



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

VAYIKRA

SHABBAT ZAKHOR

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 1:1 - 2:16

MAFTIR Deuteronomy 25:17-19

HAFTARAH I Samuel 15:2-34

NEXT WEEK: **TZAV**

SHUSHAN PURIM

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 6:1 - 7:10

HAFTARAH Jeremiah 7:21 - 8:3, 9:22 - 23

SERVICE TIMES CHANGE THIS FRIDAY!

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.

March 14-21, 2008

7-14 Adar II, 5768

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

5th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Class Family Dinner

Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner

with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

6:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

7:30 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

Following 6:00 PM Service -
86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.2)

Following 6:00 PM Service -
88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Bar Mitzvah

Dylan Small

Griffin Small

D'var Torah

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

Junior Congregation

Children's Services

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall

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

Teacher-in-Residence:

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

4:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

Purim Carnival and Play

12:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

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 19

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*

No class this week

Family Megillah Reading

5:45 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

Megillah Reading and Celebration

7:15 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)



FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Morning Minyan with Megillah Reading

PURIM

7:30 AM - 88th St.

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

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

• *This Passover, Tell the Next Mayor:*

WE WANT AN AFFORDABLE MANHATTAN

HOUSING ACTION ASSEMBLY

with Manhattan Together coalition

Tuesday, April 22, 7:00PM, 88th Street: We'll pack the Sanctuary with 700 people from the entire borough, across race, class, and faith, to send a clear message to the declared candidates for mayor: We need Manhattan to stay affordable and diverse! City Comptroller William Thompson has already committed to attend; other candidates have been invited to join us. Your presence counts! Help BJ to demonstrate our power and passion as a community in action! Please R.S.V.P. to panim@bj.org or x432.

This Passover, celebrate our liberation story with concrete action in our own generation, in our own lives.

Announcements

HA-MAKOM YENAHM

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

- Susan Mason on the death of her beloved mother, Zina Schaefer.
- Barbara Annenberg, Robert and Suzie Scher on the death of their beloved, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Morton Annenberg.

MAZAL TOV

- Dylan, Griffin, Robert and Barbara Small on Dylan and Griffin becoming B'nai Mitzvah.
- Stephen and Dorothy Vatner on the birth of their grandson, Joseph Henry, to Daniel and Amy Vatner.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM


- Rabbi Michael Friedman, Gavin Hirsh and 7th Graders, Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Short Hills, New Jersey.

Community Activities

Shabbat B'Yahad Dinner with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller

Friday, March 14, following the 6:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Registration is now closed. We hope that you will join us for Shabbat B'Yahad in the future!

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!

A Delightful Compendium of Consolation: A Fabulous Tale of Romance, Adventure, and Faith in the Medieval Mediterranean

Thursday, April 3, 7:00PM, 88th Street: Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky discusses his new book, which brings to life the world of Mediterranean travelers on the high seas and caravan routes of the 11th century. A Professor of Rabbinic Literature, Burton L. Visotzky has spent three decades teaching and researching the stories that make up the heart of this novel. His active role in Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue has brought him to Rome, Cairo and Qatar—and he has a deep personal investment in promoting the kind of Jewish-Muslim harmony that prevails throughout much of the novel. The book will be available for purchase and signing by the author. There will be time for questions after the discussion. Free, registration not required.

Pesah Seder Match

Saturday, April 19 (first night of Pesah): Participate in a wonderful mitzvah this Pesah—consider hosting guests at your first seder or choose to be a guest at someone else's seder. To sign up, please complete a Pesah Seder Match form and send it to the BJ office by Friday, March 28. Please contact Yael at pesah@bj.org or x255 with questions or for more information.

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 at bikkurholim@bj.org or x308 to get involved.

Students! Summertime Help in BJ Office

Summertime is a busy season at the BJ office. We are searching for reliable people who can help with computer data entry and general office assistance in the Membership Department. This is an ideal opportunity for high school or college students who are available in June, July and/or August. Hourly wages available. Please contact Belinda Lasky at blasky@bj.org or x224 for more information.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bagels, Lox & Social Justice Jewish Text Study

Sunday, March 23, 10:30AM-12:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Following morning minyan, join us for breakfast and a class with dynamic guest teacher, Rabbi Or N. Rose. Rabbi Rose is Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College, and co-editor of the new anthology, *Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for 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. **For more information on how you can be involved in planning and mobilizing our community for this event, please contact Channa Camins at ccamins@bj.org or x261.**

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Junior Congregation

Saturday, March 15, 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 you have questions, or would like help learning to lead a prayer, contact

Rebecca Rosenthal at rosenthal@bj.org or x243. In addition to March 15, we have added a bonus Junior Congregation on March 29.

Purim Festivities for Families

There are many exciting activities for families in celebration of Purim. **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 rosenthal@bj.org or x243.

5th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Dinner

Friday, March 14, following the 6:00PM service, 86th Street Social Hall: Join all 5th Grade B'nai Mitzvah students and their families for Shabbat dinner. R.S.V.P. to Theresa Williams at twilliams@bj.org or x260.

6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat

Friday, May 9-Sunday, May 11, Camp Ramah, Nyack, NY: It's time to register for BJ's first-ever 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat! This retreat is for ALL of BJ's 6th graders, no matter where they receive their Jewish education. Registration deadline is April 15. For registration materials, contact Theresa at twilliams@bj.org or x260.

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Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

BEKEF: 35+

• Havdalah, Wine and Cheese

Saturday, March 29, 6:30 PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join other 35+ singles for wine, cheese and Havdalah. Please bring your favorite wine and “good spirits” to share with old and new friends. BJ musicians Basya Schechter and Matt Turk will share their music and join us for singing and Havdalah as Shabbat turns into the new week. Please R.S.V.P. to bekef@bj.org by Monday, March 24. BJ members and non-members are welcome.

BJ BOOK CLUB

• BJ Book Club/Havurah

Sunday, April 6, 7:00 PM, please contact dsdresner@aol.com or szucharney@verizon.net for location: Join us for a discussion of the acclaimed debut novel *The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer, who emigrat-

ed to New York from Iran. The novel powerfully depicts a prosperous Jewish family in Tehran shortly after the revolution. Next month's meeting will cover M. Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*. Contact dsdresner@aol.com or szucharney@verizon.net if you plan to attend.

AFFILIATES

• Home Hospitality Needed

Home hospitality is needed for ten high school basketball players from Sderot, Israel, for six days between July 13 and July 23. The Jerusalem International Basketball Sports Center has invited these boys, who have suffered the Qassam rocket attacks, for a vacation in the United States to visit New York and Jewish summer camps in the area. We need places for one or two in a room. Please contact Jules Love at jlove3@nyc.rr.com or 212-724-5303.

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

• 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.” Registration for the dinner has closed.

Saturday, March 15, 4:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: “The Victory Of Mysticism And Magic Over Rationalism And Reason In Contemporary Jewish Life”

• Women in the Palace and the Synagogue

Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

4 Tuesdays (remaining class March 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 (remaining class March 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

• 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.

• A MONTHLY LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Engendering Judaism: What Is At Stake?

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

7 Wednesdays (remaining classes April 2, May 7) • 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.

• Ilu Hotzianu: Preparing for Pesah through Study and Song

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

3 Wednesdays (April 2, 9, 16) • 6:30-8:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required • Code: 829. As spiritual preparation for Pesah, we will study relevant classical texts and learn piyutim (liturgical poems) and Haggadah selections set to melodies from different parts of the Jewish dispersion.

• Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Nisan

Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol and Chen Ben Or Tsfoni

Sunday, April 6 • 6:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. Each new month on the Hebrew calendar, we will have an opportunity to study, discuss, celebrate and pray together on this holiday traditionally associated with women. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian kosher snack to share with the group as part of the celebration of Rosh Hodesh.

• Israel through Music and Literature (for Hebrew speakers)

Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

4 Tuesdays (April 8, 15, 22, 29) • 7:00-8:30PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. The role of the Land of Israel has provoked both criticism and boundless love. In this course we will meet poets, composers, rabbis and others who have addressed the Land of Israel in their work.

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.

This Adar is Different

By Amir Shaviv

"When the month of Adar begins, we intensify joy," we are told by a traditional Jewish proverb. Mission impossible, alas, this year: across Israel, people are mourning this week the senseless death of the terror attack victims in Jerusalem. The heart breaking pain over the loss of innocent lives is magnified by fears that a renewed wave of terror and revenge will sweep Israelis and Palestinians alike into a new Intifada.

Further, Israelis are stressed and concerned with the fighting with Hamas forces controlling the Gaza Strip. It seems, to many observers, a dead-end situation. A ground offensive by the Israel Defense Forces will result in a high toll on Israeli soldiers and may not curb the rocket barrages aimed at Israeli citizens. Air strikes and artillery shelling kill innocent civilians and terrorists alike, bringing the wrath of the world upon Israel. And the third option—doing nothing while Israel's sovereignty is challenged daily—is not acceptable either. Thus, there is no joyous mood.

And anxiety is produced from afar as well. In an ironic, yet chilling, paraphrase on the Biblical Purim story, there is again a ruler in latter-day Persia who wants "...to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day..." (Esther 3:13) and is working diligently to achieve the means to do so. Reading the Megillah this month of Adar in Israel is bound to evoke thoughts and fears that will hardly cause us to "intensify joy."

The only hope is that somewhere, far from the public eye, under the veil of secrecy, the Esthers and Mordechais of our time have been working relentlessly over time to prevent such a plot from reaching fruition, and "...then shall their enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place" (Esther 4:14).

Amir Shaviv is an executive of the Rescue and Relief organization, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

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.