

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

January 2018---Tevet/Shevat 5778

From our Rabbi

More has been written about Joseph than any other hero in the Torah. The story of Joseph portrays how one clever individual saved Egypt and the entire Middle East from starvation. His solution was relatively simple. During seven years of prosperity, Joseph stored sufficient grain to feed the population during times of famine. It is a story of how even a man sold into slavery could become head of state. Estranged from his brothers who sold Joseph into slavery, it was the famine that spread from the land of Pharaoh to the entire middle east that would reunite them. Jacob's sons came to Egypt in search of food. Recognizing them, Joseph wine and dines his brothers. Fortunately, they did not recognize Joseph. Joseph's servant places a silver goblet used for religious services in Benjamin's saddle. After they depart, soldiers follow them and discover the goblet. Accusing Benjamin of stealing the goblet, Joseph orders him detained. Joseph has played a ruse upon his brothers to find out what action they would take to save their brother. Would they abandon Benjamin and allow him to languish in prison as they had done Joseph thirteen years earlier? Or would his brothers take steps to secure his release? They return to Canaan to confront their elderly father Jacob with the bad news.

What results is the transformation of a brother who initially hoped to profit from the sale of Joseph into slavery into the father of the most significant of the 12 tribes. In tribute to this transformation, all Israelites are referred to as "Yehudim"— followers of Judah or Jews.

Thinking of their brother dead, Judah feared what would happen to their father should he suffer the loss of another son. Judah eloquently asks Joseph: "We have an old father, and there is a child of his old age, the youngest; his full brother is dead, so that he alone is left of his mother...If he were to leave him, his father would die." Proving he has totally abandoned his earlier jealousy of Joseph, Judah offers to sacrifice his own freedom in exchange for the freedom of Benjamin. He cannot bear to see the "woe that will overtake his father." Judah's appeal to Joseph's sense of compassion caused the Egyptian ruler to loose control. Joseph cries out to have everyone withdraw from him so he could reveal his true identity to his brother. Though not wanting to appear undignified before Pharaoh's courtiers, Joseph's sobs were so loud that not only "could the Egyptians hear, the news also reached Pharaoh's palace." After Joseph related how he had become reunited with his brothers, in appreciation for Joseph's service to the nation, the Egyptian ruler asks Joseph to bring his entire family down to Egypt. It is in Egypt, initially as a favored people prior to becoming slaves, that the children of Israel would evolve into the sovereign Jewish nation. Our story ends when "Joseph embraces his brother Benjamin around the neck and wept. He then kisses all his brothers and wept upon them, only then were his brothers able to talk to him."

Now that Chanukah is over and the secular New Year has begun, we must renew our commitment to guaranteeing a traditional Jewish house of worship in Racine. A special spiritual and personal bond has developed between the congregation and my family over the last 17 years. Whether having the honor of officiating at Shabbat and holiday services, participating in life cycle events, visiting the sick or eulogizing a beloved family member, we have grown closer as a community. I call upon all Jews and individuals interested in learning about our ancient faith to join our unique congregation. "Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazak." May we all grow from strength to strength.

Please join us for services every Shabbat morning at 10 am and Shabbat dinner and prayers the third Friday of every month at 6 pm. The "New Year of the Trees," Tu b'Shevat, begins at sundown on January 30th and ends the evening of January 31st. We will celebrate this special occasion with our Israeli brethren who help make the desert bloom into a modern state during Saturday Shabbat services on January 27 at 10 am.

Rabbi Marty

See you in Shul

Starting Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. for 6 consecutive weeks we, Beth Israel Sinai, will be hosting a program discussing the three different faiths that came from Abraham. We will have people from the Islamic faith, the Christian faith, and the Jewish faith. The first week, January 4, 2018 we discuss Judaism, second week, January 11, 2018 we cover the Christian faith, the third week, January 18, 2018 we cover the Islamic faith. The fourth week January 25 we cover the Koran, the fifth week February 1, 2018 we cover the New Testament, and the sixth week February 8, 2018 we cover the Torah. This program will be an open forum, hopefully we have a lot of discussion. There is no charge for these programs, but we would appreciate an unopened nonperishable food for donation to the Faith Works Food Pantry. This program should be very interesting and is open to the public.

Cemetery Notes

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is five acres located at 612 Lathrop Ave. It is a well maintained, park-like setting. A resting place for all Jews.

There is a Reform section of the cemetery where Jews and their non-Jewish family members can be buried together.

For more information about the purchase of cemetery plots or perpetual care, please call Jim Barten at 262-886-0381

New members and members who return to Beth Israel Sinai will be able to join our Synagogue for reduced dues the first year. The dues will be \$300 for the first year.

The Presidents Message:

Our Chanukah party was very well attended and a lot of fun. It is always good to get together with our members and to see and open our doors to new people. There was interesting conversation and laughter.

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. I am looking forward to the new year meeting new members of our congregation. We welcome everyone no matter what your faith is.

We have made a lot of progress in the last year at getting the new Synagogue in order. If you like to go on treasure hunts let me know. We still have plenty of treasures in the basement waiting to be found.

Please feel free to call me if you have any concerns, 262-945-7675

Joyce

Rabbi Adelberg is offering free Hebrew classes to children. Please call Rabbi Adelberg 847-529-1609 to setup appointments.

Yahrzeits

1. Herman Levin
2. Sadie Kaufman
2. Harry Gordon
5. Toby B. Gorsky
5. Morris Mitler
5. Irving Schulman
6. Bessie Levin
7. Ben Mitler
8. Salomon Reder
8. Dan B. Levit
9. Don Gordon
9. Marcia Grant
9. Rose Hulbert
10. Nathan Hulbert
11. Elaine Adelberg
11. Geraldine Shovers
11. Hyman Kraft
12. Meyer Levin
13. David Gottlieb
13. Martha Kieffmann
13. Beverly Lichterman
13. Philip D. Cohen
14. Minnie Goodman
14. Bertha Julian
14. Ida Ruffalo
15. David Schaefer
15. Sidney Ganz
16. Edith Kronson
17. Anna Marks
17. Dora Salomon
18. Norman Richard Grant
18. Edward Rosenweig
19. Joseph L. Levin
19. Boroch Hirsh Sidran
20. Julius Alperovitz
21. Morris Wolf
22. Harris Domsy
24. Maurice Davis
26. Sidney Glickstein

26. Ethel Shovers
27. Dorothy Glickstein
27. George Lang
27. Hazel Watt
28. Phil Blitzstein
28. Meyer Gottlieb
28. Fanny Kluk
29. Idah Schwartz
29. Sofie Shovers
30. Sgt. Leonard Hulbert
30. Ruth Grant Gordon
31. Samuel G. Laufman
31. Tillie Sideman



This list is prepared by Max Godron. Thank you Max.

Sisterhood

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a Kiddush just let Joyce Placzkowski know, 1-262-945-7675. The charge for a dairy Kiddush is \$50, meat Kiddush is \$100. The kitchen can always use coffee and paper goods. If you are interested in helping to make food for the Kiddush or a Shabbat dinner just let Joyce Placzkowski know.

Donations

Anonymous

Dr. Jose Kanshepolsky

Kathy Schmadl

Jim Barten for bringing extra chairs for our dinner and a smoked salmon for Kiddush

Beth Israel Sinai
 3009 Washington Ave
 Racine WI 53405
 Mailing Address:
 Beth Israel Sinai
 P.O. Box 081725
 Racine, WI 53408


262-633-7093
 Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net
 Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

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 Tevet/Shevat 5778
 January 2018

Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Time

January 5	4:14
January 12	4:21
January 19	4:30
January 26	4:39
February 2	4:48



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <small>6 pm Taste of Religion</small>	5	6 <small>10:00</small>
7	8	9	10	11 <small>6 pm Taste of Religion</small>	12	13 <small>10:00</small>
14	15	16	17	18 <small>6 pm Taste of Religion</small>	19 <small>6 pm Shabbat dinner</small>	20 <small>10:00</small>
21	22	23	24	25 <small>6 pm Taste of Religion</small>	26	27 <small>10:00</small>
28	29	30 <small>Tu b' Shevat begins sundown</small>	31 <small>Tu b' Shevat</small>			