



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

VAYIGASH

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

TRIENNIAL Genesis 44:18 - 45:27

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 37:15 - 28

NEXT WEEK: **VAYEHI**

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

TRIENNIAL Genesis 47:28 - 48:22

HAFTARAH I Kings 2:1 - 12

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

• **Donate New: Warm Socks, Scarves and Gloves!**

We are asking for your much-needed help in providing NEW warm men's and women's hats, scarves, gloves and socks. Please bring your contributions to the BJ office or to a special collection box at services before December 17. Questions? Please contact Susan Samuels at ssamuels@aol.com.

• **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 and a dessert buffet following the meeting. To RSVP or for more info, contact conversation@bj.org or x432.

December 14 - 21, 2007

5 - 12 Tevet, 5768

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Community Shabbat Dinner

5:45 PM - 88th St.
Following 5:45 PM Service -
88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)
7:15 PM - 88th St.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Shabbat Services
Junior Congregation
BJHS "Reach for Shabbat" Luncheon

9:30 AM - 86th St.
10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall
Following Junior Congregation -
88th St. Frankel Hall
10:45 AM - 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

Children's Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Morning Minyan
Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:30 AM - 88th St.
7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Morning Minyan
Limud: The Book of Genesis*
Limud: Learning the Liturgy*

7:30 AM - 88th St.
8:10 AM - 88th St.
7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Morning Minyan
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program
Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*

7:30 AM - 88th St.
12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall
7:00 PM - BJ Office

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

PLEASE NOTE: On **Friday, December 21** and **Friday, December 28**, there will be one Kabbalat Shabbat service only at 6:30PM at 88th Street. On **Friday, December 28**, there will also be a Contemplative Shabbat service at 6:30PM at 86th Street.

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

Announcements

HA-MAKOM YENAHM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Herbert Kronish and extends sincere condolences to his family and all his loved ones.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Helen Radin and extends sincere condolences to her children, Jennifer Radin and Sanjay Puri, Jessica Radin and Simeon Fishman, her grandchildren Olivia and Aidan Puri, her sisters Vivian Salit and Lita Stein, and all her loved ones.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

The new members joining us tonight for the New Member Orientation Program.

Community Activities

Community Shabbat Dinner with Hazzan Ari Priven

Friday, December 14, following the early service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: This event is now full to capacity. We hope you will join us on February 15, 2008 for our next community Shabbat dinner.

End-of-Year Giving

As the calendar year draws to a close, we thank you for your generous support. Many members and friends of BJ like to make a tax-deductible contribution at this time of year, whether or not they made a Kol Nidre gift this year. If you have recently sent a year-end gift, we thank you. If not, we hope you will take this opportunity to do so. In order to qualify for a 2007 tax deduction, all donations must be postmarked or submitted online no later than December 31, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Aviva Raichelson, Director of Development, at araichelson@bj.org or x242.

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. Make the commitment to help Israel reach its dream in the next 60 years and beyond! Come hear more information about the BJ Israel Trip on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary. **For registration materials, please contact Ivy Schreiber at ischreiber@bj.org or x225.**

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 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.

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

Learning The Liturgy: Feeling At Home With The Siddur

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

4 Tuesdays (remaining class December 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 davening 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.

Seven Conversations About Israel

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

7 Wednesdays (January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13) • 7:00–8:30PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. The issue of Medinat Israel stirs up raw emotions that sometimes don't allow us to have meaningful dialogue. We are going to go back to some of the sources of the founding fathers and see the contemporary challenges through their lenses, using texts, videos and speakers as a springboard for our conversations.

Shabbat: A Sanctuary in Time

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow, Chapter 10

Saturday, January 5 • 4:00PM • 86th Street Social Hall • Free; registration not required. During the course of Abraham Joshua Heschel's centennial year, we will read together as a community Heschel's *The Sabbath*. Concludes with havdalah.

Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Shevat

Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol and Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

Monday, January 7 • 7:00PM • 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.

A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake?

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

6 Wednesdays (remaining classes 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.

LOOKING TOWARD SHABBAT SHIRA: An afternoon of learning in memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman z"l

To Cut a Covenant: Separation and Wholeness in the Torah

Rabbi Adina Lewittes

Saturday, January 12 • 4:30PM • 88th Street • Free; registration not required. Rabbi Adina Lewittes is the founding rabbi of Sha'ar (www.shaar.info), an innovative Jewish community in Tenafly, NJ. She studied in the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and was ordained in 1993, becoming the first Canadian woman to be ordained a Conservative rabbi. Concludes with havdalah.

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. 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 or x340.

• Panim el Panim Community Conversations: A Gathering for Action

We have had a total of 20 house meetings attended by over 170 members of the BJ community. We have learned about Panim el Panim together, shared our stories, and talked about vital issues in this city affecting us, our neighbors, and our city. We would like to thank all of the hosts of the house meetings that have made this exciting process possible by opening their homes and providing the welcoming space for BJ's Community Conversations. And last, but not least we would like to thank the leaders of Panim el Panim who have given countless hours to arranging, planning, and facilitating the house meetings this month. **Hosts** (since November 20): Susan Fishman, Anne Millman and Alan Rokach, Samara Minkin and Trent Gegax, Dinnah Pladott, Sandi Borger and Alejandro Lacreu, Dan Michaels, Robert Buxbaum and Sonia Gluckman, Lisa Owen and Steve Owen. **Facilitation** (since November 20): Lisa Safier, Benjamin Ross, Carol Schiffman-Durham, Renie Rutchick, Robert Buxbaum, Sue Fein, Jenny Eisenberg, Judith Trachtenberg, Amy Lavine, Sandy Cheiten, Sandi Borger, Rochelle Friedlich, Marlene Halpern.

• Volunteer at the Beth Israel Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Intervention Program

You can make a difference in someone's life by volunteering to provide compassion, concern, and psychological support to a survivor of sexual assault or intimate partner violence. The Beth Israel Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Intervention Program will train you for 40 hours to be an advocate on call to the ER three times per month. The training focuses on how to help a survivor, but also examines the impact of sexual assault and intimate partner violence on ourselves personally, psychologically, and culturally. If you are interested, over 21, and can get to our ER on 16th Street within 20 minutes by taxi, call Carole Sher LCSW at 212-420-4516 or email: Csher@chpnet.org. Training will begin in January, 2008.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• Junior Congregation

Saturday, December 15, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall: We hope all children in second to seventh grades will join us at our next Shabbat morning Junior Congregation. We are also looking for leaders and participants for Junior Congregation. You can sign up on 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 or x243.

• B'nai Mitzvah Orientation Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 7:00–9:00PM, 88th Street: Parents of children in 4th grade, or whose birthdates fall between September, 1997 and December, 1998 are invited to an introductory meeting – the first step on their family's Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey. Contact Ivy at ischreiber@bj.org or x225.

• Kids' Purim Play Auditions, Rehearsal and Lunch

Sunday, January 6, 11:00AM, 88th Street: We invite everyone who wants to

participate in the play to join us for an entire cast rehearsal to kick things off! Followed by lunch and auditions. Please email Michael at kelberg@aol.com and include "Subject: Purim" for full details.

• Kids' Purim Play: Looking for Stage Manager

We are looking for someone to help stage manage the show. Prefer a 10th grader or older who has participated in past shows. A small stipend is available for your commitment. Contact Michael at kelberg@aol.com with your interest and a brief explanation as to why you would make a great stage manager!

• Kids' Purim Play: Looking for Parents

If you have vocal, sound, costume or set skills we are looking to line up some extra hands to help during rehearsals. We also need a few parents to help us with our younger cast members and to coordinate lunches for Sunday. If you are interested in any of these areas, please email Michael at kelberg@aol.com.

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

• 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 and you will receive a confirmation email with the event location.

• Ledor Vador and Tze'irim Present Alana Newhouse: Archives from The Forward

Thursday, January 31, 6:30–8:00PM, 88th Street: Join us as generations merge together beginning with a wine and cheese reception from 6:30–7:00. Then Alana Newhouse, cultural arts editor of *The Forward*, will talk about her book "A Living Lens: Photographs of Jewish Life from the Pages of *The Forward*". The book contains 540 photographs describing Jewish life in NYC and throughout the world, compiled from the archives of the Yiddish newspaper. Please contact Belinda at blasky@bj.org for more information.

BEKEF: 35+

• Bekef Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 11, following the early service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Celebrate Shabbat with Bekef! Join other 35+ singles for Shabbat dinner. Bekef is a new BJ initiative for active 35+ singles who are interested in fun, social activities. BJ members and non-members alike are welcome. Register before December 28, \$25 members/\$30 non-members, after December 28, \$30/\$35. To sign up for the dinner, please contact Yael at x255.

• Join Bekef!

If you are 35+ and single, you are invited to join the Bekef listserv. Bekef is a BJ initiative for active 35+ singles who are interested in social activities. BJ members and non-members are welcome. To join the Bekef listserv, please contact Yael at yhammerman@bj.org.

AFFILIATES

• Limmud NY: January 17-21

Be part of a weekend retreat filled with learning, performances, tastes, discussions and celebrations of all things Jewish with a community of 1,000 Jews of all ages, backgrounds and lifestyles. Choose from over 300 event offerings that include song, text study, film, hands-on workshops and more! Don't miss this exciting and transformative weekend adventure in the Catskills. Scholarships are widely available. Visit www.limmudny.org to register today.

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 please 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.

"Faith is a blush in the presence of God."

—*I Asked for Wonder*

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.

The Bigger Threat to Israel

By Amir Shaviv

As we concluded the festival of Chanukah this week, one hoped-for miracle did not happen: Israel's education system entered the third month of a teachers' strike, and a miracle seems more than ever the only way to resolve it.

The fact that teachers are underpaid and underappreciated creates a vicious cycle. The best and the brightest do not choose a teaching career; the students, stuffed into crowded classrooms, enjoy fewer school hours and inferior education. The results are written clearly on the annual comparative study of education: Israel slips down the list compared to other Western countries.

For generations, Jews believed in awarding the best education to their children. In Israel today, this value is not as dominant as in the past. A materialistic society, bewitched by stories of fast acquisition of wealth, has dumped the quest for excellence in education and replaced it with the idol of financial success.

The Government declares its intention to reform this poor standard and improve the system. The teachers make their own demands of the system. Without judging the merit of each position, it is obvious that unless resources and attention are focused on the schools, today's students will not grow to become tomorrow's Nobel Prize winners. Worse, they may not be able to become the sophisticated back-bone of a modern super-technological state.

While I was in Israel last week, press headlines were divided between news of the state of Iran's nuclear progress and news of the unresolved crisis in the education system. Which one presents a greater threat to the existence of the Jewish State? Some observers are convinced that the latter is by far more dangerous than the former.

Amir Shaviv is Assistant Executive Vice President of the rescue and relief organization, the the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

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.