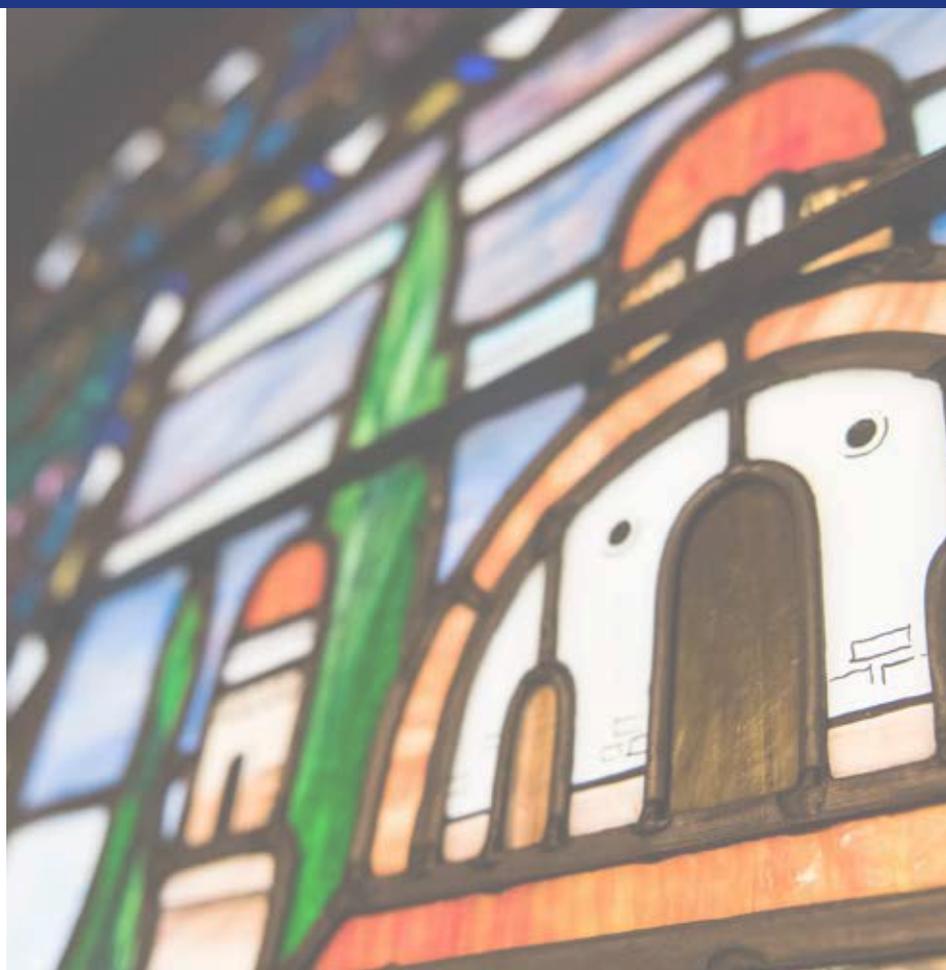


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun
בני ישרון



August 10-17, 2018 • 29 Av-6 Elul, 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 & Hessed / Justice & Acts of Loving-Kindness**
- **Israel Programming**

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

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

BJ RABBINIC FELLOW: Tobias Divack Moss

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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Dr. Martin R Sher, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Carole Sher, and their entire family.

To the following members and their families:

- Rabbis Michael Strassfeld and Joy Levitt on the death of Michael's sister, Shulie Strassfeld.
- Rabbi Dini and Andi Lewittes, and their children, on the death of Dini's father, David Lewittes.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Lynette and Steven Koppel on the engagement of their daughter, Caroline, to Eric Weintraub.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

This week's Light Kiddush is sponsored by Elenor Radzivilover in honor of the yahrzeit of her father, Hazzan Matus Radzivilover.

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.

Shabbat Evening Services: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

Beginning **Friday, September 7**, Friday evening services will start at 6:30PM.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

● Needed: Summer Food Donors for Shelter

Mondays and Tuesdays, Frankel Hall and **Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**, SPSA Social Hall, 263 West 86th Street: Signing up for just one meal can be a huge help, and getting involved is easy. Families, individuals, or groups can get together to prepare a light meal for eight people at BJ, at SPSA, at home—or even order in a light meal for our guests. Contact Larissa, lwohl@bj.org, to learn more.

Seeking a meaningful way to prepare for the Yamim Nora'im?

It's as easy as opening your email. From the beginning of Elul through Yom Kippur, keep an eye on your inbox for daily kavannot from BJ community members on the transformative power of teshuvah. Start the season by reflecting on how you, too, can return home to the purest version of yourself.

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, AUGUST 10

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary
- ● **20/30s Potluck on the Roof** Following the Kabbalat Shabbat service – BJ Rooftop
Make new friends and eat good food! Join fellow BJ members in their 20s/30s for a potluck Shabbat dinner on the roof. Register now at www.bj.org/roofpotluck.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 | ROSH HODESH ELUL

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – BJ Sanctuary
- ● **Children's Services** 10:45 AM – BJ Chapel
- ● **Light Kiddush** Following services – BJ Reception Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 | ROSH HODESH ELUL

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **NY Attorney General Forum** 7:00-8:30 PM (doors open 6:30 PM) – BJ Sanctuary
The public is invited to attend a New York State Attorney General Candidates Forum. Candidates attending include Leecia Eve, Letitia James, and Zephyr Teachout. Sign up now at www.bj.org/agforum.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel



Hesed at BJ

Do you need help getting to a doctor's visit, or to BJ services? Would you like a regular visit or phone call from a Hesed volunteer? If you or someone you know would like support, please reach out at: hesed@bj.org.

WHAT'S NEXT

● Sponsor a Light Summer Kiddush

Saturdays through August 25, following Shabbat morning services, BJ Community House: During the summer months, we provide a light kiddush of fruit and cookies following Shabbat morning services. If you're interested in sponsoring a light summer kiddush, please contact Davia at drabinoff@bj.org or x234.

● Hilkhot Teshuvah: Pathways Towards Transformation

Saturdays, August 18, August 25, September 1, September 8, following Kiddush, BJ Chapel: Join Rabbi Shuli Passow and Cantor Dave Mintz for an exploration of Hilkhot Teshuvah, Maimonides' guide to the process of teshuvah. Together we'll learn how we can return to the best versions of ourselves in preparation for the Yamim Nora'im.

● Occupy the Roof: Summer Social Justice Film Series: *The Heart of Nuba*



Tuesday, August 21, 7:00PM, BJ Rooftop: Sponsored by Panim, BJ's Social Action/Social Justice Groups, this film series celebrates stories that shine a light on justice in a changing world. Light refreshments will be served. Final film of the series. Register at www.bj.org/occupytheroof.

● Sounds and Silence: Mindfully Hearing the Shofar

Tuesday, August 28, 7:00PM, BJ Chapel: Join us for a soul-stirring session of mindfulness meditation and the sounding of the shofar to help in our preparation for the Yamim Nora'im. For more information, visit www.bj.org/soundsandsilence.

● Hatanu Lefanekha: Tuning Our Souls for Teshuvah

Mondays, August 29, September 5 and September 12, 6:30PM, BJ Chapel: Led by Rabbi Roly Matalon and Music Director Dan Nadel, this three-part poetical and musical experience featuring Sephardic and Mizrahi melodies will engage us in the spiritual journey of Selihot to the Yamim Nora'im. Free of charge, open to all.

● Hebrew Speaking Havurah

Second Sunday of each month, beginning September 2, 5:30-7:00PM, location given upon registration: Get together with other Hebrew speakers and Rabbi Yisrael Serok to discuss current affairs in Hebrew. For more information visit www.bj.org/hebrewspeakinghavurah. To R.S.V.P., email Nili at ngitig@gmail.com.

WHAT'S LATER

● Usher, Greet, and Volunteer at High Holy Days Services

Sunday, September 9-Wednesday, September 19, various time and locations: Help make the High Holy Days happen by volunteering, ushering, or greeting. Sign up now at www.bj.org/hhdvolunteering.

● Lost and Found: A Guide to High Holy Days Services with Rabbi Adina Lewittes

Thursday, September 6, 7:00 PM, BJ Middle Room: The Jewish Home Project presents a pre-High Holy Days workshop for multi-faith/multi-heritage families (all families are welcome). No Hebrew or prior prayer experience necessary. Walk-ins are welcome, but we encourage you to register now at www.bj.org/lostandfound.

● Fall Teen Retreat

Friday, September 21-Sunday, September 23, Hands In 4 Youth, 256 Macopin Road, West Milford, NJ: 8th-12th graders, join us for a meaningful Shabbat away from the city. Connect with friends old and new while enhancing your connection to the BJ community. Register now at www.bj.org/fall2018teenretreat.

● BJ Trip to Israel: Israel Today—A Deeper Look

Register now for February 21-28, 2019, Israel: Join Rabbi Roly Matalon and BJ's shaliah, Moshe Samuels, for an in-depth look into the key social and political challenges facing the Jewish state, along with its great accomplishments. For more information, visit www.bj.org/israeltoday.

MEMBERSHIP AT BJ:

there's no place

like home

Membership at BJ is about more than paying annual dues—it's about building and sustaining a unique community committed to transforming individual lives and the wider world. If you plan to join us for High Holy Days this year, please renew your membership no later than August 19. Visit www.bj.org/membership to find out more.

ASHORER SHIRAH

אֲשׁוֹרֵר שִׁירָה לְכְבוֹד הַתּוֹרָה
מִפֶּז יִקְרָה זָכָה וְבָרָה

Ashorer shirah likhvod hatorah
mipaz yekarah zakah u'varah

נֶאֱמַן שֶׁמוּ בָחַר בְּעַמּוֹ
לִהְיוֹת לוֹ לְשִׁמוּ אִמָּה נִבְחָרָה

ne'eman shemo bahar be'amo
lih'yot lo lishmo ummah nivharah

נִגְלָה בְּכְבוֹדוֹ, עַל סִינֵי הַיְדוּד
קָרָא לְעַבְדּוֹ, לְקַבֵּל תּוֹרָה

niglah bikhvodo, al sinai hodo
kara le'avdo, lekabbel torah

נִתְּנָה לָנוּ עַל יַד רוֹעֵנוּ
מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּנוּ בְּחִיר הָאִמָּה

nittenah lanu al yad ro'enu
mosheh rabbenu behir ha'umma

נֶאֱמַן בֵּיתוֹ הֵבִיט בְּדַמוֹתָיו
גַּם נִבְּוֵאתוֹ מֵרָאָה מְאִירָה

ne'eman beito hibbit bidmuto
gam nevu'ato mar'ah me'irah

יִשְׂמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲבַת אֵל
כִּי הוּא מִנְחִיל אֶל לֹמְדֵי תּוֹרָה

yismah yisra'el be'ahavat el
ki hu manhil el lomdei torah

רַבָּה נְעִימָה תּוֹרָה תְּמִימָה
פֶּתִי מַחְכִּימָה עַיִן מְאִירָה

rabbah ne'imah torah temimah
peti mahkimah ayin me'irah

I will compose songs to honor the Torah
More precious than gold, bright and pure

Faithful in His house, he saw His image
His prophecy was a clear vision

The Faithful One chose His nation
To be His nation chosen for His name

Let Israel rejoice in God's love
He gives inheritance to those who learn Torah

He revealed His majesty at Sinai in His glory
He called His servant to receive the Torah

The perfect Torah is very delightful
Making fools wise, lighting up eyes

It was given to us by our shepherd
Our teacher, Moses, chosen one of the nation

— Translation by Abigail Denmark

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT RE-EH

In one of the longer parashiot of the book of Deuteronomy, Moshe presents the people of Israel with a stark choice between blessing and curse: blessing if they will follow God's rules, and curse if they do not. In fact, much of chapter 12 in this book articulates the various rules and ordinances that the people must live by, and all that will come to pass as a result:

וַעֲבַרְתֶּם אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן וְיִשְׁבַתֶּם בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם מִנְחִיל אֶתְכֶם וְהִנִּיחַ לְכֶם מְקָל-אִיְבֹיְכֶם מִסָּבִיב וְיִשְׁבַתֶּם-בְּטוֹחַ: וְהָיָה הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בּוֹ לְשֹׁכֵן שָׁמוֹ שָׁם שְׁמָה תִבְיֹאוּ אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה אֶתְכֶם עוֹלְתֵיכֶם וְזִבְחֵיכֶם מְעֻשְׂתֵיכֶם וְתִרְמַת דִּדְכֶם וְכָל מִבְחָר נְדָרֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּדְרוּ לַיהוָה:

When you cross the Jordan and settle in the land that Adonai your God gives you to inherit, and Adonai gives you rest from all your enemies around you and you will live in safety, then you must bring everything that I command you to the site where Adonai your God will choose to establish Adonai's name: your burnt offerings and other sacrifices, your tithes and contributions, and all the choice votive offerings that you vow to Adonai.

—Deuteronomy 12:10

With the understanding that no word in the Torah is superfluous and that each one has significance, the first of these verses jumps out at the neo-Hassidic commentator, Rabbi David Moskovits (also known as Gelilei Zahav), who sees some redundancy in the text. If God gives us rest from our enemies, shouldn't we surely live in safety? He argues that "you shall live in safety" is a condition for giving the people rest from their enemies. That is to say that if they were truly to live in safety, with no internal quarrels—and if they weren't divided into rival factions, groups, and clans—then they would have nothing to fear from the enemies around them.

The Gelilei Zahav's drash seems particularly resonant at this particular moment in our history. With so much division being created, exacerbated, and exploited for short-term political gains, our society might seem more broken than ever before. Yet this teaching—bringing together biblical and Hassidic traditions that often highlight the power of a divine presence in our midst—seems to be stressing our own agency. We are living in a time when so many of our friends and neighbors (and perhaps even ourselves) are living each day with ongoing fear. Fear of deportation, fear of violence, and fear of what might be next in a world that seems upside down. Yet the words of Gelilei Zahav remind us that the road toward safety and peace begins within our own communities. Through healing our own divisions; reaching out to those around us; and standing, marching, and organizing together; we can find our way toward safety, justice, and peace.

— Cantor David Mintz

TORAH PORTION

RE-EH

ROSH HODESH ELUL

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17

Triennial Deuteronomy 12:29 - 14:29

1: 12:29 - 13:1

2: 13:2 - 13:6

3: 13:7 - 13:12

4: 13:13 - 13:19

5: 14:1 - 14:8

6: 14:9 - 14:21

7: 14:22 - 14:29

Maftir: Numbers 28:9 - 28:15

Haftarah Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24, 66:23

NEXT WEEK: SHOFETIM

Torah: Annual Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9

Triennial Deuteronomy 18:6 - 19:13

Haftarah Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12

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. **Please join us to hear the shofar each morning during the month of Elul. 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.

