



November 16, 2019
18 Cheshvan 5780



Shabbat Parsha Vayera
Torah Reading - pg. 78
Haftorah - pg. 1134

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday, November 16

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Simcha Kiddush	11:15 a.m.
<i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion</i>	3:45 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shlishit.....	4:30 p.m.
Havdalah.....	5:49 p.m.

Sunday, November 17

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
JYE BI	10:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Monday, November 18

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Torah Tuesday	1:00 p.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Thursday, November 21

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
<i>Character Development</i> with Rabbi Ari.....	9:30 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Friday, November 22

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Candle Lighting	4:42 p.m.

Announcements

Sadly, our babysitters are moving on at the end of the month, so we are looking for babysitters. If you are interested, or know of anyone that would be interested in babysitting from 9a-12p on Saturdays, please contact Nate Shapiro at nshapiro@orthodoxomaha.org or call the office: 402.556.6288

The Jewish Funeral home is looking for Shomrim (guards) to ensure that a deceased's body is not alone while waiting for burial. Please contact the office if you are interested/willing. This is a big mitzvah!

**Tehilim Team at the Nachmans
November 24th**

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.




.....to the sponsors of the November Simcha Kiddush. **Birthdays;** Matt Beneda, Stephanie Beneda, Millie Campbell, Toba Cohen-Dunning, Bennett Fishbain, Sharon Kirshenbaum, Bette Kozlen, Ann Moskovits, Jeanette Nadoff, Debra Roitstein, Abigail Roth,


Molly Susman

... Lynne Saltzman for managing our gift shop

... Dani Shrago for doing our shopping



Celebrate



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays (English)	
Kathy Weiner	November 16
Marvin Kohll	November 19
Sharon Kirshenbaum	November 19
Stephanie Beneda	November 21
Lev Denenberg	November 21
Becca Denenberg	November 21
Helen Rifkin	November 21
Birthdays (Hebrew)	
Isabella Weiss	19 Cheshvan
Molly Nora Susman	19 Cheshvan
Ann Moskovits	23 Cheshvan
Kathy Weiner	24 Cheshvan

***Celebrating a special simcha?
Contact Bette Kozlen or the office to be a part of
the December Simcha Kiddush.***

Girls Spa Night!
Join us for
Food (of course)
Facemasks
Fabulous Makeovers

MOTZEI SHABBAT | 11.23.19 | 7:00 PM
 BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
 OPEN TO GIRLS GRADES 1-12



Sunday, November 24, 2019
5:00-6:45 P.M.
(babysitting starting at 4:45)
Friedel Jewish Academy

All adults who love children are invited to learn about physical and behavioral health in early childhood while enjoying some delicious pizza provided by Star Catering. The panel includes three experts: Michael Cohen, M.D., a pediatrician at Village Pointe Pediatrics; Trevor Bixler, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Fellow at Boys Town Behavioral Health Clinic; and Emily Coffin, the lead first grade teacher at Friedel. Each panelist will briefly discuss his or her area of expertise, after which the panelists will take questions from the audience.

Free babysitting and pizza for those who register by November 11.

Space is limited, so register as soon as possible at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRRFKL3>.

MIDWEST NCSY & JSU
WINTER
REGIONAL

Carnival, winter sports, incredible guest educators, amazing advisors, new friends, activities, beautiful hotel, and more!

December 19-23 Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel \$299 Early Bird Price (before December 1) \$329 Regular Price Transportation fee not included

Register now at midwestncsy.org

For more information, contact midwest@ncsy.org or 847-677-6279.

NCSY **JSU**
JEWISH SOCIETY OF NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS



Operation Grateful Goodies



What is Operation Grateful Goodies?

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 25th. Volunteers from Beth El Synagogue, 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.

Volunteers Needed

Operations Grateful Goodies will require many dedicated volunteers. Volunteers will be needed to fulfill three primary tasks, for which we will have an online signup sheet:

Bake – Volunteers can bake in their homes. Home-baked goods do not need to be kosher. Beth El will host three baking days, and partner organizations are encouraged to do the same. All items that are baked at home should be stored and frozen in the volunteers’ homes until December 23rd.

Sort – Volunteers will sort and package items on Dec. 24th. Time and place TBD

Deliver – Volunteers will deliver packages throughout the community on Dec. 25th. Volunteers can work solo, in pairs, as a family, etc.

Materials Needed

Beth El will provide to-go-boxes and labels for packing. The labels will include the names of all participating organizations.

2019 Schedule (As of 9/13/19. Partner baking dates can be added.)

Sept. – Dec. 22 – Homemade goods are prepared in individuals’ kitchens and kept frozen.

Dec. 9th – Baking day at Beth El, 9am – 2pm

Dec. 15th – Baking day at Beth El, 3pm – 8pm

Dec. 18th – Baking day at Beth El 9am – 6pm

Dec. 23rd – Baked goods are delivered to a site TBD.

Dec. 24th – Baked goods are sorted and packaged at a site TBD.

Dec. 25th – Volunteers pick up packages, a list of delivery sites, and spread joy across town.



The Miriam Initiative





***In honor of the 20 people in KC
for the NCSY JR Shabbaton!***



*And Hashem said, "Because the outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah has become great, and because their sin has been very grave..."
(Gen. 18:20)*

The people of Sodom were the richest in the world. Their soil was extremely fertile and they possessed natural resources of gold, silver and precious stones. In the selfish fear that their wealth might be diminished, they allowed no strangers in their country. Here are some of the laws they made:

1. Anyone caught giving food to strangers shall be put to death.
2. Any guest visiting Sodom is allowed to be robbed.
3. If the guest is too tall for the guest bed, his legs shall be cut off. If he is too short then he shall be stretched out.
4. A trip on the ferry across the river costs 4 coins, but if a person finds another way across he must pay 8 coins.
5. Each individual has to watch the livestock of the whole city one day a year. However, a person who does not own animals has to spend two days a year watching the livestock.(Sanhedrin 109a)

What was the reason for these interesting rules?

When a student moves into a dormitory, the school tries to accommodate him. If his bed is broken or he needs a dresser the school tries to provide it. A human being is intrinsically important, and therefore his needs are also considered important. However, in Sodom it was just the opposite; the material possessions were given utmost importance while the people themselves were trivial. The people had to accommodate the possessions. If someone was too tall or short for the bed, they had to make him fit - otherwise it was embarrassing for the bed! If someone didn't take the ferry across the river he had to pay double, since by finding another way across he had implied that the ferry was not important. If you didn't own an animal you had to watch over all of the animals two days a year, to convey the message: "Why don't you have an animal, are possessions not important to you?!"

Everything in the world was created to serve man. The car was made to help man get around, the house was made to provide shelter. When a person becomes overly involved in his car, house, or any other material possession, he is acting similarly to the people of Sodom. He is showing that the car itself is of intrinsic value. Similarly, if one refuses to allow people to walk on his carpet for fear 'maybe' it will get dirty, he is showing that the carpet is more important than man.(R' Yaakov Eliezer Schwartzman)

Rabbi Elchonon Wasserman was once staying in the house of a wealthy man. One rainy day, as Rabbi Elchonon was nearing the house, he noticed that his boots were full of mud, and in order to avoid ruining his host's expensive rugs

Parsha Vayera

Source: By Rabbi Aron Tendler
www.torah.org

1st Aliya: The three angels appear to Avraham and foretell the birth of Yitzchak. Upon hearing the news, Sarah laughs to herself.

2nd Aliya: The angels depart to destroy Sodom, and Hashem [G-d] tells Avraham about His plans for destroying Sodom. Pasuk 18:18-19 proclaims G-d's confidence in Avraham to teach the world the concept of justice. Avraham negotiates, unsuccessfully, on behalf of Sodom.

3rd Aliya: The story of the destruction of Sodom is told. Lot's generosity to the "two visitors" is rewarded and he, his wife, and only two of their children are saved from Sodom.

4th Aliya: Lot's wife looks back upon the destruction of Sodom and dies, and Lot and his two daughters escape into the mountains. Lot's daughters conspire to rebuild humankind, and taking advantage of Lot's drunkenness, they become pregnant from Lot resulting in the birth of Ammon and Moav. Avraham encounters Abimelech after which Sarah gives birth to Yitzchak in the year 2048.

5th Aliya: Yishmael and Hagar are forced out of Avraham's home, and an angel reassures Hagar of Yishmael's destiny.

6th Aliya: Abimelech and his general Phichol resolve their conflict with Avraham over water rights, and they "sign" a covenant of peace.

7th Aliya: In the year 2085, when Avraham was 137 and Yitzchak was 37, Avraham is commanded to sacrifice Yitzchak. This amazing story heralds the end of Avraham and Sarah's era, and the beginning of Yitzchak and Rivkah's era.

Parsha Questions

- 1) What was Sora's response when she heard she was going to have a child?
- 2) God said he would destroy Sodom. What was Avrohom's response?
- 3) Why did Sora want to distance Yitzchok from Yishmael?
- 4) What was the 10th and final test of Avrohom?
- 5) What did Avrohom call the name of the mountain where he had his final test?

D'var Torah continued...

he went to use the side entrance. As he was entering the host noticed him and exclaimed, "You are destroying my home!" Rav Elchonon apologized, explaining why he was using the side entrance. The host said again, "You are destroying my home!" Then he explained, "My daughters see that a Rosh Yeshiva has to take the side entrance so as to not get some rugs dirty, they'll think that the rugs are more important than a Rosh Yeshivah! What will this teach them about Kavod Hatorah (the honor due the Torah)! Please go around and use the front entrance, with your dirty boots!" This message made a deep impression on the host's two daughters, who later on married the two Telshe Roshei Yeshivos.



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, Head Rabbi
Toba Cohen-Dunning, President
Nate Shapiro, Executive Director
Rabbi Yoni Dreyer, Assistant Rabbi
Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus

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