

# Congregation B'nai Jacob



*December 2008*

*Kislev-Tevet 5769*

<b>Mitchell Kornspan, Rabbi</b>	<b>Shabbat Services</b>	<b>Ron Friedman, President</b>
Weekly Portion: Vayetze Candle Lighting: 4:53pm	Friday December 5 <sup>th</sup> Services 6:30pm Shabbat dinner 7:15pm	
Havdalah: 5:55pm	Saturday December 6 <sup>th</sup> Services 9:15am Shabbat School 9:45am-11:45am	Dr. Seeskin 1:00pm

Weekly Portion: Vayishlach Candle Lighting: 4:53pm	Friday December 12 <sup>th</sup> K.I.S.S. Services 7:30pm	
Havdalah: 5:55pm	Saturday December 13 <sup>th</sup> Services 9:15am	Torah Class 1:00pm
	Sunday December 14 <sup>th</sup> Family Education 1:00pm-3:00pm	

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev Candle Lighting: 4:55pm	Friday December 19 <sup>th</sup> Services 7:30pm	
Havdalah: 5:58pm	Saturday December 20 <sup>th</sup> Services 9:15am	Torah Class 1:00pm
	Sunday December 21 <sup>st</sup> 12 noon B'nai Jacob Hanukkah Party	

Weekly Portion: Miketz Candle Lighting: 4:59pm	Friday December 26 <sup>th</sup> Services 7:30pm	
Havdalah: 6:02pm	Saturday December 27 <sup>th</sup> Services 9:15am	Torah Class 1:00pm
	Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah	

Weekly Portion: Vayigash Candle Lighting: 5:05pm	Friday January 2 <sup>nd</sup> Services 7:30pm	
Havdalah: 6:07pm	Saturday January 3 <sup>rd</sup> Services 9:15am	Torah Class 1:00pm



# Happy Hanukkah



## *May Your Hanukkah Be Filled With Light*

Dear friends,

Whenever we celebrate a holiday, we have a new opportunity to discover an additional significance, and a deeper meaning. It is certainly important to do so, as we continue our spiritual growth, ever plumbing the depths of Torah for insight.

In the Talmud Chagigah we learn that when G-d created the world, He produced a supernal light, and not desiring the wicked to use this light, He hid it for the righteous in the Time to Come. In the Jerusalem Talmud Brachot, we discover that this supernal light manifested itself for 36 hours and then was hidden. And, the Zohar teaches that even with this light concealed, the Holy One nourishes the world with it!

You may wonder what does this have to do with Hanukkah? Well, the Bnei Yisachar (Rabbi Tzvi Elimelech of Dinov) formulates the following amazing statement: "The original light of creation was hidden in the 36 candles of Hanukkah!" Indeed, Rabbi Tzvi Elimelech quotes the Sefer Rokeach that one should ponder the Hanukkah candles, and view them as containing something of the "Or HaGanuz" (the hidden light). These thirty-six candles lit on Hanukkah, parallel the thirty-six hours during which the primordial light served Adam before being stored away.

Since this original light reflected the revelation of G-d in our world, Rabbi Yehuda ben Rabbi Shimon taught that by using this light Adam was able to stand and gaze "from one end of the universe to the other."

Why was this light hidden? It was to keep it concealed from the wicked.

The Greek tyrant Antiochus brought our people darkness. They were denied the freedom to serve G-d and to study His Torah. The struggle against Antiochus and against Jews, who were lured into his corrupt form of Hellenism, was a fight **for** Torah. The enemy wanted to destroy the Torah, especially waging a deadly campaign against any Jew who observed Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, and Brit Milah.

When victory came, the focus was on rekindling the Temple Menorah, which symbolizes G-d's light in our world. The miracle of Hanukkah restored the Jewish people. They were able again to learn Torah and perform mitzvot.

Hence, the act of pondering the Hanukkah candles, symbolic of this miracle, reflects this power of rejuvenating our faith, and recommitting ourselves to Torah. Moreover, it reminds us of Hashem's presence in our lives, and the enlightenment which can be discovered in studying the Torah.

Even though the nights of Hanukkah are among the longest of the year, and thus filled with darkness, G-d's blessing is evident through the lights of our menorah, continuing to illumine the night and the entire year!

Rebbetzin Penny and I wish you a Hanukkah filled with simcha and bracha.

*Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan*

## *New Items in the Gift Shop*



*Come and take a look at all the Hanukkah items in the gift shop. There is something for everyone.*



Congratulations to Marvin and Harriet Crell on their granddaughter Hannah's Bat Mitzvah

Do you need a Jewish calendar? Pick one up at the synagogue.



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***Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm***

*Dr. Shmuel Spero will be at B'nai Jacob giving a talk in memory of Rosalie Becker entitled "When Bad Things Happen to Good People and What Can We Do About It"*

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**ONLINE**

Reminder to check out our bulletin online at <http://bnaijacob.wordpress.com/>



**Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> Shabbat dinner sponsored by Rabbi and Rebbetzin Kornspan. Services at 6:30pm with dinner at 7:15pm. Please R.S.V.P. by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**

Mark your calendars!  
Dr. Seeskin, Scholar in Residence, will be at B'nai Jacob, following the Kiddush Luncheon.

*Mazel Tov to Beatrice Ochstein on the birth of her 23<sup>rd</sup> great-grandchild, Hunter James.*

**HELP!**

**We Need Your Help!!!!**

**We need items donated for our silent auction for our Hanukkah Party. If you have any questions please call the office or drop any donated items off at the synagogue.**

## **Partaking of Parashiot**

Rebbitzen Penny Kornspan

### **December 6, 2008/ 9 Kislev 5769 Vayetze Triennial Cycle: Bereshit 30:14 – 31:16**

Reuven, son of Leah, finds mandrakes and gives them to his mother. Rachel wishes to have them, for it is believed they aid in child conception. She strikes a deal with her sister in order to obtain them. After her sister has six sons, Rachel has Yosef.

Yaacov goes to Lavan seeking permission to leave with his wives and children. This leads to a pact regarding speckled and spotted sheep becoming Yaacov's wages. He speaks with Rachel and Leah explaining his position and relating Hashem's words to him, so they would willingly leave their home. Both women agree describing some alienation toward their father.

**A pasuk to ponder:** “ And Yaacov sent and called Rachel and Leah...” 31:4

This verse begins a long recapitulation of what the women know. I look closely when the Torah (a terse text) summarizes previously known events. This speaks to me of the relationship spouses need to have.

Regardless of the dysfunction, Lavan was the father of these women - Yaacov respects that. He knows it would be pointless to leave unless his wives are going to join him willingly. We know the turmoil that can arise in relationships when there is disagreement on a serious matter in the home. Here again the Torah addresses practical matters.

While we are living in close quarters with our spouse, we cannot afford to 'think' there is a common understanding of the issues of the day. All marriage counselors agree communication plays a key role for a successful relationship. Do you take the time to express your feelings and fears with your spouse, or do you take for granted they are known?

Timing is essential when you speak your soul and when you ask your spouse to share his/hers. Even husbands and wives need to be ready to share emotions. Do you give time to your partner to share or merely jump to your own conclusions?

**December 13, 2008/ 16 Kislev 5769**

**Vayishlach**

**Triennial Cycle: Bereshit 34:1 – 35:15**

The rape of Dinah begins this section of the parsha. Both Shechem and his father Chamor come to speak with Yaacov. The Torah records only the reply of Yaacov's sons. The sons maintain it possible to give Dinah as a wife if all the men of the town agree to be circumcised. Chamor and Shechem make the case of mutual benefit for the merging of the two clans so the men of the city agree to the circumcision. Afterwards, Shimon and Levi slaughtered all the men of the city and take captive the women and the wealth of the town. Yaacov is furious! G-d tells Yaacov to move on to Beth-el, and he tells his family to prepare to leave by ridding themselves of any strange gods they acquired from the previous encounter with the people of Shechem. An altar is built, Rivka's nurse is said to have died and G-d speaks again to Yaacov, formally changing his name to Yisrael.

**A pasuk to ponder:** “And G-d said to him, ‘Your name is Yaacov; no longer will you be called Yaacov, but Yisrael shall be your name.’” 35:10

Unlike the change for Avraham, both names are used for Yaacov from here and onward. The sages have much commentary on this verse; I encourage you to look at their words. R. Bachya states the separation of names is according to the 'mundane and the spiritual.' While we can track that and see the evidence, aren't we called to make everything holy and spiritual? Is not that the purpose of mitzvot?

One reason we love this patriarch and see him as 'everyman' is he struggles to become whole; just as we do today. We see the progression of his life and his spiritual growth. This portion shows a man of great restraint rather than a man reacting to circumstances!

“Act don't react.” If a man can practice restraint and hold his tongue at the rape of his daughter, could we try to hold ours at a meaningless insult? If a man could contain his reaction at this point, can we, when we feel the need to “put something right?” It may not be ours to do. Every action we take demands thought.

**Partaking of Parashiot** con't  
**December 20, 2008/ 23 Kislev 5769 Vayeshev**  
**Triennial Cycle: Bereshit 38:1 – 30**

The narrative turns to Y'huda, finding a wife, Shua, and having three sons. Tamar becomes the wife of Er, his first-born. He is called "evil in the eyes of the Lord and the Eternal causes him to die." Onan, the second son is to father a child with Tamar to continue the lineage of his brother. He had intercourse with her, but did not accept the idea of fathering a child for his brother; therefore he did not ejaculate inside of Tamar. Hashem also viewed this as evil – he too died. Tamar returns to her father's home, waiting until the third son is older. Y'huda's wife died in the mean time. Tamar sees the third son has grown up, but she has not been contacted. Y'huda looks for sexual comfort via a prostitute. Tamar feigns this role and Y'huda naively asks her. She agrees without revealing her identity and requires his signet, coat and staff as a vow of future payment. Y'huda is livid when informed Tamar is pregnant. He insists she be burned. She produces his signet, coat and staff making clear who was the father. She gives birth to Peretz and Zerach. King David is a descendant of Peretz and Ethan the prophet is from Zerach.

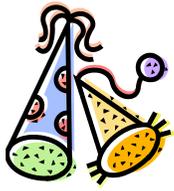
**A pasuk to ponder:** "As she was taken out, she sent word to her father-in-law, saying 'By the man whose these belong I am with child.' And she said, 'Identify, if you please...'" 38:25 Here is a woman waiting until the last moment to engage Y'huda regarding what he had done, and for that matter what he had not done. It was expected she was to be given to the third son. Fear caused Y'huda not to do so, looking at her as the reason for his sons' premature deaths rather than acknowledging the sons' actions caused their own deaths. Classic commentators offer much on this pasuk, look to see what they say. But here are questions for all parents to ponder: Do I look honestly at my own children? Do I hold them responsible for their behavior? Do I look at other people or external reasons as excuses for bad behavior, actions and improper speech? To be sure no one is a perfect parent, but upon becoming a parent, it is my duty to BE one. It's a tough job sometimes, but it is ours.

**December 27, 2008/ 30 Kislev 5769 Miketz**  
**Triennial Cycle: Bereshit: 41:53 – 43:15**

The seven years of tremendous crops came to a close and the famine in Egypt is beginning. Pharaoh sets Yosef in charge of distribution and cost of the food. Yaacov sends ten brothers to Egypt to purchase grain, keeping Binyamin home. When the brothers appeared before Yosef, he knew them immediately, but they did not recognize him. Accusations of them being spies were made. Explanations they proffered were ignored. The ten were imprisoned for three days; then Shimon was to stay while the others left to bring Binyamin back, proving he was alive. Yosef 'sold' them food but ordered their money returned, the brothers unaware of this until on the way home. This last action caused even more fear. Yaacov is then given the full account of what has happened, including the need to bring Binyamin back on the next trip. Time passes and the need for more food causes Yaacov to acquiesce. He sends his youngest along with great trepidation. He also insists they take extra money to pay for what they received the first time, along with gifts to assuage "the man."

**A pasuk to ponder:** "And Yosef's ten brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt." 42:3

Sforno tells us all the brothers had to go because of the decrees Yosef had deliberately put in place. He wanted to be certain they would all arrive for food rather than one or two coming on behalf of the entire family. Rashi tells us they are called Yosef's brothers rather than b'nai Yaacov, indicating the remorse they felt for their deed; but ten is listed as well to identify that while they were united in guilt, each had distinct feelings regarding Yosef. Psychologists could spend years studying this family. Most of us don't come from a family with twelve brothers, but we all have some family member about whom there is controversy. While dealing with that person can be unpleasant, it is a must. We are able to learn so much through family; even the best ways to handle strife can come via the family dynamic. This is another life lesson hard to practice, yet we all know the reward when we are successful at it.



## December Birthdays

- 1 Linda Snitzer
- 6 Barry Snitzer
- 8 Daniel Goltz
- 10 Robert Serdinak
- 12 Kathy Shulkin
- 15 Bryan Bosell
- 19 Tally Hammond
- 20 Lisa Bradley
- 20 Julian Schuler
- 22 Kasey Bosell
- 22 Anna Leffel
- 25 Bernard Lefand
- 26 Estelle Greenberg
- 27 Vicki Goltz
- 29 Pam Friedman
- 30 Adi Ben-Yehoshua

## December Congregational Donations

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In appreciation for Rabbi saying Kaddish for my father the  
past year Nina Bosell

### Kiddush Fund

In memory of Rosalie Becker

Steve and Carol Burke

In honor of Diane Wolf's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Scott and Theresa Trauner

### General Fund

In memory of Bertha Gfis

Simon and Sheilah Kalderon

### Torah Maintenance Fund

In appreciation and Happy Birthday to Diane Wolf

Keith Groman

In memory of Fred Tourkow

Keith Groman

### Winnick Memorial Garden Fund

In memory of Goldye Appel

Dan and Annie Appel

### Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Morris Magazine

Elmer and Jeanette Lewis



## December Anniversaries

25 Eddie and Lucy Lefand



## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Anniversaries



**Ron Goltz**  
**Michael Kanter**  
**Keith Groman**  
**Sandra Finkelstein**  
**Matt Lerer**  
**Bunnie Sheray**  
**David Warshauer**  
**Kim Lewis**  
**Cathy Dicker**  
**Daniel Goltz**  
**Pamela Friedman**

**Vayetze**  
**Vayetze**  
**Vayishlach**  
**Vayishlach**  
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**Vayishlach**  
**Vayishlach**  
**Vayeshav**  
**Miketz**  
**Vayigash**  
**Vayigash**

## December Jahrzeits

	<b>Kislev</b>	<b>December</b>
Sarah Weinberg	5	December 1-2
Esther Grossman	5	December 1-2
Jacob Reich	5	December 1-2
Maurice Waldman	6	December 2-3
Sidney Trivus	6	December 2-3
Samuel Liff	7	December 3-4
Mildred Prady	7	December 3-4
David Appel	8	December 4-5
Claire Selan	8	December 4-5
Roslyn Rozeen	8	December 4-5
Zelda Novitsky	9	December 5-6
Charlotte Maier	9	December 5-6
Toba Schwartz	12	December 8-9
Rabbi Hurwitz	12	December 8-9
Herman Himelstein	12	December 8-9
Emanuel Cohen	12	December 8-9
Rita Levin Rainey	13	December 9-10
Samuel Rothberg	14	December 10-11
Isidor Hassan	14	December 10-11
Mindel Yionovicz	14	December 10-11
Milton Jerry Ontell	14	December 10-11
Leonard J. Levy	15	December 11-12
Elsie Levin	15	December 11-12
Rebecca Winnick	16	December 12-13
Florence Bernstein	17	December 13-14
Clyde R. Gaddis	17	December 13-14
Abraham M. Zinn	18	December 14-15
Emanuel Kreitman	19	December 15-16
Marcus Beck	20	December 16-17
Audra E. Mandel	20	December 16-17
Yetta Magazine	20	December 16-17
Isadore Yourist	20	December 16-17
Eric E. Eling	22	December 18-19
Alfred Solotkin	22	December 18-19
Sigmund Maier	23	December 19-20
Leon Seigman	23	December 19-20
Irene Schibel	24	December 20-21
Bertha Levin	25	December 21-22
Sarah Bronstein	25	December 21-22
Samuel Gibson	26	December 22-23
Bunny Posner	26	December 22-23
J.T. Thompson	27	December 23-24
Ruth Zweig	27	December 23-24
Rebitzin Gute Goldin	28	December 24-25
Manuel Margulis	29	December 25-26
Mickey Pass	29	December 25-26
Sarah Weiss	29	December 25-26
Fannie Siegel	30	December 26-27
Lou Hoffman	30	December 26-27
Golda Sheray	30	December 26-27
K.J. Miller	30	December 26-27

## **Tevet      December**

Harry Levin	1	December 27-28
Florence Katz	1	December 27-28
Benjamin Cahn	3	December 29-30
Solomon Safirstein	3	December 29-30
Candy Stinnett	4	December 30-31
Joseph Kaplan	4	December 30-31
Louis Superior	4	December 30-31
Bernard Kroot	4	December 30-31

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
- Jahrzeit Fund



**Becker**

Our congregation extends condolences to Franck Hagendorf on the loss of his beloved wife, Rosalie Becker. Your Bnai Jacob family joins in mourning her. May Rosalie's memory ever be a blessing.

Congregation B'nai Jacob  
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bnaijacob@verizon.net



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

***Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan***

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