



Our Mishpacha

At Hanukkah, We Remember a Story of Hope

During this holiday season, we remember another Hanukkah 24 years ago in Billings, Montana. A year of racist and anti-Semitic violence came to a head one bitterly cold night when a cinder block was thrown through a six-year-old Jewish boy's bedroom window, where he had placed the family's Hanukkah menorah. The town rose as one to say, Not In Our Town, and a national movement was born. Through their actions, the people of Billings, Montana have given all of us a gift. Their story has inspired others around the country to create new ways to stand together when neighbors are under attack

Background: About 1985, the five states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming were declared "a white homeland" by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and Klan groups. Jews, African-Americans, inter-racial couples, Muslims, gays, lesbians, and other minorities became targets of harassment, assault, and in some cases, murder.

Billings, Montana had its share of displays of bigotry based on race, religion, and sexual orientation: desecration of a Jewish cemetery, many harassing phone calls to Jewish homes, swastikas on the home of an inter-racial couple, and more. But then something happened in 1993 involving a Jewish menorah that triggered an immediate positive reaction by thousands of people.

The Schnitzers were a Jewish family in Billings (population 83,000 at the time). Following the mitzvah to display the menorah where it could be easily seen from outside the house, to publicize the miracle of the eight days the oil burned in the Temple, the Schnitzer family stenciled a menorah on the window of their son Isaac's bedroom.

On December 2, 1993, someone threw a piece of cinder block through the window. Broken glass fell on Isaac's bed, but fortunately caused no injury. The Schnitzers called the police. The investigating officer told them they should remove the symbol. This caused a crisis in the home. How could they remove a symbol of Jewish religious freedom in response

(Continued on next page)

A Story of Hope (Continued)

to fear of further religious harassment?

Margaret McDonald, executive director of the Montana Association of Churches, read of the incident in the local newspaper. She imagined what it would be like to have to tell her own children that they could not have a Christmas tree or a Christmas wreath because it might cause an attack on their home. She recalled an event in Denmark in World War II when the Nazis ordered all of the Jews in the country to wear a yellow Star of David so that they could be easily identified. The King of Denmark and many of its non-Jewish citizens took the initiative of wearing a yellow Star of David themselves. The Nazis were unable to easily identify the Jews.

McDonald took action. She phoned her minister, the Rev. Kieth Torney at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. McDonald suggested that their Sunday School students fabricate paper menorahs for their windows at home as a sign of solidarity with the Schnitzers. Rev. Torney contacted other clergy across Billings.

During the following week, hundreds of menorahs appeared in the windows of local homes as Christian families publicized their solidarity against religious bigotry. The police chief, Wayne Inman, was asked whether this might cause further criminal acts. He responded, "There's greater risk in not doing it."

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Our Mishpacha is published monthly, on or near the first of the month. If you want an article or announcement to appear in the next issue, the submission deadline is the 20th of this month.

Our Mishpacha is sent on-line to those members of Beth Shalom with computers. If you wish a printed copy mailed to you, please call the office, 562-941-8744.

Printed copies are also available in our lobby.

\$18 per year for non-members.

The editor welcomes comments and suggestions.

This is *Our Mishpacha* !





HAZZAN'S NOTES



Dear Friends,

This month we have two important events on our calendar. On Sunday, December 10, we will present the next installment of my Educational Series this year entitled “**Los Angeles Jewry: A Short History.**” Shmuel Gonzales and I will team up for an inspiring look at L.A. Jewry and its history, AND during the presentation you will hear and see some very rare clips of some of the great Cantors and their music of L.A. Jewry. This will be a morning you will not want to miss, learning about Jews in Los Angeles.

Also, we will celebrate Shabbat Hanukkah on Friday night, December 15, where we will present and dedicate our new Hanukkiah (Hanukkah Menorah) to the congregation. It will be a wonderful evening not to be missed!

May this December, as every month, be one in which our congregation continues to be a beacon of hope and energy celebrating our Jewishness in the San Gabriel Valley.

~Hazzan Lance H. Tapper

Candle Lighting Times

December 1	4:25 p.m.	December 8	4:25 p.m.
December 15	4:27 p.m.	December 22	4:30 p.m.
December 29	4:35 p.m.		





DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE



December 1 - Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

December 8 - Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

December 9 - *Siddur Kol Shalom* - Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and
service with Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson at 9:45 a.m.

December 15 - *Erev Shabbat Hanukkah* - Hazzan Lance and Mark
Peterson

December 22 - Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

December 23 - *Lay Study Session* - Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and
Study Session with Shmuel Gonzales and Sam Pearlman at
9:45 a.m.

December 29 - Hazzan Mimi Haselkorn and Mark Peterson



Thank You

For your contributions to our Oneg Shabbats

Alita Sevin

Joel Kudler

Rita Rubin

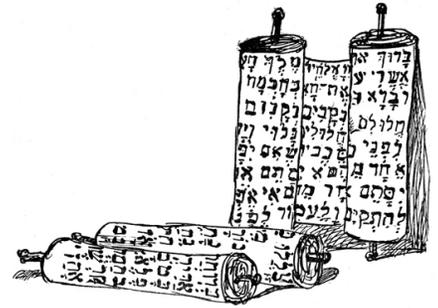
Klara Wein

Bonnie Neville



Ahavoh

The Hebrew word *ahavoh* translates in English to *love*. In this prayer by the same name it translates to *G-d's unending love for the Jews as His chosen people*. [Deuteronomy 7:7-11] We are chosen to serve Him. This is done by giving us a proper understanding of His teaching and steadfastness in obedience in our lives and the lives of generations that come after us. In this way, the love of G-d and His selection of Israel to obey His Torah's precepts clear the way for a sincere invocation for the peaceful Messianic gathering of our people to the land of Israel. The prayer closes with the benediction, "Who hast in love chosen thy people Israel." This prayer clears the way for our answer in the prayer that follows, called the Shema.



The Shema expresses our love for G-d. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our G-d, the Lord is one." These words are the most important and the keynote to all of Judaism. It is essential that every Jew should have a clear understanding of them, as well as their influence upon Israel and all the world's people. They are our confession of faith in the religion of the Synagogue. It declares that the Holy G-d worshipped and proclaimed by Israel is One, and that He alone is G-d; who was, is, and ever will be.

The opening sentence of the Shema is the core of Jewish religious thoughts. Every Jewish belief evolves from it. Concisely, all goes back to it. All flows from it. In Judaism, G-d pervades our universe. "The heavens are the work of G-d's hands. They shall perish, and G-d shalt endure. Yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; like a vesture G-d shalt change them, and they shall be changed. G-d remains the same, and His years shall have no end." [Psalm 102:26-28]

The endurance of G-d recognizes no intermediary between G-d and all of us. It declares that prayers are directed to G-d alone and to no other being in the heavens above or on earth.

(Continued on next page)

Ahavoh (*Continued*)

To paraphrase lines from Emily Bronte,

“Though earth and man were gone
And suns and universes ceased to be,
And you are left alone,
Every existence would exist between you and G-d.”
Amen!

The Ahavoh and Shema prayers are recited twice each day, during the morning and evening services. The first paragraph of the Shema is also repeated before retiring to rest at night.

~Sam Pearlman

The World of Jewish Books

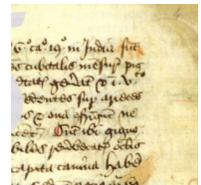
What do we mean when we say “book”? When we use the word “book,” we mean a printed volume, made up of a number of sheets printed on both sides and bound together and provided with a cover.

In ancient times, however, “book” meant any single work. It was only after the introduction of printing in the fifteenth century that the word “book” came to mean a printed volume. In the middle of the fifteenth century, movable type was invented. This is the dividing line in the history of books. Before this time, all books were in manuscript, which means hand-written. After this time, all books were printed.

The manuscript period is also divided in two: 1) The period when such forms as clay tablets and papyrus rolls were used, and 2) the period when manuscripts began to look like modern books.

Earliest Jewish records do not tell of clay tablet “books” or of papyrus rolls such as other nations used. Instead, they speak of scrolls, written on the skins of animals. These hides were not bound together like books of today but were laid end-to-end and rolled up into a scroll, looking very much like the Torah Scrolls in our synagogues.

Since each scroll had to be written by hand, books were extremely scarce, and most of the early books were either read aloud or recited from memory to whole groups of people by wandering story-tellers. A book in ancient times was to be heard, rather than to be read silently to oneself.



(Continued on Page 9)



Educational Series

Sunday, December 10, 2017



Hazzan Lance continues his Educational Series with a presentation on

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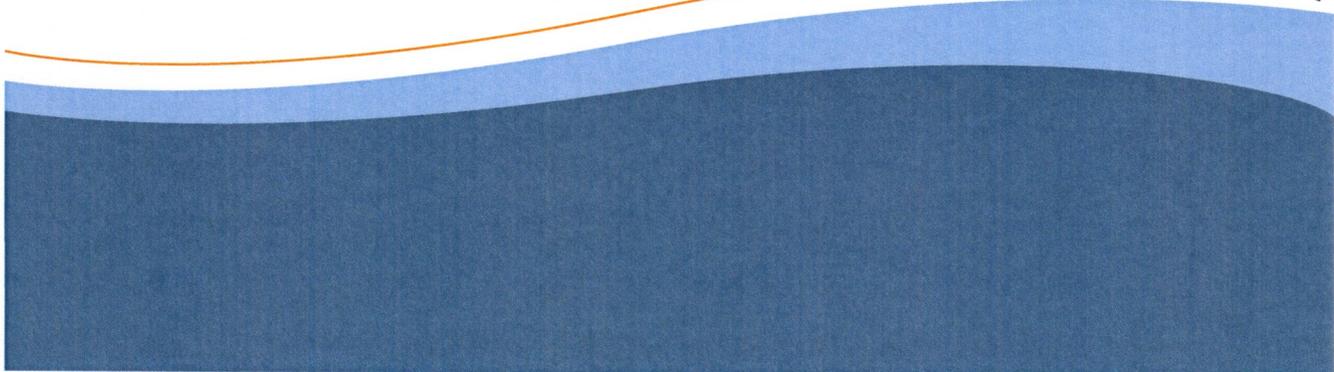
LOS ANGELES JEWRY: A SHORT HISTORY

Together with our own *Barrio Boychik*, Shmuel Gonzales, they present vignettes about the history of L.A. Jewry through story, music, and video clips.

*French Toast and Fruit
will be served at 10:00 a.m.
The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m.*



All are invited to attend this great event about our extended community!





December Birthdays

<i>Lucy Kleinberg</i>	<i>December 5</i>
<i>David Starkman</i>	<i>December 11</i>
<i>Alita Sevin</i>	<i>December 14</i>
<i>Jordan Pollack</i>	<i>December 20</i>
<i>Jacqueline Starkman</i>	<i>December 20</i>
<i>Robert Rubin</i>	<i>December 21</i>
<i>Barbara Landau</i>	<i>December 22</i>
<i>Deborah Miranda</i>	<i>December 28</i>

December Anniversaries

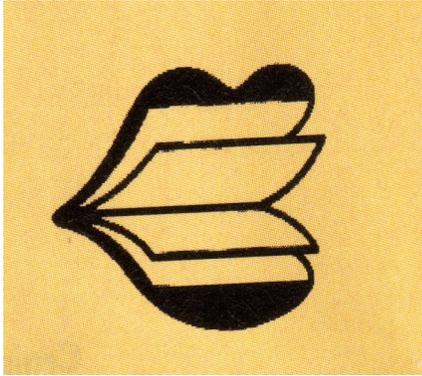
Jim and Alita Sevin December 7

Beth Shalom of Whittier

Wishes you all

A Very Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary !





Book Group News

In November the Beth Shalom Book Group had an interesting discussion about Rabbi Naomi Levy's book, *Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul*. We liked it more than we expected. It is very readable and not preachy.

In December we are going to have a luncheon meeting where we all bring suggested books to read in 2018. We are meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to join us, please contact me. The only requirement for attendance is a suggestion for a future read.

Our book for Tuesday, January 9, 2018 is *A Gentleman in Moscow*. Even though it is not a Jewish book, it is one everyone wanted to read. [*Editor's Note: Fabulous book!*] We will be meeting at Michelle's.

Hope you had a thankful Thanksgiving, and have a lovely Hanukkah. Happy reading!

~Myra Weiss

The World of Jewish Books *(Continued from Page 6)*

Thus the Bible tells us that King Josiah of Judah called "all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: And he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord."

Later, when the Jews returned to Israel after their exile in Babylon, their leader, Ezra, read them the book of the law, or Torah.

As time went on, however, more and more books were written and circulated among the common people. We know, for example, that messages from the Prophets and government proclamations were recopied by hand and distributed among the people.

And of course the Torah, which became more and more important in the synagogue service, was constantly copied and recopied. To this day, the Torah Scrolls found in our synagogues must be written by hand on animal skins, according to a rule made by the Rabbis in still another Jewish book – the Talmud.

The famous Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in Palestine in 1947, consist in part of biblical books copied down by an unknown Jewish scribe for use in study.

~~Continued Next Month~~

A Story of Hope (Continued from Page 2)

What gives people the courage to fight against hatred and the wisdom to understand just how important that fight is? And what causes some communities to come together when faced with acts of bigotry and violence, while other communities split apart?

In Billings, it was a combination of factors.

- * A family, victimized by bigotry, who spoke out eloquently and refused to be intimidated.
- * A police chief who understood the seriousness of hate crimes and was determined that they would not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- * A lay church leader who remembered a story she had heard as a child about how Christians in Denmark had stood against the Nazis to help Jews in 1943, and used that event to
- * Clergy of all faiths who were committed to practicing what
- * A newspaper that investigated and published the truth about local hate crimes and then used its editorial pages to
- * Town residents who were willing to learn from history and

We've seen the power of courage and goodness and how these traits can enable individuals to surmount life's greatest challenges. In the town of Billings, here was an entire diverse community acting together on the highest principle of loving your neighbor as yourself.

What can we learn from the events in Billings?



BIOGRAPHY OF THE MONTH

Jack Benny (1894—1974)

Jack Benny was a U.S. radio, TV, and film comedian who made a trademark of his miserliness and “slow burn.” He was born Benjamin Kublesky in Waukegan, Illinois. His father operated first a saloon and later a dry-goods store. As a boy, Benny helped out in the store. He studied violin and entered vaudeville at seventeen, using his violin as a stage prop.

This unpromising career was interrupted by World War I. During Benny’s service in the U.S. Navy, his comic talent came to light. Upon his return to civilian life, he reentered vaudeville.

He made his first film appearance in 1929, but gained real stardom on radio and later repeated his success on television. Among his best films were *Charlie’s Aunt* and *George Washington*. In *To Be or Not To Be*, Benny played the role of the head of a Polish theater troupe who becomes involved in espionage during World War II.



Benny’s radio program began in 1932 on NBC. From 1934 to 1936, the program led the popularity polls, and after that it was seldom out of the top ten. Benny continued on the radio until 1955, switching to CBS in 1948. His television program, “The Jack Benny Show,” began as an occasional special in 1950 and continued as a biweekly and then weekly until 1965. He won Emmys in 1957 and 1958.

Benny created a continuing-sketch comedy in which he represented himself as an aging and pompous bachelor who was also a miser and a self-deprecating violin player. For his more than forty years on radio and television, he surrounded himself with the same troupe of supporting players: his wife, Mary Livingstone; Eddie (Rochester) Anderson as his valet; announcer Don Wilson; band leader Phil Harris; and comedian Mel Blanc (known also as the voice of Bugs Bunny, among others). Benny was neither a joke teller nor a slapstick comedian. His created character was the source of his humor and the butt of insults, made even funnier by the Benny catalog of stock mannerisms and responses that became comedy motifs to be savored week after week: a martyr-like stare with chin resting on hand, three fingers on the cheek; facial expressions of disbelief or frustration; and the stock utterances of “Well!” and “Hmmm” and “Now cut that out!” and the perfectly timed pause.

Benny’s shows were filled with familiar trappings: an antiquated Maxwell car, creaking gates to his underground vault, and the violin on which Benny regularly played an inept performance of “Love in Bloom.” His annual celebration of his thirty-ninth birthday was famous.

From 1965 he limited himself to a few specials a year, and his final show, “Jack Benny’s Second Farewell,” was broadcast in 1974.

~ Geoffrey Wigoder, *Dictionary of Jewish Biography*, 1991

Yahrzeit Remembrances

Robert and Rita Rubin

Yetta Gnessin, Mother of Rita

Mona DiNatale

Sarah Lifschitz, Grandmother

Agnes Fuchs

Gabor Fuchs, Husband

Bernard Roseman

Eugene Roseman, Brother

Myra Becker

Solomon Bell, Grandfather

Joel Kudler

Sondra Janet Kudler, Wife

We honor the memory of our loved ones who have departed this earth as we kindle the Yahrzeit candle in remembrance. May their memory endure as an eternal blessing.



Thank You for Your Donations



A Room Full of Light

On the first night of Hanukkah, I bring out several of my ancestors' menorahs. The oldest are brass from the early 1900s. During the eight days, I light them each night, and by the final night the room is simply ethereal. The glistening candles on the candelabra reflect bygone moments with these special people. It is truly magical.

—Lynn Goldfinger-Abram, San Francisco

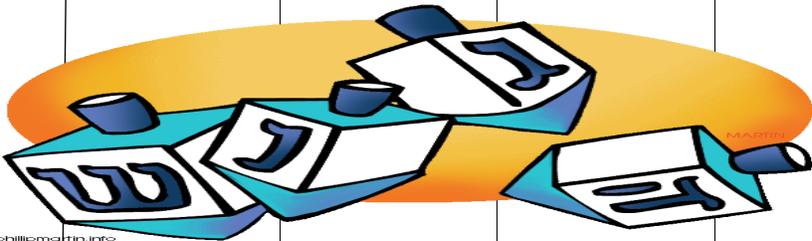
December Yahrzeit Observances

<i>Dorothy Baptista</i>	Eileen and Steve Baptista	2 Tevet
<i>Ruth Beck</i>	Myra Becker	10 Tevet
<i>Bella Bell</i>	Myra Becker	20 Kislev
<i>Lou Binke</i>	Myra Becker	2 Tevet
<i>Pearl DeMase</i>	Hope Greenwood	5 Tevet
<i>Edna Devore</i>	Jay Devore	22 Kislev
<i>Joseph Diamondstein</i>	Memorial Board	20 Kislev
<i>Anna Rose Fruchtman</i>	Memorial Board	2 Tevet
<i>Shirley Gilbert</i>	Ada Kless-Gilbert	23 Kislev
<i>Max Goldberg</i>	Morton and Helene Goldberg	23 Kislev
<i>Rose Goldberg</i>	Millie Hock	8 Tevet
<i>Gail Goodstein</i>	Robert and Rita Rubin	18 Kislev
<i>Shirley Unger Gordon</i>	Memorial Board	14 Kislev
<i>Matie Kapian</i>	Eli and Frieda Melcer	30 Kislev
<i>Edna Kleinberg</i>	Memorial Board	26 Kislev
<i>Mary Kolnick</i>	Jeffrey Kolnick and Rosa Tock	8 Tevet
<i>Sondra Janet Kudler</i>	Joel Kudler	15 Kislev
<i>Samuel Kuhn</i>	Pauline and Harris Kuhn	7 Tevet
<i>Isaac Leiboff</i>	Hope Greenwood	27 Kislev
<i>Pheney Margolis</i>	Fred Blankstein and Maxine Berkowitz	5 Tevet
<i>Nancy Martinez</i>	Rebecca Martinez	14 Kislev
<i>Elzer Melcer</i>	Eli and Frieda Melcer	12 Tevet
<i>Emmanuel Morzinsky</i>	Richard and Michelle Hess	25 Kislev
<i>William Pollack</i>	Jordan and Yvette Pollack	27 Kislev
<i>Sidney Rosenbaum</i>	David and Sandra Schart	2 Tevet
<i>Max Seidman</i>	Eli and Frieda Melcer	20 Kislev
<i>Irene Shapiro</i>	Fred Blankstein and Maxine Berkowitz	10 Tevet
<i>Lee Shuman</i>	Agnes Fuchs	17 Kislev
<i>John Singer</i>	Eunice Singer, Mark and Maggie Singer	23 Kislev
<i>Robert Unger</i>	Russell Unger	9 Tevet
<i>Jean Vinetsky</i>	Arlene Norton	4 Tevet
<i>Joseph Ward</i>	Memorial Board	27 Kislev
<i>Rose Weiss</i>	David and Myra Weiss	4 Tevet
<i>Arnold Winett</i>	Arlene Norton	2 Tevet
<i>Sylvia Zober</i>	Memorial Board	8 Tevet

December 2017

Kislev /Tevet 5778

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1	2
						Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	Valishyah
3	4 Minyan 2:30 pm	5	6	7 Minyan 2:30 pm	8 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	9 Breakfast 9:00 am Siddur Kol Shalom 9:45 am Vayeshev	
10 Educational Series Los Angeles Jewry: A Short History 10:00 Refreshments 10:30 Presentation Bingo	11 Minyan 2:30 pm	12 Book Group Luncheon 12:30 pm Erev Hanukkah First Candle	13 Hanukkah Second Candle	14 Hanukkah Third Candle Minyan 2:30 pm	15 Hanukkah Fourth Candle Erev Shabbat Hanukkah 7:30 pm 	16 Hanukkah Fifth Candle Miketz	
17 Hanukkah Sixth Candle Bingo	18 Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah Seventh Candle Minyan 2:30 pm	19 Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah Eighth Candle	20 Zot Hanukkah	21 Minyan 2:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 pm	22 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	23 Breakfast 9:00 am Lay Study Session 9:45 am Vayigash	
24 31	25 Office Closed Minyan 2:30 pm	26	27 Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00 pm	28 Minyan 2:30 pm Fast of Tevet	29 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	30 Vayehi	

Brain Train

Train your brain by keeping it active!



Age Appropriate
 Jenny's age now is four times her age four years from now minus four times her age three years ago.
 How old is Jenny now?



Fill in the grid with ten 4-letter entries: four across, four down, and two on the downward long diagonals. Clues are given in random order. One letter is already placed. Can you finish it?

- Land measure
- Desperate
- Train travel
- Apiece
- Sets the dogs (on)
- Snow transport
- Garden spots
- Poet
- Tool building
- Bikini tops

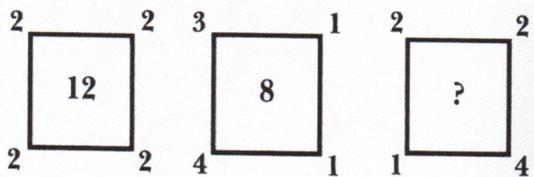
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If a Buttercup is yellow, what color is a Hiccup?

Patterns

The arrangement of numbers below represents a pattern. This pattern is a mathematical relationship between the numbers in each square, so don't look for things like spelling, days of the week, cryptograms, or codes.

Uncover the pattern and fill in the question mark in the last square.



For Goodness Socks

A sock drawer full of loose socks has 18 black socks, 14 brown socks, 12 blue socks, and 4 green socks. It is pitch black, and you remove socks from this drawer one at a time, hoping to get a matching pair even though you can't see the colors.

1. What is the least number of individual socks you must remove in order to guarantee you have a pair?
2. What is the least number of individual socks you must remove in order to guarantee you have a matching pair of green socks?

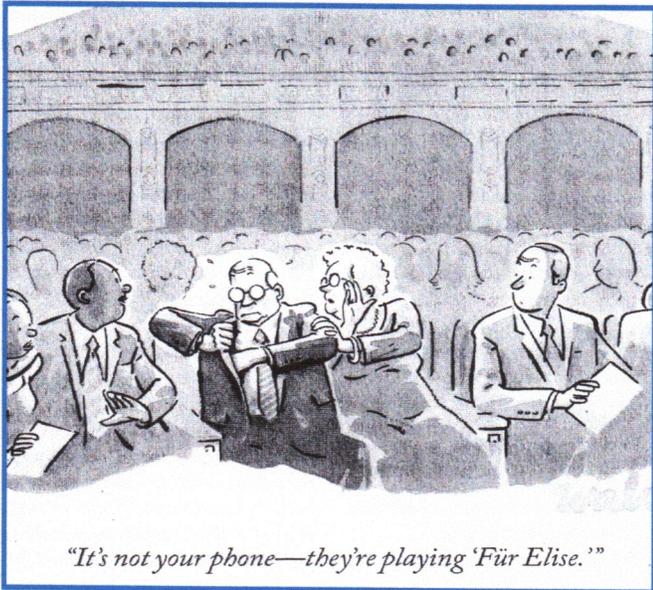
STARTING TO ENDING

Use all the words below to form a chain in which each word links to the next to create a common phrase or compound word. The chain starts with STARTING and links to BLOCK to make STARTING BLOCK. Then BLOCK links to another word, and so on. The chain is completed with ENDING. Can you link it together?

STARTING

- | | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|------|--------|
| HAIR | HAPPY | BATTLE | HEAD | JOINT |
| PACKING | GRAND | ANGEL | BABY | PIZZA |
| CUSTODY | JURY | CRY | SNOW | CHEESE |

ENDING



A trivia game company wants the phone number 946-5639 because of the 7-letter phrase that the number spells. What's the phrase?



Leslie and Lorna have the same parents. Leslie and Lorna look exactly alike. Leslie and Lorna are the same age, yet they are not twins. How is this possible?

Clichés and Idioms

CCCCCC
FINALE

HOMERUNSSNUREMOH

👉 NIL SKETCH

Answers

Age Appropriate: 28 years old. Jenny's ages four years from now and three years ago are seven years apart. Four times that difference is 28. Or, if you like to use algebra, if Jenny's age now is J, then $J = 4(J+4) - 4(J-3)$. $J = 28$.

Fill in the Grid: Rows: beds, rail, acre, shed. Columns: bras, each, dire, sled. Diagonals: hard, sics.

What Color is a Hiccup: Purple.

Patterns: Fourteen. Add the upper left number, lower left number, and lower right number together. Then multiply this sum by the number in the upper right corner. The product is in the center of the square.

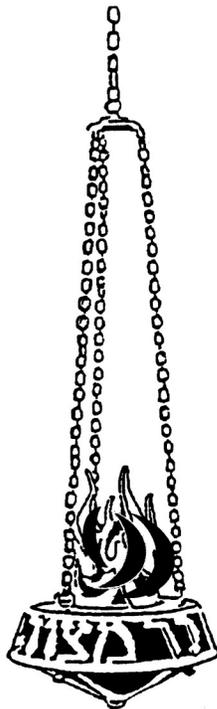
For Goodness Socks: 1. Five socks. You could get unlucky and draw four different colors for your first four socks, but then the next one has to match one of those four. 2. 46 socks. You could get unlucky and draw all $18 + 14 + 12$ which equals 44 non-green socks. But then the next two socks would be a matching pair of green socks.

Starting to Ending: Starting block, blockhead, head cheese, cheese pizza, pizza joint, joint custody, custody battle, battle cry, crybaby, baby grand, grand jury, jury packing, packing snow, snow angel, angel hair, hair trigger, trigger happy, happy ending.

Trivia Game Company: WHO KNEW.

Leslie and Lorna: Leslie and Lorna are two members of a set of triplets.

Clichés and Idioms: 1. Season finale. 2. Back-to-back home runs. 3. Thumbnail sketch.



Beth Shalom of Whittier

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