

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



June 15–22, 2018 • 2-9 Tammuz, 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

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# OUR COMMUNITY

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Charlie Lebwohl, his parents, Jill and Martin Lebwohl, his brother, Eli Lebwohl, and his sister, Jennie Lebwohl, on Charlie becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Joshua Lopatin Bordereau, his parents, Galit Lopatin Bordereau and Samuel Bordereau, and his brothers, Max and Jacob Bordereau, on Joshua becoming a Bar Mitzvah in Israel this coming Thursday.
- Noam Medjuck-Bruckner, his parents, Gustavo Bruckner and Bena Medjuck-Bruckner, and his sisters Ayelet, Yaffa, and Sivan Medjuck-Bruckner, on Noam becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Anna Schecter Altman and Arik Gabbai on their upcoming wedding.
- Rachel Rabinowitz and Evan Wien on their upcoming wedding.

## TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Jill and Martin Lebwohl in honor of Charlie Lebwohl becoming a Bar Mitzvah, and supported by Tammy Tuller and Rick Wien in honor of Evan Wein and Rachel Rabinowitz'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:

#### ● Lunch Program Volunteers Needed

**Thursdays**, 11:30AM-1:15PM, Frankel Hall: Our wonderful, intergenerational lunch program is in need of additional servers and volunteers to help clean up. Interested? 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 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!

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, JUNE 15

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary
- **Bo-i Kallah** 7:00 PM – BJ Reception Room  
Join Rabbi Roly Matalon, Music Director Dan Nadel, and Deborah Sacks Mintz for a Kabbalat Shabbat filled with soulful melodies, verses of Shir haShirim (Song of Songs), liturgical poems, and psalms. More information at [www.bj.org/boikallah](http://www.bj.org/boikallah).
- **20/30s Shabbat Dinner with IAC Dor Chadash** Following services – BJ Rooftop  
BJ, in collaboration with IAC Dor Chadash, invites you to join us for a community Shabbat Dinner! Register now at [www.bj.org/iacshabbatdinner](http://www.bj.org/iacshabbatdinner).

## SATURDAY, JUNE 16

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary
- Bar Mitzvah** **Charles Lebwohl**
- Aliyat Hatan veKallah** **Arik Gabbai and Anna Altman**  
**Evan Wein and Rachel Rabinowitz**
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following services – BJ Community House 3rd Floor

## SUNDAY, JUNE 17

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 18

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Monday Minḥa Meditation** 6:30 PM – BJ Chapel  
The Center for Prayer and Spirituality invites you to join us as we explore meditation techniques and build a sustained communal meditation practice. There will also be an opportunity for community members to recite the Mourner's Kaddish. No registration necessary; all welcome.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 19

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Steve Shepard in Conversation With Sandee Brawarsky: A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary



Join BJ members Steve Shepard and Sandee Brawarsky for a lively conversation as they discuss Steve's new book, *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-Reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers*. Register at [www.bj.org/steveshepard](http://www.bj.org/steveshepard).

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 21

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 22

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

## WHAT'S NEXT

- **Call Cuomo for Justice – Honor the Legacy of RFK**

Call Cuomo to support the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act. One call can make a difference. June 6 marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Robert Kennedy, staunch supporter of farmworkers. Honor his memory by calling Governor Cuomo and asking him to ensure this bill passes the NYS Senate and Assembly. Register to call now at [www.bj.org/callcuomo](http://www.bj.org/callcuomo).

- **Rally for Refugees and Immigrants**

**Wednesday June 20**, 5:30PM, Bryant Park — meet us at West 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, SW corner: Join BJ and other partners as we march and rally to stop the refugee ban, defend Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and keep children and families together. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/rallyforrefugees](http://www.bj.org/rallyforrefugees).

- **Occupy the Roof: Summer Social Justice Film Series**



**Tuesdays, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21**, 7:00PM, BJ Rooftop: Sponsored by Panim, BJ's Social Action/Social Justice Groups, this film series will celebrate stories that shine a light on justice in a changing world, beginning with *I Am Not Your Negro* on June 26. Light refreshments will be served. Register at [www.bj.org/occupytheroof](http://www.bj.org/occupytheroof).

- **Community Forum: Citizen Engagement and the 2018 Election**

**Thursday, June 28**, 7:30-9:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: Join us for a panel discussing the importance of the upcoming primary and general elections, moderated by Professor Ester Fuchs and featuring Rep. Jerrold Nadler and Wendy R. Weiser. Register now at [www.bj.org/2018election](http://www.bj.org/2018election).



there's no place  
like home

**Membership at BJ is about more than paying annual dues. It's about building and sustaining a unique community committed to transforming individual lives and the wider world.**

We embrace the full diversity of today's Jewish community and welcome with love anyone who comes here to explore, build, and connect. Get in touch today to find out about membership and to learn how you can take an active role in shaping and supporting our very special spiritual home.

- **Joining BJ for the first time? Welcome!**

Contact Tess Chanoch, BJ's Assistant Director of Community Engagement at [tchanoch@bj.org](mailto:tchanoch@bj.org) to request a membership form.

- **Renewing your membership for 2018-2019?**

Visit [www.bj.org/renew](http://www.bj.org/renew) for information on this year's renewal process.

- **Rejoining after some time away?**

Welcome back! Get in touch with Lucretia John at [ljohn@bj.org](mailto:ljohn@bj.org) for everything you need to (re) become part of the BJ community.

Visit [www.bj.org/renew](http://www.bj.org/renew) to find out more.

## ASHORER SHIRAH

אֲשׁוֹרֵר שִׁירָה לְכָבוֹד הַתּוֹרָה  
מִפָּז יִקְרָה זָכָה וּבָרָה

Ashorer shirah likhvod hatorah  
mipaz yekarah zakah u'varah

נֶאֱמַן שְׁמוֹ בָּחַר בְּעַמּוֹ  
לִהְיוֹת לוֹ לִשְׁמוֹ אִמָּה נִבְחָרָה

ne'eman shemo bahar be'amo  
lih'yot lo lishmo ummah nivharah

נִגְלָה בְּכָבוֹדוֹ, עַל סִינֵי הוֹדוֹ  
קָרָא לְעַבְדּוֹ, לְקַבֵּל תּוֹרָה

niglah bikhvodo, al sinai hodo  
kara le'avdo, lekabbel torah

נִתְּנָה לָנוּ עַל יַד רוֹעֵנוּ  
מוֹשֶׁה רַבְּנּוּ בְּחִיר הָאִמָּה

nittenah lanu al yad ro'enu  
mosheh rabbenu behir ha'umma

נֶאֱמַן בֵּיתוֹ הִבִּיט בְּדַמוֹתָיו  
גַּם נִבּוֹאָתוֹ מְרָאָה מְאִירָה

ne'eman beito hibbit bidmuto  
gam nevu'ato mar'ah me'irah

יִשְׂמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבַת אֵל  
כִּי הוּא מִנְחִיל אֵל לֹמְדֵי תּוֹרָה

yismah yisra'el be'ahavat el  
ki hu manhil el lomdei torah

רַבָּה נְעִימָה תּוֹרָה תְּמִימָה  
פְּתִי מַחְכִּימָה עֵין מְאִירָה

rabbah ne'imah torah temimah  
peti mahkimah ayin me'irah

I will compose songs to honor the Torah  
More precious than gold, bright and pure

Faithful in His house, he saw His image  
His prophecy was a clear vision

The Faithful One chose His nation  
To be His nation chosen for His name

Let Israel rejoice in God's love  
He gives inheritance to those who learn Torah

He revealed His majesty at Sinai in His glory  
He called His servant to receive the Torah

The perfect Torah is very delightful  
Making fools wise, lighting up eyes

It was given to us by our shepherd  
Our teacher, Moses, chosen one of the nation

— Translation by Abigail Denemark

### 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).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT KORAH

וַיִּקְהֻלוּ עַל-מֹשֶׁה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן, וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב-לָכֶם--כִּי כָל-הָעֵדָה כָּלָם קִדְשִׁים, וּבְתוֹכָם ה';  
וַיַּדְוֶעַ תְּתַנְּשׂאוּ, עַל-קְהַל ה'.

They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them: "You take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and Adonai is among them; why then do you lift yourselves above the community of Adonai?"

—Numbers 16:3

Korah and his band levy this ostensibly innocent and egalitarian criticism of Moses and Aaron, and just a few moments later they get punished in a most serious way—swallowed by the earth. What was it about their criticism that the Torah reprimands them so severely?

There's a generous read of Korah and his band. Hierarchies, though necessary in any governing structure, are always at risk of committing abuses of power. For that reason, leadership—in this case Moses and Aaron—should not be beyond reproach. A society is not healthy if it cannot withstand criticism. Was Korah just an egalitarian critic? Both the Torah's peshat—plain meaning—and the rabbis see something more pernicious about his behavior.

Seforno, a 16th-century Italian commentator, shares a midrash about the above verse which demonstrates the destructive, rather than constructive, aim of Korah's effort.

We learn elsewhere in the Torah that Moses would adjudicate the various disputes among the Israelites on a daily basis. One day, as a great many Israelites awaited Moses' judicial attention, Korah's 250 supporters walked among the people, each of them pretending to be minding his own business and awaiting his individual petty case with Moses. However, their real intent was to foment discontent among the crowd—such that when Korah arrived and levied his critique, a hot-blooded crowd would rally to his support.

Korah's henchman had not walked around the crowd to rally support for a well-articulated mission or the specific criticism Korah was about to offer. Rather, they just wanted to activate an angry mob mentality which would lend power, not purpose, to Korah's insurrection.

A mob cannot last, and a riot cannot build. Eventually, and often sooner rather than later, any such crazed crowd begins to lose its footing and devour itself. In the Torah, this notion is manifest when God causes the earth itself to swallow up Korah and his company. Likewise, we know that in modern times, power-grabs that lack purpose will also lack permanence. Therefore, when we criticize power elements in our society—the appropriate responsibility of a citizen, school parent, or yes, even a synagogue member—we must constantly ask ourselves whether we are rallying constructive support of our objective, or simply agitating against the status quo. Only when we each build toward a positive vision will we demonstrate the sentiment that Korah tried to exploit: yes, indeed, this entire congregation is holy.

— Tobias Divack Moss

## TORAH PORTION

### KORAH

**Torah: Annual** Numbers 16:1 - 18:32

**Triennial** Numbers 16:20 - 17:24

1: 16:20 - 16:27

2: 16:28 - 16:35

3: 17:1 - 17:5

4: 17:6 - 17:8

5: 17:9 - 17:15

6: 17:16 - 17:20

7: 17:21 - 17:24

Maftir: 17:21 - 17:24

**Haftarah** I Samuel 11:14 - 12:22

### NEXT WEEK: HUKKAT

**Torah: Annual** Numbers 19:1 - 22:1

**Triennial** Numbers 20:1 - 21:10

**Haftarah** Judges 11:01 - 11:33

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

