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Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

President Mark Schneider

August 2013

Av / Elul 5773

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B'nai Jacob Bulletin

Celebrating 100 Years ... 1912-2012



Weighing in on Golden Matters

Dear B'nai Jacob Family,

In the Talmud, Rabbi Chanina taught, "I have learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, and the most from my students" (Ta'anit 7a).

Any of you who have joined us to learn Torah on Tuesday evenings or Shabbat afternoon, have found "aha moments." These are the times, when a teaching opens our eyes, our minds, and our hearts.

I feel such elation when we study as a group. Rabbi Chanina's teaching is so true. How often I reflect on this, as I hear a new insight from one of our class members. How amazing it is when someone thinks "outside the box" and offers an insight. How thrilling it is when one of you shares a thought, which we find as edification by one of the famous commentators. It is as if you, for that moment, were on the same page as one of the greats! How exquisite is the time when one of our members provides an insight based on his or her life's experience and expertise. These can include insights into medicine, physics, chemistry, metaphysics, metallurgy, and mathematics.

I have reflected on this often, and now I can share this in writing. I am so grateful that you wish to learn Torah. My *raison d'être* as a Rabbi has always been based on being a teacher. My

purpose has been to learn about Hashem and Torah, and to teach this to my congregation. As the Talmud elucidates: "more than the calf wants to suckle, the cow wants to nurse" (Pesachim 112a).

Sometimes a question will cause me to do more research, to strive and find an answer to a question raised in class. I am going to give one example, which is a very logical and pragmatic issue that arose in one class.

We were studying about the Holy Ark made for the Tabernacle. Made out of acacia wood and gold, we were wondering how heavy it was, and how could four Levites carry this on their shoulders. To be sure there were poles inserted into rings, which would help. However, if the ark was too heavy, it could not be transported in the way the Torah says!

This bothered modern scholars as well. I was so happy to find the presentation of Rabbi Dr. Elihu A. Schatz. His Ph.D. is in physical chemistry from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, and his rabbinical ordination from Yeshiva University. Having written over 100 articles and reports in the scientific field, he has also published commentaries in Hebrew on the Tanach.

Here is an excerpt from his answer to the question of how the ark could have been borne aloft by only four men:

"In the light of the fact that most commentaries do not calculate the weight of the Tabernacle, I was pleased to see the article by Josiah Derby wherein he attempts to calculate the weight of the Ark of the Covenant, including the weight of the gold overlay. He calculates that weight at about 288 pounds (131 kilograms), and argues that is too heavy for four men to carry on their shoulders, each having to

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Weighing In on Golden Matters

continued from cover page

bear a load of about 72 pounds (33 kilograms). This conclusion disturbed me, because the Ark was carried many times on the shoulders of four men (see in particular Ex. 25:14; Num. 7:9; Josh. 3:13; 4:16; 6:12; 1 Kgs. 2:26; I Chr. 15:15).

I am, therefore, presenting a modified calculation of the weight of the Ark, based on the calculations in my commentary on the Book of Exodus.

This calculation will be performed in the scientific centimeter-gram system of units as well as the foot-pound units used by Derby. The weight for the Ark comes out to only 183 pounds (83 kilograms), which four men could carry on their shoulders without difficulty, each bearing a load of about 46 pounds (21 kilograms)."

He continues with his calculations showing how the earlier reckoning of Josiah Derby needed correction. If you wish to see the full article you can paste this URL into your browser:

http://jbq.jewishbible.org/assets/Uploads/352/352_Ark.pdf

Now, I conclude with a different approach to the ark, which impacts upon each of us. The Torah states: "And you shall cover it [the Ark] with pure gold -- inside and outside" [Exodus 37:2]. Why the inside? Who would see this?

Based on this verse the Talmud teaches: "Any Torah scholar who is not the same on the inside as on the outside, is no Torah scholar" [Yoma 72b].

I would add that this is a profound teaching for each of us. Just as we do not wish to deal with someone who is hypocritical and disingenuous, we should be sure that "what you see is what you get," as we communicate and interact with others. May what we say and do be the reflection of our inner, true self!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan



Julie and Art Kupersmith

B'nai Jacob welcomes Julie and Art Kupersmith to membership! Julie and Art recently took some time to participate in a "Getting to Know You" Q&A session with the editor.

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. We both grew up in New York, Julie on Long Island and Art in Manhattan.

Q. Do you have children?

A. We have two daughters. Michelle, our older daughter, lives in Cary, NC and is the mother of our oldest grandchild, Alexa, who just turned 16!! Stefanie lives in Wellesley, MA and is the mother of our two younger grandchildren, Gabe, who is 8, and Elyse, who is 5. Although they all live far away, fortunately, we do get to see them every few months.

Q. Where have your careers taken you?

A. We are both graduates of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI - go Badgers! Julie, a retired high school teacher, taught at Marion High School for 29 years, Art is a psychologist who just became semi-retired after a 31-1/2 year career at the Marion VA, where he most recently served as lead psychologist and administrator of several major programs. He now works thirty hours a week for Family Services Society, a private social service agency in Marion, and he is enjoying his Mondays and Fridays off.

Q. Any hobbies?

A. Julie enjoys cooking, entertaining, and scrapbooking, and Art is interested in investing and sports. We both enjoy reading. As a couple, we love to play duplicate bridge, eat out, go to movies and shows, and travel.

Q. How did you come to join us at B'nai Jacob?

A. We have been living in Marion, Indiana for 36 years, and previously belonged to Sinai Temple, a reform congregation in Marion which, unfortunately, is no longer an active congregation. Julie grew up in a conservative synagogue, so we checked out B'nai Jacob and really liked it. We feel that Rabbi Kornspan is knowledgeable and does a great job on the bima, and the members we have met have been very warm and welcoming. We were definitely made to feel "at home."★



Important Dates To Note

- **Thursday, August 1 @ 7:00pm**
B'nai Jacob Board Meeting
- **Saturday, August 31 @ 10:00pm**
Selichot
- **Tuesday, September 3 @ 4:00pm**
Religious School Begins/Registration
- **Wednesday, September 4 @ 7:30pm**
Rosh Hashana Services
- **Thursday, September 5 @ 8:30am**
Rosh Hashana Services
- **Friday, September 6 @ 8:30am**
Rosh Hashana Services
- **Friday, September 13 @ 7:30pm**
Kol Nidre
- **Saturday, September 14 @ 8:30am**
Yom Kippur



to **Bruce Merritt** who constructed a sturdy new 2-step riser for our bima. Great for the kids and others!



5774 ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS
for publication in the September 2013 Bulletin

1. Print this page.
2. Select a picture by circling it.
3. Write your New Year's greeting.

4. Mail / deliver this sheet along with your payment of \$25.00 per greeting to B'nai Jacob by August 8th.



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Rabbi – Mitchell Kornspan
President – Mark Schneider

Dear B'nai Jacob Family,

The Congregation will be printing a Yizkor Remembrance Book to honor those loved ones from our B'nai Jacob family whom we can never forget. The book will include information pertaining to the loss of a loved one and prayers that can be said.

The Yizkor memorial book will be available during Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services, or you may choose to have it mailed if you are out of town.

The memorials are a minimum donation of \$18.00 per name. Please turn in your form, e-mail the information, or call it into the office by August 8, 2013.

Honoring the memory of your loved ones by including their name in the Yizkor book is a wonderful gift. We look forward to including your information in our publication.

Sincerely,

Congregation B'nai Jacob

✂ -----

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO OFFICE BY AUGUST 8, 2013

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

I have enclosed \$_____ to include my beloved

in B'nai Jacob's Yizkor Book of Remembrance.

From: _____

I would like my Yizkor Book of Remembrance to be mailed to me. Please circle one. Yes No

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS - AUGUST

David Siegel Memorial Fund

In memory of Mother, Barbara A.P. Cohen
 - *Roberta L. Cohen*
 In memory of Father, S. Stephen Cohen
 - *Roberta L. Cohen*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Roberta L. Cohen*

Education Fund

In honor of Ashem
 - *Jeff Wolf*

General Fund

In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Sue Simler*
 In appreciation
 - *Shmuel Wahli*
 In honor of Mark Cole's Bar Mitzvah
 - *Diane Wolf*

Kiddush Fund

In honor of Janet Finkel's birthday
 - *Dan and Annie Appel*
 In memory of beloved Grandfather,
 Adolph B. 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*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Jeanette Lewis Family*
 Dedicated to Ashem
 - *Jeff Wolf*
 In honor of my Mother
 - *Jeff Wolf*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi helping
 Steve and Rachel with their Ketubah
 - *Dan and Annie Appel*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Steven and Elissa Cohen*
 In appreciation of Rabbi
 - *Mark and Donna Cole*
 In appreciation
 - *Michael and Marina Epstein*
 In appreciation
 - *Scott and Sheryl Ferguson*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Franck Hagendorf*
 For Oklahoma Disaster relief
 - *Keith Groman*
 In memory of my Father
 - *Jeff Wolf*

Simon/Hannah Crell Education Fund

In loving memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Marvin and Harriet Crell*
 In loving memory of Thelma Ochstein
 - *Marvin and Harriet Crell*

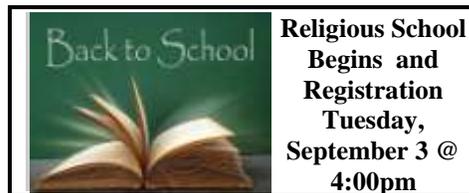
CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS - AUGUST

Torah Maintenance Fund

- *Keith Groman*

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Father, Irving E. Appel
 - *Dan and Annie Appel*
 In memory of Mother, Norma Jean
 Chambers
 - *Bill and Jan Chambers*
 In memory of Father, Ed Finkel
 - *Brad and Emily Finkel*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Daryl and Pat Butler*
 - *Sharon Doster*
 - *Jack and Kristie Grossman*
 - *Mark and Tami Hoffman*
 - *Dan and Julie Lepper*
 - *Bill and Vicki Mallers*
 - *John Skimos*
 - *Lee and Kristine Smith*
 In memory of Sam Herman
 - *Jeff and Marilyn Herman*
 In memory of Sam Herman
 - *B. Steven Herman*
 In memory of Maurice Cohen
 - *Hugo and Lis Kahn*
 In memory of Dr. Hyman L. Cohen
 - *Hugo and Lis Kahn*
 In memory of Susan Cohen
 - *Hugo and Lis Kahn*
 In memory of Matt Farber's Father, Alvin
 - *Jere and Arlene Leib*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Jere and Arlene Leib*
 In memory of Father, Abe Magazine
 - *Jeanette Lewis*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Litchin*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Lynne F. Margolies*
 In memory of Alvin Farber
 - *Ed and Amy Platt*
 In memory of Ralph Tourkow
 - *Hans and H. Jeanne Sheridan*
 In memory of Mary Siegel
 - *Joan Siegel*
 In memory of Norma Trauner
 - *Scott and Theresa Trauner*
 In memory of Sister, Ida Lefko
 - *Diane Wolf*
 In sympathy to Matt Farber and family on
 the passing of Matt's Father
 - *Diane Wolf*
 In memory of Brother, David Babich
 - *Diane Wolf*
 In memory of Brother-in-Law, David
 Lichtscien
 - *Diane Wolf*



August Birthdays

1	Molly Zweig
5	Scott Wyman
7	Dana Zemmoll
12	Carolyn Current
14	Melvin Krel
17	Aaron Bradley
20	Mark Schneider
21	Eric Schreier
22	Jeremy Goltz
22	Sydney Schuler
22	Laura Long
23	David Michael Parker
25	Mallory Schreier
25	Nina Bosell
30	Dan Zweig
31	Jane Markin

August Anniversaries

18	Mark and Donna Cole
24	Eric and Jaki Schreier
30	Josh and Donna Tourkow



Our thanks to Ralph's many friends who sent their condolences, food, flowers, and notes remembering the joy he had brought them over the years. He was taken from us much too young, but apparently his work on earth was done. His memory will live on.

*The family of
 Ralph Tourkow*

August Yahrzeits זיכור

Av / August

25	31-1	Joseph Schmitz
26	1-2	Melvin Binderman
26	1-2	Esther Gabe
26	1-2	Beatrice (Bobo) Ochstein
26	1-2	Bertha Ochstein
26	1-2	Eric Wolfe
27	2-3	Sam Levin
28	3-4	Esther King
29	4-5	Lena Miller
29	4-5	Abe Nemeroff
30	5-6	Gilbert Landy
30	5-6	Michael Hunter Leib
30	5-6	Henya Rose Walter

Elul / August

2	7-8	Max Kaposky
3	8-9	Grace Becker
3	8-9	Dr. Morris Himelstein
3	8-9	Sara M. Jay
5	10-11	Robert Gaskill
5	10-11	Mildred Kurtz
5	10-11	Michael Kupersmith
5	10-11	Morris Schuster
5	11-12	Abraham Siegel
6	11-12	Abraham (Avrum) Dicker
6	11-12	Paul Grossman
6	11-12	Lilly Hertzman
7	12-13	Etta Brower
7	12-13	Joseph Ostertag
9	14-15	Joseph Goldberg
9	14-15	Inez Zacharia
10	15-16	Betty Dubinsky
11	16-17	Benjamin Becker
11	16-17	Hamin Ochstein
12	17-18	Rabbi Eddie Fox
12	17-18	Mary Louise Kaplan
13	18-19	Katie Meyer
13	18-19	Frank Salon
14	19-20	Joseph Y. Goltz
14	19-20	Dr. Abraham J. Ochstein
14	19-20	Lillian Facks Ochstein
14	19-20	Marian Rodman
14	19-20	Alfred Seiken
14	19-20	Fannie Spanjer
15	20-21	Sophia Bialick
15	20-21	Hugh Rynearson
16	21-22	Dora Buxbaum
16	21-22	Phil Zacharia
17	22-23	Alex Feldman
17	22-23	Rose J. Kaplan
17	22-23	Theodore Levy
17	22-23	Rose Leib Rothman
18	23-24	Michael M. Katz
19	24-25	Abe Beck
19	24-25	Becky (Betty) Lichtscien
19	24-25	Fay Slutsky

August Yahrzeits זיכור

Elul / August

20	25-26	Lottie Albert
20	25-26	Jack I. Dubrove
20	25-26	Rose Himelstein
20	25-26	Rex P. Mercer
21	26-27	Lottie Colucci
21	26-27	Seymour Samet
22	27-28	Irving Golder
22	27-28	Jeanette Silverman
22	27-28	David Spanjer
24	28-29	Sam Landy
24	28-29	Nate Pollack
24	28-29	Rose Walters

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

Rosh Hashanah ABC's

The following information, based on research by Rabbi Moshe Lazerus, contains excerpts from Aish.com, which is a wonderful and instructive site.

Pre-Rosh Hashanah

A key component of Rosh Hashanah preparation is to ask for forgiveness from anyone one may have wronged during the previous year. To whatever

extent possible, we want to begin the year with a clean slate – and without anyone harboring a grudge against us. One should also be quick to forgive those who have wronged him.

The Festive Meal

During the High Holidays, a round challah is used – symbolizing fullness and completion. After making the "Hamotzi" blessing, it is customary to dip the bread into honey – symbolizing our prayer for a sweet new year.

Then, after most of your slice of bread has been eaten, take an apple and dip it in honey. Make a blessing on the apple (since "Hamotzi" did not cover the apple) and eat a little bit of the apple. Then say, "May it be Your will, God, to renew us for a good and sweet new year."

On Rosh Hashanah, we add the paragraph *Ya'aleh V'yavo* in Grace After Meals.

Rosh Hashanah Prayers

Since there are so many unique prayers on Rosh Hashanah, we use a special prayer book called a "Machzor."

In the "Amidah" and "Kiddush" for Rosh Hashanah, we say the phrase *Yom Teruah*.

The supplication "Avinu Malkeinu" should be said on Rosh Hashanah.

During the High Holidays, the curtain on the ark is changed into a white one, to symbolize that our "mistakes will be whitened like snow."

Since it is a question as to whether the *She'hechianu* blessing should be said on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we are accustomed to eat a new fruit or wear a new garment and say *She'hechianu* upon it.

The Shofar

The essential mitzvah of Rosh Hashanah is to hear the sounding of the shofar. The shofar blasts after the Torah Reading are called "Tekiot M'yushav."

The minimum Torah obligation is to hear nine blasts. However, there is a doubt whether the sound of the shofar should be a groaning type of cry

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Antique Judaica Expert at the Temple on August 18

by Beth Zweig

Bring out the candlesticks, menorahs, and other family heirlooms and join us on Sunday, August 18 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Temple when Antique Judaica expert Jonathan Greenstein shares his knowledge, followed by an opportunity for attendees to learn more from him about their own Jewish treasures.

“The Antique Judaica Evaluation Show” is open to the community. Attendees may bring up to two pieces of Judaica to be evaluated by Greenstein. The audience will learn about each item’s history during the process.

Greenstein is the president and expert-in-charge at J. Greenstein & Company, Inc., in Cedarhurst, NY, the country’s only auction house specializing in antique Jewish Ritual art. An expert in antique Judaica for more than 30 years, Greenstein writes a column in *Reform Judaism* magazine. He also is the author of *A Lost Art: Handmade Silver Kiddush Cups of Eastern Europe* and currently starring in “Jewish Gilt with Jonathan Greenstein” on The Jewish Channel. His visit is sponsored through the generosity of the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation and the Temple’s Kathryn Kann Mendelblat Fund.

Please RSVP to 744-4245 by Wednesday, August 14 if you'd like to attend. ☆

A Short Note from Lazette Selan

Many thanks to everyone who made my short visit in May so pleasant.

Two of our grandchildren graduated from high school this spring - Sarah Adamson in Denver and Samuel Kane in Indianapolis!

Lazette



Caught in the Act!

Zack and Jay Zemmol pruning trees around the shul one recent hot summer day. Thanks guys!



Worshipping and Serving Together

A hearty **THANK YOU** to the women who helped put together the lovely oneeg when the Temple joined us for "Shabbat B'yachad" on May 31.

Jan Finkel led the charge and was assisted by **Paula Adams; Arlene Leib; Laura Long; Ruth Minkoff; Nina Mocle; Jan Sarratore; Jen Schuler; Donna Tourkow; Diane Wolf; and Dana Zemmol. ☆**

Mark and Melissa Schneider together with our daughters invite you to join us as we celebrate our 20th anniversary ***with a ceremony under the chuppah***

on Sunday, August 25th, 2013
at 11:30am
celebration lunch to follow

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

Please RSVP by August 9th to 627-1029.

Your presence is your gift to us.

Rosh Hashanah ABC's

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(*Shevarim*), or a sobbing weep (*Teruah*), or a combination (*Shevarim-Teruah*). Therefore, we perform all three sounds, each preceded and followed by an unbroken blast, *Tekiah*. Three of each set results in 30 blasts total, which are necessary to remove all doubt that the Torah precept has been fulfilled.

It is customary to blow shofar in the same place that the Torah is read, so that the merit of the Torah will support us. The shofar should be blown during the daytime. In ancient times, when the Romans persecuted the Jews, the rabbis instituted blowing the shofar before Musaf, since the Romans had guards in the synagogues during the early morning.

The shofar is not blown when Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat.

In the "Amidah" prayer of Musaf, there are three special blessings: *Malchiot* (praises to God the King), *Zichronot* (asking God to remember the merits of our Ancestors), and *Shofrot* (the significance of the shofar). During the chazan's repetition, we blow an additional 30 blasts in the various combinations.

It is the custom to blow 40 extra blasts at the end of services, bringing the total to 100. It is customary to prolong the final blast, which is called a *Tekiah Gedolah*.

Other Customs

It is customary to greet others as follows: "*L'shana Tova / Tikatevu V'techatemu.*" This means: "For a good year / You should be written and sealed in the good (Book of Life)."

Tashlich

The "Tashlich" prayer is said on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah by a pool of water that preferably has fish in it. These prayers are symbolic of the casting away of our mistakes. Of course, it is foolish to think you can rid sins by shaking out your pockets. Rather, the Jewish approach is deep introspection and commitment to

change. Indeed, the whole idea of "Tashlich" is partly to commemorate the Midrash that says when Abraham went to the Akeida (binding of Isaac), he had to cross through water up to his neck.

If Rosh Hashanah falls out on Shabbat, "Tashlich" is pushed off until the second day. If "Tashlich" was not said on Rosh Hashanah itself, it may be said anytime during the Ten Days of Repentance.

Both the body of water and the fish are symbolic. In Talmudic literature Torah is represented as water. Just as fish can't live without water, so too a Jew can't live without Torah!

Also, the fact that fish eyes never close serves to remind us that, so too, God's eyes (so to speak) never close; He knows of our every move. ☆



Volunteers Appreciated

The following people volunteered to sponsor and/or prepare June / July kiddushim:

*Annie Appel
Janet Finkel
Ruth Minkoff
Nina and Virgil Mocle
Dana Zemmol*

If you are interested in sponsoring or helping with kiddushim, please be in touch with a monthly circle member or call the office. **Men and women needed.**

August: Paula Adams, Mary Wilger, Diane Wolf

October: Nina Mocle, Susie Miller, Donna Tourkow

November: Missy & Mark Schneider



Condolences to...

...Bill and Jan Chambers and family on the passing of Bill's father, Dale Chambers, on the 23rd of Sivan, 5773, June 1, 2013.

...Diane Wolf and family on the passing of Diane's sister-in-law, Rena Babich, on the 29th of Sivan, 5773, June 7, 2013.

...Matt and Theresa Farber and family on the passing of Matt's father, Alvin Avraham Farber, on the 2nd of Jammuz, 5773, June 10, 2013.

Published by

Congregation B'nai Jacob

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