

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week


b'nai jeshurun  
בני ישרון



December 4-11, 2015 • 22-29 Kislev, 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
-  Hanukkah 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

**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 YENAHM / CONDOLENCES

- The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member, Rebbetzin Hilda Greenberg, and we extend sincere condolences to her daughter Adena Greenberg and Shlomi Liran, and their children, Noam, Maya, Lynn, Ira, and Omri Liran; her son-in-law John Ruskay and Robin Bernstein; her granddaughter Ilana and Scott Ruskay-Kidd, and their children, Gabriella, Emma, and Daniel Ruskay-Kidd; her grandson Darone and Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay, and their children, Nachshon and Betzael Ruskay; her daughter Reena Keren, and her children and grandchildren; and their entire family.
- The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Eric Weisberg and Rhonda Shafner, their son, Ethan Weisberg, and their entire family on the death of Eric's father, David Weisberg.

### MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Lily Kaplan, her parents Nathalie Kaplan and Ed Kaplan, her sisters Bella and Chloe Kaplan, and her grandmother Joan Kaplan on Lily becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

### TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Marion and Tzvi Barak in honor of Marcelo's 20th anniversary with BJ and their 20th wedding anniversary.

### B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi Jared Saks and students, Bet Ha'am Religious School, South Portland, Maine.
- **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:

##### ● "Shine the Light" on Hanukkah

This Hanukkah, give a gift that brings a little more light into someone else's life. Make one night a "night to give back" with a donation of time or money. Visit [www.bj.org/shinethelight](http://www.bj.org/shinethelight) to see all the ways you can shine the light with BJ.

#### WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

##### ● Coats for the New York Cares Coat Drive

This month, we are collecting gently used, freshly laundered coats for the New York Cares Coat Drive. In addition, we will be collecting hats, gloves and scarves to be distributed to our Shelter and Lunch Program guests as well as to other organizations distributing to those who need warmth during the coldest months. Drop off donations in the labeled bins at 89th Street.

**"A generation ago, the requirement was to integrate the [Jewish] immigrants into American society. Today the problem is not how to adjust our people to the manners and habits of society but how to keep them from vanishing into the abyss of drabness and vulgarity, how to resist being committed to the nationwide prisons of triviality, how to cultivate the Jewish art of sensing the glory through acts of daily celebration. Integration has been achieved; it is Jewish integrity we must strive for. We have succeeded in receptivity; we must prepare for the test of creativity."**

—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

"Existence and Celebration" in *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR YEARLONG COMMUNITY HESCHEL STUDY

**Join a study group:** Contact Billie at [bdistefano@bj.org](mailto:bdistefano@bj.org) or x264.

**Watch the latest webinar:** Visit [www.bj.org/novemberheschelwebinar](http://www.bj.org/novemberheschelwebinar)

**Participate in this month's webinar:** Go to [www.bj.org/decemberheschelwebinar](http://www.bj.org/decemberheschelwebinar) on Wednesday, December 9, at 12:00PM.

**For more info, visit [www.bj.org/heschel](http://www.bj.org/heschel).**

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

- **Tot Shabbat** 5:15 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary  
Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service filled with singing and dancing, followed by dinner at 5:45PM in Frankel Hall with Shabbat blessings and songs. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

- **Hakhanah laTefillah: Preparing for Prayer** 8:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel  
Please join Rabbi Roly Matalon to prepare the soul and open the heart for Shabbat morning prayers through the singing of piyutim and reflections on kavannah.

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary

- **Hazzak Torah Skills Training** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall

- **Junior Congregation—Kids & Families** 10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall

- **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel, Parlor, and 2nd Floor

- **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall

- **Minḥa Service** 3:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

**Bat Mitzvah**

**Lily Kaplan**

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 1ST CANDLE HANUKKAH

- **BJ Lights Up the Block** Through Sunday, December 13  
Throughout the week of Hanukkah, join BJ members in their homes to light candles together and meet new friends. Many BJ members have volunteered to host; please email [shorwitz@bj.org](mailto:shorwitz@bj.org) to receive the form and be matched as a guest.

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

- **Sunday Breakfast: So You Want to Become a Museum Docent?** 10:30 AM – 89th St. Reception Room  
Have breakfast and hear three BJ members talk about their experiences as docents at major museums in NYC. Learn what being a docent really entails and how to get started. No cost, but donations appreciated. Visit [www.bj.org/docent](http://www.bj.org/docent) to register.

- **Tze'irim 20s and 30s Social Action Sunday** Afternoon – JCC of Manhattan & 88th St. Kitchen  
Participate in one (or both!) of two great events: Selfhelp NextGen Hanukkah Brunch with Holocaust Survivors or Cooking for the Shelter. Visit [www.bj.org/tzeirim](http://www.bj.org/tzeirim) to register. Contact Ellen at [esaltzman@bj.org](mailto:esaltzman@bj.org) for more information.

- **Teen Service Learning Trip Meeting** 4:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room  
All trip participants are required to attend this meeting. International Trip participants will meet from 5:45-7:00PM. Everyone is invited for Hanukkah candle-lighting and pizza from 5:15-5:45PM. R.S.V.P. to [awasser@bj.org](mailto:awasser@bj.org).

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 2ND CANDLE HANUKKAH

- **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](http://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)

- **Young Families Hanukkah Celebration** 4:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room  
Sing, dance, learn about the brave Maccabees, and experience the miracles of the holiday! Enjoy snacks and a community candle-lighting after the show. Free of charge. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

- **TefilLab: A Laboratory of Prayerful Practice** NO CLASS THIS WEEK

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 3RD CANDLE HANUKKAH**



● Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
● The Book of Genesis	8:30 AM – 89th St. 1st Floor
● 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 <u>H</u> assidic rabbis. Join us as we imagine old-world wisdom for everyday life. Free of charge. Upcoming classes: 1/12, 19, 26; 2/2, 16, 23; 3/1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 4/5, 12, 19. Please register at <a href="http://www.bj.org">www.bj.org</a> .
● PJ Library Story Corner	3:00 PM – 89th St. (18 months-3 years)
● Keshet & KesheTOT	4:00 PM – 89th St.
🕯️ ● New Members <u>H</u> anukkah House Party	6:30 PM – Member’s home (location with R.S.V.P.)
🕯️ ● Lights in the Darkness: A <u>H</u> anukkah Program for the Bereaved	6:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room Holidays can bring to the surface painful reminders of loss. Participate in a meaningful discussion with other bereaved Jews. Open to all, R.S.V.P. to Billie at x264.
● Consensus and Conflict in the American Jewish Experience— A JTS Community Course	7:00 PM – 89th St. Chapel BJ members: \$40/unit; non-members:\$50/unit. Register at <a href="http://www.bj.org/events">www.bj.org/events</a> .

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 | 4TH CANDLE HANUKKAH**

● Morning Minyan	7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
● Open Play: Tummy Time and Tea	9:00 AM – 89th St. (6 weeks-crawling)
● Heschel Webinar: “Existence and Celebration”	12:00 PM – online Please visit <a href="http://www.bj.org/decemberheschelwebinar">www.bj.org/decemberheschelwebinar</a> to participate.
● Musical Playground	3:00 PM – 89th St. (0-2 years) 4:00 PM – 89th St. (2-4 years)
● Give the Gift of Life at the BJ Blood Drive	3:00-9:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary Twice a year we have the opportunity to provide this important service to the community. Sign up with Larissa at <a href="mailto:lwohl@bj.org">lwohl@bj.org</a> or call x272 with your preferred time slot or with any questions.
🕯️ ● New Members <u>H</u> anukkah House Party	6:30 PM – Member’s home (location with R.S.V.P.)
● Introduction to Judaism (registration is closed)	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 <a href="http://www.bj.org">www.bj.org</a> .

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 | 5TH CANDLE HANUKKAH**





● 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 (registration is closed)	12:30 PM
● 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)
● Family Challah Baking	5:30 PM – 89th St. Middle Room All families are invited to join other BJ families to bake challah. Families will enjoy their challot at the Family Shabbat Dinner on Friday, December 11. R.S.V.P. at <a href="http://www.bj.org">www.bj.org</a> .

-  ● **Songs of Sacred Time: A Hanukkah Concert** 7:30 PM – JCC in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue  
 Celebrate the Festival of Lights with the first of three concerts scheduled around Jewish holidays. Featuring Rabbi Roly Matalon and musician Dan Nadel. \$20 for JCC members, \$25 for the public. Purchase tickets at [www.jccmanhattan.org/music](http://www.jccmanhattan.org/music) or call 646-505-5708.
-  ● **New Members Hanukkah House Party** 6:30 PM – Member's home (location with R.S.V.P.)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 6TH CANDLE HANUKKAH

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Bim Bam Fall Session** 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 AM – 89th St. Chapel

## WHAT'S NEXT

- **College Outreach at BJ**  
 Help us keep in touch and reach your college-age students while they are away from home. We need your help in collecting the most up-to-date contact information for the coming school year. Please visit [www.bj.org/collegeoutreach](http://www.bj.org/collegeoutreach) to fill out a survey.
- ● **Experience the Magic of Camp: Shabbat Services and Dinner**  
**Friday, December 11**, 6:30PM Kabbalat Shabbat followed by dinner, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Sing camp tunes, hear from campers, and celebrate. Everyone welcome! Register for the camp-style dinner at [www.bj.org/campshabbat](http://www.bj.org/campshabbat). A special invitation to BJHS Gimmel and Dalet families for the dinner, the cost of which is already included in tuition. More info: [awasser@bj.org](mailto:awasser@bj.org) or call x244.
- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
**Friday, December 11**, 6:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Led by Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, Rabbi Rachel Cowan, and Karina Zilberman, this service involves meditation, reflection, deep listening and personal engagement with the parashah. Contact Leah at [lmichelson@bj.org](mailto:lmichelson@bj.org) with any questions.
-  **Vetaher Libeinu Women's Shabbat Hanukkah Mini-Retreat: Pathways to Purifying Our Hearts**  
**Saturday, December 12**, 3:30-6:30PM, 89th Street: Immerse, converse, connect and reflect with a little nosh. Join with women of all ages to celebrate Hanukkah and explore the meaning of a spiritual practice. Free of charge and open to BJ members at any level of learning or practice. Potluck vegetarian/dairy. To register, please contact Leah at [lmichelson@bj.org](mailto:lmichelson@bj.org).
-  **K-2 Hanukkah Olympics**  
**Saturday, December 12**, 4:00-5:15PM, 89th Street: Help the Maccabees win the gold at BJ's first Hanukkah Olympics! Team up to ensure that the Hanukkah has enough oil to last the whole holiday. Parents are invited to join us afterward for Havdalah. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
-  **PJs and Havdalah: Hanukkah Edition!**  
**Saturday, December 12**, 4:00-5:15PM, 89th Street: Families with children ages 5 and under are invited to experience Havdalah, the ceremony that marks the end of Shabbat, through play, art, song, and story. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
-  **Tze'irim 20s and 30s Hanukkah Party**  
**Saturday, December 12**, 4:45PM, 89th Street: Join BJ Rabbinic Fellow Alex Braver for some Hanukkah learning before Havdalah and candle-lighting. The celebration will continue with games and drinks—location provided upon R.S.V.P. Contact Ellen at [esaltzman@bj.org](mailto:esaltzman@bj.org) for more information.
- **Minute to Win it!**  
**Saturday, December 12**, 5:15-7:00PM, 89th Street: Join BJ youths for a friendly competition as teams race to successfully complete deceptively simple games. Parents are invited to Havdalah, before the games begin. \$15/child. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Heschel Friday**  
**Friday, December 18**, 8:30AM, 89th Street 1st Floor: Start your day with Heschel (and Rabbinic Fellows Alex and Arielle) as we discuss "Existence and Celebration" from *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*. Please read the article in advance.

# A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYESHEV

וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֶהָב אֶת יוֹסֵף מִכָּל בְּנָיו כִּי בֶן זָקְנִים הוּא לוֹ וְעָשָׂה לוֹ כְּתֹנֶת פָּסִים:

And Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him an ornamented tunic. — *Genesis 37:3*

See the consequences of favoring one child over another. Because of those few ounces of wool of the coat that Jacob gave Joseph, our people were enslaved in Egypt.

— *Talmud Bavli, Shabbat 10b*

Oy, if only Jacob could have known how far his actions would go! Jacob himself was a victim of parental favoritism, and much of his narrative was painfully shaped by his parents' inability to treat their children equally with love. Sadly, Jacob didn't learn from those experiences and we find our ancestors locked in the cycle of familial strife that began in the beginning of Bereshit. This invites us to turn the question inwards: in what ways do we find ourselves locked into patterns of behavior? In what ways do we perpetuate what we've been taught, and how do we use our own behavior and relationships to heal?

—*Rabbi Sarit Horwitz*

## WHAT'S LATER *continued from panel 4*

### ● Bo-i Kallah—A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Fridays, December 18 and January 15**, 6:30PM, 89th Street 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.

### ● Young Adult Heschel Session

**Saturday, December 19**, 4:00PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: Join Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, along with others in their 20s and 30s, to reflect together on this month's essay, "Existence and Celebration." We'll conclude the evening with Havdalah. Please read the essay beforehand. R.S.V.P. to [shorwitz@bj.org](mailto:shorwitz@bj.org).

### ● Bim Bam Spring Session

**Fridays, January 8-May 20**, 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15AM, 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](http://www.bj.org/events).

## TORAH PORTION

### VAYESHEV

MEVARKHIM HA<sup>H</sup>ODESH

**Torah: Annual** Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

**Triennial** Genesis 39:1 - 40:23

- 1: 39:1 - 39:6
  - 2: 39:7 - 39:10
  - 3: 39:11 - 39:18
  - 4: 39:19 - 39:23
  - 5: 40:1 - 40:8
  - 6: 40:9 - 40:15
  - 7: 40:16 - 40:23
- Maftir: 40:20 - 40:23

**Haftarah** Amos 2:6 - 3:8

### NEXT WEEK: SHABBAT HANUKKAH

ROSH HODESH TEVET

**Torah** Genesis 43:16 - 44:17  
Numbers 28:9 - 28:15,  
7:42 - 7:47

**Haftarah** Zechariah 2:14 - 4:07,  
Isaiah 66:1, 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](http://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 energy of the sun.

