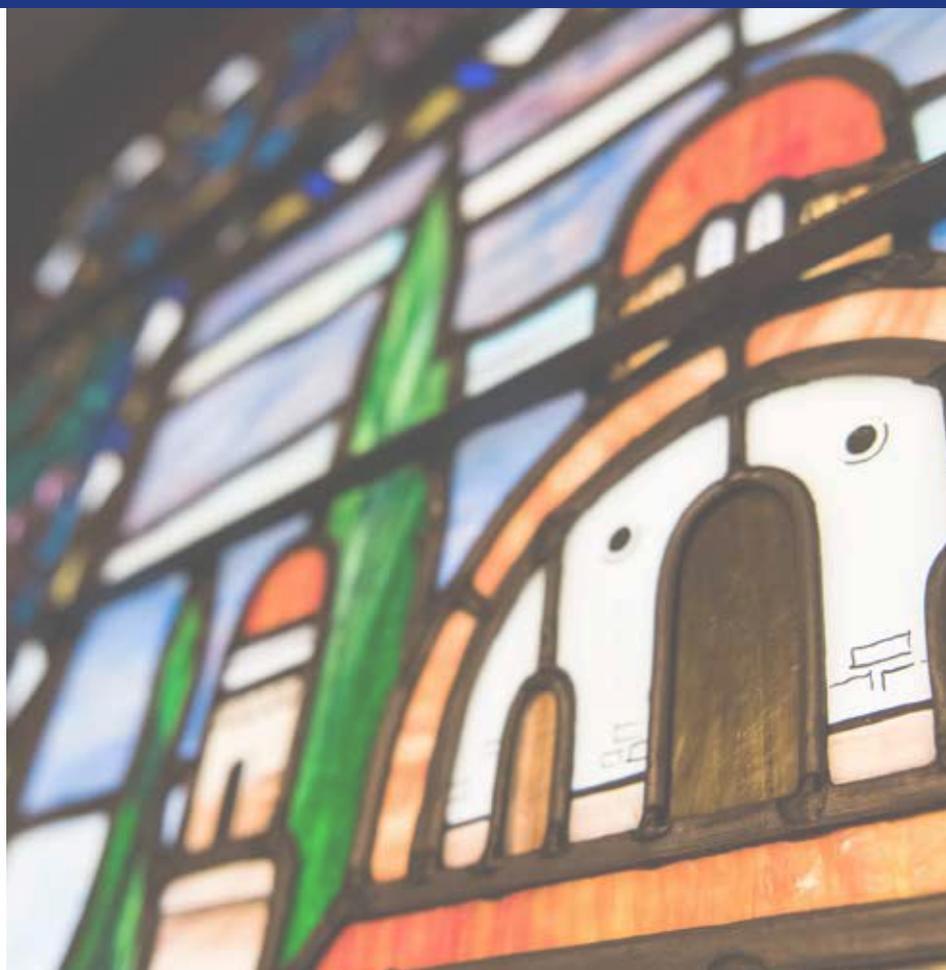


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



February 22-March 1, 2019 • 17-24 Adar I, 5779 • Shabbat Ki Tissa

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**
- **Purim Events & Services**

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

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OUR COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Aaron Ladds and Rikki Schonberg, Brian Ladds and Bonnie Miller Ladds, and Rachel Ladds on Aaron and Rikki's recent engagement.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Jack Richard in honor of Nancy Greenblatt reading Torah, and supported by Ilene Rosenthal and Louis Geser in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.

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.

Friday Evening Services: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

Note: Beginning Friday, March 15, Kabbalat Shabbat services will start at 6:30PM.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

● **Donate Packages of Socks for Purim Tzedek Fest**

Seeking donations now through March 17, Community House 2nd Floor: If you would like to help support the Purim Tzedek Fest, please drop off packages of new, unworn socks (preferably in unisex sizes) to the BJ office. Questions? Email Larissa at lwohl@bj.org, or call her at x272.

● **Shelter Sleepover Volunteers Needed**

Sunday–Thursday, 9:00 PM–7:00AM, SPSA or Frankel Hall: Our shelter is in need of reliable volunteers for a once-a-month sleepover shift. This is the only mitzvah you can literally do in your sleep! It's easy, and it makes a huge difference in the lives of our guests. Contact Larissa, lwohl@bj.org to learn more and sign up.

See separate flier for this week's Torah portion and "Taste of Torah."

 This event can be viewed on the BJ livestream at www.bj.org/live.

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, FEBRUARY 22

"Israel Today" Trip (through 2/28)

Teen Service Learning Trip to the Dominican Republic (through 2/24)

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:15 PM – Sanctuary (••)
- **Community Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein and Cantor Dave Mintz** Following the Kabbalat Shabbat service – Reception and Middle Rooms
Make your Shabbat sweeter with friends, food, and singing led by Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein and Cantor David Mintz. Join us for an intimate three-course dinner with wine and enjoy the company of your fellow community members. Register now at www.bj.org/marcelodavedinner.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – Sanctuary (••)
- **Family Service (0-Pre-K/K-Grade 2)** 10:45 AM – Middle & Reception Rooms
- **Community Kiddush** Following services – Community House 3rd Floor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel
- 👉 ● **Purim Shpiel Rehearsal** 10:00 AM – Community House 3rd Floor
Kindergarten-6th grade performers (or those interested in helping out behind-the-scenes) will definitely want to join us for this full-scale Mamma Mia-meets-Mordekhai themed extravaganza! For more information, visit www.bj.org/purimauditionsrehearsals.
- **Jump Into Memoir** 12:00 noon – Middle Room
Participants will harness memory and imagination to shape their stories, while simultaneously exploring elements of craft. Bring a notebook/pad and preferred writing implements. This workshop is open to writers of all levels. Register now at www.bj.org/jumpintomemoir.
- **Inclusion Advocacy Training for Jewish Women and Girls with Disabilities and their Allies** 1:00 PM – Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue
RespectAbility is pleased to facilitate a community-wide inclusion advocacy training event. Apply now at www.bj.org/disabilitiestraining.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Monday Meditation Minyan** 6:30 PM – Chapel
Led by Yael Shy, each session will include wisdom from the Jewish tradition, guided focused meditation, discussion, and the opportunity for community members to recite Mourner's Kaddish. No experience necessary. Please register at www.bj.org/meditationminyan.
- **Antisemitism and Jews by Choice** 7:00 PM – Chapel
More details in green box at right.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **The Prophets with Rabbi Hillel Friedman** 9:00 AM – 4th Floor Conference Room
- **"Soul Food" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol** 12:30 PM – Chapel
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. Through 6/18. Register now at www.bj.org/soulfood2019.
- **Own Your Tradition: A Community Beit Midrash on Prayer** 6:30 PM – Community House Room 411
In this five-week series (following intro session "What is the Talmud and Why Does it Matter?") we will explore the meaning of prayer by unlocking one of the primary sources itself: Tractate Berakhot of the Babylonian Talmud. Sign up now at www.bj.org/ownyourtradition.

Tuesday, February 26. continued

- **Jewish Mindfulness and Healing Relationships** 7:00 PM – Chapel
Together with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, we will explore some of our universal conflicts and use the tools the tradition has for us to heal. Sign up now at www.bj.org/mindfulnesshealing.

- **Everyday Ethics with Rabbi Adina Lewittes** 7:00 PM – Reception Room

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Parenting Towards Bar/Bat Mitzvah** 6:30 PM – location given upon registration
Parents of 5th and 6th graders are invited to join Rabbi Felicia Sol at her home for community and conversation regarding parenting towards your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Register by Monday, February 25 at www.bj.org/bmitzvahparenting.

- **Introduction to Judaism** 7:00 PM – Community House

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **The Spiritual State of Being a Woman in America** 7:00 PM – Community House
Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and Prof. Yifat Bitton 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Spring Bim Bam** 10:15 AM, 11:15 AM – 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. Through 5/17. For more information, visit www.bj.org/springbimbam.

TRANSFORMING DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

During the Hebrew months of Adar I and Adar II, we will explore the darkness of antisemitism before moving toward the light of Purim with joy and pride. Join us for our final educational session exploring antisemitism in America today.



- **Antisemitism and Jews by Choice**
Monday, February 25, 7:00-8:30PM, Chapel
Rabbinic Fellow Margo Hughes-Robinson leads a discussion on the unique experience of Jews by Choice in facing antisemitism. Open to all, members and non-members, who are Jews by Choice, and their loved ones. Sign up now at www.bj.org/antisemitismchoice.

WHAT'S NEXT

- **March Tot Shabbat**
Friday, March 1, 5:15-7:30PM, Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service filled with singing and dancing, followed by a dinner with Shabbat blessings and songs. While adults are finishing their meal, children engage in play and exploration. Register now at www.bj.org/totshabbatmarch19.
- **Volunteer Recognition Shabbat**
Saturday, March 2, during and following Shabbat morning services, Sanctuary and Community House 3rd Floor: Every year, hundreds of individuals give of themselves to make BJ a sacred, spiritual, and caring home. Come honor and be honored as we celebrate the dedicated volunteers whose contributions build our community.

WHAT'S NEXT

● **Fourth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Journey: Opening Ritual**

Saturday, March 2, 5:00-7:00PM, Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for this special event that brings together all 4th grade students and families as they begin their journey toward becoming B'nai Mitzvah. For more information, and to sign up, visit www.bj.org/openingritual2019.

● **Israeli Art and Culture Salon Series**

Sunday, March 3, 4:00-6:00PM, 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 upcoming session will feature fashion designer Michal Hidas and pianist/composer Daniel Meron. Sign up at www.bj.org/israelosalonspring2019.

● **Koshersoul with Michael Twitty: Black Jewish Identity Cooking**

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00PM, Sanctuary: Join us for a special evening with acclaimed food historian and author Michael Twitty. Together we will explore how our identities are shaped and expressed through food. Register now at www.bj.org/koshersoul.

● **Israeli Film Club**

First Tuesday of each month, beginning March 5, 7:00-8:30 PM, location given upon registration: Join us for a five-session series, featuring short Israeli films covering key issues in Israeli society. The first meeting will feature "Oneg Shabbat" by Mihal Brezis and Oded Binnun. Sign up now at www.bj.org/israelifilmclub.

● **Cooking In Hebrew: A Course in Israeli Cuisine**

Wednesday, March 6 & Thursday March 7, 11:00AM-2:00PM & 6:30-9:00PM, Frankel Hall: Participants learn to prepare traditional Israeli and Middle-Eastern kosher dishes, exposing them to Israel's multi-cultural society, and an opportunity to improve their Hebrew in the process. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or cooking necessary. Sign up for Wednesday's class at www.bj.org/cookinginhebrewwednesday, or Thursday's at www.bj.org/cookinginhebrew.

● **"In the Mirror" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roly Matalon**

No class this week. Resumes Thursday, March 7, 12:30PM, location provided upon registration: Upcoming classes: 3/14, 28; 4/4, 11. To join the waitlist, email Beth at btarson@bj.org.

● **Family Shabbat Dinner: March Madness**

Friday, March 8, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, Chapel: Wear your favorite team's jersey—the theme of this Shabbat dinner is March Madness! Register by Monday, March 4, at www.bj.org/marchmadness.

● **Poets, Refugees, Shadows: Music of our Spanish Inheritance**

Sunday, March 10, 7:00PM, Sanctuary: Join us for an exploration of beautiful Sefardi poetry and music. Together, we will take a journey through the gorgeous melodies of Ladino song and piyut (Hebrew liturgical poetry) born out of the experience of those unwanted in the land they called home—a narrative still hauntingly relevant today. Register now at www.bj.org/spanishinheritanceconcert.

● **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting**

Monday, March 11, 6:30-8:30PM, Middle Room: Get involved in the Justice for Farmworkers Campaign. Together we will expand understanding of ethical consumption and ensure farm laborers get the dignity and equality they deserve. To R.S.V.P., contact Paula at gpaula11@gmail.com.

● **Israeli Book Club**

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00-8:30PM, Community House: BJ's Israeli Book Club is honored to host award-winning Israeli author Ayelet Gundar-Goshen for a reading from her acclaimed novels *Waking Lions* and *One Night, Markovich*. Register now at www.bj.org/bookclub.

● **ReGroup**

Thursdays, March 14; May 6, 7:00PM, Chapel: Wondering what role Judaism can play in your multi-faith or multi-heritage family? Join us as we explore different ways of bringing Judaism into our lives. To learn more, or to R.S.V.P., email Sarah at srosenthal@bj.org.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 4*

● ● Parenting Children in Multi-faith/Multi-heritage Relationships

Thursday, March 14, 7:00PM, Middle Room: Is your child dating or married to someone with a different faith background or heritage? Join Rabbi Adina Lewittes and clinical psychologist Dr. Sherri Kauderer for an open and supportive conversation. Sign up now at www.bj.org/adinasherriconversation.

WHAT'S LATER

● ● Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 17, 11:00AM-1:00PM, Sanctuary: Celebrate Purim with the entire BJ community! This carnival will be complete with exciting games, arts and crafts, a giant bounce house, and more. The carnival will open at 10:30AM for families with children ages 0-5, and at 11:00AM for all. Register now at www.bj.org/purimcarnival2019.

● ● BJ's Purim Shpiel

Sunday, March 17, time and location TBD: Get your groggers ready and break out your dancing shoes! This year's Purim Shpiel is going to be a hit! For more information, visit www.bj.org/purimshpiel.

● Comedy for Peace

Monday, March 18, 7:00PM, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd Street: Join UJA for a side-splitting show featuring comics from diverse backgrounds who transcend the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with comedy and dismantle stereotypes with satire. We'll also discover UJA's work bridging gaps among different populations in Israel. Register at www.bj.org/comedyforpeace.

● Family Purim Celebration

Wednesday, March 20, 5:30-6:30PM, Sanctuary: Families with children in 2nd grade and under are encouraged to come in costume and experience a kid-friendly version of the Purim story with music, snacks, and a costume parade. Sign up now at www.bj.org/familypurim2019.

● Demystifying Mikvah with the Jewish Home Project

Sunday, March 24, 10:30AM, West Side Mikvah, 236 West 74th Street: Join the Jewish Home Project and Rabbinic Fellow Margo Hughes-Robinson for a tour of the West Side Mikvah with ImmerseNYC and a discussion on its spiritual meaning. For more information, and to sign up, visit www.bj.org/jhpmikvah.

● 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Retreat

Friday, May 3-Sunday, May 5, Camp Ramah Nyack, Christian Herald Rd, Nyack, NY: Join your fellow 6th graders at our weekend-long B'nai Mitzvah Retreat! Transportation will be provided, as well as snacks on Friday afternoon through breakfast on Sunday. Register now at www.bj.org/6thgraderetreat2019.

● Young Families Retreat

Friday, May 3-Sunday, May 5, Camp Ramah Nyack, Christian Herald Rd, Nyack, NY: Join us for a Shabbat weekend filled with outdoor games, music, hiking, learning opportunities, community building, a campfire, and more. Register by April 15 at www.bj.org/youngfamiliesretreat2019.

● ● Women's Retreat 2019

Friday, May 31-Sunday, June 2, 7:00-8:30PM, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, 116 Johnson Road, Falls Village, CT: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for a glorious Shabbat of joy, song, learning, and connection in a beautiful, natural environment filled with the exclusive sound of women's voices. For more information, and to register, visit www.bj.org/womensretreat2019.

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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



February 22-March 1, 2019 • 17-24 Adar, 5779

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT KI TISSA

In parashat Ki Tissa, following explanations of the census and the commandment to observe Shabbat, we find one of the most iconic moments in the Torah: Aaron and the people of Israel constructing, reveling in, and worshiping before a Golden Calf. The idolatry and debauchery has been going on for some time when God interrupts Moses, saying, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely.” (Exodus 32:7)

It’s one of a series of moments when God and Moses seem to be passing off ownership of the people to one another. It is not “the people” who have acted perversely, says God to Moses, it is “your people.” And they didn’t just leave Egypt; Moses brought them out! But in this particular moment—in which Moses will confront one of his greatest leadership challenges—God may be teaching him a crucial lesson about how a leader should act in crisis, and how we might all engage in the world in order to bring meaningful change.

We read in a midrash from the Babylonian Talmud:

“And the Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down at once!’” (Exodus 32:7): What is the meaning of “Go down at once”? Said R. Eleazar, “Said the Holy One to Moses, ‘Moses, go down from your position of greatness. Have I made you great for any reason other than for Israel? Now “Immediately Moses grew weak and did not have the power to speak.” When he said to him, ‘Leave me alone that I may destroy them’ (Deuteronomy 9:14), Moses thought, ‘This matter now depends on me.’ “Immediately he stood and became strong in prayer and sought mercy.” The matter may be compared to the case of a king who grew angry with his son and was giving him hard blows. The king’s friend was sitting before him, afraid to say anything to him. The king said, ‘Were my friend not here, sitting before me, I should have killed him.’ “The other realized, ‘This matter depends on me.’ Immediately he stood up and saved [the son].”
—Berakhot 32a

The leadership lesson that we learn from this midrash is rather straightforward. Instead of remaining on a high perch, leaders must “go down” to engage and stand in solidarity with their people during times of conflict—it is only in doing so that they can truly lift others up. The lesson for us as individuals is just as potent. No matter our role in society, if we want to create meaningful change in our world, we too, cannot remain distant. We must step into spaces that may be deeply uncomfortable. We must be proximate and engaged with those who may hold views that we don’t share. It is through these complex relationships that we may find—and cultivate—more wholeness in our world. As in the Talmud’s parable, may our presence offer comfort and tools of transformation for others. Through proximity, may we move from greater understanding toward a world of justice, dignity, and peace.

—Cantor David Mintz

TORAH PORTION

KI TISSA

Torah: Annual Exodus 30:11-34:35

Triennial Exodus 33:12-34:35

1: 33:12-33:16

2: 33:17-33:23

3: 34:1-34:9

4: 34:10-34:17

5: 34:18-34:21

6: 34:22-34:26

7: 34:27-34:35

Maftir: 34:33-34:35

Haftarah I Kings 18:20-18:39

NEXT WEEK: VAYAK’HEL

Torah: Annual Exodus 35:1-38:20

Triennial Exodus 35:1-36:19

Haftarah II Kings 12:1-12:17

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.**