



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

VAYAKHEL

MEVARKHIM HAHODESHE

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 35:1-38:20

TRIENNIAL Exodus 35:1-37:16

HAFTARAH I Kings 7:40-50

NEXT WEEK: **PEKUDEI**

SHABBAT SHEKALIM

ROSH HODESHE

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 38:21-40:38

TRIENNIAL Exodus 38:21-39:21

SECOND SCROLL Numbers 28:9-15

MAFTIR Exodus 30:11-16

HAFTARAH II Kings 12:1-17

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 29-March 7, 2008

23-30 Adar I, 5768

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

5:45 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

Contemplative Shabbat Service

6:30 PM - SAJ (SEE P.2)

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:15 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Class

9:30 AM - 86th St. Chapel

Junior Congregation

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall

Children's Services

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

"Reach for Shabbat" Lunch

Following Services - 86th St. Social Hall

BJ Book Club

2:00 PM (SEE P.3)

Minha

5:30 PM - 88th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Michael Luzmore

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Genesis*

8:10 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Women in the Palace and the Synagogue*

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Engendering Judaism*

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

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

Limud: Rosh Hodesh Women's Group*

7:00 PM - City Hall Restaurant (SEE P.2)

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Morning Minyan

ROSH HODESHE ADAR II

7:30 AM - 88th St.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK

• **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.

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

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.

Announcements

HA-MAKOM YENAHM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Joyce Gottlieb on the death of her beloved cousin, Harriet Smith.

MAZAL TOV

• Michael, Peter, Loren and Andrew Luzmore on Michael becoming a Bar Mitzvah

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Isaac Serotta and Confirmation Class, Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism, Highland Park, Illinois.
- Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg and the 7th grade B'nai Mitzvah Class, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Chester, Connecticut.
- Rabbi Scott Nagel and Confirmation Class, Temple Oheb Shalom, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 15 IDF soldiers participating in a New York cultural trip with Gvanim.

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.

• Bring in Adar II at City Hall for the Rosh Hodesh Women's Group

Thursday, March 6, 7:00PM, City Hall Restaurant, 131 Duane St.: No, not with Mayor Michael Bloomberg, but at BJ member Henry Meer's City Hall Restaurant for a festive welcoming of the month of Purim. Travel beyond your comfort zone and away from the Upper West Side for a Rosh Hodesh Celebration. Refreshments will be served (no need to bring snacks!). Space is limited to 35 participants (BJ members given first priority). R.S.V.P. by March 4 to Lauren Deane at Ideane@bj.org or x233.

• 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.

• Opening Our Hearts to Others in Times of Illness and Struggle: Bikkur Holim, the Jewish Response

Wednesday, March 12, 7:30PM, 88th Street: Please join us to learn how the Bikkur Holim mitzvah of visiting the sick affirms that "Nothing is more whole than a broken heart." Rabbi Mychal B. Springer, Chaplain and Associate Dean of Jewish Theological Seminary together with Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual Care Coordinator of Westchester Jewish Community Services, will lead us in an exploration, study and training that will take us to the heart of this powerful experience for the visitor, for the recipient and for each one of

us as a member of this kehilla kedosha. The evening is open to the entire community with break-out training and sharing groups appropriate for those new to Bikkur Holim as well as experienced Bikkur Holim volunteers. Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, March 9 to bikkurholim@bj.org or x308.

• 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 with archival and family film footage 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.

• Purim Celebration at BJ

Thursday, March 20, 7:15PM service, 88th Street: Join the BJ community for an unforgettable reading of the Megillah! Count on dancing, DJ, delicious food and drinks. Come one, come all—in costume and dancing shoes! It happens only once a year, don't miss out!

• 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

• 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 in a major way. To help plan this event, 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. Sign up on www.bj.org; click on "Families" and then on the date that you want to lead. If

(continued on page 3)

Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

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 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: Second annual Purim Carnival and World Famous Purim Play. Come in costume, play games, win prizes and watch the play, which starts at approximately 1:45PM.

Thursday, March 20, 5:45PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: All families are invited. More information: Rebecca Rosenthal at rrosenthal@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.

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*. 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.

• Same Difference Interfaith Presentation/Performance

Friday, March 14, 10:00AM-12:00PM, Columbia University: *Same Difference*: Building Bridges Through Oral History and the Arts will be presented by members of BJ, SPSA and the ASMA Society at the Columbia University conference on Oral History & Performance. More info: 212-539-6506 or info@samedifference.org, or visit www.ohmar.org/confercurrent.html

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 (remaining classes 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.

• 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.

• Ad-delo-yada*: Preparing for Purim through Study and Song

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

4 Wednesdays (remaining classes 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

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

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller has worked as Director at UCLA Hillel for over

twenty-five 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. Rabbi Seidler-Feller will speak at Shabbat morning services on March 15 and also offer two lectures:

Friday, March 14, Shabbat B'Yahad dinner, following the 6:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: "God may not be great and neither are you—a response to Christopher Hitchens on why we need religion today"

Saturday, March 15, 4:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: "The victory of mysticism and magic over rationalism and reason in contemporary Jewish life"

Shabbat B'Yahad dinner: \$40 members/\$45 non-members. To register, please visit www.bj.org or contact Yael at x255. Registration will close on Tuesday, March 11. Saturday afternoon lecture: free, no registration 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.

Piece Process: Every Wall Shall Fall

Opening Reception: **Saturday, March 1**, 6:00-8:00PM

Pomegranate Gallery

133 Greene Street, New York, NY 10012

212-260-4014 • info@pomgallery.com

Pomegranate Gallery presents *Piece Process: Every Wall Shall Fall*, on exhibit from March 1 through March 29, 2008. The artists in the exhibition, both Israeli and Palestinian, Jewish and Arab, men and women, are committed to exhibiting together in order to explore the Israel-Palestine conflict and the possibility of peace.

"The word piece emerged from the recognition that an art exhibit can neither resuscitate the stalled 'peace process' nor turn back the clock on the recent and ongoing wars in Lebanon, Gaza, and the West Bank. Our work is a piece of something larger—a multifaceted effort to bear witness, and alter the cycle of violence and oppression. Our goal is to demonstrate integrity and attentiveness in dialogue. Together, we create an artistic space, which offers a multiplicity of voices that raises itself beyond hate and ignorance, challenges the stereotyped and unexamined images of conflict, and rejects the demands for unquestioned group loyalty.

Our exhibitions break an unspoken taboo against projects that publicly declare their shared Israeli/Palestinian, Arab/Jewish character. Our exhibitions are a call for awareness and deeper involvement by the American public. Piece Process is an affirmation in support of all the Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs, who seek a just and humane existence."

Participating artists include Granite Amit, Doris Bittar, Rajie Cook, Abdelali Dahrouch, Joyce Dallal, Hanah Diab, Michele Feder-Nadoff, John Halaka, Kanaan Kanaan, John Pitman-Weber, Jenny Polak and Amie Potsic.

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.