

קול ישורון

KOL JESHURUN



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

VAYISHLAH

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 32:4 - 36:43
TRIENNIAL Genesis 35:16 - 36:43
1: 35:16 - 35:26
2: 35:27 - 35:29
3: 36:1 - 36:8
4: 36:9 - 36:19
5: 36:20 - 36:30
6: 36:31 - 36:39
7: 36:40 - 36:43
Maftir: 36:40 - 36:43
HAFTARAH Obadiah 1:1 - 21

NEXT WEEK: VAYESHEV

TORAH: ANNUAL Genesis 37:1 - 40:23
TRIENNIAL Genesis 39:1 - 40:23
HAFTARAH Zekhariah 2:14 - 4:7

December 4-11, 2009

17-24 Kislev, 5770

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Tot Shabbat 5:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary
Kabbalat Shabbat Service **5:45 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary**
Panim el Panim Shabbat Dinner Following 5:45 PM Services - 88th St. Frankel Hall
Kabbalat Shabbat Service **7:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

6th Grade Family Learning Program 9:30 AM - 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.2)
Shabbat Morning Services 9:30 AM - 86th St. Sanctuary
Bat Mitzvah Lena Eve Diamond
Children's Services 10:45 AM - 86th St. Chapel and Parlor
Community Kiddush Following Services - 86th St. Social Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Morning Minyan 9:30 AM - 88th St. Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

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)
Limud: BJ Salon* 7:00 PM (SEE P.3)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.
Limud: Know Before Whom You Stand* 7:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.3)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program 12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall
Limud: Perversion and Holiness* 12:30 PM (SEE P.3)
Mitzvah Fair 5:00 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.3)
Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a* 7:00 PM - BJ Office

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

1ST CANDLE HANUKKAH
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - 88th St.
Bim Bam 10:45 AM - 88th St. Frankel Hall

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 December 25, January 1 & 15, and February 12.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK

• Donate New Warm Socks, Scarves, and Gloves!

Every year the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program provides our guests with a lovely holiday gift bag. We are asking for your much-needed help in providing NEW warm men's and women's hats, scarves, gloves and socks. Please bring your contributions to the BJ office or to a special collection box at services before December 15. Questions? Please contact Susan Samuels at sssamuels@aol.com or call x259.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HA-MAKOM YENAHĒM

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

- Barry Lichtenberg and Sandee Brawarsky on the death of Barry's beloved mother, Vera Lichtenberg.
- Naomi Kleinberg, Adi Kidon and Nava Kidon on the death of Naomi's beloved father, Jack Kleinberg.

- Susan, Larry, Jason, Emily and Amy Chinitz on the death of Susan's beloved mother, Beverly Pasternack.

MAZAL TOV

- Lena, Jonathan and Donna Diamond on Lena becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Miriam Palmer-Sherman, Andy Sherman and Joanne Palmer on Miriam's recent engagement to David Vaisberg.
- Rachel Cowan on the birth of her grandson, Dante Ellis Salvatore Paul Cowan.

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.

• 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.

• Shabbat Teaching: Slavery and Human Trafficking

Saturday, December 12, Following Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Chapel: Join us as Steven Gerber, the new Executive Director of Rabbis for Human Rights-North America, discusses the launch of their new campaign on slavery and human trafficking. This issue is particularly timely given this week's parasha dealing with Joseph's experience as a slave in the land of Egypt. Steven will also share the Rabbis for Human Rights' view that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (celebrating its 61st anniversary on December 10) flows from Jewish values, as well as from our own historical experience, especially that of the treatment of Jews during the Holocaust.

• BJ Dialogue Series on the Jewish Future: What's at the Essence?

Saturday, December 12, 3:00PM, 88th Street: What questions should we be asking and what issues should we embrace so that we may respond in a relevant way to the challenges the future will bring? Ten presenters in five dialogues—artists, rabbis, educators, scholars, writers, a philanthropist, social activists—will explore these questions. Join us for the first dialogue with Michael Steinhardt and Amichai Lau-Lavie. Michael Steinhardt is a money manager turned philanthropist who is dedicated to creating a renaissance in American Jewish life, and Amichai Lau-Lavie is the founder and Executive and Artistic Director of Storahtelling. The dialogue will be followed by Minḥa at 4:30PM. Amichai Lau-Lavie will

present Storahtelling's Maven Method during the Minḥa service, releasing Joseph from jail and translating Torah into the Talk of the Town.

• Men's Havurah

Saturday, December 19, 5:00-7:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: December 19 will feature John Ruskay and Daniel Sieradski in a dialogue between the establishment and anti-establishment voices in the Jewish world today. John is the Executive Vice President and CEO of UJA-Federation of New York. Daniel was the founding publisher and editor-in-chief of Jewschool, a popular Jewish weblog, as well as the weblogs Radical Torah and Orthodox Anarchist. This program will also include davening, schnappsing and socializing. For men only. For more information, contact Naomi Goodhart at ngoodhart@bj.org.

• In Memory of Concert featuring Yale Strom's Quartet, with special guest Ari Priven

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00PM, The Museum at Eldridge Street, 12 Eldridge Street (between Canal and Division Streets): *In Memory of* is based upon the cantorial music Yale Strom uncovered in the upstairs women's balcony of the 1871 synagogue of Carei, Romania in 2008, and is dedicated to the Jews who perished during the Holocaust. Cellist Mike Block and his string quartet will perform the new composition, Hazzan Ari Priven will sing melodies from the "lost" cantor's book, and Yale Strom and Mike Block will perform melodies from the same work as klezmer pieces. Tickets: general public \$15; seniors and students \$12. For more information, call 212-219-0888 x205.

• A Century of Failed Diplomacy in the Middle East: A Talk by Professor Stephen Cohen

PLEASE NOTE: This event has been postponed to **Thursday, January 21**, 7:00PM, at 88th Street due to the speaker's scheduling conflict: 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.

CREATING KEHILLAH

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• 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>

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• 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

(continued on page 3)

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.

• **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.

• **PJs and Havdalah for Hanukkah**

Saturday, December 12, 4:30-5:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Families with children ages 6 and under are invited to this fun-filled Hanukkah party, complete with songs, games, sufganiot (jelly-filled donuts) and candle lighting! Come dressed in your PJs and bring a hanukkah from your home to light with the community. R.S.V.P. to Emily Walsh at ewalsh@bj.org by December 9 so we can be sure to order enough sufganiot!

TZE'IRIM: 20s/30s

• **Tze'irim Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner**

Friday, December 18, following the 7:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join us as we celebrate the last candle of Hanukkah together with a fully catered meal and wine in an intimate setting. A great chance to get together with friends, make new ones, and start Shabbat with beautiful z'mirots led by BJ's musicians. To register, visit www.bj.org.

BEKEF: 35+

• **Bekef Singles Hanukkah Party**

Thursday, December 17, 7:30PM, 88th Street: Join us for an exciting cele-

bration of the seventh night of Hanukkah with some light dinner, latkes, plenty of wine and jelly doughnuts. Meet other singles, enjoy live music by Israeli band The Shuk, and have plenty of time to schmooze. Admission: \$25 member/\$35 non member if you register at www.bj.org, or pay \$40 at the door.

HAVUROT

• **40+ Havurah Hanukkah Party**

Friday, December 18, location and details given upon R.S.V.P.: Singles and couples are invited to enjoy Shabbat and the holiday with dinner, a grab bag, music, dreidles and community. Reserve soon; space is limited. Please mention if you've seen this invitation in the *Kol Jeshurun* and if you are a BJ member. For more information, contact helenshanan@hotmail.com.

• **Queens Havurah**

BJ members living in Queens, are you interested in a monthly havurah? Meet at each other's homes, study, socialize and maybe celebrate a pot luck Shabbat dinner together once in a while. Rego Park/Forest Hills area (but not limited). If interested, please contact David and Liana Goldman at goldmanl@ptd.net.

AFFILIATES

• **Cartoons in Conflict: Editorial Cartoonists Explore the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**

Sunday, December 13, 11:00AM, 6 West 26th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues): Join Robi Damelin and Mazan Faraj, both members of the Parents Circle Families Forum, a grassroots organization of more than 500 bereaved Palestinians and Israelis who have chosen a path of reconciliation in order to prevent other families from experiencing their terrible pain. The presentation offers the singular perspective of forty renowned artists, including Pulitzer Prize winners Pat Oliphant and Jim Morin, syndicated political cartoonist Jeff Danziger, and *The New Yorker's* Liza Donnelly. The exhibit previously visited Israel, Spain, and Italy. R.S.V.P. is required to Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org.

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 (last class 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. 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 (last class December 10) • 12:30-1:30PM • Location: given upon registration • Free; registration required by contacting ygarter@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. No knowledge of Hebrew required. Space is limited.

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

Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein

Tuesdays (next Salon: December 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 (remaining classes December 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.

• **Hag HaBanut: The Celebration of the Daughters**

on Rosh Hodesh Tevet

Thursday, December 17 • 7:00PM • 88th Street Frankel Hall • Free; registration required. Hag HaBanut is a women's celebration in North African countries which honors the inheritance and gifts of women, including the Jewish heroine Judith. It always falls on Rosh Hodesh Tevet during Hanukkah. Come join the Women's Rosh Hodesh Group for dinner, study and celebration on this 7th night of Hanukkah (bring a Hanukkiyah and candles if you would like). R.S.V.P. on the BJ website, www.bj.org, with your contribution to the meal (participants can volunteer to help cook the main course at BJ or bring wine, appetizers, and desserts). Please contact Yaffa Garber at ygarter@bj.org with any questions.

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 7:00PM 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.

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

FOCUS ON ISRAEL

Emerging Communities Finding New Paths to Judaism in Israel

By Robin Fleischer

A delegation of 20 BJ members, led by Rabbi Felicia Sol, travelled to Israel the week before Thanksgiving. The inspiration for the trip was the rabbinic ordination of our former Marshall T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellow, Chen Ben Or Tsfohi, at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem on November 20, 2009, and the central focus of the trip was to meet with emerging Jewish spiritual communities in Israel which are creating new, indigenous, non-Orthodox paths to Judaism. I admit that during other, larger BJ trips to Israel, I "played hooky" from weekday Shaḥarit services, but the small size of the group and the beautiful intimacy that developed during our davening together, inspired all of us to participate. Below is a d'var Torah I presented during one of our daily Shaḥarit services.

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The imagery of twins in Toldot resonates with me because I have a twin sister. And the early stories of Bereshit resonate with all of us because the struggles of mothers, fathers, and siblings are the universal stories of all families, and ultimately, all nations.

Rebecca anguished over the struggle of the twins in her womb. During our luminous stay in the golden light of Jerusalem and beside the crashing turquoise Mediterranean in Yaffa and Tel Aviv, we have witnessed the beautiful and painful birth of a new, indigenous Israeli Judaism. Hearing the testimony of the visionaries in the emerging spiritual communities is an inspiration, and I am honored that some, like Beit Tefilah Israeli and Nigun Halev, are inspired by BJ. Their creativity in forming an authentic spirituality for Israelis who are alienated from religion speaks to the deepest human longings. The passionate opposition they inspire in a religiously polarized society echoes the struggle of Jacob and Esau. Later in Parashat Vayishlah, Jacob and Esau will encounter each other again in a tearful embrace. My kavannah for us is that by supporting struggling Jewish renewal here, we lead the path to a peaceful coexistence of competing, disparate religious visions.

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:

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

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