

Congregation B'nai Jacob
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Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan

President Mark Schneider

May 2015

Iyar - Sivan 5775

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Thank You



**LAG B'OMER PICNIC AND
CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, MAY 7
6:00PM
RSVP TO OFFICE BY MAY 1**

B'nai Jacob Bulletin

Since 1912 ... Celebrating 100+ Years



SHAVU WHAT?

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 the answer? If not, please read this carefully. If you do know the answer, please read this carefully!

Shavuot is a **major** Jewish holiday, which is as important as other major holidays, such as Rosh Hashana and Passover! This year it begins at sundown, May 23rd and continues through May 25th.

What is this Biblical 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 the Lord 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. It has also been called **Pentecost**, stemming from the Greek word for fiftieth, and reflects the count of 49 days of the Omer as numbered from the second day of Passover.

What is most striking is Shavuot's transcendent character, for 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 Hashem appears, reveals Himself, and teaches 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, many synagogues are 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 Tanakh (the Bible) and the teachings of the Rabbis, symbolizing that in every generation we accept G-d's gift of the Torah.

continued on next page



Services

Sunday, May 24

9:15am with Yizkor at
approximately 10:30am

Monday, May 25

10:00am

Kiddush follows both services.

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, a crepe-like pancake filled with cheese.)

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

There is much, much more, but suffice it to say, Shavuot is a major holiday! Please look at the holiday schedule of events and join us. I am looking forward to seeing you.

Penny and I wish you a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday.

L'Shalom, Rabbi



Ronald G. Miller

July 21, 1945 - March 27, 2015

*Our heartfelt condolences to
wife Susie;
son David;*

*daughter Deborah;
daughter Sarah Jo;
sister Sandra;
grandchildren*

*Rashelle, Abigail, Adam, Brandon,
Rebecka, Shelah, and Michael;
great-grandchildren*

*Karsyn, Cruz, Benjamin, Daniel, Bryson, and Leah;
and the family and many friends
of our beloved long-time member, Ron Miller.*

May his memory be for blessing.



Congregation B'nai Jacob established 1912

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Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan
Mark Schneider, President

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The annual meeting of members of Congregation B'nai Jacob will be held Sunday, May 17, 2015, at 11:00 A.M. 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

May Yahrzeits זיכור

Iyar / May

- 12 30-1 Rabbi Samuel Goldin
- 12 30-1 Grace Kupersmith
- 12 30-1 Rebeca Pressman
- 13 1-2 Esther Schwartz
- 14 2-3 Marion Kaufman
- 15 3-4 Stephen Cohen
- 15 3-4 Irene Gazda Schwarz
- 16 4-5 William Walter
- 17 5-6 Sarah Beck
- 17 5-6 Theodore Levy
- 18 6-7 Harry Lechtner
- 18 6-7 Esther Pomerantz
- 19 7-8 Mathilde Kaufman
- 19 7-8 David Winnick
- 20 8-9 Max Kaplan
- 20 8-9 Isidore Nemeroff
- 20 8-9 Mayora Rosenberg
- 21 9-10 Bonnie Harrison
- 21 9-10 William Landy
- 21 9-10 Rivah Meyers
- 21 9-10 Carolyn Katz Polakoff
- 22 10-11 Deborah Rifkin
- 22 10-11 Yitschok Isaac Schwartz
- 23 11-12 Fannie Trivus
- 24 12-13 Eva Bosell
- 24 12-13 Rosa Levin
- 24 12-13 Shulamith Troy
- 25 13-14 Paul Gepsman
- 25 13-14 Lena Salon
- 25 13-14 Wolf Soloway
- 26 14-15 Max Weisman
- 28 16-17 Dora Rozeen
- 29 17-18 Hyman Dicker
- 29 17-18 Anna Hurwitz
- 29 17-18 Jennie Nemeroff
- 29 17-18 Pearl Waterman

Sivan / May

- 1 18-19 Sidney Goldin
- 2 19-20 Esther Cera Brateman
- 2 19-20 Sara Goldberg
- 2 19-20 Bonny Gould
- 4 21-22 Franz Reimann
- 5 22-23 Baruch Bronstein
- 6 23-24 Alice Fenyes
- 6 23-24 Harry King
- 6 23-24 Anna Landy
- 6 23-24 Joseph Schachter
- 6 23-24 Rose K. Weigler
- 7 24-25 Morris Meyer
- 7 24-25 Samuel Ralph Tourkow
- 8 25-26 Linda Babb
- 8 25-26 Fannie Edelman
- 8 25-26 Miriam Falakovicz
- 8 25-26 Motel Golder
- 8 25-26 Bessie Ochstein

May Yahrzeits זיכור

Sivan / May

- 8 25-26 Zuse Silverman
- 8 25-26 Louis Smith
- 9 26-27 Yitzchok Falk
- 10 27-28 Irving Zeal
- 11 28-29 Jacob Kaplan
- 11 28-29 Ann Levy
- 12 29-30 Getel Himelstein
- 12 29-30 Jan Levin
- 12 29-30 Harry Slutsky
- 12 29-30 Samuel Weiner
- 13 30-31 Peter Bronstein
- 13 30-31 Danny Levin
- 14 31-1 Rae Lipp

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



Condolences to...
Karen Yost and family on the passing of Karen's father, Arthur Michael Rudek, on April 16, 2015, 27 Nisan 5775. May his memory be for blessing.

A note from Brandon

I am truly blown away by all of the kindness everyone has shown my family during our time of mourning. Dozens of cards were sent, so much food was provided, and family and friends flew in from all over the country to give their condolences. I just wanted to give my dearest thank you to everyone who has given my family love and support throughout this sad time. I'm sure Zayde is looking down completely amazed at all you have been doing to take care of his family.

So thank you, it means the world.

Brandon Roberts

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS

David Siegel Memorial Fund

In memory of Ron Miller
 - Dan and Annie Appel
 In memory of Elaine Shine
 - Dan and Annie Appel

General Fund

In memory of Harry Peurye
 - Dan and Annie Appel
 In appreciation
 - Daniel D'Angelo
 In memory of mother, Freda Dubin
 - Donna and Josh Tourkow
 In memory of Ron Miller
 - Beth and Dan Zweig

Kiddush Fund

In memory of father, Samuel Brateman
 - Adrienne and Adolph Brateman
 In memory of father, Samuel Zaslowsky
 - Adrienne and Adolph Brateman
 In memory of Ron Miller
 - Keith Groman

Library Fund

In memory of Ronald Miller
 - Elizabeth Kelman Gulick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Ron Miller
 - Robert Adams
 In memory of Ron Miller
 - Arlene and Jere Leib
 In appreciation
 - Anita and Steven McAfee
 In memory of Ronald Miller
 - David & Teresa Miller's Euchre Club

Winnick Memorial Garden Fund

In memory of David Winnick
 - Edward and Kristine Winnick

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of May Bussell
 - David and Paula Bussell
 In memory of Herman Davis
 - Jerry Davis
 In memory of Leah Edelman
 - Debra and Jack Edelman
 In memory of Mom, Zelda Punsky
 - Fani and Enrique Kozolchyk
 In memory of Irving Luskin
 - Julie and Art Kupersmith
 In loving memory of mother, Rosetta Siegle
 - Arlene and Jere Leib
 In memory of Jennie Weisman
 - Linda and Barry Snitzer
 In loving memory of Dad, Morton Trauner
 - Scott and Theresa Trauner
 In memory of Mom, Diane Wolf
 - Jeff Wolf
 In memory of Mom, Diane Wolf
 - Loni Wolf

Maot Hittim

- Dan and Annie Appel
 - Esther Campbell-Russ
 - Dr. Matt and Theresa Farber
 - Keith Groman
 - Cassie Martinez



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Sam and Kathy Stoller
- 28 Jay and Dana Zemmol

Tree of Life Celebrations



Mazel Tov! to Rebbetzin and Rabbi Kornspan on the marriage of their daughter, Karen O'Connell to Tom Harris on April 15, 2015.

Mazel Tov! to Nina and Virgil Mocle on the birth of their first grandchild, Theodore Lion Mocle-Levine, on April 15, 2015. Ecstatic parents are Jessica Mocle and Kenneth Levine (New Hampshire). Happy great-grandparents are Lolita Hasid (Montreal) and Ben Mocle (Toronto).



Please join the family as they unveil the tombstone for Leah Tourkow on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 2:00pm Jewish Cemetery 5800 Old Decatur Road Fort Wayne, IN

Shavuot in 60 Minutes (or Less)

for the full version please see:

<http://www.partnersintorah.org/jewish-holidays/shavuot>

The holiday of Shavuot is referred to in the Torah by many names, but in the Talmud only one name is mentioned. Here is a list of those names and what they represent:

Chag Shavuot — The Feast of Weeks — It culminates the seven weeks of counting the *Omer*.

Zman Mattan Torateinu — The Time of the Giving of the Torah — The Torah was taught to the people at Mt. Sinai.

Atzeret — The Holiday of Being Restrained — This name is the only name used for this Holiday in the Talmud. It evokes a hint to Shemini Atzeret which concludes the Holiday of Sukkot. Similarly, Shavuot is in a certain sense not only an independent holiday, but a conclusion of the process of spiritual growth begun on Passover.

Chag HaBikkurim — The Holiday of the First Fruits — On Shavuot, a special Temple offering was brought called “The New Grain Offering.” Its offering made it permissible to bring further Grain Offerings from the New Grain. Additionally, during this time, the first fruits of all the Seven Species of Produce with which the Land of Israel is blessed (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates) were brought to the Temple in a special ceremony.

Chag HaKotzir — The Holiday of the cutting of the Crop — The crop referred to here is the wheat crop, the last of the crops to be harvested.

SIX DAYS IN SIVAN

In the early morning, Moshe ascended the mountain which he had been told (in the episode of the Burning Bush) would be the place where we would serve Hashem, and a cloud was over the mountain from which Hashem’s voice emanated to him once he was ascending the mountain.

Rosh Chodesh: They arrived at the Sinai Desert, as the verse says,

“In the third month following the Exodus of the Jewish People from Egypt, on that very day, they came to the Desert of Sinai.”

(*Exodus 19:1*)

G-d told Moses to share the following message with the Jewish People:

“You have seen what I did to Egypt, and how [I watched over you by carrying you] as if on the wings of eagles, to Me. If you hearken to Me, and observe My covenant, you will be for Me a cherished people among the nations, for the whole world is Mine. And you will be for Me a kingdom of ministers and a holy nation — These are the things you should say to the Children of Israel.”

(*Exodus 19:4-6*)

Upon hearing this message, the Jews responded, “All that G-d asks of us, we will do!”

(*Exodus 19:8*)

Day 4: Moshe shared the nation’s enthusiastic response with G-d, Who instructed him to set boundaries around Mt. Sinai and warn them, “Beware of ascending the mountain or touching its edge, for whoever touches the mountain shall surely perish.”

(*Exodus 19:12*)

They were also told to immerse themselves and their clothes in a *mikvah* and separate from their wives for the next three days.

Day 5: Moses arose early in the morning and built an altar of twelve stones for the Twelve Tribes of Israel. He brought sacrificial offerings and sprinkled their blood on the altar. He read to the nation the portions of the Torah that had already been written down, to ensure their agreement, and they responded, “All that G-d wants, *‘Naaseh V’Nishma,*’ — ‘We will do, and afterwards we will hear!’”

(*Exodus 24:7*)

Day 6: Moses took the People out of the encampment, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

“And Mt. Sinai was encased in smoke because G-d descended upon it in fire, and its smoke rose as the smoke of a

furnace, and the people trembled greatly. And the sound of the *Shofar* was steadily increasing in intensity; Moses would speak, and the L-rd would echo him in thunder!”

(*Exodus 19:18-19*)

G-d insisted that Moses warn the nation again against breaching the encirclement and approaching Mt. Sinai. Then G-d came down to the People, and He spoke to them as the verse says,

“And the L-rd spoke all these Utterances, as follows...”

(*Exodus 20:1*)

CUSTOMS OF SHAVUOT

Shavuot features a number of widespread customs. Following is a short list of the most prevalent, and reasons for their practice:

STUDYING TORAH THROUGH THE NIGHT

Strangely, rather than spend the night prior to the Sinai revelation steeped in spiritual pursuits, the nation went to sleep instead and had to be awakened by the Almighty with thunder and *Shofar*-blowing to receive the Torah. Although their intentions were pure, for they sought to ensure that they’d be rested the next morning and in a proper frame of mind to receive the Torah, it was seen as a negative that they were able to sleep so soundly and weren’t too excited to fall asleep. To rectify this slight shortcoming, many people remain awake throughout the night, studying Torah in anticipation of the Receiving the Torah in the morning.

GOING GREEN

Mt. Sinai was not only a relatively small mountain, it was also essentially barren. Miraculously, in honor of the Revelation, the Almighty caused it to grow lush with flowers and grass. Thus, there exists a custom of decorating the synagogue on Shavuot with flowers and greens, in commemoration of that event.

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Shavuot in 60 Minutes (or less)

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Levush Mordechai

There used to be a custom to bring trees into the synagogue, but that practice was discontinued by the Gaon of Vilna for it too closely resembled the pagan practice of the non-Jews who celebrate their holiday with trees.

EATING DAIRY

There is a custom to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. Some fulfill this by eating a dairy meal. Others prefer to begin a meal with dairy dishes, rinse their mouths well, clear the table of all vestiges of dairy dishes, and resume their meal with meat dishes, in fulfillment of the Talmudic dictum, Tractate Pesachim 109a, "Rejoicing is incomplete without meat." Among the reasons offered for this custom are:

- Prior to the Revelation at Sinai, meat was eaten without "*shechitah*" — ritual slaughter. Following the Revelation, meat could only be eaten if it was ritually slaughtered. The Revelation occurred on Shabbat and "*shechitah*" may not be done on Shabbat. Consequently, upon their return from the Revelation, all the Jews could eat was dairy foods. We therefore eat dairy to commemorate the way they immediately implemented all that they'd just learned.
- Moses received the Torah after spending forty days in heaven studying it. The numerical equivalent of the Hebrew word for milk, "*chalav*," is forty. By eating dairy we show our awareness that although it was "given" to us as a gift, it was a gift that had to be earned through dedicated study.

- The rule is that one loaf of bread may not be used at both a dairy and meat meal. Therefore, by beginning the meal with dairy and concluding with meat, this forces us to use two, not one, loaves of bread throughout the meal. The two loaves evoke memories of special offering of "*Shtei HaLechem*" [Two Loaves of Wheat] which were brought in the Temple on Shavuot.

THE SCROLL OF RUTH

Most congregations have a custom to read the Scroll of Ruth following *Shacharit* on the first [for those who live in Israel], or second [for those who live outside of Israel and observe two days], morning of Shavuot. According to the Talmud, the Scroll of Ruth was authored by Samuel the Prophet to dispel slanderous allegations against King David's lineage. Its four chapters tell the story of how Ruth, a Moabite princess, bravely converts to Judaism, marries Boaz, a prominent descendant of the House of Judah, and bears him a child, Oveid, who is the grandfather of King David. As King David was born and died on Shavuot, it is a fitting time to read the story of his ancestry and the many Divine machinations involved in his emergence as our leader. ☆



FORT WAYNE JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting

June 14, 2015

7:00 pm

Campus at 5200

5200 Old Mill Road

Dr. Alvin Rosenfeld

**Professor of English and Jewish
Studies at Indiana University**



**The signs of summer are
coming! What are you going
to do about it?**

It's Camp Joe Time!

Join us at Camp Joe this summer and spend three fun-filled weeks (July 6-24) roaming Fox Island's beautiful grounds and learning about Israel's culture, history, and geography. Applications are available online at www.fwjf.org. If you have any questions or would like a camp application to be mailed to you, please contact Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne at 260-456-0400. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

May Classes

Regular classes on May 2, 7, 9



Lag B'Omer Celebration

Thursday, May 7, is Lag B'Omer.

Our Religious School will be celebrating with a bonfire and picnic at the synagogue. The celebration begins at 6:00pm.

Classes will meet on May 7 (not May 6) at 4:00pm for their normal session time.

Religious School and Shabbat School Conclude for Season

Religious School concludes for the season on May 7.

May 9 will be the final Shabbat School for the year. Students will be helping to lead our services.

***WISHING ALL OF OUR STUDENTS
AND THEIR FAMILIES
A WONDERFUL SUMMER!***



Rebbetzin Penny for kashering the synagogue kitchen for Passover; **Rebbetzin Penny, Laura Long, and Dana Zemmol** for coordinating, preparing, and serving Kiddushim during April; **Dana and Jay Zemmol** for sponsoring Kiddush on April 18 in celebration of the birthdays of Zack and Jay; **Jay and Zack Zemmol and Mike Adams** for coordinating and installing a new mailbox for the synagogue. Our mail delivery person even left a note inside the mailbox: "Mailbox is great. Thanks!"

"Toda Rabba to **Rabbi Marla Spanjer** for reading the Torah and Haftarah, as well as delivering the Dvar Torah on the Shabbat we were away. Many thanks also to **Mort Schaffer, Mike Adams and Alex Mamayek** who helped in our services." - Rabbi

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B'nai Jacob**

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