



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

VAYIKRA

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 3:1 - 4:26

1: 3:1 - 3:5

2: 3:6 - 3:11

3: 3:12 - 3:17

4: 4:1 - 4:7

5: 4:8 - 4:12

6: 4:13 - 4:21

7: 4:22 - 4:26

Maftir: Leviticus 4:24 - 4:26

HAFTARAH

Isaiah 43:21 - 44:23

NEXT WEEK: TZAV

SHABBAT HAGADOL

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 7:35 - 7:38

HAFTARAH Malakhi 3:4 - 24

March 27-April 3, 2009

2-9 Nisan, 5769

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

Shelter Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Following 6:00 PM Service –

88th St. Frankel Hall

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Shabbat Services

9:30 AM – 86th St.

Bat Mitzvah

Julia Pretsfelder

Children's Services

10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

Community Kiddush

Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall

Shabbat Teaching

Following Kiddush – 86th St. Chapel

(SEE P.2)

Minha

4:00 PM – 88th St.

Bar Mitzvah

Emmett Dienstag

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM – 88th St.

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM – BJ Office

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Exodus*

8:30 AM – 88th St.

Limud: Five More Conversations About Israel*

7:00 PM – 86th St. Parlor (SEE P.3)

Limud: Prayer and Synagogue Skills*

7:00 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

The Value of Values

7:30 PM (SEE P.3)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Conversations with the Rabbis for Those

Affected by the Economic Crisis

12:00 PM – BJ Office (SEE P.2)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

BJHS Model Seder

4:00 PM – 88th St.

Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a

7:00 PM – BJ Office

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Bim Bam with BJ for Babies & Toddlers

10:45 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

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

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

▪ **Equality & Justice Day**

Tuesday, April 28: Register Now! Isn't your equality worth one day? Come to Albany to lobby our elected officials and demonstrate the commitment of this Jewish community to Marriage Equality. Equality & Justice Day 2009 will be the most important yet, because now, for the first time ever, we have a pro-LGBT Majority in the State Senate! Help us reach our goal of 100 B'nai Jeshurun members to Albany. Bus will leave from 88th Street at about 6:00AM and return around 8:30PM. Registration fee of \$40 covers bus, breakfast, and lunch. Visit www.bj.org to register now! For more info, contact Marlene Halpern, jacobhw@msn.com, or call x259.

▪ **The Nanny Conundrum**

Sunday, April 19, 11:30AM-1:00PM, 88th Street: Join us for a new workshop for BJ members who employ nannies and other domestic workers. Explore important issues that involve our Jewish and secular values. Most of us want to be ethical employers, especially to those so intimately connected to our families. Is it our responsibility to be well-informed about income tax, healthcare and vacation policies? Legal and financial experts will be with us to answer questions. Childcare provided for those who R.S.V.P. in advance. For more information, contact Susan at susanolderman@yahoo.com or call x259.

Announcements

HA-MAKOM YENAHM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Betsy Imershein, Robert and Margie Imershein, and their entire family, on the death of their beloved uncle, William Imershein.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Julia, Richard and Eric Pretsfelder and Lily Vaamonde on Julia becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Emmet, Alan, Marion and Ruby Dienstag on Emmet becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Jill Moray and Howard Reichman on their recent wedding.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Jack Romberg and Confirmation Class, Temple Israel, Tallahassee, Florida.
- Rabbi Andrea London and Kabbalat Torah students, Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, Evanston, Illinois.
- Youth groups from Miami, Florida; Madison, Wisconsin; and Izmir, Turkey who will be performing in the 58th Annual Israeli Folk Dance Festival this Sunday.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is co-sponsored by Rick and Eric Pretsfelder and Lily Vaamonde in honor of Julia becoming a Bat Mitzvah, and by Anne Millman in honor of her 65th birthday.

Community Activities

• Sale of Hametz Before Pesah

If you wish to sell your hametz, please email hametz@bj.org with your name and address by Friday, April 3 at noon. It is customary to send a tzedakah donation for this service—please make your check out to B'nai Jeshurun and mark "Hametz" in the memo section.

• Shabbat Teaching by Judith Trachtenberg

Saturday, March 28, following the Community Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Chapel: Join the BJ community as Judith Trachtenberg teaches and leads a discussion about "Vayikra and Sacrificial Rituals for Redemption." As modern Jews, what does it mean to make sacrifices? Are certain sacrifices expected of us, and by whom? How is this reflected in our everyday lives and our desire for a just and whole society? Judith is a co-chair of Panim el Panim's Manhattan Together Hevra and its Justice for Domestic Workers campaign. She will relate this parasha to the work of the hevra, specifically to Justice for Domestic Workers issues.

• Cancelled: Community Pesah Cleanup of our Spiritual Home

Sunday, March 29, 10:30–1:30PM, 88th Street: Please note that this event has been cancelled due to low enrollment.

• The Fire Within: Jews in the Amazonian Rainforest

Monday, March 30, 8:15PM, 92nd Street Y, Lexington Avenue at 92nd Street: With Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein and the director, Lorry Salcedo. This extraordinary film focuses on the Jewish community of Iquitos—an isolated Peruvian city in the Amazon jungle—and the Judios Mestizos, descendants of Jewish fathers and native mothers who grew up with few Jewish traditions. *The Fire Within* reveals the process of conversion for a group of Iquitenos who desire to embrace the faith and culture of their ancestors. When you register, use the word FIRE to purchase your tickets at the discounted price of \$13.50. To register, go to www.92y.org and select course code T-BL5LG03-01.

• Conversations with the Rabbis for those Affected by the Economic Crisis

Wednesday, April 1, 12:00–1:00PM, BJ Office: Numerous BJ members have

been personally affected by the economic crisis. In response, the Rabbis are facilitating monthly conversations for those who are now unemployed. The group will meet on the first Wednesday of every month with one of the Rabbis to share experiences, reflect on where we are at spiritually, provide comfort, and connect with each other during these difficult times. We are also planning numerous networking activities; please continue to check future issues of the *Kol Jeshurun* and the BJ website, www.bj.org. To R.S.V.P. or with any questions, please contact Yaffa Garber, ygarber@bj.org.

• Yom HaShoah

Monday, April 20, 6:45PM, 88th Street: Join us for our Yom HaShoah Service, as we read and hear names of relatives of BJ members who were murdered during the Shoah. Our commemoration service will be followed by a screening of "Photographer," produced and directed by Dariusz Jablonski, followed by remarks and Q&A by Professor Annette Insdorf of the Graduate Film Division of Columbia University's School of the Arts. The all-night vigil of the Reading of the Names will be at Congregation Shaare Zedek, 212 West 93rd Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue) starting at 10:00PM on Monday, April 20, and will continue until 8:30AM on Tuesday, April 21. The BJ reading slot will be at 11:00PM.

• Counting on God: Waiting as an Experience in Illness and Recovery A Bikkur Holim Teaching and Training

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00–9:00PM, 88th Street: Just as we count the days of the omer from Pesah to Shavuot in anticipation of revelation and renewal, we also try to understand the experience of counting and waiting in the lives of those who are ill in order to support and be with them through their journeys. BJ's Bikkur Holim Committee invites the entire BJ community to an evening of teaching and training with Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, LMSW, Spiritual Care Coordinator for the Shira Ruskay Center at JBFCS, as we explore these ideas in the Jewish tradition of Bikkur Holim. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit www.bj.org. Please R.S.V.P. to Yaffa Garber at ygarber@bj.org.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• Join the BJ Revolutionaries Team on Hazon's New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride

September 4-7 (Labor Day Weekend): Join BJ members for a fun activity while getting in shape and making change in the world. Hazon's Jewish Environmental Bike Ride begins with a warm lakeside Shabbaton in New York's lower Hudson River Valley, followed by a two-day, fully supported ride.

Ride options include 30, 50, 70 and 100-mile routes through scenic countryside (century option available on the first day only). If riding's not your thing, help out on our amazing crew. The event raises money for important environmental work in the United States and for a unique environmental/conflict resolution project in Israel. Last year we had over 30 members on the team—this year, if you join us, we'll double that number! To register or for more information, check out www.hazon.org or contact Mark Lipsy at remark1@gmail.com.

(continued on page 3)

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• The Value of Values: Talking to Your Kids about Money

Tuesday, March 31, 7:30PM, member's home (address given upon R.S.V.P.): In light of the economic crisis, how do we talk about money and values with our children? Join Judith Stern Peck, family therapist and BJ member who specializes in talking to kids about money, for an interactive conversation about our money and our values. There will be time for questions and answers at the end. Space is limited. R.S.V.P. required to Elana Ayalon, eayalon@bj.org.

• NEW! Family Tot Shabbat Service and Dinner

Friday, April 3, 5:30PM, 88th Street: In our effort to create a very special Shabbat experience for families of young children, we are piloting a new Shabbat service. On the first Shabbat of the month in April and May there will be a Family Tot Shabbat service with stories and music at 5:30PM with one of the BJ rabbis, followed by the regular service at 6:00PM. At around 6:30PM, after Kabbalat Shabbat in the main service but before Ma'ariv, families with children under 5 can go downstairs to join together for a child-friendly Shabbat dinner to get to know one another. Registration for dinner is available on the BJ website, www.bj.org, and through our Young Families listserve. Please contact Rebecca Rosenthal at rosenthal@bj.org or x243 with questions or for more information.

• Special Needs Family Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, April 25, 9:30-10:30AM, 86th Street Parlor: BJ is excited about its very first Mishpaha Shabbat program for children with special needs and their families! Join us for a welcoming Shabbat morning service that is accessible to children with moderate to severe special needs. Siblings welcome! The service will be led by Rabbi Marcelo, BJ educators and Liz Lasky, LMSW. To R.S.V.P., and if you have any questions about whether this program is appropriate for your family, please contact, Elana, eayalon@bj.org or x260.

• K-2 Children Shabbat Program

Saturday, April 25, following Community Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Parlor: Children in K-2, no matter where they receive their Jewish education, are invited to participate in a Shabbat-oriented program with BJ educators. To R.S.V.P., please contact Elana, eayalon@bj.org or x260.

• 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat

Friday, May 8-Sunday, May 10, Camp Ramah, Nyack, NY: The 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat is coming and it's just for kids! For all 6th graders, no matter

where they receive their Jewish education, who will become Bar or Bat Mitzvah at BJ. It's going to be an incredible experience! Questions? Contact Elana, eayalon@bj.org, or x260.

AFFILIATES

• The Jewish Community Stands with Domestic Workers:

The Shalom Bayit Public Forum

Thursday, April 23, 7:00PM, 88th Street: Please join BJ and Jews For Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) for this powerful event. Nannies, housekeepers and eldercare givers have long been excluded from labor protections, benefits, and fair treatment in their work that many of us take for granted. The proposed state legislation, entitled The Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights, will address this injustice by recognizing domestic work and setting fair labor standards for domestic workers in NY State. Let your voice be heard when the New York Jewish community demands that the state legislature pass the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights—the first in the country. Co-sponsored by American Jewish World Service, AVODAH, Uri l'tzedek, Congregation Ezrath Israel, Kolot Chayeinu, and MET COUNCIL. For more information, contact Susan at susanolderman@yahoo.com or call x259.

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, this Marriage Equality Series will reveal some of the rights available to married couples but not to same-sex couples, for whom marriage is illegal.

Rachel and Daphne were together for 15 years. Daphne delivered two children, and she and Rachel decided that Daphne should stay home with the kids. Now they are separating, but there is no child support enforcement mechanism in place for them. Why? Because Rachel and Daphne are both women, and therefore the State does not view Rachel as responsible for support. What if this happened to you? How would you support your family?

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.*

• Five More Conversations About Israel

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

5 Tuesdays (remaining class March 31) • 7:00-8:30PM • 86th Street Parlor • Free; registration required. Marcelo, in partnership with HaMakom, the Israel Engagement Network, will present five short documentaries and text that will be the basis of our conversations.

• Prayer and Synagogue Skills

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

3 Tuesdays (remaining class March 31) • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. For those longing to have a deeper understanding of the Shabbat and weekday prayer service, this class will address questions such as: What is the structure of the service? What is the choreography of the service? How can we balance personal spontaneous prayer with the fixed text of the siddur? No Hebrew reading necessary.

• Towards a Jewish Theology of Justice

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek

4 Mondays (April 27, May 4, 11, 18) • 7:00-9:00PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. How can Jews contemplate the justice claims of gentiles? What, if any, is the philosophical basis for concern with those who aren't part of our ethnic or religious group? We'll examine classical concepts such as mipnei darchei shalom and tikkun olam, theological perspectives articulated by thinkers such as Levinas and Buber. Most importantly, we'll explore the theological framework that actually underpins our own conception of Judaism, and explore the implications of our beliefs on our political commitments. Rabbi Spodek is Rabbi-in-Residence/Director of Jewish Communal Relations for the American Jewish World Service and was a 2006-2008 Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow at BJ.

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!

• **LinkIn to Help Out!**

In these difficult times, we are trying many ways to help members find jobs and network. *Join us in this very important effort* simply by joining "B'nai Jeshurun-New York City," the BJ group on LinkedIn, www.linkedin.com. There you can share your professional network, post jobs and respond to any ongoing discussions that are posted in the group.

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.

An Elijah Moment

By Joanne Palmer

Elijah the prophet, some midrashim tell us, is the harbinger of the messiah. He wanders the earth, unheralded, inglorious, anonymous, unattractive, disguised as a beggar, and he judges our worthiness. If he finds that humankind is ready for the messiah, then the messiah might be ready for us. But we've never been ready.

In the summer of 1979, Rich Moline led a USY pilgrimage group to Israel. They were on the Midrechov, the pedestrian mall on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, the city at the heart of the world. "It was very hot and very crowded," he remembers, "and we were in the middle of the push and shove. Many of the people milling around were beggars, asking for tzedakah. A man came up to me, but I didn't see him at first. All I noticed then was his hand, reaching out, begging. I noticed that he was wearing a white shirt and tie and a Panama hat. That was unusual. But he came up to me, put his hand out, and he said, 'Tzedakah.' And I said, in Hebrew, 'No. I'm sorry.' And he said, 'I'm also sorry. I'm sorry I'm in this world.'

"And then I looked up, and I saw that he had only one arm. And then he faded into the crowd. Just vanished.

"At first I felt incredibly awful, and then I started to feel guilty. And then later, I thought that maybe this was my Elijah moment.

"This happened 30 years ago. I can't tell you without thinking about it which kid was in that group, or exactly what our itinerary was, but I remember that moment. That might have been my Elijah moment, and I blew it."

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

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 INFORMATION:

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

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