



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

May 15-22, 2009

21-28 Iyar, 5769

BEHAR-BEHUKOTAI

TORAH: ANNUAL Leviticus 25:1 - 27:34

TRIENNIAL Leviticus 25:39 - 26:46

1: 25:39 - 25:43

2: 25:44 - 25:46

3: 25:47 - 25:54

4: 25:55 - 26:2

5: 26:3 - 26:5

6: 26:6 - 26:9

7: 26:10 - 26:46

Maftir: 26:44 - 26:46

HAFTARAH Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14

NEXT WEEK: BEMIDBAR

MEVARKHIM HAHOODESH

TORAH: ANNUAL Numbers 1:1 - 4:20

TRIENNIAL Numbers 2:1 - 3:13

HAFTARAH 1 Samuel 20:18 - 42

Shavuot at BJ

• BJ's Tikkun Leil Shavuot: All-night Torah Study
Thursday, May 28, see schedule below, 88th Street:
 9:00-10:15PM: "Seeing Sinai" study session with
 artist Jill Nathanson and Chancellor Arnold Eisen of
 JTS, a visual and textual hevruta study.
 10:30-11:45PM, study session with Chancellor
 Eisen. Midnight-5:00AM, study with the BJ Rabbis
 and Fellows.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Thursday, May 28 • Erev Shavuot

Evening Service

88th Street Sanctuary.....8:30-9:00 PM

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

88th Street Sanctuary.....9:00 PM-midnight

88th Street Frankel Hall.....midnight-5:15 AM

Friday, May 29 • First Day Shavuot

Sunrise Services.....5:30 AM

Morning Services

88th Street Sanctuary.....10:00 AM

Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....11:15 AM

Community Picnic

Riverside Park (weather permitting) ...Following Services

Friday, May 29 • Second Evening Shavuot

Saturday, May 30 • Second Day Shavuot (Yizkor)

Services will be held at the usual Shabbat service
 times and locations for both Friday night and
 Saturday morning.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

BJHS Zayin Class Family Dinner Following 6:00 PM -

88th St. Frankel Hall

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:30 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 37 (Gevurah Shebeyesod)

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Shabbat Services 9:30 AM - 86th St. Sanctuary

9:30 AM - 86th St. Sanctuary

Bat Mitzvah Susannah Katz

Susannah Katz

Bat Mitzvah Clara Eshaghpour

Clara Eshaghpour

Aliyat Hatan veKallah Matt Nayor and Jennifer Sparr

Matt Nayor and Jennifer Sparr

Junior Congregation 10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3)

10:30 AM - 86th St. Social Hall (SEE P.3)

Children's Services 10:45 AM - 86th St. Chapel and Parlor

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

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 38 (Tiferet Shebeyesod)

SUNDAY, MAY 17

AIDS Walk New York 9:00 AM - Central Park (SEE P.2)

9:00 AM - Central Park (SEE P.2)

Morning Minyan 9:30 AM - 88th St.

9:30 AM - 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 39 (Netzah Shebeyesod)

MONDAY, MAY 18

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Towards a Jewish Theology of Justice* 7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

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

Limud: Introduction to Judaism* 7:00 PM - BJ Office

7:00 PM - BJ Office

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 40 (Hod Shebeyesod)

TUESDAY, MAY 19

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: The Book of Exodus* 8:30 AM - 88th St.

8:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: Interfaith Family Workshop* 7:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

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

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 41 (Yesod Shebeyesod)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Limud: BJ Beit Midrash* 6:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

6:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)

with Rabbis J. Rolando Matalon and Felicia L. Sol

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 42 (Malkhut Shebeyesod)

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

7:30 AM - 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

Unemployed or Underemployed? 1:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)

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

Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a* 7:00 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)

7:00 PM - BJ Office (SEE P.3)

Redirecting Yourself, Part 2 7:30 PM - 88th St (SEE P.2)

7:30 PM - 88th St (SEE P.2)

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 43 (Hesed Shebemalkhut)

FRIDAY, MAY 22

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.

7:30 AM - 88th St.

■ **OMER COUNT:** Tonight begins DAY 44 (Gevurah Shebemalkhut)

* 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 Judy and Jules Love on the death of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Louise Wolfson.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Clara, Arthur, Abby, Julia and Eli Eshaghpour on Clara becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

- Susannah, Michael and Miranda Katz and Emily Pearl on Susannah becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Jennifer Sparr and Matt Nayor on their upcoming wedding.
- James Kron Stulman and Stacy Bolton, Eliza and Rachel and Stephen Stulman on the birth of their son, brother, and grandson, Joshua Kron Stulman.
- Joanna Slater and Joel Lee on the birth of their son, Leo Avram.

Community Activities

▪ Unemployed or Underemployed?

Thursday, May 21, 1:00PM, 88th Street: Join BJ Employment Help Task Force members for weekly facilitated meetings. For more information, contact skalev@bj.org.

▪ Redirecting Yourself—A Two-Part Career Transition Event

Thursday, May 21, 7:30–9:00PM, 88th Street: Are you unemployed? Underemployed? Seeking practical tools on how to make a career transition? Join the BJ Employment Task Force and the KJ Career Development & Networking Initiative as they host experts to help you discover your professional value and how to tap into it with clarity and success. **Part 2, May 21,** is with Rafi Haham, an international speaker, organizational consultant and life coach who will present the 5 Human Intelligences Model and provide practical tools for exploring your own personal brilliance and advancing your career. R.S.V.P. REQUIRED to Guy Felixbrodt, gfelixbrodt@bj.org (please indicate your profession and/or industry to which you are seeking to transition).

▪ BJ Softball 2009

Thursdays (remaining dates May 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): More information: Jody Prusan, jpmazel@aol.com.

▪ Host an Israeli!

Wednesday, May 27–Tuesday, June 2: As part of our deep commitment to Israel, BJ is hosting a group from Tel Aviv's Beit Tefilah, one of our sister Israeli communities. Is it possible for you to host one of our visitors? Our guests are coming to New York to learn about BJ and Jewish communal life here, and will be scheduled for activities constantly. Thus, there will be little time that they will actually be at home with you. You will not be obligated to provide entertainment, only an accommodation. The hosting function, therefore, is relatively easy. Alternatively, let us know if you can host a Shabbat dinner for a few of our Israeli guests on May 29. Contact Chen Tsfonti at tsfonti@gmail.com.

▪ Finding Financial Stability in Times of Change

Monday, June 1, 7:00–8:30PM, 88th Street: A presentation by Spencer Sherman, financial advisor and author of *The Cure for Money Madness*. Are you making a career or life change? Are you feeling anxiety/fear around your finances? Join Spencer Sherman, regularly named by *Worth* magazine as one of the top 100 financial advisors in the U.S., for a practical and profound presentation on tools for managing your money in times of change. Free; registration required to Maria Freebairn-Smith, 866-872-3210, ext. 1.

▪ Being Together, Back to Basics: BJ Community Retreat

Friday, June 5–Sunday, June 7, Block & Hexter Vacation Center: We are very excited to let you know that many members of all ages, including families, couples, and singles, have already signed up for the retreat. There are still some spots available and we would love for you to join us. Please visit www.bj.org to register online or download an application. Full scholarships for children are still available. If you have any questions or are in need of a discount or scholarship, please contact Guy Felixbrodt, x255.

▪ Students! Summertime Help in the BJ Office

Summertime is a busy season at the BJ office. We are offering opportunities to reliable people who can assist with computer data entry, interesting projects, and general office assistance in the Membership Department. An ideal experience for high school or college students available in June, July and/or August. Community service hours available. Please contact Belinda Lasky at blasky@bj.org or x224 for more information.

▪ Membership & High Holy Day Information

The 2009-2010 membership year begins on July 1. Membership renewal and High Holy Day materials will be mailed to BJ members the first week of June. New members are invited to join our community. Please visit www.bj.org on June 1 to complete the online membership form and find updated High Holy Day information for 2009. Locations are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Belinda Lasky, blasky@bj.org or Sarah Verity, sverity@bj.org for more information.

▪ Memorial Plaques

As seasons change, we recall those who are no longer with us and are grateful for the gift of their lives, their companionship and the cherished memories that endure. BJ reserves a special area in the sanctuary to honor their memory by having their name permanently inscribed on black granite memorial plaques. To honor the memory of your loved one in this way, please call Elizabeth Stone at x233. Names will be inscribed before the High Holy Days and a ceremony in their memory will take place in the winter. All requests must be received by August 14.

▪ Mahzorim Fund

As our congregation continues to grow, we have noticed the need for more High Holy Day prayer books. This year we are pleased to announce that additional mahzorim will be added to ensure that there are enough books for our members. We are offering the community the opportunity to honor and memorialize a loved one or an occasion; for each donation of \$36, a personalized bookplate will be added to a book. To participate, please contact Elizabeth Stone at x233.

Creating Kehillah

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

▪ Join BJ for AIDS Walk New York 2009!

Sunday, May 17, 9:00AM–12:00PM: This is BJ's 16th year in this annual event that raises money for the Gay Men's Health Crisis and over 50 other HIV/AIDS organizations. To get started with your fundraising, go to

www.aidswalk.net/newyork/. Click on "Register to Walk," select "Join a Team," and pick Congregation B'nai Jeshurun/Tehillah - 1017 in the dropdown menu. For more information please contact team leader, Ruth Jarmul at rjarmul@gmail.com or call x259.

(continued on page 3)

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• 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, please sign up on the BJ website, www.bj.org.

• Family Fun in Riverside Park!

Sunday, May 31, 3:00–6:00PM, Riverside Park: Join other BJ families for an afternoon of helping to beautify Riverside Park followed by a potluck picnic dinner. The volunteer work (which will comprise the first two hours) is appropriate for children ages 8 and up, but anyone is welcome to join us at 5:00PM for the picnic and some outdoor games. Please R.S.V.P. by May 22 to Leora at x271@lfrankel@bj.org for the exact meeting location.

• BJ Hebrew School Open House

Thursday June 4, 4:00PM, 88th Street: Thinking about your child's Jewish education? Do you know about the Hebrew School at BJ? Come to a B'nai Jeshurun Hebrew School prospective parent meeting. Meet Ivy Schreiber, Director of Education for Youth and Family and learn about the Hebrew School's vision and curriculum. Contact Elana Ayalon, eayalon@bj.org or x260, for more information.

• Bim Bam with BJ: Pre-Shabbat Class for Babies and Toddlers

7 Thursdays (June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16) or 7 Fridays (June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17), 10:45AM, 88th St. Frankel Hall: Celebrate Shabbat early with your child at B'nai Jeshurun as we sing those catchy BJ songs, say traditional blessings, eat challah, and teach our children (and remind ourselves) all about Shabbat. Children will learn about Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) by giving tzedakah (charity), so please bring your coins each week. Members with all levels of observance are encouraged to register. We will create com-

munity and start Jewish traditions in our homes. Children ages 0-3 and their parents or caregivers are encouraged to attend. Sign up at www.bj.org.

• Young Families Tot Shabbat Service and Picnic Dinner

Friday, June 5, 5:30PM, Riverside Park at 90th Street (rain location is 88th Street): Join us for an end-of-the-year Tot Shabbat service and dinner with other families with children five and under. We will sing, dance and welcome Shabbat and then have a picnic Shabbat dinner together. Please bring a blanket for your family to sit on. You do not need to R.S.V.P. for the service, only for dinner. Sign-up is available on the BJ website, www.bj.org, or by contacting Elana at eayalon@bj.org.

HAVUROT

• Join a Havurah

Are you interested in a small group setting where you can get to know more like-minded people within the BJ community? Then a Havurah is the right thing for you! There are currently quite a few active Havurot in our community and the following ones are open for new members: Baking Havurah, Book of Genesis Study Havurah, Care Givers Havurah, Empty Nesters Havurah, Havurah Haverim Tovim, Rak Be'ivrit Havurah, and the Single Parent Havurah. For more information about a specific Havurah and how to join it, contact Guy Felixbrodt a gfelixbrodt@bj.org.

BEKEF: 35+

• Bekef Lag Ba'Omer Hike and Picnic

Sunday, May 17, 10:30AM, meet in front of the circular information booth at Grand Central Station: Join Bekef as we celebrate the holiday of Lag Ba'Omer with a short hike to a beautiful setting overlooking the Hudson. Meet at 10:30 AM for a train ride of about an hour to the picturesque town of Cold Spring, followed by a hike and a drinks in a local pub. To R.S.V.P. by May 15, contact Craig Rosenberg at crosenberg6@optonline.net.

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 (remaining class May 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 2006-2008.

• Interfaith Family Workshop

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

4 Tuesdays (remaining classes May 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 (remaining classes May 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 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 Pesach 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 we will match people up in the class as well.

• Rosh Hodesh Women's Group for Sivan

Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

Sunday, May 24 • 11:30AM • 86th Street Parlor • Free; registration not required. Following morning minyan, which begins at 9:30AM, join Rabbi Felicia Sol as we welcome in the month of Sivan and prepare to stand again at Sinai. Please bring a dairy/vegetarian kosher dish to this potluck brunch. Note: Morning Minyan is at 88th Street; the Rosh Hodesh Group will meet at 86th Street.

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.

Cats here, cats there, cats are lurking everywhere.

By Joanne Palmer

They never tell you about the cats before you go to Israel.

Then you get off the plane, leave the monumental stone sterility of the airport, and—oh! there are cats everywhere.

Really, there are cats absolutely everywhere. Israel feels a bit like a children's book, with brightly colored animated furballs lurking at the edge of your vision when they're not at its center. Go around a corner—cats. Cross a street—some cats following you, others leading the way. Go near a dumpster—absolute total cat heaven.

Of course, the cats are a problem. They're feral; their life expectancy is short, and their lives most likely are unhappy (although we have to measure cat happiness by human standards because we don't know the feline equivalents. I don't know and can't imagine the tradeoff between freedom and danger for a cat). The government has to come up with some way of dealing with what has become an intractable if low-level problem if the cats are not to devolve into the country's version of tribbles. Until a systemic solution is found, the Jerusalem Society for the Welfare of Street Cats is doing what it can to help.

So I can't help thinking of the cats as representative of all the things that you just don't know about until you go somewhere. The grand things we know about, and certainly we hear about the disasters. But it's the small things, the oddities that make up daily life, the ones no one thinks to tell you about, that make up the texture of real life, in Israel as everywhere else.

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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