

Congregation B'nai Jacob



May 2011

5771

Nisan/Iyar

Mitchell Kornspan, Rabbi	Services	Ron Friedman, President
Weekly Portion: Emor	Friday, May 6th	Shabbat Service 7:30pm
	Celebrating Mother's Day	
Early C.L. 7:14pm	Saturday, May 7th	Services 9:15am
C.L. 8:23pm		
Havdalah: 9:26pm	Torah Class	1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Behar	Friday, May 13th	Service 7:30pm
Early CL: 7:20pm	Saturday, May 14th	Services 9:15am
C.L. 8:30pm		
Havdalah: 9:33pm	Torah Class	1:00pm
	Sunday, May 15th	Confirmation Classes 10:30-12:30
Weekly Portion: Bechukotai	Friday, May 20th	Simcha Shabbat Service 7:30pm
	Celebrating April - June Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Early C.L. 7:25pm	Saturday, May 21st	Services 9:15am
C.L. 8:37		
Havdalah: 9:40pm	Torah Class	1:00pm
	Sunday May 22nd 10:00am Annual Congregational Meeting following at Noon the Lag B'Omer Picnic	
Weekly Portion: Bamidbar	Friday, May 27th	Service 7:30pm
Early C.L. 7:30pm	Saturday, May 28th	Services 9:15am
C.L. 8:43		
Havdalah: 9:46pm	Torah Class	1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Naso	Friday, June 3rd	Service 7:30pm
Early CL: 7:35 pm	Saturday, June 4th	Services 9:15am
C.L. 8:48pm		
Havdalah: 9:51pm	Torah Class	1:00pm



Dear B'nai Jacob family,

When you look at the calendar showing the month of May at a glance, you will notice two observances only a week apart. I see this as a reflection of our experience as a people.

On May 2nd we will be commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. On it we remember our six million brothers and sisters who were murdered by the Nazis. On May 9th, we will be observing Yom Hazikaron, the Day of Remembrance, for all the fallen soldiers, the citizens of Eretz Yisrael, who gave their lives so that Israel might be free. The very next day is the happy celebration of Yom Haatzmaut, the 63rd anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Israel.

Throughout our history, our people have celebrated our successes and growth. We have also withstood our persecution, while mourning our losses. Many of our Rabbis noted that it is so apropos that our months are according to the lunar cycle. Israel reflects the waxing and the waning of the moon. At times we are celebrating joyously, and at others, we are feeling our bereavement because of countless victims.

The teachings of the Haggadah remind us that “In every generation they stood against to annihilate us, but the Holy One, blessed be He, delivered us from their hands.” This is so apparent when we understand that logically the destruction of our people in Europe could have been the end of the Jewish people; yet G-d delivered us from complete annihilation.

To realize that three years after the end of World War II, we would have a modern state of Israel, is mind boggling. If a writer would have written a work of fiction, we would have said that this was coerced. Yet, truth is stranger than fiction! That we survived is one of G-d’s miracles.

Now, you can understand why the Rabbis of modern Israel have proclaimed that the celebration of Yom Haatzmaut, Israel Independence Day, is not a secular holiday, but a religious holiday! On it Hallel, the prayer that is recited on the three Pilgrimage Festivals, Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh, is recited. After all, can you think of a greater miracle than this? We have literally seen fulfilled

the prophesy of Ezekiel, the resurrection of the dry bones, the resurrection of our people.

Just looking at my own family, I can observe the miracle of the Jewish people. When I researched online, I discovered that on my father’s side alone, twenty-five families in Europe were destroyed by the Nazis. (My mother’s last name is Hirsch, which is almost like saying Smith; thus it would be hard to trace this history.)

If it hadn’t been for my paternal and maternal grandparents coming to the United States, our family might have ceased to exist. (I often tell students this, so that they can understand how pervasive an impact the Shoah has on all Jewry. I make the point that if my grandparents hadn’t immigrated to the United States, then I wouldn’t exist, because my parents wouldn’t have ever been born!)

How miraculous, that my grandparents never were able to visit the modern state of Israel, but we have grandchildren, nine of them, who are Sabras!

How amazing that despite all the anti-Semitism and persecution our people endured, we are the ones who have such a positive impact upon the world, through the medical and scientific discoveries members of our people have made!

So, let us join together on May 2nd to remember the Shoah. But, on May 10th, let us raise our voices in Hallel, praising our generation’s great salvation. May Hashem continue to bless our people in Israel and in all the lands where they dwell.

B’shalom,

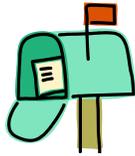
Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

Spring Cleaning!

Please bring items that you don’t need for the upcoming rummage sale!

If you need help in carrying furniture or heavy items, please contact Iris Fuchs for arranging pick up time.





*Thank you to Josh Tourkow
for repairing and installing a
new mail box at the parsonage.*

On Saturday evening, May 21, 2011, the Federation will be hosting the annual Shalom Party at the Temple at 7:00 P.M.

This year's entertainment will be provided by RUTH KAYE who presents a One-woman show portraying three generations of Jewish family, *My Grandmother; My Mother & Me*. The Jewish concept of l'dor v'dor-from generation to generation – usually plays out over decades. But actress Ruth Kaye has been making it happen in just 55 minutes. She does it through a self-created one-woman show "My Grandmother, My Mother and Me," in which she plays all the parts in a 100 year history of a Jewish family.

The story is based, in part, on her own family. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by May 17th.

Thank you to Janet Finkel, Marc Spanjer and Mike Adams for Kashering the kitchen for Passover. Thank you to Rebbetzin Penny for the Pesach Kiddushim meals.

Dear B'nai Jacob family,

This is an important mitzvah in which Miya Farber is instrumental. She has written this communication. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

B'shalom,
Rabbi

Unsafe water and sanitation kills 4,500 children a day, causes 80% of all sickness and disease, and kills more people than war. This year for my birthday instead of asking for gifts I am asking for those with such a basic thing to help those without. \$20 gives a person clean water for about 20 years! My goal is to raise \$5,000 which will build a well for a whole community lasting 20 years!!! After all of the money is collected charity: water will build the well live and photos will be up on Google earth for all to see. Charity: water teaches the communities how to build and maintain the wells so that the improvement will be maintainable. Help at mycharitywater.org/karmiyajordans17th. Every dollar counts!
Miya Farber

**Congregation B'nai Jacob, will be held on
Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 10:00am
The following will be discussed**

and voted upon:

- 1. Election of Directors**
- 2. Ratifying the acts and actions taken by the Board of Directors since the last annual meeting**
- 3. Ratifying the acts and actions of the Officers of this corporation**
- 4. Receiving committee reports**
- 5. Hearing the President's report**
- 6. Adoption of the budget**
- 7. Transactions of other business that may come before the meeting**

Yom Hashoah

May 2, 2011
7:00 PM – Temple

May 2nd is a very important day. As the sun sets that Monday evening, Fort Wayne's *Yom Hashoah*, the Annual Day of Remembrance will begin. Join your friends, neighbors, and our community at Congregation Achduth Vesholom, 5200 Old Mill Road, at 7:00 PM, as we usher in our National Day of Holocaust Remembrance.

Let us take time to pause and remember those who died and those who survived, yet suffered through this unprecedented time in history.

We must remember...and we must remind people everywhere---that evil happens because of intolerance and indifference.

As citizens of a great democracy, we must understand the importance of seeing that high moral standards prevail. As the years pass and eyewitnesses to that terrible time are gone...we are faced with the question:

Who will remember?

Our Commemoration this year will feature the **Heartland Chamber Chorale**, under the direction of Robert Nance. Mr. Nance is also the director of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Chorus, director of music at Plymouth Congregation Church and organist/choir director at Temple Achduth Vesholom.

The winners of the poems from the ninth annual "WE MUST REMEMBER" contest will be recognized this evening. The first place winners in the high school and middle school divisions will be read this evening. The poetry contest is sponsored by the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation.

This program is sponsored by the **Fort Wayne Jewish Federation** and through a generous grant from the **Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation** and the **Dr. Louis and Anne Schneider Foundation**. ☆

Partaking of Parashiot

Rebbetzen Penny Kornspan

May 7, 2011 / 3 Iyar, 5711 Emor

Triennial Cycle: Vayikra 21:1 – 22:16

More instructions are being handed down for the cohanim. We learn which relatives for whom we sit shiva based upon the dead the cohanim are able to come into contact with – his wife, mother, father, son, daughter, his brother, and sister. While the spouse is not specifically listed, she is alluded to by the word *lesharo*, a reference to being one flesh. The criteria for the women the cohanim are permitted to marry are also named. Next, the Cohen Gadol cannot come into contact with even the seven above mentioned family members upon death. Also, the rules regarding whom he may marry apply but there is more stringency attached; he may marry only a virgin. Serving in the mishkan is not permitted to a cohen with various maladies. Some of them are: blindness, being lame, one with a broken leg or arm. These can include being born with a handicap. But, he is still permitted to eat the food, which is the portion of the cohanim. However, no priest is allowed to eat of the sacrificial offerings unless he is in a pure state. And, none are permitted to eat the food set aside for the cohen except those in his household. That food is considered sacred “for it is I, the L-rd, who makes them sacred.”

A pasuk to ponder: “... no man of your offspring throughout the ages who has a defect shall be qualified to offer the food of his G-d.” 21:17

At first blush this seems superficial. But for just a moment, do you know that the *shaleach tzibor* (the one leading services) must have the approval of the congregation? While there may be no correlation between the two examples, we do like our envoys to have a manner about them that is attractive. Seforno compares this to Esther being aghast when her uncle Mordecai was dressed in sackcloth in the courtyard of the palace. Also, disease can reflect a spiritual blemish that needs tending. (It never means we are free to think this to be true of another person!) One can do a bit of SELF-examination when illness strikes. Be open, not overly self-critical. The Eternal does everything with love!

**May 14, 2011 / 10 Iyar, 5711 B'har
Triennial Cycle: Vayikra 25:1 – 38**

At the beginning we are told Hashem is speaking to Moshe from Mt. Sinai. The people

are given instructions as to how they are to treat the Land once they enter it. A sabbatical year is to be instituted for the Land itself to rest. There is to be no planting, pruning or harvesting at all during that year. The year of the jubilee is also instituted after 7 sets of seven years. Any ancestral land, which was sold, reverts back to the tribe and family to which it originally belonged. In other words, land was never sold in perpetuity. Honesty is expected when selling land, since in reality the buyer could only be purchasing the crops produced between the time of purchase and the time the property would revert back to its ancestral owner. Sound and stern advice is given not to defraud others, and to obey the decrees Hashem gives. The sixth year is promised to be a bumper crop, sufficient for three years. The Land is said to belong to G-d and we merely live on it. Details are given on how the Land one holds can be redeemed if sold due to financial problems. The portion closes with a powerful statement disallowing interest to be charged to one in need, noting that, G-d brought us out of Egypt to be our G-d.

Psukim to ponder: “When you make a sale or purchase with your brother ... one should not defraud ...” 25:14

“Do not defraud one another...” 25:17

The importance of treating others with fairness is repeated much in this cycle. Even the land was to be dealt with in a manner showing compassion, which we still practice today by leaving fields fallow. Twice we read one is not to defraud his brother. Rashi teaches us while the same word is used both times, *tonu*, the first time (v.14) is said to refer to equitable business dealings. The second time (v.17) carries the sense of not hurting others in personal relationships. The Sages teach us that it is worse to hurt one personally than to hurt one financially. Money can be regained, but often ill feelings linger long. So while we are discussing social action to be sure, we cannot ignore interpersonal relationships. Most of us really don't fully comprehend the weight of our words.

**May 21, 2011 / 17 Iyar, 5711 B'hukotai
Triennial Cycle: Vayikra 26:3 – 27:15**

The final portion of Vayikra begins with blessings conferred upon B'nai Yisrael when

obeying the edicts and decrees of Hakodesh Baruch Hu. They include rainfall in its proper time, so that crops will grow and fruit trees will flourish. There will be peace in the Land and triumph over any foes. This peace will provide them with total security. They will multiply. The Mishkan will be with them, and along with the Mishkan, the Spirit of G-d will reside among them. There is assurance that He will be their G-d and they will be His people. Then come five series of admonitions referred to as the *Tochacha*, if the people do not listen to G-d. These include panic, fever, crops not producing, enemies dominating over them. If the people continue to disregard G-d, the second series come, then the third, fourth and fifth. The intensity of each set of punishments becomes more and more harsh. But Hashem promises He will keep the covenant made with the Patriarchs. The last 15 psukim deal with vows and how they are evaluated.

A pasuk to ponder: “If you will walk My *chukim* and guard My *mitzvot* and do them;” 26:3

I am trying to stay closer to the Hebrew, so the English here may sound a bit awkward. The *chukim* have been described as laws for which we have no logical basis. Seforno likens them to ‘royal decrees’ we follow in order to expect our endeavors to prosper. That person is said to be walking. The next verb in the pasuk – guard, reflects the idea of meticulously, mindfully acting upon the commandments. Last, the verb – “do” appears. Seforno suggests we are not to carry out our obedience as timid servants, afraid of dire consequences cast on us for noncompliance. Rather, we are asked to treat Hashem’s will as though it is our own. We then bring an entirely different attitude to performing the mitzvot. This is the remedy that will keep the admonitions far from our doors! But it is not easy, especially the last part. We are all willful people, with hopes of importance shielding our egos. But, we can work at centering G-d’s will in our lives, little by little.

May 28, 2011 / 24 Iyar, 5711 B’midbar

Triennial Cycle: B’midbar1:1 – 54

One year and a month after leaving Egypt, our sedra begins with the Eternal telling Moshe to

take a complete census of the men 20 years of age and up, those able to bear arms. Then one man from each tribe is named as being an assistant for the task. Each tribe is then listed with its respective number.

Reuvan 46,500	Shimeon 59,300
Gad 45,650	Judah 74,600
Issachar 54,400	Zevulun 57,400
Ephraim 40,500	Manasseh 32,200
Benjamin 35,400	Dan 62,700
Asher 41,500	Naphtali 53,400.

This totaled 603,550. The Levites were not counted for the purpose of bearing arms. Their function was to attend to the Tabernacle, setting it up, taking it down and performing the *korbanot*. They needed to tend to all the utensils and furnishings as well.

A pasuk to ponder: “Hashem spoke to Moshe in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting, on the first of the second month, in the second year after their exodus...” 1:1

The previous book, Vayikra, dealt with the how to of holiness. This book can be seen to demonstrate the Jews as soldiers ready to defend themselves and their nation. This is in fact an ongoing theme of Bamidbar. But it can also picture the Jews as soldiers preserving their faith. Once they had an understanding of this new relationship they held with the Master of the Universe, they needed the discipline and dignity of nationhood that could be lacking after years of slavery. (R. Munk)

Also, Rashi and others have much to say regarding the amount of information supplied in this verse. When The Eternal is said to ascribe greatness to Yisrael, many specific details are included such as the where and the when. This is the third time the nation has been counted, just one month following the assembling of the Mishkan. Hashem’s nation is coming together. What an incredible time this must have been! Do you make that connection today with Israel? Politics aside, it is our awesome heritage.

May Birthdays

1-Bessie Levy

2-Amy Crell

3-Franck Hagendorf

- 4-Elaine Shine
- 5-Abraham Schreier
- 7-Abby Miller
- 7-Paul Schuler
- 8-Dr. Ron Friedman
- 11-Rafi Friedman
- 13-Debby Roberts
- 18-Issac Adams
- 19-Dan Bradley
- 21-David Miller
- 21-Mark Cole
- 25-Neal Rifkin
- 26-Janet Finkel
- 28-Robert Walters

May Anniversaries

- 17-Sam and Kathy Stoller
- 28-Jay and Dana Zemmol

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries

Emor

- Brandon Roberts
- Valerie Gold
- Steven Appel
- Rebekah Schwartz
- Sharon Finkelstein

Behar-Bechukotai

- Abby Miller
- Amy Dorman
- Rafi Friedman
- Eve Farber
- Miya Farber
- Carolyn Katz-Polakoff
- Kevin Feldman
- Larry Goltz

Bamidbar

- David Bussell
- Julian Schuler
- Bruce Schwartz
- Robin Gerson

Condolences to the family of Izidor Schachter.

Condolences to Emily, Brad, Jan Finkel and family on the loss of Emily's mom Joanne.

Condolences to Abby Miller, David and Theresa Miller, Ron and Susie Miller, Keith and Debby Roberts, Sarah Jo Shaw and family on the tragic loss of Abby's fiancé Ryan Zimmerman.

Condolences to Diane, Jeff and Lonnie Wolf and family on the loss of Diane's sister-in-law Libby Babich.

May Yahrzeits



	Nisan	May
Larry Levin	27	30-1
Samuel Brateman	27	30-1
Lena Goltz	28	1-2
Nate Nemeroff	29	2-3
May Bussell	29	2-3
Sophia Ebner	29	2-3
	Iyar	
Minnie S. Mendelson	1	4-5
Ida Ruth Superior	1	4-5
Alan Slutsky	1	4-5
Louis Masursky	2	5-6

May Congregational Donations

Building Fund

In memory of Grandmother Lena Goltz
Ron and Vicki Goltz

Kiddush Fund

David Ochstein	2	5-6
Harvey Wolf	2	5-6
Lillian Weiss	2	5-6
Jacob Brateman	3	6-7
Ann Block	3	6-7
Samuel Zaslawsky	3	6-7
Dora Kudysh	4	7-8
Irvin Adams	5	8-9
Pearl Fichman	6	9-10
Molly Wolf	6	9-10
Morris Ruderman	6	9-10
Jennie Weisman	6	9-10
Ruth Cohen	6	9-10
David Troy	6	9-10
Sarah Komisarow	9	12-13
Minnie Silverman	9	12-13
Sylvia Forlander	9	12-13
Freda M. Dubin	9	12-13
Alexander Fiegler	11	14-15
Selma Kaufman	11	14-15
Gabor Fenyes	11	14-15
Rabbi Samuel Goldin	12	15-16
Rebecca Pressman	12	15-16
Esther Schwartz	13	16-17
Irene Gazda Schwartz	14	17-18
Marion Kaufman	14	17-18
Stephen Cohen	15	18-19
William Walter	16	19-20
Sarah Beck	17	20-21
Harry Lechtner	18	21-22
Esther Pomerantz	18	21-22
Mathilde Kaufman	19	22-23
David Winnick	19	22-23
Isidore Nemeroff	20	23-24
Max Kaplan	20	23-24
Mayora Rosenberg	20	23-24
Bonnie Harrison	21	24-25
William Landy	21	24-25
	lyar	May
Rivah Meyers	21	24-25
Carolyn Katz Polakoff	21	24-25
Yitschok Issac Schwartz	22	25-26
Deborah Rifkin	22	25-26
Fannie Trivus	23	26-27
Eva Bosell	24	27-28
Rosa Levin	24	27-28
Shulamith Troy	24	27-28
Wolf Soloway	25	28-29
Lena Salon	25	28-29
Paul Gepsman	25	28-29
Max Weisman	26	29-30

If you would like to make a donation in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the form and submit it with your check to:

Congregation B'nai Jacob 7227 Bittersweet Moors Drive Fort Wayne, IN 46814

I have enclosed \$ _____ in honor/memory of: _____

From: _____

Fund Preference: Please indicate which fund you prefer to donate to:

- A.J. Ochstein Fund**
- Building Fund**
- David Siegel Memorial Fund**
- General Fund**
- Kiddush Fund**
- Levy/Levin Endowment Fund**
- Library Fund**
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**
- Seth Horwitz Education Fund**
- Simon/Hannah Crell Education Fund**
- Sisterhood Nursery Fund**
- Torah Maintenance Fund**
- Winnick Memorial Garden Fund**
- Yahrzeit Fund**

Congregation B'nai Jacob
7227 Bittersweet Moors Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46814
(260) 672-8459
www.bnaijacobfw.org
bnaijacob@frontier.com
Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

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Mark your calendar!
Sunday, May 22nd
Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:00am
Lag B'omer picnic at Noon