

Beth El Synagogue Center

Shabbat Announcements



Saturday Morning, Dec. 30, 2017

Parashat Vayechi:

Genesis 47:28-50:26 pp. 293-311

Haftarah:

I Kings 2:1-12 pp. 313-314

9:00am Shabbat Morning Services
9:00am Bar Mitzvah Jeremy Cohen
9:30am Shabbat SPACE
10:15am Pre-Service Oneg Shabbat
10:45am Family Kehillah Services
10:45am Tot Shabbat
12:00pm Shabbat Tween Lounge
12:00pm Kiddush
12:30pm Daf Shevui
4:20pm Mincha/Maariv
5:18pm Havdalah

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:

Jacqueline Spiegel and Steven Cohen in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jeremy Cohen.

The following people are assisting this Shabbat:

Marc Klee, President's Chair; Rise Stern, Vice President's Chair
Avi Einzig, Gabbai; Joyce Wechsler and Geralynn Reifer, Greeters;
Michael Meisler and Dan Burton, Ushers.

Mazal Tovs, Condolences, & Refuah Shleimah

MAZAL TOV TO:

Jacqueline Spiegel and Steven Cohen in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Jeremy Cohen.

Herbert and Florence Joffe on the birth of their great granddaughter Belle Leonie and to parents Eval Benhamou and Shirt Tam. Mazal Tov to grandparents Rochelle Joffe and Serge Bernhamou as well!

[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; 4:30pm Mincha/Maariv
Monday 8:00am Shacharit; 4:30pm Mincha/Maariv
Tuesday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:30pm Mincha/Maariv
Wednesday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:30pm Mincha/Maariv
Thursday 6:55am Shacharit; 4:30pm Mincha/Maariv
Friday 7:00am Shacharit; 4:30pm Mincha/Maariv

A Word of Torah

From Torah Sparks

Gabriela Schvartz, Conservative Yeshiva Student

It seems ironic that Vayehi, the last parasha of the book of Genesis, means 'and he lived' when the most significant events in the parasha are the deaths of Jacob and Joseph! Perhaps Vayehi is inviting us to compare the totality of their lives, and consider the evolution of their characters.

Jacob is the preferred child of his mother, but scrapped and struggled to get his father's favor, birthright, and blessing. As Rachel's first child, Joseph occupies a favored position from birth. But despite his being the 11th son, he receives the customary firstborn double portion as Jacob blesses both Ephraim and Manasseh, promising each a portion of the Land of Israel alongside

Joseph's brothers. Both are hated by resentful brothers, and both wind up outside the Land of Israel because of it. Separated from home and family, Jacob in Haran and Joseph in Egypt, they experience deception and servitude. But sustained by dreams that gave them insight into God's plan for them, they emerge triumphant.

But despite these similarities, Jacob and Joseph wrestle with very different demons. Jacob's greatest challenge is his lack of faith and ability to calmly accept fate. Instead, he was always striving to control the situation, cover his bases, and flip the script to make sure things turn out his way.

Even in the womb, he is working to get ahead. Esau is born first, but Jacob comes out grasping his heel! He buys the birthright with a bowl of pottage and tricks his father into giving him Esau's blessing. In Haran, he turns the tables on Lavan, who had tricked him into working double the years to marry Rachel, by employing an elaborate scheme with striped and spotted sheep and goats. And before confronting Esau again, he is a ball of anxious hyperactivity - dividing his camp in two, sending Esau all kinds of gifts, and praying to God for protection.

But Jacob comes to learn that things are beyond his control. His daughter is raped, his sons exact revenge against his will, his beloved wife dies in childbirth, his eldest son sleeps with his concubine, and his beloved son is killed by a goat (or so he thinks). It looks like his life will end in failure, as famine eventually forces his family to leave the promised land.

But we see in our parsha that Jacob learns that things can turn out OK even without his being in control. He says to Joseph: 'I never expected to see you again, and here God has let me see your children as well.' (Genesis 48:11) And recognizing that it was really God, and not his own manipulations that paved his way, he prays that 'The Angel who has redeemed me from all harm-Bless the lads.' (48:16).

Joseph's challenge is the opposite: pride and overconfidence. He is born believing that he is destined for greatness, walking around in his ornate tunic, delivering bad reports about his brothers, and proclaiming, with no embarrassment, his premonition that his brothers and parents would someday bow to him.

It takes suffering for him to learn humility. When he hears of the cupbearer and baker's dreams, he tells them that he has the ability to interpret them, blurring the distinction between his innate abilities and a gift from God. He says to them "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."(Genesis 40.8). But after more time in prison he has learned his lesson. When

Pharaoh asks him to interpret his dreams he says: "I cannot do it...but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."(Genesis 41.16) He comes to understand that the gifts he has received are not a source of personal pride; they are a blessing to be shared humbly with others.

The final evidence of his growth comes in this parasha when his brothers, afraid that it is only Jacob being alive that has saved them from Joseph's vengeance, come to ask Joseph for forgiveness. Joseph replies, "Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God? Besides, although you intended me harm, God intended it for good, so as to bring about the present result-the survival of many people."

In the Torah's presentations of Jacob and Joseph, neither starts out as a paragon of virtue. They had lives full of challenges, but ultimately learned the right lessons from them and died at peace with themselves, their families, and God. May we all merit the same.

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!)

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



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qehaJE276pM>

Continued on next page

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!

ANNOUNCEMENT We're very proud to announce Donald J. Fleishaker will be honored at Beth El's 64th Annual Gala on Sunday, March 18th at 5:00pm. Details coming soon!

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 Sinner 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.



The advertisement for Bethel Day Camp Summer 2018 features a blue background. On the left, there is a logo with stylized figures in green, purple, blue, and red, with a menorah in the center, and the text "BETHEL DAY CAMP" and "Summer 2018". Above the logo is a circular seal that says "ACCREDITED" and "AGES 2-8". To the right of the logo is a collage of four photos: a boy playing basketball, a boy and a man in a pool, two girls playing in a sandbox, and two children in colorful toy cars. Below the collage, the text reads "NEW! We are now eight weeks! Monday, June 25 - Thursday, Aug. 16 We are open July 4th!". At the bottom, the website "WWW.BETHELDAYCAMP.ORG" is displayed in white text on a dark blue background.

ACCREDITED
AGES 2-8

Best. Days. Ever.

BETHEL DAY CAMP
Summer 2018

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

WWW.BETHELDAYCAMP.ORG

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 Salman at aesalman@aol.com or 914.235.2485.

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.

PURIM CAMPAIGN As we enter the month of January, we will begin our Annual Purim campaign. Each year, Beth El helps our members to fulfill an important mitzvah of Purim - Matanot Le'evyonim, helping those whose needs are greater than our own by contributing to major tzedakah organizations and building our Youth Community. You will soon receive an email with your username and password to access www.purimproject.com. If you have more questions, contact Jen at jvegh@bethelnr.org or 914.235.2700, ext. 221. All orders must be placed by Friday, Feb. 16.

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.

On Your Radar...

There will be a Contemplative Service on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 10:45am.

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 BETHELNR.ORG/CAFE



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 (not 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 and broader community will be invited into this process when the first two Learning Forums are held on Feb. 11 (more details at www.bethelnr.org/journey/schedule). 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.

Technion, Shantou Inaugurate Joint Tech University in China

<https://m.calcalistech.com/article.aspx?guid=3727773>

How Debating Teaches Tolerance Among Jewish, Arab Teens

<https://www.israel21c.org/how-debating-teaches-tolerance-among-jewish-arab-teens/>



Limmud and Other Learning Opportunities

RABBI KARP NEW COURSE Rabbi Molly Karp will wrap up her course from this fall (exploring Philo of Alexandria and Josephus) on Jan.3. Beginning Jan. 10, she will start her newest one: *Future Tense: Jews, Judaism, and Israel in the 21st Century; A Vision for Jews and Judaism in the Global Culture*. The class, which focuses on the book written by Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00am-12:15pm. Classes are Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21. 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 FROM INSIDE OUT Join Rabbi David Hojda for a class for “the inquiring mind” on Thursdays Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 10:00am-12:15pm. Using Talmud Gittin, presented in English translation, this class discusses Baseless Hatred and Visionless Leadership - The Talmud’s and Midrash’s take on why Jerusalem was destroyed. All levels welcomed. For more information, contact Sam Berger, 914-494-6079 or sam.hr.berger@gmail.com.

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

MINDFULNESS AND MONEY Bet Am Shalom member Laura Rotter will facilitate a discussion on *Mindfulness & Money, Through a Jewish Lens* at Beth Am Shalom Synagogue located at 295 Soundview Ave. in White Plains on 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.

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](tel:914-522-2812), or [914-338-8586](tel:914-338-8586)

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.**

SCHOOL'S OUT! FUN'S IN!

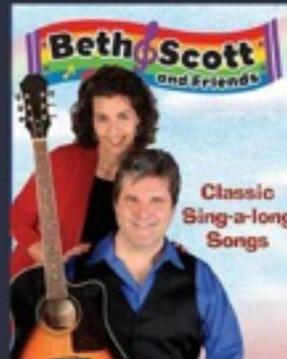


**BETH EL DAY CAMP
PRESENTS WACKY
WINTER FUN!**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15
10:00AM - 11:00AM**

**WILL SHAW PRESENTS
"THE FUN AND FUNNY
JUGGLING SHOW" AN
AWARD WINNING
BLEND OF PHYSICAL
COMEDY, VERBAL WIT
AND EXPERT SKILL!**

**THE FUN CONTINUES...
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT
10:00AM.
JOIN BETH AND SCOTT FOR
A LIVE CONCERT!**



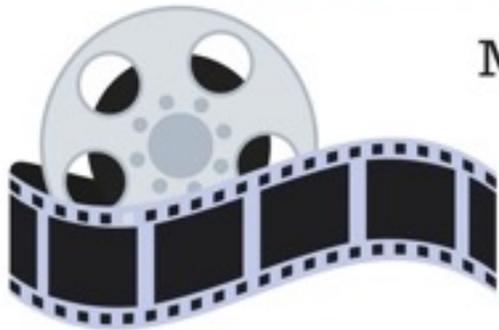
BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS!

**\$5 CASH PER FAMILY / NO RSVP NECESSARY!
CONTACT JULIE ROCKOWITZ AT
JROCKOWITZ@BETHELNR.ORG OR 914.235.2700, X256**

Sisterhood's Annual Cinema Brunch



Mamadrama: The Jewish Mother in Cinema



Monday, January 15, 2018
12:00pm

"Jewish mothers are the most easily maligned image of Jewish women found in movies and television today. You know who they are: the caricature of the overbearing, emasculating, long suffering mother ever-ready with mountains of food.

Australian director Monique Schwarz takes a funny, penetrating look at how the loving and affectionate portrayals in early Yiddish and Hollywood silent movies developed into the Jewish Mother of modern Hollywood and, conversely, the more flesh and blood characterizations in contemporary Israeli cinema."

**\$8 advance registration/\$10 at the door for Beth El Members
\$10/\$12 for Non-Members**

Register at bethelnr.org/sisterhoodfilm



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