



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

December 2 - 9, 2005

1 - 8 Kislev, 5766

TOLDOT

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 25:19 - 28:9
TRIENNIAL Genesis 26:23 - 27:27
HAFTARAH Malakhi 1:1 - 2:71

NEXT WEEK: VAYETZE

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 28:10 - 32:3
TRIENNIAL Genesis 30:14 - 31:16
HAFTARAH Hosea 11:7- 12:12



**SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE
 OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK**

**Holiday Gift Packages
 for the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program**

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 leftover 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.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
 BJHS Alef Family Dinner
 Wandering Minyan
 Kabbalat Shabbat Service

ROSH HODESH KISLEV

6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
 Following 6:00 PM Service – 86th St.
 6:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
 6:45 PM – 86th St.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Shabbat Services
 Junior Congregation
 Children's Services

 Bat Mitzvah
 Bat Mitzvah

9:30 AM – 86th St.
 10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
 10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel

 Halley Kaye-Kauderer
 Samantha Schalop

Community Kiddush Following Services – **88th St.**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM – 88th St.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Morning Minyan
 Limud: **Gems From Genesis***
 with Rabbi Hillel Friedman
 Limud: **Shabbat—Eternity Utters a Day***
 with Rabbis Matalon, Bronstein, and Sol

7:30 AM – 88th St.
 8:10 AM – 88th St.
 7:00 PM – 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.2)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Morning Minyan
 Kesharim
 Lishma
 Limud: **A Pilgrimage to Israel***
 "Zionism Post-1948," with Prof. Alex Sinclair of JTS

7:30 AM – 88th St.
 2:00 PM – 88th St.
 5:00 PM – BJ Office (SEE P.3)
 6:30 PM – 88th St.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Morning Minyan
 BJ Reads Volunteer Get-Together
 Limud: **Parashat Hashavu'a***

7:30 AM – 88th St.
 6:30 PM – 88th St.
 7:00 PM – BJ Office

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

PLEASE NOTE: On Friday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 30, we will have only one Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:00PM at 88th St. Shabbat morning services on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 will remain as usual (9:30AM at 86th St.).

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAMAKOM YENAHEM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Diane Goldkopf, Sarah and Jake Soffes and their family on the death of Diane's beloved father and Sarah and Jake's beloved grandfather, Leonard Goldkopf.

MAZAL TOV

- To Halley Kaye-Kauderer, Andrew Kaye, and Beth Kauderer in honor of Halley becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- To Samantha, Lee, and Lisa Schalop in honor of Samantha becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- We welcome Charles Lenchner, who joined the Rabbinic Office Staff this week.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

• Contemplative Practice at BJ

You are welcome to join Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan for two contemplative experiences on the Shabbat of **December 16 and 17**. We will meet Friday evening at 6:00PM in the 86th St. Social Hall for a Kabbalat Shabbat service with meditation, niggunim, and prayer. The service will not include musical instruments or dancing. Then join us Saturday afternoon at 4:00PM in the 86th St. Social Hall for Minḥa, Ma'ariv and Havdalah—with study, reflection, niggunim and prayer. This will be the first of four contemplative Shabbat experiences.

• Erev Niggunim: Ancient Kabbalistic Chants and Havdalah

Saturday, January 7 at 4:00PM at 86th St.: Rabbi Ohad Ezrahi offers us a rare opportunity to learn these little-known melodies and the legendary stories that contextualize them. Join us for a magical hour of heart-opening niggunim with guitar and drum, woven with Hassidic-Wisdom-Stories, silence, and the magic of the moment. Rabbi Ezrahi, an Israeli spiritual teacher, is the founder of the Hamakom spiritual community and author of numerous books and articles on contemporary Kabbalistic thought. The second series of his classes about love in Kabbalah is currently being broadcast on Israeli TV.

• Kids' Purim Play Auditions

Tuesday, January 10 and Wednesday, January 11 from 4:00-6:00PM at the 88th St. Sanctuary: Be a part of the magic that is the Purim Play again this year! Come prepared to have some fun for a few hours of singing, acting and dancing. Plan on staying the whole time, although you will probably be able to leave earlier. Dress comfortably. Come either day. Auditions are required for children ages 7 and up only; 6-year-olds will automatically be placed in the chorus and need not audition, although all parents and children should stop in on one of the audition days to pick up information sheet and conflict sheets, and to meet our production team. See you at the auditions. Questions? Please contact Michael at x240 or Mkelberg@BJ.org

• Seeking Peace/Pursuing Justice:

9th Annual Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Risk-Taker Awards

Thursday, December 8, 6:00PM cocktail reception, 7:00PM program, at Brotherhood Synagogue, 28 Gramercy Park South: Members and friends of BJ are invited to join Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) for their annual awards ceremony. Tickets: \$72/regular, \$18-\$54/movement, student, low-income. For more info or to reserve your seats, contact JFREJ at 212-647-8966 ext 14, alana@jfrej.org, www.jfrej.org.

LIMUD

• Shabbat — Eternity Utters A Day

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00PM at the 86th St. Chapel: Our rabbis will

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Beth Kauderer and Andrew Kay in honor of their daughter Halley becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- We bid a fond farewell to Amanda Silver, who has served as the Director of Social Action/Social Justice for the past 3 years. We wish her much luck in her future endeavors. We welcome Guy Austrian, our new Director of Social Action/Social Justice who will begin on December 13, 2005.

YASHER KOAH

- To Cydney Arther and Zeva Thorne for coordinating a team of shelter volunteers who made a beautiful Thanksgiving celebration for our homeless guests. Also, a big thank you to Henry Meer for providing a delicious dinner for all from his downtown restaurant, City Hall.

engage the community in a discussion about our traditions and practices of observing Shabbat. How can we realize Heschel's words about Shabbat—"Eternity Utters a Day"—as they apply to our lives today?

• 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.

TORAH FACT



Careful Planning: The Sefer Torah is always hand-written in accordance with very strict rules concerning the position and appearance of the columns and letters. In addition to the preparation of the yeriah (sheets of parchment), the kulmus (quill), and dyo (ink), the sofer must also give great care to outlining the placement of the boundaries and amudim (columns) on the yeriah. The sofer (scribe) takes a straight edge to draw a writing pattern across the yeriah—usually 42 horizontal lines and two vertical lines—and thus defines the boundaries of the page. The width of the boundaries, the width of the columns, and even the spacing between the words and paragraphs must be exact. There are at least three, and not more than eight, amudim on a yeriah. Margins must be three inches on the top, four inches at the bottom, and two inches between columns. A blank space is left between the area designated for writing and the margin. (Tradition dictates that it has to be five fingers wide.)

It is this careful planning that allows the letters, words, and sections to be written at different times. Once the preparation of materials has been done and the outlining and spacing of the columns complete, the sofer can begin to write the sacred text.

On November 13 we watched as our sofer, Rabbi Shmuel Miller, stood in the B'nai Jeshurun sanctuary and dipped the kulmus into the dyo and wrote "Bereshit," the first word of the Sefer Torah, on a yeriah that, when sewn together with all the others, will create a Sefer Torah for our congregation. For those who witnessed his hand carefully writing the letters, I'm sure you will agree that it was awe-inspiring. The cry of "Mazal Tov!" that went up, the cheering and the dancing, was a testament to the excitement of our Community Torah Project. —Lynda Fisher

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

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• **Lishma**

Wednesday, December 7, 5:00PM at the BJ Office: Post-B'nai Mitzvah students are invited to join Kerrith and their peers for a little learning, a little socializing and a little snack. This week's topic is "Jewish Identity in American Culture—How Do You Identify?" Please contact Kerrith at ksolomon@bj.org or x253 with questions.

• **Teen Shabbat Dinner**

Friday, December 9, after the 6:00PM service, at the 86th St. Social Hall: This is a special opportunity for teens at BJ to spend a Shabbat dinner together! Please let us know if you would like to lead any of the brachot, plan an icebreaker, make decorations, tell a story, or anything else that will add to a fun Shabbat dinner. To RSVP, please contact Kerrith at ksolomon@bj.org or x253 for a registration form. The deadline to register is Monday, December 5.

• **Help Lead Junior Congregation January 7!**

Kids in 3rd through 6th grade are invited to volunteer to lead parts of the Junior Congregation service on Saturday, January 7. If your child wants to participate, please contact us to let us know which prayer he or she would like to lead by Friday, December 16. Email Hollis at hgauss@bj.org

HAKHNASAT ORHIM

• **"Share Shabbat" and Open Your Home to BJ Friends Old and 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. Please fill out the Host or Guest Form online at the BJ website, www.bj.org. 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. To stay informed of BJ 20s/30s events for singles and couples, email bjtzairim-subscribe@yahoo.com to be added our email list.

• **Share Shabbat Home-Hosted Dinners**

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

HAVUROT

• **LGBT Community Shabbat Evening Get-Togethers**

Members of BJ's LGBT community and their families and friends are invited to get together after Kabbalat Shabbat services once a month. People interested in participating can meet at the rear of the 88th St. sanctuary after the 6:00PM service on the third Friday night of each month. For more information, email joeantenson@msn.com



**180TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMUNITY TORAH PROJECT**

Darkhei No'am • Ways of Pleasantness

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet a woman who is changing history.

We continue to mark BJ's 180th anniversary as Aviel Barclay, a pioneering female soferet (Torah scribe), joins us for a Scholar-in-Residence weekend. You can learn more about Aviel at www.soferet.com

SOFERET SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Shabbat, December 10 at the 86th Street Social Hall • **4-6PM**
Shabbat discussion: "Netivat Sofrut," a provocative discussion led by Aviel Barclay on her personal challenges of becoming and being recognized as a soferet, followed by a spirited Havdalah.

Sunday, December 11 at the 88th Street Sanctuary • **2-5PM**
Calligraphy and midrash course: "Shalhevet Yah: Holy Flame of the Aleph-Bet." Ms. Barclay leads a hands-on workshop* of preparing and writing the letters that form the text of the Torah, as well as a presentation of her work. For teens and adults.

Kindly RSVP, indicating the event, by Friday, Dec. 2 to torahproject@bj.org, or call 212-787-7600 x392.

*Space is limited for this event.

January 20-22:

SHABBAT WEEKEND OF LEARNING

with Rabbi Shmuel Miller

A once-in-a-lifetime weekend of intimate encounter centered around the art and soul of the scribe.

THE MAKING OF A SCRIBE

Friday, January 20, following the early service, at 88th St. Frankel Hall: Join us for a Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Miller as he shares his incredible journey from a tiny African island to sunny California to become a world-renowned sofer. Cost for 1/20 dinner: \$40/members only. TO REGISTER: Make out your check to Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, and in the Memo section please write "Miller 1/20/05." Send checks to the attention of Shakeara Hatchett, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, 2109 Broadway, Suite 203, NY, NY 10023.

A BEIT MIDRASH: FINDING YOUR TORAH HOW TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT

Shabbat, January 21, 4:00PM at 88th St.: Rabbi Miller joins our rabbis who will assist us in making a meaningful commitment, both spiritually and monetarily, to a book, a chapter, a verse, or even a letter of the Torah. Criteria such as character traits, history, names, honoring family members and memorials will be discussed.

THE CRAFT OF THE SCRIBE:

A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH RABBI MILLER

Sunday, January 22, 2:00PM at 88th St.: Through art, games and other hands-on activities, this family-oriented activity for children of all ages will have the opportunity to learn the craft of the scribe by "doing." Adults will enjoy this, too.

Kindly RSVP, indicating the event, by Friday, January 12 to torahproject@bj.org, or call 212-787-7600 x392.

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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... On December 5, 1852, the B'nai Jeshurun Educational Institute was opened. The curriculum included Hebrew Language, Prayers, Scripture, Bible History and English Language, Reading, Writing, Ciphering, Grammar, Geography, Penmanship, Composition and Elocution. Arrangements were made for the teaching of French, German, Spanish, Algebra, Drawing, Latin and Classics. In addition, girls were taught Needlework.

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.

ISRAEL ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES
By Sally Gottesman

I recently had the professional opportunity to research the "hot" topic of Israel on college campuses and make recommendations to funders who wanted to support an organization working in this area.

The three key findings: first, the dominant hasbara (advocacy) approach creates disillusionment among students and isn't providing what they need – which is Israel education rather than Israel advocacy. Second, too often students learn about "mythic Israel" rather than "contemporary Israel," which does not help them to address their own and their peers' questions. Third, existing Israel education programs fail to meet the needs of "moderately interested" students. These existing programs are: one-time events, such as presentations by speakers, Israel fairs and celebrations; advocacy training initiatives that provide students already concerned with Israel tools to combat attacks on Israel; and media campaigns that seek either to debunk attacks on Israel or promote a positive image of Israel.

The funders I worked with had different levels of knowledge about Israel and a variety of political beliefs. Based on the findings, they are pursuing funding the "Israel Dialogue and Mediation Fellowship," a semester-long program operated by the Jewish Dialogue Group. This Philadelphia-based not-for-profit organization created the fellowship to help students: a) engage in a dialogue about Israel, b) learn techniques of mediation and effective intra-group listening and facilitation which they can use in their work in the Jewish and secular communities, and c) learn about dialogue groups in Israel, and through them, about issues dividing and uniting modern Israelis."

Sally Gottesman is a consultant to not-for-profit organizations and the Chair of *Moving Traditions*.

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