

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

March 2018---Adar/Nisan 5778

From our Rabbi

There can be two no more dissimilar holidays than Purim and Passover. During the Egyptian exile, after a brief period of economic and political privilege under Joseph, Jews became condemned by an evil ruler to a life of slavery and oppression. Both their morale and socioeconomic status could not have been lower. In Persia, on the other hand, Jews were at the pinnacle of political and economic prominence under the relatively enlightened monarchy. In Persia, Jews were threatened with physical annihilation. In Pharaoh's Egypt, it was hard labor and perpetual servitude. G-d's hand in the Exodus from Egypt is seen everywhere through the enactment of ten ever increasingly severe plagues. In the Megillah, G-d's name is never mentioned once. One could easily interpret the story of Purim as a story of palace intrigue and lucky coincidences.

A banquet was held for 180 days for all the political representatives of the 137 provinces of the Persian Empire which stretched from India to Ethiopia. Along with their Gentile colleagues, Jews participated in debauchery and other forms of merriment. They had become so assimilated in the relatively few years since the destruction of the First Temple, that they failed to recognize that many of the vessels of their beloved institution were used as part of their meal service. In fact, according to many Talmudic scholars, while not faulting them for participation in the banquet as part of their political duties, many suggest that the Jewish representatives enjoyed themselves a little too much. They did not know what hit them when Haman rose to power. Plans for their annihilation were made secret. A royal decree, notarized with the imprint of Ahashvarus's ring, that the destruction of Persian Jewry would begin on the 14th of Adar was sent to all provincial leaders. An additional day, the 15th of Adar was set aside for the destruction of Jews living in the imperial capital of Shushan. Jews would not be permitted to fight back.

What was the palace intrigue and series of lucky circumstances that prevented the planned destruction of Persian Jewry? Had King Ahashvarus not ordered his Queen Vashti to be executed for failing to dance nude before the prestigious gathering, Esther would never have become his beloved wife. Had Esther's uncle not overheard the plot by the two chamberlains, Bigdan and Teresh, to kill the King, Mordechai would never have had the opportunity to save his life. The Prime Minister, Haman, just happened to be in the wrong place and at the wrong time when the sleepless king is informed of Mordechai's bravery. Had Mordechai, following the edict to annihilate Persian Jewry at the behest of Haman, not impressed upon a fearful Esther her duty to save her people, all might have been lost. Had Ahashvarus not been smitten by his love Esther, he might have not believed her accusation of Haman, unaware that she was Jewish, wanted to kill her and her people. Had Haman not become condemned to death on the gallows originally built for Mordechai, the Jews would have been issued weaponry to defend themselves. Nor upon the death of Haman would Mordechai have been elevated to the position of Prime Minister.

And yet, despite the differences between the Purim and Passover stories, there are many wonderful similarities. Both represent the ultimate rescue of a Jewish people threatened physically and spiritually. Though G-d is not mentioned in the Megillot Esther, the "hand" of the Holy One is obvious. The period following the failed Holocaust heralded an era of both political awareness and religious renewal. The "political awareness" was that Jews became aware that no matter how wonderful their position was in their host country, given the right circumstances, the ugly demon of anti-Semitism could arise to haunt them. The religious renewal was a greater participation and support of Jewish practice both in Persia and a greater commitment to their coreligionists in Israel. With the support of Persian Jewry, the Second Temple would flourish for over 400 years until its destruction in 70 CE by the Roman general Titus. This occurred on the ninth day of the Hebrew month of AV—the EXACT date of the destruction of the First Temple 656 years earlier. TALK ABOUT COINCIDENCES!

Join us for the reading of Megillot Esther, the Story of Esther, on Wednesday, February 28th at 6 pm. RESERVATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE ANNUAL Temple seder on Shabbat evening, Friday, March 30th at 6 pm. As always, experience the warmth and intellectual vitality of our Shabbat morning services followed by lunch and learning every Saturday at 10:00 am.

Rabbi Marty
See you in Shul

It is with much sadness that I inform you of the passing of our long time member Don Lang. The funeral will be held Friday, March 2, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. graveside with a lunch following at Beth Israel Sinai.

Purim celebration will be held Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

We will be holding one Seder again this year. On Friday, March 30, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. we will celebrate the first night Seder together at the Synagogue located at 3009 Washington Ave., Racine WI 53405. The cost of the Seder is \$30 per person. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are planning on attending.

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.

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:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Taste of Religion program. It was very interesting thanks in big part to all who participated and asked questions. In the future we may have more programs with Warren Williams and Rabbi Adelberg. If you have an idea for a program please let us know.

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 is the last year at getting the new Synagogue in order. If you like to go on treasure hunts let me know. We still have plenty of treasures in the basement waiting to be found.

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

1. Emily Alperovitz
1. Foster Gould
1. Rashe Berson
2. Ben Kaplan
3. Moses Rabin
3. Goldie Shlimovitz
4. Sarah Blitstein
5. Fannie Alperovitz
5. David Alperovitz
5. Joseph Dunya
6. Sarah Silverman
7. Ruben A. Gorsky
7. E. Adrian Silver
8. Philip Waisman
8. Rabbi Hyman Cohen
9. Harold Levin
9. Bertha Sobodkin
10. David Merens
11. George Stern
11. Dr. Mark Temkin
11. David Isaac Gordon
11. Anne Kraft Seidita
11. Ben Silver
12. Rose S. Wiener
12. Charles Greenberg
13. Ben Marvin
13. Irving Mathew Silver
13. Emma Sweed
14. Arthur J. Kraft
14. Reeva Dorman
14. Harold S. Browne
14. Colette Schaefer
15. William Woelf
15. Mildred Shovers
16. Rela Makovits
16. Louis Shapiro
17. Benjamin Grant
19. Renton Kaufman
20. Leo H. Finsky

20. Morris Gerol
20. Bessie Luby
21. Solomon Maier
21. Charles Wollman
22. Alice H. Wolfman
24. Sol M. Dorman
24. Yaakov Schmadl
25. Rose Grant
25. David Hulbert
27. Edward Dunya Silver
28. Rose I. Kraft
28. Ise Blitstein
28. Joseph L. Waisman
29. Manny S. Brown
29. Alee Sheft
29. Sarah Sheft
30. Rabbi Abraham Cohen
30. Kenneth Speyer
31. Rachel Belle Gordon



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.

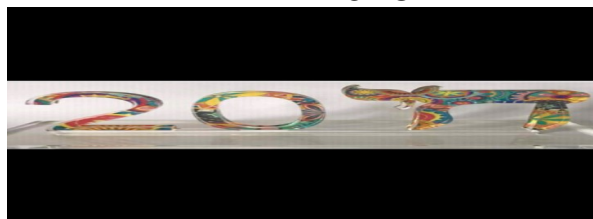
Donations

- Anonymous general donation
- Joyce Placzkowski general donation
- Anonymous gave a gift card for Target

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Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Time

March	2	5:24
March	9	5:33
March	16	7:02
March	23	7:11
March	30	7:20



March 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3 <i>10:00 am</i>
4	5	6	7	8 <i>office hours</i>	9	10 <i>10:00 am</i>
11	12	13	14	15 <i>office hours</i>	16	17 <i>10:00 am</i>
18	19	20	21	22 <i>office hours</i>	23	24 <i>10:00 am</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>6:00 pm</i> <i>Pesach Seder</i>	31 <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Pesach</i>