



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 • Rabbi Esther Lederman

קול ישורון
KOL JESHURUN

BEHUKOTAI

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 26:3 -27:34

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 26:3 -27:15

HAFTARAH Jeremiah 16:19 -17:14

NEXT WEEK: **BEMIDBAR**

MEVARKHIM HAHOODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Numbers 1:1 -4:20

TRIENNIAL Numbers 1:1 -1:54

HAFTARAH Hosea 2:1 -22

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

It does not hurt! "People are often reluctant to give because they are afraid and think it will be painful or unpleasant, but it really isn't any of those things. It's really easy, and a small thing each of us can do to be a big help to someone else." —Harriet Abraham

• SIGN UP NOW: Bi-annual Blood Drive at BJ

Wednesday, May 28, 4:00-9:00PM, 88th Street: Give the gift of life. This donation doesn't depend on your bank account and is the greatest mitzvah of them all! Please contact TrudiL531@aol.com or call x373 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and best time slot for you. Either Trudi Levine or Sharon Messitte will return your call. Go to www.bj.org/blooddrive for information about how you can prepare to donate and learn about any restrictions that may apply.

Shavuot Schedule of Services

Sunday, June 8 • Erev Shavuot

Evening Service followed by Tikkun Leil Shavuot:

88th Street Sanctuary8:30 PM-midnight

88th Street Frankel Hall.....midnight-5:30 AM

Monday, June 9 • First Day Shavuot

Sunrise Services5:15 AM

Morning Services

88th Street Sanctuary10:00 AM

Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....11:15 AM

Community Picnic

Riverside Park (weather permitting)....Following Services

Second Evening Shavuot

88th Street9:00 PM

Tuesday, June 10 • Second Day Shavuot

Morning Services (Yizkor)

88th Street Sanctuary9:30 AM

Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall10:45 AM

May 23-30, 2008

18-25 Iyar, 5768

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 34 (Yesod Shebehed)

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM – 86th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Joshua Wexler-Waite

Bar Mitzvah

Yaniv Lewis

Aliyat Hatan veKallah

Bob Gruenspecht and Carla Lewis

Children's Services

10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

Community Kiddush

Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 35 (Malkhut Shebehed)

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM – 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 36 (Hesed Shebeyesod)

MONDAY, MAY 26

Memorial Day

BJ OFFICE CLOSED

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM – 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 37 (Gevurah Shebeyesod)

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Limud: Revelation According to Levinas*

7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 38 (Tiferet Shebeyesod)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Bi-annual Blood Drive

4:00-9:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE SIDEBAR)

Limud: Z'man Kabbalat Torateinu: Preparing

7:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

For Shavuot through Text Study and Song*

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 39 (Netzah Shebeyesod)

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 40 (Hod Shebeyesod)

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 41 (Yesod Shebeyesod)

* 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 Ketty Yoeli and extends its sincere condolences to her son Michael Yoeli, her daughter-in-law Susan Etra, her grandchildren Matthew, Dahlia and Belle, and her entire family.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our beloved member Henry Kleiman.

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

- Edward, Kayla, Sarah and Adin Joyce and Linda Gerstel on the death of Ed's beloved mother, Carol A. Joyce.
- Jane Brody on the death of her beloved father, Robert Brody.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Joshua and Benjamin Wexler-Waite, Douglas Waite and Karen Wexler on Joshua becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Yaniv and Jonathan Lewis, Ruth Friedman, Gabrielle Silver and Maya Silver-Lewis on Yaniv becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Carla Lewis and Bob Gruenspecht on their upcoming wedding.
- Rena Chelouche Fogel and Anne Bogart on their recent marriage.

- Rabbi Leana Morritt on her ordination by the Academy for Jewish Religion.
- Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay and Rabbi Howard Mandell on their ordination by the Jewish Theological Seminary.
- Meg and Seth Akabas on being honored and presented with the Bonei Beit Rabban Award by the Beit Rabban Day School at their Annual Benefit on May 29.
- Beth and Jonathan Kern on being honored for their exceptional dedication and service to the Heschel School at the school's Annual Benefit on May 29. And to Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok, Virginia Bayer, and Shira Nadich Levin for being honored for their leadership as former presidents of the Heschel School's Board of Trustees.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by the Silver-Lewis family in honor of Yaniv's becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- This week's flowers for the bima are sponsored by Doug Waite, Karen Wexler and Ben Wexler-Waite in honor of Joshua Wexler-Waite becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Sharon Amster Brown and 8th grade class, Temple Israel, Long Beach, California.
- Rabbi Brian Zimmerman and members of the Union for Reform Judaism Southwest Council Board.

Community Activities

• BJ Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 6:00PM, 88th Street: Please come and learn about our new Havurot Program; address questions to our rabbis; meet members, the new MTM Rabbinic Fellow, staff and board members; and view a big screen presentation of "Life at BJ." The formal meeting will begin at 7:30PM and will include the President's report, the Rabbis' message, the Executive Director's report, the Treasurer's report and the election of new members to BJ's Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.

• Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ—Shabbat Dinner for 30s to mid-40s

Friday, June 6, following the 7:30PM service, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. Directly following the late service, BJ members and non-members in their 30s to mid-40s are invited to share an intimate Shabbat dinner together in Frankel Hall. This dinner is open to singles and couples. The dinner is \$10 for BJ members/\$15 non-members. Limited spaces are available, and the dinner is first-come first-serve. Unless the dinner fills up beforehand, registration will close on Tuesday night, June 3. Please visit www.bj.org to register for the Shabbat dinner. Please contact Yael at yhammerman@bj.org or x255 with any questions. At 10:00PM, the entire BJ Community will be invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together in the Sanctuary with the BJ musicians, who will perform and lead us in Shabbat songs.

• Tikkun Leil Shavuot at BJ: Sinai

Sunday, June 8, 9:00PM, 88th Street: From 9:00PM-midnight (following Shavuot services at 8:30PM), join painter and BJ member Jill Nathanson and the Chancellor of JTS, Professor Arnie Eisen, for a visual and textual hevruta

study session entitled "Seeing Sinai." The evening will continue with another study session with Chancellor Eisen, and all-night study with the BJ Rabbis.

• Kirtan Rabbi comes to BJ!

Saturday, June 14, 8:30PM, 88th Street: Let your spirits soar and your bodies sway, as B'nai Jeshurun and Romemu jointly present an evening of Hebrew Mystical Chant with the "Kirtan Rabbi," Andrew Hahn, in honor of his 50th birthday. Kirtan is fully participatory call-and-response chant: a wonderfully fun I-Thou singing and dancing experience. Events begin with a nosh and learning with Rabbis Roly Matalon and David Ingber, followed by Havdalah and the Hebrew Kirtan. This event will be filmed and recorded for the first-ever Kirtan Rabbi CD! For more information: www.kirtanrabbi.com

• 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!

• 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.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• Training Ride 1: NY Hazon Jewish Environmental Bike Ride

Sunday, June 1, 9:00AM, meet at Columbus Circle: Join BJ member Andrea Newman for a 25-mile beginners training ride through urban terrain to Wave Hill. Meet great people and get a good workout! Learn more about Hazon

and the BJ Revolutionaries team. You don't have to join the team to participate in the training ride. However, there is still plenty of room on the team if you choose to join us for the culminating ride on Labor Day Weekend. For more information email Andrea at andrea_newman@verizon.net or go to www.hazon.org/rides/2008NY/.
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• Summer Shelter Volunteers Needed!

Many homeless shelters close their doors during the summer because they cannot find enough volunteers. Not the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter! We stay open all year round, five nights a week. However, to do so we need your help. While many of our regular volunteers are away for well-deserved vacations, we need to fill gaps in the schedule with temporary volunteers sleep over. Even if you can volunteer only one night this summer, you will help us provide a safe and welcoming environment for up to 10 women who come to our shelter nightly. If enough kind-hearted people volunteer, we could all sleep more soundly. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Anne Millman at AnnieMill@aol.com or call (x340).

• SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER NOW: Komen Race for the Cure

Sunday, September 14, Central Park: It only takes a minute to register for this 5K Walk/Run to fight breast cancer. It may seem early but with summer plans and the to-do of returning after Labor Day, these important commitments get lost in the shuffle. Go to www.komennyc.org, click on "Race Registration is Now Open" and then click on "Join a Race Team." Our team name is Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. We are eager to form a junior group of teens and young adults. For further information, contact Glenda Frank at glfrank@verizon.net or call Channa at x261.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• Junior Congregation

Saturday, June 7, 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.

• Shavuot Bikkurim Baskets

Monday, June 9, 11:15AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: During children's services on the first day of Shavuot, it is our tradition to make baskets of fruits and flowers to donate to the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. **Please bring your own baskets (or bags) and fruit, and BJ will provide the flowers.** Please note that children's services begin at 11:15AM on the first day of Shavuot and go back to 10:45AM on the second day of Shavuot. Basket-making is only on the first day. Contact Rebecca Rosenthal at rrosenthal@bj.org with questions.

BEKEF: 35+

• Bekef 35+ Movie and Dinner

Sunday, June 1, late afternoon through evening, Upper East Side: Join Bekef

for a movie and vegetarian dinner at a Chinese restaurant. This event is open to BJ members and non-members, 35 and over, singles and couples. You pay separately for your movie ticket, plus about \$25 for dinner. Space is limited to the first 20 men and 20 women who R.S.V.P. to bekef@bj.org. Registration will close by Tuesday, May 27, unless the event fills up before then. You will receive exact time and location information upon receiving email confirmation by Friday, May 30.

LEDOR VADOR

• Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon: Jews in Theatre

Saturday, June 7, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Start your summer off right with an intergenerational Shabbat Luncheon hosted by Ledor Vador. BJ members Ron Guttman and Gordon Edelstein will treat us to a talk about Jewish influence on their profession of choice: acting and the theatre. Please R.S.V.P. to blasky@bj.org or x334. Also, send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with "Ledor Vador 6/7" on the memo line. Children are welcome to attend free of charge.

BJ BOOK CLUB

• BJ Book Club/Havurah

Saturday, May 31, 2:00PM: Join us for a discussion of Michael Chabon's recent best seller *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*. We will explore the many layers of this highly imaginative detective story taking place sixty years after Israel's fictional collapse in 1948. Please contact zsucharney@verizon.net or dsdresner@aol.com for location and details about joining our group.

AFFILIATES

• Concert for Israel's Environment

Tuesday, May 27, 8:00PM, Congregation Shaare Zedek, 212 W. 93rd St. between Broadway and Amsterdam: Hazon presents two of Israel's top young musicians: Yonah Zur, violin, and Michael Korman, cello, will perform works of Bach, Ravel, Menachem Zur and Paul Ben-Haim. Concert proceeds will benefit environmental causes in Israel including providing bicycles to children of Sderot as well as the Green Apprenticeship program at Kibbutz Lotan. Reception to follow. Concert produced by BJ member Michael Reingold. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 door; \$10 students. For more information and to purchase tickets: www.hazon.org/concert or 212-644-2332.

• New Voices Presents: Blacks, Jews, and the Post-Racial Candidate

Wednesday, May 28, 7:00PM, Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street: *New Voices*, the independent Jewish student magazine, presents a panel discussion on the criticism of Barack Obama by certain segments of the Jewish community, and what it tells us about the state of the relationship between

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

Z'man Kabbalat Torateinu: Preparing for Shavuot through Text Study and Song

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

3 Wednesdays (remaining classes May 28, June 4) • 7:00-8:15PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. As spiritual preparation for Shavuot, we will learn relevant classical texts, as well as piyutim (liturgical poems) and biblical verses set to melodies from different parts of the Jewish dispersion.

• Revelation According to Dr. Emanuel Levinas: In Preparation for Shavuot

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

3 Tuesdays (remaining class May 27) • 7:00-8:30PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. In a chapter in his book *Beyond the*

Verse, Dr. Levinas explores the nature and meaning of Revelation. Together we will do a close read of this chapter, which opens up a gate into the philosophy of Dr. Levinas as well as a perspective on Revelation and its demands on us. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to buy the book.

• Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Iyar

Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol and Chen Ben Or Tsfoni, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

Tuesday, June 3 • 7:00PM • 88th Street • Free; registration not 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.

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 7:30PM 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.

Creating Common Space for American and Israeli Women

By Elenor Radzivilover

It was big.

It was holy.

It was intimate.

Rabbi Felicia, an astounding spiritual leader and rabbi, taking each of us to a higher ground.

Our BJ Rabbinic Fellows Chen Ben Or Tsfonti and Esther Lederman, profound in their contribution.

Yael Hammerman organized everything perfectly.

And to be with those Israeli women: Their presence allowed us to become Israeli, too.

Steve Stulman's vision of bringing fifteen women from Hamidrasha and Nigun Halev to join us for ten days should be converted into a new mitzvah, number 614: To create common space for Jewish American and Israeli women to dwell in, if even for a short time.

Even though I am home now, the retreat was so powerful that I am still on it.

Thanks Rabbi Felicia, Rabbi Esther, and Chen.

Thanks Steve and all the women from Hamidrasha and Nigun Halev, who left their lives in Israel to be with us.

Thanks to every woman on the retreat because each was like a letter in the Torah. If even one is missing, well, you know the rest!

Elenor Radzivilover is a lawyer, a Jewish Theological Seminary Modern Jewish Studies Masters Degree student, and visits Israel regularly.

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.

Focus on Israel

Creating Kehillah (continued from page 3)

African-Americans and Jews. With Ari Berman (*The Nation*), Ta-Nehisi Coates (*Village Voice* and *The Atlantic Monthly*) and Sam Freedman (Professor of Journalism, Columbia University and *The New York Times*). \$10 general admission, \$5 students and CJH members. Buy tickets now at www.newvoices.org.

• **Join the Heschel School in the Salute to Israel Parade**

Sunday, June 1, 2:00PM: Join the students, families and staff of the Heschel school in the Salute to Israel Parade as we celebrate Heschel's 25th anniversary and Israel's 60th! For more information, call The Heschel School at 212-595-7087.

• **In response to the devastating cyclone in Myanmar**

AJWS has been making grants focused on Burma/Myanmar since 2002 and has long-standing partnerships with organizations on the eastern and northern borders of the country. While no AJWS grantees were directly affected by the cyclone, these groups are serving as contacts and support networks to those who are affected. AJWS is providing rapid relief funding to communities hit by the storm, particularly in the Irrawaddy River Delta. These remote communities are even less able to access aid than those in other parts of Burma. Please visit the AJWS website, www.ajws.org, for more information.

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

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