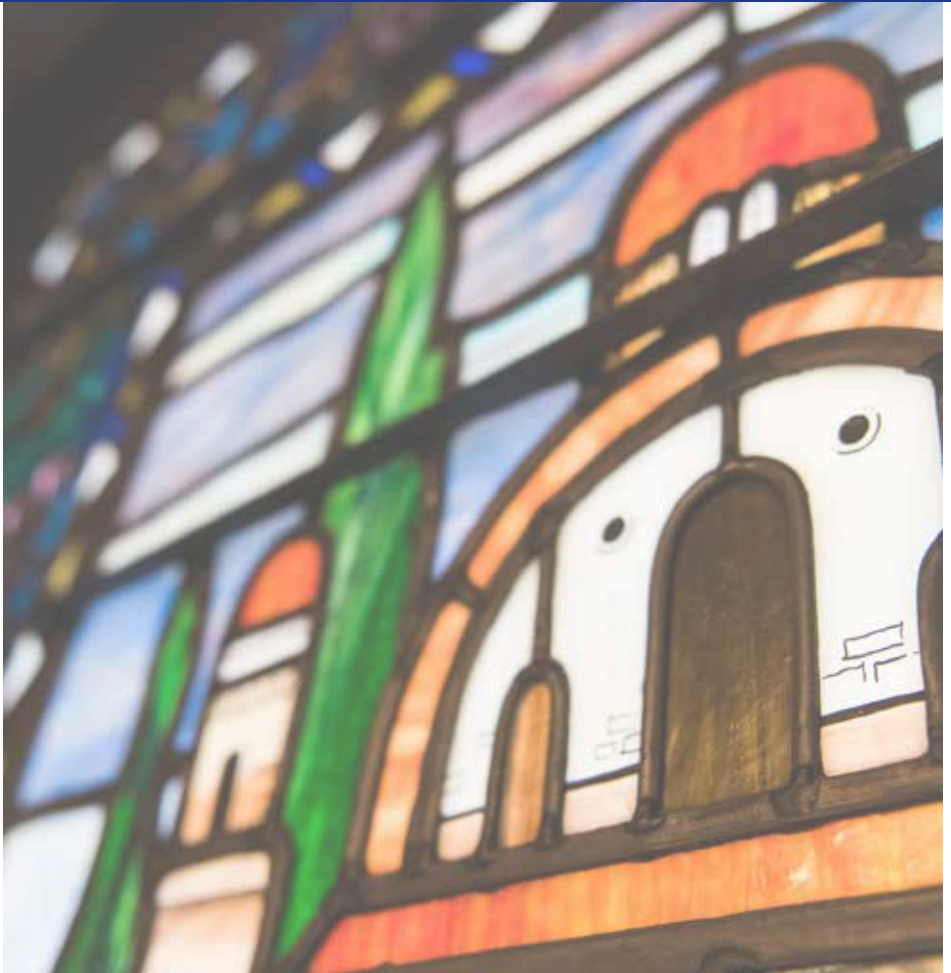


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



August 11-18, 2017 • 19 - 26 Av, 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**
- **High Holy Days 5778**

**RABBIS:** J. Rolando Matalon • Felicia L. Sol • Marcelo R. Bronstein

**HAZZAN:** Ari Priven

**BJ RABBINIC FELLOWS:** Sarah Krinsky • Tobias Divack Moss

**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

## 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:

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

Donating food is easy! All you need to do is prepare a dairy/vegetarian meal at home for our 10 guests and deliver it to the Community House or SPSA. Your home-cooked meal will help our guests feel warm and welcome in our space. To find out more and sign up, contact Larissa at [lwohl@bj.org](mailto:lwohl@bj.org).

### 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, 2017**

**"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, Jan. 14-21, 2018**

**We hope you love your *Kol Jeshurun* and will take it home.** If you choose not to do so, we kindly ask that you leave it on your chair.

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

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

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

- **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, AUGUST 13

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

## MONDAY, AUGUST 14

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

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – 89th St. Gym
- **The Freedom to Love: LGBT Activism and a Journey from Ukraine to America** 7:00 PM – Private Residence  
Celebrate Tu Be'Av with BJ's 20s and 30s community. Mark the Jewish Valentine's Day by honoring three young men who courageously fought for their right to love, and join us for an intimate evening of story sharing. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org/love](http://www.bj.org/love).

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

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

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

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

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

- **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

- **BJ Mindfulness Retreat in Nature**  
*January 14-21, 2018*, Costa Rica: Join Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein 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 Kristen at [kkersey@bj.org](mailto:kkersey@bj.org) or x255 for information.


- **Kadima@BJ: Our New Elective-Based Hebrew School Model**



Kadima@BJ, our new elective-based Hebrew School model, incorporates Hebrew, Tefillah, and a focus on our students' desire for deep learning. Registration this year is part of your BJ membership renewal! If you need help with registration or renewal, please contact Jacey at [jgluska@bj.org](mailto:jgluska@bj.org) or x260.



*continued on panel 3*

## WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 2*

-  **A Night of Remembrance: A High Holy Days Support Group for the Bereaved**  
*Thursday, September 7 or Wednesday, September 13, 6:30-8:00PM, 89th Street Chapel:* Draw strength, support, and comfort from one another and the resources of our shared tradition. R.S.V.P. to Rabbi Michael Boino, BJ Coordinator for Pastoral Care and Support, at [mboino@bj.org](mailto:mboino@bj.org) or x238.
- Bim Bam and Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion**  
*Fridays, September 8-December 15, 9:15-10:00AM, 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15AM-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/bimbam](http://www.bj.org/bimbam).

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## WHAT'S LATER

-  **Tot Shabbat**  
*Friday, September 8, 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/totshabbat](http://www.bj.org/totshabbat).
- Family Open House at Rabbi Felicia Sol's**  
*Sunday, September 10, 10:30AM-12:30PM, location given upon registration:* BJ members with children in 2nd grade and younger are invited to reconnect with BJ friends and meet new people at Rabbi Felicia's home. Enjoy snacks and schmoozing while children are engaged in games and play. Details at [www.bj.org/openhouse](http://www.bj.org/openhouse).
-  **Hebrew Ulpan – אולפן עברית**  
*Mondays or Tuesdays, beginning September 18, 89th Street:* This Hebrew course is designed to enable students to recognize the fundamental structure of Modern Hebrew and its basic forms, as well as acquire the necessary vocabulary for everyday conversations, reading, and writing. Register at [www.bj.org/ulpan](http://www.bj.org/ulpan).
- BJ New Parents Group**  
*Wednesdays, October 25-December 1, 10:00-11:30AM, 89th Street:* New parents and babies ages 0-5 months join together to gain information, share experiences, and support one another in the early days of parenthood. Led by Meg Akabas, NYSPEP-certified parenting educator. Register at [www.bj.org/newparents](http://www.bj.org/newparents).

## BECOME A MEMBER / 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).

Mipi El mipi El yitbarakh Israel

מפי אל מפי אל יתברך ישראל

ein adir k-Adonai ve'ein barukh keven 'amram  
ein gedolah katorah ve'ein doreshah k-Israel

אין אדיר כה' ואין ברוך כבן עמרם  
אין גדולה כתורה ואין דורשה כישׂראל

ein hadur k-Adonai ve'ein vatic keven 'amram  
ein zakka'ah katorah ve'ein homedah k-Israel

אין הדור כה' ואין ותיק כבן עמרם  
אין זכאה כתורה ואין חומדה כישׂראל

ein tahor k-Adonai ve'ein yashar keven 'amram  
ein kevudah katorah ve'ein lomedah k-Israel

אין טהור כה' ואין ישׂר כבן עמרם  
אין כבודה כתורה ואין לומדה כישׂראל

ein melekh k-Adonai ve'ein navi keven 'amram  
ein semukhah katorah ve'ein ozerah k-Israel

אין מלך כה' ואין נביא כבן עמרם  
אין סמוכה כתורה ואין עזרה כישׂראל

ein podeh k-Adonai ve'ein tzaddik keven 'amram  
ein kedoshah katorah ve'ein rohasha k-Israel

אין פודה כה' ואין צדיק כבן עמרם  
אין קדושה כתורה ואין רחשה כישׂראל

ein shomer k-Adonai ve'ein shalem keven 'amram  
ein temimah katorah ve'ein tomekhah k-Israel

אין שומר כה' ואין שלם כבן עמרם  
אין תמימה כתורה ואין תומכה כישׂראל

From the mouth of God Israel is blessed

There is none as powerful as Adonai and none as blessed as the son of Amram  
there is none as great as the Torah and none unfold it as Israel do

There is none as decorated as Adonai and none as experienced as the son of Amram  
there is none as untainted as the Torah and none desire it as Israel do

There is none as pure as Adonai and none as honest as the son of Amram  
there is none as respected as the Torah and none study it as Israel do

There is no king as Adonai and no prophet as the son of Amram  
there is none as near as the Torah and none support it as Israel do

There is redeemer as Adonai and none as righteous as the son of Amram  
there is none as holy as the Torah and none learn it as Israel do

There is no protector as Adonai and none as whole as the son of Amram  
there is none as complete as the Torah and none stand by it as Israel do

—Unknown composer

# A TASTE OF TORAH: EKEV

This week's commentary first ran in the *Kol Jeshurun* on August 26, 2016.

וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל מָה ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ שֶׁאֵל מֵעִמָּךְ כִּי אִם-לִירָאָה אֶת-ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְלַכֵּת בְּכָל-  
דְּרָכָיו וּלְאַהֲבָה אֹתוֹ וּלְעַבֵּד אֶת-ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ: לְשָׁמֵר אֶת-מִצְוֹת ה'  
וְאֶת-חֻקֹּתָיו אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מִצְוָה הַיּוֹם לְטוֹב לָךְ

Now, Israel, what does Adonai ask of you? Only to fear God, to follow all God's ways, to love and serve God with all your heart and soul. To keep God's commandments and rules, which I have given you on this day, to do your own good. — Deuteronomy 10:12-13

After the verse says to fear God and follow all of God's ways, and to love God, there is nothing missing from what God asks of us! What else could God have asked us to do? Why does it add, "to do your own good" at the end?

The only reason the Creator created the world is to benefit the creatures. But this flow of good needs a vessel that can receive and contain it.

Imagine that you give a gift of wine or honey but do not have a beautiful container for it. You could borrow (sho'el) a beautiful silver vessel from the recipient and send it back full of wine or honey. In the same way, every person is a vessel, a container. The means by which you prepare and fix your vessel so that it can contain the flow of goodness from God are the love and fear of God, following God's commandments and pathways. Through this you become a beautiful and appropriate vessel that God can borrow and return full of good.

What does Adonai ask of you? The word "ask"—**sho'el**—also means borrow. Meaning, under what conditions will God borrow the vessel that is you to fill it with good and blessing? **Only to fear God**, etc. This can only happen if you serve God in the ways this verse describes. Then you will be a beautiful vessel and an appropriate container. **To your own good**, through you God will bring goodness to Israel. — Noam Elimelekh, 18th c. Poland

The Noam Elimelekh is offering another dimension to the Torah's question, with which many of us are familiar. He uses multiple meanings of the word "sho'el" to describe a deeper kind of partnership between God and humanity for making the world a place of overflowing goodness. In his d'rash, God borrows us as human beings in order to help bring God's goodness to the entire world. The question at the beginning of the verse, in turn, becomes one that is not directed at God, wondering what God asks of us, but is directed at us: what are the ways that we see ourselves as vessels for God's goodness? This teaching has the power to transform our own self-image and our sense of purpose when we view ourselves as these vessels. We don't typically make our way through the world thinking that we are carrying forth God's goodness, like the wine or the honey. And I imagine that most of us don't view others we encounter as vessels of Divine goodness either. What would it take for this mindset shift to happen? How can we each begin to see our own actions not just as good or bad, but a part of God acting in this world, as that vessel? — Rabbi Sarit Horwitz

## TORAH PORTION

### EKEV

**Torah: Annual** Deuteronomy 7:12 - 11:25  
**Triennial** Deuteronomy 7:12 - 9:3

- 1: 7:12 - 17:16
- 2: 7:17 - 17:21
- 3: 7:22 - 17:26
- 4: 8:1 - 18:3
- 5: 8:4 - 18:10
- 6: 8:11 - 18:18
- 7: 8:19 - 19:3
- Maftir: 9:1 - 19:3

**Haftarah** Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3

### RE-EH

**Torah: Annual** Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17  
**Triennial** Deuteronomy 11:26 - 12:28  
**Haftarah** Isaiah 54:11 - 55:5

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.

