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President Mark Schneider

May 2017

Iyar - Sivan 5777

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Thank You



**The Shavuot Holiday  
begins Tuesday evening,  
May 30 and continues  
May 31 and June 1.**

# B'nai Jacob Bulletin

*Since 1912 ... Celebrating 100+ Years*



## **SHAVUOT IS A MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAY**

Dear B'nai Jacob family and friends,

I have often challenged students to go and ask fellow Jews if they could answer this question: What is Shavuot? Do you know that so many can't answer this question?

Shavuot is a **major** Jewish holiday, which is as important as Rosh Hashana and Pesach! This year it begins at sundown, Tuesday, May 30th and continues through June 1st.

What is this Torah holiday? It falls on the sixth and seventh day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, seven weeks after Passover. In Exodus 23:16 we learn that it is also called "the Feast of the Harvest." In Numbers 28: 26, there are two more names descriptive of the holiday. "Also in the Day of the First-fruits, when you bring a new meal-offering unto Hashem in your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation: you shall do no manner of servile work." Here we see the idea of bringing the first ripe fruits of the wheat harvest to the Temple, and the fact that it is also called the "Feast of Weeks," since seven weeks are counted from Passover. Pentecost is one of its names, stemming from the Greek word for fiftieth, and reflects the count of 49 days of the Omer counting from the second day of Passover.

What is most striking, according to Shavuot a transcendent character, is that it commemorates G-d's revelation to the people of Israel on Mount Sinai and the giving and receiving of the Ten Commandments and the Torah.

This is such a miraculous event! Many times G-d would speak to a prophet, but this is the only time when G-d appears and speaks before an entire people, men, women, and children! This was the culmination of the Exodus from Egypt and the reason for freedom. The Israelites became spiritually free when they accepted G-d and His teachings at Mount Sinai. There was an everlasting covenant that was established.

Nowadays, the synagogue is often adorned with greens, flowers and plants to commemorate the harvest. Many Jews stay up the first night of the holiday to study the Tikkun, a collection of excerpts from the Torah, the Tanakh and the teachings of our Rabbis, symbolizing that in every generation we accept G-d's gift of the Torah.

A special hymn, Akdamut, is chanted on Shavuot day, describing the wonders of G-d's creation, the greatness of the Torah, and the days of Messiah.

The Ten Commandments are read. The Book of Ruth is also read (either in synagogue or at home) because her story of embracing the faith in one G-d is compared to the people of Israel standing at Mount Sinai doing the same!

Dairy dishes are served during Shavuot, comparing milk and honey to the nourishment and sweetness of the Torah. (A favorite dish is blintzes filled with cheese.)

While some congregations initiate children into the study of Judaism on Shavuot, many have Confirmation Exercises for teens on this Festival.

*continued on next page*

There is much, much more but, suffice it to say, Shavuot is a major holiday! Please join us for our services. Penny and I wish you a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday.

*Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan*



## SHAVUOT AT B'NAI JACOB

Wednesday, May 31, 2017  
9:15am Services; 10:30am Yizkor

Thursday, June 1, 2017  
10:00am Services

### SIYUM HATORAH - CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

At 9:15am Shabbat Services on May 20, Congregation B'nai Jacob will mark the confirmation of Alex Martinez. Mazel Tov to Alex and his family! A special Kiddush, sponsored by the Martinez/Adams family, will be enjoyed after services. Everyone is cordially invited.

## Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The annual meeting of members of Congregation B'nai Jacob will be held Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 10:00am at the Congregation building located at:

**7227 Bittersweet Moors Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46814**

The following will be discussed:

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

### **PLEASE ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING**

Pamela Friedman  
Recording Secretary

### **ROLL CALL FOR GRADUATES**

Do you have a loved one graduating from high school or college this spring? If so, we want to know so that we can acknowledge their accomplishments. Please call or send an email to the synagogue office telling us from which school or college they are graduating, on what date, their degree, future plans, and anything you wish to kvell about. Tel: 260-672-8459 Email: [office@bnaijacobfw.com](mailto:office@bnaijacobfw.com)

**May Yahrzeits** **יזכור**

Iyar/ May		
5	30-1	Irvin Adams
5	30-1	Dora Kudysh
6	1-2	Ruth Cohen
6	1-2	Pearl Fichman
6	1-2	Morris Ruderman
6	1-2	Sidney David Troy
6	1-2	Jennie Weisman
6	1-2	Molly Wolf
8	3-4	Janet Perlman
8	3-4	Harry Peurye
9	4-5	Freda M. Dubin
9	4-5	Sylvia Forlander
9	4-5	Sarah Komisarow
9	4-5	Minnie Silverman
11	6-7	Heather Chernen
11	6-7	Gabor Fenyes
11	6-7	Alexander S. Fiegler
11	6-7	Selman Kaufman
12	7-8	Rabbi Samuel Goldin
12	7-8	Grace Kupersmith
12	7-8	Rebeca Pressman
13	8-9	Esther Schwartz
14	9-10	Marion Kaufman
15	10-11	Stephen Cohen
15	10-11	Irene Gazda Schwarz
16	11-12	William Walter
17	12-13	Sarah Beck
17	12-13	Theodore Levy
18	13-14	Harry Lechtner
18	13-14	Esther Pomerantz
19	14-15	Mathilde Kaufman
19	14-15	David Winnick
20	15-16	Max Kaplan
20	15-16	Isidore Nemeroff
20	15-16	Mayora Rosenberg
21	16-17	Bonnie Harrison
21	16-17	William Landy
21	16-17	Rivah Meyers
21	16-17	Carolyn Katz Polakoff
22	17-18	Deborah Rifkin
22	17-18	Yitschok Isaac Schwartz
23	18-19	Fannie Trivus
24	19-20	Eva Bosell
24	19-20	Rosa Levin
24	19-20	Shulamith Troy
25	20-21	Paul Gepsman
25	20-21	Lena Salon
25	20-21	Wolf Soloway
26	21-22	Max Weisman
28	23-24	Dora Rozeen
29	24-25	Hyman Dicker
29	24-25	Anna Hurwitz
29	24-25	Jennie Nemeroff
29	24-25	Pearl Waterman

**May Yahrzeits** **יזכור**

Sivan / May		
1	25-26	Sidney Goldin
2	26-27	Esther Cera Brateman
2	26-27	Sara Goldberg
2	26-27	Bonny Gould
4	28-29	Franz Reimann
5	29-30	Baruch Bronstein
6	30-31	Alice Fenyes
6	30-31	Harry King
6	30-31	Anna Landy
6	30-31	Joseph Schachter
6	30-31	Rose K. Weigler
7	31-1	Morris Meyer
7	31-1	Samuel Ralph Tourkow



**Condolences to...**  
*to the family and friends of  
 former congregant,  
 Ftta Gepsman,  
 who passed on  
 April 16, 2017  
 20 Nisan 5777.  
 May Ftta's memory ever be  
 for blessing.*



**Kroger Donates to B'nai Jacob**

Chris Jackson, manager of Kroger at Chestnut Plaza (Scott and Illinois Roads, Fort Wayne) called two days after Passover ended offering to donate their leftover Kosher for Passover items to Congregation B'nai Jacob. Of course, the answer was "Thank you, and yes, we gratefully accept!"

The items listed below are in the social hall here at the synagogue and are free for the taking.

- (7) 5 lb. cases of Yehuda Passover Matzos
- (5) 18oz. cans of Manischewitz Kosher for Passover Matzo Meal
- (9) 24oz. jars of Manischewitz Kosher for Passover Matzo Balls in Broth
- (2) 10oz. cans of Manischewitz Kosher for Passover Sugar-Free Macaroons
- (72 +/-) 2.5oz. bags of Osem Bissli BBQ Kosher snacks made in Israel (not Kosher for Passover) expiration date July 2017

There is also a large supply of Yehuda Shabbos Candles 12/per box available in the gift shop for a donation of \$1.00 per box in support of the Kiddush Fund.

Any of the above items that are not picked up by May 5 will be donated to a local community food bank.

So, next time you shop at Kroger's at Chestnut Plaza...ask for Chris Jackson and give him a high five! Chris will also receive a letter of thanks from the Congregation.

**Thank you,  
 Kroger!**

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

1	Bessie Levy
2	Amy Crell
3	Franck Hagendorf
5	Abraham Schreier
5	Sarah Rifkin
6	Larry Greenberg
7	Abby Booker
7	Paul Schuler
8	Dr. Ron Friedman
11	Rafi Friedman
13	Debby Roberts
14	J.R. Booker
18	Esther Campbell-Russ
18	Isaac Adams
19	Dan Bradley
21	Adolph Brateman
21	David Miller
21	Mark Cole
22	Kris Mamayek
25	Neal Rifkin
26	Janet Finkel
27	Amber Shad
28	Shmuel Wahli
28	Bob Walters

## **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

28	Jay and Dana Zemmol
31	Jerry and Kathy Jarvis

## **Thoughtful Thursdays Final Bag Assembly on May 3**

The Jewish community's Thoughtful Thursdays volunteers will assemble the last bag of the school year on Wednesday, May 3 at 11:00am, followed by a volunteer recognition luncheon. Thank you to the members of Congregation B'nai Jacob, Congregation Achduth Vesholom and the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne for their effort helping the 72 children who attend Brightpoint Head Start at the Temple. Thank you to Thoughtful Thursdays chair Jamie Berger for her leadership.

## **CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS**

### **General Fund**

In memory of Etta Gepsman  
- *Jim and Margo Oliff*  
In memory of Doris Tillinger  
- *Jenny and Dr. Howard Levitin*

### **Kiddush Fund**

In memory of Irvin Friedman  
- *Keith Groman*  
In memory of Samuel Kornspan  
- *Keith Groman*  
In memory of Morton Trauner  
- *Scott and Theresa Trauner*

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of Irvin Friedman  
- *Beth and Dan Zweig*  
In memory of Harvey Siegel  
- *Beth and Dan Zweig*

### **Yahrzeit Fund**

In memory of Zelda Punsky  
- *Fani and Enrique Kozolchik*  
In loving memory of mother,  
Rosetta Siegle  
- *Arlene and Jere Leib*  
In memory of Gary Nemeroff  
- *Nancy Nemeroff*  
In memory of Nathan Nemeroff  
- *Nancy Nemeroff*  
In memory of Sarah Cohen  
- *Becky and Michael Park*

### **Maot Hittim 5777**

- *Dan and Annie Appel;*  
- *Marina and Michael Epstein;*  
- *Matt and Theresa Farber;*  
- *Janet Finkel;*  
- *Ron and Pam Friedman;*  
- *Keith Groman;*  
- *Michelle Helfgott and Rodney Kraisinger*  
- *Martinez Family*  
- *Susie Miller;*  
- *Virgil and Nina Mocle;*  
- *Mark and Missy Schneider*

## **Jewish Community Torah Learning**

### **Torah Study at B'nai Jacob**

*Join Rabbi Kornspan on  
Wednesdays and  
Saturdays and on  
occasional Sundays*

Mishneh Torah class meets at 7:00pm on Wednesdays. The laws of Shabbat are being studied. Mishneh Torah class will take a break for the summer after May 20th.

Torah class meets on Saturdays at 12:45pm. Studies of Vayikra, the Book of Leviticus continue. The Torah concept of Biblical "leprosy" and spiritual purity and impurity is the current discussion.

### **ETHICS CLASS**

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017**

9:30am Tallit and Tefillin davening prior to 10:30am class at the synagogue. The Ethics Class continues with food for the body and the soul: a light brunch (sponsored by a generous anonymous donor) and our studies of Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's book: **A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume I, You Shall be Holy.**

All in the Jewish community are welcome to attend any of the above classes.

### **Weekly Talmud Class Returns at Temple**

*Join Rabbi Lenny On Tuesdays*

Rabbi Lenny's weekly Talmud Class began meeting again on April 25 at 7:00pm. The Tuesday evening class explores how the concepts in the Talmud apply today in Fort Wayne and are relevant in their personal lives.

All are welcome to attend at the Temple or online through TempleConnect. Talmud students will not meet on Tuesday, May 9.

## **FORT WAYNE JEWISH FEDERATION Events**

### **ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S CLUB**

Rosh Chodesh Women's Club is excited to invite our community spiritual leaders, Rabbi Kornspan and Rabbi Sarko, to our Monday, May 1st meeting to discuss the differences between the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox movements within Judaism. The program will be held at 6:00pm at the Madge Rothschild Resource Center at the Temple. We thank both Rabbis in advance for their willingness to come and engage with us!

### **"MAKING SENSE OF THE BDS MOVEMENT AND THE CAMPAIGN TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL"**

Dr. Michael Gizzi will be speaking on the above subject on Monday, May 15 at 7:00pm at the History Center, 302 East Berry Street, Fort Wayne. Michael Gizzi is a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church USA. He is an active member of Presbyterians for Middle East Peace, a group within the denomination dedicated to seeking a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and which works with the Israel Action Network and JCPA (Jewish Council for Public Affairs) in combating efforts to advance the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) Movement in the church.

Dr. Gizzi authored a resolution opposing a pro-BDS study guide called Zionism Unsettled, authored by another group within the church. He is a political scientist, and is a professor of criminal justice at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. He is co-editor with Dr. Cary Nelson, of a forthcoming book on BDS and the Churches. Gizzi serves as Advisor to Illinois State University Hillel, and works closely with a co-existence program called Friends Forever USA. Dr. Gizzi conducted research on co-existence efforts, and has studied the complex dynamics of the conflict in Israel and the West Bank.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Dr. Harry W. Salon Foundation with support from the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne.

### **CAMP JOE LEVINE 2017 MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**

Camp weeks are July 3, July 10, and July 17. Sign up for one, two, or all three weeks! Guaranteed that your child(ren) will have fun! Call the Federation at 260-456-0400 or visit <http://fwjf.org/Events/CampJoeLevine.aspx>

### **SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL MEETING**

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 11 at 7:00pm at the Rifkin Campus at 5200 Old Mill Road. Among other things, we will vote on our 2017-2018 Board of Trustees.



### **SIYUM HATORAH - CONFIRMATION CEREMONY**

At Shabbat Services on May 21st, Congregation B'nai Jacob will mark the confirmation of Alex Martinez.

**Mazel Tov to Alex, to his mother Cassie, to his brother Ian, and to his grandparents Paula and Mike Adams!**

A special Kiddush, sponsored by the Martinez/Adams family, will be enjoyed after services. Everyone is cordially invited.

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

### **MAY SCHEDULE**

Classes meet on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00pm and on Shabbat mornings at 9:30am.

Classes meet on May 3rd, 6th, and 10th.

On May 10th, our Religious School will hold its last session at 4:00pm. Towards the end of our classes, an assembly will take place to present certificates to our students.

*All of our students and teachers are wished a happy and safe summer vacation. See you in the fall!*



### **We are grateful to....**

- Marc Nusholtz and Mary Wilger** for sponsoring Kiddush on April 1 in honor of Mary's birthday;
- Dana and Jay Zemmol** for sponsoring Kiddush on April 8 in honor of the birthdays of Zack and Jay;
- Rabbi and Rebbetzin Kornspan** for sponsoring all Holiday Kiddushim throughout the year;
- Rebbetzin Penny** for kashering the kitchen for Pesach, and for coordinating and serving Kiddushim during Pesach;
- Ruth Minkoff and her helpers** for coordinating, preparing and serving Kiddushim on April 22 and April 29;
- Josh Tourkow and his friend** for tidying up the gardens;
- Keith Groman** for polishing the Torah crowns and shields;
- Ron Goltz** for repairing the outside doors to the synagogue;
- The Generous Anonymous Donor** who sponsors the brunch served at every Ethics Class.

### **Published by Congregation B'nai Jacob**

#### **Officers**

- Mark Schneider, President
- Ron Friedman, 1st Vice President
- Jay Zemmol, 2nd Vice President
- Pam Friedman, Recording Secretary
- Melissa Schneider, Treasurer
- Mike Adams, Financial Secretary
- Ron Friedman, Past President
- Josh Tourkow, Past President

#### **Board Members**

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Janet Finkel | Marc Nusholtz |
| Jerry Jarvis | Debby Roberts |
| Nina Mocle   | Mort Schaffer |
| Virgil Mocle | Jay Zemmol    |

