



CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN

**RABBIS:**

J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol

**CANTOR & MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Ari Priven

**MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS:**

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek • Chen Ben Or Tsfofi • Esther Lederman

קול ישורון  
KOL JESHURUN

**VAYETZE**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 28:10 - 32:3

**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 28:10 - 30:13

**HAFTARAH** Hosea 12:13-14:10

NEXT WEEK: **VAYISHLAH**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 32:4 - 36:43

**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 32:4 - 33:20

**HAFTARAH** Ovadiah 1-1:21

**! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY**

• **Hanukkah: A Festival of Eternal Lights**

*Environmental Expo and Dedication of Solar-Powered Ner Tamid*

**Monday, December 10**, 7:00-9:00PM, 88th Street:  
Join us as we rededicate the Ner Tamid, a true Eternal Light powered by the sun, recalling the Hanukkah miracle of the sacred oil that lasted for eight days and symbolizing BJ's commitment to environmental sustainability through the Greening BJ initiative ([www.bj.org/green](http://www.bj.org/green)). The festivities will include Hanukkah candle-lighting, latkes, music, activities for children, and door prizes. The Expo will feature numerous exhibits by organizations and companies promoting sustainable energy and other environment-friendly practices and products to help us all live greener lives. The event is free of charge and open to all. RSVP: Please contact [BJGreenHevra@yahoo.com](mailto:BJGreenHevra@yahoo.com) to let us know you are coming. For more information, call x259.

**November 16 - 23, 2007**

**6 - 13 Kislev, 5768**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

**BJHS 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Family Retreat**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

**Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with**

**Dr. Moshe Halbertal, Teacher in Residence**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

Through Sunday - Isabella Freedman Retreat Center

5:45 PM - 88th St.

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

7:15 PM - 88th St.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

**Shabbat Services**

9:30 AM - 86th St.

**Junior Congregation**

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall

**Children's Services**

10:45 AM - 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

**Bar Mitzvah**

Avi Raber

**Minha**

4:15 PM - 88th St.

**Bar Mitzvah**

Shay Tsfofi

**Dr. Moshe Halbertal, Teacher in Residence:**

4:30 PM - 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.2)

**"Barukh Dayan Emet: Prayer and the Problem of Evil" (concludes with havdalah)**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM - 88th St.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Introduction to Judaism\***

7:00 PM - BJ Office

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: The Book of Genesis\***

8:10 AM - 88th St.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Heschel's Heavenly Torah\***

No class this week

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

7:00 PM - 86th St. (SEE P.2)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

**BJ OFFICE CLOSED • BJHS CLOSED**

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM - 88th St.

**Judith Bernstein Lunch Program**

Cancelled this week

**Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a\***

No class this week

**Thanksgiving**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**BJ OFFICE CLOSED**

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM - 88th St.

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

## Announcements

### HA-MAKOM YENAHM

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

- Barbara Pleshko-Berger and Mel Berger on the death of Barbara's beloved mother, Doris Pleshko.
- Cathy Taub and Lowell, Oliver, and Jullian Freiberg on the death of Cathy's beloved father, Jesse Taub.

### MAZAL TOV

- Avi, Steven, Lynn and Rebekah Raber on Avi becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Shay, Guy, Michal and Nir Tsfofi and Chen Ben Or Tsfofi on Shay becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

## Community Activities

### • Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with Dr. Moshe Halbertal, Teacher in Residence

**Friday, November 16**, following the early service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Pre-registration required. Dr. Halbertal will teach at the dinner on the topic "The Idea of the Holy (Kedusha)." Dr. Halbertal will also offer a teaching on **Saturday, November 17**, at 4:30PM at the 86th Street Social Hall entitled "Barukh Dayan Emet: Prayer and the Problem of Evil" (free, no registration required).

### • Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

**Wednesday, November 21**, 7:00PM, 86th Street Sanctuary: Come join with our neighbors of all faith traditions to give thanks on the eve of Thanksgiving. There will be a light reception after the service. Clergy from several churches and synagogues will be participating, and money raised that evening will be given to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

### • Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ

**Friday, December 7**, following the late service, 88th Street: Gather with old and new friends as we celebrate Hanukkah and Shabbat together! The BJ Shabbat Onegs are designed to create a welcoming community for all, taking us on a journey through the powerful beauty of Shabbat with traditional rituals, live music, joyous dancing, singing and food. As the Sanctuary fills with the sounds of Shabbat and Hanukkah melodies, played by Basya Schechter with the popular Jewish band Pharaoh's Daughter, an intimate and sacred time and space is created.

### • Sulha Peace Project

**Wednesday, December 12**, 7:00-8:30PM, 88th Street: Help us support the grassroots spiritual activism in Israel/Palestine by attending the showing of a short Sulha movie, followed by questions and answers and live music. Facilitated by Gabriel Meyer, Sulha Peace Project co-founding director, and Senegalese Sufi Sheik Fara Gaye, Sulha Spirit holder who was present at Sulha's private audience with HH Dalai Lama in Dharamasala, India, 2005. Cost: \$20 at the door, with all proceeds going to Sulha Peace Project.

### • Introducing Services Match—you don't have to attend BJ alone!

If you plan to attend Friday night services for the first time or just want to get re-acquainted with BJ, we will pair you up with a BJ member. He or she will meet you before services and guide you through BJ's one-of-a-kind experience. To request a "Service Match," contact [bjservicematch@yahoo.com](mailto:bjservicematch@yahoo.com) and include 1. the date you plan to attend and whether you prefer the early or late service, 2. your contact information, and 3. a short description of yourself.

### • BJ Israel Trip, June 11-22, 2008: Celebrating Israel at 60 through Social Action and Social Justice

Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and members of the BJ community as we celebrate Israel at 60! Explore the social justice issues in Israel associated with poverty, minority populations, the divide between the religious and secular, the environment, and more! Discover what justice means, meet the people who pursue these goals, hear the voices in the field and engage in both study and direct service opportunities in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. **For registration materials, please contact Ivy Schreiber at [ischreiber@bj.org](mailto:ischreiber@bj.org) or x225.**

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

### • Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah

**Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon**

7 Wednesdays (remaining classes November 28, December 5; no class November 21) • 6:30-8:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. We resume our study of Rabbi Heschel's gigantic work on rabbinic thought in observance of his centennial year. *Heavenly Torah* explores the polarity in Judaism between transcendence and immanence, and between mysticism and rationalism..

### • A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

**Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake?**

**Rabbi Felicia L. Sol**

6 Wednesdays (remaining classes December 5, January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2) • 12:15-1:15PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. Meet monthly to discuss Dr. Rachel Adler's book *Engendering Judaism*, which raises the deep questions of what it means to sustain and create a Judaism that is alive, relevant and inclusive for both men and women, while acknowledging the complicated reality of the "tradition" which is patriarchal at its essence and yet what we've received over thousands of years.

### • Learning The Liturgy: Feeling At Home With The Siddur

**Rabbi Felicia L. Sol**

4 Tuesdays (November 27, December 4, 11, 18) • 7:00-8:30PM • 88th Street • Free; registration required. This class will explore the basic history of the compilation of the siddur, the structure of the liturgy and the rhythm of our davenning in order to help students unlock a deeper prayer experience because they will feel more at home with the siddur and its liturgy. The class will focus primarily on the Shabbat liturgy. The two middle classes will take place during Hanukkah and the Hanukkah will be lit in class.

### • Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Tevet

**Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol and Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Chen Ben Or Tsfofi**

Monday, December 10 • 6:15PM • 86th Street Chapel • 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.

## Creating Kehillah

### SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### • The BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter Needs Sleepover Volunteers

You've prayed with your feet. Now try praying in your sleep! Become a Sleepover Volunteer at the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. You can make an important contribution to social justice while catching up on your Zzzzz's—Sunday through Thursday starting at 9:00PM. If you can give up your own bed for just one night each month (you'll just have a different bed that night), you will be performing a great mitzvah for people in need: the mitzvah of hospitality. You can give ten homeless women the only chance they have for a comfortable and safe night's sleep in a bed at BJ or SPSA. Cap things off with a light breakfast and our homeless guests will be on the bus back to one of two midtown drop-in centers. And you'll be on your way by 7:00AM. Try it! You'll sleep more soundly the rest of the month. Ready to volunteer? Have questions? Need more information? Contact co-chair Anne Millman at [AnnieMill@aol.com](mailto:AnnieMill@aol.com) or x340.

#### • Panim el Panim Community Conversations: A Gathering for Action

WHAT WE HEARD, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

**Monday, January 14**, 7:00-8:30PM, 88th Street: Join us to celebrate BJ's latest round of community conversations about social justice—18 house meetings in November and December. Lay leaders in Panim el Panim will share the major themes—and astonishing stories—that you, the BJ community, brought out in our conversations. Find out what was said, and how it will move BJ into our next phase of action on vital issues affecting us, our neighbors, and our city. Featuring: Learning with Rabbi Felicia Sol, delicious food, and great music! To RSVP or for more info, contact [conversation@bj.org](mailto:conversation@bj.org) or x432.

### YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

#### • Junior Congregation

**Saturday, November 17**, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall: We are looking for leaders and participants for our next Shabbat morning Junior Congregation. You can sign up on [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org)—click on "Families" and then on the date that you want to lead. If you have questions, or would like help learning to lead a prayer, contact Rebecca Rosenthal at [rosenthal@bj.org](mailto:rosenthal@bj.org) or x243.

#### • Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah Learning Programs

**Saturday, December 1**, 9:30-10:30AM, 86th Street Chapel: All 6th grade students (and their parents) who will become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at BJ are invited to join Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein to study about the choreography of the Torah service. Contact Ivy at [ischreiber@bj.org](mailto:ischreiber@bj.org) or x225.

**Sunday, December 2**, 4:00-6:00PM, 88th Street: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon, Ivy Schreiber, and other 5th grade B'nai Mitzvah students and their parents for an afternoon of learning about the B'nai Mitzvah journey. Contact Ivy at [ischreiber@bj.org](mailto:ischreiber@bj.org) or x225.

#### • Family Hanukkah Party

**Tuesday, December 4**, 4:00-6:00PM, 88th Street: Join us for an environmentally friendly Hanukkah party for school-aged children. We will have a scavenger hunt, do crafts, and light the candles for the first night of Hanukkah. Price of admission is: plastic grocery bags, brown paper grocery bags, old magazines and empty soup cans to help us be environmentally friendly! Contact Rebecca at [rosenthal@bj.org](mailto:rosenthal@bj.org) or x243 with questions or to RSVP.

#### • Hanukkah PJs and Havdalah

**Saturday, December 8**, 5:00-6:00PM, 86th Street Social Hall: Families with young children are invited to join us for some singing, candle lighting and havdalah—all in your pajamas! Contact Rebecca at [rosenthal@bj.org](mailto:rosenthal@bj.org) or x243 with questions.

### TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

#### • Cooking for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter

**Monday, November 26**, 6:00PM: No cooking experience is necessary, and the cost of groceries will be split among all the volunteers (about \$8-10/person). RSVP to Susan and Rebekah at [tzvolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:tzvolunteers@yahoo.com).

**Tuesday, December 4**, 8:00-10:00PM, The Parlour, 86th Street between Broadway and West End Ave.: Open bar featuring wine, beer, soda and special Hanukkah treats. Bring your friends, order your "gin and tonicah" and celebrate Hanukkah at Tze'irim's favorite local hangout. Cost: \$20.

#### • Tze'irim Limud Salon: When is Everyday Life Like Torah?

**Wednesday, December 19**, 7:00PM: The inaugural session of the 2007-2008 Tze'irim Limud Salon series, taught by Matthew Blumberg, will focus on several methods of interpreting Judaism's sacred texts. Then we will discuss ways of applying them to everyday activities, feelings, and thoughts. RSVP to [tzlimud@yahoo.com](mailto:tzlimud@yahoo.com) and you will receive a confirmation email with the event location.

### LEDOR VADOR

#### • Open Meeting—Ledor Vador Intergenerational Committee

**Monday, November 19**, 6:30-8:00PM, BJ Office: The Ledor Vador Intergenerational Committee is dedicated to creating connections among all generations through social, cultural, and educational programs. Please join us for an open meeting to discuss plans for the 2007-2008 calendar and to brainstorm ideas for future programming for the 60+ crowd at BJ. Everyone is welcome to this open meeting! For more information, please contact Belinda Lasky at [blasky@bj.org](mailto:blasky@bj.org)

### HAVUROT

#### • Havurah 40Plus Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, November 30**, 7:40PM, Upper West Side: The 40+ Havurah is a group of men and women, single and married, established to promote sharing of friendship, social activities, spirituality, and Jewish religious events. It is intended to provide an opportunity to meet, network, and connect with like-minded individuals to create the spirit of havurah encouraged by BJ. To sign up and for location information, contact [havura40plus@yosefa.galchen.com](mailto:havura40plus@yosefa.galchen.com).

### BJ BOOK CLUB

#### • BJ Book Club and Literary Havurah

**Saturday, December 8**, 2:00PM, RSVP for location: We meet to discuss Philip Roth's controversial novel *Everyman*. Please RSVP to [zsucharney@verizon.net](mailto:zsucharney@verizon.net) or [dsdresner@aol.com](mailto:dsdresner@aol.com) for location.

### AFFILIATES

#### • New Worlds Theater Project Presents Yiddish Drama in English

**Thursday, December 13**, 7:30PM, The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue: Staged reading of English adaptation of Sholem Asch play "With the Current." Tickets: \$15 and \$12. **Tuesday, December 18**, 6:30PM, The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue: Symposium on "The Art of Yiddish Drama: Modernity Confronts Tradition." Panelists: Rachel Dickstein, Daniel Gerould, Stefan Kanfer, Neil Pepe, Alyssa Quint and Alisa Solomon. With staged readings from Asch, Berkowitz, and Hirshbein. FREE! For information, visit [www.newworldsproject.org](http://www.newworldsproject.org) or call 917-513-7620. New Worlds Theatre Project presents modern English adaptations of classic Yiddish plays.

## 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](mailto: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 please remember to return the devices when you leave.

### Green Tip: UNPLUG APPLIANCES WHEN NOT IN USE

And not just on Shabbat. There's no reason your toaster oven needs to always be plugged in. This also means your cell phone/camera/laptop/mp3 player chargers, too. To make things easy, plug them all into one power strip and just flick the off switch. You can leave the fridge plugged in, though; rotten food is a bigger waste. And turn off your lights, TVs, radios, oscillating fans, whatever. Don't leave them on. If you're going to be away from your computer, take the time to shut it down, or set it to go to sleep instead of displaying those silly energy-wasting flying toasters.

**JOIN US AT THE BJ MORNING MINYAN:** See updated information about the Morning Minyan at [www.bj.org/schedule.php](http://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.

## THEATER REVIEW:

### *Dai (enough)*, Written and Performed by Iris Bahr

By Ted Metzger

For the price of a ticket and a subway to Times Square, *Dai (enough)*, a new one person play written and performed by Iris Bahr, transports you to a present day Tel Aviv coffee house and its cross section of Israeli and non-Israeli habitués. Bahr portrays with uncanny accuracy a host of characters, ranging from a Christianne Amanpour type CNN reporter interviewing the "Israeli Street" to the unwitting Palestinian mother of a suicide bomber. Her portrait of an Israeli Yoredet, married to the owner of a Manhattan car service and back in Israel to visit her sick mother is dead on hilarious. A kibbutznik's tale of his two sons and their army experiences will bring tears to your eyes. You will recognize the Upper West Side orphan who makes aliyah and is stunned to find she has two aunts living in Israel who survived the Holocaust.

Bahr was born and raised in the Bronx but moved to Israel at age 12 and remained there until completing her military service. After her discharge, she traveled through Asia but came back to the U.S. to get an undergraduate degree at Brown. Since college, she has acted on TV, directed a short film, and performed stand-up comedy.

Other characters Bahr portrays include a Latina actress impersonating a Jew to get a role in a film, an Orthodox mother with her seven children in tow, a gay German who has followed his Israeli lover back to Tel Aviv, and a Russian émigré prostitute married to a Russian émigré taxi driver, neither of them Jewish. While the characters play off their respective stereotypes, Bahr manages to bring out the humor, pathos and elemental humanity in each of them. This is especially moving and surprisingly powerful in light of the performance's explosive ending.

*Dai (enough)* is running at the The 47th Street Theater, 304 West 47th Street.

*Ted Metzger is an attorney specializing in estate planning, real estate, and corporate law, and is married to the editor of this column. After participating in two BJ trips to Israel, he urges you to travel to Israel with BJ—an extraordinary way to experience Israel and to deepen your relationship with the BJ rabbis and community.*

*The "Focus on Israel" column is edited by Robin Fleischner, a Vice President of BJ's Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of BJ's Israel Steering Committee.*