

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

TAZRIA-METZORA

TORAH: ANNUAL	Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33
TRIENNIAL	Leviticus 14:33 - 15:33
1:	14:33 - 14:38
2:	14:39 - 14:47
3:	14:48 - 14:53
4:	14:54 - 15:7
5:	15:8 - 15:15
6:	15:16 - 15:28
7:	15:29 - 15:33
Maftir:	15:31 - 15:33
HAFTARAH	II Kings 7:3 - 20

NEXT WEEK: AHAREI MOT-KEDOSHIM

TORAH:	Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27
TRIENNIAL:	Leviticus 19:15 - 20:27
HAFTARAH	Amos 9:7 - 15

April 16-23, 2010

2-9 Iyar, 5770

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Kabbalat Shabbat Service	5:45 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary
Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7:00 PM - 88th St. Sanctuary
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 18 (Netzah Shebetiferet)	

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

6th Grade Family Learning Program	9:30 AM - 86th St. Chapel (SEE P.3)
Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM - 86th St. Sanctuary
Bat Mitzvah	Alexa Ringer
Bat Mitzvah	Joanna Cohen
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	3:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall (SEE P.2)
BJ Dialogue Series: What is Essential? with Ruth Messinger and Tobi Kahn	4:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)
Community Minḥa Service	6:00 PM - 88th St.
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 19 (Hod Shebetiferet)	

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Morning Minyan	9:30 AM - 88th St.
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 20 (Yesod Shebetiferet)	

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM - 88th St.
BJ Hebrew School	4:00-6:00 PM
Limud: Introduction to Judaism	7:00 PM - BJ Office
Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration and Movie Screening	6:30 PM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 21 (Malkhut Shebetiferet)	

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

BJ OFFICE CLOSED	
Morning Minyan	7:30 AM - 88th St. (SEE P.2)
Limud: The Book of Exodus	8:30 AM - 88th St.
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 22 (Hesed Shebenetzah)	

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM - 88th St.
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 23 (Gevurah Shebenetzah)	

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM - 88th St.
Judith Bernstein Lunch Program	12:00 PM - 88th St. Frankel Hall
BJ Hebrew School	4:00-6:00 PM
Limud: Parashat Hashavu'a	7:00 PM - BJ Office
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 24 (Tiferet Shebenetzah)	

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Morning Minyan	7:30 AM - 88th St.
Bim Bam	10:45 AM - 88th St. Frankel Hall
■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 25 (Netzah Shebenetzah)	

! SPRING/SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday Evening Service: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME! Beginning *Friday, May 7*, and through October 1, there will be only one Friday evening service starting at 7:00PM.

! SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY

• Meet the Farmer Shabbat

Saturday, April 24, following Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Chapel: You are invited to meet the farmers of Free Bird Farm and learn about BJ's new Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project. Ken Fruehstorfer and Maryellen Driscoll run an organic, small-scale, diversified farm in New York's Mohawk Valley and will deliver their produce to our community once a week this summer. BJ Hazorim CSA, a chance for BJ members to buy a 22-week share of organic produce, is still accepting members. More information at www.bj.org/csa.

To register for classes and events, please visit www.bj.org.

SYNAGOGUE: 257 W. 88th St. • OFFICE: 2109 Broadway (Ansonia), Suite 203, New York, NY 10023 • TEL: 212.787.7600 • FAX: 212.496.7600 • WEBSITE: www.bj.org **BJ**

BJ's Ner Tamid at 88th St. is powered by the light of the sun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HA-MAKOM YENAHĒM

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

- Marc Seidenstein on the death of his beloved brother, Daniel Seidenstein.
- Susan Sanders and Gabriel and Daniel Weintraub on the death of Susan's beloved father, Lowell Sanders.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of Cantor Deborah Togut of B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, Maryland, who tutored many of our b'nai mitzvah during the 90s. We extend sincere condolences to her family, her congregants, and all her loved ones.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

• BJ Dialogue Series on the Jewish Future: What is Essential?

Saturday, April 17, 4:30–6:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: What questions should we be asking? What issues should we be addressing? How do we respond in a relevant way to the challenges of the future? Join us for a dialogue between Ruth Messinger and Tobi Kahn. Ruth Messinger is President of American Jewish World Service. Tobi Kahn is a painter and sculptor with works in major museums, corporate, and private collections. The dialogue will be followed by *Minħa* at 6:00PM. Contact Sarah at sguthartz@bj.org for more information.

• Men's *Havurah*

Saturday, April 17, 3:00–4:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: This month features Andrea Siegel speaking on "Wrestling with Masculinity in Zionist Thought." Andrea is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Purchase College SUNY in the Jewish Studies Program. She spent last year in Jerusalem and Istanbul working for the American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and formerly served on the BJ staff as the coordinator of BJ's 180th Anniversary trip to Israel. This program will include schnappsing and socializing.

• Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration and Movie Screening

Monday, April 19, 6:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Want to celebrate Israel's birthday but can't make it there? Then join the festivities right here at home! Following a short commemoration in honor of Israel's Yom Hazikaron, we will celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut by watching the Israeli movie "The Beetle" and enjoying an Israeli buffet dinner. The night will conclude with some Shira Be'Tzibur, Israeli dancing and a special surprise treat from Israel. Free; R.S.V.P. required to Guy at gfelixbrodt@bj.org by Friday, April 16.

• Yom Ha'atzma'ut Morning Services

Tuesday, April 20, 7:30AM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Join us to celebrate Israel's birthday at the morning minyan with Hallel, Torah and Haftarah readings.

• Cultivating Compassion: The Annual Bikkur *Holim* Teaching

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00–9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Please join us as we honor our Bikkur *Holim* volunteers and gather together as a community with Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg. During this evening of learning, we will explore the many facets and aspects of compassion. What is it? Where does it come from? How does it relate to pain and suffering? How does it function in my life as I grow older, as I support and nurture those who are ill and failing? How is compassion related to power and control, to fixing, to fear and anxiety? How does loss stimulate compassion? What are the obstacles to compassion? How is compassion related to joy? How is compassion different from pity? The guest speaker, Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, is the author of *Surprisingly Happy: An Atypical Religious Memoir* and is the Director of Outreach and Community Development of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Free; registration not required.

MAZAL TOV

To the following members and their families:

- Alexa and Randy Ringer, Enid Lotstein, Tracy Sivitz, Lily Sivitz Gellman, and Michael Sivitz Gellman on Alexa becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Joanna and Sanford Cohen and Holly Schneier on Joanna becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Barbara Schwimmer on her daughter, Gwen Schwimmer, receiving a PhD in Clinical Social Work.

TODAH RABBAH

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by John Bonavita and Harold Goldman in honor of Tziporah Salamon's 60th birthday.

• BJ Softball

16 Thursdays (April 29–August 26), 7:00–8:30PM, Field 12 North Meadow, Central Park (96th Street entrance): Hit a home run with BJ and step up to the plate for softball fun! These are friendly, lively, all-inclusive, self-governing pick-up games. One game or 16, your choice. One-time \$18 Tzedakah donation for the season, collected at the field. Checks payable to BJ or cash. The rain number is 212-628-1036; press 1, then 2, then 808 for North Meadow. More info: Jody Prusan, jpmazel@aol.com.

• First and Third Shabbat at Members' Homes: Hakhnasat Or \hbar im

Friday, April 30, following the 5:45PM service, members' homes: You are welcome at other members' homes every 1st and 3rd Shabbat of the month! We are happy to let you know that after a few successful runs of BJ members opening their homes to host Shabbat dinners as part of the Hakhnasat Or \hbar im (welcoming guests) initiative, we are continuing it through the spring. BJ members only may register and be matched on a first-come, first-served basis. If you're interested in attending the April 30 dinner, please contact Guy by Tuesday, April 27 at gfelixbrodt@bj.org or x255. Preference will be given to members who have not yet been hosted. Space is limited!

• Gidi Grinstein Speaks at BJ

Saturday, May 1, during Shabbat morning services, 86th Street: Join us as Gidi Grinstein of the Reut Institute speaks about his work providing real-time, long-term strategic decision-support to the government of Israel. Grinstein is a graduate of the Tel Aviv University Schools of Economics and Law, and of Harvard University Kennedy School of Government as a Wexner-Israel Fellow, and served as a Captain in the Israeli Navy. For Prime Minister Ehud Barak, he served as Secretary and Coordinator of the Israeli negotiation team on the Permanent Status Agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

• Piyut Concert Lecture

Sunday, May 2, 3:00PM, Museum of Biblical Art, 1865 Broadway at 61st Street: Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon will present a program of liturgical poems of medieval Spain by R. Abraham ibn Ezra, R. Yehuda Halevi, R. Shelomo ibn Gavirol and others, in conjunction with the Museum of Biblical Art's exhibit "Uneasy Communion: Jews, Christians and the Altarpieces of Medieval Spain." Rabbi Matalon will be accompanied by musicians Basya Schechter, Dan Nadel, Daphna Mor, and David Buchbut. This concert is free but pre-registration is required through MoBIA. Please contact 212-408-1251 or rsvp@mobia.org.

• U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) in Conversation with the BJ Community

Sunday, May 2, 6:00–8:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Save the date! This is a special opportunity for our U.S. Senator and BJ to get to know each other through a discussion about issues of concern to our community. Topics will include unemployment, immigrant rights, the environment,

(continued on page 3)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES *(continued from page 2)*

Israel, predatory lending, and marriage equality. With so many important decisions being made at the federal level, don't miss this chance to be in dialogue with one of our U.S. senators. R.S.V.P. and suggest a question at www.bj.org/gillibrand.

• From "Women of the Wall" to "Savta Bikorta":

Active Jewish Feminism in Israel Today

Monday, May 3, 7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Join women from the Elga Stulman Women's Institute of Jewish Studies at Hamidrasha in Israel to talk about how women in Israel today are working to enhance knowledge,

raise consciousness and bring about change in their public and private Jewish lives. Free; registration not required.

• Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, May 7, following the 7:00PM service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Want to get together with long time BJ friends and make new ones? Interested in meeting visitors from a Jewish community in Argentina? Then join us for a three-course dinner with wine in an intimate setting. The night will include music and stories from the communal life of both congregations. \$29 members/\$39 non-members. Register at www.bj.org.

CREATING KEHILLAH

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• Join the BJ AIDS Walk Team!

Sunday, May 16, 9:00AM-2:00PM, Central Park: Please join the B'nai Jeshurun AIDS Walk Team this year! The Teen Leadership team is taking the lead on planning this year's walk and are excited to welcome the entire community to walk and fundraise with them. They would like to raise \$1,944 to contribute to the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and all other AIDS Walk beneficiaries so if you cannot walk with the BJ Team, please consider making a donation. Sign up and learn more at www.bj.org/aidswalk.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

• 6th Grade Family Learning Program

Saturday, April 17, 9:30-10:30AM, 86th Street Chapel: This final program will prepare families to enter together into the year of b'nai mitzvah. 6th grade students and their parents will engage in study about Torah, Avodah and Gemilut Hasadim, and discuss the following: How can I continue my Jewish education? How do I connect with the service in which I will become bar/bat mitzvah? How will I be a contributing member of BJ and the Jewish community? After the program, families are encouraged to join Junior Congregation downstairs in the Social Hall. R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org.

• Tot Shabbat and Dinner

Friday, May 7, 5:00-7:00PM, 88th Street: Families will enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service in the sanctuary beginning at 5:00PM, followed by a dinner at 5:30PM in Frankel Hall complete with Shabbat blessings

and songs. Dinner will include delicious choices for adults as well as children, and vegetarian options will be available; dietary laws observed. While adults are finishing their meal, children will be engaged in games and more songs! Register at www.bj.org by May 3, and contact Emily Walsh at ewalsh@bj.org with any questions or specific dietary requests.

AFFILIATES

• Infertility, Adoption and the Family Conference

Sunday, April 25, 9:00AM-5:00PM, UJA Federation, 130 East 59th Street: The annual conference of the Jewish Child Care Association-Ametz Adoption Program. Choose from 50 workshops covering everything you could want or need to know about adopting domestically or internationally, or living as an adoptive family. Attorneys and adoption agencies will be on hand to describe adoption options and detail the domestic and international adoption process.

• The Jewish Oral Tradition: Jews as a Storytelling People

Sunday, April 25, 12:00-4:00PM, The Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning, 10 East 66th Street: As a storytelling people, Jews transmitted Jewish wisdom, values, and traditions through their folktales and other stories. In this participatory workshop—led by BJ member Peninnah Schram and illustrated with a wide variety of stories from biblical, Talmudic, midrashic, Hasidic, Ashkenazi, and Sephardi sources—examine the historical range of the Jewish oral tradition and explore what forms a specifically Jewish tale. For more information and to register, contact 212-507-9580 or info@adultjewishlearning.org, or visit adultjewishlearning.org/index.php?courses#10S101.

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

BOOK YOUR SPRING:

• Radical Judaism: *Rethinking God and Tradition*

Sunday, April 25, 10:00AM-12:00PM, The JCC in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street: How do we articulate a Judaism for the 21st century? We need a religious vision that embraces evolution and celebrates Divine presence throughout the world. We need an honest Judaism that accepts the human authorship of Scripture and moves beyond the critical stance, reinvigorating Judaism with new, contemporary Midrash. Join Jewish scholar Dr. Arthur Green as he draws on the Jewish mystical traditions of Kabbalah and Hasidism with the release of his new book, *Rethinking God and Tradition*. Register at www.jccmanhattan.org.

• DNA and Neshama

Bob Pollack

Wednesdays (April 28 and May 5), 6:00-7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: During this two-session class, BJ member Bob Pollack will discuss this quote from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in the light of modern science: "The greatest problem is not how to continue but how

to exalt our existence. The call for a life beyond the grave is presumptuous, if there is no cry for eternal life prior for our descending to the grave. Eternity is not perpetual future but perpetual presence. He has planted in us the seed of eternal life. The world to come is not only a hereafter but also a herenow." Free, no registration required. For more information, contact Naomi at ngoodhart@bj.org.

• The Complete Psalms in a New Translation: Book Reading and Discussion with Author Pam Greenberg

Thursday, April 29, 7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Join us as we welcome Pamela Greenberg, a poet and translator, and author of *The Complete Psalms: The Book of Prayer Songs in a New Translation*. Greenberg has received awards in both writing and Jewish Studies, including a Shoolman Fellowship from Hebrew College, where she also received an award in Hebrew Literature. In her new translation, Greenberg approaches the psalms as a poetic and prayerful act, rekindling their relevance to our lives. Praised by Arthur Green as "an act of courage" and with a foreword by Susannah Heschel, this translation will awaken you to new ways of using the psalms in your spiritual life.

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 and Network Out!**

Want to expand your network? Want to make more connections within the BJ community? Then join over 450 BJ members who already joined the "B'nai Jeshurun–New York City" BJ group on LinkedIn, www.linkedin.com. There you can share your professional network, post jobs, and respond to any ongoing discussions posted in the group.

• **We Want to See Your Face Every Day—on Facebook!**

Tired of knowing the faces in the crowd but not the names? Want to get to know more BJ members? Then join BJ's Facebook group, called B'nai Jeshurun NYC. You can see other members, post pictures and start discussions—all just a click away! We hope this tool will help build community at BJ from online to on-sight. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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.

BOOK REVIEW by Joanne Palmer:

The 188th Crybaby Brigade

By Joel Chasnoff

Joel Chasnoff grew up an observant Conservative Jew in suburban Chicago, and he is now an observant Conservative Jew in Riverdale. He is also a stand-up comic, able to make his living telling jokes. (Who knew that was really possible?)

Between then and now Joel took a year-long detour into the Israel army. That's not so unusual, but unlike most young Americans who make aliyah to join the IDF, he joined a combat unit. He tells his story about his attempt to live out his lifelong dream as a real Israeli in *The 188th Crybaby Brigade*, a book that improbably but truly had me both laughing (snorting through my nose, in fact) and sobbing (not hard, I admit, but still...) on the subway.

As poignant as Joel's look at army life is, and both as specific to the Israeli condition (the soldiers' mothers demanded that their sons not skip snacks, so there is a scene where they stop tank training, wearing combat gear, to sit in an officially mandated circle and eat chocolate sandwiches) and to all armies (these soldiers are 18 years old, so they are both men and boys), there is a twist. Joel's mother converted to Judaism with an Orthodox beit din, before he was born, before she was married, because she was so drawn to Judaism. He and his brothers went to Schechter schools, Camp Ramah, and USY. But when he fell in love with an Israeli woman and they wanted to marry, the official municipal rabbi did not allow it. His mother had been taught by a Conservative rabbi before her conversion, so the religion she was taught was not valid, so her conversion was void, so Joel was not Jewish.

That's not at all funny, is it?

His book is well worth reading.

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

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 visit BJ online at www.bj.org for more information:

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