



November 23, 2019
25 Cheshvan 5780



Shabbat Parsha Chaye Sarah

Torah Reading - pg. 106

Haftorah - pg. 1136

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday, November 23

Open Beit Midrash.....	8:30 a.m.
Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Sponsored Kiddush	11:15 a.m.

Sponsored by Yaakov Jeidel

*in honor of Hashem and all the good he has bestowed on him,
his family, friends, the community, and the Jewish people as a whole.*

Tehilim Team at the Nachman's.....	3:35 p.m.
<i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion</i>	<i>3:40 p.m.</i>
Mincha/Seudah Shlishit.....	4:25 p.m.
Havdalah.....	5:45 p.m.
Girls Spa Night! (Open to girls in grades 1 - 12)	7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 24

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
JYE BI Community service project	10:00 a.m.

Thank you to Police officers

Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.
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Monday, November 25

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
<i>Cooking the Torah with Rabbi Yoni.....</i>	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>

Learning Torah Through the Palate

Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.
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Tuesday, November 26

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Torah Tuesday	1:00 p.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27

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

Thursday, November 28

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Ma'ariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:40 p.m.

Friday, November 29

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Thanksgiving Friday - Office Closed

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Candle Lighting	4:39 p.m.

Save the Date

The community is invited to the bar mitzvah and sponsored kiddush of
Abiel Shyken on December 7



... Lynne Saltzman for managing our gift shop.
 ... Dani Shrago for doing our shopping.
 ...Thank you to Donald Gerber who helps us with transportation for the Rabbis.

... Thank you to Barry Sommer who manages shomrim at the funeral home.
 ...Thank you to Harry Weiner who is helping us review some of our HVAC relationships.

...Thank you to the our generous community. Every Kiddush for the month of November has been sponsored!



Celebrate



Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays (English)	
Toba Cohen-Dunning	November 25
Patti Adler	November 25
Tippi Denenberg	November 25
Abiel Oregon Shyken	November 25
Bennett Fishbain	November 26
Debra Roitstein	November 29
Birthdays (Hebrew)	
Marvin Kohll	27 Cheshvan
Aurelia Tindall	27 Cheshvan
Sharon Kirshenbaum	27 Cheshvan
George King	27 Cheshvan
Helena Davidson	29 Cheshvan
Toba Cohen-Dunning	01 Kislev

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

Chanukah Brisket Lunch
 Saturday, December 28, 2019
 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

*registration is now open. Call or email the office to reserve your spot today.

Enjoy a delicious traditional Chanukah meal. Including brisket, potato kugel, salad, applesauce, challah rolls, and desserts. Reservations close Monday, December 23 at noon. Cost \$18 for adults, \$9 ages 3-12. Vegetarian meals available by request.

*As always, we never want finances to get in the way of your attendance at community events. If assistance is needed, please contact the office.



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 NORTH CENTRAL STATES



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





The Cat and the Mouse



I have given you the field, and as for the cave that is in it, I have given it to you; in the view of the children of my people have I given it to you. (Gen. 23:11,15)

Avraham set out to buy the Cave of Machpela and the field surrounding it from Efron Hachiti. Efron said to Avraham "Don't bother paying for it. I'll give you both the field and the cave as a gift!" Shortly after, Efron changed his mind and set the price at 400 silver shekels. What happened?! Why did he suddenly change from being overly generous to being a greedy man?

Many years ago the Rambam had a debate with philosophers. The philosophers claimed that a cat's nature could be altered to be like that of a human being. The Rambam said, "An animal will always remain an animal." The philosophers went about proving their theory. They took a cat and spent weeks training it, and were finally ready to present their case. Everyone gathered to see what would happen. In walked a cat dressed as a waiter, carrying a tray with wine and glasses. Everyone was amazed. The Rambam, on the other side of the room, took a bag out of his pocket, opened it, and a mouse came out. The cat saw it, dropped the tray and dashed across the room to catch the mouse! Everyone then agreed with the Rambam; you can definitely train a cat, but you can't change a cat's nature.

Efron was the same. When Avraham asked him for the cave, they were in front of all the B'nei Cheis. Therefore Efron said that it was free, thinking, "Why not let everyone think that I am a nice guy?" When Avraham wanted to pay for it and was holding a wad of bills, Efron saw the money and forgot about everything he had said. He just wanted the cash, so he charged Avraham an enormous amount.(1)

Some people appear very pleasant and friendly, but if someone steps on their toe or spills something on them they go berserk. These people never truly changed their nature. When things are calm and going their way they are able to act nicely, but inside they are capable of exploding at the slightest infraction. By contrast, a person who truly changes his nature - through self-introspection, examination and work - will be in total control of his attitude in every single situation. He won't be affected by external circumstances.

Parsha Chaye Sarah

Source: By Rabbi Aron Tendler
www.torah.org

1st Aliya: Avraham negotiates with Ephron the Hitite to purchase the Cave of Machpelah as a burial place for Sarah. Tradition says that this is also the burial place of Adam and Chava.

2nd Aliya: Avraham sends Eliezar, his trusted servant, to Aram Naharayim, (between the Tigris and the Euphrates) to find Yitzchak a shiduch – a bride.

3rd Aliya: Leading a caravan of supplies and riches, Eliezar arrives in Nachor. While resting by “the well”, he devises a test to ascertain the worthiness of a potential mate for Yitzchak. Rivkah (Yitzchak’s 1st cousin once removed) meets all the criteria and Eliezar presents her with the appropriate gifts.

4th Aliya: Eliezar is invited into Bisuel’s home (Rivkah’s father) and he relates the entire story of his mission and his encounter with Rivkah. Eliezar asks for her hand in marriage to Yitzchak. Bisuel and Lavan (Rivka’s brother) agree.

5th Aliya: Rivkah express her desire to depart immediately. Her family blesses her, and Eliezar brings her to Canaan. Yitzchak marries Rivka in the year 2108.

6th & 7th Aliyot: Avraham marries Keturah (some say she was Hagar) and has 6 more sons. Avraham dies in 2123 – 1638 b.c.e. at the age of 175. His two sons Yitzchak and Yishmael bury him in the Cave of Machpelah. Yishmael’s 12 sons are listed and Yishmael dies at 137.

Parsha Questions

- 1) Why did the torah repeat over “the years of saras life in the end of verse 1?
- 2) What was the instruction Avrohom gave to Eliezer when looking for a wife for Yitzchok?
- 3) When Eliezer was looking for a wife for yitzchok, what trait was he looking for?
- 4) What was Rivkas response when she saw Yitzchok for the first time?



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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