

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



December 16-23, 2016 • 16-23 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

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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAHM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Margie and Robert Imershein, their children, Rachel and Jeff Gross and Jordana and Julia Imershein, and their grandchildren, Eli, Dovid, and Refael Gross, on the death of Margie's father, Milton Kaye.
- Lynda Fisher on the death of her sister, Rosalie Gibian.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

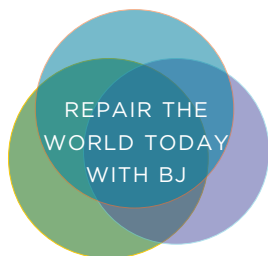
- Ella Hochstadt and her parents, Katherine Moss and Douglas Hochstadt, on Ella becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Dahn Yosef Forman-Yossifov, his parents, Jessica Forman and Rafael Yossifov, and his sister, Mika Forman-Yossifov, on Dahn becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Dr. Eva Fogelman on receiving a Founders' Award from the Anti Defamation League/Hidden Child Foundation.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Katherine Moss and Douglas Hochstadt, and Jessica Forman and Rafael Yossifov, in honor of Ella Hochstadt and Dahn Forman-Yossifov becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Avi Kalkstein and Confirmation Class, Or Ami Congregation, New York, NY.
- **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:

● **Toiletry Collection for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Volunteer Opportunity**

Bring your small travel-sized toiletries to help us with a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day project. Drop them off at the 89th Street Community House at your convenience. On Monday, January 16, we will package them up for our Lunch Program guests.

● **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

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 🏆 **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 or contact shorwitz@bj.org.

- ● **Shishi Israeli** 6:00 PM – 89th St. Gym
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- **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.
- **Siah: A Monthly Minyan for Learners and Seekers** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
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 those who hope to build confidence in their Hebrew language and prayer skills.
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- **Bar Mitzvah** Dahn Forman-Yossivov
- **Bat Mitzvah** Ella Hochstadt
- ● **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 – 88th St. Sanctuary
- 🏆 **Family Hanukkah Celebration** 4:00 PM – 89th St.
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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Men's Havurah Study Group** 10:30 AM – Kirsch's Bakery and Kitchen 551 Amsterdam Ave.
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 Rinsky at lee.rinsky@gmail.com.
- ● **Teen Day of Service with Met Council** 2:00 PM – UJA-Federation Conference Center, 130 East 59th St., 7th floor
BJ teens will be joining up with volunteers from across the five boroughs to help the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty raise over \$1 million in just 24 hours! Register at www.bj.org.
- 🏆 **An Evening With The Epichorus** 5:00 PM – 88th St. 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.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

●  **Lights in the Darkness:** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Chapel

A Hanukkah Program for the Bereaved

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.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

● **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.

● **"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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

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

● **Webinar Follow-up to "Jewish Identity and Inter-marriage: What's at Stake?" Lecture** 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** 3:00-9:00 PM – 88th St. 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.

● **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. Final session: 1/4. Please register at www.bj.org.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22




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

● **Making Sense of Israeli Politics: A Guide For the Perplexed** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

WHAT'S NEXT

-  **Hanukkah Potluck Dinner with Connections**
Tuesday, December 27, 6:00M, 89th Street Reception Room: Connections (formerly called Mekusharim) will be hosting a hanukkah potluck dinner for the entire community. Bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share, along with your own hanukkiyah and candles to participate in our group lighting of the menorah.
-  **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/SPSA Racial Justice Book Study: Just Mercy**
Thursday, January 5, 7:00PM, 86th Street: 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.
- **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.

WHAT'S LATER

- **BJ/SPSA Shabbat Potluck**
Friday, January 13, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, 89th Street: Continue celebrating the SPSA/BJ partnership and our racial justice work by joining together for a "Shabbatluck." Let's honor the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. by sharing a meal and our commitment to creating a just world. Sign up at www.bj.org or call x272.
- **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.

ANA BEKHOAH

Ana bekhoah gedulat yeminkha tatir tzerura
Kabel rinat amekha sagevenu taharenu nora

אָנאַ בֵּכּוֹחַ גְּדוּלַת יְמִינְךָ תִּתִּיר צָרוֹרָה.
קִבֵּל רִנַּת עַמְּךָ, שְׂגִיבֵנו טְהַרְנוּ 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!

A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYISHLAH

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב, אֶל-נָא אִם-נָא מְצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ, וְלָקַחְתָּ מִנְחָתִי, מִיָּדִי:
כִּי עַל-כֵּן רָאִיתִי פָנֶיךָ, כִּרְאֵת אֱלֹהִים-וַתִּרְצָנִי.

But Ya'akov said, "No, I pray you; if you would do me this favor, accept from me this gift; for to see your face is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me favorably."

— Genesis 33:10

The last time we saw Ya'akov and Esav together, they weren't on good terms. Ya'akov feared for his life after receiving the birthright blessing from their father, and he ran away. After building a family of his own, Ya'akov and Esav finally meet up again. Ya'akov prepares for the worst, still fearful that Esav might seek revenge. Yet upon meeting, they hugged and kissed each other. Ya'akov offers him gifts and declares that seeing Esav is actually a spiritual experience; it is like seeing the Divine. Ya'akov, despite thinking that Esav might still be an enemy, somehow feels connected to God when he encounters Esav. Since the Rabbinic mind is quick to demonize Esav, commentators are reluctant to really believe the message of this text. Ibn Ezra, a 12th century commentator, wrote that "the face of God" means an angel, not God. But the verse in the Torah seems pretty clear: Ya'akov believes that seeing Esav is like seeing God.

Rabbi Brad Artson notes that Ya'akov's comparison is actually two-fold. First, Ya'akov is able to see the face of God when he sees Esav because he knows that each person is made in the image of God. He is reminded, despite their clashes and their drama, that Esav too is a person who is has Divinity inside of him. Second, as Ramban reminds us, Ya'akov actually approaches Esav in a way similar to how we approach God: with gifts. In fact, the word *minhata* is the same word used for the way we worship and offer sacrifices to God.

The way that Ya'akov approaches Esav offers us a powerful model for what it means to really respond to the humanity of another person. Despite their pain, despite their differences, and despite the break in their relationship, Ya'akov offers to Esav the same spiritual and material gifts that he'd offer to God. What might we gain if we modeled our approach after Ya'akov's? We might jump to the risks involved, who might take advantage of us, and what we might lose. But let's put that aside, just for a moment. If we each met every person we encountered with the reverence that we have for the HaKadosh Barukh Hu, how might our interactions be different? How might people respond to us differently if we treated them with that type of reverence? We might just find that the Divinity inside of us would shine a little brighter. We might just find that we end up seeing much more of the Divine.

— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

TORAH PORTION

VAYISHLAH

Torah: Annual Genesis 32:4 - 36:43

Triennial Genesis 32:4 - 33:20

- 1: 32:4 - 32:6
- 2: 32:7 - 32:9
- 3: 32:10 - 32:13
- 4: 32:14 - 32:22
- 5: 32:23 - 32:30
- 6: 32:31 - 33:5
- 7: 33:6 - 33:20
- Maftir: 33:18 - 33:20

Haftarah Obadiah 1:1 - 1:21

NEXT WEEK: VAYESHEV

Torah: Annual Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

Triennial Genesis 37:1 - 37:36

Haftarah Amos 2:6 - 3:8

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.**

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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.



Visit us at www.bj.org

