



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

February 10 - 17, 2006 **12 - 19 Shevat, 5766**

BESHALAH

PARASHAT SHABBAT SHIRAH
TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 13:17 - 17:16
TRIENNIAL Exodus 14:15 - 16:10
HAFTARAH Judges 5:1 - 31

NEXT WEEK: **YITRO**
TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 18:1 - 20:23
TRIENNIAL Exodus 18:1 - 20:23
HAFTARAH Isaiah 6:1 - 13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Shabbat Services 9:30 AM – 86th St.
 Children's Services 10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel
 Bat Mitzvah Pamela Mishkin
 Bat Mitzvah Lily Weinberg
 Bar Mitzvah Max Gilbert – 10:00 AM, Heschel School
 D'var Torah Dr. Neta Ziv, New Israel Fund (SEE P.2)
 Community Kiddush Following Services – 86th St
 Tze'irim Havdalah and Melavah Malkah 7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – 88th St.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
 Beit Midrash: Finding Your Torah 6:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE ATTACHED FLIER)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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.3)
 To The Mitzvah*
 with Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
 Kesharim 2:00 PM – 88th St.
 Limud: What is Torah?* 6:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)
 with Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
 Children's Action Hevra/Ralph Bunche 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.3)
 School Partnership Meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
 Limud: Who Believes in Angels?* 10:00 AM – BJ Office (SEE P.3)
 with MTM Fellow Lauren Thomas
 Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
 Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a* 7:00 PM – BJ Office

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.

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

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK

Help Us Pass the NY State Healthy Teens Act

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 (7104)

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 YENAHEM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to the following members and their families:

- Penny and Steve Dannenberg on the death of Penny's beloved father, Bernard James Leavitt.
- Sharon Lauer Wolf and John C. Wolf on the death of Sharon's beloved aunt, Madeline Balk.
- Robin Kerner on the death of her beloved grandmother, Mildred Kerner.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Lily, Martin, Judith and Lauren Weinberg in honor of Lily becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Pamela, Arnon and Allison Mishkin and Susan Fine in honor of Pamela becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

• The New Israel Fund Forum

Sunday, February 12, 9:00AM-6:00PM at Columbia University: Go past the myths and behind the headlines for a challenging debate about minority rights, the relationship between religion and state, and other issues that go to the heart of 21st century Israel. Rabbi Felicia Sol will offer the opening D'var Torah, and BJ is a congregational sponsor of this event. Forum speaker Dr. Neta Ziv will give a D'var Torah at Shabbat morning services on February 11. Dr. Ziv is a leading civil rights attorney in Israel and past Chair of B'zchut: The Israel Human Rights Center for Persons with Disabilities. For more information, visit www.niforum.org

• Tu Bishevat Concert—Benefit for Teva Learning Center

Thursday, February 16 at 9PM at Anshe Chesed Synagogue, 251 West 100th St.: Celebrate Tu Bishevat with a night of inspiring music while supporting the work of the Teva Learning Center. Featuring performances by Divahn, Chana Rothman, and Tevalution. Admission: \$54/\$20 student and limited income. For more information or tickets, visit www.tevacenter.org/concert.asp or call 212-807-6376.

• BJ Israel Photo Exhibit at 88th St. Frankel Hall

See Israel through the eyes of one of our teen travelers who recently returned from BJ's 180th Anniversary trip! Maia Kallen is a senior at LaGuardia High School in Manhattan, where she majors in fine art and photography. Her photos will be available for viewing starting this weekend.

• 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.

• Israel Speaker Series: Gershom Gorenberg

Thursday, March 16, 7:00PM at 88th St.: Noted Israeli journalist and author Gershom Gorenberg will speak about his book, *The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements*, a new picture of post-1967 Israel. Co-sponsored by the New Israel Fund. Admission is free.

- Max, Donald, Kate, Grace, and Louis Gilbert in honor of Max becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush and flowers for the bimah have been sponsored by Susan Fine and Arnon Mishkin and Martin and Judith Weinberg in honor of their daughters, Pamela Mishkin and Lily Weinberg becoming B'not Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- David Iskovitz, Director of Education, 7th grade students, Temple B'nai Or, Morristown, New Jersey.
- Confirmation Class of Temple Dor Dorim, Weston, Florida.



• Have your own Tu Bishevat Seder this year!

The BJ website is featuring a few links to sites that show you—step by step—how to host your own seder. Go to www.bj.org and click on "Mitzvot" (under "Limud" in the left navigation) and follow the link to Tu Bishevat.

• Contemplative Retreat

April 7–9, Elat Chayyim: This three-day retreat will be led by Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan. Participants will be guided in connecting with the Torah in a personal way through study, contemplation, and prayer. We will walk together on the path of revelation. Register online at www.bj.org or call the BJ office, x240.

• BJ Women's Retreat 2006

April 21–23, Camp Isabella Freedman: This year's retreat will be led by Rabbis Felicia Sol and Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Katie Mizrahi. Visit www.bj.org/womens_rtrt_2006.php or contact Charles Lenchner at clenchner@bj.org or x240 for more information and to register.

• Potluck Shabbat Lunches—Another Experiment at BJ!

On those Shabbatot when there is no sponsored Kiddush, the Social Hall will be available following services (12:30-2:30PM) to those members who wish to bring a potluck or brown-bag lunch (dairy/vegetarian). Have lunch, study text or just spend time with one another on Shabbat. Check the Kol Jeshurun on the BJ website on Fridays to see if there is a Kiddush. Please contact Helen Radin at x233 if you would like to reserve space in the Social Hall, which 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! 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 at x233.

• Help BJ Kids Attend Jewish Summer Camp

The Beba Bronstein Jewish Camp Scholarship Fund, established in memory of Rabbi Bronstein's beloved mother, will enable needy children within the BJ community to attend Jewish summer camps. Beba Bronstein was a lover and supporter of Jewish summer camps in Argentina and this is a most fitting tribute to her. Requests for help have already arrived, and your support is needed. Please consider donating to this fund.

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, where you can indicate which days you're planning to attend. You can see how many people have signed up for the current week—and where our need is greatest.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• **Children’s Action Hevra—BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership**
Wednesday, February 15, 7:00PM–9:00PM at 88th St. Frankel Hall:
 Would you like to make a difference in the lives of NYC school children? If so, please come to the Annual Meeting of the Children’s Action Hevra. Learn about our successful program at the Ralph Bunche School. Help us plan future directions. RSVP to x301 or rjoseph@aaahawk.com

• **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.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• **Volunteer to Help Lead March Junior Congregation!**
 All of BJ’s children who are in 3rd grade and up are invited to help lead our Junior Congregation service. If your child is interested in helping to lead part of the March Junior Congregation service on Saturday, March 4, please contact Hollis at hgauss@bj.org or x244 by **Wednesday, February 22**.

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, fruit, nuts, or a kosher dessert to get in the door. *Are you on the list?* To keep informed about coming events, join our listserv by emailing bjtzeirim-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

LEDOR VADOR

• **Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon—Architecture & History**
Saturday, February 25 following Shabbat services, at 88th St.: Join Ledor Vador as we celebrate B’nai Jeshurun’s 180th anniversary with an intergenerational luncheon featuring BJ members Susan Miller and

Bonnie Roche. Susan will share the history and architecture of our beloved Sanctuary. Bonnie will discuss synagogue architecture, highlighting how synagogues are used as theatrical spaces. Please RSVP to x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending, and send a check to the BJ office (address below) for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with “Ledor Vador 2/25” on the memo line. Children are welcome to attend free of charge.

LGBTQ


• **BJ LGBTQ**
 BJ Gay will be meeting after the late service on **Friday, February 17** at the rear of the 88th St. Sanctuary. All members of the LGBTQ community at BJ, and their families and friends, are welcome. Email Joe at joentanson@msn.com for more information.



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

See attached flier for a complete list of upcoming events.

TORAH FACT



The Melody of Torah: We listen to the Kriat HaTorah (Torah reading) as it has been done since the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem 2000 years ago, and we hear the words of Torah chanted as a melody. In ancient times, study was done with melody because it provided information on phrasing, helped in the interpretation of the words, and made it easier to memorize.

Cantillation (singing marks) was added to the words in the Humash to preserve the melody. This system is rooted in the Tiberian masorah (Jewish tradition). As notes on the page of a score provide the melody to the singer, cantillation on the words of Torah provide the melody to the reader. When properly chanted, we hear the words of Torah in a beautiful melody that adds clearer meaning and helps give us a deeper understanding of Judaism’s guide to life. —Lynda Fisher

UPCOMING LIMUD

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

• **What Is Torah?**
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
6 Wednesdays (remaining classes February 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.

• **Who Believes in Angels?**
Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow Lauren Thomas
6 Thursdays (remaining classes February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16) • 10:00-11:30AM • BJ Office • Cost: Free, registration required
 This class will explore the appearance of angels in biblical and rabbinic literature. We will look at the angelic encounters of Abraham, Hagar, Jacob and Joseph as well as the appearance of angels in the Talmud. We

will explore their appearance, their role, and their language as well as their function within theology. All are welcome.

• **Torah: From The Word To The Mitzvah**
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol
4 Tuesdays (final class 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.

• **Rosh Hodesh Women’s Group for Adar**
Monday, February 27 • 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.

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 1881, the following changes were adopted by the Congregation: 1) Discontinuing the custom of making a "Misheberach" except in the case of naming a child or in case of sickness; 2) Limiting the blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah to four kolot in lieu of the usual thirty; and 3) Discontinuing the use of the Chupah and the breaking of the glass when wedding ceremonies were performed at any place other than the Synagogue. Go figure.

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.

A LETTER FROM HAMIDRASHA ABOUT BJ'S ISRAEL TRIP

Our dear BJ friends,

Days after lighting the last candles of the menorah, our hearts are still bright and gleaming with the miracle that happened here this special Hanukkah, when 180 members of the BJ family joined our families for an incredible Kabbalat Shabbat in the auditorium of the former Cameri Theatre in Tel Aviv...

It was a miracle we didn't even dare dream only a few years ago—to have so many of you here with us and to have hundreds of "secular" Israelis come from communities all over Israel—Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Zichron Ya'acov, Nahalal and more—to pray together! (The event attracted the Israeli press, with articles appearing in two major newspapers this Sunday). It was truly an amazing and holy experience which left us deeply touched and inspired...

As we at Hamidrasha are working to create new models for Jewish spirituality and the revitalization of Jewish communities in Israel, we face many challenges and obstacles. Being together with you deepens our commitment to this vision and reminds us of miracles and dreams which are beginning to become reality.

May we share many more miraculous moments together in 2006!

—Moti, Saraleh, Chen and all of your friends at Hamidrasha

Hamidrasha, one of BJ's closest partners in Israel, was formed by a group of Israeli educators to provide secular Israelis with "opportunities for meaningful, modern Jewish education, prayer, and connection."

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