

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

בני ישרון B'nai Jeshurun

The Voice of BJ This Week



November 15-22, 2019 • 17-24 Heshvan, 5780 • Shabbat Vayera

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**

((•)) Indicates events that can be viewed on the BJ livestream at www.bj.org/live.

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

HAZZAN: Ari Priven

MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS:

Margo Hughes-Robinson • Abi Weber • Deborah Sacks Mintz

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Colin A. Weil

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OUR COMMUNITY

HA-MAKOM YENAH^{EM} / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Rabbi Roly Matalon and Talia Hatzor, their daughters Yahel and Maya, and their entire family on the death of Roly's mother, Julia Teubal de Matalon.

The community of B'nai Jeshurun mourns the death of our member Alan Plush, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Betsy Plush, their children Max and Talya, and their entire family.

MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Rebecca Rhode, her parents Helaine Harte and David Rhode, and her brothers, Tyler Rhode and Casey Rhode, in honor of Rebecca becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
- Matthew Lerner, his brothers Jeremy and Daniel Lerner, his parents, Debra and Eric Lerner, and their entire family on Matthew's recent engagement to Laura Matte.
- Bri and Brett Kalikow on the birth of their daughter, Nes Noa Kalikow. We also extend a mazal tov to the grandparents, Richard and Rosemary Kalikow, and the entire Kalikow and Yacker families.
- Kai and Chris Falkenberg, and their children Talia and Benny Falkenberg, on Kai being honored as a community leader at the Jewish Week Media Group's Gala.

TODAH RABBAH / THANK YOU

- This week's Community Kiddush is sponsored by Lawrence Harte in honor of his granddaughter, Rebecca Rhode, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

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.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

● **Midnight Run Drive**

Various dates, during Community House open hours, Community House 2nd Floor: Midnight Run coordinates over 1,000 relief missions per year for the homeless in NYC. Looking to donate? Bring men's seasonal clothes and other items to the FLAL office. More information at www.bj.org/midnightrundrive.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

● **Lunch Program Cooking Volunteers Needed**

Wednesdays, 5:00-8:00PMM, Frankel Hall Kitchent: Join our great team of Wednesday evening volunteers to prepare a delicious meal for guests at our Lunch Program. To find out more, contact Larissa at lwohl@bj.org.

Joining BJ for the first time? Welcome! Contact Zane, our Membership Services Associate, at join@bj.org, to schedule a time to learn more about joining our community. Renewing your membership for 2019-2020? If you have any questions, or if you would prefer to renew over the phone or in person, call 212-787-7600 x302 to talk to someone in our membership team.

🎥 We are happy to share BJ's services and programs via the BJ livestream at www.bj.org/live. The camera will be focused around the bimah and areas in front of the ark. Your presence in those areas indicates your consent to your image appearing on the livestream.

THIS WEEK AT BJ

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- **Other Israel Film Festival** Various times, through Thursday, November 21 – Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
See award-winning films that take a deeper look into Israeli and Palestinian societies, as well as underrepresented populations in Israel. Register now at www.bj.org/otherisrael2019.
- **Family Pre-Service Oneg** 5:45 PM – Reception Room
Families are invited to enjoy appetizers and wine before Kabbalat Shabbat services. Connect with friends from our Reach for Shabbat retreat and get to know new families before heading to the Sanctuary to enjoy services together. Register now at www.bj.org/familypreserviceoneg.
- **Mindfulness Kabbalat Shabbat** 6:15 PM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
Join us for an intimate Kabbalat Shabbat service, weaving together meditation and music with liturgy and learning. Led this month by Rabbi Shuli Passow, Cantor Dave Mintz, Rabbinic Fellow Deborah Sacks Mintz, and Jessie Reagen Mann. Email Kristen Kersey (kkersey@bj.org) with any questions. Meets on the third Friday of every month.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:15 PM – Sanctuary (••)
- **Community Shabbat Dinner with Hazzan Ari Priven** Following the Kabbalat Shabbat service – Middle and Reception Rooms
Elevate your Shabbat with friends, food, and soulful singing led by Hazzan Ari Priven. Join us for a three-course dinner with wine, and enjoy the company of your fellow community members in an intimate setting. Register at www.bj.org/hazzanshabbat.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- **Hakhanah laTefillah** 8:45 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
Join Hazzan Ari Priven to prepare the soul and open the heart for Shabbat morning prayers through the singing of piyutim and reflections on kavannah. This series is open to all, no registration necessary.
- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – Sanctuary (••)
Bat Mitzvah **Rebecca Rhode**
- **Family Service (0-Pre-K/K-Grade 2)** 10:45 AM – Middle and Reception Rooms
- **Family Service (Grades 3-6)** 10:45 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Community Kiddush** Following services – Community House 3rd Floor
- **There's No Place Like Camp— Play Rehearsal** 12:15 PM – Reception Room
BJ members in Pre-K through 3rd grade, join the BJ Theater Company as we sing, dance, and celebrate what makes Shabbat so special! Families of cast members will receive a detailed rehearsal schedule upon registration. Sign up at www.bj.org/campplayrehearsals.
- **Post-Kiddush Talk with WSCAH** Following Kiddush – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
The West Side Campaign Against Hunger is a food pantry that uses a cooperative supermarket model to provide customers with groceries with dignity. Join Executive Director Greg Silverman to learn more. Register now at www.bj.org/postkiddushwscach.
- **Shalom Shabbat** 4:30 PM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
Join Rabbi Adina Lewittes and Music Director Dan Nadel for the final hour of Shabbat as we bid farewell to our sacred day with soothing song, inspiring story, illuminating teaching, and warm fellowship. We'll conclude with a moving havdalah ceremony.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Global Day of Jewish Learning** 10:00 AM – Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (UWS)
BJ is proud to be a co-sponsor of this year's event, bringing people together to celebrate our shared Jewish text through community-based learning, including a session with our very own Rabbi Adina Lewittes. Register now at www.bj.org/globaldayoflearning.

- **Teen Social—*Ain't Too Proud on Broadway*** 7:20 PM – Imperial Theatre, 249 West 45th Street (meet in the Middle Room)
Teens, join us for an outing to see the Broadway show *Ain't Too Proud*. We'll meet at BJ at 12:30PM for lunch and a pre-play program, and then travel to the theater together. Open to BJ members only. Register at www.bj.org/aintooproud.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **God: What Does It Mean for Us?** 9:30 AM – location given upon registration
Join Rabbi Hillel Friedman for an examination of sources in Biblical literature dealing with questions regarding the existence of God. For more information, email Kristen at kkersey@bj.org.
- **“Soul Food” Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol** 12:30 PM – Middle Room
Bring a bag lunch and join Rabbi Felicia Sol as we re-imagine old world wisdom for everyday life. Each class will stand alone, so new participants are always welcome. Sign up now at www.bj.org/soulfood.
- **Shirah with Shira** 4:00 PM – Middle Room
A Hebrew immersion class for children ages 2-5. Shira Averbuch will lead children and their parents/caregivers in music, stories, and movement, giving them a sense of Jewish community and exposure to Israeli culture. Register at www.bj.org/shirahwithshirafall.

- **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Moving Traditions** 6:00 PM – Community House 4th Floor
Rosh Hodesh (Sisterhood) and Shevet (Brotherhood), are small, single-gender, single-grade groups, led by Moving Traditions-trained adult mentors. Find your own Jewish community in a safe, relaxed space filled with activities, discussion, exploration, and fun. Register now at www.bj.org/movingtraditions.
- **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Introduction to Judaism** 7:00 PM – Community House 4th Floor
- **Jewrisprudence: Defining Parenthood 2: Patrilineal Descent** 7:00 PM – Sanctuary
How is our timeless Jewish legal system responding to questions of Jewish law emerging from our rapidly-changing world? Join Rabbi Adina Lewittes for this weekly class in which we analyze contemporary rabbinic responses, study Jewish law, and learn to articulate the commitments to observance and practice that frame your Jewish life. Registration not required.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Evening Minyan** 6:30 PM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **4th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Parent Orientation** 6:30 PM – Middle Room
Parents of children in 4th grade, or whose birth dates fall between September 2009 and December 2010, are invited to an informational meeting that will detail each step of the B'nai Mitzvah planning process, including date applications. Sign up now at www.bj.org/bmitzvahorientation.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Bim Bam Fall 2019** 10:15 AM, 11:15 AM – Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel
- **Jewish-Muslim Solidarity Fridays** 1:00 PM – Islamic Cultural Center Riverside Drive

WHAT'S NEXT

● ● Aviv 20s and 30s Shabbat Dinner

Friday, November 22, 7:30-10:00PM, Middle Room: Mix and mingle with your fellow 20s and 30s for a delicious Shabbat dinner following Kabbalat Shabbat services. Register now at www.bj.org/avivdinnernov19.

● Post-Kiddush Talk with Ample Harvest

Saturday, November 23, following Kiddush, Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel: Join Gary Oppenheimer, Executive Director of Ample Harvest and a BJ environmental advocate, to learn more about food waste and food insecurity in the U.S. Register now at www.bj.org/postkiddushample.

● ● Young Families Day of Service

Saturday, November 23, 1:00-2:30PM, Middle Room: Families with children in 2nd grade and under are invited to join us as we partner with Repair the World to package food for donation to a local food pantry. Sign up at www.bj.org/dayofservicenov23.

● Mindful of Savlanut (Patience) with Yael Shy

Saturday, November 23, 6:00-8:00PM, Rabbi Rachel Cowan Chapel: As we launch a year of monthly mindfulness intensives, join Yael Shy for an exploration of savlanut (patience) and why it is so hard to achieve. Sign up now at www.bj.org/savlanut.

● Thousand Turkey Challenge with WSCAH

Sunday, November 24–Wednesday, November 27, various times, SPSA, 263 West 86th Street: Together with other community coalition members, we help us raise money and collect frozen turkeys to ensure families have Thanksgiving food. Celebrate our 40th anniversary by making it the most successful Turkey Challenge yet! More information at www.bj.org/thousandturkeychallenge2019.

● 4th & 5th Grade Shul-In Sleepover

Saturday, December 7–Sunday, December 8, 5:30PM-8:30AM, Middle Room and Community House 4th Floor: 4th and 5th graders are invited to a special Shul-In sleepover at BJ! Join your friends and staff for Havdalah, dinner, a movie, and a night of games and silliness. Register now at www.bj.org/shulin.

● Give the Gift of Life at the BJ Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 11, 3:00-9:00PM, Sanctuary: Twice a year, we have the opportunity to provide this essential service to the community. Save a life and donate at the BJ Blood Drive. Sign up now at www.bj.org/blooddrivedec19.

CUANDO EL REY NIMROD

Cuando el rey Nimrod al campo salía
Mirava en el cielo y en la estreyeria
Vido una luz santa en la giuderia
Que havia de nacer Avraham avinu

Avraham avinu padre querido
Padre bendicho luz de Israel

La mujer de Terah quedo prenyada
E de dia en dia el le preguntaba:
De que tenes la cara demudada?
Ella ya sabia el bien que tenia.

Avraham avinu padre querido
Padre bendicho luz de Israel.

En fin de nueve mezes parir queria:
Iva caminando por campos y vinyas,
A su marido tal no le descubria
Topo una me'ara, alli lo pariria.

Avraham avinu padre querido
Padre bendicho luz de Israel.

*When King Nimrod went out into the fields
He looked up to the sky and amongst the stars
He saw a holy light over the Jewish Quarter
He knew that Abraham our father was to be born.*

*Abraham our father, dear father,
Blessed father, light of Israel.*

*Terach's wife was pregnant
And every day he asked her,
"Why do you look so different?"
She already knew the gift that she was carrying.*

*Abraham our father, dear father,
Blessed father, light of Israel.*

*After nine months she needed to give birth,
She walked through the fields and vineyards,
Where even her husband wouldn't find her,
She found a cave and there she will give birth.*

*Abraham our father, dear father,
Blessed father, light of Israel.*

A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT VAYERA

In one of the challenging narratives of this week's parashah, God tells Avraham that horrible sins have been committed by the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and that the cities will be destroyed as punishment. Shocked by the notion that God would destroy an entire people, Avraham cries out:

וַיִּגַשׁ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲאֵף תִּסְפֶּה צְדִיק עִם-רָשָׁע: אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ חֲמִשִּׁים צְדִיק, בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר הָאֵת תִּסְפֶּה וְלֹא-תִשָּׂא לְמָקוֹם לְמַעַן חֲמִשִּׁים הַצְּדִיקִים אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּהּ: חֲלֵלָה לְךָ מַעֲשֵׂת כְּדָבַר הַזֶּה לְהַמִּית צְדִיק עִם-רָשָׁע וְהָיָה כְּצְדִיק כְּרָשָׁע חֲלֵלָה לְךָ—הַשִּׁפְט כָּל-הָאָרֶץ לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט:

Avraham came forward and said, "Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty? What if there should be fifty innocent within the city; will You then wipe out the place and not forgive it for the sake of the innocent fifty who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" —Genesis 18:23-25

In challenging God's judgment from his own sense of what is just and right, Avraham exemplifies the type of leadership that we might expect from our forefather. Yet, when he casts Hagar and Ishmael out into the wilderness, he does so seemingly without reservation. When God tells him to sacrifice his own son just a few chapters later, he challenges nothing. How could Avraham's sense of justice be so prominent in his rebuke of God, and yet seem entirely missing in his own actions just a few chapters later?

In this narrative, as we are reminded of the importance of the mitzvah of tokhekha (rebuking others for their unjust acts), we are also taught how crucial it is to look inward, and with the same moral clarity, see the wrongs that we ourselves enact. This, of course, is far more difficult. The Ba'al Shem Tov teaches that the world is a mirror, and as such, the spiritual and moral failings that we see in others are actually reflections of our own failings.

In framing our parashah, the Ba'al Shem Tov's words remind us that each time we might look outward at others' actions and engage in the holy task of rebuke, we have a responsibility to look inward at our own. Indeed, rebuke and introspection are inextricably linked. While rebuke is crucial for sustaining sacred communities of dignity and love, we must strive to pair our rebukes of others with inquiry into the inner motivations our own souls, hearts, and minds.

— Cantor David Mintz

TORAH PORTION

VAYERA

Torah: Annual Genesis 18:1-22:24

Triennial Genesis 18:1-18:33

- 1: 18:1-18:5
- 2: 18:6-18:8
- 3: 18:9-18:14
- 4: 18:15-18:21
- 5: 18:22-18:26
- 6: 18:27-18:30
- 7: 18:31-18:33
- Maftir: 18:31-18:33

Haftarah II Kings 4:1-4:23

NEXT WEEK: HAYEI SARAH

Torah: Annual Genesis 23:1-25:18

Triennial Genesis 23:1-24:9

Haftarah I Kings 1:1-1:31

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.

