



Shabbat Shalom

25 Cheshvan 5776
November 7, 2015

Parashat Chayei Sara

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, November 7:

Havdalah—5:55 pm

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| Shabbat Mishnah Study | 8:45 am |
| Orthodox Kehillah Services | 9:00 am |
| B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring | 9:00 am |
| Chavurah Minyan | 9:15 am |
| Monthly Parsha Study | 9:30 am |
| Main Sanctuary Services (Social Action Shabbat) | 9:30 am |
| Kadima Movie Night | 6:30 pm |

Sunday, November 8:

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| Hebrew Level II with Donna Goldstein | 8:30 am |
| Weekly Sunday Minyan | 9:30 am |
| Talmud Torah | 9:30 am |
| Hebrew Level I with Donna Goldstein | 9:30 am |
| Knitting Chevra | 10:00 am |
| Walking with Mitzvot #1 | 10:15 am |
| USY Chopped with Judea | 2:00 pm |

Monday, November 9:

Tuesday, November 10:

Wednesday, November 11:

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| Weekly Wednesday Minyan | 8:00 am |
| Talmud Torah | 4:15 pm |
| Board Meeting | 7:30 pm |

Thursday, November 12:

Friday, November 13:

Candle Lighting—4:51 pm

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| Kitah Gan/Kitah Aleph Shabbat Service and Dinner | 6:00 pm |
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Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 11/14 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 11/14 Orthodox Kehillah Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 11/14 B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 11/14 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 11/14 Healing Yoga
- ✧ Sun. 11/15 Sunday Minyan
- ✧ Sun. 11/15 Talmud Torah (PreK-7)
- ✧ Sun. 11/15 Simchat Tot
- ✧ Sun. 11/15 Chaukah Bazaar
- ✧ Sun. 11/15 Hebrew Level I and Hebrew Level II
- ✧ Sun. 11/15 Tutor Refresh Session
- ✧ Mon. 11/16 Sisterhood Board Meeting
- ✧ Tue. 11/17 Va'ad Meeting
- ✧ Wed. 11/18 Weekly Wednesday Minyan followed by Shiur
- ✧ Wed. 11/18 Talmud Torah (2-6)
- ✧ Fri. 11/19 Kabbalat Shabbat Services
- ✧ Fri. 11/19 Community Shabbat Dinner
- ✧ Fri. 11/19 Shiur with Rabbi Spitz

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.



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| 11/7 Hayyei Sarah Isaac Price isaac@isaacprice.org | 919-886-5453 |
| 11/14 Toledot Jon Wahl jmwahl@email.unc.edu | 919-942-3827 |
| 11/21 Vayetze Shula Bernard shulabernard@gmail.com | 919-967-9393 |
| 11/28 Vayishlach Roger Perilstein rperilstein@hrc-pa.com | 919-286-9814 |

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is hosted by:

Social Action Committee:

Lisa Berley, Daphne Friedman and Josh Granek, Hope Hartman, Hinda Lind, Jacki & Mike Resnick, Margaret Sachs, and Hope & Bob Wechsler.

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.

Parashat Chayei Sara

Adapted from <http://www.learn.jtsa.edu>

In the mid-90s, Bill Moyers of the eponymous television show invited viewers to watch Genesis: A Living Conversation, the 10 part series he conducted with Bible scholars, writers, psychologists, lawyers, artists, and communal and religious leaders of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The invitation frontispiece read: "Rape, fratricide, jealousy, temptation, fear, rage, murder . . . Welcome to Genesis." Moyers was capturing the powerful "flawed models" nature of biblical heroes that make them eternally accessible and the inescapable truth about the human capacity for evil: "And the heart of man is evil. . . from his youth." (Gen. 6:5)

What Moyers did not include on the list was "love." But he should have because love—specifically, love between husband and wife—is central to the story of our founding ancestors; and Hayyei Sarah presents two examples of that love. More significant, the two love stories are interwoven with the two overarching themes of the Torah—the Covenant with God and the unbreakable connection of this people to the historic homeland.

The first love story: Hayyei Sarah opens with word of Sarah's death at 127 years, Abraham's response; and his action of purchasing from Ephron the Hittite the best and most beautiful piece of land as an eternal space to commemorate Sarah's life on Earth. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, reliving his own experience of losing a beloved wife, is sensitive to the Torah's language of love in Abraham's bereavement: "And Abraham eulogized her [lispod] and wept for her [livkota]." (Gen. 23:2)

Weeping and mourning are two very different reactions. Mourning or eulogizing is a review of a person's life, and appraisal, an evaluation. Weeping on the other hand is "a primeval, instinctive reaction to a tragedy, especially one that strikes without warning. It is not a deliberate performance; it bursts forth spontaneously. Weeping is a release of unbearable tension when the whole world seems to be crumbling . . . No one can understand the bleak loneliness and painful nostalgia of a surviving mate. One's whole world seems dislocated."

"Abraham first offers hesped, a eulogy, together with many thousands of other adherents of the covenant mourning her departure. Only after he has offered an evaluative presentation of all that she had done, particularly in forming a covenantal community, does he break down in tears and cry. Others could identify with his hesped, but no one could share his personal pain." ("The Covenantal Role of Sarah" in Man of Faith in the Modern World adapted by Abraham Besdin, 87-88).

The depths of Abraham's grief is understandable. Indeed, we all know that the greater the love, the greater the loss. Where did this love come from?

It would seem that the title of the parashah and its opening verse—"And the days of the life of Sarah"—is a misnomer; it should have titled "and this is the demise of Sarah" as titles of parhiyot and opening verses are all about what follows, not what has passed. Moreover, this verse, instead of opening our parashah, should have ended the previous parashah, which was all about her life. Mislabeled and misplaced, this opening phrase beckons us to review and reexamine her life and to learn from the previous narratives of the total dedication, the absolute partnership, the closeness and great love that existed between our founding couple, all of which now explain, or legitimize, Abraham's powerful surge of feeling and extreme sense of loss at his beloved's passing.

Sarah was his intimate partner all of their married life. She left her family and home to go off into the wilderness with a nomad who had little but promises to offer, all the more remarkable in the eyes of some midrashists who postulate that Sarah came from regal stock. Though she is not explicitly named in accepting the Covenant, the Rabbis show how the Torah's language can be interpreted as including her in every which way. The Midrash tells us that just as Abraham brought in thousands of male converts, so Sarah brought thousands of women into the Covenant. Just as Abram became Abraham, adding the letter "hey" to reference God's name, so too Sarai became Sarah.

Beth El Synagogue

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

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

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

Yahrzeits יארצייט

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|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Herbert Bailin | William Smith |
| Agnes Culp | Ida Stollwerk |
| Shabbetai Ginton | Chawa Eichenbaum Teichholz |
| Samuel Lipschitz | Malka Eichenbaum Teichholz |
| Sylvia Parker | Naftali Teichholz |
| Walter Reichwald | |
| Mary Siegel | |
| Leah Silver | |
| Ellen Simon Singer | |

BE Babies

Mazel tov to Anne, Billy, Micah and Sam Pizer on the birth of their daughter/sister, Naomi, who was born on October 19th.