

## Refuah Sheleimah – A Complete Recovery

Chaim ben Dina  
 Annabel Rubin, (relative of Dina Yevelev)  
 Arkadi Nisenzon (brother of Zoya Lazer)  
 Roe ben Yaacov, Bob Eppinger (friend of Dorothy & Richard Dorsay)  
 Craige Howlett (friend of Michael & Felicia Schaffer)  
 Madelene Teifeld (member and mother of Barbara Green and Jan Krum)  
 Robin Davis (daughter-in-law of Barbara Davis)  
 Sara Pela bat Katura, Barbara Davis (member)  
 Ze'ev Shamsha ben Sara Pela, Scott Evan Davis (son of Barbara Davis)  
 Mark Schaengold (friend of Andrea & Steve Linder)  
 Cathy Hebert (friend of Michael Schaffer)  
 Ruth Diamond Levinson (aunt of Davida Adelberg)  
 Lucille Janofsky (mother of Eric Janofsky)  
 Lauren Phillips (sister of Janet Witkin)  
 Raizel bat Tova (mother of Bonnie Slavitt Moore)  
 Julie Rubin (friend of Sandi Diamond)  
 Dorothy, Jay & Pam Frankel (friends of Lil & Hal Silberstein)  
 Gary Kipnis (member)  
 Aaron Yaakov ben Yitzchak, Al Kass (member)  
 Yosef ben Dreiza, Joseph Evans (father of Maureen Schneider)  
 Daniel & Patricia Williamson (friends of Christel Sanders)  
 Fraddel bat Devorah  
 D'vera Riva bat Fraddel  
 Chaya Leah bat D'vera Riva  
 Baruch Shalom ben Fraddel  
 Berlam ben Moshe Mordechai, B. Lee Skilken (uncle of Dan Skilken)  
 Wolf Lev ben Hannah (father of Jane Blumenthal)  
 Rivka bat Chaya Ettl (member)  
 Yisrael ben Perel, Irwin Solomon (member)  
 Allyson Guggenheim (granddaughter of Karen & Allen Guggenheim)  
 Shimrona Chava bat Yendel Nucha  
 Shoshana bat Eita (niece of Hy Burdman)  
 Yehudit bat Rivka (member)  
 Zelda Yudit bat Shena Fayag, Carol Gergis (cousin of Lawren Farber)  
 Shlomo ben Chaya (father of Ricki Gafter)  
 Rich Carlson (friend of Dori Jaroslow)  
 Avraham ben Yehudit (father of congregant)  
 Judy Trigger (cousin of Wendy Glasser)  
 Zipporah bat Etko, Phyllis Maus (cousin of Lance Glasser)  
 Arlene Nodleman (friend of Dina Yevelev)  
 Leah bat Esther, Lil Silverstein (member)  
 Ofira Avirit bat Sarah, Aurelia Nelson (member)  
 Lauren Flato (wife of Steve Labovitz)  
 Esther bay Fayge (mother of Neil Gafter)  
 Luba Pasumansky (relative of Yulia Shvarts)  
 Julie Seltzer-Firsty (friend of the Labovitz's)  
 Hannah bat Miriam, Hannie Isaac (sister-in-law of Myrtle & Joel Schwartz and Eli & Lorraine Isaac)  
 Michael Acevedo (son-in-law of Ron & Alison Ruebusch)  
 Harvey Stone (cousin of Wendy Glasser)  
 Miriam bat Sarah, Miriam Molecke (grandmother of Ricki Gafter)  
 Rita Kertzman (mother of Andrea Ammerman)  
 Susan Dresser (friend of Myrtle & Joel Schwartz)  
 Hinda bat Yisrael v' Bayla, Diane Zitman (member)  
 Diane Fornwalt (relative of Helaine Green)  
 Yehudit bat Eitah (niece of Hy Burdman)  
 Faiga bat Ruth, Phyllis Zis (member)  
 Eliyahu ben Menet  
 Ruth bat Rahel, Ruth Harary (mother of Susan Murai-Raider)  
 Hiroko Caster (friend of Barbara Davis)  
 Meir ben Ze'ev, Milton Wiener (father of Barbara Davis)  
 Yehuda ben Rivka (member)  
 Leah Esther bat Leibisch, Laura Sharpe (member)  
 Fishel Hirsh ben Zvi, Philip Wesler (father of Laura Sigura)  
 Hoogare bat Salman (cousin-in-law of Dave Hoffman)  
 Ruth Karpman (friend of Rita Kertzman)  
 Leib ben Chaya, Leib Nodelman (brother of Doysa Markova)  
 Donna Stone (cousin of Wendy Glasser)  
 Chris Adamson (friend of Wendy Glasser)  
 Yitzhak ben Aron (father of Phyllis Newman)  
 Yitzhak Rahamim, Ike Isaac (brother of Myrtle Schwartz & Eli Isaac; brother-in-law of Joel Schwartz & Lorraine Isaac)  
 Jerry Boyajian (friend of Wendy Glasser)  
 Ephraim ben Chayyim, Philip Lempert (brother of Dennis Lempert)  
 Lucas Fazekas (family friend of Gafter family)  
 Walter Fulde (friend of Leonard & Sylvia Metz)  
 Miriam Shoshana bat Bracha, Meredith Israel (friend of Jack Moore & Bonnie Slavitt-Moore)  
 Reut bat Nehama (friend of Strod Family)  
 Malkah Zahava bat Bracha Leah, Marla Becker (sister of Michele Hittleman, daughter of Betty Becker)  
 Izabella Letskin (friend of Yulia Shvarts)  
 Tzivia bat Shandel, Harriette Kirschen, (mother of Sandy Mayer)

Devora bat Baruch v'Raizel (Bonnie Slavitt-Moore)  
 Mia Rose Nusbaum (daughter of friend's of Stephen & Lynne Kinsey)  
 Shayna Rochal bat Yehudit (sister of Lynne Kinsey)  
 Michael ben Sarah (Michael Applesmith)  
 Ellen Efron (friend of Susan Murai-Raider)  
 Maximillian Schaffer (son of Michael Schaffer)  
 Gary Heit (friend of Michael Schaffer)  
 Chaye Reizel bat Ruchel  
 HaRav Avraham ben Miriam (friend of Krongold family)  
 Yehuda Zalman ben Leah (father of Andrew Raider)  
 David ben Hasya (friend of Yulia Shvarts)  
 Zelda bat Miriam, Stephanie Lewis (friend of Benjamin Leitner)  
 Elisheva bat Yehudit (friend of Sue Maltiel)  
 Eliana bat Malka, Eliana Green (daughter of Steve & Helaine Green)  
 Harriet Gluck (cousin of Dave Hoffman)  
 Sivia bat Chava, Sylvia Gilvarg (aunt of Rachel Schwab)  
 Ilene Mason (friend of Rhonda & Naomi Raider)  
 Chaim ben Faegle, Herm Stone (brother of Henry Stone, Uncle of Linda Weiss)  
 Yosef ben Esther, Jeff Sohn (friend of Rosa & Izak Bencuya)  
 Moshe Chaim ben Zev ha Kohen (member)  
 Fae Melmon (member)  
 Irit Shirah bat Rivka, Irene Bricker (member)  
 Ruben Abraham Moses Ben' Moshe (friend of Myrtle Schwartz)  
 Rachmiel ben Yoheved  
 Karen Carp (friend of Gafter family)  
 Hodel bat 'Bracha, Helen Schulman (mother of Barbara Knaster)  
 Dan Winkler (friend of Scott Knaster)  
 Steve Wilson (friend of Tanya Lorien)  
 Yehudit bat Eshke, Eunice Coleman (mother of Lynne Kinsey)  
 C. Vincenzo de Sepio (friend of Tanya Lorien)

## Yahrzeits

**DECEMBER 25, 26**

Pearl Alpert, Grandmother of Marjorie Alpert  
 Lusya Alshansky, relative of Hava Goldman  
 Nathan Baer, Father of Maxie Baer  
 Gretel Barkai-Baram, Mother of Tamar Mednick  
 Sofia Belostotsky, Mother of Boris Dashevsky  
 Nathan Cadiff, Grandfather of Susan Rosenzweig  
 David Caplan, Father of Hillary Farkas  
 Louis Chevlen, Of Blessed Memory  
 Betty Dligach, Grandmother of Natalia Pogrebinsky  
 Leo Dligach, Grandfather of Natalia Pogrebinsky  
 Benjamin Dorsay, Father of Richard Dorsay; Grandfather of Adam Dorsay  
 Edith Farber, Mother of Lawren Farber  
 Celia Fertig, Sister of Gerald Daniel  
 Arthur Field, Husband of Marilyn Field; Father of Donald & Howard Field  
 Chaim Finkelberg, Father of Liliya Popova  
 Edward Fuchs, Father of Marlene Cole  
 Jacob Oscar Gavensky, Grandfather of Lee Gavens  
 Miriam Genzer, Grandmother of Iris Bendahan  
 George Goodman, Uncle of Nancy & Kenneth Wiener  
 Elias Green, Father of Arye Green  
 Lazar Gurvech, Uncle of Dina Yevelev  
 William Hausknecht, Father of Pesia Entin  
 Max Hoffman, Father of Helen Baer  
 Clare Kanel, Grandmother of Jeffrey Kanel  
 Irving Kingston, Grandfather of Cheryl Zatklin-Steres  
 Louis Kuhn, Father of Neal Kuhn  
 Reuben Lazar, Brother of Edith Kallman  
 Herman Leibman, Uncle of Joel Schwartz  
 Esther Linder, Grandmother of David Paktor  
 Ben Lutzker, Father-in-law of Sima Shore  
 Robert Mednick, Uncle of George Mednick  
 Joseph Nassi, Father of Ike Nassi  
 Ronald Niedle, Brother-in-law of Sofia Filshinsky  
 Beatrice Reitman, Grandmother of Jeffrey Warwick  
 Irwin Sacolick, Father of Andrea Linder  
 Robert (Bert) Schwartz, Brother of Joel Schwartz  
 Lea Seymon, Mother of Jane Jacobson  
 Arlene Shapiro, Of Blessed Memory  
 Ida Silberstein, Mother of Sandra Levitt  
 Joseph Silberstein, Father of Hal Silberstein  
 Benjamin Solomon, Father of Irwin Solomon  
 Justine Stein, Mother of Susan Gavens  
 Friedrich Sussman, Grandfather of Barbara Biran  
 Morris "Moe" Witkin, Father of Louis Witkin  
 William A. Yellen, Father of Lillian Cohen  
 Irving Zeitman, Uncle of Harold Zeitman  
 Shirley Zucchi, Mother of Janet Witkin; Grandmother of Dawn Glajchen



# בְּרֵאשִׁית

קהילת בית דוד  
 Congregation Beth David

*There's a Place for Me at CBD!*

## פרשת ויגש

# Parashat Vayigash

9 Tevet, 5770 / December 26, 2009

Triennial Cycle III: Genesis 46:28-47:27

Humash Etz Hayim, page 283

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28, page 290

1. (46:28-30) Joseph and Jacob have a tearful reunion.
2. (46:30-47:10) Joseph appeals to Pharaoh to allow his family to settle in the region of Goshen. Pharaoh agrees. Jacob is presented to Pharaoh.
3. (47:11-27) Joseph's policies of distribution and rationing of food during the famine result in an increase in the wealth and power of the central government.

*Candle lighting time for December 25: 4:38*

[www.beth-david.org](http://www.beth-david.org)

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## Keeping a Positive Attitude

*And Joseph brought Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?" And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "the days of the years of my sojournings are a hundred and thirty years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained the days of the years of my fathers in their days of sojourning." And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from Pharaoh's presence.* (Genesis 47:7-9, Robert Alter's translation)

*Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life.* Jacob's somber summary of his own life echoes with a kind of complex solemnity against all that we have seen him undergo. He has, after all, achieved everything he aspired to achieve: the birthright, the blessing, marriage with his beloved Rachel, progeny, and wealth. But one measure of the profound moral realism of the story is that although he gets everything he wanted, it is not in the way he would have wanted, and the consequence is far more pain than contentment. From his "clashing" (25:22) with his twin in the womb, everything has been a struggle. He displaces Esau, but only at the price of fear and lingering guilt and long exile. He gets Rachel, but only by having Leah imposed on him, with all the domestic strife that entails, and he loses Rachel early in childbirth. He is given a new name by his divine adversary, but comes away with a permanent wound. He gets the full solar-year number of twelve sons, but there is enmity among them (for which he bears some responsibility), and he spends twenty-two years continually grieving over his favorite son, who he believes is dead. This is, in sum, a story with a happy ending that withholds any simple feeling of happiness at the end. (Robert Alter)

When Jacob said *few and evil*, God said to him, "I rescued you from Esau and Laban, and I returned both Dina and Joseph to you, and you complain about your life that its days were few and evil! By your life, I will count the words from *VayomerPharaoh* [And Pharaoh said] until *bimeim'gureihem* [in their days of sojourning] and subtract from your years so that you will not live as long as your father Isaac, which equals thirty-three years, for Isaac lived 180 years and Jacob only lived 147. (Midrash cited in *Torah Sh'leimah*) Rabbi Chayim Shmulevitz would frequently cite this Midrash and explained that we should gain such a great appreciation for life itself that even if we have many difficulties in life, we will still live a life of joy. Experiencing this daily joy of living, we would be unable to say that our life was bad. The ultimate level to strive for is that you should feel tremendous joy in living, and then trivial matters will not cause you to complain.

This concept, said Rav Chayim, is what the Midrash to Eichah meant when it stated that life itself is sufficient that we should have no complaints in this world. An illustration of this is someone who was drinking from a glass that fell and broke. The person might be irritated about the inconveniences involved. But imagine the scene if at the exact moment the glass fell and broke, someone would run in and tell this person that he had just won a huge sum of money in the national sweepstakes. He would be so overwhelmed with his good fortune that he would be oblivious to the loss of a glass and the bother of having to sweep it up. Similarly, someone who feels the joy inherent in life itself will have no complaints when things do not work out the way he would wish. He feels so high that nothing will be able to take away his positive feelings. (Zelig Pliskin, *Growth Through Torah*)

מוֹדָה אָנִי לְפָנֶיךָ, מֶלֶךְ חַי וְקַיִם,  
שֶׁחֲזַרְתָּ בִּי נִשְׁמָתִי בְּחֻמְלָה רַבָּה אֲמוּנָתְךָ.

*Modehanil'fanekha, melekh'hai'v'kayyam, she-  
hehezarta bi  
nishmatib'hemlahrabbaemunatekha.*

**I offer thanks before you, living and eternal King, for You have mercifully restored my soul to me; Your faithfulness is great.**

## Announcements

### The Mitzvah of Making a Minyan

Come one, come all and join us every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and Monday – Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. for daily minyan. Our success, thus far, has been outstanding. We are looking to include as many members of our Beth David family as possible in this wonderful tradition that brings comfort to our mourners and gives each of us a daily opportunity to connect with our soul, our community and our God. To help ensure the future vibrancy of our minyan, our captains have created the following schedule organized alphabetically by last name. When it is your week, we invite you to look at your schedules and commit to at least one night to attend this important endeavor. We look forward to having you join us and thank you in advance! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sandy Mayer at (408) 257-6129 or [fammayer@aol.com](mailto:fammayer@aol.com).

- A-D: First Week of the Month
- L-R: Third Week of the Month
- E-K: Second Week of the Month
- S-Z: Fourth Week of the Month

### Earn Money for Beth David While You Shop!

Please help us raise money by:

1. Registering your credit cards and your Safeway Club Card with eScrip and shopping at the eScrip Virtual Mall,
  2. Shopping at Amazon.com by linking from the website, and
  3. Purchasing Judaica from Zara Mart by linking from the website.
- Shopping commissions are shared equally among the Beth David General Fund, Men's Club, and Sisterhood. Sign up with eScrip our new Shuk2Shul website at <http://beth-david.org/shopcbd/shuk2shul/>

### Social Action Committee

Beth David Winter Community Caring Project  
**"Blanket the Community with Warmth and Love"**

Since winter is definitely in the air, please bring a new or gently used blanket(s) to donate to the less fortunate.

For more information, contact Seema Cicerone at 408-741-5466

### Calling Women and Post-Bat Mitzvah Teens

The "Threads of Tradition" group will meet on January 3, 2010, 10:30 am to assemble *tachrichim*, traditional Jewish burial garments. Sewing burial garments is a concrete way we can care for those in our community at this most important time in the life cycle. No experience required, just a desire to perform a mitzvah. Call Marcia Kaplan, 741-1338.

### Hazak Shabbat

Friday, January 8th

Celebrate with Conservative congregations across America as Beth David recognizes and honors Hazak.

Shabbat Friday Evening Services begin at 6:30 pm with a Shabbat dinner to follow.

**Dinner reservations required.**

Please RSVP on web site at <http://beth-david.org/rsvp>  
Sign up by sending an e-mail to: [hazak@compular.com](mailto:hazak@compular.com)

### Sisterhood News

#### Creative Judaic Arts

**The Gift Shop** is Open on January 10th & 24th, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm.

#### Sisterhood Shabbat January 16th, 9:30 am

Sisterhood cordially invites all members of Beth David to attend **Sisterhood Shabbat**. Please join us as the women of Sisterhood lead this inspiring service and then sponsor the Kiddush luncheon that follows. Please rsvp at <http://beth-david.org/rsvp>  
If you can help with baked goods, set up, or clean up, contact Rita Schlosser, [rita\\_schlosser@yahoo.com](mailto:rita_schlosser@yahoo.com), 408-255-6655.

#### Queen Esther's Kitchen

**Baking & Cooking with Myrtle Schwartz.** Join Myrtle in the Beth David kitchen to bring us delicious hamentaschen and stuffed cabbage. If you can assist Myrtle please rsvp to Davida Adelberg, [adelbergfam@me.com](mailto:adelbergfam@me.com) or 408-777-8875.  
Tuesday, Dec. 29, Jan. 12, 19, and 26 at 10 am.  
Tuesday, Jan 5, 5 pm.  
Wednesday, Jan 13, at 10 am.

#### Purim Silent Auction Donations

Please consider donating items or funds to help Sisterhood with its Auction at the Purim Carnival. If you have an item or a new idea for a gift basket, or products or services that can be donated, please contact coordinators Irina Tenberg, [irinatenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:irinatenberg@yahoo.com), 408-376-3970 or Galina Drabkin, [twingalina@yahoo.com](mailto:twingalina@yahoo.com), 408-241-2542. **All items must be delivered by Feb. 1.** Thank you!

### Visit Our New Website!

Familiarize yourselves with our new features such as the RSVP link. Find and respond to current events in a one stop, time saving format.

### Hadashot Religious School

No Youth Services until January 9

**Winter break:** Dec. 19 - Jan. 3, 2010

**Shabbat Mishpaha (Family) & Supper:** Hagigat Noar, Feb. 5, 2010

### Men's Club News

Sunday January 10, after morning minyan, (10:30) Monthly Men's Club meeting to review and add to our 2010 calendar. Come with your ideas. Bagels will be served. The meeting will be at a congregant's house that is walking distance from CBD. For info contact: Dave Graubart [mensclub@beth-david.org](mailto:mensclub@beth-david.org) 408-377-4768.

## A Night Of Illusion Theater

Saturday, January 16, 2010 7:00pm

**A show for all ages** that inspires wonder and imagination with **Award-winning** Majinga the Magician!  
rsvp on website  
<http://beth-david.org/rsvp/>

## Young Adult Group and Adult Education

Sunday, January 10, 7:30 pm

**Sunday Night @ the Movies**

Movie followed by a discussion. **Sixty Six, Bernie's Bar Mitzvah vs. the 1966 World Cup Finals-** Bernie Rubens wants his bar mitzvah to be a blowout event and is horrified when he learns that his parents have accidentally scheduled it for the day of the 1966 World Cup final, and will not change the date. His troubles are set against a family distracted by the threat of losing their business and their wayward older son. Besides his eccentric family, Bernie has encounters with his blind rabbi and his soccer-fan doctor as the film builds to its conclusion. Humor competes with frustration in this "deeply touching film about the ups and downs of childhood--as well as the joys and sorrows that come with adulthood."

**Discussion follows on Family Dynamics and Relationships.**

### Adult Education

Sunday, January 10, 12:30 - 3:00 pm

**Lunch and Learn**

**Biblical History Through Ancient Inscriptions and Coins - Speaker: Allen Binder, Jewish Historical Coin Collector.** This talk will use ancient inscriptions and coins to bring Jewish Biblical history to life and to put it into context during a vital 1300-year period. Beginning in 1200 BCE, engraved stone monuments documented a Jewish presence in the Land of Israel. During the Second Temple period and later, Jewish governments and kings issued coins recording Jewish life and providing important information about major political events. This evidence of Jewish life transforms Jewish history into a coherent picture anchored in place and time.

Monday, January 11, 7:30 pm

**Perkei Avot Discussion Group Informational Meeting**  
**Informational meeting for a new discussion group on "Perkei Avot", a tractate in the Talmud that contains ethical sayings of our fathers.** Come to this meeting to help shape the approach and help select the weekly discussion day and time. The plan for the discussion group is to use a basic Pirkei Avot text with commentary and use a weekly topic based discussion format, led by a facilitator. The facilitator role would rotate through the group allowing everyone who wished to lead, the opportunity to do so.

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 pm

**Conversations in Jewish Learning**

**"Three Women and a Talmud: The Story of Rashi's Daughters Concludes with Book Three—Rachel" – Speaker: Author Maggie Anton -** Maggie Anton will speak about the research behind her best-selling "Rashi's Daughters" trilogy, set in the household of the great medieval Talmud scholar who had no sons, only daughters.. She'll discuss: What was life like for Jewish women in 11th century France? Were Rashi's daughters really learned? Did they actually wear tefillin? Why should a 21st century Jew care about Rashi and his daughters?? **Book sales and signing follow the talk**

*Mazel*  
TOV

*Mazel Tov to Elena Marina and Boris Kazinik on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yosef! Our thanks to the Marina-Kazinik family for sponsoring the Kiddush luncheon.*