

# Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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NISAN - IVAR 5772

## Rabbi's Message

According to a recent Gallup poll, the holiday most Jews readily identify with is Passover. The story of the enslavement and freedom of the Israelites from Egypt resonates with every generation. Pesach is so important that an entire volume of the Mishneh and Talmud (Oral Law) is devoted to the laws governing this holiday. Over the centuries there have developed many lesser known Pesach customs. Some started in Spain (Seferad) and migrated to central Europe (Ashkenaz) and some migrated in the opposite direction. Most are still practiced by various groups throughout the world.

These minhagim (customs) are welcome additions to enhancing our knowledge of Passover. To name a few:

(1) "Using the lulav to burn chametz or to bake matzah." Rabbi Judah ben Kalonymous (Germany, 12th century) 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 aravot (willows) to fuel the oven when baking matzah shemurah. These examples fulfill the requirement of reusing items used in one mitzvah to fulfill another mitzvah. (Shabbat 117b).

(2) "Open doors and closed doors." The ninth century Babylonian

Rabbi Rav Matityahu Gaon says it was the custom of our forefathers to leave the doors open during the seder so the poor Jews could come and join them. In many Arab lands, the door was left open to allow a swift exit 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 Pesach seder plate. A custom to put a little bit of clay or grated brick into the charoset dates back to 13th century Italy.

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## President's Message

### Seeking Mah Jongg Players

Several BIS members have indicated an interest in getting together to play Mah Jongg on an occasional or regular basis. Players of all levels are welcome to play. Most in this group are beginners, so beginners/newbies are heartily encouraged to join in. If you have an interest in learning to play or improve your Mah Jongg skills, teachers are available to help you learn the basics and offer friendly coaching. At the time, a daytime game is anticipated, but evenings could work as well. If you are interested, please contact Rita Collen or Steve Platt.

### Shabbat Dinner and Evening Services

We continue to have great response to the Friday evening Shabbat dinner and services, which are held the third Friday of each month. Thank you to the Kushner Family for sponsoring March's dinner and to Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl for their help in providing the delicious potato kugel and Mediterranean rice and vegetable medley, along with their now-famous challah. (If you'd like to learn their challah-baking secrets be sure to come to their challah workshop coming soon. If you'd like a recipe for the chicken that Rita made, you can download it from the website.

Join us again on Friday, April 20, at 6:00 p.m. This month's menu includes brisket, delicious side dishes, and a variety of homemade desserts. Reservations are not required, so please join us for an evening of food and fellowship.

### Pesach Details

If you still need to sell your Chametz, complete the form on [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org).

Lastly, don't forget the Congregational Seder on Saturday, April 7, at 6:00 PM. If you'd like to sponsor an item, there's a link on [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org) Thanks for your help!

Shalom Y'all,  
Jeff

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**Shabbat Dinner  
Friday April 20  
6:00PM**

**Congregational Seder  
Saturday April 7,  
6:00PM  
RSVP by April 1**

**Rabbi's Seder  
Friday April 6, 7:00PM  
RSVP by April 1**

**Sell Your Chametz  
sales form included!**

## Rabbi's Message Continued...

### (4) "The Power of the Afikomen."

The afikomen was said to have protective powers. In Tunisia and Libya, it was carried by sea travelers as an antidote for a raging sea. In Persia, it was kept as charm that would bring upon the individual and his family many blessings. It was also used as a amulet to ensure pregnant women would have adult male children, to cure the deafness of someone who is mute, to ensure an ample harvest, to protect against bullets and to 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 Hassidim gathered in their shteibl on the seventh night of Passover. They drank "I"chaims" and danced the entire evening. Then they poured a barrel of water on the floor, lifted up the long cloaks and pretended to cross the Reed Sea. At the end, they thanked G-d for helping them reach their final destination.

At this time, Marcia, Becky, Robyn, Lara, Sam, Greg MYLES and I would like to wish everyone in our Temple family a "Chag Kosher v'sameach."--A HAPPY AND KOSHER PASSOVER.

See you in shul,  
Rabbi Marty



## Sisterhood

Your Sisterhood contributions are used to enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai in many ways. You can honor life cycle events, family birthdays or anniversaries, or any special occasions through your generous gift to the Sisterhood.

You can also honor your loved ones or special events (large or small) by sponsoring an oneg on the Shabbat of your choice. Sponsoring an oneg is simple. Just reserve your date, tell us how you would like your oneg announced, and let the Sisterhood take care of all of the details. You can even specify your preference for a meat or dairy luncheon. The suggested contribution is a minimum of \$36 for a dairy oneg and \$54 for a meat luncheon, however you may contribute any amount you wish. For more information or to reserve your oneg date, please contact Rita Collen.

Another way anyone can contribute to an oneg is to donate food. These contributions are always appreciated. They help to stretch the Sisterhood's budget by reducing grocery costs and expanding the variety of foods available to serve. Feel free to contribute anything you'd like. Crackers, fresh fruits, store-bought cakes and cookies, hummus, pretzels, potato chips, and sturdy vegetables such as carrots and celery are always needed. If you have access to kosher cheeses and/or deli meats where you shop, folks really enjoy them as well. All we ask is that the foods be certified kosher (with the exception of the fresh fruits and vegetables) so that we can keep our kosher kitchen kosher. If you have any questions about what is needed, just give Rita a call.

Special thanks to Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl for their ongoing contributions of delicious homemade kosher salads, challah, and other Sabbath delights each week. They are a wonderful addition to the onegs and are such a treat. Thank you also Vera Ruffalo for the delicious bakery items, challahs, and cheeses she contributed this month. Many thanks!

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

## Donations

**To the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund**  
Anonymous

**For the March Shabbat Dinner in Honor of Expecting their 5th Grandchild**  
Patty and Steve Kushner

**In Honor of Dr. Norbert and Edith Isenberg**  
Ralph Isenberg

**To honor the memory of Al Shovers**  
Max Gordon

**To honor the memory of Art Ruben**  
Max Gordon

**In Honor of Victor Ganz's Birthday**  
Vera Ruffalo

**For Passover**  
Paula Donovitz  
Glenn Gordon



**Yahrzeits**

**Week of March 30**

Sol M. Dorman	31
Rose Grant	1
David Hulbert	1
Edward Dunya Silver	3
Rose I. Kraft	4
Ise Blitstein	4
Joseph L. Waisman	4
Manny S. Brown	5
Alec Seft	5
Sarah Seft	5

**Week of April 6**

Rabbi Abraham Cohen	6
Kenneth Speyer	6
Rachel Belle Gordon	7
Sari Johanna Prowler	9
Frank J. Schwartz	9
Laeh Hulbert	11

**Week of April 13**

Nathan Hulbert	13
Rae L. Rubin	13
Benjamin Shlimovitz	13
Harold Block	14
Lilly R. Seft	16
Max Lippman	18
Lillian Merens	18
Mary Block	19
Jennie Feiges	19

**Week of April 20**

Leslie Kraft	20
Sarah A. Kaminsky	22
Annie Sideman	24
Joseph Gold	24
Dr. Frank P. Goldstein	24
Maurice Levinthal	24
Avery Fried	25
Kate Grant	25
David Winters	26

**Week of April 27**

Dorothy Barton	27
Eva Dorman	28
Edward Langlieb	28
Berthold Donner	29
Rose Davidson	30
Hyman Tannenbaum	30
Joseph Goodman	1
Albert Gold	2
Robert M. Jacobson	2
Charlotte Weiss	3
Dave Luby	3
Abraham Sheft	3
Edith Singer	3



**Shabbat Candle Lighting Times**

April 6 - 7:05 PM
April 13 - 7:13 PM
April 20 - 7:21 PM
April 27 - 7:29 PM
May 4 - 7:37 PM



**Cemetery Notes**

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is a resting place for all Jews. **All.**

The cemetery is five acres located on the 600 block of Lathrop Avenue and is a well maintained, park-like setting.

Call Glenn Gordon at 262.639.1924

**Hadassah**

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions.

Thank you.  
Sarah Levin 886-9331  
Sidnee Nerad 551-0406

Cards \$5  
Shares \$10  
Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10  
Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18

**A Passover Story**

There were once two beggars who used to go around begging together. One was Jewish and the other a gentile. As the night of Passover approached, the Jewish beggar offered to help his non-Jewish friend get invited to a seder and get a good meal. "Just put on some Jewish clothes and come with me to the synagogue. Everyone brings home poor guests for the seder. It's easy, you'll see."

The non-Jewish beggar happily agreed. On the first night of Passover they went to the synagogue, and sure enough, both got invited to different homes for the festive ceremony.

Hours later they met in a predetermined place in the local park. But to the amazement of the Jewish beggar, his friend was blazing mad.

"What did you do to me?" He shouted. "You call that a meal? It was torture!! It was hell! I'll pay you back for this--you'll see..."

"What do you mean? What happened?" the Jew asked.

"What happened? As if you didn't know! You Jews are crazy--that's what happened! First we drank a glass of wine. I like wine, but on an empty stomach... My head started spinning a bit but I figured that any second we would begin the meal. The smell of the food from the kitchen was great. Then we ate a bit of parsley. Then they started talking, and talking, and talking. In Hebrew. All the time I'm smiling and nodding my head as if I understand what they're saying--like you told me to--but my head is really swimming and hurting from the wine and I'm dying of hunger.

"The smell of the food from the kitchen is making me insane, but they don't bring it out. For two hours they don't bring anything out! Just talking, and more talking. Then, just what I needed.... another cup of wine! Then we get up, wash hands, sit back down and eat this big wafer called matzah that tastes like newspaper, leaning to the left (don't ask me why...). I started choking, almost threw up. And then finally they give me this lettuce, I took a big bite and wham! My mouth was on fire. My throat! There was horseradish inside! Nothing to eat but horseradish! You guys are crazy....

"Well, I just got up and left. Enough is enough!"

"Ah, I should have told you." replied the Jew. "What a shame! After the bitter herbs is a glorious meal. You suffered so long; you should have just held out for a few more minutes...!"



Beth Israel Sinai  
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: [bethisraelsinai@att.net](mailto:bethisraelsinai@att.net)

Web: [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org)

***Join us for a Friday Night Shabbat Dinner and Service  
April 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM***

*April 2012 Nisan - Ivar 5772*

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Reminder - RSVP for Seders</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Hebrew &amp; Adult Ed. Class</i>	6 <i>Rabbi's Seder 7:00PM</i>	7 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45AM Congregational &amp; Community Seder 6:00PM</i>
8 <i>Passover Service 9:45AM</i>	9	10	11	12 <i>Hebrew or Adult Ed. Class</i>	13	14 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45AM + Yizkor Service</i>
15	16	17	18	19 <i>Hebrew &amp; Adult Ed. Class</i>	20 <i>Shabbat Services and Dinner 6:00PM</i>	21 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45AM</i>
22	23	24	25	26 <i>Hebrew &amp; Adult Ed. Class</i>	27	28 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45AM</i>
29	30	1 <i>May</i>	2	3 <i>Hebrew &amp; Adult Ed. Class</i>	4	5 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45AM</i>