

Shabbat Announcements

PARSHAT VAERA

Friday, January 16

Candle Lighting: 5:27 pm

Mincha: 5:25 pm

Shabbat, January 17

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Mincha: 5:15 pm

Shabbat ends after 6:36 pm

KIDDUSH

Cholent Kiddush is sponsored by **Nancie Bair, Lenny Sacks, Elsie Rothstein and Marvin Sacks** in memory of their mother Sarah Sacks of blessed memory

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by **Gad and Fran Flaumenhaft** in memory of his father Moshe of blessed memory and by **Rabbi Michael and Shulamit Hasten** in honor of the Daf Yomi cycle completing the tractate Zevachim

WEEKDAY CLASSES

- Weekly Classes Daf Yomi: Every morning at 6:15, 7:45 on Sundays.
- Mishna Class: Every morning after Shacharit.
- Taam and Torah: Sunday morning at 9:30. Rabbi Perlow will be giving a class on the topic of "Free Will and the Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart".

SHABBAT CLASSES

- Shabbat Youth Groups: After Kedusha of Mussaf (Approximately 10:55). Preschool and Kindergarden meet in the playroom for parsha, davening and games with Navah and Simchah. 1st grade and up meets in the English Library for the new Mitzva Program.

- Lunch & Learn: Meets Mondays at noon. Rabbi Hasten is teaching the book of Melachim.
- Halacha Class: between Mincha & Maariv, Sunday through Thursday. Rabbi Teitelbaum is teaching the laws of Chalav Akum.
- Business Halacha: Every Tuesday after Maariv.
- Tehillim for Women: Wednesday at 7:30pm in the library.
- Men's Mishmar: Meets on Thursday nights, at 8:00 pm. Learn with a chavrusa or join a class.
- Night Seder: Sunday through Thursday after Maariv.
- Parshat HaShavua: One hour before Mincha on Shabbat
- Seudah Shlishit Class: Rabbi Teitelbaum will be speaking.
- Indy Kollel Chill Zone

DONATIONS

General Donations:

- Jennifer Williams
- Olga Chernyak
- Mark and Colleen Shere
- Emery and Edith Kovac

Yahrzeit Donations:

- Marvin and Susan Mitchell
- Joe and Mina Frankovitz
- Tibor Klopter
- Ned and Paula Fogle

Aliyah Donations:

- Bob Green
- Rabbi Perlow
- Rabbi Marks
- Bob Miller
- Rabbi Grayman
- David Sanders
- Asher Cox
- Bob Stoner
- Mark Stein

PARSHAS VA'ERA

"Hashem spoke to Moshe and Aharon and commanded them regarding the Children of Israel and regarding Pharaoh, king of Egypt, to take the Children of Israel out of the land of Egypt." (Exodus 6:13)

In this verse, Hashem commands Moshe and Aharon to approach Pharaoh and demand that he free the Jewish people. Yet the Torah also states that Hashem *"commanded them regarding the Children of Israel,"* without specifying what they were to command of the Jewish people. What, then, is this referring to?

The Jerusalem Talmud (*Rosh Hashanah* 3:5) offers a most puzzling answer. It explains that Hashem instructed Moshe and Aharon to command the Jewish people concerning the commandment of *shiluach avadim*—the obligation to free Jewish slaves on Yom Kippur of the Jubilee year (*Leviticus* 25:10). In other words, before demanding that Pharaoh free the Jewish people, Moshe and Aharon were to teach the Jewish people about their own responsibility to free slaves.

This raises an obvious question. At that moment, the Jewish people *themselves* were enslaved and did not own any slaves. Why, then, was it so important to teach this mitzvah at that time?

I believe that this is precisely the point the Torah is making. Because the Jewish people knew firsthand what it meant to be enslaved—the pain, the humiliation, the suffering—the Torah reminds them not to focus solely on their own anguish. Rather, they must allow that pain to sensitize them to the suffering of others.

A well-known story is told about Rabbi Eliyahu Chaim Meisels of Lodz, Poland. Each year, he would go door to door collecting funds to provide firewood for the poor. One bitterly cold winter night, he knocked on the door of a very wealthy but notoriously stingy man. The man opened the door and said, "Rabbi, come inside and let's talk."

But Rabbi Meisels insisted that they remain outside. Somewhat reluctantly, the man agreed. The rabbi began speaking about seemingly unrelated matters. Eventually, the man, who was only wearing a thin nightgown, grew impatient; his teeth began to chatter from the cold. Only then did Rabbi Meisels explain that he was collecting money to provide firewood for the poor.

The man agreed to give a handsome sum, but asked in frustration, "Why couldn't we have discussed this inside, in the warmth of my home?"

"Had I done so," replied Rabbi Meisels, "then you wouldn't have felt the pain of those who are cold all winter long—even inside the 'comfort of their own homes.'"

This is the lesson the Torah is teaching us, and the sensitivity it demands of us as Jews. Even in moments of our own pain, discomfort, and suffering, we cannot focus inward alone. Instead, we must allow our experiences to open our hearts to others—to feel their pain, and to do whatever we can to ease their burden.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!
~ Rabbi Yisroel Teitelbaum





New! Lecture Series
showcasing our community members'
firsthand stories of faith

Finding Our Way Home: Personal Journeys to Judaism

This Shabbos, Parshas Vaera
January 17th

Presented by:
Mrs. Chana Bellon

This series will be an ongoing class on select dates.
We encourage other community members to share their story.
Please text Eli Tennenbaum at 443-469-1035 to reserve a date.

After kiddush in the Bnai Torah Library

B'nai Torah
welcomes the community for a

Friday Night Shabbos Meal

Jan. 30th-Parshas Beshalach

Shabbos Shira

Mincha 5:40

Candlelighting 5:43

Musical Kabbalas Shabbos

Meal following davening



Catering by Keisari
Reserve at bit.ly/BTshabbos
by Thursday Jan. 22nd

\$30/Adult

\$18/Child ages 3-12

\$120 Family Cap

Sponsorship opportunities available





Family Purity **REFRESHER COURSE FOR MEN**

**JOIN RABBI TEITELBAUM FOR A
FAMILY PURITY & SHALOM BAYIS REFRESHER**

**A CONCISE REVIEW OF TAHARAS HAMISHPACHAH
AND PRACTICAL INSIGHTS INTO BUILDING AND
MAINTAINING STRONG SHALOM BAYIS**

**MONDAYS AT 8 PM
STARTING JAN 19
BNAI TORAH LIBRARY**



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TORAH

Family Purity

REFRESHER COURSE FOR WOMEN

+SHALOM BAYIS 

MRS. TZIVI ZUCKERMAN

TZIVI ZUCKERMAN IS A KALLAH TEACHER AND COMMUNITY EDUCATOR IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, WHERE SHE ALSO TEACHES HIGH SCHOOL NAVI. SHE LECTURES TO A WIDE RANGE OF AUDIENCES ON TANACH, JEWISH THOUGHT, TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA, AND RELATIONSHIPS. TZIVI'S DEEP YET PRACTICAL APPROACH TO TORAH AND RELATIONSHIPS RESONATES WITH WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS.

7:45 PM

At the Home of Caryn Vogel

JAN 18

At the Home of Monica Rosenfeld

JAN 25* | FEB 1 | FEB 8**

*JAN 25 MEETING AT THE ROSENFELDS WITH SPEAKER OVER ZOOM

**RECAP AND ANONYMOUS Q & A WITH RABBI TEITELBAUM

RSVP encouraged to Adina at bit.ly/familypuritycourse



INSPIRING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

WITH RABBI DOV KEILSON

2.0



1.18.2026 | 4:00

Free admission!

Hasten Hebrew Academy
Cultural Arts Center Auditorium



enter through Apogee entrance

RSVP requested at bit.ly/keilson2026

Children are welcome, provided they can sit through the performance

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

We thank the following individuals for their generous contribution to the programming fund in support of our upcoming programs and events:

Olga Chernyak

Helen Goldstein

Rabbi Michael and Shulamit Hasten

Jennifer Nelson

Mark and Colleen Shere

Bronka Zabelin

Paul and Kathy Pollack

Congregation B'nai Torah
6510 Hoover Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260
Office: (317) 253-5253

To make a payment or donate:

Zelle: office@btorah.org

Paypal: <https://www.paypal.com/donate?>

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