

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week


B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



November 25-December 2, 2016 • 24 Heshvan-2 Kislev, 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**
-  **Hanukkah 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 YENAH<sup>EM</sup> / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Dinnah Pladott and we extend our sincere condolences to her entire family.

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

- Michael Feinberg on the death of his mother, Francine Feinberg.
- Ted Becker and Christine Lin, Eli Becker, and their entire family on the death of Ted's father, Paul D. Becker.
- Drew Kopf and Andrea Bigelisen-Kopf on the death of Drew's mother, Shirley Kopf.

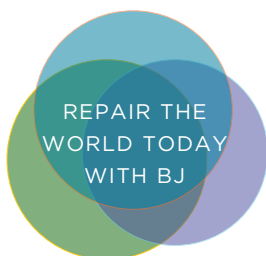
### MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Jonah Holden, his parents, Alison and Josh Holden, his brother, Tate Holden, and his sister, Eden Holden, on Jonah becoming a Bar 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.



#### 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:

YOUNG FAMILIES RETREAT, April 28-30, 2017

WOMEN'S RETREAT, May 19-21, 2017

THE BJ CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AUCTION, March 1, 2017

## ANI YESHENA

Ani yeshena velibi er kol dodi dofek pithi li אָנִי יֵשֶׁנָה וְלִבִּי עֵר קוֹל אֲדוּדֵי דוֹפֵק פִּתְחֵי־לִי  
Ahoti, ra'yati, yonati, tamati אַחֲתִי רַעֲיָתִי יוֹנָתִי תַמְתִּי  
Sheroshi nimla-tal kevutzotai resisei laila. שְׂרָאֲשִׁי נִמְלֵא־טָל קִנְצוֹתַי רְסִיסֵי לַיְלָה.

I sleep, but my heart is awake; My beloved knocks: "Open to me!"  
My sister, my love, my dove, my pure one;  
For my head is filled with dew; My locks with the drops of the night.  
— Song of Songs 5:2

## ANA BEKHOAH

Ana bekhoah gedulat yeminkha tatir tzerura אָנָּה בְּכַח גְּדֻלַת יְמִינְךָ תַתִּיר צְרוּרָה.  
Kabel rinat amekha sagevenu taharenu nora קַבֵּל רִנַּת עַמְּךָ, שְׁגִבְנוּ טַהֲרֵנוּ 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!

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

BJ Office closed

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- **Family Breakfast** 10:00 AM – 86th St. Parlor
- **Kulanu (3rd-6th Grades)** Cancelled this week
- **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 86th St. Chapel and Parlor
- **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Minḥa Service** 4:15 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- Bar Mitzvah** Jonah Holden
- **College Student Gathering** 5:45 PM – Location given upon registration  
In light of the recent election results, BJ invites all college students to a special gathering with Rabbis Felicia Sol and Roly Matalon. We will catch up over pizza and Havdalah, discuss the results of the election, and reflect upon the best ways of moving forward.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Aging in NY Hevra Meeting** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
- **Sex in the Holy Land:  
A Look at Sex Ed and Reproductive Rights  
in Contemporary Israel** 7:30 PM – 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.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **From the Bible with Rabbi Hillel Friedman** 9:00 AM – 89th St. First Floor  
Join Rabbi Friedman, long time 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 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: 11/29; 12/6, 13, 20. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Bikkur Holim Gathering: Building Our  
Community and Strengthening Our Skills** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room  
Current and prospective volunteers are invited to learn with Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, CSW. Our training will be focused on setting boundaries. Light snacks will be provided. 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** 6:30 PM – 89th St. 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).

## WHAT'S NEXT

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- **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, 1/4. Please register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Introduction to Judaism Class** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Room 408  
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, DECEMBER 1 | ROSH HODESH KISLEV

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **“In the Mirror” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roly Matalon** 12:30 PM – Location given upon registration  
Class is full; contact Beth at [btarson@bj.org](mailto:btarson@bj.org) to be added to the waiting list. Upcoming classes: 12/8, 15; 1/5, 12, 18, 26; 2/2, 9, 16, 23; 3/2, 9, 16.
- **The Impact of the Election Results on Israel's Security** 7:30 PM – 88th St. 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, Israel's 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).
- **The 10th Annual Other Israel Film Festival** Through 12/8 – JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave.  
BJ is a proud partner of JCC Manhattan in presenting some of the most thought-provoking Israeli productions. Enjoy discounted tickets for the following feature films: *Between Worlds*, *Beyond the Mountains and the Hills*, and *Sand Storm* using code BNAI.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

- **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).
- **Tot Shabbat**  
**Friday, December 2**, 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).
- **Bo-i Kallah: A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service**  
**Friday, December 2**, 6:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and Dan Nadel for an alternative Kabbalat Shabbat. With soulful melodies, verses of Shir haShirim (Song of Songs), liturgical poems, and Psalms, we will transition gently and with full kavannah—leaving the work-week consciousness, welcoming Shabbat.
- **Creating a Caring Community: Hesed at BJ**  
**Saturday, December 3**, during Shabbat morning services and Kiddush, 86th Street: We will hear from leadership of various Hesed groups at BJ, including Bikkur Holim (caring for the sick), Hevra Kadisha (caring for mourners), and others. Learn how you can ask for help from your fellow BJ members and how to volunteer.

*continued on panel 4*

● **Special Needs Havdalah Service**

**Saturday, December 3**, 4:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Join Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein and Hazzan Ari Priven for an interactive and inviting musical Havdalah service. This will be an accessible experience, sensitive to children and young adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. Everyone is welcome. Registration not required.

● **The Lion Who Loved Strawberries**

**Sunday, December 4**, 10:30AM-12:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Don't miss this interactive, musical performance of the popular Israeli children's book, *The Lion Who Loved Strawberries*. Children ages 3-9 take part in the story through engaging musical activities and participate in a musical instrument petting zoo. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

● **Men's Havurah Study Group**

**Sunday, December 4**, 10:00AM-1:00PM, location TBD: Join the BJ Men's Havurah for a group study session in preparation for the upcoming Shalom Hartman lecture. Members will review pre-reading and pre-watching materials, discuss key ideas, and chat over brunch. For more information, contact [lee.rimsky@gmail.com](mailto:lee.rimsky@gmail.com).

● ● **BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Book Study: *Just Mercy***

**Monday, December 5**, 7:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Join us for the first of two sessions as we dive into Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, "a powerful true story...and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice." Sign up at [www.bj.org/justmercy](http://www.bj.org/justmercy).

● **Caring for Others, Caring for Ourselves: A Gathering for Caregivers**

**Thursday, December 8**, 6:00 PM, 88th Street Frankel Hall: Join fellow BJ members as we build community and learn practical advice from each other. For direct in-home caregivers for a loved one, or for those who manage care from a distance. Cosponsored by Bikkur Holim and the Aging Hevra. Register at [www.bj.org/caregiver](http://www.bj.org/caregiver).

● **Making Sense of Israeli Politics: A Guide For the Perplexed**

**Thursdays, December 8-March 15**, 7:00-8:15PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: In this 8-session course taught by BJ member Prof. Bryan Daves, we explore the ideological and institutional foundations of the Israeli political system and some of the key issues in Israeli politics. Register at [www.bj.org/politics](http://www.bj.org/politics).

● **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

**Friday, December 9**, 6:30PM, 89th Street Gym: 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. PContact Beth at [btarson@bj.org](mailto:btarson@bj.org) with any questions.

● **Israel, Ecology, and Interreligious Cooperation**

**Saturday, December 10**, following Shabbat morning services, 89th Street Chapel: Environmental challenges transcend religious affiliations and serve as an arena of joint concern among diverse groups. Rabbi Yonatan Neril, Executive Director of The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, will discuss sustainability as a vessel for interfaith work in Israel.

●  **Maccabi-Gaga: A Hanukkah Extravaganza**

**Sunday, December 11**, 3:00-5:00PM, 89th Street Gym: Shorashim invites 3rd-5th graders to an epic Gaga tournament! Kids can enjoy this high-energy, dodgeball-like game or cheer their friends while making their own Hanukkah-themed crafts. Shorashim members, email [mgeisler@bj.org](mailto:mgeisler@bj.org); non-Shorashim members, register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

● **Upcoming Refugee Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 13**, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Through a partnership with HIAS and emerging relationships with other organizations, we are educating our community about the refugee crisis and developing opportunities to volunteer, advocate, and raise our Jewish voice. Get involved in this important work. R.S.V.P.: [cheiten8644@gmail.com](mailto:cheiten8644@gmail.com).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: HAYEI SARAH

וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-רִבְקָה אֶת־חֹתָנָהּ, וְאֶת-מִנְקֵתָהּ, וְאֶת-עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם, וְאֶת-אֲנָשָׁיו וַיִּבְרְכוּ אֶת-רִבְקָה, וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ--אֶחָתָנּוּ, אַתְּ הִי לְאֲלֹפֵי רִבְבָה; וַיִּירֶשׁ זָרְעָךְ, אֶת שַׁעַר שְׂנְאָיו.

So they sent off their sister Rivkah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rivkah and said to her, “O sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads; May your offspring seize the gates of their foes.” — Genesis 24:59-60

Rivkah, the second of our four matriarchs, is betrothed to Yitzhak in this week’s parashah. Before she leaves with Avraham’s servant to marry Yitzhak, her brother and mother give her the blessing above. She is blessed with a future of many descendents, descendents who will “seize the gates of their foes.” This seems like bizarre parting words as she begins her marital journey. These words might sound familiar, and Rashi notes that the blessing is nearly identical to the one offered to Avraham at the end of last week’s parashah, following Akedat Yitzhak (Bereshit 22:17). There, Avraham was told that his descendents would be like the stars in the sky and the sand on the shores, and similar, that his offspring would seize the gates of their foes. What might this military focused blessing mean about us, the descendents of Rivkah and Avraham? Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch views this blessing not as a military victory, but as an intellectual one. He reads “gates” as the public places where people would gather to discuss important ideas. Both Avraham and Rivkah are given the blessing that their ideas will prevail. But perhaps there is indeed something militaristic about this berakah. Part of our destiny is about fighting for our ideas, about holding on dearly to the notions we know to be true, right, and just. The berakhah to them, and therefore to us, as their descendents, is to have conviction in our ideals. We can’t just know what we believe, we have to stand up for those truths. — Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

## WHAT’S NEXT *continued from panel 4*

### ● Jewish Identity, Community, and Belonging: Shalom Hartman Lecture with Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer (Rescheduled)

**Wednesday, December 14,** 6:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: What does it mean to be Jewish in the 21st century? Dr. Kurtzer addresses these questions at the upcoming Hartman lecture (rescheduled from 11/9). Those who registered for 11/9 will be automatically re-registered for this lecture. New registrations at [www.bj.org/hartmanlectures](http://www.bj.org/hartmanlectures).

### ● Give the Gift of Life at the BJ Blood Drive

**Wednesday, December 21,** 3:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: To sign up, contact Larissa at [lwohl@bj.org](mailto:lwohl@bj.org) x272.

### ● 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, 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

### HAYEI SARAH

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 23:1 - 25:18
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 23:1 - 24:9
1:	23:1 - 23:4
2:	23:5 - 23:7
3:	23:8 - 23:12
4:	23:13 - 23:16
5:	23:17 - 23:20
6:	24:1 - 24:4
7:	24:5 - 24:9
Maftir:	24:5 - 24:9
<b>Haftarah</b>	I Kings 1:1 - 1:31

### NEXT WEEK: TOLEDOT

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 25:19 - 28:9
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 25:19 - 26:22
<b>Haftarah</b>	Malachi 1:1 - 2:7

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).**

♻️ 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.

