

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

b'naiJeshurun
בני ישרון



January 20-27, 2017 • 22-29 Tevet, 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

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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAH'EM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Rob and Suzanne Stone, and their children, Isabella Davidman and Jennifer and Jason Stone, on the death of Rob's mother, Barbara Stone.
- Alex and Peri Friedman, and their other mother, Debbie Friedman, on the death of Alex and Peri's mother, Joyce Klein.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

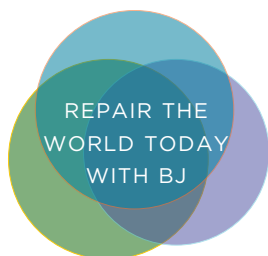
- Andre Lawrence Herlick, his parents, Anne Herlick and William Wiener, and his brothers, Matthew and Daniel Herlick, on Andre becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Anne Herlick and William Wiener in honor of Andre Herlick becoming a Bar Mitzvah, and supported by Joni and Israel Brenner in honor of their 50th 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 DO:

● Shelter Sleepover Volunteers Needed

Help the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter fill our volunteer gaps. Perform a mitzvah while sleeping through the night. To sign up, contact Larissa, lwohl@bj.org or x272

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

PRAYER RETREAT, March 19-22, 2017

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Mindfulness Retreat in Nature, Costa Rica (through 1/22)

- **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 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.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

- **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. (Meets every other Shabbat morning.)
- **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 who hope to build confidence in their Hebrew language and prayer skills. (Meets on the third Saturday of every month.)
- **Spiritual Preparation for a Day of Activism: A Contemplative Shāharit Service** 9:45 AM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 86th St. Sanctuary
- Bar Mitzvah** **Andre Herlick**
- ● **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
- **BJ Joins the Women's March on NYC: UWS Jewish Contingent** 11:00 AM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Join BJ members and members of other UWS Jewish congregations in NYC, or connect with BJ members in DC to participate in these historic marches. Find out more at www.bj.org/march.
- **Community Kiddush** Following Services – 86th St. Social Hall
- **PJs and Havdalah** 4:45 PM – 89th St. Chapel
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.
- **BJ Sings Salon** 5:30 PM – Location given upon R.S.V.P.
Join us for our first session of BJ Sings. Based on the vision and success of the past havurah, this salon will feature a wide variety of Hebrew songs, including traditional Shabbat melodies, contemporary American Jewish compositions, and classic and contemporary Israeli melodies. Sign up at www.bj.org/bjsings.
- **Havdalah and a Movie Night** 6:30 PM – 89th St. Reception Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

- **Purim Spiel Auditions** Time provided upon request – 88th St. Sanctuary
Show us what you've got and audition for the 2017 Purim Spiel! Open to K-8th graders. Email bjholidayshows@gmail.com for more information or to schedule an audition slot.
- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Men's Havurah Discussion Group** 10:30 AM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
Join us for a brunch of bagels and lox and a discussion about Jewish identity from the male perspective. R.S.V.P. to Lee Rimskey at lee.rimskey@gmail.com.
- **Eden Village Program and Parlor Meeting** 2:30 AM – 89th St. Reception & Middle Rooms
- **Israeli Book Club Discusses *The Secret Book of Kings* by Yochi Brandes** 5:00 PM – Location given upon R.S.V.P.
The Israeli Book Club is more than just a typical reading group—it is an intimate encounter with Israeli culture and society.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

- Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- “From the Bible” with Rabbi Hillel Friedman 9:00 AM – 89th St. Middle Room
- “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, and imagine old world wisdom for everyday life. Upcoming classes: 1/31; 2/7, 14, 21, 28; 3/7, 14, 21; 28; 4/4. Register at www.bj.org.
- Community Conversations on Social Justice: Next Steps and Where We Go From Here 5:00-7:00 PM and 7:30-9:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
Through a series of table discussions and one-on-one conversations, we will evaluate where there is momentum, passion, and a desire to act. Join us for a community conversation to share what issues are most important to you. Sign up for one session at www.bj.org/nextsteps.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

- Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- Introduction to Judaism Class (registration closed) 7:00 PM – 89th St. Room 408
- Webinar Follow-up to “Forging Jewish Identity: Models and Middles in Jewish Sources” 12:00 noon – online
Join Rabbi Felicia Sol’s live interactive webinar as we explore and unfold the ideas raised in Dr. Christine Hayes’ January 11 Shalom Hartman lecture. Tune in at www.bj.org/webinar.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

- 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: 2/2, 9, 16, 23; 3/2, 9, 16.
- Bikkur Holim Potluck 6:30 PM – Location given upon R.S.V.P.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

- 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

● Experience the Magic of Camp Shabbat

Friday, January 27-Saturday, January 28, 5:15PM on Friday through 8:00PM on Saturday, various locations: BJ has partnered with Camp Ramah, URJ Eisner, Sababa Surf Camp, and more to bring you the magic of Jewish camp! Enjoy a camp-themed Shabbat dinner, choose from activities including Israeli dance lessons, surfing instruction, and arts and crafts, and take part in a spirited Havdalah ceremony. Register at www.bj.org/campshabbat or contact Ayala at awasser@bj.org with questions.

● Book Reading and Discussion with Author Sabeeha Rehman

Saturday, January 28, following the Community Kiddush, 86th Street Chapel: Join Sabeeha Rehman as she reads selections from her memoir, *Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman’s Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim*. Rehman will describe her encounters with Judaism, her engagement in feminist and interfaith work, and more.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

● **Camp Shabbat Sleepover**

Saturday, January 28-Sunday, January 29, 8:30PM-8:30AM, 89th Street: Children in grades 3-8 are invited to experience a taste of sleepaway camp at BJ's Camp Shabbat sleepover. Register at www.bj.org/campshabbat or contact mgeisler@bj.org with questions.

● **Community Organizing Training**

Sunday, January 29, 1:00-6:00PM, 89th Street Middle Room, and **Monday, February 20**, 10:00AM-4:00PM, 89th Street Gym: We will be hosting two training sessions led by our partners at Manhattan Together and designed to provide you with a foundation in community organizing. All levels of experience are welcome. Sign up at www.bj.org/organizing.

● **Bo-i Kallah: A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

Friday, February 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 work-week anxieties behind and welcoming Shabbat.

● **Teaching in Memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman, with Author Lizzie Skurnick**

Saturday, February 4, 4:00PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Blogger, writer, publisher, and kids/YA literature expert Lizzie Skurnick will discuss books for children and young adults that touch on the Jewish experience, beginning with *All-of-a-Kind Family*. For more information, contact Billie. Free and open to the public, no registration necessary.

● **Tu Bishvat Festival for Families**

Sunday, February 5, 11:00AM-1:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: We are throwing a birthday party for the trees and you are invited! This Tu Bishvat festival offers nature-themed birthday games, arts and crafts, Hebrew immersive storytelling, and more. \$10 individual/\$30 family; Garinim members and kids under 2 enter for free. Register at www.bj.org/familytubishvat.

● **The First Jewish Americans: Freedom and Culture in the New World**

Wednesday, February 8, 11:00AM-1:00PM, New York Historical Society (170 Central Park West): Join Connections (formerly known as Mekusharim) for a private tour at the New York Historical Society. \$23 general, \$20 seniors, and \$8 for museum members. Visit www.bj.org/newworld for more information and to register.

● **Refugee Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, February 8, 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. Join us to get involved in this important work. R.S.V.P. to cheiten8644@gmail.com.

● **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting**

Monday, February 6, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street: Help BJ support the Justice for Farmworkers Campaign so that laborers who produce the food on which we depend can have the dignity and equality they deserve. For questions and to R.S.V.P., contact Lisa at lisagzucker@gmail.com.

WHAT'S LATER

● **The History of Israeli Fashion**

Sunday, February 12, 5:00-6:15 PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: Register at www.bj.org.

● **Bystander Intervention Training**

Sundays, February 19 and March 19, 10:30AM-2:00PM, 89th Street: Spots are limited for each session. Register at www.bj.org/bystander.

● **Registration for "Israel Celebrates 70" Community Trip to Israel Now Open**

December 25, 2017-January 3, 2018, registration open through May, 2017: Sign up at www.bj.org/israeltrip.

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHEMOT

וַיֵּרָא מִלְאָךְ ה' אֵלָיו, בְּלַבַּת-אֵשׁ-מִתּוֹךְ הַסֵּנֶה; וַיֵּרָא, וַהֲנֵה הַסֵּנֶה בְּעֵר בָּאֵשׁ, וְהַסֵּנֶה, אֵינְנוֹ אֵכָל. וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה-אֶסְהֶ-נָּא וְאָרְאֶה, אֶת-הַמְּרָאָה הַגָּדֹל הַזֶּה: מִדּוּעַ, לֹא-יִבְעַר הַסֵּנֶה. וַיֵּרָא ה', כִּי סָר לְרֹאוֹת; וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו אֱלֹהִים מִתּוֹךְ הַסֵּנֶה, וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה-וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי.

And the angel of Adonai appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moshe said: "I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." And when Adonai saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said: "Moses, Moses." And he said: "Here am I." —*Exodus 3:2-4*

From the midst of a bush—it was through a thorn bush, but not from any other tree, because "I am with them in distress" (Psalms 91:15). —*Rashi*

Why did the Holy Blessed One formulate God's revelation this way? Moshe was afraid that the Egyptians would really destroy Israel. So the Holy Blessed One showed him a burning fire which was not consumed. God said to him: Just as the bush burns with fire but is never consumed so Egypt will never destroy Israel. —*Shemot Rabbah 2:1*

These three verses in the Torah represent the changing of the course of history. They mark the turning point, where Moshe encounters God and is put on a mission to bring the Israelites to redemption. Commentators are fixated by the medium through which God communicates to Moshe. The above midrash offers a compelling read that is meant to instill a sense of resilience both in Moshe and in those of us that read the Torah today. It's meant to remind us that we as human beings have the ability to endure so much; it reminds us that we can cultivate the belief in ourselves that we can overcome tremendous difficulty.

Rashi's commentary adds another layer, though, to what it means to go through painful and tough circumstances: we don't have to do it alone; God is with us. This notion is often not considered to be a Jewish idea, but the Psalmist describes a world where God is with us in the darkest of times. Rashi understands the burning bush to be a thorn bush, and God is in the pain of the thorn bush representing God's alignment with the plight of the Israelites in slavery.

These messages are important for our time as well. Some of us might feel like the world is in a place of danger and we might feel despair. This midrash attempts to instill hope in us that we will persevere; even when times are hard, we will make it through. The mode of God's revelation to Moshe about the Jewish people's redemption is inherently tied to having hope and believing in the future. And like Rashi teaches, God will be with us in those moments. God is crying out with us at injustice, God is with us in our pain, and with us in our hope. — *Rabbi Sarit Horwitz*

TORAH PORTION

SHEMOT

MEVARKHIM HAHO'DESH

Torah: Annual Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

Triennial Exodus 1:1 - 2:25

- 1: 1:1 - 1:7
- 2: 1:8 - 1:12
- 3: 1:13 - 1:17
- 4: 1:18 - 1:22
- 5: 2:1 - 2:10
- 6: 2:11 - 2:15
- 7: 2:16 - 2:25
- Maftir: 2:23 - 2:25

Haftarah Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13; 29:22 - 23:23

NEXT WEEK: VAERA

Torah: Annual Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

Triennial Exodus 6:7 - 7:7

Haftarah Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24; 66:23

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.**

 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.

