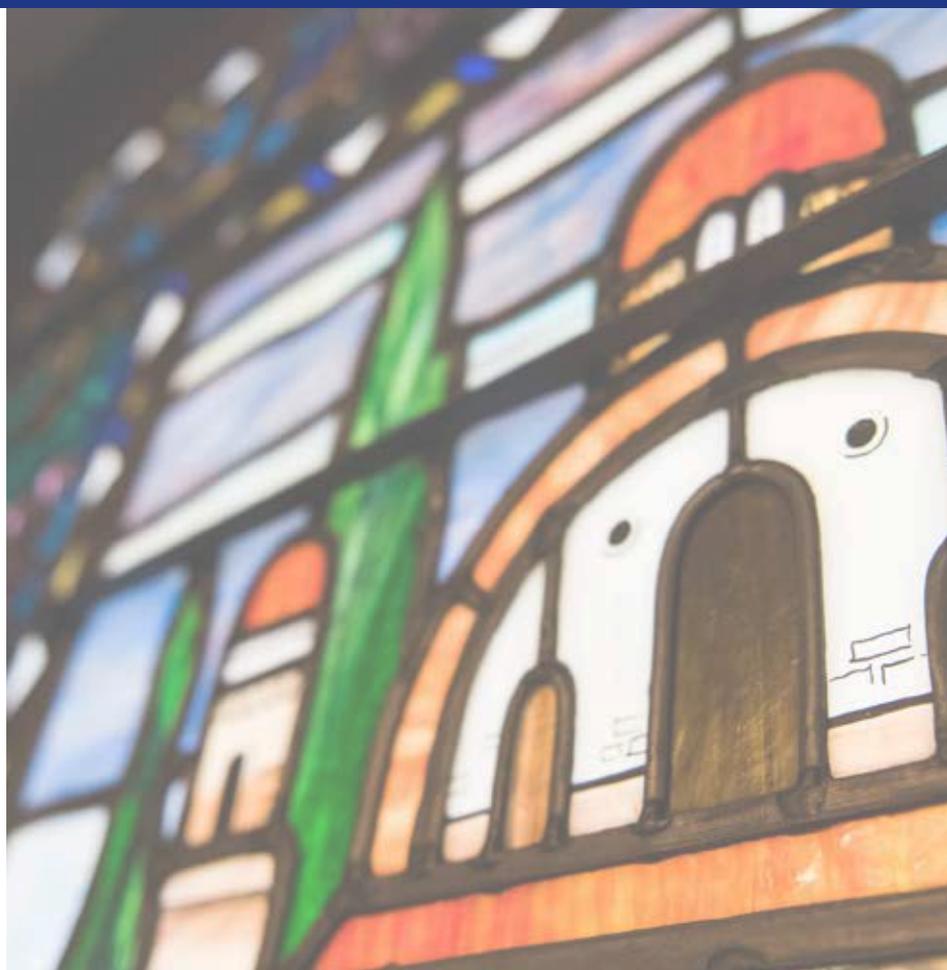


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



June 29–July 6, 2018 • 16–23 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

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member David Hirsch, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Ellen Hirsch, their daughter Jennifer Hirsch and son-in-law John Santelli, their grandchildren, Isaac and Jacob Santelli, and their entire family.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Ronald and Amy Guttman on the wedding of their daughter, Zoe Guttman, to Sebastian Agnessens.

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:

● **Needed: Summer Food Donors for Shelter**

Mondays and Tuesdays, Frankel Hall and ***Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays***, SPSA Social Hall, 263 West 86th Street: Signing up for just one meal can be a huge help, and getting involved is easy. Families, individuals, or groups can get together to prepare a light meal for eight people at BJ, at SPSA, at home—or even order in a light meal for our guests. Contact Larissa, 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 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.

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

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

- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel

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

SUNDAY, JULY 1

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

- **Summer Canvassing with JFREJ** 10:00 AM-2:00 PM – location given with registration
Knock on doors and call your neighbors to discuss issues impacting the lives of New Yorkers, and how we can bring those concerns to the polls this upcoming election season. Sign up now at www.bj.org/summercanvassing.

MONDAY, JULY 2

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

TUESDAY, JULY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 | Independence Day

BJ Office Closed

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

THURSDAY, JULY 5

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

FRIDAY, JULY 6

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

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.

WHAT'S NEXT

- **Sponsor a Light Summer Kiddush**

Saturdays, July 7 through September 1, following Shabbat morning services, BJ Community House: During the summer months, we provide a light kiddush of fruit and cookies following Shabbat morning services. If you're interested in sponsoring a light summer kiddush, please contact Davia at drabinoff@bj.org or x234.

- **BJ Mindfulness Retreat in Nature**

Register now for January 20-27, 2019, Costa Rica: Spend a week in the Costa Rican rainforest exploring Jewish mindfulness practice with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein. Connect more deeply with your soul, our truest values, and with God's creation. Find out more at www.bj.org/costarica19, or contact Kristen at kkersey@bj.org or x255.

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



Tuesdays, 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. The next film will be *Wasted!* on July 10. Light refreshments will be served. Register at www.bj.org/occupytheroof.

continued on panel 4



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 to request a membership form.

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

Visit 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 for everything you need to (re)become part of the BJ community.

Visit www.bj.org/membership to find out more.

WHAT'S LATER

● Summer Yom Iyyun

Wednesday, July 18, 8:30AM–5:30PM, BJ Sanctuary and Community House: Join us for a Hadar day of learning about Virtue: Who We Are and Why it Matters. Discount for BJ members available with code BJ65YI. Additionally, consider attending their lecture series on love. To register, visit www.bj.org/summeryomiiyun.

ASHORER SHIRAH

אַשׁוֹרֵר שִׁירָה לְכַבֹּד הַתּוֹרָה
מִפֶּז יְקָרָה זָכָה וְיָרָה

Ashorer shirah likhvod hatorah
mipaz yekarah zakah u'varah

נֶאֱמַן שְׁמוּ בַחַר בְּעַמּוֹ
לְהִיּוֹת לוֹ לְשִׁמּוֹ אִמָּה נְבַחָרָה

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

נִגְלָה בְּכַבֹּדוֹ, עַל סִינֵי הוֹדוֹ
קָרָא לְעַבְדּוֹ, לְקַבֵּל תּוֹרָה

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

נִתְּנָה לָנוּ עַל יַד רוֹעֵנוּ
מֹשֶׁה רַבְּנוּ בְּחִיר הָאֵמָה

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

נֶאֱמַן בֵּיתוֹ הַבֵּיט בְּדַמוֹתוֹ
גַּם נְבוֹאָתוֹ מְרָאָה מְאִירָה

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

יִשְׂמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבַת אֵל
כִּי הוּא מְנַחֵל אֶל 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

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT BALAK

וַיֵּשָׂא בְלָעָם אֶת-עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל שֹׁכֵן לְשִׁבְטָיו וְתַהֵי עָלָיו רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים: וַיֵּשָׂא מִשְׁלוֹ
וַיֹּאמֶר נֶאֱמַר בְּלָעָם בְּנוֹ בְּעַר וְנֶאֱמַר הַגִּבֹּר שְׁתֵּם הָעֵינַן: נֶאֱמַר--שָׁמַע אֲמָרִי-אֵל אֲשֶׁר מִחֻזָּה שָׂדֵי
יִחֻזָּה נִפְלָו וְגִלּוֹי עֵינָיִם: מֵה-טְבוּ אֱהֲלֶיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

As Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the spirit of God came upon him. Taking up his theme, he said: Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man whose eye is true, Word of him who hears God's speech, Who beholds visions from the Almighty, Prostrate, but with eyes unveiled: How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel!

—Numbers 24:2-5

Within a fantastical parashah filled with talking donkeys and sorcerers, we find the well-known narrative behind a signature verse from our liturgy. You may know the story. Balak, the king of Moav, becomes fearful of the size and power of B'nai Yisrael, and hires the sorcerer, Balaam, to curse them. Three separate times, from three separate locations, Balaam attempts to curse the people, but instead, he speaks words of blessing. In his final attempt to curse B'nai Yisrael, he recites the words quoted above: "How fair are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel."

Our tradition has given us this very verse to recite often in our liturgy; it's to be included in our prayers each morning, and traditionally, one would even say these words upon entering any house of prayer. Looking at it within the context of its source text, however, we can see the ways that it is unique among other prayers. We frequently offer prayers of praise to God, and prayers of petition for our own sake, but there's something that seems striking (or even off-putting) about reciting words of praise for ourselves and the goodness of our own community.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro has taught that when this text is brought from Balaam's words to our own siddurim, the emphasis ought to change. He points out that, in the context of our tefillah, this verse should be a moment of introspection rather than declaration. In a sense, we shouldn't end this verse with a period; we should end it with a question mark. How *truly* good are our dwelling places?

When Balaam looked out at our people before uttering these words, he wasn't seeing individual tents; he was seeing a community. So how truly good are our homes, our communities, our world? What are we doing to keep these dwelling places good, and lovely, and beautiful? How are we making these communities places where our values become manifest in the world? When we recite these words, let us engage in this spiritual work of deep introspection, as well as committing ourselves to building homes and communities where the values that we profess become real.

— Cantor David Mintz

TORAH PORTION

BALAK

Torah: Annual Numbers 22:2 - 25:9

Triennial Numbers 22:39 - 23:26

1: 22:39 - 22:41

2: 23:1 - 23:3

3: 23:4 - 23:6

4: 23:7 - 23:12

5: 23:13 - 23:15

6: 23:16 - 23:18

7: 23:19 - 23:26

Maftir: 23:19 - 23:26

Haftarah Micah 5:6 - 6:8

NEXT WEEK: PINHAS

Torah: Annual Numbers 25:10 - 30:1

Triennial Numbers 26:52 - 28:15

Haftarah Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3

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.**

 Printed on Recycled Paper

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

