Saturday Morning, Nov. 18, 2017

Cantorial Intern Anna Silverman Visit

Parashat Toldot:
Genesis 25:19-28:9 pp. 146-161

Haftarah:
Malachi 1:1-2:7 pp. 163-165

Shabbat Mevarchim Toledot
Aufruf of Jonathan Ravski on his upcoming marriage to Andrea Fleishaker
9:00am Shabbat Morning Services
9:30am Shabbat Space
10:15am Pre-Service Oneg Shabbat
10:15am Shabbat Discussion Group with Jack Gruenberg
10:45am Family Kehilah Services
10:45am Torah for Tots
12:30pm Daf Shevui
4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
5:16pm Havdalah
5:30pm Havdairy

The Israeli Affairs Committee (IAC) will host Dov Maisel of United Hatzalah to be their scholar-in-residence on Saturday, Nov. 18. He will give the D’var Torah on Shabbat morning and do a Q&A after Kiddush lunch, where he will be displaying an ambucycle! He is the Senior VP of International Operations for United Hatzalah/United Rescue volunteer emergency response organizations, an active Combat Medic, a Company Commander in the Israel Defense Forces (Res.), and specializes in mass disaster, rescue, and recovery training for both the civilian and military arenas.
This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:

Donald Fleishaker in honor of the upcoming wedding of his granddaughter Andrea Elyse, daughter of Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker, to Jonathan Ravski, son of Karen and Norman Ravski.

Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker in honor of the aufruf and upcoming wedding of Jonathan Ravski and their daughter Andrea Fleishaker.

Linda and Sol Haber, in honor of the birth of granddaughter, Lulu, to parents Jordana and Alberto Hazan, Additionally, Linda and Sol Haber and Sharon and Peter Spenser in honor of Dov Maisel and United Hatzalah, who will join us this week on Shabbat.

The following people are assisting this Shabbat:
Russ Fayer, President's Chair; Jayne Peister, Vice President’s Chair
Steve Young, Gabbai; Arlene Salman and Ted Davis, Greeters;
Joe Wygoda and Ellen Barlis, Ushers.

Mazal Tovs, Condolences, & Refuah Shleimah

MAZAL TOV TO:
Cantor Uri and Judy Aqua on the birth of their third grandson, and to parents Danny and Debby Aqua. The bris will be on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Young Israel of Hollywood, FL following 7:30am minyan.

Donald Fleishaker in honor of the upcoming wedding of his granddaughter Andrea Elyse, daughter of Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker, to Jonathan Ravski, son of Karen and Norman Ravski.

Sheryl and Aaron Fleishaker in honor of the upcoming wedding of their daughter Andrea Fleishaker to Jonathan Ravski.

David Lacher and Dava Yavetz on the birth of granddaughter Miriam Rose, and to parents Samantha Lacher Lieberson and Josh Lieberson and big brother Jonah.

CONDOLENCES TO:
Carl (Sondra) Goldenberg on the loss of his beloved sister Paula Epstein.

Longtime member Barbara Simon on the loss of her beloved son Richard.

Those marking a simcha, observing the loss of a loved one, or recovering from an illness have been delighted/comforted that their lifecycle event has inspired generosity. If you would like to make a donation to Beth El in honor or in memory, please click here.
Minyan Times

Sunday 8:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Monday 6:55am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Tuesday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Wednesday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Thursday 8:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv (Thanksgiving – Offices Closed)
Friday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv (Offices Closed)

A Word of Torah

From Torah Sparks
- Rabbi Mordechai Silverstein, Conservative Yeshiva Faculty

One can only imagine what was going on in Rebekah's mind when it seemed to her that the twins in her womb were quarreling. Her anxiety piqued, she most certainly wanted to know what was happening to her: "She inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered her: 'Two nations are in your womb, two separate nations shall issue from your body; one nation shall be mightier than the other, and the older shall serve the younger.'" (Genesis 25:22-23) This, and the many stories that follow, establish Yaakov-Esau as the paradigm of national conflict.

In the First Temple period, the Jewish tradition came to identify Esau as the nation of Edom, which was situated on the other side of the Dead Sea. The Biblical attitude toward Esau/Edom was mixed. This ambivalence is reflected, on the one hand, in the Torah's proscription of mistreatment of the Edomites: "You shall not abhor the Edomite, for he is your kinsman" (Deuteronomy 23:8); while, on the other hand, the prophecy of Balaam reflects the fact that Edom would become a bitter enemy of the people of Israel: "Edom becomes a possession, yeah, Seir a possession of its enemies; but Israel is triumphant." (Numbers 24:18) This attitude reached its zenith in the final verse of the prophecy of Obadiah: "And liberators shall ascend Mount Zion to bring judgment on Mount Esau; and dominion shall be the Lord's". (Obadiah 1:21)

The political situation which faced the Jews in Biblical times impacted their perception of Esau/Edom. The greater the threat posed by Edom to their well-being, the more dramatic the image of Edom as the source of evil in the world. And when the Edomites allied themselves with the Babylonians against Judea at the time of the destruction of the Temple, the die was cast.

Despite the historical nation of Edom eventually coming to an end during the period of the Second Temple, the struggle between Yaakov and Esau became the symbol for the Jewish conflict with a new enemy, the Romans. And when the Roman empire became Christian, Esau/Edom came to symbolize Christianity as well. With the persecution of the Jews by Rome, and the sense that the Romans (and later Christianity) had unfairly usurped the position of the Jews, the conflict between Yaakov/Israel and Esau/Edom became the archetypal battle between
good and evil. (See Gerson Cohen - "Esau as Symbol in Early Medieval Thought" - Studies in the Varieties of Rabbinic Cultures)

The following midrash gives us three different readings on the significance of the symbolic relationship between Yaakov and Esau and their interaction in the world: "'Two nations' (spelled 'ga'im' which means 'proud') - two proud ones inhabit your womb, this one proud of his world (Rome) and the other one proud of his nation (Israel). Another interpretation: Two nations - that hate each other, this one proud of his wealth (Rome), the other proud of his Torah (Israel). Another interpretation: 'Two nations' - These refer to Rabbi [Judah HaNasi - patriarch of the Jews] and Antoninus [for the rabbis, a symbolic representation of the emperor]." (adapted from Midrash Tehillim 9:7 Buber ed. p. 84)

The first two interpretations see the relationship between the Jewish nation and Roman civilization as a conflict between two civilizations with contrasting values, where the success of one meant the devaluation of the other. There seems to be no room for compromise or cooperation. The last, however, is more hopeful. Antoninus, likely either the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius or Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, had a deep friendship with the legendary head of the Jewish people and author of the Mishnah, Rabbi Judah Hanasi. The Talmud's many stories of their learning from one another signals the possibility of cooperation between the two civilizations.

Our tradition transformed the prenatal conflict between Yaakov and Esau from something geopolitical into an encapsulation of the real struggles of a minority people - its identity and culture - within the dominant broader culture. There is incredible ambivalence in this relationship. Will there forever be conflict? Must one always have the upper hand? Is there room for cooperation? These questions loom large for Jews in every generation. And, if we take our tradition seriously, they still do today.

**BESC Featured and New Announcements**

**A NIGHT OF JEWISH LEARNING** The Westchester Board of Rabbis and the Westchester Jewish Council will present *A Night of Jewish Learning* on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 7:30pm at Beth El. Enjoy your choice of two sessions led by 30 participating rabbis, including our very own Rabbi David A. Schuck. There will be music by Kaskeset of Binghamton and a dairy dessert reception. $25 per person. Register online at [www.wjcouncil.org](http://www.wjcouncil.org) or make check payable to: Westchester Jewish Council 701 Westchester Avenue, Suite 203E, White Plains, NY 10604. For more information, contact Donna Bartell at donna@wjcouncil.org.
The next OBM is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 8:00pm. This learning experience takes place on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00-9:30pm with Rabbis Schuck and Sitkin, and Rabbi Ethan Linden, the executive director of Ramah Berkshires simultaneously teaching on different areas of Jewish texts. On the last week of each month a scholar will teach everyone something related to his or her field at the OBM. Free and open to the public. A nosh and drinks are provided. We are looking for sponsors to cover costs for our sessions in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

The OBM is subsidized by the Rabbi Melvin and Lenore Sirner Fund for Jewish Inspiration and the Sylvia and Harry Halpern Lecture Fund. For more information or to sponsor a session, visit bethelnr.org/openbeit or contact Rabbi Sitkin at zsitkin@bethelnr.org.
ON YOUR RADAR...
The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will take place Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 8:00pm, preceded by cocktails at 7:00pm

KAHNSTRUCTIONS
The Kahnstructions exhibit will be on display in the Kanner-Kuzon museum through Nov. 26 featuring the works of Marcia Kahn. This is the fourth exhibit by Kahn, a Beth El member from 1960-2003 whose three children became a bar/bat mitzvah here. She has exhibited her acrylic paintings, drawings, wood sculptures and books at Beth El, Gallery RG in Curacao, Arrow Louver in Puerto Rico, Baruch College, among other places. She has generously offered to donate proceeds to Beth El from the sale of any of her artwork on display.

SISTERSHOOD BAGELS AND BOOKS
The next installment is Monday, Nov. 27 at 9:30am with The Paris Architect by Charles Belfoure. Books are available at the New Rochelle Public Library - mention that you are a member of Beth El Sisterhood's Bagels & Books Group. Questions? Contact Arlene Salman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485.
TODDLER TIME EXPANDS! In response to demand for additional toddler programming, we have expanded our program to become Toddler Time Plus. Families may sign up for our Toddler Time program and then three additional classes. For more information, please visit bethelnr.org/toddlertime. And please note: there are still spots open for our Nursery School (Register at www.bethelnr.org/nsregistration). Every Nursery School family now receives free membership to Beth El! Questions? Email Director Ronnie Becher at nursery@bethelnr.org.

BETH EL TEEN LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM We are happy to present an options-based model for our teen population. We have created a menu of options for Jewish learning and engagement for ALL of our Beth El teens, including niche-specific opportunities and social engagement. In this way, we will be able to address the varied interests and schedules of our teens in a manner that allows us to reach each of them personally. Visit bethelnr.org/teens to learn more.

SHARE A SHABBAT MEAL Shabbat is one of the Jewish people's most sacred and precious gifts. Every week we have the opportunity to carve out space for spiritual reflection and fellowship with others in our community. In this spirit, if you are looking to be hosted for a Shabbat meal in order to enrich your Shabbat experience, please contact Rabbi Zach Sitkin at zsitkin@bethelnr.org or 914-235-2700, ext. 338.

OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF READING TORAH

If you wish to read in honor of your birthday, anniversary, or just to fulfill a mitzvah on any Shabbat, please contact Cantor Aqua at uauqa@bethelnr.org, or 914-235-2700, ext. 222. He will be happy to work with you or e-mail you a recording.
Beth El's Israel Affairs Committee would like to share interesting and exciting news regarding the week's developments in business, culture, technology, agriculture, sports and the environment in Israel.

Tel Aviv Crowned World's Vegan Capital

Israel Marks Record Tourism from India
Beth El is embarking on a collaborative visioning and strategic planning process, which will engage all of us in a creative reimagining of what it means to be a vibrant congregation – relevant to the lives of its members, to the Jewish future, and to the wider community. The entire Beth El family and broader community will be invited into this process. Contact journey@bethelnr.org with any comments. Learn more: www.bethelnr.org/journey.

GIFT SHOP Visit the Beth El Sisterhood Baum Judaica Gift Shop for ALL your Judaica needs. Open by appointment. Email giftshop@bethelnr.org, or call Erica Epstein (914-633-3161), Carole Graham (914-576-6617) and/or Ellen Hollander (914-632-4658).

CARD ROOM The weekly Sisterhood Canasta group plays at 12:45pm on Mondays while the Mah Jongg group plays on Tuesdays at the same time. Beginners, as well as experienced players, are always welcome. Please note: Orders must be placed for 2018 Mah Jongg cards by Jan. 1, 2018. Large print cards are $9 each. Standard are $8. Cards will be mailed directly to you from the National Mah Jongg League. Contact Arlene Salman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485. **** Sisterhood members who purchased a Lord & Taylor shopping pass can pick it up in the office. ****

The Sisterhood’s 2017-2018 Torah Fund Campaign message is: IT'S NOT JUST A PIN! Our Sisterhood is a member of the Women’s League of Conservative Judaism. As the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League, Torah Fund's mission is to ensure Conservative Jewish education. Please donate to this wonderful initiative - all increments are welcome. For donations of $180 or more, you'll receive a Torah Fund pin as a gift to you in recognition of your generous support. Questions? Contact Committee Co-Chairs Phoebe Gross (phoebegross@aol.com/ 914.725.8711) or Susan Morris (sgmorris@optonline.net/914.969.1591). To watch a special video, click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=994pCMHz61U.
Limmud and Other Learning Opportunities

JERUSALEM IN BIBLICAL/RABBINIC SOURCES...AND IN MODERN ISRAELI LITERATURE This class is taught by Rabbis David Schuck and Zach Sitkin and Dr. Carol Diamant. Eight sessions in all - Thursdays at 9:30am. $65 for Beth El members, $100 for others. For more information, visit www.bethelnr.org/literature.

PHILO AND JOSEPHUS: LIVING IN A NON-JEWISH WORLD This course, taught by Rabbi Molly Karp, will explore two important voices of the 1st century CE: Philo of Alexandria, a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived from 20 BCE–50 CE in Alexandria, and Josephus, a Jewish aristocrat born into a priestly family, who also lived in the 1st century and led the Jewish forces against Rome in Galilee. Captured by Rome, Josephus was an important historian of ancient Judaism. His book The Jewish War, on which we will focus, tells the story of ancient Israel and early Judaism starting from the beginning of the second century BCE, and continuing through the siege at Masada.

The class meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-12:15pm Nov. 22, and 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, and Jan. 3. Cost: $350, which includes audio recordings of all class sessions. To learn more about Rabbi Karp, visit rabbimollykarp.com. Contact Rabbi Karp at rabbimollykarp@gmail.com for more information.

TALMUD CLASS Rabbi David Hodja will teach Talmud from the Inside Out: A Class for the Inquiring Mind on Thursdays through Nov. 30 from 1:00-3:15pm. The initial goal is to analyze the Talmud's account of why Jerusalem was destroyed. Rabbi Hodja is a teacher, translator, editor, and author. Tuition is $215. For more information, contact Sam Berger at sam.hr.berger@gmail.com.

LEARners’ SERVICE On Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9:45-10:45am, join Rabbi Sitkin for a “Learners’ Service.” Our community is diverse; people have varying degrees of knowledge about Jewish text, tradition, worship, and access to Hebrew vocabulary. Since Jewish prayer assumes a certain amount of background exposure and knowledge, this service is intended to create an access point into prayer for those who may feel lost and/or alienated from our typical prayer services. The Learners’ Service is an introductory exploration of the prayer service. Each prayer will be studied in depth and read in English to gain a basic understanding of its meaning and intent. We will discuss the basic physical mechanics of each prayer when necessary. It is our hope that over time, everyone in our community will be able to enter the sanctuary with confidence and feel at home.
SINGING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Music has deepened our ability to pray from the depths of our souls, sometimes with words and sometimes with melodies alone. This group will learn how singing can itself be a Jewish spiritual practice, and we will practice different techniques that help to unleash the power of communal singing. Everyone is welcome. No prior knowledge required. Facilitated by Rabbi Schuck and Jack Klebanow.

The next class is Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 7:30-9:00pm. For information on this program, email RabbiAdmin@bethelnr.org, or call 914-235-2700, ext. 228.

TALMUD DAF SHEVUI STUDY SESSION This study session occurs every Shabbat at 12:30pm in the Library. New participants are welcome. We discuss a page (daf) of the Talmud. Download the weekly portion at www.conservativeyeshiva.org/category/daf-shevui.

ISRAELI DANCING Held Sundays 10:00-11:00am with Cantor Aqua. $10/class. Wear comfy clothes and sneakers. Questions? E-mail uaqua@bethelnr.org.

LEARN HEBREW IN OUR ULPAN CLASSES Classes with Miri Ben Avi are ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays - newcomers welcome. Classes are for beginner, intermediate, and advanced learners.
Beginners: 6:30pm-7:30pm
Intermediate: 7:30-8:30pm
Advanced: 8:30-9:30pm
Questions? Contact Miri at miriulpan@gmail.com or 914-602-1503.

All classes are at Beth El unless otherwise indicated.

Additional Beth El and Community Events and Information

PIES FOR PREVENTION Buy delicious, homemade pies for Thanksgiving and support a great cause at the same time as part of the eighth-annual “Pies For Prevention” (the first in Westchester) Thanksgiving Bake Sale. The sale supports Sharsheret’s ovarian cancer program. Sharsheret is a national not-for-profit organization supporting young women and their families, of all Jewish backgrounds, facing breast cancer and ovarian cancer. Place your orders and make any additional donations online at http://www.sharsheret.org/pies-for-prevention/westchester no later than November 17, 2017. Baked goods are prepared in volunteer bakers’ kosher home kitchens. For more information, please contact Ilana Ressler at westchesterpies@gmail.com.
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING A Community Thanksgiving Service and Reception, sponsored by the Interreligious Council of New Rochelle, will be held Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, Nov. 23), at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church on 95 Eastchester Road in New Rochelle. The day begins with a 9:00am service followed by featured speaker Imam Shaffiq Mohammed of the Islamic Center of New Rochelle (ICON). All are welcome, and clergy of all faiths are invited. For more information, contact St. Luke’s at 914.632.2116.

DISCOVERY DAY Carmel Academy will hold its “Discovery Day” on Sunday, Nov. 19 at the school’s 270 Lake Ave. campus in Greenwich from 9:30-11:30am. Visitors will learn about Carmel’s forward-thinking educational philosophy, take a brief campus tour of the historic 17-acre property, engage in hands-on activities, and visit the school’s new early childhood wing. Contact Director of Admissions, Ella Shteingart, at ella@carmelacademy.com for more information.

BEREAVEMENT WORKSHOP Please join the Westchester Jewish Community Services bereavement program Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda: A Bereavement Workshop on Guilt and Self-Forgiveness on Monday, Nov. 20, from 6:30-8:00pm. Please RSVP to Rabbi Pamela Wax at pwax@wjcs.com. Questions? Call Gillian Rittmaster at 914.761.0600, x142 or Jane Slevin at 914-761-0600, ext. 143. WJCS is located at 845 North Broadway in White Plains.

SENIOR VISIT The UJA-Federation Gift of Hanukkah visit to the seniors at Kittay House in the Bronx will take place Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00-3:30 pm. Share Hanukkah joy with residents with bingo, crafts and sufganiyot. Kittay House is an independent assisted living facility run by Jewish Home Lifecare, a UJA-Federation partner agency. Jill Goldfein, AnneBeth Levenson and Audi Schub are event co-chairs. $36 per family. Register at: https://www.ujafedny.org/event/view/tov-byachad-and-new-rochelle-communities-gift-of-hanukkah-celebration/

AIPAC CONFERENCE The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) will hold their Policy Conference at the Washington Convention Center from March 4-6. Beth El is always appreciative to have a strong representation on-hand. The conference is the pro-Israel community’s preeminent annual gathering. The event attracts more than 18,000 community and student activists from all 50 states, members of Congress, and countless Israeli and American policymakers and intellectual leaders. Over three jam-packed days, Policy Conference participants choose from hundreds of informative sessions and participate in the pro-Israel community’s largest and most important advocacy day. For more information, visit www.policyconference.org or contact zsitkin@bethelnr.org.
CAREER CONNECT UJA Federation of NY’s Career Connect at Westchester Jewish Services is a multi-faceted approach to helping those in the county’s Jewish community who are experiencing employment instability. Some programs include Jewish Mindfulness Meditation and Stress Reduction on Mondays at 9:30-10:45am (excluding holidays). This is held at Temple Israel Center located at 280 Old Mamaroneck Road in White Plains. It is also held Thursdays at that time at Kol Ami located at 252 Soundview Ave. in White Plains. Contact rrosenblum@wjcs.com for more information or RSVP to CareerConnect@wjcs.com.

Memory Minyan
For people with dementia, their families and care partners

The Memory Minyan is based on the idea of the “Memory Café,” which is a meeting place where people with mild to mid-stage dementia and their caregivers can “go out on the town” among others sharing their experience, free from the risk of embarrassment and the bewildering crush of most public places. Around the world Memory Cafés bring a sense of normalcy and social connection to thousands of families affected by dementia.

Now we’re bringing the concept to our Jewish gathering place, creating a navigable, warm prayer and social experience.

Enjoy crisp latkes and applesauce!
RSVP at bethelnr.org/memorym
or contact jrockowitz@bethelnr.org (914.235-2700x.256.)
There is no charge for this event.
DONT MISS THIS!
YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SHABBAT!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00-6:45 pm
Spirited Kabbalat Shabbat
Service with Beth El Clergy

6:45-8:15 pm
Festive Shabbat Dinner with the
staff from Beth El Religious
School, Carmel Academy, &
Solomon Schechter School of
Westchester

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

$16/child, $18/adult
Family Cap: $54

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30-9:00 am
Hot Chocolate and Donuts!
+ the first 50 youth, Kindergarten
to 12th grade & receive a voucher
for a Starbucks gift card!

9:00 am-12:00 pm
Family Style Shabbat Service
led by clergy & our youth
community, plus a Parsha Play by
our 3rd-5th graders (Chaverim)

12:00-1:00 pm
Kiddush Lunch

1:00-2:00 pm
Games for Children with
Westchester’s Shinshinim,
Ofek & Amit!
+ Learning Sessions for Adults
with Rabbi David Schuck and staff
from Schechter Westchester &
Carmel Academy

FOR MORE INFORMATION
& TO REGISTER, GO TO
BETHELNR.ORG/YFSHABBAT