



# Beth Zion Congregation



## SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**January 11 - 17**

**Parashat Vayechi**

Shabbat – Shacharit - 9:00 am  
Mincha – 4:10 pm followed by  
Seuda Shelishit and Maariv  
Shabbat ends – 5:22 pm

### **Weekly Sponsor**

Jewel Shoham and family in memory of  
her sisters Estelle Mael z"l and Vivian Naimer z"l

### **Condolences**

Family of the late Ida Bell z"l  
Family of the late Rita Mendelman z"l



### **Prayers for Israel**

We pray for the safe return of all Israeli soldiers  
including children of Beth Zion members who  
are serving in the IDF and the safe return of all  
the hostages

### **Programming**

Avot U'Banim – Saturday – January 11  
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Smiley Auditorium – Downstairs entrance

Israel in the Parasha  
with Sharona Halickman on Zoom  
Sunday, January 12 @ 1:00 pm  
Topic – The Fulfillment of the Covenant  
Through Moshe

Sara Ronis – Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7:00 pm  
Read the Womb! Fetal Personhood in the  
Babylonian Talmud on Zoom

Shiur with Rabbi Ohayon  
Thursday, January 16th, at 8:45 pm

Super bowl Party Sunday Feb 9th  
6:00 - 10:00 pm  
Early bird (until Jan 27) - Adults \$36 / kids \$20  
After Jan 27, adults price - \$45 / kids \$20

### **Sponsor - A Day**

**January 11**

Paula Trefler wishing Happy Birthday  
to her grandson, Gabriel Philip Heering

### **Kiddush Sponsor**

Eveline & Irving Kuperman  
and family in memory of  
Irving's mother, Nadzia Kuperman z"l

### **In Appreciation to**

Dov Kahane for davening

Bobby Shaul for leining

Henri Bronner for delivering  
the Dvar Torah at Seuda Shelishit

Bella Benarroch for preparing  
the Ashkenazi cholent

Felix Benzecry for preparing the Sefardi dafina

### **Shacharit January 12 - 17**

Sunday - 8:00 am  
Monday - 6:15 / 8:00 am  
Tuesday and Wednesday - 6:25 / 8:00 am  
Thursday - 6:15 / 8:00 am  
Friday, Jan. 17 - 6:25 / 8:00 am

**Mincha Maariv** – Sunday to Friday @ 4:20 pm  
Friday, January 17 - Candle lighting @ 4:22 pm

*Shabbat Shalom!*

\*\*\*Exiting by the side doors is not permitted. Your co-operation is needed for everyone's safety\*\*\*

הילולה

בדקשות



**Bakashot**

**Parasha Beshalach**

Avec les Hazanim de la Communauté

**Beth Zion**

1 Place Sidney Shoham

Samedi 1er Fevrier 2025

19h30



Raphael Assayag - Yoel Dahan - Gabriel Harroch - Ilay Afriat  
Natanel Gozlan - Marco Edery - Adam Elkaim - Salomon Bendayan  
Gabriel Arzouan - Philippe Levy - Samuel Marciano - Rafael Somech

**Sous la direction de Orel Gozlan**

**Hiloula**

**Sidna Baba Salei זצ"ק**

Seudat Melavei Malka

Samedi 1er Fevrier 2025

**Réservation:**

Suivant les Bakashot

**Coût: 65\$**

514-489-8411 ou

<https://BethZion.shulcloud.com/event/hiloula>

**Places Limitées**

**L'entrée aux Bakashot est gratuite avec reservation**

## ***Vayechi***

In this week's parsha, Yosef brings his two children to his father Yaakov for a bracha [blessing]. Yaakov gave Yosef's children a tremendous bracha: "By you shall Israel bless saying, 'May G-d make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh'" [Bereshis 48:20]. In the future, whenever the Jewish people would bless their sons, they would invoke the prayer that they should be like Yosef's two sons: Ephraim and Menashe. A very obvious question is asked. Yaakov had twelve illustrious sons. Why didn't Yaakov say, for example, that the perennial Jewish blessing would be "May you be like Yehudah and Yosef" or "like Yissachor and Zevulun"? Why did Yaakov single out these two grandchildren to be the prototypes of blessing?

Rav Yissocher Frand explains: 'Several meforshim [commentators] offer the following explanation, which I saw most recently from Rabbi Eliyahu Munk, zt"l. Yaakov saw a special quality in Ephraim and Menashe that he did not have the opportunity to see in his own children. Yaakov's own children were raised in the best of environments. They lived in the Land of Israel, in the house of the patriarch Yaakov, insulated from any bad environment. Granted, it is not trivial to raise good children even in the best of circumstances. However, there is nothing novel in the fact that Yaakov's own children turned out well. It is no surprise if a child who is raised in Bnei Brak or Meah Shearim grows up as an observant Jew. However, if people raise a child in a city such as Sioux City, Iowa -- where their family is, perhaps, the only observant Jewish family in town -- and the child is subject to foreign influences from all of his surroundings -- and nonetheless, the child turns out a faithful Jew, that is truly a great accomplishment. The Patriarch Yaakov, perceiving that generations of Jews would spend so much of their time in Exile, formulated the greatest blessing that the Jewish people could give over to their children. "May they be like Ephraim and Menashe". Ephraim and Menashe were raised in the Sioux City, Iowa of their time. They were the only Jews in the entire country! They had to grow up knowing that many things that they saw around them were not right, not the way things should be. Despite this, they turned out just like Yaakov's own children. This is the special blessing that the Jewish people would need -- the ability to be raised in a non-Jewish environment and yet turn out to be good and honest Jews.'

Then Jacob called for his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves and I will tell you what will befall you in "The End of Days". Gather yourselves and listen, O sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father. (Breishis 49:1) When they had assembled, they thought they would hear a litany of blessings and consolations. Jacob our father answered and said to them, "Abraham my father's father had blemished children that came out from him, Ishmael and all the children of Ketura. From my father Isaac issued, my brother Esau who was disqualified. I am afraid that that there might be amongst you a person whose heart is divided from his brothers and goes to serve other gods". All twelve tribes responded simultaneously and said, "Listen (our father) Israel HASHEM is OUR G-D HASHEM is the ONE and ONLY." At that moment Jacob our father answered, "Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom for all eternity!" (Talmud- Yerushalmi) Maimonides writes in The Laws of "Shema" that this homiletic is the source of our inserting those whispered words after the first line of "Shema", although it is not part of the verse- "Blessed is the Name of His glorious Kingdom for eternity!" With that as the punctuation to their discussion, it seems that Jacob's worries were quieted by the brother's unanimous pledge. Why was their declaration of faith at that moment taken as a "guarantee" of future loyalty? Rabbi Leibel Lam explains: 'Shema Yisrael' can be called the "mission statement" of the Jewish Nation. Properly understood from its primal origin, The "Shema" declares not only our point of departure but our final destination, as well, as we say daily: "On that day HASHEM will be ONE and His Name will be ONE!" (Zechariah 14:9) With the end in sight and all his children unified in purpose around him, Jacob sought to and was successful at offering us a glimpse of that which paves our way to "The End of Days".

***Devorah Abenhaim***