



November-December 2025

Congregation House of Israel

10 Cheshvan - 11 Tevet 5786



Happy Hanukkah

Levi Hospital Closes

By Sherrill Nicolosi

Levi N. Hospital, founded in 1914, closed its doors on August 1, 2025 and has transitioned into a community health foundation. CEO Zane Jeffers indicated, "Our mission is to be a lasting foundation that promotes the health and welfare of our community by addressing the root causes of behavioral health conditions..."

Levi Hospital was the vision of many Jewish individuals for a Hot Springs hospital to serve the Jewish people (and all individuals) with limited financial means who needed the unique healing benefits of the thermal springs. For decades, the wealthy had come to "take the waters" and enjoy the comfort of high-end hotels and restaurants. The local chapter of B'nai B'rith proposed the creation of the Leo N. Levi Hospital to make the care available for all.

Around 1902, the local B'nai B'rith created the "Hot Springs Disbursement Committee", the first Jewish relief program in Arkansas to assist with what became an overwhelming number of individuals who sought the health benefits of the hot waters, but could not afford the stay. The B'nai B'rith committee was expanded to a national effort, and by 1910 the International Order of B'nai B'rith authorized the building of a sanatorium; with funds from local, State, and national Jewish foundations and organizations, the hospital was erected. The hospital opened November 1, 1914 and its name memorialized the Texas attorney, Leo N. Levi, who served as president of the B'nai B'rith Grand Lodge, who died in office.

One of the first administrators was Regina Kaplan, a member of CHI, who served for more than 35 years. Over the years, Ms. Kaplan saw the number of beds grow and its medical services expanded to include treatments for sports related injuries, arthritis treatments, and inpatient psychiatric treatment, just to name a few areas of

health services.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the hospital's Board determined the cost to repair and revitalize the failing infrastructure of the hospital would exceed the cost of constructing a new hospital. Instead, the Levi Foundation will focus on continuing to meet the community's evolving needs. The Leo N. Levi Hospital is just one of many ways Jews assisted and continue to assist individuals of all faiths whose means cannot meet their needs. This piece of local Jewish history is a reminder of how a small group of Jewish people can make an everlasting imprint on our world today.



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Reb Shelly's Desk



Hanukkah Feels Very Different This Year

By Rabbi Mark Zimmerman

For over 2,000 years, from the time of the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE up until the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948, we Jews were an extremely vulnerable people. Living in *galut*, exile, we endured inquisitions, pogroms, and genocide. We were not in control of either our security or our destiny.

But if we go back some 2,100 years to the time of the Maccabees, we find a period when we were not so vulnerable. The story of Hanukkah recalls that time when a relatively small band of Jews decided that they had enough of being ruled by a cruel tyrant. We rose up in revolt against the powerful Assyrian Greeks. What followed was a resounding Jewish victory, the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and the miracle of Hanukkah which we celebrate every year until this day.

Jewish rule in Judea lasted some 200 years after the Maccabees, finally collapsing in the first century of the Common Era. During much of the next 2,000 years, without a homeland, without a military, and without the ability to ensure our own safety, we lived (or died) at the whim of various rulers, kings and tyrants. We shuddered in fear of the next crusade, pogrom, or anti-Semitic attack, relying on the good graces of the king or government to protect our communities. And often there was no protection to be found.

The American Jewish experience, of course, has been markedly different from what our people experienced in Europe. Sure, antisemitism existed on these shores as well, often just below the surface, but it was largely limited to rhetoric and discrimination. We felt safe, built robust communities, synagogues, JCC's, Jewish Day Schools and Yeshivahs. We thrived as Jewish

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ARZA - World Union

A New Beginning

By Rabbi Josh Weinberg

They had become household names; some might say even celebrities. Just normal people living their lives prior to that fateful and tragic day — known only to their family and friends. Now, so many of us feel like we know them, know their stories, their family members. We recognize their likeness from pictures and posters hanging in our synagogues, community centers, schools, and bus stations. The hostages had this aura around them, and at one point, at a convention in Israel, I overheard two pre-teens asking each other, “So, who is your favorite hostage?” as if they were trading baseball cards or discussing rock bands.

We offered prayers and speeches on their behalf, tried to persuade anyone who would listen to take up their cause, left empty spaces at our Shabbat and holiday tables, and wore yellow ribbons and “Bring Them Home” bracelets, pins, t-shirts, hats, and even talitot. Their posters greeted travelers arriving at Ben Gurion Airport as they made their way to baggage claim, and graffiti caricatures adorned the stucco walls of South Tel Aviv's old industrial alleyways.

They. Are. Everywhere.

Millions around the world rallied for their release. Their families left no stone unturned, no connection unexplored, no politician unlobbied.

And now, on one emotional and cathartic day — two years later, on Erev Simchat Torah — the twenty living hostages are home. The viral images of them reuniting with their families brought me to tears: Einav hugging her son Matan; Omri playing with his daughters; Noa Argamani reunited with her boyfriend Avinatan Or; Arbel Yehud with her partner Ariel Cunio — each a dramatic and emotional moment. We learned that Gali and Ziv Berman, 28-year-old twins from Kibbutz Kfar Azza, had been separated in captivity only to reunite on the day of their release, stepping off the IDF helicopter wearing Maccabi Tel Aviv jerseys.

Aviatar David, who we all remember from the Hamas video of his emaciated body digging his

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Sisterhood



As the year winds down, CHI Sisterhood is gearing up for a season of connection, celebration, and community. Be sure to mark your calendars for our final meetings of 2025:

- Monday, November 3
- Monday, December 1

Both gatherings promise meaningful conversation, updates on Sisterhood initiatives, and a chance to connect with friends old and new.

- **Hanukkah Party Alert!**
Join us for a joyful Hanukkah celebration on Sunday, December 21 at 4:30 PM. Expect festive treats, laughter, and light as we come together to honor the season.
- Keep an eye out for an email blast from Shelly with all the details about reservations and additional information.
- Reservation Deadline: Details coming soon—watch your inbox!

Let's close out the year with warmth, tradition, and togetherness.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



If they had Jewish mothers (and maybe they did)!

By Don Entlich

Michaelangelo: Mikey..how many times do I have to tell you?..the money is in house painting..not church ceilings.

Christopher Columbus: why I let your father pick the name Christopher I'll never know..and by the way, the least you could have done was to name one of your ships after your bubbie Esther.

Isaac Newton:..Izzy..I sent you to the orchard for apples so I can make apple sauce and what do I find you doing...daydreaming.

Thomas Edison: if I want light, I'll light a candle besides how can I blow out the shabbes bulbs?

George Washington: Georgie...the next time I catch you throwing your allowance in the river you'll never see another penny let alone a dollar.

Ben Franklin: Benny...when I said go fly a kite, I didn't mean in a lightning storm.

Julius Caesar: Julie...do me a favor and promise me you'll stop playing with your friend Brutus...I have a bad feeling about that boy.

Henry the 8th: Henny....please not another wedding...you have to settle down...besides, I've run out of things to wear...God forgive me if I have to wear the same dress twice.

Henry Ford: Henry, please! at least paint one of your cars blue...please! for your mother.

Leonardo DeVinci: Lenny...tell that model of yours to wipe that smirk off her face...and have her keep her clothes on...I know how you like to paint naked women...oy vey!

John Smith: Johnny ... I was hoping for a nice Jewish girl...Oh well, since she saved your life, I'll try to accept her as my daughter. But if she comes to live with us, I have one rule she must follow... no smoking in the house!

Paul Revere: Paulie...i'm tired of your silver gifts... how about something made from the good stuff... you know...gold. And when the other night you rode off shouting "the British are coming"...what are you stupid...we're all British!

ARZA - World Union

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own grave, reunited with fellow hostage Guy Gilboa Dallal, and within two days was already on stage strumming the guitar with the soloist of his favorite band, Hatikva 6. Matan Angrest, a captured Tank Corps soldier, left the hospital to eulogize his commander, Captain Daniel Perez, whose body was returned to Israel as part of the deal.

Now that they are home — as we anxiously await and continue to fight for the return of the nineteen (as of this writing) remaining deceased hostages — this moment must be about a new beginning.

More stories about what they endured will soon become public, but even in the few days since their return, we already know the following:

- Matan Angrest was beaten so severely that he lost consciousness and suffered severe psychological warfare at the hands of his Hamas captors.
- Elkana Bohbot was held in shackles and complete darkness.
- Rom Braslavski was shot at, beaten, starved, and held in total isolation.
- Aviatar David was bound hand and foot and spent weeks with a bag over his head.

More will surely come to light, and their healing and recovery will take a long time.

Now is the time for a new beginning for them, most especially, but for all Israelis generally and for world Jewry as well.

We just completed our annual cycle of Torah reading, ending with Moses' death and the words recounting "the great might and awesome power that Moses displayed before all Israel." Now we turn the scroll back to the very first words: Bereishit bara Elohim et hashamayim ve'et ha'arets — "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

As we open the book of Bereishit, we return to the story of beginnings — of light emerging from darkness and chaos, of creation born from confusion. It is a fitting moment for Israel, for the Jewish people, and even for Gaza. After two years of darkness and destruction, we stand, trembling, on the edge of something new. Like the world at its birth, we are unfinished, fragile, and unsure of what will emerge from the void. Yet Bereishit reminds us that creation is not a one-time act but an ongoing task — to separate light from darkness, to name what is broken, and to begin again.

The Torah tells us in the opening creation story — "The

earth was unformed and void... and the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters." That hovering, that trembling ruach — divine breath over chaos — echoes in Shalom Chanoch's haunting lyric, sung by Yehudit Ravitz and requested by freed hostage Alon Ohel: "Because my song is a gust in the wind, my open window." Out of silence and uncertainty, the wind stirs again — both divine and human, fragile and full of possibility. The same ruach Elohim that hovered over the waters of creation now hovers over our wounded hearts, carrying with it the faint sound of a new song.

"After two full and turbulent years of war and endless sorrow, during which we held 103 Havdalah ceremonies and prayers for the return of the hostages in Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, this chapter has come to an end with the return of all the living hostages.

We sought to create a spiritual and alternative space — a place where one could breathe, hope, distinguish between despair and hope, offer and receive comfort, and above all, be together and cry out — in the ancient words of Jewish prayer and the new language and music of Israel — the shared pain, in the hope that someone, somewhere, is listening.

We now stand at the threshold of a new chapter in the history of Israel and in the struggle for the return of the fallen and for peace. It is a twilight time, filled with both hope and apprehension. For now, we have chosen to pause, to breathe, and to give thanks for the path we have walked together."

We are not sure what this new reality will bring, but for the first time in two years, many Israelis are smiling — and not feeling guilty about doing so.

We don't yet know if the next phase of the plan will be implemented or if the Peace Summit orchestrated by President Trump after his whirlwind visit to Israel will have a real impact.

We don't know if this will finally be the moment when Israel will allow an official State investigation into the failures to prevent and stop the massacre on October 7, 2023.

We don't yet know if Hamas will disarm and stop murdering its own people as well, or if the Middle East will be rejiggered. But we know that we can now move forward with a sigh of relief.

But, we do know that for those 20 and their families, their suffering is over.

In the beginning, God saw that the light was good. May we, too, find a way to see goodness and to be hopeful for this new beginning— even after all we have seen.

Jewish Trivia for November

Nov 3, 1917	Lord Arthur Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, signed the Balfour Declaration establishing the state of Palestine for Arabs and Jews.
Nov 4, 1995	Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated at a peace rally by Yigal Amir, an Israelite right-wing extremist.
Nov 4, 1954	Abe Ribicoff elected governor of Connecticut
Nov 4, 1938	The Andrew Sisters record "Bei mir bist du Schön."
Nov 4, 1938	Kate Smith introduces "God Bless America" to her radio program, song composed by Irving Berlin.
Nov 9-10, 1938	Kristallnacht, Night of the Broken Glass, in Germany and Austria, considered the beginning of the Holocaust.
Nov 12, 1954	Ellis Island closed. It opened in 1897 and processed over 20 million immigrants.
Nov 20, 1954	Nuremberg trials begin for the Nazi leaders.

Deceased

Nov 1, 1985	Phil Silvers: comedian, actor
Nov 4, 1995	Yitzhak Rabin: Israeli prime minister
Nov 4, 1847	Felix Mendelsohn: composer
Nov 8, 1983	Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan: founder of Reconstructionism
Nov 8, 1965	Dorothy Kilgallen: writer, newscaster
Nov 9, 1991	Yves Montand: actor
Nov 9, 1952	Chaim Weizman: 1st president of Israel
Nov 10, 1960	Isadore Freed: composer of Jewish melodies
Nov 10, 1973	Allan Sherman: singer, comedian
Nov 11, 1995	Jerome Kern: composer
Nov 18, 2004	Cy Coleman: composer
Nov 22, 2014	Claire Bagleman: singer (Barry Sisters)
Nov 23, 2006	Betty Comden: Lyricist

Jewish Trivia for December

Dec 2, 1763	Dedication of the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. Touro is the oldest synagogue in America.
Dec 7, 2017	U.S. recommends that Jerusalem become the capital of the State of Israel
Dec 8, 1987	Palestine Intifada founded by Yasser Arafat
Dec 26, 1936	Arturo Toscanini conducts the first performance of the Israeli Philharmonic in Tel Aviv. The orchestra was founded by the Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman in 1935.

Deceased

Dec 1, 1973	David Ben Gurion: Israeli Prime Minister
Dec 2, 1990	Aaron Copeland: musician
Dec 8, 1978	Golda Meir: Israeli Prime Minister
Dec 10, 1987	Jascha Heifitz: violinist
Dec 12, 1971	David Sarnoff: founder of RCA
Dec 16, 1984	Bess Myerson: politician, television actress, former Miss America
Dec 16, 1984	Jan Pierce: opera singer
Dec 20, 1962	Arthur Rubinstein: pianist
Dec 23, 2000	Victor Borge: pianist, humorist
Dec 25, 2016	Carrie Fisher: actress
Dec 26, 2016	Jack Benny: entertainer
Dec 29, 1967	Paul Whiteman: conductor

Refuah Shelemah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers for healing. Pray that they have a full and complete recovery.:

- *Aria Baron*
- *Shoshana Baron*
- *Bill Cobb*
- *Oded Grenman*
- *Sue Koppel*
- *Kerry Lockwood Owen*
- *Randy Lewis*
- *Pat McCarthy*
- *Mike Richardson*
- *Ruth Sedler*
- *Misty Stricklin*
- *Shep Taxer*
- *Steven West*
- *James Woodfork*
- *Marie Woodfork*
- *Israeli Hostages*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

Michael and Sharon Waxler	Nov 27
Brad and Elaine Wolken	Dec 26

Birthdays

David Kirsch	Nov 7
Dennis Williams	Nov 21
Myrna Taxer	Nov 28
Sophie Fleischer	Dec 7
Sherrill Nicolosi	Dec 20
Kim Baron	Dec 22
Frances Iverson	Dec 30

Reb Shelly's Desk

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Americans, and felt that here we were finally accepted as an integral part of the American tapestry.

But after the events of October 7th we feel that familiar, aching sense of vulnerability once again. Our people in Israel were brutally attacked in ways that were reminiscent of some of the worst atrocities our people suffered during the Holocaust. And what followed was equally distressing. Sure, there was sympathy and outrage at first, but that sympathy quickly gave way to an explosion of antisemitism we had hoped was long defeated.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the Hanukkah story, it is that fatalism and retreat is not the answer. Complacency is not an answer either. The answer to hate is resolve, inner strength, pride, determination and resilience.

We saw that power of the Jewish spirit on full display during the solidarity rally in Washington DC. Nearly 300,000 of us came together from across the country to sing, pray, and come to understand that 'never again' is now. There was a meme going around that captured it perfectly: "If there's one thing we Jewish people have learned since October 7, it's this: The world doesn't care about us as much as we hoped, but we care about each other a lot more than we realized."

And therein lies the Jewish people's most powerful weapon. We may disagree with one another on this or that issue, but we must never let those disagreements devolve into fracturing our sense of unity, and shared destiny. As the Talmud states (Shevuot 39a) *kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*, all Israel are responsible one for another.

All of us have some very concrete things that we can do today. Educate yourself on what's going on. Know how to answer Israel's critics and don't be afraid to do so. Contact your members of Congress, regularly. Send donations to Hatzalah and Magen David Adom and Federation. But more importantly, stand up for human decency and make your voice heard.

Sadly, these threats are not new for us. The Jewish people have been around for 4,000 years, and we are not going away anytime soon. God willing, the heroism of the Maccabees will inspire us and provide us with the courage to face whatever challenges lie ahead.

May the lights of the Hanukkah menorah continue to inspire us during these difficult days, strengthen our resolve, and give us the fortitude to achieve a more peaceful and compassionate world.

November - December Jahrzeits

Kaddish Recited November 7

Rachel Leah Goltz

*Grandmother of Diane Goltz
Grandmother of Susan Siegel*

Philip Gladner

Father of Neal Gladner

Don Levy

Brother of Jerry Levy

Stuart Klompus

Husband of Mary Klompus

Kaddish Recited November 14

Fred Stein

Father of Judy Levy

Joseph Wolken

Grandfather of Brad Wolken

Al Ginsburg

Father of Millie Baron

Louis Kleinman

Husband of Betty Kleinman

Kaddish Recited November 21

LeRoy Tucker

Father of Patti Fleischer

Alan R. Klompus

Father-in-law of Mary Klompus

Jacob Koppel

Father of Hal Koppel

Mollie Forshberg

Mother-in-law of Betty Forshberg

Hyman Kirsch

Father of David Kirsch

Leon Peterson

Father of Cheryl Cohen

Kaddish Recited November 28

Adolph Korngut

Father of Fred Korngut

Warner Kass

Husband of Lynda Kass

Kaddish Recited December 5

Elsa Stein

Mother of Judy Levy

Barbara Schlesinger

Member of CHI

Sharona Grenman

Wife of Oded Grenman

Harry Leibowitz

Father of Stuart Leibowitz

Kaddish Recited December 12

Bernice Waxler

Mother of Michael Waxler

Kaddish Recited December 19

Lynn Raines Kirsch

Wife of Steven Kirsch

Nellie Sheets

Mother of Mary Klompus

Kaddish Recited December 26

Hyman Robins

Grandfather of Betty Feir

Dora Taxer

Mother of Shep Taxer

November Parshiot

Lech Lecha

November 1, 2025

God speaks to Abram, commanding him, "Go from your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." There, G-d says, he will be made into a great nation.

Still childless ten years after their arrival in the Land, Sarai tells Abram to marry her maidservant Hagar. Hagar conceives, becomes insolent toward her mistress, and then flees when Sarai treats her harshly; an angel convinces her to return, and tells her that her son will father a populous nation. Ishmael is born in Abram's eighty-sixth year.

Thirteen years later, God changes Abram's name to Abraham ("father of multitudes"), and Sarai's to Sarah ("princess"), and promises that a son will be born to them; from this child, whom they should call Isaac ("will laugh"), will stem the great nation with which God will establish His special bond.

Vayeira

November 8, 2025

God reveals Himself to Abraham three days after the first Jew's circumcision at age 99; but Abraham rushes off to prepare a meal for three guests who appear in the desert heat. One of the three -- who are angels disguised as men -- announces that, in exactly one year, the barren Sarah will give birth to a son. Sarah laughs.

Abraham pleads with God to spare the wicked city of Sodom. Two of the three disguised angels arrive in the doomed city, where Abraham's nephew, Lot, extends his hospitality to them and protects them from the evil intentions of a Sodomite mob.

While taking shelter in a cave, Lot's two daughters (believing that they and their father are the only ones left alive in the world) get their father drunk, lie with him, and become pregnant. The two sons born from this incident father the nations of Moab and Amon.

God remembers His promise to Sarah and gives her and Abraham a son, who is named Isaac. Hagar and Ishmael are banished from Abraham's home and wander in the desert;

Chayei Sarah

November 15, 2025

Sarah dies at age 127 and is buried in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron, which Abraham purchases from

Ephron the Hittite for 400 shekels of silver.

Abraham's servant, Eliezer, is sent laden with gifts to Charan to find a wife for Isaac. At the village well, Eliezer asks God for a sign: when the maidens come to the well, he will ask for some water to drink; the woman who will offer to give his camels to drink as well, shall be the one destined for his master's son.

Rebecca, the daughter of Abraham's nephew Bethuel, appears at the well and passes the "test". Eliezer is invited to their home, where he repeats the story of the day's events. Rebecca returns with Eliezer to the land of Canaan, where they encounter Isaac praying in the field. Isaac marries Rebecca, loves her, and is comforted over the loss of his mother.

Toledot

November 22, 2025

Isaac marries Rebecca. After twenty childless years their prayers are answered and Rebecca conceives. She experiences a difficult pregnancy as the "children struggle inside her"; G-d tells her that "there are two nations in your womb," and that the younger will prevail over the elder.

Esau emerges first; Jacob is born clutching Esau's heel. Esau grows up to be "a cunning hunter, a man of the field"; Jacob is "a wholesome man," a dweller in the tents of learning. Isaac favors Esau; Rebecca loves Jacob. Returning exhausted and hungry from the hunt one day, Esau sells his birthright (his rights as the firstborn) to Jacob for a pot of red lentil stew.

Vayetzei

November 29, 2025

Jacob leaves his hometown Be'er Sheva and journeys to Charan. On the way, he encounters "the place" and sleeps there, dreaming of a ladder connecting heaven and earth, with angels climbing and descending on it; G-d appears and promises that the land upon which he lies will be given to his descendants.

In Charan, Jacob stays with and works for his uncle Laban, tending Laban's sheep. Laban agrees to give him his younger daughter Rachel -- whom Jacob loves -- in marriage, in return for seven years' labor. But on the wedding night, Laban gives him his elder daughter, Leah, instead -- a deception Jacob discovers only in the morning. Jacob marries Rachel, too, a week later, after agreeing to work another seven years for Laban.



December Parshiot

Vayishlach

December 6, 2025

Jacob returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan, and sends emissaries to Esau in hope of a reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for war, prays, and sends Esau a large gift (consisting of hundreds of heads of sheep and cattle) to appease him.

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Yabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name Israel, which means "He who prevails over the Divine."

Vayeishev

December 13, 2025

Jacob settles in Hebron with his twelve sons. His favorite is 17-year-old Joseph, whose brothers are jealous of the preferential treatment he receives from his father, such as a precious many-colored coat that Jacob makes for Joseph. Joseph relates to his brothers two dreams he has which foretell that he is destined to rule over them, increasing their envy and hatred towards him.

Shimon and Levi plot to kill him, but Reuben suggests that they throw him into a pit instead, intending to come back later and save him. While Joseph is in the pit, Judah has him sold to a band of passing Ishmaelites. The brothers dip Joseph's special coat in the blood of a goat and show it to their father, leading him to believe that his most beloved son was devoured by a wild beast.

Mikeitz

December 20, 2025

Joseph's imprisonment finally ends when Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows that are swallowed up by seven lean cows, and of seven fat ears of grain swallowed by seven lean ears. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of hunger, and advises Pharaoh to store grain during the plentiful years. Pharaoh appoints Joseph governor of Egypt. Joseph marries Asenath, daughter of Potiphar, and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.



Famine spreads throughout the region, and food can be obtained only in Egypt. Ten of Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to purchase grain; the youngest, Benjamin, stays home, for Jacob fears for his safety. Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him; he accuses them of being spies, insists that they bring Benjamin to prove that they are who they say they are, and imprisons Simeon as a hostage. Later, they discover that the money they paid for their provisions has been mysteriously returned to them.

Vayigash

December 27, 2025

Judah approaches Joseph to plead for the release of Benjamin, offering himself as a slave to the

Egyptian ruler in Benjamin's stead. Upon witnessing his brothers' loyalty to one another, Joseph reveals his identity to them. "I am Joseph," he declares. "Is my father still alive?"

The brothers are overcome by shame and remorse, but Joseph comforts them. "It was not you who sent me here," he says to them, "but G-d. It has all been ordained from Above to save us, and the entire region, from famine."