

<p>WEEKLY SERVICES FRIDAY: 6:30PM SATURDAY: 9:30AM SUNDAY: 8:30AM</p>	<p>CONGREGATION SHAARAY TEFILA 68 Bay Street, Glens Falls NY 12801 518.792.4945 Fax: 518.792.5966 Email: cstgfny@gmail.com Website: www.shaaraytefila-gfny.org OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri: 9AM-2PM</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2017  KISLEV- TEVET 5778</p>
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RABBI'S MESSAGE

On Covenant and Intimacy

The book of *Bereishit* or Genesis that we are reading this December, is the story of beginnings. It begins with the story of the heavens and the earth, but it continues with the story of Abraham's family. As we read it week by week, we hear the stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, their wives and their children. I have often wondered: How did we go from telling the story of everything to the story of this little family? An answer that I am beginning to consider is, perhaps the world was created in order to house this little family. Just like each of the first four days of Creation establishes a habitat for the life that will fill it in the coming days, so too the world itself is created in order to prepare a context for a family, namely the family of Israel. This explanation was given by the Sages: "The world was created for the sake of Israel."¹ Now a modern reader immediately finds herself uncomfortable with this answer, 'How could we be so ethnocentric? Every people has felt that way throughout all of history, and they were all wrong. The world has been created for all of us and we need to learn how to share it better.' This is true,

but let's look deeper. What can we learn from this notion that the world was created for Israel? To do that, we have to understand better the idea of Israel.

The very concept of Israel is often unclear. By the way, the term "Israel" as in the sentence "I am an Israel," was how Jews referred to themselves throughout history, before Modernity.² So what does "Israel" mean? The biblical definition doesn't actually help us much here. The story where Jacob's name is changed only says "you have struggled with God and man and overcome." (Genesis 32:28) Defining oneself as "one who struggles" might sound nice (and it is nice if it has to do with the process of continuous, lifelong growth and learning), but it lacks content. In order to understand the concept of Israel we have to look at the covenants that God makes with each of the fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. A covenant in the ancient Near East is a treaty. But some of the covenants in *Bereishit* lack the form of a treaty. The book of Deuteronomy has much more of the form of an ancient vassal-treaty, in which there are mutual obligations between sovereign and recipient of the treaty. The covenants appearing in the book of Genesis look much more like unqualified promises of

¹ R. Berekhiah. see *Bereishit Rabbah* 1.4 in edition cited by Mirkin. See discussion in *The Creation according to the Midrash Rabbah*, ed. Wilfred Shuchat. Pg 19. Also see Rashi on Genesis 1:1.

² Only in the past 200 years have we reclaimed the term "Jew" that had been used, generally derisively, by others for us. See *Jew* by Cynthia Baker, 2017.

relationship. Making an unqualified promise means that God promises all of the benefits regardless of whether or not, we reciprocate and uphold the terms of the Covenant.

Why then does Deuteronomy have such a striking conditionality? The generations following the Babylonian Exile were looking for a reason as to why the Exile had come about, and the *If .. then ...* clauses of the vassal-treaty promising blessing or curse according to our behavior served their purposes beautifully. However in our time, I think it's important to remember the unqualified nature of the promise of God to Abraham in the "Covenant between the Pieces" (Genesis 15) where God unilaterally makes a covenant promising Abraham and his descendants that Abraham would be fruitful, and inherit the land, and that He would be their God. In Genesis 17, known as the "Covenant of Circumcision" the only thing that God requires of the Jewish people is to circumcise their males, whereas God promises them progeny, protection, and inheritance of the Land of Israel. Covenant is really about relationship. These early covenants are almost exclusively about coming into a relationship with a deity.

God chooses to make that relationship with the most intimate of all human institutions, the family. That's why the rest of the Book of Genesis is the story of a family in relationship to the Creator of heaven and earth. No reason is given for the selection of Abraham. As frequently happens in Torah, we only know the *that* but not the *why*. But do we really know the reasons why those who love us love us? Do they even know? Nevertheless,

Abraham is described later in the Bible as "God's friend" (Isaiah 41:8 and 2 Chronicles 20:7) meaning one who is close to Him, His intimate. Intimacy, and the longing for connection, is why God made a covenant with people at all. This longing for connection is why families come together. We read in the first chapter of Genesis "for this reason a man will leave his father and mother (i.e. his other intimate relationships) and he will cleave to his wife." Because here a person can find that special intimacy that he's looking for. It is more intimate than the relationship with parents. It is a relationship with an equal. It is a relationship with an *Ezer Kenegdo*, someone who will be a helper, and who will oppose him. This is someone who will provide companionship, someone who is always opposite him or her.

Our longing for intimacy, goes further to explain human life than any other single characteristic. We humans long for intimacy throughout our lives. A baby longs for its mother. A man longs for a woman, and a woman for a man. Throughout all parts of our lives we seek intimacy and we tend to go to the places where we can find it.

Intimacy can also answer our question about the Book of Genesis: Why does the story change from being a story of the Creation of the world to a story of a single family? Because the world was created so that God might have intimacy with human beings. It seems that just as we human build little worlds, namely our homes, little universes of meaning; so too God built the world in order to have a home for himself along with humans. God built a little world just for us to share with

God. Martin Buber's famous monogram *I and Thou*, explores the kind of relationship that may have motivated God to create everything, the moment of connection when the self and the beloved are not separate, but a single unit, loved and loving, beholding and being beheld, sharing a single thought, and caring for each other implicitly and explicitly. This is very similar to what people mean when they say that what they live for is family and friends. And what motivated God to create everything is also deeply similar. This is the basic insight behind the idea of the Covenant. In the theology of Torah, this is central to understanding anything about human life, our history, and what human nature is like.

As we celebrate Hanukkah this year, let's draw our family close, light the candles, and celebrate these gifts:

Let's celebrate the lives of those with whom we share our life.

Let's celebrate the intimacy that we share. And let's celebrate the Covenant within which we live together, with God and each other.

Stephen Slater

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been so gratifying to see such a nice diversity of congregants coming to services lately, and so much active participation. What a great way to lift our spirits and ease the onset of Adirondack winter. As I write this message, we look forward also to some fun events, including Havdalah and a movie November 25th, "Trust and Connection" December 2nd and our Chanukah karaoke party December 16th. We recently received a lovely card from

Rabbi Jeff and Cathy Ronald thanking us and the entire congregation for our "kind offices" during Rabbi Jeff's illness. They miss all of their wonderful friends in the North Country. Fortunately, he is out of the hospital and looking forward to returning to his rabbinical responsibilities in Texas.

Cher and I would like to wish our entire congregation Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Chanukah.

Mark Hoffman

SYNAGOGUE NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, and IMPORTANT DATES

Beginning & Intermediate Classes now being offered Wednesday evenings at 7 PM & 8 PM. Please contact Mark Hoffman with questions: shaarayt@yahoo.com.



If interested in learning how to chant the *Torah*, please contact Syd Hochman.



Please join us Saturday evening, December 16th for a Hanukkah celebration! Havdalah at 5:30 PM followed by Hanukkah candle lighting. Karaoke and Chanukah music led by Judy Korot and friends plus latkes! Donations are appreciated but not mandatory. For all ages & all are welcome!

KOSHER DELIVERY

The deadline to place your order for the local Kosher Delivery is **Monday, December 4th**. The Delivery will be **Tuesday, December 19th**.
Call 1-800-727-5674 to place an order.

Please join Congregation Shaaray Tefila on Saturday, December 2nd at 1PM for A unique presentation from Cate LaBarre:



Trust & Connection

Trust is a vital component of our human experience. Without it, there can be no real connection or love, no willingness to be vulnerable and no sense of belonging. In this interactive discussion, we'll explore how we build trust, why we lose it and how to get it back. In addition, we'll address how self-trust is often a casualty of failure. By assessing our level of self-trust and getting curious about our stories, we'll have the foundation needed to understand that trust and mistakes can co-exist. Based on the research of Dr. Brené Brown and her books, *Daring Greatly* and *Rising Strong*.

Cate LaBarre is a Certified Daring Way™ Facilitator (licensed to offer curriculum based on the research of Dr. Brené Brown) and a Master Integrative (Life) Coach Professional (certified by The Ford Institute of Integrative Coaching at JFK University). A "veteran" NY State Licensed Massage Therapist (1985) and Certified Reiki Master, Cate offers an integrative

approach (addressing body, mind and spirit) to her workshop participants and individual coaching clients. She co-authored of *The Energy of Healing*, published May 2015.

The event is from 1:00-2:00PM and follows the 9:30 AM service & Kiddush Lunch at noon. It is being presented free of charge by our speaker in association with Congregation Shaaray Tefila. She has requested participants show their appreciation by donation to disaster relief for Hurricane Harvey and Irma. Checks can be made out to Jewish Federation of North America with a designation for Hurricane Relief and sent to Shaaray Tefila or donated directly to the website: <https://secure3.convio.net/jfna/site/Donation2>



Congregation Shaaray Tefila and Sisterhood Send Their Very Best Birthday Wishes to the Following Members & Friends:

December 1 Whitney Roe	December 6 Norman Kudan
December 7 Sandra Jean Torra Barbara Vengrove	December 10 Charlene Lebowitz
December 12 Adam Shaham Mason Wurzberger	December 14 Andrew Silver
December 18 Peter Weill	December 19 Leonora Kleinmann
December 20 Barry Goldstein	December 26 Diane Beale

WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

פרשת השבוע
Weekly Torah portion

GENESIS/VAYISHLACH

Vayishlach **02 December**
TORAH Genesis 32:3-36:43
HAFTARAH Hosea 11:7-12:12, Obadiah 1:1-21

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Vayeshev **09 December**
TORAH Genesis 37:1-40:23
HAFTARAH Amos 2:6-3:8

.....
Miketz **16 December**
TORAH Genesis 41:1-44:17
HAFTARAH Zechariah 2:14-4:7

.....
Vayigash **23 December**
TORAH Genesis 44:18-47:27
HAFTARAH Ezekial 37:15-28

.....
Vayechi **30 December**
TORAH Genesis 47:28-50:26
HAFTARAH 1 Kings 2:1-12



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Religious School continues on Sundays at 9:30 AM. Please contact Mark Hoffman at: shaarayt@yahoo.com for any questions.

Anyone who borrowed a copy of the JPS Children's Bible from the Synagogue and are now finished, it would be appreciated to return as we are currently in short supply so need to have some back. Thank you.



We welcome member articles and news to our monthly Bulletin. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and length. We reserve the right, at our discretion, to refuse to publish or remove any content we deem inappropriate.

The monthly due date for Bulletin submissions is the third Tuesday. Please submit your article in an e-mail message or as an attachment to cstgfn@gmail.com. Thank you.

SISTERHOOD NEWS 2017

The Sisterhood Gift Shop is open Monday-Friday from 9AM-2PM and located in the Main Hall of the Synagogue. We have a great selection of Mezuzah's, candle holders, Jewelry and beautiful one-of-a-kind gift items which are all currently on sale for the giving season of Hanukkah.



Best wishes for a healthy, Happy Hanukkah to ALL!

Good health, safe travels and warm winter wishes to all of the Snowbirds!

Thank you again to all sponsors of an Oneg and/or Kiddush.

Dolly and Bonnie

Many thanks!

Thank you to all those who participated in the Jewish Journey that was held in November. Thank you to Dolly Morrissey who is now at her residence in Florida and currently continuing work and research on raising funds to restore ruined Jewish cemeteries in Lithuania. Thank you to the ladies who make all of the delicious weekly snacks and meals in addition to events. Thanks to everyone who volunteers or helps whenever needed in any way!



SPONSORING AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH

Consider sponsoring an Oneg or Kiddush to honor or remember your loved ones for their birthdays, wedding or bar/bat mitzvah anniversaries and yahrzeits. Call the office if you want to sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush for November or December 792-4945. If you would like Lox, there is an extra charge. Thank you for supporting the Sisterhood, as we support you!

DECEMBER ONEGS AND KIDDUSHES SPONSORED BY:

Friday, December 1: Oneg sponsorship available.



Saturday, December 2: Kiddush sponsored by Norman Kudan in memory of his father, Nathan and in memory of his brother, Max and of his brother-in-law, Melvin Bitman.

Friday, December 8: Service at The Glen.

Saturday, December 9: Kiddush sponsorship available.

Friday, December 15: Oneg sponsored by Marilyn Bazan in honor of Francine, Nancy, Bonnie, Cher and Dolly.

Saturday, December 16: Kiddush sponsored by Roz Winston in honor of the memory of Gusta & Barney Aronson.

Friday, December 22: Oneg sponsorship available.

Saturday, December 23: Kiddush sponsorship available.

Friday, December 29: Oneg sponsorship available.

Saturday, December 30: Kiddush sponsorship available.

HONORABLE MENTCHEN:

Thank you to all who sponsored, helped, and contributed to an Oneg or Kiddush during November:



Sunny Buchman, Hilda Schwartz & Roz Winston, Sydney & Lorraine Hochman, Judy Aronson and Audrey & Alan Vogenberg.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS

BUILDING /GENERAL FUND

In memory of Karen Aronson to Ben & Sharon Aronson from: Dolly Morrissey
Condolences to Sallee & Morry Silverman on the passing of Sallee's father.
From: Dolly Morrissey

In memory of Joan Shapiro and in memory of Morris Solomon. From: Ruth Shapiro
Birthday wishes to David Gellman from:
Roz Winston

Get Well wishes to Tommy Korcz from:
Judy Korcz

Get Well wishes to Libby Levine from:
Dolly Morrissey

Correction from October: Get Well wishes to Norman Kudan from: Rhoda & Kim Butler
Donation from Charles Kudan and Barbara O'Brien.

M/M SAMUEL ARONSON EDUCATION FUND

Correction from November:
In honor of Eileen Aronson's birthday.
From: Sunny Buchman

In memory of Karen Aronson to Ben & Sharon Aronson from: Roz Winston.

YAHARZEIT RECORD FOR DECEMBER 2017

"The Memory of the Righteous is for a Blessing"
Please note: Yahrzeit date is listed after the name(s) of the deceased.

Shirley Segan
Friday, 12/1/2017 Kislev 13, 5778
Lydia Adler
Saturday, 12/2/2017 Kislev 14, 5778

Cheyeh Berkowitz
Samuel Raych
Sam Swirsky
Rae Witepsky
 Sunday, 12/3/2017 Kislev 15, 5778
David Ryen
 Monday, 12/4/2017 Kislev 16, 5778
Nathan Henry Kudan
Howard Silverman
 Tuesday, 12/5/2017 Kislev 17, 5778
Julia Gersten
Susan Seaman
 Thursday, 12/7/2017 Kislev 19, 5778
Orel Friedman
Morris Isaacson
Florence Kanter
Arnold Klein
Herman Silverman
 Friday, 12/8/2017 Kislev 20, 5778
Abram Chernets
Helen Diskin
Lilia Muller
Nancy Polonsky
Chayim Silverman
 Saturday, 12/9/2017 Kislev 21, 5778
Milton Aronson
Dr. Joel Grossman
Lila Myers
 Sunday, 12/10/2017 Kislev 22, 5778
Joyce Marie Bennett
Fredrick M. Berg
Betty Goldman
Joan Grossman
Gregory Raynor
Gertrude Swirsky
 Monday, 12/11/2017 Kislev 23, 5778
Herman Aronson
Ben Berman
Fannie Goldstein
Jacob Goldstein
Sigmund Weiss
 Tuesday, 12/12/2017 Kislev 24, 5778
Arnold Russ
 Wednesday, 12/13/2017 Kislev 25, 5778
Ben Aronson
Sidney Rosen
Rebecca Rosenberg
Marlene Tate
 Thursday, 12/14/2017 Kislev 26, 5778

Betty Drexler
 Friday, 12/15/2017 Kislev 27, 5778
Marvin Cohen
Florence Kingon
Ethel Goldie Levitt
Louis Myers
Loretta Perrotti
Michelle Seaman
 Saturday, 12/16/2017 Kislev 28, 5778
Henry Feinberg
Eva Seaman
Harry Weiss
Martha Weiss
 Sunday, 12/17/2017 Kislev 29, 5778
Danny Fisher
 Monday, 12/18/2017 Kislev 30, 5778
Mary Klein
 Tuesday, 12/19/2017 Tevet 1, 5778
Bonnie Chrzanowski
Anna Weiss
 Thursday, 12/21/2017 Tevet 3, 5778
Mildred Korot
Sandra Suckman
Joseph Yaffee
 Friday, 12/22/2017 Tevet 4, 5778
Elizabeth Gersten
Robert Morrissey
Rebecca Verdrager
 Saturday, 12/23/2017 Tevet 5, 5778
Leonard Every
 Sunday, 12/24/2017 Tevet 6, 5778
Alfred Einstein
Burton Kantrowitz
Judith Smul
 Monday, 12/25/2017 Tevet 7, 5778
Hyman Gould
Jack Mandwelle
Evelyn Ochsner
Eva Rote-Rosen
Dvora Silverman
Rabbi Richard Sobel
Anna Zweibelson
 Wednesday, 12/27/2017 Tevet 9, 5778
Yetta Bakst
Bert Ferber
Gertrude Gersten
Ben Goldberg
 Thursday, 12/28/2017 Tevet 10, 5778

Louis Lazarus
Elayne Suckman
 Friday, 12/29/2017 Tevet 11, 5778
Marion Gellman
 Saturday, 12/30/2017 Tevet 12, 5778
Seymour Bobbin
Irene Daley Einstein
Elinore Greene
Mary Mandel
Morris Solomon
 Sunday, 12/31/2017 Tevet 13, 5778

Bessie Cohen
 Wednesday, 1/10/2018 Tevet 23, 5778
Robert Aronson
Cindy Brandon
Hyman Reed
 Thursday, 1/11/2018 Tevet 24, 5778
Gusta Aronson
Morris Aronson
Walter Cohen
Joseph Saidel
 Friday, 1/12/2018 Tevet 25, 5778

 **Yahrzeit Record for** 
JANUARY 2018

“The Memory of the Righteous is for a Blessing”
 Please note: Yahrzeit date is listed after the name(s)
 of the deceased.

Chana Landsman
 Monday, 1/1/2018 Tevet 14, 5778
Samuel Jacobs
Emanuel Juris
Victor Silverman
 Tuesday, 1/2/2018 Tevet 15, 5778
Marion Ullman
 Wednesday, 1/3/2018 Tevet 16, 5778
Rachel Cohen
Dr. Samuel Kanter
 Thursday, 1/4/2018 Tevet 17, 5778
Benjamin Fram
Harry Green
 Friday, 1/5/2018 Tevet 18, 5778
Isidor Oppenheim
Regina Strobel Weill
 Saturday, 1/6/2018 Tevet 19, 5778
Morris Alkes
A. Morris Aronson
Henry Elkes
 Sunday, 1/7/2018 Tevet 20, 5778
Albert Charhon
A. Henry Elkes
Jules Perlman
Barnet Shapiro
Moses Silverman
 Monday, 1/8/2018 Tevet 21, 5778
Penny A. Grossman
Chayim Seaman
Boruch Silverman
 Tuesday, 1/9/2018 Tevet 22, 5778

Mosha Aronson
Samuel Rosenberg
Sally Rote-Rosen
 Saturday, 1/13/2018 Tevet 26, 5778
Samuel Aronson
Rose Roth
Dorothy Segel
Rose Winer
Max Yulich
 Sunday, 1/14/2018 Tevet 27, 5778
Sam Borlawsky
Ephram Fram
Stefan Janis
Eva Leah Silverman
 Monday, 1/15/2018 Tevet 28, 5778
Kevin Berkowitz
Gussie Berman
George Kudon
Robert Rapaport
 Tuesday, 1/16/2018 Tevet 29, 5778
Samuel Beck
Katherine (Kay) Day
Helen Hoffman
Bertha Kasper
Adrian Seligman
Harry Silverman
 Wednesday, 1/17/2018 Shevat 1, 5778
George Cohen
Max Oppenheim
Jeanne Silverman
 Thursday, 1/18/2018 Shevat 2, 5778
Jacob Hafter
George Koble
 Saturday, 1/20/2018 Shevat 4, 5778
Samuel Saidel
 Sunday, 1/21/2018 Shevat 5, 5778
Jack Smith
 Monday, 1/22/2018 Shevat 6, 5778

**Frieda Koslow
Elaine Levy
Samuel Weiss
Berdie Yafa**

Tuesday, 1/23/2018 Shevat 7, 5778

**Chayeh Kobel
Sylvia Kudan
Sabina Landau**

Wednesday, 1/24/2018 Shevat 8, 5778

**Isidore Alkes
Charles Ginsburg
Carol Mauro
Molly Rodman**

Thursday, 1/25/2018 Shevat 9, 5778

**Phyllis Feigenbaum
Abraham Rudnick**

Friday, 1/26/2018 Shevat 10, 5778

**Tillie Singer
Ruth Ann Spaulding**

Saturday, 1/27/2018 Shevat 11, 5778

Abraham Green

Sunday, 1/28/2018 Shevat 12, 5778

**Rose Cohen
Monday, 1/29/2018 Shevat 13, 5778
Anna Cohen**

Ida Jacobs

Tuesday, 1/30/2018 Shevat 14, 5778

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Havurah Vatik December Event
Hanukkah Celebration in Saratoga at
Congregation Shaara Tfile
Adirondack Klezmer Band
Tuesday, December 19th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**



Join local musicians of the Adirondack Klezmer Band for their third fabulous appearance to celebrate the Hanukkah festival. Such a hit in 2015 and 2016! We are excited to welcome them back this year.

We will welcome Al Wadler on clarinet; Bob Orban on trumpet; James Fuchs on saxophone; George Painter, piano; Neal Herr on bass guitar; Ray Rabl, percussion; Barbara Rosoff and Judith Korot, violin, along with vocalist Anna Rose Johnson. This energetic ensemble will treat us to traditional Hanukkah songs as well as the Klezmer melodies and dances of Eastern Europe: the "*voice of the Jewish heart.*" And once again, they'll have us dancing in the aisles.

**A festive catered lunch featuring
LATKES follows the program
RSVP by December 13th**

Call the Temple Sinai Havurah Vatik reservation line at **584-8730, ext. 4**. To contact Havurah Vatik for any other reason, you can email the Co-chairs: Rita Fischer at rita0115@nycap.rr.com or Caroline Seligma at jollysel0@gmail.com



LET'S KEEP HAVURAH VATIK GROWING...BRING A FRIEND!



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DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Student Rabbi Stephen 6:30 PM Service	2 Student Rabbi Stephen 9:30 AM Service Trust & Connection Workshop 1PM
3 Student Rabbi Stephen 8:30 AM Service Religious School 9:30 AM	4 Kosher Order DUE DATE	5	6 Beginning & Intermediate Hebrew Class 7 & 8PM	7	8 6:30 PM Service at The Glen	9 9:30 AM Service
10 Learning & Discussion 9:00 AM Service Religious School 9:30 AM	11	12	13  Hanukkah Day 1 Beginning & Intermediate Hebrew Class 7 & 8PM	14 Hanukkah Day 2	15 Student Rabbi Stephen 6:30 PM Service Hanukkah Day 3	16 Student Rabbi Stephen 9:30 AM Service Hanukkah Day 4 Havdalah & Hanukah Party 5:30 PM
17 Student Rabbi Stephen 8:30 AM Service Religious School 9:30 AM Hanukkah Day 5	18 Hanukkah Day 6	19 TEVET BULLETIN DUE DATE KOSHER DELIVERY Hanukkah Day 7	20 Beginning & Intermediate Hebrew Class 7 & 8PM Hanukkah Day 8	21 	22 6:30 PM Service	23 9:30 AM Service
24 No Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 Beginning & Intermediate Hebrew Class 7 & 8PM	28	29 Student Rabbi Stephen 6:30 PM Service	30 Student Rabbi Stephen 9:30 AM Service
31 No Service						

