

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 92, Issue 9

FEBRUARY 2012
SHEVAT - ADAR 5772

Rabbi's Message

There is an old Yiddish saying that goes "Tze zyn a shvair tzu bin a Yid"-"It is hard to be a Jew." No better phrase epitomizes the Jewish plight throughout history. No other phrase has been used more to justify assimilation, From the time of Alexander the Great to the 19th century period of enlightenment, Jews have sought to assimilate into their host cultures. While many maintained their religious tradition, others preferred not to be "too Jewish" Being "too Jewish" became a burden for these "modern" individuals.

This had not always been the case. The patriarch Abraham was able to negotiate land deals with his Canaanite neighbors. Though Isaac lived largely off his father's inheritance, Jacob and his sons expanded his wealth to include holdings throughout the Middle East. Joseph, despite being sold by his brothers into slavery, rose to become the chief economic adviser to Pharaoh while maintaining his traditions. In fact Joseph's wife, the daughter of the Egyptian High Priest, came to follow the customs of her husband.

After Joseph's death, there "arose a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph." the Children of Israel were cast into slavery.

Despite their onerous situation, they initially resisted Moses attempts to free them. Having enjoyed a prosperous life in Goshen, the Israelites thought that Pharaoh would eventually come to his senses and restore them to their formerly lofty position. As the story of Passover indicates, this would never happen. Only after the Tenth Plague, the killing of the first born, would Pharaoh let our people go. Even after freedom, several attempts were made to return to Egypt. If not for the eventual acceptance of the Torah by the Jews at Mt. Sinai, we might have died out both physically and spiritually in the desert. (continued on pg. 2)

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President's Message

February's Friday Shabbat evening dinner and service will be held on Friday, February 17. The festivities will begin with a kosher dinner and fellowship at 6:00 p.m., followed by the evening service at 7:00 p.m. This month's dinner will be a meat meal. The menu planned for February includes baked cranberry chicken, savory potato kugel, sweet noodle kugel, a mandarin almond green salad (the same salad everyone enjoyed in November – back by popular demand), fruit, and assorted breads. Dessert, sweets, and

coffee will be served after the service concludes.

Dinner is offered at no charge and reservations are not required. Just come to the synagogue and enjoy the food and fellowship! Donations are accepted, as are sponsorships. A special thank you to Eileen Schroeder for sponsoring the meal in January. Although the January service was cancelled due to the snowy weather, the meal was enjoyed the following afternoon for the oneg after Shabbat services. Additional pans of stuffed shells were frozen for later use, so you may be surprised with a

warm pasta lunch after services on an upcoming cold Shabbat.

Great News! Thanks to contributions from many of you, we fully funded the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund and will receive the matching gifts. Thanks to Max and Glenn Gordon for suggesting this outstanding fundraising event and for making the match!

Shalom Y'all
Jeff

Friday February 17

**Shabbat Dinner
6:00 PM**

**Shabbat Service
6:45 PM**

**Shabbat Dessert
After Services**

Rabbi's Message Continued...

So what does the future hold for us in the 21st century? The American Jewish community has simultaneously seen both an increase of intermarriage AND a higher proportion of Jews returning to their traditions than ever before. A survey indicates that fewer than 50% of all young adults under 25 identify strongly with the

State of Israel. Yet a larger number of Jewish Day Schools exist in all the streams of Judaism than ever before. Also, there is an increase in the number of Gentiles seeking conversion to Judaism---even though Judaism does not conduct any missionary activities among people of other faiths. Like in all Jewish communities, Jews in Racine, both those affiliated with our Temple and those not yet members, must make every effort to participate in synagogue activi-

ties. Obviously, many of our members agree. Rarely is there a Shabbat or Festival service where there is not a minyan. No matter how busy you are, one should try to attend at least one Shabbat service a month. No longer is it "hard to be a Jew." Our future depends on you.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

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 \$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.

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Sisterhood during 2011. Your gifts have provided our congregants and guests with delicious onegs after services, provided hospitality at a variety of events, and beautified the synagogue with flowers at the Passover seders and High Holidays services.

From time to time we are asked "How much funding does the Sisterhood need to do these things for the congregation each year?" Having recently prepared a year-end summary of expenses for the calendar year, annual costs for 2011 broke down as follows: food costs for onegs were \$2,169.34; flowers were \$50.00 (for Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah flowers at \$35.00 were paid for by the BIS general fund this year); and postage was \$8.80, for a total of \$2,228.14. Contributions totaled \$852.00. In the past, any shortfall between donations and expenses were covered by the balance in the Sisterhood's checking account and/or CDs that were cashed in at maturity as needed. The last of these CDs was transferred to checking last year, providing Sisterhood with a year-end balance of approximately \$1,400. When this balance reaches the point when it looks like these funds will soon be depleted, the BIS Board will evaluate the situation and whether or not to continue with the onegs and other activities funded by the Sisterhood.

To facilitate your tax preparation, 2011 year-end contribution statements from the Sisterhood were mailed on January 25, 2012. These statements were sent to everyone who sent monetary contributions, regardless of the amount. If you have not received your statement by January 31, please contact Rita Collen to request a duplicate. Beginning in 2012, year-end Sisterhood statements will be sent only to those families contributing \$200.00 or more. To ensure all contributions are acknowledged in a manner that will allow donors to submit their receipts for tax preparation, all contributors will receive a thank-you letter/receipt that contains language that can be used as documentation for your taxes. Be sure to keep this letter for your records.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

Donations

To the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund

Wendy Dorman
Anonymous
Willy and Fran Gold
Don Lang
Mary Vite

Shabbat Dinner

Eileen Schroeder

In Memory of Foster Gould and Geraldine Shovers from their Children

Ellen (Gould) Antman
Harleen (Gould) Tague
Avery Gould

General Support

Eric Lichterman
Leah Grant
Blanche Kahn
Bev Sklansky
Ira and Carol Chasnoff
Mary Soley
Natalie Browne Gutnik
Mark Levine
Phyllis Brown
Judith McGauran
Richard and Rise Kaiser
Patricia Harris

In Honor of Louise Langlieb

Sue and Dave Rosner

General Support

Paula Donovitz
Roberta Jacobs
Max Gordon
Linda Hulbert
Barbara Newman
Dennis Gaeta
Sheldon Vielie
Alan Barrett

In Honor of Arnold Solomon's Birthday

Renata Lac and Randall Rotter
Max Gordon
Darcy Rice
Doris Shrago
Glenn Gordon

Yahrzeits

Week of February 3

Sidney Glickstein	3
Hilda Popkoff	3
Ethel Shovers	3
Dorothy Glickstein	4
George A. Lang	4
Hazel Watt	4
Phil Blitstein	5
Meyer Gottlieb	5
Fanny Kluk	5
Idah Schwartz	6
Sophie Shovers	6
Sgt. Leonard Hulbert	7
Ruth Grant Gordon	7
Samuel G. Laufman	8
Tillie Sideman	8
Elizabeth Goldberg	9

Week of February 10

Kathryn Raftenberg	10
Max Grust	11
Harold Tabaksman	11
Esther Gottlieb	12
Isadore Milch	12
Bertha Waisman	12
Joseph Popkoff	13
David Shovers	13
Julius Lichterman	13
Oscar Shovers	13
Eva Gorsky	14
Manfred Oelsner	14
Edith Seft	14

Week of February 17

Marjorie Bernbaum	17
Joseph Magner	18
Zachary Dorman	19
Joseph L. Harris	19
Jane Kiselow	19
Gertrude Fishbain	19

Frank Shovers	19
George S. Cohen	19
Eli Hulbert	20
Mary Soref	20
Rose Kaminal	20
Darnold Blivas	21
Schuster	22
Marc Lee Silver	22
Paul Kaplan	22
Joseph I. Donner	23
Sam Fishbain	23
Solomon Levin	23
Fritz Roos	23

Week of February 24

Sheine Chayne Aronin	24
Ralph Levin	24
Genevieve Lillian Gold	24
Simon Grant	24
Hyman Lauffman	25
David W. Watt	25
Eugene J. Aronin	26
Sarah Spracker	26
Dori Gorsky	26
Max J. Bassewitz	27
Dr. Ernest Wolf	27
Anna Brill	27
Meyer Domsy	27
Joseph (Jack) Gould	28
Goldyne R. Mann	28
David Schwartz	1

Week of March 2

Sarah C. Dorman	2
Birdie Metz	2
Mary Shovers	5
Pearl Levin	5
Necha Weissbard	6
Samuel A. Grant	7
Emily Alperovitz	8
Foster Gould	8
Rashe Berson	8

Shabbat Candle Lighting

Times

February 3 - 4:48 PM
February 10 - 4:58 PM
February 17 - 5:07 PM
February 24 - 5:16 PM
March 2 - 5:24 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

Donations

Congratulations - We made the goal and raised \$10,000 for the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund. We will receive the matching contributions from Max and Glenn Gordon and Judy and Joe Roher! Thanks Everyone!

An Interesting Person In Jewish American History

Asser Levy (died 1680), also known as Asher Levy, was one of the first Jewish settlers of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. Although it is not certain, Levy was probably born in Amsterdam. He is first mentioned as one of the Jews who came to New Netherland in 1654 as refugees from Brazil

Levy was the first Jew to own a house in North America. As early as 1661, Levy purchased real estate in Fort Orange; he was also the earliest Jewish owner of real estate in New York, his transactions there commencing in June 1662 with the purchase of land on South William Street. Within ten years of his arrival Levy had become a man of consequence, and when, in 1664, the wealthiest inhabitants were sum-

moned to lend the city money for fortifications against the English, he was the only Jew among them: he lent the city 100 florins.

Levy's trading relations extended to New England, and he frequently appeared as attorney for merchants in Holland. In 1671 he lent the money for building the first Lutheran church in New York. About 1678 he built a slaughterhouse in the east end of what is now Wall Street, where he appears to have been the owner of a famous tavern.

The confidence reposed in his honesty by his Christian fellow citizens appears frequently from the court records.

Asher Levy is still honored today. Parks and community centers in New York City still bear his name.



Louise Langleib's Grand-daughter Grace in the Journal Times. The picture was taken at our Chanukah party!



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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Join us for a Friday Night Shabbat Dinner and Service

February 17, 2012 at 6:00 PM

February 2012 Shevat - Adar 5772

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	3	4 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
5	6	7	8 Tu B' Shevat	9 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	10	11 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
12	13	14	15	16 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	17 Shabbat Services and Dinner 6:00PM	18 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
19	20	21	22	23 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	24	25 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
26	27	28	29	March 1 Hebrew or Adult Ed. Class	2	3 Shabbat Services 9:45AM