



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

**YITRO**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 18:1 - 20:23

**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 18:1 - 27

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

NEXT WEEK: **MISHPATIM**

MEVARKHIM HAHOODESH

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 21:1 - 22:3

**HAFTARAH** Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26

**! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY**

▪ **Calling All BJ Bicycle Riders (and Non-Riders Too)!**

Once again, B'nai Jeshurun will be sending a team of riders and non-riding support crew to Hazon's New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride. Become a member of our proud team, the B'nai Jeshurun Revolutionaries, and join 400+ participants from NYC, across the East Coast, and around the world. We need riders and non-riders alike; this is a great opportunity to meet tons of people of all ages, help the environment, and get fit. Although the ride is not until Labor Day weekend, we'll be doing activities as a team between now and the ride—and we'd love to have you join us! To learn more about the ride itself, visit [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org) and click on "2008 NY Ride," or contact team captains Mark Lipsy ([reMark1@gmail.com](mailto:reMark1@gmail.com)) or Abby Rothschild ([abbymythreesons@aol.com](mailto:abbymythreesons@aol.com)).

**January 25-February 1, 2008**

**18-25 Shevat, 5768**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**

<b>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</b>	5:45 PM - 88th St.
<b>Contemplative Shabbat Service</b>	5:45 PM - 86th St.
<b>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</b>	7:15 PM - 88th St.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**

<b>Shabbat Services</b>	9:30 AM - 86th St.
<b>Children's Services</b>	10:45 AM - 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

**D'var Torah** Dr. Adolfo Roitman (SEE P.3)

**Community Kiddush** Following Services - 86th St. Social Hall

**Teacher-in-Residence Dr. Adolfo Roitman:** 4:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)  
**"The Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for Judaism and Christianity"**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	9:30 AM - 88th St.
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**MONDAY, JANUARY 28**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	9:30 AM - 88th St.
<b>Limud: Introduction to Judaism*</b>	7:00 PM - BJ Office

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM - 88th St.
<b>Limud: The Book of Genesis*</b>	8:10 AM - 88th St.
<b>Limud: Social Justice on a Shoestring Budget*</b>	7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM - 88th St.
<b>Limud: Things Jewish Children Should Know*</b>	12:15 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)
<b>Limud: Seven Conversations About Israel*</b>	7:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM - 88th St.
<b>Judith Bernstein Lunch Program</b>	12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall
<b>Limud: The Rabbinic Mind/Revelation at Sinai*</b>	12:30 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)
<b>Alana Newhouse: Archives From <i>The Forward</i></b>	6:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)
<b>Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*</b>	7:00 PM - BJ Office

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM - 88th St.
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\* Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for more information and to register.

## Announcements

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Donna Nadler and Robert Gould on the birth of their grandson, Alex Noah Horowitz.

### B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Stephanie Kolin and 8th grade class, Temple Israel, Boston, Massachusetts.

- Rabbi Tom Weiner and Junior Congregation, Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains, New York.
- Members of The Temple-Tifereth Israel, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Ilana Foss and 92nd Street Y Derekh Torah Program participants.
- The new members joining us tonight for the New Member Orientation Program.

## Community Activities

- **The Interfaith Arts Committee of BJ/SPSA Presents *Hell's Belle's Through Sunday, January 27***, Weds.-Sat. 8:00PM; Sat. 2:00PM; Sun. Tickets \$18.00, available at [www.theatermania.com](http://www.theatermania.com) or by calling 212-352-3101 or 866-811-4111 (toll free).

- **Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ**

**Friday, February 1**, after the late service, 88th Street: Gather with old and new friends to celebrate Shabbat! 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 light food. As the Sanctuary fills with the sounds of Shabbat, played by Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi, intimate and sacred time and space are created.

- **The Whole Community: Welcoming In Those With Disabilities**

**Saturday, February 2**: BJ has joined with over fifty New York area synagogues to help promote inclusion of people with disabilities in our sacred community. During Shabbat morning services at 86th St. there will be learning and a d'var Torah by Ilene Lainer, BJ member and the parent of a child with autism. Then join us at 7:00PM at Cinema Village for the screening of *Praying with Lior* (see a description of the movie on page 3 under "Bekef" events). If you would like to help create a more inclusive BJ community, contact Anita Altman for information at [Hannahrivka2005@yahoo.com](mailto:Hannahrivka2005@yahoo.com).

- **Money and Meaning: An Evening with Judith Stern Peck**

**Wednesday, February 13**, 7:00PM, JCC of Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue at W. 76th Street: Join Judith Stern Peck as she talks about her groundbreaking new book, *Money and Meaning: New Ways to Have Conversations with Clients about Money*, which provides a model for helping clients understand, manage and resolve money issues. With an M.S.W. from Yeshiva University and post-graduate training at the Ackerman Institute for the Family, Judy has balanced being a mother to a large family, her career as a therapist, and various leadership roles in the Jewish community including

President of BJ, the Israel Policy Forum, Chair of the Board of UJA-Federation New York, and board member of the 92nd Y, the JCC, and the Jewish Communal Fund. Co-sponsored by Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and the JCC. Free; pre-registration recommended, call 646-505-5708.

- **Community Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, February 15**, after the early service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Come and share Shabbat dinner with other members of the BJ community! Register before Monday, February 4: \$35 members/\$40 non-members; after February 4: \$40/\$45. Registration is first-come, first-serve. Registration will close on Monday, February 11 at 11:59PM. To sign up for the dinner, please visit [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) or contact Yael at x255.

- **Community Kiddush Sponsorship**

Have an occasion to celebrate? Make it extra special and sponsor a BJ Community Kiddush! We would love to have a Kiddush on as many Shabbatot as possible. There are Kiddush sponsorship opportunities available for the 2nd and 4th Shabbat of every month through the middle of June, 2008. There are sponsorship options to fit every budget from coffee, tea and cake to a full luncheon. Please contact Yael at [yhammerman@bj.org](mailto:yhammerman@bj.org) or x255 for more info and to make Kiddush arrangements.

- **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! **For registration materials, please contact Ivy Schreiber at [ischreiber@bj.org](mailto:ischreiber@bj.org) or x225.**

## 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.

- **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 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](mailto:AnnieMill@aol.com) or x340.

- **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. Susan Bodnar, Vivian Yale, Les Judd, Rob Daley, Ronen Schatsky and other BJ members will share personal stories and insights about being green. Please R.S.V.P. at x334, leaving the names of those attending, and send a check for \$15/members or \$18/non-members with "Ledor Vador 2/16" on the memo line. Children under 18, free of charge.

(continued on page 3)

### YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

#### ▪ Junior Congregation

**Saturday, February 2**, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall: We hope all children in second to seventh grades will join us at our next Shababt morning Junior Congregation. We are also looking for leaders and participants for Junior Congregation. You can sign up at [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.

#### ▪ 3rd Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter

**Tuesday, February 12**, 5:00–6:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: ALL of BJ's third graders, no matter where they receive their Jewish education, are invited to prepare a meal for shelter guests. To R.S.V.P., please contact February coordinator Nancy Kline at [nfkline@aol.com](mailto:nfkline@aol.com).

### BEKEF: 35+

#### ▪ Praying with Lior and Bekef Gathering

**Saturday, February 2**, 7:00PM, Cinema Village: Join Bekef and members of the BJ community in supporting BJ member Ilana Trachtman, producer and director of *Praying with Lior*, during the New York theatrical opening of this award-winning film. *Praying with Lior* is the story of the Bar Mitzvah journey of a child with Down syndrome, and the story of his community. Buy tickets online at [www.cinemavillage.com](http://www.cinemavillage.com) or email [bekef@bj.org](mailto:bekef@bj.org) by January 27 to

reserve a seat, and then pay \$10 at the box office on February 2. Cinema Village is located at 22 East 12th St. At 9:00PM, Bekef will gather for drinks and a conversation with Ilana at Borgo Antico in the downstairs lounge. R.S.V.P. to [bekef@bj.org](mailto:bekef@bj.org) by January 30 so we can get a headcount. Borgo Antico is located at 22 East 13th St. Please contact Yael at [yhammerman@bj.org](mailto:yhammerman@bj.org) or x255 with any questions.

### LEDOR VADOR

#### ▪ 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*." Please contact Belinda at [blasky@bj.org](mailto:blasky@bj.org) for more information.

### 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*. Please contact [dsdresner@aol.com](mailto:dsdresner@aol.com) or [szucharney@verizon.net](mailto:szucharney@verizon.net) for more details.

## 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 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.

#### ▪ Social Justice on a Shoestring Budget

**Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow**

**3 Tuesdays** (remaining class January 29) • 7:00–9:00PM • 88th Street • 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. Sponsored by AVODAH, AJWS, and BJ.

#### ▪ 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** (remaining class January 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. For all those who teach our children through their words and actions.

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

**Rabbi Felicia L. Sol**

**6 Thursdays** (remaining classes January 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*.

**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. Congregants of BJ, SPSA and West Park Presbyterian Church 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. 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:** You've attended services, you're inspired by social action, and you love the community... now consider joining BJ as a member! With membership packages for local and out-of-town visitors alike, there is one that is right for you. Special new member orientation included! Visit the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), or contact Belinda Lasky, Director of Membership at x224 or [blasky@bj.org](mailto:blasky@bj.org) for more information.

• **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.

## Sulha Peace Project

By Robin Fleischner

Responding to the dearth of opportunities for Arabs and Jews in Israel and the Palestinian territories to meet and have personal contact, Gabriel Meyer, the son of modern BJ founder Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer, co-founded the Sulha Peace Project in 2001. A grassroots organization inspired by the indigenous process of mediation (Sulha), the Project aims to build trust and overcome prejudice and stereotypes. The Sulha Peace Project offers experiential peacemaking programs, integrating listening circles, multicultural workshops, interfaith rituals, shared meals, and the arts to promote Arab-Jewish encounters.

Gabi spoke at BJ Shabbat morning services in early January about the transformative Sulhita Youth Project for 15- to 17-year old Jews and Arabs. He described a recent five day overnight in the desert, which opened with a frank facilitated discussion among the young people.

Sitting around the listening circle, one Palestinian teen angrily exclaimed, "I hate Jews!"

Over the course of the overnight, this young man met Israeli kids his age for the first time, prayed with them, sang with them, played soccer with them, and ate with them.

By the closing ceremony, he was teary-eyed as he announced, "I want to ask your forgiveness. I thought all Israelis were like the only ones I've seen—soldiers aiming guns at me and my family. I was wrong."

Building on this opening for dialogue, the Sulha Peace Project is offering workshops for parents of Sulhita participants.

You can find more information on the Sulha Peace Project at [www.sulha.com](http://www.sulha.com).

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*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.*