



CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN

RABBIS:

J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol

HAZZAN & MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ari Priven

MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS:

Rabbi Esther Lederman • Ezra D. Weinberg

קול ישרון
KOL JESHURUN

VAYERA

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 18:01 - 22:24

TRIENNIAL Genesis 19:01 - 20:18

- 1: 19:01 - 19:11
- 2: 19:12 - 19:20
- 3: 19:21 - 19:29
- 4: 19:30 - 19:38
- 5: 20:01 - 20:08
- 6: 20:09 - 20:14
- 7: 20:15 - 20:18
- Maftir: 20:15 - 20:18

HAFTARAH II Kings 4:01 - 4:23

NEXT WEEK: **HAYYEI SARAH**

MEVARKHIM HAHOODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 23:01 - 25:18

TRIENNIAL Genesis 24:10 - 24:52

HAFTARAH I Kings 1:01 - 31

November 14-21, 2008

16-23 Heshvan, 5769

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:00 PM - 86th St. Social Hall

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:30 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

Bekef Shabbat Dinner

Following 7:30 PM Service -

88th St. Frankel Hall

Friday Night Off-Broadway:

10:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.2)

Oneg Shabbat With Pharaoh's Daughter

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

Bat Mitzvah

Clio Sherman

Junior Congregation

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall

Children's Services

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

K-2 Children and Families Shabbat Lunch

12:30 PM - 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.2)

Minha

4:30 PM - 88th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Liad Mansky

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism

7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Exodus

8:30 AM - 88th St.

Intergenerational Health and Fitness Talk

10:30 AM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

Limud: Myth or Reality: Finding Truth

7:00 PM (SEE P.3)

In Religious Life*

Limud: Spiritual Practices for Times

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

of Uncertainty*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

BJ Blood Drive

4:00-9:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE SIDEBAR)

Limud: Heschel's Heavenly Torah*

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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, NOVEMBER 21

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

• SIGN UP NOW: Blood Drive at BJ

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 is really easy and is a small thing each of us can do to be a big help to somebody else.

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00-9:00PM, 88th Street: Mark your calendars to donate blood at the next BJ/SPSA Blood Drive. 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.

This year you will have an additional opportunity to give. You can sign up for the National Marrow Donor Program registry on the same day. For more information on bone marrow donation, visit www.marrow.org.

* 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, Ivette and Benjamin Stern on the death of their beloved stepfather, father-in-law, and grandfather, Martin Yedvarb.
- Adam and Pearl Atkin on the death of Adam's stepmother, Edith Atkin.
- Nahum Precel, Rivka Tenenbaum-Precel and Heila Precel on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Mariano Precel.
- Rose Diggs on the death of James Diggs, our long-time friend and SPSA security guard.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Clio, Robert and Jonah Sherman and Rivka Milder on Clio becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Liad, Piotr, Jolie, Oren, Leeron and Ayala Mansky on Liad becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Joseph Eiduson and 9th grade students, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Westborough, Massachusetts.
- Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg and Confirmation Class, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Chester, Connecticut.
- Rabbi Daniel Sherman and Confirmation Class, from Tree of Life Congregation, Columbia, South Carolina.

Community Activities

• Friday Night Off Broadway: Shabbat at BJ

Friday, November 14, 10:00PM, 88th Street: Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. The entire BJ community is invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with Pharaoh's Daughter, who will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat song.

• Introducing a New Series of Intergenerational Programs

Tuesday, November 18, 10:30-11:30AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join us for an informative and interactive talk on health, nutrition and Jewish law. Simeon Darwick, licensed health counselor, will present a new approach to eating and healthy living based on innovative theories and the ancient teachings of Maimonides. He will model a simple and graceful exercise plan and offer realistic guidance—with humor—on health maintenance. Admission is free. To register, please contact Susan Kalev at skalev@bj.org or leave a message at x377.

• Helen's Calling Circle

Tuesday, November 18, 6:00-8:00PM, BJ Office, Conference Room 1: Please join us for the first meeting of "Helen's Calling Circle." Many of us live alone with no one regularly checking in on us. We are in the process of setting up a call-in system that will be monitored daily. If someone does not call in when they are supposed to, emergency numbers will be called and help will be sent. Joining a calling circle will take you less than one minute a day and could save your life. If you live alone or for some other reason would like to belong to one of our calling circles, please join us on Tuesday, when will be introducing the program and forming groups for those who would like to participate. Free, no registration necessary. Please contact Elizabeth Stone at x233 if you have any questions.

• Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 26, 7:00PM, hosted by SPSA, 86th Street: Join with our neighbors of all faith traditions to give thanks on the eve of Thanksgiving. There will be a light reception after the service. Clergy from several churches and synagogues will be participating, and money raised that evening will be donated to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. For more information, please contact Rabbi Esther Lederman at elederman@bj.org or x264.

• Shabbat Dinner and Teaching with Scholar-in-Residence Jeffery Goldberg

Jeffrey Goldberg is a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*. Before joining *The Atlantic* in 2007, he was Middle East and Washington correspondent for the *New Yorker*. His book *Prisoners* was hailed as one of the best books of 2006. Goldberg is the recipient of the 2003 National Magazine Award for Reporting for his coverage of Islamic terrorism, as well as the 2005 Anti-Defamation League Daniel Pearl Prize.

Shabbat B'Yahad: Friday, November 21, following the 6:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Please join the BJ community for our first Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat dinner of the year, as Jeffrey Goldberg speaks about "Terrorism, Extremism and the Diminishing Chance for Peace: A Personal Story," and his time as both a soldier and reporter among the Palestinians and across the lands of Islam. Cost for dinner: \$35 members/\$40 non-members. To sign up for the dinner, visit www.bj.org or contact Guy at x255.

Shabbat Afternoon Teaching: Saturday, November 22, 4:00-5:30PM, 86th Street Social Hall: Please join us as Jeffrey Goldberg and BJ member Jonathan Rosen discuss the election and the future of the Middle East. Free, no registration necessary. Contact Elizabeth Stone at x233 for more information.

• Creating Community: Invitation to a Conversation

Tuesday, December 2-Thursday, December 11: What are you looking for in the BJ community? How can we build community in a large congregation? Join us for a series of house meetings to discuss these issues with other members of the BJ community—we want to hear from you! We will be holding six meetings in members' homes between December 2-11 (including two Sunday meetings—childcare will be provided at one Sunday meeting). Register for one of these conversations by contacting Yaffa Garber by November 24 at ygarber@bj.org or x256. Space is limited.

• Healing Resources: A New Bikkur Holim Project

The Bikkur Holim Committee is undertaking a new project: to collect short descriptions from our congregants about what Jewish traditions and practices they found helpful when facing serious physical or emotional illness. Both those who have been ill and those who have been caregivers are invited to contribute. When facing serious illness, many of us yearn for spiritual support but feel too overwhelmed or too afraid to seek it out. Our project is designed to fill this gap. To learn more or to contribute, contact Susan Kaplow, a member of the BH Committee, at 518-281-4133 or susankaplow@earthlink.net. Confidentiality will be strictly maintained in collecting the material.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

▪ Darfuri Human Rights Worker Shares His Story

Wednesday, November 19, 6:00–8:00PM, Anne Frank Center, 38 Crosby Street, Fifth Floor: New York City Coalition for Darfur founder Sharon Silber and Darfuri human rights worker Adeeb Yousif will speak on Darfur advocacy and the current crisis. Yousif will share his experience in Sudan and his journey to the U.S. with an exhibition of Darfuri children's drawings. Free. Wine and cheese will be served.

▪ Judith Bernstein Lunch Program Volunteers Needed

Time on your hands? Consider using your time and hands to volunteer with the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program. Due to the current economic downturn, we have experienced a large increase in the number of people who depend on us for lunch each Thursday. Every week we welcome over 100 guests at BJ for a nutritious, five-course sit down meal. We welcome families with children, homeless men and women, seniors unable to cook for themselves, and members of the working poor, regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, or background. Our guests are individually addressed, personally welcomed, and served with kindness, dignity, respect and generosity. **Volunteers are needed for all shifts: Wednesday from 5:00-7:00PM, and Thursday from 9:00-10:30AM and 11:30AM-1:30PM.** For more information, please contact Susan Samuels at sssamuels@aol.com.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

▪ K-2 Children and Families Shabbat Lunch

Saturday, November 15, 12:30–1:30PM, 86th Street Social Hall: Join us for our first K-2 Shabbat program of the year! There will be lunch, time for parents to relax, and grade-specific programming for the kids. To R.S.V.P., please contact Davey Rosen at drosen@bj.org or x244.

HAVUROT

▪ Men's Havurah

Saturday, November 22, 5:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: You are invited to a Havdalah/Melave Malka experience. We are going to escort Shabbat on her way out via singing, eating, and studying. We have a very special guest, Israel Campbell, who is going to teach from the Torah of humor. You just have to be male, whether straight, gay, single, married, or in any other self-definition. The Men's Havurah Committee includes Michael Yoeli, Moshe Horn, Chuck Gold, Bob Kanter, Nahum Precel, Jonathan Adelsberg and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein. R.S.V.P. to ngoodhart@bj.org or x240.

Would you like to be published in the weekly KJ?

Many weeks a D'var Torah, written by a member of the BJ community, is published in the weekly *Kol Jeshurun*, posted on the BJ website, www.bj.org, and sent out with the BJ community email. We invite and encourage you to participate in this growing circle of BJ Torah teachers. Consider writing in honor or in memory of a family member or friend, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary. No experience necessary! This teaching allows each of us to study the parasha of the week and learn from one another in our community. Please contact Sarah Guthartz at sguthartz@bj.org for further information.

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

▪ Myth or Reality: Finding Truth in Religious Life

A Class for Tze'irim (20s and 30s)

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

4 Tuesdays (remaining class November 18) • 7:00–9:00PM • Rabbi Sol's home; register for address • Free; registration required. Who wrote the Bible? Was there an Exodus? Does the God of the Torah operate in our world today? Often we are confronted with knowledge and scholarship that contradicts our understanding of Judaism or what we've been taught since we were children. How can religious life hold up to the test of scholarship? How can our mind and soul not be in conflict? Join as we explore these issues together. Please register early, space is limited.

▪ Spiritual Practices for Times of Uncertainty

Rabbis Marcelo R. Bronstein and Rachel Cowan

6 Tuesdays (remaining classes November 18, 25, December 2, 9, 16) • 7:00–9:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. During these sessions we will explore and expand in a contemplative way some of the Jewish practices we spoke about during the Yamim Nora'im: Kehillah—community; Tefillah—prayer; Shabbat; Kashrut; Lashon Ha Tov—positive speech; Tzimtzum—contraction. Rabbi Rachel Cowan received her rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and is the author of *Growing up Yanqui* and co-author with the late Paul Cowan of *Mixed Blessings*. She is the Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

▪ Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

7 Wednesdays (remaining classes November 19, December 3, 10, 17; no class Thanksgiving week) • 6:30–8:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. We resume our study of Rabbi Heschel's gigantic work on rabbinic thought in observance of his centennial year. Heavenly Torah, recently translated into English, explores the polarity in Judaism between transcendence and immanence, and between mysticism and rationalism. Please bring the book to class (available in paperback); no photocopies will be distributed. New participants are welcome.

▪ Davening Workshop: Growing from Participant to Leader

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

3 Tuesdays (December 2, 9, 16) • 7:00–8:30PM • BJ Office, Conference Room #1 • Free; registration required. Have you come to a place where you would like to not only participate in tefillah but have the possibility of leading tefillah (be it a shiva minyan or morning minyan)? Come to this davening workshop to understand the basic structure of the morning and evening weekday service and to learn the nusah. Each evening will have a learner's Ma'ariv minyan. Participants must be capable of reading Hebrew. Please register early, space is limited.

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.

High Holy Days Uniquely Celebrated in Israel and the U.S.

By Chen Ben Or Tsfoni

As an Israeli living in New York for the past two years, I am struck by the very different way the High Holy Days are experienced in Israel and the United States. Whether they are Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or do not attend synagogue at any other time of year, American Jews express their Jewish identity by congregating in synagogue for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. This communal prayer experience can be beautiful and powerful, as it is at BJ. Since most Israelis are secular, the essence of the High Holidays in Israel is not celebrating in shul. It's about visiting with family, festive meals, new clothes, hiking, presents, school breaks, and special editions of the newspaper with holiday articles.

In particular, Yom Kippur in Israel is marked by a unique combination of traditional and modern observance. While for American Jews, Yom Kippur is a day of serious prayer and fasting, it is much more than the Day of Judgment for Israelis. The holiday is a sad and painful memorial day for thousands of families who lost their loved ones in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The bereaved visit cemeteries to hold private and public memorial ceremonies. At the opposite end of the emotional spectrum, Yom Kippur is also a day for riding bicycles, when all the streets are closed to cars. Intertwining the many strands of Israeli society, the streets are full of children on bicycles, observant Jews walking to shul, and mourners heading to the cemetery. A true microcosm of modern Israel.

I wonder what the High Holy Days would be like if we combined the very different Israeli and American Jewish celebrations.

Chen Ben Or Tsfoni is BJ's Israel Coordinator. She is a former BJ Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow and is one of the spiritual leaders of Congregation Niggun Halev in Nahalal, Israel.

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.