

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



March 4-11, 2016 • 24 Adar I-1 Adar II, 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**
- **Purim Events & Services**

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 mourns the death of our member Wendy Liff, and we extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Sherwin Liff, their daughter, Joanna Liff, and their entire family.

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

- Debbie Biegelson Wechsler and Ron Wechsler and their children, Rachel, Bennett, and Jordan Wechsler, on the death of Debbie's father, Sidney Biegelson.
- Gene Carr on the death of his father, Leonard D. Carr.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Nathaniel Eisert, his parents, Sarah Jaffe and Richard Eisert, and his brother, Alex Eisert, on Nathaniel becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by B'nai Jeshurun in honor and celebration of the hundreds of BJ volunteers who devote their time, energy and commitment to building and sustaining this community. Thank you for all you do for BJ!

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:

● 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:

● Toiletry Collection

We are collecting new toiletries for our shelter and lunch program. Travel sizes as well as full-sized items are welcomed. Drop off donations at 89th Street.

THE BJ CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AUCTION • Wednesday, May 18 • Everybody has a gift to share.

“The religions of the world are no more self-sufficient, no more independent, no more isolated than individuals or nations. Energies, experiences, and ideas that come to life outside the boundaries of a particular religion or all religions continue to challenge and to affect every religion. Horizons are wider, dangers are great ... No religion is an island. We are all involved with one another. Spiritual betrayal on the part of one of us affects the faith of all of us.”

—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

“No Religion Is an Island” 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.

Participate in this month's webinar: Go to www.bj.org/marchheschelwebinar on Wednesday, March 9, at 12:00 noon.

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

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

- ● **Tot Shabbat** 5:15 PM – 89th St. Sanctuary
Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner at 5:45PM in Frankel Hall, complete with Shabbat blessings and songs. Register at www.bj.org.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

- **Soulful Start: 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.
- **Soulful Start: Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Chapel
Build and strengthen your Shabbat morning tefillah foundation with our pilot 5-session Learners' Minyan. Explore liturgy, melody, and mechanics with those of all levels of experience while engaging in meaningful prayer. Led by BJ Rabbinic Fellows and Rabbis.
- ● **Gimmel Shabbat** 9:30 AM – 86th St. 2nd Floor
- ● **Hazzak Torah Skills Training** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- **A Celebration Honoring BJ Volunteers** During Services – 86th St. Sanctuary
Every year hundreds of individuals give of themselves to make BJ a sacred, spiritual home for so many. Are you one of them? Come honor and be honored as we celebrate the dedicated volunteers whose contributions build our community. Learn more at www.bj.org/honor.
- ● **Junior Congregation—Kids Only** 10:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel, Parlor, and 2nd Floor
- ● **Young Families Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Chapel
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Minḥa Service** 5:00 PM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- Bar Mitzvah** **Nathaniel Eisert**
- ● **Teen Day of Service** 7:45 PM – 89th St. Reception Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Purim Play Rehearsal** 10:00 AM – 89th St. Reception Room

MONDAY, MARCH 7

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **PJ Library Story Corner** 9:30 AM – 89th St. (18 months-4 years)
- **Open Play** 10:00-11:00 AM – 89th St. (2-4 years)
- ● **Parents' Corner** 5:00 PM – 89th St. 2nd Floor Conference Room
- **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
- **TefilLab: Weekday Shaḥarit** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Chapel
The second of a three-part series on our weekday morning prayer service. If you're seeking support as you take on a morning prayer practice or are looking for deeper connection to our morning liturgy, join Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg for a night of learning and song. R.S.V.P. to arosenberg@bj.org.
- **Communities of Character: A Conversation With David Brooks** 7:00 PM – The Temple Emanu-El Skirball Center, 10 E. 66th St.
Enjoy a communitywide conversation with *New York Times* op-ed columnist David Brooks about character, moral joy, and what it means to care for one another. Cost is \$18; register at www.ujafedny.org/david-brooks. Co-sponsored by BJ.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

- **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 Hassidic 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, MARCH 9

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Heschel Webinar: “No Religion Is an Island”** 12:00 PM – online
Please visit www.bj.org/marchheschelwebinar to participate.
- **Purim Play Rehearsal** 4:00 PM – 89th St. Reception Room
- **Introduction to Judaism (registration closed)** 7:00 PM – 89th St. 2nd Floor Conference Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 10 | ROSH HODESH ADAR II

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **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)
- **Open Play** 2:30 PM – 89th St. (2-4 years)
- **Identity and Family Building in the 21st Century: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Families** 6:30 PM – 89th St. 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 | ROSH HODESH ADAR II

- **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

- **BJ Celebrate Community Auction: Collect Moments, Not Things**
Wednesday, May 18, 6:00-9:30PM, 88th St. Sanctuary: Turn your skills and gifts into spectacular auction prizes! Challah baking, cooking lessons, photography sessions—everybody has a gift to share. Visit www.bj.org/auction for more information.
- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service**
Friday, March 11, 6:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Led by by Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Karina Zilberman, this service involves meditation, reflection, deep listening and personal engagement with the parashah. Please contact Beth at btarson@bj.org with any questions.
- **Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner**
Friday, March 11, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Special invitation to the Purim Spiel cast. Families are invited to enjoy a delicious Shabbat dinner. Please register at www.bj.org.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

- **Soulful Start: Shira Yoga—An Integrated Practice for Body and Soul**
with Rabbi Shuli Passow
Saturday, March 12, 9:30-10:20 AM, 86th Street Board Room (1st floor): Bring voice, breath and body together in this pilot 5-session series that combines asana yoga and piyut (Hebrew liturgical poetry). Each month we will explore a new piyut through a gentle yoga practice and chanting. Visit www.bj.org/yoga for more details.
- **Environmental Justice Hevra Meeting**
Tuesday, March 15, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street Middle Room: Catch up on the latest news about the Transform Don't Trash NYC Campaign and learn what you can do to help improve our city. A light dinner will be served. R.S.V.P. to lesjudd@aol.com.
- **Tze'irim Heschel Session**
Wednesday, March 16, 8:00PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: Be a part of this month's discussion just for 20s and 30s on the Heschel essay of the month, "No Religion Is an Island." Please read the essay beforehand. R.S.V.P. to Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, shorwitz@bj.org.
- **Bo-i Kallah—A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service**
Friday, March 18, 6:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and Dan Nadel for an alternative Kabbalat Shabbat. With soulful melodies, verses of Shir haShirim (Song of Songs), liturgical poems and Psalms we will transition gently and with full kavannah—leaving the workweek consciousness, welcoming Shabbat.
- ● **Savor Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Roly Matalon (Registration Closed; Wait List Available)**
Friday, March 18, 8:00PM, 88th St. Frankel Hall: This event is now full. Please visit www.bj.org/savorshabbat to add your name to the wait list.
- 🎉 **Purim: A Day of Radical Generosity**
Be a part of this year's Purim celebrations at BJ. Connect with a simple and meaningful mitzvah—give Mishloah Manot. Visit www.bj.org/purim or contact Sarit at shorwitz@bj.org or x261.
- 🎉 **Purim Puppet Show: Len Levitt and the Levity Puppets**
Sunday, March 20, 9:45-10:30AM, 89th St. Community House: Get ready to boo Haman and cheer for the heroes of the Purim story! Len Levitt and the Levity Puppets present an interactive telling of the story of Esther. R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org.
- **IDI Session: Maintaining Israel's Security**
Tuesday, March 22, 7:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Join Michael Herzog, retired Brigadier General in the IDF, for a fascinating presentation that will provide a deeper understanding of the Middle East and help map out Israel's current security threats and their potential impact on Israel and its neighbors.
- 🎉 **Young Families Purim Spiel and Megillah Reading**
Wednesday, March 23, 5:45-6:45PM, 88th St. Sanctuary: Come celebrate Purim with your whole family! Come in costume and enjoy a kid-friendly megillah reading, a silly spiel with the BJ rabbis, snacks, and more! R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org.

WHAT'S LATER

- **Special Needs Minḥa Service**
Saturday, March 26, 5:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Open to the public.
- **Tour of the New SIMS Recycling Center in Sunset Park, Brooklyn**
Wednesday, March 30, 6:30-8:30PM, departure location TBD: Learn where your recycling goes! BJ's Environmental Justice Hevra has arranged a special in-depth tour of the new SIMS Recycling Center, which is free and open to all, including children. Advance registration required. R.S.V.P. to Les at lesjudd@aol.com.
- **IDI Session: Wrestling Jerusalem Special Showing for BJ Members**
Thursday, March 31, 7:00-9:00PM, 59E59 Theatre, 59 East 59th Street: Discounted tickets for BJ members.

A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYAK'HEL

זֶה | יִתְּנוּ כָּל הָעֶבֶר עַל הַפְּקָדִים מִחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ עֶשְׂרִים גֵּרָה הַשֶּׁקֶל
מִחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל תְּרוּמָה לַיהוָה: הָעֹשִׂיר לֹא יִרְבֶּה וְהַדָּל לֹא יִמְעִיט מִמִּחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל לִתַּת
אֶת תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה לְכַפֵּר עַל נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם

This is what everyone who is entered in the records shall pay: a half shekel by the sanctuary weight—twenty gerahs to the shekel—a half shekel as an offering to Adonai...The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than a half shekel when giving Adonai's offering...

— Exodus 30:13,15

Six special Shabbatot always begin just before the month that holds Purim. This Shabbat, Shabbat Shekalim, our maftir reading details the giving of the half shekel from every person in the Israelite community as part of the census. Shabbat Shekalim is a reminder that Purim is on its way. We connect the half shekel that we give to sustain our community to the gifts of matanot l'evyonim that we give to the poor on Purim. Shekalim remind us that no person, regardless of their wealth, shall be counted more or less than anyone else. Our own matanot l'evyonim sustain our community and push us to enable everyone to feel "counted." This mitzvah, along with giving mishloah manot, asks us to be in relationship with other people; we actually cannot do these mitzvot alone. These Purim mitzvot remind us of what it means to be counted, and ask us to ensure that others feel counted as well.

—Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

WHAT'S LATER *continued from panel 4*

● 300 Ways to Enhance Your Seder

Wednesday, April 6, 7:00-8:30PM, 89th Street Middle Room: \$10/members, \$15/non-members. Visit www.bj.org/events or contact Sarit at shorwitz@bj.org to register.

● 6th Grade Spring Retreat

Friday, May 13-Monday, May 16, Ramah Nyack: Register at www.bj.org.

● Responding to the Global Refugee Crisis: Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing, location and time TBD: Respond to the global refugee crisis by volunteering through our partnership with HIAS. Help immigrants and refugees develop conversational English; no background in teaching or education necessary. Learn more and indicate your interest at www.bj.org/hias.

● Registration Open: BJ Hazorim CSA 2016 Season

Tuesdays, June 7-November 1, 6:30-8:00PM, 89th Street Community House: CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) provides the opportunity to pick up fresh, organic produce from Free Bird Farm at BJ once a week for 22 weeks. Choose from delicious vegetable, egg, fruit and butter shares. Register at www.bj.org/csa. Registration closes May 2. For more information, contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org.

TORAH PORTION

VAYAK'HEL

SHABBAT SHEKALIM

Torah: Annual	Exodus 35:1-38:20
Triennial	Exodus 36:20 - 38:20
1:	36:20 - 36:30
2:	36:31 - 36:38
3:	37:1 - 37:16
4:	37:17 - 37:24
5:	37:25 - 37:29
6:	38:1 - 38:8
7:	38:9 - 38:20
Maftir:	30:11 - 30:16

Haftarah II Kings 12:1 - 12:17

NEXT WEEK: PEKUDEI

Torah: Annual	Exodus 38:21-40:38
Triennial	Exodus 39:22 - 40:38
Haftarah	I Kings 7:40 - 7:50

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 energy of the sun.

