



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 Dara Frimmer • Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt • Brent Chaim Spodek • Chen Ben Or Tsfonti

February 9 - 16, 2007

21 - 28 Shevat, 5767

YITRO

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 18:1 - 20:23

TRIENNIAL Exodus 19:1 - 20:23

HAFTARAH Isaiah 6:1 - 7:6; 9:5 - 6

NEXT WEEK: **MISHPATIM**

SHABBAT SHEKALIM

MEVARKHIM HAHOESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

TRIENNIAL Exodus 23:20 - 24:18

MAFTIR Exodus 30:11 - 16

HAFTARAH II Kings 12:1 - 17, I Samuel 20:18, 20:42

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

**Do They Represent You?
Call your State Senators and
Assembly Members!**

Panim el Panim, BJ's Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative, needs your help. Two bills that BJ has chosen to support are being reintroduced in the State Senate and Assembly in Albany.

Healthy Teens Act—Would give New York families access to sex education that is comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate. Join BJ's Women's Rights Hevra in this vital effort! More info: getthefactsny.org

Marriage Equality Act—Would grant same-sex couples access to the rights and responsibilities of civil marriage in New York State. Join BJ's Marriage Equality Hevra in one of the biggest civil rights struggles of our time! More info: prideagenda.org

Call your state reps and ask them to sign on as cosponsors of the bills. If they already have, thank them. If not, ask them to do so right away! Not sure who represents you? Go to assembly.state.ny.us and senate.state.ny.us

To get more involved:

Women's Rights Hevra: contact
Cindy Wachenheim, cwachen@yahoo.com

Marriage Equality Hevra: contact
Susan Olderman, susanolderman@yahoo.com
Or call Guy Austrian, x259.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

5:45 PM – 88th St.

Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner

Following 5:45 PM Service –
88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

BJHS Reach for Shabbat Dinner

Following 5:45 PM Service –
86th St. Social Hall

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:15 PM – 88th St.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM – 86th St.

Junior Congregation

10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall

Children's Services

10:45 AM – 86th St. Parlor and Chapel

Bat Mitzvah

Isabel Tsesarsky

Naming

Nina Elise Gross

Community Kiddush

Following Services – 86th St.

The Tefillat Ensemble

4:30 PM – 86th St.

performance and discussion

followed by havdalah (SEE P.2)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM – 88th St.

BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

7:00 PM – 86th St. Social Hall

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

7:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM – BJ Office

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Limud: Gems of Genesis*

8:10 AM – 88th St.

Second Grade Families Cook for the Shelter

5:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

7:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Kesharim

2:00 PM – 88th St.

Limud: Heschel: Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*

6:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

7:00 PM – 86th St. Social Hall

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: Mekhilta De Rabbi Ishmael*

12:30 PM – BJ Office (SEE P.2)

BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

7:00 PM – 86th St. Social Hall

Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*

7:00 PM – BJ Office

Limud: Introduction to Islam*

7:15 PM – 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.2)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Isabel, Mark, Robyn, Jacob, Emanuela and Daniel Tsesarsky on Isabel becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Sharon, Phil and Eli Gross on the naming of their daughter and sister, Nina Elise.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by the Tsesarsky family in honor of Isabel becoming a Bat Mitzvah, and by Sharon,

Phil and Eli Gross in honor of the naming of their daughter and sister, Nina Elise.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Susan Talve and Confirmation Class, Central Reform Congregation, St. Louis, Missouri.
- Rabbi Darah Lerner and 12th Graders, Congregation Beth El, Bangor, Maine.
- BJ former MTM Fellows Meir Feldman, Eric Solomon, Yael Ridberg, Joshua Levine Grater, and Jessica Zimmerman.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- **Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with The Tefillat Ensemble**
Friday, February 9: Enjoy Shabbat dinner with The Tefillat Ensemble! \$40 members/\$50 non-members. Registration is first-come, first-served. Don't delay, register today! Please visit www.bj.org or contact Amanda at x233. The Ensemble will also offer a performance and discussion, followed by havdalah, on Saturday, February 10.

- **Community Shabbat B'Yahad with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller**
Friday, March 9, following the 5:45PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Share Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller as he explores the topic of "Science and Religion: Concord or Discord." Register before March 2, \$40 members/\$50 non-members; after March 2, \$50/\$60. Registration is first-come, first-served. The last three Community Shabbat dinners sold out. Don't delay, register today! Online registration at www.bj.org begins February 12, or contact Amanda at x233.

- **Additional Teacher in Residence Events with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller**
Saturday, March 10, 5:00PM, 88th Street: Lecture, followed by havdalah: "Terror in the name of God: Does religious ideology promote violence?"

Thursday, March 15, 7:00PM, 88th Street: "What's Different about the Mah Nishtanah? On the Dynamic Development of the Passover Seder and the Haggadah."

- **6th Annual BJ Women's Retreat**
March 16-18, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center: Retreat from the city for a weekend of building community, being in nature and finding our voices together. Registration is now available at www.bj.org or contact Amanda at x233 to request an application.

- **BJ Pesah Seder Match**
Believe it or not, Pesah is less than eight weeks away! If you are making a seder, please consider doing the mitzvah of *hakhnasat orhim* (welcoming in guests) by extending your table to host a few people from the BJ community. If you have never before made a Passover seder and would like to give it a try, why not go for it this year—we will be happy to help you along. You can make the seder on your own, we can help you find a seder buddy, it can be done potluck style, or people can chip in and have it catered. To volunteer to be a seder host, contact pesah@bj.org or x234.

UPCOMING LIMUD

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

CLASSES IN PROGRESS:

- **Abraham Joshua Heschel: Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity**
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
6 Wednesdays (remaining class February 14) • 6:30–8:00PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration required.

- **Lunchtime class: Text Study on Mekhilta De Rabbi Ishmael**
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol
6 Thursdays (remaining class February 15) • 12:30–1:45PM
• BJ Office, Ansonia Building, 2109 Broadway, Suite 203 • Cost: Free, registration required.

First Annual Stuart Polly Interfaith Study

- **Introduction to Islam for Jews and Christians**
Rabbi David Freidenreich, PhD
4 Thursdays (remaining classes February 15, 22) • 7:15–9:00PM • 86th St. Chapel • Cost: Free, registration required.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

- **Women's Rosh Hodesh Group for Adar**
Rabbis Felicia L. Sol, Dara Frimmer, and Lauren Holtzblatt
Monday, February 19 • 7:00PM • 88th St. • Cost: Free, registration

not required. Each new month on the Hebrew calendar, we will have an opportunity to study, discuss, celebrate and pray together on this holiday traditionally associated with women. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian kosher snack to share with the group.

- **Jewish Practice Skills Workshop: Shabbat**
Rabbi Dara Frimmer
3 Tuesdays (February 27, March 6) and Learner's Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 2 • 7:00–8:30PM • 86th St. Chapel; Shabbat dinner location TBA • Cost: Free, registration required. How do we make our Shabbat practice more meaningful? This class will explore the rituals, blessings, and music of Shabbat.

- **The End of Patriarchy: A Redefinition of the Male Jewish Voice**
Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein
5 Wednesdays (February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28) • 7:00–8:30PM • 88th St. Frankel Hall • Cost: Free, registration required. We will study male Jewish voices from the texts of our tradition and examine how these voices have created models of behavior in our collective unconscious for the sake of looking for new paradigms of what it means to be a man. For men only. We also hope to have a Men's Retreat, date TBA.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• **Judaism and Sexuality: An Educational Event**
Tuesday, March 6, 7:00–8:30PM, 88th Street: Join Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and the Women’s Rights Hevra of Panim el Panim for a stimulating discussion of how our tradition wrestles with human sexuality. For more information: contact Judith Trachtenberg, jtrachte@aol.com or call Guy, x259.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• **Second Graders Cook for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter**
Tuesday, February 13, 5:00-6:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: All of BJ's second graders and their families are invited to prepare a simple meal for the guests of the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. To participate, please RSVP to our February coordinator, Nancy Kline, at nfkline@aol.com no later than Friday, February 9.

• **Junior Congregation**
Saturday, February 17, 10:30AM: We’re looking for leaders and participants for our next Shabbat morning Junior Congregation. Please contact Rebecca Rosenthal at rrosenthal@bj.org or x243 if you want to lead or learn to lead any of the prayers. Don’t delay—spots fill up fast!

TZE'IRIM: 20S/30S

• **Neighborhood Shabbat Dinners**
Friday, February 23, following the late service: Would you like to spend Shabbat with your neighbors? We have hosts in the following neighborhoods: New Jersey, Yonkers, Upper East Side, Upper West Side and Gramercy Park. If you are interested in attending any of these neighborhood dinners, please contact shabbatwithoutchairs@yahoo.com with your name, age and preferred location.

• **Cooking for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter**
Monday, February 26, 6:00PM: No cooking experience is necessary, and the cost of groceries will be split between all volunteers (about \$8–10/person). Please RSVP to Susan and Rebekah at tzvolunteers@yahoo.com The next cooking date will be Monday, March 26.

• **Tze'irim Book Club**
Tuesday, February 27, 7:00PM: *Someone to Run With: A Novel* by David Grossman. Please RSVP to David Epstein at dae323@hotmail.com

MORNING MINYAN SPECIAL EVENT

Thursday, March 8, 7:30AM, 88th Street: Come and meet one of our new MTM fellows, Brent Chaim Spodek, at morning minyan. Service will be at 7:30AM, followed by a light breakfast as Brent offers some thoughts on the weekly parasha.

LEDOR VADOR

• **Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon—Honoring the Shekhinah through Dress: One Woman’s Journey of Self-Discovery**
Saturday, February 24, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Ledor Vador continues our series of featuring vibrant women in the BJ community through our Shabbat luncheons. Tziporah Salamon will entertain us through a rich tapestry of pictures, stories and costumes. Please RSVP at x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Also, send a check to the BJ office for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with “Ledor Vador 2/24” on the memo line. Children are welcome to attend free of charge.

BJ BOOK GROUP

• **The Genizah at the House of Shepherd, by Tamar Yellin**
Tuesday, March 6, 7:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Shulamit, a biblical scholar from England, returns to her grandparents’ home in Jerusalem for a visit, after an absence of many years. Almost immediately she becomes embroiled in a family feud over possession of the so-called Shepherd Codex, a mysterious and valuable manuscript which has been discovered in the attic.



**SAVE THE DATES...
 PURIM EVENTS—MARCH 3 AND 4**

FOR FAMILIES:

Saturday, March 3, 6:30PM, 86th Street:
 Family Megillah reading with special guests.
 Costumes encouraged!

Sunday, March 4, 12:30PM, 88th Street:
 Purim Carnival—Food, prizes and much, much more!

Sunday, March 4, 1:45PM, 88th Street:
 Annual Purim Play
 Come watch our BJ students shine on stage!

FOR ADULTS:

Saturday, March 3, 7:30PM, 88th Street:
 Megillah Reading like never before. Costumes encouraged!
 Masquerade Ball immediately following Megillah reading.
 Costumes required! Featuring music, exceptional food, spectacular libations, dancing, fortune-telling, prizes for best costume and many more surprises!

Sunday, March 4, 9:30 AM: 88th Street:
 Megillah reading for all!

Listen to Purim songs by Ari and the BJ musicians!
 Go to www.bj.org
 and click on “BJ CDs, Songbooks, & Music”

• BJ Summer Israel Trip Registration Now Open!

June 28–July 8, 2007: Explore and discover the meaning of “holy” in Israel this summer! Accompany Roly and 75 fellow members on a BJ trip to Israel to participate in Israel’s spiritual renewal by bringing a Torah to our sister community, Hamidrasha/Niggun Halev. Join us in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the North as we strengthen our connection to Israel and spend time with old and new BJ friends. For registration materials, including a preliminary itinerary, please contact Jillian Cameron, jcameron@bj.org or x241.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WELCOME TO B'NAI JESHURUN! If you are unfamiliar with our community and Shabbat services, see our "Welcome to BJ" brochure at the back of the sanctuary, or ask an usher to be seated next to a congregant familiar with the services.

• **Membership at B'nai Jeshurun:** Are you considering joining BJ? Would you like information on becoming a member? BJ is 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 7:15PM Friday night service, please bring books to the back as you leave. Tallitot and damaged books may be brought to the back of the sanctuary after Shabbat services. Men are asked to wear kippot during services. Photography, cell phone use, and food is not permitted in the sanctuary. To prepare for the comfort and security of all, doors open 30 minutes before services begin.

• **Assistive Listening Devices for Services at BJ** are available during services at both 88th and 86th Streets. Contact the ushers at the back of the Sanctuary—and remember to return the devices when you leave.

REMEMBERING HESCHEL

In this centennial year of Abraham Joshua Heschel's birth, it's good for us to remember not only his original and challenging ideas, but also the breathtakingly beautiful language in which he couched them. This year in the Kol Jeshurun we will periodically print short quotations from Rabbi Heschel's works.

"A wide stream of human callousness separates us from the realm of holiness. ... For ages our fathers have labored in building a sacred bridge. We who have not crossed the stream must beware lest we burn the bridge."

—Towards an Understanding of Halakha

JOIN US AT THE BJ MORNING MINYAN: See updated information about the Morning Minyan at www.bj.org/schedule.php where you can indicate what days you plan to attend and view how many people have signed up for the current week—and see where our need is greatest.

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.

BEIT TEFILLA ISRAELI By Esteban Gottfried

During our upcoming July trip to Israel, we will celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat with Beit Tefilla Israeli, a non-Orthodox prayer community in Tel Aviv, which was inspired by B'nai Jeshurun. Esteban Gottfried, a co-founder, recently wrote of Beit Tefilla Israeli's groundbreaking activities:

We are growing in every sense. In the number of members, active participants, and activities, and in the number of people who are exposed to our services and programs. We are assuming a central and prominent place in the Jewish Renewal movement in Israel.

We are constantly asked by secular Israeli groups to help them start Kabbalat Shabbat services and to participate in community gatherings and conferences about Jewish renewal in Israel. Last week, for example, we were invited to help a group of 80 people (35 families) from Savion (one of the wealthiest towns in the country) to do a Shabbat dinner in Savion's Beit Knesset. We wrote text explanations and organized and directed the nigunim and zmirot. People were touched, and wanted to come to Beit Tefilla Israeli as a group to experience our services.

Another exciting evening was the 137th birthday of Chaim Nachman Bialik, Israel's National Poet, who was instrumental with Achad Ha'am in reviving ancient Hebrew into a modern language. Rani Jaeger (one of our leaders) was invited to speak about Beit Tefilla as a renewal of Bialik's initiative to hold Shabbat gatherings in Tel Aviv for secular Israelis 80 years ago. It was amazing to realize that we are continuing Bialik's legacy of renewing Jewish culture and heritage. The audience's reaction to Rani's speech was extraordinary.

Today I participated in the Herzliya Conference on the issue of "Jewish Identity as National Strength." For the first time, in the main national marketplace of ideas, they talked about Judaism as a national project, along with the talks on Iran, the Israel Defense Forces, and Lebanon.

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 • Bikkur Holim • New Havurot Applications