



# The Shofar

Nov-Dec, 2024

Congregation House of Israel

30 Tishrei - 30 Kislev, 5785



Happy  
Thanksgiving



Happy  
Hanukkah

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### The Shofar

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## Is the IDF the “New” Maccabees

### By Sherrill Nicolosi

The story of Judah and his rag-tag army, the Maccabees, is well known. In 165 BCE, the Greek-Syrian leader, Antiochus, attempted to gain control over Judea (today’s Israel), and to Hellenize the Jews. When the Jews refused to renounce the religion and customs of their forefathers, Antiochus responded with cruel and devastating acts, including desecrating the Holy Temple.

In response, a small band of Jewish soldiers led by Judah Maccabaeus (thus, the Maccabees), crushed the Greek-Syrian army, forcing them out of Jerusalem. This military victory is hailed as a miracle.

Today’s Israel is about the size of the State of New Jersey, with a similar population. Israel continues to defeat its enemies, although sandwiched among countries and organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, and the Iran-backed Houthi militia, that vow to destroy the

State of Israel.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is the Israeli people’s Army, devoted to maintaining the security of the Israeli citizens and the State of Israel as an independent country. Isn’t the IDF and its military leaders today’s Judah and his Maccabees? While the IDF is anything but a rag-tag army, it has faced the same challenge: defying the enemies who wish to destroy the State of Israel.

In a recent speech (September, 2024) before the U.N. General Assembly, Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, vowed to keep fighting to protect and defend Israel. He stated, “I have a message for the tyrants of Tehran. If you strike us, we will strike you. There is no place in Iran that the long arm of Israel cannot reach. And that’s true of the entire Middle East”.

The IDF, like the Maccabean Army, will not allow Israel to be decimated. Israel will do what Judah and the Maccabees did more than 2000 years ago: they will not allow the defeat of Israel. With courage, loyalty and strength, the IDF’s mission will be accomplished.

## Reb Shelly's Desk



### Hanukkah Feels Different This Year

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 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 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 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: *kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*, "all Israel are responsible one for another."

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.

***Chag Urim Sameach!***



# Waving the Lulav in the Sukkah



*Dianne Icenhower, Rabbi Shelly, Betty Feir (and Lacy)*



*Giles Bowden, Rabbi Shelly, Mike Richardson*



*David and Glenda Kirsch*



*Sherrill Nicolosi, Dale Myers*

Each year, one of the CHI traditions is to wave the Lulav and Etrog in the sukkah, on Sukkot. Here are some of them this year. Great fun was had by all.

# Waving the Lulav in the Sukkah



*Kathy Joy Townley, Stuart Leibowitz*



*Ross Sedler, Betty Forshberg*



*Rabbi Shelly*



*Patti and Mark Fleischner*

*Note: Our sincerest thanks to Stuart Leibowitz for capturing all these great pics.,*

### The Day After Sinwar

While much of the Jewish world sat in synagogue or out in their Sukkot, a routine IDF patrol in the Rafah area stumbled upon a building and identified a few Hamas terrorists there. After a firefight, the soldiers killed three of the terrorists. Upon closer look, the soldiers realized that one of the terrorists – who was wearing a head covering, flak jacket, carrying a gun and hand grenades (with NIS 40,000 on his body) – was none other than Hamas head and October 7 mastermind Yahya Sinwar. After a year of hunting for Sinwar, the IDF had forced him into constant relocation, fleeing from one hiding place to another, only to finally meet his demise in a firefight in the Southern Gaza city of Rafah.

The singular focus of Sinwar's life was the annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people. He is directly responsible for the death of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians. On this festival of Sukkot – when we are commanded to rejoice – we will not celebrate the death of this diabolical terrorist. We will, however, express our relief that millions of innocent people will sleep better tonight knowing he is no longer among the living.

Sinwar's death comes in a long line of recent assassinations including Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Hamas arch-terrorist Muhammad Deif, Fuad Shuqr – Senior Hezbollah commander, Ibrahim Aqil and Ahmed Wahbi – Head of Hezbollah's Redwan Force and training Unit, Ibrahim Qubaisi Commander of Hezbollah's Missile and Rocket unit, Muhammad Hussein Srouf -Commander of Hezbollah's Drone unit and most notably Hassan Nasrallah, The Secretary-General of Hezbollah (along with Ali Karaki the commander of the Southern Front of Hezbollah, and Abbas Nilforoushan Commander of Quds Force in Lebanon).

According to Israeli news Channel 12, Sinwar had previously been hiding with the six hostages who were executed by their Hamas captors on August 29 and whose bodies were recovered by the IDF on August 31 — Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, Eden Yerushalmi, 24, Ori Danino, 25, Alex Lobanov, 32, Carmel Gat, 40, and Almog Sarusi, 27, and that Sinwar likely gave the order to kill the six as he fled.

There are few people more deserving of death than Sinwar.

Born in Gaza in the early 1960s to a displaced Pal-

estinian family, Sinwar was recruited to Hamas and groomed as a leader by the organization's founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (assassinated in 2004). He quickly became chief of an internal security unit known as Al Majd, whose job it was to punish those suspected of violating Islamic morality laws or cooperating with Israel.

Sinwar was arrested in 1988 for murdering four Palestinians whom he accused of apostasy or collaborating with Israel, according to Israeli court records. He spent more than two decades in prison in Israel, where he learned Hebrew and developed an understanding of Israeli culture and society.

While incarcerated, Mr. Sinwar took advantage of an online university program and devoured Israeli news. He translated into Arabic tens of thousands of pages of contraband Hebrew-language autobiographies written by the former heads of Israel's domestic security agency, Shin Bet.

According to many reports and interviews, Dr. Yuval Bitton, an Israeli dentist who treated Mr. Sinwar when he was in custody and developed a relationship with him, said that Sinwar had secretly shared the translated pages so inmates could study the agency's counterterrorism tactics. Mr. Sinwar liked to call himself a "specialist in the Jewish people's history," according to Dr. Bitton (whose nephew was murdered on October 7).

After more than two decades in an Israeli jail, Sinwar was released in 2011 as part of a controversial deal in which one Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit was released after 5 years of Hamas captivity in exchange for 1027 Palestinian prisoners.

Sinwar rose to the highest levels of leadership in Hamas, eventually becoming its head in August after the assassination of Qatari-based leader Ismail Haniyeh.

According to documents recently disclosed by the New York Times and Washington Post, Sinwar had originally planned for the massive attack to take place in 2022 but waited in an attempt to (unsuccessfully) coordinate with Iran and Hezbollah to level an even greater and more devastating blow with the goal of destroying the Jewish State.

Some have and will use this opportunity to stick it to those who cautioned against a mass-scale ground operation in Rafah, with a nose-thumbing gloat of 'I told you so'.

What Now?

*Continued on page 8*

## Sisterhood

**We Can Do It!**



Congratulations to Millie Baron on her Sisterhood Woman of the Year Award. It is a well deserved honor.

Also, a big thank you to the many willing hands in our Sisterhood who made our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays such a success.

We are looking forward to more fun and festivities for Hanukkah.

## Refuah Shelema

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

- Yossi Baron
- Cheryl Cohen
- Oded Grenman
- Randy Lewis
- Pat McCarthy
- Sherrill Nicolosi
- Mike Richardson
- Larry Taub
- Misty Stricklin
- Shep Taxer
- Kathy Joy Townley
- Steven West
- Anita Williams
- James Woodfork
- Marie Woodfork



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# ARZA - World Union

Continued from page 6

There are many questions and uncertainties that come out of the death of Sinwar with which Israel and the world are now grappling.

1. Let us hope that the elimination of Hamas's most dominant figure, known for his brutality and sadism, could open a small window of opportunity to achieve Israel's elusive war aims, which have yet to be secured. Most importantly, many are hopeful that his death provides Israel an opportunity for further negotiations with Egypt and Qatar to bring the hostages home after a year of languishing in Hamas' brutal captivity and to bring an end to this long and deadly war that has caused terrible suffering to the people of Israel and the innocents in Gaza. We pray that all those who have been caused pain by the actions of Sinwar find comfort and healing and that the souls of those whose lives he took find peace.

2. Of course, the looming question is "Who will replace Sinwar?" This is key in determining whether or not it will be possible to end the fighting and secure a release for the remaining hostages. This includes the great uncertainty as to the hostages' location. The previous understanding was that Yahya Sinwar had surrounded himself with hostages as human shields, however, his movement without them leaves us with many more questions as to the ability to locate them or broker a deal for their release.

3. Where is the Palestinian Authority? PM Netanyahu has been stubbornly and emphatically against any discussion of propping up the PA to rule in Gaza. There's no question that the PA is not an ideal political solution for Gaza, as they are corrupt, weak, and lack a viable succession plan for the 88-year-old PA head Mahmoud Abbas. However, the insertion of an interim Palestinian leadership in Gaza could lead to an international joint effort (e.g. the post-WWII Marshall Plan) which would begin the long and arduous task of rebuilding Gaza and providing a better sans-Hamas future for Palestinians, which would then result in a better future for Israelis, especially those in the Gaza envelope and border communities.

4. Can Netanyahu now declare victory? After taking out Sinwar, and after the aforementioned list of assassinations, PM Netanyahu could potentially use this opportunity to declare victory. Seeing as his coalition is now fairly stabilized with Gideon Saar having recently brought his United Right party into the coalition, he could potentially engage in a more flexible policy line to bring home the hostages

and be the true hero to the Israeli people – beyond the heroic efforts to kill the figureheads who call for Israel's destruction. Or will Netanyahu use this moment to try and launch an offensive on Iran and its nuclear facilities?

While this is a big question, we must use this opportunity to call on PM Netanyahu, and the international community of invested countries and leaders including the U.S., the Gulf States, the Saudis, Egypt, etc – who seek to avoid all-out regional war with Iran and its proxies to move swiftly toward negotiations for the hostages. We mourn the loss of 5 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon, which serves as a painful reminder that Sinwar's death and Gaza are only one piece of this tragic and complex puzzle as Israel continues to fight on all fronts incurring heavy and heartbreaking loss.

There is no question that Israelis, Palestinians, and the entire world are better off now that Yahya Sinwar is no longer on this earth. He was the embodiment of evil and is responsible for more death and destruction than anyone else. Let us be clear that while we can breathe a sigh of relief now that he is gone, there is still great uncertainty and many questions that come now. Let us embrace a small glimmer of hope that we can use this opportunity to bring an end to the war and return the hostages and we erase the name and memory of Yahya Sinwar.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Anniversaries

Stephen and Clarissa Kirsch	Nov 26
Michael and Sharon Waxler	Nov 27
Brad and Elaine Wolken	Dec 26

### Birthdays

David Kirsch	Nov 7
Anita Williams	Nov 10
Dennis Williams	Nov 21
Myrna Taxer	Nov 28
Sophie Fleischner	Dec 7
Sherrill Nicolosi	Dec 20
Kim Baron	Dec 22
Frances Iverson	Dec 30



## Jewish Trivia for November and December

- |                |   |              |  |
|----------------|---|--------------|--|
| Nov 3, 1917    | Lord Arthur Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, signed the Balfour Declaration establishing the state of Palestine for Arabs and Jews | Dec 2, 1763  | Dedication of the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. Touro is the oldest synagogue in America   |
| Nov 4, 1995    | Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated at a peace rally by Yigal Amir, an Israelite right-wing extremist.                          | Dec 7, 2017  | U.S. recommends that Jerusalem become the capital of the State of Israel.  |
| Nov 4, 1954    | Abe Ribicoff elected governor of Connecticut  | Dec 8, 1987  | Palestine Intifada founded by Yasser Arafat  |
| Nov 4, 1938    | The Andrew Sisters record "Bei mir bist du Schön."  | 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. |
| 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   | Dec 1, 1973  | David Ben Gurion: Israeli Prime Minister                  |
| Nov 4 1995   | Yitzhak Rabin: Israeli Prime Minister   | Dec 2, 1990  | Aaron Copeland: Musician                                  |
| Nov 4, 1847  | Felix Mendelsohn: composer  | Dec 8, 1978  | Golda Meir: Israeli Prime Minister                        |
| Nov 8, 1983  | Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan: founder of Reconstructionism   | Dec 10, 1987 | Jascha Heifitz: violinist                                 |
| Nov 8, 1965  | Dorothy Kilgallen: writer, newscaster   | Dec 12, 1971 | David Sarnoff: founder of RCA                             |
| Nov 9, 1991  | Yves Montand: actor   | Dec 14, 2014 | Bess Myerson: politician, TV actress, former Miss America |
| Nov 9 1952   | Chaim Weizman: 1st president of Israel  | Dec 16, 1984 | Jan Pierce: Opera Singer                                  |
| Nov 10, 1960 | Isadore Freed: composer of Jewish melodies  | Dec 20, 1962 | Arthur Rubinstein: pianist                                |
| Nov 10, 1973 | Allan Sherman: singer, comedian   | Dec 23, 2000 | Victor Borge: pianist                                     |
| Nov 11, 1995 | Jerome Kern: composer   | Dec 26, 2016 | Carrie Fischer: actress                                   |
| Nov 18, 2004 | Cy Coleman: composer  | Dec 26, 2017 | Debbie Reynolds: actress                                  |
| Nov 22, 2014 | Claire Bagleman: singer (Barry Sisters)   | Dec 26, 1974 | Jack Benny: entertainer                                   |
| Nov 23, 2006 | Betty Comden: lyricist  | Dec 29, 1967 | Paul Whiteman: conductor                                  |
| Nov 23, 2009 | Yitzhak Aronowicz: Captain of the Exodus, a ship with 4500 Jews on board bound for Israel but refused entry | Dec 30, 1979 | Richard Rogers: composer                                  |

## November, December Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited November 1

**Leland H. Williams**  
*Father of Dennis Williams*

### Kaddish Recited November 8

**Stuart Klompus**  
*Husband of Mary Klompus*

**Dr. Martin Lax**  
*Father of Gary Lax*

**Rachel Leah Goltz**  
*Grandmother of Diane Goltz*  
*Grandmother of Susan Siegel*

**Philip Gladner**  
*Father of Neal Gladner*

### Kaddish Recited November 15

**Don Levy**  
*Brother of Jerry Levy*

**Joseph Wolken**  
*Grandfather of Brad Wolken*

**Al Ginsburg**  
*Father of Millie Baron*

**Joyce B. Boswell**  
*Mother of Anita Williams*

### Kaddish Recited November 22

**Louis Kleinman**  
*Husband of Betty Kleinman*  
*Grandfather of Westley, Zev and Jacob Kleinman*  
*Father of Ira Kleinman*

**Fred Stein**  
*Father of Judy Levy*

**LeRoy Tucker**  
*Father of Patti Fleischner*

**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 29

**Adolph Korngut**  
*Father of Fred Korngut*

**Fletcher Young**  
*Grandfather of Gary Lax*

**Adam Stuart Clingenpeel**  
*Brother of Kathy Joy Townley*

**Warner Kass**  
*Husband of Lynda Kass*

### Kaddish Recited December 6

**Barbara Schlesinger**  
*Member of CHI*

**Harry Leibowitz**  
*Father of Stuart Leibowitz*

### Kaddish Recited December 13

**Bernice Waxler**  
*Mother of Michael Waxler*

### Kaddish Recited December 20

**Elsa Stein**  
*Mother of Judy Levy*

**Sharona Grenman**  
*Wife of Oded Grenman*

**Lynn Raines Kirsch**  
*Wife of Steven Kirsch*

**Nellie Sheets**  
*Mother of Mary Klompus*

### Kaddish Recited December 27

**Hyman Robins**  
*Grandfather of Betty Feir*

**Dora Taxer**  
*Mother of Shep Taxer*

# November Parshiot

## Noach

**November 2, 2024**

God instructs Noah -- the only righteous man in a world consumed by violence and corruption -- to build a large wooden *teivah* ("ark"), coated within and without with pitch. A great deluge, says God, will wipe out all life from the face of the earth; but the ark will float upon the water, sheltering Noah and his family, and two members (male and female) of each animal species.

Rain falls for 40 days and nights, and the waters churn for 150 days more before calming and beginning to recede. The ark settles on Mount Ararat, and from its window Noah dispatches a raven, and then a series of doves, "to see if the waters were abated from the face of the earth." When the ground dries completely-- exactly one solar year (365 days) after the onset of the Flood--God commands Noah to exit the ark and repopulate the earth.

## Lech Lecha

**November 9, 2024**

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 16, 2024**

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 23 2024**

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 30, 2024**

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.



## December Parshiot

### Vayetzei

*December 7, 2024*

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.

### Vayishlach

*December 14, 2024*

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.

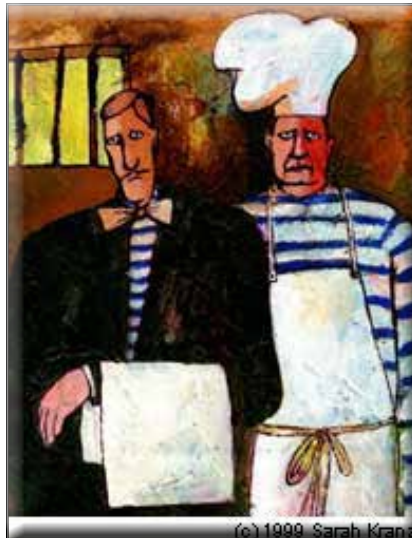
That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Yabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name Israel,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

### Vayeishev

*December 21, 2024*

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 28, 2024*

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.