



September 7, 2019
7 Elul 5779



Shabbat Parsha Shoftim
Torah Reading - pg. 1024
Haftorah - pg. 1199

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday, September 7

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| Shacharit | 9:00 a.m. |
| Kiddush | 11:00 a.m. |

Sponsored by Conny & Joel Alperson
In honor of Conny's parents, and welcoming them
on their first trip to America

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| <i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion</i> | 6:25 p.m. |
| Mincha/Seudah Shlishit | 7:10 p.m. |
| Havdalah | 8:30 p.m. |

Sunday, September 8

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| Shacharit | 9:00 a.m. |
| JYE BI | 10:00 a.m. |
| Israeli Art Workshop: Part 1 | 4:00 p.m. |
| Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home | 7:30 p.m. |

Monday, September 9

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| Shacharit | 7:00 a.m. |
| <i>Eye on Israel @ JCC</i> | 12:00 p.m. |
| <i>The Secrets of Teshuva</i> with Rabbi Shlomo @ JCC | 1:00 p.m. |
| Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home | 7:30 p.m. |

Tuesday, September 10

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| Shacharit | 7:00 a.m. |
| Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home | 7:30 p.m. |

Wednesday, September 11

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| Shacharit | 7:00 a.m. |
| Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home | 7:30 p.m. |

Thursday, September 12

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| Shacharit | 7:00 a.m. |
| <i>Connecting with Our Faith</i> with Rabbi Ari | 9:30 a.m. |
| Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home | 7:30 p.m. |

Friday, September 13

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|---|------------|
| Shacharit | 7:00 a.m. |
| Friday Learning Series @ Kripke Jewish Federation Library | 11:15 a.m. |
| <i>Jews in Cartoons: Usually Humorous, Often Insightful, Sometimes Inciteful</i> with Dr. Leonard Greenspoon | |
| Mincha | 7:19 p.m. |
| Candle Lighting | 7:19 p.m. |

You can sponsor a week of learning for \$100, 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. This is a wonderful opportunity to mark a special event.

Contact the office to schedule your Week of Learning sponsorship.



Celebrate



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays (English)

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|-----------------------|--------------|
| Mary Sue Grossman | September 8 |
| David Goodman | September 8 |
| Alyssa Gerber | September 8 |
| Nancy Greenberg | September 9 |
| Bonnie Hines | September 10 |
| John Berlowitz | September 11 |
| Marcia Lipsman | September 11 |
| Aaron Kurtzman | September 11 |
| Lior Nicholson-Shyken | September 12 |
| Reshit-Geula Nachman | September 13 |
| Kaitlin Maher | September 13 |

Birthdays (Hebrew)

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|----------------|---------|
| Lauren Tam | 7 Elul |
| Scott Weiler | 8 Elul |
| Eliezer Rich | 8 Elul |
| Jack Shrago | 10 Elul |
| Maximo Shechet | 10 Elul |
| Ori Tam | 12 Elul |
| Alyssa Gerber | 13 Elul |
| Joseph Stein | 13 Elul |

Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Steven & Luana Haas | September 9 |
|---------------------|-------------|

***Celebrating a special simcha in August or September?
Contact Bette Kozlen or the office to be a part of
the September 14th, Simcha Kiddush.***



...Dani Shrago for doing our weekly shopping.
 ...Sara Weiner for preparing the chapel for Shabbat.
 ...Helene Shrago, Bette Kozlen, and other Sisterhood volunteers
 for the preparation work they have already started for the
 Sisterhood Donor event coming this November.

Tehilim Team at the Nachmans

Once a month, on the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh, the Nachman family will be hosting a group of saying Tehilim (Psalms) for 'Refua Shlema' and for the success of the Jewish people. All children are welcome, parents can stay or leave the kids and go.

The next gathering will be September 28, at 12309 Deer Hollow.

The Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle



Hosted by Sarah Abrahamson & Rachel Wheeler
Wednesday, September 18 @ 7:30 p.m.
Beth Israel Synagogue

A special event in preparation for the new year. With some insights into the spiritual meaning of the Hebrew months of Elul and Tishrei.

Light refreshments, inspiring stories, music, and more. All women are invited, come with simcha.



Lulav and Etrog

Orders due September 23

Order your lulav and etrog by going to OrthodoxOmaha.org. Cost is \$55 per set. Don't miss

your opportunity to perform this beautiful mitzvot. Orders needed by Monday, September 23.

Selichot - Sunday, September 22 - 1:15 a.m.

Selichot Services will be held Saturday night/Sunday morning beginning at 1:15 a.m. The High Holidays officially begin the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah and Selichot is perhaps the most spiritual event of the year and sets the tone for the entire season.



Kaver Avot Services

Sunday, September 22

One visits the cemetery before Rosh Hashanah to ask Hashem, in

the merit of the righteous, to grant a good year.

The service schedule is as follows:

12 p.m. Golden Hill Cemetery

1 p.m. Beth Israel and Mt. Sinai Cemeteries;

2 p.m. Fisher Farm/B'nai Abraham/BHH Cemeteries

Super Science Sunday

Friedel Jewish Academy

335 S. 132nd St.

Sunday, September 8, 2019 3:30–5:00 P.M.



Omaha Children's Museum's Out of This World Space Show + hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities.

Free and open to families with children ages 6 and under in the Jewish community and at the CDC. Older siblings welcome. A light snack will be provided.

RSVP using the below link by September 4. Contact Sara at skohen@fjaomaha.com with questions.



PRIZMAH
Center for Jewish Day Schools

Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RKSMQNW>

Chaired by Bill Dreyfus

Annual BLOOD DRIVE

Now with

Flu Shots
*\$25 without insurance

Sunday, September 8
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Reserve your donation or vaccination spot
at www.bethel-omaha.org

Bone Marrow Match Screening

Through the **GIFT OF LIFE** **MARROW REGISTRY**



This week's D'var Torah Stop - wrong way!



*You shall not deviate from the word that they will tell you, right or left.
(Deut. 17:11)*

Moshe told the people, "You must obey the decision of the courts, even if you are convinced they are wrong and even if they seem to be telling you that right is left and left is right." If we need to listen to the Sages even when they tell us something that apparently contradicts reality, where is there room to use our own judgment? Must we be robots?

When you're driving to work the Exxon gas station is on your left hand side. However, when you return home it is on your right side. It all depends on your viewpoint. The Sages are telling us, "Your perspective is wrong. Turn around!" To us it may seem like that whatever we're doing is unquestionably right, but the Sages reveal to us that we're looking at things backwards. You need to face the other direction.(1)

The lead pilot of a squadron of F-15 fighter jets had the task of shooting out flares in the area of the target. He would then elevate his plane to a higher altitude while the two planes flying alongside him would attack the target. One night, as they were flying at hundreds of miles per hour in total darkness, he shot out the flare and was struck with vertigo. Vertigo means confusion. The plane was upside down but he thought that he was right side up. He pulled the lever in order to lift the plane, but he was heading straight down towards the ground at hundreds of miles per hour!! The barometer started beeping, indicating the plane was losing ground. He ignored it thinking the indicator was broken. F-15 fighter jets are built with two indicators for this very scenario. The second barometer started beeping: "YOU ARE UPSIDE DOWN!" He then radioed the two jets alongside him, "Check with your radar - what's my position?" They replied, "You're upside down and within seconds you're going to crash! He was still certain that he was right side up, but he reluctantly pulled the yoke, bringing the plane back over and landing safely. The pilot later realized that this fight is the same as the struggle between man and his evil inclination.

We tend to lose our sense of direction while rushing through life. We feel a strong drive to do something, certain that it is a noble and righteous cause. Our intellect tells us that it's wrong, but we don't trust it. We then need our wingmen - a rabbi or a good friend - to tell us that our position is wrong and that we need to turn around.(2)

Parsha Shoftim

Source: www.torah.org
Rabbi Aron Tendler

1st and 2nd Aliyot: Moshe details the most important characteristics of a Judge: the ability to remain objective and the strength to refuse bribery. The singular focus of the Shofet must be to carry out the will of G-d as detailed in the Halacha. Nothing must deter him in carrying out his mission of justice. Idolatrous practices must be eradicated and punished. Idol worship represents the greatest perversion of justice by replacing divine justice with human failings and desires.

The Sanhedrin is our direct link with divine intent, and as stated in Pasuk 17:11, we view the rulings and interpretations of the Supreme Court as G-dly directives.

Our Monarch must be selected for his unyielding commitment to G-d, Torah, and the people. This is why he must write his own Sefer Torah and carry it with him at all times. He must be first and foremost a Shofet, a Judge.

3rd and 4th Aliyot: Moshe again addressed the place of the tribe of Levi, reemphasizing the care and attention due to them by the rest of the nation. They are our teachers. Without their instruction we will neither understand or be able to properly apply justice.

5th Aliya: For justice to exist, it must be accepted as a divine ruling. Only G-d's justice can be trusted to take into account all variables and possibilities. Moshe instructed his nation regarding the true Navi – prophet and the false prophet. No other forms of divination can be used to ascertain G-d's justice, and all false prophets and methods of divination must be destroyed. The value of human life is determined by our system of justice, and Moshe reviewed the laws of the unintentional killing in contrast with the intentional murder.

6th, and 7th Aliyot: The end of Parshas Shoftim discusses both proper and false witnesses, as well as the Torah's approach to warfare. It may be that the judicial quality of a nation can be ultimately assessed by its behavior during war, more so than during times of peace.

The Parsha concludes with the unique mitzvah of the Eglah Arufa and the process through which the community takes responsibility for the unsolved murders. This ceremony, which reflects the priceless value of life, might be the most eloquent expression of G-d's judicial system.

Parsha Questions

1. What are the three things that the king is not allowed to have too much?
2. What does the king must always carry with him?
3. Who are the four types of people who are released from the army?
4. What does the Jewish army must to do before starting a war with another nation?



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

Nate Shapiro, Executive Director

Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, Visiting Scholar

Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus

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