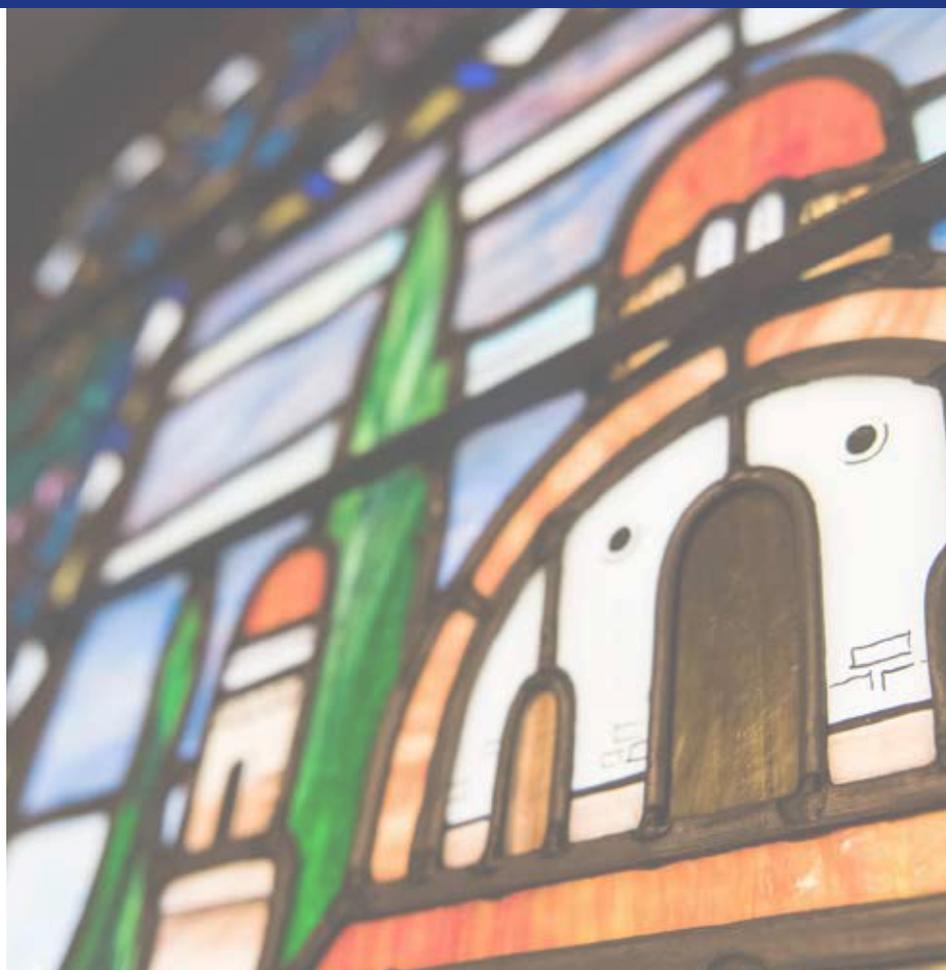


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



March 29-April 5, 2019 • 22-29 Adar II, 5779 • Shabbat Shemini

**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**

 **Pesach Events & Services**

((•)) Indicates events that can be viewed on the BJ livestream at [www.bj.org/live](http://www.bj.org/live).

**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

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# OUR COMMUNITY

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Steven and Lynette Koppel on the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Caroline Koppel, to Eric Weintraub.
- Rachel and Gregory Kubie, and Sarai and Terry Levene, on the naming of Rachel and Gregory's daughter, Charlotte Joan Kubie.

## TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Sarai and Terry Levene, and Rachel and Gregory Kubie, in honor of the naming of their granddaughter and daughter, Charlotte Joan Kubie; and by Lynette and Steven Koppel in honor of the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Caroline Koppel, to Eric Weintraub.

## B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Beth Goldstein and teens, Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton, Massachusetts.
- **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:

#### ● **Pre-Pesah WSCAH Food Drive**

**Through Wednesday, April 17**, during Community House open hours, Sanctuary and Community House: Get rid of your hametz by donating food to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH). Drop off items in the boxes at the Sanctuary foyer and the Community House entrance. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/pesahdrive19](http://www.bj.org/pesahdrive19).

#### ● **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](mailto:lwohl@bj.org) to learn more and sign up.

 This event can be viewed on the BJ livestream at [www.bj.org/live](http://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](http://www.bj.org/live).

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, MARCH 29

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – Sanctuary (••)

## SATURDAY, MARCH 30

- **Hakhanah laTefillah** 8:45 AM – Chapel  
Join Rabbi Roly Matalon to prepare the soul and open the heart for Shabbat morning prayers through the singing of piyutim and reflections on kavannah. This series is open to all, no registration necessary. Meets every other Saturday.

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – Sanctuary (••)

**Aliyat Hatan veKallah** **Eric Weintraub and Caroline Koppel**

**Naming** **Charlotte Joan Kubie**

- **Family Service (0-Pre-K/K-Grade 2)** 10:45 AM – Middle & Reception Rooms

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

- **Campus Antisemitism and the Politics of Resentment** Following kiddush – Chapel

Many in the Jewish community are convinced that American universities are seething with antisemitism and are hot beds of anti-Israel activism. Join Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller as he examines the accuracy of this assertion from the perspective of a campus professional.

- **Redemption: Musical Havdalah and Stories of Freedom** 7:00 PM – Reception and Middle Rooms

Connections invites you to a special musical havdalah featuring powerful stories of freedom from students of the Riverside Language Program, music from Dan Nadel and Shira Averbuch, and delicacies from around the world. Registration is required: [www.bj.org/musicalhavdalah](http://www.bj.org/musicalhavdalah).

## SUNDAY, MARCH 31

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel

- 📖● **Finding Your Haggadah** 10:30 AM – Middle Room

Join Rabbi Adina Lewittes for a pre-Pesah breakfast where we will compare different haggadot and explore creative ways to enjoy a text that will guide and inspire you and your seder guests. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/haggadahbreakfast](http://www.bj.org/haggadahbreakfast).

- **Justice for Farmworkers: An Afternoon of Spirit, Song, and Social Justice** 3:00 PM – Sanctuary

Join us on Cesar Chavez Day for a gathering featuring Flor de Toloache, in support of NY's farmworkers who remain excluded from the basic labor protections entitled to all other workers. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/cesarchavezday](http://www.bj.org/cesarchavezday).

## MONDAY, APRIL 1

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

- **Monday Meditation Minyan** 6:30 PM – Chapel

- **How to Daven: The Nuts & Bolts of Jewish Prayer** 7:00 PM – Middle Room

Jewish prayer can seem like a mysterious collection of mumbles, bows, and songs. In this final class of a three-part series, we'll explore what it means to daven (pray) in a Jewish way. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/howtodaven](http://www.bj.org/howtodaven).

- **From Generation to Generation: A Grandparenting Series** 7:30 PM – Community House

Join BJ's Jewish Home Project to explore grandparenting in an interactive setting filled with learning, sharing and support. Upcoming sessions: 4/8, 15. Participants may attend as many sessions as they like. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/grandparentingseries](http://www.bj.org/grandparentingseries).

## TUESDAY, APRIL 2

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

- **The Prophets with Rabbi Hillel Friedman** 9:00 AM – 4th Floor Conference Room

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- **“Soul Food” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol** 12:30 PM – Middle Room
  - **Weekday Evening Minyan: A Pilot of the Center for Prayer and Spirituality** 6:30 PM – Community House  
We are excited to announce that we will be starting a three-month pilot of an evening minyan on Tuesdays–Thursdays at BJ, with the hope that—through communal engagement—it will become a long-term practice. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/eveningminyan](http://www.bj.org/eveningminyan).
  - **Pre-Elections in Israel: Elections 101** 7:00 PM – Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue  
The Israeli political system is more complicated than ever before. These two sessions, held pre—and post—elections, will help you understand the political map and analyze the results. Register now at [www.bj.org/elections101](http://www.bj.org/elections101).
  - **Israeli Film Club** 7:00 PM – Community House  
Join us for a five-session series, featuring short, Israeli films covering key issues in Israeli society. The first meeting will feature *Etzleinu/Cleaning Time*. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/israelfilmclub](http://www.bj.org/israelfilmclub).

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

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- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
  - **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Community House
  - **Introduction to Judaism** 7:00 PM – Community House

### THURSDAY, APRIL 4

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- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
  - **“In the Mirror” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roly Matalon** 12:30 PM – location provided upon registration
  - **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Community House
  - **Next Stop...Kids** 7:00 PM – Community House  
Join us for an exploration of a different element of parenthood in each expert-led session. Session one with Rabbi Erin Glazer, session two with financial advisors Donna Nadler and Arthur Belkin, and session three with master therapist Dr. Ron Taffel. Upcoming class: 4/11. Register at [www.bj.org/nextstopkids](http://www.bj.org/nextstopkids).

### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

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- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
  - **Spring Bim Bam** 10:15 AM, 11:15 AM – Chapel

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## WHAT'S NEXT

### **Sell Your Hametz at BJ**

**Through Thursday, April 18:** Once again, Rabbi Roly Matalon will be your agent for selling hametz. Sign up by Thursday, April 18 at 12:00 noon. For more information, and to sign up, visit [www.bj.org/hametz2019](http://www.bj.org/hametz2019).

### ● **Register for BJ Hazorim CSA 2019**

**Tuesdays, June 4-October 29, 4:30-7:30PM, Community House:** Registration is now open for BJ's Community Supported Agriculture. Pick up fresh, organic vegetables, eggs, fruit, and/or butter from Free Bird Farm at BJ once a week for 22 weeks. Register now at [www.bj.org/csa2019](http://www.bj.org/csa2019).

## WHAT'S NEXT

### ● ● **Paying it Forward Shabbat Dinners**

**Ongoing**, various times and locations: Reserve your spot at one of these upcoming dinners, and then take your turn and host a meal yourself for other BJ members in your own social circle. For more information, and to sign up, visit [www.bj.org/pif](http://www.bj.org/pif).

### ● ● **April Tot Shabbat**

**Friday, April 5**, 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/totshabbatapr119](http://www.bj.org/totshabbatapr119).

### ● **Bo-i Kallah**

**Friday, April 5**, 6:30PM, 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.

### ● ● **Teen Shabbat**

**Saturday, April 6**, 9:30AM, Sanctuary: Don't miss this special annual tradition as the BJ teens give our rabbis a break by leading us in a Shabbat morning service from beginning to end! Teens, if you haven't signed up to participate, email Aniko at [agomory@bj.org](mailto:agomory@bj.org).

### ● **Exclusion to Inclusion**

**Saturday, April 6**, following kiddush, Chapel: Join us for a presentation by Ami Ayalon, AKIM Israel Chair, former Knesset member, and former head of Shin Bet. He will introduce AKIM Israel's approach to helping individuals with disabilities. More information at [www.bj.org/exclusiontoinclusion](http://www.bj.org/exclusiontoinclusion).

### ● **Let My People Go!**

**Sunday, April 7**, 2:00-4:00PM, Sanctuary: Join us for an afternoon of teaching, learning, and song on mass incarceration. This event is free but sign up is required, and donations are welcome, at [www.bj.org/letmypeoplego](http://www.bj.org/letmypeoplego).

### ● **Israeli Art and Culture Salon Series**

**Sunday, April 7**, 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 upcoming session will feature saxophonist/composer Uri Gurvich, and composer/multi-instrumentalist/music therapist Tal Gur. Sign up at [www.bj.org/israelsalonspring2019](http://www.bj.org/israelsalonspring2019).

### ● **Empty Chair at the Seder: A Passover Bereavement Program**

**Tuesday, April 9**, 7:00PM, Chapel: Passover can be difficult for those of us who are bereaved. Join Hazzan Ari Priven, Rabbi Michael Boino, and other members of our community in drawing support from one another and our tradition. Sign up at [www.bj.org/emptychair](http://www.bj.org/emptychair).

### ● **The Insights of Rav Soloveitchik on the Haggadah**

**Thursday, April 11**, 7:00-8:30PM, Community House Room 411: Prepare for Pesah and enhance your seder table discussions by joining Rabbi Adina Lewittes to study some of Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik (the Rav)'s commentary on the Haggadah. Sign up at [www.bj.org/therav](http://www.bj.org/therav).

### ● **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat**

**Friday, April 12**, 6:30PM, Community House 3rd Floor: Join us for an intimate service featuring meditation, reflection, deep listening, and personal engagement with the parashah. Contact Kristen Kersey at [kkersey@bj.org](mailto:kkersey@bj.org), or x255, with any questions.

### ● ● **ReGroup Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, April 12**, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, Frankel Hall: Join us for a hametz-filled Shabbat dinner, at which you'll learn how to create a Shabbat meal in your own home. Register now at [www.bj.org/regroupdinner](http://www.bj.org/regroupdinner).

## WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 4*

### ● ● **Family Shabbat: Shabbat Israeli Cool!**

**Friday, April 12**, following the Kabbalat Shabbat service, Chapel and Middle Room: Join us for an Israeli-themed Shabbat dinner celebrating Israeli culture. Register by Monday, April 8, at [www.bj.org/israelishabbat](http://www.bj.org/israelishabbat).

### ● **Putting the Mitzvah in B'nai Mitzvah**

**Sunday, April 14**, 11:00AM-12:30PM, Chapel: 5th grade families are invited to come explore the idea of mitzvot, and think more about the meaning behind the ritual of B'nai Mitzvot. Breakfast will be served. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/5thgradebmitzvah](http://www.bj.org/5thgradebmitzvah).

### ● **Israeli Book Club**

**Sunday, April 14**, 7:00-8:30 PM, location given upon registration: BJ's Israeli Book Club will be reading *Spies of No Country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel*. For more information and to register, visit at [www.bj.org/bookclub](http://www.bj.org/bookclub).

### ● **Moving Stories**

**Tuesday, April 16**, 7:00PM, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue: Join us as we co-present a screening of the film *Moving Stories*. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and some of the film's stars. Register now at [www.bj.org/movingstories](http://www.bj.org/movingstories).

### 📖 ● **Taanit Bekhorot Siyyum and Se'udat Mitzvah**

**Friday, April 19**, following morning minyan, Middle Room: All are welcome to join Rabbinic Fellow Margo Hughes-Robinson as she leads us in the completion of a volume of rabbinic literature. All firstborns in attendance are then permitted to eat and break the Fast of the Firstborn.

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## WHAT'S LATER

### 📖 ● **Seeking Second Night Seder Hosts**

**Saturday, April 20**, various times and location: We are looking for Seder hosts who are able to open up their table to members of the BJ community on the second night of Pesah. If you are interested, please email Kristen at [kkersey@bj.org](mailto:kkersey@bj.org).

### 📖 ● **Seder BaBayit**

**Saturday, April 20**, various times and locations: Are you looking for a second night seder in a friendly home where you can eat, schmooze, sing, and celebrate Pesah with fellow BJ members? Spaces are limited, so sign up to be hosted now at [www.bj.org/sederbabayit](http://www.bj.org/sederbabayit).

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

 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



## A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT SHEMINI

וַיִּקְחוּ בְנֵי-אֶהֱרֹן נָדָב וַאֲבִיהוּא אִישׁ מִחַתָּתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ בְּהֵן אֵשׁ וַיִּשִׂמוּ עָלֶיהָ קִטְרֶת וַיִּקְרְבוּ לִפְנֵי ה' אֵשׁ זָרָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא צִוָּה אֹתָם:  
וַתֵּצֵא אֵשׁ מִלִּפְנֵי ה' וַתֹּאכַל אוֹתָם וַיָּמָתוּ לִפְנֵי ה': וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אֶהֱרֹן הוּא אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר ה' לֵאמֹר בְּקִרְבֵי אֶקְדֹּשׁ וְעַל-פְּנֵי כָל-  
הָעָם אֶכְבֹּד וַיָּדַם אֶהֱרֹן:

Now Aaron's sons Nadav and Abihu each took their fire pan, put fire in it, and laid incense on it; and they offered before Adonai alien fire, which Adonai had not enjoined upon them. And fire came forth from Adonai and consumed them; thus they died at the instance of Adonai. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what Adonai meant when He said: Through those near to Me I show Myself holy, And gain glory before all the people." And Aaron was silent. —*Leviticus 10:1-3*

Parashat Shemini contains one of the more alarming passages in the Torah, in its telling of the sudden and inexplicable deaths of Aaron's two sons, Nadav and Avihu. The Torah tells us that, after these two brothers bring an "alien fire" before God, they are consumed and killed by a fire that came forth from Adonai. And somehow no other information, rationale, or explanation is given. It's an account that invites more questions than it provides answers: What prompted Nadav and Avihu to present an unauthorized offering? What exactly was this "alien fire?" What was so offensive and reprehensible about this fire that caused a seemingly vengeful God to cause the deaths of these two boys? After all, the text makes it clear more than once that it was God who was responsible for their deaths, lest there be any confusion.

Moreover, what is the meaning of Aaron's silence amid such inexplicable trauma? How painful it is to imagine Aaron's silence, confronted with this shock, loss, and grief. This becomes all the more challenging upon reading the commentary in *Vayikra Rabbah*, which notes that Aaron's silence in this moment of horror was rewarded with exclusive communication with God. Are we to understand his silence as a sign of blind acceptance of a ruthless decree from a seemingly zealous God? Other voices from our tradition suggest that this silence may have been far deeper than simply a sign of devotion. Reb Nahman of Breslov reflects that silence is, in fact, a higher form of engagement with the world:

*In youth, one learns to talk; in maturity, one learns to be silent. This is man's problem: that he learns to talk before he learns to be silent. Speech signifies comprehensibility. Melody is beyond language, expressing moods which words cannot describe. Silence is yet higher.*

Reb Nahman teaches that, beyond speech and melody, the power of silence can provide profound engagement not only with ourselves, but also with the realities of the world around us. In silence, we can build an awareness to illuminate what is true for us, revealing our deepest vulnerabilities and, in some cases, cultivating the strength to continue on.

The text doesn't tell us that Aaron only experienced silence. It doesn't tell us how long he remained in that stillness, or even how he responded afterward. We might imagine that Aaron experienced the full spectrum of emotion; but where crying out in anguish is an expected response, sitting in silence might be a surprise in and of itself, and is therefore lifted up in the text. This then allows us to wonder if this full range of experience and emotion—including the transformative power of silence and meditation—is what ultimately gave him the strength to move forward. Indeed, there is little comfort in the sea of rabbinic interpretations of the deaths of Nadav and Avihu. But through their father's response, may we be reminded that, even in moments of chaos and rage, we can derive consolation by incorporating silence and stillness into that complex experience.

—Cantor David Mintz

## TORAH PORTION

NEXT WEEK: **SHEMINI**

SHABBAT PARAH

**Torah: Annual** Leviticus 9:1-11:47

**Triennial** Leviticus 11:1-11:47

1: 11:1-11:8

2: 11:9-11:12

3: 11:13-11:19

4: 11:20-11:28

5: 11:29-11:32

6: 11:33-11:38

7: 1:39-11:47

Maftir: 19:01-19:22

**Haftarah** Ezekiel 36:16-36:38

NEXT WEEK: **TAZRI'A**

SHABBAT HAḤODESH

**Torah: Annual** Leviticus 12:1-13:59

**Triennial** Leviticus 12:1-13:28,

Numbers 28:9-15

**Haftarah** Ezekiel 45:18-46:5,

46:6-46:15

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).**



## Festival of Freedom Justice Series

With Purim behind us, Passover is just around the corner. Get in the spirit of the holiday with the Festival of Freedom Justice Series. Learn about labor justice, mass incarceration, and the global refugee crisis, and get involved in the fight for freedom for all those who are still oppressed and exploited.

### Justice for Farmworkers

**Sunday, March 31 | 3:00-5:00PM | Sanctuary**

Join us on Cesar Chavez Day for a gathering featuring New York's own Latin Grammy-winning recording artists Flor de Toloache, in support of NY's farmworkers who remain excluded from the basic labor protections entitled to all other workers.

**Sign up now at [www.bj.org/cesarchavezday](http://www.bj.org/cesarchavezday).**

### Let My People Go!

**Sunday, April 7 | 2:00-4:00PM | Sanctuary**

Join us for a BJ/SPSA gathering to learn about mass incarceration. Through the themes of Easter, Passover, and freedom, we will broaden our understanding of the systemic, political, and personal issues that impact mass incarceration.

Featuring remarks from the BJ/SPSA clergy, music with Shira Averbuch, and discussion with Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director of the Alliance of Families for Justice, among others.

There is no fee for this event, but donations are welcome. **Sign up now at [www.bj.org/letmypeoplego](http://www.bj.org/letmypeoplego).**

### Moving Stories

**Tuesday, April 16 | 7:00PM | Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave**

Join us as we co-present a screening of the documentary *Moving Stories*. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and some of the film's stars.

In this moving documentary, six dancers from the acclaimed Battery Dance company travel the world, working with young people who've experienced war, poverty, sexual violence, and severe trauma as refugees.

\$12 for BJ/JCC members, \$15 for non-members. **Register now at [www.bj.org/movingstories](http://www.bj.org/movingstories).**