



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

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

NEXT WEEK: **SHEMINI**

SHABBAT PARAH

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 9:1 - 10:11

MAFTIR Numbers 19:1 - 22

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 36:16 - 38

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

• **Marriage Equality is a civil rights issue.**

New York has a responsibility to treat all its citizens equally. Yet LGBT couples in our state are clearly discriminated against when it comes to marriage.

Sunday, 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. Add your name to the list of BJ members who believe our core Jewish values compel us to support the right of same-sex couples to marry in New York State. Help us keep the pressure on.

To register, visit www.prideagenda.org and click on "Register Now for LGBT Equality & Justice Day." Be sure to enter "B'nai Jeshurun" under Organizational Affiliation. Buses will leave from the Upper West Side and other locations in New York City. Registration fee of \$40 covers bus, breakfast, and lunch. (This is a full day trip.) For more information, contact Amy Lavine at alavine@gaycenter.org, Marlene Halpern at jacobhw@msn.com or Guy Austrian at x259.

March 21-28, 2008

14-21 Adar II, 5768

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:30 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

Children's Services

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

Community Kiddush

Following Services - 86th St. Social Hall

Shabbat Study

1:00 PM - 86th St. Parlor (SEE P.2)

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

Bagels, Lox & Social Justice Text Study

with Rabbi Or Rose

10:30 AM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

Limud: Opening the Gateway of Prayer

1:00 PM - 88th St.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Genesis*

8:10 AM - 88th St.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Opening the Gateway of Prayer

6:30 PM - 88th St.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Frankel Fridays

10:30 AM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

* Please see the BJ website, 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:

- Richard, Laura, Jessica, Joshua, and Rachel Bass on the death of Richard's beloved sister, Claudette Bass.
- Hilda and Adena Greenberg on the death of their beloved brother and uncle, Joseph Weiss.

With deep apologies, we are reprinting this announcement with the corrected information:

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Marcia Annenberg and Robert and Suzie Scher on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law and grandfather, Morton Annenberg.

MAZAL TOV

- Leonard Wasserman on the birth of his granddaughter, Olivia Rose Mori.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is cosponsored by John Bonavita in honor of Harold Goldman becoming BJ's new Executive Director, and by Robert Stark in honor of his wife Helen's 60th birthday.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Jo-Ellen Unger and Post-Confirmation Class, Congregation Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Adam Ackerman and high school students, Ames Jewish Congregation, Ames, Iowa.
- Andy Hodes and high school students, Chattanooga Jewish Congregational Religious School, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- Rabbi Avis Miller and Ralph Miller from Adas Israel, Washington, DC.

Community Activities

• Shabbat Study with BJ Member Myriam Abramowicz

Saturday, March 22, 1:00PM, 86th Street Parlor: Join the BJ community during Kiddush as Myriam Abramowicz teaches about "Humbleness in Vayikra and Other Sources."

• 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.

• Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ—Tze'irim 20s and 30s Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 4, following the 7:30PM service, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. Following the late service, BJ members and non-members in their 20s and 30s are invited to share an intimate Shabbat dinner together in Frankel Hall. (BJ members and non-members in their 40s, 50s and 60s will be invited to a similar dinner on Friday, May 2!) Visit www.bj.org to register for the dinner. Cost: \$10 BJ members/\$15 non-members. First-come first-served; limited spaces are available. Unless the dinner fills up beforehand, registration will close on Tuesday night, April 1. Please contact yhammerman@bj.org with any questions. **At 10:00PM, the entire BJ community will be invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with Pizmon, the Jewish a cappella group of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary.**

• BJ Contemplative Practice Pre-Pesah Retreat

Friday, April 11–Saturday, April 13, Elat Chayyim/Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center: Come join your BJ friends and family for an amazing contemplative retreat with Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan. We will gather in the days leading up to Passover to pray, chant, meditate and find that still small voice within that tells us how to get out of the desert. Suitable for experienced meditators as well as beginners; an excellent opportunity to renew yourself spiritually. Cost: \$210–265 depending on room size and BJ membership. For more info contact Naomi at x240 or ngoodhart@bj.org. Registration deadline is March 24. This event will sell out.

• 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. Please complete a Seder Match form and send it to the BJ office by Friday, March 28. Questions? pesah@bj.org or x255.

• Green Feast: An Interfaith Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 19, 6:30PM, 86th Street Social Hall: Join us as we share an organic, vegetarian potluck dinner with SPSA, West Park Presbyterian Church, ASMA Society, and the Muslim Consultative Network. We will hear Jewish, Muslim, and Christian teachings about honoring the environment, enjoy live music by musicians from each tradition, and strengthen the community we've built at our interfaith Yom Kippur/Ramadan break-fasts. Space is limited to 60 people from BJ and registration will close once all spaces have been filled. Registration is not complete until you receive a confirmation. Register by Monday, May 12 to interfaithpotluck@gmail.com or x379.

• 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. 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. An ideal opportunity for high school or college students available in June, July and/or August. Hourly wages available. Please contact Belinda Lasky at blasky@bj.org or x224 for more information.

• Service Match

If you plan to attend Friday night services and would like someone to help walk you through the service, we are happy to pair you with a BJ member. He or she will meet you before the service and guide you through BJ's one-of-a-kind experience. To request a "Service Match," contact bjservicematch@yahoo.com with the date you plan to attend, whether you prefer the early or late service, and your contact information. We look forward to getting to know you!

• Hamidrasha Visit

In May we're expecting a special group of fifteen women from Hamidrasha, part of the Elga Stulman Women's Center at Hamidrasha. As is our tradition, we are looking for host homes from May 8-16. If you have an extra bedroom and would like to host one of the women, please contact Liz at estone@bj.org.

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 29, 10:30AM, 86th Street Social Hall: We hope all children in second to seventh grade will join us at our next Shababt 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.

▪ 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.

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 emigrated 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

▪ Options and Consequences: Israeli and Palestinian Views

Sunday, March 23, 6:30 PM, Congregation Shaare Zedek, 212 West 93rd Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.): Brit Tzedek v'Shalom presents Gershon Baskin and Hanna Siniora, co-founders and directors of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI). At this highly-charged, stress-filled time in the Middle East, Dr. Baskin and Mr. Siniora will offer their perspectives on the realities and possibilities of achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace through negotiations, and will ask how the U.S. can effectively influence peacemaking. Event is free. Visit www.btvshalom.org or contact nyc@btvshalom.org for more information.

▪ 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.

▪ 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 opportu-

nity 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.

▪ The Poems of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

3 Mondays (May 5, 12, 19) • 7:00-9:00PM • 86th Street Parlor Room (5/5, 19), Board Room (5/12) • Free; registration required. During the last High Holy Days, we explored the theology of our teacher Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. He also wrote poetry, and during these three sessions we will read his poetry and attempt to connect it to his theology. The last two sessions will be co-led with Basya Schechter, who has set many of these poems to music.

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.

Green Tip: COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTS— THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE IS HERE

You've probably heard a lot about how you can save energy (i.e., money) and fight global warming by replacing conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights, CFLs. But you might also have some concerns about the quality of light they produce. Actually, most CFLs on the market today offer the same performance, versatility, and light output as incandescent bulbs.

Whiteness: Like incandescent bulbs, CFLs can produce light in many shades of white. Look for the terms "warm (yellowish) white" and "cool (bluish) white" or "daylight."

Brightness: CFLs use much less energy to produce the same amount of light as an incandescent bulb. A 15-watt CFL produces the same amount of light (800 lumens) as a 60-watt incandescent bulb.

Compatibility: CFLs are available in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. There are now even CFLs designed to accommodate three-way, dimmable, motion-sensor, and outdoor fixtures.

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.

Israel Story

By Joanne Palmer

In 1963, when Renee Schlesinger was 16, her mother wanted her to spend the summer in Israel.

Renee's parents both had escaped Germany early; her prescient grandmother had spirited out her daughter and her prescient father got himself out and to Palestine. But her father, who worked on a kibbutz, got sick, had to leave, went to America, married, had children, prospered—and then died young, when Renee was just 11.

When her mother dragged her to an interview at the Jewish Theological Seminary for a USY trip to Israel, Renee tried her hardest to dissuade her. When Dr. Morton Siegel, who ran USY, asked her why she wanted to go to Israel, she was clear. "I don't want to go," she said. "Israel's full of Jews." But Dr. Siegel accepted her anyway.

In those days, the teenagers spent two days in Amsterdam on their way to Israel. When she got there, Renee asked Dr. Siegel to please just send her home. "It will be much cheaper to go home from here than from Israel," she said. "Just give me two days," Dr. Siegel answered. "If you're still unhappy then, I'll send you home."

Renee went along; she counted the days until she could be back on Long Island. Then she got to Israel, and it took her by surprise.

She loved it.

"It had my father's presence in it," she said. "And it was so beautiful; full of light, full of life, not exactly primitive but still very, very new. It sounds clichéd, but it was so real – it felt like home." That love has lasted—she still feels it today.

As always, in loving memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman.

Joanne Palmer works for United Synagogue, where she edits CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

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.

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY FOR MORE INFO: Welcome to BJ • Membership at BJ • Membership Packets • BJ Annual Catalogue • Bikkur Holim

BJ SYNAGOGUE: 257 W. 88th St. • **OFFICE:** 2109 Broadway (Ansonia), Suite 203, New York, NY 10023 • **TEL:** 212.787.7600 • **FAX:** 212.496.7600 • **WEBSITE:** www.bj.org