

# *Beth Israel Sinai News*

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation  
March 2017---Adar/Nisan 5777

## **From our Rabbi**

Last weekend, between 75-100 graves were desecrated in a Philadelphia Jewish cemetery. The week before graves were desecrated at a St. Louis Jewish cemetery. Over 50 Jewish community centers have received bomb threats since the beginning of 2017. A Yemenite Jew was detained at JFK Airport as part of President Trump's travel ban. A madman entered a bar in a Kansas City suburb shouting "get out of my country," and shot two Indian citizens watching basketball and another patron trying to protect them. Ironically, the man who succumbed to his wounds had told his wife the day before that "good things happen in America". The recent Presidential election gave a platform for some of the most extreme Political views. To quote President Trump in response to a question from a reporter representing an Orthodox Jewish newspaper about rising anti-Semitism, he is "the least anti-Semitic person" you could ever meet. Many Jews, including the President's daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner, have positions in the new administration. Yet during a Holocaust speech, for the first time, no mention was made by our new President that Jews suffered more than other nationalities during World War II. An article in the April 2016 edition of the Atlantic Monthly satirized that the Trump administration paralleled the story of Purim. Mr. Trump was Ahasuerus, his Jewish daughter Ivanka was a modern Queen Esther. Jared Kushner filled the role of Mordechai, Steve Bannon was Haman. Are Jews at greater risk than during previous administrations? I seriously doubt it. Unlike the royal autocracy of ancient Shusan, the American constitution safeguards the rights of its citizens and limits the power of its rulers through an elaborate system of checks and balances. Yet whenever another group is singled out, considering both recent and historical events, many Jews become understandably concerned about their future. Are there any similarities between today's political situation and the events that occurred in ancient Shushan as satirized in the Atlantic Monthly? After considering the events that occurred over 5,000 years ago, I would like to hear your opinion.

Esther, the niece of the Jewish merchant and communal leader Mordechai, wins the love of the Persian Empire, Ahasuerus, during a royal beauty contest staged to help the ruler choose a new wife. The King's first wife, Vashti, had been executed for failing to heed a royal summons to dance nude at a royal banquet. After becoming Queen, Esther (also known as Hadassah) witnesses the rise to power of the evil Haman. Haman was a descendant of the Amalikeite nation, a people who viciously tried to prevent the passage of the Israelites into Canaan. Through the contribution of a sum equal to \$10 million in today's currency to the royal treasury, Haman was able to consolidate his control over the Persian Empire of King Ahasuerus. The royal subjects in all 137 provinces—from India to Ethiopia—had to capitulate to the demands of Haman. All were expected to bow down in the presence of the King's appointed ruler. Unlike other leaders, Mordechai would not bow down to Haman. Haman vows to kill Mordechai and all the Jews. He did not know that Queen Esther was a member of the "Chosen People."

Word reaches Esther of Haman's plot to annihilate her people. She decides to hold a series of three banquets for the exclusive attendance the King, Haman, and Esther. So as not to arouse Haman's suspicions, the first two banquets were attended with little fanfare. At the third banquet, Esther asks the King: "If it pleases your Majesty, it is with great sorrow that I must make a special request. There is a powerful man in this Kingdom who wishes to kill me and my people."

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Astounded by this revelation, Ahasuerus angrily demands to know who would harm his beloved Queen? Esther points to the wicked Haman. Immediately, the King orders the arrest of Haman and his 10 sons. Ultimately, they would be hung on the gallows intended for Mordechai and other Jewish leaders.

Please join us for the reading of the Purim Megillah, Sunday March 12th at 10:00a.m.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,

Rabbi Marty

Purim will be held on 3-12-17 at 10:00 a.m.

Seder will be held second night 4-11-17 at 6:00 p.m. More information to follow.



### **Pearls from the Prez...**

First come on Saturday mornings for Shabbat services at 9:45 a.m. and while you're there take in the beauty of our new synagogue. You too will get the feeling of warmth and goodness that this building holds.

Secondly there will be a Passover Seder this year on April 13, 2017. There will only be one not two as in previous years. Details will be forth coming. Please make arrangements to attend.

Third my hat goes off to Bob Katzman who has been the outreach person for BIS. His efforts on behalf of BIS such as reaching out to Carthage College, and Parkside University looking for young Jewish students that are looking for a spiritual home. He has also joined the Racine Interfaith Council looking to make our presence known as the only and last Jewish synagogue in Racine. On behalf of all of us, thanks Bob!

Fourth Rabbi Adelberg is still holding his educational sessions on Thursday evenings at 5 p.m.. He gives great insight to many readings of the Torah portions for the week.

That's all for now. See you at the new place... Shelly

Yahrzeits

March

1. Eugene J. Aronin
1. Sarah Spracker
1. Dori Gorsky
2. Max Bassewitz
2. Dr. Ernest Wolf
2. Anna Brill
2. Meyer Domskey
3. Joseph (Jack) Gould
3. Goldyne R. Mann
5. David Schwartz
6. Sarah C. Dorman
6. Birdie Metz
6. Marjorie Bernbaum
9. Mary Shovers
10. Necha Weissbard
11. Samuel A. Grant
12. Emily Alperovitz
12. Foster Gould
12. Rashe Berson
13. Ben Kaplan
14. Moses H. Rubin
14. Goldie Schlimovitz
15. Sarah Blitstein
16. Fanny Alperovitz
16. David Alperovitz
17. Louis Gorsky
17. Sarah Silverman
18. Reuben Gorsky
18. E. Adrian Silver
19. Philip Waisman
19. Rabbi Hyman Cohen
19. Harold Levin
19. Bertha Sobodkin
21. David Merens
22. George Stern
22. Dr. Mark Temkin
22. David Isaac Gordon
22. Anne Kraft Seidita

22. Ben Silver
23. Rose S. Weiner
23. Charles Greenberg
24. Ben Marvin
24. Irving Mathew Silver
24. Emma Sweed
25. Arthur J. Kraft
25. Reeva Dorman
25. Harold S. Brown
25. Coletta Schaefer
26. William Woolf
26. Mildred Shovers
27. Rela Markovits
27. Louis Shapiro
28. Benjamin Grant
30. Benton Kaufman
31. Leo H. Finsky
31. Morris Gerol
31. Bessie Luby



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 donation
- Anonymous general donation
- Joyce Placzowski general donation
- Judith McGauran in honor of Mother Sarah Levin

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## Beth Israel Sinai News

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### Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

March 3	5:26 p.m.
March 10	5:35 p.m.
March 17	6:43 p.m.
March 24	6:51 p.m.
March 31	6:59 p.m.
April 7	7:07 p.m.



### Synagogue Calendar

March 2 Adult Education 5:00 p.m. Torah Study 6:00 p.m.

March 4 Services 9:45 a.m.

March 9 Adult Education 5:00 p.m. Torah Study 6:00 p.m.

March 11 Services 9:45 a.m.

March 12 Purim Service 10:00 a.m.

March 17 Shabbat Dinner 6:00 p.m.

March 18 Service 9:45 a.m.

March 23 Adult Education 5:00 p.m. Torah Study 6:00 p.m.

March 25 Services 9:45 a.m.

March 30 Adult Education 5:00 p.m. Torah Study 6:00p.m.