

SKOKIE VALLEY

Welcomes you!



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Parshat Vayishlach 16 Kislev 5780

Shabbat Shalom!

Friday, December 13

Shacharit: 7:15 am

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv: 4:10 pm

Candle lighting: 4:00 pm

Shabbat December 14

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Drasha: The Absurd Struggle

Mincha/Maariv: 3:55 pm

Havdallah: 5:02 pm

Sunday, December 15

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Mincha/Maariv: 4:15 pm

Daily Shacharit

Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 7:15 am

Daily Maariv

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 pm

Mazal Tov!

Mazal tov to **Karen & Menachem Zimmerman** on the birth of a baby boy!

Baruch Dayan HaEmet

Our sincere condolences go to the family of our longtime member, **Larry Heyman**, who passed away on Wednesday, December 11. The family will be sitting shiva at the Klein Residence, 4330 Suffield Court, Skokie, though Wednesday morning.

Visitors are welcome between 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Todah Rabah

Seudah shlishit is sponsored this week by **Mark, Lena & Joseph Bromberg** on the yahrzeit of father and grandfather, J. Philip Bromberg.

Are you new or newish to our shul? Please make sure to take a red-colored cup at kiddush for your drink so we can give you a warm Skokie Valley welcome!

*******Upcoming Events at Skokie Valley*******

Tuesday, December 24 @ 4:30 pm: Save the date for LIGHT THE NIGHT THROUGH SERVICE--the Annual Miriam Bromberg z"l Cookie Bake and Chesed Evening. Cookie decorating, crafts for kids, packing bracha bags for the homeless and joy bags for kids in the ER, winter coat/gear collection for recent refugees, pizza and snacks and optional cookie delivery to first responders! Please mark your calendars and here are 3 ways to get involved now:

- 1. Go to Amazon using the following link to purchase some of the items we need for bracha bags for the homeless and emergency room kits for children:
<https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ELU8XSKZRT60?&sort=default>**
- 2. You can also make a donation towards the needed supplies here:
<https://www.svaj.org/bracha-bags>**
- 3. Bring coats (in good condition only) to the shul and place them in the Rohingya Coat Drive bin located outside Israel Hall.**

Volunteers needed!! Contact Meira Goldman meira.katzoff@gmail.com to help!

Shabbat/Chanukah, December 28: Join us for a special Chanukah Kiddush. Please go to www.svaj.org/kiddush-sponsor or contact the office to participate. Lifecycle events are all good reasons to sponsor - \$36 and up.

Sunday, December 29 @ 8 pm: Chanukah Party for Grownups! Enjoy a few drinks with friends and chill with the Skokie Valley House Band. To help sponsor go to www.svaj.org/chanukah-party-2019

Sunday, January 19, 2020 @ 10:00 am: Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Annual Meeting. At that time, in addition to the presentation of committee reports, elections of the new slate will occur (go to <https://www.svaj.org/slate-of-officers-2019-2020> for the list). Voting is open to every person who is, at the time of the election, a full member in good standing. A quorum is required and we urge you to attend. We will be providing online voting information in the coming weeks.

This Week's Classes at Skokie Valley

Shabbat @ 12:00 pm: Parashat Hashavuah with Jed Abraham.

Monday @ 7:15 pm before Maariv: Gemara Megillah with Rabbi Steve Mandel in Berger Beit Midrash

Tuesday @ 2:00 pm: Bereshit with Rav Ari in Israel Hall

Thursday @ 10:00am: New Class! BYOK (Bring Your Own Kid) Learning for parents with children in the playroom at the end of the school wing (Multi-purpose Room). Children are welcome to come play with our toys while parents learn with Rav Ari! We are beginning with Hilchot Deot of the Rambam.

Interested in becoming a kitchen manager? Please contact Rav Ari ravari@svaj.org so we can set up a new round of training for all interested in having access to the kitchen and helping out our community!

*****Youth News*****

Tot Shabbat! Meets in Berger Beit Midrash from 10:30-11:15 am for children between the ages of 0-4. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. For children already in groups, please pick up your child and head upstairs for songs, tefillah, and fun!

We need parents to help lead Tot Shabbat! [Click here to sign up!](#)

For the safety and security of our kids, children must be in groups or in shul with you. If children are found wandering the building, they will be brought directly to you. We are asking for your partnership to help keep our children safe and the shul environment peaceful. Thank you! For questions, contact Youth Director Sara Price children@svaj.org

Children's Groups begin at 9:30 am in four separate classrooms, with early babysitting available at 9:15 am. To keep our rooms safe and clean, please do not bring lollipops or sticky candy into groups.



We'd love to include YOU in a future member spotlight. If you haven't shared anything about yourself yet (and you're comfortable doing so), please email the office at office@svaj.org!

Get to Know....Rachael Gray-Raff & Elliot Raff!!

Family Info: We have been married for 29 years! We are the proud parents of Sarah (David); Matan and Avital, and Shoko baSakit
Hometown: Elliot: Bayville, NY; Rachael: Elkins Park, PA
Favorite Jewish Food: Elliot: potato kugel; Rachael: kasha knish
Something that we don't know about you: For seven summers Elliot participated in triathlons; Rachael and a friend ran a small batch challah business in Cherry Hill, NJ the year before we moved to Skokie.
How Long Have You Been at Skokie Valley: 2 1/2 years for Elliot and Rachael; our daughter, Avital, began working children's groups the first Shabbat we lived here in January of 2015.
The Last Book Read or Movie You've Seen: Rachael is working her way through the Caudill books to keep up with the Schechter 5th and 6th graders; Elliot just finished book 4 of The Expanse Series.
Latkes or Hamentaschen: Elliot: latkes (crunchy, fried, salty); Rachael: poppy hamentaschen
Profession: Elliot: lawyer; Rachael: educator
Favorite Guilty Pleasure: Elliot: Dr. Who; Rachael: 90 Day Fiancee
Favorite City in Israel: Elliot: Yaffo; Rachael: Yerushalayim
What foreign country would you like to visit that you haven't been to yet? Elliot: India; Rachael: New Zealand



*****Hakarat Hatov – Recognizing the Good*****

Many thanks to Sara Berkowicz and committee who put on a very successful and enjoyable Art Exchange last Motzei Shabbat. Appreciation also to the education and hospitality committee for their work and planning with Dr. Samantha Baskind, our Scholar-in-Residence.

If there is someone whom you would like to recognize, please submit their name and a short paragraph on the positive impact they are having to office@svaj.org. Submissions may be anonymous.

Skokie Valley is deeply committed to the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim (Hospitality). Every Shabbat, members of our community open their homes, providing accommodations, Friday night meals, and Shabbat lunches for visitors. We have created a Hospitality Request form under "Contacts" on our website where people can submit requests for hospitality. **If you would like to host visitors, please contact Nina Black at hospitality@svaj.org and she will put you on her list of possible hosts.**

*******Beyond Skokie Valley*******

Saturday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm: Melave Malka Evening Program. Do American Jews and Israel Really Need Each Other? And Why? Featuring Dr. Daniel Gordis Senior Vice President and Koret Distinguished Fellow, Shalem Center. Ida Crown Jewish Academy, 8233 Central Park Ave, Skokie. Program and Dessert at 7:00 pm. This program is free and open to the community but advance registration is required. To register www.aipac.org/OTMelaveMalka. For questions or to RSVP please contact Ariel Schwartzbach at aschwartzbach@aipac.org or 312.253.8975.

Sunday, December 15 @ 10:00 am: Hillel Torah's Alana Beth Stein Early Childhood Program invites prospective and current families to **Sunday Funday** at Skokie Valley. For more information, visit www.hilleltorah.org or contact Director of Admissions Margot Parnass 847-674-6533 ext 209 or margot.parnass@hilleltorah.org

Sunday, December 15 @ 10:00 am: Seven Things That Will Surprise You About How People Observe Niddah with guest speaker Dr. Naomi Marmon Grumet. At Anshe Emet Synagogue, 3751 North Broadway, Chicago. Open to the community. For more information, contact Sara Wolkenfeld at sarawolkenfeld@gmail.com

Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 16 & 17, 7 pm: Chicago Women Charity Players is back with *Les Miserables*, a CWCP adaptation benefiting the Sharlene Levinson Bikur Cholim, Chicago. See our talented Skokie Valley members **Corinne Engelhart, Malka Simkovich** and **Sarah Eisenstein** perform! Performances are at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd. General admission tickets available for purchase now at Magenta Boutique, 3764 Devon, Lincolnwood. Sponsorships & advertising opportunities available. Contact cwcptickets@gmail.com or call 773-465-6576. **Women & girls only.**

Saturday night, December 21 at 7:30 pm: Last chance to RSVP for the Event of the Year! The Q2, Midwest NCSY's ultimate trivia experience, is just 1 week away, on Saturday night, Dec. 21, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. The event will honor **Noah & Suzanne Mishkin** and Yossi & Shuli Tsadok and will feature guest host Meir Kay. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with a Dinner Reception, and the Game begins at 8:15. RSVP now at midwest.ncsy.org/theq

December 23-30: School's Out programs run by JCC Chicago at Skokie Valley during weekdays when school is not in session. School's Out provides an enriching environment for children in grades K-5 when school is closed. Professional staff balances specialized activities with opportunities for independent play. For more information go to: jccchicago.org/programs/schools-out/

Skokie Valley members are eligible for a special discounted rate -- you must call 844.452.2244 to register to receive the special rate.