



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

TAZRIA-METZORA

ROSH HODESH IYAR

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 12:1 - 15:23

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 13:40 - 14:32

1: 13:40 - 13:46

2: 13:47 - 13:54

3: 13:55 - 13:59

4: 14:1 - 14:05

5: 14:6 - 14:12

6: 14:13 - 14:20

7: 14:21 - 14:32

Maftir: Numbers 28:9 - 28:15

HAFTARAH

Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24, 23

NEXT WEEK: **AHAREI MOT-KEDOSHIM**

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 17:8 - 19:14

HAFTARAH Amos 9:7 - 15

April 24-May 1, 2009

30 Nisan-7 Iyar, 5769

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Women's Retreat

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 16 (Gevurah Shebetiferet)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Shabbat Services

Bar Mitzvah

Bar Mitzvah

Special Needs Family Shabbat Service

Children's Services

Community Kiddush

Shabbat Study with MTM Fellow Ezra Weinberg

K-2 Children Shabbat Program

Women's Retreat

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 17 (Tiferet Shebetiferet)

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM - 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 18 (Netzah Shebetiferet)

Women's Retreat

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Towards a Jewish Theology of Justice*

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

Limud: Introduction to Judaism*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 19 (Hod Shebetiferet)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Equality & Justice Day in Albany

Morning Minyan

YOM HAZIKARON
6:00 AM - Bus leaves from 88th St.

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Exodus*

8:30 AM - 88th St.

Yom Ha'atzumaut Picnic Celebration

6:00 PM - Riverside Park at 91st St. (SEE P.2)

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 20 (Yesod Shebetiferet)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

BJ OFFICE CLOSED

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 21 (Malkhut Shebetiferet)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

Unemployed or Underemployed?

1:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a*

7:00 PM - BJ Office

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 22 (Hesed Shebenetzah)

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM - 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 23 (Gevurah Shebenetzah)

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

■ **SIGN UP NOW: Blood Drive at BJ**

Wednesday, May 13, 4:00-9:00PM, 88th Street:

Mark your calendars to donate blood at the next BJ/SPSA Blood Drive. **It does not hurt!** People are often reluctant to give because they are afraid and think it will be painful or unpleasant, but it isn't any of those things. It is really easy and can be a big help to somebody else. Give the gift of life. This donation doesn't depend on your bank account and is the greatest mitzvah of them all! Please contact TrudiL531@aol.com or call x373 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and best time slot for you. Either Trudi Levine or Sharon Messitte will return your call. Go to www.bj.org/blooddrive for information about how you can prepare to donate and learn about any restrictions that may apply.

* 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 mourns the death of our beloved member Peter Bergmann, and extends sincere condolences to Kay Gardiner, and Caroline and Joseph Bergmann on the death of their beloved husband and father.

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

- Elizabeth, Emanuel, Josephine, Maxine and Eliana Stern on the death of their beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Nancy McKay Egan.
- Amy, Jacob, Hannah, and Max Schrader on the death of their beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Malcolm Blumberg.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Mel, Todd and Juliet Phillips and Stacey Bradie on Mel becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

- Ben, Daniel, Sophie and Clara Zucker and Lisa Glick-Zucker on Ben becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Richard Chused and Elizabeth Langer on the birth of their granddaughter, Sylvia Chused, to Benjamin Chused and Liz Gawel.
- Esther Levy Symonds, Garth Symonds, and Daniella on the birth of their son and brother.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush and flowers for the bima are sponsored by Lisa, Dan, Sophie and Clara in honor of their son and brother, Benjamin Zucker becoming a Bar Mitzvah, and Stacey Bradie and Todd R. and Juliet Phillips in honor of their son and brother, Mel Phillips, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

YASHER KOAH

- Peninnah Schram's latest book, *The Hungry Clothes and Other Jewish Folktales* (Sterling Publ. 2008), has just received an award, the Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award, sponsored by the Westchester Library System.

Community Activities

• Shabbat Study with MTM Fellow Ezra Weinberg

Saturday, April 25, following the Community Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Chapel: Join us as Ezra Weinberg teaches from his Bar Mitzvah Torah portion about "Tazria-Metzora and the Omer Connection."

• Yom Ha'atzmaut Picnic Celebration in the Park

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00PM, Riverside Park at 91st Street: Bring dinner and join us for a picnic in the park.

• Looking into Tahara Texts and Songs: Hevra Kadisha Study Session

Thursday, April 30, 7:30PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: BJ's Hevra Kadisha Committee (comforting mourners) invites the entire BJ community to attend an evening of study at a member's home. We will look closely at the texts used during the Tahara, the ritual preparation of the deceased for burial that weaves together Biblical liturgy with modern songs. No knowledge of Hebrew or Tahara necessary. Free; registration required and space is limited. Contact Yaffa Garber to R.S.V.P, ygarber@bj.org or x256.

• Unemployed or Underemployed?

Thursday, April 30, 1:00PM, 88th Street: Join BJ Employment Help Task Force members for weekly facilitated meetings where we will explore your needs surrounding securing employment, networking and simply being there for each other. Groups will meet between Pesah and Shavuot on Thursdays, April 30, May 7, 14 and 21. For more info, contact skalev@bj.org.

• BJ Softball 2009

Thursdays (April 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30), 7:00-8:30PM, Central Park Field 12 North Meadow (96th St. entrance): Pray with your feet: step up to the plate and hit one out of the park for BJ! Please contribute a one-time donation for the season—one game or 16, it's your choice—of \$18.00, payable to B'nai Jeshurun. Friendly, lively, all-inclusive, self-governing-pick-up games. More information: Jody Prusan, jpmazel@aol.com.

• Wandering Minyan is Taking a Break

Friday, May 1: Wandering Minyan will not meet on the first Friday of May. Information about the Wandering Minyan fall schedule will be available later in the summer at www.bj.org.

• Teacher in Residence: Nili Scharf Gold

Friday, May 1, following the 6:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Shabbat dinner and teaching, "The Holy Ark of his Father's Love: Yehuda Amichai's Poetry." **Saturday, May 2**, 5:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary, lecture:

"Hidden Between the Love-letters: The Story of a Poet and a Nation." Nili Scharf Gold is Associate Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. Nili will be with us just a week after Yom Ha'atzmaut, and together we will have the chance to remember Israel's past and dream of her future. Cost for Shabbat dinner: \$36 members/\$41 non-members. Register online at www.bj.org. Saturday lecture free, no registration required. For more info, contact Guy at x255.

• 21st Annual Renee Kaufman Lecture Series

Thursday, May 7, 7:00PM, 88th Street: Told with intimacy and humor, the documentary film *Praying With Lior* introduces Lior Liebling. Lior has Down syndrome, who has spent his entire life praying with utter abandon. While everyone agrees Lior is closer to God, he's also a burden, a best friend, an inspiration, and an embarrassment. As Lior approaches Bar Mitzvah, different characters provide a window into life spent "praying with Lior." Followed by a panel discussion with the film's director, BJ member Ilana Trachtman, B'nai Mitzvah tutor and special education teacher Howard Blas, and Ilene Lainer of the BJ Inclusion Committee. Free, registration not required.

• Friday Night Off-Broadway: Oneg Shabbat

Friday, May 8, 10:00PM, 88th Street: The entire BJ community is invited to enjoy dessert and celebrate Shabbat together with the Sheba Ensemble, who will perform and lead us in joyful Shabbat music. Contact Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255 for more information.

• Hakhnasat Orhim Dinners Hosted at Members' Homes

Friday, May 15, following the 6:00PM service, members' homes: After many successful sets of hosted dinners at members' homes, we are happy to announce another as part of the Hakhnasat Orhim (welcoming guests) initiative. BJ members only are welcome to register and be matched according to location. First-come, first-served. Please contact Guy Felixbrodt at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255 by Friday, May 8.

• BJ Community Retreat 2009 is Back!

Friday, June 5-Sunday, June 7, Block & Hexter Vacation Center: After a four-year hiatus, we are pleased to tell you about the return of the BJ Community Retreat! In these challenging times, we are grateful for the opportunity to retreat together to celebrate Shabbat, find our strength, and reconnect within this Kehillah Kedosha. We are planning many wonderful activities, including music, games, shows, and more. We look forward to seeing you there. Register on the BJ website, www.bj.org. Deadline is Monday, April 27. Contact Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255 for more information.

Creating Kehillah

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• 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.

• Young Families Yom Ha'atzamut Celebration Shabbat Service and Dinner

Friday, May 1, 5:00PM, 86th Street Chapel and Social Hall: Arts and crafts! Shabbat Service! Israeli dinner! Children 5 and under will gather at 5:00PM for Israel-themed crafts, followed by a tot Shabbat service at 5:30PM and picnic-style Israeli dinner at 6:15PM. Families are asked to bring wine and/or a dessert to share. If you want to attend the crafts and the service, but not the dinner, there is no need to R.S.V.P. Sign up online at www.bj.org.

• 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Program

Saturday, May 2, 9:30-10:30AM, 86th Street Chapel: Join Marshall T. Meyer Fellow Rabbi Esther Lederman for an exciting hour of learning before Junior Congregation. This program is for all 6th graders, and their parents, who will become bar/bat mitzvah at BJ. We will investigate the process of writing a d'var Torah and then go to Junior Congregation together. For questions and to R.S.V.P., 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.

• Bring a Friend to BJ Shabbat

Saturday, May 9, after Shabbat morning children's services, 86th Street: Attention all parents! Do you have a friend who is thinking about joining BJ? Or are you thinking about joining BJ? Please join us for children's services followed by a small reception for parents and their friends. We'll have a brief presentation about the benefits of becoming a member at BJ, and you'll hear from other parents about why membership at BJ is meaningful to them. Light

refreshments and childcare will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. to Sarah Verity at sverity@bj.org or x250.

• Help us Dedicate the New Junior Congregation Ark

Saturday, May 16, 10:30AM service, 86th St. Social Hall: Help us celebrate our new Junior Congregation ark as we dedicate it as a community. We hope to see everyone there. If you would like to lead a prayer on that day, the sign up will be available on the BJ website, www.bj.org, on May 4.

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

• Tze'irim Cooks for the Shelter

Monday, April 27, 6:00-7:30PM, 88th St. kitchen: Join us as we make dinner at BJ for the shelter. All the cooks will split the cost of the groceries (\$8-10); no cooking experience necessary. R.S.V.P. by April 24 to tzvolunteers@yahoo.com.

• Tze'irim Friday Night Dinner

Friday, May 8, following the 7:30PM service, 88th St. Frankel Hall: Extend your Shabbat experience beyond services. BJ members and non-members in their 20s/30s ONLY are invited to share an intimate Shabbat dinner. Visit www.bj.org to register. Cost: \$15 members/\$20 non-members. Contact Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255 for more info.

HAVUROT

• Caretakers' Hevra

The Caretakers' Hevra has room for new members. We are a small group of BJ members who are caring for an elderly or ill relative or friend. We meet once a month to learn from each other's experiences and strengthen one another. If you are interested or want more information, please contact AnnieMill@aol.com.

AFFILIATES

• The Jewish Guild for the Blind is Hosting a Diabetes Alert Day

Wednesday, May 6, 9:00AM-1:00PM, 15 West 65th Street (between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West): This event is open to the public. Please come to take a free Diabetes Risk Assessment Test, speak with health care professionals, and enjoy refreshments and a chance to win raffle prizes. For more information, call 212-712-9944.

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

• 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 darkhei shalom* and *tikkun olam*, theological perspectives articulated by thinkers such as Levinas and Buber. Most importantly, we'll explore the theological framework that underpins our own conception of Judaism, as well as 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 Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow at BJ from 2006-2007.

• Interfaith Family Workshop

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

4 Tuesdays (May 5, 12, 19, 26) • 7:00-8:30PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. Join us for one of the following workshops, or all four! The first will guide young interfaith couples on building meaningful relationships. The second workshop will cater to families with school-age children, and will cover important topics such as celebrating holidays

in an interfaith family. The topic of the third workshop, significant for older couples, will be end-of-life issues that affect interfaith religious practices. The theme of the fourth workshop will be announced closer to its date. Marcelo will facilitate group discussions each week. These workshops are appropriate for all, including dating couples, married couples, singles, grandparents, and newlyweds.

• BJ Beit Midrash

Rabbis J. Rolando Matalon and Felicia L. Sol

4 Wednesdays (May 6, 13, 20, 27) • 6:30-8:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. The essence of Torah learning is built around the relationship of *hevrotot* (study partnerships). BJ is striving to incorporate this model of learning within the community and encourages all of its members to commit to study in *hevruta*. In order to help those newer to this model of studying as well as support more seasoned learners, we will have a BJ Beit Midrash. The theme will be *Pirkei Avot*, which is typically studied between *Pesah* and *Shavuot*. Each session will begin with a 30-minute *shiur* (teaching) followed by *hevruta* study. Rabbis Matalon and Sol will guide the *hevrotot* with questions to focus their learning as well as give support to individual *hevrotot* during the *beit midrash* section of the class. Participants are encouraged to find a *hevruta* partner in advance of the class, but will match people up in the class as well.

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.

Engaging With Israel

By Robin Fleischer

Transformative prayer, strong community, and social action: these three elements characterize BJ's revolution in liberal Judaism in the United States. Our rabbis view our role as a catalyst for vibrant Judaism to be just as important in Israel. Our synagogue's commitment to a meaningful relationship with Israel is central to our mission. Engagement with Israelis is essential to providing us with the necessary tools to take stances on: the future of Zionism; peace between Israelis and Palestinians; and social change within Israel.

Over the past four years, hundreds of members of all ages have participated in BJ-designed trips to Israel with our rabbis and Ari. How can we continue to stay engaged with Israel when the current economic crisis makes travel to Israel prohibitively expensive for many?

An answer that emerged from discussions at meetings of BJ's Israel Steering Committee this year is the paramount importance of connections for our members to Israelis in our partner communities, involving in-person and virtual visits and activities in the United States and Israel. We imagined the metaphor of creating a tunnel through which children, teens, adults, and individual and group visitors would go back and forth. We are putting our efforts into building an infrastructure for connections between BJ members and Israelis, constructed partially from here and partially from Israel.

This week, a delegation of seven women visiting from the Elga Stulman Women's Center at Hamidrasha provided a significant opportunity for connection. At member-hosted Shabbat dinners, a Havdalah workshop about how men and women study Torah differently, and the Women's Retreat, many in our community created meaningful connections to our Israeli partners.

The ISC is planning another avenue for deepening our relationship with Israel through dialogue and community conversations this fall.

Our fate as a congregation is linked to our engagement with the State of Israel. We hope that you will join us as we shape a congregation-wide encounter with Israel—based on love, personal experience, and probing with the spiritual and moral values we treasure.

The "Focus on Israel" column is edited by Robin Fleischer, 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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