

*Shabbat Shalom!*

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Welcome to B'nai Jeshurun Congregation  
David J. & Ruth A. Moskowitz Sanctuary

*Our Mission is "To ensure the flourishing of Jewish life through educational, social and Conservative religious experiences in a warm and dynamic community."*



Parashat Vayeshev וַיֵּשֶׁב  
December 20/21, 2019 - 23 Kislev 5780



	<u>Etz Hayim</u>	<u>Verse</u>
Rishon	226	Gen. 37:1 - 37:3
Sheni	227	37:4 - 37:7
Shlishi	227	37:8 - 37:11
Revi'i	228	37:12 - 37:17
Chamishi	229	37:18 - 37:22
Shishi	230	37:23 - 37:28
Shevi'i	231	37:29 - 37:36
Maftir	232	37:34 - 37:36
Haftarah	247	Amos 2:6 - 3:8



Thank you to our Torah readers: Avery Gottfried, Rebekah Dorman, Jack Spaner, Steve Wolotsky, Debbie Ornstein and Bijan Simhai. Thank you to Bijan Simhai for chanting the Haftarah.



Rabbi Stephen Weiss, Senior Rabbi  
Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria  
Cantor Aaron Shifman  
Education Engagement Rabbi Josh Foster  
Rabbi Emeritus Stanley J. Schachter  
President Gena Cohen  
Executive Director Jay Ross

*Your presence adds to the joy of our service!*

## FRIDAY

Mazal tov to all of our couples who are celebrating anniversaries this month!



## SATURDAY

Our Starbucks, Bread & Torah teacher this week is Rabbi Shalom Plotkin. Thank you to Nina & Larry Rosner for preparing the refreshments.

Thank you to our members who prepare the kiddush refreshments: Moris Amon, Murray Berkowitz, Fay Blumenthal, Tova Cohen, Lynn Katz Danzig, Ruth Dobres, Faith Eisenberg, Arlene & Phil Fine, Shirley Haas, Lisa Bernd & Ed Horowitz, Laura Katzner, Harriet Rosenberg Mann, Cathy Randall, Rachel Schwarz, Cheryl Spira, Yaacov Taxer, Nikona Thomas, Natalie Titlebaum, Nancy Tresser Lipko and Pnina Wiesel.

Thank you to Barry Feldman, our Board member on the bima, Lynn Wasserman, our greeter, and our ushers: David Cohen, Maury Greenstein, Dan Jacobs, Harriet Rosenberg Mann, Paula Schaffer-Polakof and Daniel Umansky.

Following the Benediction, please join us in **Gross Atrium** for kiddush, sponsored by the Officers and Board of Trustees.

### Synagogue Technology Upgrade

We are excited to announce the synagogue will be upgrading our financial and membership database software in January 2020. During this time period, we ask for your patience as we transition to a system that will better serve both members and staff. We look forward to this upcoming change, which will also **offer members online access to their financial and membership data**. Watch your mail for additional information regarding this upgrade. Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact Jay Ross, Paula Botkin or Marcy Stahm with any questions.

### Middle Eastern Dining Experience Sunday, January 12 • 5:30 pm

Join us for another delicious dining experience with **Etti Berkman**. Etti will present a brief demonstration in our kitchen, followed by a mouth-watering four-course dinner. Meat lovers, vegetarians and gluten-free will be accommodated. Please advise any other dietary needs when you RSVP. **Family and friends welcome.**



\$20 Sisterhood member; \$25 non-member. RSVP by January 7 to Grace Brower (440-823-9445 or [gracepepperpike@aol.com](mailto:gracepepperpike@aol.com)).

## D'var Torah: Happy Happenstances

*Rabbi Rebecca Schatz, Conservative Yeshiva Alum, is Assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles, CA*

Coincidences can be wonderful, surprising, meant-to-happen, beshert! We can't rely on them to occur but we love it when they do. We feel well-fated, the beneficiaries of Divine intervention. Maybe it's a little of all of those things. But maybe, really, it's partly due to something uniquely us. Maybe we can be prone to creating coincidence, attracting happy happenstances.

I came home from a late synagogue board meeting Monday night to find a car blocking access to my assigned garage off the alley behind my home. The car was facing me and I wondered how to approach without startling or angering whoever was behind the wheel. I inched forward, leaving space to get around me, and making clear my intention to enter the garage. As the car moved away the young driver smiled at me. And I saw that the car seemed overfilled with unusual things--lots of clothes, books, and household things. And I thought maybe I recognized the smile. I sat in my garage, texting and emailing people closer to this community member to find out whether or not it could, in fact, be who might have been able to verify my suspicions, and finally emailed who I guessed the person to be. The last email was to this person who fashioned a similar grin. I wrote that I hoped it was just a look-alike and that we could catch up over coffee, but that if it was, in fact, the case that their car was home that I wanted to help. The next day I received an email response that said: "I did not know how to respond, but would be happy to meet and chat." I knew.

In Parashat Vayeshev, we begin the Yosef story, one dream is shared with Yosef's family and we meet an anonymous character. The unnamed one. In perfect Jewish counter-intuitiveness, the one who is unknown and unidentified, unlabeled and uncategorized, is the humble keystone of a castle. Israel (Yaakov) encourages Yosef to go out and check on his brothers and their flock and Yosef happens upon an **שׂוֹאֵל** person or man. Yosef is wandering in the fields of Shechem where his brothers should be and the person asks him, "מה - "תבקש" - "what do you seek or request or colloquially, "what are you looking for?" Yosef hears in response that his brothers have gone to another town, and ventures on to find them there. He goes off to them and falls into the trap of brothers conspiring to kill Yosef.

Is this a coincidence? Is it a lesson waiting to be learned? Is the person a Divine character helping a story progress a certain way? This person moves Yosef closer to his brothers and their torment, but also moves him toward a future of blessing and significance.

The Netziv, from 19th century Europe, comments on this unidentified stranger as a messenger from Heaven "to encounter Yosef and bring him to [his brothers]. However, the Netziv continues to say that the Torah should have written that Yosef found this person. Yosef was the one wandering and happened upon the **שׂוֹאֵל** who was just walking this way, coincidentally.

The person outside my garage did not know that I lived there. Coincidence. The person is receiving help, living in a home and is the catalyst for our community building a food pantry for our own food insecure. Coincidence. That person has the attention of helpful "strangers", nameless ones. Coincidentally Divine, perhaps. We need to focus more on those who are unidentified. But we

need to relate many more such "coincidences". We need to seek out an unraveling livelihood or family. Don't assume that everyone is ok. Look and listen. Even if you know their name, do not assume that you can "tell." This anonymous person in the Yosef story began the narrative that acquired for us a people and a homeland. The person was not the coincidence; Yosef trusting and following instructions was the coincidence. Lean in, ask a deeper question, and follow unsolicited advice. We are a family, a people, and a home all because of coincidence.

**Parashah Study: When Reuven (almost) Saved Yosef**  
*Vered Hollander-Goldfarb, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty*

**Text: Bereshit 37:19-30**

*(19) They said to one another, "here comes that dreamer! (20) Come, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits... We shall see what will be with his dreams!" (22) When Reuven heard, he saved him from them; he said "let us not take his life." And Reuven said to them: "Shed no blood! Cast him into this pit which is in the desert, do not lay a hand upon him" - intending to save him from their hand to restore him to his father.... (26) Yehudah said to his brothers... (27) Let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, let not our hand be upon him... (29) Reuven returned to the pit and behold! There was no Yosef in the pit!... (30) Returning to his brothers he said: The boy is gone! Now what am I to do?!"*

- Reuven hears his brothers' plan and speaks to them twice. What do you think happened in the pause between his first statement "we shall not kill him" to his second: "do not shed blood, throw him into this pit in the desert but do not lay a hand upon him"? Why did he need to provide the pit plan? Why do you think that, out of all the brothers, it is Reuven that steps up to save Yosef?

**Commentary: Ramban (Nachmanides) Bereshit 37:22**

*Do not shed blood - He said to them: 'I tolerated it when you thought to kill him through your trickery, for I too hated him and wanted him killed by others, but you shall not shed blood with your hands!' Reuven's intention was to save him to return him to his father, and the text tells what Reuven said to them and they listen to him, but other things that he said to them originally they did not accept, as it say (later, 42:22) "Did I not speak to you saying 'do not do wrong by the boy', and you did not listen?!" When he saw that they did not listen and would not leave him alone, he said to them, 'if so, do not shed blood with your hands.' ...*

- How does Ramban suggest that Reuven got his brothers' willingness to listen to him initially? How does Ramban know that he spoke to them before the words recorded in our Parasha?
  - Nonetheless, why is Reuven forced to speak twice?
  - What is the weak point of Reuven's plan/argument? In your opinion, what could he have done differently?
  - Which reading seems closer to the meaning of the Torah text? Which is closer to your understanding of Esav at this point?
- How should Yaakov proceed at this point according to each of the scenarios presented by the commentaries?

MISHABERAH

JAYDEN BARBER  
FRUMA BAT JANETTE  
MATANA DVORAH BAT SARAH  
DINA RIVKA BAT LEAH  
GITTEL CHANA BAT ESTHER  
MASHA TSIRIL BAT BASHA  
YAKOV BEN MIRIAM  
RONI BEN RACHEL  
RAISEL MALKA BAT FREDA  
TOVA BAT SARAH GITTEL  
AVRUM REUVAIN BEN NAOMI  
YAKOV BEN SARA  
DANIEL BEN LEAH  
ZELDA BRACHA BAT MINA  
ZALMAN SHMUEL DOV BEN  
RUVENA SHIFRA  
KETURAH BAT SARAH  
MESHELEM BEN RACHEL  
ADIRA BAT RUCHEL  
AVRAHAM BEN SARAH  
EZRA SHAMIR BEN SIMCHA  
SURA TOBA BAT JOSEF ZWI  
RACHEL LEAH BAT DEVORAH  
REUVEN BEN ADELIN  
MALKA BAT RAISA  
MORT YUSSEL BEN RIVKA  
AVRAM DAVID BEN DINAH  
BEN-TZION PESACH BEN  
SHAINDEL CHAYAH  
SHANDEL BRACHA BAT ESTHER  
MASAHIRO UENO  
HADAR MIRIAM BAT ESTHER  
MICHAL VERED TOVA BAT SARAH GILA  
SARAH GILA BAT LEAH  
PINHAS SIMCHA BEN PNINA  
ADIN RONEN BEN SARAH GILA  
HAYA TZIPPORAH BAT ITTA  
MASHA BAT HEINCHA  
PEREL SARAH BAT DVORAH  
MALKA BAT BATYA  
MORDECHAI DOVID BEN LEAH  
MIMI DORF  
SHAINA LIEBE BAT CHAVA MIRYAM  
ZLATE FEIGA BAT CHAYA  
YENTEL SURAH BAT MARIAM PESS  
RAPHAEL BEN MASHA GOLDA  
MARY ELIZABETH GREENE  
YONKEL MOSHE BEN LEAH  
HAYA SORA BAT LEAH  
EFRAIM ZEV BEN ZELDA  
LIBBY GOLDIE BAT SHAINA MALKA  
ITTA BAT ESTHER

SHLOMO FEIVEL BEN KAYLA  
DAVID SHIMON BEN RENAH  
SARAH BAT ROIZA  
ARIELLA CHANA BAT SARAH  
HARAV YITZHAK MICHAEL BEN DINA  
AARON ELI BEN TOIBA LEAH  
RIFKAH BAT BASYA  
SHALOM MENASHE BEN NECHA  
YAKOV BEN HANA SORA  
ZEV YITZCHAK BEN RISYA  
MEIR FEIVEL BEN SARAH DEVORAH  
BLUMA ZISSEL BAT RACHEL  
HASKEL TZVI BEN MALKA  
MARIE BAT MARIE  
TZIVIA AVIVA BAT MINDEL HANA  
MINDEL HANNA BAT RACHEL  
WAYNE EHRMAN  
CHAYA RAZEL BAT LEAH  
CHAIM BEN PNINA  
GERSHON BEN HANA  
CHANAH BAT SARAH  
HANOCH YITZHAK BEN SARA  
ADAM DEAL  
MASHA BAT PESHKE  
HAYA DEVORA HANA BAT SORA BLUMA  
EPHRAIM CHAYIM BEN ITA CHANA  
AVRAHAM BEN SHOSHANAH  
REUVEN BEN HELAYNE  
AVRAHAM SHMUEL BEN ZENDEL  
LAZER BEN MATILDA  
LEAH BAT RUCHEL  
YECHIEL YITZHAK BEN FEIGEL  
YAKOV BEN AIDA  
YISRAEL BEN BLIMA  
NOAH BEN ZELDA  
RAANAN BARAK BEN SHULAMIT ESTHER  
ASHER REUVEN BEN LILA  
REUVEN LEIB HAKOHEN BEN  
ESTHER MIRIEL  
FAYGIE ELKE BAT RUCHEL  
MALKA LEBA BAT MINDEL SURA  
VALERIE LICHTSTEIN  
HARAV SHIMON YEHOSHUA BEN SARAH  
BRIAN VALENTINO  
MIRIAM ESTHER BAT MALKA LEBA  
BRIAN RATNER  
RAIZEL BAT HAVA  
DAVID ARIEH BEN ESTHER  
BRYNTZ MIRIAM BAT HANAH  
HASKEL MOSHE BEN GITL  
GENENDEL ESTHER MIRIAM BAT CHIA  
MOSHE BEN CHANA  
TRACY LEAVENWORTH

KATIE DINGMAN  
HALLEL ADINA BAT HARAV RIVKA GITTEL  
CHANA BAT GOLDA  
ARIELLA CHANA BAT SARAH  
HARAV YITZHAK MICHAEL BEN DINA

May He who blessed our ancestors and is the source of all healing bless and heal those who are ill. May the Holy One Praised Be He mercifully restore them to vigor and lift the burden of anxiety from their loved ones and friends.

On this (Sabbath, Festival, Judgment or Penitence) day we pray that they be spared further pain. May God grant them health of body and health of spirit and mind. May we speedily be privileged to greet their return to good health by welcoming them once again into our midst. Let us say: Amen.

Anyone wanting to add a name to the list should contact Diane Dronzek (216-831-6555 ext. 104 or [dianedronzek@bnaijeshurun.org](mailto:dianedronzek@bnaijeshurun.org)) by Thursday afternoon at the latest for inclusion in that Shabbat's program. We will also pause during the prayer for people to recite additional names from their seats.

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**Sundays with Sammy Spider**  
Sunday, January 5 • 10 am



Join us for another fun morning as we learn all about *mitzvot*. This month, we are excited to welcome back **Maggie Wise**, music specialist, for a music and movement class perfect for little ones. We will hear a Sammy story, do a craft, and have time for a snack, too. Free. Register at [bnaijeshurun.org/sammyspider](http://bnaijeshurun.org/sammyspider) or contact Julie Sukert for more information.



**ATID Volunteers @Kids' Book Bank**  
Tuesday, January 14 • 6 pm

Sort and pack books for distribution to organizations serving children and families in need. You'll enjoy reminiscing about your favorites as you dig through hundreds of books and prepare them for young readers to discover. Located at 3635 Perkins Ave. #1E St., Cleveland.

ATID is open to all Jewish young adults in their 20s & 30s. RSVP through our Facebook page or contact Shani Kadis.

**DAILY MINYAN**

MONDAY - THURSDAY 7:00 am & 7:30 am & 6:00 pm  
FRIDAY 7:00 am & 7:30 am & 6:00 pm (unless otherwise noted)  
SATURDAY 9:00 am & 6:00 pm  
SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

# What's Coming Up

Tuesdays 10:30 am Torah Study with Susan Wyner

Thursdays 12:10 pm Lunch & Learn @Commerce Park IV (23240 Chagrin)

Fridays 10:15 am Kinder Shabbat & Open Playroom

Saturdays 9:00 am Starbucks, Bread & Torah

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**Saturday, December 21**

9:00 am Service

**Sunday, December 22 - Erev Hanukkah; light 1st candle**

9:30 am Chesed @Kosher Food Pantry

**Monday, December 23 - 1st day Hanukkah; light 2nd candle**

5:30 pm Congregational Hanukkah Party

**Wednesday, December 25 - office closed**

**Friday, December 27**

6:00 pm Service

**Saturday, December 28 - Rosh Hodesh Tevet**

9:00 am Service

**Sunday, December 29 - Rosh Hodesh Tevet**

**Wednesday, January 1 - New Year's Day; office closed**

**Friday, January 3**

6:00 pm Service; Birthday Shabbat

**Saturday, January 4**

9:00 am Service

**Sunday, January 5**

10:00 am Sammy Spider

**Tuesday; January 7 - Fast of Tevet; school resumes**

7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

**Friday, January 10**

6:00 pm Service

**Saturday, January 11**

9:00 am Service

10:30 am Dive into the Sea of Torah

Please respect the sanctity of our services and those around you  
by turning off your mobile devices.

*If you would like a name read from this week's yahrzeit list and have not already informed the office, please notify one of the ushers.*

Condolences to:

Wendy Altmire & family on the death of her husband, our member, Robert Altmire  
Bob Swimmer, Brad Swimmer & families on the death of their wife and mother,  
our member, Hannah Swimmer  
The family of our member, Lois Klein

Yahrzeits: December 21 - 27, 2019

Freda Abrams	Milton E. Glick	Joseph Miller
Janet Adelman	Dr. Lena Glick	Philip Morantz
Mildred Adelstein	Abraham Glin	Harry Myeroff
Harry Allen	Eli Gobstein	Bernard Nyer
Yetta Atkins	*Leonard Gold	Terri Oppenheim
Abraham Barazone	*Louis B. Golden	Leonard Oscar
Nathan Beckenstein	Gus Goldsmith	Gladys Ostrofsky
Max Benjamin	Benjamin Goldstein	Jack Pahmer
Harrice Berke	Adorea S. Goodman	Daniel Platt
Irving N. Berman	Arlene Gordon	Bernard F. Polster
Nathan Biel	Anna Gordon	Tobey Rapoport
Betty Blaugrund	Regina Greenwald	Frank Rehm
James H. Boardman	Isidore Irv Grossman	Bessie Robbins
Iosif Bobovik	Esther Grossman	Sally Rosen
Julius Boman	Tova "Toni" Gruenspan	Harry Rothchild
Anna Bornstein	Benny Grunstein	Mollie Rubin
Anna C. Braun	Raymond S. Haas	Estelle (Stella) Rubin
Noah J. Brody	Ludwig J. Hecht	Mildred Saltzman
Charlotte Bruner	Jack "Jay" Herman	Rudolph B. Samuels
Ruth Loveman Bubis	May W. Hershey	Louis M. Schaeffer
Belle Cantor	Paul Isakowitz	Joseph M. Schonberg
Dave Chakoff	Elizabeth Jacob	Ruth Schulist
Daniel Coe	Myron Joseph	Nathan Schultz
Minnie Cohen	Regina Kahan	Marguerite Schwartz
Dr. Edna Cohen	Benny Kaufman	Norma Shagrin
Lada (Lottie) Cohen	Dr. Albert Klein	Samuel Shane
Clara Covit	George R. Kopperl	Ruth Shapiro
Jack M. Crystal	Paul M. Koret	Sandra Shedroff
Irvin Danowitz	Edit Ruth Kormos	Sadie Simon
Lottie Diamant	Suzanne Lee Krosin	Sarah Sonia Slavin
Josephine "Jo" DiMauro	Frank Lesser	Hyman Smith
Sam E. Doris	Edward Levey	Eleanor Stovsky
Julius Dunn	Milton R. Levine	Harry J. Stuart
Lawrence Ehrlich	Yenta Lieberman	Bernice Wakser
Max Ehrlich	Isaac Lockspeiser	Charles Wasserman
Dr. Aaron Fine	Bertl Horn Loeb	Irving Waxman
Louis Fisher	Martin Lors	Joseph E. Weinberg
Fred Tzvi Fleischer	Mary Lurie	Marion Weiner
Esther Forman	Jake Madvid	Adolph Weisenberg
Janet C. Frankel	Charlotte Maeroff	Max Winick
Leland S. Freedman	Benjamin I. Magdovitz	Abraham Wiznitzer
Rosalind Friedman	Minn Malament	Lawrence Woolf
Freda Gild	Anna Mandel	David Zimmerman
David Ginsberg	Kenneth O. Miller	<i>*past president</i>
Dorothy Ginsburg	Frieda Miller	