

# THE BAYIT BULLETIN

December 25, 2009

Weekly Edition

9 Tevet, 5770

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## Kiddush

There will be no Kiddush this Shabbat.

## This Week

### Shabbat Parshat Vayigash December 25-26

Note: Locations in New Bayit

- Candle Lighting: 4:16pm
- Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:20pm
- Shalom Bayit: 6:50am  
(2nd Floor Multi-purpose Room)
- Sephardic Tefillah: 8:30am  
(Beit Midrash)
- Shacharit: 8:30am
- Sof Zman Kri'at Shema: 9:01am
- Parsha Shiur: 3:15pm
- Mincha: 4:00pm
- Shabbat Ends: 5:19pm

## Weekday Times

- Shacharit:  
Sunday: 8:30am (Fast of Tevet)  
Mon/Thurs: 6:40, 8:15am  
Tues/Wed: 6:45, 8:15am  
Fri: 8:30am (January 1)
- Mincha/Maariv:  
Sun: 4:15pm  
Mon - Thurs: 4:25pm

## Next Week

### Shabbat Parshat Vayechi January 1-2

- Candle Lighting: 4:21pm
- Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 4:25pm
- Shacharit: 8:30am
- Mincha: 4:05pm
- Shabbat Ends: 5:25pm



## This Shabbat @ The Bayit

### RIGHT AFTER TEFILLAH - Shiur with Rav David Bigman

"A New Perspective on the Story of Joseph and His Brothers"

Rav Bigman is the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Maale Gilboa, where some Bayit members have learned, and the founding Rosh Yeshiva at the women's yeshiva Ein Hanatziv, where Bayit members have also learned. He is a leading open rabbinic figure in Israel whose teaching emphasizes critical study of Talmud and encourages independent thought in all areas.



### ONEG SHABBAT WITH RAV BIGMAN

In addition to his talk on Shabbat morning, Rav Bigman will speak at an Oneg Shabbat on Friday night, December 25th, at 8:00pm, at Sue Gross & Dov Weinstock's home, 10 Alderbrook Rd (entrance at 247th/Independence). His topic will be "The Quest for Anarchy in the Writings of Rav Kook". All are welcome.

*The Bayit Welcomes Rabbi Mordechai Rackover, Jewish Chaplain at Brown University.*

### 3:15PM - PARSHA SHIUR with Rabbi Rackover - "Who is in Control? Emotion and Politics in the Yosef Yehuda Encounter"

### BETWEEN MINCHA AND MAARIV - SHIUR with Rabbi Rackover

"Halakha, Aggadah & Anachronism: Jacob's Encounters with Esav and Yosef"

Rabbi Mordechai Rackover is the Jewish Chaplain of Brown University and Rabbi of the Brown RISD Hillel Foundation. Rabbi Rackover tries to integrate the plurality of Jewish voices into a cogent conversation based in tradition and text. Previously he served as Assistant Rabbi of Beth Sholom in Potomac, MD.

## GUEST LECTURE WITH CHAYUTA DEUTSCH, BIOGRAPHER OF NECHAMA LEIBOVITZ

Tuesday night, December 29th, at 7:30pm, in the new Beit Midrash.

"Nechama Leibovitz, Teacher of our People: Biography and Method"

Chayuta Deutsch is the author of "Nechama: The Biography of Nechama Leibovitz." She is editor of Akdamot, Beit Morasha's Journal of Jewish Thought, a well-known Israeli journalist and best-selling author. Chayuta earned her BS in Education from Michlala Yerushalayim, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Talmud at Bar Ilan University. She is also a film script writer and graduate of Beren College's Moshe Green Beit Midrash for Women.



## Next Shabbat @ The Bayit

### JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR KABBALAT SHABBAT

Special Kabbalat Shabbat next **Fri., Jan. 1**, at 4:45pm in the new Bayit's 2nd floor multi-purpose room. Mizmorim (psalms) set to tunes from the musical: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. For details and playlist e-mail: sally46@gmail.com.



**STATEMENTS: 2010 dues statements have been mailed. As a benefit of your HIR membership, 100% of your dues payment is tax deductible, as are your voluntary contributions to The Bayit. If you would like to make a payment before the end of the year, please contact the office no later than Thursday, December 31st, 2009.**

**Sunday is Asara B'Tevet. Fast Begins at 6:07am and ends at 5:14pm.**

## Construction Update

**Phase 1:** We continue to fine tune operations in the new building, complete punch list work, and work out remaining kinks and loose ends. We have been having some difficulties with the elevator that the contractor is addressing but in the meantime we suggest you use the stairs wherever possible.

**Phase 2:** The social hall has been completely demolished and the contractor is in the process of completing structural work to stiffen the floor of the main sanctuary. This work is expected to reduce, although not completely eliminate, the vibration of the floor during heavy, active use of the Main Sanctuary (e.g., dancing during concerts). We have been assured time and again over the years by design professionals that the floor was constructed so as to vibrate in these conditions and that there is absolutely no danger; nevertheless we are taking advantage of this opportunity to do this work.

**Change in Schedule for Phase 2:** In order to shorten the schedule for the remaining Phase 2 work, and also to achieve material cost reductions, we have agreed to turn over the entire original building to the general contractor starting the day after our Martin Luther King event to be held on January 18th. Accordingly, HIR will vacate the Main Sanctuary (in addition to the already vacated Social Hall) on January 19th, at which time all davening, including on Shabbat, will take place in the new building until work in the Main Sanctuary is completed and the NYC Department of Buildings permits re-occupancy. Friday night and Shabbat morning tefillah will meet in the new Beit Midrash with one possible simultaneous Shabbat morning service elsewhere in the new building. Stay tuned for further details regarding Shabbat davening schedules and locations.

The Main Sanctuary is being given all new lighting, carpeting, heating and air-conditioning (and new ductwork that will disperse air evenly from the ceiling), in addition to another 4 rows across the men's and women's section (when needed), and a sound attenuating vestibule at its entrance leading to a spacious new lobby. The Social Hall will be 40% larger and have all new ceiling, lights, heating and air conditioning, walls and carpet, and will be able to be divided to accommodate two simultaneous events. When completed, the old and new buildings will be seamlessly connected at the main and lower floors to create one large building.

**We thank you for your patience and understanding as we head down the home stretch. Please feel free to contact Rav Steven, Mahara"t Sara, Danny Perla, Zev Steinberg or Ari Hait with any questions or concerns.**

### HIR GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The **HIR Gift Card Program** is an important way to support HIR while shopping at your favorite stores at no additional cost to you. Please see the expanded list of retailers on the flyers in the shul lobby.

To place orders, ask a question or to volunteer please contact Omri Flicker at [HIRScrips@gmail.com](mailto:HIRScrips@gmail.com) or by fax to David Braunstein at 973-438-1481.

## Happenings @ the Bayit

**ABRAHAM AND SARAH'S TENT:** Join us for a Shabbat meal this Friday night. Sponsored anonymously. To sponsor future tents please contact James Lapin at [TheBayit-Tent@yahoo.com](mailto:TheBayit-Tent@yahoo.com).

**LECTURE WITH RABBI CHAIM RAPOPORT:** YCT welcomes the community to celebrate its arrival in Riverdale with a public lecture by Rabbi Chaim Rapoport on **Mon., Jan. 4** at 7:30pm on "The Critical Influence of Hashkafa on Halakha: Its Relevance for the Modern Jew." Rabbi Rapoport is author of "Judaism and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View", a dynamic speaker, and adviser to the Chief Rabbi of England on medical ethics.

**SHABBAT LEARNING SERVICE:** Our next Learning Service will take place in the New Bayit on **Shabbat Parshat Shemot, Jan. 9**. Led by Mahara"t Sara Hurwitz, we will gain a deeper understanding of the Shabbat Prayers. Hot Kiddush will follow.

**THE BAYIT'S CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI POETRY GROUP:** Our next contemporary Israeli poetry group under the guidance of poet and translator Atara Fobar will take place on **Sun., Jan. 10**, from 7:00pm - 8:15pm. Poems will be read in Hebrew with English translation and discussion. No prior knowledge or commitment necessary; all are invited! For more info. contact [a.fobar@verizon.net](mailto:a.fobar@verizon.net).

**TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR:** Join us for our annual Dr. Martin Luther King concert, on **Mon., Jan. 18**, at 7:30pm, an evening of inspirational song with Reverend Roger Hambrick and the Green Pastures Baptist Church Choir, with guest performance by Neshama Carlebach.

**TEHILLIM GROUP:** A tehillim group is forming to recite Psalms for those who are ill. To receive chapters of Psalms, please contact Sandra Molinas at [phiabea\\_srs@yahoo.com](mailto:phiabea_srs@yahoo.com).

### SAVE THE DATES FOR TWO UPCOMING EVENTS!

**DAVID ON TRIAL: Saturday night, Jan. 23rd, at 7:30pm,** put King David on Trial, a dramatic trial of the David and Batsheva story starring attorney Mark Baker, Judge Rubin, and Bayit staff and members, and directed by Biblical trial expert Joel Cohen of Stroock & Co.

**REFUSENIK:** Join Glenn Richter, a leader of the Soviet Jewry movement, on **Sunday night, February 21st, at 7:00pm** for a screening of Refusenik, a film chronicling that extraordinary period of contemporary activism, followed by Q&A with Glenn. \$5 suggested donation.

## Thank You for Giving Back to the Bayit



Thank you to **Lamelle Ryman and Uri Schneider** for donating their time and talent to accompany Rav Avi last Sat. night, Dec. 19 with music at the shul. As Chanukah departed, they elevated us with spiritual music and song.

If you would like to donate your time, talent or expertise to the Bayit please contact our Rabbinic staff: Rabbi Steven Exler at [ravstevenexler@gmail.com](mailto:ravstevenexler@gmail.com) or Mahara"t Sara Hurwitz at [sarahurwitz@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahurwitz@yahoo.com).

**For This Week's Classes @ the Bayit - see the back page of this Bulletin**

# Youth Department

## HIR YOUTH GROUPS SCHEDULE AND UPDATES

This Shabbat, Dec. 26 Parshat Vayigash groups for ages Pre-K—1st grade will be taking place in the new building and **will begin at 10:00am. Tot Shabbat will be on the 3rd floor starting at 10:30am. All other groups are canceled for this Shabbat and ALL groups are canceled for next Shabbat.**

**Teen Minyan** begins at 9:15 on the 3rd floor. Please consult the layout in the lobby for your child's group location. All children must either be in groups or with their parents in the Main Sanctuary.



**Next week, there will be NO GROUPS for any ages on Shabbat of Jan. 2nd.**



### Family Minyan!

Join us Sunday, Jan. 10th @ 9am on the 3rd floor of our new building for a morning of music and singing followed by a light breakfast and a special arts and crafts project!

For Ages Toddler-6yrs.

(Suggested Donation \$3)

To dedicate a Family Minyan for your child's birthday or for any other special occasion, please contact Akiva @ [hiryouth@yahoo.com](mailto:hiryouth@yahoo.com).



## "Ve-Shinantam"

Will be cancelled for the next 2 weeks.

Please come be a part of the HIR's Saturday Night Parent-Child Learning Program!!

Motzei Shabbat Jan. 9th at 7:00pm in the HIR's new Beit Midrash in the new building. To dedicate a night of learning or to sponsor this event, e-mail Akiva at [hiryouth@yahoo.com](mailto:hiryouth@yahoo.com).



## ENJOY WINTER BREAK!!

Look out for new programming next month for all ages!!!



We are in need of **Parent Volunteers** to help us during Shabbat morning Groups. If you are able to dedicate even 15 minutes of your time between 10 am and 12 pm to help us in this effort, please send us an e-mail. Your help is greatly appreciated!



Our Youth Directors are Nataly and Akiva Weiss.  
Contact them at 718-796-4730 or [hiryouth@yahoo.com](mailto:hiryouth@yahoo.com).



## Chesed Opportunity

**HELP KEEP THE IDF WARM THIS WINTER!** There are units in the IDF that don't have enough money for basic winter supplies. Any contribution is appreciated. Tax-deductible donations can be made out to Ha'Agudah L'maan Hachayal and sent c/o Schaum Family, 3750 Hudson Manor Terrace, Bronx, NY 10463. For any further questions, please contact Tali at: talife14@hotmail.com.

**HIR FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES:** The Kingsbridge Marble Hill Food and Hunger Project's food pantry has a severe food shortage. HIR will be collecting canned food goods to help alleviate their ongoing urgent need. Please bring nourishing kosher boxed and canned foods to their designated box in the new building's lobby. Volunteers are needed to transport the food from HIR to the Pantry (Church of the Mediator on 231st St.). Please contact Alisa Eilenberg at 718-796-2318 or e-mail alisaEilenberg@hotmail.com.

**CAN YOU READ FOR JOE?:** HIR member Joe Pissarevsky is looking for a someone to read to him once a week. If anyone is interested in this chesed opportunity please e-mail Josh Abraham at joshabraham18@yahoo.com.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE RIVERDALE HOMELESS SHELTER:**

Looking for volunteers to cook meals for 8 homeless men at the Ethical Culture Society on the first Monday night of every month. Next dates are: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5 (Pesach), May 3. Please contact Shira Gordon at 718-549-5280 or e-mail shiragordon@optonline.net to volunteer.

The HIR committee for the Riverdale Homeless shelter is looking for overnight volunteers to help staff our once a month rotation. Additionally if you are interested in helping to coordinate volunteers for the shelter or have general questions please contact Andy Kastner at andykastner@gmail.com.

**Do you know someone who needs any of the following?  
Would you like to volunteer for any of these committees?**

**Shiva:** Jane Flechner: 917-538-6862

### **Home or Nursing Homes Visits or Telephone Calls:**

Rivka Haut: 718-543-1072, rivkahaut@yahoo.com

Ruth Licht: 718-796-3491, ruth.licht@verizon.net

Isaac Geld: 917-733-4961, kindcare@aol.com



### **Meals for New Mothers:**

Aimee Baron: 718-432-0777, baronaj1@yahoo.com

**Hospitality and Welcome:** hirwelcome@gmail.com



**Young HIR:** hirsocial@gmail.com

### **Social Worker:**

Anna Kirshblum: 718-601-9714, akirshblum@jbfcs.org.

## Welcome Committee

If you're new to the community and/or are interested in being set up with Shabbat meals please e-mail us at hirwelcome@gmail.com so that we can appropriately welcome you.

## This Week's Classes @ the Bayit

Classes meet in lobby of the new Bayit unless otherwise indicated.

### Shabbat

8:00am - Parashat Hashavua with Rav Avi (Main Sanctuary lobby)

3:10pm - Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Mordechai Rackover (Main Sanctuary)

After Mincha – Midrash Shir Hashirim: A Love Story Between G-d and Israel with Rav Umberto Piperno (new Beit Midrash)

### Sunday - Fast of Tevet

7:30am - Daf Yomi with Davidi Jonas

7:30am - Intermediate Talmud - 3rd Chapter of Tractate Moed Katan with Rav Steven (new Beit Midrash lobby)

9:30am - Parshanut (Interpretation): Medieval Commentary on the Torah with Rav Steven (2nd Floor classrooms)

### Monday

7:30am - Daf Yomi with Davidi Jonas

6:30pm - 8:00pm - Hebrew Immersion Course (Hebrew Level 3)\* with Sara Kinberg (2nd floor classrooms)

7:30pm - The Story of Eliyahu with Rabbinic Intern Daniel Levitt

8:00pm - SHULA RAIT Memorial Advanced Hebrew Ulpan (Hebrew Level 4)\* with Sara Kinberg (2nd floor classrooms)

### Tuesday

7:30am - Daf Yomi with Davidi Jonas

10:00am - The Book of Genesis with Rabbinic Intern Daniel Levitt

11:00am - Women of Tanach: Victors, Victims or Voices with Mahara"t Sara (canceled this week)

8:15pm - Basic Judaism with Mahara"t Sara (canceled this week)

### Wednesday

7:30am - Daf Yomi with Davidi Jonas

7:00pm - Hebrew Crash Course (Hebrew Level 1)\* with Sara Kinberg (2nd floor classrooms)

8:00pm - SHULA RAIT Memorial Intermediate Ulpan\* with Sara Kinberg (2nd floor classrooms)

### Thursday

7:30am - Daf Yomi with Davidi Jonas

10:00am - Prophet and Poet: A Close Look at the Book of Jeremiah with Rav Steven

7:30pm - Intermediate Biblical Hebrew (Hebrew Level 2)\* with Sara Kinberg (2nd floor classrooms)

### Friday - January 1

7:30am - Daf Yomi with Davidi Jonas

\* All Hebrew classes offered in the Bayit are taught by our experienced teacher Sara Kinberg. For more info. on the Hebrew program and for guidance about placement, please contact Sara at 718-548-2461. Payment made directly to the teacher.

**THE MIKVAH NEEDS OUR HELP:** Please remember to fulfill your mikvah pledges. Checks should be made out to the Riverdale Mikvah and sent to 3708 Henry Hudson Parkway Riverdale NY 10463. If you are interested in joining the mikvah committee, please speak to Atara Gorsetman at 646-709-5620.

## THE BAYIT

**The Hebrew Institute of Riverdale - The Bayit - is an open Orthodox Synagogue which serves the entire Jewish community. The Hebrew Institute is a synagogue that warmly embraces all Jews regardless of affiliation, commitment or background. It is affectionately known as the "Bayit", which is a home - a place of love and welcome. The HIR is known nationally for bringing spirituality into the synagogue, for activism, learning programs, and work on behalf of the elderly, the homebound, and the mentally and physically challenged.**