

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 92, Issue 12

MAY 2012

IVAR - SIVAN 5772

Rabbi's Message

On Pesach we were granted "physical" freedom by G-d from slavery in Egypt. On Shavuot, we will be granted "spiritual" freedom when we celebrate the gift of Torah by the Holy One to the Jewish people. From the second day of Passover, we began a 49 day countdown to this momentous occasion. In the days of the Temple, an omer (measurement) of barley was brought to the Temple as a grain offering on each of the 49 days leading up to Shavuot.

Many Jews consider this period a time of semi-

mourning where secular celebrations are forbidden. During the first 33 days of the "Omer," a plague killed 24,000 students of the famous Talmudic author, Rabbi Aki-ba. They died because they lacked respect for each other. While perhaps a harsh punishment, our Rabbis declared that Torah learning becomes meaningless if one is not a decent human being. On the 33rd day of the Omer, LAG B'Omer, the annihilation ceased. The other historical event was the death of the author of the Kabbalah, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. The Ren Shimon decreed that on his yahrzeit (anniversary), a great celebration should be

held each year. Today, many individuals celebrate Lag B'Omer with picnics and barbecues. In Israel, people visit the reputed graveside of this saintly individual at Meron. This period of semi-mourning resumes from the 34th day of the Omer until Shavuot. Other significant historical events that occurred during the Counting of the Omer include: the commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising against Nazi oppression; Yom HaZikaron honoring Israel's fallen soldiers; and Yom Haazmaut, Israeli Independence Day. Shavuot completes the countdown that (continued on page 2)

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President's Message

Howdy Everyone!

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 Felicia Martinez and Leo Vaytsman for preparing the delicious Israeli Couscous salad and red cabbage salad and pounds and pounds of mashed potatoes and gravy. Thanks also to Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl for once again baking and bringing the challah. (If you'd like to learn their challah-baking secrets be sure to come to their challah baking demonstration and workshop on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00

p.m.), and a BIG THANKS to my wife Rita for organizing the dinners and for the great bris- ket we all enjoyed!

Recipes from the Shabbat meals can found attached to this newsletter.

The Shabbat dinners will continue on the third Friday of each month. Join us on Friday, May 18, at 6:00 p.m. May's menu includes baked chicken with seasonal vegetables, roasted new potatoes with kale and shallots, sweet apple kugel, seasonal green salad, and a variety of homemade desserts. Reservations are not required, so please join us for an evening of food and fellowship.

Please also place the June 15

Shabbat dinner on your calendar now. It will also serve as our annual meeting.

Please note the celebration of Victor Ganz's 90th birthday after services on this coming Saturday, May 5, and the celebration of Sarah Levin's 95th birthday after services on June 16. We hope you'll plan to make it to these special events.

Lastly, the Kenosha Temple, Beth Hillel is holding a Kabbalat service on May 25 at 5:45 at Baypoint. They've invited us all to participate.

Shalom Y'all,
Jeff

**Victor Ganz's 90th
Birthday Celebration
May 5, After Services**

**Challah Making Class
Sunday May 6
1:00PM**

**Shabbat Dinner
Friday May 18
6:00PM**

**Annual Meeting
and Shabbat Dinner
Friday June 15
6:00PM**

**Sarah Levin's 95th
Birthday Celebration
June 16, After Services**

Rabbi's Message Continued...

began during Pesach.

One can only imagine how it must have felt to be at Sinai almost 3300 years ago. "With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" G-d led you out of Egypt. You were accompanied by over 600,000 Israelite soldiers and their families who escaped from the tyranny of Pharaoh. You witnessed G-d's wrath during the Ten Plagues. Our Heavenly Parent provided "manna" for sustenance and the promise of your own nation. This land would flow with "milk and honey." The Torah which you were about to receive would become

your blueprint for the creation of civil, religious and social society. The Israelite nation would become an "Ohr La Olam"--- a cultural light to the nations as they assumed the role of G-d's Chosen People. No wonder our ancestors prayed all night at the foot of Mt. Sinai in anticipation of G-d's present to our people. That is why the most important of the names given to Shavuot is "Zaman Matan Toratenu."--The Giving of OUR Torah. This timeless gift is given annually to every generation of the Jewish people---as if we too had been standing at Sinai.

In honor of this momentous occasion, Jews around the world will study either all night or as late as possible on Erev

Shavuot. Your participation in our annual Tikkun La'el Shavuot, held this year on Saturday May 26th beginning at 7PM, is critical for the perpetuation of Torah learning in Racine. A dairy meal will follow a brief holiday service and prior to our learning session. (During the weeks prior to Shavuot, Temple members are encouraged to submit topics to me they would like discussed.) Shavuot morning service, including Yizkor, will be held on Sunday morning, May 27th.

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 meal 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 fresh vegetables (such as carrots and celery) and fruit are always needed. If you have access to kosher cheeses and/or deli meats where you shop or when you are in a larger city, please consider buying extra. Folks really enjoy them as these items are usually not available in kosher form in Racine. All we ask is that the foods be certified kosher (with the exception of fresh fruits and vegetables) so that we can keep our kosher kitchen kosher. We also need things like paper towels, styrofoam cups, plates, napkins, etc. If you have any questions about what is needed, just give Rita a call.

Thank you to the Ganz Family for sponsoring the oneg on May 5 in honor of Victor Ganz's birthday. Happy birthday, Victor!

Thanks to Babs and John Schnabl for sponsoring the May 19 oneg after services!

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! If there are any folks who left items anonymously or we may have missed, please accept our thanks for your donations!

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

Donations

Seder Support

Anonamous
Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl
Becky Adelberg

Shabbat Oneg Support

Babs and John Schnabl

In Memory of Lawrence Feiges

Toby and Dale Feiges

General Support

Eileen Schroeder
Vicki Goldberg Nelson
Miguel Barajas

In Memory of David Hulbert

Mrs. Bernard Hulbert

In Memory of Nathan I. Hulbert

Mrs. Bernard Hulbert



Yahrzeits

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

Week of May 4

Morris S. Ruben	4
Alma Schlomovitz	4
Sidney Aronin	5
Jerry Brown	5
Helmut Isenberg	6
Bessie Silver	6
Charles "Chuck" Brown	6
Abe Silver	7
Isadore Small	7
Silvia Rosenzweig	9
Ruth Shrago	10

Week of May 11

Sarah Gordon	12
Hattie Ruth Gottlieb	13
Jean Laufman	13
Lillian Fishbain	13
William Shovers	13
Milton Sklansky	13
Esther Feldman	14
Michel Kerner	14
David M. Kupperman	16

Isadore H. Solomon	16
Sonya Rozumoff Brill	16

Week of May 18

Frieda Gellman	18
Bertha Gorsky	18
Henry Hornstein	19
Mark William Barshet	19
Phyllis (Peggy) Schuster	19
Ben Waisman	20
Helen Seft LeBrint	21
Harry Kushner	21
Jacob M. Weisman	21
Saul Rosner	24
Charlotte Bakall	24

Week of May 25

Max Brill	25
Laurence Feiges	25
Eva Wollman	26
Arthur Schwartz	29
Meyer Spracker	29
Vivian Rudolph	29
Sanford Sperer	29
Anna Streicher	29
Harry Alpersen	30
Gussie Sideman	31
Richard Amber	31

Week of June 1

Joseph Jacobson	1
Bertha Kahn	1
Louis Seft	1
Lillian Sklansky	1
Louis Tatelbaum	1
William Myron Gottlieb	5
Evelyn S. Gordon	6
Frances Kaplan	7
Abraham Schaefer	7

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

May 4 - 7:37 PM
 May 11 - 7:45 PM
 May 18 - 7:52 PM
 May 25 - 7:59 PM
 June 1 - 8:05 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



We keep alive their memories when we recall and perpetuate the acts of goodness they performed

Being a Small Congregation is Different - by Mary Hofmann - Congregation Etz Chaim, Merced, CA (part 1)

It's different quantitatively, of course. We don't have as many members as they have in large congregations. But--even more so -- it's different qualitatively from large congregations. There are things they have that we don't. But there are other things--very important things--that we have that they don't. And a lot of them are spending a lot of time and money trying to capture--or recapture--that something we have.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF FAMILY. We have members we get along with, and members who drive us crazy. But there aren't enough of us that we can afford to get uppity. We need each other. And so we care about each other, and we know that every last one of us is important. We aren't an institution. We're still people.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF TENACITY. We know how fragile our presence is and how important it is that we stay alive, stay involved and stay together--no matter what. So we do.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT. When organizational research indicates that most organizations operate on an average level of involvement of 5 percent of the membership, it's rewarding to know that most of us are involved most of the time.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CONGREGATION. When everyone depends on you, you tend to carry through. You might not always want to, but you do what you have to do, and you usually end up glad that you did.

WE HAVE SENSE OF TOLERANCE. We often exist in areas isolated from mainstream Jewish life where many (if not most) of our marriages are (or were) mixed, and where some of our best friends aren't Jewish. And our kids' best friends aren't Jewish either. We focus less on turning in on ourselves than on sharing what we have with others so they can see that we have something worth working for.



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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Join us for a Friday Night Shabbat Dinner and Service

May 18, 2012 at 6:00 PM

May 2012 Ivar - Sivan 5772

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	4	5 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Victor Ganz's 90th Birthday Kiddush after Services
6 Challah Making with Yaakov 1:00PM	7	8	9	10 Hebrew or Adult Ed. Class	11	12 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
13	14	15	16	17 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	18 Shabbat Services and Dinner 6:00PM	19 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Oneg sponsored by Babs and John Schnabl
20	21	22	23	24 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	25 Beth Hillel Kabbalat Service 5:45PM at the Atrium	26 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
27	28	29	30	31 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	1 - June	2 Shabbat Services 9:45AM