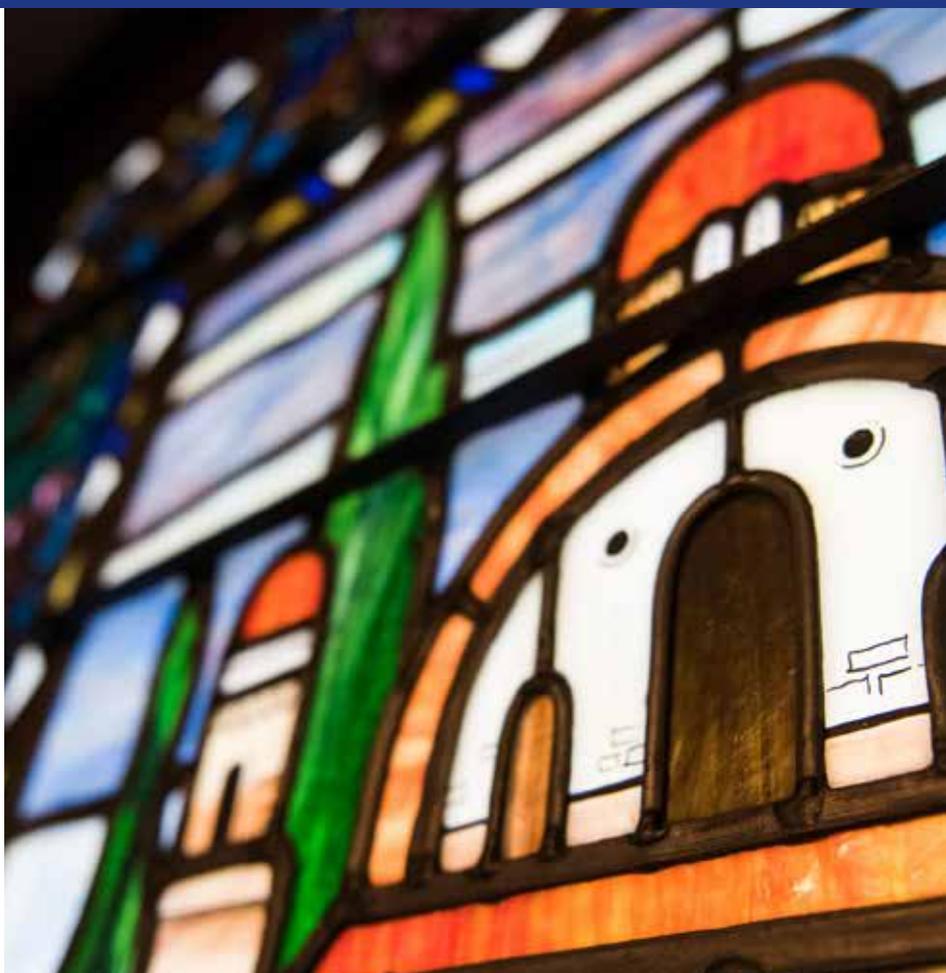


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



December 18-25, 2015 • 6-13 Tevet, 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

**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 mourns the death of our member Mark Battle, and we extend sincere condolences to his wife, Nora Littman, their son, Eric Battle, his sister-in-law, Karel Littman, his niece, Beth L. Weinshank, his nephew, Charlie Weinshank, and their entire family.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Deborah and Lowell Kirschner, their children, Max and Shira, and their entire family, on the death of Deborah's mother, Julie Cantor.

### MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Phyllis Cosley Hirsch and Howard Perlman on the birth of Phyllis's grandson, Jonas Bertrand Hirsch.

### TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by the gaba'im and shelihei tzibbur of the Morning Minyan.

### 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:

##### ● **Become a Food Donor for the Shelter**

Prepare a light meal for 10-12 people at the synagogue, at the church, or at home. You can also sponsor a meal by contributing to our Shelter food fund. To contribute or to learn more, contact Larissa at [lwohl@bj.org](mailto:lwohl@bj.org) or call x272.

#### WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

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

This month, we are collecting gently used, freshly laundered coats. In addition, we will be collecting hats, gloves and scarves to be distributed to our Lunch Program guests. Volunteers needed to deliver coats to NY Cares warehouse. Contact Larissa, x272 to help out. Drop off donations in the labeled bins at 89th Street.

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## 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.

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- **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.

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

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **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 – 89th St. Social Hall

- ● **KesheTOT** 10:00 AM – 89th St. Chapel

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

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

- ● **Young Families Kiddush Lunch & Storytime with Author Fran Manushkin** Following Services – 86th St. Parlor  
Stay after services for a delicious kiddush lunch. After lunch, kids are invited to a special storytime with author Fran Manushkin.

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

- **Tze'irim Heschel Learning** 4:00 PM – 89th St. Chapel  
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.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

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

- **PJ Library Story Corner** 9:00 AM – 89th St. (18 months-3 years)

- **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)

- **TefilLab: Bakashot** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Chapel  
When the youth of Jerusalem chose disco over shul, the elders set liturgy to popular Arabic music and lured the youth back. Come learn these piyutim, from the Syrian tradition, with Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg and study the tradition of waking at dawn to sing songs of yearning. Free of charge. R.S.V.P. to arosenberg@bj.org.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

- **The Book of Genesis** 8:30 AM – 89th St. 1st Floor

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

● Introduction to Judaism  
(registration is closed) NO CLASS THIS WEEK

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

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

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

*BJ office closed*

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

**“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/decemberheschelwebinar](http://www.bj.org/decemberheschelwebinar).

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

## WHAT'S NEXT

- **Explore Jewish Argentina with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein: Registration Reopened!**  
*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 El Calafate, Sunday, April 3–Wednesday, April 6. Visit [www.bj.org/argentina](http://www.bj.org/argentina).
- **Va-Ani Tefilati Lekha: 6 Sessions on Prayer**  
**Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon**  
*Tuesdays, January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, 6:30-9:00PM,* 89th Street Community House: Deepen your understanding of Jewish prayer and enhance your capacity for meaningful prayer in one or more sessions. We will strengthen bonds of community by sharing a meal and singing together. Free of charge and open to BJ members at any level of learning or practice. Contact Leah at [lmichelson@bj.org](mailto:lmichelson@bj.org) to register.
- **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).
- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
*Friday, January 8, 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.

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## WHAT'S LATER

- **Sunday Brunch with Author Stephen Silverman: “The Catskills: Its History and How It Changed America”**  
*Sunday, January 10, 11:30AM-2:00PM,* location T.B.A.: Stephen Silverman will read from his lively and informative new book on America’s first great vacationland, revealing the diverse aspects of the Catskills and how they impacted American life. \$18 for brunch and reading. Register at [www.bj.org/catskills](http://www.bj.org/catskills).
- ● **The Israeli Book Club**  
*Sunday, January 10, 5:00-6:30PM,* location given upon registration: Join us for an intimate encounter with Israeli culture, society and politics. In the second meeting of this season, we will discuss *Neuland* by Eshkol Nevo. Sign up at [www.bj.org/israelprograms](http://www.bj.org/israelprograms).
- ● **Teen Rosh Hodesh and Parent Learning: Our Daughters, Ourselves**  
*Sunday, January 10, 5:15-7:00PM,* 88th Street Sanctuary: Girls in 6th-12th grade and their mothers/female relatives are invited to January’s joint Rosh Hodesh gathering. Rabbi Felicia Sol will lead an open discussion about in whose image we are raising our daughters. Contact [awasser@bj.org](mailto:awasser@bj.org) to R.S.V.P.
- **Identity and Family Building in the 21st Century: Single Parents by Choice**  
*Thursday, January 14, 6:30-8:00PM,* 89th Street Reception Room: The “21st Century Family” can mean different things to different people as new family constellations emerge. Share your thoughts in supportive conversation facilitated by the BJ social workers. Contact Billie at x264 to R.S.V.P. Free and open to the public.
- **Bo-i Kallah—A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
*Friday, 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.

# A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYIGASH

וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה, וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנָי, יְדָבֶר-נָא עִבְדְּךָ דְבַר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנָי, וְאֵל-יְיָ אֶפְרָיִם בְּעִבְדְּךָ: כִּי כְמוֹךָ, כִּפְרָעָה.

Then Judah approached him, and said: "My lord, let your servant appeal to my lord, and don't be angry with your servant; you who are equal to Pharaoh."  
— Genesis 44:18

This can be compared to a deep well full of cold and high-quality water, but none could drink from it. Then came one who tied cord to cord and thread to thread, drew up its water and drank, whereupon all drew water and drank from it. In the same way Judah did not cease from answering Joseph word for word until he penetrated to his very heart. —*Bereshit Rabbah, 93:4*

Judah's appeal immediately precedes Joseph's great reveal, and while the Torah verse shows Judah approaching Joseph physically, the Midrash elevates this to the emotional level. The Sefat Emet adds another dimension and reads the beginning of the verse as "Judah approached himself." He certainly remembers that he was the one who suggested selling Joseph into slavery, instead of attempting to pull him out of the pit and bring Joseph back to the family. Now, facing Joseph again, Judah dug into himself, preventing his family more suffering and appealing to Joseph passionately to reunite his family. When Judah finally goes into himself, according to the Sefat Emet, he finds a man fighting on behalf of his family, not that younger version willing to sell a brother. Many commentators look at one of the first questions in the Torah, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and see that it takes the entire Book of Genesis for families to figure out that the answer is a resounding yes. Once Judah knew what he stood for, then he was able to, in the words of the Midrash, penetrate to Joseph's very heart. —*Rabbi Sarit Horwitz*

## TORAH PORTION

### VAYIGASH

**Torah: Annual** Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

**Triennial** Genesis 46:28 - 47:27

1: 46:28 - 46:30

2: 46:31 - 46:34

3: 47:1 - 47:6

4: 47:7 - 47:10

5: 47:11 - 47:19

6: 47:20 - 47:22

7: 47:23 - 47:27

Maftir: 47:25 - 47:27

**Haftarah** Ezekiel 37:15 - 37:28

### NEXT WEEK: VAYEHI

**Torah: Annual** Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

**Triennial** Genesis 49:27 - 50:26

**Haftarah** I Kings 2:1 - 2:12

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](http://www.bj.org/minyan).**

**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](http://www.bj.org/learning/classes). All classes are free of charge except where noted.

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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.



Visit us at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org)

