

THE TIDINGS

BULLETIN OF
BETH ISRAEL, NORTHFIELD, NJ

MID-NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025



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Happy Chanukah

Mid-November/December Services and Programs

Parashat Toldot

Genesis 25:19-28:9

- 21 Shabbat No'ar/Youth Shabbat
Fri Family Shabbat Gobbler: Thanks and Giving
Erev Shabbat Service with Student Participation,
Engelberg Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Family Shabbat Dinner follows.
For more details see flyer, below.

- 22 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat "Parataxis: Twins!"

Parashat Vayetze

Genesis 28:10-32:3

- 28 Erev Shabbat Service
Fri Wolf Chapel, 5:30 PM

Parashat Vayishlach

Genesis 32:4-36:43

- 5 Erev Shabbat Family Style Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM
- 6 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat "Strangers in the Night"
Special Shabbat Morning Service
for upcoming B'nai Mitzvah families and others,
including the baby naming of
Lillian Brooke Faye Doohaluk
Wolff Chapel, 10:30 AM

Parashat Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1-40:23

- 12 Erev Shabbat Service
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

- 13 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat "The Greatest Story Ever Told"

Chanukah Extravaganza

- 13 Special Chanukah Program
Sat "The World's Largest Menorah"
Project, Program, Games and Food
Ashner Auditorium, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
For more details, see flyer, below.

Chanukah

- 14 **First Night of Chanukah**
Sun **Candles lit in our homes in the evening**

Shabbat Chanukah, Rosh Chodesh Tevet and Parashat Miketz Genesis 41:1-44:17

- 19 Night of a Thousand Menorahs
Fri Chanukah Family Service
Engelberg Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Latke Bar and More, Ashner Auditorium, 6:30 PM
For more details, see flyer below.
- 20 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat "A Tale of Three Torahs"
Special Shabbat Morning Service,
Wolff Chapel, 10:30 AM

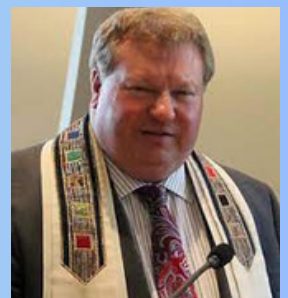
Parashat Vayigash

Genesis 44:18-47:27

- 26 Erev Shabbat Service
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

The Bones of Joseph and the Legend of Serach bat Asher

Message from
Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



I saw on Facebook the other day that a colleague wrote a plea for help from a very interesting figure in Jewish lore. This was a prayer directed towards a woman known as Serach bat Asher.

A good Midrash – a story about a story in the Bible – requires a “hook,” a question that emerges out of the text of the Torah. Here, we find the curious occurrence of a name which appears twice, in a way which raises questions.

Serach bat Asher – Serach, the daughter of Asher, one of the sons of Jacob, is first mentioned in Genesis 46, in the count of Israelites who went down to Egypt. Never mind that she is one of the few women mentioned by name; in this case the curious point is not about gender, per se, but in the recurrence of the same name... in Numbers 26, on the steppes of Moab.

Except, except... that the family leaving Canaan for Egypt, and the Israelite tribes poised to return to the Promised Land, well, those time frames are *more than four hundred years apart!*

If this is the same woman, she lived for... a really, really long time! Even by the standards of Biblical lifespans.

And that is the origin of the legend of Serach as a kind of Wandering Jew, coming to the aid of her people in unexpected times and ways and places.

Here is the first story I heard about Serach, which is why she was invoked in recent days by my colleague:

When Joseph was old, and approaching death, foreseeing both the coming slavery and the eventual redemption, he made his family members swear to bring his bones with them, when the time did come for them to return to Canaan.

Joseph died. Time went by. The promise was passed on, in hints and whispers.

So when time came for the Exodus, Moses said: “Wait! We can’t leave yet! We have to bring with us... the bones of Joseph.”

Except... except that the Israelites remembered the promise. But there was, it seemed, no one who remembered... where the bones were.

Until a woman came forward to Moses, according to the Midrash, and identifies herself.

“I,” she said, “am Serach bat Asher. I am Serach, the daughter of Asher.

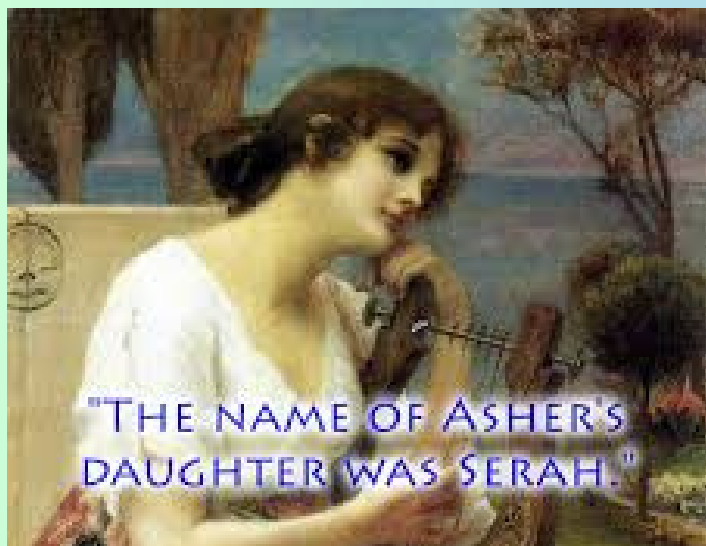
I am the only one left who was alive at the time. I know where the bones of Joseph are.”

And she led Moses to a place on the banks of the Nile, where Joseph’s remains had been interred.

They found the coffin, and when the Israelites left Egypt, they fulfilled the promise. They brought with them the bones of Joseph.

And, so, the appeal to Serach today. While the remaining living hostages are “free” (with a long recovery ahead of them), not all the bones and bodies have yet been brought home. The appeal was for Serach, hidden but perhaps still wandering in our midst, to tell us where the bones may be found.

To deal with the past, to honor those we have lost, and fulfill a promise... that is an essential part of facing the future. May the cease fire hold, may a different reality somehow emerge. And may Serach lead us to cope with yesterday’s trauma, in order to move towards redemption, liberation and a better tomorrow.



Message from Susan Sokalsky, Executive Director



Short Days Get You Down?

Come into the warmth of Beth Israel. We strive to constantly bring new and innovative programs to Beth Israel. Our Monday Chair Yoga is a perfect example. Stretch your body, relax through seated yoga poses and then bring your lunch and share a meal. I recently read an article about embracing all the seasons of the year. In addition to Chair Yoga, a group of interested movie goers is beginning a First Tuesday Matinee Group to go to a Real Movie Theater and see a movie. If you are interested in more information about this please call or email me, susan.sokalsky@cbinorthfield.org

And of course, please join us for our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat Service each Friday at 5:30 pm. We are continuing to work to resolve our streaming issue and thank you for your patience.

Chanukah is just around the corner, and you will not want to miss our December 13th program. It is not Just For Kids. Join in building the world's highest Lego menorah. See the details in the flyer in this Tidings.

As we approach the Holiday Season, my wish for this New Year is one of peace and tolerance. Let's be thankful and help those in need.

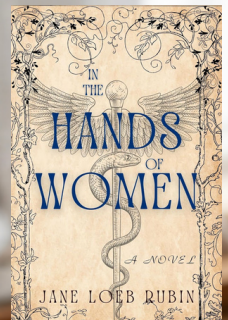
Susan

JPlace Book Group

Wednesday, December 3, 1:00 PM

Join our monthly book group for a lively discussion of
The Hands of Women,
by Jane Loeb Ruben.

All are welcome, whether you have read the book already or not!



Message from Director of Education Cookie Feldman



Chanukah, what a delightful holiday. Of course, as all the Jewish holidays, there is pain, suffering and destruction. But Chanukah seems to be joyful despite that. Even as we sing about the tragedies, we find light and joy. There is no fasting, in fact the sufganiyot and latkes are delicious and we make them over and over again. The children are happy to receive eight presents and families joyfully light the candles each night.

At Beth Israel we are taking Chanukah to a new level this year. Yes, there will be latkes, jelly doughnuts and gelt galore. In addition to all those delicious details, there will also be a Lego Menorah 13 feet tall. We have invited the Building Blocks Workshop to help us construct the World's Tallest Menorah in the Ashner Auditorium. Everyone, children (and adults too) will work on Lego boards constructing a design that will be a part of the Menorah. At the end, it will be lit. Imagine a 13-foot Chanukah Menorah with all the candles shining brightly. It should be quite the Miracle.

Sunday School students have been busy learning about Tzedakah and gratitude. Our children have been making gratitude jars and learning about the importance of helping and taking care of others. We will be having a toy drive to make other children smile during December as well as a morning of making food to feed the hungry. We will continue this theme throughout the year.

Happy Chanukah!!!

Chair Yoga @ Beth Israel

- You can do it: Any Age; No experience needed.
- Safe zone: No judgment; All Chair Yogies are just doing the best they can.
- Gain muscle flexibility: Guided breathing and gentle movements.
- Caring and an exceptional instructor: Take advantage of 25 years of Marshall Arts and Yoga experience.
- Cash only: **Members:** \$5-\$10 (at your discretion)
Non-members:
1st Time Intro \$10; Thereafter \$15
- **Non-members:** No Admittance without RSVP - email bethisrael@cbnorthfield.org
- Mondays, 12:00-12:35pm @ Beth Israel, 2501 Shore Road, Northfield, NJ 08225



Family Shabbat Gobbler A Night of THANKS & GIVING

November 21st at 5:30pm

**Grades K-7
will participate in
Shabbat Services**

Bingo

**Gobbler
Sandwiches**

**Bring an item
for
The JFS Food Pantry
List will be emailed**



**A Fun
Thanksgiving
Dessert**

**\$36 per family // \$10 per person
Reservations Required By Nov. 19th
609-641-3600**

**Venmo @BINorthfield or
PayPal : bethisrael@cbnorthfield.org**

PRAYER • MUSIC • COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving

Interfaith Service
of Gratitude & Hope

MONDAY • NOVEMBER 24

7:00 PM

MARGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH

8900 VENTNOR AVE • MARGATE

Please bring
canned goods
for local food pantries
no glass containers, please!


BRIDGE *of* **FAITH**

Chanukah Blessings

(Each night, the following two blessings are recited as the candles are lit.)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

*Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai e-lo-hey-nu me-lech ha-o-lam,
a-she-ker kid-sha-nu b-mitz-vo-tav v-tzi-va-nu l-had-lik ner
shel Cha-nu-kah.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who makes us holy with mitzvot and who commands us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai e-lo-hey-nu me-lech ha-o-lam,
she-a-sa nis-sim la-a-vo-tey-nu ba-ya-min ha-heym ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

(On the first night of Chanukah ONLY, the following prayer is added):

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּימוֹנוּ וְקִיּוּמֵנוּ וְהַנִּיעָמֵנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai e-lo-hey-nu me-lech ha-o-lam,
she-he-che-ya-nu v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-ya-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to celebrate this joyous season.



Spelling Alert: the holiday of Chanukah is spelled inconsistently, even, occasionally, in the same publication. That is because it is actually spelled **חֲנֻכָּה**. Transliterations into English differ on whether to transcribe the "Chet" as an "h" or "ch," and whether there should be one "k" or two.

RSVP by Dec. 9th
Space limited to 50
families/groups

100,000 LEGO MENORAH!



**Presented by Building
Blocks Workshops LLC**

Saturday, Dec. 13th

3:30-6:30 PM

**Beth Israel, 2501 Shore Rd.,
Northfield, NJ**

3:30 PM – WELCOME

**Chanukah Sing-Along with
Cantor Portnoy, Mega Grazing Table
+ Dreidel Games**

4:00 – 5:30 PM – BUILD

**Family & friends construct the 12-foot
Menorah using 100,000 LEGO bricks
and watch it light up!**

5:30 – 6:30 PM - DINE

Salad Bar · Latke Bar · Donut Bar

Members \$36 per family or \$10 per individual

Non-members \$46 per family or \$15 per individual

Includes 1 Lego Block (@4 people), additional blocks \$10

Your Payment is Your RSVP.

Venmo: @BINorthfield or PayPal QR Code

**Questions? Email bethisrael@cbinorthfield.org
or call (609) 641-3600**



Community

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 14

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Dreidel Dash 3:00 pm | Menorah Lighting 3:30 pm

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with family and friends at our annual Chanukah Celebration filled with sweet treats and holiday fun!

Enjoy:

Sufganiyot (Chanukah Donuts)

Face Painting

Chanukah Crafts

Community Menorah Lighting

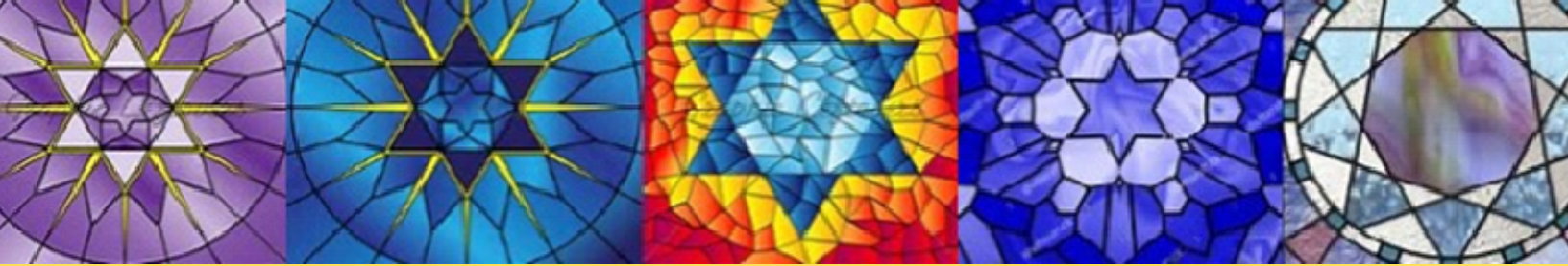
Dreidel Dash Fun Run

Bring the whole family for an evening of joy, light, and laughter as we come together to celebrate Chanukah at the JCC!

FREE and Open to the Community.



501 N. Jerome Ave., Margate, NJ, 08402 | 609.822.1167 | jccatlantic.org



Night of a Thousand Menorahs

Friday, December 19, 2025

Chanukah Family Service

in the Gusti Engelberg Sanctuary, 5:30 PM

Bring your family Menorah!!

Latke Bar, Toppings, Salad and More

Shabbat Dinner in the Ashner Auditorium following services

Songs and Games, Candles and Celebration!

Fun for all and all ages!

Bring your own Menorah(s)

to add your light to shine!



The service is open to all

The dinner is \$36/family or \$10/person

RSVP to bethisrael@chinorthfield.org

or 609-641-3600 by December 6



MLK SHABBAT

at Beth Israel

**2501 Shore Road, Northfield, NJ 08225
609-641-3600; bethisrael@cbinorthfield.org**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

Engelberg Sanctuary, 7:00 PM

Special Reception follows in the Ashner Auditorium



Save the Date

Details to follow

Watch for an announcement of our
Spirit of MLK Award for area high school seniors!

Annual Atlantic City NAACP MLK Event

MONDAY, January 19, 2026

Public March and Service of Solidarity

Details to follow.

We share the news of...

Mazal Tov to...

Sharon Simon and Brad Simon on the marriage of their son **Max** to **Juliette Nancy** and **Scott Mitnick**, along with grandparents **Paula and Joe Mitnick**, **Steve and Marge Gosin** and **Elaine Shusman** on the engagement of their son **Michael** to **Seena Ludwig**
Melissa Rosenblum on becoming President of Jewish Family Service

"There are stars up above..."

We mourn the loss of...

Adria Light
Stuart Mark Kraft, brother of **Sindy Baker**
Lonni Factor, son of **Stu Factor**
George Schwartz, husband of **Bernice Schwartz**
Dr. David Sagransky
Judy Yard
Marvin Goldstein, husband of **Toby Goldstein**
Dr. Nathaniel Wiesenfeld, husband of **Dr. Phyllis Perskins**
Elaine Belkin, aunt of **Rich Belkin**



GRACIOUS GIFTS

In Memory Of:

Malcolm Perkins – Marcia Perkins

Molly Weislow – Ruth Weislow

Sara Schoenen – David Schoenen

Nat Needle – David Schoenen

Theresa Morini – Dr. Paul Ljubich

Estelle Kanacki – Ava Resnick

Robert Robinson – Barbara Scarpa

Dr. David Sagransky – Elliot & Adrienne Beinfest,

Gary & Deb & Stephanie Rosman, Marcy Perkins

Dr. Nathaniel Wiesenfeld – Gary & Deb Rosman, Howard & Linda Karp,

Shelly & Brian Meyers, Elliot & Adrienne Beinfest

Esther Pinsky – Sylvia Barag

Sylvia Berkowitz – Toby Goldstein

Stuart Mark Kraft – Brian & Shari Cohen

Kenneth Rappoport – Felicia Niven

Alex & Jessie Cohen – Harry Cohen

Staff Sgt Rubin Rabinowitz – Shelley & Peter D’Orazio

Maurice Cohen – Alan Cohen

Harold Garfield – Alan Cohen

Judy Yard – Golda Wood, Barbara Rudnick & Irv Matusow, Gary & Deb Rosman, Shelly &

Brian Meyers, Elliot & Adrienne Beinfest, Marcy Perkins

Marvin Goldstein – Golda Wood, Gary & Deb Rosman, Larry & Carla Gash, Brian & Shari
Cohen

Nancy Shields – Jackie & Bob Constantine

Ephraim Sless – Emma Kaplan

Audrey Fischer – Shelly & Brian Meyers

David Barag – Sylvia Barag

Rose Feldman – Michelle Zibulsky

Diane Green – Bobbi Taylor

Sylvia Zubar – Nina & Bill Demko

Isabelle Robinson – Barbara Scarpa
Joan Rovins – Byron Rovins
Harold Mickey Bronstein – Byron Rovins
Bob Rovins – Byron Rovins
Samuel Romm – Harriet Young
Nathan Staller – Allan Staller
Phillip Bernstein – Ellen Rosenfield
Yetta Israel – Ellen Rosenfield
Irving Goldmann – Ruth Kelman
Sylvia Nisenfeld – Harry & Carol Marder
Harold J Rich – Jean Kripitz
Joseph Rahn – Jonathan Rahn

MALLIN/MALAMUT FUND

In Memory Of:

Harold Moscovitz – Martha Moskowitz

RABBI FESHBACH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

**The Birth of my Grandchildren Alexander James
and Lillian Brook Faye**

Rona Kaplan

ROSENBERG/SINDERBRAND RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory Of:

Debra Rosenberg – Patti Rosenberg

Kenneth Reed – Patti Rosenberg

**Thrift and Bake Sale:
A HUGE Success!!**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed, sorted, baked, set up, sold, packed and did anything else to insure the success of this annual event.
(Did we mention “baked?”?)

This was a major success this year. We could not have done it short of a full effort. It takes a village!



Covenant Society

Beth Israel is devoted to being open
to anyone who wishes to participate in Jewish life.
The members of our Covenant Society, through their generosity,
allow us to fulfill this sacred mission.
We thank these families.

SUSTAINER

Anonymous

Drs. Arthur & Julianne Childs
Dr. Howard & Gayle Gross
Mark Lippman
David Lowenstein
Robert & Susan Mayer
Dr. Leonard Popowich

SHOMER YAHADUT (Guardians of Judaism)

Dr. Paul & Jodi Goodman
Dr. George & Arlene Groch
Josh & ToniAnn Lubeck
Patti Rosenberg

EZRAT YISRAEL (Helpers of Israel) Continued

Tom & Robin Shields
Steve & Pam Sinderbrand
Mark & Lisa Stein
Dr. Glenn & Geri Zuck

EZRAT YISRAEL (Helpers of Israel)

Larry & Rosalie Clofine
Dr. Allan & Terri Cummings
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Brian & Shelly Meyers
David Schoenen

CHAVER EMUNAH (Faithful Friends)

Elliot & Adrienne Beinfest
Ted & Janet Rich
Dr. Gary & Debra Rosman
Dr. Robert & Kim Sabo
Adam & Brooke Stromfeld
Stu & Rita Stromfeld
David & Angela Thierman
Golda Wood

We thank those members
who wish to remain Anonymous
if you are in a position to do so,
please consider participating in
our Covenant Society.
This is what enables us
to remain open
to any and all those
who would come to us!



Life & Legacy contributors

**Life and Legacy is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation
and the Jewish Community of Atlantic and Cape May Counties
that promotes after-lifetime giving.**

**Beth Israel Legacy Donors remember the past
and make a promise to the future
that Beth Israel will remain a thriving dynamic Jewish home.
Join us on this sacred quest.
Call for more information.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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Dr. Rich Kader & Dawn Gadon	Barbara Scarpa	
Sherri Hoffman	David Schoenen	
Dr. Howard & Linda Karp	Tom & Robin Shields	
JoAnne Kettler		



BETH ISRAEL

You belong with us...

Welcome to Beth Israel,
a congregation, a community,
a family of families with a storied history,
a vibrant present and an exciting future.

Beth Israel is a warm and welcoming home for all,
a beautiful place to explore your spirituality,
lift your spirits, and celebrate the infinite value
that lies within each of us.

In coming here now,
you step into that treasured tradition,
putting your own stamp on our ever-evolving story,
and helping to shape it
for generations to come.

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Bookkeeper:	Judy Yard

Beth Israel
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www.cbinorthfield.org

