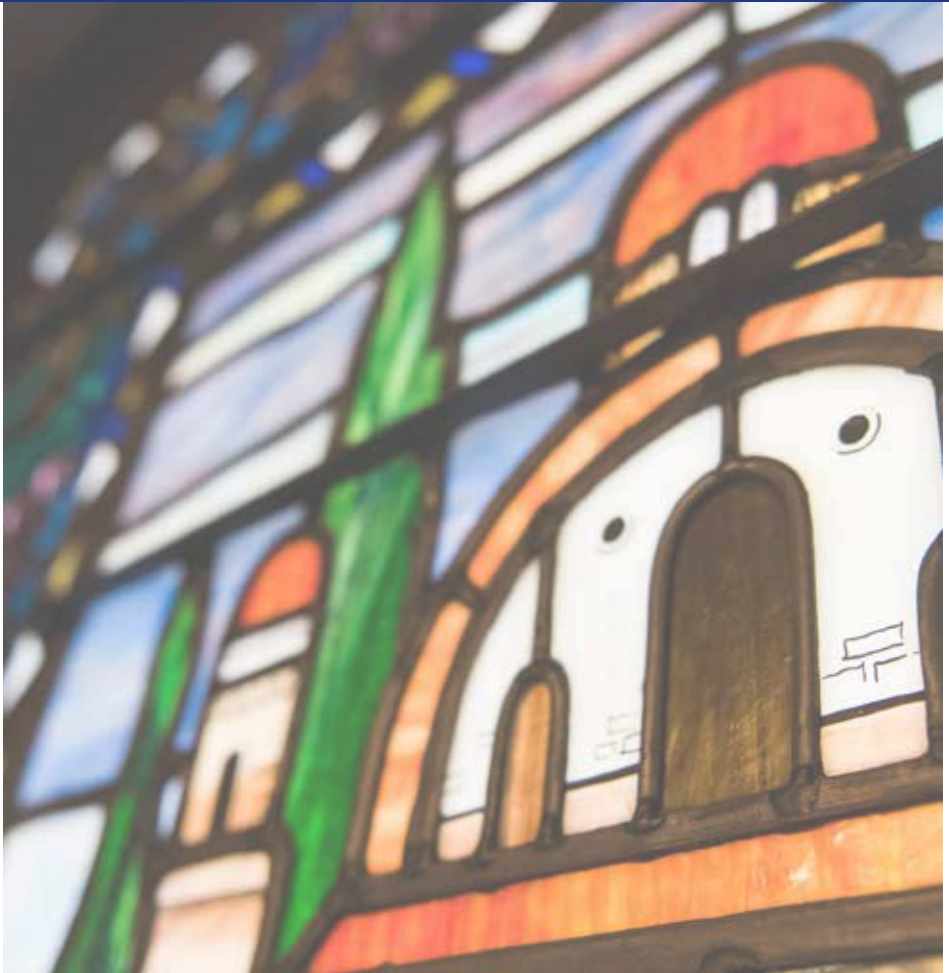


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



July 7-14, 2017 • 13-20 Tammuz, 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 • Felicia L. Sol • Marcelo R. Bronstein

**HAZZAN:** Ari Priven

**BJ RABBINIC FELLOW:** 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 YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Vita Abrams, and we extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Sol Abrams, her son and daughter-in-law, Howard and Elissa Fishman, her grandchildren, Sam and Sophie Fishman, and their entire family.

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Peninnah Schram for receiving the 2017 Talking Leaves ORACLE Award from the National Storytelling Network.

## TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

Todah Rabbah to all the summer volunteers and food donors who help make the Lunch Program and Shelter a success.

## 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 the warm, transformative, open place that it is.



### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

#### ● Hate Has No Home Here

Have a spare half hour? Summer's a great time to offer "Hate Has No Home Here" signs. Just one sign can give hope and comfort to an undocumented immigrant, a Muslim parent, or other targeted community member. If you're traveling, consider taking some with you! Contact Nora ngaines@bankstreet.edu.

### 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!** Visit [www.bj.org/retreats](http://www.bj.org/retreats) for more information:

**FALL TEEN RETREAT, Oct. 20-22**

**"ISRAEL CELEBRATES 70" COMMUNITY TRIP TO ISRAEL, Dec. 25, 2017-Jan. 3, 2018**

**TEEN DOMESTIC TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 11-15, 2018**

**MINDFULNESS RETREAT IN COSTA RICA, January 14-21, 2018**

We try to make the BJ environment comfortable and healthy for as many people as possible. Out of consideration for those with allergies or severe sensitivities, we request that you refrain from wearing perfumes and overly scented products. Thank you in advance!

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, JULY 7

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Gym

## SATURDAY, JULY 8

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – 89th St. Gym
- ● **Family Breakfast** 10:00 AM – 89th St. 3rd Floor
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – 89th St. 3rd Floor
- ● **Light Kiddush** Following Services – 89th St. Gym

## SUNDAY, JULY 9

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

## MONDAY, JULY 10

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

## TUESDAY, JULY 11

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

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

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

- **JIBC Follow-up Conversation with the Rabbis (Members Only)** 8:30 AM – 89th St.

Following the rabbis' announcements at BJ's Annual Meeting on June 15, BJ members are invited to attend one of four open, follow-up conversations with Roly and Felicia. Due to the intimate nature of the conversation, numbers are limited and registration is required. For details of other session times and to register, visit [www.bj.org/conversations](http://www.bj.org/conversations).

- **Musical Performance by Nigun HaLev's Youth Caravan** 7:00 PM – 89th St. Gym

Show your love and support for our partners at Nigun HaLev by taking part in an authentic experience of Israeli Jewish renewal! See Youth Caravan perform classic Jewish Israeli tunes from the Nigun HaLev repertoire. Free admission. Register now at [www.bj.org/youthcaravan](http://www.bj.org/youthcaravan).

## THURSDAY, JULY 13

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Gym
- **Judith Bernstein Lunch Program** 12:00 Noon – 89th St. Gym

## FRIDAY, JULY 14

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Gym
- **Bim Bam** 9:15 and 10:15 AM – 89th St. 3rd Floor
- **Bim Bam: Hebrew Immersion** 11:15 AM – 89th St. Gym

## WHAT'S NEXT

### ● Become a Summer Food Donor for the Shelter

**Sunday-Thursdays**, 7:00PM drop-off, 86th Street: Donating food is easy! All you need to do is prepare a meal at home for our 10 guests and deliver it by 7:00PM to SPSA. Your home-cooked meal will help our guests feel warm and welcome in our spaces. To find out more and sign up, contact Larissa at [lwahl@bj.org](mailto:lwahl@bj.org).

### ● Hike the South Mountain Reservation with BJ

**Sunday, July 16**, 10:00AM, South Mountain Reservation (meet at the Millburn NJ train station parking lot): Tze'irim members are invited to hike 6-9 miles in the South Mountain Reservation in Essex County, New Jersey (only 40 minutes from NYC on NJ Transit from Penn Station). R.S.V.P. to Ben Swerdlow at [Benjo514@aol.com](mailto:Benjo514@aol.com).

### ● Second Level Bystander Intervention Training

**Tuesday, July 18**, 5:30PM, 89th Street: This training is for those who have already attend a first level training (either at BJ or elsewhere). Space is limited. Register here: [www.bj.org/bystander2](http://www.bj.org/bystander2).

### ● Up Stander Training with Muslim Sensitivity Component

**Wednesday, July 1**, 6:00-8:30PM, Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68th St.: We are excited to be co-hosting and working with Dr. Debbie Almontaser to present a "101" level Up Stander training. The training session will include community building, a call to action to stand up for one another, and Up Stander techniques with cultural sensitivity tips. Register at [www.bj.org/upstander](http://www.bj.org/upstander).

### ● See INDECENT On Broadway

**Tuesday, July 18**, 7:00PM, Cort Theater, 138 West 48th Street: See INDECENT with "Connections" for access to special group rates! The Tony Award-winning play, by Pulitzer Prize-winner Paula Vogel, celebrates Jewish history and culture, and is underscored by beautiful klezmer music throughout. More info and registration at: [www.bj.org/indecnt](http://www.bj.org/indecnt).

### ● BJ Mindfulness Retreat in Nature

**January 14-21, 201**, Costa Rica: Join Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan for a week in the Costa Rica rain forest, exploring Jewish mindfulness practice as a way to connect more deeply with our soul, our truest values, and with God's creation. Contact Billie at [bdistefano@bj.org](mailto:bdistefano@bj.org) or x264 for information.

## JIBC FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH THE RABBIS (MEMBERS ONLY)

Registration required: visit [www.bj.org/conversations](http://www.bj.org/conversations)



- **Wednesday, July 12** | 8:30-9:45AM | 89th Street Gym
- **Wednesday, July 19** | 6:30-7:45PM | 89th Street Gym

## ANI YESHENA

Ani yeshena velibi er kol dodı dofek pithi li  
Ahoti, ra'yati, yonati, tamati  
Sheroshi nimla-tal kevutzotai resisei laila.

אני ישנה ולבי ער קול | דודי דופק פתחילי  
אחתי רעיתי יונתי תפתי  
שראשי נמלאטל קוצותי 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

אִין כְּאֱלֹהֵינוּ, אִין כְּאֲדוֹנֵנוּ,  
אִין כְּמֶלְכֵנוּ, אִין כְּמוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

*Non como nuestro Dio, non como nuestro Señor,  
non como nuestro Rey, non como nuestro Salvador.*

מִי כְּאֱלֹהֵינוּ, מִי כְּאֲדוֹנֵנוּ,  
מִי כְּמֶלְכֵנוּ, מִי כְּמוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

*Quien como nuestro Dio, quien como nuestro Señor,  
quien como nuestro Rey, quien como nuestro Salvador.*

נוֹדָה לְאֱלֹהֵינוּ, נוֹדָה לְאֲדוֹנֵנוּ,  
נוֹדָה לְמֶלְכֵנוּ, נוֹדָה לְמוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

*Loaremos a nuestro Dio, loaremos a nuestro Señor,  
loaremos a nuestro Rey, loaremos a nuestro Salvador.*

בְּרוּךְ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, בְּרוּךְ אֲדוֹנֵנוּ,  
בְּרוּךְ מֶלְכֵנוּ, בְּרוּךְ מוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

*Bendicho nuestro Dio, bendicho nuestro Señor,  
bendicho nuestro Rey, bendicho nuestro Salvador.*

אַתָּה הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אַתָּה הוּא אֲדוֹנֵנוּ,  
אַתָּה הוּא מֶלְכֵנוּ, אַתָּה הוּא מוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ.

*Tu sos nuestro Dio, tu sos nuestro Señor,  
tu sos nuestro Rey, tu sos nuestro Salvador.*

אַתָּה הוּא שְׁהַקְטִירוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
לְפָנֶיךָ אֶת-קִטְרֵת הַסַּמִּים.

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

We're going paperless! This year, membership renewal is faster, easier, and greener than ever.

**Current BJ members:** You should have received a personalized email with a link to renew your membership online. If you can't find your email or would prefer to renew by phone or in person, please contact us at [membership@bj.org](mailto:membership@bj.org) or 212-787-7600 x302.

**Joining BJ for the first time?** Welcome! **Rejoining after some time away?** Welcome back! Email [membership@bj.org](mailto:membership@bj.org) or call 212-787-7600 x302 to find out everything you need to know about (re)becoming part of the BJ community.

### A Note About Dues

To create a kehillah kedoshah—a holy community—we each must assume the responsibility of meeting the financial requirements of our synagogue. Dues are calculated on a sliding scale based on household income. For details, visit [www.bj.org/dues](http://www.bj.org/dues).

Find out more at [www.bj.org/membership](http://www.bj.org/membership).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: BALAK

This week's commentary first ran in the *Kol Jeshurun* on July 22, 2016.

The talking donkey is one of the highlights of Parashat Balak. As the non-Jewish prophet Balaam is on his way to curse the Israelites, God sends an angel to stop the donkey in its tracks, yet only the donkey could see the angel. Trying to sidestep the angel, the donkey accidentally hurt Balaam, who responds by hitting the donkey no less than three times.

וַיִּפְתַּח ה' אֶת-פִּי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְבָלָעַם מַה-עָשִׂיתִי לָךְ כִּי הִכִּיתַנִּי זֶה שְׁלַשׁ רָגְלַיִם:  
וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעַם לְאֲתוֹן כִּי הִתְעַלְלָתְ בִּי לֹא יֵשׁ-חָרֵב בְּיָדֵי כִּי עָתָה הִרְגָתִיךָ: וַתֹּאמֶר הָאֲתוֹן  
אֶל-בְּלָעַם הֲלוֹא אָנֹכִי אֲתִנְךָ אֲשֶׁר-רָכַבְתָּ עָלַי מֵעוֹדָךְ עַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה הֲהִסְכַּן הַסִּבְנָתִי  
לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ כֹּה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא:

Then Adonai opened the donkey's mouth and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?" Balaam said to the donkey, "You have made a mockery of me! If I had a sword with me, I'd kill you." The donkey said to Balaam, "Look, I am the donkey that you have been riding all along until this day! Have I been in the habit of doing this kind of thing to you?" And he answered, "No."  
—Numbers 22:28-30

Pirke Avot (5:6) teaches that there were ten things that were created on the eve of the first Shabbat at twilight. By situating these acts of creation just before Shabbat, Pirke Avot insinuates that these were the very last things needed to complete the creation of the world before God rested. Some of the things on this list of ten are the well of water that accompanied the Israelites in the wilderness, the rainbow that was a symbol of God's covenant after the Flood, the manna that fed Israelites in the desert, and the ten commandments. The list is impressive. Included in this list of things made in the final moments of creation is the mouth of the donkey that speaks to Balaam, as quoted above.

What is it about this donkey and her words which are such an important part of creation? What does this donkey's mouth offer that is necessary to the way we exist in the world?

Perhaps the donkey speaking teaches us an important lesson about from where we are willing to hear truth. The donkey's truth is that she has been hit for no reason; she sees something Balaam cannot see. Balaam was certainly not expecting to hear an important lesson from his donkey; he assumed that the donkey was hurting him for no reason and therefore punished her. Balaam assumed he saw the whole truth and that he understood everything about the situation. Yet he didn't see the angel that only the donkey saw. How often do we think we've got all the knowledge we need about something, and how can we open ourselves up to hearing truth from unexpected places? How often are the most marginalized people reduced to those that serve us in inferior ways, and how can we open ourselves to realize that we don't have it all right? Where are the avenues that we open to hear the truths that others are telling?

If the donkey's mouth was so important that it needed to be created in the first six days of creation, than seeking out expressions of real truth is that important, too.

— Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

## TORAH PORTION

### BALAK

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Numbers 22:2 - 25:9
<b>Triennial</b>	Numbers 22:2 - 22:38
1:	22:2 - 22:4
2:	22:5 - 22:7
3:	22:8 - 22:12
4:	22:13 - 22:20
5:	22:21 - 22:27
6:	22:28 - 22:30
7:	22:31 - 22:38
Maftir:	22:36 - 22:38

**Haftarah** Micah 5:6 - 6:8

### NEXT WEEK: PINHAS

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Numbers 25:10 - 30:1
<b>Triennial</b>	Numbers 25:10 - 26:51
<b>Haftarah</b>	Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3

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.

