

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



December 21-28, 2018 • 13-20 Tevet, 5779 • Shabbat Vayehi

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 & Hessed / Justice & Acts of Loving-Kindness**
- **Israel Programming**

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

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS: Tobias Divack Moss • Margo Hughes-Robinson • Abi Weber

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Colin A. Weil

SANCTUARY: 257 West 88th Street • **OFFICE:** 270 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-1705
TEL: 212-787-7600 • **FAX:** 212-496-7600 • **www.bj.org** • **facebook.com/bnai.jeshurun** • **Twitter:** @bjnyc

OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Karen Wexler and Doug Waite, and their children, Ben and Josh Wexler-Waite, on the death of Karen's mother, Anne Wexler.
- Stacey Merel and Ron Taffel, their children Leah Taffel, Matthew Epstein, and Samuel Taffel on the death of Stacey's father, Maynard Merel.
- Todd Ruback and Suzanne Schecter and their son, Grant, on the death of Todd's father, Irwin Ruback.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Anastasia Brown and her parents ,Jacqui Brown and Jack Kestenbaum, on Anastasia becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- The Zivan family on the birth of Hallel Zivan, great-granddaughter of Sy Zivan and Helen Schrier, and Karen Zivan z"l.
- Amanda and Joel Ryzowy on the birth of their son, Rafael Levi Ryzowy, grandson of Tovah Feldshuh and Andrew Levy, and Olga Ryzowy and Walter Ryzowy z"l.

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.

Rabbi Erin Glazer will be taking the second portion of her maternity leave from December 10–January 13. Please join us in wishing her a meaningful time with her family.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

● Become a Kiddush Volunteer

Shabbat afternoons, 12:00 noon-1:30PM, Community House 3rd Floor: Help our community become more sustainable! Volunteers will support other BJ members in learning how to dispose of their waste properly. You can volunteer on your own or with friends or family. Visit www.bj.org/kiddushvolunteer to sign up for a slot or learn more.

The 2018 Kol Nidre Partnership Appeal

We are getting closer to our goal every day and we need YOU! If you have made your gift, thank you! If you haven't yet made your gift: our collective work, plans, and dreams are only realized when each and every BJ member does their part by supporting us financially. Help us remain firmly rooted and reaching upward in the unique and special way that is BJ through your participation in the Kol Nidre Partnership Appeal. Make your gift before the end of the year and help us shape the future we hope for in 2019. Make your pledge now at www.bj.org/kolnidreappeal.

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, DECEMBER 21

- **Sanctuary Centennial Exhibition** Through January, 2019, during open hours – Community House
This exhibition recounts the history and impact of our remarkable community, with a focus on the 100 years we have occupied the 88th Street Sanctuary. Also presented are photographs, historic documents, and personal objects which trace moment, milestones, and memories.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:15 PM – Sanctuary
- **Bo-i Kallah** 6:15 PM – Reception Room
Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and Music Director Dan Nadel for an alternative Kabbalat Shabbat featuring melodies from Sephardi and Mizrahi traditions, verses of Shir haShirim, and beautiful piyutim. With all of these elements, we will transition soulfully into holy time. More information at www.bj.org/boikallah11.
- ● **Community Shabbat Dinner with Hazzan Ari Priven** Following Kabbalat Shabbat – Chapel and Middle Room
Get ready to elevate Shabbat with friends, food, and soulful singing led by Hazzan Ari Priven. Join us for a three-course dinner with wine, and enjoy the company of your fellow community members. \$18/person. Register at www.bj.org/arishabbat.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – Sanctuary
- **Bat Mitzvah** **Anastasia Kiva Brown**
- ● **Family Service (0-Pre-K/K-Grade 2)** 10:45 AM – Middle & Reception Rooms
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following services – Community House 3rd Floor
- **“Wiki-Torah: Genesis” Weekly Torah Study with BJ Rabbinic Fellow Tobias Divack Moss** Following services – Community House
Spend a few minutes at Kiddush, grab a plate of food, and come join a conversation about the weekly Torah portion. First time participants, sign up now at www.bj.org/wikitorah2018.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

BJ Office closed

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Singing Communities Intensive with Joey Weisenberg and the Hadar Ensemble** Through Thursday, December 27 – various locations
Spend four immersive days with Joey Weisenberg, other Hadar faculty and guests, exploring the depth of Jewish music, studying traditional melodies, and bringing new music into being, culminating in a public concert. Special pricing for BJ members! Visit www.bj.org/singingcommunities for information.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

BJ Office closed

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

BJ Office closed

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

BJ Office closed

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

● **Joey Weisenberg and the Hadar Ensemble in Concert** 7:30PM – Sanctuary

Join Joey Weisenberg and the Hadar Ensemble live for an exploration of Jewish communal music as we sing together on this unforgettable evening. Participants of the Singing Communities Intensive may attend for free. Register now at www.bj.org/hadarconcert.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

BJ Office closed

● **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

WHAT'S NEXT

● **Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer: 25th Yahrzeit Anniversary**

Thursday, January 3–Saturday, January 5, various times and locations: Join us as we commemorate Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer's life and work. 25 years after his death, we honor him as we continue to build on his vision for BJ. For more information, visit www.bj.org/mtm.

● **Israeli Art and Culture Salon Series**

Sunday, January 6, 5:00-7:00PM, location given upon registration: In this six-part series, BJ members will meet promising Israeli artists working in New York in an intimate, home setting. The first session will feature musician Tali Rubenstein and multidisciplinary artist Milcah Bassel. Sign up at www.bj.org/israelsalonspring2019.

● **Shirah with Shira—Spring Semester**

Tuesdays, January 8–May 21, 4:00-4:45PM, Community House: Shira Averbuch will lead children and their parents/caregivers in music, stories, and movement. For more information and to register, visit www.bj.org/springshirah.

● **Baby Fingers at BJ (Winter)**

Wednesdays, January 9–February 13, 3:30-4:30PM, Middle Room: Learn American Sign Language through song and play with other parents, educators, and children close to your child's age. This six-session series costs \$120 for members, \$180 for non-members. Register now at www.bj.org/babyfingerswinter2019.

● **The Spiritual State of Being a Woman in America**

Thursday, January 10; February 7, 7:00-8:30PM, Community House: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for an exploration of how we can turn to religious life for support, while also acknowledging the patriarchy in religion. For more information and to sign up, visit www.bj.org/womaninamerica.

● **Spring Bim Bam**

Fridays, January 11–May 17, 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15AM-12:00PM, Chapel: Bim Bam gives children under 3 a space to explore Shabbat through songs and stories. The 10:15AM session features English and Hebrew, while the 11:15AM session is full Hebrew immersion. For more information, visit www.bj.org/springbimbam.

WHAT'S LATER

● Family Shabbat Dinner: Tu Bishvat is Going Tu BGreat

Friday, January 11, following Kabbalat Shabbat Services, Chapel.: Join us for great food, better company, and fun games for children and adults alike as we prepare to celebrate the Jewish birthday of the trees. Register by Monday, January 7, at www.bj.org/tubishvatshabbat.

● LiteraTorah: Yiddish Troubadors and Modern Midrash in Memory of Shira Palmer Sherman

Sunday, January 12, 4:30PM, Sanctuary: Dara Horn will explore the intersection between Yiddish theater tradition and biblical stories, with an emphasis on Yiddish comic poet Itzik Manger and his reimagining of Torah stories in a modern context. No prior knowledge of Yiddish or Torah required. Sign up now at www.bj.org/danahornteaching.

● Haleli Nafshi: Communal Singing and Havdalah

Saturday, January 12, 4:45PM, Chapel: Join us for our monthly gathering as we spend the final moments of Shabbat together, singing beautiful niggunim and zemirot as Havdalah approaches. Please bring a vegetarian snack and/or drink to share. No registration necessary.

● "Soul Food" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol

Tuesdays, January 15-June 18, 12:30-1:45PM, Middle Room: Bring a bag lunch and join Rabbi Felicia Sol as we re-imagine old world wisdom for everyday life. Each class stands alone, so new participants are always welcome. No prior knowledge required. Register now at www.bj.org/soulfood2019.

● 7th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.

Friday, February 8-Sunday, February 10, Washington, D.C.: This 7th grade trip will explore what it means to live a full Jewish life in light of our modern history and current events. Contact Ayala (x244) with any questions. Register by Monday, January 7, at www.bj.org/7thgradedctrip.

● College Student Eastern European Exploration

Tuesday, June 11-Monday, June 17, Berlin, Germany, and Prague, Czech Republic: Join fellow BJ college students for an Eastern European tour, including the towering spires of the Old City in Prague, Czech Republic, and the bustling creativity of Berlin, Germany. For more information and to register, visit www.bj.org/collegeeurope.

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.

HAMALAKH HAGO-EL

Hamalakh hago-el oti mikol-ra
yevarekh et-hane'arim veyikare vahem shemi
veshem avotai Avraham veYitzhak
veyidgu larov bekerev ha-aretz.

המלאך הגאֵל אתי מְכַלֵּיעַ
יְבָרֵךְ אֶת־הַנְּעָרִים וַיְקַרֵּא בְהֵם שְׁמִי
וַיִּשֶׂם אֲבוֹתַי אַבְרָהָם וַיִּצְחָק
וַיִּדְגּוּ לְרֹב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ:

*The Angel who has redeemed me from all harm
Bless the lads. In them may my name be recalled,
And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,
And may they be teeming multitudes upon the earth.
— Genesis 48:16*

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT VAYEHI

As one might expect from the last portion in the book of Genesis, Parashat Vayehi brings with it elements of closure: Jacob, the last of our patriarchs, dies; the 12 tribes of Israel are named, establishing our peoplehood; and the people are safe and sustained in the land of Egypt. At the same time, through drawing connections with previous chapters, I would like to suggest that Joseph's wound was reopened in this portion—and that the healing required to resolve this atrocity is yet to come.

Joseph was attacked by his brothers due to their fear—fear that he would gain power over them, power that they likely felt they deserved. Afterwards, Joseph's brothers presented Jacob with Joseph's tunic, dipped in blood, faking Joseph's death to save themselves. Now, after Jacob's death, they again become fearful of Joseph's power, and that he might "hold animosity toward" them (יִשְׁטַמְנוּ Gen. 50:15). The brothers use the same verb Jacob used in his final blessing of Joseph to describe the way he was treated by them (וַיִּשְׁטַמְהוּ Gen. 49:23). Instead of speaking to Joseph in remorse, they conspire together again, crafting *another* lie—this time, that Jacob had commanded Joseph to forgive them before his death.

While his brothers present words their father never spoke, Joseph responds with almost the exact same words with which Jacob answered his mother, Rachel, when she was in despair over not having born a child: הֲתַחַת אֱלֹהִים אֲנִי, meaning "am I a substitute for God?" In Midrash Bereshit Rabbah 71:7, the rabbis imagine God chiding Jacob for the insensitivity of this response; but in Joseph's answer, these words express something different. It seems, from his brother's actions, that they haven't changed—they still view Joseph, a member of their family, with a fear and mistrust that cannot coexist with love. While Joseph can forgive them, he cannot change them. In previous generations, the sibling who posed a threat ultimately became estranged, fathering a different people—but here, we have already been established as a people and are amidst a famine. Separation was not possible; change was the only option—a generations-deep struggle for power would need to be healed. But how?

Directly after Joseph's brothers present Jacob's false command, they fling themselves before him—an Egyptian authority second to Pharaoh only in possession of the throne—exclaiming "we are ready to be your slaves!" And after the death of their generation, this is essentially what happens—the children of men ready to destroy each other for control and power are stripped of both and humbled. It would take the most humble of their children—who would, like the brother they crushed, emerge from Pharaoh's house to save them—to confront power not with force and deception, but with truth, and to lead us to freedom.

— Rabbi Michael R. Boino, LMSW

TORAH PORTION

VAYEHI

Torah: Annual Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

Triennial Genesis 49:27 - 50:26

1: 49:27 - 49:30

2: 49:31 - 49:33

3: 50:1 - 50:6

4: 50:7 - 50:9

5: 50:10 - 50:14

6: 50:15 - 50:20

7: 50:21 - 50:26

Maftir: 50:23 - 50:26

Haftarah I Kings 2:01 - 2:12

NEXT WEEK: SHEMOT

Torah: Annual Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

Triennial Exodus 4:18 - 6:1

Haftarah Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13,
29:22 - 29:23

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.



5

AVAILABLE AT SERVICES & PROGRAMS
IN THE BJ SANCTUARY

