

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'naiJeshurun
בני ישרון



August 21-28, 2015 • 6-13 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

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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAH^{EM} / CONDOLENCES

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

- Talia Hatzor and Rabbi Roly Matalon, and their daughters, Yahel and Maya, on the death of Talia's father, Mordechai Hatzor.
- Barbara Simon and Ezra Teitelbaum on the death of Barbara's mother, Florence Charwat Simon.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Fred and Sherry Sztul on the upcoming marriage of their son, Joshua Sztul, to Suzanne Bass.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi David Mitchell and members of West London Synagogue, London, United Kingdom.
- **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 21

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

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

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

Aliyat Ḥatan veKallah

Joshua Sztul and Suzanne Bass

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

● ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 88th St. Sanctuary

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

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

● ● **What Do You Want to Change? A Webinar** 12:15 PM – 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.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

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

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

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

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

WHERE AM I GOING?

Keep watching your inbox for the daily kavannah, reflections and intentions from BJ community members. This coming week we'll be answering the question, "**What do I want to change?**"



WHAT'S NEXT

● **The Community Kiddush Is Back!**

The month of Elul brings the blast of the shofar, holiday preparations, and the return of the Community Kiddush. Join us every Shabbat for a nosh and a drink and to reconnect. Want to put a smile on everyone's face? Sponsor a kiddush! Please contact Beth at btarson@bj.org and honor a special occasion with the BJ community.

● **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, celebrate, and grow together. More at www.bj.org/earlychildhood.

● **Tze'irim Cooks for the Shelter**

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

● **Preparing for Yamim Nora'im Through Learning and Music**

Wednesdays, September 2, 9 and 16, 6:30-9:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: In this engaging 3-part series, we'll gather for teachings led by our Rabbis and Hazzan: "Melodies of the High Holy Days" (9/2), "What Do I Want to Be a Part of? A Textual Exploration" (9/9), and "Giving of the Heart: Meditation for Aseret Yemei Teshuvah" (9/16). Join us for a community schmooze after each class at 7:30PM, followed by "Selihot: Preparing the Soul for the Yamim Nora'im" each week at 8:00PM. Come to any or all programs. Learn more at www.bj.org, and we hope to see you at the schmooze or the whole shebang! 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.

● **A Night of Remembrance: A High Holy Days Program for the Bereaved**

Thursday, September 10, 6:30-8:00PM, 89th Street Chapel: Holidays can bring painful reminders of loss. Participate in a discussion about how to allow for grief, while still finding meaning and comfort in the High Holy Days. Light refreshments served. R.S.V.P. to Billie at bdistefano@bj.org or x264.

● **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.

● **Tot Shabbat**

Friday, September 11, 5:15-7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Families will enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a dinner at 5:45PM, complete with Shabbat blessings and songs. The cost is \$20/members and \$27/non-members; all children eat free. Register at www.bj.org.

● **Unetaneh Tokef: For What Do We Live?**

Tuesday, September 15, 8:45AM, 89th Street Community House, 3rd Floor: On the second morning of Rosh Hashanah, we will spend two hours with selected pieces of the liturgy— weaving prayer, music, shofarot, study, and meditation into an experience of bringing the core of the service into the core of our being. For members only. Please bring your High Holy Days entrance card to show at the door (all locations are welcome at this service).

● **V'taher Libeinu: Purify Our Hearts (and Our Bodies)**

Sunday, September 20, 10:15AM-12:00PM, 89th Street Chapel: Join us after morning minyan for a study session, intention setting, and then immersion in the mikveh. We'll join ImmerseNYC, a nonprofit increasing mikveh practice. To R.S.V.P. and for cost information, please contact Sarit at shorwitz@bj.org.

continued on panel 4

A TASTE OF TORAH

You should be perfect with Adonai your God. —Deuteronomy 18:13

תָּמִים תִּהְיֶה עִם ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ:



You should be perfect—We are also told in Psalms 19:8 that “The Torah of Adonai is perfect.” Israel and the Torah are one. Just as the Torah scroll is not valid if even a single letter is missing, the Jewish nation is not complete if a single person is excluded.

—R' Yitzhak Elhanan, Rabbi of Kovno

This commentary offers an alternative perspective of what perfect means. We often have an image in our head, something pristine, polished, and uniform, of what perfect should be like. Instead, when it comes to thinking about our community as a whole, we realize that perfect is actually diverse. Perfect means radical inclusivity. Perfect means that no one is the same. Perfect means that each person is cosmically significant and necessary for the greater good. Reading this back into the Torah verse, as a community we strengthen our connection to God when we ensure that everyone has a place.

This past week, we have collectively been exploring what we cherish. This verse from Parashat Shoftim and R' Yitzhak Elhanan's commentary are asking us to cherish each member of our community as integral to who we are as a whole. We can see our work in this community as creating space for each person, and our work isn't done until that's been accomplished. What are the ways that each of us ensure that, like each letter needed for a kosher Torah scroll, our community can hold the needs of everyone? What can your part be in making our community feel inclusive to all?

—Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

● ● Teen Kickoff Retreat

Friday, September 25-Sunday, September 27, Camp Ramah Nyack: Join the BJ teens in celebrating Shabbat, learning, and singing during the kick-off retreat! \$325/person. Please email Esther at ebedolla@bj.org for more info.

● 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. *Please note: In order for the trip to take place, we need 30 people signed up by Oct. 12.* Contact lsteinberg@bj.org or x228.

● ● IAC 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.

● ● IAC 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.

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.

For the complete BJ High Holy Days schedule of services, please see www.bj.org/hhd.

TORAH PORTION

THIS WEEK: **SHOFTIM**

Torah: Annual	Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9
Triennial	Deuteronomy 18:6 - 19:13
1:	18:6 - 18:8
2:	18:9 - 18:13
3:	18:14 - 18:17
4:	18:18 - 18:22
5:	19:1 - 19:7
6:	19:8 - 19:10
7:	19:11 - 19:13
Maftir:	19:11 - 19:13
Haftarah	Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12

NEXT WEEK: **KI TETZE**

Torah: Annual	Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19
Triennial	Deuteronomy 23:8 - 24:13
Haftarah	Isaiah 54:1 - 55:5

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. **Please join us to hear the shofar each morning during the month of Elul. 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.

