



Congregation B'nai Jacob

March 2011

5771 Adar I/AdarII

Mitchell Kornspan, Rabbi	Services	Ron Friedman, President
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Weekly Portion: Pekudei Shabbat Shekalim C.L. 6:15pm Havdalah: 7:18pm	Friday, March 4th Saturday, March 5th Shabbat School Torah Class	Service 5:30pm Services 9:15am 9:45am-11:45am 1:00pm
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Weekly Portion: Vayikra CL: 6:23pm Havdalah: 7:26pm	Friday, March 11th Saturday, March 12th Torah Class	Service 5:30pm Services 9:15am 1:00pm
Sunday, March 13th 10:00am Family Education Program		

Weekly Portion: Tzav Shabbat Zachor CL 7:31pm Havdalah: 8:34pm	Friday, March 18th Saturday, March 19th Torah Class	Purim Theme Service 7:30pm Services 9:15am 1:00pm
<i>Shabbat morning guest speaker: Rev. Terry Anderson</i> <i>Director of Interfaith Hospitality Network</i>		
Megilla Reading Saturday evening & Dessert 8:15 pm Purim Celebration Sunday, March 20th R.S.V.P. 9:30am		

Weekly Portion: Shemini Shabbat Parah CL: 7:38pm Havdalah: 8:41pm	Friday, March 25th Saturday, March 26th Shabbat School Torah Class	Service 7:30pm Services 9:15am 9:45am-11:45am 1:00pm
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Weekly Portion: Tazia Shabbat Hachodesh CL:7:46 pm Havdalah: 8:49pm	Friday, April 1st Saturday, April 2nd Torah Class	Service 7:30pm Services 9:15am 1:00pm
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Dear friends,

We are about to celebrate one of the happiest holidays of the Jewish year..... Purim!

Last year I dressed as a jester, and this year??? Hmm... the decisions!

On a serious note, I want to teach you about the deeper meaning of Purim joy. While it is certainly exciting to wear costumes on Purim, to boo the villain Haman during the Megillah readings, and to enjoy the festive Purim Seudah (meal), I find it highly instructive that half of the mitzvot we perform on Purim are for the purpose of contributing to the happiness of others!

Yes, on Purim we have the mitzvah of listening to the Megillah (evening and morning), partaking of a Purim meal on the day of Purim, giving *matanot l'evyonim*, tzedakah to the poor, and *shalach manot*, edible gifts to each other.

You see that the two mitzvot of gifts to the poor and *shalach manot* are commandments directly affecting the joy that others can experience. It would be incomprehensible for Jews to celebrate any holiday and not think of the poor, and not consider our friends and family.

Let us zoom into the mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim*, gifts to the poor. In verses 16-19 of chapter 9 of *Megillat Esther*, we learn: "And Mordechai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews... to enjoin them that they

should keep the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly... that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and **gifts to the poor** (*matanot la-evyonim*)" (9: 20-22).

The Talmud, Bava Metzia 78b, teaches that the "gifts to the poor" money collected on Purim may not be used for any purpose other than providing Purim necessities for the poor; what remains must be saved until the following Purim.

The Rambam elucidates: "It is preferable for a person to be more liberal with his donations to the poor than to be lavish in his preparation of the Purim feast or in sending portions to his friends. **For there is no greater and more splendid happiness than to gladden the hearts of the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the converts. One who brings happiness ... resembles the Divine Presence, which Isaiah 57:15 describes as having the tendency "to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive those with broken hearts."**

What is truly amazing is that this unique act of tzedakah for Purim is an integral part of the holiday itself! Since Purim is a time of simcha, of happiness, and the book of Esther established this simcha by feasting and *mishloach manot*, we are then told that this is not enough. In order for Purim to be a true day of *simcha*, everyone needs to be able to rejoice. Thus to be truly happy, we are being taught, we must include the sharing of our income with the less fortunate. And, when we do this, we will have a reason to be happy!

If you would like to donate to the mitzvah of "gifts for the poor," please earmark this in a check to the Discretionary Fund.

Penny and I wish you a very happy Purim.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

Scholarships

Applications for the Bill and Clara Brosler Youth Leadership Award and the Minnette Baum Israel Scholarship are available in the synagogue office.



Rummage Sale in Summer at the Synagogue

If you have anything you would like to donate for the rummage sale, please bring it to the synagogue and place it in the utility room. We would appreciate everyone's help in making a successful rummage sale. Further details will come soon. Call the office if you have any questions.

We would like to thank Bee Siegel, Natalie Gottesman & family and Dr. Gordan Siegel & family for their generous contribution in memory of David Siegel. This helps fund the Shalach Manot baskets for Purim.

Thank you to Ruth Minkoff for making mandel bread and pretzels and to Sheryl Merritt for baking for Friday nights.



Have you ordered your Shalach Manot baskets to help support our religious school? If not...order NOW!



**Purim Celebrations
Saturday March 19th
Havdalah and Megillah reading at
8:15pm.**

**Sunday March 20th
9:30am Purim Megillah reading and
Breakfast
Please R.S.V.P. to the office**



Tzedakah - Maot Hittim

It has been a tradition to collect "money for wheat" (donations for the poor for Passover). If you would like to make a contribution to aid the needy, please make out a check to Congregation B'nai Jacob Discretionary Fund, earmarking it for Maot Hittim or Passover charity.

Please send it to Congregation B'nai Jacob, 7227 Bittersweet Moors, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46814.

I, _____, am donating
_____ for Maot Hittim, to
be used to aid the needy.

**March 5, 2011 / 29 Adar, 5711 Pekudei
Triennial Cycle: Sh'mot 38:21- 39:21**

The portion starts off stating these are the records that were drawn up at Moshe's request. All the work was either created or supervised by Betzalel from the tribe of Yehuda and Oholiab from the tribe of Dan. Then the actual accounting, nearly like a spreadsheet begins. The gold is counted. The silver is calculated and broken down into how much was used in specific places. The copper is totaled and we are told again of where it was used. Aharon's vestments are listed with details surrounding their construction of finely woven blue, purple and red yarns. The stones set on the shoulder for supporting the breastplate are also mentioned and that the tribes' names were engraved on the stones. The breastplate's four rows of three stone each are listed by name. The portion closes by giving more details regarding how the breastplate hung from gold chains.

Psukim to ponder: "... accounts of the Mishkan, as they were rendered according to the command of Moshe, through the service of the Levites, by the hand of Itamar ...and Betzalel..." 28:21-22

Seforno goes into much detail as to why the Mishkan was quite superior to its successors.

1. The Tablets of the Covenant were placed in it.
2. It was erected at the command of Moshe.
3. Aharon's son, Itamar, was in charge of the Levites' service.
4. Betzalel was the principal architect, and he was divinely inspired.

Interestingly, none of it ever fell into enemy hands. Let's contrast that with the Temples built later. Non-Israelites constructed Solomon's Temple, and II Kings recounts the structure needed nearly annual repair. It was eventually destroyed, and all of it was lost. The second Temple was inferior from the outset as the Tablets were never in the edifice. Moreover, it was not established by G-d's command. There were few Levites around to participate at all in the services. By Ezra's account we know pagans participated in building it.

When we visit the Kotel in Jerusalem, we are awe-struck. Can you imagine then, how truly majestic the original must have been?

**March 12, 2011 / 6 Adar II, 5711 Vayikra
Triennial Cycle: Vayikra 1:1 – 2:16**

After the construction of the Mishkan is completed, the most natural turn of the Torah is to speak of the sacrificial system that will be used there. The first type of sacrifice mentioned here are free will offerings called *olah*, meaning "goes up". The animal must be male without any sort of defect. It is to be slaughtered, and the blood of the animal is spread around the base of the altar. The animal is cut and broiled in a particular fashion. The offering of fowl is next discussed; it can be male or female and nothing is noted regarding its having a defect. The meal offering is then explained. Some are fine flour and oil that are mixed and burned but not actually baked. There are others that are baked and then offered. Meal offerings were not to contain leaven or honey. Frankincense and salt were also to be used in conjunction with sacrifices. The offerings of first fruits are mentioned, but these are not burnt on the altar. The grain offering spoken of in the last portion of the triennial cycle refers to the Omer, brought from the second day of Pesach through Shavuot.

A pasuk to ponder: "The remnant of the meal offering is for Aharon and his sons; it is most holy, from the fire offerings of Hashem." 2:10

The offerings listed go from the most to the least expensive one could bring, but it is only the least expensive – the meal offering which is called 'most holy.' What is important to remember is that all of these offerings were voluntary; no one would have been forced into bringing these to the Mishkan. It is the poorest person's offering which seems to gather the most praise, since it is likely that proportionately, it was the most difficult one to be brought. While we certainly appreciate those who can give generously to maintain our synagogue, we must be grateful to those who give much less, but do give what they can afford. An aside to note: any meal offering baked into bread and offered on the *mizbaiach* (altar) was unleavened bread. Do you have any thoughts on why?

March 19, 2011 / 13 Adar II, 5711 Tzav

Triennial Cycle: Vayikra 6:1- 7:10

The beginning of Tzav is training for the Cohanim – how they are to carry out their jobs. The remaining ashes from the olah (sacrifice) are to be gathered and then removed out of the camp to a ‘pure place.’ Each morning more wood is placed to feed the fire, so it does not go out. There were two parts of the meal-offering. One part was mixed with frankincense and burnt entirely. The other portion was given to the Cohanim to eat, and it was to be consumed by them in the Courtyard of the Mishkan. An offering is made when a Cohen is being anointed into the priesthood. The handling of sin offerings, *chatat*, is next; these are when people unintentionally erred against Hashem. Then the guilt offering, *asham*, is discussed. It has several functions including: partial atonement for a person sinning against another or one using a thing designated for the mishkan. The meat from these sacrifices was eaten by the Cohen doing the work. The hide from the animal also was his to use.

Korbanot AKA Sacrifices to ponder:

Please understand the point here is a **VERY** simple explanation of some of the offerings during the days they were performed.

Olah – atoned for wrong thoughts, mistakenly not fulfilling a mitzvah, making an error that can be corrected via a mitzvah, voluntary korban = a completely burnt animal; more than one animal was appropriate for use.

Mincha – atoned for see above, voluntary korban = a flour, water & oil, some burnt & some eaten.

Shelamim – atoned for nothing – it was offered to express happiness, voluntary korban, some burnt & some eaten; more than one animal was appropriate for use.

Chatat - atoned for some sins committed by mistake, obligatory korban = some burnt & some eaten; female goat or lamb was used.

Asham - atoned for stealing money from another Jew, using something belonging to the mishkan, and other sins, obligatory korban = some burnt & some eaten; a ram was used. Many today look at these with disdain; but The Kuzari explains we don't understand them

because they are spiritual mixtures, supernatural, and beyond us.

March 26, 2011 / 20 Adar II, 5711 Shemni

Triennial Cycle: Vayikra 9:1 – 10:11

The last sedra spoke of the seven days of dedication; we have now come to the eighth day, hence the name of this portion, Shemini. At this conclusion of the dedication, a calf, a ram and a goat were one set of offerings. Another set included an additional calf, lamb, ox and ram as well as a meal offering. All of this was so that the ‘Presence of the L-rd may appear to you.’ Indeed upon the completion of these korbanot, all the people present witnessed a manifestation of Hashem. Nadav and Avihu, Aharon's sons brought ‘strange’ fire and were instantly killed. Aharon remains silent while Moshe instructs others to remove their bodies. Then one of the few times Aharon is spoken to directly by Hashem comes with the instruction that wine or other intoxicants are not to be consumed when coming to the Tent of Meeting. No less than 12 possible reasons are given for the deaths of Aharon's oldest sons.

A pasuk to ponder: “... on the eighth day Moshe summoned Aharon and his sons and the Elders of Yisrael.” 9:1

It is agreed that this occurred in the month of Nisan. Rashi views the korbanot brought over the entire eight-day period atoned for the sin of the golden calf, while Ramban feels only the offerings of the eighth day itself atoned for it. Aharon and his sons had been inside the Mishkan the entire seven days, but during that time Moshe was actively involved with the inauguration service. At this point, the priesthood is now officially being given to Aharon and his sons. No longer would the first-born hold the right to offer *korbanot* to Hashem. Moshe wanted the Elders to see and know that this great honor was now being bestowed upon Aharon by the Eternal. These men would also need instruction from Aharon regarding the communal offering that would take place from time to time. This was likely quite prestigious. We know that today our collective and personal prayers take the place of the sacrifices. When you recognize that, does praying add meaning or value for you? Can you see your active participation is necessary?



March Birthdays

- 2-Jessica Mocle
- 2-Lyndsay Trauner
- 3-Lauren Tourkow
- 3-Theresa Trauner
- 4-Marvin Crell
- 4-Rebecca Margolis
- 5-Josh Tourkow
- 5-Gwendolyn Schneider
- 8-Dr. Donald Mark
- 9-Luanna Watson
- 13-Ian Martinez
- 18-Shana Goltz
- 18-Joshua Mocle
- 19-Steve Appel
- 19-Jacob Eisbart
- 21-Leah Tourkow
- 21-Mike Adams
- 21-Jennifer Schuler
- 21-Elana Merritt
- 24-Gerry Appel
- 30-Dr. Mary Wilger
- 31-Annie Appel
- 31-Mark Rifkin



March Anniversaries

- 30-Mike and Paula Adams

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries

- Pekudeai-Michael Lewis
- Tzav-Gerald Appel
- Tzav-Joshua Friedman
- Tzav-Jerry Pownall
- Shemini-Brian Leib
- Shemini-Sharon Goltz
- Tazia-Rossya Klebanow

March Congregational Donations

Building Fund

In memory of Jean Siegel

Ron and Vicki Goltz

David Siegel Memorial Fund

In memory of David Siegel

Sol and Helen Bialeck

Kiddush Fund

In honor of Paula Adam's birthday

Ovadya

In honor of Jeff Wolf's birthday

Ovadya

In honor of Joshua Friedman's birthday

Ovadya

In memory of Sarah Levin

Jeanette Lewis Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Kornspan's 51st
Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Ovadya

In honor of Rabbi Kornspan's birthday

Ovadya

Rabbi Kornspan's special prayers

Bee Siegel

General Fund

Happy Birthday to Keith Groman, Bee Siegel and
Jeff Wolf

Diane Wolf

In appreciation

Jenny Levitin

Torah Maintenance Fund

In honor of Keith Groman's birthday

Bee Siegel

In honor of Dr. Marc Nusholtz and Dr. Mary
Wilger's wedding anniversary

Ovadya

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of my father Manuel Babich, my
father-in-law Ralph Wolf, my brother Robert
Babich, my sisters Fannie Gary and Dorothy Kay,
my brother Isadore Babich and brother-in-law Sam
Kay

Diane Wolf

In memory of Elmer Lewis

Jeanette Lewis Family

In memory of Julius Schwarz

Elsa Jakob

March Yahrzeits

יזכור

	Adar	March
Molly Cohen	25	28-1
Minnie Weinraub	26	1-2
Henry Baum	27	2-3
Issac Bosell	27	2-3
Chuma Appel	27	2-3
Edna Levine	27	2-3
Bernard Rosenblatt	28	3-4
Robert Mirman	29	4-5
Melvin Smith	29	4-5
Morris Dicker	29	4-5
Joseph Chodesh	29	4-5
	Adar II	
Ralph Wolf	5	10-11
Max Himelstein	6	11-12
Helen Rath	6	11-12
Moe M. Mitzman	7	12-13
Rebecca Applebaum	8	13-14
Issac Sposeep	12	17-18
Alex Rosenberg	12	17-18
Florence Rudin	15	20-21
Rose Burrs	16	21-22
Helen Himelstein	17	22-23
Paul Lecher	19	24-25
Ruben Komisarow	20	25-26
Barney Levin	22	27-28
Abraham Kaplan	22	27-28
Phyllis Adele Agrue	25	30-31



PURIM CARNIVAL PROMISES "LOTS" OF FUN

Dress up in a three-cornered hat or superhero costume. Choose the moon bounce or Cake Walk. Shoot a basket or aim for a bagel, but we've got something for the entire Jewish community at the Temple's annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 20 from 12:15 to 2 p.m.

This annual event sponsored by FORTY, the Temple's high school youth group, offers a variety of exciting games, prizes and fun. Lunch is available for purchase, including pizza, Casa salad, and hamentashen. We've got an incredible array of raffle and silent auction offerings to pique your interest. We invite youngsters to bring their parents and grandparents. They can check out the new Purim Plus for adults offered at the same time. Proceeds from the Carnival and the new Purim Plus for adults help support youth group programs, which are open to all Jewish teens in the Fort Wayne area.

PURIM PLUS IS NEW ADDITION FOR ADULTS

Purim is not just for kids anymore! The Temple's youth group, FORTY, is excited to offer a new program called Purim Plus. In addition to our annual carnival for children, we invite adults to join us in the Chapel on Sunday, March 20 at 12:15 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and games.

This fundraiser will be complete with board games, karaoke, cards, and much more. We'll have complimentary gourmet coffee for Purim Plus participants, as well as pizza, Casa salad, and hamentashen for purchase. Everyone is invited to stop in at the Carnival in the Social Hall to bid on great silent auction items or enter the raffle to win gift certificates and other prizes. Some of our great items include Casa gift certificates, Half Price Books gift cards, Monogram Shoppe specials, and computer and language lessons. We encourage adults to dress up and even play a few carnival games.

We invite you to bring out your inner child and come to Purim Plus! Please RSVP to fortyyouthgroup@gmail.com or call the Temple office at 744-4245 to let us know you're coming. We hope to see you there!

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

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SHTAR HARSHAAH (Selling of Chametz) 5771

Chametz (leavened products), which were impossible to finish or give away before Passover, may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday, and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends. Please complete the form below and return it no later than April 14th to Rabbi Kornspan at Congregation B'nai Jacob, 7227 Bittersweet Moors Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

I, _____ fully empower and permit Rabbi Kornspan to act in my behalf to sell all Chametz possessed by me - knowingly or unknowingly - as defined by Torah and Rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein Chametz owned may be found. This transaction will be in effect for the duration of Pesach.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Print your name)

(Home telephone #)

(Home address)

(Business address)