

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



June 3-10, 2016 • 26 Iyar-4 Sivan, 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**
- 🕊 **Shavuot Services & Events**

RABBIS: J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

SENIOR RABBINIC FELLOW: Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

BJ RABBINIC FELLOW: 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 Paulette Douglas, and we extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Woody Freiman, their children, Hannah and Halle Freiman, and their entire family.

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

- James Levin and Shira Nadich Levin, and their children, Alexander, Gideon, and Benjamin and Sara Levin, on the death of James's mother, Muriel Gloria Isaacson (Mitzi) Levin.
- Lowell and Deborah Kirschner, and their children, Max and Shira, on the death of Lowell's father, Daniel Kirschner.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Maya Silver-Lewis, her parents, Gabrielle Silver and Jonathan Lewis, and her siblings, Ella Silver-Lewis and Yaniv Lewis, on Maya becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Ronna Wineberg Blaser on the publication of her collection of short stories, *Nine Facts That Can Change Your Life*, by Serving House Books.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Gabrielle Silver and Jonathan Lewis in honor of Maya 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.

"An aesthetic experience leaves behind the memory of a perception and enjoyment; a prophetic experience leaves behind the memory of a commitment, not only of a perception. Revelation was not an act of enjoyment. God spoke and man not only perceived but also accepted the will of God. Revelation lasts a moment, acceptance continues."

—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

"The Moment at Sinai" 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 our webinars: View the latest webinar anytime at www.bj.org/mayheschelwebinar.

On Wednesday, June 8 at 12:00 noon, participate in our final Heschel webinar at www.bj.org/juneheschelwebinar.

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



REPAIR THE WORLD TODAY WITH BJ

● Kiddush Volunteers Needed

Do you regularly attend Shabbat morning services? We want to make our kiddushim more sustainable and for that we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to guide members to the appropriate compost and recycling bins when they are finished eating. If you can volunteer at an upcoming kiddush, email Les at LesJudd@aol.com.

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, JUNE 3

- **Tot Shabbat** 5:15 PM – 88th 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/young-families.
 - **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
 - **Community Shabbat Potluck** Following the Service – 89th St. Reception Room
It's the final potluck of the year! Bring something delicious to share, grab your favorite kosher vino, and get ready to bring in Shabbat BJ-style. Info and R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org/potluck.
- OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 42 (Malkhut Shebeyesod)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

- **Soulful Start: Shabbat Morning Learners' Minyan** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Chapel
Explore liturgy, melody, and mechanics with those of all levels of experience while engaging in meaningful prayer. Led by BJ Rabbinic Fellows and Rabbis.
 - **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
Bat Mitzvah **Maya Silver-Lewis**
 - **Senior Aliyah** During Services – 86th St. Sanctuary
Graduating seniors and their families are invited for a special aliyah to honor their accomplishments.
 - **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel, Parlor, and 2nd Floor
 - **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
 - **Sephardi Judaism in Israel Today: Avant-Garde or Antiquated?** Following Kiddush – 86th St. Chapel
Everyone talks about the Jewish Renaissance taking place in Israel today, but where are Sephardi and other non-Ashkenazi Jews in this revolution? Join Dr. Shimon Vaknin, director of the new Secular Yeshiva in Beer Sheva, for a discussion.
- OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 43 (Hesed Shebemalkhut)

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

- **Mindfulness Meditation and the Counting of the Omer** 8:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
Join a journey of personal transformation during the counting of the Omer, the seven-week period between the holidays of Pesah and Shavuot. More info at www.bj.org/meditation.
 - **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
 - **Walk with BJ at the Celebrate Israel Parade** 10:30 AM – 5th Avenue between 54th & 55th Sts.
Join the BJ Rabbis, members, and friends as we show our love and support of Israel. Bring your Israeli flag and an instrument as we walk and sing together. Walkers should wear the official BJ parade t-shirt. Register at www.bj.org/israelevents.
 - **Spoonful of Hesed** 11:00 AM – 88th St. Kitchen
We will gather to cook healthy, delicious meals and deliver them to other BJ members in need of a little extra care. Want to volunteer or receive a meal? Contact Billie at x264.
 - **Israeli Book Club Discusses *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*** 5:00 PM – Location given upon R.S.V.P.
Our next meeting will discuss *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, by Sarit Yishai-Levi, which focuses on Sephardi-Ashkenazi tension in Israel. Visit www.bj.org to register.
- OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 44 (Gevurah Shebemalkhut)

MONDAY, JUNE 6

● Register for Jewish Education at BJ

Registration for the 2016-2017 year opens on June 6. Please visit www.bj.org/hebrewschool for more information. Questions? Contact ebedolla@bj.org.

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

● Economic Justice Hevra Meeting 6:30 PM – Location given upon R.S.V.P.
Join us as we continue our work to support the Justice for Farmworkers campaign. For questions and to R.S.V.P., visit www.bj.org or call x272.

■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 45 (Tiferet Shebemalkhut)

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 | ROSH HODESH SIVAN

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

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

■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 46 (Netzah Shebemalkhut)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

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

■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 47 (Hod Shebemalkhut)

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

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

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

● BJ Annual Meeting 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Join us at this year's meeting—hear about the past year and upcoming plans for the community, and elect new members to BJ's Board of Trustees.

■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 48 (Yesod Shebemalkhut)

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

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

■ OMER COUNT: Tonight begins DAY 49 (Malkhut Shebemalkhut)

SHAVUOT

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Saturday, June 11 • Erev Shavuot

First Evening Service

88th Street Sanctuary..... 9:30PM

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

88th Street Sanctuary.....10:00PM

Study through the night, until the Sunrise Service

88th Street Frankel Hall

Sunday, June 12 • First Day Shavuot

Sunrise Services

88th Street Sanctuary.....5:00AM

Morning Services

88th Street Sanctuary.....10:00AM

Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....11:15AM

Community Picnic, Riverside Park

(weather permitting).....12:30PM

Sunday, June 12 • Second Evening Shavuot

Evening Service

88th Street Sanctuary..... 8:30PM

Monday, June 13 • Second Day Shavuot (Yizkor)

Morning Services

88th Street Sanctuary.....9:30AM

Children's Services

88th Street Frankel Hall.....10:45AM

WHAT'S NEXT

● Step Up To The Plate With BJ Softball

Thursdays through early July, 7:00PM, Central Park: Play softball in co-ed, non-competitive, friendly games. Open to the entire BJ community. Contact Craig Rosenberg at croseberg6@optonline.net for more information.

📖 ● Film Screening and Discussion: Excerpt from *Praying With My Legs: The Spiritual Witness of Abraham Joshua Heschel*

Friday, June 10, 6:15PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: In the spirit of Shavuot and our yearlong community study, join us for the U.S. premiere of this excerpt from member Steve Brand's feature documentary about Heschel's life, thought, and transformative impact.

● Soulful Start: Shira Yoga—An Integrated Practice for Body and Soul

Saturday, June 11, 9:20-10:20 AM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: 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.

📖 Tikkun Leil Shavuot 2016/5776

Saturday, June 11-Sunday, June 12, 9:30PM-5:00AM, 88th Street Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: **9:30PM:** Evening service. **10:00PM-12:00 midnight:** Celebrate the culmination of our yearlong community study of Abraham Joshua Heschel's *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity* with Professor Susannah Heschel. **Throughout the night:** Study continues with BJ Rabbis and Rabbinic Fellows.

📖 ● Shavuot Celebration at Children's Services

Sunday, June 12, 11:15AM-12:15PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: BJ Young Families celebrate Shavuot with a holiday service where we will honor the mitzvah of Bikkurim, the first fruits offering. Children will assemble flower baskets to decorate the bimah. We will provide the flowers and families are invited to bring their own baskets.

📖 ● Community Picnic

Sunday, June 12, 12:30PM, Riverside Park: Following morning services, we will walk over to Riverside Park to celebrate the Torah of connectedness as a community, with songs and games. Bring a blanket and some food, and have a great time with your fellow BJ members in our beautiful neighborhood park.

● Give the Gift of Life at the BJ Blood Drive

Wednesday, June 15, 3:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Twice a year we have the opportunity to provide this very important service to the community. Sign up with Larissa at lwohl@bj.org or call x272 with your preferred time slot or with any questions.

● Shishi Israeli

Friday, June 24, 6:00-8:30PM, 88th Street Community House: Shishi Israeli is a community-wide event for Israeli and Jewish Americans. Shabbat Traditions are embraced through a Hebrew Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Matalon, a delicious Israeli dinner, sing-along, and activities for kids of all ages. Visit www.bj.org to register.

A TASTE OF TORAH: BEHUKKOTAI

וְכֹל-מֵעֵשֶׂר בְּקָר וְצֹאן, כֹּל אֲשֶׁר-יַעֲבֹר תַּחַת הַשֹּׁבֵט--הָעֹשִׂירִי, יִהְיֶה-קָדֵשׁ לַה'. לֹא יִבְקַר בֵּין-טוֹב לְרָע, וְלֹא יִמְיֶרְנוּ; וְאִם-הָמָר יִמְיֶרְנוּ, וְהָיָה-הוּא וְתַמּוּרְתוֹ יִהְיֶה-קָדֵשׁ לַאֲיָגָל.

All tithes of the herd or flock, of all that passes under the shepherd's staff, every tenth one shall be holy to Adonai. They must not choose between good and bad, or make substitution for it. If they do make a substitution, both it and its substitute shall both be holy: it cannot be redeemed.

—Leviticus 27:32-33

When I was a kid, I remember going through old clothing and deciding what to donate. I picked out the things that I no longer wanted, often items that were old or out of style, and would donate them to a local shelter. I would pat myself on the back and feel good about giving my leftovers, essentially, to the poor. Choosing what to donate gives us a sense of agency, and it also allows us to believe that giving is a choice. This week's parsha teaches that this type of practice isn't actually good enough. It asks us to see giving as a regular part of our behavior.

Rashi teaches that the shepherd, at the time of tithing, should hold out a staff with red dye on it. As the flock is let out of the pen, the shepherd counts, and each tenth animal is gently struck with the staff. The red mark on one tenth of the flock indicates the animals that are designated for sacrifices to God. In this way, tithing doesn't even engage the act of choosing; it becomes a routine practice. The shepherd, as the verses above suggest, doesn't choose which cow should be offered.

Our understanding of tithing has transformed into an act of giving to community, as a way of giving to God, to sustain the community's work. Now, with so many institutions that comprise our communities, we do have to choose where to give. But if we are trying to figure out what to give, then we might be asking the wrong question. When giving a portion of our belongings is incumbent upon us, we relinquish the control of choosing what might be best to give. This practice of tithing turns these gifts to those that need it from a charity practice into a community obligation. How do we shift the undercurrent of our practice of giving? How can we see ourselves as the shepherd who willingly gives of their flock?

— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

ANA BEKHOAH

Ana bekhoah gedulat yeminkha tatir tzerura

Kabel rinat amekha sagevenu taharenu nora

אָנָּה בְּכַח גְּדוּלַת יְמִינְךָ תִּתִּיר צְרוּרָה.

קַבֵּל רִנַּת עַמְּךָ, שֶׁגִּבְנוּ טַהֲרָנוּ נוֹרָא.

Please, with the power of Your great right hand free the bound.

Accept the song of Your people, empower us, make us pure, Awesome One!

TORAH PORTION

BEHUKKOTAI

Torah: Annual Leviticus 26:3 - 27:34

Triennial Leviticus 27:1 - 27:34

- 1: 27:1 - 27:4
- 2: 27:5 - 27:8
- 3: 27:9 - 27:15
- 4: 27:16 - 27:21
- 5: 27:22 - 27:25
- 6: 27:26 - 27:28
- 7: 27:29 - 27:34
- Maftir: 27:32-27:34

Haftarah Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14

NEXT WEEK: BEMIDBAR

Torah: Annual Numbers 1:1 - 4:20

Triennial Numbers 3:14 - 4:20

Haftarah Hosea 2:1 - 2:22

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.

