



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

NEXT WEEK: VAYESHEV

MEVARKHIM HA^HODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

TRIENNIAL Genesis 38:1 - 38:30

- 1: 38:1 - 38:5
- 2: 38:6 - 38:11
- 3: 38:12 - 38:14
- 4: 38:15 - 38:19
- 5: 38:20 - 38:23
- 6: 38:24 - 38:26
- 7: 38:27 - 38:30
- Maftir: 38:27 - 38:30

HAFTARAH Amos 2:6 - 3:8

NEXT WEEK: MIKETZ

ROSH ^HODESH TEVET

SHABBAT ^HHANUKKAH

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 41:1 - 44:17

TRIENNIAL Genesis 41:53 - 43:15

Rosh ^Hodesh (7): Numbers 28:9 - 28:15

Maftir: Numbers 7:42 - 7:47

HAFTARAH Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7,
Isaiah 66:1, 23

PLEASE NOTE: On Friday, December 26 and Friday, January 2, there will be one Kabbalat Shabbat service only at 6:30PM at 88th Street.

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

• Sign The BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter Petition!

Please sign our petition to protect important services for homeless people in New York City. The NYC Department of Homeless Services has proposed reducing the hours of operation of drop-in centers, changing the model for delivering services to homeless people in the emergency shelter network and shifting those services away from the majority of homeless individuals in favor of the chronically street homeless. We believe these changes will reduce the number of homeless people served—at a time when economic distress may increase their numbers—and may create barriers to the continued participation of faith-based communities such as ours in providing shelter. **Go to the BJ website, www.bj.org to sign or find more information!** We hope you take action!

December 19-26, 2008

22-29 Kislev, 5769

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Community Shabbat Dinner

6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Following 6:00 PM Service –
88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)
7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM – 86th St.

Junior Congregation
Children's Services

10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

Ledor Vador Shabbat Luncheon

Following Services – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

Minha
Bat Mitzvah

4:30 PM – 88th St.
Michal Ben Or Tsfofi

PJs and Havdalah
Men's Havurah

5:00 PM – 86th St. Parlor (SEE P.2)
5:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Morning Minyan
Bekef Hanukkah Party

1ST CANDLE HANUKKAH
9:30 AM – 88th St.
7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.2)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

BJHS CLOSED
Morning Minyan
Limud: Introduction to Judaism*
Hanukkah: The People's Choice (Tze'irim)

2ND CANDLE HANUKKAH
7:30 AM – 88th St.
7:00 PM – BJ Office
7:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Morning Minyan
Limud: The Book of Exodus

3RD CANDLE HANUKKAH
7:30 AM – 88th St.
8:30 AM – 88th St.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Morning Minyan

4TH CANDLE HANUKKAH
7:30 AM – 88th St.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

BJHS CLOSED • BJ OFFICE CLOSED
Morning Minyan
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program
Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a

5TH CANDLE HANUKKAH
9:30 AM – 88th St.
Cancelled this week
No class this week

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Morning Minyan

6TH CANDLE HANUKKAH
7:30 AM – 88th St.

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

Announcements

HA-MAKOM YENAHM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Judith and Carl Felsenfeld on the death of their beloved aunt, Gertrude Bonime.

MAZAL TOV

- Michal, Guy, Shay and Nir Tsfofi and Chen Ben Or Tsfofi on Michal becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Mary-Joan and Charles Gerson on the birth of their grandson, Henry Phineas Bardfeld.

Community Activities

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. Registration for the dinner is now closed (walk-ins will be welcome if space is available).

• **Shabbat Luncheon: Ledor Vador Presents Henry Meer and Carol Gelles**
Saturday, December 20, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Hanukkah is coming! Celebrate with Ledor Vador and the BJ community at an intergenerational Shabbat Luncheon. We are delighted to present BJ members Henry Meer, chef and proprietor of City Hall Restaurant, and Carol Gelles, author of vegetarian cookbooks and head cook for BJ's lunch program. Carol and Henry will share tales of the food industry to make your mouth water. Bring your favorite latke recipe to share with new friends. 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.

First Community Minḥa Service and Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer's 15th Yahrzeit

Saturday, January 10, 3:45PM, 88th Street: We will start gathering on the second Shabbat of each month for a Minḥa service. Please join us on January 10 at 4:30PM for the first community Shabbat Minḥa. The service will be preceded by a lecture at 3:45PM (promptly) by JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen marking Marshall's 15th yahrzeit.

Yoga and Health

Tuesday, January 13, 10:30-11:45AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join Edya Kalev, registered yoga teacher and movement therapist, in a gentle and fun presentation of yoga and its benefits. Edya will show us how to incorporate simple breathing and stretching into your daily routine to balance and energize the body, mind and spirit. You will discover a kind of yoga that suits your needs. This event is for people of all ages and abilities. Free, registration required; contact Susan Kalev at skalev@bj.org.

Shabbat Suitcases

Have you always wanted to host a large group for Shabbat but didn't have enough supplies? Inviting people into your home to celebrate the Sabbath is not only a mitzvah—it will help to create the sense of community we are all looking for at BJ. Through a generous donation from one of our members, BJ has been able to create Shabbat Suitcases. Each suitcase has all the physical

tools necessary to host a Shabbat gathering: 12 Zimrat Yah (books with songs and blessings), 12 kippot, candlesticks, a kiddush cup, and a havdalah set. Members may borrow a suitcase for the weekend and are asked to return it the following Monday. For more information, please contact Liz Stone at estone@bj.org or x233.

Silver Name Badges

New to BJ? Have questions about membership? Look for people wearing silver name badges—feel free to approach them with your questions or even just to introduce yourself—they can help!

Surveying our Community: Please Participate!

Keep your eyes open for a community-wide survey coming to you by e-mail in mid-to-late January. (A paper version will also be available.) This survey will be part of BJ's current "Community Building Initiative" which aims to improve how members create connections within the community. By taking this survey and telling us about your experiences at BJ, you will help to shape new and innovative membership programs and structures to strengthen our community. When you receive the survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out! For more information, please contact Guy Austrian, gaustrian@bj.org, x310.

Kol Hadash Writers Wanted!

December: time to eat latkes, take a few vacation days, and write an article for the *Kol Hadash* in your spare time. After January, the *Kol Hadash* will be published once every other month and will feature more articles about life at BJ and everything that makes this a unique community. We're looking for volunteers to write about recent programs and classes, as well as short staff profiles. If interested, please contact Denise Waxman, Communications Manger, at dwaxman@bj.org with a brief description of your writing experience. (You don't have to be an expert journalist!—just willing to share your curiosity and reflections.)

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.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

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.
(continued on page 3)

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Pre-Hanukkah PJs and Havdalah

Saturday, December 20, 5:00PM, 86th Street Parlor: 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 rrosenthal@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. Questions? Contact Michael at kelberg@aol.com, Subject: PURIM.

4th Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter

Tuesday, January 6, 5:00–6:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: BJ's 4th graders and their families, no matter where the child receives his or her Jewish education, are invited to prepare a meal for the guests of the shelter. To participate, please contact Davey Rosen at drosen@bj.org or x244.

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

Hanukkah: The People's Choice

Monday, December 22, 7:30PM, 88th Street: Ever wondered how to make the Jewish holidays meaningful to you, or what role we have in formulating the Jewish holidays? Join Tze'irim and Pardes alumni for wine, cheese and jelly doughnuts as we learn with Yaffa Epstein, a faculty member at Pardes, about Hanukkah, and the role of the Jewish people in creating Jewish holidays. R.S.V.P. to Mindy Schachtman at tzlimud@gmail.com.

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, by December 22.

BEKEF: 35+

Bekef Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 21, 7:00PM, 88th Street: Please join Bekef for a potluck candle-lighting Hanukkah party. Singles, couples and children are welcome. Please R.S.V.P. to Craig Rosenberg at crosenberg6@optonline.net, and indicate if you will bring a kosher wine or a dessert. If you would like to participate in a grab-bag gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift that should cost no more than \$15. Also, if you have a menorah you are comfortable bringing, please do so, along with candles.

HAVUROT

Men's Havurah

Saturday, December 20, 5:30–7:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: What's the buzz about? The Men's Havurah is for men only, whether straight, gay, single, married or in any other self-definition. At the next gathering, where we will again sing and drink schnaps, Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein will lead a discussion on the topic: "Can a Men's Group be Politically Correct?" The Men's Havurah Committee includes Michael Yoeli, Moshe Horn, Chuck Gold, Bob Kanter, Nahum Precel, Jonathan Adelsberg and Marcelo Bronstein. For more info, contact x240 or ngoodhart@bj.org.

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 or 212-284-6968, or visit www.limmudny.org/register.

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

Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Tevet

Facilitated by Rabbis Felicia Sol and Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

Saturday, December 27 • potluck lunch following Shabbat morning services Frankel Hall • 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 with the group as part of the celebration of Rosh Hodesh.

What Makes A Difference To 21st Century Teens & Pre-Teens

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein and Dr. Ron Taffel

3 Tuesdays (January 13, 20, 27) • 7:00–8:30PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. Having spent time with teens and children of all ages, listened to their views on many matters, and asked them what

makes a real difference in their lives regarding thoughtful restraint, empathy and compassion, genuine self-esteem and the pursuit of healthy passions, Marcelo and Ron will share with parents what they have personally seen and heard that brings out kids' best in this over-the-top culture. A unique, inside perspective on everyday parenting concerns.

The Rabbinic Mind on Sinai

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

6 Tuesdays (January 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17) • 12:30–1:45PM • BJ Office • Free; registration required. Beginning with a close read of the biblical story, we will then take a step-by-step look at three different midrashic texts on the revelation on Mount Sinai: Pirke deRabbi Eliezer, Mekhilta deRabbi Ishmael and Exodus Rabbah. Come to understand how the rabbis think, and explore different explanations and understandings of the story and the ability to experience Sinai through studying it. No Hebrew reading necessary.

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.

Know Your Rights!

New York State is poised to be the newest frontier for same sex marriage legislation. The Marriage Equality Hevra is working hard to demonstrate why equality is so important, and to carry the voice of BJ to Equality & Justice Day on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, with your help. From now until that time, the Marriage Equality Series will reveal some of the rights available to married couples but not to same-sex couples, for whom marriage is illegal.

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Lexi is in the ICU at the local hospital. Visitors are limited to family only. Josie is denied visitation because legally, she and Lexi aren't family. They are same-sex domestic partners. What if visitation to your loved one was denied because the State didn't recognize you as a family member?

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Marriage Equality Hevra members will be identifiable at services by their "Marriage" buttons to talk with BJ members and visitors. If you have any questions or want to join the Marriage Equality Hevra, contact co-chairs Amy Lavine, alavine@gaycenter.org, or Marlene Halpern, jacobhw@msn.co.

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. If you are interested in receiving a weekly minyan email, please contact Ari Priven at apriven@bj.org.

No Hasmoneans in Israeli Elections

By Amir Shaviv

The intervals between the recurrent events get shorter, the merry-go-round spins faster and the deja-vu feeling gets eerie. No—I do not write about the shorter days of winter—I refer to the Knesset election in Israel. The life expectancy of a government in Israel is less than 18 months, inching towards the notorious Italian standards.

This poses two significant dangers to the democratic system in Israel. One: that ministers and civil servants will not govern and will not make decisions on long-term issues, since they know that in a short time they will be out of office. The second threat is that the voters, especially the younger ones, will turn so disillusioned with this ungovernable government, that they will stop voting, dealing a blow to the essence of democracy.

The political fabric of Israel is falling apart. Old parties collapse, new parties form at the convenience of politicians. Former left-leaning politicians jump on a right wing band wagon, and the old continuum between left and right in politics is all but tossed up. As Israelis are observing the current political map, they are often speechless at the crisscrossed movements of the candidates. And it could not have happened at a worse time: Israel is facing dramatic, existential threats from outside (Iran) and from inside (the actual revolt against the State by elements in the extreme right). It needs strong, sane, courageous and determined leadership—yet the ones currently running for office are hardly fit for the job. A Hanukkah miracle with some Hasmonean leaders could be very timely!

Amir Shaviv, a veteran observer of many Israeli elections, is an executive with the Joint Distribution Committee.

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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.

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY FOR MORE INFO:

Welcome to BJ • Membership at BJ • Membership Packets • Guide to the BJ Community • Bikkur Holim

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