



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

KI TISSA

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 30:11 - 34:35

TRIENNIAL Exodus 30:11 - 31:17

HAFTARAH I Kings 18:20-39

NEXT WEEK: **VAYAKHEL**

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 35:1 - 38:20

TRIENNIAL Exodus 35:1 - 37:16

HAFTARAH I Kings 7:40-50

SERVICE TIMES CHANGE ON MARCH 14

Kabbalat Shabbat Service:

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

Beginning **Friday, March 14**, the early service will start at **6:00PM** and the late service will start at **7:30PM**, both at 88th Street.

February 22-29, 2008

16-23 Adar I, 5768

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

5:45 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:15 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

Children's Services

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

Bar Mitzvah

Malcom Fox

Aliyat Hatan veKallah

Jarod Frank and Ilana Toorans

Minha

5:45 PM - 88th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Daniel Joseph Gubitosa

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Genesis*

8:10 AM - 88th St.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Ad-delo-yada: Preparing for Purim*

6:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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 29

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

• **Stand with the BJ Darfur Response Committee**

Saturday, February 23, 12:00-3:00PM, the United Nations: Join the BJ Darfur Response Committee at a demonstration organized by the Chadian and Darfuri communities to protest recent attacks on the Chadian capital of N'djamena and on Darfur refugee camps. Start Ralph Bunche Park, 1st Ave. and 42nd St. End: Sudanese Mission to the UN, 47th St. and 1st Ave. (Dag Hammarskjold Plaza). R.S.V.P. to bjdarfur@aol.com or 917-306-6961.

• **The Governor is for it. The Assembly is for it. Only the Senate still stands in the way of marriage for same-sex couples.**

Tuesday, April 29: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and members of the Marriage Equality Hevra in Albany as we lobby the Senate in support of Marriage Equality. Add your name to the list of BJ members who believe that same-sex couples in New York State deserve the right to marry. Help us keep the pressure on. Please contact Amy Lavine at amylavine@nyc.rr.com or Marlene Halpern at jacobhw@msn.com, or Guy Austrian at the BJ office, x259, and say you'll come to Albany on April 29.

• **It's not too late to register! BJ's Summer Israel Trip, June 12-22, 2008:**

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 has been extended to March 1, and significant scholarships are available.

Contact Ivy at ischreiber@bj.org or x225 for more info.

* 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 Sonia Resnick, and extends sincere condolences to her entire family and all her loved ones.

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

- Lucy and Eliana Slurzberg on the death of their beloved sister and aunt, Lynda Schachne.
- Raquel Rosenfeld on the death of her beloved father, Alfredo Federico Rosenfeld.

MAZAL TOV

- Malcom and Larry Fox and Nancy Halpern on Malcom becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Daniel, Nunzio and Gabrielle Gubitosa and Shirley Kirshbaum on Daniel becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Alan and Mimi Frank on the upcoming marriage of their son Jarod to Ilana Toorans.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbis Josh Caruso and Arturo Kalfus, Cantor Sarah Sager, and Confirmation Class, Anshe Chesed Fairmont Temple, Beachwood, Ohio.
- Members of Park Synagogue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Community Activities

• BJ/SAJ Contemplative Practice Meditation Service at the SAJ

Friday, February 29, 6:30PM, Society for the Advancement of Judaism (SAJ), 15 West 86 Street (between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue): Welcome Shabbat with a mixture of contemplative meditation, niggun, singing, and a little bit of liturgy and kavannot. Services will be led by Rabbis Michael Strassfeld and Marcelo Bronstein. Potluck dinner to follow (A-L bring a main dish, M-Z bring an appetizer, side dish salad or dessert). Contact Naomi at ngoodhart@bj.org or x240.

• Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ

Friday, March 7, following the 7:15PM 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, led by Dan Nadel, intimate and sacred time and space are created.

• Third Annual Concert: The Music of the BJ Musicians

Saturday, March 8, 8:00PM, 88th Street: Celebrate with our resident musicians as they gather to present their own original music and amazing artistry. The different bands will offer an eclectic mix of styles including Middle Eastern, rock, jazz, classical and traditional Jewish song. Tickets: \$15/\$10 students and seniors, available at the door.

• 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 mem-

ber of this kehilla kedosha. Open to the entire BJ community.

• Annual Interfaith Lecture: Bonhoeffer Documentary with Guest Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier

Thursday, March 13, 6:30-9:00PM, 88th Street: The Interfaith Committee invites you to a special viewing of the feature-length documentary Bonhoeffer featuring a conversation with the filmmaker. As a young German Christian pastor and theologian who studied for one year at Union Theological Seminary in the 1930's, Dietrich Bonhoeffer played an important role in the opposition of the Nazi regime. He was among those who called for wider church resistance to treatment of the Jews in Germany during World War II. He joined the movement to overthrow the regime, was captured and died at the hands of the Nazis in 1945. Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier's documentary tells this dramatic story, presenting archival and family film footage and photographs, as well as interviews with some of Bonhoeffer's former students and family members. Admission free; please register at x379.

• Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

Friday, March 14, following the 6:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Please join the BJ community and Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller for Shabbat dinner. Rabbi Seidler-Feller will teach at the dinner. Cost: \$40 members/\$45 non-members. To register, please visit www.bj.org or contact Yael at x255. Registration will close on Tuesday, March 11.

• 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

• 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 these two events, please contact Channa Camins at ccamins@bj.org or x261.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• Junior Congregation

Saturday, March 1, 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 rrosenthal@bj.org or x243. We have added a bonus Junior Congregation for the month of March. In addition to March 1 and 15, we will have Junior Congregation on March 29.

• Purim Festivities for Families

There are many exciting activities for families in celebration of Purim. **Friday, March 14**, 10:30-11:00AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join Frankel

(continued on page 3)

Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

Fridays and the youngest members of our community for a pre-Purim celebration with music, art and some hamentashen.

Sunday, March 16, beginning at 12:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Our second annual Purim Carnival and World Famous Purim Play. Come in costume, play games, win prizes and watch the play. The play will begin at approximately 1:45PM.

Thursday, March 20, 5:45PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: All families are invited to a family Megillah reading and Purim celebration. Come in costume!

For more information on all the Purim events, 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 tzlimud@yahoo.com to R.S.V.P.

BJ BOOK CLUB

▪ BJ Book Club/Havurah

Saturday, March 1, 2:00PM: Please join us for a continuing discussion of the great Russian/Jewish 20th century writer Isaac Babel, and to read "The Odessa Stories" in *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel*, edited by N. Babel with an introduction by Cynthia Ozick. Please contact dsdresner@aol.com or zscharney@verizon.net for details.

AFFILIATES

▪ Dai (Enough) Returns to NY for Limited Engagement

BJ member Ronald Guttman is co-producing *Dai (Enough)* at the 47th Street Theatre. In her acclaimed, Drama Desk-nominated performance, Iris Bahr takes us into the fast-paced and colorful world of a bustling Tel Aviv café moments before a suicide bomber enters. Through razor-sharp characterizations, Bahr brings to life members of all strata of Israeli society as well as its observers and critics, remarkably capturing the humor and humanity of their existence under the most tragic of circumstances. For tickets call 212-239-6200 or visit telecharge.com.

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

▪ 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-delo-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

▪ The Rabbinic Mind and the Revelation at Sinai

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

6 Thursdays (remaining class February 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 class February 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.

▪ 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.

▪ Opening The Gateway of Prayer

Danny Mond

Sunday and Wednesday (March 23 and 26) • Sunday: 1:00-6:30PM; Wednesday, 6:30-9:30PM • 88th Street • \$50members/\$60 non-members. Do you ever feel "locked out" of the prayer service because you lack the Hebrew skills to participate? Come take your first steps into the Gates of Prayer in a two session-long Hebrew marathon. Students will start from ground zero and learn everything they need to read any part of the siddur (the Jewish prayer book)! Danny Mond, a Jerusalem Fellow and master teacher, has spent years developing courses to teach absolute beginners how to read Hebrew, and beginning Hebrew-readers how to understand the prayer book. Space is limited to 20 students. Members will be given priority. Register now to guarantee your spot. Registration will close March 14. To register, call x233.

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.

Mirror on America

By Steve Stulman

On a recent trip, a fellow traveler from Dallas introduced himself as a "cultural Jew."

I was immediately reminded of the many self-styled "secular Jews" we have encountered among BJ's Israeli Partners. Despite differences in our historical and societal backgrounds, both American and Israeli Jews are still trying to answer the question raised by the Enlightenment and Emancipation 200 years ago: How does a Jew live in the modern world? We both still argue about whether Jews are a people, nation, civilization, culture, religion or ethical community. We both are experimenting with new forms in order to be more responsive to the needs of those who, for a variety of reasons, have been alienated by mainstream Jewish practice during the past 50 years.

The efforts to develop new pathways into Judaism which we see among our Israeli Partners are not that different from what is taking place in America. For example, the growing number of independent non-rabbinic minyanim, described in *The New York Times* article of November 28, 2008, challenge "traditional Jewish notions of prayer, community and identity." In both Israel and America, we see increasing efforts to reconnect spirituality and prayer, study and community, social justice and Judaism, as well as an enthusiasm for trans-denominational women's studies and discovering the joy of Kabbalat Shabbat.

The secret of Jewish survival has always been our ability to adapt and evolve. The BJ-Israel Partnership in this process is mutual, and in this journey we are each destined to influence and to learn from one another.

Steve Stulman is the Secretary of BJ's Board of Trustees and a pioneer of the BJ-Israel Partnership.

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.