



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

SHEMOT

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

TRIENNIAL Exodus 3:1 - 4:17

1: 3:1 - 3:6
2: 3:7 - 3:10
3: 3:11 - 3:15
4: 3:16 - 3:22
5: 4:1 - 4:5
6: 4:6 - 4:9
7: 4:10 - 4:17
Maftir: 4:14 - 4:17

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

NEXT WEEK: **VAERA**

MEVARKHIM HA^HODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

TRIENNIAL Exodus 7:8 - 8:15

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

January 16-23, 2009

20-27 Tevet, 5769

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary
7:30 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM - 86th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Kenneth Lebovits

Aliyat ^Hatan veKallah

Rob Levin and Paula Galowitz

**Junior Congregation
Children's Services**

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Volunteer Opportunities
Morning Minyan**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
See www.bj.org for more information
9:30 AM - 88th St.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

BJ OFFICE CLOSED • BJHS CLOSED

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Volunteer Opportunities
Morning Minyan
Limud: Introduction to Judaism***

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
See www.bj.org for more information
9:30 AM - 88th St.
7:00 PM - BJ Office

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

**Morning Minyan
Limud: The Book of Exodus*
Limud: What Makes a Difference
to 21st Century Teens & Pre-Teens***

Inauguration Day

7:30 AM - 88th St.
8:30 AM - 88th St.
7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

**Morning Minyan
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program
Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a**

7:30 AM - 88th St.
12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall
7:00 PM - BJ Office

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

**SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE
OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK**

• **BJ Reads**

Make a difference: help one child learn to read. Needed: one volunteer, every Wednesday morning, 10:00-11:00AM, at P.S. 166, West 89th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues. Please contact Ellen Schecter, ellen.schecter@gmail.com if you are interested.

• **We Need Substitutes and Two New Permanent Tutors for the BJ/Ralph Bunche School Partnership!**

Perhaps you want to do a mitzvah. Then being a substitute is the perfect fit for you! 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 literacy volunteers one-on-one with 1st-4th graders and math volunteers with 3rd and 4th graders who need just a little extra attention from you to succeed. Reading/writing sessions are from 8:50-10:40AM on Tuesdays or from 12:10-2:00PM on Thursdays. Arithmetic sessions are on 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.

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.

* 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:

- Kenneth, Gerald and Natalie Lebovits and Carol Keller on Kenneth becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Paula Galowitz and Rob Levin on their upcoming wedding.
- Matthew and Jamie Mandelbaum on the birth of their daughter, Ella Charlotte Mandelbaum.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's flowers for the bimah are sponsored by Gerald Lebovits, Natalie Lebovits and Carol Keller in honor of their son and brother, Kenneth Lebovits, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Mark Miller and high school students, Congregation Beth Israel, Houston, Texas.
- Rabbi Robert H. Loewy and Confirmation students, Congregation Gates of Prayer, Metairie, Louisiana.

Community Activities

Shabbat Study with Uri L'tzedek

Saturday, January 24, following Community Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Chapel: What is the connection between ethics and kashrut? What is our obligation to ensure that those who prepare our food are treated fairly? What is the Tav HaYosher, and how can it help us sanctify our relationships with God and each other? Join Rachel Rosenthal and Uri L'tzedek to explore these questions, and to learn about the exciting new Tav HaYosher campaign for ethical eating.

Surveying our Community: Please Participate!

Take a few minutes and fill out the community-wide survey coming to you by email. (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. For more information, or to ask for a paper copy, please contact Guy Austrian, gaustrian@bj.org, x310.

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.

Hevra Kadisha Leadership Change

BJ's Hevra Kadisha, the committee which comforts mourners, offers sincere gratitude to Michael Bailenson for his time and dedication as a committee co-chair, and welcomes Daniel Kestin and Elissa Meth as the newest committee co-chairs, who are joining Penny Dannenberg and Bob Gruenspecht. To learn more about BJ's Hevra Kadisha, contact Yaffa Garber at ygarber@bj.org or x256.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Conflict Raging in Gaza and Southern Israel: A Time for Reflection

Wednesday, January 28, 8:00PM, Upper West Side home: Join participants of the 2008 BJ Social Action/Social Justice Israel trip to discuss the pre-occupying situation in Gaza and Southern Israel. The evening will be moderated by Senior Consultant for Community and Social Justice and JTS rabbinic student Guy Austrian, and will feature an introductory speaker. For the sake of the discussion and because of the size of the venue, the number of participants is limited to 35 people. All BJ members are welcome to sign up on a first come, first served basis. To register, contact Dan Schreiber at schreiber_dan@yahoo.com with "BJ Gaza Session" in the subject line. If there is room left, you will receive the details of the event by email.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

K-2 Children Program and Shabbat Study for Parents

Saturday, January 24, following Community Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Parlor: Children in K-2 are invited to participate in a Shabbat-oriented program. Parents are invited to attend a study session on the connection between ethics and kashrut. To R.S.V.P., please contact Davey at drosen@bj.org or x244.

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

Learner's Minyan

Sunday, January 25, 9:30AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Ever feel lost at services? Want to learn more about the siddur and prayer service? Come join us for a learner's minyan, followed by a light breakfast and class on the prayer service. For more information or to R.S.V.P., please contact Rabbi Esther Lederman at elederman@bj.org or at x264.

Tattoos, Tequila and Torah: What Judaism Says About Tattoos and Alcohol

Thursday, January 29, 8:00PM, location TBD: Is it true that Jews with tattoos can't be buried in a Jewish cemetery? What does Judaism say about alcohol? Of the rumors we have heard surrounding these issues, what is true? Join BJ's 20s/30s group as we discuss the questions many of us have surrounding how we reconcile modern issues with traditional Jewish thought. This event will take place at a bar on the Upper West Side, exact location to be determined. Please R.S.V.P. to Mindy at tzlimud@gmail.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 *Mating in Captivity: Reconciling the Erotic and Domestic*. The Men's Havurah Committee includes Michael Yoeli, Moshe Horn, Chuck Gold, Bob Kanter, Nahum Precl, 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 poet-

(continued on page 3)

Creating Kehillah (continued from page 2)

ry, 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

• The New York Arabic Orchestra

Saturday, January 17, 8:00PM (doors open at 7:00PM), 86th Street: You are invited to an evening of classical and contemporary Arabic music at SPSA. The 18-member orchestra is directed by world-renowned performer, teacher, composer and conductor Bassam Saba (Nay, Oud, Violin, Flute, Alto Flute, Sax), and includes Rabbi Roly Matalon on oud. Tickets can be purchased online at www.alwanforhearts.org for \$20, or at the door for \$25.

• New Worlds Theatre Project: "Dammerung" by Peretz Hirshbein

Through January 25, The Lion Theatre on Theatre Row, 410 W. 42nd Street: In a time beyond time... beyond hope... Who will save the world? A frightened old man? A courageous young woman? A mysterious stranger? What happens in the final moments between falsehood and truth, between darkness and light, between day and night day. BJ member Ellen Perecman, Artistic Director. Ticket \$18 at www.ticketcentral.com or 212-279-4200. More info: www.newworldsproject.org.

• Volunteer for HOPE Count 2009

Monday, January 26, 10:30PM-4:00AM: The Homeless Outreach Populations Estimate (HOPE) 2009 for the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is a unique volunteer opportunity without a huge commitment. HOPE produces a point-in-time estimate of the unsheltered homeless population in New York City. Information gathered by volunteers during HOPE 2009 is critical to measuring the success of ongoing efforts to overcome street homelessness at DHS and partner agencies. We need approximately 2,500 volunteers to help count the number of homeless individuals living on city streets, under bridges, in parks, and in other public places. To register, go to <https://hope2009.cuny.edu>. For more information, call the HOPE Helpline at 212-607-5365 or email HOPE@dhs.nyc.gov.

• 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.

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 (remaining classes January 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. to estone@bj.org 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.

• LUNCH AND LEARN: Perversion and Holiness

Stories of the Talmudic Rabbis in Bava Metzi'a Chapter 7

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

6 Thursdays (February 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 19) • 12:30-1:45PM • Location to be announced • Free; registration required. We will study a chain of stories that appears in the seventh chapter of tractate *Bava Metzi'a*, one of the pearls of Talmudic literary creativity. These stories reflect the concerns and struggles, fears and fantasies, even the dark side of our Talmudic sages. We will attempt to look at ourselves in the mirror of the Talmud in order to understand and confront our own nature. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. **Space is limited to 30 people.** Please bring your own lunch.

• Third Annual Stuart Polly Interfaith Study:

A Parting of the Ways? Christians and Jews in the Early Centuries of the Common Era

Dr. Peter C. Bouteneff, Saint Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Theological Seminary, and Dr. Seth Schwartz, The Jewish Theological Seminary

4 Thursdays (February 5, 12, 19, 26) • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street • Free; registration required. Building on the success of last year's introduction to the basics of Christianity in the first century, our interfaith study this year shifts to the next five centuries. This year's series will contrast and compare the history of Judaism and Christianity during that period. The course will assume some knowledge of the faith and traditions of our Christian neighbors. Students will be expected to attend regularly and to participate in reading texts and discussion of the material.

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.

• **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!

Life in the Shadow of Gaza

By Hayim Ra'anan

This oppressive calm. Seven o'clock Friday morning, I awake after an unbroken night's sleep—something that does not happen often here. Could it be that this night actually did pass uneventfully? I go to check the beeper that warns us of a "red alert," and yes, the light really is green, confirming that there was no alarm last night. A bit strange, considering all that happened just yesterday—Grad rockets in Ashkelon, Be'er Sheva, Ashdod, even the outskirts of Gedera, and Quassam rockets here at home. Close to 70 rockets landing in Israel since yesterday, and today so quiet? Weird. Could this be the quiet before the storm? "Let's hope it just stays this way all day," I say to myself, as I go about my normal Friday routine. It's such a beautiful day, the sun coming out after quite a few rainy days, I start out on a brisk walk around the kibbutz.

My path runs along the outer fence of the kibbutz and I pass a freshly planted carrot field. Just a few days ago a Quassam rocket fell squarely in the center of the field and, luckily, it caused only minor damage to the irrigation system. I walk on and pass the field management offices where I work on a daily basis, and count my steps—exactly 70 steps from the offices to the spot where just yesterday a rocket fell next to some farming equipment. And again, fortunately, no one was injured. After the "red alert" warning, everyone managed to find cover.

Walking on I see a tank transporter stuck in the mud and a tractor from the kibbutz struggling to extricate it. Further on, I come across a red flag, marking the spot where a rocket landed not far from the house of a friend who was not home at the time. And so, my walk comes to an end but the calm goes on. Weird and wonderful at the same time.

And this is the way we've been living for quite a few years now. Luck chases luck, many landings but few injuries, and now our army is waging a war and it's anyone's guess if there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Hayim Ra'anan is the father-in-law of BJ's Israel Coordinator, Chen Ben Or Tsfoni. He is a member of Kibbutz Be'eri in the north Negev near Gaza, where he has lived with his family for the last 55 years.

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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