

All together now!

SUMMER FRIDAYS



AT CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN

So much makes Kabbalat Shabbat during the summer unique at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. For these sultry Friday nights are filled with a special kind of warmth, as all of the varied members of our community—young and the young at heart; singles, children and parents; and visitors from all over the world—come together in one place, the 88th Street synagogue, to welcome Shabbat. That variety, that energy can truly lift our prayers even higher and help our spirits soar.

To make summer Fridays the most prayerful and sanctified experience possible for the greatest number of people, we ask you to:

- **Please turn cell phones and other electronic devices off before entering the synagogue. Please respect and enhance the holiness of Shabbat by keeping all such devices off the entire time you are in the synagogue. If you absolutely must use them, please do so outside. Additionally, please do not take photographs or movies or record sound. We ask all males over bar mitzvah age to wear kippot.**
- **Please do not hold seats.** Seating at BJ is first-come, first-served. Everyone who takes the trouble to arrive on time deserves the opportunity to be seated. Please be considerate and leave seats visibly vacant—and please discourage others from holding seats—so we may fill our limited capacity completely.
- **Please arrive on time.** Once we reach our capacity, fire codes compel us to refrain from admitting more congregants. And that can occur as quickly as ten minutes after services start. However, in our experience, everyone who arrives before services begin is able to be seated comfortably. So please be punctual.
- **Please be understanding if you cannot be immediately admitted to the service.** Again, once the sanctuary's capacity is reached, legally we cannot admit any more people. Don't take it personally and please be patient. If we can, we'll attempt to admit you as quickly as possible.
- **Please respect the "Reserved Seat" Signs.** *This is extremely important.* Those seats are generally reserved for people who have special needs and who have reserved beforehand. If you take the seat, our ushers may assume that you have the special need, thus preventing us from giving the seat to someone who requires it. If you have a special need to reserve a seat, discuss it with the office before services. They'll be happy to help.
- **Please cooperate with our ushers.** Our ushers are volunteers from the community doing their best to make the atmosphere as prayerful as possible. They only seek to seat congregants easily, comfortably and quickly. Please cooperate with them.

With the *kavannah* of making our summer Fridays together holy, joyous and meaningful for one and all, please do your part in following these guidelines and encouraging others to do so. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to ask one of our ushers.

— *Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon*
Rabbi Marcelo R. Bronstein
Rabbi Felicia L. Sol
Hazzan Ari Priven
Harold Goldman, Executive Director

Jeff Yablonka, For the Ushering Committee

This summer, stand up for your synagogue!

BE A BJ USHER!



As we join together for services in the 88th Street sanctuary, we urgently need YOU to fill in and usher this summer. By volunteering to meet, greet and seat our congregants, you'll help fulfill the important mitzvah of hakhnassat orḥim (welcoming guests) and building our kehillah kedosha (holy community).

It's a long-standing BJ tradition to have members of the community welcome their fellow worshippers into the sanctuary.

Maintaining this tradition becomes even more important in the summer. For not only do our fellow community members come together to worship, but we also have the pleasure of welcoming many visitors to our services—often attending for the first time. For some, this is their opportunity to reconnect with their Jewish identity and heritage.

We've seen time and again how important the Summer Shabbat experience can be to so many, members and visitors alike. And as a volunteer usher, you can contribute so much to making that experience memorable and inspiring.

And since many of our regular ushering volunteers take breaks for the summer, there's no better time to fulfill this important mitzvah. We really do need you.

If you can commit to ushering two Fridays and/or two Saturdays, your community would be most grateful. Contact Jack Rizutko at jrizutko@bj.org or 212-787-7600 x234. Or see Friday Head Ushers **Jeff Yablonka**, **Henry Weinberger**, **Matthew Pasher**, or Saturday Head Usher **Glenda Frank** after services.

So take a stand! Please do join us as an ushering volunteer. Your efforts will help fill the sanctuary with joy, prayer, comfort and warmth.