

# BJC Wensa

“WENSA” MEANS “FUN” IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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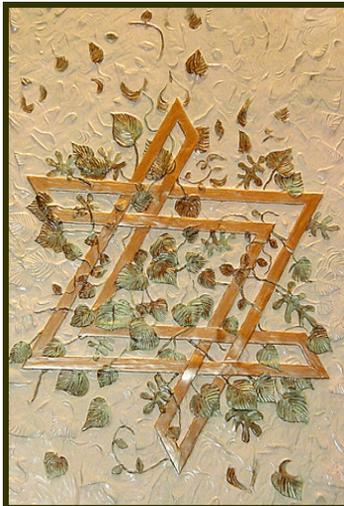
2 Tevet, 5773

VOLUME 13

MIKETZ

SHABBAT ENDS 5:14PM

*Publisher: Anna Khabbaza Hakakian*



## PARSHA OF THE WEEK....

### MIKETZ



#### Dreamweaver

This week's torah portion, Miketz, tells of Joseph's first encounter with his brothers after they sold him into slavery. He has risen to Pharaoh's favor by interpreting his dreams. Specifically, Joseph interprets one set of dreams about the seven fat, healthy cows being consumed by seven thin cows, and a second set about seven healthy, full stalks of corn being consumed by seven unhealthy, thin stalks. Joseph leverages the situation to his advantage, explaining to Pharaoh that the dreams mean that there will soon be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine, and that Pharaoh needs to appoint a minister to manage the issue. Reasoning that the one who rationalized the dream would be best suited to handle the situation, Pharaoh appoints Joseph to take care of the grain during the expected famine. It is during this time, as a powerful man, that he reencounters his brothers. They do not recognize him, although he knows who they are immediately and has put himself in a position of real power over them.

Interestingly enough, this ability to interpret dreams is both the breaking point in Joseph's relationship with his brothers and turns out to be the skill that propels Joseph from the Pharaoh's dungeon to his right hand. The gift of interpreting dreams has been both a blessing and a curse to Joseph. The way Joseph deals with seeing his brothers again also shows that there are two sides of his story. He wants to exact revenge for what they did to him, and yet the Torah mentions on more than one occasion that Joseph has to leave the room to weep during his encounters with them. The Sforno, a traditional Bible commentator, notes that Joseph is not crying out of self pity, but because he is truly and deeply troubled and feels pain for both his brothers and father. His internal conflict is apparent in this interaction when, for example, he

## Happy Hanukkah



punishes Benjamin, and yet he seems most emotionally effected by Benjamin's presence before him. ☆

The story of Chanukah and the story of Joseph in Miketz relate to each other in the common themes. The story of Chanukah begins with terrible conflicts between Jews and the Greeks in the takeover of the Temple. There are also internal conflicts among the Jews. Not all Jews were in agreement. There were many who embraced Hellenistic culture, and those, like the Maccabees, who rose up against Hellenism in order to preserve Judaism their way. The fight over the Temple is long, and much is lost. Although this point in our history is full of political conflicts, on Chanukah we have come to commemorate this story by focusing on the miracle of the oil burning in the Temple after it was reclaimed. Like Joseph, the heroes of the story of Chanukah had to take what they were given and use it to their best advantage. The Maccabees were rewarded with the miracle of the oil burning for eight days. Our eight-day celebrations commemorate the miracle that God gave them in their victory, but it also reminds us of the chaos and hardship that preceded the miracle. ☆

Both Joseph in Miketz and the Chanukah story teach us about gifts that we possess, as well as how we use what is given to us to interpret and influence our situations. It is difficult to see through chaos and know that we are preparing correctly for the future. Joseph's gift of interpreting dreams made him a rich and powerful man, but it also alienated him from his family. Had the Maccabees not held out in their long and vastly outnumbered fight, they would not have reclaimed the Temple. There were also many costs to their battle, including a large divide within their community. Through these stories, we see that there is strength in looking through the chaos of the present and focusing on the future. In the little time we have to relax during the eight days of Chanukah, we have the opportunity to think about the decisions we make to influence our future and celebrate our successes, as individuals and as a part of a community. ☆



**Contributed by Jackie Cohen:**  
**Written by Dan Sporn**  
אני יהודי

נכתב ע"י ישראלי בשם דן ספורן

Our condition, in Israel, has never been better than it is now! Only  
The television and the media make people think that the end of the  
World is near.. Only 65 years ago, Jews were brought to death like  
Sheep to slaughter. NO country, NO army. Only 60 years ago  
Seven Arab countries declared war on little Israel, the Jewish State  
just a few hours after it was established

המצב שלנו, בישראל, מעולם לא היה טוב יותר מאשר עכשיו!

רק הטלוויזיה והתקשורת גורמים לאנשים לחשוב שסוף העולם קרב.

רק לפני 65 שנים, יהודים הובאו למוות כצאן לטבח. ללא מדינה, ללא צבא.

רק לפני 60 שנים, 7 מדינות ערב הכריזו מלחמה על ישראל הקטנה, מדינת היהודים,  
רק כמה שעות לאחר היווסדה.

.We were 650,000 Jews against the rest of the Arab world

No IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) or Air Force. We were only a

.Small group of stubborn people with nowhere to go

היינו 650,000 יהודים כנגד שאר העולם הערבי.

ללא צה"ל (צבא הגנה לישראל) או חיל אוויר. היינו רק קבוצה קטנה של אנשים  
עקשנים עם שום מקום לאן ללכת.

Remember: Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, and

Saudi Arabia, they all attacked at once. The state that the

United Nations "gave" us was 65% desert. We started it from zero.

זכרו: לבנון, סוריה, עירק, ירדן, מצרים, לוב וערב הסעודית, כולם תקפו בעת ובעונה  
אחת.

המדינה שהאומות המאוחדות "נתנו" לנו הייתה 65% מדבר.

התחלנו את זה מאפס.

Only 41 years ago, we fought three of the strongest countries

In the Middle East, and we crushed them in the Six Day War

רק לפני 41 שנים, נלחמנו נגד שלוש המדינות החזקות ביותר במזרח התיכון,  
ורסקנו אותם במלחמת ששת הימים.

Over the years we fought different coalitions of 20 Arab countries

With modern armies and with huge amounts of Russian-Soviet

.Ammunition, and we still won

במהלך השנים נלחמנו בקואליציות שונות של 20 מדינות ערב עם צבאות  
חדשניים וכמות עצומה של תחמושת רוסית – סובייטית, ועדיין ניצחנו

Today we have a beautiful country, a powerful Army, a strong

Air Force, an adequate Navy and a thriving high tech industry

Intel, Microsoft, and IBM have all developed their businesses

here

היום יש לנו מדינה יפיפייה, צבא רב עוצמה, חיל אוויר חזק, חיל ים הולם ותעשיית  
הי-טק משגשגת.

אינטל, מיקרוסופט, ו-I.B.M. פיתחו כולם את עסקיהם כאן.

Our doctors have won important prizes in the medical

Development field

הרופאים שלנו זכו בפרסים חשובים בתחום הפיתוח הרפואי.

We turned the desert into a prosperous land

הפכנו את המדבר לאדמה פורחת ומשגשגת.

We sell oranges, flowers, and vegetables around the world  
אנחנו מוכרים תפוזים, פרחים וירקות בכל רחבי העולם.

We launched our own satellite! Three satellites at once! We

Are in good company; together with the USA (280 million

Residents), Russia (220 million residents), China (1.3

Billion residents) and Europe (France, England and Germany

million residents), we are one of the only countries in the 35

World that have launched something into space

שיגרנו את הלוויין שלנו! שלושה לוויינים בעת ובעונה אחת! אנחנו בחברה טובה: יחד עם  
ארה"ב (280 מיליון תושבים), רוסיה (220 מיליון תושבים), סין (1.2 ביליון תושבים)  
ואירופה (צרפת, אנגליה וגרמניה 35 מיליון תושבים), אנחנו אחת מהמדינות הבודדות  
בעולם ששיגרו משהו לחלל!

Israel today is among the few powerful countries that have

Nuclear technology & capabilities. (We will never admit it

but everyone knows)

ישראל היום היא בין המדינות הבודדות החזקות, שהיא בעלת טכנולוגיה ויכולות  
גרעיניות. (אנחנו לעולם לא נודה בזה, אבל כולם יודעים).

To think that only 65 years ago we were disgraced and

hopeless

לחשוב שרק לפני 65 שנים היינו מבוזים וחסרי תקווה..

Relax chevray (friends), we will overcome our current enemies

הירגעו חבר'ה, אנחנו נתגבר גם על האויבים הנוכחים

Never mind where you look in human history. Think about it

The Jewish nation, our condition has never been better than now

So let's lift our heads up and remember:

לא משנה לאן שנביט בהיסטוריה האנושית. תחשבו על זה, העם היהודי, מצבנו מעולם  
לא היה טוב יותר מאשר עכשיו.

אז בואו נישא ראשנו מעלה וזכרו:

And look at us, the Bible nation – from slavery in Egypt , we are

Still here, still speaking the same language

Exactly here, exactly now

והסתכלו עלינו, העם התנ"כי – מעבדות במצרים, אנחנו עדיין כאן, עדיין מדברים את  
אותה השפה.

בדיוק כאן, בדיוק עכשיו.

Maybe The Arabs don't know it yet, but we are an eternal nation

All the time that we will keep our identity, we will stay eternal

אולי הערבים עדיין לא יודעים את זה, אבל אנחנו עם נצחי.

כל זמן שנשמור על זהותנו, נשאר נצחיים.

This is the reason we will win after all

I AM A JEW

אני יהודי



# Sisterhood Happenings...

By Anna Hakakian

Thanks to our new sisterhood president Orly Maslavi, we have had many successful events in the past months and we are so glad to see so many women actively participating in our programs. We thank all our hosts, planners, helpers and past president Alice Abody, for all efforts made to bring the old and young together and prosper new beginnings in our BJC future.



# SENIOR CITIZEN



Contributed by Mirra Zara

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started." Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?" The little silver haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster." Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table. He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster." He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh ..... "Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

## Nuns

Contributed by Jackie Cohen



Four novice nuns were about to take their vows.

Dressed in their white gowns, they came into the chapel with the Mother Superior, and were about to undergo the ceremony to marry them to Jesus, making them "Brides of Christ."

Just as the ceremony was about to begin, four Hasidic Jews with yarmulkes, long sideburns, long beards, dressed in black suits, and white shirts, came in and sat in the front row.

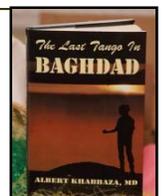
The Mother Superior said to them, "I am honored that you would want to share this experience with us, but do you mind if I ask you why you came?"

One of the Jews replied, "We're from the groom's family."



## The Last Tango in Baghdad

by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available at all online booksellers. For more info visit: [www.khabbaza.com](http://www.khabbaza.com)



## HASHEM

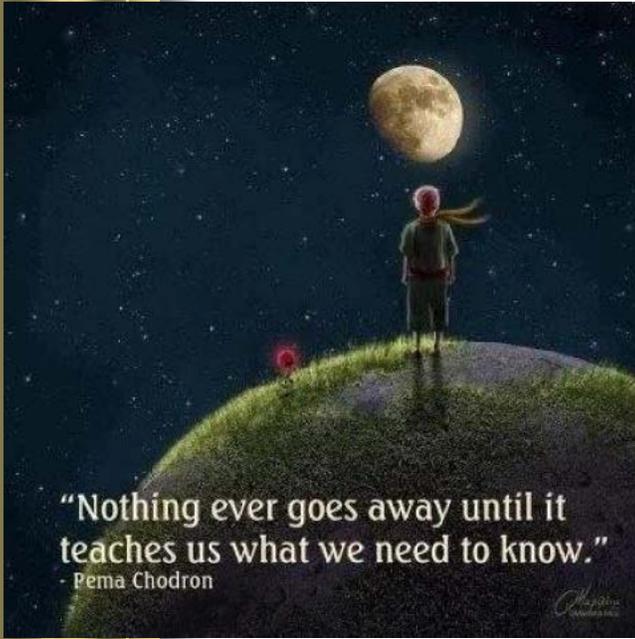
Doesn't have a Blackberry or an i-Phone, but he is my favorite contact.

He doesn't have Facebook, but he is my best Friend.

He doesn't have Twitter, but i follow him nevertheless.

He doesn't have internet, but i am connected to him.

And even though He has a massive communication system, He never put me on hold.



## HOW JEWS MAKE BUSINESS.....



Morris (the father) says to his son: "I want you to marry a girl of my choice". The son says: "I will choose my own bride". Morris says: "But the girl is Bill Gates' daughter". The son answers: "Well, in that case, yes ok". Morris then approaches Bill Gates and says: "I have a husband for your daughter". Bill Gates answers: "But my daughter is too young to get married"! Morris says: "But this young man is a vice-president of the World Bank". Bill Gates answers: "Ah, in that case, yes ok". Finally Morris goes to see the president of the World Bank. Morris says: "I have a young man to be recommended as a vice-president". The president answers: "But I already have more vice-presidents than I need". Morris says: "But this young man is Bill Gates' son-in-law". The President answers: "Ah, in that case, yes ok". And that is how successful Jews do business.

## FAMILY SHABBAT DATES

JANUARY 12

MARCH 2

APRIL 6

MAY 4

JUNE 1



## JEWISH JOKE

Contributed by Amnon Isaac:



A well known Anti-Semite, walks into a bar and is about to order a drink when he sees a guy close by wearing a kippa, tzitzis, and payos.

He doesn't have to be an Einstein to know that this guy is Jewish.

So he shouts over to the bartender so loudly, that everyone can hear,

"Drinks for everyone in here, bartender, but not for that Jew over there.";

Soon after the drinks have been handed out, he notices that the Jewish guy is smiling and waving to him and says

' Thank You ' in an equally loud voice, so that everyone can hear.

This infuriates the Anti-Semite and in a loud voice, he once again orders drinks for everyone except the Jew.

But as before, this does not seem to worry the Jewish guy who continues to smile, and again says, "Thank you."

So the guy asks the barman, "What's the hell is the matter with that Jew? I've ordered two rounds of drinks for everyone in the bar except for him, and all that the silly bugger does is to smile and thank me in such a loud voice.

Is he nuts?"

"Nope," replies the bartender.

"He owns this place."



## SMART KID

Contributed by Rita Khabbaza

One day at kindergarten a teacher said to the class of 5-year-olds, "I Will give \$2 to the child who can tell me who was the most important man who ever lived."

An Irish boy put his hand up and said, "It was St.Patrick."

The Teacher smiled and said, "Sorry Sean, that's not correct."

Then a Scottish boy put his hand up and said, "It was St. Andrew."

But the teacher replied, "So sorry Angus, that's not right either."

Finally, a Jewish boy raised his hand and said, "It was Jesus Christ." And the teacher said, "Absolutely right, Marvin, come up here and take your \$2."

As the teacher was giving Marvin his money, she said, "You know Marvin, Since you're Jewish, I was very surprised you said Jesus Christ." Marvin replied:

"Yeah... In my heart I know it is Moses, but business is business."