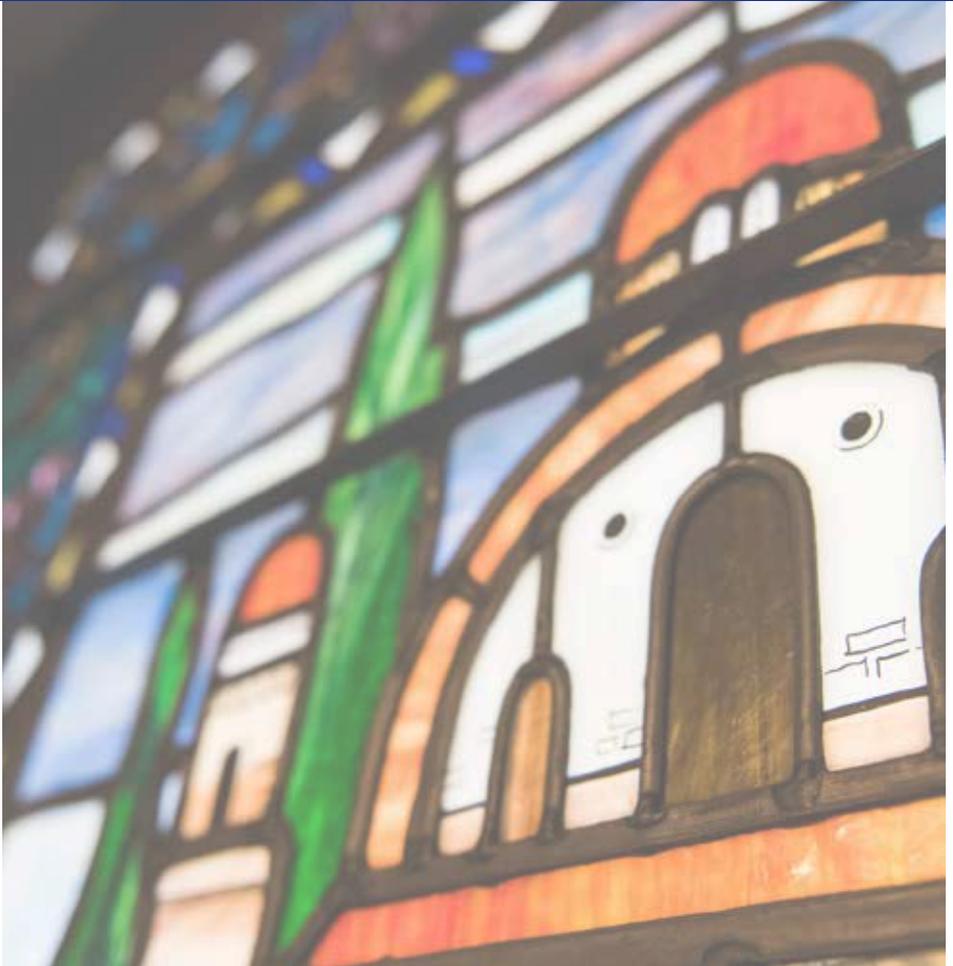


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון
The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



December 22-29, 2017 • 4- 11 Tevet, 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
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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Jenny Golub and her entire family on the death of her mother, Adrienne Golub.

B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- Tahl Ben-Yehuda and Confirmation Class, Congregation Beth Shalom of Overland Park, Overland Park, Kansas.
- **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.

● The 2017 Kol Nidre Partnership Appeal

We are closer to our goal every day and we need YOU! If you have made your gift, thank you! If you haven't yet made your gift: our collective work, plans, and dreams are only realized when each and every BJ member does their part by supporting us financially. Help us remain firmly rooted and reaching upward in the unique and special way that is BJ through your participation in the Kol Nidre Partnership Appeal. Make your gift before the end of the year and help us shape the future we hope for in 2018. Make your pledge now at www.bj.org/kolnidreappeal.



WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

● Toiletry Kit-Making and Exploring Poverty Issues

Monday, January 15, 10:00AM-12:00 noon, BJ Sanctuary: BJ is proudly partnering with Repair the World NYC and the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee for a series of hands-on activities including making toiletry gift sets for the guests of the Judith Bernstein Lunch Program. We are collecting toiletries for this project and need your help! You can drop off small, travel-sized toiletries to the BJ Community House through January 11. More information and registration at www.bj.org/toiletrykitmaking.

SAVE THE DATES! Visit www.bj.org/retreats for more information:

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

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

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, DECEMBER 22

● ● Kadima@BJ Shabbat Dinner 5:30 PM – BJ Middle Room

● Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30 PM – BJ Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

● Shabbat Morning Services 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary

● ● 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

● Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

BJ Office Closed

"Israel Celebrates 70" Community Trip to Israel (through 1/4)

● Morning Minyan 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

BJ Office Closed

● Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

● ● KesheTOT 4:00 PM – BJ Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

BJ Office Closed

● Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

BJ Office Closed

● Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

BJ Office Closed

● Morning Minyan 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

WHAT'S NEXT

● **Bridging the Gap: Study Exchange with Michigan Corrections Officers**

Accepting applications now through January 8: This unique encounter, designed to create dialogue across difference, is a two-part experience including travel to Michigan in April 2018 and hosting members of Michigan Corrections Organization in New York in June 2018. Find out more and apply now at www.bj.org/bridgingthegap.

● **Caregivers Support Groups**

Thursdays, January 4 and February 1, 4:15PM, BJ Community House 4th Floor Conference Room: A monthly support group for BJ members to draw strength, insight, and information from each other and our tradition. Registration required. More info at www.bj.org/caregivergroups.

● **Bim Bam and Bim Bam Hebrew Immersion**

Fridays, January 5-May 11, 9:15-10:00AM, 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15AM-12:00 noon, BJ Chapel: Bim Bam gives children under 3 a fun space to explore Shabbat through interactive songs and stories while learning traditions such as lighting candles, saying Kiddush, and giving tzedakah. More information at www.bj.org/bimbam.

● **Tot Shabbat**

Friday, January 5, 5:15-7:00PM, BJ Sanctuary and Frankel Hall: Families enjoy a kid-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service filled with singing and dancing, followed by a dinner at 5:45PM downstairs in Frankel Hall complete with Shabbat blessings and songs. While adults are finishing their meal, children engage in play and exploration. Register at www.bj.org/totshabbat.

● **Haleli Nafshi: Communal Singing and Havdalah**

Saturday, January 6, 4:30PM, BJ Chapel: Join us for our monthly gathering as we spend the final moments of Shabbat together, singing beautiful nigunim and zemirot as havdalah approaches. Please bring a vegetarian snack and/or drink to share.

● **IAC Keshetot@BJ**

Tuesdays, January 9-May 16, 4:00-5:00PM, BJ Community House: IAC KesheTOT is an innovative program for families with infants and toddlers from birth until 3.5 years old. Children gain a sense of community, flavored by Israeli culture and Jewish heritage. More information and registration at www.bj.org/keshetot.

● **Parents' Corner: Evening Edition**

Tuesday, January 9, 7:15-8:30PM, BJ Chapel: Join Rabbi Anne Ebersman and the Kadima Advisory Committee for an evening session of Parents' Corner. We'll discuss the emotional challenges which can arise as our tweens and teens begin to separate from us. More information at www.bj.org/parentscorner.

● **Everyday Ethics with Rabbi Adina Lewittes**

Tuesdays, January 9, 23, 7:30-9:00PM, BJ Reception Room: Join us as we take an honest look at real-life examples of the ethical questions we face and the choices we make every day, using Jewish and other sources to awaken, guide, and motivate us. Course extended due to popular demand. Register now at www.bj.org/ethics.

● **Being a Grandparent in a Jewish Family**

Wednesday, January 10, 7:00M-9:15PM, Frankel Hall: Are you a grandparent or an elder in a single-faith Jewish family or multi-faith/multi-heritage Jewish family? Join Rabbi Adina Lewittes in this skill-building session, with guest teachers Judith Stern Peck LCSW and Ruth Nemzoff. Open to all. Register at www.bj.org/grandparents.

WHAT'S LATER

● Racial Justice Giving Circle

Sunday, January 14, 2:00-4:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: BJ is proudly partnering with Repair the World NYC for a series of hands-on activities including the Racial Justice Giving Circle. More information and registration at www.bj.org/givingcircle.

● “Soul Food” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol

Tuesdays, January 16, weekly through March 27, 12:30-1:45PM, 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. More information and registration at www.bj.org/soulfood.

● David Litt and Robin Pogrebin in Conversation: Words and Politics in America Today

Wednesday, January 17, 6:00-8:00PM, BJ Sanctuary: The Yale Jewish Alumni Association, together with BJ, presents David Litt and Robin Pogrebin in Conversation: Words and Politics in America Today. The talk will be followed by a wine reception with David and Robin. Register now at www.bj.org/littpogrebin.

● PJs and Havdalah

Saturday, January 20, 4:45-5:45PM, BJ Chapel: Families with children ages 5 and under are invited to experience Havdalah through art, song, and story. Kids are encouraged to come in pajamas to create a warm and cozy atmosphere. More information and registration at www.bj.org/pjshavdalah.

● Meetup for Parents and Babies

Wednesdays, January 24-February 28, 10:30-11:30AM, BJ Community House: Parents with babies ages 0-8 months are invited to meet other parents, gain practical tools, and enjoy some bonding time with your baby in a supportive environment. Meg Akabas, NYSPEP Certified Parenting Educator, will facilitate conversations. More information and registration at www.bj.org/babies.

● Discover Jewish Sicily with Rabbi Adina Lewittes

Monday, May 28-Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Save the date for a unique adventure led by Rabbi Adina Lewittes, accompanied by Executive Director Colin A. Weil. Explore the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and touches of ancient and modern-day Sicily. Details at www.bj.org/sicily2018.

HAMALAKH HAGO-EL

Hamalakh hago-el oti mikol-ra
yevarekh et-hane'arim veyikare vahem shemi
veshem avotai Avraham veYitzhak
veyidgu larov bekerev ha-aretz.

הַמַּלְאָךְ הַגָּאֵל אֶתִּי מִכָּל־רָע
בָּרַךְ אֶת־הַנְּעָרִים וַיְקַרָּא בְהֵם שְׁמִי
וַיִּשֶׂם אֲבֹתַי אֲבָרָהם וַיִּצְחָק
וַיִּדְגּוּ לְרֵב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ :

*The Angel who has redeemed me from all harm
Bless the lads. In them may my name be recalled,
And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,
And may they be teeming multitudes upon the earth.
— Genesis 48:16*

A TASTE OF TORAH: VAYIGASH

Our haftarah this week, from Ezekiel 37, ends with a beautiful vision of the messianic future: Ezekiel's prophecies about a time marked by eternal covenants of friendship and peace between God and all of humanity. Today, it may feel tragically comical to hear such a vision—to imagine a state in which all people are united by a common creed, common purpose, and common commitment to love and harmony. Our readings this Shabbat, though, give us the beginning of a roadmap for how to get from here to there—how to move from our place of fragmentation, distance, and strife to Ezekiel's idyllic place of unity.

Taken together, our Torah and haftarah readings give us a powerful lesson in scope. By the end of the haftarah, the peace and harmony described apply to all of humanity, bound together in covenant with God. Just a few verses earlier, the union was narrower—between just the House of Judah and the House of Joseph. At the end of our parashah, the reconciliation is between individuals, Joseph, and his broader family—concluding a chapter that began with Joseph and his brothers alone. Our readings are like a zoom function—starting small, then moving further and further out.

More than just form, this process carries with it a powerful lesson. In order to reach the expansive love for all humanity, we need to start small—we need to begin by repairing and strengthening the most intimate relationships in our lives. How do we do this? Our parashah is clear—we get close. We draw near. We hold on tight.

The parashah is named for its first verb—vayigash. “Judah came close to [Joseph] and spoke to him.” Joseph later adopts this language himself, telling his brothers “g’shu-na,” “come close to me,” to which the Torah answers, “vayigashu.” The brothers came close. The reconciliation for this family—which has been viciously torn apart—begins by taking the literal first steps, by meeting one another face to face, by becoming proximate with those we’ve pushed away.

When we apply this lesson to our own lives, sometimes we may need to take it at its most literal level, and to truly come face to face with the people who have hurt us, the people we have distanced ourselves from. Other times, we need the extra push to draw nearer in mind or in spirit to those with whom we disagree, putting our ideas and beliefs in true active proximity and conversation with one another, rather than keeping them hidden away to ourselves. And perhaps sometimes the task is simply to hug closely the support systems on whom we already rely, and even take for granted, and to appreciate their presence.

Looking out onto the disarray in our world, we may feel helpless and hopeless. How do we start to repair all of the brokenness? The answer from our parashah—to start small, and to get close—is important, helpful, and insightful. But alone, it may not be enough. Sometimes, we don't just need to know how to take the first step—we also need to know what we're walking toward. The beauty of our readings this Shabbat is that they give us both. They remind us what we're working toward, and help us conceptualize how to get there. They help us to imagine a better world, and give us the tools to begin building. —Sarah Krinsky

TORAH PORTION

VAYIGASH

Torah: Annual Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

Triennial Genesis 45:28- 46:27

1: 45:28 - 46:4

2: 46:5 - 46:7

3: 46:8 - 46:11

4: 46:12 - 46:15

5: 46:16 - 46:18

6: 46:19 - 46:22

7: 46:23 - 46:27

Maftir: 46:23 - 46:27

Haftarah Ezekiel 37:15- 37:28

NEXT WEEK: VAYEHI

Torah: Annual Genesis 47:28- 50:26

Triennial Genesis 49:1- 49:26

Haftarah I Kings 2:1- 2:12

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.**

 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.



Visit us at www.bj.org

