



*A warm Beth Israel welcome to the
Jr. NCSY'ers, advisors, and techies from
Kansas City and Omaha.*

**December 1, 2018
23 Kislev 5779**



Parsha Vayeshev

Torah Reading - Page 198

Haftorah - Page 1142

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

The Week of Learning is being sponsored by Jonathan & Stacey Rockman for the merit of a complete recovery for those who are ill and need a recovery in our community and in the entire nation of Israel.

Saturday, December 1

Omaha Jr NCSY Shabbaton

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
<i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion</i>	3:35 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shilshit.....	4:20 p.m.
Havdalah.....	5:42 p.m.

Sunday, December 2

First Night of Chanukah

Omaha Jr NCSY Shabbaton

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
<i>The Secret lights of Chanukah</i> with Rabbi Ari	10:00 a.m.
Chanukah Carnival.....	4:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Monday, December 3

Chanukah - 2nd Night

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
<i>Jewish History -Your History</i> with Rabbi Shlomo	12:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4

Chanukah - 3rd Night

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5

Chanukah - 4th Night

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.
<i>A Taste of Conversational Hebrew</i> with Rabbi Shlomo.....	7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 6

Chanukah - 5th Night

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
<i>Connecting with Our Faith</i> with Rabbi Shlomo	9:30 a.m.
<i>Jewish Ethics</i> with Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC	12:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.

Friday, December 7

Chanukah - 6th Night

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Candle Lighting.....	4:37 p.m.

In Memoriam

Beth Israel extends condolences and wishes of comfort to our members and members of the community on recent losses.

Leslie Seigel ♦ Helen Manheimer ♦ Sanford "Sandy" Cohn
Ha'makom yenachem etkhem betokh she'aravelei Tziyon vi'Yerushalayim



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week Birthdays



Matan Shapiro	Dec 1
Maggie Gerber	Dec 1
Hodaya Abramovich	Dec 4
Rachel Kricsfeld	Dec 4
Bruce Potash	Dec 5
Ari Kohen	Dec 5
Mordechei Lopez	Dec 7



Celebrating a special simcha this month? Call the office or speak to Bette Kozlen to be a part of the December 29 Simcha Kiddush.

Chanukah Begins Tomorrow Night!



- Shop the **Beth Israel Sisterhood Gift Shop** during the Chanukah Carnival or during office hours next week for decorations, gifts for young and old, menorahs, candles, and more.
- Join Rabbi Ari on Sunday at 10 a.m. for *The Secret Lights of Chanukah* and learn about the true light of this special holiday.
- For K-8th grade, enjoy the **Menorah Making Workshop** presented by Home Depot, 127th & L Streets, tomorrow at 11 a.m.
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED and PARENTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN.
- The **Beth Israel Chanukah Carnival** will be held tomorrow, 4-5:30 p.m. See next page for more info.
- Enjoy a delicious meal at the **Beth Israel Chanukah Lunch** next Shabbat, Dec 8. Brisket, potato kugel, salad, cranberry relish, challah rolls, and dessert. Adults \$14, ages 3-12, \$7. Sign up on line or call the office.

Other Chanukah Happenings in the Community

- Be a part of the **#OmahaLit18 Chanukah Competition** - see page 4 for details
- **Chabad Annual Menorah Lighting and Parade**, Tuesday, December 4, 3:30pm, Boys Town Hall of History. For more information, call 402-330-1800, email office@ochabad.com, or visit www.Ochabad.com.
- **Star Deli's Chanukah Deli** at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home, Friday, December 7, 11:30am - 1pm, featuring the Latke Reuben with a half pound of premium corned beef piled high between two crispy, savory potato latkes, dressed with sauerkraut and thousand island dressing. Regular menu also available.

CHANUKA + FALAFEL + CARNIVAL

**FALAFEL STAND
CARNIVAL GAMES
MENORAH MAKING**



OPEN TO THE OMAHA JEWISH COMMUNITY
BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
12604 PACIFIC STREET, OMAHA, NEBRASKA
DEC 2 2018 - 4:00 - 5:30 PM



Israeli Falafel Made/Sponsored By Jerusalem Grocery



CANDLE LIGHTING AND A SPECIAL
CHANUKA TRIVIA GAME

**Many thanks to the generous sponsors of this year's
Chanukah Carnival!**

*Joel & Cony Alperson, Beth Cohen & Harry Berman,
Sharon & Jeff Kirshenbaum, Bette & Jack Kozlen, Julee Katzman,
Kohll's Pharmacy & Healthcare, Linda Neumann-Potash & Bruce Potash,
Nancy Rampey Biniamow, Susie & Paul Shyken.
Helene & Jack Shrago, and Fred Weiss.*



...to Jonathan & Stacey Rockman for sponsoring the Week of Learning.

...to Faige and Yaakov Jeidel to coordinating this weekend's Shabbaton; to Yaakov & Faige Jeidel, Yoni & Liora

Hershkowitz, Rabbi Ari & Laura Dembitzer, Matt & Stephanie Beneda, Rabbi Shlomo & Hodaya Abramowitz, Harry & Kathy Weiner, Leon & Dani Shrago, Andy & Bracha Goldsweig, Harry Berman & Beth Cohen, for hosting guests; to Brad Berman and Eli Lopez for serving as techies; to Bruce & Cindy Goldberg, in honor of the anniversary of Adam and Jennifer Goldberg, Shirly & David Goodman, Fred Weiss, Donald Gerber, Maneva & Harold Edelman, in honor of the yearzeit of Maneva's father; and Josh and Anna Priluck for sponsoring the Shabbaton.

...to Dani Shrago for handling shopping, to Linda Potash, Helene Shrago, Jordana Kurtzman, and other volunteers to helping with kiddush and Seudah Shlishit.

THE ULTIMATE CHANUKA GIVEAWAY

Chanuka
is
Lit

Step 1: Post a picture on Facebook or Instagram, between the 1st night (Dec 2nd) and the 5th night (Dec 7th) of Chanuka with you or your family by the lit menorah.

Step 2: Include in the post why Chanuka is meaningful to you (and not just "it's the Jewish xmas")

Step 3: Use the hashtag #OmahalsLit18 when posting.

Participants will have until the 8th day to acquire likes on their post. The single post with the most likes on their personal page will win. Winner to be announced on Beth Israel's FB & Instagram page on the 8th day of Chanuka.

The graphic features a dark purple background with colorful bokeh lights and yellow starburst accents. The text is written in a white, cursive font.

Behold! A caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, their camels bearing spices, balsam, and lotus - on their way to bring them down to Egypt. (Gen. 37:25)

Rashi explains that Ishmaelite caravans normally carry foul-smelling spices, but in order to spare the righteous Joseph from the offensive odor, God arranged that this caravan carried fragrant spices. We learn from this the great reward that the righteous enjoy.

Imagine a man who was arrested and is about to be transported to a prison which houses dangerous criminals. The officer sees him shaking like a leaf and tells him "Don't worry - there is some good news - the bus that's transporting you to prison has a good smell!" The man stares at the officer in amazement. The last thing he cares about is how his transportation to prison smells!

Joseph was being sold as a slave. The last thing he cared about was the aroma; all he wanted was to be freed. How does the presence of spices show us the great reward that the righteous enjoy?

A young boy wakes up and finds himself in a car driven by a man he does not know. He realizes that he has been kidnapped! He starts crying for his parents, only to be ignored - causing him to cry even harder. The man stops the car and says, "We are going to eat now." The little boy opens up the platter and is shocked to see that the food is the same thing that he eats every day, in the exact same way that his mother prepares it for him. He realizes that it must be that his mother sent this food and she must have arranged this whole ride. He hasn't been kidnapped; he's in safe hands! He stops crying and immediately feels at ease. He feels great! Joseph's brothers wanted to execute him. He was thrown into a pit feeling abandoned and lost. He was sold to a caravan of Ishmaelites who always had foul-smelling wagons. However, this time there was a pleasant smell. He understood the message: God was telling him that all of these events were part of the plan: "Don't worry, I'm holding your hand the whole way through."

Sometimes we may go through very hard periods, but throughout them we see seemingly random events that appear unusual - almost like a miracle. It's God telling us, "Don't worry, I'm orchestrating all these events and there's a plan behind everything. You're in safe hands!"

1st Aliya: In the year 2216, Yakov was settled in Canaan. Yoseph was 17 years old and Yakov presented him with the multi-colored coat. Yoseph related his two dreams to his brothers.

2nd Aliya: The brothers conspired to kill Yoseph, but Reuven intervened. He suggested throwing Yoseph into a pit to buy time, during which he would have been able to save Yoseph.

3rd Aliya: During Reuven's absence, Yehudah suggested selling Yoseph into slavery. The brothers presented Yakov with contrived evidence of Yoseph's death, and he was inconsolable.

4th Aliya: The story of Yehudah and Tamar is related. In the end, their first son, Peretz, is the progenitor of Mashiach.

5th Aliya: Yoseph had been purchased by Potiphar and was quickly recognized for his managerial skills and integrity. He was appointed to run Potiphar's household.

6th Aliya: Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce Yoseph, but Yoseph withstood temptation and fled his mistress's presence. He was thrown into the royal prison and was soon chosen by the warden to run the prison.

7th Aliya: Due to his managerial position, Yoseph came in contact with the former royal wine steward and baker. He successfully interpreted their dreams and the wine steward was re-appointed to his position. Yoseph asked the wine steward to intervene on his behalf with Pharaoh. In the year 2227, Yoseph is 28 years old switches the bed of Yakov from Bilha's tent to Leah's tent. Although Yitzchak will live another 21 years, the Torah relates his death at the age of 180 (2228). The remainder of Vayishlach lists Eisav's descendants as well as the specific Kings of Seir who ruled prior to King Saul – the first king of Israel. (2882).

Parsha Questions

1. Why did Yaakov love Joseph more than all his brothers?
2. What were Joseph's two dreams?
3. Who were the two brothers who spoke against killing Joseph?
4. Whose dreams did Joseph interpret while he was in jail in Egypt?

Operation Grateful Goodies is an opportunity for the Jewish community to say "thank you" to the dedicated people who serve our city all year long and are away from their families on December 25. Volunteers from Beth El Beth Israel, Temple Israel, Chabad and the Jewish Federation of Omaha will

bake, package and deliver home-baked goods to police officers, fire fighters, hospital staff and employees of the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home. It's our way of showing appreciation to those who protect, defend and heal us 365 days a year. Goodies can be baked at home or volunteers can join in several baking days scheduled at Beth El. Email Linda Saltzman at linda_saltzman@hotmail.com for more information and to sign-up to help.



The Miriam Initiative

Operation Grateful Goodies



WELCOME TO BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

We are delighted to welcome you to Beth Israel Synagogue. A passage from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 inspired the art work in the sanctuary. "For this commandment that I command you today - it is not hidden from you and it is not distant. It is not in heaven, [for you] to say, 'Who can go to the heaven and take it for us so that we can listen to it and perform it? Nor is it across the seas, [for you] to say, 'Who can cross to the other side of the sea for us and take it for us, so that we can listen to it and perform it?' Rather, the matter is very near to you - in your mouth and your heart - to perform it." Mitzvot are obtainable.

- ◆ The focal point of the sanctuary is the Menorah Window, which frames the Ark and is shaped in the form of the six branched candelabrum. To the right, brilliantly colored windows have forms that reflect the heavens, while the left side depicts the seas.
- ◆ The message is completed in a frieze, the horizontal painting on wood mounted on the wall. The background of the frieze symbolically and abstractly represents the relationship between G-d and the people of Israel through the Covenant. The perochet, or curtain over the Ark, completes the symbolic composition, with an expression that intertwines the Torah and the letter Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, of the Ten Commandments, and of G-d's name in Hebrew.
- ◆ As is traditional, the sanctuary has 12 windows, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. These windows contain the name of each tribe in flowing, organic letters. The windows are located above the continued frieze, which includes two central texts of the revelation at Sinai - "If you will keep my Covenant, you shall be precious to me," and "You shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This composition expresses the unity of Israel as the people stood together at Sinai and accepted the Torah.

Beth Israel Synagogue strives to perpetuate the legacy of Torah Judaism in the modern world. Beth Israel welcomes all persons of the Jewish faith to join and accepts the diversity of practice and thought among its members.

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, Senior Rabbi
Toba Cohen-Dunning, President
Mary Sue Grossman, Executive Director
Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, Visiting Scholar
Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus
12604 Pacific Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68154
(402) 556-6288 / www.orthodoxomaha.org