

# *Beth Israel Sinai News*

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

January 2019---Tevet - Shevat 5779

## **From our Rabbi**

Last week we concluded the final Torah portion of the book of Genesis, VAYEHI. The meaning of vayehi, "as he lived" has many interpret, it not only describes how Jacob lived but also the legacy he bequeathed upon his children, brethren and the formation of the future Jewish nation. What is the Torah's final judgement of Jacob, who had both wrestled and deceived G-d? No doubt Jacob wondered if he would be remembered by future generations more for his devotion to the teachings of Abraham and Isaac, his father and grandfather, or for the fact that he cheated his brother out of his birthright and his father's final blessing. Jacob both been torment by the sale of his son Joseph and the subsequent imprisonment by Joseph of his brothers Simeon and Benjamin.

The question of legacy also applies to Jacob's 12 sons as they are called to Jacob's dying bed to hear his final blessings to them. This is not some romanticized Hollywood ending. His assessments are frank and often hurtful. Jacob tells each of them that the way they lived will also determine the fate of their descendants as they struggle both with their future in Egypt and subsequent return to the Promised Land.

Our ancient Rabbis, while generally supportive, are also critical of Joseph. While praising Joseph for resisting the advances of Potophar's wife, they castigate him for imprisoning his brothers as a test to see if they had truly become better people. Talmud also dislikes the fact that Joseph did not correct Jacob when his father addressed him as "your servant". (BT Sotah 13a). In the same passage, Rav Yehudah in the name of Rav, states Joseph died before his brethren because he conducted himself "as a man of arrogance". Yet, considering Joseph's exalted position and a man who had truly made it from "rags to riches," it becomes more understandable. This former slave and prison ward had earned the right to be proud.

When our "own story is over" how will we be remembered? This is the central challenge taught to us in the concluding chapter of the first of the five Books of Moses. Which of our qualities and deeds will be praised? What actions will be criticized or even vilified by our descendants, friends, and colleagues? What religious and spiritual legacy will we bequeath to our families? These are the questions that will only be answered after we entered "olam haba" G-d's World to come.

While all major holidays, have ended, January will be a month of many celebrations at Congregation Beth Israel Sinai. On January 11th at 6 pm, BIS will host the first Kabbalat Shabbat Service and dinner of the secular new year. The following Shabbat morning, you are all invited to celebrate with me the 55th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah. Marcia and I will be hosting a CHOLENT Shabbat Kiddush luncheon following services. (CHOLENT is Jewish comfort food. For more information on this century's old delicacy and its many ways of preparation, GOOGLE CHOLENT). Jewish Arbor Day, Tu B'Shevat, will be celebrated on January 19th, Shabbat Shirah. Not only will we be experiencing the taste of the fruits of Israel, but also celebrating the successful crossing by the Children of Israel of the Reed Sea. Our celebrations will end with the reading of the Ten Commandments in Parshat Yitro on January 26th.

December 19th concluded the last of our 5 public lectures on my trip to Israel. (Another public lecture series will be conducted for NEW JEWISH OUTREACH in the Lakeview area of Chicago on Monday, January 7th. Location TBA) The Temple's goal is to have a 10 day Interfaith tour of Israel beginning Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019. The more people interested, the lower the price. The trip will include all major Jewish, Christian and Muslim sites. From the comfort of air conditioned touring cars, our guide will explain the historical significance of all sites and their relevancy to the past, present and future. Participants will be house in 4 star boutique hotels. All Israel lavish breakfasts and some dinners will be included. The more who participate, the cheaper will be the cost of this trip. So far we have six people interested. For further information, please email me at rabbimartyn@gmail.com or call Beth Israel Sinai at 262-633-7093.

SEE YOU IN SHUL  
RABBI MARTY

Month activity schedule:

Friday, January 11, 2019 Shabbat dinner 6:00 pm. Cost is \$10 per person

Saturday January 12, 2019 Rabbi Marty's 55th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah, he will be catering a Cholent Kiddush. Service starts at 10:00 am.

Sunday July 13, 2019 board meeting at 2:00 pm

Saturday January 19, 2019 we celebrate Tu B'Shevat with some fruits from Israel.

Actual Tu B'Shevat is Monday, January 21, 2019

**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. Donations to cemetery are tax deductible.

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**

January will be a month of celebration. January 12th we will celebrate the anniversary of Rabbi Marty's Bar Mitzvah. Please come and celebrate with us.

A new year start and with that hopefully many new face coming in and worshipping with us. Since winter is here lets get together each Saturday morning for some fellowship at 10:00 am. The synagogue will be warm and being with each other can warm our hearts too. We said goodbye to one of our members last week. She will be moving to Chicago to live closer to family. I hope she visits often.

If you have a desire to learn how to make the challah we have on Shabbat let me know. I would be happy to teach you.

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. Donations to the Rabbi's discretionary account are always welcome, and tax deductible.

Yahrzeit list

1. Elaine Adelberg
1. Geraldine Shovers
2. Meyer Levin
3. David Gottlieb
3. Martha Kieffmann
3. Beverly Lichterman
3. Philip D. Cohen
4. Minnie Goodman
4. Bertha Julian
4. Ida Ruffalo
5. David Schaefer
5. Sidney Ganz
6. Edith Kronson
7. Anna L. Marks
7. Dora Solomon
8. Norman Richard Grant
8. Edward Rosenzweig
9. Joseph I. Levin
9. Borach Hirsh Sidran
10. Julius Alperovitz
11. Morris Wolf
12. Harris Domsy
14. Maurice Davis
16. Sidney Glickstein
16. Hilda Popkoff
16. Ethel Shovers
17. Dorothy Glickstein
17. George A. Lang
17. Hazel Watt
18. Phil Blitstein
18. Meyer Gottlieb
18. Fanny Kluk
19. Idah Schwartz
19. Sophie Shovers
20. Sgt. Leonard Hulbert
20. Ruth Grant Gordon
21. Samuel G. Laufman
21. Tillie Sideman
22. Elizabeth Goldberg

23. Kathryn Raftenberg
24. Max Grust
24. Harold Tabaksman
25. Esther Gottlieb
25. Isadore Milch
25. Bertha Waisman
26. Joseph Popkoff
26. David Shovers
26. Julius Lichterman
26. Oscar Shovers
27. Eva Gorsky
27. Manfred Oelsner
27. Edith Seft
31. Joseph Magner



This list was made possible by Max Gordon.  
Some people like to honor the memory of the relative by making a donation in their memory to Beth Israel Sinai.

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 paper goods. If you are interested in helping to make food for the Kiddush or a Shabbat dinner just let Joyce Placzkowski know.

Donations

Mark Hertzberg in honor of Louis and Annie Hertzberg and  
the Pittsburgh victims  
Marion Sperer general donation  
Joyce Placzkowski general donation  
Anonymous general donation

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

262-633-7093  
 Email: [bethisraelsinai@att.net](mailto:bethisraelsinai@att.net)  
 Web: [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org)

Beth Israel Sinai News  
 Tevet / Shevat 5779  
 January 2019

**Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Time**

January 4 4:12  
 January 11 4:20  
 January 18 4:28  
 January 25 4:37



# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 <small>10:00 service</small>
6	7	8	9	10	11 <small>6:00 pm Shabbat Dinner</small>	12 <small>10:00 service Rabbi Bar Mitzvah anniversary</small>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 <small>10:00 service</small>
20	21 <small>Tu B'Shevat</small>	22	23	24	25	26 <small>10:00 service</small>
27	28	29	30	31		