



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 ישורון

## KOL JESHURUN

### VAYETZE

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 28:10 - 32:03

**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 30:14 - 31:16

- 1: 30:14 - 30:16
  - 2: 30:17 - 30:21
  - 3: 30:22 - 30:27
  - 4: 30:28 - 30:36
  - 5: 30:37 - 30:43
  - 6: 31:1 - 31:09
  - 7: 31:10 - 31:16
- Maftir: 31:14 - 31:16

**HAFTARAH** Hosea 12:13 - 14:10

**NEXT WEEK: VAYISHLAH**

**TORAH: ANNUAL** Genesis 32:4 - 36:43

**TRIENNIAL** Genesis 34:01 - 35:15

**HAFTARAH** Ovadiah 1:01 - 21

## December 5-12, 2008

## 8-15 Kislev, 5769

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

6:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

**Wandering Minyan**

6:00 PM - 86th St. Social Hall

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

7:30 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

**Tze'irim Shabbat Dinner**

Following 7:30 PM Service -  
86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

**Shabbat Services**

9:30 AM - 86th St.

**Bat Mitzvah**

Sara Kern

**Bat Mitzvah**

Charlotte Frankel

**Speaker**

Naomi Chazan,  
President of the New Israel Fund

**6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Program**

9:30 AM - 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.3)

**Junior Congregation**

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall

**Children's Services**

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

**BJ Book Club**

2:00 PM (SEE P.2)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Morning Minyan**

9:30 AM - 88th St.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Introduction to Judaism\***

7:00 PM - BJ Office

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: The Book of Exodus**

8:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Davening Workshop:**

7:00 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)

**Growing From Participant to Leader\***

**Limud: Spiritual Practices for Times  
of Uncertainty\***

No class this week (SEE P.3)

**An Evening of Fiction With Geraldine Brooks**

7:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

**Limud: Heschel's Heavenly Torah\***

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

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**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, DECEMBER 12

*Reach for Shabbat BJHS Retreat begins*

**Morning Minyan**

7:30 AM - 88th St.

### ! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

**• Donate New:**

**Warm Socks, Scarves and Gloves!**

Every year the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program provides our guests with a lovely Holiday Gift Bag. We are asking for your much needed help in providing NEW warm mens and womens hats, scarves, gloves, and socks. Please bring your contributions to the BJ office or to a special collection box at services before December 15. Questions? Please contact Susan Samuels at sssamuels@aol.com or x261.

\* Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for more information and to register. (Registration for *Introduction to Judaism* is closed.)

## Announcements

### HA-MAKOM YENAHEM

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

- Marilyn and Charles Marsden on the death of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Naomi Ruth Weber.
- Alfred Litman, Betty Jane Jacobs, and Joseph and Juliet Litman on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Belle Litman.

### MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Sara, Jonathan, Beth, Adam and Benjamin Kern on Sara becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

- Charlotte, David and Jane Frankel and Sandra Kummerer on Charlotte becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

### TODAH RABBAH

- This week's flowers for the bimah are sponsored by Beth, Jonathan, Benjamin and Adam Kern in honor of their daughter and sister, Sara, becoming a Bat Mitzvah, and David and Jane Frankel and Sandra Kummerer in honor of their daughter and sister, Charlotte Frankel, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

### B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Cantor Steven Pearlston and a group from the Free Synagogue of Flushing, Queens.

## Community Activities

### • BJ Book Club

**Saturday, December 6**, 2:00PM: Join the BJ book group to discuss Irene Nemirovsky's *Suite Francaise*. Please contact [zsucharney@verizon.net](mailto:zsucharney@verizon.net) or [dsdresner@aol.com](mailto:dsdresner@aol.com) for location or with any questions.

### • An Evening of Fiction with Geraldine Brooks

**Tuesday, December 9**, 7:30PM, 88th Street: Join BJ, *Moment* magazine, and the Karma Foundation for an evening with Geraldine Brooks, author of *March* and *People of the Book*. We will also hear from up-and-coming fiction writers and winners of this year's short fiction contest sponsored by *Moment* magazine. Wine and cheese will be served. Cost: Free; registration required to [gfelixbrodt@bj.org](mailto:gfelixbrodt@bj.org) or x255.

### • Friday Night Off Broadway: Shabbat at BJ

**Friday, December 12**, following the 7:30PM service, 88th Street: Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. BJ members and non-members singles and couples in their 30s/40s are invited to share an intimate Shabbat dinner together in Frankel Hall. At 10:00PM, the entire BJ community is invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with Agada, who will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat song. Cost for dinner: \$10 members/\$15 non-members. To sign up, please visit [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) or contact Guy at x255.

### • Community Kiddush

**Saturday, December 13**, following Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Social Hall: Please join us for a Community Kiddush with BJ committee chairs and morning minyan leaders, who will be honored with an aliyah during Shabbat services. Contact Guy, x255, for more information.

### • Shabbat Teaching

**Saturday, December 13**, following Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th St. Parlor: The BJ community is invited to join Rafi Haham as he teaches about "Vayishlah and the Five Human Intelligences Model." Rafi Haham was a member of the original multidisciplinary team of experts that developed this model in Israel, and uses it in workshops and courses he conducts internationally. Rafi will explain how these five intelligences operate in almost any field of human interaction, and which ones were traditionally promoted in Jewish education. Contact Guy, x255, for more information.

### • Community Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, December 19**, following the 6:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Please join the BJ community for the first community Shabbat dinner of the year with MTM fellows Rabbi Esther Lederman and Ezra Weinberg. To sign up, please visit [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) or contact Guy at x255. Cost: \$35 members/\$40 non-members

### • Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon For The Whole Community

**Saturday, December 20**, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Frankel Hall: The entire BJ community is invited to an intergenerational Shabbat luncheon hosted by Ledor Vador. Schmooze with friends, dine on a delicious meal, and celebrate what it means to come together for Shabbat. Please R.S.V.P. at x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Also, send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-member with "Ledor Vador 12/20" on the memo line. Children are welcome to attend free of charge.

### • Morning Minyan: BJ Jew-ry Duty

In order to ensure that we have a minyan every day in support of mourners and others in our community who are saying Kaddish, we ask that we can count on you as part of our Morning Minyan once a year. Every BJ member receives a postcard in the mail which gives details about when and where to attend minyan. Please make every effort to attend—you'll meet new people and do a mitzvah. For more information about Morning Minyan, please visit the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### • New Member Orientation Programs

Calling all new members! If you joined BJ in the past few months, be sure to register for our remaining New Member Orientation Program in January. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet others who have joined at the same time and learn how to get involved in the many exciting programs at BJ. Register soon as space is limited. Contact Sarah Verity at [sverity@bj.org](mailto:sverity@bj.org) or x250 for more information, or to register.

### • Every Person Has a Name Initiative

Just in case you don't know everybody in our community, we are trying a new initiative to get to know more people by their names. As you have heard recently at Friday night services, when you say "Shabbat Shalom" to another person, simply add your name, too!

## Creating Kehillah

### SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### • 60th Anniversary of International Human Rights Day

**Monday, December 10**, 6:30PM, Church of the Holy Trinity, 316 East 88th Street: Panim el Panim as a member of Manhattan Together is co-sponsoring an event celebrating the 60th anniversary of International Human Rights Day. Featured will be the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), who are

campaigning to obtain a 1 penny per bucket salary increase for tomatoes picked primarily for fast food chains. Currently they earn 40 cents per 32-pound bucket. The event will begin with a candlelight Eucharist that will include reading the UN Declaration of Human Rights. CIW workers will speak at 7:30, followed by a reception.

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## Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

### • **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 [ssamuels@aol.com](mailto:ssamuels@aol.com).

### ■ **YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION**

#### • **6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Program**

**Saturday, December 6**, 9:30-10:30AM, 86th Street Chapel: Join Rabbi Roly for an exciting hour of learning. This program is for all 6th graders (and their parents) who will become bar/bat mitzvah at BJ. Questions? Contact Davey Rosen, [drosen@bj.org](mailto:drosen@bj.org) or x244.

#### • **Family Hanukkah Klezmer Concert and Celebration**

**Thursday, December 18**, 5:00-6:15PM, 88th Street: Join Yale Strom and his klezmer band to hear the story "The Wedding that Saved the Town." There will be singing, dancing, eating and celebrating, all in preparation for Hanukkah. Children and families of all ages are invited to attend. All BJHS students will go to the concert as part of school. Please contact Rebecca at [rosenthal@bj.org](mailto:rosenthal@bj.org) or x243 for more information.

#### • **Pre-Hanukkah PJs and Havdalah**

**Saturday, December 20**, 5:00PM, location TBA: Wear your PJs and join us for some singing, havdalah and menorah-making in celebration of the end of Shabbat and in preparation for Hanukkah. Contact Rebecca at [rosenthal@bj.org](mailto:rosenthal@bj.org) with questions or to R.S.V.P.

#### • **Kids' Purim Play 2009 Auditions, Rehearsal, Lunch and Activity**

**Sunday, January 4**, 11:00AM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Anyone in Kindergarten and above is invited to join us for an entire cast rehearsal/activity to kick things off for our 2009 season! AUDITIONS: After lunch (approximately 12:30PM), children in grades K, 1 and 2 will be able to leave for the day and 3rd graders and older should stay for auditions. Kids will read from the script

provided that day. If you would like to sing, please have a short song prepared *a cappella*. Please see full play details on the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org). Questions? Contact Michael at [kelberg@aol.com](mailto:kelberg@aol.com), Subject: PURIM.

### ■ **TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s**

#### • **Tze'irim Winter Celebration Shabbat Potluck Dinner**

**Friday, December 5**, following the 7:30 service, 86th Street Social Hall: Join Tze'irim for our Winter Celebration Shabbat potluck dinner in the SPSA Social Hall. This event is open to all 20s/30s, but it will fill up quickly.

#### • **Hanukkah Havoc Party at the Parlour**

**Saturday, December 27**, 8:00PM, The Parlour (86th and Broadway): Come celebrate with your Tze'irim friends, and while you're at it make a few new ones! Join us downstairs at The Parlour for Hanukkah Havoc and get ready to party like it's eight nights in one—featuring a two-hour open bar, holiday-inspired refreshments, dancing, and of course, dreidel games. A fee of \$25 will be collected at the door, and, if you're feeling especially generous, we're requesting that people bring a small gift under \$10.00 to be randomly exchanged in an optional "grab bag." So mark your calendars, tell your friends and begin the countdown to Havoc! R.S.V.P. to Karen and Carly at [TZKehillah@gmail.com](mailto:TZKehillah@gmail.com) by December 13.

### ■ **HAVUROT**

#### • **Book of Genesis Study Havurah**

This havurah is forming to read and discuss the remarkable stories of the Book of Genesis, trying to find new ways to encounter the profound wisdom embedded in these mysterious and wondrous tales. If you are interested, please contact Neal Aponte, a BJ member and licensed clinical psychologist, at [nealaponte@earthlink.net](mailto:nealaponte@earthlink.net).

### ■ **AFFILIATES**

#### • **Limmud NY 2009**

**Thursday-Monday, January 15-19**, the Catskills: A 4-day festival of all things Jewish. Get away Martin Luther King Weekend with 1,000 Jews of all ages and backgrounds. Celebrate the rich diversity of Jewish life, culture, ideas and perspectives. Choose from 300+ sessions including lectures, hands-on workshops, text study, music, film, yoga, nature walks, and more. Or just hang out, relax, eat, meet new friends and grow your Jewish world. Scholarships are widely available. For more info, contact [info@limmudny.org](mailto:info@limmudny.org) or 212-284-6968, or visit [www.limmudny.org/register](http://www.limmudny.org/register).

## Upcoming Limud Please see the BJ website, [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org), for more information and how to register.

### • **Spiritual Practices for Times of Uncertainty**

**Rabbis Marcelo R. Bronstein and Rachel Cowan**

**6 Tuesdays** (no class this week; remaining class December 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.

### • **Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah**

**Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon**

**7 Wednesdays** (remaining classes December 10, 17) • 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** (remaining classes December 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](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 7:30PM 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](http://www.bj.org/schedule.php), where you can indicate what days you plan to attend. If you are interested in receiving a weekly minyan email, please contact Ari Priven at [apriven@bj.org](mailto:apriven@bj.org).

## Connecting BJ Members to Israel

Chen Ben Or Tsfofi

Connecting BJ members in a meaningful way to Israel is a major focus of our mission. As BJ's new Israel Coordinator, I hope to help our community move toward that goal.

Over the last 10 years, as a member of Hamidrasha, a spiritual leader of Niggun Halev, and a rabbinic fellow at BJ, I have participated in many interchanges between Americans and Israelis. Visitors to Israel are moved by the golden light of Jerusalem, hearing modern Hebrew spoken in the street, and the sense of history echoing in the ancient stones of holy places. Yet what I have found has connected people most meaningfully to my complex, challenging, and wonderful homeland is meeting Israelis—eating a Shabbat dinner together, taking part in a new friend's daily life, and discussing individuals' struggles and dreams.

I want to suggest that the best way to encounter Israel is not just through the land, but through the people. BJ has a number of spiritual partners all over Israel—groups dedicated like us to forging new paths into Judaism. Members of our partner communities will be happy to host you, spend time with you, or invite you to Shabbat services and dinner. You can also forge relationships with Israelis when our partners are visiting BJ from Israel by hosting them or inviting them to your home for Shabbat dinner.

If you are planning to visit Israel and you want to make your visit more meaningful or you would like the opportunity to host our Israeli visitors, I would be glad to help you. You can contact me by email at [ctsfofi@bj.org](mailto:ctsfofi@bj.org) or by phone on Thursdays at the BJ office, 212-787-7600 x203.

*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