

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Rabbi's Message

March 2016--Adar I, Adar II, 5776

In times of tragedy, Jewish leaders would declare a day of prayer and fasting to invoke divine intervention. On the thirteenth of Adar, the Viceroy, Haman, concluded his preparation to begin the slaughter of the Persian Jewish community. In a remarkable turn of events, aided by the newly remorseful King Ahasuerus, the Jews would wage a war defeating their attackers the next day. This epic battle, to be known throughout history as Purim, would begin on the 14th of Adar. Remembering our brave ancestors led by Esther and Mordecai, Jews throughout the world will fast on the Fast of Esther. Being a leap year in 5776, Purim will be celebrated in Adar II.

Purim commemorates the military victory of the Persian Jews over an anti-Semitic ruler. During the seventy-one year period between the destruction of the First Temple (586 BCE) and resurrection of the Second (515 BCE), the exiled Jewish community lived freely under the Persian King Ahasuerus until he elevated the Amalekite Haman to the position of Viceroy (prime minister) over the entire Persian Empire stretching from India to Ethiopia. Haman, with the consent of the King, was given permission to kill ALL Jewish men, women and children. By the casting

of lots ("purim" in Farsi), the 14th of Adar was chosen as the date to fulfill this evil decree. Familiar with Jewish history, Haman deduced that this would be the perfect month to carry out his plan because Moses died during Adar. He forgot that Moses, the savior of the Jewish nation, was also born during Adar.

Through a series of miracles, G-d began preparing for Haman's downfall. Ahasuerus killed his first wife Vashti for refusing to dance naked before a party of visiting dignitaries. Invited were honored guests from all 127 provinces including Israel. (One midrash describes how the Jewish representatives were so ignorant of Jewish customs that they did not even know they were eating off dishes stolen from the destroyed First Temple.) Subsequently, the King married the beauty, Esther. At the time, he did not know that she was Jewish. The Jewish leader, Mordecai, a

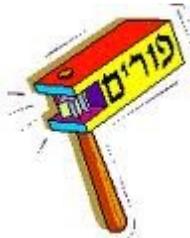
relative of Esther, saved the King from a plot to poison him by the royal guards, Bigdan and Teresh. Earlier, Ahasuerus had wrongly suspected that Haman was behind the assassination attempt. Only at the culmination of three private parties, attended only by King Ahasuerus, Queen Esther and Haman, would the Queen reveal her Jewish identity. She expressed the fear that Haman would kill her and her people, the Jewish nation. Begging for mercy, the coward Haman was condemned to death. Not only was the Jewish community saved, but Haman and his ten sons were killed on the gallows that the ex-Viceroy had prepared for Mordecai. The Jews were given weapons to defeat their attackers. Not one Israelite was killed.

At the request of Esther and Mordecai, the Sages ruled that each year the story of their victory would be celebrated by Jews for all time. The reading of Megillat Esther (the Story of Esther) would be heard by every man, woman and child on both the night of Purim and the following morning. During the reading, the name of the evil Haman would be blotted out by noisemakers called graggers or ra'ashanim. Gifts would be distributed to the poor (matanot la'evyonim) and gifts of food to friends (mishloach manot). A festive Purim meal would be held on the day of Purim. Costumes are worn by children of all ages. This is the only holiday where the Rabbis permitted celebrants to drink more than usual so they would not know the "difference between cursed be Haman and blessed be Mordecai."



Join our Temple family for the festive reading of Megillat Esther on Wednesday, March 23rd, at 6pm.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY

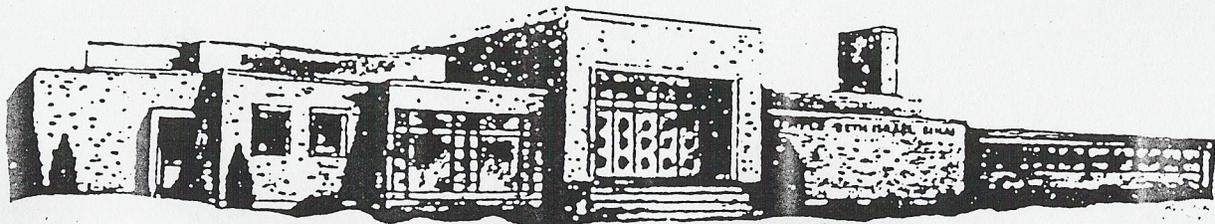


Hadassah

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

Shabbat Candle Lighting times

March 4---5:27
March 11--5:36
March 18--5:44
March 25--5:53



קהילת בית ישראל - סיני

Donation suggestions: Chai \$18--Dedicate a prayer book \$36--Leaf for Hulbert Tree of Life \$500--Rock for Hulbert Tree of Life \$1,000--Yahrzeit plaque \$360--Benefactor plaque \$2,500--Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, any amount--Building Restoration Fund, any amount

Consider a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This money is used to buy educational material, fund meals, help the poor or any community need the Rabbi wishes to aid. It is important that he can pay for these things without board action or taking money from his own pocket.

February Donations

General:
Anonymous
Eileen Schroeder
Mary McIntyre

Speedy Recovery for Joyce

Katzman:
Bob Katzman
Max Gordon
Anonymous
Anonymous



President's Message

Hey Beth Israel Sinai Friends-It's crunch time! We really need people -Jewish people! It's really bad when we can't get ten people for a minyan on Saturday mornings for Shabbat services. If each of us-myself included-would call one person to come to the synagogue on Saturday mornings we would have many more than a minyan.
Come on friends.....Lets Do It.....make those calls!!!!

Now that we have all those people coming-here are the neat events that we have coming.

March 18th 6 PM -a Friday night Shabbat service at the Atrium--
Louise

Langlieb's residence 3900 N Main Street in Racine.

April 22nd--the Rabbi's seder

April 23rd--Community seder

June 4th-the celebration of the tenth year of Rabbi Adelberg's ordination and the 100th year anniversary of Beth Israel Sinai Synagogue

Sisterhood for March 2016

On March 18 we will be having our Shabbat dinner held at the Atrium. Services will start at 6:00p.m. The Atrium is at 3900 N. Main Street, Racine, WI.

Please bring a pareve dish to pass. We will be supplying most likely chicken, but will need the side dishes for this.

Please everyone come out for this and celebrate Shabbat with us.

Fantastic news for all those that keep kosher. Festival Foods in Kenosha, 3207-80 Street, Kenosha WI, sells some kosher meat. I was told they normally have hamburger, steak, and cube steaks. We all need to shop there for the meat so that this becomes profitable and they stock more kosher meat.

Next will be April and the Seder. Then on June 4, 2016 we will be having a special anniversary party for the Rabbi's 10th anniversary.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a kiddush just let Joyce Placzkowski know, 1-262-945-7675. The cost of 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.

Notes from the Treasurer

We have three months remaining in our fiscal year. To sponsor a kiddush for a strong finish to our fundraising year call Joyce Placzkowski at 945-7675. A meat kiddush costs \$100, a dairy kiddush \$50.

Did you know?

Adon Olam, which we sing in the concluding section of our Shabbat service, was a bedtime prayer in eleventh century Spain. In the eighteenth century, it was used in our preliminary morning service. Adon Olam can be sung to any tune. Try "On Wisconsin."



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



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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March 2016 Adar I-Adar II 5776

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Adult Education 6 PM All are welcome	4	5 Shabbat Service 9:45 AM
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Shabbat Service 9:45 AM
13	14	15	16	17 Adult Education 6 PM-- All are welcome	18 Shabbat Dinner at the Atrium 6 PM	19 Shabbat Service 9:45 AM
20	21	22	23 Purim Service 6 PM	24 Adult Education 6 PM-- All are welcome	25	26 Shabbat Service 9:45 AM
27	28	29	30	31 Adult Education 6 PM-- All are welcome		