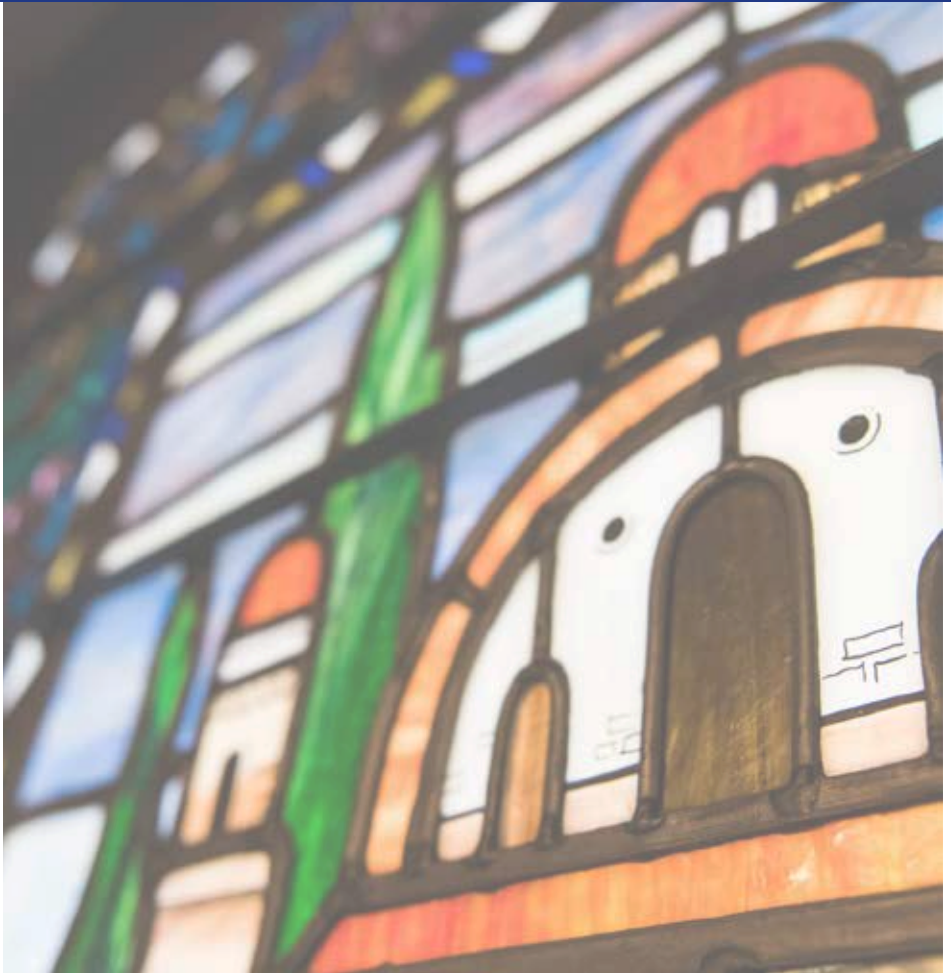


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



December 29, 2017-January 5, 2018 • 11-18 Tevet, 5778

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 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

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Fred Weiss and Shanta Matabeek Weiss, their children, Daniel and Jonathan Weiss, and their entire family on the death of Fred's father, Norman Weiss.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Ivan Porto and Andres de la Pena on their upcoming wedding.
- Congressman Jerry Nadler on his election as Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee.

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 BRING:

● Toiletry Kit-Making and Exploring Poverty Issues

Monday, January 15, 10:00AM-12:00 noon, BJ Sanctuary: BJ is proudly partnering with Repair the World NYC and the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee for a series of hands-on activities including making toiletry gift sets for the guests of the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program. We are collecting toiletries for this project and need your help! You can drop off small, travel-sized toiletries to the BJ Community House through January 11. More information and registration at www.bj.org/toiletrykitmaking.

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!

SAVE THE DATES! Visit www.bj.org/retreats for more information:

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

MINDFULNESS RETREAT IN COSTA RICA, Jan. 14-21, 2018

HAMALAKH HAGO-EL

Hamalakh hago-el oti mikol-ra
yevarekh et-hane'arim veyikare vahem shemi
veshem avotai Avraham veYitzhak
veyidgu larov bekerev ha-aretz.

הַמַּלְאָךְ הַגָּאֵל אֶתִּי מִכָּל־רָע
יְבָרֵךְ אֶת־הַנְּעָרִים וַיְקַרֵּא בְהֵם שְׁמִי
וְשֵׁם אֲבוֹתַי אַבְרָהָם וַיִּצְחָק
וַיְדַגּוּ לָרֶב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ :

*The Angel who has redeemed me from all harm
Bless the lads. In them may my name be recalled,
And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,
And may they be teeming multitudes upon the earth.*

— Genesis 48:16

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

BJ Office Closed

"Israel Celebrates 70" Community Trip to Israel (through 1/4)

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – BJ Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary

Aliyat Re'im Ahuvim **Walter Ivan Porto Gutierrez and Andres de la Pena**

- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Reception & Middle Rooms

- ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – BJ Community House 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 — New Year's Day

BJ Office Closed

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

- **The Book of Genesis with Rabbi Hillel Friedman** 9:30 AM – BJ Middle Room

- ● **KesheTOT** 4:00 PM – BJ Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

- **Introduction to Judaism** 7:30 PM – BJ Community House, Room 408

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

- **Caregivers Support Group** 4:15 PM – BJ Community House
4th Floor Conference Room

A monthly support group for BJ members to draw strength, insight, and information from each other and our tradition. Registration required. More info at www.bj.org/caregivergroups.
Upcoming session: 2/1.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

- ● **Bim Bam & Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion** 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 AM – BJ Chapel

We are happy to share BJ's services with those unable to attend in person through automated recording and livestreaming, available on our website and on our YouTube channel. The camera will be focused on the bimah and areas in front of the Ark. Your presence in those areas indicates your consent to your image appearing on the livestream. Tune in live—and to watch previously streamed services and programs—at www.bj.org/live.

WHAT'S NEXT

● **Bridging the Gap: Study Exchange with Michigan Corrections Officers**

Accepting applications now through January 8: This unique encounter, designed to create dialogue across difference, is a two-part experience including travel to Michigan in April 2018 and hosting members of Michigan Corrections Organization in New York in June 2018. Find out more and apply now at www.bj.org/bridgingthegap.

● **Bim Bam and Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion**

Fridays, January 5-May 11, 9:15-10:00AM, 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15AM-12:00 noon, BJ Chapel: Bim Bam gives children under 3 a fun space to explore Shabbat through interactive songs and stories while learning traditions such as lighting candles, saying Kiddush, and giving tzedakah. More information at www.bj.org/bimbam.

● **Tot Shabbat**

Friday, January 5, 5:15-7:00PM, BJ Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service filled with singing and dancing, followed by a dinner at 5:45PM downstairs in Frankel Hall complete with Shabbat blessings and songs. While adults are finishing their meal, children engage in play and exploration. Register at www.bj.org/totshabbat.

● **Haleli Nafshi: Communal Singing and Havdalah**

Saturday, January 6, 4:30PM, BJ Chapel: Join us for our monthly gathering as we spend the final moments of Shabbat together, singing beautiful nigunim and zemirot as havdalah approaches. Please bring a vegetarian snack and/or drink to share.

● **IAC Keshetot@BJ**

Tuesdays, January 9-May 16, 4:00-5:00PM, BJ Community House: IAC KesheTOT is an innovative program for families with infants and toddlers from birth until 3.5 years old. Children gain a sense of community, flavored by Israeli culture and Jewish heritage. More information and registration at www.bj.org/keshetot.

● **Parents' Corner: Evening Edition**

Tuesday, January 9, 7:15-8:30PM, BJ Chapel: Join Rabbi Anne Ebersman and the Kadima Advisory Committee for an evening session of Parents' Corner. We'll discuss the emotional challenges which can arise as our tweens and teens begin to separate from us. More information at www.bj.org/parentscorner.

● **Everyday Ethics with Rabbi Adina Lewittes**

Tuesdays, January 9, 23, 7:30-9:00PM, BJ Reception Room: Join us as we take an honest look at real-life examples of the ethical questions we face and the choices we make every day, using Jewish and other sources to awaken, guide, and motivate us. Course extended due to popular demand. Register now at www.bj.org/ethics.

● **Being a Grandparent in a Jewish Family**

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00M-9:15PM, Frankel Hall: Are you a grandparent or an elder in a single-faith Jewish family or multi-faith/multi-heritage Jewish family? Join Rabbi Adina Lewittes in this skill-building session, with guest teachers Judith Stern Peck LCSW and Ruth Nemzoff. Open to all. Register at www.bj.org/grandparents.

● **Racial Justice Giving Circle**

Sunday, January 14, 2:00-4:00PMn, BJ Sanctuary: BJ is proudly partnering with Repair the World NYC for a series of hands-on activities including the Racial Justice Giving Circle. More information and registration at www.bj.org/givingcircle.

● **"Soul Food" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol**

Tuesdays, January 16, weekly through March 27, 12:30-1:45PM, BJ 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. More information and registration at www.bj.org/soulfood.

continued on panel 4

- **David Litt and Robin Pogrebin in Conversation: Words and Politics in America Today**
Wednesday, January 17, 7:00-9:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: The Yale Jewish Alumni Association, together with BJ, presents David Litt and Robin Pogrebin in Conversation: Words and Politics in America Today. The talk will be followed by a wine reception with David and Robin. Register now at www.bj.org/littpogrebin.
- **Teen Learning Series: Otherness**
Wednesdays, January 17-February 7, 6:00-7:15PM, BJ Community House: BJ Rabbinic Fellow Sarah Krinsky will examine racial justice, circumcision, chosenness, and intermarriage through the lens of traditional sources and contemporary issues. More information and registration at www.bj.org/otherness.

WHAT'S LATER

- **Camp Shabbat: Experience the Magic of Summer Camp**
Friday, January 19, 6:30PM, BJ Sanctuary: Experience the magic of Jewish summer camp. Join us for BJ Shabbat services led by campers and brimming with kavannot given by past and present campers of all ages! More information and registration at www.bj.org/campdinner.
- **Bo-i Kallah**
Friday, January 19, 6:30PM, BJ Reception Room: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon, Deborah Sacks Mintz, and Music Director Dan Nadel for an alternative Kabbalat Shabbat. More information at www.bj.org/boikallah.
- **PJs and Havdalah**
Saturday, January 20, 4:45-5:45PM, BJ Chapel: Families with children ages 5 and under are invited to experience Havdalah through art, song, and story. Kids are encouraged to come in pajamas to create a warm and cozy atmosphere. More information and registration at www.bj.org/pjshavdalah.
- **Young Professionals: Back to Camp Night**
Saturday, January 20, 5:30PM, BJ Community House 3rd Floor: Join us as we recreate the magic of summer camp. We will take you back to your favorite camp memories of singing as we end Shabbat together. More information and registration at www.bj.org/backtocamp.
- **Camp Shabbat: Family Havdalah and Peulat Erev**
Saturday, January 20, 6:00-8:00PM, BJ Community House: BJ has partnered with many Jewish camps to create camp-like evening programming for the whole family. Come participate in various camp activities and take part in a spirited havdalah ceremony. Contact Jacey at jjgluska@bj.org with any questions.
- **Meetup for Parents and Babies**
Wednesdays, January 24-February 28, 10:30-11:30AM, BJ Community House: Parents with babies ages 0-8 months are invited to meet other parents, gain practical tools, and enjoy some bonding time with your baby in a supportive environment. Meg Akabas, NYSPEP Certified Parenting Educator, will facilitate conversations. More information and registration at www.bj.org/babies.
- **Parenting Series: #3 Helping Your Teen**
Wednesday, January 24, 6:00-7:15PM, BJ Community House: Join us in the third part of our series as Betsy Stone addresses the question of how to help our teens. What do kids need from us to help them navigate the teen and early adult years? More info at www.bj.org/helpteens.
- **Discover Jewish Sicily with Rabbi Adina Lewittes**
Monday, May 28-Tuesday, June 5, 2018: Save the date for a unique adventure led by Rabbi Adina Lewittes, accompanied by Executive Director Colin A. Weil. Explore the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and touches of ancient and modern-day Sicily. Details at www.bj.org/sicily2018.

A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYEHI

When compared to the high-drama parashot we've seen throughout Bereshit, we find very little action actually taking place here in Vayehi. Yet within these final chapters of Bereshit, there lies a powerful message about how we might relate to Torah, our tradition, and one another.

In poetic fashion, Parashat Vayehi begins and ends with two of its main characters giving instructions for how they wish to be buried after their death: first Yaakov, and later, Yosef. In the first instance, Yaakov makes Yosef swear that when the time comes, his son will take his body back to the family burial plot at the cave of Makhpelah for final internment, so that he might be "buried with his fathers."

Yosef's wishes for his own burial, however, are about looking forward toward the future. By the time we reach the very end of Bereshit, he is old and about to die. He asks his relatives to swear, on behalf of their descendants, that at whatever point in the future God ultimately returns the people to the land of their ancestors, they will retrieve his bones and carry them to the Promised Land. Yosef gives his descendants a mission to hold onto for years to come, ensuring that they will remember him, where he is buried, and the ultimate connection to the land of their fathers.

וַיִּשְׁבַּע יוֹסֵף אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶתְכֶם וְהֶעֱלֶתֶם אֶת-עַצְמוֹתַי מִזֶּה.

So Yosef made the sons of Israel swear, saying: "When God has taken notice of you, you shall lift up my bones from here." — *Genesis 50:25*

These two promises reflect such important aspects of our relationship to our tradition and community. Rabbi Jill Hammer teaches that "the central word of Yaakov's promise is *kivru* (bury), a word that indicates descent or downward motion. The promise to Yaakov teaches us to show loyalty and love to our ancestors, respecting the people, ideas, and places they loved... The central word of Yosef's promise is *veha'alitem* (lift up). This promise to Yosef, a word that indicates ascent or upward motion, teaches us to show love and loyalty to the generations to come."

In a sense, our connection to Torah, to our tradition, and to one another is strengthened as we balance the messages of these two promises. As we live in concert with the past, lifting up and strengthening our tradition, may we also look forward, working to build a world and Jewish life that continues to be strong, innovative, vital, and compelling for the generations to come.

— Cantor David Mintz

TORAH PORTION

VAYEHI

Torah: Annual Genesis 47:28- 50:26

Triennial Genesis 49:1- 49:26

1: 49:1- 49:4

2: 49:5- 49:7

3: 49:8- 49:12

4: 49:13- 49:15

5: 49:16- 49:18

6: 49:19- 49:21

7: 49:22- 49:26

Maftir: 49:22- 49:26

Haftarah I Kings 2:1- 2:12

NEXT WEEK: SHEMOT

Torah: Annual Exodus 1:1- 6:1

Triennial Exodus 3:1- 4:17

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

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.**

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BJ RECYCLES AND COMPOSTS. Please look for bins throughout our spaces. BJ's Ner Tamid at the BJ Sanctuary is powered by the energy of the sun.



Visit us at www.bj.org

