

Temple Emanu-El

Shabbat Vayishlach

פַּרְשַׁת וַיִּשְׁלַח

December 6, 2025 /16 Kislev 5786

Bar Mitzvah: Asher Miller

Torah Reading:	Genesis	32:4-36:43	page 198
Triennial Torah Reading:	Genesis	32:4-33:18	page 198
Haftarah Reading:	Obadiah	1:1-21	page 214

Weekly Torah Reading – Parashat Vayishlach

Pshat – The Story at a glance

1. Jacob nervously returns to Canaan with his family to reunite with his estranged brother, Esau. He sends messengers and gifts as a peace offering for Esau, who swore he would kill Jacob the next time he saw him.
2. Prior to this dramatic reunion, Jacob wrestles with an angel in the middle of the night, which earns him the name “Israel” – one who wrestles with God and man and overcomes.”
3. After much uncertainty about how they would receive one another, Jacob and Esau embrace in a touching moment of forgiveness.
4. In a very difficult scene, Jacob’s daughter, Dina, is abducted and subsequently rescued by her brothers, who take revenge for the injustice that occurred to their sister.
5. Rachel dies while giving birth to her younger son. She wants to name him Ben-oni, meaning “child of pain”. But Jacob instead names him Benjamin, meaning “child of strength”.

Drash – A Closer Look at the parsha

“Esau ran to greet him. He embraced him and, falling on his neck, he kissed him וַיִּשָּׁקֵהוּ; and they wept.” (Genesis 33:4)

In many editions of the Humash, dots were added to the word that translates to “kiss” in this scene. Rashi explains that those dots are there to indicate that the rabbis had some thoughts about what was truly going on in this interaction, and it is a moment that we are supposed to pause to consider. Was their reconciliation genuine? Or was Esau just going through the motions? Whatever you think the case may be, the conclusion of their feud here marks the end of a wonderfully rich story of sibling rivalry that is still worthy of much thought and interpretation.

Shabbat Shalom שבת שלום

Weekly Service Times:

Friday Evening 6:15pm, **Shabbat Morning** 9am

Sunday Morning 9am,

Monday—Thursday evenings 7pm, **Wednesday morning** 7:30am

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Gabe Cohen, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg and Cantor Israel Singer for leading services. To Asher Miller, David Miller and Michael Goodman for reading Torah and to Asher for chanting the Haftarah.

Thank You

Thank you to Dr. Rica Rabinowitz and Steve Leeman for serving as our Gabbaim. Thank you to Dr. Sharon Molinas for serving as our Parnas and Michael Wanderman and Glen Graye for serving as our Shabbat Greeters.

Sponsors

Thank you to the Miller family for co-sponsoring the Kiddush and sponsoring the bima food baskets with their donation to the Closter Food Pantry in honor of Ashers Bar Mitzvah.

Thank you to Michael & Barabara Lissner for co-sponsoring Kiddush in memory of Michael's father, Jerry Lissner z"l.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Texas Hold'Em | New Date: Thursday, December 11th at 7:30 PM. Fundraiser to benefit Israel & Magen David Adom - Israel's national EMS organization. \$6500 PRIZE POOL (based on 100 players). RSVP online by December 8th and get 10% extra chips!

11th Annual Jewish Community Night with NJ Devils Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 PM. Group Packages Includes: Discounted Group Ticket, Group Seating at a Game, Hanukkah Night T-Shirt, Special Kosher Food Stands with one-night only options, Group Name on the Scoreboard, Post-game Maccabeats Concert! \$40 per person (Limited tickets available). RSVP online.

Private Tour at The Grolier Club Sunday, December 14th at 11:00 AM. Join us for a private tour at the Grolier Club of the JTS "Jewish Worlds Illuminated: A Treasury of Hebrew Manuscripts" rare exhibit. The exhibit features over hundreds of rare Hebrew manuscripts, some dating back to the 1300s, and promises to be a unique and enriching experience for both teens and adults. Limited to 25 spots! Registration required. Register online!

Latkes & Laughter: A Hazak Hanukkah Lunch Tuesday, December 16th at 11:30 AM. Hazak* Members, join us for A Hazak Hanukkah Lunch! Celebrate with us at our third session in a series of engaging activities created just for seniors. *Hazak at TE: A Jewish Community of Seniors Dedicated to Lifelong Education & Enrichment.

Light Up the Night: A Hanukkah Celebration at TE Wednesday, December 17th at 5:30 PM. Join us for a very festive Hanukkah celebration with a Hanukkah sweater contest, chicken & waffles, sufganiyot, latkes, DJ, games, sweets, treats and much more! To help us prepare, please RSVP online!

Community Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner Friday, December 19th at 5:00 PM. It's cold outside but let us light up your weekend with a community Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner. Connect with members of all ages, enjoy a delicious traditional Shabbat Dinner, with special Hanukkah treats, and activities for kids. \$36 per adult; \$15 per child. Please complete the registration online on or before Wednesday, December 11th.

Scholar in Residence: Gadi Ezra Saturday, December 20th at 9:00 AM. Join us as we welcome Gadi Ezra, Israel's former National Public Diplomacy Unit Director. A human rights attorney and Special Forces veteran, Gadi now advises on policy and public perception and offers global commentary on national security and diplomacy. His talks, shaped by his experience—including during "Swords of Iron"—offer a unique perspective on war and resilience. In partnership with FIDF.

Shem Tov Award Friday, January 23rd at 6:15 PM. Join us as we honor Ben Ashkenase (Youth Shem Tov) & Ruthie Nussbaum (Shem Tov) award recipients, the service will be followed by a celebratory dessert Oneg.

Please visit the Temple Emanu-El website for more information: <https://tecloster.org>