon Learning with Rabbi Seidler-Feller
 4:30 PM – 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P. 2)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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| Morning Minyan | 9:30 AM – 88th St. |
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

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| Morning Minyan | 7:30 AM – 88th St. |
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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| Morning Minyan | 7:30 AM – 88th St. |
| Limud: Gems From Genesis* with Rabbi Hillel Friedman | 8:10 AM – 88th St. |
| Limud: Shabbat—Eternity Utters a Day* with Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon | 7:00 PM – 86th St. Chapel |

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Morning Minyan | 7:30 AM – 88th St. |
| Kesharim | 2:00 PM – 88th St. |
| Limud: A Pilgrimage to Israel* | NO CLASS THIS WEEK |
| Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | 7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2) |

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 **THANKSGIVING**

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| BJ OFFICE CLOSED • BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED | |
| Morning Minyan | 9:30 AM – 88th St. |
| Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a* | NO CLASS THIS WEEK |

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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| BJ OFFICE CLOSED • BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED | |
| Morning Minyan | 9:30 AM – 88th St. |

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

**PANIM EL PANIM HOUSE MEETINGS:
 LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP!**

Panim el Panim, BJ's Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative, is hosting a series of "house meetings," intimate gatherings in the homes of our congregants. These meetings are an essential part of BJ's commitment to being a holy community—a *kehillah kedoshah*, dedicated to making a difference in our own neighborhood and in the world.

SIGN UP TODAY to meet new people, explore inspiring Jewish texts, discover or rediscover your passion for social justice, and become part of this vibrant and growing initiative.

To register, please contact Laura Horwitz, Social Action/Social Justice Organizer, at lhowitz@bj.org or x261.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Sam and Eric Hellerman and Judith Poller in honor of Sam becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

- Aaron, Brian, Bonnie, and Rachel Ladds in honor of Aaron becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- **"Energizing Judaism through Music"—Panel Discussion with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein at The Second International Carlebach Conference, Shabbaton, and Festival**

November 17-20: Featuring over 30 speakers and performers.

Rabbi Bronstein's panel will be on Sunday, November 20 at 1:15PM at The JCC, Amsterdam Ave. at 76th St. For more information and to make reservations, visit www.carlebachshul.org or call 212-580-2391.

- **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00PM at the 88th St. Sanctuary: Please join with our community and other faith communities for the annual Thanksgiving evening service and celebration. We will sing and pray, expressing our gratitude for the blessings we all have and for being together at this special moment.

- **Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Kiselev**

Thursday, December 1 at 7:00PM at 88th Street Frankel Hall: Please join us to celebrate, study and pray together on this holiday traditionally associated with women. Please bring a snack—fruit, veggies, dip or any packaged product that is marked Kosher—to share with the group.

- **Synagogues for BJ Travellers**

For an ongoing compilation of synagogues and community contacts around the world: if you've visited a synagogue you would recommend to other members, or have any experiences about your visit you would like to share, contact Nora Gaines at ngaines@bankstreet.edu or 212-875-4457. (Please note: phone number listed previously was incorrect.)

- **Jewish Soul Celebration**

Saturday, December 17 at 8:00PM at Symphony Space (Broadway and 95th St.): Ayecha, the organization representing Jews of all colors and ethnicities, is holding a holiday season program—with soul. Join Joshua Nelson, the Kosher Gospel Singers and other great artists in a musical journey from Jerusalem to Brooklyn, celebrating the spirit of the African-American and Jewish people. Music and dance performances by Jews of Color from the Middle East, Africa and the United States. Call 212-864-5400 for tickets; more information at www.symphonyspace.org.

LIMUD

- **Hebrew Conversation Group Forming**

Do you already have good facility with spoken Hebrew, and want to practice in an informal circle? A BJ group, open to the entire congregation, is forming to meet a few times prior to our Israel trip. Please contact Ilene Rosenthal at irlg@nyc.rr.com to discuss potential meeting dates/times.

- **Sign up NOW for Limmud NY**

January 13-16, 2006: Limmud NY is a three-day learning experience that invites Jews of all ages and backgrounds to come together to create a community of learning, teaching, and exchanging ideas. Interact with your community in an entirely new way during Martin Luther King Weekend 2006. Register online at

<http://www.limmudny.org/> or call 212-284-6968. Scholarships are available; please inquire. Look for our zebra cards in the rack at the back of the sanctuary.

SHABBAT B'YAHAD

- **Shabbat Weekend of Learning With Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller**
November 18-19: We are pleased to welcome Rabbi Seidler-Feller once again for an exciting weekend of learning. Rabbi Seidler-Feller has been the Director of UCLA Hillel for over 25 years, an instructor in Kabbalah and Talmud at the University of Judaism, and a Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. **Friday, November 18:** Join us for a catered Shabbat dinner, and a teaching on "Searching for God in Judaism," following the 6:00PM service at 88th St. **Saturday, November 19:** Rabbi Seidler-Feller will offer the d'var Torah at Shabbat services: "The Religion of Hesed and Spirit: Encounters with Ishmael." At **4:30PM** he will lead a study "On The Renewal of Zionism After Gaza," followed by Havdalah, at the 86th St. Social Hall. **PLEASE NOTE: The Shabbat dinner tonight with Rabbi Seidler-Feller is filled.** In the event that some people do not show up, you may wait on the side downstairs and if space becomes available, we will make every attempt to seat you. You must have a business card or paper with your name(s), address, work number and home number and you will be able to send in your \$40 members/\$50 non-members fee for the cost of dinner after Shabbat.

JOIN BJ'S TORAH TEACHERS CIRCLE

You have an opportunity to be one of 54 teachers of Torah in our community this year! Throughout 2005-2006, a weekly D'var Torah on the Parashat Hashavu'a is distributed to our community as well as to the outside community both in the KJ and on our website. With the High Holy Days over, think about selecting one or two parashot that are of particular interest to you. Although many have already been selected by our Torah thinkers, there are still many openings for BJ members to be teachers of Torah. If you are a BJ member and would be interested in writing a D'var Torah, please call or email Helen Radin at x233 or hradin@bj.org

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• **Ralph Bunche School Partnership — Volunteers Needed**

There are still many children who would love to have a BJ reading partner. They have brought in their permission slips and are now waiting. If you would like to make a difference in the life of a child and can volunteer on Tuesday or Thursday morning from 9–10:30, please call x 301 or email rjoseph@aaahawk.com

• **Give Thanks and Get Involved with the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter**
Thanksgiving is the perfect time to get acquainted with the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. We need 10-15 volunteers to help with setting up, serving our guests and cleaning up. We also welcome a musician who can play the piano and sing. For details and to volunteer, contact AnnieMill@aol.com

• **Holiday Gift Packages**

Last winter we distributed over 150 holiday gift packages to our lunch program guests. Each package included a warm hat, scarf, or gloves, many of them hand-made and contributed by BJ members and friends. We want to do even better this year! That's where we need your help. If you like to knit or crochet, we hope you'll make hats and scarves for our holiday packages (adult sizes only, please). It's a great opportunity to use up your left over yarn and do a most appreciated mitzvah. Get started now! Finished items should be brought to Naomi Dovdavyan at the BJ Office, 2109 Broadway, Suite 203. We are also happy to accept newly purchased items and donations from manufacturers (especially socks!). For more information, please contact Susan Samuels at sssamuels@aol.com or call 212-787-7600 x338.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• **Ramah Information Session**

Saturday, December 10, following Children's Services in the 86th St. Chapel: Find out more, from Camp Ramah's recruitment coordinator, about an incredible way for your children to have a total-immersion, total-fun Jewish experience this summer!

• **6th and 7th Grade Families Cook for the Shelter**

Tuesday, December 6, 5:00–6:30PM at 88th St. Frankel Hall: Please note this NEW date! All of BJ's 6th and 7th graders and their families are invited to prepare a meal for the guests of our homeless shelter. You MUST RSVP no later than Friday, December 2 so we can plan our menu. We regret that we cannot accommodate volunteers who do not RSVP ahead of time. Please RSVP to Lisa Owen, medowen@aol.com or 212873-9357.

HAKHNASAT ORHIM

• **"Share Shabbat"... Open Your Home on Shabbat to BJ Friends Old & New**

Friday, December 9: Plan to be a host or a guest and "Share Shabbat" with BJ friends as part of BJ's in-home potluck dinner Shabbat initiative. To be a host, fill out the Host Form online at the BJ website, www.bj.org. The Guest Form will be available on Wednesday, November 30. This past September, 7 members were Share Shabbat hosts and 88 people attended Shabbat dinners. In honor of BJ's 180th Anniversary, let's aim for 18 hosts and 180 members participating in Shabbat dinners. (BJ members only until 12/6.) For more information, please contact Carol at cdikman@bj.org or x255.

TZE'IRIM: 20S/30S

• **Planning Meeting**

Tuesday, December 6, 7:30PM: Join us as we shape 20s/30s singles/couples events for the coming year. Please contact Rabbi Katie Mizrahi, kmizrahi@bj.org or x264.

• **Share Shabbat Home-Hosted Dinners**

Friday, December 9: Hosts are needed! If you would like to host a 20s/30s potluck meal, sign up through the BJ website, www.bj.org, or contact Carol Dikman at x255, or cdikman@bj.org. The Guest Form will be available on Wednesday, November 30.

• **Join the List!**

To stay informed of BJ 20s/30s events for singles and couples, email bjtzeirim-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to be added our email list.

HAVUROT

• **Havurah 40+**

Men and couples are encouraged to join this thriving havurah where we enjoy good conversation, music, song and dance in members' homes in the BJ neighborhood. We gather once a month to share Shabbat dinner. Our next get-together will be Friday, December 23. To RSVP, please e-mail Havura40Plus@yosefa.galchen.com

INTERFAITH

• **Interfaith Open Meeting**

Tuesday, November 29, 6:30–8:00PM at the 88th St. Sanctuary: Do you want to learn about other religions? Do you want to participate in multi-faith activities? Do you want to explore the issues facing Jews by choice or issues concerning interfaith couples and families? Whatever your interests, we want to hear from you. All are welcome! For more information and to RSVP, contact interfaith@bj.org or x379.



**180TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMUNITY TORAH PROJECT**
Darkhei No'am • Ways of Pleasantness

Meet a woman who is changing history. Aviel Barclay, believed to be the first woman Soferet (Torah scribe), joins us for a Scholar in Residence weekend.

Join us for this special event,
"Soferet Scholar in Residence Weekend"

Shabbat, December 10 in the 86th Street Social Hall • **4-6PM**
Havdalah/Lecture: The Saga of the Soferet

Sunday, December 11 in the 88th Street Sanctuary • **2-5PM**
Hands-on Hebrew calligraphy and midrash presentation

Kindly RSVP by Friday, December 2 to torahproject@bj.org, or call 212-787-7600 x392.

TORAH FACT

The Style and Letters: The Sifrei Torah are always hand-written in accordance to very strict rules about the position and appearance of the columns and letters. Modern Sifrei Torah have 42 lines of text per column and 248 columns of text. Approximately three or four columns of text appear on each piece of parchment. Complex and elegant calligraphy is usually used to form the 304,805 letters.

According to Hasidic thought, if you count the gaps between the words and the tagin (crowns) on top of the letters it comes to about 600,000 and corresponds to the 600,000 Jews who received the Torah at Mount Sinai.
—Lynda Fisher

MASA'EINU—OUR JOURNEY



As BJ turns 180, each week the Kol Jeshurun will feature an anecdote about our history. Much of the information is gleaned from A Century of Judaism in New York by Rabbi Israel Goldstein, who served this congregation for many years in the last century.

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... In 1849 Rev. Dr. Morris J. Raphall left his pulpit in Birmingham, England to become BJ's rabbi. His first sermon in America was delivered at the Elm Street Synagogue in October of that year. His salary was considered "the most munificent salary received by any preacher in the country." He received \$2,000 per annum, and a provision of \$500-\$1,000 in case of incapacitation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

FOCUS ON ISRAEL

The "Focus on Israel" column presents information about our Israeli partnerships, texts and commentary on Israel, book reviews, and discussions of education, spirituality, and social justice in Israel.

THE CIRCLE'S CENTER
By Joanne Palmer

"Face east, toward Jerusalem," we're told as we stand for the Amidah at 88th Street. I dutifully stand up and turn around; because I'm short my knees brush the top of the seat and hamper my movements as I try to shuffle back and forth three steps and then bow. My attention wanders. I stare out the windows—studded with stained-glass jewels that would gleam in the light if there were any, dedicated to people whose names resonated in the old BJ but not in this one—and think that we're not actually facing Jerusalem. Just outside the windows is a service alley, just a few feet beyond it is another building, shutting out the light, and beyond it is Broadway. At the end of the island the East River's murk looms.

Then I remember my elementary school textbooks. After my name, I'd write out my full address: "Flushing, Queens, New York City, New York State, United States, North America, earth, the solar system, the Milky Way, the universe."

Just as those circles went out, from the inescapably small to the un-understandably all-emcompassingly big, so I imagine lines moving in to the jewel at the center of the world. In from us in the west and in from Jews in India and China; and in from the financial-services expats in Japan; in from Australia and in from Siberia; all converging in Jerusalem's clear bright light.

And in that light, I know, the richly colored jewels in our windows will glow.

As always, in loving and grieving memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman, z'l.

Joanne Palmer, wife of Andrew Sherman and mother of Miriam Palmer-Sherman, is the editor of the *United Synagogue Review*.

The "Focus on Israel" column is edited by Robin Fleischner, Co-Chair of BJ's Israel Steering Committee (robin.fleischner@verizon.net).

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