

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'naiJeshurun
בני ישרון



August 14-21, 2015 • 29 Av-6 Elul, 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
- 🕒 High Holy Days 5776

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

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

SENIOR RABBINIC FELLOW: Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

BJ RABBINIC FELLOWS: Alex Braver • Arielle Rosenberg

SANCTUARY: 257 West 88th Street • **OFFICE:** 270 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-1705
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OUR COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Aly and Aaron Viny on the birth of their daughter, Lilah Bea Viny.
- Laurie and Jim Oestreich on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Faye Ziluca.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- **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:

● Recycling and Composting at BJ

We are increasing our efforts to recycle, with new recycling bins on the 1st and 2nd floors. Members are also encouraged to collect and bring compost from home to 88th Street on Tuesdays from 4:30-7:30PM. Questions? Contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org or call x272.

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.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015-2016

www.bj.org/renew

or call Membership at 212-787-7600 x302

open hearts
minds
doors

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 14

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

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 | ROSH HODESH ELUL

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

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 | ROSH HODESH ELUL

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

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

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

● **Women Alone, But Not Lonely:
A Program for Single, Aging Women** 12:30 PM – 89th St.

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.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

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

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

WHAT'S NEXT

● REGISTER NOW! Early Childhood and Parenting Center—Coming Fall 2015

The center will support young children—from birth through five years of age—and parents in developing lifelong connections to Judaism through music, storytelling, and play. The Center's programs, rooted in spiritual and values-based learning, will enable families to explore and celebrate, and grow together.

● The BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter Welcomes a New Co-Chair

BJ member Liz Weiss joins Dava Schub and Jim Melchiorre on the shelter leadership team. She has been involved as a shelter volunteer since 2011 (along with her 12-year-old daughter) and is excited to take on this new role.

● What Do You Want to Change? A Webinar

Tuesday, August 25, 12:15-1:00PM, online: Log in from your home or office to take part in this live internet broadcast with BJ Rabbinic Fellow Alex Braver. For log-in information, contact Rabbi Sarit Horwitz at shorwitz@bj.org or visit www.bj.org/events.

● Tze'irim Cooks for the Shelter

Sunday, August 30, 3:00-5:00PM, 88th Street Kitchen: Join Tze'irim as we make dinner for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. Brunch at 1:00PM and start cooking afterward. Suggested donation (\$6-10/person), and no cooking experience is necessary. R.S.V.P. by Friday, August 28, at www.bj.org.

● Selihot: 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.

● Returning to Our Best Selves: Yoga for the New Year

Thursdays, September 10 and 17, 10:00-11:30AM, 89th Street Reception Room: Led by Rabbi Shuli Passow, BJ's new Director of Community Engagement, this two-part Jewish yoga series will integrate personal reflection, discussion, and asana practice to explore the themes of the upcoming Jewish holy days. Join us for one or both sessions.

● Bim Bam Fall Session

Fridays, September 11-December 18, 9:15-10:00AM and 10:15-11:00AM, 89th Street Chapel: Children ages 3 and under explore Shabbat through Hebrew and English songs, stories, and traditions such as lighting candles, saying Kiddush, and eating challah. Registration is now open at www.bj.org/events.

● 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: www.israeliamerican.org/new-york/register-to-iac-keshet-upper-west-side.

● 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.

A TASTE OF TORAH

Should the distance be too great for you, should be unable to transport [the tithes], because the place where Adonai your God has chosen to establish God's name is far from you and because Adonai your God has blessed you. —Deuteronomy 14:24

וְכִי-יָרְבָה מְמַדְהָ, כִּי לֹא תוּכַל שְׂאתוֹ—כִּי-יִרְחַק מִמֶּךָ הַמָּקוֹם,
אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוּם שְׁמוֹ שָׁם: כִּי יִבְרַכְךָ, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ.



"Should the distance be too great for you"—that in your eyes the distance seems too great, and "that you are unable to transport them"—that the burden irritates you so you can no longer carry it, this is a clear sign that "the Place is far away from you"—that God, the Blessed One, who is called HaMakom, The Place, is far from you. Surely, if God and God's mitzvot were close to your heart, the road would not seem great in your eyes, and you would be able to carry the burden easily.

—Alshikh (16th c. Tzfat)

When talking about goals or aspirations, we often think we just need to get "there," the proverbial "there," where we somehow think life's burdens will go away. But what if we change "there" to here? What if we begin to see the moment that we are aspiring to get to as the very moment we are currently in? God as HaMakom, the place, can be the place that we are in, or it can be some place far away. When we view God as distant, when we are on the journey to get "there," we might not feel like God is with us. When we change our viewpoint and view HaMakom as this place, God is with us on our journey in this moment, here, wherever we are going. This doesn't change a burden that we might feel or various complications in our lives, but how might we view that burden differently if we felt that God were with us in that place? As we enter into Elul and prepare for the Yamim Nora'im, how could our journey into the new year look different if we saw it as inclusive of God, as opposed to trying to get to God? How can you try and see God in the place that you are in today?

—Rabbi Sarit Horwitz



WHERE AM I GOING?

This year's Elul Kavannot (short intentions or reflections for the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah), responding to the theme of "Where am I going?" will be written by community members. Each week, these members will respond to a different question in this theme: **What do I cherish?**

What do I want to change? What am I willing to risk? What do I want to be a part of? What do I want to give? You'll begin to receive these emails on Sunday.

This week's question, beginning on Sunday on the 1st of Elul, we'll be sharing what we cherish on social media with **#WhatICherish**. Please join us by sharing what YOU cherish!

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: **RE-EH**

ROSH HODESH ELUL

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17

Triennial Deuteronomy 12:29 - 14:29

1: 12:29 - 13:1

2: 13:2 - 13:6

3: 13:7 - 13:12

4: 13:13 - 13:19

5: 14:1 - 14:08

6: 14:9 - 14:21

7: 14:22 - 14:29

Maftir: 28:9 - 28:15

Haftarah Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24, 23

NEXT WEEK: **SHOFTIM**

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9

Triennial Deuteronomy 18:6 - 19:13

Haftarah Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12

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.

 Printed on Recycled Paper

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.

