

בְּרֵאשִׁית

פרשת וישלח *Parashat Vayishlah*

16 Kislev, 5786 / December 6, 2025

Triennial Cycle Year I: Genesis 32:4-33:20

Ḥumash Etz Ḥayim, page 198; Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21, page 221

- (32:4-24) Jacob nervously prepares for his meeting with his brother Esau.
- (32:25-33) Jacob wrestles with a “man” and receives from him a blessing and a new name, Israel, at the cost of a lame thigh. Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. (Genesis 32:25)
 - See the commentary to this verse on the question of who the being was, page 201 of Ḥumash Etz Ḥayim in the d’rash section:
 - Esau’s guardian angel
 - The demonic guardian of the river
 - Jacob’s conscience, prompting him to face his past as a trickster instead of avoiding the confrontation with Esau
 - A divine messenger to prevent Jacob from running away Himself
 - Another midrashic tradition, however, suggests a more ambiguous identification: “I shall not let you go until you tell me your name.” And he called his name Israel — like his own (the angel’s) name, for his name was Israel.” (Pirkei D’Rabbi Eliezer 37)
- (33:1-20) Jacob meets his brother Esau, who receives him warmly. They go their separate ways in peace.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Please check our online calendar for the most up-to-date information

Saturday, December 6

9:30 a.m. Services (Sanctuary/YouTube)
9:45 a.m. Youth Congregation (Beit T’Fillah)
11:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat (Beit T’Fillah)
12:00 p.m. Kiddush (Sukkah Patio/Social Hall)
5:32 p.m. Havdalah
6:00 p.m. Saratoga Celebration of Light (Offsite)

Sunday, December 7

9:30 a.m. Minyan (Zoom)
9:30 a.m. Religious School (Classrooms)
5:00 p.m. Bocce with the Boys

Monday, December 8

7:00 p.m. Minyan (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 9

10:30 a.m. Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
7:00 p.m. Minyan (Zoom)
7:30 p.m. Jewish Women Throughout History (Beit Midrash)

Wednesday, December 10

11:30 a.m. Balance and Stretch class (Beit Midrash)
4:30 p.m. Religious School (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Minyan (Zoom)
7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday, December 11

11:30 a.m. Hanukkah Ladies Who Lunch (Social Hall)
7:00 p.m. Minyan (Zoom)

Friday, December 12

10:00 a.m. Talmud Study (Zoom)
4:33 p.m. Candle lighting
5:30 p.m. Kids/Tots Shabbat & Potluck (Rms 15-17)
6:15 p.m. Potluck & Musical Kabbalat Shabbat (Social Hall/Beit T’fillah)

Saturday, December 13

9:30 a.m. Services (Sanctuary/YouTube)
12:00 p.m. Kiddush (Sukkah Patio/Social Hall)
12:45 p.m. Book Discussion Group (Beit Midrash)
5:33 p.m. Havdalah
6:00 p.m. Hazak Hanukkah Extravaganza (Social Hall)

Embrace A Family – Ends December 7

Congregation Beth David is once again partnering with JFS Silicon Valley to bring holiday joy to seniors, children, and families in need. With recent federal cuts making it harder for families to afford even basic gifts or food, your support matters more than ever. Visit the Embrace-A-Family SignUpGenius page here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/congregationbethdavid2025>

- Select one or more dreidel wishes from the board and make the monetary contribution for the gift(s) using your credit or debit card.
- JFS Silicon Valley will deliver the gift(s) directly to the designated individual.
- You'll receive a thank you letter from JFS Silicon Valley for your gift!

Or you can donate a Target gift card or check made payable to JFS Silicon Valley and write "EAF" in the note field. We will order items for you. Mail gift cards/checks to: JFS Silicon Valley, P.O. Box 320490, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Or deliver gift cards or checks in person by emailing embracefamily@jfsvalley.org to schedule a drop off time.

Honor a Loved One Through Kiddush Oneg Sponsorship

Did you know that even a small donation to our Kiddush Oneg Fund can make a meaningful impact? Whether you're marking a yahrzeit or celebrating a simcha, your gift — no matter the size — helps enrich our communal Shabbat experience. It's a heartfelt way to honor someone special while supporting our community. To contribute and be listed as a Kiddush Oneg co-sponsor, please contact our office at 408-257-3333.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Bocce with the Boys (Offsite)

Sunday, December 7, 5:00–8:00 p.m.

Campo Di Bocce, 565 University Avenue, Los Gatos

Join us for dinner followed by bocce ball and/or drinks. We are meeting at 5:00 p.m. and will stay as late as 8:00 p.m. Please RSVP by emailing Mens Club here: mensclub@beth-david.org.

Jewish Women Throughout History (Beit Midrash/Zoom) with Rabbi Kunin

Tuesday, December 9, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Jewish history and tradition has been focused primarily on men, leaving out the essential contributions of women over the ages. In this class we discover amazing Jewish women (some well-known and some who have largely been lost. Sign up to attend on Zoom, here: <https://tinyurl.com/zoom-jewish-women>. If you want to attend in person, it is not necessary to register.

Kids/Tots Shabbat, Potluck & Musical Kabbalat Shabbat (Classrooms/Beit T'Fillah)

Friday, December 12

- 5:30 p.m. Kids and Tots Service
- 6:15 p.m. Dairy/Pareve Potluck
- 7:00 p.m. Service with Beth David's Musical Group

Please join the Rabbis as we welcome in Shabbat! We'll start with a kids and tots service at 5:30 p.m., a dairy/pareve potluck at 6:15 p.m., followed by an engaging service with Beth David's musical group. We'll provide the challah and kiddush wine. Sign up for potluck here: <https://tinyurl.com/all-potluck>. (Please plan to bring a dish that serves 8-10 people.)

CELEBRATE HANUKKAH!

See All Beth David and Community Hanukkah Events

beth-david.org/hanukkah-2025

Saratoga Celebration of Light (Offsite)

Saturday, December 6, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Blaney Plaza in Saratoga Village

Join the City of Saratoga and the Saratoga Ministerial Association to come together as a community and celebrate the rich diversity of Saratoga. This event honors light as a beautiful symbol of hope, joy, and faith across cultures. The religious leaders of several faiths from Saratoga will lead parts of this winter celebration. Once again, member Jeff Warwick's nine-foot-tall menorah will be on display and stay up through the end of Hanukkah. The event is FREE and open to everyone.

Beth David Women Celebrate Hanukkah (Social Hall)

Thursday, December 11, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious luncheon, connect with friends, and shop our Gently Used Jewelry table. Bring an extra Hanukiah for our Trading Table—leftovers will be donated to Jewish Family Services. Cost is \$30 plus a minimum \$15 gift card for JFS's Embrace-A-Family program (bring gift card to the luncheon). Members sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/BD-women-Hanukkah-members>. Guest sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/BD-women-hanukkah-guests>. **The Beth David cookbook, B'Tayavon, will be available for purchase and pre-wrapped for Hanukkah!**

Hazak Hanukkah Extravaganza (Social Hall)

Saturday, December 13, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

A delightful prelude to the Festival of Lights! Enjoy a New York deli supper with latkes and dessert, catered by Hazak. Share good company with friends and relax with a charming movie. Cost is \$25 per person. RSVP by December 9 to hazak@beth-david.org.

Hanukkah Family Learning Experience (Classrooms)

Sunday, December 14, 9:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Enjoy a Hanukkah experiences with music, art, and food for the whole family!

Live Music, Lights and Latkes (Beit Midrash/Social Hall)

Spend a cozy evening with us!

Sunday, December 21, 5:00–9:00 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxed, feel-good jazz concert featuring talented local musicians along with wine, fresh latkes, sweet sufganiyot, and great company and conversation.

Entertainment Schedule:

- 5:30 p.m. Hot Kugel (as seen at the APJCC Jewbilee)
- 6:15 p.m. Light refreshments including wine, fresh latkes, sweet sufganiyot
- 7:00 p.m. Fineprint - an LA based Jazz and Funk Band (as seen at the Mint LA on Pico Boulevard)

Pricing: \$5 Members • \$10 Guests • \$15 at the door. Patrons Free. RSVP by December 19.

Members: <https://tinyurl.com/hanukkah-jazz-members>

Guests: <https://tinyurl.com/hanukkah-jazz-guests>

Jewish Book Discussion Group (Beit T'Fillah)

Sharing Titles and Book Exchange

Saturday December 13, 12:45–2:00 p.m.

We'll each share a favorite Jewish book we think everyone should read. You're also invited to bring any Jewish books you no longer need but think others might enjoy — we'll have a book exchange!

Bagels with the Boys (Social Hall)

Sunday, December 14, 10:00–10:30 a.m.

Join us at Beth David for a bagel with schmear and Peet's kosher coffee. RSVP by emailing Men's Club at: mensclub@beth-david.org.

Annual Meeting (Sanctuary/Zoom)

Sunday, December 14, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

You are warmly invited—and encouraged—to attend the annual meeting. Voting begins December 4.

Youth Congregation (Beit T'Fillah)

Saturday, December 20, 9:45 am–11:00 am

An interactive Shabbat service experience specifically targeted for our 1st – 5th grade students. Youth participate in traditional prayer, Torah readings, games and discussions inspired both by the weekly Torah portion and current events. Adults/parents welcome.

Tot Shabbat (Beit T'Fillah)

Saturday, December 20, 11:15 am–11:45am

This is a relaxing, lighthearted, interactive, Shabbat program for tots and their families.

Teshuvah of the Month (Beit Midrash)

Saturday, December 20, 12:45–2:00 p.m.
with Rabbi Kunin

Join Rabbi Kunin each month to explore fascinating *teshuvot* (rabbinic legal rulings) from ancient to modern Conservative, and occasionally Orthodox or Reform, sources.

The Former Prophets (Beit Midrash)

Saturday, December 27, 12:45–2:00 p.m.
with Rabbi Roller

Discover some of the most exciting biblical stories you've never heard—tales of war, love, betrayal, and revenge that rival any bestseller.

SAVE THE DATES

Psalm 92: What it Means for Us Today (Zoom)

Mondays in January, beginning January 5, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Join our rabbinic intern, Neal Cronin, for a detailed and fulfilling dive into what this ancient psalm means to us in our everyday lives, and how it guides us on engaging more constructively with others. Register for Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/psalm-92>

Connecting with Purpose by Volunteering in Israel (Beit Midrash)

Sunday, January 11, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Over the past few years, Beth David congregant Sue Maltiel and her friend Elana Feinsmith have traveled to Israel several times to volunteer where needed. They will share stories from their extended volunteer trips. Their multi-week volunteer missions have been both heartening and deeply meaningful, offering vital support to the people of Israel in a time of need.

Hazak – Fun Game Afternoon (Social Hall)

Sunday, January 18, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Play some familiar games. Learn some new ones. Schmooze a little, too. Refreshments ... but of course. Cost is \$20 per person. RSVP by emailing Hazak at hazak@beth-david.org. Your account will be billed.

Women's Shabbat (Sanctuary/YouTube)

Saturday, January 31, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Sign up to participate in leading the congregation in an inspiring, Shabbat service. Make this year the year you learn something new! Please RSVP <https://tinyurl.com/2026-womens-shabbat>

Yahrzeits Week of December 5/6, 2025

David Alpert, Grandfather of Marjorie Alpert
Jacob Boxer, Grandfather of Sandi Bretz
Nathan Brenner, Great Uncle of Natalia Pogrebinsky
Sandra Coplon, Mother of Bonnie Hirsch
Joseph Evans, Father of Maureen Schneider
Mikhail Eydinov, Husband of Lina Eydinova
Elena Falkova, Cousin-in-law of Yulia Shvarts
Magda Field, Mother of Susan Remba
Benjamin Gafter, Father of Neal Gafter
Lawrence Giraudo, Step-father of Renee Fine
Rose Gold, Mother of Harvey Gold
Bert F. Goldberg, Grandfather of Jerrold Malkin
Betty Goldensohn, Aunt of Dorothy Dorsay
Ida Servetnick Green, Great-grandmother of Irene Swedroe
Bernice Helfand, Sister of Sheila Weisberg
Piroska Holan, Mother of Peter Holan
Samuel Holtzman, Husband of Judy Holtzman
Bernie Kessler, Uncle of Charles Klein
Bertha Kharag, Grandmother of Marina Salzman
Nettie Leverah, Grandmother of Judy Holtzman
Samuel Levin, Uncle of Rachel Abramovitz
Steven Levin, Uncle of Andrea Rubnitz
Mendel Lisniansky, Uncle of Lisa Lipkind
Samuel Litvin, Father of Vivian Herman
Audrey Mann, Aunt of Roberta Schwartz
Okley D. Patterson, Father of Rita Schlosser
Manya Reyzi, Mother of Alexander Lazer
Mary Einbender Rokofsky, of Blessed Memory
Benjamin Sherman, Father-in-Law of Corinne Sherman
Alan Siegel, Brother of Barbara Goldstein
Shirley Smith, Great Aunt of Samuel Shultz
Stanley Speyer, Father of Rochelle Alhadeff
Charles Stein, Cousin of Bonnie Slavitt
Ed Stein, Uncle-in-law of Lee Gavens
Lena Steinman Cohen, Grandmother of Judith Lavetter
Israel Stokelman, Father of Dalia Orr
Gara Steinberger Weisman, Mother of Linda Brummer
Max Victor Wilen, Father of Judith Krongold
Shirley Witkin, Mother of Louis Witkin
Paul Wittman, Grandfather of Davida Adelberg
Richard Yellin, of Blessed Memory

Refuah Shleimah – A Complete Recovery – as of 12/6/25

Michaela Yacova bat Ruchel Saushe v'Nachum Chanan, Michaela Abramovitz (daughter of Rachel and Norman Abramovitz)
Nachum ben Yaacov u'Brachah, Norm Abramovitz (member)
Yehudit bat Mordechai v'Reeska, Judy Applesmith (member)
Liora bat Genia (member and mother of Rabbi Ilana Baird)
Meira bat Zehava, Meira Peretz (niece of Betty Becker)
Zehava Malka bat Chana, Gloria Strikovsky (sister of Betty Becker)
Rivka bat Esther v'Yehuda (mother of Joseph Bendahan)
Hila bat Itzhak u'Bat Ami
Seema bat Asher v'Sara, Seema Cicerone (member)
Keith Cicerone (Brother-in-law of Seema Cicerone)
Bernard Olfman (friend of Seema Cicerone)
Craig Davis (cousin of Seema Cicerone)

Sue Ritz (friend of Seema Cicerone)
 Mayer, Marcos Cicerone (family of Seema Cicerone)
 Charlotte Berman (cousin of Seema Cicerone)
 Blanca Revuelta (friend of Seema Cicerone)
 Judy Attard (friend of Barbara Davis)
 Barbara Davis (member)
 Simona Goldstein (cousin of Barbara Davis)
 Scott Mathews (cousin of Barbara Davis)
 Noraly Mathews (cousin of Barbara Davis)
 Susanna Weiss (cousin of Barbara Davis)
 Marc Weiss (cousin of Barbara Davis)
 Terri Willert (cousin of Barbara Davis)
 Dorothy Dorsay (member)
 Mariama McCullough (friend of Dorothy Dorsay)
 Axel Faederholdt (friend of Donna Frankel)
 Gittel bat Yihiskael v'Pi'a Batya, Beverly Jean Kanter (sister of Donna Frankel)
 Ari Yehuda ben Malka Ariella
 Sharon Friedman (aunt of Hindy Ganeles)
 Shira Yael bat Yehudite Rachel, Shira Weisenfreund (friend of Emily and Howard Gannes)
 Yaffa Leya bat Ruchel, Susan Marcus (friend of Emily Gannes)
 Donna Stone (cousin of Wendy J. Glasser)
 Chaim ben Moshe, Harvey Stone (cousin of Wendy J. Glasser)
 Shmuel Ben Menaka Mendel
 Etta bat Phival
 Chaya Sarah bat Avraham Hersh v'Shaiva, Sondra Goldberger (member)
 David Garfinkle (brother-in-law of Rhonda Raider Gould and Don Gould)
 Zvi Leib ben Esther
 Menashe ben Chanah, Martin Gewing (friend of Cheryl Graubart)
 Gittel Leah (friend of Helaine & Stephen Green)
 Guadalupe Ariel Cordova (friend of Helaine Green)
 Jessica (friend of Helaine Green)
 Tikva bat Katania, Allyson Guggenheim (granddaughter of Allen Guggenheim)
 Paul Miller (brother of Robert Miller, brother-in-law of Kristin Gustavson)
 Juanita Harris (friend of Kristin Gustavson)
 Prudence Victor (friend of Kristin Gustavson)
 Kathryn Schultz (friend of Kristin Gustavson)
 Yukari Lassagne (friend of Kristin Gustavson)
 Ben Tzion ben Ya'akov u'Masha, Brent Hailpern (member)
 Vellya bat Shmuel haKohen v'Chana Chaya, Vivian Herman (member)
 Tova bat Chava, Ellen London (friend of David & Debby Hoffman)
 Hannah bat Gershon u'Miriam, Patty Hughes (member)
 Yitzchak Hershel Ovadia ben Shoshana Rivka
 Carol King (member)
 Leah bat Ariela (daughter of Carol and Roland King)
 Holly Marsh (friend of Carol King)
 Levi ben Lina v'Eliyahu (father of Rabbi David Kunin)
 Tova bat Clara v'Mordechai haKohen (mother of Rabbi David Kunin)

Arkadi Nisenzon (brother of Zoya Lazer)
 Daniel Seth ben Yaffa v'Yitzchak haKohen, Daniel Lewis (son of Sheryl & Eric Lewis)
 Nessia bat David, Kaela Gaertner (friend of the Lichy family)
 Jessie Creel (friend of the Lichy family)
 Miriam bat Bluma, Miriam Marr (member)
 Chaim ben Uziel v'Tovah, Charlie Marr (member)
 Leibel Yehuda ben Shmuel Yisroel v'Sheindl, Leonard Metz (member)
 Joanie Pepper (aunt of Jan Pepper)
 Gary Hedden (friend of Jan Pepper)
 Margalit mi-beit Shmuel v'Hana, Margie Pomerantz (member)
 Shaul ben Cara (brother of Sheryl Rattner)
 Sander ben Avraham u'Martha, Alexander Rodstein (member)
 Simcha bat Hannah, Susan Marder (sister of Rachel Schwab)
 Aharon ben Yochevet, Allan Schwartz (former member)
 Mary Ann Pinsler (cousin of Myrtle Schwartz)
 David Hai Isaac (cousin of Myrtle Schwartz)
 Matana bat Rahma, Myrtle Schwartz (member)
 Sundus Jameel (friend of Myrtle Schwartz)
 Hannah bat Miriam (sister-in-law of Myrtle Schwartz)
 Shoshana bat Hannah (niece of Myrtle Schwartz)
 Blanche Levine (relative of Myrtle Schwartz)
 Malka bat Mendel v'Goldie, Marilyn Sefchovich (member)
 Yudif Golda bat Yente, Yulia Shvarts (member)
 Mendel ben Yaakov haLevi, Michael Sinensky (member)
 Shoshana bat Shimon u'Messodi, Shoshana Soha (member)
 Yosef ben Shmuel u'Miriam, Joe Sorger (member)
 Lisa Katzenstein (friend of Irene Spector)
 Kathy Goldstein (friends of Walter Spector)
 Chris Stanton (father of Ethan Stanton)
 Adam Yavim ben Avraham v'Sarah, George Steres (member)
 Rachmiel ben Yoheved (member)
 Chaye Reizel bat Ruchel (member)
 Matt Clark (friend of Irene Swedroe)
 Yael bat Tzvia, Susan Gould (member)
 David ben Levi v'Esther, David Veksler (son of Svitlana & Leonid Veksler)
 Sarah Fegie bat Natan v'Shifrah, Sandi Weinstein (member)
 Sivia bat Malka, Susie Weitzman (member)
 Chaim ben Davida
 Norman Witkin (Brother of Louis Witkin)
 Rosa bat Riva (friend of Dina Yevelev)
 Annabel Rubin (relative of Dina Yevelev)
 Bela bat Bronya (cousin of Dina Yevelev)
 Sonya bat Emma (friend of Dina Yevelev)
 Rita bat Sonya (friend of Dina Yevelev)
 Chayah bat Yosef v'Devorah, Cheryl Zatzkin-Steres, (member)

Congregation Beth David gratefully acknowledges grants from the following organizations:



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