

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

April 2018---Nisan/Iyar 5778

From our Rabbi

The story of the enslavement and ultimate freedom of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage resonates with every generation. Passover is so important that an entire volume of 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 amongst Jews living under Moslem and Christian rule between the seventh and fifteenth centuries. Jews exiled during the Spanish Inquisition brought these customs to central Europe. North Arica, the Ottoman Empire and ultimately the New Worlds of North and South America. These “minhagim” (customs) enhance our knowledge of the holiday of Passover. To name a few:

(1) “USING THE LUAV TO BURN CHAMETS OR BAKE MATZAH.” Rabbi Judah ben Kolonymos, 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 willows to fuel the ovens when baking matzah. These examples fulfill the requirement of reusing items used in fulfilling one mitzvah to help fulfill another. (Talmud 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 scholar, Rav Matityahu 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, doors were left open 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 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 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 Hasidim would gather in their shteibel on the seventh day 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 seder, let us not forget the less fortunate. As stated in the Haggadah, Let all who are hungry come and eat. Contributions to the Milwaukee Jewish Food Pantry, Ma’ot Chittim in Chicago and Mazon will help those less fortunate to share in our holiday of freedom. Also, if you know anyone who is looking for a seder to attend, please invite them to our Temple seder.

Marcia, Becky, Robyn, Joe, Lara, Sam, Greg, Lisa, Myles, Mollie, Joslyn and Ethan would like to wish our Temple Family a HAPPY AND KOSHER PESACH.

Rabbi Marty

See you in Shul

A big thank you to Glenn Gordon for compiling the history of the Jewish cemetery. Glenn spent a lot of time putting the book The History of the Racine Jewish Cemetery together.

Bob Katzman has offered to have people come to his house to watch the movie Schindler's List on Yom Hashoah, Thursday April 12, 2018. More information will follow.

A thank you goes out to all the board members who helped get the synagogue ready for Pesach.

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

New members and members who return to Beth Israel Sinai will be able to join our Synagogue for reduced dues the first year. The dues will be \$300 for the first year.

The Presidents Message:

If anyone is interested in learning how to make challah let me know. I can teach people on Tuesdays. It can be fun day talking, learning, and noshing on some fresh baked goodies. We have made a lot of progress in the last year at getting the new Synagogue in order. Thanks to Bob Katzman for working in the basement getting all the books from the old Synagogue unpacked and put on shelves. We now have almost everything put away and on shelves. There are just a few more boxes that need to be gone through and stored in the storage containers we have.

Please feel free to call me if you have any concerns, 262-945-7675

Joyce

Rabbi Adelberg is offering free Hebrew classes to children. Please call Rabbi Adelberg 847-529-1609 to setup appointments.

Yahrzeit list

2. Sari Johanna Prowler
2. Frank J. Schwartz
4. Laeh Hulbert
6. Nathan Hulbert
6. Rae L. Rubin
6. Benjamin Shlimovitz
7. Harold Block
9. Lilly R. Seft
11. Max Lippman
11. Lillian Merens
12. Mary Blark
12. Jennie Feiges
13. Leslie Kraft
15. Sarah A. Kaminsky
17. Annie Sideman
17. Joseph Gold
17. Dr. Frank P. Goldstein
17. Maurice Levinthal
18. Avery Fried
18. Kate Grant
19. David Winters
20. Dorothy Barten
21. Eva Dorman
21. Edward Langlieb
22. Berthold Donner
23. Rose Davidson
23. Hyman Tannenbaum
24. Joseph Goodman
25. Albert Gold
25. Robert M. Jacobson
26. Charotte Weis
26. Abraham Seft
26. Edith Singer
27. Morris Ruben
27. Alma Schlomovitz
28. Sidney Aronin
28. Jerry Brown
29. Helmut Isenberg
29. Bessie Silver

29. Charles "Chuck" Brown
30. Abe Silver
30. Isadore Small
30. Ed Johnson

Thanks to Max Gordon for supplying 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.

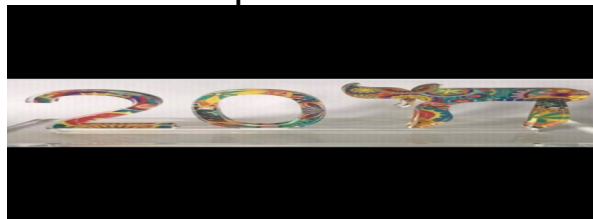
Donations

Anonymous general donation
Joyce Placzkowski general donation
Arthur Domsy for the donation of Matzah
Mary Vite donation

Beth Israel Sinai
 3009 Washington Ave
 Racine WI 53405
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 P.O. Box 081725
 Racine, WI 53408

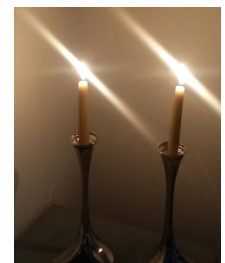
262-633-7093
 Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net
 Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

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 April 2018



Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Time

April 6 7:06
 April 13 7:14
 April 20 7:22
 April 27 7:30



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1st day of Passover</i>	<i>2nd day of Passover</i>	<i>3rd day of Passover</i>	<i>4th day of Passover</i>	<i>5th day of Passover</i>	<i>6th day of Passover</i>	<i>7th day of Passover Yizkor</i>
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i>	13	14 <i>10:00 service</i>
15	16	17	18 <i>Israel Remembrance Day</i>	19 <i>Israel Independence Day</i>	20	21 <i>10:00 service</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>10:00 service</i>
29	30					