

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



January 15-22, 2016 • 5-12 Shevat, 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

HA-MAKOM YENAHM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Anne Kohn and Chuck Gold, and their children, Sami and Jake Gold, on the death of Anne's mother, Jaffa Kohn.
- John Hatleberg and Rise Dimson on the death of John's mother, Martha Jane Hatleberg.
- Liana and David Goldman, their children, Danielle Sitnick-Raja and Kamran Raja, and their grandchildren, Noah and Amelie Raja, on the death of Liana's father, Jacques Berek.
- Vincent Vaccaro and Renee Schlesinger Vaccaro, and their children, Benjamin and Jeanne Vaccaro, on the death of Vincent's sister, Ann Vaccaro.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Nathan Wolf Smith, and his parents Claire and Peter Wolf Smith, on Nathan becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Eli Weiss, and his parents Paula and Jeff Weiss, on Eli becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder, and Larry Bolder, on Eva's ordination from ALEPH (Alliance for Jewish Renewal).
- Ivy (BJ Director of Education, Youth and Family), David, Brady, and Micah Schreiber, on the birth of their daughter and sister, Selma Rae Schreiber.
- Nancy Eppler-Wolff and John Wolff on the birth of their granddaughter, Falcon Mackenzie Wien.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Paula and Jeff Weiss in honor of Eli becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Debbie Chessin and Religious School students, Beth Israel—The West Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.
- **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:

● Volunteer Over MLK Weekend

Friday, January 15-Monday, January 18: BJ is partnering with Repair the World and Habitat for Humanity to offer volunteer opportunities to engage people of all ages. Check out www.bj.org/MLK for the full list.

WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

● Feeding Our Neighbors: An Interfaith Response

Help distribute 1 million meals to hungry New Yorkers by donating nonperishable food items. You can drop them off in the labeled bins at 89th Street. For a list of recommended items, contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org or x272.

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, JANUARY 15

Teen Service Learning Trip to New Orleans continues (through 1/18)

- **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, JANUARY 16

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

Bar Mitzvah

Nathan Wolf Smith

Bar Mitzvah

Eli Weiss

- **Racial Justice in America Today: A Conversation Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** During Shabbat morning services – 86th St. Sanctuary

Hear Reverend John Vaughn of Auburn Theological Seminary and Stosh Cotler of Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice speak about the movement to end anti-black racism, and what it means to have a Jewish presence in the effort.

- ● **KesheTOT** 10:00 AM – 86th St. Chapel
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel, Parlor, and 2nd Floor
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Teaching in Memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman, with Author Shulem Deen** 4:00 PM – 89th St. Reception Room
Shulem Deen is the author of *All Who Go Do Not Return*, a memoir about growing up in and then leaving the Hasidic Jewish world. For more information, contact Billie at x264. Free and open to the public, no registration necessary.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Mindfulness Retreat in Costa Rica (through 1/24)

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 18 | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

BJ office and BJHS closed

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

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

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

- **“Soul Food” Lunch and Learn** 12:30 PM – 89th St. Middle Room

Rabbi Felicia Sol: Bring a bag lunch and/or open up your soul to the nourishment and challenge of the Hasidic rabbis. Join us as we imagine old-world wisdom for everyday life. Free of charge. Please register at www.bj.org.

- **Keshet & KesheTOT** 4:00 PM – 89th St.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

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

- **Musical Playground** 3:30-4:15 PM – 89th St. [0-4 years]

A fun-filled, immersive musical voyage featuring Jewish-themed songs for children, melodies and games designed to teach the Hebrew and English alphabets, and also tunes from throughout the world. Through May 18.

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

● **Tze'irim Heschel Session** 8:00 PM – location given upon R.S.V.P.
Join Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, along with others in their 20s and 30s to reflect on this month's essay, "The Spirit of Prayer," as part of our communitywide exploration of Heschel. Please read the essay beforehand. R.S.V.P. to shorwitz@bj.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

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

● **Creative Kids Art Studio** 9:30-10:15 AM – 89th St.
An imaginative experience designed for curious kids to experiment with various media while engaging in exciting take-home art projects. Through May 19.

● **New Parents Get-Together and Tummy Time** 11:30 AM-1:00 PM – 89th St. (0-6 months)
Parents and caregivers, along with their babies, are invited to connect with one another, share experiences, and enjoy a snack in a warm, safe environment. Free for BJ members; \$10 per session for non-members. Through May 19.

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

● **PJ Library Story Corner** 2:00-2:30 PM – 89th St. (18 months-4 years)
See Monday class description. Through May 19.

● **Open Play** 2:30 PM – 89th St. (2-4 years)
See Monday class description. Through May 19.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

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

● **Bim Bam Spring Session** 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 AM – 89th St. Chapel

WHAT'S NEXT

● ● **Calling All Cyclists**

We are expanding our BJ Revolutionaries bike group to include all cyclists at BJ who are interested in going on rides throughout the year. All levels are welcome! If you are interested in joining the email list, contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org or call x272.

● ● **Hitoreri: Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner for Teens**

Friday, January 22, 7:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join the BJ teens for our teen-only Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner for a service full of singing, teen-led kavannot, mindfulness, and spirit. Dinner will follow services. This evening is just for teens! Register by Wednesday, January 20 at www.bj.org.

● ● **Backwards Scavenger Hunt (3rd-6th Grades)**

Saturday, January 23, 5:45-7:30PM, 89th Street Community House: Creativity, enthusiasm, and random objects are all you need to participate in our Backwards Scavenger Hunt! Bring a pillowcase with 5-7 objects. Pizza will be served; Havdalah at 5:45PM. Contact Ayala at awasser@bj.org to R.S.V.P.

● ● **Family Tu Bishvat Extravaganza**

Sunday, January 24, 10:30AM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Families with children ages 3-10 celebrate Tu Bishvat, the Jewish birthday of trees. Experience the sights and sounds of Israel through an interactive play, and visit our fair where you can make art, plant trees, and enjoy snacks. Contact awasser@bj.org or msamuels@bj.org.

● ● **Celebrate Tu Bishvat with Israeli Folk Dances**

Sunday, January 24, 2:00-5:00PM, 89th Street 3rd Floor Gym: Celebrate and dance to songs about the land of Israel, its trees, and the water that nourishes them. Socialize with awesome people and enjoy delicacies. Free to BJ members; non-member suggested contribution \$15.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

● ● **IDI Israel Education Session: Sorting Through Multiple Narratives**

Monday, January 25, 7:00-9:00PM, 89th Street Community House: This panel discussion will explore Labor Zionist, Religious Zionist, and Palestinian narratives of the creation of Israel and their role in shaping the modern-day state, their impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and their vision for the future of Israel. Visit www.bj.org to register.

● ● **Songs of Sacred Time: A Tu B'Shevat Concert**

Monday, January 25, 7:30-9:00PM, JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street: Join the JCC for this special concert featuring Rabbi Roly Matalon, directed by BJ musician Dan Nadel. The cost is \$25, contact 646-505-5708 to register.

● **BJ Men's Havurah: An Exploratory Conversation**

Thursday, January 28, 7:00PM, location T.B.D.: Small groups—havurot—are the starting point for community and connection. Join men of all ages from the BJ community for an evening of socializing over coffee and dessert, and to share ideas that can help build community. R.S.V.P. to lee.rimsky@gmail.com.

● ● **Tu Bishvat: BJ and the Environment Community Shabbat Potluck**

Friday, January 29, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, 89th Street: You provide the food and we provide the experience: eat, schmooze, and learn about the ways that BJ is supporting sustainability both within our community and beyond. Free to register at www.bj.org/environmentpotluck.

● **Vetaher Libeinu Women's Mini-Retreats: Pathways to Purifying Our Hearts**

Monday, February 1, 6:15-9:15PM, 89th Street: Immerse, converse, connect and reflect with a little nosh. Join with women of all ages to explore, study and deepen communal connections in this four-part series. This series is 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.

● **Va-Ani Tefilati Lekha: 6 Sessions on Prayer**

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

Tuesdays, 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 to register.

● **The Syrian Refugee Crisis: Realities and Responses**

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30PM, The Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway at 122nd Street: Learn about the Syrian refugee crisis and the Jewish response at this special educational opportunity sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary. Speakers will include the CEO of HIAS, BJ's partner in addressing global refugee concerns. Details and registration at www.jtsa.edu/refugees.

● **Tot Shabbat**

Friday, February 5, 5:15-7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a dinner at 5:45PM in Frankel Hall, complete with Shabbat blessings and songs. Register at www.bj.org.

WHAT'S LATER

● **Identity and Family-Building in the 21st Century: Interfaith Families**

Thursday, February 11, 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.

A TASTE OF TORAH: BO

ואם-ימעט הבית, מהיות משנה-ולקח הוא ושכנו הקרב אף-ביתו, במכסת נפשות:
איש לפי אכלו, תכסו על-השנה.

But if the household is too small for a lamb, let them share one with a neighbor who dwells nearby, in proportion to the number of people: you shall contribute for the lamb according to what each household will eat. —*Exodus 12:4*

Each person must have equal access to the Pesah sacrifice, and no one can pay more in order to receive more of the lamb. The obligation is upon everyone to eat of the sacrifice, even upon a poor person. —*HaEmek Davar (19th c. Poland)*

The Torah interrupts the narrative of the plagues, just prior to the death of the first-born, to explain the ritual of the Pesah sacrifice. It's in the midst of this low point, where the Israelites can almost taste liberation and redemption, when they are expected to make a sacrifice by offering a lamb to God. This ritual demands that if one household couldn't consume a lamb on their own, they had to join with another; they had to enter into community to bring about their redemption. Freedom doesn't mean every person for themselves. Redemption means making sure everyone gets to taste it. It's through this partnership of people, both rich and poor, that liberation comes. When fighting to get out of narrow places, our instincts often tell us to forge ahead, to ensure that we come out of that place no matter what, to fight for only ourselves. The Pesah sacrifice demands that we fight that instinct: we must find our partners, create ritual together even though we might be different, and work to ensure that all of us get a stronger sense of redemption. The nourishing taste of freedom is meant to be shared.

—*Rabbi Sarit Horwitz*

“Spiritual problems cannot be solved by administrative techniques. The problem is not how to fill the buildings [synagogues] but how to inspire the hearts. And this is a problem to which techniques of child psychology can hardly be applied. The problem is not one of synagogue attendance but one of spiritual attendance. The problem is not how to attract bodies to enter the space of a temple but how to inspire souls to enter an hour of spiritual concentration in the presence of God. The problem is time, not space.”

—*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*

“The Spirit of Jewish Prayer” in *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*

PARTICIPATE IN OUR YEARLONG COMMUNITY HESCHEL STUDY

Join a study group: Contact Billie at bdistefano@bj.org or x264.

Watch the latest webinar: Visit www.bj.org/januaryheschelwebinar.

For more info, visit www.bj.org/heschel.

TORAH PORTION

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Torah: Annual Exodus 10:1 - 13:16
Triennial Exodus 12:29 - 13:16

- 1: 12:29 - 12:32
 - 2: 12:33 - 12:36
 - 3: 12:37 - 12:42
 - 4: 12:43 - 12:51
 - 5: 13:1 - 13:4
 - 6: 13:5 - 13:10
 - 7: 13:11 - 13:16
- Maftir: 13:14 - 13:16

Haftarah Jeremiah 46:13 - 46:28

NEXT WEEK: BESHALAH

Torah: Annual Exodus 13:17 - 17:16
Triennial Exodus 14:26 - 17:16
Haftarah Judges 5:1 - 5:31

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.**

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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

