

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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JULY 2013

TAMMUZ - AV 5773

Rabbi's Message

On Tuesday, June 25th, (17 Tammuz), the Jewish people began a three week period of national mourning. On 17 Tammuz, 586 BCE, the walls of Jerusalem were breached by the army of the Babylonian ruler, Nebuchadnezzar. It seemed as if G-d had turned his back on His Chosen people. Despite fasting and prayer, nothing could stop the invading forces. Unfortunately, these prayers and supplications were too little and too late. Until this fatal event, Jews had forsaken the teachings of the Torah. Despite the annexation of the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrian Empire in 721 BCE, the southern kingdom of Judah was spared a similar fate for

135 years. Had they maintained their special covenant with G-d, the kingdom ruled by the descendants of King David and King Solomon might have survived. Instead, they embraced various forms of idolatry practiced by the neighbors. Sexual orgies led to the breakdown of both family and national morality. Nature worship became extremely popular, One Judean king even allowed his son to be passed through fire to appease the god Molech. Under King Manasseh, who ruled for 55 years, the Torah became virtually extinct. Had not his grandson, King Josiah, found a tattered copy of a Torah scroll hidden under some rubble in the Temple courtyard, we may have lost our Holy Book forever. Despite a brief religious revival lasting from

638-627 BCE, the damage done by Josiah's grandfather could not be undone. The Babylonians completed their conquest of Judah with the destruction of the First Temple on the 9th of Av, 586 BCE. The entire royal family was taken into captivity.

In the mid-6th century BCE, the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the invading Persians. Jews were encouraged by the new rulers to practice their religion. As long as the Israelites remained politically loyal, they were free to worship the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Not only did Emperor Darius (hypothesized by some scholars to be the grandson of King Ahashvares and Queen Esther) (continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Rabbi's Message Continued...	2
Donations	2
Sisterhood News	2
Yahrzeits and Candle Lighting Times	3
Cemetery News Hadassah	3
High Holiday Planning	3
Calendar	4

President's Message

Thanks to everyone who was present at the annual meeting. We conducted business and had an excellent discussion about the realities of Temple finances and the possibility of finding common ground to merge with Beth Hillel in order to strengthen Judaism in Southeastern Wisconsin for future generations. The major action at the meeting was to create a section in the cemetery where non-Jews can be buried with their Jewish family members.

After the meeting, we said Kiddush, had an excellent meal prepared by the Sisterhood and enjoyed the fellowship of our members.

A reminder that we'll not have Friday night Shabbat dinners and services in July and August but will resume the fun September after the High Holidays.

Please note that the High Holidays fall very early in September. The dates/times of services are listed on page 3. I hope you'll join us and participate with us!

We'll once again hold our annual picnic at Eileen Schroeder's home (THANKS Eileen!) at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday August 18. Hope you can join us!

A special thanks to the members of the board who, over the last two years have worked hard to develop a strategic plan and a vision for the future. Board members have examined many possible scenarios and are committed to providing the best options.

Shalom! Jeff

Coming Events!

**Congregational Picnic
Sunday August 18
2:00 p.m.**

The event will once again be hosted by Eileen Schroeder at her home on Stuart Road

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The High Holidays are the earliest they can be this year. Please note the date on page 2 and mark your calendar!

Rabbi's Message Continued...

permit Jewish subjects to return to Israel, funds were provided for the rebuilding of a Second Temple in Jerusalem. Completed in 515 BCE, this temple was physically bigger than its predecessor. Unfortunately, it did not gain the religious, political or social stature of the First Temple.

Unlike the First Temple which existed in an independent Jewish state, the Second Temple depended on the support of the current ruling power. Under the Persian and early Greek empires, the Second Temple flourished for over three centuries. Many Jews assimilated into the Persian and Greek cultures. Had the Syrian King Antiochus, a Greek surrogate, not come into power, Jews might have completely abandoned their religion. They only rebelled after their traditions and cus-

toms were denigrated and eventually outlawed by Antiochus. Only after the ruler ordered a pig to be sacrificed in the Temple by a Jewish citizen, did the Hannukah rebellion begin. Ironically, the High Priest, Judah Maccabeus, who started the rebellion could not read Hebrew. (Neither could Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism.)

More ironic was a pact between the emerging Roman Empire and the Maccabean leaders permitting Jews to freely worship their G-d. Funds were given to the Maccabees to overthrow the Syrians. This was a special concession made only to the Jewish nation. Other nations were forced to worship Roman deities.

This tolerant attitude quickly evaporated with the emergence of a political and religious insurrection led by Jesus of Nazareth. Less than 40 years after his crucifixion, the Second Temple was destroyed by the Roman General Titus on

the same date the First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians. The Roman army forced the residents of Jerusalem into exile. A Roman city, Aelia Capitolina, was built on the ruins of Jerusalem. The period of the "wandering Jew" began on the 9th of Av., 70 CE. Two thousand years of wandering from nation to nation would transpire before the creation of a new Jewish homeland in 1948—the modern state of Israel.

Please join us on Tisha B'Av, the fast commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples this coming Monday, July 15 at 8pm. Show your solidarity with our fallen comrades throughout history. Show your solidarity for the future of the Jewish people in Racine and throughout the world. AM YISROEL CHAI.

See you in shul,
Rabbi Marty

Sisterhood

We have enjoyed seeing the familiar faces we so dearly missed over the winter and spring months. Welcome back to our snowbirds, who have returned to Racine to enjoy the (unpredictable) summer weather. June was another busy month, with several members sponsoring a Kiddush. Thank you and congratulations to the Adelberg and Reiser families, who sponsored the June 8 Kiddush and Bimah flowers in honor of the aufruf and marriage of Robyn and Joe Reiser. Best wishes to the bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reiser, who were married on June 16. Sarah Levin had a wonderful 96th birthday celebration on June 15, with her family and many friends present to wish her a happy birthday (and many more). Sarah's granddaughter Alexandra sponsored the Kiddush from across the miles as a surprise for her beloved "Granny"!

As mentioned at the Annual Meeting in June, the Sisterhood has set a goal of having at least one Kiddush per month sponsored by a member or friend of Beth Israel Sinai. If you would like to honor a family member, friend, or occasion with a Kiddush, please contact Rita Collen to choose a date and work out the details. The suggested contribution is \$36 for a dairy lunch, or \$54 for a meat lunch.

The Sisterhood exists to enhance community life at Beth Israel Sinai by providing the weekly Kiddush, flowers for the Bimah, decorations for special dinners, etc. This is possible due to the generous contributions of our members and friends. A Sisterhood contribution or sponsoring a Kiddush are thoughtful ways to honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion. Contributions can be sent to BIS (designate it for Sisterhood) or to sponsor a Kiddush, contact Rita for details.

You can also help stock the kitchen by bringing in the items we always seem to need, such as canned tuna, cheeses, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, challah, coffee, tea, paper goods, etc. Please make sure any packaged foods are certified kosher (with the exception of fresh fruit and vegetables) so our kosher kitchen can stay kosher. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Adelberg or Rita.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



General Support
Eileen Schroeder
Mary Vite

In Memory of her Mother Caroline Haskell
Louise Langlieb

In Honor of Sarah Levin's 96th Birthday

Louise Langlieb
Patty and Steve Kushner

In Honor of Victor Ganz's Birthday

Patty and Steve Kushner

In Honor of Robyn Adelberg and Joe Reiser's Marriage

Louise Langlieb
Sarah Levin

In Honor of Marion Sperer on the marriage of her son Daniel

Sarah Levin

Yahrzeits

Week of July 5

Dr. Eugene H. Kaufman	5
Carol R. Wolfman	5
Harry Dingfelder	7
Florence Margaret Sheff	8
Hyman H. Brown	8
Harry Laufman	8
Mona A. Brown	9
Betty Goldberg	10
Evelyn Hahn Milch	10
Shirley Mercado	11

Week of July 12

Julius Goodman	12
Samuel Karlitsky	12
Sarah D. Schur	12
Miriam Waisman	13
M. Gerson Kaminsky	15
Rachel Waisman	15
Ronald Waisman	15
Issac Weisman	15
Herman Feges	16
Dr. Ruben Gorsky	16
Theodore D. Gottlieb	16
Arthur Isenberg	16
Ida Gordon	17
Mildred Domsy	17
Beverly Sklansky	17

Week of July 19

Rose Freidman	19
Bella Tatelbaum	20
Arnold Goodman	23
Raye Sheft	23
Sam Rozumoff	24
Margery B. Small	24

Week of July 26

Gertrude Blumberg	26
Harry S. Metz	26
Anna Davidson	27
Grace Daneman	27
Max Tabaksman	27
Peggy Metzger	30
Albert W. Levin	30
Anna Marvin	31
Dora Noll	31
Samuel Shapiro	31
Morris S. Waisman	31
E.L. (Dan) Donovitz	31
Anna Grant	1

Week of August 2

Aleck Kofsky	4
Etta Hulbert	5
Sol Fox	6
Abraham M. Schomovitz	6
Max Kiselow	7
Jordan Davidson	8
Otto D. Weiss	8

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

July 5 - 8:14 PM
 July 12 - 8:12 PM
 July 19 - 8:07 PM
 July 26 - 8:01 PM
 August 2 - 7:53 PM



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.

Call Jim Barten at 262.412.8457

Cemetery Change Approved

At the annual meeting the congregation approved the creation of a Reform section of the cemetery where Jews and their non-Jewish family members can be buried together.

Congregation Summer Picnic

The Congregation's Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 18 beginning at 2:00 p.m. again at the home of Eileen Schroeder, 119 Stuart Road. We'll provide the meat, buns and drinks. Please bring a parve dish to pass. Plan on joining us!

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.

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Remember that the holidays are the earliest that they can be this year, putting them on the following days:

Rosh Hashanah Eve September 4 - 8:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, 1st day September 5 - 9:30 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd day September 6 - 9:30 a.m.

Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre September 13 - 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur September 14 (on Shabbat making this the holiest of Yom Kippurs) - Morning 9:00 a.m. & Afternoon 4:30 p.m.



A form will be mailed in the next couple of weeks inviting you to let us know when you'll be attending during the High Holidays and asking for your participation in reading passages. If you're not a member, but will be in town, please plan on joining us and feel free to complete a form (available on-line in late July), letting us know you'd like to participate.





Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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***Join us for the annual picnic
Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 2:00 PM***

July 2013 Tammuz - Av 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	July 1	2	3	4	5	6 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
7	8	9	10	11 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	12	13 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
14	15 Tisha B'Av service 8:00 PM	16	17	18 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	19	20 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
21	22	23	24	25 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	26	27 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
28	29	30	31	August 1 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	2	3 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM