



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

**BO**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 10:1 -13:16

**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 10:1 -11:3

**HAFTARAH** Jeremiah 46:13-28

NEXT WEEK: **BESHALLAH**

SHABBAT SHIRA

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 13:17 -17:16

**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 13:17 -15:26

**HAFTARAH** Judges 5:1-31

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

• **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—20 house meetings in November and December attended by 200 BJ members. 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. Can we make a difference? We can if you join us.

At this gathering for action you will find out how you can join one of the working groups that will be tackling the issues you raised. Learn how you can get involved in the BJ partnership with community organizing interfaith coalition, Manhattan Together or sign up for an exciting action to demand affordable housing in New York City. We expect local elected officials and a guest speaker from Manhattan Together—let's really show up to demonstrate our strength as a community. Featuring words of Torah from Rabbi Felicia Sol and a dessert buffet following the meeting! To RSVP or for more info, contact [conversation@bj.org](mailto:conversation@bj.org) or x432.

**January 11-18, 2008**

**4-11 Shevat, 5768**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 11**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
**Bekef Shabbat Dinner\*\***

5:45 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary  
Following 5:45 PM Service –  
88th St. Frankel Hall

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

7:15 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**

**Shabbat Services**  
**Children's Services**

9:30 AM – 86th St.  
10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

**Limud: Looking Toward Shabbat Shira\***

4:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM – 88th St.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 14**

**Morning Minyan**  
**Panim el Panim Community Forum**

7:30 AM – 88th St.  
7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE SIDEBAR)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 15**

**Morning Minyan**  
**Limud: The Book of Genesis\***  
**Limud: Social Justice on a Shoestring Budget\***

7:30 AM – 88th St.  
8:10 AM – 88th St.  
7:00 PM – 88th St.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16**

**Morning Minyan**  
**Limud: Things Jewish Children Should Know\***  
**Limud: Introduction to Judaism\***

7:30 AM – 88th St.  
12:15 PM – BJ Office (SEE P.3)  
7:00 PM – BJ Office (**please note change of day for this week**)

**Limud: Seven Conversations About Israel\***  
**BJ Israel Trip Information Session**

7:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)  
7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.2)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17**

**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, JANUARY 18**

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM – 88th St.

\* Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for more information and to register.  
\*\* By pre-registration only; dinner is now filled.

## Announcements

### HA-MAKOM YENAHM

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

- Ellen Landau on the death of her beloved father, Irving Landau.
- Jeremy, Ben and Lisa Starr, and Alice Berkowitz on the death of Jeremy's beloved father, Murray Starr.

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Parents David and Alyssa Small, grandmother Ellen Small, and family members Lara, Aviv, Tali, Tsivi and Eyal Laurence on the birth of Isabella Juliet.
- Danny and Roger Cramer and Sandra Lipsman on Danny becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

## Community Activities

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

Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and BJ community members this summer to explore issues of social justice in Israel. Hear from diverse voices in the field, and engage in study and direct service opportunities. There will be an information session about the trip on **Wednesday, January 16** at 7:00PM in the 88th St. Sanctuary. Contact Ivy at [ischreiber@bj.org](mailto:ischreiber@bj.org) or x225 for more info.

### • Contemplative Practice Havurah Organizational Meeting

**Wednesday, January 16**, 7:00PM, home of Rabbi Rachel Cowan (contact [ngoodhart@bj.org](mailto:ngoodhart@bj.org) for exact location): Plan events for the Contemplative Practice group (outside of Shabbat services) through the Spring. For more information and to R.S.V.P., contact [ngoodhart@bj.org](mailto:ngoodhart@bj.org) or x240.

### • "Hell's Belles"

**Wednesday-Saturday, January 16-27**, 8:00PM; Sat. 2:00PM; Sun. 3:00PM, West End Theatre at SPSA (2nd floor, enter on W. 86th St.): The Interfaith Arts Committee of BJ and SPSA presents "Hell's Belles," a hot new musical comedy revue. Tickets: \$18.00. To order in advance: [www.theatermania.com](http://www.theatermania.com) or 212-352-3101. Tickets purchased at door are cash only. If you'd like to volunteer to help with ushering/house management or wardrobe, please leave a message for Eileen at [interfaitharts@aol.com](mailto:interfaitharts@aol.com) or 212-539-6506.

### • A Mystical Tu B'shevat Seder

From the Kabbalists of Tzfat to the environmentalists 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 B'shevat 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. \$25 members/\$30 non-members. Contact x233 for more information.

### • 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](mailto:ngoodhart@bj.org) or x240.

## Creating Kehillah

### SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### • BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership Program—Special Call for Math Volunteers

For seven weeks from mid-January through the end of February, we are looking for a few additional volunteers to help 3rd/4th grade students prepare for the upcoming NYS standardized tests. If you can give at least one hour a week for six weeks (Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 11:20AM to 12:10PM and/or 12:10PM to 1:00PM) please contact [i.richman@att.net](mailto:i.richman@att.net) or call x301. The Ralph Bunche School is located at 123rd St. off Amsterdam Ave.

### YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

#### • Junior Congregation

**Saturday, January 19**, 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](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. This service will be followed by a Family Tu B'shevat Seder. Contact Rebecca for more information.

### 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](mailto:blasky@bj.org) for more information.

### LEDOR VADOR

#### • Shabbat Luncheon—An Inter-generational Perspective on the Environment: Living a Green Life

**Saturday, February 16**, following Shabbat morning services: Ledor Vador in collaboration with the Environmental Action Hevra invites you to join us for a special Shabbat luncheon. BJ members will share their personal stories and insights about being green. Our panel includes Susan Bodnar, Vivian Yale, Les Judd, Rob Daley, Ronen Schatsky and others. Please R.S.V.P. at x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Also, send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with "Ledor Vador 2/16" on the memo line. Children under 18 are welcome to attend free of charge.

(continued on page 3)

### BJ BOOK CLUB

#### • BJ Book Club/Havurah

**Sunday, January 27, 7:00PM:** Join us as we discuss stories by the leading 20th century Russian writer Isaac Babel: "The Red Cavalry" collection and "Story of My Dovecot" in *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel*, edited by N. Babel with an introduction by Cynthia Ozick. Please contact dsdresner@aol.com or szucharney@verizon.net for more details.

### HAVUROT

#### • 40+ Havurah Plans Sunday in New York

**Sunday, January 27, 4:00-6:00PM**, an East Side Chinese restaurant: 40+ Havurah goes to the East Side. Enjoy a cocktail party, vegetarian Chinese food, and then our group will go together to a local movie theatre. 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. R.S.V.P. to receive exact location information to vmahlab@yahoo.com by January 23; limited space available, \$23.

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

#### • Seven Conversations About Israel

**Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein**

**7 Wednesdays** (remaining classes January 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.

#### • 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.congregationshaar.org](http://www.congregationshaar.org)), an innovative Jewish community in Tenafly, NJ. She was ordained by JTS in 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.

#### • The Rabbinic Mind and the Revelation at Sinai

**Rabbi Felicia L. Sol**

**6 Thursdays** (January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28) • 12:30-1:45PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. Beginning with a close read of the biblical story, we will take a step-by-step look at three different midrashic texts on the revelation on Mount Sinai: Pirke deRabbi Eliezer, Mekhilta deRabbi Ishmael and Exodus Rabbah. Come to understand how the rabbis think about different explanations of the story and the ability to experience Sinai through studying it. No Hebrew reading necessary.

#### • Teacher-in-Residence Shabbat

**Dr. Adolfo Roitman**

Dr. Adolfo Roitman is the author of *The Bible in the Shrine of the Book: From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Aleppo Codex*.

**Thursday, January 24** • 7:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Members free/non-members \$15, payable at the door: "From Serpent to Satan."

**Saturday, January 26** • During Shabbat morning services • 86th Street and 4:30PM • 88th St. Sanctuary • Free; registration not required: "The Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for Judaism and Christianity"

#### • A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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

**Rabbi Felicia L. Sol**

**6 Wednesdays** (remaining classes 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.

#### • Second Annual Stuart Polly Interfaith Study: Introduction to Christianity

**Hal Taussig, Visiting Scholar**, Visiting Professor of New Testament, Union Theological Seminary in New York; Professor of Early Christianity, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and co-pastor, Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church, Philadelphia

**4 Thursdays** (February 7, 14, 21, 28) • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street • Free; registration required. Following last year's successful class in Islam for Jews and Christians, many students expressed interest in a similar approach to Christianity. Congregants of BJ, SPSA and West Park Presbyterian Church (now sharing space with SPSA) are invited to study the history of the beginnings of the Christian movement. The course will examine the Christian New Testament, and other historical documents. Taught by a scholar of Early Christianity, the course will involve readings, lectures and discussion. It is offered without charge, thanks to a grant in memory of Dr. Stuart Polly z"l, given by his widow, Carole Polly.

## 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.

**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.

## Driving in Israel

By Joanne Palmer

One good way to learn about a country is to drive through it by yourself.

So we rented a car—a stick shift, because driving an automatic is like driving a sofa—and I dropped Andy off in Herzliya and drove up to Jerusalem.

Herzliya's full of high-tech start-ups. It looks like Secaucus, all low-slung concrete buildings, unattractive, undifferentiated, housing people too intent on their calculations to notice how anything looks. Driving there demands skills honed at rush hour in New York. If I were to have waited my turn at the intersection, I'd be there still.

Then I headed south on the private toll road, like the Jersey Turnpike, straight, fast, direct. I felt a little frisson of golden joy as I got off in Jerusalem, but that soon was replaced by the stomach acid of traffic disaster.

Jerusalem's streets were becoming one-way and its drivers were not happy. At the tops of hills, one-lane streets were blocked by trucks unloading massively. Nothing moved. If you missed your turn that was it for hours. Signs were random, and neighborhoods jostle each other even more closely than they do here, so take a wrong turn and a sea of black hats, some on apparent toddlers, turn and glower. To be effective directions have to take archaic form—turn left at the store showcasing medical supplies, then right at the tzniusdik dresses.

But still there is that magic. The stone still glows, the light still pierces, and even though you are separated from it by rubber and metal and glass, the most remarkable thing about driving in Jerusalem is that there you are, driving in Jerusalem.

*As always, in loving memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman.*

Joanne Palmer works for United Synagogue, where she edits CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

*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.*

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

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