



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

VAYEHI

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

TRIENNIAL Genesis 49:1 - 49:26

- 1: 49:1 - 49:4
- 2: 49:5 - 49:7
- 3: 49:8 - 49:12
- 4: 49:13 - 49:15
- 5: 49:16 - 49:18
- 6: 49:19 - 49:21
- 7: 49:22 - 49:26
- Maftir: 49:22 - 49:26

HAFTARAH I Kings 2:1 - 12

NEXT WEEK: SHEMOT

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

TRIENNIAL Exodus 3:1 - 4:17

HAFTARAH Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13, 29:22 - 23

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

• We Need Substitutes for the BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership!

With just one or two hours you can make a real difference to an elementary school student. The BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership pairs BJ math and literacy volunteers one-on-one with children who need just a little extra attention from you to succeed. Sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Ralph Bunche School is on West 123rd Street just east of Amsterdam Avenue. Please contact Channa Camins at ccamins@bj.org or x261 for more information.

• 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) marking Marshall's 15th yahrzeit. We extend our sincere condolences to JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen on the death of his beloved father, Alan Eisen. Chancellor Eisen will not be teaching this Shabbat. In his place will be Gabriel Meyer on "How the Teachings of My Father Influence My Work."

January 9-16, 2009

13-20 Tevet, 5769

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Tze'irim 20s/30s Shabbat Dinner	Following 7:30 PM Service – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Friday Night Off-Broadway: Oneg Shabbat With Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys	10:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.2)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Shabbat Services	9:30 AM – 86th St.
Bat Mitzvah	Zofii Kaczmarek
Bat Mitzvah	Elska Kaczmarek
Naming	Bailee Jade Stein
Children's Services	10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor
Community Kiddush Study With MTM Fellow Ezra Weinberg	Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall Following Kiddush – 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.2)
Lecture: Gabriel Meyer	3:45 PM – 88th St. (SEE SIDEBAR)
Community Minḥa Service Bat Mitzvah	4:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE SIDEBAR) Aliza Astrow
Reach for Shabbat Havdalah	4:30 PM – 86th St.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Morning Minyan	9:30 AM – 88th St.
Tze'irim and Bikkur Holim Come Together	6:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
Limud: The Book of Exodus*	8:30 AM – 88th St.
Yoga and Health	10:30 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)
Limud: What Makes a Difference to 21st Century Teens & Pre-Teens*	7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

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, JANUARY 16

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 88th St.
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* Please see the BJ website, www.bj.org, for more information and to register. (Registration for Introduction to Judaism is closed.)

Announcements

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

• Elska, Zofii and William Kaczmarek and Roslyn Myers on Elska and Zofii becoming B'not Mitzvah.

- Aliza, Alan and Raphael Astrow and Jill Nathanson on Aliza becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Cara Stein on the naming of her daughter, Bailee Jade Stein.
- Matthew and Jamie Mandelbaum on the birth of their daughter, Ella Charlotte Mandelbaum.

Community Activities

• Friday Night Off-Broadway: Shabbat at BJ

Friday, January 9, 10:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. The entire BJ community is invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, who will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat music.

• **Community Kiddush and Shabbat Study with MTM Fellow Ezra Weinberg**
Saturday, January 10, following kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Social Hall and Chapel: Join the BJ community as Ezra Weinberg teaches about "Vayehi and the Power of Blessings."

• Yoga and Health

Tuesday, January 13, 10:30-11:45AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join Edya Kaley, 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 Kaley at skaley@bj.org.

• Hakhnasat Orhim Dinners Hosted at Members' Homes

Friday, January 30, following the early service: We are happy to let you know that a number of BJ members are opening their homes to host the first in a series of Shabbat dinners as part of the Hakhnasat Orhim (welcoming guests) initiative. BJ members only are welcome to register and be matched according to location. The registration is first come, first served. If you are interested, please contact Guy Felixbrodt by Tuesday, January 20 at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255.

• 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.

• 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, or to ask for a paper copy, please contact Guy Austrian, gaustrian@bj.org, x310.

• 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!

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• 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!**

older volunteers cannot physically do. There are a range of activities with varying time commitments such as visiting someone in the hospital, at an elderly home, dog-walking, grocery shopping, or making a weekly "Shabbat shalom" phone call. For more information, please contact Rony Sheer, ronysheer@mac.com.

• Tzei'rim: Cooking for the Homeless Shelter

Thursday, January 15, 6:00PM, 86th Street Social Hall: It's a new year with new days for cooking at the shelter! Join us as we prepare a meal for the shelter guests. As usual, all the cooks will split the cost of the groceries (\$8-10), and no cooking experience is necessary. R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, January 13 to Dan Sieber, tzvolunteers@yahoo.com.

HAVUROT

• Men's Havurah

Saturday, January 24, 5:30-7:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: The Men's Havurah is for men only, whether straight, gay, single, married or any other self-definition. Please join us for a conversation on the topic: "Men and the Politics of Egalitarianism" with Esther Perel, a leading psychotherapist and expert on the subject of relationships and the author of the recent best seller

(continued on page 3)

Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

Mating in Captivity Reconciling the Erotic and Domestic. The Men's Havurah Committee includes Michael Yoeli, Moshe Horn, Chuck Gold, Bob Kanter, Nahum Precel, Jonathan Adelsberg and Marcelo Bronstein. Please respond to ngoodhart@bj.org to let us know you are coming or if you have questions.

▪ Rak Be-ivrit Havurah

If you are interested in challenging yourself to communicate in Hebrew only, then this havurah is for you. Whether you were born in Israel or anywhere else, all you need are your Hebrew-speaking skills and your willingness to use them. We plan to have meetings in Hebrew where we'll read Israeli poetry, see Israeli movies, eat some Israeli food, and enjoy time together. Be-ivrit! To join this havurah, please contact Rony Sheer at havura.beivrit@gmail.com.

AFFILIATES

▪ Communitywide Rally in Support of Israel

Sunday, January 11, 11:00AM, outside the Israeli Consulate on Second Avenue (between 42nd and 43rd Streets): UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York will be sponsoring a communitywide rally in support of Israel, in cooperation with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and a broad range of community organizations. For more information, contact 212-983-4800 x158 or info@jcrny.org.

▪ Surviving Suppression: The Music of Jewish Émigré Composers

Sunday, January 11, 2:00PM, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall (154 West 57th Street): Join BJ member Ellen Rose Silver, and the award-winning MOTYL Chamber Ensemble as they perform works of composers who fled Germany, Austria and Poland during the 1930s. For more information about the ensemble, visit www.motylchamberensemble.org or call 917-921-3710. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors). For tickets, call Carnegie Charge, 212-247-7800, or visit www.carnegiehall.org.

▪ The Fire Within: Jews in the Amazonian Rainforest

Tuesday, January 27, 3:00PM, The Jewish Museum, Fifth Avenue at E. 92nd St.: Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein will be at a Q&A session with Lorry Salcedo

Mitrani, the director of *The Fire Within*, as a part of the New York Jewish Film Festival. Marcelo was interviewed for and appears in this documentary, which follows the conversion process of a contemporary Peruvian community descended from indigenous women and Ashkenazi Jewish men who settled the Amazon during the late 19th-century rubber boom. Raised with mixed religious traditions and faced with numerous challenges, some residents remain in the Amazon while others become Israeli citizens. Admission: \$11.

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.

Dylan suffered a stroke, and is unable to make medical decisions. Jack is denied the opportunity to make medical decisions for him because the State doesn't approve of their same-sex relationship. What if this was your spouse, and you couldn't speak up about what she or he wanted?

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.com.

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

▪ 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.

▪ Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Shevat

Facilitated by Rabbi Esther Lederman, Marshall T. Meyer Fellow

Sunday, January 25 • 7:00PM • R.S.V.P. for location • 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.

▪ Looking Toward Shabbat Shira:

Teaching in Memory of Shira Palmer Sherman

"God is a Nice Guy—Sometimes"

Rabbi Neil Gillman, Aaron Rabinowitz and Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Jewish Philosophy at JTS

Saturday, January 31 • 4:30PM • Congregation Shaare Zedek, 212 West 93rd Street • Free; registration not required. Minḥa will be held at 4:00PM before the teaching and Ma'ariv and Havdalah afterward at 6:00PM. Dr. Gillman was ordained at JTS in 1960, and received his PhD in Philosophy from Columbia University in 1975. He is the author of several books including *Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew*; *Conservative Judaism: A New Century*; *The Way Into Encountering God in Judaism*; and *Traces of God: Seeing God in Torah, History, and Everyday Life*. He was a member of the Commission on the Philosophy of Conservative Judaism, which produced *Emet Ve'Emunah*, the first statement of principles for Conservative Judaism.

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

Just Another Shabbat in Jerusalem

By Joanne Palmer

Rachel Rosenthal wanted to go to Shira Chadasha on Shabbat. She was a college sophomore, in Israel for a few weeks, and the spirited davening, evocative music, and religious intensity there appealed to her. So she and a friend arranged to have Shabbat dinner with friends in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Baka, close to Shira Chadasha, go to Kabbalat Shabbat there, and then walk to Nachlaot, where they would spend the night.

The first part of the evening went according to plan. Dinner, davening—exactly right. Invigorated, happy, energetic, the two young women set off across Jerusalem that summer night. They got to Nachlaot, a picturesque old neighborhood of crooked stone, steep turns, and unexpected alleys, about an hour later, and knocked on their friend's door. And knocked. And knocked. And then knocked some more. And then gave up. Their friend seemed not to be there.

What to do? After all, it was Shabbat. They had no money and no phone, and wouldn't use them if they had. They didn't know anybody else in Nachlaot. It was late and they were tired. They banged on the door some more.

That's when Rachel's friend had a brainstorm. Why didn't they just find a family that looked nice and ask for a place to stay? It was Shabbat, it was Jerusalem - what could be bad about that? They watched people coming home from their Shabbat celebrations, and found a young haredi family that looked promising - nice looking parents, cute kids. They went as far as to follow them before sanity kicked in and they began the long walk back to Baka.

And their would-be hostess? On leave from intensive army training, she'd fallen asleep on the stairs, waiting for them.

Just another Shabbat in Jerusalem.

As always, in loving memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman.

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Joanne Palmer works for United Synagogue, where she edits CJ: Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

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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