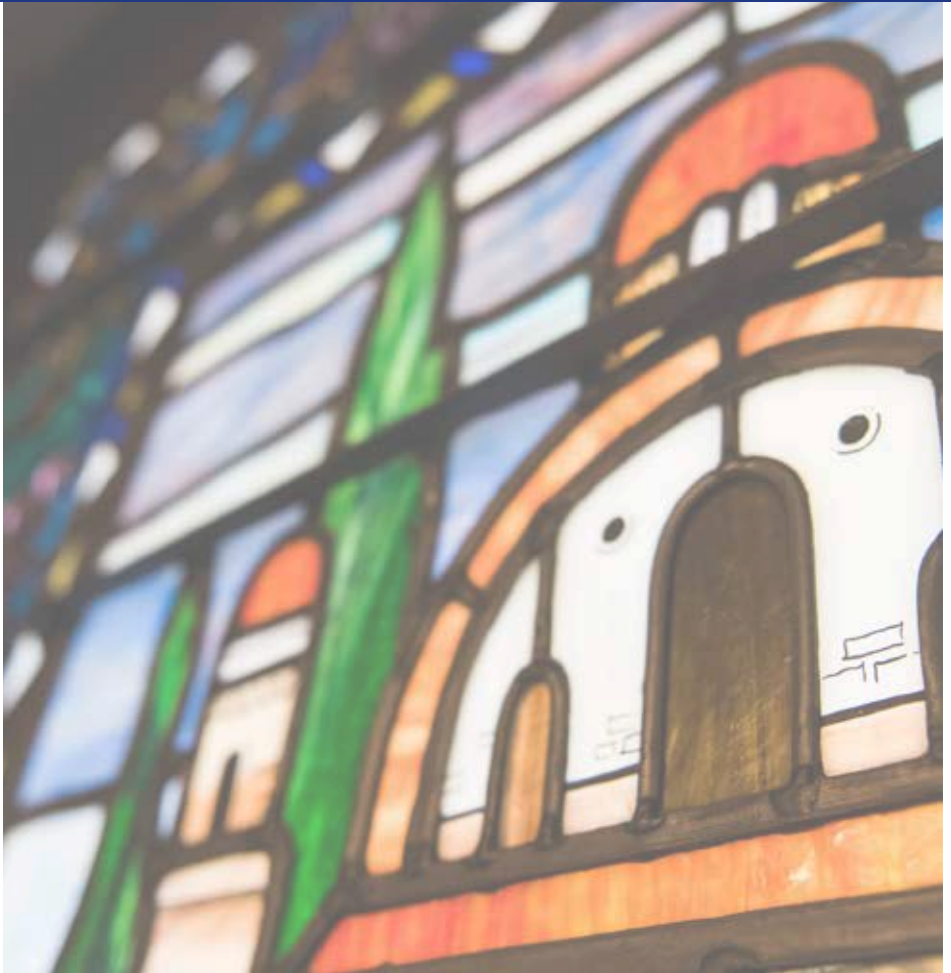


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון  
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



October 13-20, 2017 • 23-30 Tishrei, 5778

**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**

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

**HAZZAN:** Ari Priven

**BJ RABBINIC FELLOWS:** Sarah Krinsky • Tobias Divack Moss

**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/bjnyc** • **Twitter:** @bjnyc

## OUR COMMUNITY

### HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Richard Frank, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Kathleen Peratis, their children, their grandchildren, and their entire family.

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

- Lisa Safier on the death of her mother, Sondra Safier.
- Brian and Bonnie Ladds, and their children, Aaron and Rachel Ladds, on the death of Brian's father, Arthur Ladds.

### MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Isabella Davidman, her parents, Suzanne and Rob Stone, and father, Jon Davidman, her brother Jason Stone and sister Jennifer Stone, and her grandparents, Lynne and Ron Gitkin, on Isabella becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Nicolas Ozer, his parents, Ava Huang and Mark Ozer, and his sister, Anais Ozer, on Nicolas becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- Emily Bluth and Matthew Wolff on their upcoming wedding.
- Marcy and Bennett Grau on the recent marriage of their son, Jonathan Grau, to Ashley LeMaire.
- Judy and Robert Safran on the birth of their granddaughter, Nora Eliza Safran.
- Patricia and William Call on the birth of their grandson, Daxton Byrd Call.

### TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Community Kiddush is supported by Suzanne and Rob Stone in honor of Isabella becoming a Bat Mitzvah, and supported by John Wolff and Nancy Eppler-Wolff in honor of Matt Wolff and Emily Bluth's upcoming wedding.

### B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Rabbi Samuel Weinstein and Confirmation Class, Temple Shomer Emunim, Sylvania, Ohio.
- **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:

##### ● Tzedek Minyanim: Registration Open!

We are offering over 20 different Tzedek Minyanim—small groups focusing on advocacy, service, or study—exploring the themes of Faith & Public Life. Each group will be led by a BJ member. Visit [www.bj.org/faith](http://www.bj.org/faith) to see the exciting minyanim your fellow community members have created, and to register.

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**SAVE THE DATES!** Visit [www.bj.org/retreats](http://www.bj.org/retreats) for more information:

**"ISRAEL CELEBRATES 70" COMMUNITY TRIP TO ISRAEL, Dec. 25, 2017-Jan. 3, 2018**

**TEEN DOMESTIC TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 11-15, 2018**

**MINDFULNESS RETREAT IN COSTA RICA, Jan. 14-21, 2018**

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 | SIMḤAT TORAH

*BJ Office Closed*

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:30 PM – BJ Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary
- Bat Mitzvah** **Isabella Davidman**
- Aliyat Ḥatan veKallah** **Matthew Wolff and Emily Bluth**
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Reception & Middle Rooms
- ● **Kulanu** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Community Kiddush** Following Services – BJ Community House 3rd Floor
- **Minḥa Service** 6:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary
- Bar Mitzvah** **Nicolas Ozer**

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

*Teen Day of Service*

- **Economic Justice Ḥevra Day Trip** 6:00 AM – Riverhead Worker Center
- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Family Tzedek Minyan** 11:30 AM – BJ Middle Room
- **Moving Traditions** 4:00 PM – BJ Community House

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Kadima@BJ Curriculum Night** 6:00 PM – BJ Reception & Middle Rooms

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Tefillat haDerekh with Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein** 7:00 PM – BJ Middle Room  
Life is a journey. Our souls yearn to go home, but where is home? Join us for an exploration of Tefillat haDerekh (the Traveler's Prayer). Together, we will dwell in the stations our souls have stopped in. Register at [www.bj.org/tefilathaderekh](http://www.bj.org/tefilathaderekh). Upcoming sessions: 11/7, 12/5, 2/13, 3/6.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Teen Learning** 6:00 PM – BJ Community House
- **Heartbreak and Hope: Living With Early Stage Alzheimer's** 6:30 PM – BJ Sanctuary  
When Geri Taylor learned she had Alzheimer's, she and her husband decided to share the diagnosis, risking isolation. Join Bikkur Ḥolim for their inspiring presentation, as well as information and resources about living with Alzheimer's. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org/heartbreakhope](http://www.bj.org/heartbreakhope).
- **Introduction to Judaism** 7:30 PM – BJ Community House Room 408  
This course offers an overview of the core beliefs, practices, and history of Judaism and the Jewish people. No prior knowledge or experience necessary. Registration required at [www.bj.org/introjudaism](http://www.bj.org/introjudaism): individuals \$435/\$660; couples \$645/\$975. Weekly through 5/2/18.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Faith & Public Life Lecture Series:** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary  
**Dr. Moshe Halbertal**



“A Jew in the World: Private Citizen/Public Advocate.” Dr. Moshe Halbertal is Professor of Jewish Thought and Philosophy at Hebrew University, and Visiting Professor at NYU School of Law. Visit [www.bj.org/faith](http://www.bj.org/faith) for more information.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 | ROSH HODESH HESHVAN

### Teen Retreat (through 10/22)

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Bim Bam & Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion** 9:15, 10:15, and 11:15 AM – BJ Chapel

## WHAT'S NEXT

- ● **IAC KesheTOT@BJ**

**Tuesdays through December 12**, 4:00-5:00PM, 89th Street: An innovative program for families with infants and toddlers from birth until 3.5 years. Children learn about Israeli culture and Jewish heritage through music, stories and movement. Contact Itay Asaf at [itay@israeliamerican.org](mailto:itay@israeliamerican.org).

- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat**

**Friday, October 20**, 6:30PM, BJ Community House 3rd Floor: Led by Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, Rabbi Rachel Cowan, Rabbi Shuli Passow, and Hazzan Ari Priven, this service involves meditation, reflection, deep listening, and personal engagement with the parashah. Please contact Kristen at [kkersey@bj.org](mailto:kkersey@bj.org) with any questions.

- **Middle East Security: Fresh Takes on Long-Standing Challenges**

**Sunday, October 22**, 2:00-6:00 PM, Temple Emanu-El Streicker Center, 1 E. 65th Street: Join Israel Policy Forum's conference focused on shared US-Israel national security challenges in the region. Featuring plenary and break-out sessions by high-level policy experts. For more information, visit: [www.bj.org/ipf](http://www.bj.org/ipf).

- **The Book of Genesis with Rabbi Hillel Friedman**

**Tuesdays, beginning October 24**, 9:30AM, BJ Middle Room: Join Rabbi Hillel Friedman for a perusal of the Book of Genesis and to learn how our ancestors carved out a spiritual worldview while dealing with the culture surrounding them and their own family lives. More info at [www.bj.org/genesis](http://www.bj.org/genesis).

- **“Soul Food” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol**

**Tuesdays, October 24-December 12**, 12:00 noon-2:00PM, BJ Middle Room: Bring a bag lunch and open up your soul to the nourishment and challenge of Hassidic rabbis. Join Rabbi Felicia Sol as we imagine old world wisdom for everyday life. Register at [www.bj.org/soulfood](http://www.bj.org/soulfood).

- **BJ Community Fair and Sanctuary Tour**

**Wednesday, October 25**, 6:30PM, BJ Sanctuary: Come learn about ways to get involved at BJ! Committee leaders and volunteers from all areas of synagogue life will be available to talk about their work, answer any questions, and help you connect. Tours of the Sanctuary will also take place. Info and registration at [www.bj.org/communityfair](http://www.bj.org/communityfair).

- **BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Committee Meeting and Research Action Training**

**Thursday, October 26**, 7:00PM, BJ Reception Room: Join the new BJ/SPSA Racial Justice Committee as we begin to research potential partners and action steps. At this training, we will define our values and our goals, learn how to setup a strategic meeting, and determine how to move from problem to action. R.S.V.P. at [www.bj.org/justicemeeting](http://www.bj.org/justicemeeting).

## MEET OUR SIMHAT TORAH HONOREES

### ***Kallat Torah: Sandy Cheiten***

Sandy Cheiten has been a member of BJ since 1986, when she and Marty Rosenblatt were married by Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer. She has been involved in social justice campaigns since the early days of the Vietnam War and Civil Rights Movement and is delighted to be part of a congregation that reinforces our tradition's commitment to social action and social justice. Sandy has been a member of Panim since 2004 and is currently co-chair of BJ's Refugee and Immigration Committee. She also currently chairs the Synagogue Coalition. Sandy has been a teacher, media educator, advance person in presidential campaigns, and lobbyist, and has worked for a number of non-profit organizations..

### ***Kallat Bereshit: Rachel Fischer***

Rachel Fischer's parents met at BJ. Her father was a founding member of the long-running Ma Tov havurah, making Rachel a "b'nai ma tovu." In her teen years, Rachel participated in two domestic and three international service learning trips, led family High Holy Days services, and was a member of the Rosh Hodesh group. Rachel has a fascination with trope, enjoys reading Torah and Haftarah at BJ on Shabbatot and holidays, and became a B'nai Mitzvah tutor this year. She is now a sophomore at the List College, studying Modern Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Architecture at Barnard College. Rachel is forever indebted to BJ for developing within her a strong sense of community and Jewish identity.

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## WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

### ● **The Other Peace Process: Interreligious Dialogue, a View from Jerusalem**

**Thursday, October 26, 7:30-10:00PM**, location given upon registration: Join Rabbi Dr. Ron Kronish as he talks about the issues addressed in his book, *The Other Peace Process*, including the message and methods of interreligious dialogue and action with regard to the peace process in Israel. For details, visit [www.bj.org/israelsalon](http://www.bj.org/israelsalon).

### ● **Bo-i Kallah**

**Friday, October 27, 6:30PM**, BJ Community House Chapel: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and Music Director Dan Nadel for an alternative Kabbalat Shabbat. With soulful melodies, verses of Shir haShirim (Song of Songs), liturgical poems, and Psalms, we will transition gently and with full kavannah, leaving workweek anxieties behind, welcoming Shabbat.

### ● **How The Light Gets In: A Tribute Concert to Leonard Cohen**

**Sunday, October 29, 7:00-9:00PM**, BJ Sanctuary: Join Music BJ Director Dan Nadel, Hazzan George Mordecai, Shira Averbuch and others for a tribute celebrating Leonard Cohen's life and music. Rabbi Aubrey Glazer will speak about the Jewish influences found in Cohen's body of work. Register at [www.bj.org/leonardcohen](http://www.bj.org/leonardcohen).

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## WHAT'S LATER

### ● **Fresh Perspectives on the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) Movement**

**Thursday, November 2, 7:00-8:30PM**, location given upon registration: Join political analyst and human rights pioneer Bassem Eid, and Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director of T'ruah, as they share their opposing and nuanced approaches to BDS, and engage in conversation. Registration required. More information at [www.bj.org/bdsperspective](http://www.bj.org/bdsperspective).

### ● **Mission-Driven Communities in Israel: A New Approach to Social Change**

**Sunday, November 5, 7:00-8:30PM**, BJ Community House: Join Tamar Gil, Director of Partnerships at Eretz-Ir. More information at [www.bj.org/missiondriven](http://www.bj.org/missiondriven).

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

**Thursdays, November 30; December 7, 14, 21; January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 12:30-1:30PM**, location provided upon registration: Reading stories about the lives of the Talmudic rabbis, we uncover layers of ourselves and become better equipped to wrestle with our human nature. Please bring your lunch. Location provided upon registration. For BJ members only. More information at [www.bj.org/inthemirror](http://www.bj.org/inthemirror).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: BERESHIT

Almost hidden from view, the first song of the Torah covertly appears in Bereshit. Lacking the pomp and circumstance of the Song of the Sea or the Song of Moses, here we have just a short two-verse song, tucked within the list of descendants from Adam to Noah. Lamekh, Noah's father, sings to his wives as follows:

וַיֹּאמֶר לְמֶךָ לְנִשְׁיוֹ, עֵדָה וְצֹלָה שָׁמַעַן קוֹלִי—נָשִׂי לְמֶךָ, הָאֲזֹנָה אִמְרָתִי  
כִּי אִישׁ הָרַגְתִּי לְפָעֵי, וְיֹלֵד לְחִבְרָתִי  
כִּי שִׁבְעָתַיִם, יָקָם-קָיו; וְלְמֶךָ, שִׁבְעִים וְשִׁבְעָה

Adah and Zillah, listen to my voice. Wives of Lamekh, give ear to my word.  
O that I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for hurting me.  
If Cain should be avenged sevenfold, surely Lamekh seventy and sevenfold.

—Genesis 4:23-24

Lamekh has killed someone, and dramatically recounts his deed to his wives. This is no love song or hero's epic; it is a murder ballad. What can we learn from the disturbing nature of the Torah's first foray into song?

Although a love song may be more delightful, a murder ballad creates an opportunity missing from a more pleasant song. A murder ballad—just like any tragic art form—forces the listener to consider the full range of the human condition, the negative along with the positive. It calls attention to fundamental questions: How do we reckon with our capacity for destruction? How will justice be served?

The Torah provides little context to Lamekh's song. We are not told whether it is a boast or a lament. The rabbis come to different conclusions. Some simply read Lamech as a paradigmatic villain. Rashi disagrees. Drawing upon a midrash, he explains that the evil done by Lamekh's hands was an accident. Lamekh, a blind man, had been misinformed that there was an animal across from where he stood. He then fired his bow, unintentionally killing a person. Cast in this light, Lamekh's song is a cry. "O, my family, please stand with me as I reckon with a tragedy unintentionally rendered by my own hands."

God forbid we should ever be in Lamekh's position as the perpetrator of manslaughter. Nevertheless, even without malevolent intentions, we all take actions that result in hurt. Without evil in my heart, I still may misfire my bow, and the arrow of my actions will strike someone else. In such moments, our ego can take hold, commanding us to defend our actions no matter what, to sing a boastful song, a song of pride. And yet, perhaps we could instead sing a song of lament, and face the grief we have caused. Perhaps we could sing a song of reconciliation, asking for forgiveness.

— Tobias Divack Moss

## TORAH PORTION

NEXT WEEK: **BERESHIT**

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 1:1 - 6:8
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 2:4 - 4:26
1:	2:4 - 2:09
2:	2:10 - 2:19
3:	2:20 - 2:25
4:	3:1 - 3:21
5:	3:22 - 3:24
6:	4:1 - 4:18
7:	4:19 - 4:26
Maftir:	4:23 - 4:26

**Haftarah** Isaiah 42:5 - 42:21

NEXT WEEK: **NOAH**

ROSH HODESH **HESHVAN**

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Genesis 6:9 - 11:32
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 8:15 - 10:32
<b>Haftarah</b>	Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24, 66:23

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](http://www.bj.org/minyan).**

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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.



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