

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

b'nai jeshurun
בני ישרון



January 27-February 3, 2017 • 29 Tevet-7 Shevat, 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 YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member, Evelyn Nachman, and we extend our sincere condolences to her daughter, Sherrie Nachman, her grandsons, Ian and David Nachman, and their entire family.

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

- Paula Cohen and Samuel Hess, and their entire family, on the death of Paula's father, Harvey Cohen.
- Judith Rosenbaum and her entire family on the death of her mother, Belle Rosenbaum.
- Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, his wife, Karina Zilberman, and his daughters, Micaela, Gabriela, and Dana Bronstein, on the death of Marcelo's uncle, Jorge (George) Bronstein.
- Madelyn and Allen Adamson, and their children, Joshua and Elissa Adamson on the death of Madelyn's father, Maury Bucksbaum.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Leo Solomon Margolies, his parents, Julie and Alex Margolies, his brother, Truman Margolies, and his sister, Imogen Margolies, on Leo becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Adam, Emily, and Asher Janvey, and Richard and Rae Janvey, on the birth of Adam and Emily's daughter, Nessa Cooper Janvey.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Julie and Alex Margolies in honor of Leo Margolies becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach and Confirmation Class, Temple Shalom, Chevy Chase, Maryland.
- Brigid Goggin and 8th grade students, Temple Israel of Boston, Boston, Massachusetts.
- **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.

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

PRAYER RETREAT, March 19-22, 2017



Everybody has a gift to share.

The BJ Celebrate Community Auction

March 1, 2017

We need your help to make this year's auction a success! Share your gift with the community and donate an auction item. Whether it's a theater subscription, airline miles, or season sports tickets, the only limit is your imagination when it comes to what you can offer! **Make your donation at www.bj.org/auction.**

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

● Ongoing: JIBC Salons and Insights Online Forum (Members Only)

Join the conversation on Jewish identity and intermarriage. Visit www.bj.org/identity to learn more.

- **Shishi Israeli** 6:00 PM – 89th St. Gym
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Camp Shabbat Family Dinner & Zimriyah** 8:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall
For more information on this or any other Camp Shabbat activity, visit www.bj.org/campshabbat.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 | ROSH HODESH SHEVAT

- ● **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** **Leo Margolies**
- ● **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 – 86th St. Social Hall
- **Book Reading and Discussion with Author Sabeeha Rehman** Following Kiddush – 86th St. 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.
- **Camp Shabbat Evening Experience** 5:30 PM – 89th St. Gym
- **Camp Shabbat Sleepover** 8:30 PM – 89th St.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Kadima@BJ Basketball** 11:00 AM – 89th St. Gym
- **Purim Spiel Rehearsals** 3:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary
- **Community Organizing Training** 1:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
Join us for two training sessions led by our partners at Manhattan Together and designed to provide you with a foundation in community organizing. Sign up at www.bj.org/organizing.
Next session: 2/20.
- **Brotherhood** 6:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

- **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: 2/7, 14, 21, 28; 3/7, 14, 21; 28; 4/4. Register at www.bj.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- ● **BJ Families Helping Refugee Families: Donation Drive** All day – through Tuesday, 2/28
Help refugee parents by donating new diapers and wipes, gift cards, gently used strollers, and Pack 'n Plays. Contact Sandy Soffin at sdssoffin@gmail.com or Susan Gesundheit at suszky@gmail.com for more info.

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Chapel
- **Introduction to Judaism Class (registration closed)** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Room 408

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **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: 2/9, 16, 23; 3/2, 9, 16.
- **Making Sense of Israeli Politics: A Guide For the Perplexed** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Middle Room
In this eight-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.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

BJHS 7th Grade Trip to Washington, DC (through 2/5)

- **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

- **Tot Shabbat**
Friday, February 3, 5:15-7:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner with Shabbat blessings and songs at 5:45PM in Frankel Hall. Register at www.bj.org/young-families.
- **Bo-i Kallah: A Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Service**
Friday, February 3, 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.
- **Soulful Start: Hakhanah laTefillah—Preparing for Prayer**
Saturday, February 4, 8:45-9:25AM, 86th Street 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.
- **Teaching in Memory of Shira Palmer-Sherman, with Author Lizzie Skurnick**
Saturday, February 4, 4:15PM, 89th Street Reception Room: Blogger, writer, and publisher 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.
- **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting**
Monday, February 6, 6:30-8:30PM, 89th Street: Help BJ support the Justice for Farmworkers Campaign so that farm laborers can have the dignity and equality they deserve. For questions and to R.S.V.P., contact Lisa at lisagzucker@gmail.com.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

- **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. R.S.V.P. to cheiten8644@gmail.com.
- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat Service**
Friday, February 10, 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. Please contact Beth at btarson@bj.org with any questions.
- **Soulful Start: Shira Yoga—An Integrated Practice for Body and Soul**
Saturday, February 11, 9:00AM, 86th Street Chapel: Bring voice, breath, and body together in this session that combines asana yoga and piyut (Hebrew liturgical poetry). All levels welcome. Visit www.bj.org/yoga for more details.
- **Siah: A Monthly Minyan for Learners and Seekers**
Saturday, February 11, 9:30AM-12:00 noon, 89th Street Chapel: A new monthly Shabbat service led by Rabbinic Fellow Arielle Rosenberg geared towards those who are exploring Jewish prayer or who hope to build confidence in their Hebrew language and prayer skills.
- **Genius Bar: Unleash the Power of Your Electronics**
Sunday, February 12, 1:00-3:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: Wondering how to make the most of your mobile devices? Let BJ's digital whiz kids teach you how to use the features and functions you were afraid to touch. Adults, R.S.V.P. to bdistefano@bj.org. Teens, sign up to volunteer at www.bj.org/geniusbar.
- **Celebrate Tu Bishvat with Israeli Folk Dances**
Sunday, February 12, 2:00-6:00PM, 89th Street Gym: Celebrate Tu Bishvat ("New Year of the Trees") with Israeli folk dances and songs exploring the land of Israel, from its trees and waters to the seven species. Register at www.bj.org/tubishvat.
- **The History of Israeli Fashion**
Sunday, February 12, 5:00-6:15 PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: Fashion lecturer and blogger Liraz Cohen Mordechai tells the story of Israel from the late 19th century to the present day through the lenses of both history and fashion. Register at www.bj.org.

WHAT'S LATER

- **Tze'irim 20s and 30s Shabbatluck Dinner**
Friday, February 17, 1:45PM, 89th Street: Visit www.bj.org/shabbatluck or contact Rabbi Sarit Horwitz at shorwitz@bj.org to sign up.
- **BJ Sings Salon**
Saturday, February 18, 4:00-5:30PM, location given upon R.S.V.P.: Sign up at www.bj.org/bjsings.
- **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: Celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary in Israel with fellow BJ members, rabbis and staff. Registration now open at www.bj.org/israeltrip.

A TASTE OF TORAH: VAERA

וַיִּדְבֹר אֱלֹהִים, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה; וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, אֲנִי ה'. וַאֲרָא, אֶל-אַבְרָהָם אֶל-יִצְחָק,
וְאֶל-יַעֲקֹב--בְּאֵל שְׁדֵי; וּשְׁמִי יְהוָה, לֹא נִדְעִיתִי לָהֶם. וְגַם הִקְמַתִי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתָּם,
לִתְּתָ לָהֶם אֶת-אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן--אֶת אֶרֶץ מִגְרִיהֶם, אֲשֶׁר-גָּרוּ בָהּ. וְגַם אֲנִי שָׁמַעְתִּי,
אֶת-נַאֲקַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר מִצְרַיִם, מַעֲבָדִים אִתָּם; וְאָזְכֹר, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי.

God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am Adonai, and I appeared to Avraham, to Yitzhak, and to Ya'akov, as El Shaddai, but by my name Adonai I was not known to them. I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. And moreover I have heard the moaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered my covenant. — Exodus 6:2-5

But by my name Adonai I was not known to them: It is not written *lo hodati*, "I did not make known to them," but rather *lo nodati*, "I was not known to them." I was not recognized by them in My attribute of "keeping faith," by reason of which My name is called Adonai, which denotes that I am certain to substantiate My promise, for, indeed, I made promises to them but did not fulfill them to them. — Rashi

God's statement to Moshe, about not revealing Godself as Adonai to Avraham, Yitzhak, and Ya'akov is perplexing because, as we might remember, God in fact did reveal Godself to them by the name Adonai (the four-letter name of God)! This is the kind of textual curiosity that commentators love to derive meaning from, and Rashi explains to us that this doesn't actually mean that God did not reveal the name Adonai to our ancestors. Rather, there was an attribute of God connected to that name that Avraham, Yitzhak, and Ya'akov did not yet know. Rashi is teaching about an unfolding nature of God. God revealed Godself and acted in different ways towards different individuals and in different generations. Moshe came to learn something about God that the others had not been privy to experience before.

There is a model here for each of us having a different relationship with God. We might call God by the same names as others, but we each can cultivate a different understanding of who God is and how God acts in the world. Yet, there is something that is also connected to each of these different understandings of God. Despite a changing understanding and manifestation of God, the promise remains the same. The promise that God offered to Avraham was the same promise that God offered to Moshe and to the Israelites in slavery: God is a redeemer. Avraham did not see that attribute of God, but believed that it was possible. Avraham had faith in that attribute of God even if he didn't see God act as Redeemer. Believing in God as Redeemer, even if we don't always see it, is connected to what it means to have hope as Jews. Last Shabbat, many of us marched through the streets because we believe redemption is possible. The manifestation of God will change throughout our lives and will differ from one person to another. Yet the message of the promise of redemption remains true. — Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

TORAH PORTION

VAERA

ROSH HODESH SHEVAT

Torah: Annual Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

Triennial Exodus 6:7 - 7:7

- 1: 6:2 - 6:5
- 2: 6:6 - 6:9
- 3: 6:10 - 6:13
- 4: 6:14 - 6:19
- 5: 6:20 - 6:25
- 6: 6:26 - 6:28
- 7: 6:29 - 7:07

Maftir: Numbers 28:9 - 28:15

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

NEXT WEEK: **B0**

Torah: Annual Exodus 10:1 - 13:16

Triennial Exodus 10:1 - 11:3

Haftarah Jeremiah 46:13 - 46:28

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

