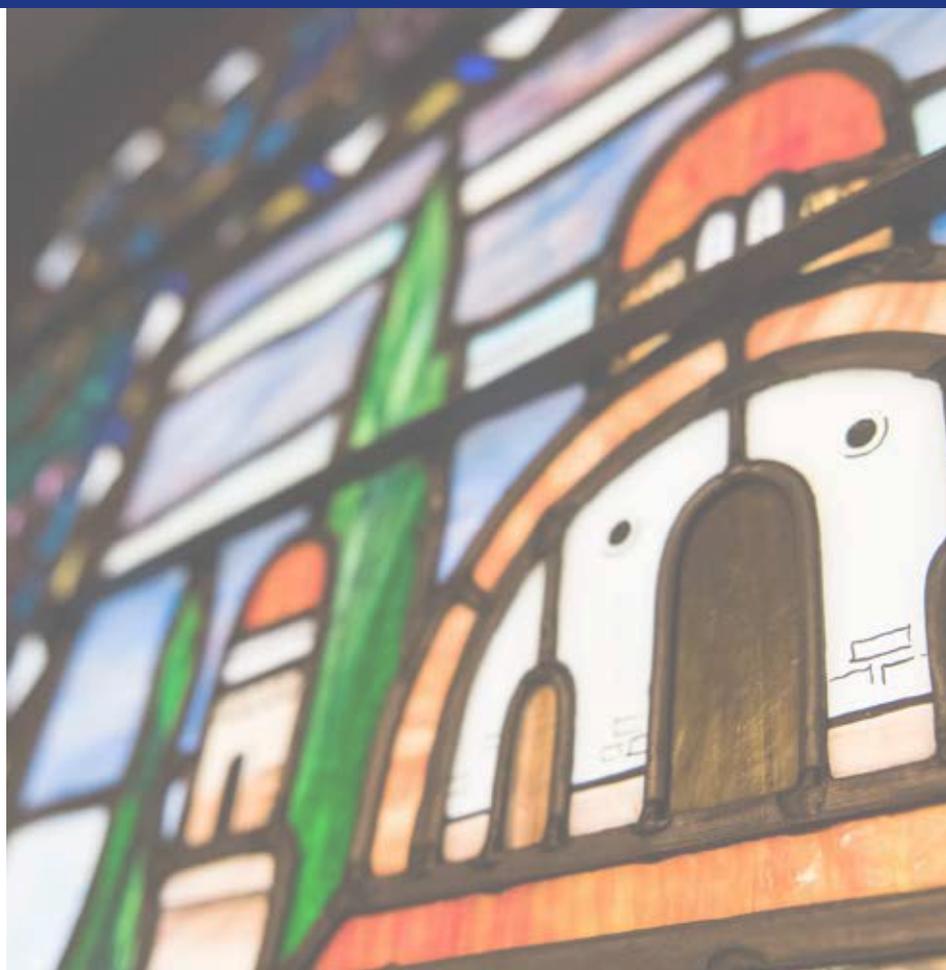


KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



August 17-24, 2018 • 6-13 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 & Hesed / 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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Colin A. Weil

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## OUR COMMUNITY

### HA-MAKOM YENAHEM / CONDOLENCES

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

- Howard and Miriam Steele and their children, Gabi, Joe, and Miki Steele, on the death of Howard's mother, Goldie Steele.
- Stephen Zeldes and Judy Roth and their children, Miko and Tema Zeldes-Roth, on the death of Stephen's sister, Amy Zeldes.

### 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.

### Friday Evening Services: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!

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

### 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.



#### 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](mailto:lwohl@bj.org), to learn more.

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](http://www.bj.org/live).

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 7:00 PM – BJ Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

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

### Pathways Towards Transformation

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. Upcoming classes: 8/25, 9/1, 9/8.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – BJ Chapel
  - **College Send-Off Dinner** 6:00-8:00 PM – Frankel Hall
- Looking to reunite with your friends from BJ before you head off to school this fall? Join us for dinner to connect, discuss, and reflect on the coming year. Email Aniko at [agomory@bj.org](mailto:agomory@bj.org) to R.S.V.P.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 20

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

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – BJ Chapel
- **Occupy the Roof: Summer Social Justice Film Series (Plus Meet & Greet with Rabbi Erin Glazer)** 7:00 PM – BJ Rooftop



Sponsored by Panim, BJ's Social Action Social Justice Groups, this film series will celebrate stories that shine a light on justice in a changing world, concluding with *The Heart of Nuba* on August 21. Light refreshments will be served. Register at [www.bj.org/occupytheroof](http://www.bj.org/occupytheroof).

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

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

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

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

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

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

## 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](mailto:drabinoff@bj.org) or x234.
- **Sounds and Silence: Mindfully Hearing the Shofar**  
*Tuesday, August 28, 7:00PM*, BJ Chapel: Join BJ member, Jonathan Silver for an exploration of how mindfulness meditation can deepen the experience of hearing the shofar. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/soundsandsilence](http://www.bj.org/soundsandsilence).

*continued on panel 3*

## WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 2*

- **Hatanu Lefanekha: Tuning Our Souls for Teshuvah**  
*Wednesdays, 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.
- **Elul Talks and Selihot**  
*Saturday, September 1, 8:30 PM, BJ Community House and BJ Sanctuary:* Join us for an evening of communal singing, meaningful learning, ritual, and prayer, including havdalah, a film presentation, and a soul-stirring Selihot. This event is open to all, no registration necessary. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/talksandselihot](http://www.bj.org/talksandselihot).
- **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](http://www.bj.org/hebrewspeakinghavurah). To R.S.V.P., email Nili at [ngitig@gmail.com](mailto:ngitig@gmail.com).

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## WHAT'S LATER

- **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](http://www.bj.org/lostandfound).
- **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](http://www.bj.org/hhdvolunteering).
- **Tashlikh on the Upper East Side**  
*Monday, September 10, 5:30PM, Carl Schurz Park Promenade at 86th Street:* Upper East Side members are invited to join us for tashlikh closer to home. Together, we will symbolically let go of harmful behaviors by casting pieces of bread into the East River. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/uestashlikh](http://www.bj.org/uestashlikh).
- **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](http://www.bj.org/fall2018teenretreat).
- **Hebrew Ulpan Classes** אולפן עברית  
*Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays, beginning October 8,* BJ Community House: Join other members of the BJ community in a small group environment to build and improve your Hebrew conversational skills. Register now at [www.bj.org/hebrewulpan](http://www.bj.org/hebrewulpan).
- **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](http://www.bj.org/israeltoday).

**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](mailto:hesed@bj.org).

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](http://www.bj.org/membership) to find out more.

## ASHORER SHIRAH

אַשׁוֹרֵר שִׁירָה לְכְבוֹד הַתּוֹרָה  
מִפֶּז יִקְרָה זָכָה וְבָרָה

Ashorer shirah likhvod hatorah  
mipaz yekarah zakah u'varah

נֶאֱמַן שֶׁמוּ בָּחַר 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 עֵין 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 SHOFETIM

שְׁלוֹשׁ עָרִים תַּבְדִּיל לָךְ בְּתוֹךְ אֶרֶץ אֱשֶׁרָה אֲלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:

You shall set aside three cities in the land that Adonai your God is giving you to possess.

—Deuteronomy 19:2

וְזוֹ דְבַר הַרְצַח אֲשֶׁר־נָנוּס שָׁמָּה וְחָי אֲשֶׁר יָבֵה אֶת־רַעְיוֹ בְּבִלְיַדְעַת וְהוּא לֹא־שָׂנָא לוֹ מִתְמַל שְׁלֹשׁ:

This is the case of the manslayer who may flee there and live: one who has killed another unwittingly, without having been his enemy in the past.

—Deuteronomy 19:4

In these verses and elsewhere, we learn about the Cities of Refuge distributed throughout the land of Israel. If a person were to commit manslaughter, that person could hurry to one of these cities and be protected from those seeking retribution. Furthermore, in such tragic moments, often what is needed most is sanctuary from ourselves—from the guilt and sadness that accompanies such an incident. In the Cities of Refuge, an individual had the opportunity to emotionally and spiritually recuperate from the worst possible unintentional misdeed.

But how does one find a City of Refuge? The rabbis of the Talmud offer two traditions about navigation toward them. The first states that “a private road should be 6 feet wide, a public road should be 24 feet wide, but a road to a City of Refuge should be 48 feet wide.” The second legend states that “at every single intersection, there must be a signpost pointing to the Cities of Refuge.” Constantly maintaining extra-wide roads and an inordinate number of street signs, all for the extremely rare case that someone is accidentally killed—why would the rabbis come to this understanding?

This City of Refuge concept is a *life-is-not-fair* proviso. God-willing never on such a grievous level, but we too cause harm through accident, and bring about another’s pain through no fault of our own. In this way, we all have need for places of refuge—moments and spaces where we can better understand our actions; where the structure of the place itself offers sympathy.

However, because such moments are usually few and far between, we are prone to forgetting the need for refuge. Thus, while life treats us justly, we must act upon this rabbinic injunction to build large thoroughfares and signposts that make it easy for ourselves and others to find refuge. We do so by demonstrating our reliability in our relationships, shaping our synagogue into a communal stronghold, and developing spiritual practices that will sustain us in those difficult, unforeseen, unavoidable, *life-is-not-fair* times ahead.

— Tobias Divack Moss

## TORAH PORTION

### SHOFETIM

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9
<b>Triennial</b>	Deuteronomy 18:6 - 19:13
	1: 18:6 - 18:8
	2: 18:9 - 18:13
	3: 18:14 - 18:17
	4: 18:18 - 18:22
	5: 19:1 - 19:7
	6: 19:8 - 19:10
	7: 19:11 - 19:13
	Maftir: 19:11 - 19:13
<b>Haftarah</b>	Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12

### NEXT WEEK: KI TETZE

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19
<b>Triennial</b>	Deuteronomy 23:8 - 24:13
<b>Haftarah</b>	Isaiah 54:1 - 54:10

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](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.



AVAILABLE AT SERVICES & PROGRAMS  
IN THE BJ SANCTUARY

