



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

TERUMAH

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 25:1 - 27:19

TRIENNIAL Exodus 25:1 - 40

HAFTARAH I Kings 5:26-6:13

NEXT WEEK: **TETZAVEH**

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 27:20 - 30:10

TRIENNIAL Exodus 27:20 - 28:30

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 43:10-27

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

• **SAVE THE DATE: Join BJ in the AIDS Walk!**

Sunday, May 18, 9:00AM-12:00PM, Central Park: Join BJ for AIDS Walk New York 2008. This is BJ's fifteenth year in this annual event that raises money for the Gay Men's Health Crisis and over fifty other HIV/AIDS organizations—let's show our spirit and commitment this year in a major way.

• **SAVE THE DATE: BJ/SPSA Blood Drive**

Wednesday, May 28, 4:00-9:00PM, 88th Street: Mark your calendars to donate blood at the next BJ/SPSA Blood Drive. Give the gift of life. This donation doesn't depend on your bank account and is the greatest mitzvah of them all!

For more information on how you can be involved in planning the two events listed above, please contact Channa Camins at ccamins@bj.org or x261.

February 8-15, 2008

2-9 Adar I, 5768

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

5:45 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

BJHS Vav Class Family Dinner

Following 5:45PM Service -

88th St. Frankel Hall

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:15 PM - 88th St.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Shabbat Services

Teen Shabbat (SEE P.2)

Children's Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

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

Aliyat Hatan veKallah

Dan Shidlovsky and Suzanne Pincus

Community Kiddush

Following Services - 86th St. Social Hall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Genesis*

8:10 AM - 88th St.

Zayin Adar Teaching by Blu Greenberg

8:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Seven Conversations About Israel*

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: The Rabbinic Mind/Revelation at Sinai*

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

Limud: Introduction to Christianity*

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

Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Morning Minyan

Registration deadline for Israel Trip (SEE P.2)

7:30 AM - 88th St.

* 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 Stan Silver, and extends our sincere condolences to his wife, Phyllis, and all his loved ones.
- The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to David Gottlieb and his entire family on the death of his beloved father, Jacob Gottlieb.
- The community of B'nai Jeshurun announces the death of Rabbi William Berkowitz, who served as rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun from 1952 until 1983. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and all his loved ones.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Dan Shidlovsky and Suzanne Pincus on their upcoming wedding.

- Barbara Simon on her granddaughter, Gabrielle Zeiler, becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Paramus, New Jersey.
- Barbara Schwimmer on her grandson, Ethan Gabriel Schwimmer, becoming a Bar Mitzvah in Montclair, New Jersey.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by the BJ community in honor of our teenagers.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Jeffrey Wildstein and eighth grade class, Temple Beth David, Westwood, Massachusetts.
- Rabbi Michael Torop and Confirmation Class, Temple Beth-El, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Community Activities

Teen Shabbat

Saturday, February 9, at Shabbat morning services, 86th Street: This Shabbat we are privileged to have our teenagers leading davening. We are honored to have them share their unique perspectives as they lead us in prayer, reflect on their experiences as teenagers in the BJ community, and share the vision of their Judaism. If you would like to help sustain the Teen Program, please contact Director of Development, Aviva Raichelson at araichelson@bj.org or x242.

"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. 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! \$40

members and \$45 non-members. Registration will close on Monday, 2/11 at 11:59PM. To sign up for the dinner, please visit www.bj.org or contact Yael at x255.

It's not too late to register! BJ's Summer Israel Trip: Celebrating Israel at 60 through Social Action and Social Justice

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 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.

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. Kiddush sponsorship opportunities are 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 or x255 for more info and to make Kiddush arrangements.

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 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

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Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

proud team, the B'nai Jeshurun Revolutionaries, and join 400+ participants from NYC and around the world. We need riders and non-riders alike; 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—and we'd love to have you join us! To learn more, visit www.hazon.org and click on "2008 NY Ride" or contact team captains Mark Lipsy at reMark1@gmail.com or Abby Rothschild at 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

• 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.

• Junior Congregation

Saturday, February 16, 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 at 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.

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

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

Wednesday, March 12, 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 to R.S.V.P.

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 (remaining class February 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 will 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 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 (remaining classes February 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 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*

• A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake?

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

6 Wednesdays (remaining classes 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.

• Teacher-in-Residence Shabbat: March 14–15

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

Rabbi Seidler-Feller has worked as Director at UCLA Hillel for over 25 years. He is a lecturer in the Sociology Department at UCLA, an instructor in Kabbalah and Talmud at the University of Judaism, a Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the Wilstein Institute for Social Policy. He was ordained at Yeshiva University, where he also earned a Masters Degree in Rabbinic Literature.

Friday, March 14 • Following the 6:00PM service • 88th Street Frankel Hall: Shabbat B'Yahad dinner. Registration information to come.

Saturday, March 15 • During Shabbat morning services • 86th Street and 4:30PM • 88th St. Sanctuary • Free; registration not required.

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, or contact Belinda Lasky, Director of Membership at x224 or 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 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 Spin

By Amir Shaviv

So Israel is thrown this week into a political storm of colossal magnitude, the kind strong enough to blow a house from Kansas all the way to Oz. But while we are watching the aftermath with eyes wide open, wondering if Olmert's coalition survives the Vinograd Commission report, I wish to change the focus to one Americanized term that governed the Israeli public arena in the weeks prior to this: "political spin."

Almost every news item was suspiciously examined and labeled a spin:

- Reserve IDF officers organize, calling for the PM resignation? "A spin."
- A contrarian group of officers accuses the first one of a military putsch? "A counter-spin."
- Families of fallen soldiers call for accountability—another "spin." ("Who organized them?" was the immediate suspicious response).
- The Cabinet announces "Open Sky" reform of flights to Israel in competition with El Al? "Definitely a "spin": the PM is buying the Transportation Minister's support."
- Even the snowstorm predicted for Wednesday in Jerusalem was determined a spin: Aha! Blocking the roads for potential demonstrations.

Many Israelis who are old enough to remember the age of straight and simple talk in Israeli politics regret this reality. They still remember political battles between Titans like David Ben Gurion, Moshe Sharet, Menachem Begin, Levi Eshkol and their kind. Politicians spoke the truth, stood behind their beliefs and readily paid the political price of a decline in popularity. Pollsters and spin masters were almost unknown, and the political maneuvers of that era seemed naive, almost innocent. (True: there was no TV in Israel till the 1970s!)

However, this is all nostalgic. Gone are the days when the word "spin" was associated only with a Chanukah dreidle. Clearly, this American political device, improved over many an administration by various Washington wiz kids, has made a successful Aliyah and found a receptive home in Jerusalem.

Amir Shaviv, an Executive at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for twenty years, spent his previous career as a journalist in Israel, covering its never-ending political turmoil.

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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.