

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



November 11-18, 2016 • 10-17 Heshvan, 5777

**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**

**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 YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Mary Katzin, and we extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Rabbi Charles Simon, and their entire family.

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

- Adena Greenberg and Shlomi Liran, and their children, Noam, Maya, Lynn, Ira, and Omri Liran; John Ruskay and Robin Bernstein; Ilana and Scott Ruskay-Kidd, and their children, Gabriella, Emma, and Daniel Ruskay-Kidd; Darone and Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay, and their children, Nachshon and Betzael Ruskay; and the Rabinor-Wetzler family, on the death of Adena's sister, Reena Keren.
- Daniel and Nadine Rothman, and their daughter, Julia Rothman, on the death of Daniel's father, Herbert Rothman.

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Julia Rothman and her parents, Daniel and Nadine Rothman, on Julia becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- April Stuart Klausner and Paul Klausner on being honored by the Stanton Street Shul.
- Matthew Etra Yoeli, Erin and Sofia Yoeli, Susan Etra and Michael Yoeli, Dahlia and Belle Etra Yoeli, on the birth of their son, brother, grandson and nephew, Jacob Patrick Yoeli.

## B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi Mario Rojzman and members, Beth Torah Benny Rok, Aventura, Florida.
- Kim Bodemer and 10th Grade Religious School Confirmation Class, Temple Chayai Shalom, South Easton, Massachusetts.
- Rabbi Joe Eiduson and 9th grade students, B'nai Shalom, Westboro, Massachusetts.
- **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 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).

**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)*

**YOUNG FAMILIES RETREAT, April 28-30, 2017**

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

**THE BJ CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AUCTION, March 1, 2017**

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.

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- **BJ/SPSA 25th Anniversary Weekend** Friday, November 11–Sunday, November 13  
Celebrate our partnership with SPSA throughout the weekend: Friday night dinner, services together, Sunday potluck, and racial justice conversation. Details and registration at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room  
Led by Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, Rabbi Rachel Cowan, Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg, and Karina Zilberman, this service involves meditation, reflection, deep listening, and personal engagement with the parashah.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **BJ/SPSA Anniversary Shabbat Dinner** Following Services – 89th St. Gym  
\$18 for BJ members. For more details and to register, visit [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- **Soulful Start: Shira Yoga: An Integrated Practice for Body and Soul** 9:00 AM – 86th St. Chapel  
Bring voice, breath, and body together in this session that combines asana yoga and piyut (Hebrew liturgical poetry). All levels welcome. Visit [www.bj.org/yoga](http://www.bj.org/yoga) for more details.
- **Hazak: Torah Chanting for 3rd-6th Graders** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- **Family Breakfast** 10:00 AM – 86th St. Parlor
- **Kulanu (3rd-6th Grades)** 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
- **PJs and Havdalah** 4:15 PM – 89th St.  
Families with children ages 5 and under are invited to kick back in pajamas and experience Havdalah through art, song, and story. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Chopped: Thank-Full Edition with Shoreshim** 5:15 PM – 89th St.  
Join Shoreshim, BJ's new 3rd-5th grade youth group, as it gears up for Thanksgiving with hadvalah, food, and friendly competition. Students will have a limited amount of time to complete a fun-filled cooking challenge. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Minḥa Service** 4:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Bat Mitzvah** Julia Rothman
- **Midnight Run** 8:00 PM – 89th St. and other UWS locations

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Escape the Room with Ilanot, BJ's 6th & 7th Grade Youth Group** 2:30 PM – Location TBA
- **Israeli Book Club Discusses *Two She-Bears* with Author Meir Shalev** 4:00 PM – Location given upon R.S.V.P.
- **BJ Hosts Renowned Israeli Author Meir Shalev** 5:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary  
BJ hosts acclaimed Israeli author Meir Shalev for the launch of his latest novel, *Two She-Bears*. Lecture followed by Q&A session and book signing. Register at [www.bj.org/shalev](http://www.bj.org/shalev).

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Parents' Corner** 5:00 PM – 89th St. 4th Floor Conference Room

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

## WHAT'S NEXT

- **From the Bible with Rabbi Hillel Friedman** 9:00 AM – 89th St. First Floor  
Join Rabbi Friedman, longtime member of the BJ community, for a weekly class that will study selections from our Biblical literature, with emphasis on the commentaries and their implications for our lives today. Members \$100/Non-members \$150. Through 5/23. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **"Soul Food" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol** 12:30 PM – 89th St. Middle Room  
Bring a bag lunch and/or open up your soul to the nourishment and challenge of Hassidic rabbis. Join Rabbi Felicia Sol as we imagine old world wisdom for everyday life. Upcoming classes: 11/22, 29; 12/6, 13, 20. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Immigrants and Refugees in America and New York: The Political and Moral Landscape Today** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Reception Room  
Hosted by the Micah Faith Table Immigration Committee in partnership with BJ's Refugee Committee, a panel of religiously diverse faith leaders will present a post-election overview and discuss NYC refugee initiatives. R.S.V.P. to [steinmandiane@gmail.com](mailto:steinmandiane@gmail.com).
- **Parenting in The Tragic Gap: From Anxiety to Authoritative Child-rearing** 7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary  
For parents of preschool and elementary school children. Led by Rabbi Felicia Sol and Dr. Ron Taffel. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Mindfulness Class: Tikkun HaNefesh with Rabbis Rachel Cowan and Marcelo Bronstein** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room  
Tikkun HaNefesh: a mindful approach to developing and strengthening some of the soul qualities most valued in Jewish tradition. Free of charge. Future sessions: 11/30; 12/7, 14, 21. Please register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Introduction to Judaism Class** 7:00 PM – 89th St.  
This course offers an overview of the core beliefs, practices, and history of Judaism and the Jewish people. No prior knowledge or experience necessary. Registration required at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org): individuals \$435/\$660; couples \$645/\$975.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- **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

- **High Holy Days Sermons 5777**  
The Rabbis collaborated on essential themes for the holidays, and each delivered their own unique and inspiring Divrei Torah over the course of the hagim. All of the Divrei Torah are now available at [www.bj.org/sermons](http://www.bj.org/sermons).
- **Family Shabbat Dinner: Special Invitation to K-2 Families**  
**Friday, November 18**, 5:30-6:30PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join us for a cozy Shabbat in pajamas! Enjoy a delicious Shabbat meal and connect with old and new friends before Kabbalat Shabbat services. K-2 families are welcome to join at no additional cost. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **From Jewish Renewal to Israeli-Judaism: What Has Changed Over 25 Years?**  
**Saturday, November 19**, following Shabbat morning services, 89th Street Chapel: BJ welcomes Michal Berman, director of Panim, an umbrella organization that works

*continued on panel 4*

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

to promote a pluralistic Israeli society. Join us as he shares the story of this growing movement and the challenges faced in breaking down denominational barriers.

### ● **Siah: A Monthly Minyan for Learners and Seekers**

**Every 3rd Saturday, November 19-May 20, 2017**, 9:30AM-12:00 noon, 89th Street Chapel: A monthly minyan for those looking to build confidence in Shabbat liturgy and deepen kavannah (prayerful intention). Join Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg at this musical, participatory service.

### ● **Global Day of Jewish Learning with Schechter Manhattan and Mechon Hadar**

**Sunday, November 20**, 9:45AM-3:30PM, Schechter Manhattan, 805 Columbus Avenue: BJ co-sponsors a one-day workshop in which members can engage in in-depth Torah learning with class offerings from over thirty teachers. Event is free and open to the public. Register at [www.mechonhadar.org/globalday](http://www.mechonhadar.org/globalday).

### ● **2016 Thousand Turkey Challenge Launch Party**

**Sunday, November 20**, 12:15-2:00PM, West Side Campaign Against Hunger, 86th Street: This challenge is an effort to provide low-income families at WSCAH with Thanksgiving food. Activities include a turkey drawing contest for kids and tours of the emergency food pantry. Refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. to [lwohl@bj.org](mailto:lwohl@bj.org) or x272.

### ● **Racial Justice Book Study: *The Colors of Jews***

**Monday, November 21**, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street Middle Room: Join us for a reading of Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz's book, which exposes and challenges the common assumptions surrounding Jewish identity. Facilitated by Rabbi Felicia Sol. BJ members only. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

### ● **Group Tickets for "The Band's Visit" Musical**

**Sunday, November 27**, 7:00PM, Linda Gross Theater, 336 W. 20th Street: The all-time favorite Israeli film, "The Band's Visit," is now a musical at the Atlantic Theater Company, and BJ members enjoy discounted group tickets (\$50) for the evening show. Register now at [www.bj.org/thebandsvisit](http://www.bj.org/thebandsvisit).

### ● **Sex in the Holy Land: A Look at Sex Ed and Reproductive Rights in Contemporary Israel**

**Monday, November 28**, 7:30PM, location given upon registration: BJ welcomes Alexandra Berger-Polsky, Director of Lada'at—Choose Well, a Jerusalem-based organization working to promote healthy sexuality and reproductive rights. Berger-Polsky will present the current issues surrounding reproductive rights and sex ed in Israel.

### ● **Bikkur Holim Gathering: Building Our Community and Strengthening Our Skills**

**Tuesday, November 29**, 6:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Current and prospective Bikkur Holim volunteers are invited to schmooze and learn. Our training will be focused on setting boundaries. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) or contact Billie at [bdistefano@bj.org](mailto:bdistefano@bj.org).

### ● **B'nai Mitzvah Parent Orientation Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 29**, 6:30PM, 89th Street Middle Room: Parents of children in 4th grade, or whose birth dates fall between September 2006 and December 2007, are invited to an informational meeting detailing the B'nai Mitzvah planning process, including date applications. For more information, contact Davia at [drabinoff@bj.org](mailto:drabinoff@bj.org)

### ● **"In the Mirror" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roly Matalon**

**Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15; January 5, 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16**, 12:30-1:30PM, location provided upon registration: Free of charge. Class is full; contact Beth at [btarson@bj.org](mailto:btarson@bj.org) to be added to the waiting list.

### ● **The Impact of the Election Results on Israel's Security**

**Thursday, December 1**, 7:30-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Join Jane Eisner (*The Forward*), Jeremy Ben Ami (J Street), and Dr. Michael Makovsky (JINSA) for a discussion about the impact of the presidential elections on Israel's security, relations with the U.S., and the future of the peace process. Free for BJ members, suggested \$5 donation. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: LEKH LEKHA

וַיֹּצֵא אֹתוֹ הַחוּצָה, וַיֹּאמֶר הִבֵּט-נָא הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וּסְפֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים--אִם-תּוּכַל, לְסַפֵּר אֹתָם; וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ, כֹּה יִהְיֶה זְרַעֲךָ.

God took Avram outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And God added, "So shall your offspring be." —Genesis 9:13

At the outset, this promise from God is in relationship with the worries about Jewish continuity. When we look at this blessing as an issue of numbers, it brings out all kinds of anxieties in us: Will our community have enough people to sustain itself? Who will we count? Will this promise be true?

The Sefat Emet offers another way to see this promise. He teaches that "God's promise is not quantitative but qualitative: to be a Jew is, like a star, to bring light to places of vast darkness. Thus, even — and perhaps especially — when Israel descends into the darkness of Egypt, its mission is clear—to light up the darkness of the most depraved and immoral parts of the world." (Sefat Emet on Shemot, 1878, from Rabbi Shai Held) This teaching is then not about how many of us there are, but what our essence is. Our promise of being like a star, our destiny, will be fulfilled not when we are fruitful and multiply, but when we bring sparks of light, sparks of hope, love, to the world's darkest corners. When we embody what it means to be a star in the world, we live out the promise from God to Avram. It might be hard with the skyline of New York City, but next time we're outside, let's look up towards the stars and, like Avram, see something special, something divine. May we see a promise of light, and may we see a reminder of who we are meant to be in this world. And may we see a call to truly be like the stars — to be those destined descendants of Avram who can help shed light on the darkness of our world.

— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz and Rabbinic Fellow Sarah Krinsky

## WHAT'S LATER *continued from panel 4*

### ● The 10th Annual Other Israel Film Festival

**Thursday, December 1-Thursday, December 8**, JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave: BJ is a proud partner of JCC Manhattan in presenting some of the most thought-provoking Israeli films. Enjoy discounted tickets for the following feature films: *Between Worlds*, *Beyond the Mountains and the Hills*, and *Sand Storm* using code BNAI.

### ● Special Needs Havdalah Service

**Saturday, December 3**, 4:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Everyone is welcome. Registration not required.

### ● BJ Prayer Retreat with Rabbi Roly Matalon

**Sunday, March 19- Wednesday, March 22, 2017**, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center: Spend four days engaging in prayer practice, study, reflection, group discussion and song, so you may acquire a deeper understanding of prayer and prayer services and the confidence to engage in a more vibrant prayer life. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

## TORAH PORTION

### LEKH LEKHA

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 12:1 - 17:27
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 12:1 - 13:18
1:	12:1 - 12:3
2:	12:4 - 12:9
3:	12:10 - 12:13
4:	12:14 - 12:20
5:	13:1 - 13:4
6:	13:5 - 13:11
7:	13:12 - 13:18
Maftir:	13:16 - 13:18
<b>Haftarah</b>	Isaiah 40:27 - 41:16

### NEXT WEEK: VAYERA

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 18:1 - 22:24
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 18:1 - 18:33
<b>Haftarah</b>	II Kings 4:1 - 4:23

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](http://www.bj.org/minyan)**.

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**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.

