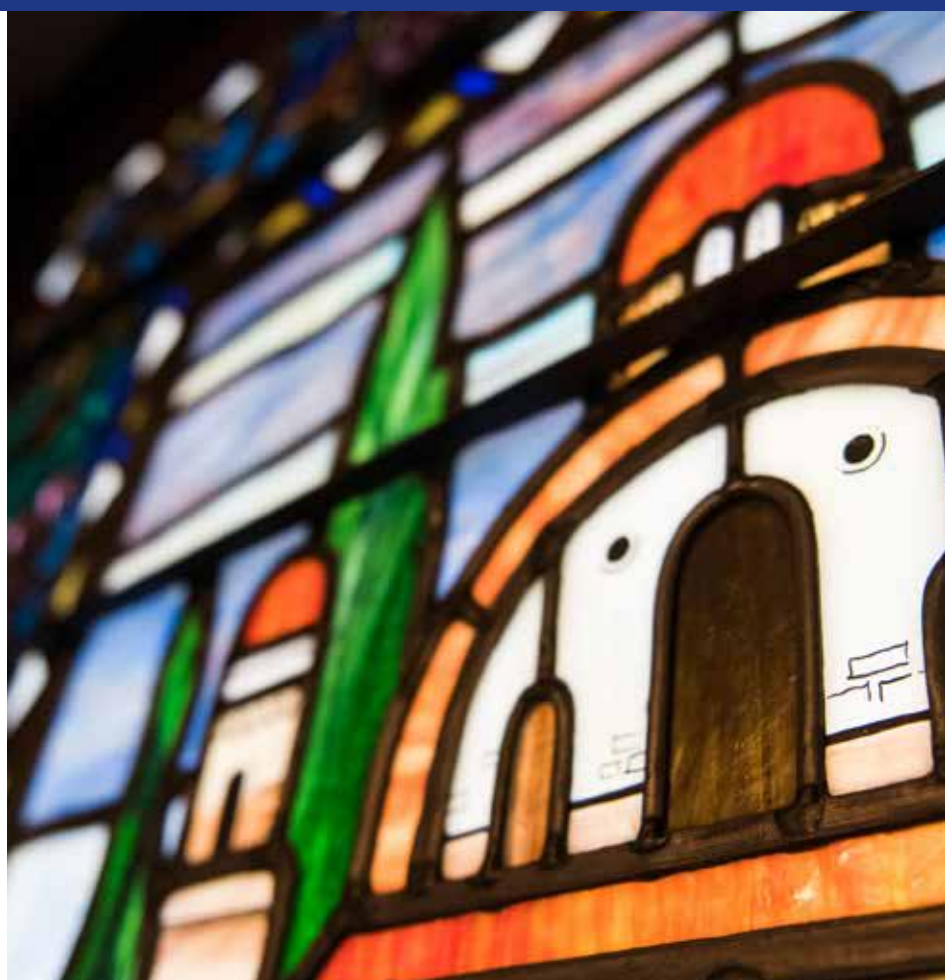


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'naiJeshurun
בני ישרון



October 16-23, 2015 • 3-10 Heshvan, 5776

WELCOME TO BJ! We build our kehillah kedoshah—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 FELLOWS: Alex Braver • Arielle Rosenberg

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OUR COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Claire Juliet Coven, her parents Ellen and Jonathan Coven, and her sister Hope Gabrielle Coven, on Claire becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Shahpar Nili and Elmer Phelon on their upcoming wedding.
- Robin Fleischner, on receiving the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption award, in recognition of her career as an adoption attorney.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- George Kelley and Confirmation Class, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Rabbi Susan Shankman and Confirmation Class, Washington Hebrew Congregation Washington, DC.
- Rabbi Michael L Feshbach and Confirmation Class, Temple Shalom, Chevy Chase, Maryland.
- Celia Lerch and Rabbi Flip Rice and Confirmation Class, Congregation Micah, Brentwood, Tennessee.
- Rabbi Baht Weiss and Confirmation Class, Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, Maryland.
- Rabbi Joe Eiduson and Ninth-Grade Grade Class, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Westborough, Massachusetts.
- **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:

● Support Our Shelter: Become a Sleepover Volunteer

Sign up for a monthly shift or fill in where we need volunteers most. Sleepover shifts are from 9:00PM-7:00AM at either SPSA or BJ. Contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org or call x272 to learn more.

WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

● Cosmetics and Toiletries for the Shelter

This month we are collecting cosmetics and toiletries for our shelter and lunch programs. Travel sizes as well as full-sized items are welcome. Drop off donations in the labeled bins at 89th Street.

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

Please note: For detailed class descriptions and to register for classes, please visit www.bj.org/learning/classes. All classes are free of charge except where noted.

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Reach for Shabbat Retreat (through 10/18)

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Bo-i Kallah Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room
Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and musician Dan Nadel on the third Friday evening of each month. With the help of soulful melodies, verses of Shir haShirim (Song of Songs), liturgical poems and Psalms, we will transition gently from hol to kodesh—leaving the ordinary workweek consciousness in order to enter holy time and welcome Shabbat.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- Bat Mitzvah** **Claire Coven**
- Aliyat Hatan veKallah** **Elmer Phelon and Shahpar Nili**
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel, Parlor, and 2nd Floor
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- ● **Teen Day of Service: Spoonful of Hesed and Bikkur Holim Training** 11:00 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Join the teens as we cook, learn, and deliver food to community members. This event is mandatory for domestic and international trip participants and is open to all teens. R.S.V.P. to awasser@bj.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **PJ Library Story Corner** 9:00 AM – 89th St. (18 months-3 years)
Visit www.bj.org/earlychildhood for more information about all Early Childhood classes.
- **Open Play: Tummy Time and Tea** 11:30 AM – 89th St. (6 weeks-crawling)
- **Open Play: Kooky Kids and Cookies** 2:00 PM – 89th St. (3-5 years)
- **Parents' Corner** 5:00 PM – 89th St. 2nd Floor Conference Room
- **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting** 6:30 PM – R.S.V.P. for location
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 equality they deserve. For questions and to R.S.V.P., contact Lisa at lzucker@nyc.rr.com.
- **TefilLab: A Laboratory of Prayerful Practice** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Chapel
BJ Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg: A series of stand-alone classes (through May 16) that explore the context and themes of our prayerbook, the mechanics of prayer and the study of spiritual interpretations. Free of charge. R.S.V.P. to arosenberg@bj.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **The Book of Genesis** 8:30 AM – 89th St. Middle Room
Rabbi Hillel Friedman: Join Rabbi Friedman, a longtime member of the BJ community, in a discussion about understanding, in terms of our own lives, the text that continues to have such a major influence on so many religious world views today. Through May 16. Members \$100/non-members \$150. Register at www.bj.org/events.
- **Open Play: Toddling Tots and Treats** 9:30 AM – 89th St. (crawling-2 years)

● **“Soul Food” Lunch and Learn** 12:30 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol: Bring a bag lunch and/or open up your soul to the nourishment and challenge of the Hassidic rabbis. Join us as we imagine old-world wisdom for everyday life in 2015. Free of charge. Please register at www.bj.org.

● **PJ Library Story Corner** 3:00 PM – 89th St. (18 months-3 years)

● **Consensus and Conflict in the American Jewish Experience— A JTS Community Course** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
This course examines fundamental questions about the Jewish encounter with America by exploring three discrete periods in history. Taught in three units—enroll in one, two, or all three. BJ members: \$40/unit; nonmembers: \$50/unit. Register at www.bj.org/events.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

● **Open Play: Tummy Time and Tea** 9:00 AM – 89th St. (6 weeks-crawling)

● **Musical Playground** 3:00 PM – 89th St. (0-2 years)
4:00 PM – 89th St. (2-4 years)

● **Introduction to Judaism** 7:00 PM – 89th St. 2nd Floor Conference Room

● **Mindfulness Class: Finding Our Soul in the Text** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
Rabbis Rachel Cowan and Marcelo R. Bronstein: In this class, we offer meditation, contemplative text study, music, and time for reflection to assist you in connecting more meaningfully with the words of the weekly parasha. Free of charge. Please register at www.bj.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

● **Creative Kids Art Studio** 9:00 AM – 89th St. (18-24 months)
10:00 AM – 89th St. (2-3 years)

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

● **“In the Mirror” Lunch and Learn** 12:30 PM – Location provided upon registration
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon: Reading stories about the lives, struggles and concerns of the Talmudic rabbis, we uncover layers of ourselves and become better equipped to wrestle with our human nature. Please bring your lunch. Free of charge. Please register at www.bj.org.

● **Open Play: Toddling Tots and Treats** 2:00 PM – 89th St. (crawling-2 years)

● **Creative Kids Art Studio** 4:00 PM – 89th St. (3-4 years)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

● **Bim Bam Fall Session** 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

WHAT'S NEXT

● **Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!**

Sundays, groups beginning October 18 or 25, 89th Street Community House: A program that uses Jewish teachings to give girls a place to feel safe, have fun, and be real with their peers. Group leaders will determine scheduling. Please contact Ayala at awasser@bj.org for more information and to register.

● **Ongoing Registration to be an Ozer/Ozeret in BJHS**

Ozrim serve as aides in BJHS classrooms, Children's Services, and Junior Congregation. If you are interested, please contact awasser@bj.org for more information.

● **“Holiness” Workshops at Drisha**

Wednesdays, October 21, 28, and November 4, 6:30PM, Drisha (37 West 65th Street, 5th floor): Join our friends at Drisha for a discussion of challenging questions around holiness,

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

as we seek to fulfill the Torah's injunction to be holy. Rabbi Roly Matalon will speak at the November 4 session. Call 212-595-0307 for more information.

- ● **We Were Strangers Once: The Jewish Response to the Global Refugee Crisis**
Saturday, October 24, during Shabbat morning services, 89th Street: HIAS staff members Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Vice President for Community Engagement, and Winnie Gacheru, Director of Psychosocial Programs at HIAS Kenya, will speak about the global refugee crisis and how Jewish communities can respond to today's pressing needs.
- **Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: A Conversation with Peter Geffen and Launch of Yearlong Community Study**
Saturday, October 24, 5:00PM, 89th Street Gym: BJ member Peter Geffen will engage in dialogue with the BJ rabbis about Abraham Joshua Heschel's teachings in *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*, concluding with havdalah. Contact Shuli Passow at spassow@bj.org for more information.
- **Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood**
Sundays, beginning October 25, 89th Street Community House: A group that gives young males (8th-12th grade) a space to hang out and talk about the topics that matter to them. Group leaders will determine scheduling. Contact Ayala at awasser@bj.org for more information and to register.
- **The Challenges of Caring for Our Loved Ones: A Discussion for Caregivers**
Thursday, October 29, 11:30AM, 89th Street Reception Room, and **Thursday, November 12**, 6:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Develop a tool box of coping skills to address challenges of caring for a parent, partner, spouse, or adult sibling. Co-facilitated by social workers Ruth Kobrin and Shira Felberbaum through UJA's Partners in Caring. Contact Billie at x264 to R.S.V.P.
- **Fall Hike with Yozma**
Sunday, November 1, time and location TBD: Join fellow Yozma hikers for a day on the trail. We will choose from three possible locations, all accessible via public transportation. R.S.V.P. to Craig Rosenberg at crosenberg6@optonline.net for details and to share your preference.
- **Va-Ani Tefilati Lekha: 6 Sessions on Prayer**
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
Tuesdays, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, 6:30-9:30PM, 89th Street Community House: Deepen your understanding of and capacity for meaningful Jewish prayer in one or more of six mini retreats. We will establish bonds of community by sharing a meal and singing together. Cost and registration information to come. Contact Leah at lmicelson@bj.org with questions.
- **Religion and the State of Israel—An Unholy Matrimony**
Wednesday, November 4, 7:00PM, 89th Street Community House: Join us for a fascinating panel discussion with three Israeli activists, each voicing a unique perspective on matters of Religion and State in Israel, trying to impact legislation on complicated issues of personal status while reshaping the character of the Jewish State.
- ● **Community Shabbat Potluck Hosted by the CSA**
Friday, November 6, 7:45-10:00PM (following Kabbalat Shabbat services), 89th St. Reception Room: New this year! Bring your friends, family, and a dairy/vegetarian dish to share—you won't want to miss out. Sign up at www.bj.org/potluck or call x272.
- **Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! We're Off to the Zoo**
Sunday, November 8, 11:30AM, Bronx Zoo: BJ minyan gabbai and 29-year zoo docent Peggy Moss leads a special one hour tour just for us. After, use your ticket for special access to other parts of the zoo. Visit bj.org/zoo for registration information.
- **Vetaher Libeinu Women's Mini-Retreats: Pathways to Purifying Our Hearts**
Monday, November 9, 6:15-9:15PM, 89th Street Community House: Immerse, converse, connect, and reflect, with a little nosh. Join with women of all ages to explore and study in this four-part series. Bring your own vegetarian/dairy meal. Free of charge; open to BJ members at any level of learning or practice. Contact Leah, lmicelson@bj.org, to register.

OPEN HEARTS, DOORS, MINDS

Community starts with a single connection. In this spirit, we invite you to turn and introduce yourself to those seated nearby. To foster an inclusive and supportive community, please be ready to help a newcomer find a kippah, follow along in the siddur, or understand the layout of the service. 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.

A TASTE OF TORAH: NOAH

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִבָּה נִבְנֶה-לָנוּ עִיר, וּמִגְדָּל וְרֹאשׁוֹ בַשָּׁמַיִם, וְנִעֲשֶׂה-לָנוּ, שֵׁם: פֶּן-נִפְּוֶז, עַל-פְּנֵי כָל-הָאָרֶץ.

They said, "Come, let us build a city, and a tower with its top in the sky, to make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered all over the world." —Genesis 11:4

We find the story of the Tower of Babel in this week's parashah, and most of us have always taught that it was sinful. But why was it actually bad? What was wrong with the people trying to reach the heavens and aspiring to meet God? Many different commentators and midrashim try to explain why this must have been a sin. Pirke Rabbi Eliezer, a collection of midrashim, explains that the building of this tower influenced people to devalue life. The midrash teaches that it would take a person a year to climb to the top of the tower, so every brick that was brought up was quite valuable. If a person fell, they didn't pay any attention, whereas if a brick fell, they were heartbroken and left wondering how they would ever replace it. The midrash reminds us that even if we are trying to build connections with the heavens, disregarding the lives of those around us will render our pursuits futile. In this new year, this is a helpful reminder of the necessity of connecting with others. In the building of the Tower of Babel, people became a means to an end and were merely an instrument to others' aspirations of holiness. When we pray for close encounter with God, let's remember that deepening our interpersonal connections will only enhance the sense of holiness we desire. —Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 4*

- ● **The Shalom Hartman Institute's Manhattan Collaborative**
Monthly on Tuesdays through March 8, 7:00-9:00PM, various locations: Free to BJ members. Register at www.shalomhartman.org/NYcollaborative using code CBJ15.

WHAT'S LATER

- ● **Bim Bam Institute: Storytelling Through a Jewish Lens**
Sunday, November 22, 10:00AM-4:00PM, 89th Street Community House: To register, contact Allison at akapusta@bj.org.

TORAH PORTION

NOAH

Torah: Annual Genesis 6:9 - 11:32

Triennial Genesis 11:1 - 11:32

- 1: 11:1 - 11:4
- 2: 11:5 - 11:9
- 3: 11:10 - 11:13
- 4: 11:14 - 11:17
- 5: 11:18 - 11:21
- 6: 11:22 - 11:25
- 7: 11:26 - 11:32
- Maftir: 11:29 - 11:32

Haftarah Isaiah 54:1 - 55:5

NEXT WEEK: LEKH LEKHA

Torah: Annual Genesis 12:1 - 17:27

Triennial Genesis 16:1 - 17:27

Haftarah Isaiah 40:27 - 41:16

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.

