

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



March 18-25, 2016 • 8-15 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**
- **Pesach 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

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 extends sincere condolences to the following members and their families:

- Bena Medjuck-Bruckner and Gustavo Bruckner, and their children, Noam, Ayelet, Yaffa, and Sivan Medjuck-Bruckner, on the death of Bena's father, Franklyn Medjuck.
- Noel and Amy Rubinton, and their daughter, Bella, on the death of Noel's father, Noel Rubinton.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Talia Falkenberg, her parents, Chris and Kai Falkenberg, and her brother, Benjamin Falkenberg, on Talia becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Eve Rudin, her parents, Amy Schatz and Max Rudin, and her brother, Noah Rudin, on Eve becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Miriam Palmer-Sherman and Rabbi David Vaisberg, and their daughter, Nava Sherman-Vaisberg, on the birth of their son and brother, Judah Daniel Sherman-Vaisberg. We also extend a mazal tov to his grandparents, Joanne Palmer and Andrew Sherman.
- Rabbi Dan Geffen and LuAnne Geffen on the birth of their daughter, Eva Malka Geffen. We also extend a mazal tov to her uncle, Rabbi Jonah Geffen, her aunt, Julia Mannes, her cousins, Shula and Bina Mannes Geffen, and her grandparents, Peter Geffen and Susie Kessler.
- Eve, Serge, and Celine Appel on the birth of their daughter and sister, Margaux Claire Appel.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Chris and Kai Falkenberg in honor of Talia becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

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.

Shabbat Evening Services: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

Beginning **Friday, April 1**, the Kabbalat Shabbat service will start at 7:00PM at all locations.



REPAIR THE WORLD TODAY WITH BJ

● BJ: A Caring Community

We can all help make BJ a caring community. Here's a simple way for us to take care of each other: Whenever you're at BJ, look around and notice who you see. If someone is missing who is usually there, please reach out to them. If your fellow BJ member needs support, or if you need support, let us know. Contact the rabbis at rabbis@bj.org or call us at x264.

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.

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

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



THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

- **Bo-i Kallah—A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room
Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and Dan Nadel for an alternative Kabbalat Shabbat.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Savor Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Roly Matalon** Following the Kabbalat Shabbat service – 88th St. Frankel Hall
This event is now full. Please visit www.bj.org/savorshabbat to add your name to the wait list.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

- **Soulful Start: Hakhanah laTefillah—Preparing for Prayer** 8:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel
Join Rabbi Roly Matalon to prepare for Shabbat morning prayers through the singing of piyutim.
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
Bat Mitzvah **Talia Falkenberg**
- **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** Following Services – 86th St. Parlor
- **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Minḥa Service** 6:45 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Bat Mitzvah **Eve Rudin**

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Purim Puppet Show: Len Levitt and the Levity Puppets** 9:45 AM – 89th St.
An interactive telling of the story of Esther. R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org.
- **Purim Carnival** 10:30 AM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Open for children 6 and under, 10:30-11:00AM; to the rest of the community, 11:00AM-1:00PM.
- **Children's Purim Spiel** 1:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Two entertaining shows featuring a classic and not-so-classic retelling of the Purim story.
- **Dodgeball with Tze'irim 20s and 30s** 3:00 PM – 89th St. 3rd Floor
Light beverages and snacks will be provided. Register at www.bj.org/dodgeball.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

- **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 AM – 89th St. (2-4 years)
- **TefilLab: Weekday Amidah** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Chapel
R.S.V.P. to arosenberg@bj.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

- **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: Free of charge. Please register at www.bj.org.
- **Keshet & KesheTOT** 4:00 PM – 89th St.
- **IDI Session: Maintaining Israel's Security** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Michael Herzog, retired IDF Brigadier General, discusses Israel's current security threats.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 | TA'ANIT ESTHER | EREV PURIM

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Young Families Purim Spiel and Megillah Reading** 5:45 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
A kid-friendly megillah reading, silly spiel, snacks, and more! R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org.
- **Introduction to Judaism (registration closed)** NO CLASS THIS WEEK
- **Communitywide Megillah Reading and Purim Party** 7:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
All welcome for a megillah reading, treats, music, and a photo booth! Come in your most radical costume. Learn more at www.bj.org/purim.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24 | PURIM

- **Purim Morning Services with Megillah Reading** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Judith Bernstein Lunch Program** 12:00 Noon – 88th St. Frankel Hall
- **PJ Library Story Corner** 2:00 PM – 89th St. (18 months-4 years)
- **Open Play** 2:30 PM – 89th St. (2-4 years)


FRIDAY, MARCH 25

- **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: Haircuts and Manicures Are Experiences, Too!**
Wednesday, May 18, 6:30-9:30PM, 88th St. Sanctuary: Having trouble coming up with an auction item to donate? How about a gift certificate to a salon or restaurant, baked goodies, babysitting, or tickets to a sports game! Contact Lisa at lsteinberg@bj.org or x228 to share your gift.
- **Community Potluck Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein**
Friday, March 25, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, 89th Street Reception and Middle Rooms: Pull out the quinoa and kale—the next potluck Shabbat dinner is around the corner! Bring a dairy/vegetarian dish and make Shabbat a little sweeter with friends, food, and soulful singing led by Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein. Register at www.bj.org/potluck.
- **Addressing Islamophobia: A Conversation with Debbie Almontaser**
Saturday, March 26, during and following Shabbat morning services, 86th Street Sanctuary and Chapel: Debbie Almontaser, president of Muslim Community Network, will speak about the current political climate and its effect on the Muslim community. After services, continue the conversation with Ms. Almontaser and members of MCN's youth leadership development program.
- **Special Needs Minḥa Service**
Saturday, March 26, 5:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Join Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein for an interactive, warm, and inviting musical Minḥa service. This will be an accessible and inclusive experience, sensitive to children and young adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Open to the public.
- **Tze'irim 20s and 30s Cooks for the Shelter**
Sunday, March 27, 1:00PM, 88th Street Kitchen: Make dinner for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. Brunch at 1:00PM and start cooking afterward. \$6-\$10/person suggested; no cooking experience necessary. R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, March 23 at www.bj.org.
- **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. Free of charge; advance registration required. R.S.V.P. to Les at lesjudd@aol.com.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

- **IDI Session: Wrestling Jerusalem Special Showing for BJ Members**
Thursday, March 31, 7:00-9:00PM, 59E59 Theatre, 59 East 59th Street: This one-man show follows one man's journey to understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. BJ members enjoy discounted tickets, followed by a discussion with writer and performer Aaron Davidman and Rabbi Matalon.
- **Soulful Start: Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan**
Saturday, April 2, 9:30-10:15AM, 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.
- **Havdalah and Pete Seeger Guitar Sing-Along**
Saturday, April 2, 8:00PM, address provided upon R.S.V.P.: Keep the Shabbat energy going AND get in the Passover spirit of freedom at a home-hosted Havdalah and guitar sing-along. Bring friends and a snack or beverage to share. Sponsored by Yozma and open to all. For more information and to R.S.V.P., visit www.bj.org/singalong.
- **The BJ Genius Bar Is Back: Unleash the Power of Your Smartphone, Tablet, or Laptop**
Sunday, April 3, 1:00-3:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Let BJ's digital whiz kids teach you how to use features and functions of your devices you were afraid to touch. Get hands-on instruction and one-on-one support from our teens. R.S.V.P. to hesed@bj.org or x264.
- **Va-Ani Tefilati Lekha: 6 Sessions on Prayer**
Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
Tuesday, 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 Beth at btarson@bj.org to register.
-  ● **300 Ways to Enhance Your Seder**
Wednesday, April 6, 7:00-8:30PM, 89th Street Middle Room: Participate in an interactive Passover prep workshop with Murray Spiegel and Rickey Stein, acclaimed for their innovative ways to enhance seders for individuals of all ages. \$10/members, \$15/non-members. Visit www.bj.org/events or contact Sarit at shorwitz@bj.org to register.

WHAT'S LATER

- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service**
Friday, April 8, 7:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Contact Beth at btarson@bj.org with any questions.
- **Vetaher Libeinu Women's Mini-Retreats: Pathways to Purifying Our Hearts**
Saturday, April 9, 5:00-8:30PM, 89th Street Community House: To register, please contact Beth at btarson@bj.org.
- **Love: A Rally to Celebrate Our Common Humanity — New Date!**
Sunday, April 10, 2:00-4:00PM, Washington Square Park: Visit www.bj.org/love for info and R.S.V.P.
- **IDI Session: What Role Should American Jewry Play in Relation to the State of Israel?**
Wednesday, April 13, 7:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary
- **Beth Olam Ha-Bah: From Here to Eternity**
Wednesday, April 13, 7:30PM, Shearith Israel, 2 West 70th Street: Learn about BJ's historic cemeteries. For more information, visit www.bj.org/betholam.
-  ● **A Night of Remembrance: A Pesah Program for the Bereaved**
Thursday, April 14, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street Chapel: R.S.V.P. to Billie at bdistefano@bj.org or x264.

A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYIKRA



וַיִּקְרָא, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה; וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֵלָיו, מֵאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לֵאמֹר.

And Adonai called out to Moshe, and spoke to him out of the Ohel Moed, saying...". — *Leviticus 1:1*

In the Torah scroll, the aleph in the first word is smaller than the other letters. Since Moshe was so great and also so humble, he wanted to write *vayikar* (without an aleph at the end), like God called out to Balaam (Bamidbar 23:4), which indicates a happenstance meeting. But God told Moshe to write the aleph at the end, since *vayikra* indicates closeness, to show God's love for Moshe. Again, from Moshe's great humility he pushed back, and only wrote a small aleph instead. —*Ba'al HaTurim*

There's seemingly a contradiction between wanted to hear that God calls out to us, to believe that God wants to show love towards us, and to feel humble. The book of Vayikra, which we begin this week, holds many laws about purity and about how to be in relationship with God. This first word, in the way that it's written, asks how we can always be working to exist in a relationship with God where we believe God is calling out to us to be close, but also to believe that the little aleph is always a part of that call. —*Rabbi Sarit Horwitz*

WHAT'S LATER *continued from panel 4*

-  **Sell Your Hametz Through BJ**
Through Thursday, April 21: See www.bj.org/pesah or contact bdistefano@bj.org or x264.
-  ● **Community Second Night Seder**
Saturday, April 23, 6:30-10:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein will lead. The theme is "Refugees: Present Crises and Our Own Stories." BJ members only. \$55/adult, \$25/child. R.S.V.P. to Billie at bdistefano@bj.org.
- **Inter-generational Walking Tour of Jewish Colonial NYC**
Sunday, May 1, 9:45AM-12:00 noon: Visit www.bj.org/walkingtour for more information.
- **6th Grade Spring Retreat**
Friday, May 13-Monday, May 16, Ramah Nyack: Register at www.bj.org.
- **Registration Open: BJ Hazorim CSA 2016 Season**
Tuesdays, June 7-November 1, 6:30-8:00PM, 89th Street Community House: Registration closes May 2. For more information, contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org.

TORAH PORTION

VAYIKRA

SHABBAT ZAKHOR

Torah: Annual Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26

Triennial Leviticus 4:27 - 5:26

- 1: 4:27 - 4:31
- 2: 4:32 - 4:35
- 3: 5:1 - 5:10
- 4: 5:11 - 5:13
- 5: 5:14 - 5:16
- 6: 5:17 - 5:19
- 7: 5:20 - 5:26

Maftir: Deuteronomy 25:17 - 25:19

Haftarah I Samuel 15:1 - 15:34

NEXT WEEK: TZAV

Torah: Annual Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

Triennial Leviticus 8:1 - 8:36

Haftarah Jeremiah 7:21 - 8:3, 9:22 - 9:23

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.**

 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.

