



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 27 - February 3, 2006 27 Tevet - 5 Shevat, 5766

VA'ERA

MEVARKHIM HAHODESH
TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 6:2 - 9:36
TRIENNIAL Exodus 7:8 - 8:15
HAFTARAH Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

NEXT WEEK: **BO**
TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 10:1 - 13:16
TRIENNIAL Exodus 11:4 - 12:28
HAFTARAH Jeremiah 46:13 - 28

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 5:30 PM – 88th St.
 BJHS Dalet Family Dinner Following 5:30 PM Service – 88th St.
 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:15 PM – 88th St.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Shabbat Services 9:30 AM – 86th St.
 Children's Services 10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel
 Bar Mitzvah Matthew Lehrman
 Bat Mitzvah Yael Rizowy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – 88th St.
 BJ Book Group 7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2)

MONDAY, JANUARY 30 **ROSH HODESH SHEVAT**

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
 Memorial Plaque Service 6:30 PM – 88th St.
 Women's Rosh Hodesh Group 7:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

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 7:00 PM – 86th St. (SEE P.2)
 To The Mitzvah*
 with Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
 Kesharim 2:00 PM – 88th St.
 Contemplative Practice 6:30 PM – West Park
 Presbyterian Church (SEE P.2)
 6:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2)
*Limud: What is Torah?**
 with Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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, FEBRUARY 3

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.

Darfur: What the Media Isn't Telling Us
Tuesday, January 31 at 8:15PM, 92nd St. Y: Ruth Messinger, President and Executive Director of American Jewish World Service, will join with other experts to give a firsthand account of the ongoing genocidal campaign in Darfur, Sudan, that has claimed over 400,000 lives since February 2003. This event costs \$25. For more information, visit www.92ndsty.org or call 212-415-5500.

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

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK

Women's Rights Hevra Invites You to Support Comprehensive Sex Education in Public Schools

Did you know that in a survey* of NYC high school students:

- 1 in 10 report having had sex before age 13
- 1 in 4 who were sexually active didn't use a condom during last intercourse
- Almost 50% are sexually active and report behaviors increasing risk of HIV infection.

**A report from the NYC Community Health Survey (7/04)*

Want to make a difference?

The Women's Rights Hevra invites you to attend "For the Sake of Our Children," a convocation to support sex education, co-sponsored by B'nai Jeshurun. Mark your calendars: **Tuesday, March 7, 7:00—9:00PM**, Riverside Church, 122 St. and Riverside Dr.

Hear keynote speaker, former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, and send a message to Albany that our children deserve sex education that will help them form healthy relationships, prevent pregnancy before they are ready to become parents, and protect them from sexually transmitted infections.

For more information, contact the Women's Rights Hevra at 212-787-7600 x321.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAMAKOM YENAHM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the tragic death of our beloved member Andrea Bronfman and extends sincere condolences to her husband, Charles Bronfman, their children Jeremy and Marci Ann Cohen, Pippa Cohen, Tony and Moira Cohen, Stephen and Claudine Bronfman, Ellen and Andrew Hauptman, her sister Marcia (Kappy) Flanders, their grandchildren: Danielle Maya, Scott, Talia, Alexandra, Lila and Zack and all their loved ones.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Rebecca Jupiter and Enid Pollack on the tragic death of their sister and daughter, Hannah Engle.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Matthew and Roberta Lehrman in honor of Matthew becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Yael, Carlos, Michal, and Brian Rizowy, and Linda White in honor of Yael becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Joan Kaplan on the birth of her third grandchild, Isabella Nora.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's flowers for the bimah have been sponsored by Linda White and Carlos Rizowy in honor of Yael Rizowy becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Yoav Kaiser, Logistic Manager and students of Temple Tiferet Israel, Beachwood, Ohio.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT AND NO WANDERING MINYAN SERVICES IN FEBRUARY.

• 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.

• Contemplative Practice: Working on our souls, working in the world, linking the inner and the outer

Wednesday, February 1, 6:30-9:30PM, at West Park Presbyterian Church, 165 W. 86th St.: A monthly series of urban mini-retreats: 3 hours of meditation, a meal, study, reflection and prayer. Please join us to strengthen your spirit and open your heart!

• Tu Bishevat Seder at the JCC

Sunday, February 12 at 8PM at the JCC, 334 Amsterdam Ave.: If you aren't hosting your own, join the vegetarian seder hosted by Hazon, Teva Learning Center and Livnot U'Lehibanot. Discover Judaism's mystical approach to the environment while tasting delicious fruits and drinking four glasses of wine! Pre-register at www.jccnyc.org by Thursday, February 9.

• Gospel Music!

Sunday, February 26, 11:00AM at West End Presbyterian Church, 165 W. 105th St. at Amsterdam Ave.: BJ's Interfaith Committee is sponsoring a visit to West End Presbyterian Church. This is your opportunity

to experience the music of the West End Gospel Choir and attend services with our West Side neighbors. The Gospel Choir participated in this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at BJ and if you were present you know that they are amazing! The service begins at 11:00AM and will last approximately one hour. Pastor Alistair Drummond will meet with us for a few minutes afterwards. Please contact the Interfaith Committee at x379 or interfaith@bj.org to let us know if you plan to attend so that we can all be seated together.

• Potluck Shabbat Lunches—Another Experiment at BJ!

The Parlor Room at 86th St. will be open to those members who wish to bring a potluck or brown-bag lunch (dairy/vegetarian) following Shabbat services, beginning this Shabbat, January 28. Some people have requested a place to have lunch, study text and/or just spend time with one another on Shabbat afternoon. We suspect there are many others who might like to do the same. On those Shabbatot, when there is no sponsored Kiddush, the Parlor Room will be open from 12:30-2:30PM. Check the Kol Jeshurun on the BJ website on Fridays to see if there is a Kiddush. The space must be vacated by 2:30PM. Those using the room will be responsible for cleaning it up after eating.

• Update on Kiddushim

We would love to have a community Kiddush on as many Shabbatot as possible! There are many reasons to sponsor a Kiddush (Bar/Bat Mitzvah, aufruf, birthday, anniversary, in gratitude for your *havurah* etc.). You may create a community Kiddush at whatever cost level that is comfortable, from coffee/tea and cake to a fuller lunch-type Kiddush. For more information, contact Helen Radin, ext. 233.

UPCOMING LIMUD

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

• Torah: From The Word To The Mitzvah

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

Time: 4 Tuesdays (remaining classes January 31, February 14) • 7:00-8:30PM • 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.

• Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Shevat with the Women's Tent from Israel

Time: Monday, January 30 • 7:30PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free (donations welcome), registration not required
Please join us for a special Rosh Hodesh with the Women's Tent from Israel, representing women of Muslim, Jewish, Christians, Druze and

Bedouin communities. "Shevet" means "tribe," and also "to sit"—to sit together as a tribe of women during this month and celebrate the rebirth and renewal of the seeds underground, in the women's tent and inside of each of us as women. We will share prayers and visions of the moon from both Jewish and Muslim cultures, and journey together through visions of peace in the land of Israel. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian 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) • 6:30-8:00PM • 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.

• **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.

TZE'IRIM: 205/305

• **Melavah Malkah**
Saturday, February 11 at 7PM at 88th St.: Join us as we extend the joy and song of Shabbat into the week with an evening of havdalah, music, stories and more. Bring a bottle of wine or a kosher dessert to get in the door.

INTERFAITH

• **Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents** with author **Dr. Mark Podwal**
Thursday, March 9 at 7PM at 88th St.: The Interfaith Committee is proud to announce the Annual Interfaith Lecture with guest Dr. Mark Podwal, noted artist and author of *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents*. The book explains to children the meaning of Jerusalem for the three major religions. Dr. Podwal will describe the origins of the book and the impact of the interfaith project in bringing together Muslim, Jewish and Christian fourth- and fifth-graders from three schools in Brooklyn. Books will be available in the Sanctuary for signing after the presentation. To learn more, please contact the Interfaith Committee at x379 or interfaith@bj.org


LGBT

• **LGBT Community Shabbat**
Friday, February 10 at 7:20PM at Congregation Rodeph Sholom: Meet 200 of your fellow gay and lesbian Jews, celebrate Shabbat and its traditional rituals, and eat a delicious meal. This is a JCC-sponsored event. Co-sponsored by CBST 20's/30's Group and the B'nai Jeshurun Gay Havurah. The cost is \$35. For more information, call 646-505-5708 or visit www.jccnyc.org


TORAH FACT



Weekly Torah Reading: The Sefer Torah contains the laws upon which Judaism is based, and the sages knew it was important that Jews heard these teachings at least once a year. Since the scroll is written as a continuous flow of words, with no separation of chapters and verses*, the sages of Babylonian divided the text into 54 sidrot (portions) and subdivided each sidra into seven aliyot (points at which a blessing



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



\$6.13 TZEDAKAH BOXES
Commitments
 for B'nai Jeshurun's Younger Members

The Darkhei No'am Community Torah Project invites BJ members under the age of 13 to commit to the writing of a letter in our new Sefer Torah by making a contribution of \$6.13.

Why \$6.13? We are taught that it is a mitzvah for each of us to write a Torah during our lifetime. Some sages believe that this is the 613th mitzvah.

Beautiful tzedakah boxes have been designed for our young members to use for saving money, so they can be actively engaged in the commitment process. The tzedakah boxes, yours to keep, may be picked up at the BJ Hebrew School Office at the Heschel School (270 W. 89th St., between Broadway and West End Ave.) during BJ Hebrew School hours only, Monday and Thursday from 4:00–6:00PM, and at the BJ office (2109 Broadway, Suite 203) during BJ office hours only, Monday through Thursday, 9:00–5:00 PM and Friday, 9:00–3:00PM.

We are taught that if we support the writing of a Torah, we have fulfilled the 613th mitzvah.

Every member of BJ, including our youngest, can achieve this mitzvah by making a financial commitment.

Questions? Please contact the Torah Project Hotline at 212-787-7600 x392 or e-mail torahproject@bj.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Writing Sessions with Our Sofer Rabbi Miller
March 5 will be a special day for the BJ community as our Sofer joins us for a day of writing in our new Sefer Torah. There are a finite number of writing opportunities, and volunteer commitments and individual or group commitments over \$1,000 will receive special consideration. We encourage families, havurot, hevrot and/or groups of friends to experience this unique opportunity together. Commitment intentions must be received by **February 26** in order to be eligible for a writing appointment.

**MAKE A COMMITMENT
 TO THE TORAH PROJECT ONLINE!**

Visit the BJ website at www.bj.org

is made on the Torah). Each Shabbat a different sidra is read (some weeks two are read). At minḥa, and at Monday and Thursday morning services, the first aliyah for the following Shabbat is read. Many synagogues, including BJ, read the Sefer Torah as a triennial, completing the reading in three years.
 —Lynda Fisher
 *Christian scholars added the chapters and verses (e.g. Bereshit 5:20) as reference tools, and the Humash retained them.

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 1866, the B'nai Jeshurun Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society was incorporated, although it attained an important place in the community before that time. Its constitution and bylaws were deposited in the cornerstone of the 19th Street Synagogue of Congregation Shearith Israel in 1859. The work of the society included aid to indigent women, providing medical and nursing care as well as food and clothing and the purchase of between 1,000 and 3,500 pound of matzah which was distributed along with other groceries to poor families for Passover.

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.

BJ AND ITS NETWORK OF ISRAELI PARTNERS
By Stephen L. Stulman

Over the past two years, BJ has been instrumental in bringing together a number of communities in Israel which are seeking to create and experience a greater sense of Jewish community. It was this group of communities which brought more than 500 Israelis to join with 180 BJ members for an unprecedented celebration of Shabbat last month in Tel Aviv.

Following the BJ Trip, the Rabbis and several lay leaders remained in Israel to participate in a two-day gathering of the Israeli community leaders outside Jerusalem. At that time, it was decided to call this informal association "Reshet Hakehillot—Network of Jewish-Israeli Communities." The aim of the Network is: "To create a new Jewish-Israeli environment by establishing a network of groups and activities with community as its center."

The common principles of the Network include understanding that:

- "The objective of a renewed Jewish sense of community in Israel is crucial to the shaping of the future of Israel as a Jewish democratic country, and to the living affinity with the Jewish people wherever they are;
- The Jewish sense of community in Israel will emerge in different ways, from different directions, at different rates of development; and
- That this endeavor does not operate in opposition to existing denominations but aims to create a new Jewish-Israeli social environment in which community stands at the center."

Stephen Stulman has been instrumental in creating partnerships between Israeli nontraditional spiritual communities and BJ.

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