



**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

January 13 - 20, 2006 13 - 20 Tevet, 5766

**VAYEHI**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 47:28 - 50:26  
**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 49:1 - 49:26  
**HAFTARAH** I Kings 2:1 - 12

NEXT WEEK: **SHEMOT**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 1:1 - 6:1  
**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 3:1 - 4:17  
**HAFTARAH** Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13, 29:22 - 23



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

BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter  
 Needs Sleepover Volunteers

From 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.



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 5:30 PM - 88th St.  
 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:15 PM - 88th St.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**

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

Bat Mitzvah Caroline Koppelman  
 Bat Mitzvah Chloe Li Piazza

Community Kiddush Following Services - 86th St.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15** **Yahrzeit: Marshall T. Meyer**

Morning Minyan 9:30 AM - 88th St.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16** **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

BJ OFFICE CLOSED  
 BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED  
 Morning Minyan 9:30 AM - 88th St.  
*Limud: Me'ah and Intro to Judaism* NO CLASSES THIS WEEK

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17**

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.  
*Limud: Gems From Genesis\** 8:10 AM - 88th St.  
     with Rabbi Hillel Friedman  
*Limud: Torah: From The Word*  
     To The Mitzvah\* 7:00 PM - 86th St. (SEE P.2)  
     with Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18** **Yahrzeit: Abraham Joshua Heschel**

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.  
 Kesharim 2:00 PM - 88th St.  
*Limud: Prayer and Synagogue Skills\** 7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)  
     with Marshall T. Meyer Fellows Dara Frimmer and Lauren Thomas

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.  
 Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall  
*Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a\** 7:00 PM - BJ Office

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

\* Please see the the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for information and how to register.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Caroline Koppleman and Nathana Josephs, and Peter Koppelman, Harry Josephs and Linda Scheer, and Audrey Binkhorst in honor of Caroline becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Chloe Li and Mike Piazza, and Laurel and Maia Kallen in honor of Chloe becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Ellen Lesser and David Comisar on their engagement.
- Amy and Andrew Horowitz on the birth of their daughter, Marley Rae Horowitz.

### TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Laurel Kallen and Mike Piazza in honor of their daughter, Chloe Li Piazza, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

### B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- To our new BJ members participating in the New Member Orientation Program tonight.
- Rabbi Daniel Levin, Informal Education Coordinator Danielle Kandel Gamson, and 11th–12th graders, Journey Through Judaism Course, Temple Beth El, Boca Raton, Florida.

## 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.

### • Join Us at the BJ Morning Minyan

See the latest information about the Morning Minyan on the BJ website at [www.bj.org/schedule.php](http://www.bj.org/schedule.php), where you can indicate which days you're planning to attend. You can also see how many people have signed up for the current week—and where our need is greatest.

### • An Evening of Sacred Chant

**Tuesday, January 24** at 8:15PM, 92nd St. Y: Bronfman Center for Jewish Life Invites you to experience ecstatic Jewish meditation through sacred chanting with Rabbi Shefa Gold, Rachmiel O'Reagan and friends. Tickets: \$20 at [www.92y.org](http://www.92y.org) or 212-415-5500.

### • BJ Book Group

**Sunday, January 29** at 7PM at 88th St.: The BJ Book Group will meet to discuss Cynthia Ozick's recent book *Heir to the Glimmering World*, a funny, witty, lively and compelling novel of ideas with references to Gershom Scholem, Christopher Robin, the Karaites and many others.

### TORAH FACT

**Your Own Piece Of Our Sefer Torah:** According to Rabbi Mendy Hecht, the Sefer Torah is the heart, mind and soul of Judaism. As the scroll is taken around the sanctuary, we touch it and then kiss our fingers to bring the sacred text closer to our souls. When that Sefer Torah is the one written for us at BJ, we will have an even deeper connection. Rabbis say that if a person writes even one letter of the Torah, it is as if that person has written the entire scroll.

You can write that one letter by committing to a piece of text in our new Sefer Torah. Commemorate a special occasion or mark a memorial for someone special. See P.3 for information about Beit Midrash sessions led by our rabbis to help each of us find our own Torah.

Another way to choose a meaningful piece of Torah is by visiting [www.hebcal.com/converter/](http://www.hebcal.com/converter/), where you can convert a Gregorian to a Hebrew date and find its corresponding past or future Torah portion.

—Lynda Fisher

## UPCOMING LIMUD

Please see the the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for more information and how to register.

### • Torah: From The Word To The Mitzvah

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

**Time: 4 Tuesdays (January 17, 24, 31, February 14)** • 7-8:30PM • 86th St. Chapel • Cost: Free, registration required  
In its earliest mention in the "Torah," Torah is actually only a law or rule. In this class, we will follow the beginnings of Torah as law or rule and its evolution to the scroll of Torah and its larger meaning. We will also trace the origins of the mitzvah to write a Sefer Torah and its evolution over time.

### • Prayer and Synagogue Skills

Marshall T. Meyer Fellows Dara Frimmer and Lauren Thomas

**Time: 2 Wednesdays (2nd class January 18)** • 7-9PM • 88th St. • Cost: Free/members, \$30/non-members, registration required  
What is the structure of the service? When and why do we bow during the Amidah? In this workshop, we will explore the "structure" and choreography of the service and address such questions as: how can we find meaning in the rigidity of daily prayer? How can tallit and tefillin enhance our prayer service? This class will be offered twice during the year.

### • A Beit Midrash: Finding Your Torah

**Saturday, January 21** • 4:30PM • 88th St. • Cost: Free, registration not required, but kindly RSVP to x392 or [torahproject@bj.org](mailto:torahproject@bj.org)  
Join us for the second of three Beit Midrash sessions led by the Rabbis, in conjunction with the Community Torah Project. See P. 3 for more info.

### • Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Shevat

**Monday, January 30** • 7:30PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration not required  
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.

### • What Is Torah?

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

**Time: 6 Wednesdays (February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8)** • 6:30-8PM • 88th St. • Cost: Free, registration required  
Torah embraces a wide range of meanings and understandings We will explore the unfolding of those meanings from the Talmud through the Mystical and Hassidic traditions.

**SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE**

• **Panim el Panim Hosts Leadership and Action Training Series**

Panim el Panim's Leadership and Action Training Series follows up on our Fall House Meeting Campaign, which gave BJ members an opportunity to connect with other congregants and left us energized to take action as a community. The series consists of four participatory sessions with nationally renowned organizers and is as an opportunity for congregants who care about social justice to connect with one another and learn strategies that we can use to take effective action as a community. Each session will build on skills gained in the prior, and the series will culminate with participants determining our next action campaigns. To find out more, please call x366.

• **Community Services Society of New York Seeks Volunteers for Medicare Part D Helpline**

The NYC Managed Care Assistance Project (NYC MCCAP) of the Community Service Society is an independent, not-for-profit, New York City organization dedicated to improving access to health care for managed care recipients from all walks of life. They seek volunteers to assist the MCCAP Help Line staff in handling calls from Medicare beneficiaries inquiring about the new Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D). Volunteers will be trained on Part D, particularly on issues affecting low-income individuals, and will work with the helpline coordinator. To find out more or to volunteer, please contact Nora Chaves, Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program Helpline Coordinator, at 212-614-5367 or nchaves@cssny.org

**TZE'IRIM: 20S/30S**

• **Tour of The Museum of Jewish Heritage**

**Sunday, January 22, 12:00PM** in the museum lobby, 36 Battery Park Place: Join other Tze'irim members as we tour The Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, which honors those who died by celebrating their lives, achievements, faith, joys and hopes, and the vibrant Jewish community that is their legacy today. Cost: \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP to Lauren Rott at lolarott@aol.com

• **Join The List!**

Would you like to keep informed about activities at BJ for people in their 20s and 30s? Email [bjtzeirim-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bjtzeirim-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Once on the list, you can also check out past postings on the Web at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BJtzeirim](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BJtzeirim)

**LEDOR VADOR**

• **Medicare Questions Answered!**

**Tuesday, January 24, 6:30-8:00PM** at 88th St.: Do you have questions or concerns about the confusing new Medicare prescription drug benefit program? Ledor Vador is pleased to welcome Edo Banach, General Counsel at the Medicare Rights Center, who will be glad to explain the current drug plans and answer all of your questions. This is an opportunity to learn how and when to apply for coverage. All ages are welcome. For more information and to register call the Ledor Vador hotline at x334.

**HAVUROT**

• **The Healing Havurah for the healing community**

We will explore the healing messages in the Torah parsha. The accent will be on dissolving resentments in ourselves and each other around the world. Each participant will bring a food item for a potluck meal. We will meet once a month on Saturday afternoon after the Shabbat morning service. For more information, please contact Marvin Ginsberg at [marvinginsberg@yahoo.com](mailto:marvinginsberg@yahoo.com)



**180TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMUNITY TORAH PROJECT**

Darkhei No'am • Ways of Pleasantness

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**Saturday, January 21, 4:30–6:00PM** at 88th St.

**Monday, February 13, 6:30–8:00PM** at 88th St.

Join us for these Beit Midrash sessions led by the 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 Guest Sofer Zerach Greenfield**

**Sunday, January 22, 10:30AM** at 88th St.

Guest Sofer Zerach Greenfield will host a multi-activity event for families of all ages. Write with a quill, uncover hidden mysteries in the Torah text, and more! Don't miss this one-time event!

Kindly RSVP to [torahproject@bj.org](mailto:torahproject@bj.org), or call 212-787-7600 x392.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Shabbat B'Yahad dinner with Rabbi Miller has been CANCELLED. All those who registered will be issued a refund.**

**THE DARKHEI NO'AM COMMUNITY HUPPAH**

Calling all quilters, artists, craftspeople and willing participants with little or no artistic skill...

On Sunday, May 21, 2006, we will welcome our new Sefer Torah to our congregation with a huppah made of 180 squares, made by you: members, havurot, committees, or any BJ group who wishes to participate.

Become part of the Darkhei No'am Community Huppah. We hope that every facet of the BJ community will be represented in this huppah. Please contact our Darkhei No'am Community Huppah coordinator Sandi Borger by calling 212-721-2846 or by sending an e-mail to [shb54@hotmail.com](mailto:shb54@hotmail.com) for more details or to sign up. Squares will be distributed on a first come-first served basis.

**UPDATE: For those of you who have reserved a huppah square, instructions and materials are now available for pick-up at the B'nai Jeshurun offices, 2109 Broadway, Ste. 203.**

**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.*

...

... A growing insistence upon decorum resulted in a series of resolutions adopted around 1860. These include: "that Kohanim must repeat the blessings word for word after the hazzan without singing or chanting" and rigid fines were imposed for talking during services. One member was fined \$25.00 for creating a disturbance and giving offense to the usher.

**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**

*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.*

**ISRAELI PRESS COVERAGE OF BJ TRIP**  
By Robin Fleischner

*On January 9, 2006, Ha aretz, a leading Israeli newspaper, published an article about the historic Kabbalat Shabbat service which BJ and seven partner Israeli communities held during our trip to Israel. Journalist Yuval Ben-Ami wrote:*

*"Eduardo Shoval...after years of hi-tech entrepreneurship felt a spiritual loss, and the idea of a childhood friend, Marcelo Bronstein, helped him resolve it.... His suggestion to Shoval was this: Search for your Jewish roots.*

*Shoval and his friends founded the community of Hochmat Halev—not a religious minyan (quorum) in the traditional sense, but a group of secular people in Ramat Hasharon who are working together to develop their awareness of Judaism.... Shoval and Bronstein met again over the last few weeks, this time as partners in an original enterprise. Bronstein came to Israel with his two co-rabbis at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Manhattan—Roly Matalon and Felicia Sol—and 180 members of the congregation. Shoval represented one of seven Israeli alternative communities that maintain contact with B'nai Jeshurun. The purpose of the visit was to foster the ties between the Israeli communities and the one in New York—and perhaps more important, for the Israeli groups to make contact with each other.*

*On the sixth night of Hanukkah, the B'nai Jeshurun members and those of the Israeli congregations met at the Beit Lessin Theater in Tel Aviv... The theater hall was totally packed....*

*How do the members of the Israeli congregations, who vacillate on the question of their religious identity, deal with the American presence? First off, they welcome the guests with love and joy.*

*'Whether directly or indirectly, BJ has created a sort of openness to appropriating Jewish ritual that is not obligated to halacha,' Galit Kedem, a member of Beit Tefila Yisraeli, said at the candle-lighting ceremony. 'They do it with a great deal of creativity and diverse self-expression.'*

*Did Kedem feel tension between the different people at the meeting?*

*'Inspirational tension,' she said."*

*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