

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



May 25–June 1, 2018 • 11–18 Sivan, 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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Colin A. Weil

**SANCTUARY:** 257 West 88th Street • **OFFICE:** 270 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-1705  
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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:

- Rick and Tammy Wien, and their children, Bari, Evan and Kasey Wien, on the death of Rick's father, Albert Wien.
- Richard Exelbert and Suzanne Lipkin on the death of Richard's mother, Barbara Exelbert.

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Sammy and Sari Bovitz, their parents, Rachel and Greg Bovitz, and their sister, Annie Bovitz, on Sammy and Sari becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

## TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

- This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Rachel and Gregg Bovitz in honor of Sari and Sammy becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

## B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Sarah Adams and youth group, LDS Church, New York, New York.
- **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:

#### ● Perform a Mitzvah in Your Sleep

Our shelter is in need of sleepover volunteers for Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. This is a great opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of providing hospitality with dignity, all while sleeping through the night. Contact Larissa, [lwohl@bj.org](mailto:lwohl@bj.org) to learn more.

## LOST AND FOUND

Left something behind at services? Lost and Found is now located at reception on the 2nd floor of the Community House. Contact Adarra at [adavis@bj.org](mailto:adavis@bj.org) or x220.

Items not claimed after 30 days will be donated to an appropriate charity.

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](http://www.bj.org/live).

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, MAY 25

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, MAY 26

- **Soulful Start: Hakhanah laTefillah — Preparing for Prayer** 8:45 AM – BJ 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.
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary
  - Bar Mitzvah** **Samuel Bovitz**
  - Bat Mitzvah** **Sari Bovitz**
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Middle Room
- ● **K-2 Family Shabbat Experience** 10:45 AM – Frankel Hall  
Join us for a new Shabbat morning experience for children in grades K-2 and their families. Led by Sarah Rosenthal, each session incorporates spirited prayer, singing, fun learning activities, and ample schmooze time. Email [elight@bj.org](mailto:elight@bj.org) for more information.
- ● **Kulanu** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following services – BJ Community House 3rd Floor
- **Jerusalem and the Temple Mount: National Center or Locus of Universal Worship** Following kiddush – BJ Community House  
Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller will examine the sources that undergird both points of view, framing a position that affirms Jerusalem's uniqueness to Jews and Judaism while promoting the aspirational vision of its universality.

## SUNDAY, MAY 27

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

## MONDAY, MAY 28 | Memorial Day

*BJ Office closed*

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Monday Minhā Meditation** No session this week

## TUESDAY, MAY 29

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **A Conversation with Rabbis Matalon and Sol for Multifaith Couples** 6:30 PM – Location given upon registration  
With the new openness to multifaith couples at BJ, we would like to be in conversation with you about your experience and wisdom as we move into the future. Please contact Beth at [btarson@bj.org](mailto:btarson@bj.org) or x233 for more information.
- **Everyday Ethics with Rabbi Adina Lewittes** 7:30 PM – BJ Chapel  
Rabbi Adina Lewittes will guide 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. Register now at [www.bj.org/ethics](http://www.bj.org/ethics).

### 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 at: [hesed@bj.org](mailto:hesed@bj.org).

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Interfaith Partners for Peace: Reflections on Our Trip to Israel** 6:00 PM – SPSA, 263 West 86th Street  
Please join Rabbi Felicia Sol and Reverends K Karpen and Lea Matthews as they share their experience of traveling to Israel with Christian and Jewish clergy and their encounters with the different voices of Israel.
- **Faith & Public Life Lecture— With Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary



Join us for the last in our Faith & Public Life Lecture Series, with Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer. Dr. Kurtzer is President of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and teaches widely in the Institute's many platforms. Register now at [www.bj.org/faithlecture](http://www.bj.org/faithlecture).

## THURSDAY, MAY 31

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 1

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

## WHAT'S NEXT

- ● **June Tot Shabbat**  
**Friday, June 1**, 5:15-7:00PM, BJ Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Enjoy a kid-friendly family Kabbalat Shabbat service filled with singing and dancing, followed by a dinner complete with Shabbat blessings and songs. Register now at [www.bj.org/junetotshabbat](http://www.bj.org/junetotshabbat).
- **Eat, Schmooze, and Sing: Community Shabbat Dinner with Ari**  
**Friday, June 1**, following Kabbalat Shabbat services, BJ Chapel: Celebrate the beginning of Pride Month and elevate your Shabbat with friends, food, and soulful singing led by Hazzan Ari Priven. LGBTQ community members, friends, and allies are invited to join for a three-course dinner with wine. Register at [www.bj.org/schmoozeandsing](http://www.bj.org/schmoozeandsing). \$20 for BJ members / \$30 for non-members.
- ● **Aliyah Honoring the Class of 2018**  
**Saturday, June 2**, during Shabbat morning services, BJ Sanctuary: Teens in the senior class of 2018 are invited to this special Shabbat morning service, where they will be called to the bimah for an aliyah to wish them yasher koah and mazal. To sign up, email [mgeisler@bj.org](mailto:mgeisler@bj.org).
- **Honoring Chaim Citron: Author and Beloved BJ Security Guard**  
**Saturday, June 2**, following kiddush, BJ Chapel: Join us as we honor Chaim Citron, BJ's beloved security guard, and author of the novel *Wings of Hope*, as he shares anecdotes from his novel and from his own experience of growing up in the early days of the State of Israel. Find out more at [www.bj.org/wingsofhope](http://www.bj.org/wingsofhope).
- **Annual Celebrate Israel Parade**  
**Sunday, June 3**, 12:15PM, 52nd Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues: Join the BJ rabbis and fellow members of the BJ community as we show our support of Israel and mark its 70th anniversary. This year, we will be marching as part of an UWS coalition of synagogues. An official parade t-shirt will be provided at the meeting point. Registration required at [www.bj.org/celebrateisraelparade](http://www.bj.org/celebrateisraelparade).
- **Israeli Book Club Discusses *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid* by Shani Boianjiu**  
**Sunday, June 3**, 5:00PM, BJ Community House: Join the Israeli Book Club as we discuss *The People of Forever Are Not Afraid*, written by up-and-coming Israeli author Shani Boianjiu. Register now at [www.bj.org/thepeopleofforever](http://www.bj.org/thepeopleofforever).

● **Journalism: The Family Business**



**Sunday, June 3**, 6:30PM, BJ Sanctuary: In partnership with *The Jewish Week*, BJ is proud to present a talk with the *New York Times*' Clyde and Maggie Haberman, moderated by *The Jewish Week*'s Gary Rosenblatt. Register now at [www.bj.org/familybusiness](http://www.bj.org/familybusiness).

● **Sustainability and Environmental Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 5**, 6:30-8:30PM, BJ Middle Room: Join us for our second meeting where we will report back on issues, partnerships, and opportunities. Further, we will continue to explore our group environmental work options. New members welcome. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/sustainabilitycommittee](http://www.bj.org/sustainabilitycommittee).

● **Israel Film Center Festival**

**Tuesday, June 5-Tuesday, June 12**, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave.: BJ is proud to partner with the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan's Israel Film Center Festival. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/israelfilmfestival](http://www.bj.org/israelfilmfestival).

● **Iftar in a Synagogue—Standing with Survivors of Violence**

**Thursday, June 7**, 6:15-9:30PM, Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street: Join BJ and other NYC congregations at the Muslim Jewish Solidarity Committee's flagship event. The theme: survivors of all forms of violence across the world. Speakers include Sabeeha Rehman, Ruth Messinger, and Robina Niaz. Register at [www.bj.org/standingwithsurvivors](http://www.bj.org/standingwithsurvivors).

● **The Ongoing Battle of the Orthodox Feminist Movement**

**Thursday, June 7**, 7:00PM, location given upon registration: Join Yael Rockman, Executive Director of Kolech, in a discussion on the successes and ongoing challenges of the Orthodox feminist movement as it clashes with the conservative rabbinic establishment and an often toxic public atmosphere. Sign up at [www.bj.org/orthodoxfeminism](http://www.bj.org/orthodoxfeminism).

● **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat**

**Friday, June 8**, 7:00PM, BJ Community House 3rd Floor: Join us for an intimate service featuring meditation, reflection, deep listening, and personal engagement with the parashah. Contact Kristen at [kkersey@bj.org](mailto:kkersey@bj.org) or x255 with any questions.

● **Teen End of the Year Brunch and Bounce**

**Sunday, June 10**, 11:30AM, BJ Community House: Teens and their families are invited to a celebratory brunch honoring the class of 2018. The meal will be followed by a teen-only trip to Urban Air Trampoline & Adventure park. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/brunchandbounce](http://www.bj.org/brunchandbounce).

● **BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Committee Meeting**

**Monday, June 11**, 6:30PM, BJ Reception Room: Join us for the next BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Committee meeting, open to all who want to get involved with the program. Hear updates from subcommittees and help us determine priorities. Sign up at [www.bj.org/racialjusticejune11](http://www.bj.org/racialjusticejune11).

● **On Being Podcast Recording with Krista Tippett**

**Tuesday, June 12**, 7:00PM (doors open 6:30PM), BJ Sanctuary: Join Peabody Award-winning broadcaster Krista Tippett in conversation with the 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States, Tracy K. Smith, for a live recording of *On Being*—the podcast that opens up the animating questions at the center of human life. Register at [www.bj.org/onbeing](http://www.bj.org/onbeing).

● **2018 Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 14**, 7:00-9:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: BJ members are invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, where you will hear about this year's tremendous accomplishments, as well as look ahead to next year's goals, programmatic highlights, and financial outlook. Sign up at [www.bj.org/annualmeeting](http://www.bj.org/annualmeeting).

## A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT NASO



On display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

In 1979, at the Ketef Hinnom archaeological dig just outside of Jerusalem's Old City walls, a 13-year-old volunteer stumbled upon a find that seemed too good to be true, the veracity of which gives me chills. Bored after cleaning the back of an empty burial chamber, young Nathan thumped his hammer against the floor. He heard an unexpected resonance, dug through the rocks, and uncovered mostly-intact pottery vessels. Inside one of them were two miniature silver scrolls, resembling amulets of some kind.

It took American and Israeli researchers three years to unroll the scrolls without damaging their delicate inscriptions, using advanced imaging techniques to render the inscriptions readable. When finally unrolled, the smaller scroll measured just half an inch in width and 1 ½ inches in length. Scholars were amazed to discover that the scroll contained the beloved tripartite blessing we intone in this week's parashah, in our liturgy, at our Shabbat tables, and on many other occasions worthy of blessing. The sublime words unfurl almost like the silver scrolls themselves, as each line further extends the theme of God's blessing emanating towards the recipient.

יְבָרֶכֶךָ ה' וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ  
יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֹךְ  
יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

May Adonai bless and protect you.

May Adonai's countenance shine upon you.

May Adonai's countenance be lifted toward you and may Adonai grant you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26

Remarkably, these silver amulets were dated to the 6th century BCE (before the destruction of the First Temple), making them by far the oldest attestation of any biblical text known in the world today. Ahad Ha'am famously said: "More than the Am Yisrael has kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept Am Yisrael." So too, our people have continued to hold this blessing close to our hearts, imbuing it with renewed meaning and purpose, and finding protection and hope within the return of its poetic embrace.

—Tobias Divack Moss

## TORAH PORTION

### NASO

**Torah: Annual** Numbers 4:21 - 7:89

**Triennial** Numbers 5:11 - 6:27

1: 5:11 - 5:15

2: 5:16 - 5:26

3: 5:27 - 6:4

4: 6:5 - 6:8

5: 6:9 - 6:15

6: 6:16 - 6:21

7: 6:22 - 6:27

Maftir: 6:22 - 6:27

**Haftarah** Judges 13:2 - 13:25

**NEXT WEEK: BEHA'ALOTEKHA**

**Torah: Annual** Numbers 8:1 - 12:16

**Triennial** Numbers 9:15 - 10:34

**Haftarah** Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

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).**

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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.



AVAILABLE AT SERVICES & PROGRAMS  
IN THE BJ SANCTUARY



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED  
Switch hearing aid to T-coil