



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

SHEMOT

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

TRIENNIAL Exodus 1:1 - 2:25

HAFTARAH Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

NEXT WEEK: **VAERA**

MEVARKHIM HAHOODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

TRIENNIAL Exodus 6:2 - 7:7

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

December 28, 2007-January 4, 2008

19-26 Tevet, 5768

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:30 PM - 88th St.

Contemplative Shabbat Service

6:30 PM - 86th St.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

Children's Services

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

BJHS CLOSED

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

No class this week

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

BJ OFFICE CLOSED

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Genesis*

No class this week

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Seven Conversations About Israel*

7:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

BJHS CLOSED

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*

No class this week

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

• **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 or x432.

! **PLEASE NOTE: Hebrew School is now closed for Winter Recess. Classes resume Monday, January 7.**

* 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 Richard Posen and extends sincere condolences to his wife Sharri, his children Danielle and Jonathan Posen and Alex Mindlin, and all of his loved ones.

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

- Andrea Schwartz and Robert, Micah, Nate, and Dan Brashear on the death of Andrea's beloved mother, Patricia Schwartz.
- Leslie, Moshe, Ayelet, and Talia Horn on the death of Leslie's beloved mother, Felicia Zigman.

Community Activities

• 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 arachelson@bj.org or x242.

• Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ

Friday, January 4, following the late service, 88th Street: Gather with old and new friends as we celebrate 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 melodies, played by Hazzan Mordechai Schram, an intimate and sacred time and space is created. Please feel free to bring wine to enjoy and share with one another.

• 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**

• A Mystical Tu Bishevat Seder

From the Kabbalists of Tzfat to the environmentalist in the California redwood groves, a journey into the soul of fruits, nuts and the environment
Tuesday, January 22, 7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: The Tu Bishevat seder is modeled after rituals performed by mystics of the city of Tzfat to celebrate the Divine flow that nourishes the fruit of trees, which they understood as a metaphor for the Tree of Life. The seder will include four glasses of wine, a variety of fruits, and a light dinner. Rabbi Naftali Citron of the Carlebach Shul will lead the seder accompanied by Yacov Dov Miller on guitar. \$20 members/\$25 non-members. Contact x233 for more information.

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

If you plan on attending Friday night services and would like someone to help walk you through the service, we are starting a new program where we will pair you up with a BJ member. He or she will meet you before the service and guide you through BJ's one of kind experience. To request a "Service Match," contact bjservicematch@yahoo.com with the date you plan to attend, whether you prefer the early or late service and your contact information.

• Keep Warm at Shabbat Morning Services!

It's officially winter! If you are affected by the cold, please sit closer to the front or sides of the Sanctuary, where the radiators are, during Shabbat morning services. Please know that our ushers are doing the best they can to keep the heat in.

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. 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. Ready to volunteer? Have questions? Need more information? Contact co-chair Anne Millman at AnnieMill@aol.com or x340.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• Junior Congregation

Saturday, January 5, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall: We hope all children in second to seventh grade 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.

• 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 contact Michael at kelberg@aol.com and include "Subject: Purim" for full details.

• 4th Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter

Tuesday, January 8, 5:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: ALL of BJ's fourth graders, no matter where they receive their Jewish education, are invited to prepare a meal for the guests of the shelter. Please RSVP to Debbie Lerner, our January coordinator, at edmjlerner@aol.com.

• 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.

(continued on page 3)

Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

▪ 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. Alana Newhouse, cultural arts editor of *The Forward*, will then 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. *Registration is now closed for females. However, we still have many spaces open*

for male participants. Register before December 28, \$25 members/\$30 non-members, after December 28, \$30/\$35. To sign up for the dinner, please visit www.bj.org or 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

▪ Dai at the 47th Street Theatre

In *Dai*, co-produced by BJ member Ronald Guttman, Iris Bahr returns in her critically acclaimed solo show that thrusts the audience into a bustling Tel Aviv café moments before a suicide bomber enters. "*Dai* has a jolt that is undeniable!" (*The New York Times*). Nominated for both the NY Drama Desk and UK Stage Award for Outstanding Solo Performance. Call 212 239-6200 for tickets or visit DaiThePlay.com.

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

▪ 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 Lewittes is the founding rabbi of Sha'ar (www.shaar.info), an innovative Jewish community in Tenafly, NJ. She was ordained by JTS 1993, the first Canadian woman to be ordained a Conservative rabbi. Concludes with havdalah.

▪ Social Justice on a Shoestring Budget

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

3 Tuesdays (January 15, 22, 29) • 7:00–9:00PM • 88th Street (1/15, 1/29); 86th Street Chapel (1/22) • Free; registration required. This series will explore the *what, why* and *how* of tzedakah: the religious imperative to make a difference. Study what Judaism says about philanthropy and social justice as a religious path and the challenges of identifying our values and putting our money where our hearts and minds are. The first two classes will address the ethical and spiritual issues relating to tzedakah. The final class will have more of a practical focus. It will be taught by a financial expert who will provide advice and tips for how people starting out in NYC can put together a realistic budget for social change. This program is brought to you by AVODAH, AJWS, and Congregation B'nai Jeshurun.

▪ Things Jewish Children Should Know:

Talking to Your Kids About Money, Sex, Death and God

Hollis Gauss, Director of Education, Youth and Family

3 Wednesdays (January 16, 23, 30) • 12:15–1:30PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. We are often unsure how to answer our children when they ask difficult questions. Yet these questions are an opportunity for us to teach our values around significant issues of responsibility, love, community and faith. We will begin by learning what Judaism has to say about these topics so we become better educated as adults, and will then explore how we might share this knowledge with our children. For parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, and other adults who teach our children through their words and actions.

.....
Please see www.bj.org for more information about the following classes also beginning in January:

▪ **The Rabbinic Mind and the Revelation at Sinai** (begins 1/24)

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

▪ **Teacher-in-Residence Shabbat** (1/24–26)

Dr. Adolfo Roitman

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.

"God is not a hypothesis derived from logical assumptions, but an immediate insight, self-evident as light. He is not something to be sought in the darkness with the light of reason.

He is the light."

—*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.

New York Interfaith Martin Luther King Sunday Observance for Religious and Racial Harmony

Sunday, January 20, 2:00-5:30PM: The New York Metropolitan Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolence, St. Bartholomew's Church, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and the Islamic Cultural Center of New York will join together in a celebration of faith, understanding and love to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King and develop initiatives that inspire individuals and groups to positive social action.

2:00PM, Islamic Cultural Center of New York, 96th Street and Third Avenue: Words of inspiration by Imam Shamsi Ali.

3:00PM, BJ, 88th Street Sanctuary: Music and learning with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein.

4:00PM, St. Bartholomew's Church, Park Avenue at 51st Street: Interfaith program featuring former Manhattan Borough President, the Honorable C. Virginia Fields, religious speakers, civil leaders, and intercultural music.

Participants are encouraged to join the celebration at any or all of the three locations. Buses will be provided from the Islamic Cultural Center to BJ and from BJ to the East side silent prayer march.

This Observance is free and open to the public. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Naomi at ngoodhart@bj.org or x240.

Interfaith

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY FOR MORE INFO: Welcome to BJ • Membership at BJ • Membership Packets • BJ Annual Catalogue • Bikkur Holim

BJ SYNAGOGUE: 257 W. 88th St. • **OFFICE:** 2109 Broadway (Ansonia), Suite 203, New York, NY 10023 • **TEL:** 212.787.7600 • **FAX:** 212.496.7600 • **WEBSITE:** www.bj.org