



# THE SHOFAR

BSKI's Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2012

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 1

TEVET/SHEVAT 5772

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## Upcoming Events

Fast of the 10th of Tevet.....	January 5
Junior Cong./Tot Shabbat .....	January 7
Women's League Art Museum Tour.....	January 11
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Women's League Lunch and Bingo.....	January 19
Torah Talk.....	January 21
Children's Library Program.....	January 22
Junior Cong./Tot Shabbat .....	January 28

## BSKI Family Reading and Writing Program in the BSKI Children's Library

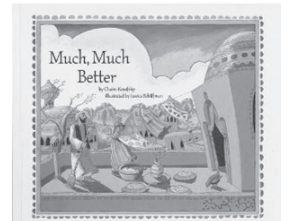


**January 22**  
**10 am-11:30 am**

### January's Theme: Shabbat

Spend a relaxing morning in our new Children's Library while exploring your family history and creating a family book.

Join us this month as we read *Much, Much Better* by Chaim Kosofsky and Jessica Shiffman. Afterward we'll explore the idea of tradition and write about our own family traditions.



Stay tuned for next month when we explore the theme of Tu B'Shevat—February 19.



For more information or to register contact the BSKI office at (314)725-6230 or e-mail [Paula@e-bski.org](mailto:Paula@e-bski.org)

# FROM THE RABBI: TO BE OR NOT TO BE



Rabbi Mordecai Miller

At some point in your life there's a good chance that you've come across the famous opening lines of Hamlet's soliloquy "To be, or not to be—that is the question..." I must have heard these lines as a

schoolchild; but, I must confess that since we never studied the play in school, it took a lot longer for me to realize the point of this speech.

In case you aren't familiar either, Hamlet is debating with himself whether or not to take action regarding the shocking news he has received: specifically that his uncle has murdered his father and married his mother and become the new king of Denmark! The question for Hamlet is: should he be pro-active—"to be"—and try to right this terrible wrong and run all the risks involved ("to take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing end them") or should he just commit suicide—"not to be"—and let events take whatever course they may ("in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune")?

This fundamental question challenges us in different ways to this day, although in all likelihood in a far less dramatic way. For example as parents, our natural instinct is to protect our children—"to be." Often we may try to achieve this through suggestion, correction or intervention. We may want them to benefit from our own hard-earned experience. Yet so often we find our well-meant acts resented: perceived as simply an attempt to be controlling. Often our attempts to improve a situation have just the reverse effect.

In this case we may be far more effective in restraining our desire to

"fix," in remaining silent and not "interfering"—"not to be."

Another example has to do with situations involving a spouse, a friend or even a casual acquaintance. We may see ourselves in a position to offer advice or take action: to help. In some cases it may involve wanting to respond to someone who we feel has hurt us. Of course, our being pro-active may achieve desired results, but there is also the possibility of being resented or turning a disagreement into a knock-down, drag-out battle.

In the Cabalistic tradition, Abraham and Isaac represent these two opposite dynamics; Abraham represents *chesed* (love), "to be," while Isaac represents *din* ("restraint"), "not to be!" When we look at the narratives associated with each, it becomes clear that in many ways Isaac is passive, while Abraham is active. For example, Abraham takes his son, Isaac, to the mountain to sacrifice him, but at the same time it is Isaac who is willing to go along with his father even though the absence of a lamb for slaughter puzzles him.

Likewise, Isaac's reaction to the Philistines, who fill up the wells he has dug, is to move elsewhere to dig new ones. Finally, Isaac is the one who is "tricked" by son Jacob into giving him the blessing instead of Esau.

There's little glory in showing restraint and yet most often, holding back takes greater intestinal fortitude than being pro-active. It's easy to see when someone's *doing* something—it's a clear act of will; but it's not nearly so easy to see when someone is choosing *not to do* something that they would otherwise *love* to be doing. Yet their restraint may well be motivated by a sense of love or respect for someone else. Just because the act isn't recognized doesn't mean that it didn't involve personal sacrifice. Perhaps it's even more precious because it isn't easily recognized!

**Please join us for these upcoming t'fillot**

**Saturday, January 7**

Torah Portion:  
Vayechi

Junior Congregation  
Tot Shabbat

**Saturday, January 14**

Torah Portion:  
Shemot

Junior Congregation  
Tot Shabbat

**Saturday, January 21**

Torah Portion:  
Vaera

Torah Talk

**Saturday, January 28**

Torah Portion:  
Bo

Junior Congregation  
Tot Shabbat

As the song *The Gambler* goes, in life, just as in gambling "You've gotta know when to hold them and know when to fold them..." and as the great English poet John Milton wrote in the sonnet *On His Blindness*, "They serve too, those who only stand and wait."

"To be, or not to be; that is the question."

Peace!  
Rabbi Mordecai Miller

## BSKI COLLEGE CONNECTION

The BSKI Outreach/Membership Committee recently met and assembled Chanukah care packages for the BSKI Chanukah College Connection Project. Pictured are Deborah Tannenbaum, Linda Makler (chair), Don Pearline, Carol Battle, and Ron Portman. The Chanukah care packages were sent to students who were in town or out of town, undergraduate or graduate. The packages included Chanukah cookies, gelt, dreidles, and more. These students will also receive a BSKI **Passover** College Connection care package in the spring.



If there is a college student in your BSKI family, please register the student(s) at the BSKI website [www.e-bski.org](http://www.e-bski.org) so that he or she may know that they are still part of our BSKI community even far away from home. This program is being co-sponsored by the Marvin and Alice Rubin Fund.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear BSKI,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to lead your congregation in prayer, along with Rabbi Miller, during the 5772 High Holy Days. My entire family felt so welcomed by the warmth of your *hamishe* congregation allowing us all to enjoy our holiday in a spiritual and meaningful way while away from home. It was truly a joy serving you and I would relish the opportunity to share the holidays with you all again in the future. I wish everyone health and happiness in 5772.

Most sincerely,  
Melissa, Marc and Sadie Cohen

Note: *The Shofar* is published monthly by Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel Congregation. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO.

Dear BSKI,

Thanks for your love and support of Morris and our family during this time. We sincerely thank you for thinking of us.

Phyllis Bynum  
Ezra and Yehalelel

## ZICHAH LIVRACHA

We deeply grieve the passing of

Esther Goldenhersh  
Milly Zeff

May her soul be bound up in the  
bonds of eternal life

## TODAH RABBAH

To the December Haftarah readers:

Carol Battle  
Denise Field  
Bill Solomon  
Cindy Payant  
Fred Blumenthal

To the December  
food basket sponsors:

Carol Battle  
Karen & Keith Zeff  
Rosetta & Ben Weintraub  
Cindy Payant  
Bill Solomon

To the December Kiddush sponsor:

Carol Battle

To the December luncheon sponsor:

Bill Solomon



## BSKI/TAMSKY GIFT SHOP

Hours: 10 am-12 pm on Sundays  
during Shaare Shalom or call  
314-725-6230 to arrange a  
shopping time

*The Brown Egg and the White Egg* is back! This story, written by our own Naomi Silvermintz, has a profound message about tolerance that is easily understood by young children. Naomi has told this story to many members of her family and would like to share it with you. This beautifully illustrated book is signed by the author and available in the Gift Shop.

Come Shopping!



# BSKI WOMEN'S LEAGUE MONET EXHIBIT TOUR At the ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM



Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
Meet in the Art Museum Lobby  
by 12:30 pm



The experienced docent,  
Naomi Silvermintz  
will be leading the tour.

Attendance will be limited to **20** people  
So RSVP now to BSKI at 725-6230.



*BSKI's Women's League*

is sponsoring a



## *Lunch & Bingo*



12:00 PM

Thursday, January 19, 2012

at the

JCC's Staenberg Center

2 Millstone Campus

Raffle Tickets

Lunch: \$3.50

Bingo: \$2.50

Prizes

RSVP to BSKI ~ 314-725-6230

by Tuesday, January 17

After January 17 contact

Linda at JCC: 442-3143

## *Mahjong....*

*"that Chinese game with  
the noisy tiles"*

*Would you like to learn  
how to play?*

*Women's League will  
be sponsoring a  
Mahjong Beginners  
Class  
with Marian Katz.*

*First...*

*we need to know if  
you're interested  
and*

*if you prefer day or a  
night class.*

*Call Jeanne in the  
BSKI office  
to sign up,  
314-725-6230.*



## Men's Club Moves Up

As we start the New Year, I want to thank all of the men of BSKI who have paid their Men's Club dues, and have participated in Men's Club activities. Remember to pay your 2012 dues through the Super Bill to the office, and know that you are contributing to the many services that the Men's Club provides to BSKI.

Men's Club provides a Chumash to each Bat and Bar Mitzvah, we provide a pancake breakfast for the first day of Shaare Shalom students and parents and teachers, we erect and maintain the congregational Sukkah, as well as send out the Yom Hashoah Yellow Candles and deliver a shiva tray of nuts and dried or fresh fruit in cooperation with the Caring Committee. Men's Club also helps our students in their Jewish educational trips through the Rabbi Skoff Educational Fund Scholarships and help with various other projects. We are always open to new projects and services that our members suggest.

We have scheduled several activities and are working on plans for several other projects.

Note these Programs Scheduled for 2012:

**February 5—World Wide Wrap with SZ Men's Club. A program to teach and encourage our youngsters to lay tefillin. This is a great program for Dads to participate in and encourage their children (boys and girls) in the Mitzvah.**

March 3—Men's Club Shabbat Services. D'var Torah and Honors to Men's Club Members.

March 10—Purim Ball Memento Photo Booth

March (last week)-April (first week)—Men's Club Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program. We will be packing off and labeling the Yom HaShoah Yellow Candles, so the April 1 meeting will be a packing party, with snacks.

The Men's Club needs active members to implement these programs and lead. Suggest a program, help plan it and work it and Men's Club can do so much for our congregation. This is a great time for younger family dads to get involved and help plan programs to involve the younger children.

As always, I invite men to get involved, suggest and plan an activity and support BSKI.

Join the Men's Club in our activities to support and aid BSKI and come to our meetings, generally the first Sunday of the month after morning services.

Don Pearline (December 5, 2011)

## CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY

BSKI, in coordination with the Jewish Community Foundation is proud to be a partner in the Create a Jewish Legacy program. Create a Jewish Legacy is an opportunity for you to ensure that our congregation is here for future generations. A legacy fulfills a spiritual ideal. Each one of us has the power to leave a legacy—one that fulfills our passions and dreams, and also one that carries on the legacy of those who came before us.

"We are like a breath, our days are like a fleeting shadow"  
(Psalms/Tehillim 144:3).

Create your own Jewish Legacy. A Legacy gift will help ensure the future of BSKI and help to meet the varying educational, cultural, social, and spiritual needs for our children and our grandchildren.

Throughout the St. Louis Jewish community in 2011 there have been 68 Legacy commitments which have generated approximately \$6 million. Thanks to our own congregants who endowed a Legacy Gift to BSKI in 2011: Aaron and Paula Hamvas, Steven and Andrea Rosenblum, Bruce and Ellen Sabin, David Samuels, Eric and Lisa Sheldon, Bill Solomon. We hope to add your name to this list in 2012. Gifts of any amount are encouraged and appreciated to ensure a bright future for generations to come. We'd be happy to discuss how to leave a Legacy Gift to BSKI and what would work best for you and your family.

To learn more about the Create a Jewish Legacy program and the different charitable gift planning opportunities, please contact the BSKI office at 314-725-6230. Your gift will directly affect the future of BSKI. Please act now to ensure our future.

# SHAARE SHALOM

Jewish Learning continues each and every day. Walk through the halls at BSKI on a Sunday morning or Shaare Zedek on a Monday or Wednesday afternoon and you will hear lots of noise, the noise of students having fun learning. Join us for Havdallah on a Sunday morning, t'fillah on a Wednesday evening at 5:30 or walk into one of our classrooms and you will most likely be handed a Chumash, Tanakh, textbook or a marker and glue, and asked to join in the learning. So stop in and join the fun! The sense of Kehillah at Shaare Shalom is apparent each month we meet at Shaare Zedek and BSKI for Shabbat Initiative. Our next community wide intergenerational service is January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am at Shaare Zedek Congregation. The ruach of the service is apparent as students and congregants join together in prayer, celebration and learning.



B'Shalom.  
Anita



Josh Ettinger filling a Hanukkiah during a relay race.



6<sup>th</sup> graders enjoying latkes and sufganiyot!



Moreh Aaron & Moreh Daniel acting as Rabbi Shammai and Rabbi Hillel. How do you light your menorah? The 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> graders voted. Rabbi Shammai won hands down.



Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders dancing during "Hanukkah Around the World."



Jenna and Abbie enjoying sufganiyot and latkes!

# SOCIAL ACTION

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*Social Action isn't just once a year on Mitzvah Day or one month a year during Cheshvan; help in many forms is needed year round!*

Cheshvan is Social Action Month. But, social action isn't about a few days a year or Mitzvah Day in the spring or the fall when we have the high holiday food collection and during Cheshvan when we have Social Action Shabbat and following that, the warm clothes and blankets drive. The need for helping those less fortunate is year round and continually growing. And, even more so in these tough economic times, the need to help those who are hungry or otherwise lacking is even greater as the resources available to them are more limited and stretched to capacity and funding for government programs is cut.

## **Other social action efforts at BSKI**

The BSKI Social Action Committee sponsors many programs and activities throughout the year to help others in need. If any of these spark an interest in you, please join us. We can always use more volunteers. Our programs range from **helping out in the community programming for seniors** (programming for the 60+ group and regular Friday night services at Crown Center), **for the environment** (we're active participants in the Jewish Environmental Initiative, planting trees, etc. and we sponsor the recycling containers in the building as well as our efforts to replace styrofoam with paper products), **multi-religion and cultural programs** (we participate in and contribute clothing, food, blankets, etc. through other organizations to the needy, also we participate in Interfaith Partnership and Faith Beyond Walls programs and help in inner city areas for kids by repairing and repainting old playground areas), **helping people who are sick or shut in** (we make plants and decorated hats for kids in the hospital and people in nursing homes and we prepare and deliver kosher meals on wheels for those who are homebound), **we serve the synagogue membership with our caring committee** (we send notes for those who are in the hospital, condolence and congratulation cards and provide shiva trays to families) and we **package and deliver food to our neighbors who are homebound on their Christmas holiday**. The Social Action committee (SAC) would welcome your contributions of time or if you wish, there is a SAC fund that you can make tributes to that helps to support many of our activities.

Here are some additional suggestions for how you can help those in need in our community.

- When you come to BSKI for a program or a meeting, don't come empty handed. Please remember to bring food for the pantry. It really is helpful and most appreciated.
- Contribute to the HKJFP by sponsoring food baskets in the sanctuary for Shabbat services. The large baskets are \$50 each (\$100 for two) and the money all goes directly to help provide food for those in need. The basket makers and dressers are all volunteers. Do this through the BSKI office.
- If you are planning a gathering or large party type event, consider using smaller baskets as centerpieces, perhaps not as pretty as flowers, but way more powerful in what they represent. Centerpiece food baskets are beautifully decorated and are \$30 each. You would do this directly with the HKJFP. If everyone who is planning Thanksgiving this year, buys a food basket centerpiece instead of flowers, think of the impact that could make.
- When you are buying new clothes, shoes, coats, etc. and replacing old, if they are still in good condition, please hang onto them for the winter warm clothes or the spring Mitzvah Day clothes collection. The same with blankets and other warm bedding materials.
- When buying new books, games and toys for birthdays to replace ones that your kids have outgrown, please remember all the kids who wouldn't otherwise have things to play with and learn from. We collect gently used books and toys, etc. for kids to be distributed on Mitzvah Day and when you are buying Hanukah presents, buy an extra toy or two for Hanukah Hugs, the collection of new toys for distribution at that time of year.
- The BSKI Social Action committee, in addition to Mitzvah Day regularly designates Sundays for food preparation for the HKJFP throughout the year. We make Spanish rice and 5 bean soup packages. We do it assembly style, have fun and prepare food for about 1000 meals each time.

There are even little ways you can help that won't cost you any extra time and very little money.

- Buy an extra can of cranberry sauce, string beans or pumpkin when they go on sale and bring it in before Thanksgiving. Likewise, other sale items at any time of the year will be much appreciated by the HKJFP. Before Passover, buy a 5 pack of matza instead of the 2 – 3 you might use and give the rest to the HKJFP.

Come and participate in any of our activities; the reward of satisfaction of having done a mitzvah is both immediate and profound. We would ask that you help in whatever way you can year round.

# TRIBUTES

## DONATIONS FOR YARTZEITS

(to 11-25-11)

### Donor..... In Memory Of

Mrs. Eli Appel..... Harry Appel, Rose Finkel  
 Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Axelbaum... Freida Axelbaum  
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Benjamin.....  
 ..... Samuel Berin, Sarah Emmer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Benson.... Hyman Benson  
 Mr. David Blumenthal....Dr. Herman Blumenthal  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan Bortz.....Alan Kirshon  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Brunstein .....  
 ..... Israel David Brunstein, Sam Cohen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Cherrick .....  
 ..... Alvin Extein, Samuel Cherrick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Cooper..... Eddy Cooper  
 Mr. and Mrs. Saul Dien ..... Louis Karsh  
 Mrs. Melvin Elbein..... Frank Kaldor  
 Mr. Max Erlich..... All Yartzeits  
 Mr. Marvin Foster & Ms. Niki Nymark .....  
 ..... Oscar Foster  
 Dr. Richard Gimpelson.....  
 ..... Hyman Monk Gimpelson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Gold.... Milton & Sadie Gold  
 Mrs. David Goldenhersh ..... David Goldenhersh  
 Mrs. Hortense Goodman..... Bessie Goodman  
 Mrs. Ann Gross ..... Hyman Goldman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Haspiel..... David Don  
 Mrs. David Heller ..... David & Elias Heller,  
 ..... Sidney & Harry Langsan  
 Mr. Sheldon Hoenig ..... Emil Hoenig  
 Mrs. Martin Katz..... Martin Katz  
 Mr. Steven Katz & Ms. Constance Barsky .....  
 ..... Sedelle Katz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Komen .....  
 ..... Max Komen, Michael Cutter  
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 Dr. & Mrs. Steven Lauter..... Sadie Lauter  
 Ms. Janet Lever ..... Harry & Sophie Lever  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Lewis..... Samuel Grossman  
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 Mr. & Mrs. David Marcus..... Robert Sands  
 Mrs. Arthur Meyers ..... Louis Plattner  
 Mrs. Michael Pernikoff..... Rose Waldman  
 Mrs. Marvin Portman.....  
 ..... Fae Stalburg, Milton Rossner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Radman.... Rose Gerber Kagan  
 Mrs. Carol Rafsky .....  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Rich ..... Sidney Cotlar  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Rothman ..... Abe Nodif  
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 ..... Libby & Louis Mankofsky  
 Mrs. Shirley Schmidt ..... Etta Wiener  
 Mrs. Abe Schneider.... David & Celia Schneider  
 Dr. & Mrs. Keith Segall.....  
 ..... Emil Kenneth Routman  
 Ms. Barbara Sherer & Dr. Howard Kohn .....  
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 Miss Marcia Sterneck.....  
 ..... Ben , Joseph, & Morris Sterneck  
 Mrs. Daniel Stolz..... Monica Stolz  
 Mrs. Betty Tannenbaum..... Sam Tannenbaum  
 Ms. Deborah Tannenbaum.....  
 ..... Sam Tannenbaum  
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Trochtenberg .....  
 ..... Freida Axelbaum

### Donor..... In Memory Of

Mrs. Rose Waldman.....  
 ..... Tillie Koslow, Rose Kaufman, Louis Spiritus  
 Mr. Marc Weinberg..... David Goldenhersh

## YIZKOR

(to 11-25-11)

### Donor

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Orenstein  
 Miss Marcia Sterneck

## ALIYAHS & HONORS

(to 11-25-11)

### Donor

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Berliner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Makler

## BSKI GENERAL FUND

(to 11-25-11)

To donate to this fund,  
 call the synagogue at 725-6230

### Donor

Mr. Sam Seidel  
 Mr. Bill Solomon

### Donor..... In Honor Of

Mr. & Mrs. John Michelman.....  
 ..... Dr. Andrew Youklis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rosenberg .....  
 ..... Marriage of Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Gross  
 Ms. Barbara Sherer & Dr. Howard Kohn.....  
 ..... Cindy Payant

### Donor..... In Memory Of

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Corson..... Rabbi Avi Levine  
 Mrs. Marvin Kodner..... Rabbi Avi Levine  
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rosenberg ... Rabbi Avi Levine  
 Mrs. Irvin Schneider ..... Marvin Kodner

### Donor..... Recovery Of

Ms. Cindy Payant..... Shirley Barken

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

(to 11-25-11)

### Donor..... In Honor Of

Mrs. Harvey Gillerman..... Rabbi Miller

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

(to 11-25-11)

### Donor

Ms. Libby Sorkin Routman

## MUSIC FUND

(to 11-25-11)

To donate to this fund,  
 call the synagogue at 725-6230

### Donor..... In Honor Of

Ms. Phyllis Hyken .....  
 ..... Birthdays of Bill Solomon & Margaret Israel,  
 ..... Saul & Naomi Silvermintz's anniversary

### Donor..... In Memory Of

Ms. Phyllis Hyken .....  
 ..... Dr. Sidney Jick, Evelyn Myers

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE TRIBUTE FUNDS

### ABE FINE FUND

(to 11-25-11)

To donate to this fund,  
 call Frances Bell at 647-9115

### Donor..... In Honor Of

Bea Borenstein .....  
 ..... Birthdays of Chris Brown & Linda Biggs,  
 ..... Anniversaries of Todd & Anya Kaufman  
 ..... and Saul & Naomi Silvermintz

### Donor..... In Memory Of

Shirlene & Irl Baris..... Rabbi Avi Levine  
 Bea Borenstein .....  
 ..... Sadie, Harry, & Jean Fine, Tillie Minkle

## EDITH MAZUR LIBRARY FUND

(to 11-27-11)

To donate to this fund,  
 call Marian Katz at 997-0112

### Donor..... In Memory Of

BSKI Women's League .....  
 ..... Lillian Spector, Esther Goldenhersh  
 Marian Katz .....  
 ..... Lillian Spector, Esther Goldenhersh

## UPCOMING DEADLINES

February Issue—  
 January 5

March Issue—  
 February 5

## THANK YOU!

Please note that submissions received  
 after the deadline cannot be  
 guaranteed space in the issue.

# January 2012

## Minyan Times

Sunday Morning: 8 am  
 Monday-Friday Morning: 7 am  
 Sunday-Thursday Evening: 5:15 pm  
 Saturday Morning: 8:45 am

Friday and Saturday Evening:  
 see calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Men's Club Meeting after morning service	2 <b>BSKI Office Closed</b>	3	4 Women's League Meeting 9:30 am	5 <b>Fast of the 10th of Tevet</b>  Evening Service 4:30 pm	6 Evening Service 4:25 pm  Candlelighting 4:37 pm	7 <b>Parshat Vayechi</b>  Junior Congregation/ Tot Shabbat 10:30 am  Evening Service 4:05 pm
8 Shaare Shalom 10 am	9 Youth Commission Meeting 7 pm	10 Rashi Class 10:30 am	11 Issues in Judaism 11 am  <b>Women's League Art Museum Tour 12:30 pm</b>	12	13 Evening Service 4:30 pm  Candlelighting 4:42 pm	14 <b>Parshat Shemot</b>  Junior Congregation/ Tot Shabbat 10:30 am  Evening Service 4:10 pm
15 Shaare Shalom 10 am	16	17 Rashi Class 10:30 am	18 JPAT Open Play in Karen's Room 9:30 am  Issues in Judaism 11 am	19 <b>Women's League Lunch and Bingo 12 pm</b>	20 Evening Service 4:40 pm  Candlelighting 4:50 pm	21 <b>Parshat Vaera</b>  Torah Talk after Services  Evening Service 4:20 pm
22 <b>Children's Library Program 10 am</b>	23	24 Rashi Class 10:30 am	25 <b>Rosh Chodesh Shevat</b>  Issues in Judaism 11 am	26	27 Evening Service 4:50 pm  Candlelighting 4:58 pm	28 <b>Parshat Bo</b>  Junior Congregation/ Tot Shabbat 10:30 am  Evening Service 4:30 pm
29 Shaare Shalom 10 am	30	31 Rashi Class 10:30 am				

# THE SHOFAR

Mordecai Miller ..... Rabbi  
Benson Skoff, Ph. D ..... Rabbi Emeritus  
Susan Cort ..... President  
Paula Hamvas. Synagogue Administrator  
Jonathan Belsky ..... Ba'al Koreh  
Ann Lesley Rosen ..... Shofar Editor  
Marilyn Dien. Women's League President  
Donald Pearline ..... Men's Club President  
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**Phone: 314-725-6230**  
**Fax: 314-725-6256**  
**Website: [www.e-bski.org](http://www.e-bski.org)**

**Office Hours**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**8:30 am-5 pm**  
**Friday**  
**8:30 am- 3 pm**

## TORAH TALK JANURAY 21 PARSHAT VAERA

When did G-d enter your life? Was it a quiet, reflective moment, a dangerous event, a time of awe such as a birth, death or burning bush? Each character in Genesis had a personal relationship with YHVH, showing different paths to faith. In Parshat Vaera G-d "remembers" the enslaved Israelites and re-enters the historical narrative, trying to prove to them and the Pharaoh that He is the mightiest and most deserving to be worshiped. Imagine convincing the thousands of individuals that make up the Israelite tribe, each with a personal opinion and free will, to be of One Mind. If you were there, would you have been convinced of this long absent G-d or trust Moses to be your leader? Could there have been better consensus than with modern Jews today?

Meet in the rabbi's study 15 minutes after services to discuss these and your own ideas from this week's Torah portion.