

# *Beth Israel Sinai News*

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation  
May 2017---Iyar/Sivan 5777

## **From our Rabbi**

On Pesach, we were granted our physical freedom by G-d from slavery in Egypt. On Shavuot, we will be granted "spiritual" freedom when we celebrate the gift of Torah given by the Holy One to the Israelite nation. From the second night of Passover, we started a 49 day countdown to this momentous occasion. In the days of the Temple, an omer (measurement) of barley was brought to the Temple as a grain offering on each of the 49 days leading up to Shavuot.

Many observant Jews consider this period a time of semi-mourning where secular celebrations are forbidden. During the first 33 days of the "Omer", a plague erupted that killed 24,000 students of the saintly Talmudic scholar, Rabbi Akiva. The plague stopped on Lag (the 33rd) B'Omer. They died because they lacked respect for each other. While a harsh punishment, our Rabbis declared that their Torah scholarship became meaningless since they would not be decent human beings. The other historical event that occurred on Lag B'Omer was the death of the author of the mystical Kabbalah, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Prior to his death, Reb Shimon decreed to his followers that prayers of mourning should not be recited on his *yahrzeit*, the yearly anniversary of his death. Instead, his life should be celebrated each year with song and dance. Today, many Jews celebrate Lag B'Omer with picnics and barbecues. Many Israelis visit the reputed graveside of Reb Shimon in Meron. Weddings, *b'nai mitzvot* and other *simchas* not conducted during the previous thirty-two days, are conducted on Lag B'Omer. Many three year old boys, in Chassidic households receive their first haircut at the age of three known as the "offshearing". This period of semi-mourning resumes from the 34th day of the Omer until Shavuot. Other significant historical events that occurred during the counting of the Omer include: the commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising on the 27th of Nissan (April 23rd); Yom HaZicharon honoring Israel's fallen soldiers on the 5th of Iyar (May 1); and Yom Ha-atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day on the 6th of Iyar (May 2). (Yom HaZicharon and Yom Ha-atzmaut are normally celebrated on the 4th and 5th of Iyar, unless one of the days falls on Shabbat.) Shavuot completes the countdown of the Omer that began during Pesach.

One can only imagine how it must have felt to have been at Sinai almost 3300 years ago. As the Haggadah says, "With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" G-d led the Children of Israel out of Egypt. You and 600,000 Israelites escaped from the tyranny of Pharaoh after the Tenth Plague which killed all first born Egyptians. Hashem provided manna for sustenance during our 40 year journey to the Promised Land. It was promised that our new nation would flow with "milk and honey". The Divine Instruction, known as the Torah, would become our blueprint for the creation of both a religious and civil society. By following the dictates of the Torah as transmitted to Moses and the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai, the Jewish nation would become an "ohr la-Olam," —a light to all nations. No wonder our ancestors prayed all night at the holy mountain in anticipation of G-d's gift. That is why the most important of the names given to Shavuot, is "Z'man Matan Toratein—THE GIVING OF OUR TORAH" Other names include: Chag Shavuot Festival of Shavuot; Yom HaBikkurim, Day of the First Fruits; and Chag Hakatzir, Festival of Harvest. The timeless treasure of the Torah is figuratively presented to the Jewish people on Shavuot as if they too had been standing at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

Continued on page 2

Rabbi's message continued from page 1

To celebrate this historical event, Jews around the world will either study all night or as late as possible on the first night of Shavuot. Our annual Tikkun La'el Shavuot study session will be held this year on Tuesday, May 30th, at 7:00 p.m. A light dairy meal will be served. (Why no meat? The Torah had not yet been given explaining to us the laws of keeping Kosher. We want to guarantee that we do not eat anything "treif".) If there are any topics that you would like to focus on for discussion, please let me know. Our Yizkor service will be held on the Second Day of Shavuot. On Thursday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m.

See you in Shul,

Rabbi Marty

### 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

### Annual Meeting

Come join us on May 21, 2017 at 2:00 pm for our annual meeting.

### The Presidents Message

Beth Israel Sinai Synagogue Friends- Well it's almost over-my two years as president that is. During that time I have made several good new friends and established a special relationship with Rabbi Marty Adelberg. Needless to say my proudest achievement was the acquisition of the new synagogue. It must be seen to be appreciated! There are several things that I did not accomplish-they are not being able to renew relationships with former members and acquiring new members. I will remain a board member and I will make this a priority for the near future. I will also suggest several ways to raise money such as a Monte Carlo night, rummage sale, book sale, lectures by prominent people etc. which will be necessary to cover the dues shortfall. I'm sure the new board will have some good ideas for the new synagogue as we go forward.

I thank you for the opportunity to be your president and as Rabbi Marty says.....see you in Shul!!

Shelly

Yahrzeits

May

1. Dorothy Barten
2. Eva Dorman
2. Edward Langlieb
3. Berthold Donner
4. Rose Davidson
4. Hyman Tannenbaum
5. Joseph Goodman
6. Albert Gold
6. Robert Jacobson
7. Charotte Weiss
7. Dave Luby
7. Abraham Seft
7. Edith Singer
8. Morris Ruben
8. Alma Schlomovitz
9. Sidney Aronin
9. Jerry Brown
10. Helmut Isenberg
10. Bessie Silver
10. Charles "Chuck" Brown
11. Abe Silver
11. Isadore Small
11. Ed Johnson
13. Sylvia Rosenzweig
14. Ruth Shrago
16. Sarah Gordon
17. Hattie Ruth Gottlieb
17. Jean Laufman
17. Lillian Fishbain
17. William Shovers
17. Milton Sklansky
18. Esther Feldman
18. Michael Kerner
20. David M. Kupperman
20. Isadore H. Solomon
20. Sonya Rozumoff Brill
20. Richard Amber
22. Frieda Gellman

22. Bertha Gorsky
23. Henry Hornstein
23. Mark William Barshet
23. Phyliss (Peggy) Schuster
24. Ben Waisman
25. Helen Seft LeBrint
25. Harry Kushner
25. Jacob Weisman
28. Saul Rosner
28. Charlotte Bakal
29. Max Brill
29. Laurence Feiges
29. Eva Wollman



Thanks to Max Gordon for giving me this list.

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.

On May 13, Jim Barten will Sponsor a Kiddush.

On June 10 Sarah Levin's granddaughters Lisa and Alexandra will sponsor a Kiddush in honor of her 100th birthday

Donations

Barry Langlieb in memory of Edward Langlieb husband, father, grandfather

Sara Levin in memory of Yaakov Schmadl

Max Gordon in Memory of Yaakov Schmadl and I. H. Solomon

Anonymous general donation

Sarah Levin's granddaughters Lisa and Alexandra in honor of Sarah's 100th birthday

Max Gordon donation in honor of his brother Glenn's birthday

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## Beth Israel Sinai News

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### Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

May 5	7:40
May 12	7:48
May 19	7:55
May 26	8:02
June 2	8:07



# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>no class</i>	5	6 9:45 a.m.
7	8	9	10	11 <i>class 5 and 6 pm</i>	12	13 9:45 am
14	15	16	17	18 <i>no class</i>	19 <i>Dinner 6p.m.</i>	20 9:45 am
21 <i>2pm annual meeting</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>class 5 and 6 pm</i>	26	27 9:45 am
28	29	30 <i>Study service 7pm</i>	31			