



**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 16 -23, 2005** **15 -22 Kislev, 5766**

**VAYISHLAH**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 32:4 - 36:43  
**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 34:1 - 35:15  
**HAFTARAH** Obadiah 1:1-21

NEXT WEEK: **VAYESHEV**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 37:1 - 40:23  
**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 38:1 - 38:30  
**HAFTARAH** Amos 2:6 - 3:8

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

**The "Darfur Calls" Pledge**

You can help save a life by making a phone call.

Since 2003, government-backed militias have been terrorizing towns and villages in Darfur, Sudan, they believe are friendly to anti-government groups. Americans can use their influence to save lives in Darfur. How? Encourage the President to send an international force to support African Union troops in Darfur to protect civilians. Make the "Darfur Calls" pledge to call the White House twice a week:

1. Call President Bush at 202-456-1111 and ask him to assert U. S. leadership to create security in Darfur through an international peacekeeping force.
2. Continue to make two phone calls each week.

Let's act today to help bring safety and security to Darfur. Your phone calls can change the world.

**BONE MARROW TESTING NEEDED**

Amy Katz, a 13 year old Jew of Ashkenazi descent, needs a bone marrow transplant to fight leukemia. Donors must be between 18 and 60 and in good health. Registration in the Bone Marrow Registry only requires a cheek swab. Blood type does not matter. The drive will take place at the Manhattan JCC, 340 Amsterdam Avenue, on **Sunday, January 8th from 10:00AM to 3:00PM.** Please contact Jane Silverman at 212-362-5132 for further details.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

**Tot Shabbat** 5:45 PM – 86th St. Sanctuary  
**Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:00 PM – 88th St.  
**BJHS Hey Family Dinner** Following 6:00 PM Service – 88th St.  
**Contemplative Shabbat Service** 6:00 PM – 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.2)  
**Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:45 PM – 86th St. Sanctuary

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**

**Shabbat Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St.  
**Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel

**Naming** Sophia Rachel Greiper  
**Bat Mitzvah** Ayla Anastacio  
**Speaker** Ruth Messinger,  
 American Jewish World Service (SEE P.3)

**Minḥa/Ma'ariv** 4:00 PM – 88th St.  
**Bar Mitzvah** Alexander Echelman

**Contemplative Shabbat Minḥa/Ma'ariv** 4:00 PM – 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.2)  
**Panim el Panim Celebration** 7:30 PM – 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

**Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 88th St.  
**Lunch Program Volunteers Event** 11:00 AM – 88th St.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**

**Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 88th St.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

**Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 88th St.  
**Limud: Gems From Genesis\*** 8:10 AM – 88th St.  
 with Rabbi Hillel Friedman

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

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

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22**

**Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 88th St.  
**Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a\*** 7:00 PM – BJ Office

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23**

**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](http://www.bj.org), for information and how to register.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HAMAKOM YENAH'EM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved members:

- Fannie Kugelmass, and extends deepest condolences to her children, grandchildren and all her loved ones.
- Sharon Hymer, and extends deepest condolences to her husband Steven Goldberg and their son, Frazer Goldberg.

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Ayla Anastacio, Claudia Tessler and Lorraine Wohl on Ayla becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Alexander Echelman, Todd, Madeline, Isabelle and Hallie Echelman, and Lori Lemberg on Alexander becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Scott Greiper and Angelica Mojarro on the naming of their daughter, Sophia Rachel Greiper.
- Carole Polly on her grandson, Jared Brandon Biunno, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

### TODAH RABBAH

- This week's flowers for the bimah have been sponsored by Carole Moskowitz in honor of her niece, Ayla Anastacio, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- For last week's kiddush sponsored by Melvin Berger and Barbara Pleshko in honor of their wedding.
- To the following BJ members for so generously opening their hearts and homes on Shabbat last week to host guests for Hakhnasat Orh'im's "Share Shabbat" initiative: Lisa Goldberg, Lauren Rott, Gary Stadtmauer, Elaine Nevins, Julie Zuckerbraun, Zeva Thorne, and Vivian Awner.

### B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Meir Azari of Beit Daniel, the Center for Reform Judaism, Tel Aviv-Jaffa.
- Rabbi Jonathan Infeld and 11th and 12th grade Hebrew classes, Marlboro Jewish Center, Marlboro, New Jersey.
- Aaron Philmus and students of the Derech Torah class, 92nd Street Y, New York, NY.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### NEW SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE SCHEDULE—An Experiment

Starting in January, all Friday night Shabbat services will be held in the Sanctuary at BJ's 88th Street synagogue. The new times for these services are 5:30PM and 7:15PM. There will be no changes to the Shabbat morning service time or location.

The Family Kabbalat Shabbat service and Wandering Minyan will still be held at the early services on the first Friday of the month EXCEPT in February when the Family Service and Wandering Minyan will not take place.

We will try this new schedule for 3 months, from January through March, 2006. No matter what the outcome, the early service will begin at 6PM in April because of Daylight Savings Time.

### • Contemplative Practice at BJ

You are welcome to join Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan for two contemplative experiences this Shabbat, **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.

### • 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 peoples. 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](http://www.symphonyspace.org).

### • Jazzy Hanukkah with Amanda Monaco

**Thursday, December 22** at 7:30PM at Makor, 35 W. 67th St.: Please join one of BJ's musicians, guitarist Amanda Monaco, as her quartet performs jazzy versions of Hanukkah songs.

### • BJ in Israel

All BJ members who will be in Israel this Hanukkah are welcome to join the BJ group at our Shabbat services in Tel Aviv! Services are with our Israeli partners at the Old Cameri Theatre (aka "Beit Lessin"—101 Dizengoff St.). Friday evening December 30 we begin early at 4PM; Saturday morning December 31 we begin at 10AM. Make sure you state at the door that you are a BJ member. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Contact Deborah x254.

### • 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 only required for children in 2nd grade and above. 1st graders will automatically be placed in the chorus and need not audition, although parents and children should come by on one of the audition days to pick up information and conflict sheets and meet our production team. See you at the auditions. Questions? Please contact Michael at x240 or [Mkelberg@BJ.org](mailto:Mkelberg@BJ.org)

### • BJ Morning Minyan E-mail List

Anyone interested in attending or learning about activities at the morning minyan may add themselves to the BJ Morning Minyan e-mail list by sending an e-mail to Cantor Ari Priven at [apriven@bj.org](mailto:apriven@bj.org). You will receive a weekly minyan schedule. All are welcome.

**SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE**

• **Genocide in Darfur**

Ruth Messinger, president of the American Jewish World Service, will be speaking during Shabbat morning services about the current situation in Darfur. Please see the "Social Action/Social Justice Opportunity of the Week" on page 1 for one way you can help. Urgent action is needed to strengthen humanitarian and peace-keeping efforts in the Sudan.

• **Panim el Panim House Meeting Celebration**

Yasher Koah to the leaders of Panim el Panim, BJ's community organizing and advocacy initiative, on the completion of their Fall House Meeting Campaign. From November 1 to December 13, more than 180 congregants signed up to attend 18 House Meetings. Our goals were to: develop new relationships while deepening existing ones among congregants; expand the base of BJ members committed to Social Action/Social Justice; and identify new leaders. Please join us as we celebrate this success on **Saturday, December 17** from 7:30 – 9:30PM at the 86th St. Social Hall with a fun, festive, and musical program.

• **BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter Needs Sleepover Volunteers**

Sunday through Thursday, homeless guests are bussed to us from The Open Door, a drop-in center under the aegis of Urban Pathways and Grand Central Social Services Corporation. Our volunteers provide a dignified, welcoming atmosphere for our guests. As we enter the winter months, we need additional volunteers to sleep over one night per month (9PM – 7AM). Responsibilities include putting out a light breakfast for the guests, putting the cots away, and tidying up the room before leaving in the morning. To volunteer, please contact Robert Imershein at rimershein@capstarny.com or 212-339-4250.

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

There are still many children who would love to have a BJ reading partner. 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 e-mail rjoseph@aaahawk.com

**YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION**

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

Children 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 by Monday, December 19. E-mail Hollis at hgauss@bj.org

**TZE'IRIM: 205/305**

• **Hanukkah Party!!**

**Monday, December 26** at 7:30PM: Hosted by BJ member Bev Statland. Please join us as we celebrate Hanukkah with chocolate, wine, latkes and good people. Email Bev at bevstatland@mac.com for more information and to RSVP.

• **Ongoing Social Action Opportunity**

Each month, starting in February, we will be organizing a small group to cook for one night for BJ's homeless shelter. To get involved, contact Katie at kmizrahi@bj.org. To join our email list and stay informed about upcoming events for 20/30's singles and couples, send an email to bjtzeirim-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

**HAVUROT**

• **BJ Health Care Professionals Havurah**

BJ health care professionals are invited to a potluck lunch on the third Saturday of the month after services. If you would like to attend, please e-mail bjhealthprofessionalshavurah@yahoo.com. Meeting location will be e-mailed to you with your confirmation.



**180TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMUNITY TORAH PROJECT**

Darkhei No'am • Ways of Pleasantness

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 1/20/06." 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 activity for children of all ages will have the opportunity to learn the craft of the scribe by "doing."

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

*Please see the letter attached to this Kol Jeshurun about the Darkhei No'am Community Huppah*

**TORAH FACT**



**Perfection:** Once the materials have been prepared, the sofer (scribe) has said the prayers and gone to the Mikvah (ritual bath), the writing can begin. As a sacred document, the Sefer Torah must be written in accordance to the 4,000 laws governing its writing. The words, letters, and sections of the Sefer Torah can be written in any order as long as everything is perfect. If a letter is written incorrectly, if one letter is touching another, etc., it renders the yeriah pasul (unfit). The sofer can correct a mistake using a plastic eraser or curved scalpel to scrape off the ink.

There can be no mistakes in one of the seven names of God, and the name of God must never be erased. If a mistake occurs, the entire yeriah (sheet) must be burned or placed in a geniza (where worn-out holy books are hidden away), and the sofer must rewrite everything that appeared on that yeriah. The Sefer Torah must be perfect to be considered kosher. —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.*

...

... In 1860, the Board of Trustees challenged Rabbi Raphall on his public support of the election of a civil judge. On that occasion the Board addressed a letter to Dr. Raphall as follows: "We the Board of Trustees respectfully suggest to Dr. Raphall the impropriety of any intermeddling with politics, as we firmly believe such a course to be entirely inconsistent with the Jewish clerical character...and to our Congregation in particular."

**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](mailto: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**

**MY BAGS ARE (NOT) PACKED; I'M (NOT) READY TO GO**

By Joanne Palmer

*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.*

Ever since our people were exiled from the land of Israel, getting back to it—returning to it physically, that is, standing on its soil, breathing its air—has been both a dream and a formidable challenge.

During the Middle Ages, it must have seemed as remote and unattainable to our European-bound ancestors as the moon is to us. Yes, of course, men in large unattractive suits and helmets have bounced around on it, but there are hardly flights available. Yehuda HaLevi, the great Spanish-Jewish poet, pined for Israel throughout his life, which ended either just before or just after his long hard journey finally took him there. BJ hero Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, after many hardships, eventually landed on its sacred soil—and then almost immediately turned around and went back home. For him, the point was the trip, not the destination. (It is hard to say what it represented for his wife and children, whom he ditched so he could follow his dream, but that's another story.)

I have talked to an American woman who snuck into pre-state Israel by boat so she could serve as a nurse during the War of Independence, and to an ex-GI who also snuck onto a boat, this time in Italy, so he could help get Holocaust survivors to Israel. (That boat was the Exodus.)

So all I have to do is get on an airplane. No big deal, right? Just shut myself up in an enclosed metal tube, breathe dirty-sterile air, and watching the little embattled plane struggle halfway across the world as I sit pinned in my seat. No problem!

By next week, my bags will be packed. This New Year in Jerusalem!

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

*Joanne Palmer is 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](mailto: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