

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'naiJeshurun  
בני ישרון



September 2-9, 2016 • 29 Av-6 Elul, 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**
- **Family Life & Learning**
- **Community Events**
- **Tzedek & Hesed / Justice & Acts of Loving-Kindness**
- **Israel Programming**
- **High Holy Days 5777**

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

**HAZZAN:** Ari Priven

**SENIOR RABBINIC FELLOW:** Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

**BJ RABBINIC FELLOW:** Arielle Rosenberg

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# OUR COMMUNITY

## HA-MAKOM YENAHM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Nina Schanz, and we extend our sincere condolences to her daughter, Lydia Forster-Brock, her grandson, Matthew Brock, and their entire family.

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

- Dale and Gary Bernstein on the death of Dale's sister-in-law, Carey Schwartz-Brodsky.
- Stephen and Dede Kessler, and their daughter, Carla Kessler, on the death of Stephen's mother, Bess Kessler Simon.

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Zoe Apple, her parents, Alyssa and Gary Apple, and her sister, Dani Apple, on Zoe becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Harrison Q Jaffe and his parents, Lisa and Steven Jaffe, on Harrison becoming a Bar Mitzvah this past Thursday.
- Marcy Einhorn and Rebecca Chynsky on the birth of their grandson and nephew, James Donald Chynsky.

## 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 Morning Services: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!

Beginning **Saturday, September 10**, Shabbat morning services will start at 9:30AM at 86th Street. Children's services will start at 10:45AM at the 86th Street Chapel, Parlor, and 2nd Floor.



### WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

#### ● Community Composting Initiative at BJ

Join us in our first community compost drop off program. Collect your food scraps at home and bring them to 89th Street whenever the building is open. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/compost](http://www.bj.org/compost).

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

#### ● 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](mailto:rabbis@bj.org) or call us at 212-787-7600 x264.

**SAVE THE DATES!** Contact Billie at [bdistefano@bj.org](mailto:bdistefano@bj.org) for more information:

**MINDFULNESS RETREAT IN COSTA RICA, January 15-22, 2017**

*Registration open now at [www.bj.org/CR17](http://www.bj.org/CR17)*

**PRAYER RETREAT, March 19-22, 2017**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT, May 19-21, 2017**

**REACH FOR SHABBAT RETREAT, October 28-30, 2016**

For the complete BJ High Holy Days schedule of services, please see [www.bj.org/hhd](http://www.bj.org/hhd).

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | ROSH HODESH ELUL

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
- **Light Kiddush** Following Services – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Minḥa Service** 6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Bat Mitzvah** Zoe Apple

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | ROSH HODESH ELUL

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

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | Labor Day

*BJ Office closed*

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

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Judith Bernstein Lunch Program** 12:00 Noon – 88th St. Frankel Hall

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

## WHAT'S NEXT

### 👉 **Prepare for the Yamim Nora'im: Home-Hosted Heshbon Hanefesh**

Be a part of our preparations for the Yamim Nora'im and join us in our communal Heshbon Hanefesh ("accounting of the soul"). Check out [www.bj.org/prep](http://www.bj.org/prep) to sign up for one of the sessions.

### 👉 **Usher, Greet, and Volunteer at High Holy Days Services**

Got a great smile? Like making people feel good? Want to be part of the effort that sustains this community? Volunteer to usher, greet, or collect Kol Nidrei pledge cards. We need all hands on deck to make High Holy Days services warm, welcoming, and wonderful! Sign up at [www.bj.org/usher](http://www.bj.org/usher).

*continued on panel 3*

Watch your inbox throughout the month of Elul for the daily kavannah—reflections and intentions from BJ community members. This year, members are responding to the question, "When has Judaism helped you become...?"

becoming

## WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 2*

### ● **Tot Shabbat**

**Friday, September 9**, 5:15-7:00PM, 88th Street 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](http://www.bj.org/young-families).

### ● **Bim Bam**

**Fridays, September 9-December 16**, 9:15-10:00AM and 10:15-11:00AM, 89th Street Chapel: Registration is now open at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### ● **Bim Bam: Hebrew Immersion**

**Fridays, September 9-December 16**, 11:15AM-12:00PM, 89th Street Chapel: Registration is now open at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### ● **Beth Olam Cemetery Trip**

**Sunday, September 11**, 10:00AM-12:00PM, Beth Olam Cemetery, 2 Cypress Hills Street, Ridgewood (Queens), NY: Join us and our cemetery partners to receive a tour of the grounds, recite memorial prayers, learn about the history of this beautiful and historic cemetery, and take part in a special Geniza service. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### ● **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting**

**Monday, September 12**, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street Middle Room: Join us as we continue our work to support the Justice for Farmworkers campaign to ensure that laborers who produce the food we depend on in NY State can have the dignity and equality they deserve. For questions and to R.S.V.P., contact Lisa at [lzucker@nyc.rr.com](mailto:lzucker@nyc.rr.com).

### ● **The Wisdom Matrix: Norman Fischer and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein**

**Monday, September 12**, 7:00-8:30PM, The Rubin Museum of Art, 150 West 17th Street: Zen poet Norman Fischer and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein explore their respective wisdom traditions and compare notes about life, death, and the way we get from one to the other. Cost and registration information can be found at [rubinmuseum.org](http://rubinmuseum.org).

### ● **Shishi Israeli**

**Friday, September 16**, 6:00-9:00PM, 89th Street Community House: Shishi Israeli is where Israeli and American Jews create a shared experience around the Shabbat dinner table. Join Rabbi Matalon for a Hebrew Shabbat service, followed by a delicious dinner, activities for children, and a sing-along. Registration required at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### ● **Hitoreri, Hitoreri: Teen-Only Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner**

**Friday, September 16**, 7:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join the BJ teens and Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein for our teen-only Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### ● **Soulful Start: Hakhanah laTefillah—Preparing for Prayer**

**Saturdays, September 17; October 1, 15, 29; November 12, 26; December 10, 24**, 8:45-9:25AM, 86th Street 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.

### ● **Kulanu (formerly Junior Congregation)**

**Saturdays from September 17, 2016-May 27, 2017**, 10:20AM-12:00PM, 86th Street Social Hall: Join Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg, BJ rabbis, and a team of musicians in a family-friendly celebration of Shabbat with song, games, prayer, art, and open sharing. Geared toward kids in 3rd-6th grades and their entire families.

### ● **Intentional Communities: Changing the Face of Israel's Urban Periphery From Within**

**Saturday, September 17**, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street: Join Tamar Gil, Director of Development of Be'er Sheva based NGO "Tor Hamidbar," for a discussion about the role of mission-driven communities and social business initiatives, working within local populations, and changing the face of Israel's urban periphery.

*continued on panel 4*

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016-2017

[www.bj.org/renew](http://www.bj.org/renew)

Questions? Call Membership at 212-787-7600 x302

### WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

#### ● Tze'irim: 20s and 30s Cooking for the Shelter

**Sunday, September 18**, 11:30AM-1:30PM, 88th Street Kitchen: Join Tze'irim as we make dinner for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, September 13. Contact [ajfeinstein@gmail.com](mailto:ajfeinstein@gmail.com) for more information. A \$8-10 donation per person is strongly encouraged to cover the cost of dinner for the shelter guests.

#### ● Israeli Book Club Discusses *Esau* by Meir Shalev

**Sunday, September 18**, 5:00-6:30PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: The Israeli Book Club allows an intimate encounter with Israeli culture, society, and politics. Our next meeting will discuss *Esau* by one of Israel's most celebrated authors, Meir Shalev, who will be hosted at BJ on 11/13. Visit [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) to register.

#### ● Day of Mindfulness Walk

**Sunday, September 18**, 11:00AM-1:00PM, Little Stony Point, 3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring, NY: Join Rabbis Brent Chaim Spodek, Marcelo Bronstein, and Rachel Cowan for an experience of walking, meditating, singing, and praying in the majesty of the Hudson Valley as we prepare for Yamim Nora'im. Cost: \$40 per person. Please register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

#### ● Register for B'nai Jeshurun Hebrew School

**Monday, September 19-Thursdays, May 26, 2017**, 4:00-6:00PM, 89th Street Community House: Hebrew School starts soon! To learn more about our program, please go to [www.bj.org/hebrewschool](http://www.bj.org/hebrewschool).

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### WHAT'S LATER

#### ● Selihot: Preparing the Soul for the Yamim Nora'im

**Wednesdays, September 21, 28; October 5**, 7:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Led by Rabbi Roly Matalon and musician Dan Nadel, we will prepare for the upcoming sublime days of soul-searching and prayer through haunting melodies of ancient Jewish communities and modern Israeli poetry and song. 7:00PM for light refreshments; program begins at 7:30PM. Free of charge.

#### ● Kadima@BJ

**Thursday, September 22, 2016-Thursdays, May 25, 2017**, 4:00-6:00PM, 89th Community House: The Hebrew School's exciting new elective model starts this fall. To learn more, please visit [www.bj.org/learning/kadimabj](http://www.bj.org/learning/kadimabj).

#### ● Alice Shalvi to Deliver D'var Torah

**Saturday, September 24**, during Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Sanctuary: We are honored that Alice Shalvi, professor and advocate for women's rights in Israel, will deliver the D'var Torah at BJ.

#### ● Enter Yamim Nora'im Through the Gate of Selihot

**Saturday, September 24**, 8:45PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: We will begin with Havdallah, followed by a panel discussion on "Jewish Identity in Our Time." There will be a coffee break at 10:30PM, and the evening will conclude with the Selihot service at 11:00PM.

# A TASTE OF TORAH: RE'EH

The first verse of this week's parasha is one that makes a bold theological claim about the way we experience the world.

רָאֵה, אֲנֹכִי נֹתֵן לְפָנֶיכֶם-הַיּוֹם: בְּרָכָה, וּקְלָלָהּ.

See, I've placed before you today blessing and curse. —Deuteronomy 11:26

In reading this verse, we often think about the notion that blessing and curse are placed before us, and that we have the ability to choose between them. Indeed, this is a beautiful idea, and one that is particularly useful for this upcoming month of Elul as we prepare for the High Holy Days. This type of reality allows us to think about the role that perspective has in our lives: Do I choose to experience the things in my life as blessings or curses? Re'eh empowers us to take control over how we internalize the world.

The use of the word "Re'eh" is an interesting choice. We might expect to instead have a word about hearing blessings or curses instead of seeing them. Rabbi Shefa Gold asks us to consider what the use of this word, "See," might add to our understanding of the verse. She teaches that the imperative of this verse is not actually to choose but first to see. We have to be able to see clearly in order to discern between blessing and curse, in order to have that perspective.

Rabbi Gold teaches that "Re'eh" is a crucial element because we only have the freedom to choose blessing that is offered to us when our vision isn't obscured by false beliefs and by fear. Parashat Re'eh is the reminder that we can't really choose between blessing and curse if our eyes aren't open. But when they are, every moment allows for us to have that choice. The blessing is the result of opening our eyes enough to see God flowing through the world, yet when we close our eyes to the Divine, we let curse fall over us.

This is the work of Elul. Remove the clutter to return to ourselves and to God. This is the work of seeing clearly what is real. Gain clarity about our lives, because with hazy vision we can't really tell what might be a blessing and what might be a curse.

This week, we welcome in the month of Elul, and we will blow the shofar every morning as we make our way towards Rosh Hashanah. We often think of the shofar as a piercing call to action, a spiritual alarm clock to remind us of teshuvah, of turning inward, of repentance. My berakhah for all of us is that Parashat Re'eh serves as a reminder to gain clear vision. As we enter Elul this week, our work is to ask ourselves, "What do I need to be able to see more clearly?" As we begin to blow the shofar every day at morning minyan, I want to invite that blast of the shofar to help us clear away the clutter. Let's let the sound of the shofar help us fine-tune our vision. I want to shofar to remind me that in order to choose blessing, I have to first be able to see blessing.

— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

## TORAH PORTION

### RE'EH

ROSH HODESH ELUL

**Torah: Annual** Deuteronomy 11:26 v16:17

**Triennial** Deuteronomy 15:1 - 16:17

- 1: 15:1 - 15:6
- 2: 15:7 - 15:11
- 3: 15:12 - 15:18
- 4: 15:19 - 15:23
- 5: 16:1 - 16:8
- 6: 16:9 - 16:12
- 7: 16:13 - 16:17

Maftir: Numbers 28:9 - 28:15

**Haftarah** Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24, 66:23

NEXT WEEK: SHOFETIM

**Torah: Annual** Deuteronomy 16:8 - 21:9

**Triennial** Deuteronomy 19:14 - 21:9

**Haftarah** Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12

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. **Please join us to hear the shofar each morning during the month of Elul.** Visit [www.bj.org/minyan](http://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.



5

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

