



SHABBAT – DEC. 14-15

- **Candle Lighting:** 4:27 PM
- **Mincha:** 4:30 PM | Beit Midrash
- **Kabbalat Shabbat:** Rav Yosef
- **D'var Torah:** Rabbanit Alissa
- **8:25 Minyan:** Not meeting this week
- **Main Minyan:** 9:00 AM | Main Sanctuary
- **YP Minyan:** 9:30 AM | Beit Midrash
- **Teen Minyan:** Mussaf Only | Projection Room
- **Shacharit:** Mayer Schames
- **Anim Zmirot & Concluding Services:** Elijah Balter
- **Kriyat HaTorah:** Mayer Bick
- **Torah:** Hertz p. 169 & Stone p. 250
- **Haftarah:** Hertz p. 178 & Stone p. 1144
- **Drasha:** Rabbi Menachem Schrader
- **Musaf:** Andrew Spitzer
- **Mincha:** 4:05 PM
- **BDJ East:** 4:00 PM | Nikki Sieger & Andres Terech's Home | 6503 Moore Dr.
- **BDJ BW Mincha:** 4:15 PM | Shana & Mordechai Fishman's Home | 9428 Duxbury Rd.
- **Havdalah:** 5:27 PM

BDJ BROADCASTS

- ♦ Mazel Tov to **Fay & Neal Shapiro** on the birth of their second grandchild, **Eiden Davida!**
- ♦ Mazal Tov to **Adaire & Manny Klein** on the engagement of their granddaughter **Sarah Saltzman** to **Mordechai Rosenblum.**
- ♦ Welcome our new Outreach Associate & Office Manager, **Adele L'hrar**, who will be starting on Jan. 2! Thank you to Angelina Ellyason for all your hard work & devotion.
- ♦ Parsha Plug will break until January 8.

HAPPENING THIS SHABBAT

- ♦ Kiddush in the Social Hall is sponsored by BDJ.
- ♦ Seudah Shlishit in the Beit Midrash is sponsored by BDJ.
- ♦ Nothing But the Pshat with **Julie Gruenbaum Fax.**

COCOA CLUB

Today! | 10:15-11:00 AM | Conference Room

4th –6th grade girls, please join us for davening and fruit & pastries! Sponsored by *Sabrina & Jonathan Balter*

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' MINYAN

Minyan at 9:30 AM in the Beit Midrash, followed by Bubbe's Famous Kiddush!

To get involved or to sponsor the next YP Kiddush on **Jan. 19** email Rabbanit Alissa: rabbanitalissa@bnaidavid.com

BDJ EAST

Today! | 4:00 PM

Sieger-Terech Residence
6503 Moore Dr.

Join us for davening, a little nosh & words of Torah!

BDJ MELAVE MALKA

Tonight! Motzei Shabbat

Dec. 15 | 7:30-9:00 PM

Merkin Residence
1541 S. Durango Ave.

"FINDING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"

OU WEST COAST TORAH WEEKEND

GUEST DRASHA WITH

Rabbi Menachem Schrader, the Founding Director of the OU's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus

"DID YOSEF BRING REDEMPTION OR EXILE?: A LENS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE TENSIONS OF OUR CURRENT STUDENT GENERATION"

After Tefilla, Rabbi Schrader will lead a Q&A for parents and students approaching (or already in) college: "Jewish Life on Campus Today."

Rabbi Menachem Schrader studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion & Yeshiva University. He has a BA in Philosophy from YU, an MA in History from NYU, & received his Smicha from Yeshiva University's RIETS program. He was on the Torah studies faculty of Yeshivat Hamivtar, teaching Talmud, Bible, and Hala-chah. He was the director of the Aliza Flatow program at Nishmat. He has been community rabbi of Moshav Carmel in the Judean Hills and of Congregation Tiferet Avot in Efrat. In 2000, he founded the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus and continues to serve as its Founding Director.

BDJ ANNUAL BANQUET

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 | 6:30 PM | Candela La Brea

Honoring

David & Evvy Mankovitz as Migdal David Honorees

Larry & Sue Handman as Chasdai David Honorees

Josh Kahn as Tzemach David Honoree

Reserve your seats today! www.bnaidavid.com/gala

THIS WEEK: DEC. 16-22

DAILY MINYAN SCHEDULE

SHACHARIT

Sunday	8:00 AM
Monday, Thursday	6:45 AM
Tuesday—Fast of Tevet	6:30 AM
Wednesday, Friday	7:00 AM

MINCHA/MA'ARIV

Sunday-Friday, except Tues.	4:30 PM
Tuesday—Fast of Tevet	4:15 PM

SHABBAT— Dec. 22

Shacharit & Rechov Yeladim	9:00 AM
Mincha	4:10 PM

FAST OF TEVET TUESDAY, DEC. 18

Fast Starts: 5:41 AM
Shacharit: 6:30 AM
Mincha: 4:15 PM
Maariv: 5:10 PM
Fast Ends: 5:18 PM

TIKKUN OLAM

THE GIVING SPIRIT

This Sun., Dec. 16 | 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Brentwood Presbyterian Church
Join us deliver the kits to the homeless in LA!
Contact: Albie Cohen at albiecohen@yahoo.com

LAUNDRY LOVE

Thurs., Dec. 20 | 7:00-8:30 PM | Launderland | 1661 Robertson
Laundry Love is a national program. BDJ provides money, detergent, extra hands & schmoozing so our neighbors can wash their clothes! More info: debilp@gmail.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

EDUCATION

WOMEN & MITZVOT

Sunday, Jan. 6 | 9:30-11:00 AM

Location TBA

“BIRKAT HAMAZON” WITH YOETZET HALACHA ILANA GADISH
We will explore birkat hamazon, uncovering its practical and spiritual meaning to women.

SPECIAL GUEST: DR. CHRISTINE HAYES

Shabbat Morning, January 19

Christine Hayes is the Robert F. and Patricia Ross Weis Professor of Religious Studies at Yale University, former Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, and one of the foremost American academics focusing on talmudic-midrashic studies and Classical Judaica. She is also a specialist in the History and Literature of Judaism in Late Antiquity. Her class on the Hebrew Bible was selected for the pilot program of "Yale University Open Courses," and has subsequently been one of the most watched online courses about Classical Judaica.



TIKKUN OLAM

TIKKUN OLAM LUNCH

Wednesday, Jan. 9 | 12:00 PM | Beit Midrash

Please join us as we share a meal and have some fun with our neighbors in need.

Sponsored by Gregg and Naomi Gittler in appreciation of David Nimmer's service

BDJ BABIES

WOMEN'S WINE & WISDOM

Tuesday, Jan. 8 | 8:00 PM

At this monthly learning Chaburah, we will address a hot topic that pertains to us orthodox moms trying to balance it all!

Please be in touch with Talya Stein with any questions:

Talya.stein@gmail.com

ISRAEL

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

March 24-29, 2019

We only have 2 discounted tickets for BDJ members left, at \$399!

You may sell back your ticket to BDJ at any time until 12/31/2018 for a penalty of \$25.

Attending AIPAC is a one of a kind experience, where with 19,000+ Jews and non-Jews, we will support the America-Israel relationship in a truly bipartisan way. You will hear from diverse speakers including but not limited to Democrat and Republican US representatives, innovative Israeli start-up leaders, and American first responders, and much more! Plus these awesome BDJers will be there too:

Jason Ciment, Rebecca Ciment, Noam Drazin, Larry and Andrea Gill, Wendy & Rich Kellner, Jill & Matt Lefferman, Dorit Naftalin & Harry Nelson, Ronnie Seruya, Marci Spitzer, Mark Treitel, and Alex, Talya, Adira & Keren Waldman!

For more info, contact Matt Lefferman at mlefferman@yahoo.com.

LEARNING AT BDJ

- **Nothing But the Pshat**
 - During Seudah Shlishit | Various teachers | Beit Midrash
- **613, One Sunday at a Time**
 - Sundays | 8:30-9:15 PM with Rav Yosef | Schramm Home
- **Gemara Shiur: Tug-of-War**
 - Mondays | 7:30-9:00 PM with Rav Yosef | Beit Midrash
- **Midrash Group**
 - Tuesdays | 7:45-8:45 AM with Rav Yosef | Beit Midrash
- **Parsha Plug**
 - Tuesdays | 7:30-8:30 PM with Rabbanit Alissa | Beit Midrash
- **Briyut HaNefesh**
 - Thursdays | 7:30-8:30 AM with Rabbanit Alissa | Conference Room | To join, email rabbanitalissa@bnaidavid.com
- **BDJ Babies: Women's Wine & Wisdom**
 - 2nd Tues. of the Month | 8:00 PM | Member Homes
- **Women & Mitzvot**
 - First Sun. of the Month | 9:30-11:00 AM | Member Homes
- **Mishmar**

**MEN NEEDED FOR MINYANIM.
THE MINYAN REALLY, REALLY NEEDS
YOU. AND YOU REALLY, REALLY
NEED MINYAN!**

Dr. Wendy Zierler, our scholar from last Shabbat, is making her book, *Movies and Midrash: Popular Film and Jewish Religious Conversation*, available to BDJ members at a discounted price of \$18.

The book, which was a finalist for the 2018 National Jewish Book Award in modern thought, offers literary analysis of movies through a Jewish lens, and uses the movies' themes to enlighten Jewish thought.

To purchase, contact Julie Fax at julifax@gmail.com and send \$18 via Venmo @julie-fax or send a check (1509 Livonia Ave, 90035). Limited supply available.

www.sunypress.edu/p-6407-movies-and-midrash.aspx

HALACHA HOW TO

One of the most precious and memorable moments of every Bar and Bat Mitzvah is the one when parents stand beside their beaming (and relieved) child, and pronounce the ברוך שפטרני blessing. It's a blessing with a long history, whose origin is the Midrash Rabba text in which Rebbi Elazar ben Shimon offers what seems to be parenting advice, "A person must work with his son* for 13 years, and from that point on say, *Blessed be the One who has exempted me from the punishment of this one.*" Although Rebbi Eliezer's teaching doesn't appear to be prescriptive, there were several rabbinic figures in medieval Ashkenaz who treated his teaching as implying a formal obligation, i.e. as requiring that this blessing be recited on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah. The Rama (O.H 225:2) cites their opinion, saying, "There are those who say that a person whose son has reached Bar Mitzvah blesses etc." This practice has since spread throughout the Ashkenazic world, including to BDJ.

Every now and then though, parents express to me some unease about the literal meaning of the ברוך שפטרני blessing, feeling that it is incongruous with what they are feeling (or believing) at the special moment at which they are called upon to recite it. While I am by no means intending to discourage anyone from reciting the bracha, I do want to be flexible in offering the possibility of an alternative for those who wish.

The following are the points that I took under consideration:

- a. It's true that the literal meaning of the bracha can seem a little odd for the occasion. The bracha is typically interpreted to be a parental expression of relief over their no longer being punishable for the transgressions that their child may now commit. (Less commonly, and much more theologically disturbingly, it is thought to be an expression of parental relief that the child can no longer be the object of a punishment directed at a parent). I believe that the blessing is ultimately an expression of gratitude for having raised this childhood to adulthood, but the articulation can admittedly be a little odd-seeming.
- b. Through the centuries a debate ensued as to whether God's name should be included in the ברוך שפטרני in the way that it is included in all standard blessings. While this is officially an unresolved debate, Rama advises against including God's name, (on the grounds that this blessing is nowhere mentioned in the Talmud, and even in the Midrashic source it is not articulated as a formal bracha), and this is the prevalent custom. This decision underscores the status of ברוך שפטרני as being very traditional expression, but *not* a formal liturgical obligation.
- c. A viable alternative for parents who so choose could be the blessings that we give our children on Friday nights. While the Halacha had long restricted the priestly blessing to kohanim only, centuries of common practice have extended it to other contexts, most notably to the household on Friday night. (A lengthy discussion of this can be found in the Mishna Brurah and Bi'ur Halacha to O.H, 128:1.)

In sum, ברוך שפטרני was and remains our traditional choice at BDJ on the occasion of Bar and Bat Mitzvah. But there is room for flexibility when a particular family decides that they would like to exercise an alternative (as the Melmed family will be doing next Shabbat).

*The extension of this practice to daughters as well goes back to the Halachic literature of the 1970's, which we'll review in a future installment.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **BNEI AKIVA**
 - **SHABBAT 12/15:** No Snif this shabbat.
 - **SAT. 12/22 at 8 PM:** Manhigut (BA leadership program) kick off for 9th graders only. RSVP (818) 540-6062
- ◆ **MOSHAVA ALEVY:** Registration for Summer 2019 is OPEN! Early bird discount expires soon: please call 855-MOSHAVA or email office@MoshavaAlevy.org.
- ◆ **WEST COAST NCSY CHANUKAH RAFFLE:** Win \$100K! Receive a tax donation & support West Coast NCSY. Proceeds support teen scholarships for programs. westcoast.ncsy.org/raffle/
- ◆ **BETH AM & THE ADL HOST TIMOTHY ZAAL**, a former white supremacist and now activist & teacher through the Museum of Tolerance's "Hate 2 Hope" program. Film screening of his life, followed by a conversation & Q&A. **Sun, 12/16 at 7 PM at Temple Beth Am.** More info: 310-652-7354 x215
- ◆ **ANNUAL YULA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL COMEDY NIGHT 12/17 at 6:30 PM** at The Writers Guild Theater, 135 S. Doheny Dr. A great night of food, drinks and laughter. For more information, please go to yulagirls.org/comedynight.
- ◆ **TIKVAH COLLEGE** is taking applicants for Summer 2019: Summer fellowship in NYC with a \$4,000 stipend & Summer Seminars in NYC & Harvard with a \$1,000 stipend + housing! Apply or nominate a student today: www.tikvahcollege.org.
- ◆ **ATTENTION MEN STRUGGLING WITH INAPPROPRIATE MATERIALS & RELATED BEHAVIORS:** There is a 4-day program for Jewish men on 12/24-12/27 with Rabbi Dr. Meir at the Ness Center. Confidentiality upheld. More info or register: rav.meir18@gmail.com.
- ◆ **YULA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS "THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE,"** a musical for women only, directed by BDJ member Margy Horowitz. Tickets (\$10/adult, \$5/students) at www.yulagirls.org/drama. 12/20-12/23.
- ◆ BDJ will be hosting **CDSMP WORKSHOPS** Every Sunday from 2/3 to 3/17 from 9:30-11:30 AM in the Beit Midrash, led by member Susan Fink & a leader from JFSLA, for people with chronic conditions. Open to all! Sponsored by JFSLA, Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles, WISE & Healthy Aging.
- ◆ **Fried, Swekey, Shulem, Levine and Shapiro** together on stage at the Wilern Theater on **February 18**. Don't miss this incredible show! www.maimonidesla.com/concert

BDJ'S UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------------|---|
| Dec. 13-16 | • OU Torah Weekend: Rabbi Menachem Schrader |
| Dec. 15 | • Melave Malka |
| Dec. 16 | • Giving Spirit Part III |
| Dec. 18 | • Fast of Tevet |
| Dec. 20 | • Laundry Love |
| Jan. 6 | • Women & Mitzvot |
| Jan. 8 | • Women's Wine & Wisdom |
| Jan. 9 | • Tikkun Olam Lunch |
| Jan. 11-12 | • Family Violence Awareness Shabbat |
| Jan. 18-20 | • Scholar in Residence: Dr. Christina Hayes |
| Feb. 10 | • BDJ Annual Banquet |

מי שברך אבותינו אברהם יצחק ויעקב ואמותינו שרה רבקה רחל ולאה הוא יברך וירפא את החולים בעבור שאנחנו מתפללים בעבורם בשכר זה הקדוש ברוך הוא ימלא רחמים עליהם להחלימם ולרפואתם ולהחזיקם ולהחיותם וישלח להם מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים לכל אברהם ולכל גדיהם בתוך שאר חולי ישראל רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף שבת היא מלזעוק ורפואה קרובה לבוא השתא בעגלא ובזמן קריב ונאמר אמר.

MISHEBERACH LIST

Chaya bat Tova Bleima (Sorel Lainer's mother) * Pessie bat Chana (Martine Porter-Zasada's sister) * Esther bat Devorah Bella (Mayer Schames' mother) * Emanuel ben Hinda (Mr. Sassover) * Bella Rivka bat Rosa (Aharon Shimoni's sister) * Shulamit bat Ruchel Sheina (Selma Framson) * Liran Ben Aliza * Michael ben Malka (Max Wozniak) * Chaya bat Bela (Mayer Bick's mother) * Tziporah bat Tova (Mrs. Sassover) * Chayim Menashe ben Fruma (Manny Klein) * Yitzchak ben Raizel (Ira Grose) * Sarah Hindi bat Lily (Cary Glass' mother) * Yakot bat Esther (Colette Volvovic) * Yaffit Bat Monira * Leah Rachel Bat Miriam Bat-tzion * Yaakov Moshe Ben Ettl * Baila Malka bat Aida Ette (Ze'ev Korn's mother) * Yaakov ben Masha (Jack Plax) * Avram Simcha Ben Miriam * Chava bat Helen (Eva Magid) * Ruth bat Sarah * Chaim Aryeh ben Rivka * Adina bat Dalia (Adi Hepner) * Avraham Zelig ben Tzipora * Miryam Bracha bat Chava Batya (Miriam Dunman Goldberg) * Masha Hinda bat Malke Roisa * Gittel bat Devora * Honi Buton ben Beyla * Gad Moshe HaKohen Ben Goldie Tovah (Tracey Schwartz's father) * Yurachmiel Nussem Ben Reuben (Nan Gold's brother).

To add or remove a name from the list, please be in touch with Susan Fink at stfink@gmail.com. Please note the BDJ Misheberach List policy states only BDJ members and their immediate family members may be added to the list.

As 2018 comes to a close, we would like to remind you that now is a good time to pay your bill if you have a balance and to please consider making an additional donation to B'nai David-Judea. We have three convenient payment options:

1. **Pay securely online on our website: www.bnaidavid.com**
2. **Send or drop off a check: B'nai David-Judea, 8906 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035.**
3. **Call the office at 310-276-9269 to make a donation over the phone.**

Donations to B'nai David-Judea are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. If you have any questions about your bill or making a donation, please feel free to call the office at 310-276-9269 or email our executive director Adynna Swarz at director@bnaidavid.com.

Donating Appreciated Stocks - Another option is donating appreciated stock. This could provide a significant financial benefit to you while benefiting the Shul as well. Donating appreciated stock itself rather than selling and donating the proceeds can save you any potential capital gains liabilities and still give you the full tax deduction for the appreciated amount, while allowing the Shul to also realize the full gain of its value. For any questions, please call the office or Jon Merritt at 310-552-5607.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our community!