

June / July 2012



Sivan / Tammuz / Av 5772

Weekly Portion	Services	Mitchell Kornspan, Rabbi
Weekly Portion: Naso Early CL 7:34pm CL 8:48pm Havdalah: 6:43pm Bar and Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries: Lee Blumenthal; Salomon E. Borenstein; Anne Fenyes Droegmyer; Rhonda Gerson Hurwitz; Mort Schaffer; Sarah Jo Shaw; Sidney Sheray	Friday, June 1st Saturday, June 2nd	No Services Services 9:15am
*Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Ruth Minkoff and Mort Schaffer in honor of Mort's Bar Mitzvah anniversary.		
Weekly Portion: Beha'alotecha Early CL 7:38pm CL 8:52pm Havdalah: 9:54pm Bar and Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries: Michael Brown; Heidi Schwartzberg; Robert Sheray	Friday, June 8th Saturday, June 9th	No Services Services 9:15am
Weekly Portion: Shelach Early CL 7:41pm CL 8:55pm Havdalah 9:57pm Bar and Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries: Bradley Finkel; Marc Nusholtz; Deborah Roberts; Lazette Selan	Friday, June 15th Saturday, June 16th Torah Class	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Korach Early CL 7:42pm CL: 8:57pm Havdalah: 9:59pm	Friday, June 22nd Saturday, June 23rd Torah Class	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Chukat Early CL 7:43pm CL 8:57pm Havdalah 9:59pm Bar Mitzvah Anniversary: Aaron Ochstein	Friday, June 29th Saturday, June 30th Torah Class	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Balak Early CL 7:42pm CL 8:56pm Havdalah 9:57pm Bar Mitzvah Anniversary: Greg Feldheim	Friday, July 6th Saturday, July 7th Torah Class	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Pinchas Early CL 7:40pm CL 8:53pm Havdalah 9:54pm Bar Mitzvah Anniversaries: Michael Brateman; Michael Dicker; Alan Levine	Friday, July 13th Saturday, July 14th Torah Class	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Matot/Masei Early CL 7:36pm CL 8:48pm Havdalah 9:49pm	Friday, July 20th Saturday, July 21st Torah Class	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Weekly Portion: Devarim Early CL 7:31pm CL 8:42pm Havdalah 9:43pm Bar Mitzvah Anniversary: Michael Kanter	Friday, July 27th Saturday, July 28th Torah Class Tisha B'Av	No Services Services 9:15am 1:00pm Services 9:30pm



**An Oral History of
B'nai Jacob Synagogue**

**as presented by
Leah Tourkow**

**to the Rabbis, Officers,
Board Members and
Guests of the Indiana
Jewish Historical
Society**

**on
Sunday, April 15, 2012**

Dear B'nai Jacob Family & Friends,

We are all very excited about our upcoming centennial celebration! You will be hearing about our special weekend, planned for the beginning of November, and a year filled with events celebrating our 100 years of existence as a congregation.

It is an honor and a pleasure to have Leah Tourkow, our synagogue historian, share with us the presentation that she delivered to the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. So, sit back, relax, read, and enjoy!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

Once upon a time, in a shtetl named Fort Wayne, Indiana in the U.S.A., there were three Jewish congregations. All three were Orthodox. The eldest, the Achduth Vesholom Temple, started by German Jews in 1848, ultimately became a Reform Congregation; B'nai Israel formed by Russian Jews on October 21, 1894, and B'nai Jacob Synagogue, organized by Jews primarily from Poland and Lithuania, remained Orthodox.

B'nai Jacob officially became a synagogue on September 29, 1912. On October 26, 1912 the men voted to build a synagogue on the corner of East Wayne and Monroe Streets. The cost of the lot was \$2800 and the building, not less than \$10,000, would be of modern architectural design. It had a 'mehitzah', a balcony upstairs, separating the men from the women. The dedication took place on February 15, 1914, with much publicity.

As membership increased, Rev. Saul Schorr was hired to assist Rev. Mendal Hurwitz who was our first spiritual leader serving as rabbi, teacher, mohel, and in general doing whatever else was needed for the members. He also was the shochet and had a kosher grocery a block from the synagogue. Shortly Rev. Schorr left, and Rabbi Ginsler was hired, and he established our first

Hebrew school, since we had a growing number of children in the congregation. Rabbi Ginsler was followed by Rev. Schulman, and then by Rev. Waldman. Each one contributed something new to B'nai Jacob. On October 12, 1928 Rabbi Herman Price began his duties as spiritual leader. Innovations included younger people participating in the service, English translations of some of the prayers of the Shabbat service, lots of singing, and a women's choir. It was during his reign that the need for expansion was realized and the necessary \$50,000 was raised to build the Hebrew center onto the rear of the synagogue, with its entrance facing Monroe Street.

During this period, rabbis weren't essential for conducting services. Some of our elders had the education and ability to do what was required. Abe Sposeep read the Torah, Meir Fichman lead services, and Isadore Hassan was the cantor. Rev. Mendel Hurwitz still had the kosher market just a block away, on the corner of Washington and Monroe Streets.

In 1933 Rabbi Irving Weingart became the spiritual leader, and for the next 12 years helped us as a growing congregation. In 1937 Rabbi Weingart begged B'nai Israel to disband and join B'nai Jacob. Reluctantly, B'nai Israel did disband with some members joining the Synagogue and some joining the Temple. His duties after the start of World War II included ministering to the needs of the Jewish service men and women who were stationed at Baer Field, where he was chaplain.

The Sisterhood and Men's Club hosted weekly Shabbat lunches for the soldiers, and also Sunday dinners, dances and parties. Many of the soldiers were invited into our homes, and as would be expected, many of them married our local girls.

Rabbi Joseph Gorfinkel assumed the leadership of B'nai Jacob in 1945. He started the tradition of 'audience participation' with singing. It was during the seven years that he was with us that we needed to move into a better neighborhood, and the land at the corner of Fairfield and Pierce Streets was purchased. The address would be 2340 Fairfield Avenue. Service men were returning home and the prospect of building a new building became a reality. New Jewish families were moving into town and joining our congregation, and our Hebrew school grew to 120 students. It was during this time that we no longer brought our own prayer book. We had a uniform prayer book and, surprisingly, no one complained. And we became Conservative.

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Family Education Program

On Sunday, April 29th, the students and parents of our Religious School gathered for a morning of fun and learning about Shavuot. After a mixer of questions and answers about this holiday, Morah Debby Roberts led us in a game of Ten Commandments Pictionary. Our parents are quite the artists! Morah Sarah Shaw provided a fun snack, allowing the kids to create their own edible versions of Mount Sinai and Torah scrolls. Morah Missy Schneider led a craft, making tissue paper flowers for Shavuot decorations. The children also illustrated the Ten Commandments. As part of an ongoing project, we decorated butterflies for the Holocaust Museum Houston's Butterfly Project. We finished the program with an exciting game of Shavuot Jewpardy, led by Morah Pam Friedman. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped with this successful program! (More photos from this event are included later in this newsletter and on the Congregation's Facebook page.)

Thank you

to Sheryl Merritt, Donna Tourkow, Iris and Yuval Fuchs, and Missy and Mark Schneider for helping with the Book Fair Fundraiser. We also express appreciation to Janet Finkel, Iris Fuchs, Nina Mocle, Marc Spanjer, and Jay Zemmol for helping in the kitchen during the Lag Ba'Omer picnic, and to Virgil Mocle and Keith Groman for monitoring the bonfire. An additional shout out to Keith who prepared the bonfire beforehand and made it a special work of art!



Mazel Tov!

Elana Merritt, daughter of Bruce and Sheryl Merritt, and granddaughter of Janet Finkel, is graduating from Homestead High School and will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington. **Joey Goltz**, son of Jeff and Bobbie Goltz, and grandson of Kathy and Sam Stoller, graduated from Purdue University. **Shellen Goltz**, daughter of Ron and Vicki Goltz, granddaughter of Kathy and Sam Stoller, graduated with a Ph.D. from Purdue University.



The Butterfly Project

To remember the 1,500,000 children killed in the Shoah, the Holocaust Museum Houston is collecting 1.5 million handmade butterflies. They will be used in an exhibition, scheduled for Spring 2014, for all to remember. Our students have begun decorating paper butterflies to send to the museum, and we're inviting all members of our congregation to participate as well. Blank shapes are available at the synagogue, or you are welcome to make your own. Here are the guidelines:

- Butterflies should be no larger than 8" by 10".
- Butterflies may be of any medium the artist chooses, but two-dimensional submissions are preferred.
- Glitter and all glitter-related products should not be used.
- Food products (cereal, macaroni, candy, marshmallows or other perishables) should not be used.

For more information, go to the web site www.hmh.org and click Join the Butterfly Project (bottom of the page).

Partaking of Parashiot

June 2, 2012/ 12 Sivan, 5772 Naso

Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 5:11 – 6:27

The test of the *sotah* existed in the system as a remedy for a man angry and fearful his wife had been unfaithful. He took her to the Cohen along with a sacrifice for his anger. The Cohen mixed water with dirt from the floor of the Mishkan; the wife stood before the Cohen, hair uncovered, holding the meal offering of her husband. The Cohen explained the water she would drink held deadly consequences if she had been guilty of adultery. (She could admit if she had sinned). The curse in the words was written on a scroll then dipped into the water. She would have a child if innocent. Next are the laws applied to the *Nazir*. Eating anything derived from grapes was forbidden, one could not have haircuts; also one could attend to the dead (only if no one else was available just as for the Cohen Gadol). Upon the completion of being a *nazir*, a sin offering was required to be brought to the Temple. The cycle concludes with the blessing of the Cohanim.

June 9, 2012/ 19 Sivan, 5772 Behalotecha

Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 9:15 – 10:34

The description of a cloud overhead by day and a pillar of fire by night begins this cycle. B'nai Yisrael knew their course via the phenomena. Sometimes they lingered long in a place, while at other times it was merely a stop over for the night. Next the Eternal commands Moshe to make two silver trumpets to be used for calling people together. The trumpets are sounded in diverse patterns to gather various groups of people. The heralding was assigned to Aharon's sons. The trumpets are also to be used if Yisrael is at war. Diverse arrangements announced the festivals and new moon. Residing in the same area for nearly a year, they ready themselves to leave. Dismantling the Mishkan was entrusted to three groups: the sons of Merari, the sons of Gershon and the sons of Kehath. The tribal leaders names are listed, and the conversation turns to Moshe asking Yitro to continue to stay with them, as he believed they were about to enter Canaan. The cycle ends much as it began telling us the cloud of Hashem was over them as they traveled.

June 16, 2012/ 26 Sivan, 5772 Shelach

Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 14:8 – 15:7

The 12 spies returned; ten gave a bad report and two gave a fair account based upon their understanding. We are told: if G-d desires it to be, we will be in the Land flowing with milk and honey, and there is no need to fear the people living there. The Eternal is 'upset' the people believe the evil report from the ten spies, and He suggests destroying B'nai Yisrael and creating a nation via Moshe. Moshe speaks to Hashem re the import of His honor and how this destruction would be cause for denial of His power, if His people were slain there in the desert. Moshe then seems to remind G-d of His 13 Attributes spoken after the sin of the golden calf. At this point G-d forgives them, punishes them, and the unworthy people among them will not enter the Land. They were to wander a year for each day the spies were in the Land. After being given this news, a change of heart comes over them and they decided to enter into battle, regardless of Moshe warning them against the plan. The loss was abysmal. The offerings to be brought once they entered Canaan are the last things mentioned.

June 23, 2012/ 3 Tammuz, 5772 Korach

Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 16:20 – 17:24

Korach gathered the community together. G-d tells Moshe and Aharon to separate from him, as he was about to be killed. Moshe warns all to stay clear of the rebels because of the imminent ruin. He states if Korach dies of natural causes – he (Moshe) wasn't sent by Hashem. If he dies via the earth swallowing him, it is a sign that he's G-d's servant. The earth opens, and Korach's men who had been offering incense were killed, but their fire-pans were to be used for a holy purpose. The copper would cover the Altar and serve as a reminder - none but the Cohanim were to engage in this activity. Witnessing all of this did not stop some from continued complaints against Moshe and Aharon. Next comes the plague to destroy those guilty, which is quelled through the incense Aharon offers. Afterwards, each of the tribes brings a staff with their names engraved on them. Aharon's staff blossoms, & it produced ripe almonds after spending the evening together with all the staffs in the Tent of Testimonies. Moshe brings the staffs out of the tent and all witnessed the event. The owners of each staff take his, and for the moment there is quiet.

June 30, 2012/ 10 Tammuz, 5772 Chukat
Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 20:1 –21:10

The location of the people and the death of Miriam begin the cycle. The people complain due to a lack of water, Moshe and Aharon went to entreat Hashem, Who told them exactly how to solve the problem. Moshe deviates from speaking to the rock by striking it; therefore he will not be allowed to enter Canaan. An attempt to negotiate passage through the land of Edom fails, even though the people agreed not to use their wells, go through their fields or vineyards. The Eternal makes it known Aharon is to die and Eleazar, his son, will become the cohen gadol. The people mourn for Aharon 30 days. An altercation takes place between the king of Arad, and some Israelites are taken hostage. The congregation complains again and this time the Eternal sent serpents among them. The people ask Moshe to pray for them. He does so. As per G-d's instruction, Moshe makes a brass serpent, places it on a pole and the people are to look at it in order to be cured from the snakebites.

July 7, 2012/ 17 Tammuz, 5772 Balak
Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 22:39 – 23:26

Balaam, the magician had joined with Balak, the king of Moav, to curse Yisrael. Animal sacrifices were placed on 7 altars and Balaam hoped to encounter the Eternal. He did, and was told to bless the Israelites. He starts out by saying he could not curse those G-d did not curse. The people are unique among the nations of the world and righteous. This enrages Balak. He takes Balaam to a second vantage point to look down on the Israelites, builds 7 more altars and sacrifices animals on them. Hashem meets up with Balaam and again gives a blessing he is to repeat to Balak. He says that G-d is not a man; what He speaks He will do! B'nai Yisrael hold a special place. Hashem is with His people. G-d brought them out of Egypt, and the people embrace Him.

July 14, 2012/ 24 Tammuz, 5772 Pinchas
Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 26:52 – 28:15

The census was taken, and the Land will be apportioned according to the sizes of the tribes. The tribe of Levi is counted last; they receive no block of land. No man counted previously by Moshe and Aharon in the wilderness was still alive; as Hashem had said they would all perish. Zelophehad's daughters came to Moshe asking for a portion of the Land since there were no

surviving sons. (The first recorded case of women's rights being granted.) The L-rd states they are to be given land. Then more is given re laws of inheritance. Moshe is told he will die in the wilderness, as did his brother and sister. He asks a successor be chosen, and Y'hoshua is named by G-d. The last 15 pasukim of the cycle give specifications on *karbonot*.

July 21, 2012/ 2 Av, 5772 Matot-Masei
Triennial cycle: Bamidbar 32:1 – 33:49

The cycle begins with the leaders of the tribes of Reuvan and Gad coming to Moshe asking permission to remain on the east side of the Jordan since the land there would well sustain their herds. Moshe reminds them of the harsh consequences of the spies not wanting to cross the Jordan. They counter by promising to join the battle for the Land, but they wish to keep their wives, children and flocks to the east. There is agreement upon the stipulation, and their land is delineated. The portion of Masei begins by relating the geography of their travel after exiting Egypt. The only real commentary mentions the death of Aharon aged 123 at Mt. Hor. The people are last listed as being at Jericho.

July 28, 2012/ 9 Av, 5772 Devarim
Triennial cycle: Devarim 2:2 – 2:30

Moshe continues to recount their journey after leaving Egypt. The people were to pass by the land of the descendants of Esau, i.e. Seir. That land was given them by G-d. When B'nai Yisrael goes through the land, they are to buy food and water from the inhabitants. Moav was not to be interfered with either because Hashem had allotted that land to its people. For 38 years the people remained in the same location and when all the 'men of war' had died, Hashem told Moshe the congregation was to pass through the territory of Moav. However, they were not to harass the inhabitants or fight with them in any way as this land was never to belong to B'nai Yisrael. Hashem said He would begin to cause nations to fear His people. This had not yet reached the king of Heshbone, Sihon. He still refused passage through his land regardless of the fact the people of Seir and Moav granted passage. G-d had hardened Sihon's heart.

June Birthdays

- 1 Marc Nusholtz
- 7 Shellen Goltz
- 6 Steve Sarratore
- 8 Morton Schaffer
- 12 Jacob Crell
- 13 Eve Farber
- 15 Danny Rifkin
- 17 Lazette Selan
- 19 Diana Wyman
- 21 Adam Trauner
- 22 Keith Roberts
- 23 Sandra Brateman
- 26 Domingo Barile
- 28 Eden Fuchs
- 30 Kiel Bosell



June Anniversaries

- 12 Dr. Jere and Arlene Leib
- 16 Marvin and Harriet Crell
- 16 Dr. Ron and Pam Friedman
- 17 Ron and Vicki Goltz
- 18 Virgil and Nina Mocle
- 22 Dan and Lisa Bradley
- 22 Steve and Jan Sarratore
- 27 Yuval and Iris Fuchs



July Birthdays

- 5 Adrienne Brateman
- 5 Alex Martinez
- 6 Rebecka Roberts
- 9 Jacob Current
- 10 Adam Miller
- 10 Shelah Shaw
- 11 Sarah Jo Shaw
- 11 Niesie Shulkin
- 14 Bradley Finkel
- 17 Ann Droegmyer
- 17 Iris Fuchs
- 21 Ron Miller
- 24 Karsyn Pabla
- 25 Janet Chambers
- 25 Bob Long
- 29 Dr. Matthew Farber
- 31 Mark Rifkin



July Anniversaries

- 4 Marc and Rabbi Marla Spanjer
- 7 Ben and Sharon Eisbart
- 17 Keith and Debby Roberts
- 21 Shelle and Neil Pabla
- 24 William and Janet Chambers

June/July Congregational Donations

General Fund

In celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary
Sam and Kathy Stoller

Kiddush Fund

In memory of Grandma Rose K. Weigler
Adolph and Adrienne Brateman

In honor of all who celebrated birthdays -
"Happy Birthday!"

Ovadya

In honor of all who celebrated wedding and Bar/Bat
Mitzvah anniversaries - "Mazel Tov!"

Ovadya

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of beloved Lou Hirsch by his children; with
thanks to Rabbi for the beautiful and meaningful
service.

David and Elaine Hirsch

In memory of Irene Gazda Schwarz

Elsa Jakob

For Shabbat wine

Mark and Donna Cole

For Shabbat wine

Jane Markin

Winnick Memorial Garden Fund

In memory of David Winnick

Jeanne Winnick

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Samuel Brateman

Irving and Elaine Brateman

In memory of Max Weisman

Barry and Linda Snitzer

In memory of Rabbi Samuel Goldin

Robert and Irene Walters

In memory of William Walter

Robert and Irene Walters



Mazel Tov!

Carolyn and David Current welcome their first
grandchild, Jase Aden Current. Son of Jacob and
Tracy, he was born May 9, 2012 weighing
7lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.

June and July Yahrzeits



	Sivan	June
Jacob Kaplan	11	31-1
Ann Levy	11	31-1
Peter Bronstein	12	1-2
Getel Himelstein	12	1-2
Harry Slutsky	12	1-2
Samuel Weiner	12	1-2
Danny Levin	13	2-3
Rae Lipp	14	3-4
Mitchell Bronstein	15	4-5
Kate Dicker	15	4-5
David G. Altheide	16	5-6
Rose Gibson	16	5-6
Rabbi Herman Price	16	5-6
Esther Smith	16	5-6
Norma Trauner	16	5-6
Pearl Marks	17	6-7
Isador Vigran	17	6-7
Abraham Brateman	18	7-8
Beryl Novitsky	18	7-8
Louis Siegel	18	7-8
Max H. Leib	19	8-9
Jean Fishbein	20	9-10
George Sandle	20	9-10
Isaac Schwartz	20	9-10
Yitzchok Falk	21	10-11
Ann Golder	21	10-11
Etta Hoffman Zussman	21	10-11
Ruth Davis	22	11-12
Joseph Finkleman	22	11-12
Becky Weinberg	22	11-12
Florence Weinberg	22	11-12
Nathan Mull	24	13-14
Tillie L. Speyer	24	13-14
Solomon Gabe	27	16-17
Abe Magazine	27	16-17
Samuel Schechter	27	16-17
Philip (Fival) Kaplan	28	17-18
Robert Goldstein	29	18-19
Otto Gartner	30	19-20
Sabine Gartner	30	19-20
Teressa Hanna Gartner	30	19-20
Jack Komisarow	30	19-20
	Tammuz	June
Klara Goldfarb	1	20-21
Morris Hyman	1	20-21
Stephen Alan Mirman	1	20-21
Louis Schefman	1	20-21
Eleanor C. Schwartz	2	21-22

	Tammuz	June
Max Spanjer	2	21-22
Toba Baum	3	21-22
Dr. Naf H. Gladstone	3	22-23
Ruth Henzel	3	22-23
Ada Rothberg	3	22-23
Morris Gladstone	4	23-24
Max Sposeep	4	23-24
Harry Trauner	4	23-24
Andy Kollman	5	24-25
Louis Levin	6	25-26
Sam Herman	8	27-28
Sigfried Schmitz	8	27-28
Nathan Stoller	8	27-28
Joel M. Bass	9	28-29
Bertha Gifis	10	29-30
	Tammuz	July
Irving E. Appel	11	30-1
Anne Doran	11	30-1
Maurice Cohen	12	1-2
Oscar Eisbart	12	1-2
Edward Finkel	14	3-4
Sarah Gerber	14	3-4
Harry Marlin	14	3-4
Louis J. Novitsky	14	3-4
Don Sewell	14	3-4
David Block	15	4-5
Julius Saffron	15	4-5
Betty Saul	15	4-5
Abraham Field	16	5-6
Herb Kocks	16	5-6
Walter Weinstein	16	5-6
Dr. Hyman L. Cohen	17	6-7
Betty Fischer	17	6-7
Jack Golder	17	6-7
Owen Miller	17	6-7
Armand Cohodes	18	7-8
Ben Kelman	18	7-8
Norma Levin	19	8-9
Abraham Metzger	19	8-9
Albert Smith	19	8-9
Jeanette Sposeep	19	8-9
David Auerbach	20	9-10
Sol Babich	20	9-10
Isadore Berkowitz	20	9-10
Meyer Levin	20	9-10
Miriam Singerman	20	9-10
Jacques Tourkow	20	9-10
Leah Babich	23	12-13
Frieda Friedman	23	12-13
Gulian Friedman	23	12-13
Adolph B. Weigler	23	12-13

July Yahrzeits continued



	Tammuz	July
Israel Kaplansky	25	14-15
Joe Gerson	26	15-16
Raoul Roderick	26	15-16
Kalman Beck	27	16-17
Herman Fischer	27	16-17
Isaac Kretzman	27	16-17
Celia Masursky	27	16-17
Alfred M. Bronstein	28	17-18
Phyllis Sarratore	28	17-18
	Av	July
Rose Moyer Rothberg	1	19-20
Charles Samet	1	19-20
Rose W. Portman	3	21-22
Sidney Rouda	3	21-22
Susan Cohen	4	22-23
Minnie Sposeep	4	22-23
Isaac Hoffman	5	23-24
Mollie Bronstein	6	24-25
Natalie Duckor	7	25-26
Aaron Kravitz	7	25-26
Anne Kurzner	7	25-26
Louis Levin	7	25-26
Mary Siegel	7	25-26
Claude K. Lee	8	26-27
Alfred Stoller	8	26-27
Zalman Sposeep	9	27-28
Harry Bossell	10	28-29
Alex Honig	10	28-29
Hyman Komisarow	10	28-29
Louis H. Saul	10	28-29
Louis Katz	11	29-30
Bertha Doran	12	30-31
Sarah Latker	12	30-31
Myron Marks	12	30-31
Charlotte Gilbert-Shiff	13	31-1
Morris Goldin	13	31-1
Fraida Rivah Klein	13	31-1



For replenishing our supply of Shabbat wine, we thank Melissa Barile and Bob and Laura Long.

We are also grateful for the donations made by Jane Markin and Mark and Donna Cole. Until further notice, our cups and cabinets are full!

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

**Faith Leaders Blood Drive
Tuesday, June 5 @ 1:30pm**



American Red Cross

Indiana-Ohio Blood Services Region
1212 E. California Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Due to vacations and outdoor activities during the Summer months, people are not available and/or do not take the time to donate. Blood donations are needed each and every day. If you cannot make the Tuesday, June 5th date, please take time to donate sometime this Summer wherever and whenever you have the opportunity. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org for questions concerning any aspect of blood donation or to make an appointment.



**Kosher Approved by
Rabbi Kornspan**



7605 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne, IN
<http://lovingcafefw.com>

Tel: 489-8686

An Oral History of B'nai Jacob Synagogue

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In 1952 newly married Rabbi Seymour Weller became our spiritual leader, moving here with his wife, Vera, from New Jersey. He had great plans for our Congregation—this being his first. He established our first formal Hebrew school that met two days during the week after school, as well as on Sunday mornings. Students were to attend both Friday night and Saturday morning services at least twice a month. He made bar and bat mitzvahs mandatory—girls doing Friday night, and boys both Friday night and Saturday morning. His coaching in their training not only taught them the prayers, but also gave them stage presence and the ability to speak well in front of an audience. On Saturday afternoons they studied at his home. Sunday morning tallit and tefillin breakfasts brought fathers and sons closer together and were instrumental in starting a youth group as well as a young adult group.

With our membership growing it was time to use our land on Fairfield Avenue. M. Straus was the architect, with ground breaking on July 17, 1954. The building was completed in early March 1956, and we had the parade of the transferring of the Torahs from the old synagogue to the new. It was done with great fanfare, and with many visiting rabbis. It was planned that one of our bar mitzvah boys would have his Friday night service in the old building and his Saturday morning service in the new. The corner stone laying was on March 12, 1956, and the formal dedication was on December 3, 1956. The dedication was another big event with city dignitaries, visiting rabbis, including Rabbi Weller's father, Vera's father and two brothers-in-law (all rabbis), and the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary Choir performing during the celebration. With the influx of many new families, we found lots of talent. We rewrote Broadway shows—"Hello, Dolly!" became "Hello, Molly!"; variety shows created parodies to songs from "Guys and Dolls", "South Pacific", and many more. The JWV Auxiliary Choir was kept busy performing at the bar & bat mitzvahs as well as services, and congregation dinners. B'nai Jacob had its own jazz trio—piano, bass and drums—that played for the shows and the dances. In 1965 the younger generation formed a rock band that won battle of the bands contests that finally won them a six week gig at the Club Metropole in New York City. From there they could have gone on to Las Vegas but wisely chose to return to school and avoid going to Vietnam.

On the morning of April 16, 1960, our beautiful new synagogue was defiled with swastikas. It was discovered by a member—a Nazi holocaust survivor—the numbers tattooed on his arm. Doors were broken, locks smashed, money stolen, destruction was

everywhere. On that infamous day, the Christian ministers of Ft. Wayne donned blue jeans and sweat shirts and tried to scrub the red swastikas that had been spray painted on our desecrated outside brick walls. This remarkable show of brotherhood was picked up by the Associated Press, United Press, NBC, ABC, CBS, and we made the national news.

In the early 60's we again needed to expand. This time we added a youth lounge, kitchen and supply room, and a gymnasium/social hall with movable walls to enable us to make the sanctuary larger when needed.

After 23 wonderful years, Rabbi Weller moved on. With the training he had given our students, some of whom were now grown, we were able to continue services, teach, and were able to maintain our balance. We hired Dr. Itzhak Meiselles, who was from Israel and a professor at IPFW. He helped us and stayed for about three years. We were without a rabbi again for about three years when we hired Rabbi Pincus Aloof. He was not only an excellent rabbi, but had a beautiful voice, was a mohel, a good teacher and great with our students. We learned his habit was not to stay at any one place more than three years, and he moved on. He was with us from 1977 through 1980. Being without a rabbi again for a couple of years, we hired Rabbi Gideon Goldenholtz, who spent 3 years with us, from 1981 through 1984 using us as a stepping stone to get his Doctorate Degree. Then he moved to Mequon, Wisconsin to serve in a much larger congregation. In between rabbis again for the next several years, our capable members could always be depended upon when anyone in our congregation required special services. From 1986 to 1989, Rabbi Steven Marcu, who hailed from Chicago filled our pulpit. He wasn't what we had in mind, so we did not renew his contract. No rabbi again, when suddenly Rabbi Aloof reappeared. That was 1990 and things started to hum again in the synagogue. But just as suddenly as he appeared, just as suddenly did he disappear—10 months later. We found out that he had moved to a farm in Kansas to raise kosher cattle!

About this time, the neighborhood around the synagogue was deteriorating and a discussion to sell the building and build elsewhere took place. After finding a bloody break-in one Saturday morning, we decided that the time had come to move. We sold the building to the Fort Wayne Philharmonic for a sum that became the budget for the new building. Until land could be found and a building built, we met at the Scottish Rite Temple on the corner of Berry and Fairfield, and religious school classes were held in homes or in our temporary offices in Sleepy Hollow. Rabbi Harvey Markowitz was hired in 1991 and was with us until 1997. While he was here, we

found land on the corner of West Jefferson and Bittersweet Moors Drive in Aboite. Our address would be 7227 Bittersweet Moors Drive. Felderman Construction Company were our architects as well as our builders, with the help of the Amish, and ground breaking was on March 21, 1993. We moved in on August 13, 1993. The next day the first Bat Mitzvah was held in our new building. Then we bought the house next door as our parish house, making it convenient for our rabbi so as not to have to walk too far. After moving into our new building, we decided to bend with the times, and became egalitarian in 1994. With that decision we discovered that one of the women in our congregation could read torah.

Our sanctuary became a work of art. Lee Bleifeld, a nationally known artist and a member of our congregation, built the ark which was commissioned by the Crell family and holocaust survivors. It depicts the history of our people from the beginning through the holocaust, to Israel. Carved in cherry wood, it holds our nine torahs. Aniko Fenyes Droegmyer is the artist who worked in glass and metal. In memory of her parents, who also were holocaust survivors, she created seven panels of stained glass showing the seven days of creation. As you enter the synagogue you will see panels on either side of the double doors that depict the 12 tribes. On the outside the words are written in English, but on the inside, they are written in Hebrew.

We found Rabbi Eddie Fox on the internet. He decided to become a cantor at age 50 and received his smicha—his rabbinical ordination, when he was 65 years old. After three years, he moved to Florida to be near his family. It took a bit of time before we found another rabbi. This one was from South Africa. Rabbi David Levin was an excellent pulpit rabbi and cantor, but was not a people person, and we dismissed him on August 31, 2004. Due to modern science, the computer and "JewishJobs.com" Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan was found, contacted and came from Windsor, Canada for an interview in late summer of 2004. Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, he wanted to return to the Midwest, and became our rabbi on December 8, 2004. Again, our membership grew, our Hebrew school flourished, the congregation was happy and peaceful. Adult education classes in any subject that might interest you are available. We have Shabbat services, Torah studies, weekly Oneg Shabbats, and Saturday morning Kiddush lunches.

We continue our lecture tours through our building sharing our teachings with the gentile world.

We are now planning our 100th anniversary, the first weekend of November, with many events throughout the

year following this great event. We hope to make it as grand as the ones we had for our 70th and our 75th, and, of course, you are all invited!

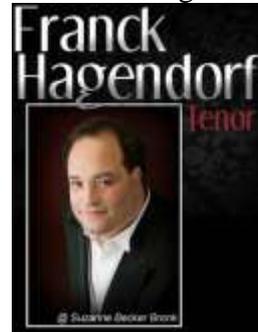
- Leah Tourkow

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Jewish Community News

**91st Annual FWJF Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.
Congregation Achduth Vesholom**

featuring



Light refreshments will be served, compliments of your Fort Wayne Jewish Federation. Please RSVP by calling or emailing the Federation office by June 8th. Telephone: 422-8566, Email: office@fwjf.org

\$\$ Tuition Reimbursement \$\$

The Fort Wayne Jewish Federation offers tuition reimbursement for students who have taken courses in Jewish Studies at the universities that they are attending. A student, whose family is a member of the Federation, will be reimbursed at a rate based on 1/2 the tuition per Indiana University credit hour for classes taken in Judaic Studies. A transcript, showing the course and grade received, and a copy of a fee payment receipt must be submitted as proof for reimbursement. The Federation reserves the right to request a syllabus or additional description of the class taken. A C+ grade or its numerical equivalent must be earned in the course work in order to qualify for reimbursement. Family membership is defined as a gift to the most recent Federation Annual campaign. Any questions, please call Doris Fogel, Executive Director, at 422-8566.

Camp Joe Levine July 9-27, 2012

It's not too late to sign up for Camp Joe! An application is available on the Federation website at jewishfortwayne.org, or call the Federation office at 422-8566. Sign up for one, two, or all three weeks.

B'nai Jacob Religious School
Closing Assembly
Tuesday, May 8, 2012



An
Afternoon of
Family Education
at
B'nai Jacob
on
Sunday,
April 29, 2012

(story on page 3)



Congregation B'nai Jacob
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Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

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2 nd Vice President	Mark Schneider
Recording Secretary	Pam Friedman
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<u>Board Members</u>	Jay Zemmol
Jennifer Schuler	Paula Adams
Marc Nusholtz	Yuval Fuchs
David Miller	Janet Finkel
Dan Appel	Dan Bradley

**Lag Ba'Omer
Bonfire and Picnic
Thursday, May 10, 2012**



**Many more fabulous photos can be viewed on
B'nai Jacob's Facebook page. Visit our page, send
your request for membership, and join today!**

