



# THIS WEEK AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

January 9 to January 15 13 Tevet to 19 Tevet

Parsha of the Week: Vayechi (Gen. 47:28-50:26)

Parsha Highlights: Jacob lives the last seventeen years of his life in Egypt, a disappointed pensioner, living off the goodwill of his son, Joseph, who neglects visiting his father until the last few days of Jacob's life. On his deathbed, Jacob gathers his sons around him and proceeds to bless them, first raising Joseph's sons, Menasheh and Ephraim, to the status of half-tribes. He then poetically blesses his own sons, comparing them to wild animals—often in a less-than-complimentary fashion, but realistically—and, finally, makes Joseph swear to bury him in his own country, Israel.

The Problem of Galut: Exile

By Rabbi David Mark

The dramatic center of this Parsha has Jacob gathering all of his sons (he chauvinistically omits daughter Dena) around his deathbed, in order to predict the future of the Israelite nation, and bless them. Rashi, the 11<sup>th</sup>-century French-Jewish commentator, states that, just as Jacob was about to reveal to them the future, the Divine Presence (Hebrew, Shechina) departed from him, he lost his prophetic powers, and was unable to prophesy. The Kotzker Rebbe elaborates on this by stating that Jacob did manage to transmit to his sons that they would, indeed, be in spiritual exile from the land of Israel while they were in Egyptian bondage, and later after the two temples were destroyed in 586 BCE and in 70 CE. They would live their lives in anticipation of the end of exile. Truly, this yearning has come down to us, as well: as Jews, we are often in spiritual exile—not only as a people,

## Friday, January 9

Service 7:30 pm  
Candle Lighting: 4:08 pm

## Saturday, January 10

Shabbat Service 9:30 am  
Sundown: 4:28 pm  
Shabbat Ends: 5:14 pm

## Sunday, January 11

Hebrew School 9:00 am  
Talk on Stem Cell Research w/breakfast served 9:30 am  
Faculty Meeting 12:15 pm  
Gesher 4:00 pm

## Monday, January 12

Adult Ed Class 6:30 pm

## Tuesday, January 13

## Wednesday, January 14

Library Committee Meeting 10:30 am  
Hebrew School 3:45 pm

## Thursday, January 15

Holocaust Movie 7:00 pm

### Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 5:15pm when Hebrew School is in session.

### Yahrzeits

*We recall with affection those who no longer walk this earth, grateful to G-d for the gift of their lives.*

**January 9**

Ethel Halprin

**January 10**

Sarah Alpers

**January 11**

Sarah Rottenberg

**January 12**

Edith Brown, Arthur POster

**January 13**

Melvin Heflich

**January 14**

**January 15**

Jacob Landsman, Morris Rubin,  
Hyman Schwartz

### INFORMATION

**DON'T MISS THIS EVENT:** This Sunday's Lecture on Stem Cell Research w/breakfast starting at 9:30 am.

**GET WELL TO:** Allen Linden, Anita Freedman, Hans Heilbronner & Steven Paul

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Lay Led Service & Dinner the weekend of 1/16: Sisterhood Rosh Chodes 1/25 at 4:00 pm; Sunday Morning Cultural Series 2/1 at 11:00 am. A flyer will be mailed out with the details of this program.