



December 22, 2018
14 Tevet 5779



Parsha Veyechi
Torah Reading - Page 268
Haftorah - Page 1145

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

The Week of Learning is being sponsored by Howie Gendelman & Bonnie Bloch 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 22

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Kiddush	11:30 a.m.

This week's kiddush lunch is being sponsored by Helene & Jack Shrago, Melissa Shrago, Ethan and Noah and Linda Neumann-Potash, and Sarah and Jenna Potash to celebrate the 50th birthday of Michael Shrago and the 65th birthday of Bruce Potash. Mazel Tov to Michael and Bruce!

<i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion</i>	3:40 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shilshit	4:25 p.m.
Havdalah	5:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 23

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Monday, December 24

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
<i>Jewish History - Your History</i> with Rabbi Shlomo	12:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25

Office closed

Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
<i>Torah Tuesday</i> with Rabbi Ari	3:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Beth Israel	4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26

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

Thursday, December 27

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
<i>Connecting with Our Faith</i> with Rabbi Shlomo	9:30 a.m.
<i>Jewish Ethics</i> with Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC	12:00 p.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home	4:45 p.m.

Friday, December 28

Shacharit	7:00 a.m.
<i>Friday Learning Series</i> with Rabbi Shlomo @ JCC	11:15 a.m.
Mincha/Candle Lighting	4:45 p.m.



...to Howie Gendelman & Bonnie Bloch for sponsoring the Week of Learning.

...to Helene Shrago, Melissa Shrago, Ethan and Noah, Linda Neumann-Potash, and Sarah and Jenna Potash for sponsoring this week's kiddush lunch.

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

Respect
LIFE
 5779



Shabbos
 Parshas
 Vayechi

Open the discussion.

TEAM
Shabbos

Traditional End-of-Life
 Awareness Movement

brought to you by:
NASCK
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHEVA KADSHA

TeamShabbos.org

This Shabbos, Parshas Vayechi, rabbis and congregations across the country are sharing teachable moments that the parsha provides in sermons, lectures and programs. By discussing relevant topics, such as the Torah's perspective on the value of life, preparing for illness, making halachic and ethical end-of-life decisions, and choosing traditional burial choices, we hope to open a conversation in the community about things that truly matter. Please refer to the materials found in the Social Hall for more information or visit teamshabbos.org.

Also, plan to join Rabbi Shlomo for his upcoming class, Heaven and Afterlife in Judaism on January 6th & 13th at 10:00 a.m.

Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

Birthdays

David Silver	Dec 22
Yehodah Beneda	Dec 23
Sima Denenberg	Dec 26

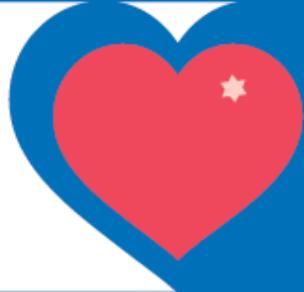
Anniversaries

Ed & Anne Joseph	Dec 23
Leon & Danita Shrago	Dec 26
Jake & Susan Besser	Dec 27



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

COMMUNITY EVENT



Little Hands, Big Hearts:
A Family Day of Caring

Sunday, January 6, 2019

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

Please join us for a 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. Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/92Bhttps://www.surveymonkey.com/r/92BTNFJTNF>

Upcoming Events

December 29 - December Simcha Kiddush

January 1 - Office closed

January 6 - *Little Hands, Big Hearts:*

A Family Day of Caring - A PJ Library event

January 7 - Rosh Chodesh Group

January 9 - Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 19 - Sponsored Kiddush by Joel & Conny Alpersen

January 20 - Tu B'Shevat Seder

January 21 - Tu B'Shevat

January 26 - January Simcha Kiddush

January 29 - Friedel Jewish Academy Open House



**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.



In this week's parsha Yaakov rebukes his oldest son, Reuven: "Due to the hastiness with which you rushed to let out your anger [in the incident with Bilhah when you mounted your father's bed], you lost your right to the status of first-born. It was a hasty recklessness like that of fast-flowing waters which rush ahead and cause damage without a thought to the consequences." (49: 3-4)

It is difficult to understand this, for Reuven did not mean to sin; to the contrary, he thought he was acting righteously, defending his mother's honor. Furthermore, Reuven repented sincerely, and was held up as a model of sincere repentance. Why then was he punished so severely, losing his status as the first-born and leader? Rav Moshe Feinstein was once being taken in a car by a student from his Yeshivah. As Reb Moshe entered the car the student closed the door on his fingers, yet Reb Moshe remained completely silent as if nothing had happened. When a bewildered onlooker asked him why he did not cry out, he answered that the student would have felt incredible embarrassment about having caused him pain, and therefore he controlled himself and kept quiet.

Reuven forfeited these privileges not because of his actions but because of what caused him to act the way he did - the attribute of impulsiveness. A leader cannot be impulsive. He must think through his decisions and consider their consequences. One first has to take responsibility for himself before he can take responsibility for others. To act without first thinking is a sign that one is not in control of himself and not fit to be a leader.



In Memoriam

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

Frances S. "Chickie" Gilinsky

Jane M Diesen

Beverly K. Seldin

Stanley E. Perlmeter

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

Parsha Veyechi

Source: www.torah.org
Rabbi Aron Tendler

1st Aliya: In the year 2255, Yakov was 147 years old and Yoseph was 56. Yakov had been living in Mitzrayim for 17 years. (Note that Yoseph was 17 years old when he was sold into slavery and that the numerical value of the word “Vayichi” is 34.) Yakov summoned Yoseph to his bed-side. Yoseph came with his 2 sons. Yakov greeted them and appointed Menashe and Ephrayim to the status of “Tribe”. Yakov then insisted that Yoseph “swear” that he would bury him in Canaan, and not in the land of Mitzrayim.

2nd Aliya: The parsha relates the famous scene of Yakov crossing his arms in order to place his right hand on the head of Ephrayim (who was standing to Yakov’s left) and his left hand on the head of Menashe. Yakov blessed his grandchildren with the renown blessing of Hamalach Hagoel. (48:16)

3rd Aliya: Yoseph attempted to straighten Yakov’s hands. Yakov resisted and told Yoseph that, although Menashe was destined for greatness, Ephrayim would be even greater. The classic blessing of a father to his son is stated. (48:20)

4th & 5th Aliyot: Yakov summoned his twelve sons and blessed each one.

6th Aliya: Yakov instructed all of his sons to bury him in Canaan, next to his wife Leah, and then passed away. Mitzrayim mourned Yakov for 70 days. Yoseph arranged with Pharaoh to bury Yakov in Canaan. After sitting Shiva (50:10) and the burial, the 12 sons returned to Egypt. Following Yakov’s death, the brothers expressed their concern to Yoseph that he would now take revenge against them for having sold him into slavery. Yoseph cried as he heard their concerns and assured them that he bore no grudges against them.

7th Aliya: Yoseph ruled over Egypt for another 54 years. He made his brothers promise that at the time of their exodus from Egypt his bones would be transported for re-burial in Canaan. Yoseph died in the year 2309 at the age of 110.

Parsha Questions

1. Why did Yaacov switch his hands in the blessing of Manasseh and Ephraim?
2. When else the younger brother was preferred to the elder? (4 cases at least)
3. How did Yaakov describe Shimon and Levi and why?
4. After Yaakov died, what lie did Yosef’s brothers tell?



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
Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, Visiting Scholar
Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus
12604 Pacific Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68154
(402) 556-6288 / www.orthodoxomaha.org