



January 5, 2019
28 Tevet 5779



Parsha Va'era
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***This week's Shabbos Sheet
is sponsored by
Susan Katzman***

Shabbat Shalom

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

The Week of Learning is being sponsored by Beth Cohen, Harry Berman and family 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, January 5

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
<i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion</i>	3:50 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shilshit	4:35 p.m.
Havdalah	5:56 p.m.

Sunday, January 6

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
<i>Heaven & Afterlife in Judaism</i> with Rabbi Ari	10:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	5:00 p.m.

Monday, January 7 Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Shacharit	6:45 a.m.
<i>Jewish History - Your History</i> with Rabbi Shlomo at JCC	1:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
<i>Connecting with Our Faith</i> with Rabbi Ari	9:30 a.m.
<i>Torah Tuesday</i> with Rabbi Ari	3:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Beth Israel	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:50 p.m.

Thursday, January 10

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
<i>Jewish Ethics</i> with Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC	12:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:50 p.m.

Friday, January 11

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Candle Lighting	4:51 p.m.



...to for Beth Cohen, Harry Berman, and family sponsoring the Week of Learning.

...to Susan Katzman for sponsoring this week's Shabbos Sheet.

Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week Birthdays



Sasha Denenberg	Jan 5
Eric Dunning	Jan 6
Stanton "Ross" Davidson	Jan 8
Ed Joseph	Jan 8
Liora Shapiro	Jan 9
Morton Glass	Jan 10
Stacey Rockman	Jan 10
Gabor Obora-Petro	Jan 11



Celebrating a special simcha this month? Call the office or speak to Bette Kozlen to be a part of the January 12 Simcha Kiddush.

**HEAVEN AND
AFTERLIFE IN
JUDAISM**

WITH RABBI SHLOMO

**Sunday, January 6th, 2019
29th of Tevet, 5779
10:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Sunday, January 13th, 2019
7th of Shevat, 5779
10:00 - 11:00 AM**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE



 Sabramovich@orthodoxomaha.org

NCSY Shabbat Shabang



Open to Jewish High School Teens



Israeli Shabbat Lunch
Sing Bim Bam with Lea
Afternoon Activities

Musical Havdallah
Ice Skating with Friends
The Ultimate Teen Chill

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The Shabbat Project
BRINGING US TOGETHER

Event Sponsors



COMMUNITY EVENT

Pj Library®

Little Hands, Big Hearts:
A Family Day of Caring



Sunday, January 6, 2019

10:00 - 11:30 AM | Location: Friedel Jewish Academy

It will be a great morning of service activities for preschool-aged children and their parents and/or grandparents! Learn how even tiny hands can start giving back! The program will be formatted open-house style with different activity stations, each with a different craft or service project teaching a related Jewish value.

LEARN AND GROW AT BETH ISRAEL

Weekdays

7:45 a.m. - *Daily Halacha* - Rabbi Ari

Sunday

Jan 6 & 13 - *Heaven & Afterlife in Judaism* - Rabbi Shlomo

Feb 3 & 10 - *Jews & Money: Jewish Attitudes
to Wealth* - Yosef Seigel

Monday

12-1 p.m. - *Jewish History - Your History* - Rabbi Shlomo

Tuesday

3 p.m. - *Torah Tuesday* - Rabbi Ari

Thursdays

9:30-10:45 a.m. - *Connecting to Our Faith* - Rabbi Ari

12-1 p.m. - *Jewish Ethics* - Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC

Friday

Call for dates and topics

11:15 a.m. - *Friday Learning Series with Rabbi Shlomo @
Kripke Jewish Federation Library*

Shabbat

Shabbat afternoon - see weekly email for time

Insights into the Weekly Torah Reading - Rabbi Ari

Individual or group learning sessions also available.

Talk to Rabbi Shlomo or Rabbi Ari to schedule.

**Sponsoring a Week of Learning is a wonderful way
to remember a special occasion, yahrzeit, or other
happenings all while supporting Beth Israel's
"Refuah Sh'lemah" program.**

Cost \$100 - Contact the office to reserve your week.

In this week's parsha, we go in depth about the Passover story. (Don't worry! We have a few months until the seder!) Hashem tells Moses and Aaron that He will take his Children out of Egypt, deliver them from being slaves, redeem them, and acquire them as his own at Mount Sinai. Moses and Aaron then go to Pharaoh and recite the well known "Let my people go" shpiel. After Pharaoh refuses multiple times, G-d sends the ten plagues upon the Egyptians. The first plague was for the Nile river to turn to blood. Moses decided he could not lower his staff to change the water. He had a special connection to it. Not in the way Moana or Aquaman do, but the Nile river is what saved Moses' life when he was floating as a baby. Had he not floated safely to Pharaoh's daughter, he would not have been alive to save the Jewish people. He was thankful for what the Nile had done for him and asked Aaron to do the action of lowering his staff. Moses didn't want to hurt the water's feelings very similarly to how we cover the challah as we make kiddush in order not to hurt the challah's feelings. But as Jews, we know that these inanimate objects don't really feel anything. So why couldn't Moses turn the water to blood himself? He was grateful to the water for saving his life and this was his way of saying "Thank you." Whether he thought the water would appreciate it or if he did it for himself, we learn the importance of saying thank you and showing our gratitude. It not only makes the recipient feel appreciated and important, but it also helps mold us to become giving and sensitive people.

Jewish Federation of Omaha Scholarship Opportunities

Thanks to the generosity of the community, a variety of funding sources are available to Omaha's Jewish families to assist in meeting the financial challenges of programs for their children. Scholarships and grants exist for residential camp, JCC summer camp, Israel programs, the Pennie Z. Davis Child Development Center, Friedel Jewish Academy, and youth group activities. Assistance is also available for undergraduate, graduate, vocational, technical, professional or yeshiva studies.



Visit the JFO web page for specific information and application forms. Now is the time to plan and apply.

Parsha Shemot

Source: www.torah.org
Rabbi Aron Tendler

1st Aliya: The year is 2448 and Moshe had unsuccessfully confronted Pharaoh. The situation had gotten worse, not better, and Hashem (G-d) reassured Moshe that in fact the redemption was about to begin. The 4 statements of redemption are stated for which we have the 4 cups of wine at the Passover Seder.

2nd & 3rd Aliyot: Moshe's Yichus (lineage) is established. He is 80 years old and Aharon is 83.

4th Aliya: Moshe performed the miracle of the "staff turning to a serpent" and performed the first and second plagues.

5th Aliya: Moshe performed the third plague and forewarned Pharaoh about the fourth.

6th Aliya: The fourth, fifth, and sixth plagues were performed, and Moshe forewarned Pharaoh regarding the seventh.

7th Aliya: The seventh plague was performed and Pharaoh "hardens his heart" and refused to let the Jews go

Parsha Questions

1. What caused Hashem to remember His Covenant with Israel, as described in this week's parsha ?
2. Aaron threw down his rod and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh's wise men did the same. What happened next?
3. Hashem told Moshe that He would harden Pharaoh's heart. Why did Hashem say He was doing this?
4. After the plague of flies, Pharaoh told Moshe and Aaron to sacrifice to their G-d in Egypt. They refused. Why?

Upcoming Events

- January 6 - *Little Hands, Big Hearts:*
A Family Day of Caring - A PJ Library event
- January 9 - Board of Commissioners Meeting
- January 12 - January Simcha Kiddush
- January 19 - Sponsored Kiddush by Joel & Conny Alperson
- January 20 - Tu B'Shevat Seder
- January 21 - Tu B'Shevat
- January 29 - Friedel Jewish Academy Open House



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
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Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus
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