

Beth El Synagogue Center

Shabbat Announcements



Saturday Morning, Dec. 23, 2017

Parashat Vayigash:

Genesis 44:18-47:27 pp. 274-289

Haftarah:

Ezekiel 37:15-28 pp. 291-292

Anna Silverman, Cantorial Intern Shabbat Visit

METNY USY IC Pre-Convention

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 Kehillah Services

10:45am Tot Shabbat (formerly Torah for Tots)

10:45am **Contemplative Service**

12:00pm Shabbat Tween Lounge

12:00pm Kiddush

12:30pm Daf Shevui

4:20pm Mincha/Maariv

5:13pm Havdalah

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:

Barbara and Marc Klee in honor of the anniversary of Marc's bar mitzvah.

Elise and Barry Richman in honor of their special anniversary.

The following people are assisting this Shabbat:

David Lacher, President's Chair; Joe Wygoda, Vice President's Chair

Bobby Schmeidler, Gabbai; Susan Groner and Jayne Peister, Greeters;

Nancy Mayerfield and Avi Einzig, Ushers.

Mazal Tovs, Condolences, & Refuah Shleimah

MAZAL TOV TO:

Steven and Debbie Young on the birth of their grandson and to parents Rabbi Jason and Gavi Fenster.

[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 8:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Tuesday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Wednesday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Thursday 6:55am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
Friday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:20pm Mincha/Maariv

A Word of Torah

And Judah approached him, saying, “Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord; do not be impatient with your servant, you who are the equal of Pharaoh.”

In Parashat Vayigash, the Torah tells the story of a family who finds their way back together after years of estrangement. Here, Judah, the fourth of twelve brothers, approaches Pharaoh’s courtier Joseph, whom he does not yet recognize as his brother, and begs him to spare his brother Benjamin’s life. Judah is so desperate to redeem his brother from punishment that he even offers to take Benjamin’s place as a slave. Nahum Sarna writes that, “Judah’s eloquence is effective because it is deferential yet dignified, spirited but not provocative, full of pathos and passion, yet restrained and transparently sincere.” When Joseph sees how much his brothers have changed, how they learned from the mistakes they made with him 22 years earlier, he loses control over his emotions and he begins to weep. He then reveals himself as their brother, comforts them with words, and they embrace once more.

R. Dov Baer of Mezritch, the famed pupil of the Ba’al Shem tov, used to tell his disciples how, “Judah’s plea to Joseph is true prayer. The midrash teaches us that the word ‘approaching’ (vayigash) always implies a type of prayer, [and this interaction serves as a model for how we

ought to pray.] When we rise to pray before the blessed One, this is how we should act: the entire intention of our prayer should be to bring blessing to God's *divine presence*...Our souls are a part of God, one of the limbs of the *divine presence*. **The goal of our prayer is that something lacking in the world be fulfilled on high...Thus we should not be like those described in the *Zohar* who act only for themselves, barking out 'give, give'.** In other words, the power of prayer lies not in what we can gain for ourselves, but rather what we can do for others.

Art Green writes that, "many, but not all, of those gathered around R' Dov Baer's table struggled with the idea of petitionary prayer...Here the Maggid gives us an answer: the [*divine presence*] requires our voice. We give Her the words to pray for the world to be healed. Through the act of prayer, we open ourselves up and allow God to speak through us." When we pray, what we are really asking for is the ability to effect change. When Judah truly pours out his heart to Joseph, this is precisely what he does. He is not asking for Joseph to provide anything to him, all he wants is mercy for his brother. This Shabbat, when we come together in soulful prayer, instead of asking for things that *we* might need, let us pray for reconciliation and healing.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Zach Sitkin

BESC Featured and New Announcements

(Please follow us on [Facebook.com/bethelsynagoguecenter](https://www.facebook.com/bethelsynagoguecenter), and spread the word about news, events, and information by "liking" or "sharing!" Thank You!)



Character Breakfast

BETH EL SYNAGOGUE CENTER

Monday, December 25
9:30AM - 11:30AM

At Beth El Synagogue Center
Geared towards children ages 8 and under

Activities:

- Pancake Breakfast
- Frozen Themed Bouncy Castle
- Magic by Eitan Gotian
- Crafts

Price:
\$10/Child before December 19th
\$15/Child December 19th and after
1 and under FREE

10-11am MEET AND GREET WITH POPPY FROM TROLLS AND COOKIE MONSTER

REGISTER AT
BETHELNR.ORG/DEC25

Beth El Synagogue Center, 1304 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10804, bethelnr.org, info@bethelnr.org, 914.235.2700

Register at www.bethelnr.org/dec25.

A SNEAK PEAK! NIGGUN HALEV ~ MELODY OF THE HEART ~



Beginning Saturday, January 27, 2018, join us for a new intimate, song-filled Shabbat morning service led by Deborah Sacks Mintz, Jack Klebanow and Rabbi David A. Schuck. Services will take place at 9:00am in the Wiener Lounge on the following Saturdays: Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, and May 5. For more details, contact rabbiaadmin@bethelnr.org. Click the image above to get a taste of what the services will be like!

OPEN BEIT MIDRASH (OBM) The next OBM is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 4 from 8:00pm-9:30pm. (Drinks and a nosh begin at 8:00pm with learning beginning at 8:30pm) OBM is held on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays 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 a specific topic in their field. Free and open to the public. 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 night, visit bethelnr.org/openbeit or contact Rabbi Sitkin at zsitkin@bethelnr.org.

LEARNERS' SERVICE Rabbi Zach Sitkin will hold a Learners' Service Shabbat at 9:45-10:45am on Saturday, Jan. 6. 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.

'SMILE' WITH AMAZON THIS HOLIDAY SEASON Did you know that when you make a purchase at smile.amazon.com Beth El Synagogue Center can receive a small percentage of your purchase as a donation directly from Amazon? It's easy! Simply be sure the designated charity in your account is Beth El Synagogue of New Rochelle. If you've already designated Beth El as your charity, **THANK YOU!** If not, please consider setting it up today.

SISTERHOOD BAGELS AND BOOKS The next discussion will be Monday, Jan. 8 at 9:30am regarding *Karolina's Twins* by Ronald H. Balson. 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 Salzman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485.

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).



The advertisement features a blue background with a collage of photos showing children playing basketball, swimming, and playing in a sandbox. The text includes the camp's name, age range, accreditation, and contact information.

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION ACCREDITED

Ages 2-8

Best. Days. Ever.

BETH EL DAY CAMP

Summer 2018

NEW! We are now eight weeks!
Monday, June 25 - Thursday, Aug. 16
We are open July 4th!

WWW.BETHELDAYCAMP.ORG

Café Shabbat



A Friday Happening for Young Families

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018

4:00-5:30PM

Join Us!

(Geared to children ages 6 and under)

**Enjoy a musical Shabbat
celebration, led by Lori Weber,
followed by dinner for everyone,
dessert, and a PJ Library snuggle
story. Feel free to come in your
pajamas!**

\$15/adult

free for children



REGISTER AT BETHELN.R.ORG/CAFE

TEEN LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM This options-based model for our teen population creates a menu of choices for Jewish learning and engagement, including niche-specific opportunities as well as opportunities for 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. Sign up now for our Israeli culture program. Questions? Visit www.bethelnr.org/teens or contact Rebekkah Gold at rgold@bethelnr.org.

EXHIBIT From now through Jan. 7, the Riverdale Art Association returns to our Kanner-Kurzon Museum after about one and a half years. The group formed in the Bronx in 1999 with a small group of artists, and has grown to about 40 members. Discuss various pieces with the artists, and purchase art. To learn more, visit www.riverdaleartassociation.org.

CARD ROOM The weekly Sisterhood Canasta group plays at 12:45pm on Mondays (not Dec. 25, and Jan. 1) 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.

JOURNEY 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 will be invited into this process on Feb. 11 when our first Listening Forums are held (details coming soon!). Contact journey@bethelnr.org with any questions or comments. Learn more: www.bethelnr.org/journey.

WHEREVER WE STAND, WE STAND WITH ISRAEL

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.

Parched Sea of Galilee to be replenished with desalinated water

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/parched-sea-of-galilee-to-be-replenished-with-desalinated-water/>

Tiny fish swims to Israel to help unlock mystery of aging

https://www.israel21c.org/tiny-fish-swims-to-israel-to-help-unlock-mystery-of-aging/?utm_content=bufferc8301&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Limmud and Other Learning Opportunities

PHILO AND JOSEPHUS: LIVING IN A NON-JEWISH WORLD This course, taught by Rabbi Molly Karp, explores two important voices of the 1st century CE: Philo of Alexandria, a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived in Alexandria from 20 BCE–50 CE, 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. The class meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-12:15pm. Remaining class: 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. Details on Rabbi Karp's next course, which begins, Jan. 10, will be in next week's Shabbat Announcements.

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

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.

LEARN HEBREW IN OUR ULPAN CLASSES Classes with Miri Ben Avi are ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays - newcomers welcome. Classes are for all learners. Beginners: 6:30pm-7:30pm/ Intermediate: 7:30-8:30pm/ Advanced: 8:30-9:30pm. Questions? Contact miriulpan@gmail.com or 914.602.1503.

All classes are at Beth El unless otherwise indicated.

Additional Beth El and Community Events and Information

HELP NEEDED Zachary Hoffman, a family friend of one of our dear members, is in need of a kidney donor. The 34 year old has End Stage Kidney Disease and needs a life-saving donor blood type A or O. He is working with Renewal, a non-profit organization that specializes in renal donation (718-431-9831, ext. 209, www.renewal.org, R23311@renewal.org.) All inquiries are confidential and without any obligation. All medical costs for evaluation and surgery are covered by the recipient's insurance. There are over 17,000 kidney transplants per year in the U.S. and over 95,000 people on the waiting list to receive a kidney.

KIDS' KLOSET WJCS Kids' Kloset, a volunteer-driven program providing Westchester County youth (ages newborn to 18) with donated clothing, diapers, footwear and related items free of charge, is looking for rent-free space, 3-5,000 sq. feet. The space needs to have street level access or have access to an elevator and allow for loading and unloading nearby. Kids' Kloset has operated for 6 and a half years out of an office building in downtown White Plains. For more information or to help, contact Stephanie Roth at stephanier1310@gmail.com or call 914-522-2812, or 914-338-8586

MINDFULNESS AND MONEY Bet Am Shalom member Laura Rotter will facilitate a discussion on *Mindfulness & Money, Through a Jewish Lens* at Bet Am Shalom Synagogue located at 295 Soundview Ave. in White Plains on Dec. 28, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 29, April 26, and May 31. This curriculum is designed to bring the practice of mindfulness to our relationship with money, using a Jewish vocabulary. The goal of this course is to try to think differently about the topic of money and the stories we create about it. For more information, contact LauraRotter55@gmail.com.

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.

More announcements can be found at www.bethelnr.org/ongoing.



SPIRITUAL SINGING SHABBAT

**UNLEASH THE POWER
OF COMMUNAL SINGING**

**APPETIZERS AT 6PM
SERVICES BEGIN AT 6:30PM**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2018

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018

FACILITATED BY

**RABBI DAVID SCHUCK, JACK KLEBANOW
AND CANTORIAL INTERN ANNA SILVERMAN**

**JOIN US FOR DAVENING, A GLASS OF WINE
AND APPETIZERS**

**Regular Mincha/Maariv services will be held in the Goldberger
Chapel, check www.bethelnr.org for times.**



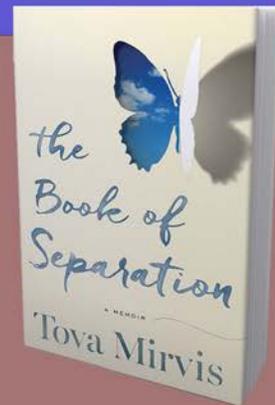
Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018 12:00pm

Meet & Greet with...
**Author
Tova
Mirvis**



Tova Mirvis will discuss her latest, *The Book of Separation*, a memoir of a woman who leaves her faith and her marriage and sets out to navigate the terrifying, liberating terrain of a newly mapless world.

Mirvis is the author of three novels, *Visible City*, *The Outside World* and *The Ladies Auxiliary*, which was a national bestseller. Her essays have appeared in various publications including the New York Times and Good Housekeeping. Her fiction has been broadcast on National Public Radio.



Open to all. No Charge. Light refreshments will be served.

Register at bethelnr.org/author

Beth El Synagogue Center . 1324 North Ave . New Rochelle . NY. 10804 . 914-235-2700 . info@bethelnr.org

Prizes for top winners!



CASINO NIGHT

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Doors open at 7:30pm

OPEN BAR . SNACKS AND DAIRY DESSERTS . PRIZES . CASINO GAMES

TICKET PRICE:

\$36/person by January 12

\$45/person after January 12

Questions? Contact the office at 914.235.2700, ext. 250



Online auction goes live January 15!

Register at:

www.bethelnr.org/casinonight

1324 North Avenue • New Rochelle, NY 10804

