



**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 17 - 24, 2006 19 - 26 Shevat, 5766

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

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NEXT WEEK: **MISHPATIM**  
PARASHAT SHABBAT SHEKALIM  
MEVARKHIM HAHOESH

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 21:1 - 24:18  
**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 22:4 - 23:19  
**HAFTARAH** II Kings 12:1 - 17

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 5:30 PM – 88th St.  
Tot Shabbat 5:45 PM – 86th St.  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:15 PM – 88th St.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
Shabbat Services 9:30 AM – 86th St.  
Children's Services 10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel

Minha/Ma'ariv 5:00 PM – 88th St.  
Bar Mitzvah Eric Singerman

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**  
Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – 88th St.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20** **PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
BJ OFFICE CLOSED  
BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED  
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.  
*Limud: Me'ah and Intro to Judaism* NO CLASSES THIS WEEK

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.  
*Limud: Gems From Genesis\** 8:10 AM – 88th St.  
with Rabbi Hillel Friedman

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
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.2)  
with Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
BJ HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED  
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.  
*Limud: Who Believes in Angels?\** 10:00 AM – BJ Office (SEE P.2)  
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 24**  
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.

See attached flier for more information about  
**THE DARKHEI NO'AM COMMUNITY HUPPAH**  
Deadline for turning in completed squares EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, MARCH 3!

\* Please see the the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://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 (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 YENAH'EM

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

- Marisha Krupkin and Dennis Neier on the death of Marisha's beloved father, Michael Krupkin.
- Bonnie and Carl Seligson, Nina, Ari, Aaron, Mariel and Sofia Priven on the death of Bonnie's beloved mother, Nina's beloved grandmother and the children's beloved great-grandmother, Lillian Laskin.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### • 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.

### • 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](mailto: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 be speaking about his new book, *The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements*. Based on previously unpublished documents and interviews, he presents a strikingly new picture of Israel's post-1967 history and Israel-U.S. relations. Co-sponsored by the New Israel Fund. Admission is free.

### • Sounds of Hope A Concert to Benefit Meir Panim

**Sunday, March 19, 7:00PM** at Lincoln Center/Avery Fisher Hall: This one-time-only performance is set to the inspiring music of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and includes rarely seen video clips of Carlebach

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Eric, Jeffery, and Lydia Singerman and Ruth Borchardt in honor of Eric becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Estare and David Weiser, and Stacey and Steven Weiser on the birth of their granddaughter and daughter, Lana Sasha.

### B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Youth advisors, educators, and teens from Temple Israel of Greater Miami, Florida and Congregation Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Rabbi (Commander) Irving A. Elson and Jewish midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

himself. Acclaimed performers Dudu Fisher, Avraham Fried, and Elli Kranzler will be accompanied by a symphony orchestra and a children's choir comprised of 150 children from seven area day schools. This concert will build Meir Panim's newest facility, which will feed an additional 50,000 Israeli children a day. Tickets are available at [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org) or by calling 212-875-5030.

### • 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.

### • Help Homeless New Yorkers: Everyone Counts!

On **Monday, February 27**, the Department of Homeless Services will conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE 2006). Volunteers are needed to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people living on city streets. Volunteers will meet at 10:30PM at sites located throughout the five boroughs. After a brief training, teams will disperse to count homeless individuals from midnight until 4:00AM. For more information and to register, visit [www.nyc.gov/dhs](http://www.nyc.gov/dhs) or call 311.



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

See attached flier and the BJ website at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org)  
for a complete list of upcoming events.

## UPCOMING LIMUD

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

### • What Is Torah?

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

**6 Wednesdays (remaining classes February 22, March 1, 8) •**

**6:30-8:00PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • 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 Rabbinc Fellow Lauren Thomas

**6 Thursdays (remaining classes February 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.

### • 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.

### • Contemplative Practice

Rabbis Marcelo R. Bronstein and Rachel Cowan

**Wednesday, March 1 • 6:30-9:30PM • Makom Room, The JCC, 334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th St. • Cost: Free, registration required**  
*Working on our souls, working in the world: linking the inner and the outer.* 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!

**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.

• **Join the Hunger Action Network of New York State and the Empire State Economic Security (ES2) Campaign for a Legislative Education and Action Day**  
**Tuesday, February 28:** Head up to Albany to urge the New York State Legislative to enact a fair state tax system instead of cutting services, ensure quality health care for all, and create real jobs for low-income New Yorkers. To register, please call 212-741-8192 or 518-434-7371.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION**

• **PJs and Havdalah**  
**Saturday, February 25** at 5:30PM at 88th St.: Families with young children are invited to come, in their pajamas, for Shabbat learning and sing-a-long which will conclude with a musical Havdalah, juice and cookies. Please contact Kerrith at x253 with any questions.

• **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.**

**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 joeantenson@msn.com for more information.

**INTERFAITH**

• **Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses, and Crescents with author Dr. Mark Podwal**  
**Thursday, March 9** at 7:00PM 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*, a children's book explaining the meaning of Jerusalem for the three major religions. Dr. Podwal will describe the book's origins 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



**SPRING 2006 RETREATS**

Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) for these special weekends:

- **Working on Our Souls, Working in the World: Linking the Inner and the Outer**  
**April 7–9, Elat Chayyim:** Our annual meditation retreat, led by Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan. Explore contemplative practice as a resource for inspiring, supporting and sustaining wise social action. As we organize to change conditions of injustice, we must also be aware of tendencies towards injustice within ourselves and develop practices for becoming mindful of them. Through prayer, study, song and meditation, we will cultivate an awareness to become kinder, more compassionate and more effective activists, able to build communities of action that support their members. Cost: \$280 per person, double room/\$330 single for BJ members who sign up by March 20.
- **2006 BJ Women's Retreat**  
**April 21–23, Camp Isabella Freedman, Falls Village, CT:** BJ's fifth annual Women's Retreat, led in honor of our 180th anniversary by Rabbis Felicia Sol and Katie Mizrahi. Be part of a Shabbat weekend devoted to encountering tradition—and ourselves—through kol nashim (women's voices). This is a great opportunity for women seeking a "time out" from the stress of New York living, a chance to be in intimate spiritual community, and a way for new or less-connected members to deepen their BJ experience. Cost: \$210–\$285 for BJ members who sign up by March 30.

Prices will be slighter higher for non-members and those who register late, if space allows. Contact Charles Lenchner at x240 or clenchner@bj.org for more information.

**TORAH FACT**



**The Ceremony of the Torah Service (Part I):** Moses began the tradition of publicly reading the Torah out loud, a practice that has continued, with some breaks, since the 2nd century BCE. Over the years, ceremonial traditions evolved for the Shabbat Torah service that not only highlight the importance of Torah in Judaism but also add the beauty of hearing the melody of its words.

As the service begins, the congregation rises out of respect for the Torah and recites verses of praise as the peticha (Ark) is opened and the scroll is taken out (hotza'ah) and carried around the synagogue in a procession. This allows congregants the opportunity to be close to the sacred text, and to reach out, touch it, and kiss it, before the scroll is placed on the bimah\* for the reading of the parasha. This tangible act of touching the Torah creates a physical connection to our religious law and is, for most people, the closest they will come to the actual parchment. —Lynda Fisher

\* Ashkenazi congregations carry the scroll in its mantel (cloak), and the scroll lies flat on the bimah when read. Sephardic congregations carry the Torah inside a large wooden cylinder, and it is read from an upright position.

**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 see how many people have signed up for the current week—and where our need is greatest.

**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 Congregation took the initiative of calling a convention to consider the subject of Sabbath observance. A committee of nine was appointed to canvass the sentiment of the Congregation. In 1880, a committee was again appointed to attend a general session of the Executive Board of the inter-congregational Sabbath Association.

**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.

**LOST & FOUND**

**FOUND:** child's "Harry Potter" hat and gloves. To claim, call Roma x258.

**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.*

**NORMALIZING TRAVEL TO ISRAEL**

**By Elan Ezrachi**

The majority of Jews in America have not been to Israel. For most American Jews Israel is not considered a natural destination for tourism, family visits or pilgrimage.

This reality is a major source of frustration for Israelis and lovers of Zion around the world. It is well documented and a proven fact: Israel travel programs are highly successful and effective. We have learned from numerous studies that young people who visit Israel are invigorated, and that the impact of the visit could last a long time and lead them to a more active Jewish life. So the main problem is not in the trip itself, but rather, in the motivation and the communal attitude toward the notion of travel to Israel.

We are now witnessing an impressive rebound. Youth travel, birthright israel (the partnership between philanthropists, communities and the State of Israel for free travel to Israel), synagogue trips and other initiatives all have brought the numbers back and there is a possibility for breaking new records in the summer of 2006. More significantly, the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency launched MASA—Israel Journey, a large scale initiative that encourages young adults to spend semester to year long programs in Israel.

It is our challenge to make the various Israel experiences more normative, more desirable and more accessible to those who have difficulties getting there. We have a great window of opportunity for building bridges and strengthening the sense of Jewish peoplehood among the next generation. Let us hope that in the future we will be able to begin a report with the sentence: "The Majority of American Jews have been to Israel."

*Elan Ezrachi is the Executive Director of MASA—Israel Journey, the gateway to long-term Israel programs: [www.masaisrael.org](http://www.masaisrael.org). BJ will be announcing upcoming community Israel trips this Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day), in early May.*

*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