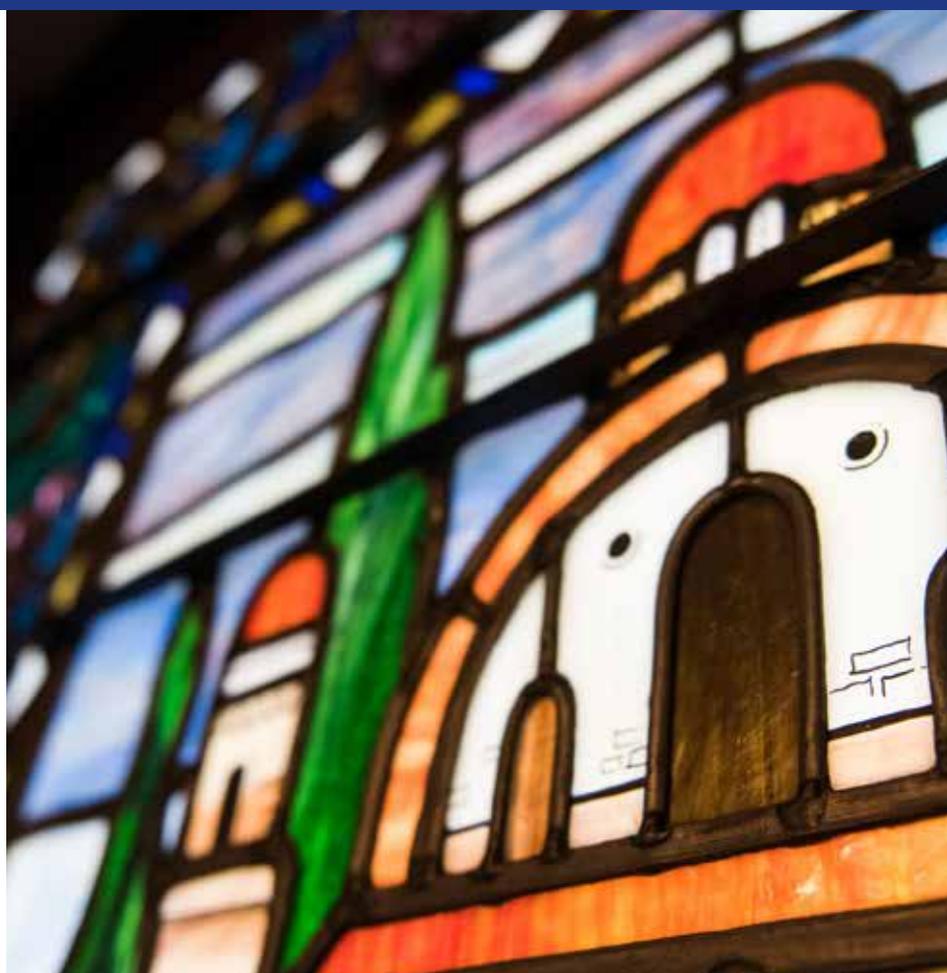


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

b'nai jeshurun
בני ישרון



August 7-14, 2015 • 22-29 Av, 5775

WELCOME TO BJ! We build our kehillah kedosha—sacred community—with creativity and intention to present a compelling, energizing, and transformational vision of Judaism in the 21st century.

PLEASE JOIN US:

- Prayer & Spirituality
- Limud / Learning
- Youth & Family
- Community Events
- Tzedek & Hesed / Justice & Acts of Loving-Kindness
- Israel Programming

RABBIS: J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

SENIOR RABBINIC FELLOW: Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

BJ RABBINIC FELLOW: Alex Braver

SANCTUARY: 257 West 88th Street • **OFFICE:** 270 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-1705
TEL: 212-787-7600 • **FAX:** 212-496-7600 • **www.bj.org** • **facebook.com/bjnyc** • **Twitter:** @bjnyc

OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Marilyn Williams on the death of her brother, Marvin Lazarus.
- Esther Levy Symonds and Garth Symonds, and their children, Daniella and Jonathan Levy Symonds, on the death of Esther's mother, Mollie Levy.
- Harriet Seiler on the death of her daughter, Sharon Seiler.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi Michael Torop and Confirmation Class, Temple Beth-El, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- **Welcome to all who are visiting us for the first time!** If we haven't approached you already, come say hi to one of the rabbis, a staff member, or an usher, and we'll introduce you to the people who make BJ a warm, transformative, and open place.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

● **Volunteers Needed for Hesed: Shabbat Connections**

We need your help to connect with members of the BJ community who are homebound, lonely, or in need of some extra care, with regular and consistent phone calls. Please contact Joni Brenner at ShabbatConnections@bj.org for more information.

WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

● **Spices for the Shelter**

Help us stock the BJ kitchen with spices for our Cooking for the Shelter program. Drop new, unopened, kosher (must have the "OU" symbol) spices in the bin in the 89th Street Community House lobby.

Register Now: ISRAEL FAMILY TRIP: VISIONS OF ISRAEL, Dec. 23, 2015-Jan. 2, 2016

Register Now: BJ MINDFULNESS TRIP IN NATURE, Costa Rica, Jan. 17-24, 2016

Register Now: JEWISH ARGENTINA WITH RABBI MARCELO BRONSTEIN, April 6-12, 2016

We hope you love your *Kol Jeshurun* and will take it home. If you choose not to do so, we kindly ask that you leave it on your chair.

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

● **Minḥa Service** 6:40 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

● **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

● **Rooftop Shabbat with Tze'irim** Following services – 89th St. Rooftop

Join Tze'irim, BJ's 20s-30s group, for Kabbalat Shabbat in our usual spot (right side, beneath the windows) before heading around the corner for beer/wine open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Please come even if you haven't R.S.V.P.'d!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

● **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 88th St. Sanctuary

● ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

● **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel

● **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting** 6:30 PM – location given upon R.S.V.P.

Join us as we continue our work to support the Justice for Farmworkers campaign to ensure that laborers who produce the food we depend on in NYS can have the dignity and the equality they deserve. For questions and to R.S.V.P., contact Lisa at lzucker@nyc.rr.com.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel

● **Judith Bernstein Lunch Program** 12:00 Noon – 88th St. Frankel Hall

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel

● **Bim Bam** 9:15 and 10:15 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

WHAT'S NEXT

● **Women Alone, But Not Lonely: A Program for Single, Aging Women**

Thursday, August 20, 12:30-2:00PM, 89th Street: Dealing with the unique challenges of living alone in New York as a woman over 55 can be overwhelming. Join the BJ social workers, Ruth Kobrin and Shira Felberbaum, and your fellow BJ members for conversation and support.

● ● **Seliḥot: Preparing the Soul for the Yamim Nora'im**

Wednesdays, September 2, 9 and 16, 8:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Led by Rabbi Roly Matalon and musician Dan Nadel, haunting melodies of ancient Jewish communities and modern Israeli poetry and song will get us ready for the upcoming sublime days of soul-searching and prayer. Free of charge and open to the public.

● **Explore Jewish Argentina With Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein**

Wednesday, April 6-Tuesday, April 12, 2016: Enjoy this opportunity to see Argentina in all its complexity through a uniquely Jewish lens. Extension trip to Patagonia: explore the spectacular glaciers of Calafate, Sunday, April 3-Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Contact lsteinberg@bj.org or x228.

● **KesheTOT**

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00PM, 89th Street Community House: KesheTOT is an innovative program for families with infants and toddlers from birth until 3.5 years old. For dates and to register: www.israeliamerican.org/new-york/register-iac-keshetot-upper-west-side.

● **Keshet**

Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00PM, 89th Street Community House: Keshet is an after-school program that brings Hebrew language learning together with Israeli culture. For dates and to register, visit www.israeliamerican.org/new-york/register-to-iac-keshet-upper-west-side.

● **Summer Food Donors and Volunteers Needed for Shelter**

Monday and Tuesday, 88th Street Frankel Hall, and **Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday**, 86th Street Social Hall: Be a sleepover volunteer; prepare a light meal for 10-12 people; donate to our food fund. Contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org x272 to sign up or for more information.

● **Register for BJHS and JJP**

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is now open! Please visit www.bj.org to learn more and to register. Email Esther at ebedolla@bj.org with any questions.

“If you are looking for the heart and soul and bones of Hebrew prayer, you will find them all in the blessing. A blessing—in Hebrew, b'rakhah—is a special kind of utterance that can turn a moment into an event. Blessings intensify life by increasing our awareness of the present even while awakening our connections to the past. In a richly faceted world, full of surprise and infinite variation, the source of blessings is everywhere to be found.”

—Marcia Falk

A TASTE OF TORAH

At that time God said to me, “You should carve out (pesol lekha) two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to ME on the mountain; and make an ark of wood.”

—Deuteronomy 10:1

בַּעֲתָ הַהוּא אָמַר יְהוָה אֵלַי, פְּסֹל-לְךָ שְׁנֵי-לוּחֹת אֲבָנִים כְּרֵאשֹׁנִים, וְעֲלֵה אֵלַי, הַהָרָה; וְעָשִׂיתָ לְךָ, אָרוֹן עֵץ.



The essence of a person's Divine worship is that every intention they have in every action is not for himself but for the sake of Heaven. However, it's not easy for a person to make their intention not about himself at the moment when his body nevertheless gains pleasure from the action. Therefore, it's on each one of us to make the effort, one way or the other, that our first intention is for the sake of Heaven. If the self-centered intention follows, it's only of secondary importance.

Regarding these second tablets it's said, “pesol lekha—you should carve out,” and regarding the commandment banning idolatry it's said, “lo ta'aseh lekha pesel—do not carve for yourself an idol” (Deuteronomy 5:7). This teaches us that if “pesol lekha”—meaning, the “you” comes second, the result is the tablets, the law. But, in “lekha pesel,” where the “you” comes first, this is idolatry.

—Sefat Emet

There is such a fine line between what we do for our own self-serving interests and what we do that is for the sake of Heaven. And as the Sefat Emet notes, there might be things that we do for the sake of Heaven that we also feel some benefit from. The Torah wants us to cultivate a sense of humility and commitment to a purpose that is greater than our own interests. We have the ability to carve idols, which puts ourselves first, and we have the ability to carve out laws and faith, which acknowledges something beyond our own experience in the world. When are you carving in your life, and what is the higher purpose of that carving? How can you be more intentional about the story of your life that you are carving?

—Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015-2016

www.bj.org/renew

Questions? Call Membership at 212-787-7600 x302

OPEN HEARTS

Community starts with a single connection. In this spirit, we invite you to turn and introduce yourself to those seated nearby—you will be amazed at the connections and common threads you'll find as you reach out to both those you know and those you don't yet know. Fostering the closeness of community to which we aspire starts with each of us.

OPEN DOORS

BJ is committed to being an inclusive and supportive community. We ask everyone already comfortable with our services to actively support newcomers, so that we may all share the beauty and holiness of Shabbat together. Please be ready to help someone find a kippah, follow along in the siddur, or understand the layout of the service. And for those who are new to our community, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or the person sitting next to you for help.

OPEN MINDS

We greatly value empathy and understanding at BJ, and acknowledge that openness to the differences and perspectives of others is a key driver of these. As we engage together, we encourage everyone to embrace differences of background, Jewish knowledge, and opinion. We all come to BJ from different places and from diverse backgrounds, and this is part of our strength. We are here to be part of something larger than ourselves.

SUPPORT BJ

Please visit www.bj.org/donate to make a monetary gift to B'nai Jeshurun. Every shekel counts! Shop without guilt: help support the community with AmazonSmile. Portions of your Amazon purchase can support BJ. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select B'nai Jeshurun. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to BJ.

We hope you love your *Kol Jeshurun* and will take it home. If you choose not to do so, we kindly ask that you leave it on your chair.

TORAH PORTION

THIS WEEK: **EKEV**

MEVARKHIM HA_HODESH

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 7:12 - 11:25
Triennial Deuteronomy 9:4 - 10:11

- 1: 9:4 - 9:10
- 2: 9:11 - 9:14
- 3: 9:15 - 9:21
- 4: 9:22 - 9:29
- 5: 10:1 - 10:5
- 6: 10:6 - 10:8
- 7: 10:9 - 10:11
- Maftir: 10:9 - 10:11

Haftarah Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3

NEXT WEEK: **RE-EH**

ROSH HODESH ELUL

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17
Triennial Deuteronomy 12:29 - 14:29

Haftarah Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24, 23

Coffee not delivering its usual zing? **Come to morning minyan** and get a spiritual jolt to start your day. Develop a daily Jewish practice, meet new people in an intimate setting, and help us make a minyan so our members can say kaddish for their loved ones. **Visit www.bj.org/minyan.**

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BJ RECYCLES AND COMPOSTS. Please look for bins throughout our spaces. BJ's Ner Tamid at the 88th Street Sanctuary is powered by the light of the sun.

