

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation
April 2017---Nisan/Iyar 5777

From our Rabbi

The epic Story of the enslavement and freedom of the Israelites from Egypt resonates with every generation. Pesach is so important that an entire volume of the Talmud is devoted to the laws governing this holiday. Jews exiled after the destruction of the Second temple developed many lesser known customs. Different customs developed among Jews living under Moslem and Christian rule between the 7th and 15th centuries. Jews exiled during the Spanish Inquisition brought these customs to central Europe, North Africa, the Ottoman Empire and ultimately the New World of North America and South America. Many are still practiced by Jews today. These "minhagim" (customs) enhance our knowledge of the holiday of Passover. To name a few: (1) "USING THE LULAV TO BURN CHAMETZ OR TO BAKE MATZAH." Rabbi Judah Ben Kolonymous a 12th century German scholar, used to save the willows (aravot) in order to burn the chametz. In Yemen it was the custom to use the lulav (palm), hadassim (myrtles) and aravot to fuel the ovens when baking matzah shemurah. These examples fulfill the requirement of reusing items used in fulfilling one mitzvah to help fulfill another, (Shabbat 117b) This also establishes a connection of the last pilgrim festival, Sukkot, with the first festival of Pesach. (2) "OPEN DOORS AND CLOSED DOORS." The ninth century Babylonian Rabbi, Rav Mattiyahu Gaon, Declared that it was the custom of our forefathers to leave the doors open during the seder so poor Jews would feel free to come in and join them. In many Arab lands, the door was left open to allow a swift exit to greet the Messiah. (3) "CHAROSET WITH AN EARTHY FLAVOR." During the American Civil War, a group of Jewish soldiers made a seder in the wilderness of West Virginia. Since no charoset was available, they put a real brick on the Seder plate. This originated from the 13th century Italian custom to put a little bit of clay or grated brick into the charoset. (4) "THE POWER OF THE AFIKOMAN." Many Jews believed the afikoman to have protective powers. In Tunisia and Libya, it was carried by sea travelers to ward off raging seas. In Persia, it was kept as a charm that would bring upon the owner and his family many blessings. It was also used as an amulet to ensure pregnant women would give birth to male children, to cure a mute's deafness, to ensure an ample harvest, to protect against bullets, and to prevent a river from overflowing its banks. (5) "THE PARTING OF THE REED SEA." This last minhag deals with events on the seventh day of Passover. The Gerer Hassidim would gather in their shteibel on the seventh night of Pesach. They drank "le'chaim" and danced the entire evening. Then they poured a barrel of water on the floor, lifted up their long cloaks and pretended to cross the Reed Sea. At the end, they thanked G-d for helping them reach their final destination.

As we sit down to our celebratory Passover meal, let us not forget the widow, the orphan and the poor. As stated in the Passover Haggadah, "let all who are hungry come and eat." Contributions to the Milwaukee Jewish Food Pantry and organizations like Ma'ot Chittim in Chicago and Mazon will ensure that those less fortunate will get to share in our holiday of freedom. Also, if you know of anyone new to the Racine area who is looking for a Seder to attend, please invite them to attend our Temple seder.

Marcia, Becky, Robyn, Joe, Lara, Sam, Greg, Lisa, Myles, Molly, Joslyn, and Ethan would like to wish our Temple family a "chag kasher v'sameach" A HAPPY AND KOSHER PASSOVER.
See you in Shul, Rabbi Marty

Passover Seder

When: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Where: Beth Israel Sinai 3009 Washington Avenue, Racine, WI 53405

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Please turn in your reservations by Monday, April 3, 2017 to our post office box

P.O. Box 081725, Racine, WI 53406 / If not able to send in reservation please at least call in to let us know you will be attending.

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

Help get the kitchen ready for Passover. We will be working in the kitchen on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

The Presidents Message

Beth Israel Sinai Synagogue Friends- How time flies!! It will be almost two years since I became your president. As I get a "little" older I tend to reminisce-especially the past events that have occurred at Beth Israel Sinai over the past two years. One of the most difficult was the sale of the original Beth Israel Sinai building on Main Street to see it and it's long history depart. Many tears were shed along with many memories of time past. It was then with much labor that the many loving artifacts such as the yahrzeit plaques, the many portraits and pictures, the Torahs, tallis, silver, and many many more items to mention. I did not realize how much history there was until all was moved and filled up a large store. It was also with some difficulty that we were able to get a new home for Beth Israel Sinai, but after many trials and tribulations we made it. If you haven't had the pleasure to come into this warm and wonderful Synagogue please do. Just give me or any of my super board members a shout and we'll open the doors wide. You will find this building was just made for a house of worship! Better yet just come on any Saturday morning at 9:45 a.m. and join us for Shabbat service with my dear friend Rabbi Marty Adelberg. As an extra incentive for your attendance, after services a yummy Kiddush is always served. And as I'm talking about food, don't forget about our Passover Seder on Tuesday, April 11, 2017—bring your appetite!!!

Once again, I hope to see you all soon!!

Shelly

P.S. Any questions feel free to call 262-989-9333

P.P.S. For your dues or donations we do take Visa and Master Card!!!

Yahrzeits

April

1. Solomon Maier
1. Charles Wollman
2. Alice H. Wolfman
4. Sal M. Dorman
5. Rose Grant
5. David Hulbert
7. Edward Dunya Silver
8. Rose I. Kraft
8. Ise Blitstein
8. Joseph Waisman
9. Manny S. Brown
9. Alec Seft
9. Sarah Seft
10. Rabbi Abraham Cohen
10. Kenneth Speyer
11. Rachel Belle Gordon
13. Sari Johanna Prowler
13. Frank J. Schwartz
15. Laeh Hulbert
17. Nathan Hulbert
17. Rae L. Rubin
17. Benjamin Shlimovitz
18. Harold Block
20. Lilly R. Seft
22. Max Lippman
22. Lillian Merens
23. Mary Block
23. Jennie Feiges
24. Leslie Kraft
26. Sarah Kaminski

Thanks to Max Gordon for doing the Yahrzeit lists.



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Sisterhood

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a Kiddush just let Joyce Placzowski 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 Placzowski know.

Thanks to everyone who has offered to help with the kitchen set up. All help is welcome I'm hoping within a week we will have all items in their place and ready to use.

Donations

Eileen Schroeder general donations

Anonymous general dona

Joyce Placzowski general donation

Max Gordon in honor of Rachel Belle Gordon, Ruth Hulbert,

David Hulbert, Nathan Hulbert

Sarah Levin general donation

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<<city>>, <<state>> <<zip>>

Beth Israel Sinai News

Nissan/Iyar 5777
April 2017

Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

April 7	7:07
April 14	7:06
April 21	7:24
April 28	7:32
May 5	7:40



Synagogue Calendar

Saturday April 1, 2017 services 9:45 a.m.

Thursday April 6, 2017 Kasher kitchen 4:00 p.m.

Saturday April 8, 2017 services 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday April 11, 2017 Pesach services 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday April 11, 2017 Pesach Seder 6:00 p.m.

Thursday April 13, 2017 adult education 5:00 p.m.

Saturday April 15, 2017 services 9:45 a.m.

Saturday April 22, 2017 services 9:45 a.m.

Thursday April 27, 2017 adult education 5:00 p.m.

Saturday April 29, 2017 services 9:45 a.m.