

RABBIS:
J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol
HAZZAN & MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ari Priven
MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS:
Rabbi Ezra D. Weinberg
Michelle Dardashti
CANTORIAL INTERN: Shira Wallach

TOLEDOT

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 25:19 - 28:9
TRIENNIAL Genesis 27:28 - 28:9
1: 27:28 - 27:30
2: 27:31 - 27:33
3: 27:34 - 27:37
4: 27:38 - 27:40
5: 27:41 - 27:46
6: 28:1 - 28:4
7: 28:5 - 28:9
Maftir: 28:7 - 28:9
HAFTARAH Malakhi 1:1 - 2:7

NEXT WEEK: VAYETZE

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 28:10 - 32:3
TRIENNIAL Genesis 31:17 - 32:3
HAFTARAH Hosea 12:13 - 14:10



NEW SERVICE TIMES

Please note that beginning December 4, Kabbalat Shabbat services will be at 5:45PM and 7:00PM.

Please note additional holiday weekend service time changes:

There will be only one Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30PM on November 27, December 25, January 1 & 15, and February 12.



SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK

• Shelter Volunteers Needed!

The BJ/SPSA Shelter needs your help. We need more sleepover shift volunteers for the new year. Can you pick one night a month to help us provide a safe and welcoming environment for our shelter guests? If enough kind-hearted people volunteer, we could all sleep more soundly. For more information, contact Anne Millman at anniemill@aol.com or x340.

November 20-27, 2009

3-10 Kislev, 5770

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Tot Shabbat 5:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 5:45 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
BJHS Hey, Vav and Mem Class Dinner Following 5:45 PM Service – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Tze'irim Shabbat Dinner Following 7:30 PM Service – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Shabbat Morning Services 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
Bar Mitzvah Daniel Weiss
Junior Congregation 10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
Children's Services 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor
Community Kiddush Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
Men's Havurah 5:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Morning Minyan: Learner's Minyan for B'nai Mitzvah Families 9:30 AM – 88th St. Sanctuary (SEE P.2)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
Limud: The Book of Exodus* 8:30 AM – 88th St.
BJ Working Knowledge Initiative 10:00 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Limud: Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah* 6:30 PM – 88th St. (SEE P.3)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 88th St.
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:30 PM – 86th St. (SEE P.2)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

BJ OFFICE CLOSED • BJHS CLOSED

Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – 88th St.
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program Cancelled this week
Limud: Perversion and Holiness* No class this week (SEE P.3)
Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a* No class this week

Thanksgiving Day

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

BJ OFFICE CLOSED
Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – 88th St.
Bim Bam Cancelled this week

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZAL TOV

- Daniel, Fred, and Jonathan Weiss and Shanta Matabeek Weiss on Daniel becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Niki Singh, Dan Schimmel, and Theo Singh-Schimmel on the birth of their daughter and sister, Ela Liya Singh-Schimmel.
- Robert and Betsy Imershein on the birth of their grandson, Eliyahu (Eli) Gross.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

- Rabbi Daniel Sherman, Bill Strauss and Confirmation Class, Tree of Life Congregation, Columbia, South Carolina.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Fred and Jonathan Weiss and Shanta Matabeek Weiss in honor of Daniel becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

• Synagogue 3000 Report About BJ Published

A report about BJ prepared under the auspices of Synagogue 3000, *Spirituality at B'nai Jeshurun: Reflections of Two Scholars and Three Rabbis*, which combines the perspectives of outsiders and insiders as well as rabbis and social scientists, has just been published. It features the perspective of BJ's Rabbis in the article they wrote, *Jewish Spirituality: Far More than Prayer—Take BJ from its Rabbis' Point of View, For Instance*. Links to the both the report and the Rabbis' article can be found at www.bj.org.

• Men's Havurah

Saturday, November 21, 5:00-7:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Esther Perel will be speaking on "Masculinity... A Post-Feminist Reading." Esther is a leading psychotherapist and expert on the subject of relationships and the author of the bestseller *Mating in Captivity, Reconciling the Erotic and Domestic*. Esther will start promptly at 5:00PM. Later we will be davening, schnapping, and socializing. This event is for men only.

• Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 25, 7:00PM, 86th Street: Join with our neighbors of all faith traditions to give thanks on the eve of Thanksgiving. There will be a light reception after the service. Clergy from several churches and synagogues will be participating. Hosted by B'nai Jeshurun, Sacred Center, St. Paul & St. Andrew and West-Park Presbyterian Church. Please bring checks made out to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. For more information, please contact Rabbi Ezra Weinberg at eweinberg@bj.org or x264.

• Inside the Activist Studio—AJWS/AVODAH Partnership

Sunday, December 6, 4:00-9:00PM, Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope, Brooklyn: Learn from and be energized by local Jewish change-makers and celebrate the multitude of ways we are collectively working to create a more just and equitable world. Events will include a combination of speakers, skills-building workshops, networking, local social justice opportunities, and more! The evening will end with a dinner reception including socially-conscious spoken word performances and networking opportunities aplenty! Co-sponsored by BJ along with other organizations. For more information and to register, visit <http://whoinspiresyou.eventbrite.com>

• A Century of Failed Diplomacy in the Middle East:

A Talk by Professor Stephen Cohen

Thursday, December 10, 7:00PM, 88th Street: Join us as we host Professor Stephen Cohen for a fascinating discussion regarding his most recent publication, *Beyond America's Grasp: A Century of Failed Diplomacy in the Middle East*. Professor Cohen, founder and president of the Institute for Middle East Peace and Development, brought about the first secret official negotiations between Israel and the PLO under the supervision of Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres, and served as a behind-the-scenes confidant of Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egypt's President Anwar El Sadat in the launching of their peace process. R.S.V.P. is required to Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org.

• Hanukkah Community Dinner with Ari and Shira

Friday, December 11, following the 5:45PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join us as we celebrate the first night of Hanukkah as a community in an intimate setting. Hazzan Ari Priven and BJ's Cantorial Intern Shira Wallach will lead us in a joyous musical journey following a three-course dinner with wine. Children's admission is free. To register, please visit www.bj.org.

CREATING KEHILLAH

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Morning Minyan for B'nai Mitzvah Families

Sunday, November 22, 9:30AM, 88th Street: This special learner's minyan is perfectly designed for b'nai mitzvah students and their families who want to get a feel for what a weekday morning minyan is like at BJ. Come early at 9:00AM if you want to learn to lay tefillin, and there will be plenty of moments throughout the entire morning to learn about different prayers. A light breakfast will be served following the service, and families will have the opportunity to ask more questions as well as get to know each other better. To R.S.V.P. or for more information, contact Emily Walsh at ewalsh@bj.org.

• 5th Grade Families Cooking for the Shelter

Tuesday, December 1, 5:00-6:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: 5th graders and their families are invited to cook for the BJ Shelter. Every month, a different grade of students and their families prepare a meal for the

guests of the BJ Shelter. Together, we cook, set and decorate the table, and engage in age-appropriate study and discussion about the Jewish value of feeding the hungry. This is a community-wide program; all families of 5th graders are invited to participate, no matter where your children receive their Jewish education. To R.S.V.P. and sign up for what you'll bring, please contact Nancy Kline at nkline@aol.com. You must R.S.V.P. to participate.

• 6th Grade Family Learning Program

Saturday, December 5, 9:30AM, 86th Street Chapel: Last month we literally unrolled the Torah, and this month 6th grade students and their parents will continue to "unroll" its teachings with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein. Families will participate in Talmud Torah—the study of Torah, similar to the study that is done when preparing a student's d'var Torah. After the program, families are encouraged to join Junior Congregation downstairs in the Social Hall.

[continued on page 3]

• **Mitzvah Fair**

Thursday, December 10, 5:00-6:00PM, 88th Street: The journey toward becoming a bar/bat mitzvah is one filled with tremendous occasions to learn how to be an active member in the Jewish community. The Mitzvah Fair will be filled with representatives from the BJ and greater Jewish community who will present various opportunities with which students can become involved in preparation for their bar/bat mitzvah. 5th, 6th and 7th grade students and their parents are invited to this great event.

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

• **Tze'irim Shabbat Dinner**

Friday, November 20, following the 7:30PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join us for the first Tze'irim Shabbat Dinner of the year for a fully catered meal and wine in an intimate setting. A great chance to get together with friends, make new ones and start Shabbat together with beautiful z'mirot led by one of BJ's musicians. To register, visit www.bj.org or contact Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255.

BEKEF: 35+

• **Bekef Central Park Fall Walk**

Sunday, November 22, 12:00PM, Women's Gate at 72nd Street and Central Park West: Get ready for the Thanksgiving calories with a brisk and fun walk through Central Park and the Upper West Side. See the oldest man-made item in the park and the largest Tiffany glass windows in this half

of the country, among other beautiful sites. R.S.V.P. is required to Henry Weinberger at henry.weinberger@earthlink.net.

AFFILIATES

• **Resources in Response to the Economic Downturn**

UJA-Federation of New York's Connect to Care initiative provides employment services and financial services and legal counseling free of charge for those impacted by the economic downturn. For more information about this program or to make an appointment in Manhattan, Riverdale and Brownstone Brooklyn, call JBFCS, a lead agency for UJA-Federation's Connect to Care, at 212-399-2685 x206 or connect-to-care@jbfcs.org. For full description and workshops, go to www.jcprograms.org/connect-to-care. For UJA-Federation's Connect to Care Centers in other regions, contact connect-to-care@ujafedny.org.

• **Negev Nectar Products Now Available in U.S.**

For those eager to support Israel's environment and its people, Negev Nectars is bringing gourmet, sustainably produced foods—the kind that rarely make the trip over the Atlantic—to shareholders in the US. Negev Nectar members will be sent olive oil, jams, chutneys, honey, dried herbs and other unique products in time for Hanukkah, Passover and Rosh Hashanah. Membership is an investment in Israeli farms employing responsible growing practices as well as in the future of the country and the region. For more information, visit www.negevnectars.com.

UPCOMING LIMUD Please visit www.bj.org for more info and to register.

• **Abraham Joshua Heschel's Heavenly Torah**

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

Seven Tuesdays (through December 8) • 6:30-8:30PM • 88th Street Sanctuary • Free; registration required. We resume our study of Rabbi Heschel's monumental work on rabbinic thought. *Heavenly Torah*, recently translated into English, explores the polarities in Judaism between transcendence and immanence and between mysticism and rationalism. In the chapters we will address this year, Heschel invites us to look at some fundamental religious questions (such as "What does it mean to love God?" "Do we have free will, or is everything divinely foreseen?" "Is the Torah meant to be read literally?") through the lens of classical rabbinic discussions. Please bring the book to class; no photocopies will be distributed. New participants are welcome.

• **Perversion And Holiness: Stories Of The Talmudic Rabbis (Bava Metzi'a Chapter 7) Lunch and Learn** (please bring your lunch)

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

Six Thursdays (through December 10; no meeting on November 26) • 12:30-1:30PM • Location: given upon registration • Free; registration required by contacting ygarber@bj.org. We will continue our study of a chain of stories that appear 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 see 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.

• **BJ Salons: Engaging Members in an Intimate Setting**

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

Tuesdays (December 1 and 8) • 7:00-9:00PM • Location provided upon registration. Building on the importance of reaching members where they live and creating small, intimate groups, Marcelo will facilitate Beit Midrash Salons in lieu of teaching traditional classes. Limited space is available; please respond to ngoodhart@bj.org.

• **Know Before Whom You Stand: An Exploration Of Prayer And Theology**

Rabbi Felicia L. Sol

Three Wednesdays (December 2, 9, 16) • 7:00-8:30PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. Whether we pray on a daily or weekly basis, the notions of whom we are praying to and for what purpose can be a stumbling block to having a meaningful and authentic prayer experience. Over this three-session course, we will explore traditional and contemporary texts on prayer so as to more clearly understand our purpose in prayer and how that influences our experience of it.

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:** We invite you to become a member of our living, thriving community. The simple act of joining BJ is transformative. It is an acknowledgement that BJ is your community, its rabbis are your rabbis, and its sanctuary is your space. Membership at B'nai Jeshurun includes: admission to High Holy Day services; special rates for classes, dinners, and events; support for life cycle events and in times of difficulty; group orientations for new members; vibrant Hebrew School; and more! Our fair share dues system ensures no one will be turned away based on financial considerations. For more information about becoming a member, please contact Sarah Verity, Senior Membership Associate at x250 or sverity@bj.org. We look forward to welcoming you to our community!

• **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 give the prayer book and the Torah text (the large red book) the respect they merit, we ask that they not be placed on the floor when not in use. To

prepare for the comfort and security of all, doors open 30 minutes before services begin.

• **Scent-Free Policy at Services:** In consideration of the many people who have adverse respiratory reactions to the smells of perfume, cologne, and other chemicals, please refrain from wearing perfume or strong cologne to services.

• **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.

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

Blessings for Chen Ben Or Tsoni on Her Ordination in Jerusalem • November 20, 2009

FOCUS ON ISRAEL

From a book of blessings written by BJ members for Chen Ben Or Tsoni, our Marshall T. Meyer Israeli Rabbinic Fellow from 2007 to 2008:

My blessing for you is that you will continue to inspire Israelis to find spirituality and Torah. And that you will continue to inspire Americans and Israelis to connect over prayer and meaning, not just the beach and falafel.

It wouldn't surprise me at all to learn that, millennia ago, at the dawn of time, when G-d first invented the very concept of *chen*, of grace, He already had you in mind. *Chen mamash chen*, as you take on these new life responsibilities and as you become more perfectly and completely your lovely self, know that you bring a reminder of G-d's delight to all those around you.

"Oh sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads!" *Bereshit: Hayyei Sarah: 24:60*. So Rebecca's family blesses her as she embarks on the greatest adventure of her life, fearlessly leaving her home to join her unknown b'shert, Isaac. Those who love her express their hope that her dreams will be fulfilled and that she will be the mother of a great nation. So, too, do we bless you as you embark on your rabbinate. May your dreams be fulfilled and may you inspire and give birth to the Jewish neshama of countless Israelis.

May you be blessed with work that is fulfilling for you and your family and filled with sharing the wonders of a religious Judaism with Israelis. May it be enriching to them to learn from you as we have and to realize from you how they, living in Israel, can connect the many worlds that are Judaism in that wondrous land.

You have shown us the way to study, devotion and leadership while leading a full life. Someone once said that history is the encounter between character and circumstances. This certainly applies to you. My hope is that you continue to be an example for both American and Israeli Jews. In this way you will give us your blessing.

You have the ability to connect Americans of all races to the Israeli culture and causes that mean so much to you and your community.

May you be blessed like our sister Miriam as a leader who led her people joyfully with song and dance.

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

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