



## Yosef, God, and Destiny

By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein



The Yosef Narrative takes up a major portion of the last four Parshiot of the first book of the Torah. Sold into slavery either directly by his brethren or, to follow Rashbam, as a consequence of their actions, Yosef slowly emerges from that slavery to become ruler of Egypt. Yosef is the great master of dreams and their interpretation. In his capacity as dream interpreter, Yosef utters the words that underline the narrative, dominant theme: הלא לא-לקים פתרונים – the solutions belong to God".

In the context of his meteoric rise to rulership, Yosef is given an Egyptian name – Tsafnat Paneach, is dressed in Egyptian garments, and rides behind Pharaoh in an Egyptian chariot. He takes an Egyptian wife – Osnat, and has two children whose names reflect his Egyptian ascendancy. His first born is called Menashe, "for God enables me to forget all of my trouble and all of my father's house." The next son is called Ephraim "for God made me fruitful in the land that afflicted me." The entire account to this point underscores Yosef's ready forgetfulness of his origins in the House of Israel.

But of course, that will not be the end of the story. Since, "solutions belong to God," his own family will be saved through the chain of events that made him ruler in Egypt and he will become both savior and patron of the House of Israel. But his reconnection with his family will go much further. Yosef articulates the prophecy of the redemption from Egyptian exile. The Penultimate verse of Sefer B'reishit underscores Yosef's self-definition as an Israelite and only as an Israelite. Yosef adjures the Israelites saying "God will remember you and you must then take my remains with you from this place" (to be buried in Eretz Yisrael).

In the end Yosef does not "forget the whole house of his father" and Menashe, the son so named loses the B'chora or primogeniture role to Ephraim, whose name defines Egypt as "the land that afflicted me."

Since "solutions belong to God" and not men, Yosef's ready forgetfulness of his Israelite origin will be transcended. Yosef, our first assimilationist is turned into Yosef, the prophet of Israel's redemption. The solution belonged to God.



## Welcome to Green Road

We are pleased to announce that Dovid Greenberger has been added to our staff as Director of Catering. Now that his Empire restaurant has closed down, Green Road will be picking up his catering and providing take out for all of our members and the entire community. To reach Dovid directly you can call the office or email him at [Catering@GreenRoadSynagogue.org](mailto:Catering@GreenRoadSynagogue.org).





# ROSH CHODESH TEVET AND ZOT CHANUKAH

The festival of Chanukah straddles the Hebrew months of Kislev and Tevet. This means that Rosh Chodesh Tevet always occurs on Chanukah. This year Rosh Chodesh Tevet occurs on Shabbat and this necessitates reading from three Sifrei Torah. From the first we read the Parshat HaShavua. We then read the Rosh Chodesh reading taken from PARshat Pinchas in Sefer BaMidbar. The Chanukah reading is taken from Parshat Naso in the same book and it presents the dedicating gifts of Elishama Ben Amihud, the prince of the tribe of Ephraim at the time of the consecration of the Mishkan.

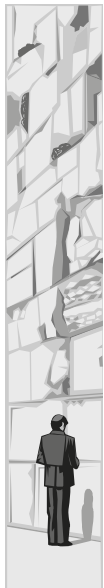
On the eighth day of Chanukah we read about the dedicatory offerings of the last 5 tribal leaders which is summed up in the words

"זאת הנֹּכַחַת הַמְּזִבֵּחַ אַחֲרֵי הַמִּשְׁחָ אֹתוֹ."

"This is the dedication of the altar after it was consecrated."

The Torah reading continues into Parshat Behalotcha where the Torah speaks about the laws of the Menorah.

## FAST OF TEVET



Tevet is the Hebrew month which occurs in the height of the winter season. On the tenth of Tevet we observe a fast lasting from dawn until dusk. This is one of the four fasts commemorating the destruction of the Temple. On this day the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem and the result of that siege was the destruction of the Temple on the ninth day of Av, 586 B.C.E.

After the Second World War, the Chief Rabbinate in Israel declared this day to be a perpetual memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

The prophets tell us that when the Messiah comes these mournful days will become days of gladness and joy. May we witness that time speedily in our own days. The tenth of Tevet falls on Tuesday, January 6th.

## IN SYMPATHY

הַמָּקוֹם יִנְחָם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שָׂרָר אֲבֵלֵי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

**THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES**

TO LEONARD & KAREN EHRENREICH & FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF KAREN'S MOTHER JEAN TEITLEBAUM.

TO ALICE MENDLOVIC & FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND DR. SAM MENDLOVIC. WE ALSO EXTEND CONDOLENCES TO THEIR CHILDREN, SHELLY & YITZHAK ZEMELMAN, DAVID & ADINA MENDLOVIC, AND DR. DANIEL AND RENAY (ANGEL) MENDLOVIC.

TO MARTY & LAINIE WEISBERG ON THE PASSING OF MARTY'S FATHER WILLIAM (VOLVIE) WEISBERG IN ISRAEL.

TO GARY ICKOWICZ AND FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF HIS MOTHER & GREEN ROAD MEMBER ROSE ICKOWICZ.

TO HERMAN ISAKOVIC & FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF HIS WIFE, FRIDA ISAKOVIC.

## MAZEL TOV

To Yoel & Lyndsey Mayerfeld on the birth of a boy, Noah.

To Josh & Daniella Botnick on the birth of a boy.

To Matt & Alyson Fieldman on the birth of a baby girl, Eliana Fox (Eliana Noa).

To Steve & Edith Greenberg on the engagement of their daughter Juliana to Seth Sclair from New York.

To Miriam & Gerry Engelhart on the engagement of their son David to Ora Gurfinkel, the daughter of Bridgette and Michel Gurfinkel of Paris, France. Mazel Tov also to grandmother Esther Offer.

To Dinnie Davis on the engagement of her grandson, Josh Gassner, to Shahnee Mizrachi of Jerusalem, Israel. Josh is the son of Aria & Jen Gassner of Ranana, Israel.



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**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday  
 9:30 am – 5:00 pm  
 Friday  
 9:30 am – 3:00 pm



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 with us!

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We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Synagogue.

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**IN HONOR OF:**

- A Speedy Recovery to Manny Iczkovitz:** Dan & Ruth Joseph  
**Rabbi & Malka Granatstein's new Granddaughter:** Morry & Judy Weiss

**KIDDUSH:**

- December 6:** By Avi & Honey Levitin in memory of Avi's father, Rabbi Sholom Ahron Leviton, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.  
**December 20:** By Steven & Edith Greenberg in honor of the engagement of their daughter Juliana to Seth Sclair from New York

**SEUDAH SHLISHIT:**

- November 29:** By Sarah & Louis Radzeli in memory of their son, Michael Ben-Ami, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.  
**December 6:** By Marty & Lainie Weisberg in memory of Lainie's father, Moishe Davis, on the occasion of his first Yahrzeit.  
**December 20:** By Gary & Zippora Coleman in memory of Gary's mother, Rebecca Coleman, on the occasion of her Yahrzeit.



# MONTHLY CALENDAR - TEVET

Friday, December 26

Candle Lighting..... 4:44 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:45 p.m.

## Parshat Miketz - Rosh Chodesh - Chanukah

Saturday, December 27

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 3:30 p.m.  
Mincha ..... 4:30 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 5:43 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services - Rosh Chodesh.. 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services ..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 4:50 p.m.

Sunday, December 28

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Zion Kollel ..... 9:15 a.m.

Monday, December 29 - **Last Day of Chanukah**

Morning Services ..... 6:30 a.m.

Friday, January 2

Candle Lighting..... 4:50 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:55 p.m.

## Parshat VaYigash

Saturday, January 3

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 3:30 p.m.  
Mincha ..... 4:30 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 5:49 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services ..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 4

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Zion Kollel ..... 9:15 a.m.

\*\* Rabbi Granatstein's Monthly Chumash Class

At his home..... 8:00 p.m.

## Fast of Tenth of Tevet

Tuesday, January 6

Fast Begins ..... 6:43 a.m.  
Morning Services ..... 6:30 a.m.  
Evening Services..... 4:45 p.m.  
Fast Ends ..... 5:52 p.m.

Friday, January 9

Candle Lighting..... 4:57 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:00 p.m.

## Parshat VaYechi

Saturday, January 10

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 3:40 p.m.  
Mincha ..... 4:40 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 5:56 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services ..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 5:05 p.m.

Sunday, January 11

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Zion Kollel ..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, January 16

Candle Lighting ..... 5:04 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 5:10 p.m.

## Parshat Sh'mot

Saturday, January 17

Morning Service ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 3:45 p.m.  
Mincha ..... 4:45 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat ..... 6:03 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services ..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 5:10 p.m.

Sunday, January 18

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Zion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, January 23

Candle Lighting ..... 5:13 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 5:15 p.m.

## Parshat VaErah - Mevarchim

Saturday, January 24

Morning Service ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 3:55 p.m.  
Mincha ..... 4:55 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat ..... 6:12 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services ..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 5:20 p.m.

Sunday, January 25

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Zion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Monday, January 26 - **Rosh Chodesh Shevat**

Morning Services..... 6:30 a.m.

## MINYAN REMINDER

We are calling on all men in our membership to commit to coming to one morning or evening Minyan each week. There are days where we barely have 10. It is crucial that the backbone of our Shul be strengthened by your participation. If you can, please try to come at least once during the week to support our Minyanim.