

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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JULY 2015 TAMMUZ-AV 5775

Rabbi's Message

IMAGINE if the emperor, Nebudchanezzar, had his own Twitter account. The date is 16 Tammuz 586 BCE. The emperor's conversation with his commander in Israel might have gone like this:

Nebudchanezzar: General, I see you have finally managed to encircle the city of Jerusalem. See if you can offer them peace terms based upon the principle that we will allow them to worship freely if they submit politically to the Babylonian empire.

General: Your Highness, we have already tried this repeatedly since we initially surrounded the city in 605. The Kings Hezekiah and Zedekiah and their royal classes interpreted this as a sign of weakness. Their armies attack our soldiers weekly. While not hurting us militarily, many of my men resent the insolence of the Children of Israel. This king even imprisoned the pro-peace advocate, the prophet Jeremiah, who dared to counsel, submitting to Babylonia, to ensure the Jews religious freedom. (Actually, Jeremiah even bought a large parcel of land to demonstrate his desire to remain in Israel. My sources tell me that he was able to get this land at a rock bottom price. Few wish to invest in a state that is about

to be conquered.) My suggestion is that we finally complete our conquest of their holy city of Jerusalem. It should take about three weeks to complete our mission beginning on the 17th of Tammuz. By the 9th of Av, our plan to obliterate Jerusalem, its inhabitants and their holy temple should be complete.

Nebudchanezzar: Are you sure nothing can be done short of annihilation?

General: No, your Highness. Not only has their rejection of our terms over the last 19 years been a political thorn in our backside, but also it has inspired insubordination in other sections of the empire. I suggest we move on this immediately before we are faced with a full scale rebellion.

Nebudchanezzar: If you are absolutely certain nothing else can be done, I will defer to you.

THE conversation between Nebudchanezzar and his general was featured on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It received over one million hits in just ONE hour! It was the world's biggest hit on social media. Wide ranging comments, some for but mostly against the destroyed Jewish nation, poured in from around the world. It was not until the conquest of Babylonia by the

Persian Empire that the Jews would be offered the opportunity to rebuild both Jerusalem and their Holy Temple. Ironically, due to fighting between those who remained in Israel and those returning from Babylonia, construction of the Second Temple was delayed until 515 BCE—almost 70 years after the Persian Emperor Cyrus gave the Israelites permission to return to their holy land.

While there was no social media in the 6th century BCE, we commemorate the siege and destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple by fasting both on the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of AV. Because the 17th of Tammuz falls on Shabbat this year, we fast on the 18th. (It is forbidden to fast on Shabbat. The only exception is Yom Kippur which is the "Sabbath of Sabbaths.") The fast begins at sunrise and ends when it becomes dark. The next three weeks is considered a period of semi-mourning. This sad period ends with the second most important fast in the Hebrew calendar, Tisha B'Av. This 25 hour fast, from Saturday night to sundown on Sunday, marks our sorrow over the destruction of not only the First Temple, but also the destruction of the Second Temple and Jerusalem on the

SAME DATE 656 years later by the Roman Empire. We read the Book of Lamentations describing the events both leading up to and after this tragic Holocaust. When reading it, one might wonder if the Nazis used it as a blueprint for the Final Solution and the Grand Inquisitor for the Spanish Inquisition. Join us as we remember the "day of awe" on Saturday, July 25th at 8 p.m.

On a happier note, we will be welcoming potential members to our synagogue with our first "Open House Shabbat" on Saturday, July 25th. This will be followed by a second "Open House Shabbat" on Saturday, September 5th—9 days before Rosh Hashanah. These events will be advertised on Facebook and in the local print media. To ensure success, all of our temple family should try to seek out new members. By working together, we will once again become a powerful force, attracting both Jews and non-Jews interested in a nondenominational synagogue that emphasizes our common traditions while minimizing our sectarian differences. May we continue to grow from strength to strength.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
Rabbi Marty

Sisterhood

We were fortunate to have a Kiddush on June 13, generously sponsored by Sarah Levin, in honor of her birthday. The food was delicious and we all wished her a very happy birthday and a good year to come. Max Gordon sponsored a Kiddush on June 20 in honor of Gail Hoss' and Rachel Hoss' birthdays. Thank you, Max, for the tasty Kiddush. Joel and Judy Roher sponsored a Kiddush on June 27 in honor of their children. Judy and her granddaughter baked the birthday cake. Thank you, Judy, for your help and for the donation for this Kiddush. It was fun to have you in the kitchen working with my granddaughter and me. On July 18, Eileen Schroeder will be sponsoring a Kiddush in honor of Patti Kushner. We all miss Patti very much. On August 22, Linda Hulbert will be sponsoring a Kiddush in honor of her late mother, Ruth Hulbert. Ruth was a beloved member of our synagogue. There will also be an unveiling of Ruth Hulbert's stone on August 23. We appreciate all the donations and sponsorships. They help us to maintain a gracious and welcoming atmosphere at Beth Israel Sinai that benefits everyone.

Is someone in your family celebrating a special day or milestone? Consider sponsoring a Kiddush to commemorate that special day or to honor a loved one. It's easy. Call Joyce Placzkowski at 262-945-7675. A dairy Kiddush is \$50 and a meat Kiddush is \$100. We welcome financial contributions, grocery gift cards and donations of kosher grocery items, and paper goods to help the Sisterhood fund the cost of the weekly Kiddush. We also seem to run short of bottled water, soda, paper goods (especially cups, napkins and forks) and items like coffee, fresh fruit and other kitchen basics that are needed on a regular basis. Please be sure that any packaged or canned foods are marked "Kosher". You may drop these items off in the kitchen at any time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Beth Israel Sinai Family,

CASH GELT COIN

Now that I have your attention, the ongoing subject of money is with us again. To raise more money, each member of the board had been asked to come up with a fund raising idea to be discussed at a special meeting which took place on Sunday, June 28th at the synagogue. They came up with several very inventive ways to raise a good amount of much needed money.

Also, Rabbi announced an open house, which includes the public, that will take place at the synagogue after Shabbat services on July 25th. I will advertise this event, which will hopefully bring some new members to Beth Israel Sinai.

Because of the 4th of July parade being on Saturday morning, and because of all the street closures and traffic rerouting that will occur, there will be no Shabbat service that day.

All take care...SHELLY

DONATIONS

Max Gordon, in honor of Gail Hoss, Rachel Hoss and Leone Niemiec birthdays

Betty Shovers, Restoration fund in honor of Sarah Levin birthday

Blanche Kahn and family, in honor of Sarah Levin birthday

Joyce Placzkowski, Restoration Fund in honor of Sarah Levin and Sarah Kivolowitz birthdays

Lorraine Ganz, in honor of Sarah Levin birthday

Sarah Levin, in honor of Temple Family

Mary McIntyre, general donation



Yahrzeits

Week of July 4

Freda Altman Epstein	28
Anna Levin	28
Julius Fishbain	29
Samuel Gluck	29
Edward Shovers	29
Myron M. Goldberg	30
Isador Karlitzky	30
Sophia Gottlieb	1
Mary W. Lippman	2
Genevieve S. Reuben	3
Fannie Shovers	3
Emma Dunya Silver	4

Week of July 11

Esther Laufman	5
Josephine Levit	5
Pfc. David Lester Gordon	7
Julia Kaminsky	7
Isador Silver	8
Jacob Silver	8
Chaim Weissbard	8
Stella Greenberg	11
Dr. Leo M. Lifschutz	11

Week of July 18

Beatrice Marvin	12
Sidney J. Marks	13

Dr. Eugene H. Kaufman	14
Carol R. Wolfman	14
Harry Dingfelder	16
Florence Margaret Sheff	17
Hyman H. Brown	17
Harry Laufman	17
Mona A. Brown	18

Week of July 25

Betty Goldberg	19
Evelyn Hahn Milch	19
Shirley Marcado	20
Julius Goodman	21
Samuel Karlitsky	21
Sarah D. Schur	21
Miriam Waisman	22
M. Gerson Kaminsky	24
Rachel Waisman	24
Ronald Waisman	24
Isaac Weisman	24
Herman Feiges	25
Dr. Reuben Gorsky	25
Theodore D. Gottlieb	25
Arthur Isenberg	25

Week of August 1

Ida Gordon	26
Mildred Domsky	26
Rose Friedman	28
Bella Tatelbaum	29
Arnold Goodman	1
Raye Sheft	1

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

July 3	-	8:16 PM
July 10	-	8:14 PM
July 17	-	8:10 PM
July 24	-	8:04 PM
July 31	-	7:56 PM



Cemetery Notes

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is five acres located at 612 Lathrop Avenue. 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

Hadassah

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions. Cards \$5; Shares \$10; Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10; Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18. For more information call Sarah Levin, 886-9331

Treasurer's Report

Our goal this year is to balance the operating budget; that is, to pay all the ordinary bills without taking money from savings. We need to raise \$23,000 more than last year, about \$18 per week from every member. The board will soon begin rolling out fund raising programs. Please participate to the limit of your ability.

Pay your dues promptly so that we do not have to sell investments to pay current bills, or we will lose investment income as well as pay brokerage fees.

Max Gordon, Treasurer

Did you know?

Jewish law requires us to give to charity. The prayer for the congregation that we recite at Saturday services is a left handed plea for funds, as we cannot handle or discuss money on Shabbat.

The rabbis forbid giving more than 20% of income, and describe giving less than 10% as miserly. Even those living on charity are required to give 5%.



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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**No Shabbat service on Saturday July 4 due to street closing and traffic rerouting.
Shabbat dinner is on July 17 at 6pm. Suggested donation \$10.
Our annual picnic at the home of Eileen Schroeder, 119 Stuart Rd., Racine, will
be held on Sunday, August 9, 2015. Will keep you posted regarding details.
No movie night for July.**

July 2015 Tammuz - Av 5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Shabbat Service cancelled
5	6	7	8	9 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	10	11 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
12	13	14	15	16	17 Shabbat Dinner 6pm	18 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
19	20	21	22	23 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	24	25 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM, Open House Following, Tish B'Av service 8pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	