



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

**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

NEXT WEEK: **TAZRIA**

SHABBAT HA<sub>H</sub>ODESH

MEVARKHIM HA<sub>H</sub>ODESH

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59

**TRIENNIAL** Leviticus 12:1 - 13:39

**MAFTIR** Exodus 12:1 - 20

**HAFTARAH** Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:18

**! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY**

• This Passover, Tell the Next Mayor:  
**WE WANT AN AFFORDABLE MANHATTAN**

**ACTION ASSEMBLY**  
with Manhattan Together coalition

**Tuesday, April 22, 7:30PM, 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 be affordable and diverse!**

As a coalition we will gather to connect with our neighbors in Manhattan and stand for immigrants' rights, quality public education and affordable housing. 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.*

**March 28–April 4, 2008**

**21–28 Adar II, 5768**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 28**

<b>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</b>	6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
<b>Contemplative Shabbat Service</b>	6:00 PM – 86th St. Sanctuary
<b>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</b>	7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

<b>Shabbat Services</b>	9:30 AM – 86th St.
<b>Bar Mitzvah</b>	Anders Halperin
<b>Bar Mitzvah</b>	Benjamin Davidoff
<b>Junior Congregation</b>	10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
<b>Children's Services</b>	10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor
<b>Bekef Havdalah, Wine and Cheese</b>	6:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	9:30 AM – 88th St.
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**MONDAY, MARCH 31**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM – 88th St.
<b>Limud: Introduction to Judaism*</b>	7:00 PM – BJ Office

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM – 88th St.
<b>Limud: The Book of Genesis*</b>	8:10 AM – 88th St.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM – 88th St.
<b>Limud: Engendering Judaism*</b>	12:15 PM – BJ Office (SEE P.3)
<b>Limud: Ilu Hotzianu: Preparing for Pesah*</b>	6:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM – 88th St.
<b>Judith Bernstein Lunch Program</b>	12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
<b>Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a*</b>	7:00 PM – BJ Office
<b>A Delightful Compendium Book Discussion with Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky</b>	7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4**

<b>Morning Minyan</b>	7:30 AM – 88th St.
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\* Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://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:

- Harvey Israelton on the death of his beloved mother, Pauline Israelton.
- Geoff Leibovitz on the death of his beloved mother, Rabbi Diane Leibovitz.
- Gil, Jacob and Sophie Eisner and Kate Wenner on the death of Gil's beloved mother, Shirley Philip.
- Carol Schiffman-Durham on the death of her beloved father, Leonard Schiffman.
- Laurel, Gene, Sasha and Rachel Eisner on the death of Laurel's beloved sister, Caryl Mesch.
- Ronda Small and Ira, Evan and Perry Wolfman on the death of Ronda's beloved aunt, Gertrude Felberbaum.
- Sara Mandelbaum, Stephen, Daniel and Laura Goldstein on the death of Sara's beloved mother, Lynn Mandelbaum.
- Shira, Jimmy, Alexander, Gideon and Benjamin Levin on the death of Shira's beloved mother, Hadassah Nadich.

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Benjamin, Larry, Lisa, Hannah and Michael Davidoff on Benjamin becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Anders, Guy and Luisa Halperin on Anders becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

### TODAH RABBAH

- This week's flowers for the bimah are sponsored by Guy and Luisa Halperin and Lisa and Larry Davidoff in honor of their sons, Anders and Benjamin, becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

### B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Elyn Becker Kaufman, Neil Schechter and Confirmation Class, Temple Beth Shalom, Arnold, Maryland.
- Participants in Gvanim, a leadership training course to promote Jewish pluralism in Israel.
- Rabbi Andrea London and high school seniors, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, Evanston, Illinois.

## Community Activities

### • *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](http://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](mailto: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.**

### • **Pesah Seder Match: Hosts Needed**

**Saturday, April 19 (first night of Pesah)**: Participate in a wonderful mitzvah this Pesah – consider hosting guests at your First Seder! To sign up, please complete a Pesah Seder Match form and send it to the BJ office by Monday, March 31. Questions? [pesah@bj.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. If you can make a phone call, then you can do this great mitzvah! Contact the BH Committee at [bikkurholim@bj.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. They represent a wide rainbow of Israeli society, and will be with us from Yom Ha'atzma'ut through the Women's Retreat. As is our tradition, we are looking for host homes from May 8-16. It's a great opportunity to get to know them better and make new connections. If you have an extra bedroom and would like to host one of the women, please contact Liz at [estone@bj.org](mailto:estone@bj.org).

## Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

### 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.

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

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

**For more info on how you can be involved in planning and mobilizing our community for these events, please contact Channa Camins, 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](http://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](mailto:rosenthal@bj.org) or x243.

#### • Purim Cast Party

**Sunday, April 13, 3:30-5:30PM**, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Parents and kids are all invited. Please R.S.V.P. to [Kelberg@aol.com](mailto:Kelberg@aol.com) 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](mailto:twilliams@bj.org) or x260.

### BEKEF: 35+

#### • Bekef Trivia Night at The Baggot Inn

**Tuesday, April 8, 7:00PM**, The Baggot Inn (82 West 3rd St., between Sullivan and Thompson Sts.): Join the BJ team; quiz begins at 7:30PM sharp. Show off

your skills and expertise, have fun, a beer, and laughs as we answer trivia questions and compete with other teams. This event is open to BJ members and non-members 35 and over, to singles and couples. R.S.V.P. to Andrea Newman at [shelbynewman@yahoo.com](mailto:shelbynewman@yahoo.com) by Sunday, April 6.

### BJ BOOK CLUB

#### • BJ Book Club/Havurah

**Sunday, April 6, 7:00 PM**, please contact [dsdresner@aol.com](mailto:dsdresner@aol.com) or [szucharney@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:dsdresner@aol.com) or [szucharney@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:jlove3@nyc.rr.com) or 212-724-5303.

#### • Support the People of Sderot

Having recognized the desperation and desolation of the community in Sderot, the New Israel Fund and SHATIL have spent the last six months gearing up to begin an intensive community organizing initiative in the city. The project includes intensive outreach and organizing by a dedicated staff person who will nurture residents' interests and abilities in active citizenship and community leadership. In March 2008, a town hall meeting is planned to allow the citizens to express themselves and enlarge the group of activists and volunteers that has already been formed. In May 2008, SHATIL will hold a public hearing, as it did in various cities in the North following the Second Lebanon War, in order to bring the voice of the local residents to the fore and ensure that the government is fulfilling its responsibilities towards the residents of the embattled city. To support these initiatives, donate online at [www.nif.org/sderot](http://www.nif.org/sderot).

## Upcoming Limud Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://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 Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. 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 Tsfo**

**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 Tsfo, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow**

**2 Tuesdays** (April 8, 15) • 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](http://www.bj.org), or contact Belinda Lasky, Director of Membership at x224 or [blasky@bj.org](mailto: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](http://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.

## A Teenager's Perspective on Peace

By Shay Shmuel Tsfoni

When I look at my Bar Mitzvah parashah, Va'Yishlah, which begins with Jacob being very afraid of his brother's revenge and ends with a warm reconciliation between the two, I immediately think of two personal experiences from my recent past.

In the summer of 2006, as we were preparing to move to New York for two years, the second Lebanon War began. Our house in Moshav Nahallal was within Hezbollah's missile range. One morning while I was alone at home, Hezbollah started bombing the area around our Moshav. Missiles fell all around. I was alone at home and suddenly I heard a blast; it was such a loud sound, a horrible noise. The entire house shook and it seemed as if the windows were about to break. Like Jacob, it was the first time I ever experienced the terror and fear of war.

A very different experience happened to me this past summer. I participated in Camp Shomria in Upstate New York. There, a group of Jewish and Arab teenage Israelis participated in a program aimed at encouraging coexistence between Arabs and Jews in Israel. What I found most amazing was that I couldn't tell the difference between the Arab kids and the Jewish kids in the program. They were all just teenagers wanting to spend a good time at camp! The fact that they were from such different backgrounds did not make a difference. It was very special to see how Jewish kids and Arab kids—if only given the opportunity, if only given the time and the place to be themselves—will just have fun together, NOT ENGAGE IN WAR.

I pray that we will no longer feel fear and terror in Israel; I pray that we will be able to reach peace, just like Jacob and Esau did. They moved from feeling afraid, from being enemies, to feeling like they should, like brothers, just like the teenagers in camp.

*Shay Tsfoni is a seventh grader at the Heschel School and the son of BJ Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow Chen Ben Or Tsfoni.*

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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.*