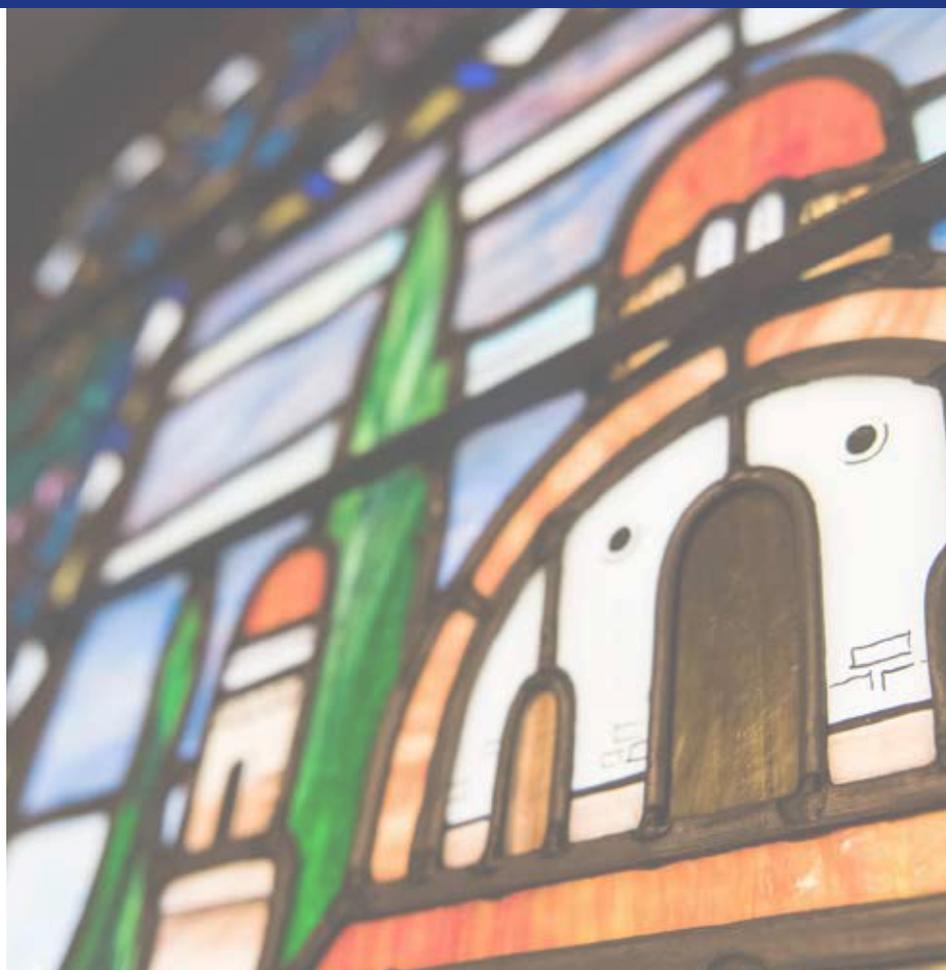


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



April 5-12, 2019 • 29 Adar II-7 Nisan, 5779 • Shabbat Tazri'a

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.

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

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Susan Salwen and Bob Wolfson and their entire family on the death of Susan's mother, Barbara Salwen.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Mia Wilcox, her parents, Bruce and Julie Wilcox, her brother, Edward Wilcox, her sisters, Claire and Chloe Wilcox, and her grandparents, Evelyn and Kenneth Lipper, on Mia becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

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:

● **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.

● **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.

 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, APRIL 5

- **April Tot Shabbat** 5:15 PM – 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/totshabbatapril19.
- **Yedid Nefesh: Uncovering the Melodies of Shabbat** 6:00 PM – Chapel
Prepare to enter Shabbat by joining Hazzan Ari Priven for this opportunity to unlock the melodies that you'll hear throughout Shabbat services. No registration necessary; all are welcome.
- **Hitoreri** 6:30 PM – Chapel
Teens participate in a mindfulness-style Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner and plenty of down time for the teens to catch up and hang out. Register now at www.bj.org/hitoreri1819.
- **Bo-i Kallah** 6:30 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.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – Sanctuary (••)

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 | ROSH HODESH NISAN

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – Sanctuary (••)
- **Teen Shabbat** 9:30 AM – 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.
- **Family Service (0-Pre-K/K-Grade 2)** 10:45 AM – Middle & Reception Rooms
- **Community Kiddush** Following services – Community House 3rd Floor
- **Exclusion to Inclusion** 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.
- **Minḥa Service** 4:00 PM – Sanctuary
- Bat Mitzvah** **Mia Wilcox**

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel
- **Let My People Go!** 2:00 PM – 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.
- **Israeli Art and Culture Salon Series** 5:00 PM – 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. Please note: registration is now full.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Monday Meditation Minyan** 6:30 PM – Chapel
- **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 session: 4/15. Participants may attend as many sessions as they like. Sign up now at www.bj.org/grandparentingseries.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- **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 – 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.
- **Everyday Ethics with Rabbi Adina Lewittes** 7:00 PM – Reception Room
- **Empty Chair at the Seder: A Passover Bereavement Program** 7:00 PM – 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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Community House
- **Podcasts, Popcorn, and Prosecco** 7:00 PM – location given upon registration
Join other 20s and 30s for a series of guided conversations, each centered around a different podcast, fueled by popcorn and prosecco. Sign up is required at www.bj.org/avivpodcasts.
- **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.
- **Introduction to Judaism** 7:00 PM – Community House

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **“In the Mirror” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roly Matalon** 12:30 PM – location given upon registration
- **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Community House
- **The Insights of Rav Soloveitchik on the Haggadah** 7:00 PM – Reception Room
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.
- **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. Register at www.bj.org/nextstopkids.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

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

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.

● 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.

● ● 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.

● 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, 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.

● ● 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.

● 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.

● Israeli Book Club

Sunday, April 14, 5:00-6:30 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.

● 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.

● Ta'anit 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.

WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 4*

-  ● **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.
-  ● **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.

WHAT'S LATER

- **Next Stop...Marriage**
Tuesday beginning April 30, 7:00-8:30PM, Chapel: Prepare for your wedding and beyond with our pre-marriage series. Session one with Rabbi Felicia Sol, session two with financial planners Donna Nadler and Arthur Belkin, and session three with couples therapist Sherri Kauderer. Register at www.bj.org/nextstopmarriage.
- **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.

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 TAZRI'A

In Parashat Tazri'a, we learn about the infamous affliction of tsara'ath. Often mistakenly translated as leprosy, its features do not match those of any known illness—infecting human beings, their clothing, and their homes. As we read in Leviticus 13:45, a person experiencing its telltale symptoms required diagnosis and ritual treatment by the priests, including the following:

וְהִצְרִיעַ אֶשְׂר־בּוֹ הַנִּגַּע בְּגָדָיו יְהִי פְרָמִים וְרֵאשׁוֹ יְהִי פְרוּעַ וְעַל-שָׁפָם יַעֲטֶה וְטָמֵא טָמֵא יִקְרָא:

The person with tzara'ath—their clothing should be rent, their head should be left bare, their upper lip they should cover, and “Tamei! Tamei!” they should call out.

The word “tamei” essentially means “ritually impure”—that the person with tzara'ath has distanced themselves from God through their behavior. It is difficult to read this verse and not feel the intense shame and stigma involved in such a diagnosis; it was commonly thought that physical illness was the result of moral failure. Medieval and modern commentators have suggested that tzara'ath is a symbolic, spiritual disease. I agree with this interpretation—and further suggest that it is implicitly connected to what we call racism today.

The only person in the Humash who actually becomes afflicted with tzara'ath as a punishment is Miriam, for speaking ill of Moses because of the heritage of his wife, Tzipporah (Numbers 12). Further, she refers to Tzipporah as being from Kush—though we already know that she is a Midianite. It seems possible that Miriam may be attempting to also insult Tzipporah due to the color of her skin; Kush is likely modern-day Ethiopia, and Tzipporah was likely Black. This incident occurs directly after the people complain about not having meat to eat, to which God responds with the punishment of granting their desire with so much that it “comes out of their noses” (Numbers 11:20). After speaking of Tzipporah because of her dark skin, Miriam is stricken with tzara'ath—a skin-whitening illness—with whiteness as an affliction, until it comes out of her nose.

Tzara'ath has a lot in common with racism. It can spread to our clothing through blackface and cultural appropriation. It can infest our households and institutions through structural oppression. It is contagious; we might believe we are healed when we are not. May Miriam's affliction serve as a reminder that it is not only those whom we have labeled that hold racist views—it is also people whom we honor, admire, and love. If it could be Miriam, the prophet, it could just as easily be me.

May we be aware that this potential exists within us. May we identify it when we see it, guard our lips that it not spread, and recognize that its presence within us makes us “tamei”—distant from our God, Whose image is mirrored in humanity without exception.

—Rabbi Michael R. Boyno, LMSW

TORAH PORTION

TAZRI'A

SHABBAT HAḤODESH

ROSH ḤODESH NISAN

Torah: Annual Leviticus 12:1-13:59**Triennial** Leviticus 12:1-13:28,
Numbers 28:9-15

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1: | 12:1-12:4 |
| 2: | 12:5-12:8 |
| 3: | 13:1-13:5 |
| 4: | 13:6-13:8 |
| 5: | 13:9-13:17 |
| 6: | 3:18-13:28 |
| 7: | Numbers 28:9-28:15 |

Maftir: Exodus 12:1-12:20

Haftarah Ezekiel 45:18-46:5, 46:6-46:15

NEXT WEEK: METZORA

SHABBAT HAGADOL

Torah: Annual Leviticus 14:1-15:33**Triennial** Leviticus 14:33-15:33**Haftarah** Malachi 3:4-3:24

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.**