**What's Happening this month at our Shul?**

**CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL - 1025 DEAL RD, WAYSIDE**

**January 2006 - Tevet / Shevat 5766**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>VAYIGASH</strong> 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1      | 2      | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | Shacharit 9:30 am  
Light Candles 4:28 pm  
Mincha 4:30 pm  
Shabbat Ends 5:31 pm |
|        | 8      | **FAST OF 10 TEVET** | 10       | 11       | 12     | 13       |
|        |        | Fast Begins 5:39 am  
Fast Ends 5:29 pm |          |          |        | **VAYECHI** 14  
Shacharit 9:30 am  
Mincha 12:15 pm  
Shabbat Ends 5:38 pm |
|        | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 19     | 20       |
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **SHEMOT** 21  
Shacharit 9:30 am  
Mincha 12:15 pm  
Shabbat Ends 5:46 pm |
|        | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25       | 26     | 27       |
|        |        |         |           |          |        | **VAEIRA** 28  
Light Candles 4:35 pm  
Mincha 4:35 pm  
Light Candles 4:43 pm  
Mincha 4:45 pm  
Light Candles 4:51 pm  
Mincha 4:50 pm  
Light Candles 4:51 pm  
Mincha 4:50 pm  
Blessing of New Moon  
Shacharit 9:30 am  
Mincha 12:15 pm  
Shabbat Ends 5:53 pm |
|        | 29     | 30      | **Rosh Chodesh Shevat** | 31 |        |          |
|        |        |         |           |          |        |          |

**FAST OF 10 TEVET - SIEGE OF JERUSALEM (425 BCE)**

*On the 10th of Tevet of the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem. Thirty months later -- on Tamuz 9, 3338 -- the city walls were breached, and on Av 9th of that year, the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Babylonia for 70 years.*

- **Mazel Tov** to Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef Carlebach upon birth of granddaughter Chaya Sarah to children Rabbi Mendy & Chumy Carlebach
- **Mazel Tov** to Norm & Bernice Colten upon birth of grandson Yosef Dov to children Rabbi Jonathan & Rachel Friedman. All are invited to grand kiddush on Shabbat Vayigash given by Norm & Bernice Colten!
- **Mazel Tov** to David & Laurie Friedes upon birth of son Zalman Yerachmiel

- **Refuah Shelayma** to Rabbi Mottel Simon. We look forward to seeing you back on your feet in the immediate future!
- **Due to Ski Trip on Jan. 22, morning services will be held at 6:30 am**
- **Grand Kiddush to be given by Marvin Goldstein on Shabbat Vayehi - Jan 14**
- **Grand Kiddush to be given by Marcel Colmer on Shabbat Shemot - Jan 21**
Why does Jewish Law Seem So Petty
by Aron Moss

Why does the Jewish religion seem to obsess over insignificant details? How much matza do we have to eat, which spoon did I use for milk and which for meat, what is the right way to tie my shoelaces? It seems to me that this misses the bigger picture by focusing on minutiae. Is this nitpicking what Jews call spirituality? (I actually already sent you this question over a week ago and didn’t receive a reply. Could it be that you have finally been asked a question that you can’t answer?!) Answer: I never claimed to have all the answers. There are many questions that are beyond me. But it happens to be that I did answer your question, and you did get the answer. I sent a reply immediately. The fact that you didn’t receive it is itself the answer to your question. You see, I sent you a reply, but I wrote your email address leaving out the “dot” before the “com.” I figured that you should still receive the email, because after all, it is only one little dot missing. I mean come on, it’s not as if I wrote the wrong name or something drastic like that! Would anyone be so nitpicky as to differentiate between “yahoocom” and “yahoo.com”? Isn’t it a bit ridiculous that you didn’t get my email just because of a little dot? No, it’s not ridiculous. Because the dot is not just a dot. It represents something. That dot has meaning far beyond the pixels on the screen that form it. To me it may seem insignificant, but that is simply due to my ignorance of the ways of the internet. All I know is that with the dot, the message gets to the right destination; without it, the message is lost to oblivion. Jewish practices have infinite depth. Each nuance and detail contains a world of symbolism. And every dot counts. When they are performed with precision, a spiritual vibration is emailed throughout the universe, all the way to G-d’s inbox. If you want to understand the symbolism of the dot, study I.T. If you want to understand the symbolism of Judaism, study it.

STORY OF BAAL SHEM TOV
IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

The great Chassidic master Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov would pray for many hours every day. His disciples, who had long concluded their own prayers, would form a circle around him to listen to the melody of his prayers and feast their eyes on the spectacle of a soul soaring in meditative attachment to its Maker. It was an unspoken rule amongst them that no one abandoned his post until their master had concluded his prayers. One day, a great fatigue and hunger befell them. One by one, they slipped home for a bite and a few moments’ rest, certain that their master’s prayers would continue for several hours more. But when they returned, they found that he had finished praying while they were gone. “Tell us, Rebe,” they asked him, “why did you conclude your prayers so early today?”

The Baal Shem Tov answered them with a parable: Once, a group of people were journeying through a forest. Their leader, who was blessed with a keen eyesight, spotted a beautiful bird perched atop a tall tree. “Come,” he said to his companions, “I wish to capture this beautiful bird, so that we may delight in her song and gaze upon her wondrous hues.” But how can you reach this bird you see,” asked they, “the tree being so high and ourselves held captive by the ground?” “If you each climb up onto the shoulders of your fellow,” their leader explained, “I will climb on to the shoulders of the topmost man and reach for the treasure that beckons to us from the heights.” And so they did. Together, they formed a chain reaching from the earth toward the heavens, to raise their leader to his aspired goal. But they soon wearied of the exercise and went off to eat and rest, and the man who had sighted the bird tumbled to the ground.

JEWS WIT & HUMOR!!?

“How was your golf game, dear?” asked Jack’s wife Tracy. “Well, I was hitting pretty well, but my eyesight’s gotten so bad I couldn’t see where the ball went.” “But you’re seventy-five years old, Jack!” admonished his wife, “Why don’t you take my brother Scott along?” “But he’s eighty-five and doesn’t even play golf anymore,” protested Jack.


THE DIFFICULT DONOR

A rabbi approaches Herbert, a very wealthy man to ask for a donation to open up a new yeshiva. After the rabbi pitches the idea, Herbert who is not known as a supporter of religious projects, says to the rabbi, “I’ll tell you what rabbi, I will pay for the entire school - but under one condition, that the kids don’t wear that silly hat (kipah) on their head.” Shocked by the generous offer, the rabbi immediately accepts Herbert’s offer and receives a check for construction of the school and purchase of all the necessary supplies.

One year later, the school is built and the rabbi invites Herbert to visit on the first day of classes. When he arrives, Herbert reminds the rabbi, “don’t forget, I don’t want to see any of the kids wearing that hat on their head.” The rabbi replies, “not to worry, I would not repay your generosity by using your donation in a way you did not intend. In fact, we are even naming the school after you.”

“Really?” Herbert asks excitedly, “What will be the name?”

The rabbi responds, “Herbert’s Jewish School for Girls.”

MRS. RIGHT

A young Jewish man excitedly comes to tell his mother that he’s found the woman of his dreams and is going to get married. He says, “Just for fun, Ma, I’m going to bring over three women and you try and guess which one I’m going to marry.”

“Okay Ma, now guess which one I’m going to marry.”

When he comes over, he brings three women into the house and sits them down on the couch. The mother agrees and so the next day, he brings three women into the house and sits them down on the couch. After they chat for a while, the man says, “Okay Ma, now guess which one I’m going to marry.”

“Wow! That’s amazing, Ma. You’re right. You’ve got to tell me - how did you know?”

The Jewish mother replies, “Because I don’t like her.”
YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2006 WHEN...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.

2. You haven’t played solitaire with real cards in years.

3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.

4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don’t have e-mail addresses.

6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.

7. Every commercial and billboard has a web site at the bottom.

8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn’t have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.

9. You get up in the morning and log on to the web before getting your coffee.

10. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. : )

11. You’re reading this and nodding and laughing.

12. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you would forward this.

13. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.

14. You actually looked back to check that there wasn’t a #9 on this list and now you are laughing at yourself.
Congregation Sons of Israel Annual Shul Ski Trip

Sunday morning services promptly at 6:30am with breakfast to follow.

Van departs front of Hillel School at 7:30am sharp. Arrive Camelback at 9:00am. Lifts for daytime skiing close at 5pm. Arrive back at Hillel School at approximately 7:30pm.

Cost per person (group rates)
1. Transportation: $7.50
2. Food: $7.50
3. All Area Ski Package: $60.00 or All Area Snowboard Package: $66.00
   Includes: All Area lift tickets, Rentals, and 1 ½ -hour group ski or snowboard lesson
4. Lift Tickets only (no lesson and no ski or snowboard rental): $36.00
5. Rentals only: Skis, boots and poles: $20.00 or Snowboard and boots: $28.00

RSVP to Mitch Mayer by Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Home: 732-922-1495
Work: 732-427-3974