

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation
February 2017---Shevat/Adar 5777

From our Rabbi

The January edition of Moment Magazine asked ten Rabbis: Is it the job of Rabbis to fight against intermarriage? Representing a wide range of Jewish tradition and beliefs, all the participants agreed that intermarriage will always be a factor in Jewish life. According to a recent survey conducted by the Pew Association, close to 70% of non-Orthodox Jewish Millennials and Gen-Xrs have married or will marry a non-Jewish partner. All of the rabbis agreed with the Chabad representative that “fighting intermarriage is like trying to shake away the darkness with a broom.”

The second point of consensus was that a new dynamic Jewish educational framework had to be created for rapidly changing social, cultural, and political realities. Judaism has to become more compelling and relevant. The Jewish home must become the focus of the laws and traditions. It’s got to be much more than “brisket, latkes, tsimmis and hamentaschen.” It has to be a Jewish home where Shabbat and Holiday candles are lit, blessings are recited and what it means to be a Jew is discussed.

The ELEPHANT in the room is how to prevent interfaith families from drifting away from Judaism. While all participants were sensitive of the affect of intermarriage on future of American Judaism, they varied greatly on how they approached this societal dynamic. The Reform Rabbi said Jews had unsuccessfully fought intermarriage for centuries. Abraham married a third wife by the name of Keturah, Joseph married the daughter of the High Priest Potiphera and Moses married the Midianite woman Zipporah. Children could be raised Jewish even if the other had no desire to convert. The President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (now Union of Reform Judaism), Rabbi Alexander Schindler, at their 1978 national conference felt that this would strengthen the family’s “commitment to Jewish values.”

The Conservative Rabbi interviewed felt while it was preferable for Jews not to marry non-Jews, the reality is that intermarriage is a by-product of our multicultural society. “There is no point in resisting the reality. If we tried to fight intermarriage, we would make ourselves irrelevant.

The Orthodox and Chabad Rabbis agreed that you “don’t fight intermarriage by bringing down the wrath of heaven.” You do it by making Judaism more alluring and attractive. EVERYTHING the Rabbi does— his halachic (legal) decisions, his pastoral counseling— should be aimed at increasing his congregation’s appreciation of the beauty of Judaism. The Rabbi must be the personification a living and breathing Judaism filled with love and concern for others. ONLY then will intermarriage “no longer be a subject that requires fighting at all.”

See you in Shul
Rabbi Marty

P.S. On Behalf of our Beth Israel Sinai family, I would like to welcome our newest member, John Schnabl, who completed his conversion on January 20th at the Conservative Mikvah of metropolitan Chicago. This was after two and a half years of study at BIS and decades of personal introspection. May John, his lovely wife Babs, and their children continue to grow from strength to strength. As a community may we continue to grow spiritually and in number. REMEMBER Temple Beth Israel Sinai cherishes ALL Jewish beliefs and traditions. Interfaith families are welcome. We are Wisconsin's only POST-DENOMINATIONAL, traditional egalitarian congregation. Practitioners of all faiths or of no religion at all are welcome to attend our weekly classes and Shabbat and holiday services. For a list of events, please go to bethisraelsinai.org or friend us on our Facebook page NEW JEWISH OUTREACH.

Max Gordon is wishing Lousie Langlieb a very happy birthday



NOW I'VE GOT THE FEELING!!!

And you can have the feeling too! All you have to do is to walk into the new home of Beth Israel Sinai. You will experience feelings of warmth, goodness, and piety. You will find the sanctuary much the same as it was in the previous building-the same seats-the same plaques-and the same Torah scrolls. As you move on is the Rabbi's office and business office. Further on you will find our newly finished kosher kitchen with all new appliances! Next to that is the dining room. And finally you will find a highlight of our new facility-the many artifacts of Racine Judaism in the Racine Jewish Historical Museum.

**It has been my honor to have been involved in bringing forth this new chapter of Beth Israel Sinai. I sincerely hope that you come to see and especially partake in this wonderful Synagogue. Any questions or comments feel free to call 262-989-9333.
Shelly**

Yahrzeits

February

1. Marris Wolf
2. Harris Domsky
4. Maurice Davis
6. Sidney Glickstein
6. Hilda Popkoff
6. Ethel Shovers
7. Dorothy Shiekstein
7. George A. Lang
7. Hazel Watt
8. Phil Blitztein
8. Meyer Gottlieb
8. Fanny Kluk
9. Idah Schwartz
9. Sophie Shovers
10. Sgt. Leonard Hulbert
10. Ruth Grant Hulbert
11. Samuel Laufman
11. Tillie Sideman
12. Elizabeth Goldberg
13. Kathryn Raftenberg
14. Max Grust
14. Harold Tibaksman
15. Esther Gottlieb
15. Isadore Milch
15. Bertha Waisman
16. Joseph Popkoff
16. David Shovers
16. Julius Lichterman
16. Oscar Shovers
17. Eva Gorsky
17. Manfred Oelsner
17. Edith Seft
21. Joseph Magrer
22. Zachary Dormar
22. Joseph Harris
22. Jane Kiselow
22. Gertrude Fishbain
22. Frank Shovers

22. George S. Cohen
23. Eli Hulbert
23. Mary Soref
23. Rose Kaminal
25. Arnold Blivas
25. Beverly Schuster
25. Marc Lee Silver
25. Paul Kaplan
26. Joseph I. Donner
26. Sam Fishbain
26. Solomon Levin
26. Fritz Roos
27. Sheine Chayne Aronin
27. Genevieve Lillian Gold
27. Simon Grant
28. Hyman Laufman
28. David W. Watt



Sisterhood

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a Kiddush just let Joyce Placzowski know, 1-262-945-7675. The charge for a dairy Kiddush is \$50, meat Kiddush is \$100. The kitchen can always use coffee and paper goods. If you are interested in helping to make food for the Kiddush or a Shabbat dinner just let Joyce Placzowski know. Thanks to everyone who has offered to help with the kitchen set up. All help is welcome I'm hoping within a week we will have all items in their place and ready to use.

Donations

Bob and Joyce Katzman for donation of stove
Eileen Schroeder general donation, hangers and doing
laundry
Steve Kushner donation for new furniture
Anonymous general donation
Joyce Placzowski general donation
Everyone who has helped with the move

Beth Israel Sinai

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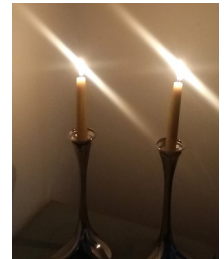
Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

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Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

February 3	4:49
February 10	4:59
February 17	5:08
February 24	5:17
March 3	5:26



Synagogue Calendar

February 4 Services at 9:45 a.m.
February 9 no adult education classes
February 11 Tu B'Shevat services at 9+:45 a.m.
February 16 no adult education classes
February 18 Services at 9:45a.m.
February 23 Adult education classes 5p.m. history of prayers 6p.m Torah study
February 25 Services at 9:45 a.m.