



December 15, 2018
7 Tevet 5779



Parsha Vayigash
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IN THE WEEK AHEAD

The Week of Learning is being sponsored by Yaakov & Faige Jeidel 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 15

Shacharit9:00 a.m.

Kiddush..... 11:30 a.m.

This week's kiddush is being sponsored by Marty & Iris Ricks.

We will be bidding Marty and Iris a fond farewell as they are moving to Portland early next year to be near their families.

Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion 3:35 p.m.

Mincha/Seudah Shilshit 4:20 p.m.

Havdalah 5:43 p.m.

Sunday, December 16

Shacharit9:00 a.m.

Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home..... 4:45 p.m.

Monday, December 17

Shacharit7:00 a.m.

Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home..... 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

Fast of Tevet

Fast begins.....6:15 a.m.

Shacharit6:45 a.m.

Torah Tuesday with Rabbi Ari 3:00 p.m.

Mincha/Maariv @ Beth Israel..... 4:30 p.m.

Fast ends 5:36 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19

Shacharit7:00 a.m.

Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home..... 4:45 p.m.

A Taste of Conversational Hebrew with Rabbi Shlomo..... 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20

Shacharit7:00 a.m.

Connecting with Our Faith with Rabbi Shlomo9:30 a.m.

Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC 12:00 p.m.

Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home..... 4:45 p.m.

Friday, December 21

Shacharit7:00 a.m.

Mincha/Candle Lighting..... 4:40 p.m.



...to Yaakov and Faige Jeidel for sponsoring the Week of Learning.

...to Marty and Iris Ricks for sponsoring this week's kiddush.

...to Dani Shrago for shopping and our on-going kitchen volunteers Jordana Kurtzman, Helene Shrago, Linda Neumann-Potash and others.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that Nate Shapiro will be joining our team as the new Executive Director of Beth Israel Synagogue. Nate is currently serving as the Director of Development for the Jewish Federation of Omaha. He has a strong background in development, administration, fundraising, and programming. He has also worked for United Way of the Midlands. Nate is an active volunteer in the Omaha Chamber of Commerce where he has been involved in young leadership development. Nate is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and served as a Lone Soldier in the Israel Defense Force. He comes to this position highly recommended for his outstanding skills, dedication and enthusiasm.

We look forward to Nate's first official day on January 14th.

*Shabbat Shalom!
Toba*

An Evening of Inspiration - Join us at Beth Israel for an evening of inspiration, immediately after Havdalah as we stand not just in solidarity, but as we connect deeper to our people and our nation. All this especially after the many tragedies that have affected us this last week.

- Sunday Evening: Shooting - baby murdered, six injured
- Thursday Morning: Stabbing - two border police lightly injured
- Thursday Afternoon: Shooting—two soldiers murdered, two more critical



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays

Noah Solomon Shrago	Dec 16
Georgia Plotkin	Dec 16
Michael Sadofsky	Dec 17
Devlin Smith	Dec 18
Alan Kohll	Dec 19
Jordana Kurtzman	Dec 21

Anniversaries

Debbie & Ron Powers	Dec 16
Bennett & Zena Fishbain	Dec 21



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

**Friday Learning Series with Rabbi Shlomo
Let's Talk About Chanukah
December 21, & 28 | 11:15 a.m. | Kripke Library**

This month's "Friday Learning Series" will focus on the foundations of Jewish literature through the lens of Chanukah representing the fight for Jewish tradition and also the shaping of Jewish wisdom. While Chanukah will be over, Rabbi Shlomo said there is a tremendous amount to learn even after the conclusion of the holiday. "We will learn about the Mishnah, the Talmud and other basic rabbinic literature. We will learn the reason for the writing of each book, its unique shape and style, and its important contribution to the shaping of Judaism," said Rabbi Shlomo.

No prior knowledge required. Rabbi Shlomo will present the material in a way that will be informative, understandable, and enjoyable.

The Friday Learning Series is a presentation of the Jewish Federation of Omaha in coordination with Beth Israel. If you have questions about, call Mark Kirchhoff email mkirchhoff@jewishomaha.org or call (402) 334-6463.

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 for more information and to sign-up to help at linda_saltzman@hotmail.com.



The Miriam Initiative

Operation Grateful Goodies



Statements will be mailed on Monday. A reminder that payments must be received in the synagogue office by Dec 31st to be included on your 2018 tax statement.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT BETH ISRAEL

Kiddush Sponsorships

Mark a special occasion by sponsoring a weekly kiddush or Seudah Shlishit.

Week of Learning

Sponsor a Beth Israel Week Day Learning for just \$100, which includes nearly 20 classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to mark a special event.

Simcha Plaques

A birthday, anniversary, birth of a child or grandchild, Bar or Bat Mitzvah in your family? Simcha plaques at just \$100, and are a wonderful way to commemorate your special event.

The Tree of Life

A beautiful and meaningful way to celebrate a milestone or commemorate a loved one is with a lasting presence on the Tree of Life. Prices begin at \$300. Tree of Life donations fund Beth Israel Endowment Fund.

Additional sponsorship opportunities include

Lunch & Learn program, NCSY Shabbatons, youth events, Shabbat Sheet, Scholar-in- Residence programs, college outreach, and many other opportunities.

Beth Israel Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are a wonderful - and easy! - way to commemorate a special occasion, wish someone a speedy recovery, say thank you or express your condolences. Call the synagogue office, email bethisrael@orthodoxomaha.org, submit via the website at www.orthodoxomaha.org or call the synagogue office.

*For additional information on supporting Beth Israel,
please contact the synagogue office.*

A sincere thank you to those who provide on-going critical financial support to Beth Israel and to the many hard-working volunteers who help make Beth Israel a success.



For a total of twenty-two years, Joseph has been in Egypt. Judah, who had taken the role of leader and spokesperson for all the brothers (who came with him to Egypt to ask for provisions for the famine), is in the midst of attempting to win back their youngest brother, Benjamin, from captivity. Unfortunately, this captivity was the result of Joseph (now the viceroy of Egypt) planting the golden goblet in Benjamin's sack of grain as a test to his brothers' morale. This gave the brothers a chance to prove themselves to Joseph. "Vayigash" (the name of the Torah portion) means "and he approached" in Biblical Hebrew, referring to when the brothers approached Joseph about Benjamin's predicament. In doing so, during their pleas to Joseph, the brothers proved to Joseph that they are changed from their previous spiteful and jealous selves. Joseph's brothers explained that returning to their aged father, Jacob, without Benjamin would cause him to die of heartbreak; and pleaded to take his place so as to prevent such a tragedy. Consequently, Joseph realized that the brothers' hopes were selfless, unlike the last encounter he'd had with them. Moved by his brothers' change in morals, Joseph forgave them.

During this moment of forgiveness, Joseph dismissed all but the brothers from the room. Openly crying tears of joy over his brothers, he reveals his identity. After releasing Benjamin, Joseph and the Pharaoh invite Joseph's family with their wives and children into Egypt. They gladly accepted, with G-d's reassurance and promise of becoming a strong nation within Egypt.

Just about every Jew knows this parsha's story. What we try to do, is learn a new and deeper lesson each time we hear it, or at least to adapt upon what we took away previously. Similar to Joseph's brothers, we learn our lessons. This allowed them to better themselves and prove that they had improved. In "Vayigash", the brothers approached a familiar problem and used their knowledge of morale to solve it. Learn from past mistakes and apply the lessons you learn, and you can do anything.



In Memoriam

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

Betty Rubin

Ha'makom yenachem etkhem betokh she'aravelei Tziyon vi'Yerushalayim

Parsha Vayigash

Source: www.torah.org
Rabbi Aron Tendler

1st Aliya: Yehuda confronts Yoseph in the aftermath of the stolen chalice. Yehuda reviews the past events, starting from Yoseph's suspicious interest in their family.

2nd Aliya: Yehuda's final plea, that he would remain a slave instead of Binyamin, triggers Yoseph to reveal himself. Yoseph mitigates his brother's shock and obvious shame by explaining to them the hidden hand of Hashem in all that had occurred.

3rd Aliya: Yoseph instructs his brothers to bring Yakov and the rest of the family to Egypt. Pharaoh, having heard the news of the brother's arrival, confirms Yoseph's offer.

4th Aliya: Yoseph sends provisions and transportation for Yakov's entire household. Yakov is told of Yoseph being, "alive and well and ruling the land of Egypt".

5th Aliya: Yakov wishes to see Yoseph, but first asks Hashem for instructions. Hashem reassures Yakov that the time of slavery and nationhood has begun, and that he must go to Mitzrayim. The 70 direct descendants of Yakov are counted.

6th Aliya: Yakov and Yoseph reunite after 22 years. Five of the brothers and Yakov are presented to Pharaoh. Yakov blesses Pharaoh. The year is 2238.

7th Aliya: The remainder of the Parsha is a flashback to the two years preceding Yakov's arrival. Yoseph's master plan for reconfiguring Egyptian society is detailed. Yoseph follows the broad outline of his advice to Pharaoh regarding the administration of the 7 years of plenty. The famine must have been of enormous intensity for Yoseph to accomplish his plan in just two years. Although the people "sell" themselves to Pharaoh in order to get food, Yoseph's plan maintains their sense of dignity and independence.

Parsha Questions

1. When Yosef finally revealed himself to his brothers. what was the brothers' response?
2. Yosef tells his brothers not to grieve or be angry with themselves for having sold him into slavery. What is his reasoning?
3. How many of Yaakov's family went on the trip down to Egypt, including Yaakov?
4. Pharaoh asked Yaakov his age. What did Yaakov reply?



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
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