Shabbat Shalom

<u>V</u>ayera

November 8, 2025 | 17 Cheshvan 5786 Havdalah 5:33pm

Welcome to Beth Jacob Congregation, a Jewish community that comes together to nurture relationships with God and each other. We are a Conservative synagogue that values Torah (study), Avodah (reverential service) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving-kindness). We believe every person has an equal opportunity to be part of our community regardless of age, race, ability, special needs, financial status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We're glad you've joined us this Shabbat!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Shabbat services this week.

D'var Torah:

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld

Gabbaim:

Eric Pasternack, Stuart Kaufman, Barb Curchack

Davenners:

Benj Kamm, Ryan LohrSara Lynn Newberger, Emery Sher, Rebecca Noecker

Greeters & Security:

Lydia Schultz, Mitch Multer, Mark Usem

Mashgiach: Geoff Marshall

Kitchen Crew:

Clare Zupetz, Sharon Benmaman, Rachel Chinitz, Anne & Stephen Froelich, Giulia Girgenti & Louis Hunter, Laura & Dave Honan, Steve Krovitz, Elena Levitt, Neil & Susan Moses-Zirkes, Shane & Rebecca Noecker, Tanya Shipkowitz,

Torah Reading

First / Rishon Aliyah	Genesis 18:1-18:14	p. 99	Elaine DuFresne
Second / Sheni Aliyah	Genesis 18:15-18:33	p. 101	Ely Sheinfeld
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Genesis 19:1-19:20	p. 104	Jonathan Ehrlich
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Genesis 19:21-21:4	p. 107	Eric Pasternack
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Genesis 21:5-21:21	p. 113	Brad Elkin
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Genesis 21:22-21:34	p. 116	Hannah Hofrichter
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Genesis 22:1-22:24	p. 117	Noam Sienna
Maftir	Genesis 22:20-22:24	p. 121	Rosanne Zaidenweber
Haftarah	II Kings 4:1-37	p. 124	Rabbi Lynn Liberman

The members of the Beth Jacob Board of Trustees are pleased to sponsor Kiddush in honor of the installation of our teacher and congregational leader, Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm.

בית אינעקב BETH JACOB

Senior Rabbi:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm Rabbi Tamar@Beth-Jacob.org

Executive Director:

Sonya Rapport Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Programming:

Frances Fischer Frances @Beth-Jacob.org

Interim Limudim Coordinator and Rabbinic Intern

Rimon Reches

Rimon@Beth-Jacob.org

Youth and Education Coordinator:

Marisa Goffman Youth@Beth-Jacob.org

Co-Presidents:

Leonard Oppenheimer & Tessa Silver President@Beth-Jacob.org

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Morris Allen

Seeing The Ram

The miracle of the ram caught in the bushes was that, in the final moment, Abraham was able to perceive it as an alternative to sacrificing his son.

By Rabbi Neal J. Loevinger

The story of the binding and (almost) sacrifice of Isaac is complex and troubling; one possible reading that the Torah seems to support is that God was testing Abraham's faith, and when he passed by showing his willingness to sacrifice even his son for God, God gave him an alternative, the ram.

And Abraham raised his eyes and saw—behold, a ram!—afterwards, caught in the bushes by its thorns; so Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up instead of his son. (Genesis 22:13)

Pirkei Avot (Sayings of the Ancestors), a section of the Mishnah (rabbinic compilation of legal material) devoted to advice for ethical and reverent living, quotes a list of special, miraculous things that were created on the last day of Creation-i.e., things that can't be explained in any normal or rational or scientific manner except that somehow God created these things as exceptions to the rules of nature and history. (Pirkei Avot 5:8). On this list of specially created things was "the ram for Abraham our father."

Now, the rabbis who wrote the Mishnah were intelligent people, and somehow I don't think they were teaching only that this ram sat in the bushes caught by its horns for thousands of years just waiting for its moment to be sacrificed—though that in itself is a powerful metaphor for the patience and humility one might require if one is find one's true purpose in life. (No, I'm not suggesting that one should sit around waiting to be sacrificed—this is only a metaphor!)

So let's assume that the rabbis of the Mishnah included this ram in their list of specially created objects because they didn't know how else to explain it, and while they probably didn't believe that an ordinary ram could survive under those circumstances, they were stuck with a difficult text to resolve and elucidate.

But what if the miracle weren't in the ram, the miracle was in Abraham? Our verse says Abraham "lifted up his eyes," and saw something that he hadn't noticed before—a ram caught in the briars and thickets. Perhaps he was so focused on his dreadful and apparently inescapable task that he couldn't see what was there, right nearby, in plain sight.

Abraham had to redirect not only his hand—away from his son—but also his perception—away from the idea that God really demanded such an awful sacrifice. In this reading of our verse, and of our midrash on it, the miracle is that Abraham is able to undergo a change of spiritual understanding just in time, and see alternatives just at the moment he is most "caught by the horns" in a horrible situation.

In this reading, the midrash from Pirkei Avot isn't so much about long-lived mountain sheep as it is about our own potential to grow in understanding and insight, finding miracles to be grateful for even under the direct circumstances. When the Mishna suggests that the ram was always there, the thought is completed by that part of the verse that says that Abraham

Torah Commentary

CONT.

"lifted up his eyes"—the ram was always there in the sense that God (I hope) never intended for Abraham to really kill Isaac, but the ability to see the ram- i.e., to perceive the better choice—can be understood as the deeper and yet more everyday kind of miracle.

Think of the dying person who finds peace in the faith that their loved ones will carry on his values. Think of the addict who, after years of struggle, finds the strength to choose life. Think of the workaholic who realizes that time with family is a truer treasure than overtime pay. Think of the friendships and marriages that have been reconciled when both parties choose forgiveness over pride and nursing the grudge. Think of the person with juicy but destructive gossip just on the tip of their tongue, who yet refrains from the momentary pleasure of tearing somebody else down a little bit.

The ram is always there, if we will but lift up our eyes.

Inclusivity and Accessibility During Services

We recognize the variety of needs within our community and strive to provide access to all through physical, emotional, and/or sensory accommodations. The majority of our prayers and scripture readings are conducted in Hebrew, so we invite those who do not read Hebrew to use a copy of the transliterated prayerbook (siddur) found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary. We have large print books, braille prayerbooks, and listening devices available on the bookshelf in the lobby. There is also a sensory-friendly room just off the sanctuary with a speaker and window from which services can be experienced. Please ask the greeter near the sanctuary door if you need help locating any of these. Please reach out to our office if there are needs that aren't being met.

TODAY at Beth Jacob



Limudim: Our Learning Community

We begin with breakfast at 9:00am. We are so excited to see our building full of families engaged in fun and meaningful Jewish learning!



Singing After Kiddush

Join Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman and Benj Kamm at 12:45 for a songful Shabbat afternoon. Join in or just listen (but joining in is more fun). After Kiddush in the Saide Chapel.

Shabbat Shalom

Children are Welcome in our Sanctuary!



We encourage children's participation in services and love having them in our sanctuary. Older children are encouraged to lead parts of the service and/or read Torah once able to do so. Younger children are invited to carry crowns during the Torah service and are also invited to the bimah for Adon Olam each week. At the end of services they can visit the rabbi's magic tallis bag to receive a lollipop or mini bubbles. Parents, please let Rabbi Tamar know if you do not want your child to receive one of these items.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning November 8, 2025 / 17 Cheshvan 5786

The seventh aliyah is reserved for those observing yahrzeits during the coming week. If you are observing a yahrzeit this week, please come forward at the seventh aliyah and give your full Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. Your full Hebrew name includes your name and then ben/bat/mibeit and your parents' names or Avraham and Sarah. Please say your name loudly and clearly, so that the gabbai can hear it.

Masks are required on the bimah during the Torah service. If you do not have one, please get one from the basket by the greeter and put it on prior to coming up for an aliyah.

November 8/17 Cheshvan

Klara Feinwachs Rita Halper Eli Hoffman Reuben A. Kaplan Ruth Lidsky Samuel Sager Anna Spiegel-Levine Fannie Goldman

November 9/18 Cheshvan

Jacob Birnbaum
Philip Gibson Hodge
William Lieberman
Lois Ruzicka
Leonard Levitan
Celia Paster
Mary Goldish

November 10/19 Cheshvan

Solomon Gilman
Jacob Gottlieb
Marlene Maron
Michele Milavetz
Rose Nisker
Maurice Rubenstein
Norbert Schaumann
Meyer Sheinfeld
Evelyne Weinberg
Esther Weissman
Paul Wellstone
Muriel Lachter
George Davis

November 11/20 Cheshvan

Sherry Caplan Michael Freedland Abraham Levin Jane Tomayo William Grodin

November 12/21 Cheshvan

Sadie Farber
Mark Greenberg
Abigail Nadeau
Herman Snyder
Maurice Diamond
Harry Edelstein
Sarah Grodin

November 13/22 Cheshvan

Grace Granzburg
Sarah Hinda Midlick
Lilian Sager
Elaine Schoenkin
Abraham Weiner
Anna Mark
Sarah Frisch Nilva
Harry Kuller

November 14/23 Cheshvan

Louis Danovsky Paul Desjardins Hilda Posnansky Zelda Katz Rachel Davis Esther Kaplan



Upcoming at Beth Jacob - November 8, 2025

Ongoing

For the Jew in the Pew

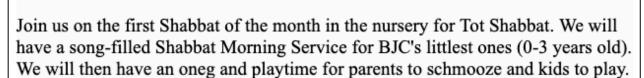
No Jew in the Pew in November
Every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday 9:15 am in the Saide Chapel



Join Rabbi Lynn Liberman in the Chapel for some thoughtful study of the Book of Psalms.

Tot Shabbat

10:00 - 10:30 am in The Nursery





Pre-Shul Playgroup-Every Friday at 10:30 am

Join our open play time for young children and their caregivers. Meet in the nursery every Friday morning from 10:30am until naptime.



ADULT EDUCATION:

Introduction to Judaism, with Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff Monday evenings

This class is a general introduction for people who are curious, considering conversion, or would like a refresher. Zoom link will be given to those who register. Beth-Jacob.org/Intro



Morning Mishnah, with Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm Wednesdays at around 8:00 am (after minyan)

in the Saide Chapel and online Join on Zoom at Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan

Tanach, with David Rischall

Sundays 7:30-8:30 on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79546614386 Questions? Call David at 651-230-3911.



Limudim Adult Ed

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 Register at Beth-Jacob.org/LimudimAdultEd

Talmudic Folklore with Rabbi David Thomas

Why the Jewish Holidays are Wise with Sara Lynn Newberger

Hebrew for Adults with Lydia Schultz

Upcoming at Beth Jacob - November 8, 2025

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Installation of Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm as Senior Rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation

November 9 - 10:30am Rabbi Tamar's Installation. Ceremony will be followed by a catered brunch.



Collection for those facing Homelessness Through November

We have a collection box in the lobby for items needed by those facing homelessness or housing insecurity. Items most needed are socks, underwear, diapers, and feminine products.

Donations

The Social Justice Committee is seeking funds for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, as a part of our ongoing project with local community organizations.



Please earmark your donations to the Tikun Olam fund and clearly tag it with the designation(s) to which you wish it to go: Homelessness; Afghan families.



Antisemitism on Campus

With Dr. Natan Paradise Saturday, November 15 after kiddush

Hear how the U of MN compares to other institutions, how we got there, what is meant by the weaponization of antisemitism, and what can we do to help.



The Encampments

Saturday Night, November 22, 7pm at Beth Jacob

See this documentary to hear the voices of those protesting in their own words. A discussion led by Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm and Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker will follow the film.



From the Archives

Saturday, December 6, after kiddush

Kate Dietrick, Archivist for the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota, will join us to speak about the recent donation to the archives of over 100 boxes of materials documenting Beth Jacob's history. She will share stories uncovered from the materials donated and discuss why having this collection in the archives contributes to the essential task of preserving local Jewish history.

