

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 Vayigash וַיִּגַּשׁ
January 3/4, 2020 - 7 Tevet 5780



	<u>Etz Hayim</u>	<u>Verse</u>
Rishon	274	Gen. 44:18 - 44:20
Sheni	274	44:21 - 44:24
Shlishi	274	44:25 - 44:30
Revi'i	275	44:31 - 44:34
Chamishi	275	45:1 - 45:7
Shishi	277	45:8 - 45:18
Shevi'i	278	45:19 - 45:27
Maftir	279	45:25 - 45:27
Haftarah	291	Ezekiel 37:15 - 37:28



Thank you to our Torah readers: Rabbi Alan Lettofsky, Susan Gottlieb, Margie Cohen, Faith Schaffer, Howard Potash and Mark Freiman. Thank you to Mark Freiman 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 everyone who is celebrating a birthday this month!



SATURDAY

Our Starbucks, Bread & Torah teacher this week is Rabbi Peter Haas. Thank you to Cathy Randall 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 Robert Zimmerman, our Board member on the bima, and to our greeters and 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.



A Very Hungry Havdalah Saturday, January 11 • 5:30 pm

Are you hungry for a family friendly Shabbat event? Come say goodbye to Shabbat at this fun evening geared for little ones. We will have a kid-friendly dinner followed by Havdalah and singing with Mr. Chuck. The fun continues with a professional puppet show featuring the beloved Eric Carle story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Kids can come in their pajamas and be comfortable (and ready for bed)! \$10 per household - includes dinner for the whole family! Register online or contact Julie Sukert.

Dive into the Sea of Torah & Lunch Shabbat, January 11 • 10:30 am

All pre-K – 2nd grade students and their families are invited to join us for a family service followed by exciting activities and learning of *Parasha Vayechi*. Following kiddush with the congregation, we will enjoy a lunch especially for the Youth & Learning Center.

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

D'var Torah: Intimate Accountability

Liza Bernstein, Conservative Yeshiva Advanced Lishmah Fellow 2019-20

Last week's parashah, Miketz, abruptly ended in the middle of a conversation between Yosef and Yehudah. After framing Binyamin for stealing a goblet, Yosef declared that he would imprison Binyamin, and Yehudah passionately began pleading with Yosef to take himself as a slave instead of his youngest brother. Our parashah, Vayigash, resumes with Yehudah stating his final pleas. By the end of Yosef's encounter with Yehudah, Yosef erupts into tears and reveals himself as Yosef, their lost brother. Up until this point, Yosef has remained in complete silence over his identity. Even when he excused himself to cry after seeing Binyamin, Yosef chose to remain silent. Why, then, is it Yehudah's speech that finally causes Yosef's revelation? Why now?

The answer to our question may be found in the name of the parashah itself - *vayigash*. Our parashah begins with " - "אליו יהודה" - Yehudah went up to him. The word *vayigash* means to approach or come near someone. The first time this word appears in the Torah is in the eighteenth chapter of Bereishit. After Avraham overhears God threatening to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Avraham approaches God - - "ויגש אורחם" and demands justice - "Will you sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?"

When Avraham approaches - *vayigash* - God, an intense intimacy takes place between them. Avraham is not just talking to God; he is holding God accountable. Avraham is declaring the very essence of God and asking, will you not live up to yourself? Or are you not the God I thought you were? In this conversation, *vayigash* connotes a powerful physical and emotional proximity. Avraham is not just talking - *vayedaber* - with God - he is approaching him, and in that approach, Avraham is demanding that God be God's best self.

With this context, we can re-read the beginning of our own parashah. Up until this parashah, Yosef exists in a bifurcated world. Yosef is both Egyptian and a child of Yaakov, bnei Yisrael. Until Yosef forgives his brothers, he cannot fully merge his past with his present. When Yehudah approaches Yosef, Yehudah not only offers Yosef a means of reconciling his past, but more importantly, he obligates him. Yehudah's radical proximity to Yosef forces Yosef to live up to the ethical standards of forgiveness and openness, of merging worlds, and of being both an Egyptian and a stranger.

Yehudah and Yosef's interaction is all the more poignant due to the fact that it is Yehudah out of all the brothers who approaches and pleads with Yosef for Binyamin's life. The same Yehudah who, only seven chapters earlier, crafts the idea of selling Yosef. When Yosef looks at Yehudah, he is not only confronted by his brother, but he is also confronted with the prospect of teshuvah. And once Yosef is faced with teshuvah, he cannot look away. In many ways, Yosef's overflowing of emotion represents the two aspects of teshuva. On the one hand, he is accepting and forgiving Yehudah; and on the other, he is asking for teshuva for himself.

Yosef could have lived the rest of his life without ever telling his family he was alive. In today's world, we also often find it easier to hide from those we disagree with or those who have caused us pain. We'd rather retreat into our enclaves, where we know and agree with all those around us. However, Yosef and Yehudah's interaction teaches us that this is neither sustainable nor the goal of human interaction. Peak humanity is an intimate and loving encounter between two people; it is a dialogue of accountability and openness. Just as Yehudah had the courage to approach Yosef and Yosef had the courage to forgive him, we too should strive to be the people who both approach and forgive.

Parashah Study: The Art of Double-Speak
Vered Hollander-Goldfarb, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty

The last parashah ended with the "discovery" of the goblet that had been "planted" in Binyamin's bag. The Egyptian lord (Yosef) declines their offer of collective punishment, announcing that only the one in whose bag the goblet was found will remain as a servant, the rest shall return to their father in peace.

Text: Bereshit 44:18-20: *18And Judah approached him and said, "Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears and let your wrath not flare against your servant for you are like Pharaoh. 19My lord had asked his servants, saying 'Do you have a father or brother?' 20And we said to my lord, 'We have an old father and a young child of his old age, and his brother is dead... 22And you said... 'Bring him down to me that I may set my eyes upon him.'*

- Why is Yehudah the one to approach Yosef? (Think back to last week's learning.)
- How would you have expected Yehudah to approach the Egyptian lord that has just declared that Binyamin will remain as a servant (for supposedly stealing the goblet) while the rest are to return home? Does the speech meet your expectations? Why?
- What arguments do you think would be most likely to win the case? Why?
- Try reading the full speech (Bereshit 44:18-34). What parts do you think would have affected Yosef the most?

Do you think that Yehudah had any suspicion that the Egyptian lord, before whom he must plead his case, is Yosef?

Commentary: Rashi on Bereshit 44:18-20: *And let your wrath not flare: From here you learn that he spoke to him harshly. My lord had asked his servants: From the beginning, you came upon us with a pretext. Why did you have to ask all these [questions]? Were we looking to [marry] your daughter, or were you looking to [marry] our sister? Nonetheless - we said to my lord - We did not conceal anything.*

- What is Rashi (following Midrash Bereshit Rabba and Tanhuma) doing with the speech?
 - Based on this reading, how would you describe Yehudah's mood?
 - Do you think that this reading is what Yehudah tried to convey to Yosef (consciously), or is it what he wished he could say (subconsciously)?
- Try continuing this "double-speak" reading. What might the message be?

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
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
SHALOM BEN GOLDA
DAVE PERKINS
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
GENENDEL ESTHER MIRIAM BAT CHIA
MOSHE BEN CHANA
TRACY LEAVENWORTH
KATIE DINGMAN
HALLEL ADINA BAT HARAV RIVKA GITTEL
CHANA BAT GOLDA
CHAYA FRUMA BAT CHANA

VALERIE GOLDSTEIN
DUSHA RIVKA BAT ESTHER HENSHEL
RIVKA BAT ZISSEL
MIRIAM BLIMA BAT RUCHEL
PESHA MINDEL BAT TOVA
KOCHAVA CHERUT BAR RINA
LIAT BAT TIKVAH

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) 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.

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 online or to Grace Brower (440-823-9445 or gracepepperpike@aol.com).



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.

Purimspiel Auditions - Sunday, January 12

Auditions and an information meeting for the **Children's Purimspiel** will be held at **11 am**. Contact Julie Sukert for more information.

Auditions for lead roles in this year's **Purimspiel, Billy Joel - The Megillah Man**, will be held **starting at 7 pm**. Contact Lynne Yulish for a time slot. No auditions are needed to participate in the ensemble. Contact Julie Berman for more information.

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

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 & Lunch

5:30 pm Very Hungry Havdalah

Sunday, January 12

11:00 am Children's Purimspiel Auditions & Information Meeting

1:30 pm Jewish Genealogy Meeting @Park East with Rabbi Peter Haas, *Amsterdam, a Photographer and an Amazing Discovery*

5:30 pm Sisterhood Middle Eastern Dinner

7:00 pm Auditions for Purimspiel

Tuesday, January 14

6:00 pm ATID @ Kids' Book Bank

Friday, January 17

6:00 pm Service; Anniversary Shabbat

Saturday, January 18

9:00 am Service; Rachel Wolf Bat Mitzvah

Monday, January 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; office closed

Friday, January 24

6:00 pm Service

6:30 pm Inclusion Shabbat

7:00 pm Mind-Full Shabbat

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

Condolences to:

Sonya Shultz & family on the death of her nephew, Daniel Rose
Allyson Schwartz, Ines Ades & families on the death of their
grandmother and step-mother, Renee Schaffer
Michael Adler & family on the death of his father, Itzik Adler

Yahrzeits: January 4 - 10, 2020

Sheldon Apple	Milton Gutentag	Dr. Joseph Robbins
George Arch	Max J. Guth	Simon Rosenberg
Nathan Asher	Frieda Harris	Ruth Wolfe Rothenberg
Adam Baum	Amelia L. Hollander	Henry Rubin
Jacob O. Baxt	Harry Joseph	Sarah G. Rubinstein
Dr. Arvey J. Beck	Leonard F. Kabb	Jerry Sacks
Ruth Berkovitz	Louis Kanter	Samuel A. Salzman
Sam Berman	Eve Karen Kaplin	Shirley Samuels
Bernice Bernstein	H. Doug Keller	Tillie Savransky
Lena Birnbaum	Bertha Kest	Gilbert Savransky
Edward P. Blaugrund	Pauline Kiraly	Samuel W. Schaul
Abraham Bobrin	Adolph M. Kohn	Dr. Harry A. Schwimmer
Harry Bordman	Samuel H. Kornstein	Norman B. Shafron
Jeannette N. Borodkin	Dr. Frank Krasner	Grace Shapiro
William Borstein	Hyman Kumin	Jerry Shapiro
Fannie Chanan	Rose Lackey	Lillian Shermer
George Cohen	Clara Lager	Jennie Sicherman
Albert N. Cohen	Joseph Leiner	Steven Siegan
Thelma Bessie Cohodas	Ida Lesser	Miriam Silverman
Jacob Davis	Richard M. Levin	Blanche Singer
Isaac Diamondstone	Paul Lipman	Irwin Socket
Jack Dworkin	Abraham Lipszyc	Dina Spector
Louis Einstein	Regina Loveman	Harry Steiger
Aaron Faigin	Sarah Marks	Betty Treinish
Meyer Federman	Michael D. Marks	Mollie Unger
Harry Feld	Maury Mayerson	Ida Vernick
Edward Fink	Rabbi Louis Milgrom	Sophie Wager
Florence Fleisher	Rebecca Miller	Alfred Weil
David Gloger	Saul Nadler	Minnie J. Weinberger
Irvin J. Glueck	Blanche Pavny	Sarah (Sally) Weisman
Ben J. Goetz	Dolores (Honey) Perlberg	Sanford Weiss
Irving Gold	Harvey Peskin	Marvin Weiss
Annette Hunsy Goldfard	William Pinerman	Leon Weiss
Joseph Goldman	Minnie Polster	Louis M. Weissman
Lena Goldstein	Zelda Posen	Anna H. Williams
Minnie Gorrin	Helen Potash	Albert A. Woldman
Ida Gottlob	A. Ropey Rapeport	Ruth Wolf
Max M. Green	Samuel Reich	Lawrence Yahr
Bessie Greenblatt	Nathan Ritsky	Charles C. Zuckerman

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.