

Congregation B'nai Jacob

*December
2011*



*Kislev/Tevet
5772*

Mitchell Kornspan, Rabbi	Services	Ron Friedman, President
Weekly Portion: Vayetze CL 4:53pm Havdalah: 5:55pm	Friday, December 2nd Saturday, December 3rd Shabbat School Torah Class	Services 7:30pm Services 9:15am 9:30am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Vayishlach CL 4:53pm Havdalah: 5:55pm	Friday, December 9th Saturday, December 10th Torah Class	K.I.S.S. Service 6:00pm Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Sunday, December 11th at 9:45am-12:15pm Religious School Special Program "Maccabiah Games" at the Temple		
Bar & Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries: Cindy Deen, Keith Green		
Weekly Portion: Vayeshev CL 4:54pm Havdalah: 5:56pm	Friday, December 16th Saturday, December 17th Shabbat School Torah Class	Services 7:30pm Services 9:15am 9:30am 1:00pm
Sunday, December 18th at 12:30pm - "Meet & Greet: Q&A with Rabbi" at Janet Finkel's Home Please R.S.V.P. to Synagogue Office at 672-8459		
Bar & Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries: Mollie Alper, Ilana Finkel		
Weekly Portion: Miketz CL: 4:57pm Havdalah: 5:59pm	Friday, December 23rd Saturday, December 24th Torah Class	Services 5:30pm Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Sunday, December 25th at 12:00 Noon - Hanukkah Party Please R.S.V.P. to Synagogue Office at 672-8459		
Weekly Portion: Vayigash CL: 5:01pm Havdalah: 6:04pm	Friday, December 30th Saturday, December 31st Torah Class	Services 7:30pm Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Bar & Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries: Pam Friedman, Cathy Dicker, Daniel Goltz		

Dear B'nai Jacob Family,

We wish a Mazel Tov to our new members James and Meg Holstein who were recently married! At their Auf Ruf, James shared with us his thoughts about choosing Judaism. They were so well received that many of you asked that they be printed in the bulletin. I do so with pleasure. - *Rabbi Kornspan*

An Essay

My excursion into Judaism has been nothing short of pre-determined. There's no way it could be anything else. My life began without religion. I have a grandfather who is part Native American and considers himself Christian. Other than that, my family has never been religious. We celebrated Christmas and Easter, but to me and my family, they have never been anything but American holidays.

My first dabble in Judaism was short. In school, around Christmas time, we were taught about other cultures' holidays. Unfortunately, we were taught in the context of "this is their 'Christmas'"; therefore, I was under the impression that Hanukkah was the Jewish Christmas.

As I grew to be a teenager, I became semi-rebellious. I never actually did anything serious, I just swore a lot and learned how to take G-d's name in vain. During my first stab at college, I went to a small, two-year, Catholic, Community College called Ancilla. I commuted, so I often drove into the parking lot blasting AC/DC while wearing my black trench coat. Then something strange happened. Near the end of my one and a half semester stint at Ancilla, I met somebody online I had only briefly met in person in high school. We traded e-mails constantly, playing off of each other's witty, and oft-times sarcastic, remarks. We decided to meet up in person. What was supposed to be a casual, friendly outing turned into a wonderfully awful first date.

The girl was Jewish, but instead of being turned off by that, my first thought was "Great, now I can actually learn about this interesting culture!" As our relationship bloomed, I asked her many questions about Judaism, and she willingly answered them for me. The more I knew, the more I wanted to know. I thought I was just hungry for knowledge.

After moving to Fort Wayne, I took my second shot at college. My (at the time) girlfriend was attending a place called Taylor University for its supposedly excellent writing program. She was the only Jew attending the Christian college. I wanted to be a writer as well, and after auditing a few classes, I

decided to give it a try.

I met quite a few interesting people at TUFW, and made a few lasting friendships. However, Taylor's take on religion didn't really add up. I have always been a very open-minded (and too often susceptible to suggestion) individual. Taylor just rubbed me the wrong way, though. By that time, my girlfriend and I had been talking about the idea of marriage, and she told me that if she were ever to get married (and that was a big if) the guy would have to either already be Jewish or convert. I had already decided I loved her, and I would do anything for her, but I was still a little hesitant.

I didn't want to convert to a religion for the wrong reason. I enjoyed what I learned from her, but I was still concerned that I was doing it for her and not for me. Was I doing the right thing? No matter how many times I asked myself that, I could not come up with an answer. So, I just jumped in. Just about a year ago I contacted Rabbi Kornspan of Congregation B'nai Jacob to talk about converting, and I have never been the same.

The more I met with the Rabbi, the more I studied Judaism and Hebrew, and the more I interacted with people at the Synagogue (whether at regular Shabbat services or special holidays) the more I wanted to immerse myself in the culture. People at the synagogue treated me as an equal. Some helped guide me. Many answered my questions. One even made me feel very welcome by convincing me that mayonnaise was a dairy product and could not be eaten with meat. The fact that these people were willing to joke with me made me feel something I rarely felt until then: accepted. They were there for me in many ways, and to me they were like one big Jewish family.

I was in a creative writing class and literary society in high school. Like I mentioned before, I have attended two colleges, and I am now on my third. I have held countless jobs. I have started and participated in writing and reading groups. I have hung out with friends. I have been loved by family. But it wasn't until I started my conversion process that I truly felt part of something.

The question is, why did I choose to become Jewish. The first reason is easy. I did it for love. I did it for my beautiful bride-to-be. The second reason is almost as easy. I did it for the community at B'nai Jacob. However, the third reason was a little more difficult to figure out. In order to complete my conversion, I had to go through the Hatafat Dam Brit and immerse myself in the mikvah. I could refuse to

do either of these, but I wouldn't be Jewish if I did. What I realized was that my beliefs agreed with those of the Jewish faith. Without completing my conversion, I already felt Jewish. So, I decided I was ready, and I took the last steps. I decided to become a Jew because of the community at B'nai Jacob, because of the joy that comes with being Jewish, but most of all I did it for me. Nothing has ever made me feel better. And for that I thank G-d. *-James Holstein*



Mazel Tov!

to **James and Meg Holstein**
 who were married on 11-11-11 at 11:00am.
We also welcome them as new members!

Religious School

The **December K.I.S.S.** will be on Friday the 9th (not the 16th) at 6:00pm. This means there will be no school on Saturday the 10th, but there will be school on Saturday the 17th.

The **December Special Program** will take place on Sunday the 11th (not the 18th) so that we can join with the Temple for the Maccabiah Games from 9:45am - 12:15pm.

Religious Service Attendance Requirements:
 We have Friday evening service requirements twice a month. One can be fulfilled by attending K.I.S.S. and the other can be fulfilled by attending another Friday evening service. We have tried to make this easier by offering a second early Friday evening service each month. See the calendar insert to this bulletin.

*****ATTENTION PLEASE***
 Amnesty Month**

If you have borrowed anything from the Synagogue (Kippot, Chumashim, Prayer Books-Siddur), please bring them back as soon as possible. Thank You!!!



To Paula Adams who also helped prepare the food for the Break the Fast dinner in October. Our apologies for the oversight in last month's bulletin.

To Adolph and Adrienne Brateman for their most generous gift to the Sisterhood.

To Deb Tepfer for donating supplies to the shul.



Kitchen Calendar

Reservations are now being taken for use of our Kosher kitchen. Please make note whenever you plan to use the kitchen or call our secretary, Tami Hoffman, and she will make a note for you. The calendar is located on the wall behind the kitchen door.

Thank you!



Big Apple Bagels are certified Kosher (dairy) as the result of a recent inspection of the operation by

Rabbi Kornspan. The store is located in the Shoppes of Illinois Road (5129 Illinois Road) between Lawrence Road and Reckeweg Drive.

Partaking of Parashiot

by Rebbitzin Penny Kornspan

December 3, 2011/ 7Kislev, 5772 Vayeteze

Triennial Cycle: Bereshit 30:14 – 31:16

Reuven, son of Leah, finds mandrakes and gives them to his mother. Rachel wishes to have them, for it is believed they aid in child conception. She strikes a deal with her sister in order to obtain them. After her sister has six sons, Rachel has Yosef. Yaakov goes to Lavan seeking permission to leave with his wives and children. This leads to a pact in which speckled and spotted sheep become Yaakov's wages. The proliferation of these sheep becomes a contentious matter. G-d tells him to return to 'the land of his fathers.' He speaks with Rachel and Leah explaining his position and relating Hashem's words to him, so they would willingly leave their home. Both women agree, expressing the rift existing between them and their father.

A pasuk to ponder: "... 'G-d has judged me ... He has given me a son.'" (Dan) 30:6

Rachel exclaims this after Bilhah gives birth. R. Kimchi: Rachel calls G-d *elokim*, denoting justice and law, when she says that G-d has 'given to me a son.' Dan has the status of her son. This is in contrast to her reference of Hashem when Yosef is born. Bilhah and Zilpah aren't part of the *imahot*. They are not viewed as slaves either. So what is their status? Seforno says there is a distinction between the way Sarah treated Hagar and the way Leah and Rachel treated Zilpah and Bilhah. Sarah persisted in treating Hagar as a slave after she gave birth to Ishmael. One more thing to muddy the water, did you know there is tradition of Bilhah and Zilpah being step-sisters to Rachel and Leah?

December 10, 2011/ 14 Kislev, 5772

Vayishlach Tri. Cycle: Bereshit 34:1-35:15

The rape of Dinah begins this section of the parsha. Both Shechem and his father Chamor come to speak with Yaakov. The Torah notes only the reply of Yaakov's sons. They argue it possible to give Dinah as a wife, if the men of the town agree to be circumcised. Chamor and Shechem make the case of mutual benefit for

the merging of the two clans; the men of the city agree to the terms. After, Shimon and Levi killed all the men of the city and took captive the women and the wealth of the town. Yaakov is furious! G-d tells him to move on to Beth-el; Yaakov tells his family to prepare to leave by ridding themselves of any strange gods they acquired from the previous encounter with the people of Shechem. An altar is built, Rivka's nurse died, and now G-d once again spoke to Yaakov. He formally changed his name to Yisrael.

A pasuk to ponder: ... " 'Arise, go to Beth-el and dwell there; and make an altar to G-d who appeared to you...' " 35:1

Hashem had appeared to Yaakov there when he was running from his brother. At that time, 34 years previously, he had vowed to build an altar (28:20-22) to G-d. Seforno teaches us something fascinating about the words *v-shev sham* (and dwell there). Yaakov was "invited to prepare himself mentally and spiritually before beginning to build the altar, analogous to preparing to pray and winding down after prayer." Today, this is part of the explanation for *pesukei d'zimrah*; we must get into a mind set which crescendos at the *amidah* each day. This is hard work! Few of us can spend an hour before and after prayer as the Sages did anciently. What we can try to do is spend even two minutes in quiet meditation. Are you willing to give it a try?

December 17, 2011/ 21 Kislev, 5772 Vayeshev Tri. Cycle: Bereshit 38:1-38:30

The narrative turns to Yehuda, finding a wife, and having three sons. Tamar is the wife of Er, his first-born. He is called "evil in the eyes of the L-rd and the Eternal causes him to die." Onan, the second son, is to father a child with Tamar to continue the lineage of his brother. He had intercourse with her, but did not accept the idea of fathering a child for his brother; therefore he did not ejaculate inside of Tamar. Hashem also views this as evil – he too dies. Tamar is encouraged to return to her father's home, and wait until the third son is older. Tamar sees the third son has grown up, but she has not been contacted. Yehuda's wife died in the mean time and he looks for comfort via a prostitute. Tamar feigns this role and Yehuda naively engages

with her in sex. She agrees without revealing her identity, but requires his signet, coat and staff as a vow of future payment. Soon after, Yehudah is livid when informed Tamar is pregnant. He insists she be burned. She produces his signet, coat and staff making clear Yehuda was the father of the twins. She gives birth to Peretz and Zerach. King David is a descendant of Peretz and Ethan the prophet is from Zerach.

A pasuk to ponder: “And Yehuda said, She is more righteous than I...” 38:26

R. Kimchi brings from Bereshit Rabbah a very interesting notion: the Hebrew translated as ‘than I’ really means ‘from Me, G-d.’ Sages teach that when the verdict was being passed on Tamar, a heavenly voice cried out that her pregnancy by Yehuda had been decreed by G-d, “from Me.” This was regarded as vital, since it might be asked, how do we know she had not slept with other men? Did you know Tamar was the daughter of Malkitzedek, king of (Jeru)Salem? She was considered royalty, a worthy mother for the lineage of Mashiach.

December 24, 2011/ 7Kislev, 5772

Miketz Tri. Cycle: Bereshit 41:53-43:15

The seven years of rich harvests came to a close and the famine in Egypt is beginning. Pharaoh sets Yosef in charge of distribution and cost of the food. Yaakov sends ten sons to Egypt to purchase grain, keeping Binyamin home. When the brothers appeared before Yosef, he knew them immediately, but they did not recognize him. Accusations of them being spies were made. Explanations they proffered were ignored. They were jailed for three days; then Shimon was to stay while the others left to bring Binyamin back, proving he was alive. Yosef ‘sold’ them food, but ordered their money returned, the brothers unaware of this until on the way home. This last action caused even more fear. Yaakov is then given the full account of what has happened, including the need to bring Binyamin back on the next trip. Time passes and the need for more food causes Yaakov to acquiesce. He sends his youngest along with great anxiety. He also insists they take extra money to pay for what they received the first time, along with gifts to assuage “the man.”

A pasuk to ponder: “And they said... ‘We are guilty concerning our brother...’” 42:21

From R. Kimchi: “When ostensibly undeserved trouble comes, one must exploit the trouble, look for a flaw, repent and ask forgiveness.”

This is never to be applied to others. (Perilous is the idea that ‘someone had it coming.’) The word ‘exploit’ denotes productivity. The intent is to bring about true spiritual growth. While it is beneficial, it is hard to do. We are too close, too enmeshed in the problem at the time to see the opportunity to grow. Yet, it does exist.

December 31, 2011/ 5 Tevet, 5772

Vayigash Tri.Cycle: Bereshit 45:28-46:27

Yisrael now knows his son is alive and he is going to travel to Egypt to see him. His family and belongings are gathered, but he makes a stop at Beer-sheva to sacrifice offerings to the “G-d of his father, Yitzchak.” In a dream, G-d tells him not to be afraid to make the trek. It will be there Hashem will make him a large nation. G-d will go with them and He will bring them back out of the land of Egypt as well. Yaakov is comforted with the knowledge that Yosef will place his “hand on your eyes” (i.e. will tend to his burial). Pharaoh’s wagons enabled them to easily carry Yaakov, all the children and their wives. The remainder of the cycle lists all the names of those leaving. Leah’s children are listed first, then Zilpah’s. “The sons of Rachel, Yaakov’s wife” are next and last come the sons of Bilhah.

A pasuk to ponder: “ ‘I am the G-d of your father; fear not to go down into Egypt...’” 46:3

In 26:2 Yitzchak, his father, was told *not* to go to Egypt during the famine. The why is not the issue; what’s interesting is the rule changes. It is fine for Avraham and Yaakov to go to Egypt under the same circumstances. Do you ever feel as though you have mixed messages on something? Quiet contemplation often brings clarity. But listening is such a valuable tool, when conflicting ideas present themselves. It is a tool we forget to use at times because of the desire to hear our own voice or thoughts. The desire to be ‘right’ can compromise the permission to be wrong.

The Fort Wayne Jewish Men's Club Committee

wants to thank all of you for making this a very successful year. We appreciate your participation in the various events that have occurred. We had fun and enjoyed the tour of the Museum of Arts, the Tin Caps baseball game, and other enjoyable scheduled events during this year.

We are proud to announce the development of the club's new website www.FWJewishMensClub.us. The club website will be up and running by the end of this year listing the calendar of events. We are confident that next years' events will be even more enjoyable. We have planned a Pot Luck Get Together on a Saturday night; a Lazer Tag event; a driving trip to Chicago visiting kosher markets and Jewish gift shops to purchase all your Passover needs; a Bowling event; and a BBQ Swim Family Day at Fox Island. These are just some of the events planned for the year 2012.

If you have any suggestions as to other events and activities you would like the committee to plan, please contact one of the committee members. Be sure to check your email, your bulletin, and the club's new website for club information and dates and times of upcoming events.

Committee Members Contact List

Mike Adams, David Flapan, David Seligman, Marc Spanjer, Yuval Fuchs, Norman Cramer

December Birthdays

1 Linda Snitzer
6 Barry Snitzer
8 Michal Spanjer
8 Daniel Goltz
10 Bob Serdinak
12 Kathy Shulkin-Jensen
12 Marc Spanjer
20 Lisa Bradley
20 Julian Schuler
22 Kasey Bussell
22 Virgil Mocle
25 Bernard Gandin
26 Estelle Greenberg
27 Vicki Goltz
29 Pam Friedman

December Anniversaries

15 Eddie and Lucy Lefand
27 David and Mary Bosell

Congratulations

... to Robert Walters on being selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* for 2012!

GET WELL WISHES TO

Dan Bradley & Ron Miller

LOST & FOUND

... a woman's ring, a bracelet, and a Verizon ball cap. Please contact the office to claim an item.

December Congregational Donations

General Fund

In memory of Frederick R. Tourkow

Josh and Donna Tourkow

In appreciation for Simchat Torah hospitality

Michael Salberg

Kiddush Fund

In memory of Goldye Appel

Dan and Annie Appel

In memory of Margot Krel

The Krel Family

In honor of Dan Appel's Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

Mary Wilger

In honor of Dan Appel's Bar Mitzvah Anniversary

Elaine Shine

In honor of Diane Wolf's Birthday

Scott and Theresa Trauner

In appreciation

Adolph and Adrienne Brateman

In appreciation

Keith Groman

In appreciation

Sam and Kathy Stoller

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

To thank Rabbi for teaching me the Maftir and

Haftorah in observance of the 50th anniversary of my

Bar Mitzvah

Dan Appel

In honor of Dan Appel's 50th Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Ron and Susie Miller

In memory of Dorys Meyers

Ron and Susie Miller

Refuah Shlema to Dan Bradley

Ron and Susie Miller

In appreciation for Rabbi's kindnesses

Ron and Susie Miller

Seth Horwitz Education Fund

In memory of Seth Horwitz

Phillip and Zelma Horwitz

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Hannah Crell and Jennie Gilbert

Marvin and Harriet Crell

December Yahrzeits



	Kislev	December
Sarah Weinberg	5	30-1
Esther Grossman	5	30-1
Jacob Reich	5	30-1
Rose Cohen	6	1-2
Maurice Waldman	6	1-2
Sidney Trivus	6	1-2
Samuel Liff	7	2-3
Mildred Prady	7	2-3
David Appel	8	3-4
Claire Selan	8	3-4
Roslyn Rozeen	8	3-4
Zelda Novitsky	9	4-5
Charlotte Maier	9	4-5
Toba Malka Schwartz	12	7-8
Rabbi Samuel D. Hurwitz	12	7-8
Herman Himmelstein	12	7-8
Emanuel Cohen	12	7-8
Rita Levin Rainey	13	8-9
Samuel Rothberg	14	9-10
Isidor Hassan	14	9-10
Mindel Yoinovicz	14	9-10
Milton Jerry Ontell	14	9-10
Leonard J. Levy	15	10-11
Elsie Levin	15	10-11
Rebecca Winnick	16	11-12
Florence Bernstein	17	12-13
Max Konigsberg	17	12-13
Clyde R. Gaddis	17	12-13
Abraham Zinn	18	13-14
Emanuel Kreitman	19	14-15
Peter Lauinger	19	14-15
Marcus Beck	20	15-16
Audra E. Mandel	20	15-16
Yetta Magazine	20	15-16
Isadore Yourist	20	15-16
Eric E. Eling	22	17-18
Paulette Bussell Oatley	22	17-18
Alfred Solotkin	22	17-18
Louis Groden	23	18-19
Sigmund Maier	23	18-19
Leon Seigman	23	18-19
Irene Schibel	24	19-20
Bertha Levin	25	20-21
Sarah Bronstein	25	20-21
Samuel Gibson	26	21-22
Bunny Posner	26	21-22
J.T. Thompson	27	22-23
Ruth Zweig	27	22-23
Rebbitzen Gute Goldin	28	23-24
Manuel Margulis	29	24-25
Mickey Pass	29	24-25

Sarah Weiss 29 24-25

	Kislev	December
Anna Bussell	30	25-26
Fannie Siegel	30	25-26
Lou Hoffman	30	25-26
Golda Sheray	30	25-26
K.J. Miller	30	25-26

	Tevet	December
Harry Levin	1	26-27
Florence Katz	1	26-27
Benjamin Cahn	3	28-29
Soloman Safirstein	3	28-29
Candy Stinnett	4	29-30
Joseph Kaplan	4	29-30
Louis Samuel Superior	4	29-30
Bernard Kroot	4	29-30
Rosa Rappaport McKinney	5	30-31
Morris Tillinger	5	30-31

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



Our condolences to the Wolf family in the passing of Diane's niece, Sonia Adams, on Wednesday, the 19th of Cheshvan, 5772

Congregation B'nai Jacob
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bnaijacob@frontier.com
Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Estelle Greenberg

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1 st Vice President	Mike Adams
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Jennifer Schuler	Paula Adams
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David Miller	Janet Finkel
Dan Appel	Mark Schneider



The gift shop is stocked with all kinds of gifts and supplies for your Hanukkah celebration.