

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'naiJeshurun
בני ישרון



September 16-23, 2016 • 13-20 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 FELLOWS: Arielle Rosenberg • Sarah Krinsky

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 Basil Blecher, and we extend our sincere condolences to his daughter, Maya Rackoff, Maya's mother, Paula Rackoff, and their entire family.

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

- Sy Zivan on the death of his wife, Karen Zivan.
- Andrew and Laura Chonoles, and their sons, Tyler and Oliver, on the death of Andrew's mother, Dorothy Chonoles.
- Leslie and Alan Pearson, and their children, Emily and Jacob, on the death of Leslie's mother, Sydell S. Sloan.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Isaiah Harris Sokolic, his parents, Sarah and Jeremy Sokolic, his brother, Coby Sokolic, and his sister, Arianna Sokolic, on Isaiah becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Ellen, Sam, Maddie, and Eliza Bender in honor of their father and grandfather Joe Friedman's 85th birthday, and their parents' and grandparents' Barbara and Joe Friedman's 60th wedding anniversary.

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, October 7**, Friday evening services will start at 6:30PM.



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.

SAVE THE DATES! Contact Billie at bdistefano@bj.org for more information:

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

Registration open now at 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.

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- ● **Shishi Israeli** 6:00 PM – 89th St. Reception Room
- ● **Hitoreri, Hitoreri: Teen-Only Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- ● **Kulanu (formerly Junior Congregation)** 10:20 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Intentional Communities: Changing the Face of Israel's Urban Periphery From Within** Following Services – 86th St. Chapel
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.
- **Storahtelling Minḥa** 5:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- Bar Mitzvah** Isaiah Sokolic

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- Day of Mindfulness Walk** Cancelled
- **Tze'irim: 20s and 30s Cooking for the Shelter** 11:30 AM – 88th St. Kitchen
Join Tze'irim as we make dinner for the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter. Contact afeinstein@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** 4:00 PM – 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 to register.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **First Day of BJ Hebrew School** 4:00 PM – 89th St.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- ● **High Holy Days Usher and Greeter Learning and Orientation Session** 6:30 PM – 89th St. 3rd Floor Gym

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- ● **Seliḥot: Preparing the Soul for the Yamim Nora'im** 7:00 PM – 89th St. 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. Future sessions: 9/28; 10/5.

continued on panel 3

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Judith Bernstein Lunch Program** 12:00 Noon – 88th St. Frankel Hall
- **First Day of Kadima@BJ** 4:00 PM – 89th St.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Bim Bam** 9:15 and 10:15 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Bim Bam: Hebrew Immersion** 11:15 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 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 Nidre 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.
- **Pre-Services Family Gathering & Oneg**
Friday, September 23, 5:00PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Connect with friends and meet new people, hear a Shabbat story, sing songs, then head to services where families can sit together in one area. R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org.
- **The Orchard: A Pre-Shabbat Gathering for 20s and 30s**
Friday, September 23, 5:30-7:00PM, 89th Community House Roof (6th Floor): Get Shabbat started early at the Orchard. We'll meet on BJ's roof before Kabbalat Shabbat for niggunim (wordless songs), good conversation, and time with friends old and new. Free for members and non-members. Contact Arielle at arosenberg@bj.org.
- **Alice Shalvi to Deliver D'var Torah**
Saturday, September 24, during Shabbat morning services, 86th 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. She was the founding chairwoman of the Israel Women's Network, served as president of The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and principal of Pelech, an experimental religious school for girls in Jerusalem.
- **Welcome (Back)! A Special Community Kiddush**
Saturday, September 24, following Shabbat morning services, 88th Street Sanctuary: Make your way to 88th street after services for a special community kiddush to welcome our new members and each other to a new year at BJ!

continued on panel 4

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



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016-2017

www.bj.org/renew

Questions? Call Membership at 212-787-7600 x302

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

- **Enter Yamim Nora'im Through the Gate of Selihot**
Saturday, September 24, 8:45PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: We will begin with Havdalah, 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.
- **Heshbon Hanefesh for BJ Members: Anti-Racism Trainings for White Jews**
Sunday, September 25, 11:00AM-1:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room **or Monday, September 26, 6:30-8:30PM**, 89th Street Middle Room: This session is intended to provide a space for white Jews to identify how race and racism show up within our community and how we internalize it, and to explore how trauma, passed down, informs us today. R.S.V.P. to lwohl@bj.org.
- **Heshbon Hanefesh for BJ Members: Anti-Racism Trainings for Jews of Color**
Sunday, September 25, 11:00AM-1:00PM, 89th Street Middle Room: This session will open space for JOCs to discuss candidly their experience of race within our community and explore the ways in which a refusal to acknowledge the realities of race in America may impinge on what it means to be fully Jewish. R.S.V.P. to lwohl@bj.org.
- **A Night of Remembrance: A High Holy Days Program for the Bereaved**
Monday, September 26, 6:30-8:00PM, 89th Chapel: Participate in a meaningful gathering, exploring ways to allow for grief while finding meaning and comfort in the themes of the High Holy Days. R.S.V.P. to Billie at x264.

WHAT'S LATER

- **Community Break-Fast**
Wednesday, October 12, following the Ne'ilah service, location provided upon R.S.V.P.: Join us at a delicious community break fast, generously sponsored by Helena Diamant Glass in cherished memory of her beloved parents, Regina Landwirth Diamant and Karl Diamant. Free for BJ members, \$10 for non-members. Details and R.S.V.P. at www.bj.org/breakfast.
- **Hebrew Ulpan Course**
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, November through early April, 7:00-9:00PM, 89th Streetl: This Hebrew course is designed to enable students to recognize the fundamental structure of Modern Hebrew and its basic forms, as well as to acquire the necessary vocabulary for everyday conversations, reading and writing. Register at www.bj.org/ulpan.

AḤAT SHA-ALTI

Aḥat sha-alti me-et Adonai otah avakesh

Shivti beveit Adonai kol yemei hayai

Lahazot beno'am Adonai ul'vaker beheikhalo

אחת שאלתי מאת-י אֹתָהּ אֲבַקֵּשׁ,

שִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית-יְיָ כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֵּי

לְחַזֹּת בְּנוֹעַם-יְיָ וּלְבַקֵּר בְּהִיכָלוֹ.

One thing I ask of Adonai, for this I yearn:
To dwell in God's House all the days of my life,
To behold God's beauty, to pray in God's sanctuary.

— Psalm 27

A TASTE OF TORAH: KI TETZE

כִּי תֵבֵא בְּכַרְם רֵעֶךָ, וְאָכַלְתָּ עֲנָבִים כַּנְּפֶשֶׁךָ שְׂבֻעָה; וְאֶל-כְּלִיךָ, לֹא תִתֵּן. כִּי תֵבֵא בְּקִמַּת רֵעֶךָ, וְקִטְפַתְּ מְלִילַת בִּידָךְ; וְחָרַמְשׁ לֹא תִגִּיף, עַל קִמַּת רֵעֶךָ.

When you enter another’s vineyard, you may eat as many grapes as you want, until you are full, but you must not put any in your vessel. When you enter another’s field of standing grain, you may pluck ears with your hand, but you must not put a sickle to your neighbor’s grain.

—Deuteronomy 23:25-26

When you enter another’s vineyard: The Torah is speaking of a worker [who enters their employer’s vineyard to work there]. —Rashi

These food laws could create a complicated relationship between owners of fields and those who enter them. Why should anyone who enters my vineyard be granted the right to eat my grapes? Our humash notes that fields and vineyards were laid out in such a way that people often had to pass through those belonging to others. It wasn’t considered trespassing. These laws enable one passing through to eat what they would eat as they pass. You couldn’t pocket any of it, but if you were hungry on the go and there was food in front of you, you were allowed to eat it. As we see from Rashi, later Jewish law restricts this practice to harvest workers, understanding that it could potentially ruin the livelihood of the owner if any passersby were allowed to take produce.

The Torah understands that workers in a field, particularly when it comes to food intake, shouldn’t feel like their access to food is significantly different from their owner’s. While often the socio-economic status of an owner is different than that of the individual who works in their field, the Torah does not want food intake to be an indicator of that difference. In fact, I think the Torah is asking us to ensure that everyone has access to food, regardless of their financial state.

Food, as our most basic element of sustenance, should be a right, not a privilege. Another way we can understand this is that the people we are in community with, that we relate to, should be able to eat nourishing food. From the Torah’s perspective, this was the worker in a field that I owned. But in my New York City life, we often don’t even know the people who are the “workers of our fields.” The people who check out our groceries, bring our mail, and clean our streets. Our modern version of this Torah verse includes the people that we come into contact with and are a part of the fabric that makes up this city, even if their lives look drastically different than ours. They won’t be entering our pantries and taking food off of our shelves, but we can help ensure that all New Yorkers have access to enough healthy food.

Our community has a long-standing relationship with WSCAH, West Side Campaign Against Hunger. We highlight this partnership over the Yamim Nora’im and particularly on Kol Nidre. WSCAH supports hungry New Yorkers, providing them with food but also giving them the tools to develop self-reliance. Partnering with WSCAH allows us to live out this mandate from the Torah: reduce the ways that food, and access to food, is a marker of status. Particularly during this period of Elul and self-reflection, we take stock in the ways that we act as a part of our broader community. We have the ability to affect hungry New Yorkers, and WSCAH gives us the important tzedakah opportunity to work towards a more satiated city.

— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

TORAH PORTION

KI TETZE

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19

Triennial Deuteronomy 24:14 - 25:19

1: 24:14 - 24:16

2: 24:17 - 24:19

3: 24:20 - 24:22

4: 25:1 - 25:4

5: 25:5 - 25:10

6: 25:11 - 25:16

7: 25:17 - 25:19

Maftir: 25:17 - 25:19

Haftarah Isaiah 54:1 - 55:5

NEXT WEEK: KI TAVO

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8

Triennial Deuteronomy 27:11 - 29:8

Haftarah Isaiah 60:1 - 60:22

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. **Please join us to hear the shofar each morning during the month of Elul. 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.

