



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 24 - March 3, 2006

26 Shevat - 3 Adar, 5766

MISHPATIM

SHABBAT SHEKALIM
 MEVARKHIM HA_HODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 21:1 - 24:18
TRIENNIAL Exodus 22:4 - 23:19
MAFTIR Exodus 30:11 - 16
HAFTARAH II Kings 12:1 - 17

NEXT WEEK: **TERUMAH**

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 25:1 - 27:19
TRIENNIAL Exodus 26:1 - 26:30
HAFTARAH I Kings 5:26 - 6:13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 5:30 PM – 88th St.
 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:15 PM – 88th St.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM – 86th St.
 Children's Services 10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel
 Aliyat Hatan VeKallah Jacob Krayn and Anna Gurvich
 Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon Following Services – 88th St. (SEE P.3)
 PJs and Havdalah 5:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26
 Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – 88th St.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
 Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
 Women's Rosh Hodesh Group 7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 **ROSH HODESH ADAR**
 Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
*Limud: Gems From Genesis** 8:10 AM – 88th St.
 with Rabbi Hillel Friedman

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 **ROSH HODESH ADAR**
 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
*Limud: Contemplative Practice** 6:30 PM – The JCC (SEE P.2)
 with Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan

THURSDAY, MARCH 2
 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, MARCH 3
 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!

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.

* 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 YENAHM

- *The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our longtime member Sylvia Backlar and extends sincere condolences to her family.*
- *The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Hanna and Jeffrey Moskin and their family on the death of Hanna's beloved mother, Fannie Cohen.*

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Jacob Krayn and Anna Gurchich and their families on their upcoming wedding.
- Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow Rabbi Rachel Gartner (2001-2003) and David Ebenbach on the birth of their son.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

• 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 this 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 sit together.

• A Call to Action on Darfur: Symposium

Sunday, March 12, 1:00PM at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place: Learn about the history and current situation in the Sudan with experts and Jewish community leaders. The event is free. For more information, visit www.mjhnyc.org



• Purim!

Monday, March 13, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30PM: Plays, costumes, noisemakers and hamantaschen at this year's Purim events. Tots: 5:30PM (88th St.). Families: 6:30PM (88th St.). Megillah reading: 7:30PM (SPSA Sanctuary). Come find out what our rabbis will be wearing!

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 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 Rabbinic Fellow Lauren Thomas

6 Thursdays (remaining classes 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 • 7:00PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration not required

- Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow Rabbi Kliel Rose (2003-2005), Doris Kosmin, Toviell and Kolya on the birth of their daughter and sister.
- Susan and Arthur Elefant on the birth of their granddaughter, Morgan Faye Elefant.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Ellyn Becker, Director of Education and Confirmation Class of Temple Beth Shalom, Annapolis, Maryland.
- Josh Borkin, Education Programs Associate and students participating in the Spiritual Journeys Program at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City.
- Rabbi Karen Bender, youth director Ron Saykin, and students of Temple Judea, Tarzana, California.
- Rabbi Isaac Serotta and Confirmation Class, Lakeside Congregation, Hyland Park, Illinois.
- Rabbi Sharon Marcus and students, Park Synagogue, Cleveland, Ohio.

• 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 himself. Acclaimed performers Dudu Fisher, Avraham Fried, and Elli Kranzler will be accompanied by an orchestra and a 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: 212-875-5030 or www.lincolncenter.org

• Save the Date: Save Darfur Rally

Sunday, April 30, Washington, DC: BJ is working with Upper West Side Congregations and the faith community to organize buses for this important rally. Stay tuned for more info. We also need volunteers willing to serve as bus captains, and to help build awareness around this issue. Contact Charles Lenchner at x240 or clenchner@bj.org

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!

• Building a Personal Theology of Revelation

Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein

4 Wednesdays (March 8, 15, 22, 29) •

7:00-8:30PM • 88th St. • Cost: Free, registration required
Through the process of analyzing texts dealing with revelation, we will explore building a personal theology centered on a personal and communal notion of revelation.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• **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.

TZE'IRIM: 20S/30S

• **Wine and Dessert Potluck Party**
Friday, March 10 at 9:00PM: Join us in the home of one of our members for a night of socializing with great food and great people. Please bring a bottle of wine, a dessert, or fruit to share. RSVP to shabbatwithoutchairs@yahoo.com by Wednesday, March 8.

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.

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

BJ BOOK GROUP

Sunday, March 12 at 7:00PM at 88th St.: Please join the BJ Book Group as we meet to discuss Philip Roth's award-winning novel, *The Plot Against America*. Told through the eyes of a young Jewish boy in Newark, the story revolves around the idea of aviation hero and isolationist Charles Lindbergh running for president in 1940 against Roosevelt, promising to keep America out of war. It's about a boy and a nation losing their innocence.



SPRING 2006 RETREATS

Register at 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 slightly 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 II): The Talmud says that three people should stand on the bimah as the Sefer Torah is read. It stresses that one should not stand alone, since God gave the Torah through an intermediary. The reader should be joined by a person to correct the reader's pronunciation, and a gabbai* (a synagogue official) who calls people up to the Torah. The oleh (person receiving the aliyah) says two blessings. The blessing before the reading emphasizes that God chose Israel to receive the Torah and refers to giving the Torah at Sinai. The blessing after the reading refers to the Oral Torah.

After the parasha is read, the congregation stands, and the person honored with a custom dating back to the seventh century lifts the Torah (hagbah), and opens it to show the congregants three to five columns of sacred text. The cantor recites a verse from Psalms and the congregation responds, usually holding fingers toward the scroll and once again kissing them as a symbolic gesture of kissing the Sefer Torah. Other honors include rerolling the scroll, dressing it (glilah) and holding it while the haftarah is read (on Shabbat and festival services).

—Lynda Fisher

* Freddy Goldstein is our head gabbai.

180TH ANNIVERSARY • 1825-2005

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

See attached flier and the BJ website at www.bj.org for a complete list of upcoming events.

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 1877, conversation during the service, which seems to have been especially common among the ladies, was strictly forbidden. Cards were printed bearing the following rules: 1) Members on entering the Synagogue will please not salute their friends while passing to the pews; 2) They will not converse or turn towards the choir during the service; and 3) They will not remove their Taleisim nor make any other preparation for leaving until after the benediction.

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 7:15 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 CHILD'S POEM, A FAREWELL TO ANDREA SIEGEL

As Andrea Siegel, our extraordinary Israel Educator/Trip Coordinator, leaves us to complete her doctorate at Columbia University, we wanted to print this e-mail of thanks, which captures our gratitude for her consummate vision and talent in shaping BJ's 180th Anniversary trip to Israel.

Hi Andrea,

Welcome Home!!

I know that you must be exhausted and relieved, and joyful, I hope, too, at the incredible experiences that you have brought to so many. The trip was absolutely phenomenal; a work of genius to coordinate so many needs and desires, and with such success. And in the end, to have given us such rich gifts of contacts with Israelis, history, flavors and colors and wondrous exposure to so many different parts of Israel, of Jewish experience, and of being together. It was truly magnificent.

Last night, just before sleepily crawling into bed, Sophie wrote out this poem, and asked me to send it along to you. My kids will remember this trip forever, and will surely build on it, personally/socially as well as spiritually and intellectually, in manifold ways that I don't think we can even begin to imagine yet.

I look forward to speaking with you in more detail. Thank you for everything!

—Jeannie Blaustein

ISRAEL—by Sophie Bokor

Lighting sandy menorahs together,
Praying at the Western Wall,
With more than 180 people,
BJ isn't small!

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