

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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TISHREI 5773 - Cheshvan 5773

Rabbi's Message

It is hard to believe that I arrived at Beth Israel Sinai on October 2000. So much has happened during my twelve year tenure. Arriving as a self-trained cantor, I was asked by two congregants to read a particular article in Moment magazine. This article offered a correspondence course leading to rabbinical ordination. Candidates for this degree should be students with previous yeshiva training. Furthermore, the Temple graciously offered to pay the seminary tuition. I accepted the challenge, despite being the spiritual leader to Beth Israel Sinai and at Glenview senior citizens home as well as being employed as a marketing executive in a major business organization. Being a fitness fanatic, I could be seen balancing a volume of Talmud on the handle bars of the treadmill. I completed my course of study within a self-imposed deadline of three years in June 2006. It was B'Sherat (foreordained) that I did not take longer. On September 30th of that year, Beth Israel

Sinai honored me with a special Shabbat service to celebrate my ordination. I was the last simcha that would be attended by my father Myron. Dad passed away two days before Chanukah of that year.

As I look back over our twelve years together, I marvel at the accomplishments we have achieved. Our commitment to maintaining a strong Jewish presence in southeast Wisconsin has been unsurpassed. Shabbat morning services are regularly attended by 14-25 participants. Our president Jeff Collen, and his wife Rita, established Shabbat dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat services the third Friday of every month. Our Kiddish luncheons have become gourmet affairs due to the efforts of Rita, Jeff, Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl and numerous other congregants. The temple received the financial support of many participants for both Friday night Shabbat dinners and Shabbat morning luncheons. Following lunch, over the last two years we have completed learning the Five Books of Moses, Joshua, Judges, Samuel I and II and the First Book of Kings. Our goal is to finish the entire Tanach. Record numbers of par-

ticipants, including several visitors, attended Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur services inaugurating 5773.

In the field of education, our Hebrew school students receive 45 minutes of individual attention a week. We have celebrated many Bnai Mitzvot together over the last 12 years -- including several adult Bnai Mitzvot. Each candidate learned the Haftorah trope (musical signs), read from the Torah, and helped lead Shabbat services. Most recently, MaxAnna Collen was called to the Torah. At least three more Bnai Mitzvot will be celebrated over the next two years.

Our adult education programs have also thrived. Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., a class was conducted on the weekly Torah portion. In addition, this year I will offer a class on how to read both the Torah and Haftorah tropes. Education was not limited to individuals who were Jews by birth at Beth Israel Sinai. Joyce Plaszkowski, after completing an 18 month course of study, recently converted to Judaism. Three more students have been attending conversion classes. (cont. page 2)

President's Message

Once again, happy 5773. I hope we're all now sealed in the book of life and we have a sweet year ahead!

Please plan on joining us as we again begin our monthly Friday night Shabbat dinners. We've planned them for the 3rd Friday which places the October event on the 19th. Rita's planned a satisfying menu... I can't wait to test it out in the next few days.

I hope you've seen the beautifully decorated Sukkah we have this year. Thanks to all of you who helped! And of course, in the next few days feel free to bring a meal and hold it inside as our ancestors did.

Thanks again to those of you who have been helping to make our Temple a very hospitable place: Sandy Levin, Brian Rose and Glenn Gordon... for painting the railings; Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl... for the Challah

and the great salads; Barry Langlieb... for the plastering while you were visiting your mom; Glenn Gordon... for organizing security; Steve Platt... for the photos from his recent show; Brian and Sandy again... for restoring and framing the architect's original drawing of the building; and Rita... for cooking up a storm!

Shalom Y'all,

Jeff

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Join us on
Friday October 19
6:00 PM
for **Shabbat Dinner**
and **Services**
sponsored by **Patti and**
Steve Kushner

Thanks for helping me
celebrate my **Bat Mitzvah**
and welcoming me to be
counted as an active
member of the
Jewish Community!

Maxie

Rabbi's Message Continued...

Additional trips to the Mikvah will be planned in the near future.

Despite these miraculous achievements, we have so much more to do. To guarantee our survival as a bastion of Judaism in southeastern Wisconsin, every member should consider themselves an "ambassador" on behalf of Beth Israel Sinai. Invite friends with a 50 mile radius who are looking for a "Jewish" home to visit our congregation. Inform people that our beautiful synagogue is available as a venue for all life cycle events. These include weddings, bnai mitzvot, brises, baby namings and funerals. (In fact, our custodian, Jeff Hansen, informs me that we have a

"chuppah" that can be resurrected in our basement.) Tell them that we are an egalitarian congregation with a Kosher kitchen welcoming all "streams" of Jewish opinion. Beth Israel Sinai is intentionally neither Orthodox, Conservative nor Reform. We seek to bring all Jews together in an attempt to preserve what unites us rather than what divides us. (Perhaps the above ideas should be elaborated in a web page added to our website, bethisraelsinai.org.)

As we enter the new year, may we continue to grow from strength to strength. "Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek."

See you in shul,
Rabbi Marty

P.S. REMEMBER, the holiday season did not

end with the blowing of the Shofar on Wednesday night when we were all hopefully SEALED in the Book of Life. On Thursday, September 27th, we built our beautiful Sukkah. The holiday begins on Sunday, September 30th, with candle lighting at 6:19pm. Services will be held for the first day of Sukkot on Monday, October 1st, at 9:45am. Services will be followed by a Yom Tov luncheon in our Sukkah. (Temperatures are predicted to be in the low 70s for that day.) Shemini Atzeret, the day celebrating the completion of the First Temple by Solomon, and Yizkor services will convene on Monday, October 8th at 9:45am. The holiday season ends with Simchat Torah celebrations that same Monday evening at 7pm. I look forward to seeing all of you.

Sisterhood

During the High Holidays, the Sisterhood was especially busy preparing onegs and meals and we could not have accomplished this without the financial and physical support of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation's members and friends. In keeping with our synagogue's tradition of having the congregation's president and rabbi sponsor the Erev Rosh Hashanah oneg, the Collen and Adelberg families sponsored the event. The Collens also contributed the Kiddush on September 15 and the first day of Rosh Hashanah in honor of MaxAnna's Bat Mitzvah. Thank you to Rosalie and Michael Slute for sponsoring the Kiddush on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. This was the first time we've had a Kiddush on the second day and it was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Lichterman family for once again contributing the delicious smoked fish for the Yom Kippur break-the-fast and to Robin Adelberg's fiancé, Joe, for donating the bagels and cream cheese.

Thanks also to Eileen Schroeder for sponsoring the Kiddush on September 22 in honor of Norman Levin's birthday. Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl continue to spoil us at Kiddush with their tasty salads and Yaakov's beautiful challah. Thank you! Thanks also to Jim Barten for keeping us supplied with grape juice. We also want to thank those "Anonymous Angels" who surprise us with gifts of cookies, fruit, and such. We have enjoyed these delicious treats and encourage you to keep them coming!

Many thanks to Felicia Martinez and Leo Vaytsman for contributing the flowers for Rosh Hashanah in memory of Felicia's mother. Thank you, Ruth Hulbert, for once again gracing the Bimah with flowers for Yom Kippur in memory of David Hulbert, Bernard Hulbert, Etta and Nathan Hulbert, Leonard Hulbert, Norman Gordon, and Leonard Gordon.

Now that the High Holidays have passed we're especially in need of Kiddush sponsors and financial contributions in order to provide pleasant meal after services. Please consider a gift to the Sisterhood that will enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai throughout 5773! Honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion by sponsoring a Kiddush or sending a contribution. If you'd like to schedule a Kiddush, give Rita a call.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

Donations

General Support

Claude Caldwell

In Honor of MaxAnna Collen's Bat Mitzvah

Yaakov and Kathy Schmadl
Patti and Steve Kushner

In Honor of Norm Levin's 95th Birthday

Yaakov and Kathy Schmadl
Patti and Steve Kushner

In Memory of Zelda Chulew

Vera Ruffalo

In Memory of Edward J. Black

Vera Ruffalo

Anniversary Wishes to Lorraine and Victor Ganz

Vera Ruffalo

Sponsorship of the October Shabbat Dinner

Patti and Steve Kushner

In Honor of the Birth of Their New Granddaughter Hattie

Patti and Steve Kushner

For the High Holidays

Mary Soley
Eric Lichterman
Ron Sklansky
Max Gordon
Mark Hertzberg
Joel and Judy Roher
Laeh Grant

Yahrzeits

Week of September 28

Esther Levin	28
Alex Sideman	28
Marjorie Wolfman	28
Charles Gordon	29
Louis Philip Seft	29
Samuel Friedman	30
Herman Gold	30
Benjamin Wolfman	30
Morris Gottlieb	1
Vilma Donner	2
Benjamin Singer	2
Frances S. Laufman	3
Nathan Blitstein	4
Nellie Rozumoff	4
Ethel Seft	4
Sadie Tabaksman	4

Week of October 5

Albert Kleffmann	6
Benjamin Feen	8
Harry Kraft	8
Janice Fried	9
Diane Bel Brown	10
Ada Wolfe	10
Tena Kaminsky	10

Week of October 12

Leah Feldman	12
Lillian Feiges	12
Julius Feiges	13
Lillian B. Kupperman	13
Dr. Joseph Prowler	14
Beatrice Waisman	14
Jack Sklansky	15

Max Spero	15
Rose Levinthal	16
Louis Lippman	17
Blanche A. Dennison	17
Victor Goodman	18
Jeanette Weinberg	18

Week of October 19

Alter Hulbert	19
Emanuel Marcado	21
Isabel Tannenbaum	21
Isidor Friedman	22
Ben Gellman	22
Meyer A. Goldstein	22
Morris Rosumoff	22
Morris J. Brill	23
Esther M. Lieberman	24
Dr. Robert Savin	24
Sol J. Brown	25

Week of October 26

Joseph Blitstein	26
Lillian Gerol	26
Nathan Siderman	26
Else Sternheim	26
Sylvia Blitstein	27
Frances Hirshih	28
Sam Weisman	28
Elena Gorsky	29
Rosalind Barash	30
Jacob H. Marks	30
Max M. Seft	31
Esther Goodman	31
Ben G. Schaefer	31
Faye C. Savin	31
Dr. Norbert Isenberg	31
Owen Levin	1

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

- October 5 - 6:07 PM
- October 12 - 5:55 PM
- October 19 - 5:44 PM
- October 26 - 5:34 PM
- November 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 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.

Thank you.

Sarah Levin 886-9331

Sidnee Nerad 551-0406

Cards \$5

Shares \$10

Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10

Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18

A Sukkot Story

Once the Baal Shem Tov sat with his disciples for the festive meal of Rosh Chodesh, and his face was serious. The disciples knew from previous occasions things that would put their Rebbe in a more joyous mood, and they tried, but with no success.

Then, a certain village-dwelling Jew entered, named Reb Dovid. Immediately upon his entry the Baal Shem Tov was full of joy--he treated him warmly, gave him a place to sit, and also gave him a piece of his "hamotzi" (bread).

This matter caused the disciples to have questioning thoughts--the whole Holy Society were not able to rouse joy, and only a villager was able to do so?!

The Baal Shem Tov sensed their questions, and sent Reb Dovid off to do something, and when he left he said to them:

This Reb Dovid works hard, by the sweat of his brow, for every penny he earns. During the year he saves a penny at a time to buy an etrog for Sukkot, until he assembles the sum and travels to the city and buys an extremely fine one, and he has great joy from it. Since he is poor, and his wife is of bitter spirit, it angered her considerably that he does not care about the condition of his household, since he spends money on an etrog and rejoices over it. In her bitterness she broke the pitom (tip) of the etrog (rendering it possul, unfit for use).

Now, besides the money that he spent on the etrog, there were many obstacles to bringing it, water to cross, bad roads, so that it all added up to much hard effort. Yet, when he saw what his wife had done he was not angry, but said: "It appears that I am not worthy of such an etrog. Truly, does a simple Jew like me deserve such a fine etrog?!"

From the time of the Akeidah (the 'Binding of Isaac')," concluded the Baal Shem Tov, "there was not such a test of character, and therefore I treated him so warmly."





Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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*Join us for a Shabbat Dinner and Services on
Friday October 19 at 6:00 PM*

October 2012 Tishrei - Cheshvan 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	W	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Sukkot Services 9:45AM then Lunch	2	3	4 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	5	6 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
7 Erev Shemini Atzeret	8 Shemini Atzeret Service 9:45AM Erev Simchat Torah Service 7:00PM	9 Simchat Torah	10	11 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	12	13 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
14	15	16	17	18 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	19 Shabbat Dinner and Service 6:00 PM Spon- sored by Patti and Steve Kushner	20 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
21	22	23	24	25 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	26	27 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
28	29	30	31	1 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	2	3 Shabbat Services 9:45AM