



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

**MISHPATIM**

MEVARKHIM HAHODESH

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

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

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

NEXT WEEK: **TERUMAH**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

**TRIENNIAL** Exodus 25:1 - 40

**HAFTARAH** I Kings 5:26-6:13

**SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY**

**Did you commit to attend a Hevra meeting at BJ's Gathering for Action?**

Welcome aboard to Panim el Panim, BJ's Community Organizing and Advocacy Initiative!

**Wednesday, February 6, 7:00-9:00PM**

**BJ Manhattan Together Hevra**

(Housing, Education, Immigration)

88th Street Sanctuary

R.S.V.P.: rbuxbaum@tdxconstruction.com

**Tuesday, February 12, 6:45-9:00PM**

**Marriage Equality Hevra**

Member's home

R.S.V.P.: jacobhw@msn.com

**Wednesday, February 13, 7:00-9:00PM**

**Exploratory Team for a New Campaign**

(Eldercare/Healthcare)

88th Street Sanctuary

R.S.V.P.: jennyeisenberg@yahoo.com

**Thursday, February 21, 7:00-9:00PM**

**Environmental Action Hevra**

88th Street Frankel Hall

R.S.V.P.: bjgreenhevra@yahoo.com

We're looking forward to working with you as we strengthen our community and our ability to create positive social change. \*Please note that Hevra participation requires BJ membership.

**February 1-8, 2008**

**25 Shevat-2 Adar I, 5768**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**Family Shabbat Service**

**BJHS Bet Class Family Dinner**

5:45 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

Following Family Service -

86th St. Social Hall

5:45 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

7:15 PM - 88th St.

Following 7:15 PM Service - 88th St.

(SEE P.2)

**Wandering Minyan**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

**Friday Night Off-Broadway: Oneg Shabbat with Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**Shabbat Services**

**Junior Congregation**

**Children's Services**

**Shabbat of Inclusion** (SEE P.2)

9:30 AM - 86th St.

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall

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

**D'var Torah**

Ilene Lainer

**Bat Mitzvah**

Rachel Sobelsohn

**Minha**

5:00 PM - 88th St.

**Bat Mitzvah**

Adin Levy

**Praying With Lior and Bekef Gathering**

7:00 PM - Cinema Village (SEE P.2 & P.3)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM - 88th St.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Introduction to Judaism\***

7:00 PM - BJ Office

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**Morning Minyan**

**Don't forget to vote.**

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

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Women's Rosh Hodesh Group\***

8:10 AM - 88th St.

7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**Morning Minyan**

**ROSH HODESH ADAR I**

**Limud: Engendering Judaism\***

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Seven Conversations About Israel\***

12:15 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)

7:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**Morning Minyan**

**ROSH HODESH ADAR I**

**Judith Bernstein Lunch Program**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: The Rabbinic Mind/Revelation at Sinai\***

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

**Limud: Introduction to Christianity**

12:30 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)

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

7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

7:00 PM - BJ Office

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Frankel Fridays**

10:30 AM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

\* 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:

- Judy Wolf-Nevid and Jeff, Michael, and Daniella Nevid on the death of Judy's beloved mother, Hilda Wolf-Racker.
- Arthur, Abby, Julia, Clara, and Eli Eshaghpour on the death of Arthur's beloved father, Medhi Eshaghpour.
- Leslie Cooper on the death of her beloved uncle, Phillip Cooper.
- Rhonda Warren on the death of her beloved father, Joseph Lemus.
- Vivian Yale on the death of her beloved brother, Arthur Gordon.
- Suzanne Jacoby on the death of her beloved father, Leonard Galfin.

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Rachel, Richard, Lisa, Robert and Andrew Sobelsohn on Rachel becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Adin, Emmanuel and Anya Levy and Cindy Rosenthal on Adin becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Mindy and Alex Opper on the birth of their daughter, Emily Sage.

### TODAH RABBAH

- This week's flowers for the bimah are sponsored by Richard and Lisa Sobelsohn in honor of their daughter, Rachel, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

## Community Activities

### 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 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).

### "A Personal Journey through Mourning:" Zayin Adar Teaching by Blu Greenberg in memory of Helen Radin z"l

**Tuesday, February 12**, 8:00PM, 88th Street: Beginning this year we will name the Zayin Adar teaching in memory of our beloved Helen Radin, former Director of the Rabbinic office and active Hevra Kadisha member. This year, Blu Greenberg will speak on "A Personal Journey through Mourning." Blu Greenberg, writer and lecturer, is the founding President of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. Her writings include "On Women and Judaism: A View From Tradition," "How to Run a Traditional Jewish Household," "Black Bread: Poems After the Holocaust and King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba." Please see attached flier for information on giving to this program in memory of Helen. Free, registration not required.

### 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. 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.

### It's not too late to register! BJ's Summer Israel Trip: Celebrating Israel at 60

Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and BJ community members to explore the Israeli social justice issues of pluralism, civil rights, grassroots coexistence, the environment, immigration, poverty, labor and more! Hear from expert voices in the field, and engage in study and direct service opportunities. Celebrate Israel at 60 with BJ and explore the dreams and challenges of Israel's future. **Registration deadline is February 15, and scholarships are available!** Contact Ivy at [ischreiber@bj.org](mailto:ischreiber@bj.org) or x225 for more info.

### Save the Date: Bikkur Holim Training

**Wednesday, March 12**, 7:30PM, 88th Street: Please join us to learn more about the mitzvah of Bikkur Holim (visiting the sick). Rabbi Mychal B. Springer, Chaplain, Associate Dean of the Rabbinic School at JTS, will lead us in an exploration, training and study that takes us to the heart of this powerful experience for the visitor, the recipient and for each one of us as a member of this kehilla kedosha. Open to the entire BJ community.

### Volunteers Needed for Bikkur Holim (Visiting the Sick)

Participate with us in reaching out to members of our BJ community who are ill or incapacitated and members who may be alone, elderly, or frail. If you can make a phone call, then you can do this great mitzvah! Contact the BH Committee voicemail at x308 to get involved.

## Creating Kehillah

### SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership—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.

#### Calling All BJ Bicycle Riders (& Non-Riders too)!

Once again, BJ 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 and around the world. This is a great opportunity to meet 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—

*(continued on page 3)*

## Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

and we'd love to have you join us! To learn more, visit [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org) and click on "2008 NY Ride" or contact team captains Mark Lipsy at [reMark1@gmail.com](mailto:reMark1@gmail.com) or Abby Rothschild at [abbymythreesons@aol.com](mailto:abbymythreesons@aol.com)

### ▪ 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.

### YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

#### ▪ Raising Children with Disabilities: Finding Our Way in the Jewish Community

**Sunday, February 3**, 9:00AM-2:30PM, The JCC in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street: Many parents in the Jewish community have asked for more resources, more guidance, more ideas. This conference will focus on the unique challenges of raising children with disabilities in the Jewish community. For more information, please call Melissa Lader at 646-505-5729. Co-sponsored by BJ's longtime partner MATAN: The Gift of Jewish Learning for Every Child. To R.S.V.P., please contact Melissa Lader at 646-505-5729.

#### ▪ 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 [nfcline@aol.com](mailto:nfcline@aol.com).

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

#### ▪ I And Tao: Martin Buber's Encounter With Eastern Thought

**Wednesday, February 20**, 7:30PM, home of Tze'irim member, R.S.V.P. for location: Few of us know that ten years before he wrote *I and Thou*, the Existentialist Jewish philosopher Martin Buber was translating Taoist texts into German. In this single-session seminar, Rabbi Andrew Hahn, the Kirtan Rabbi, will lead us through an exploration of the connection between Buber's relational philosophy and body-based, non-dualistic meditative practices. The evening will consist of text study as well as offer opportunities for low-impact movement, including gentle (and fun) partner-work. Please wear light clothing. Contact [tzlimmud@yahoo.com](mailto:tzlimmud@yahoo.com) to R.S.V.P.

### 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). 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. 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.

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

#### ▪ Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Adar I

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

**Tuesday, February 5** • 7:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration not required. Each new month on the Hebrew calendar, we will 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 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.

#### ▪ Seven Conversations About Israel

*Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein*

**7 Wednesdays** (remaining classes 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.

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

*Rabbi Felicia L. Sol*

**6 Thursdays** (remaining classes 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. No Hebrew reading necessary.

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

*Hal Taussig, Visiting Scholar*

**4 Thursdays** (February 7, 14, 21, 28) • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street • Free; registration required. Study the history of the beginnings of the Christian movement, including 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.

#### ▪ Women in the Palace and the Synagogue

*Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow*

**4 Tuesdays** (February 26, March 4, 11, 18) • 7:00-8:30PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required • Code: 805. The Book of Esther is one of the few times in the Bible when a woman is featured as the central character. In this class we will read the Book of Esther through a woman's eyes and examine women's roles. What is Esther's "dance"? Who is Vashti? And what does the Talmud say about them? This class is for women and men.

#### ▪ Ad-de-lo-yada\*: Preparing for Purim through Study and Song

*Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon*

**4 Wednesdays** (February 27, March 5, 12, 19) • 6:30-8:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required • Code: 834. "When all the other festivals will be abolished [in Messianic times], Purim will remain." (*Midrash Mishle* 9:2). We will get ready for Purim by studying midrashim and other classical texts, as well as the customs and music related to this most intriguing, irreverent and liberating of our holidays.

\*until we can no longer distinguish

## 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.

## Film Review: *Live and Become*

By Ted Metzger

*Live and Become*, a compelling epic written and directed by Radu Mihaileanu, was originally featured at the 2006 New York Jewish Film Festival. It records the journey of a young Ethiopian non-Jewish boy whose mother passes him off to a Jewish mother whose own son has died so that the boy can be airlifted to Israel during "Operation Moses." His new "mother" names him Schlomo, but she dies shortly after landing in Israel. Schlomo is adopted by a liberal Israeli couple with two children of their own. Ironically, the parents worry that they are not religious enough for their new son.

The film chronicles the struggles of Schlomo (beautifully acted by three different actors as he grows up) as he tries to adapt to a new family, country, culture and religion while keeping the secret of his own upbringing. The scenes of Israeli prejudices against the Ethiopians as well as the courage of Schlomo's adopted Israeli mother's defense of her son are extremely affecting. The movie captures Israeli society in all its contemporary complexity and doesn't flinch from dealing with its failures as well as its successes. While Schlomo never forgets who he is and where he came from, he develops a complex identification with his Israeli family and the Israel and Judaism he comes to know. Schlomo's struggles and growth keep the movie-goer transfixed. The excellent cast seamlessly mixes professional and non-professional actors. And the final image of the movie will leave a lasting impression.

The film has subtitles and opens Friday, February 1 at Landmark's Sunshine Cinema and The Paris.

*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 deepen your relationship with the BJ rabbis and community.*

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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.*