

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation
June 2016/Iyar-Sivan 5776

Rabbi's Message

JUNE 2016---IYAR, SIVAN 2016

As we begin the last week of the counting of the Omer, on June 4th Beth Israel Sinai will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Ten years ago I received my ordination from a private yeshiva in New York. In October of 2000, I became your spiritual leader. So much has happened over the last decade and a half that it would be impossible to enumerate in a single article. The last thing I ever anticipated was becoming a congregational Rabbi.

The only time I previously contemplated this was in the spring of 1973. My application to the Jewish Theological Seminary was pending. All prospective students were asked to fly to New York for an interview. After meeting with the seminary committee, I decided that we would not be a good fit. As an overly idealistic student and newlywed, I was uncertain if I could tolerate the politics of the pulpit. Also, it seemed at the time to be the goal of most congregational leaders to move every few years to bigger and better congregations. Witnessing what had happened to my own rabbi and mentor, who became the Rabbi at BIS following his departure from my hometown of Benton Harbor, Michigan, I did not wish to similarly uproot my future family from one place to another.

Still, I regretted being unable to share my knowledge with a wider number of students. To fulfill this desire, over the years, I had served as a self-trained cantor and teacher in a number of synagogues and schools in Michigan, Florida, South Africa (where I did my



doctoral research) and Illinois.

In 1997, an ad in the Chicago Jewish Star said that Beth Israel Sinai in Racine was looking for a new rabbi. After meeting with the board, despite not having my ordination, I was considered for the position. However, my predecessor, Rabbi Zev Harari, decided to remain for another three years.

After Rabbi Harari agreed to assume a position in a newly formed Reconstructionist congregation in Minneapolis, I was called to assume the honor and responsibility of navigating an increasingly older congregation whose younger members were moving to larger metropolitan areas. Who would have guessed in October of 2000 that I would become the longest-serving leader of Beth Israel Sinai? According to historical records, the previous longest-serving leader, Rabbi Hyman Cohen, served from 1956 to 1969. Rabbi Cohen was the only rabbi to be buried to the Racine Jewish Memorial Park. His successor was my rabbi, teacher and friend, Rabbi Irving Dick.

Still hesitant to make a long term commitment, the board and I agreed that, subject to review, I would lead Beth Israel Sinai for ten months until the congregation found a full-time rabbi. After several unsuccessful interviews, no one was found.

In June of 2003, the president of the synagogue, Audrey Bernstein, and another congregant, Mimi Miller, asked me if I would consider studying for my ordination. An article in a national Jewish magazine, *MOMENT*, described how a yeshiva in New York offered a correspondence course leading to smicha. Candidates for this program were required to have had previous yeshiva training. The temple graciously offered to pay for the three year program.

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Though initially reluctant due to a busy schedule at Beth Israel Sinai, the Brookdale Seasons senior citizen home in Northbrook, IL and running an independent agency for Electronic Merchant Systems, I accepted the challenge. After all, SLEEP IS OVERATED! In June of 2006, I completed my self-imposed deadline and was ordained as a Rabbi. On September 30th, the congregation honored me with a special Shabbat service celebrating my ordination. It was the last festive occasion attended by my late father, Myron. Dad passed away three months later on the 23rd of Kislev---two days before Chanukah. My mother, Elaine, who vigorously supported my wish to study in depth what it meant to be a Jew, passed away 23 years earlier while my family and I were living in Johannesburg, South Africa.

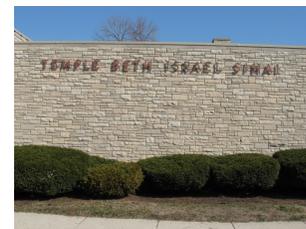
As I look back over the last sixteen years, despite skeptics who annually predicted our demise, we have continued as a vibrant, albeit smaller, post-denominational congregation. Desiring to maintain our unique identity as a temple stressing what all Jews have in common and not our sectarian differences, attempts to merge with other congregations have been roundly defeated.

Our commitment to maintaining a strong and vibrant Jewish presence in southeastern Wisconsin has never been greater. Our pre-Yom Kippur dinner and concert attracted 50 participants. Weekly Shabbat and Holiday morning services are attended by both members and visitors to the area. Our monthly Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner drew 15 -20 participants. Our Thursday night Torah classes have also proven to be a big hit. Two successful communal seders were conducted.

After another futile attempt to disband our congregation in June of 2014, for the last year we have been led by Shelly Vielie. Our president and the Temple board made many exciting new suggestions designed to ensure the growth of our Temple. Shelly's continued leadership in 2016-2017 will build upon the successes of this past year. Special thanks to Shelly and the outgoing board for its work on behalf of Beth Israel Sinai. (see back page.)

June Donations

Shylla Wollman-Yahrzeit Plaque for Elliot Wollman
Max Gordon-June 25 Kiddush for birthday of Gail & Rachel Hoss
Eileen Schroeder-General Donation
Barry Langlieb-Memory of Edward Langlieb
Louise Langlieb-Memory of Edward Langlieb
Max Gordon-In honor of birthdays for Joy Katzman, Teagen Hoss, Perry & Sara Kivolowitz, John Schnabl
Judith McGauran-Kiddush in honor of Sarah Levin
Max Gordon-Mazel Tov to Hilary Lichterman for earning a Ph.D.
Max Gordon-in Honor of Sarah Levin's birthday



Anniversary Donations

Arthur Domsky	Leon Teichner
Mark Isenberg	Lorraine Ganz
Steve Kushner	Glenn Gordon
Rick Schaefer	Judith McGauran
Marion Sperer	Michael Katz
Sarah Levin	Michael Jacobs
Blanche Kahn	Mary Jo McIntyre
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jacobsen	Joyce Placzkowski
Joel & Judy Roher	

Happy Birthday! June Birthdays



Gail Hoss
Rachel Hoss
Leone Niemiec
Sara Kivolowitz
Sarah Levin
Gene Goodman

Yahrzeits

June/Iyar

	Iyar	
1	24	David M. Kupperman Isadore H. Solomon Sonya Rozumoff Brill
3	26	Frieda Gellman Bertha Gorsky
4	27	Henry Hornstein Mark William Barshet Phyllis (Peggy) Schuster
5	28	Ben Waisman
6	29	Helen Seft LeBrint Harry Kushner Jacob M. Weisman

June/Sivan

9	3	Saul Rosner Charlotte Bakall
10	4	Max Brill Laurence Feiges
11	5	Eva Wollman
14	8	Anna Streicher
15	9	Harry Alperson
16	10	Gussie Sideman
17	11	Joseph Jacobson Bertha Kahn Louis Seft Lillian Sklansky Louis Tatelbaum Mark Barshop
20	14	Stanley Donovitz
21	15	William Myron Gottlieb
22	16	Evelyn S. Gordon
23	17	Frances Kaplan Abraham Schaefer
24	18	Reuben Gorsky
25	19	Maurice L. Fox Frima Kassel Ida Krasnow



25	19	Patti Kushner
27	21	Caroline Haskell Jean Shovers Tepper Charles Amber
29	23	Frieda Dankwerth
30	24	Morris Gordon Barney Silver

Many thanks to Max for researching and compiling the Yahrzeits

Sisterhood for June 2016

Join our celebrations in June!

June 4: 10th anniversary of Rabbi Adelberg's ordination & fund raiser catered Kiddush luncheon for Beth Israel Sinai's 100th Anniversary (\$30 per person.)

June 11: Judith McGauran will sponsor a Kiddush luncheon in honor of Sarah Levin's 99th birthday.

June 25: Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Max Gordon

To sponsor a Kiddush (Dairy \$50/Meat \$100) or to help cook call Joyce Placzkowski (262) 945-7675.

Please consider donating coffee and/or paper goods to our kitchen.





Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

*June 2016
Newsletter
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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



June 3--8:08 pm
June 10--8:13 pm
June 17--8:16 pm
June 24--8:17 pm
July 1--8:17 pm

(Rabbi's message, continued)

We still have much work to do. Current members must increase both their participation and financial contributions to the best of their ability. This will help to insure our survival for another century. To guarantee our growth as the traditional Jewish epicenter in southeastern Wisconsin, every member must work to encourage unaffiliated individuals and families residing in the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor to join our nonjudgmental Jewish environment. Special emphasis should be given to Racine and Kenosha Jewish families who, for whatever reason, have not renewed their BIS memberships. Interfaith families and non-Jews wishing to learn more about the world's oldest monotheistic religion should have a special place in our hearts.

Make known to everyone that our historic Temple is available as a venue for ALL life cycle events. (Has anyone ever seen the beautiful Chupah, marriage canopy, housed in the basement of our synagogue?) Inform them that we are an egalitarian, traditional synagogue with a strictly kosher kitchen. ALL Jewish points of view are not only welcomed, but passionately encouraged.

As we begin to write a new chapter for our second century, may we continue to grow from strength to strength. "CHAZAK, CHAZAK, V' NITCHAZAK."

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTYN ADELBERG

P.S. Our annual Tikkun la'el Shavuot learning session will begin on Saturday evening, June 11, at 7PM. Topics of discussion will include the Ten Commandments and the BDS movement advocating the divestment of capital from firms doing business with Israel. A dairy meal will be served. If you have any other topics of interest you wish to discuss, please let me know by Thursday, June 8th. Services for Shavuot will be held at 9:45am on Sunday, June 12th. Yizkor will be recited. I look forward to seeing all of you.