

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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FEBRUARY 2014

ADAR I 5774

Rabbi's Message

We learn from our Sages "Mi sheniknas Adar marbim b'simcha." "We must enter the month of Adar with great joy and happiness." On Friday, January 31st and Shabbat, February 1st, we celebrated Rosh Hodesh, the new month of Adar I. Until about 1600 years ago, when the fixed Jewish calendar was established around 400 CE, the highest rabbinical court, the Sanhedrin, decided when there would be a leap year. An extra month was added seven times in nineteen years to ensure that our agriculturally based

holidays would fall in the proper seasons. On the 14th of Adar, which coincidentally occurs this year on Valentine's Day, we will celebrate Purim Katan or "Little Purim." This would have been Purim in 5744 had it not been a leap year. While there are no special observances on this day, it allows us an additional month to contemplate what it means to be happy. Being a leap year, Purim falls this year in Adar II.

Indeed, we have so much to celebrate. Our community comes together to worship weekly and study in our historical Temple. As a non-

denominational synagogue, our congregants are encouraged to voice their opinions and challenge their convictions on all topics affecting Jewish life. Our educational Shabbat and Holiday services strive to provide a better understanding of the meaning of our prayers. Our children receive individualized private Hebrew lessons. Our adults are learning conversational Hebrew, Torah study and translating the Siddur, the Hebrew prayer book. Our Kosher kitchen enables every Jew to partake in our deliciously prepared Shabbat and (continued on page 2)

President's Message

Thanks to those of you who joined us for our congregational information session on January 19. The board heard your concerns and will keep them in mind as we continue to explore working more closely with Beth Hillel. We'll plan to hold additional sessions as needed to provide the most up-to-date information as we examine the options we have available to us into the future.

We've all been invited to share in a Friday Shabbat dinner and service with

members of Temple Beth Hillel. It will be a home Shabbat with a pot luck at the home of Esther and Marv Letven in Racine. I'll have directions the week before, please ask me. It sounds like fun... I hope you'll join in!

We hope you'll also join us at our regular, 3rd Friday of the month February 21, 6:00 p.m. Shabbat dinner and service at Temple. I'm sure the food will be great, I can't wait to try it!

I've recently seen information that suggests there's now a Birthright trip to Israel for Jewish adults who

have never been. Something you're interested in? As I find out more I'll pass it along!

Lastly, I received a call from the director of Camp Chi, a Jewish resident camp based out of the JCC in Chicago. They have received a grant to provide financial assistance to Jewish youth in small communities who have never before been to a Jewish resident camp. If you know of any kids who might benefit I can provide information.

Shalom,
Jeff

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Special Happenings

**Friday, February 14
6:00 PM
Home Shabbat Pot Luck
Dinner and Service
with Beth Hillel**

**Friday, February 21
6:00 PM
Shabbat Service
and
Congregational Dinner**

Rabbi's Message Continued...

holiday meals. I regularly conduct both hospital and home visits before and after office hours.

As we move ahead, we need to discuss ways to ensure the survival of the Historic Jewish community of greater Racine. May we continue to

strive for the preservation of our beloved Jewish community as we grow from strength to strength.

See you in shul,
Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

P.S. I would like to thank our Temple family for the generosity and kindness shown to me on the 50th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah.

**Congregational Passover
Seder
Tuesday, April 15, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

Mark you're calendar now!

Consider sponsoring the matzo, wine, or a dinner for someone less fortunate.

Sisterhood

This past month will certainly be memorable because of the cold and snowy weather. Despite the polar vortex and seemingly endless snow showers, the kitchen at Beth Israel Sinai has been warm and cozy, with the scents of warming comfort foods drifting out of the pots and pans. This month's Shabbat congregational dinner featured the ultimate in classic Jewish comfort food — matzoh ball soup. Many thanks to Jim Barten and Marion Sperer for preparing a pot of matzoh ball soup that kept us fed not only for the dinner but the Kiddush on Saturday as well. We had a nice turn-out for soup and an array of salads, homemade breads and rolls, and desserts, sponsored by Jim, Marion, and the Collen Family. If you are interested in any recipes from the dinner, they will be posted on the BIS website. The next Shabbat dinner is scheduled for Friday, February 21, with an evening service to begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner immediately following. This month's theme is the classic Wisconsin fish fry, with healthy baked versions of two favorite fish fry fishes and tasty sides and desserts. Please join us! If you are interested in sponsoring the dinner, give me a call.

Thank you to my family for surprising me with a Kiddush on January 11 in honor of my 50th birthday! Despite their scheduling it on a day I couldn't attend and having to cook it myself (to their credit, they did help!) they are a thoughtful bunch and it was a pleasure to have this milestone recognized and celebrated with our BIS family. Thanks to everyone for their birthday wishes.

We thank an "anonymous angel" for last month's contribution of Target gifts card, which we used to purchase paper goods and coffee.

I hope you enjoyed the new recipes I tried for the seven species-themed Kiddush for Tu B'Shevat on January 18. It's fun to try new things now and then and to be challenged with ingredients we don't always have in the kitchen.

Be sure to come to shul on February 15 for services and Kiddush. Joyce Placzowski will be sponsoring the Kiddush and we'll surely have something special to enjoy.

A couple of years ago the Sisterhood organized a get-together to bake Hamentaschen for Purim. It was fun baking together so I thought we'd try it again this year on a pre-Purim Sunday afternoon. Watch the next newsletter and calendar for details.

Gifts to the Sisterhood (whether financial, in-kind, or extra pairs of hands) 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. Just give me the date you wish to reserve and your request for either a dairy or meat Kiddush. I'll take care of the rest. The suggested donation is at least \$36 for dairy and \$54 for meat, but any contribution is acceptable. Contributions can be sent to BIS (designate it for the Sisterhood). You can also help the Sisterhood by donating kosher grocery items for the onegs and Kiddush. We are currently in need of coffee, coffee and cold beverage cups, kosher cookies and baked goods, eggs, canned tuna, nuts, potato chips, and fruit (fresh, dried, or canned). You can simply drop these items off in the kitchen.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

General Support

Batya Levin
Mary Vite
Wendy Dorman
Eileen Schroeder

**In honor of Rabbi Adelberg's 50th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary**

Joyce Placzowski
Lorraine and Victor Ganz
Jim Barten
Barry Langlieb
Max Gordon

In honor of Rita Collen's Birthday

Joan Shepard Lustig and Jim Lustig
Max Gordon



Yahrzeits

Week of January 31

Joseph I. Donner	31
Sam Fishbain	31
Solomon Levin	31
Fritz Roos	31
Sheine Chayne Aronin	1
Simon Grant	1
Hyman Lauffman	2
Anna Brill	4
Meyer Domsky	4
Goldyne R. Mann	5

Week of February 7

Marjorie Bernbaum	8
Pearl Levin	11
Necha Weissbard	12
Samuel A. Grant	13

Week of February 14

Ben Kaplan	15
David Alperovitz	18
Joseph A. Dunya	18
Sarah Silverman	19
E. Adrian Silver	20

Week of February 21

Bertha Sobodkin	22
David Isaac Gordon	24
Anne Kraft Seidita	24
Ben Silver	24
Charles Greenberg	25
Ben Marvin	26
Irving Matthew Silver	26
Emma Sweed	26
Harold S. Browne	27
Colette Schaefer	27

Week of February 28

Mildred Shovers	28
Louis Shapiro	1
Ralph Levin	3
Genevieve Lillian Gold	3
David W. Watt	4
Eugene J. Aronin	5
Sarah Spracker	5
Dori Gorsky	5
Max J. Bassewitz	6
Dr. Ernest Wolf	6

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

- February 7 - 4:54 PM
- February 14 - 5:03 PM
- February 21 - 5:12 PM
- February 28 - 5:21 PM
- March 7 - 5:29 PM
- March 14 - 6:38 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.

Upcoming Celebrations



Purim

Begins sunset of Saturday, March 15, 2014
Ends nightfall of Sunday, March 16, 2014



Passover

Begins sunset of Monday, April 14, 2014
Ends nightfall of Tuesday, April 22, 2014

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.

Some "Month of Adar" History

7 Adar 521 - 1481:

The Spanish Inquisition initiated the auto-da-fe (burning at the stake). The Inquisition was created in the twelfth century to find "Christian heretics" who would be punished or killed. Eventually, Jews too were open to such charges of heresy, simply for being Jewish; and torture was routinely used to extract "confessions." Over the years, the inquisition, which operated with Papal consent, spread to many countries. In 1481 the Inquisition began to function in Spain to expose the secret Jews, known as the Anusim or Marranos. This Inquisition was anti-Jewish more than in any previous countries. The first public sentencing and burning alive of six marrano men and one woman by the Spanish Inquisition was held on this date in Seville in Southern Spain. Following the start of the Spanish Inquisition many Jews fled Spain.

17 Adar - c. 75 B.C.E.: Torah Sages Escape.

In the year 91 B.C.E., Alexander Yannai of the Hasmonean family succeeded his brother Yehuda Aristobolus to the throne of Judea. Alexander Yannai was a Sadducee who virulently persecuted the Pharisees. At one point during his bloody reign, following a victory he scored on a battlefield, he invited all the Torah scholars for a celebratory feast. During this feast he was slighted by one of the guests, which led him to execute all the Torah scholars in attendance. A few of the sages managed to escape to the town of Sulukus in Syria. There, too, they encountered anti-Semitic enemies who murdered many of the exiled sages. The handful of surviving Torah scholars went in to hiding, finding refuge in the home of an individual named Zevadai. On the night of the 17th of Adar they escaped the hostile city of Sulukus. Eventually these surviving scholars revived Torah Judaism. The date they escaped the clutches of death was established as a day of celebration.



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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***Join us for a Friday Night Shabbat Service and Congregational Dinner
on February 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.***

February 2014 Adar I 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>Jan 30 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>1 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	<i>14 Home Shabbat Dinner and Service with Beth Hillel 6:00 PM at Esther and Marv Letven's home.</i>	<i>15 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM Kiddush sponsored by Joyce Placzkowski</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	<i>21 Congregational Shabbat Dinner and Service 6:00 PM</i>	<i>22 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>March 1 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>