

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון


The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון

December 2-9, 2016 • 2-9 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

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

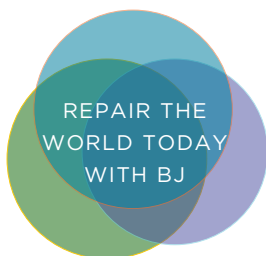
- Peter Geffen and Susie Kessler on the wedding of their daughter, Nessa Geffen, to Micah Bookman.
- Steven Morey Greenberg, on being the guest of honor at the Bnos Menachem Annual Gala Dinner.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Peter Geffen and Susie Kessler, in honor of the aufruf of Nessa Geffen and Micah Bookman.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi Marcelo Rittner and members, Bet-El Synagogue, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Rabbi Neil Hirsch and synagogue youth group, Hevreh, Great Barrington, Massachusetts.
- Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran and 11th and 12th graders, Rockdale Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **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.

SAVE THE DATES! Contact Billie at 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 | דודי דופק פתחילי
 Ahoti, ra'yati, yonati, tamati | אחתי רעיתי יונתי תמתי
 Sheroshi nimla-tal kevutzotai resisei laila. | שראשי נמלא־טל קנצותי רסיסי לילה.

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 | אנא בכת גדלת ימינד תתיר צרוּחָה.
 Kabel rinat amekha sagevenu taharenu nora | קבל רנת עמך, שגבנו טהרנו נורא.

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, DECEMBER 2

- **The 10th Annual Other Israel Film Festival** Through 12/8 – JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave.

- **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.

- **Bo-i Kallah: A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 89th St. 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.

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

- **Soulful Start: Hakhanah laTefillah—Preparing for Prayer** 8:45 AM – 86th St. 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. Next session: 12/17.

- **Creating a Caring Community: Hased at BJ** During Shabbat morning services and Kiddush – 86th St.
We will hear from leadership of various Hased 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.

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
Aliyat Hatan veKallah Micah Bookman and Nessa Geffen

- ● **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

- ● **Hased Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall

- **Special Needs Havdalah** 4:30 PM – 89th St. 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

- **The Lion Who Loved Strawberries** 10:30 AM – 88th St. 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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

- ● **BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Book Study: Just Mercy** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Reception Room
Join us 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.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- **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.

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- **"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: 12/6, 13, 20. Register at www.bj.org.
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- **Open Rehearsals of Shabbat Music** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Join us for a monthly open rehearsal with music director Dan Nadel, Hazzan Ari Priven, and the rabbis to sing, learn new melodies, and delve deeper into prayer and music. Future open rehearsals: 1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2.
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

- **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: 12/14, 21, 1/4. Please register at www.bj.org.
 - **Introduction to Judaism Class (registration closed)** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Room 408
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

- **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 to be added to the waiting list. Upcoming classes: 12/15; 1/5, 12, 18, 26; 2/2, 9, 16, 23; 3/2, 9, 16.
 - **Caring for Others, Caring for Ourselves: A Gathering for Caregivers** 6:00 PM – 88th St. 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.
 - **Making Sense of Israeli Politics: A Guide For the Perplexed** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
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.
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **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
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WHAT'S NEXT

- **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. Contact Beth at btarson@bj.org with any questions.
- **Tze'irim 20s and 30s Shabbatluck Dinner**
Friday, December 9, 7:45PM, 89th Street: Make new friends and eat good food! Join fellow BJ members in their 20s/30s for a potluck Shabbat dinner after Kabbalat Shabbat services. Visit www.bj.org/shabbatluck or contact Rabbi Sarit Horwitz at shorwitz@bj.org to sign up.
- **Soulful Start: Shira Yoga—An Integrated Practice for Body and Soul**
Saturday, December 10, 9:00AM, 86th Street Chapel: Bring voice, breath, and body together in a session that combines asana yoga and piyut (Hebrew liturgical poetry). All levels welcome. Visit www.bj.org/yoga for more details.

● **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; non-Shorashim members, register at 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.

● **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.

●  **Songs of Sacred Time with Arielle Rosenberg and Dan Nadel**

Wednesday, December 14, 8:00PM, JCC Manhattan, 76th St. and Amsterdam Ave.: Celebrate the Festival of Lights with New York's most passionate voices and instrumentalists. Under the exceptional musical directorship of Dan Nadel, we will be treated to a diverse repertoire from both Sephardic and Ashkenazi traditions to illuminate the night. Register at www.bj.org/sacredtime.

●  **Family Hanukkah Celebration**

Saturday, December 17, 4:00-5:15PM, 89th Street: Celebrate Hanukkah in your pajamas! Enjoy programs for kids in 2nd grade and below. We will come together for crafts, stories, and a musical Havdalah ceremony. Please bring a new toy or book which we will wrap and donate to children in need.

●  **An Evening With The Epichorus**

Sunday, December 18, 5:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary.: Usher in Hanukkah with this festive pre-holiday concert featuring the music of Middle Eastern tradition, blended with new songs based in ancient sounds. Free for BJ members, \$18/\$20 for non-members. Register at www.bj.org.

●  **Lights in the Darkness: A Hanukkah Program for the Bereaved**

Monday, December 19, 6:30-8:00PM, 89th Street Chapel: After a loved one dies, holidays can bring to the surface painful reminders of the loss. Participate in a meaningful discussion about how to allow for grief, while still finding meaning and comfort in the themes of Hanukkah. Cosponsored by BJ and The Jewish Board's Partners in Caring and Shira Ruskay Centers.

● **Webinar Follow-up to "Jewish Identity and Intermarriage: What's at Stake?" Lecture**

Wednesday, December 21, 12:00 noon, online: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon's live interactive webinar as we explore and unfold the ideas raised in Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer's December 14 "Jewish Identity, Belonging, and Community" lecture.

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

Wednesday, December 21, 3:00-9:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Twice a year, we have the opportunity to provide this very important service to the community. To sign up, email Larissa at lwohl@bj.org, or call x272 with your preferred time slot and with any questions.

A TASTE OF TORAH: TOLEDOT

וַיֶּאֱהָב יִצְחָק אֶת-עֵשָׂו, כִּי-צִיד בָּפִיו; וְרִבְקָה, אֶהָבֵת אֶת-יַעֲקֹב.

And Yitzhak loved Esav, because he brought him venison to eat, and Rivkah loved Ya'akov.

— Genesis 25:28

Yitzhak's love was a love dependent on an external factor, "because he brought him venison to eat." Of such a love, we are told, once the external factor disappears, the love disappears as well. It therefore stated that Yitzhak loved Esav, vaye'ehav, in the past tense. Rivkah, on the other hand, loved Ya'akov without any external factor being the cause of her love. Such a love remains forever. Thus here the Torah uses the form ohevet, which is in the present, continuous tense, to signify that Rivkah's love for Ya'akov was an eternal one.

—The Shelah, R' Isaiah Horowitz

While we know that Ya'akov tricked his brother and father into receiving the birthright blessing, commentators choose to read the text selectively to defend his integrity. One way they do this is by characterizing the love that Rivkah had for him as entirely pure. This type of love, which the Shelah focuses is on, is not dependent on any external factors; it's a love of pure giving. This framework pushes me to think about the ways that we as a community express our love. What does it mean to love purely in the context of community? This is the love that motivates us to do acts of Hesed. Rabbi Shai Held defines Hesed as "love manifested as kindness;" it is the love we give to others that's not about what we might get in return or what we owe someone. It's the giving of love because we are connected as human beings, because we're in community. This Shabbat, we are celebrating the love we offer in the form of Hesed. We are taking a deep dive into what it means to give, but also what it means to open ourselves up to receive. It's an opportunity for each of us to ask ourselves how we can love and be loved a little more deeply.

— Rabbi Sarit Horowitz

WHAT'S LATER *continued from panel 4*

- 🕯️ **Open House for Hag HaBanut-Hanukkah and Rosh Hodesh Tevet for BJ Women**
Thursday, December 29, 6:00-8:00PM, location provided upon R.S.V.P.: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for candle-lighting and a potluck dairy/vegetarian dinner at her home. We will eat, bring in the light with study, and come together to light the Hanukkiyah. Open to BJ women members. R.S.V.P. to Beth at btarson@bj.org.
- 🕯️ **BJ Prayer Retreat with Rabbi Roly Matalon**
Sunday, March 19- Wednesday, March 22, 2017, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center: Register at www.bj.org.

TORAH PORTION

TOLEDOT

Torah: Annual	Genesis 25:19 - 28:9
Triennial	Genesis 25:19 - 26:22
1:	25:19 - 25:22
2:	25:23 - 25:26
3:	25:27 - 25:34
4:	26:1 - 26:5
5:	26:6 - 26:12
6:	26:13 - 26:16
7:	26:17 - 26:22
Maftir:	26:19 - 26:22
Haftarah	Malachi 1:1 - 2:7

NEXT WEEK: VAYETZE

Torah: Annual	Genesis 28:10 - 32:3
Triennial	Genesis 28:10 - 30:13
Haftarah	Hosea 12:13 - 14:10

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.



Visit us at www.bj.org

