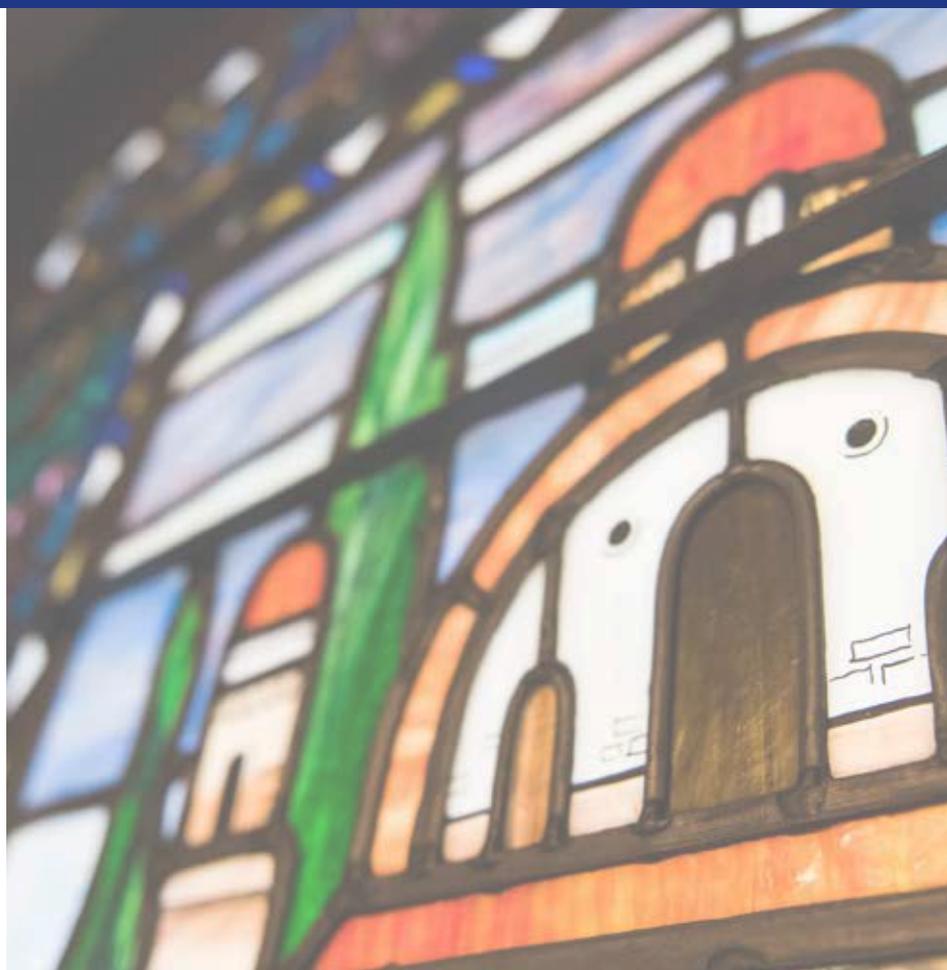


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



July 27-August 3, 2018 • 15-22 Av, 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 FELLOW: 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 Estelle Burton, and we extend our sincere condolences to her entire family.

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, JULY 27

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

SATURDAY, JULY 28

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Light Kiddush** Following services – BJ Reception Room

SUNDAY, JULY 29

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **The Israeli Book Club Discusses *Pumpkinflowers* by Matti Friedman** 5:00 PM – Location given upon registration
Join us as we discuss *Pumpkinflowers*, written by award-winning Israeli journalist and author Matti Friedman. Register now at www.bj.org/pumpkinflowers.

MONDAY, JULY 30

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

TUESDAY, JULY 31

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Upstander Training** 6:30 PM – Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68th St.
BJ and Stephen Wise Free Synagogue are excited to co-host Dr. Debbie Almontaser, who will present a "101" level upstander training. Sign up now at www.bj.org/upstandertraining.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Summer Bim Bam** 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15AM-12:00 noon – BJ Chapel

WHAT'S NEXT

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



Tuesdays, 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 *Dolores* on August 7. Light refreshments will be served. Register at www.bj.org/occupytheroof.

● **Sponsor a Light Summer Kiddush**

Saturdays 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.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 2*

● **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.

● **BJ Trip to Israel: Israel Today—A Deeper Look**

Register now for February 21-28, 2019, Israel: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and BJ's shaliach, Moshe Samuels, for an in-depth look into the key social and political challenges facing the Jewish state, along with its great accomplishments. For more information, visit www.bj.org/israeltoday.

● **Able and Stable: A Special Offer for BJ Members from New York Sports Clubs**

Sundays and Thursdays, 12:00 noon, New York Sports Clubs, 23 West 73rd Street: New York Sports Clubs invites you to join their new semi-private personal training class focusing on balance, stability, and movement integrity. Classes are \$30 for BJ members. Register now at www.bj.org/ableandstable.

WHAT'S LATER

● **20/30s Potluck on the Roof**

Friday, August 10, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, BJ Rooftop: Make new friends and eat good food! Join fellow BJ members in their 20s/30s for a potluck Shabbat dinner on the roof. Register now at www.bj.org/roofpotluck.

● **BJ Sanctuary Centennial Gala**

Monday, December 3, 6:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: Save the date for the BJ Sanctuary Centennial Gala: a spectacular evening to honor the leadership of Jeannie Blaustein and Peter Bokor and to celebrate the life and work of Rabbi Rachel Cowan. More details to come.



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.

ASHORER SHIRAH

אֲשׁוֹרֵר שִׁירָה לְכָבוֹד הַתּוֹרָה
מִפֶּז יִקְרָה זָכָה וּבָרָה

Ashorer shirah likhvod hatorah
mipaz yekarah zakah u'varah

נֶאֱמַן שְׁמוֹ בָּחַר בְּעַמּוֹ
לְהִיּוֹת לוֹ לְשִׁמּוֹ 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
מֹשֶׁה רַבְּנֵנוּ בְּחִיר הָאֵמָה

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 מְנַחֵל אֶל לֹמְדֵי תּוֹרָה

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

רַבָּה נְעִימָה תּוֹרָה תְּמִימָה
פְּתֵי מַחְכֵּימָה 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.

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT VA-ETHANAN

וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ

You shall love the LORD your God with all your *lev* and with all your *nefesh* and with all your *me'od*.

—Deuteronomy 6:5

As you can see above, I have left three key words from this well-known verse untranslated; they are tricky terms. Let's go through them one by one with the findings of biblical philology: the study of the bible's words as they were originally used (Dr. Joel Hoffman's translation notes helped guide this piece).

Lev: *Lev* literally means heart. Today, we think of the heart either biologically, as the blood pump that keeps our body functional, or metaphorically, as the living quarters for our emotions. While these two meanings were certainly relevant to our ancestors, they additionally understood the heart as the seat of intellect, the place where thought occurs—what we would think of today as the mind.

Nefesh: *Nefesh* is most often translated as *soul*, but if that makes us think of some eternal spirit, then again we are not seeing things the way our biblical ancestors did. *Nefesh* is the essential characteristic of an animal or human life as it lives in this world. At times it is conflated with a being's blood, at times with its breath.

Me'od: This is perhaps the most difficult to translate. The most famous use of this word is in the creation story, where each day's creation was *tov*, good, but the creation of the human was *tov me'od*, very good. However, in the context at hand, we need a noun, and "very-ness" does not quite cut it. Scholars are still puzzled about this term's original usage, but here are two possibilities: 1) All that you can *do* much of, i.e., your capacity or, more poetically, your strength. 2) All that you *have* much of, i.e., your physical resources and wealth or, as our *siddur* translates it, all that is yours.

With these three terms now explored, we can see how this classic sentence is a charge for us to take an expansive approach regarding loving and serving God. We do so with our thoughts by reflecting upon God's role in our life and our understanding of the world. We dedicate ourselves to bringing more blessing into the world. Lastly, we commit our ability to change the world—our material wealth and our unique abilities—to serve a master higher than ourselves.

These mandates are complex and enduring; we can never simply "check the box" on these instructions. So we repeat them in each service, reminding ourselves of all that we might devote to God.

— Tobias Divack Moss

TORAH PORTION

VA-ETHANAN

SHABBAT NAHAMU

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 3:23 - 7:11

Triennial Deuteronomy 5:1 - 6:25

- 1: 5:1 - 5:18
- 2: 5:19 - 5:24
- 3: 5:25 - 5:30
- 4: 6:1 - 6:3
- 5: 6:4 - 6:9
- 6: 6:10 - 6:19
- 7: 6:20 - 6:25
- Maftir: 6:23 - 6:25

Haftarah Isaiah 40:1 - 4:26

NEXT WEEK: EKEV

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 7:12 - 11:25

Triennial Deuteronomy 9:4 - 10:11

Haftarah Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3

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.



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AVAILABLE AT SERVICES & PROGRAMS
IN THE BJ SANCTUARY

