A Story of a Scribe and Our Torah

Dear B’nai Jacob Family,

A short while ago, before Eden Fuchs’ Bat Mitzvah, I brought the lightest Torah out of the Ark for her to practice. Great idea, right? After all, at any Bar or Bat Mitzvah isn’t it easier to have the lightest Torah being used, especially for any “newbies” to haghba (the lifting of the Torah)?

In the middle of her practice, Eden stopped and said: “Rabbi, something’s wrong here.” I looked. Lo and behold, there was an entire word missing! Besides being very proud that Eden caught this (after all, I usually catch the 100-150 year old mistake in a Torah), I realized that this wasn’t going to be an easy fix. You can’t just put in a caret, and write above the line. What we needed was a Sofer, a scribe!

Just around this time, I heard from an amazing individual, Shel Bassell, who has been a scribe since 1976. He was actually born in the United States, and lived in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Dayton, Ohio. He made aliya, studied in Yeshiva, and learned sobrut, the art of being a scribe.

Shel has written more than two dozen Sifrei Torah, and has repaired and refurbished many dozens more. Working in the US, Israel and Hungary, he has also written many dozens of megillot, tefillin and mezuzot. As well, he has created many pieces of Hebrew calligraphic art, and teaches a variety of topics related to Tanach and Talmud in Israel and in the US.

While here with us, Shel fixed one of our Torahs and gave an estimate for another, the ornate Torah we have. He delivered a fascinating talk to our Mishnesh Torah class, in which he fielded questions and answered them with such prowess! He engaged all of us, and we were left with a desire to drink even deeper from the waters of Torah.

On page 2 of this newsletter, you will see pictures of Shel at work on one of our Torahs. In these pictures, you will notice how he used a stainless steel blade to scrape off the letters. (This can only be done in an area where G-d’s name does not appear.) Then with an interesting instrument, an electric eraser, he finished the erasure process.

We have an unpublished photo at the shul showing a line and a half which had to be removed. Next there was a coating Shel applied. Afterword, with a sharp instrument, our sofer etched the lines, carefully pressing them into the Torah. From a Tikun (a book containing the entire text of the Torah, as it is properly written), Shel with quill in hand (freshly sharpened), began to write.

This very act of writing has the amazing artistry of the calligrapher, combined with the holiness of writing Hashem’s Torah. At the shul, you can see an unpublished photo taken after he had rewritten this line and a half, where you cannot tell that anything had ever been wrong or fixed!

Penny made a meal for our attendees, and we enjoyed the ambience of “Supper and Sapience!”

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A Story of a Scribe and Our Torah
continued from cover page

Our hope is that our community can bring Shel Bassel back again to be a scholar in residence.

Penny and I wish each of you, your family and loved ones, a L’shana Tova Tikatevu V’techatemu. May you be written and sealed in the Book of Life for a happy and healthy New Year. Amen!

B’shalom,
Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

High Holidays Schedule

- Saturday, August 31 @ 10:00pm
  Selichot
- Wednesday, September 4 @ 7:30pm
  Rosh Hashana Services
- Thursday, September 5 @ 8:30am
  Rosh Hashana Services
- Friday, September 6 @ 8:30am
  Rosh Hashana Services
- Sunday, September 8
  Kevar Avot with the Temple
  Lindenwood Cemetery @ 2:30pm
  Jewish Cemetery @ 3:30pm
- Friday, September 13 @ 7:30pm
  Kol Nidre
- Saturday, September 14 @ 8:30am
  Yom Kippur
- Thursday, September 19 @ 10:00am
  Sukkot Services
- Friday, September 20 @ 10:00am
  Sukkot Services
- Thursday, September 26 @ 9:15am
  Shemini Atzeret Services
  Simchat Torah Seudah @ 6:00pm
  Simchat Torah Celebration @ 7:00pm
- Friday, September 27 @ 10:00am
  Simchat Torah Services

Tools of the Trade
A great New Year wish from the Wolf Family!!

Diane, Loni and Jeff

The Tourkow and Sheray Family

L'shana Tova Tikatevu V'techatemu!
May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for all of Hashem's blessings, this New Year 5774!

Rabbi and Penny Kornspan

A very happy Shana Tova, good health, and a lot of mazal for everyone!

Franck Hagendorf

May this coming year bring you good health and happiness!

Josh and Donna Tourkow and Family

May joyous consciousness of Light fill our days.

TORAH AURA

Shmuel Wahli

Wishing everyone at B'nai Jacob a wonderful sweet, healthy and happy New Year!

Hugo and Lis C. Kahn
The B’nai Jacob spirit is back! Mitzvah Day on Sunday, August 11th was amazing - everyone came prepared to give it their "all"! We accomplished more than what was on the list. Hard work, yes, but with joy and laughter too! Tasks accomplished: painting; yard work; kitchen organization; classroom organization; maintenance at the parish. Many thanks to: Mike and Paula Adams, Josh and Donna Tourkow, Ruth Minkoff and Mort Schaffer, Nina and Virgil Mocle, Jerry Jarvis, Bruce and Sheryl Merritt, Janet Finkel, Annie Appel, the Long Family, the Schneider Family, the Martinez Family, Debby and Becka Roberts, Paul and Jen Schuler, Ron and Pam Friedman. (Photos courtesy of Rabbi Kornspan... more photos of Mitzvah Day on Extra page.)

Speaking of Mitzvah spirit, the kitchen has new sinks, new dishwashers, and a new counter (on the dairy side) thanks to the coordination and help of Mike and Paula Adams, their sons Isaac and Michael, and Ruth Minkoff and Mort Schaffer. Mike and Paula also coordinated the removal and pruning of trees on the property. Mark Schneider and Jay and Zack Zemmol repaired the memorial plaque yahrzeit light boards. All lights are now working! Mike, Mark, Jay and Zack repaired the portico, too! Rabbi and Rebbetzin's sukkah was updated, thanks to the handiwork of Mike Adams. (Mike is finding all kinds of things to do around the shul in his retirement!) Rebbetzin has been painting the parish. Keith Groman carefully hung pictures that are now for sale in the gift shop area and expertly adjusted the office chair for Tami’s comfort.
CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS - SEPTEMBER

David Siegel Memorial Fund
In memory of beloved mother,
Sophie Bialick
- Bee Siegel
In honor and appreciation of Bee Siegel's recovery
- Loni Wolf

General Fund
In appreciation
- Stanley and Ruth Katzen
In honor of Mark and Melissa Schneider's 20th wedding anniversary
- Jere and Arlene Leib
- Get well Adrienne Brateman
- Leah Tourkow
- Mazel Tov to Mark and Melissa Schneider!
- Leah Tourkow
In appreciation
- Shmuel Wahli

Kiddush Fund
In thanksgiving for all those who helped with the Kiddush in memory of Benjamin and Grace Becker
- Franck Hagendorf
In memory of Ralph (Raffi) Tourkow
- Lis Cohen Kahn
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 honor of Mark and Melissa Schneider's 20th wedding anniversary
- Bee Siegel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
In appreciation of Rabbi
- Mark and Donna Cole
In honor of Mark and Melissa Schneider's 20th wedding anniversary
- Franck Hagendorf
Thank you for the aliyah the weekend we visited. Hugo appreciated it so much!
- Hugo and Lis Cohen Kahn
For the Israeli family in need
- Bob and Laura Long
To thank Rabbi for all his work on our anniversary celebration
- Mark and Melissa Schneider
In grateful appreciation for visits and prayers during my recent illness
- Bee Siegel
For the Israeli family in need
- Bee Siegel
For the Israeli family in need
- Shmuel Wahli

Torah Maintenance Fund
- Keith Groman

Yahrzeit Fund
In memory of father, Michael Kupersmith
- Art and Julie Kupersmith
In loving memory of our son, Michael
- Jere and Arlene Leib

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS - SEPTEMBER

Yahrzeit Fund continued
In memory of father, William Edward Pownall
- Jerry and Sue Pownall
In memory of mother, Beatrice Ochstein
- Herb and Mical Ryncarson
In memory of father, Abraham Siegel
- Joan Siegel
In memory of father, Abraham Kurtz
- Barry and Linda Snitzer
In memory of mother, Mildred Kurtz
- Barry and Linda Snitzer
In memory of Henya Rose Walter
- Robert and Irene Walters
In memory of Bertha Doran
- William and Louise Warshauer
In memory of mother, Leah Babich
- Diane Wolf
In memory of brother, Sol Babich
- Diane Wolf

September Birthdays
4 Ben Eisbart
5 Carolyn Horwitz
8 Benjamin Tourkow
12 Joshua Eisbart
13 Yuval Fuchs
15 Mary Bosell
17 Patrick Horwitz
17 Jennifer Trauner
18 Silvan Krel
18 Ethan Zweig
19 Emma Crell
20 Teresa Miller
23 Rebecca Schneider
25 Susie Miller

September Anniversaries
4 Mark and Missy Schneider
4 Dan and Annie Appel
16 Robert and Laura Long
21 Paul and Jennifer Schuler
24 Daniel and Ann Droegmyer

Mazel Tov to David and Teresa Miller on the arrival of grandson,
Cruz Jonathon Booker, born on Monday, August 19, 2013 at 10:03am to Abby Miller and J.R. Booker! Cruz weighed in at 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19-1/2" long. The proud great grandparents are, of course, Ron and Susie Miller!

A message from the Religious Committee...

In the spirit of High Holidays, we want to remind our congregants and guests about the following:

- Modest attire should be worn to services. For example, it is traditional to have one's shoulders covered.
- Dress attire is customary when coming to Synagogue services
- Cell phones should be silenced at all times.

Wishing you all L'shana Tova Tikatevu!
September Yahrzeits

Elul / September
26 31-1  Tillie Schubert
27 1-2  Herb Albert
27 1-2  Sam Levin
27 1-2  Robert Nusholtz
29 3-4  Evelyn Feldman

Tishri / September
1 4-5  Dorys Meyers
1 4-5  Deborah Rifkin
1 4-5  Mordecai Rifkin
3 6-7  Gladys Adams
3 6-7  Freda Kaplan
3 6-7  Joseph Mayer Levy
4 7-8  Jack Moyer
5 8-9  Mariam Nemoff
5 8-9  Ida Weinstein
6 9-10  Leah Berebitsky
6 9-10  Goldye Kaplan
6 9-10  Adrienne Korr
6 9-10  Barry Pass
6 9-10  Meyer Ruchman
7 10-11  Louis Israel Brateman
7 10-11  Clifford Ewing
7 10-11  Mary Peuye
7 10-11  Mashe Soloway
8 11-12  Lottie Guttmacher
10 13-14  Herman Brateman
10 13-14  Siegmund Kaufmann
10 13-14  Shirley Ruth Konigsberg
10 13-14  Joseph Lowenthal
10 13-14  Sima Lowenthal
10 13-14  Fanny Merin
10 13-14  Seigmond Merin
10 13-14  Siegmund Merin
10 13-14  Simon Merin
11 14-15  Louis Goldberg
12 15-16  Milton Jay
12 15-16  Esther Rose Weinstein
12 15-16  Samuel N. Weinstein
13 16-17  Steve Kelman
13 16-17  Lillian Starr Messe
14 17-18  Israel Edelman
14 17-18  George King
14 17-18  Simon Singer
15 18-19  Charles Bernstein
15 18-19  Sheldon Goltz
16 19-20  Sam Boudaie
16 19-20  Martin J. Dicker
16 19-20  Rose Rubenstein
17 20-21  Josephine Mcel
18 21-22  Samuel N. Field
18 21-22  Linda Shulkin-Nail
19 22-23  Gertrude Brateman
19 22-23  Abe Lipp
19 22-23  Jennie Schneiderman

September Yahrzeits

Tishri / September
19 22-23  Mollie Frank
20 23-24  Dr. Abraham Fichman
20 23-24  Abraham Zimmerman
21 24-25  Dorothy Marks Fidler
21 24-25  Anna Levin
21 24-25  Lona Ruchman
23 26-27  Melvin Shulkin
23 26-27  Sonya Turetzky
24 27-28  Jack Berger
24 27-28  Simon Crell
24 27-28  Jean Pownall
25 28-29  Harry Komisarov
25 28-29  Libbie Mull
25 28-29  Herman Schubert
26 27-28  Israel Bronstein
26 27-28  Morris Magazine
27 28-29  Dena Levant
27 28-29  Ethelyn Seigman
27 28-29  Hanna Singer
27 28-29  Helen Snitzer

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. Ochsden 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 Crole Education Fund
- Sisterhood Nursery Fund
- Torah Maintenance Fund
- Winnick Memorial Garden Fund
- Yahrzeit Fund

ABCs of Yom Kippur

(Excerpts from Aish Hatorah)
by Rabbi Shraga Simmons

Following the sin of the Golden Calf, Moses pleaded with God to forgive the people. Finally on Yom Kippur, atonement was achieved and Moses brought the second set of Tablets down from Mount Sinai. From that day forward, every Yom Kippur carries with it a special power to cleanse our mistakes (both individually and collectively) and to wipe the slate clean. This works on two conditions:

(1) We do a process called teshuva – literally "return." Teshuva involves four steps:
- Regret – acknowledging that a mistake was made, and feeling regret at having squandered some of our potential.
- Cessation – Talk is cheap, but stopping the harmful action shows a true commitment to change.
- Confession – To make it more “real,” we admit our mistake verbally, and ask forgiveness from anyone we may have harmed.
- Resolution – We make a firm commitment not to repeat the harmful action in the future.

(2) Though the combination of teshuva and Yom Kippur atones for transgressions against God, it does not automatically erase wrongs committed against other people. It is therefore the universal Jewish custom – some time before Yom Kippur – to apologize and seek forgiveness from any friend, relative, or acquaintance whom we may have harmed or insulted over the past year.

Angel for a Day

On Yom Kippur, every Jew becomes like an angel. In the Jewish understanding, angels are completely spiritual beings, whose sole focus is to serve their Creator. The Maharal of Prague explains:

continued on next page
All the mitzvot that God commanded us [on Yom Kippur] are designed to remove, as much as possible, a person's relationship to physicality, until he is completely like an angel.

Just as angels (so to speak) stand upright, so too we spend most of Yom Kippur standing in the synagogue. And just as angels (so to speak) wear white, so too we are accustomed to wear white on Yom Kippur. Just as angels do not eat or drink, so too we do not eat or drink.

This idea even has a practical application in Jewish law: typically, the second verse of the Shema, Baruch Shem, is recited quietly. But on Yom Kippur, it is proclaimed out loud – just like the angels do.

**Five Aspects**

There are five areas of physical involvement from which we refrain on Yom Kippur:

1. Eating and drinking
2. Washing
3. Applying oils or lotions to the skin
4. Marital relations
5. Wearing leather shoes

Throughout the year, many people spend their days focusing on food, work, material possessions (symbolized by shoes) and superficial pleasures (symbolized by anointing). On Yom Kippur, we restore our priorities to what really counts in life.

**Structure of the Day**

On Rosh Hashana, the Books of Life and Death are open and God writes who will be granted another year of life. For many, this decision hangs in the balance for nine days until Yom Kippur, when the final decision is sealed. With this in mind, the prayers of Yom Kippur are designed to stir us to mend our ways:

- The Yom Kippur prayers begin before sundown with the haunting melody of Kol Nidrei. The Torah scrolls are all removed from the Ark, and the chazzan (cantor) chants the Kol Nidrei prayer three times, each with greater intensity.
- The special Yom Kippur Amidah (standing prayer) incorporates the Al-Chet confession of our various mistakes. With each mention of a mistake, we lightly beat our chest with the fist – as if to say that it is our impulses that got the best of us.
- The Yizkor service – said in memory of loved ones – is recited following the morning Torah reading.
- The lengthy Mussaf service features a recounting of the Yom Kippur rite in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. A highlight was the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies – the only person to do so, this one time a year. The Mussaf service also records how the High Priest would pronounce God's holy name, and in response the assembled Jews would prostrate on the ground. When reaching these passages, we too prostrate ourselves on the ground.
- At the Mincha service, we read the Book of Jonah, the biblical story of a prophet who tried to “flee from God” and wound up swallowed into the belly of a huge fish.
- While a regular weekday has three prayer services, and Shabbat and holidays have four, Yom Kippur is the only day of the year that has five. The final prayer is called Ne’ilah, literally the “closing of the gates,” which serves as the final chance to ensure that our decree for the year is “sealed” in the Book of Life. At the conclusion of Ne’ilah, the shofar is sounded – one long blast, signifying our confidence in having passed the High Holidays with a good judgment.

**The Fast Itself**

The Yom Kippur fast begins before sundown, and extends 25 hours until the following nightfall.

During the afternoon hours leading up to Yom Kippur, it is a special mitzvah to eat a festive meal.

For making your fast easier, hydration is the key. Avoid coffee or coke, because caffeine is a diuretic. Heavy coffee drinkers can also avoid the dreaded headache by slowly reducing the amount of consumption over the week leading up to Yom Kippur.

At the festive meal, eat a moderate portion of food so as not to speed up the digestion process. After you complete the festive meal, leave some extra time before sundown to drink.

**In Case of Illness**

If someone is ill, and a doctor is of the opinion that fasting might pose a life danger, then the patient should eat or drink small amounts.

The patient should try to eat only about 30 ml (one fluid ounce) and wait nine minutes before eating again. Once nine minutes have passed, one can eat this small amount again, and so on throughout the day.

With drinking, try to drink less than what the Talmud calls “melo lugmav” – the amount that would fill a person's puffed-out cheek. While this amount will vary from person to person, it is approximately 35 ml (just over one fluid ounce) and one should wait nine minutes before drinking again.

How does consuming small amounts make a difference? In Jewish law, an act of "eating" is defined as "consuming a certain quantity within a certain period of time." Otherwise, it's not eating, it's "nibbling" – which although is prohibited on Yom Kippur, there is room to be lenient when one's health is at stake.

The reason for all these technicalities is because eating on Yom Kippur is regarded as one of the most serious prohibitions in the Torah. So while there are leniencies in certain situations, we still try to minimize it.

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ABCs of Yom Kippur
continued from page 7

Note that eating and drinking are treated as independent acts, meaning that the patient can eat and drink together during those nine minutes, and the amounts are not combined.

Having said all this, if these small amounts prove insufficient to prevent the health danger, the patient may even eat and drink regularly. In such a case, a person does not say Kiddush before eating, but does recite "Grace After Meals," inserting the "ya'aleh veyavo" paragraph.

Now what about a case where the patient's opinion conflicts with that of the doctor? If the patient is certain he needs to eat to prevent a danger to health, then we rely on his word, even if the doctor disagrees. And in the opposite scenario – if the patient refuses to eat despite doctors' warnings – then we persuade the patient to eat, since it is possible that his judgment is impaired due to illness.

Wishing you a meaningful Yom Kippur! ✡

Condolences to...

... Bob Adams, Mike and Paula Adams and family on the passing of Rosie Adams on the 8th of Elul, 5773, August 14, 2013.

... to the family of Ronald Louis Levin who passed on the 9th of Elul, 5773, August 15, 2013.

5774 Calendars are in!
Pick one up at the Synagogue.

Volunteers Appreciated

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

Paula Adams
Franck Hagendorf
Julie Kupersmith
Ruth Minkoff
Nina Mocle
Mark Schneider
Missy Schneider
Mary Wilger
Diane Wolf

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

September: Rebetzin Penny Kornspan, Laura Long, Dana Zemmol
October: Nina Mocle, Susie Miller, Donna Tourkow
November: Missy and Mark Schneider

SUKKOT

Wednesday
September 18th
7:30pm
Rabbi and Rebbetzin
Kornspan invite you to a
Seudah (meal) in their
Sukkah.
RSVP to Rebbetzin or
the office by
Monday,
September 16th.

If you plan to offer
Sukkah Hospitality,
please provide details to
Rabbi and they will be
publicized.

Please
RSVP
by Friday, August 30th
for
Break the Fast
following
Yom Kippur.
$5.00 per person
Call or email the office.

Published by
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B’nai Jacob

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Board Members

5774 Calendars are in!
Pick one up at the
Synagogue.
Scholar in Residence
Rabbi Mark S. Shapiro
Saturday, October 5th, 12:45pm
B’nai Jacob will welcome Rabbi Mark S. Shapiro to Fort Wayne on Saturday, October 5th at 12:45pm for an afternoon of community learning, when Rabbi Shapiro will speak on "Responsa: Does the Shoa Trump Jewish Law? A Case Study".

A native Chicagoan, Rabbi Shapiro studied at the University of Chicago and received his rabbinic ordination at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Before retiring in 2000, he served Congregation B’nai Jehosua Beth Elohim in Deerfield, Illinois for 38 years. Since then, he and his wife, Hanna, have served High Holyday congregations in Kona and Kauai, Hawaii, Juneau, Alaska, as well as many cruise ship congregations. Rabbi Shapiro created the "Searchers" model of Jewish learning and prayer through sharing, which is in use in a number of synagogues. His favorite present activity is volunteering in the synagogue’s pre-school. The lecture and afternoon is open to the community and sponsored by the Harry W. Salon Foundation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
First Day of Classes
Registration ongoing now through September 3.

Tuesday, September 3, 2013
Hebrew School - 4:00pm-6:00pm
Havurat No’ar - 4:30pm-6:00pm
Saturday, September 7, 2013
Gan - 9:30am-11:45pm

Additional photos continued from page 4
★ Mitzvah Day ★
What a crew we had!