

# Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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## Rabbi's Message

Years of prosperity had not prepared the Children of Israel for a life of slavery. Pharaoh's Prime Minister, Joseph, invited his father, brothers, sister and their families to leave the famine of Canaan for a life of prosperity in Egypt. The descendants of Abraham were given the choicest pastoral lands in the area of Goshen. The Israelites became prominent and wealthy members of Egyptian society. Simultaneously, the Egyptian masses forfeited first their lands and later their freedom in exchange for food. As long as Joseph lived and a sympathetic Pharaoh ruled, the members of Jacob's family would remain both financially and politically secure. This would soon change after Joseph's

death and the deposition of a friendly Egyptian ruler.

Not long after Joseph's death, Exodus informs us there arose in Egypt a "Pharaoh who knew not Joseph." Downplaying Joseph's role in saving his kingdom from mass starvation during the seven years of famine, the new Egyptian ruler blamed the Children of Israel for causing all the economic problems faced by his citizens. To win the support of the masses, Pharaoh decreed that all Hebrew males should be drowned in the Nile River. When two G-d fearing midwives, Shifra and Puah, foiled his plan, Jews were forced into slavery. Ironically, it would be the daughter of Pharaoh who would become the catalyst for ultimate freedom of the Israelites. Her rescue of the infant Moses would set the

stage for her father's ultimate defeat.

Only reluctantly would the Children of Israel come to accept Moses as their leader. His formative years were spent in the lap of luxury as a member of Pharaoh's household. Forced into exile after killing an officer who he saw beating a Hebrew slave, Moses would return to demand that Pharaoh let his people go. Every request for freedom, despite such devastating plagues as turning the Nile into a pool of blood, frogs overrunning the land, lice infecting every household was met with a refusal to free the Israelites. Even the Children of Israel were affected by the first three plagues when they refused to believe that Moses would lead them to freedom. Only after seven

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## President's Message

We hope you'll join us at for this year's Congregational and Community Seder on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m. A reminder to submit your reservation by April 7.

Our next Friday Shabbat dinner and service will be on May 16 at 6:00 p.m. Please put it on your calendar now!

Well, Solomyn's Bat Mitzvah is only days away, April 5. She's excited about reading her haftorah and finally having a big birthday party! She's also looking forward to joining our minyan.

Interested in participating on the Temple board? Please let me know by April 25th so that your name can be placed into nomination at the Sunday, May 18 annual meeting.

A reminder, that all assessed or arranged membership dues for the 2013-2014 fiscal year must be paid in full prior to the annual meeting on Sunday, May 18 to be able to participate. Letters were sent to those who have not completed payment.

Shalom,  
Jeff

## Special Happenings

**Congregational Seder**  
**Tuesday, April 15**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Please make your  
reservations by  
April 7.**

**Rabbi's Seder**  
**Monday, April 14**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Please make your  
reservations by  
April 7.**

## Rabbi's Message Continued...

increasingly catastrophic plagues culminating with the "Death of the First Born" in every Egyptian household would Pharaoh agree to free his Hebrew slaves. Realizing that he had freed a major segment of his labor force, the Egyptian King led an army to force the Hebrews back to Egypt. Indeed many Hebrew slaves, fearing their death in the desert, urged their leader to permit them to return to Egypt. Better a life of slavery than certain death. Only their safe passage after the splitting of the Reed Sea would they become convinced that a return to Egypt would not happen. Only seeing the entire annihila-

tion of the Egyptian army as the Reed Sea closed would they accept the G-d of Israel. Still not ready to be truly free, the Children of Israel would wander 40 years in the desert before entering the land promised to them by G-d. The older generation who knew slavery would die. A younger generation born in the desert would enter the Land of Canaan. With the Torah as their guide, they would establish a Jewish society fulfilling the promise G-d made initially to Abraham. Abraham's descendants, after a period of slavery, would become as numerous as the stars in Heavens and the sands of the Earth. As G-d's Chosen People, they would become an "Ohr la-Olam," a cultural light to the nations. And no matter how far the Jewish people strayed from this

awesome responsibility, G-d would guarantee their survival throughout the ages.

Let us celebrate our freedom and pray for the freedom of those less fortunate during the upcoming Passover holiday. Let us take concrete measures to help ensure a better life for all. As the Haggadah instructs us, "Let all who are hungry come and eat." No one should be excluded from G-d's blessings.

At this time, Marcia, Becky, Joe, Robyn, Greg, Lisa, Lara, Sam, Myles and Mollie would like to wish our Temple family a Happy and Kosher Passover---Chag Kasher v. Sameach.

See you in shul,  
Rabbi Marty

## Sisterhood

With the cold (Winter? Spring) weather we had in March, I am eager for April to arrive. Thank goodness for the warm kitchen, where it is always spring!) Your Sisterhood kept tummies warm and full with another soup dinner for the monthly Shabbat dinner on March 21. Our thanks go out to our soup chefs, Jim Barten and Marion Sperer for preparing enough beef barley soup to keep us well fed for dinner and the next day's Kiddush. Jim also sponsored the dinner. Thank you, Jim!

Remember that we will not have a Shabbat Service and Dinner in April due to the Passover Seders. If you haven't sent in your reservation for either the rabbi's or community seder, please do so right away, as the deadline is April 7. The Shabbat Service and Dinner will be back on May 16. If you are interested in sponsoring the dinner, give me a call. Speaking of Pesach ... mark your calendars for the annual kashering of the kitchen to prepare for the holiday. Join us on Thursday, April 10 at 4:00 p.m. to help out. Many hands will make the work go quickly and you'll be in good company!

Thank you to Sarah Levin, Marion Sperer, and Maxie Collen for baking the Hamantaschen for our Purim celebrations. This year's treats were the best ever thanks to their excellent cookie-folding skills!

We are so pleased Jeff Hansen has returned safely and well-rested after a much deserved vacation (and envy his suntan). Many thanks to Marion Sperer and Glenn Gordon for making the coffee and serving the Kiddush on March 8 during Jeff's vacation and when we were out of town. Thank you also to Josh and Rebecca Bloom for doing the shopping as we prepare for Pesach and the upcoming seder.

Thank you to Ray and Doreen Peterson, friends of BIS, for their recent contribution. Thanks also to two Anonymous Angels, for kosher grape juice and wine and for gifts of food and Target gift cards. All gifts to the Sisterhood enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai and will be enjoyed throughout 5774! If you'd like to schedule a Kiddush to honor a life cycle event, birthday, anniversary, or any occasion, please give me a call. Contributions can be sent to BIS (designate it for the Sisterhood). You may also help by donating kosher grocery items for the onegs and Kiddush. We are currently in need of coffee, tea, and soda and with Passover coming soon, paper plates, plastic utensils, hot and cold beverage cups, etc. You may drop these items off in the kitchen.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



### General Support

Mary Vite  
Stanley Rosen

### In Memory of Elaine Kaufman

Jeanne and Ed Diner and Family  
Max Gordon

### In Memory of Leonard Hulbert, Nathan Hulbert and David Hulbert

Mrs. Bernard Hulbert

### Seder Sponsorship

Max Gordon  
Mary Vite  
Marion Sperer  
Eileen Schroeder  
Doreen and Ray Peterson

**Yahrzeits**

**Week of April 4**

Leo H. Finsky	4
Morris Gerol	4
Bessie Luby	4
Solomon Maier	5
Charles Wollman	5
Alice H. Wolfman	6
Sol M. Dorman	8
Rose Grant	9
David Hulbert	9

**Week of April 11**

Edward Dunya Silver	11
Rose I. Kraft	12
Ise Blitstein	12
Joseph L. Waisman	12
Manny S. Brown	13
Alec Seft	13
Sarah Seft	13
Rabbi Abraham Cohen	14
Kenneth Speyer	14
Rachel Belle Gordon	15
Sari Johanna Prowler	17
Frank J. Schwartz	17

**Week of April 18**

Laeh Hulbert	19
Nathan Hulbert	21
Rae L. Rubin	21
Benjamin Shlimovitz	21
Harold Block	22
Lilly R. Seft	24

**Week of April 25**

Max Lippman	26
Lillian Merens	26
Mary Block	27
Jennie Feiges	27
Leslie Kraft	28
Sarah A. Kaminsky	30

**Week of May 2**

Annie Sideman	2
Joseph Gold	2
Dr. Frank P. Goldstein	2
Maurice Levinthal	2
Avery Fried	3
Kate Grant	3
David Winters	4
Dorothy Barton	5
Eva Dorman	6
Edward Langlieb	6
Berthold Donner	7
Rose Davidson	8
Hyman Tannenbaum	8



**Shabbat Candle Lighting Times**

- April 4 - 7:02 PM
- April 11 - 7:10 PM
- April 18 - 7:18 PM
- April 25 - 7:26 PM
- May 2 - 7:34 PM
- May 9 - 7:42 PM



Shabbat ends on Saturday one hour later than candle lighting on Friday.

**Cemetery Notes**

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is five acres located on the 600 block of Lathrop Avenue and is a well maintained, park-like setting. It is a resting place for all Jews. Changes in cemetery policy approved by the congregation at its 2013 annual meeting have created 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 262.412.8457.

**Hadassah**

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions. Cards \$5; Shares \$10; Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10; Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18. For more information call Sarah Levin, 886-9331 or Sidnee Nerad, 551-0406.

**Congregational Passover Seder**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014  
6:00 p.m.



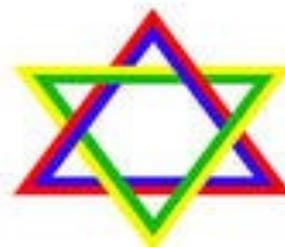
Don't forget to make your reservation by April 7. Copies of the reservation form are available at the Synagogue or can be downloaded from [www.bethisrealsinai.org](http://www.bethisrealsinai.org)

Please consider sponsoring the matzo, wine, table decorations, or a dinner for someone less fortunate.



**Sale of Chametz**

If you'd like to sell your chametz, the sales form is available at the Synagogue or can be downloaded from [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org)





Beth Israel Sinai  
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

*Join us for the Congregational Seder  
on Tuesday April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.*

*April 2014 Nisan 5774*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	4	5 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM Kiddush sponsored by Collen Family Solomyn Collen's Bat Mitzvah 6:00 p.m.
6	7 Seder Reservations due	8	9	10 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class Kashering of kitchen for Pesach 4:00 p.m.	11	12 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
13	14 Rabbi's Seder 7:00 p.m. Reservations by April 7	15 Congregation's Seder 6:00 p.m. Reservations by April 7	16	17 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	18	19 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
20	21	22	23	24 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	25	26 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
27	28	29	30	May 1 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	2	3 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM