

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



December 9-16, 2016 • 9-16 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 YENAHM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Charles Honig, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Janice Honig, their daughter and son-in-law, Lisa Honig Buksbaum and Jacob Buksbaum, their grandchildren, Jonathan and Joshua Buksbaum, and their entire family.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Florence Keller, her children, Carol Keller and Ron Keller, her grandchildren, Natalie Lebovits-Zaidenberg, Or Zaidenberg, and Kenneth Lebovits, and their entire family on the death of Florence's brother, Aaron Glick.

### MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Jacob Kogan Hiser and his parents, Ruth Kogan and John Hiser, on Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Myriam Abramowicz on being honored by the Anti-Defamation League /Hidden Child Foundation for having creating the Hidden Child movement 25 years ago.

### TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by:

- Ruth Kogan and John Hiser in honor of Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Sandee Brawarsky and Barry Lichtenberg in celebration of their 10th 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.



### 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 [bdstefano@bj.org](mailto:bdstefano@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

---

## MA NORA

**Ma nora, hamakom hazeh.**

**מה-נורא המקום הזה.**

How awesome is this place!

— Lyrics Genesis 28:17 • Music Rabbi Shefa Gold

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 89th St. 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.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Tze'irim 20s and 30s Shabbatluck Dinner** 7:45 PM – 89th St. Middle Room  
Make new friends and eat good food! Join fellow 20s/30s BJ members for a potluck Shabbat dinner. Visit [www.bj.org/shabbatluck](http://www.bj.org/shabbatluck) or contact Rabbi Sarit Horwitz at [shorwitz@bj.org](mailto:shorwitz@bj.org) to sign up.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

- **Soulful Start: Shira Yoga: An Integrated Practice for Body and Soul** 9:00 AM – 86th St. 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](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  
**Bar Mitzvah** Jacob Kogan Hiser
- **Family Breakfast** 10:00 AM – 86th St. Parlor
- **Kulanu Kids (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
- **Israel, Ecology, and Interreligious Cooperation** Following Kiddush – 86th St. 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.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Maccabi-Gaga: A Hanukkah Extravaganza** 3:00 PM – 89th St. 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 [mgeistler@bj.org](mailto:mgeistler@bj.org); non-Shorashim members, register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **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. Next class: 12/ 20. Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Refugee Committee Meeting** 6:30 PM – 89h St. 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).

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Jewish Identity, Community, and Belonging: Shalom Hartman Lecture with Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer (Rescheduled)** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary




### Jewish Identity, Belonging, and Community in the 21st Century

What does it mean to be Jewish in the 21st century? Dr. Kurtzer addresses this question and more 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).

- **Mindfulness Class: Tikkun HaNefesh with Rabbis Rachel Cowan and Marcelo Bronstein** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary\*

**\*PLEASE NOTE: Tonight's class will join the Hartman Lecture in the 88th St. Sanctuary.** Tikkun HaNefesh: a mindful approach to developing and strengthening some of the soul qualities most valued in Jewish tradition. Free of charge. Future sessions: 12/21, 1/4. Please register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

- **Introduction to Judaism Class (registration closed)** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Room 408

-  **Songs of Sacred Time with Arielle Rosenberg and Dan Nadel** 8:00 PM – 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](http://www.bj.org/sacredtime).

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15





- **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: 1/5, 12, 18, 26; 2/2, 9, 16, 23; 3/2, 9, 16.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- **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

- **Siah: A Monthly Minyan for Learners and Seekers**  
**Saturday, December 17 (every 3rd Saturday of the month through May 20, 2017), 9:30AM-12:00 noon, 89th Street Chapel:** BJ introduces a new monthly Shabbat service led by Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg. This intimate, conversation-based service is geared towards those who are exploring Jewish prayer for the first time or who hope to build confidence in their Hebrew language and prayer skills.
-  **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.

-  **Volunteers Needed: Visit a Community Member for Hanukkah**  
Brighten the holiday season for an elderly or homebound community member by joining them in their home to light Hanukkah candles. Hanukkiyah and candles will be provided. Register by December 18 at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org) or contact [shorwitz@bj.org](mailto:shorwitz@bj.org).
- **Men's Havurah Study Group**  
**Sunday, December 18**, 10:30AM-12:00 noon, Kirsch's Bakery and Kitchen, 551 Amsterdam Avenue: After morning minyan, the BJ Men's Havurah will walk over to Kirsch's Bakery for a group study session on the JIBC Shalom Hartman lectures. Members will read supplementary lecture materials, discuss key ideas, and chat over brunch. R.S.V.P. to Lee Rimsky at [lee.rimsky@gmail.com](mailto:lee.rimsky@gmail.com).
-  **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](http://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 Rusky 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](mailto:lwohl@bj.org), or call x272 with your preferred time slot and with any questions.
-  **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](mailto:btarson@bj.org).

---

## WHAT'S LATER

- **Bim Bam and Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion**  
**Fridays, January 6-May 19**, 9:15-10:00AM, 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15-12:00PM, 89th Street Chapel: Children ages 3 and under explore Shabbat through song and story while learning traditions such as lighting candles, saying Kiddush, and giving tzedakah. Registration is available for both standard and Hebrew immersion classes at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).
- **Save the Date: BJ Joins the Women's March on Washington and Women's March on NYC**  
**Saturday, January 21**, varying times and locations: Join other BJ members in either D.C. or NYC to participate in these historic marches. Find out more at [www.bj.org/march](http://www.bj.org/march).
- **BJ Prayer Retreat with Rabbi Roly Matalon**  
**Sunday, March 19- Wednesday, March 22, 2017**, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center: Register at [www.bj.org](http://www.bj.org).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYETZE

וַיִּקָּץ יַעֲקֹב, מִשְׁנָתוֹ, וַיֹּאמֶר, אֲכֹן יֵשׁ ה' בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה; וְאֲנֹכִי, לֹא יָדַעְתִּי.  
וַיִּירָא, וַיֹּאמֶר, מַה-נּוֹרָא, הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה: אֵין זֶה, כִּי אִם-בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים,  
זֶה, שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם.

Ya'akov woke up from his sleep and he said, "Surely, Adonai is in this place, and I did not know it. And he was frightened, and he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."  
— Genesis 28:16-17

Surely Adonai is in this place, and I did not know it...If indeed God is in this place and the Divine Presence is here, it is because "I" knew not—because I belittled myself, not having a tinge of egoism, but did whatever I did purely for God.  
—Tiferet Shlomo (19th c. Poland)

Ya'akov fled his family in Be'er Sheva and went towards Haran because he feared that Esav would kill him after stealing the birthright. Though he had followed instructions from his mother Rivkah, Ya'akov's stealing of the birthright from Esav came from a place of ego, a place of competition. After he fled, he took a rest and dreamt of angels going up and down a ladder. When he woke up, he felt God's presence in a way that he hadn't previously.

This was a literal wake-up call. Ya'akov had not yet really encountered God in his life, and perhaps it was because he had been too focused on winning and on his own ego. Yet, when he was finally able to let some of that go—when he was finally able to see something awesome and outside of himself—he was able to notice the divinity around him. This is a turning moment in the life of Ya'akov, and it's at that moment he is able to recognize the gate of heaven, as the Torah says. This is the moment that he is finally able to realize how to access and approach God.

As long as we are focused on winning and focused solely on ourselves, we won't ever see those gates to heaven. Only thinking about ourselves prevents our ability to see anything outside of our own needs and desires. When Ya'akov was able to not just act from a place of ego, that is the moment that he realized God was with him.  
— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

## TORAH PORTION


### VAYETZE

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 28:10 - 32:3
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 28:10 - 30:13
1:	28:10 - 28:12
2:	28:13 - 28:17
3:	28:18 - 28:22
4:	29:1 - 29:8
5:	29:9 - 29:17
6:	29:18 - 29:33
7:	29:34 - 30:13
Maftir:	30:9 - 30:13
<b>Haftarah</b>	Hosea 12:13 - 14:10

### NEXT WEEK: VAYISHLAH

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 32:4 - 36:43
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 32:4 - 33:20
<b>Haftarah</b>	Obadiah 1:1 - 1:21

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.



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

