



Beth Zion ^{ב"ה} Congregation

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November 25 - December 1, 2017
7 - 13 Kislev 5778
Parshat Vayetzei

Rabbi
Boruch Perton
rabbi@bethzion.com
438-930-4174

Founding Rabbi
Sidney Shoham Z"L

Chazan Sheni Emeritus
Yitzchok Rosenberg

Youth Director
Rabbi David Wallach

President
Shlomo Benarroch



Friday, November 24
Candle Lighting 3:58 pm

Mincha and
Kabbalat Shabbat 4:05 pm
Earliest Shema
Friday night 5:05 pm
Latest Shema
Shabbat morning 9:24 am

IN APPRECIATION TO
Dr. Bruce Mazer
*for leading services
and*
Aharon Neuer
grandson of
Esther & Steve Csillag
*for leining the first Aliyah
and* **Bobby Shaul**
*for leining the remainder
of the Parshah*

SHABBAT KIDDUSH
SPONSORED BY
The Grischkan and Gradinger families
*in honour of
the naming of their daughter*

Drs. Barbara & Bruce Mazer
*in memory of her mother,
Molly Samuel Z"L*

FRIDAY NIGHT NAVI CLASS
SPONSORED BY
Nina Rabih
*In memory of her husband
Shlomo Rabih Z"L*

MAZAL TOV TO
Rebbetzin Jewel Shoham
on the marriage of her granddaughter
Kelly, daughter of
Donna & Dr. Benjy Tripp
*Niece of Linda & Willy Lieberman
to* **Joseph**, son of
Rachel & Yoni Nitzani

Ted Brandt
*on the marriage of
his grandson* **Jonathan**,
son of **Cindy & Eli Kipper**
Nephew of **Elaine Brandt**
Cousin of **Brian, Uri and Yoel Hofman**
to **Eliana**,
daughter of **Mille & Simi Grosman**

Kelley & Jeffrey Zweig
*on the Bar Mitzvah
of their son*
Evan Zweig
grandson of
Elaine & Howard Zweig
and
Merle & Ronnie Torchman

Margaret & David Ronis
on their 40th wedding anniversary

CONDOLENCES TO
Ella & Tibor Schonbrun
on the loss of her brother
Irving Meshulam Normand Z"L

Shabbat	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
November 25 7 Kislev	November 26 8 Kislev	November 27 9 Kislev	November 28 10 Kislev	November 29 11 Kislev	November 30 12 Kislev	December 1 13 Kislev
9:00 am Shacharit Main Sanctuary Sermon Rabbi Perton	7:00 am Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi 8:00 am Shacharit	6:15 am Shacharit Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi	6:25 am Shacharit Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi	6:25 am Shacharit Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi	6:15 am Shacharit Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi	6:25 am Shacharit Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi
9:00 am Shacharit Smiley Auditorium	8:45 am Shacharit	8:00 am Shacharit	8:00 am Shacharit	8:00 am Shacharit	8:00 am Shacharit	8:00 am Shacharit
10:00 am Youth Groups						
3:25pm Hilbot Tefillah Rabbi Michael Wolff	4:05 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv	4:05 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv	4:05 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv	4:05 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv	4:05 pm Mincha/Ma'ariv	3:54 pm Candle Lighting
3:55 pm Mincha Seudat Shlishit		7:20 pm Duplicate Bridge		8:00 pm Shiur Rabbi Gimple		 4:00 pm Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat
4:54 pm Maariv		8:00 pm Gmara Shabbat Shiur				7:00 pm Navi Class
5:04pm Shabbat ends		<i>This day is sponsored by</i> Donna & Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg <i>Happy Birthday</i> Matthew Rosenberg				
 5:15 pm Yechiel Glustein Daf Yomi						

VAYETZEI

NOVEMBER 25, 2017 • 7 KISLEV 5778
HERTZ P. 106 HAFTARAH P. 135 STONE P. 144 HAFTARAH P. 1139

Jacob came to a certain place [vayifga bamakom] and stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream. He saw a ladder resting on the earth, with its top reaching heaven. G-d's angels were going up and down on it. There above it stood G-d . . . Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "G-d is truly in this place, but I did not know it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of G-d; this is the gate of heaven." (28:11-17)

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks explains: "On the basis of this passage the sages said that "Jacob instituted the evening prayer." The inference is based on the word vayifga which can mean not only, "he came to, encountered, happened upon" but also "he prayed, entreated, pleaded" as in Jeremiah 7: 16, "Neither lift up cry nor prayer for them nor make intercession to Me [ve-al tifga bi]...There is, however, a difficulty with the idea that Jacob introduced the evening prayer. In a famous episode in the Talmud, Rabbi Joshua takes the view that, unlike shacharit or minchah, the evening prayer is not obligatory (though, as the commentators note, it has become obligatory through the acceptance of generations of Jews). Why, if it was instituted by Jacob, was it not held to carry the same obligation as the prayers of Abraham and Isaac?" Rabbi Sacks goes on to explain that there are traditional answers, but he offers a more profound solution to this question: "A different linguistic construction is used for each of the three occasions that the sages saw as the basis of prayer. Abraham "rose early in the morning to the place where he had stood before G-d" (19:27). Isaac "went out to meditate [lasuach] in the field towards evening" (24:63). Jacob "met, encountered, came across" G-d [vayifga bamakom]. These are different kinds of religious experience. Abraham initiated the quest for G-d. He was a creative religious personality – the father of all those who set out on a journey of the spirit to an unknown destination, armed only with the trust that those who seek, find. Abraham sought G-d before G-d sought him. Isaac's prayer is described as a sichah, literally, a conversation or dialogue. There are two parties to a dialogue – one who speaks and one who listens, and having listened, responds. Isaac represents the religious experience as conversation between the word of G-d and the word of mankind. Jacob's prayer is very different. He does not initiate it. His thoughts are elsewhere – on Esau from whom he is escaping, and on Laban to whom he is travelling. Into this troubled mind comes a vision of G-d and the angels and a stairway connecting earth and heaven. He has done nothing to prepare for it. It is unexpected. Jacob literally "encounters" G-d as we can sometimes encounter a familiar face among a crowd of strangers. This is a meeting brought about by G-d, not man. That is why Jacob's prayer could not be made the basis of a regular obligation. None of us knows when the presence of G-d will suddenly intrude into our lives. There is an element of the religious life that is beyond conscious control. It comes out of nowhere, when we are least expecting it. If Abraham represents our journey towards G-d, and Isaac our dialogue with G-d, Jacob signifies G-d's encounter with us – unplanned, unscheduled, unexpected; the vision, the voice, the call we can never know in advance but which leaves us transformed. As for Jacob so for us, it feels as if we are waking from a sleep and realising as if for the first time that "G-d was in this place and I did not know it." The place has not changed, but we have. Such an experience can never be made the subject of an obligation. It is not something we do. It is something that happens to us. Vayifga bamakom means that, thinking of other things, we find that we have walked into the presence of G-d. Such experiences take place, literally or metaphorically, at night. They happen when we are alone, afraid, vulnerable, close to despair. It is then that, when we least expect it, we can find our lives flooded by the radiance of the divine. Suddenly, with a certainty that is unmistakable, we know that we are not alone, that G-d is there and has been all along but that we were too preoccupied by our own concerns to notice Him. That is how Jacob found G-d – not by his own efforts, like Abraham; not through continuous dialogue, like Isaac; but in the midst of fear and isolation. Jacob, in flight, trips and falls – and finds he has fallen into the waiting arms of G-d. No one who has had this experience, ever forgets it. "Now I know that You were with me all the time but I was looking elsewhere." That was Jacob's prayer. There are times when we speak and times when we are spoken to. Prayer is not always predictable, a matter of fixed times and daily obligation. It is also an openness, a vulnerability. G-d can take us by surprise, waking us from our sleep, catching us as we fall."

Prepared by Devorah Abenheim

Friday Night Navi Class

Led by Rabbi Perton at his home - 5623 Melling Ave., at 7:00 pm

November 24 is sponsored by

Nina Rabih

in memory of her husband

Shlomo Rabih Z"L

December 1 is sponsored by

Margaret & David Ronis

in honour of their anniversary

\$36 sponsorship opportunities available



Shabbat Chanukah Dinner with KTM

Friday, December 15

*Candle Lighting 3:53 pm Mincha 3:55 pm
Followed by Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv
and Learning sessions with KTM*



BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

*Dinner at 5:45 pm
BYOB*

*Catered by Mehadrin
Family style service*

Volunteers needed

Zmirot and Chanukah songs

Cheskie's sufganiyot

**Members:
Adults - \$ 21
Children ages 3 to 12- \$12**

**Non-members:
Adults - \$24
Children ages 3 to 12- \$15**

Reservations by

Tuesday, December 12

<http://bethzion.shulcloud.com/event/chanukah.2017>

514-489-8411 bethzion@bethzion.com

Yearly Toy Drive

**The office is collecting toys for Agence Ometz and Sun Youth.
If anyone has any items to donate, please drop them off at the office.**

**Annual Draydl
Spinning Contest**
Separate Rounds for
Children, Tweens,
Teenagers and
Adults

PRIZES

