



Shabbat Shalom

16 Kislev 5776
November 28, 2015

Parashat Vayishlach

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, November 28:

Havdalah—5:44 pm

Shabbat Mishnah Study	8:45 am
Orthodox Kehillah Services	9:00 am
Main Sanctuary Services	9:30 am

Sunday, November 29:

NO TALMUD TORAH

Monday, November 30:

Tuesday, December 1:

Wednesday, December 2:

Weekly Wednesday Minyan	8:00 am
Talmud Torah (2-6)	4:15 pm

Thursday, December 3:

Synagogue Life Meeting	7:00 pm
------------------------	---------

Friday, December 4:

Candle Lighting—4:43 pm

Family Services	5:45 pm
B'nai Mitzvah Tutor Shabbat Dinner	6:30 pm

Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 12/5 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 12/5 Orthodox Kehillah Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 12/5 B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 12/5 Chavurah Minyan
- ✧ Sat. 12/5 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 12/5 Federation Kickoff Event
- ✧ Sun. 12/6 Sunday Minyan
- ✧ Sun. 12/6 Talmud Torah (PreK-7)
- ✧ Sun. 12/6 Simchat Tot
- ✧ Sun. 12/6 Hebrew Levels I/II with Donna Goldstein
- ✧ Sun. 12/6 Kadima-Social Action Scavenger Hunt
- ✧ Sun. 12/6 AlephBet/PreKadima Chanukah Bash
- ✧ Wed. 12/9 Weekly Wednesday Minyan followed by Shiur
- ✧ Wed. 12/9 Talmud Torah (2-6)
- ✧ Wed. 12/9 School Candle Lightning-Parents Invited
- ✧ Wed. 12/9 Board Meeting

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is sponsored by:
Brenda and Brian Ginsberg, Laura Lieber and Norman Weiner, Barbara Renner, Barbara & Simon Shane, and Nancy Barron Strauss.

Beth El is a welcoming community of members with diverse backgrounds, ideas, levels of knowledge, and observance. We are an egalitarian Conservative congregation, and a member of the Southeast Seaboard district of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), and the Orthodox Union.

Beth El Synagogue
1004 Watts Street
Durham, NC 27701
919.682.1238
info@betheldurham.org
www.betheldurham.org

Rabbi: Daniel Greyber
Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager
Synagogue President: Rachel Galanter

Gabbai Schedule

Contact the scheduled gabbai if you'd like to request an *aliyah*, other honor, or to volunteer to lead a service in the Main Sanctuary. Gabbaim will try to accommodate requests made on Shabbat morning (by 10:15am, before the Torah service) but we ask for your understanding if all honors have been previously claimed during the week.



11/28 Vayishlach Roger Perilstein rperilstein@hrc-pa.com	919-286-9814
12/5 Vayeshev Isaac Price isaac@isaacprice.org	919-886-5453
12/12 Miketz (Rosh Hodesh and Chanukah) Diane Markoff diane.markoff@earthlink.net	919- 969-8953
12/19 Vayigash David Kirsch dkirsch@dm.duke.edu	919-286-4516

Parashat Vayishlach

Adapted from <http://www.uscj.org>

Finally free from serving his father-in-law, Laban, Jacob is informed of a new challenge: his estranged twin brother, Esau, is on the way to visit him with 400 men at his side. Jacob is fearful, and with good reason; the last time Esau was nearby, he was threatening Jacob's life. Jacob springs into action in three ways: he separates his traveling party into two halves (to reduce the risk of total destruction should Esau attack), prays to God for safety, and prepares gifts for his brother.

But no matter how much energy he expended preparing for his brother's approach, nothing could have prepared him for his midnight encounter. Jacob, now standing alone, is met by a mysterious being, and the two wrestle until daybreak. Jacob proves to be stronger, but not before his opponent strains Jacob's hip socket. Victorious nonetheless, Jacob demands a blessing, and the unknown being changes Jacob's name to Israel, because he had "striven with beings divine and human, and ... prevailed."

Limping back to his camp, Jacob sees Esau and his party approach. But instead of attacking, Esau arrives with open arms, kissing Jacob and speaking of journeying together. Jacob, however, remains polite yet cautious, insisting that Esau accept his gifts, and asking to travel at a slow pace behind Esau's company. Jacob and Esau reunite only once more: to bury their father, Isaac, who dies at the age of 180.

At Jacob's next encampment, his daughter, Dinah, is raped by Shekhem, the son of the Hivite chief Hamor. Shekhem desires to make Dinah his wife, and Hamor asks Jacob for an even deeper arrangement, proposing that the Hivite and Israelite clans marry one another. Jacob approves the request, provided that Hivite males be circumcised. Little does Jacob know that two of his sons, Simeon and Levi, would slaughter the Hivites recovering from their circumcisions, and pillage their camp.

God speaks to Jacob a second time, asking him to return to Bethel, the site of Jacob's initial encounter with God. There, God blesses Jacob once more, reminding him of the covenant promising his offspring the land of Canaan.

But tragedy strikes in two ways. First, Rebekah's nurse, Deborah, dies while journeying back to Canaan. And Rachel gives birth to her second son, Benjamin, but dies immediately afterward, thus leaving Jacob without the love of his life. In spite of being blessed with so much, Jacob shows signs of unraveling, as evidenced by Reuben's rebellion against him.

The portion concludes with a complete genealogy of Esau and his descendants.

Discussion Topic #1: Jacob in Decline?

Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me, making me odious among the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites; my men are few in number, so that if they unite against me and attack me, I and my house will be destroyed." But they answered, "Should our sister be treated like a whore?" (Genesis 34:30-31)

The rape of Dinah reveals Jacob at his worst. His relative lack of action in the aftermath of this crime is confounding, and it is fair to wonder whether the days of the pro-active Jacob are long-gone.

And where was Dinah? [Jacob] placed her in a box and locked it, so that Esau should not lay eyes on her. For this, Jacob was punished, for withholding her from his brother – perhaps she would have redeemed him? – and she fell into the hands of Shekhem. -- Rashi on Genesis 32:22

Dinah was held captive in Shekhem's house and Jacob stayed dumb! How can a father hear of such outrage and not react? Of course, it must be recalled that when Reuben, Jacob's son, sleeps with Bilha, Jacob's concubine, his reaction is similar. ... After it reports that Reuben bedded Bilha, Genesis merely adds two words, 'Jacob heard,' and then discreetly changes the subject. -- Burton L. Visotzky, The Genesis of Ethics

At last, at the end of the massacre and the plunder, Jacob broke his long, shameful silence. Did he express horror at the cruelty of the crime? Did he finally lament the outrage suffered by this daughter? Did he grieve for the slain? Apparently, these considerations weighed little with the patriarch of Israel. He simply regretted the danger that Simeon and Levi had brought upon the family and – above all – upon himself. ... The inadequacy of this response is one of the most shocking moments in a shocking story. It is as odious as his initial indifference to Dinah's plight. -- Karen Armstrong, In the Beginning

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

Aharon ben David u'Miriam (Alan Goldman)	Rifka bat Idel v'Elka (Suzanne Furst)	Ilene Jacobson
Aliza Chana bat Leah	Rut bat Sarah (Suzanne Furst)	Jennifer Krunkosky
Baruch ben Shalom v'Raisel (Bernard Leibel)	Sara bat Hinda (Sylvia Dante)	Inez McFarling
Baracha bat Sarah	Sarah Gittel bat Rut (Sue Perlo)	Ezra Rapport
Ben-Zion ben Sarah	Shira Batya bat Meirav	Jack Reich
Chana bat Malkah	Shmuel ben Shoshana	Michael Rockman
Daronit Esther bat Tuvia v'Leah (Jennifer Greyber)	Sprinya Simcha bat Yehudah v'Chana (Susan Rosefeldt)	Pearl Rohde
David ben Sarah (David Leitner)	Tuvia ben Shmuel v'Tziporah (Tovia Lebovich)	Richard Roth
Eliyahu Chanan ben Sarah (Ed Gagnon)	Tziporah bat Esther	Carmen Sadowsky
Gershon Yonah ben Tevya haKohen v'Chanah Leah haLevi	Yehudit bat Rachel	Lauren Schiro
Hannah Leah bat Sarah (Anna Crollman)	Lee Ballen	Susan Tolchin
M'cor Eyshel bat Esther Tzvia	Lucretia Bell	Christine Walters
Miryam bat Rivkah (May Segal)	Sonia Berman	Sharon Welensky
Ovadya ben Elinor (Ovadya Fleishman)	Anne Boyd	Orrie Wilner
Reuven ben Chanoch v'Dinah (Robert Feurst)	Cynthia Brown	Amy Wolf
	Anna Crollman	
	Lydia Cowan Davis	
	Elinor Fleishman	

Please contact the synagogue office with any additions or changes to this list.

Yahrzeits יארצייט

Sam Austin	Simon Lakin
Gershon ben Chayim v'Gitel	Simon Lipton
Bertha Bergman	Lucille Livingston
Morley Fenson	Florence "Flo" Sandick
Ann Simon Fischer	Joy Shapiro
Bonnie Haynes	Morris M. Siegel
William Kline	

BE Remembered

Beth El Synagogue extends condolences to:

*Susan Cohen, Peter Goldberg and their family on the death of Susan's mother, Estelle Cohen who passed away on Sunday, 11/15.;

*Sue Slatkoff, Ronald Strauss and their family on the death of Sue's brother-in-law, Eylon Shalev who passed away on Saturday, 11/14.