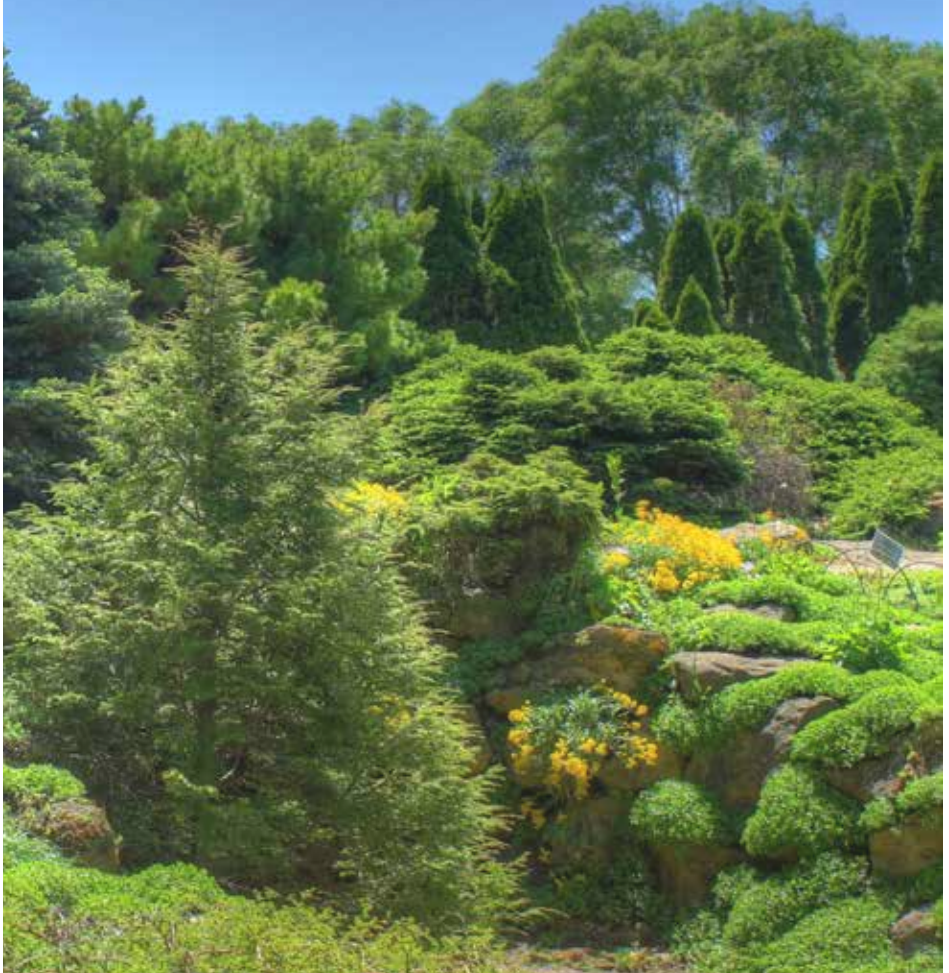


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



January 26–February 2, 2018 • 10-17 Shevat, 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**
- **Purim Events & Services**

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

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

BJ RABBINIC FELLOWS: Sarah Krinsky • Tobias Divack Moss

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Colin A. Weil

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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Alyssa and Gary Apple and their children, Dani and Zoe Apple, on the death of Alyssa's father, Dr. Melvyn Ziegler.
- Marcy and Bennett Grau and their children on the death of Marcy's mother, Gloria Bennett.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Jordana Imershein and Jeremy Miller, and Robert, Margie, Rachel, and Julia Imershein, on Jordana and Jeremy's upcoming wedding.

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:

● Bread Donation Pick-Up Volunteers Needed

Tuesdays, 7:50-8:15PM, Zabar's: Every Tuesday evening, Zabar's generously donates leftover bread to our Lunch Program—and we need you to help transport it to BJ. We are looking for volunteers, preferably with cars, who can be added to the pick-up rotation. For more information and to sign up, contact Larissa, lwohl@bj.org.

● Discover Sicily with BJ

Monday, May 28-Tuesday, June 5, 2018: Sign up now 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. **Commitment deadline is this Sunday, January 28.** We need 30 committed travelers to proceed with the trip. Contact Lyndsey at lhunter@bj.org or x239 to confirm your participation.

Hesed at BJ

Do you need help getting to a doctor's visit, or to BJ services? Would you like a regular visit or phone call from a Hesed volunteer? If you or someone you know would like support, please reach out! hesed@bj.org

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.

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

7th Grade Trip to Washington, DC (through 1/28)

- ● **Shabbaton with Assistant Rabbi Candidate Erin Glazer** Various times – BJ Sanctuary & Community House

Meet Assistant Rabbi candidate Erin Glazer at Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning services and kiddush, Sunday morning minyan and brunch, and more. For more details about Rabbi Glazer, including meeting times and locations, see www.bj.org/glazershabbaton.

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

- ● **Tu Bishvat Community Potluck Dinner with Nigel Savage of Hazon** Following services – BJ Reception & Middle Rooms

Prepare for Tu Bishvat with BJ by joining us for a Community Potluck Dinner with special guest Nigel Savage. As President, CEO and founder of Hazon, Nigel Savage has played a unique role in renewing American Jewish life and creating a healthier and more sustainable world for all. More information and registration at www.bj.org/potluck.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

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

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

- ● **Kulanu** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel

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

- **Devotional Song: Kirtan Shabbat Shirah** 7:30 PM – BJ Sanctuary

Join BJ Music Director Dan Nadel, Hazzan George Mordecai, and others, along with an ensemble of the finest Kirtan musicians in New York, as we merge Jewish devotional chants with the South Asian tradition of Kirtan, a musical form of shared spiritual recitation. Register now at www.bj.org/shabbatshirah.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

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

- **Tu Bishvat Festival for Families** 10:00 AM – Frankel Hall

To celebrate The New Year of the Trees, we are throwing a birthday party with nature-themed games, arts and crafts workshops using recycled materials, storytelling, holiday songs, and more! More information and registration at www.bj.org/tubishvatfam.

- **Purim Shpiel Rehearsal** 10:00 AM – BJ Sanctuary

- ● **Brunch and Learn: Meet Assistant Rabbi Candidate Erin Glazer** 10:30 AM – BJ Community House 1st Floor

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

- **"Soul Food" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol** 12:30 PM – 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. Weekly through May 15 (no class February 13; April 17, 24). More information and registration at www.bj.org/soulfood.

- ● **IAC Keshetot@BJ** 4:00 PM – BJ Chapel

- ● **6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Parent Meeting** 7:00 PM – BJ Community House

Parents of children in 6th grade are invited to an informational meeting to review the B'nai Mitzvah process for the upcoming year. For more information, contact Davia Rabinoff-Goldman at drabinoff@bj.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 | TU BISHVAT

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Teen Learning Series: Otherness** 6:00 PM – BJ Community House
- **A Conversation with Anita Diamant** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary
Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for an evening with author and ritual innovator, Anita Diamant. Diamant is the Founding President of Mayyim Hayyim: Living Waters Community Mikveh. Join for a conversation on reclaiming and reinventing ancient ritual in contemporary Jewish life. Register at www.bj.org/diamant.
- **Introduction to Judaism** 7:30 PM – BJ Community House, Room 408

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **“In the Mirror” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roly Matalon** No class this week
- **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.
- **BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Committee Meeting** 6:30 PM – SPSA, 263 West 86th Street
Join us for the next BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Committee meeting as we begin to research potential partners and action steps, and to connect with other organizations to learn about current issues. Register at www.bj.org/racialjustice0123.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Bim Bam & Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion** 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 AM – BJ Chapel

WHAT'S NEXT

- ● **February Tot Shabbat**
Friday, February 2, 5:15-7:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: 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. More information and registration at www.bj.org/febtotshabbat.
- **4th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Journey: Opening Ritual**
Saturday, February 3, 4:30-6:30PM, BJ Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for this special event that brings together all 4th grade students and families as they begin their journey toward becoming b'nai mitzvah. More information and registration at www.bj.org/openingritual.
- **Haleli Nafshi: Communal Singing and Havdalah**
Saturday, February 3, 5:00PM, 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.
- **Ritual Labs: Retirement**
Mondays, February 5, 12, 26; March 12, 7:00-8:30PM, BJ Middle Room: Join Rabbi Michael Boino and Cantor David Mintz for four Ritual Labs around the life transition that is retirement. We will explore the wisdom of our tradition and develop a new ritual to mark this time. Email kkersey@bj.org to participate.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

● **Shira Yoga Intensive with Rabbi Myriam Klotz**

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21; Tuesday, February 27, 6:15-7:30PM, BJ Sanctuary: Join Rabbi Myriam Klotz and BJ Music Director Dan Nadel for a four-week Shira Yoga Intensive, integrating Jewish texts and global Jewish music; for yogis of all levels. \$50 members/\$60 non-members/\$18 per session at the door. Register at www.bj.org/shirayoga.

● ● **Stormy Weather: Addressing Climate Change in Turbulent Times**

Thursday, February 8, 7:00-9:00PM, JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue: Join BJ and the Jewish Climate Action Network NYC, in partnership with JCC Manhattan's Joseph Stern Center for Social Responsibility, at a lively and compelling evening of discussion, film clips, and a musical interlude with leaders in the climate change activism movement.

● **A Yozma Revival: Planning Brunch**

Sunday, February 11, 12:00 noon, location given upon registration: Take part in reviving the group for BJ members and their friends in their 40s & 50s, at a planning brunch. Help us shape our 2018 calendar. R.S.V.P. to Craig Rosenberg at crosenberg6@optonline.net.

● **Purim Prep Olympics with Shorashim**

Sunday, February 11, 2:00-3:30PM, BJ Community House: Students in grades 3-5 are invited to go for the gold and compete in Purim-themed activities and a gaga tournament in BJ's first ever Purim Prep Olympics! Members of Shorashim: email mgeisler@bj.org for more information and registration. Non-members of Shorashim can register now at www.bj.org/purimolympics.

● **Pre-Purim Palooza with Garinim**

Sunday, February 11, 2:00-3:30PM, BJ Community House: We still have a while before Purim, but it's never too early to prepare! Students in grades K-2 are invited to get your costumes ready and your Haman-drowning voices up to their gold-standard at this pre-Purim extravaganza. More details and registration at www.bj.org/purimpalooza.

● **Israeli Book Club Hosts Award Winning Novelist Ruby Namdar**

Sunday, February 11, 5:00-6:30PM, location given upon registration: Our next book will be *The Ruined House*, winner of the Sapir Prize (Israel's highest literary award), by Ruby Namdar. We will have the honor of hosting Ruby for a presentation, followed by a Q&A session.

● **Men's Havurah Gathering**

Sunday, February 11, 7:00-9:00PM, BJ Middle Room: The Men's Havurah continues its exploration of Jewish perspectives on life transitions—this time over snacks and scotch. Join us for a special session with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein and facilitators from What Matters as we explore how our values and commitments can inform our advance care planning. Register now at www.bj.org/menshavurah.

● **Tefillat haDerekh with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein**

Tuesdays, February 13, March 6, 7:00-9:00PM, BJ Middle Room: Life is a journey. Our souls yearn to go home, but where is home? Join us for an exploration of Tefillat haDerekh (the Traveler's Prayer). Together, we will dwell in the stations our souls have stopped in. Register at www.bj.org/tefilathaderekh.

● **Death Over Dinner—Jewish Edition for Zayin Adar**

Wednesday, February 14, 6:00PM, Frankel Hall: Honor the work of our Hevra Kadisha (volunteers who provide support for mourners) and explore Jewish and medical perspectives on death, dying, and mourning. More details and registration at www.bj.org/deathoverdinner. In memory of Helen Radin, z"l".

WHAT'S LATER

● **Unmasquerade Ball**

Saturday, March 3, 7:00-10:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: Teens from all over NYC are invited to join LGBTQ peers, allies, and friends for this post-Purim party. More information at www.bj.org/unmasquerade.

A TASTE OF TORAH: BESHALAH

As Parashat Beshalah opens, the people of Israel's excitement upon leaving Egypt quickly turns into fear, pessimism, and hysteria. Trapped at the edge of the sea, watching Pharaoh's army descend upon them, they make what will be their first of many complaints to Moshe: "Was it for want of graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the wilderness?" Moshe responds by promising the people that God will fight for them, but God interjects, addressing Moses directly:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה מֶה-תִּצְעַק אֵלַי דָּבָר אֶל-בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיִסְעוּ:

Then the LORD said to Moshe, "Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward."

— Exodus 14:15

It's a curious verse for a variety of reasons—not the least of which is that Moshe hadn't been addressing God at all. What is this "crying out" to which God responds so strongly? Drawing from Mekhila d'Rabbi Yishmael, Rashi offers that Moshe was deep in prayer, and God beseeches him, saying: "This is not the time for lengthy prayers, when Israel is in such trouble!" In asking us to understand the text this way, Rashi offers a profound message about the power and limits of prayer itself.

Many of us have felt the power of spiritual practice to transform our lives and connect us to something much larger than ourselves. Through the midrash, we see that affirmed in Moshe's actions. At the same time, God's response to Moshe expresses the limitations of prayer. Foreshadowing the words of Kohelet, God seems to be instructing Moshe that there is a time for deep, profound, lengthy prayer, but there is also time for action. Prayer only takes you so far and in moments of crisis, we must also act.

In recent years, our society has demonstrated this all too clearly, as political leaders routinely use prayer as a crutch, sending only "thoughts and prayers" when action is needed so deeply. From gun violence to global warming, there are existential crises facing our lives and our world that cannot be resolved by prayer alone.

Our tradition calls upon us to examine this balance. What are the areas in our lives where perhaps we've lingered too much on lengthy prayers? What are the aspects of our world that we have the ability to change, but have yet to do so? Last Shabbat morning, as we moved from communal prayer to lifting our voices together at the New York Women's March, we embodied ways that deepening our prayer lives and taking meaningful action can strengthen one another. In different ways, may we continue to embody this balance, deepening our spiritual lives together.

— Cantor David Mintz

TORAH PORTION

BESHALAH

SHABBAT SHIRAH

Torah: Annual Exodus 13:17 - 17:16

Triennial Exodus 14:15 - 16:10

1: 14:15 - 14:20

2: 14:21 - 14:25

3: 14:26 - 15:21

4: 15:22 - 15:26

5: 15:27 - 16:3

6: 16:4 - 16:7

7: 16:8 - 16:10

Maftir: 16:8 - 16:10

Haftarah Judges 5:1 - 5:31

NEXT WEEK: YITRO

Torah Exodus 18:1 - 20:26

Haftarah Isaiah 6:1 - 6:13

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

