

# Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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AUGUST 2013

AV - ELUL 5773

## Rabbi's Message

Although the month of Elul, the sixth month in the Hebrew calendar, has no special importance in the Bible or early rabbinic writings, various customs arose during the first millennium that designated Elul as the time to prepare for the High Holidays. According to tradition, Elul is the month that Moses spent on Mt. Sinai preparing the Second Tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments after the incident of the golden calf (Ex.32; 34:27-28). Moses ascended on Rosh Chodesh Elul and descended on the 10th of Tishri, at the end of Yom Kippur, when repentance was complete. Other

sources say that on Rosh Chodesh Elul, Moses began to pray to G-d for 40 days to forgive the Children of Israel for the incident of the Golden Calf. At the end of this period, G-d commanded Moses to construct a second set of Tablets. During this month, we begin to reflect on our actions during the past year so we can be prepared to enter the Days of Awe ready to repent for our transgressions. As the Maharal of Prague, an 18th century scholar said, "All the month of Elul, before eating and sleeping, a person should look into his soul and search his deeds, that he may make confession." From the second day of Elul, the shofar is blown daily after morning services (except on

Shabbat morning) as a "wake up call" do to "teshuvah," to return to our better selves. Many people visit cemeteries, because the awe-inspiring nature of this time makes us think of our own morality.

Jewish tradition points to the name of the month as symbolically important. The letters of Elul form an acronym for the words in the verse "Ani le-dodi ve-dodi li" - "I am my beloved and my beloved is mine." (Song of Songs 6:3) Believing that the beloved refers to G-d, our rabbis interpreted this to symbolize the particularly close relationship between G-d and Israel. We try to become as close to G-d as possible as we (continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

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

## President's Message

We'll once again hold the Congregation's annual picnic at Eileen Schroeder's home (THANKS Eileen!) at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday August 18. Hope you can join us! A map is available at BIS and on the BIS website. Please bring a non-dairy dish to pass.

A reminder that the High Holidays fall very early in September. The dates/times of services are listed on page 3. I hope you'll join! If you're planning to be in town and will be joining us, please let us

know. If you'd like to participate in some of the readings please complete the intent to attend form and we'll try to include you in portions of the service!

If you'd like to have something included in the **New Year's Greeting/Book of Memory**, please complete and return the form that's attached to this email (also located at [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org)) with your check by August 16.

As we mentioned in the June newsletter and discussed at

the annual meeting, we've begun talks with Beth Hillel about the long term strengthening of the Jewish Community in Southeastern Wisconsin and about the potential of becoming one congregation by merging. We've begun the exploratory process by looking at Ritual. We'll regularly keep you informed, and ask for your input and involvement into the process.

Shalom Y'all!

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 at 119 Stuart Road in Mt. Pleasant**

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**The High Holidays are nearly here. Please note the dates and times of services on page 3.**

### Rabbi's Message Continued...

approach the High Holidays. In trusting G-d's ultimate judgment, we approach our impending "trial" out of love, not fear.

As the month of Elul draws to an end, our mood on repentance should become more urgent. Selichot (penitential prayers) are recited af-

ter Shabbat ends at least four days before Rosh Hashonah until Yom Kippur. Sephardic Jews recite Selichot for the entire month of Elul. Selichot this year will be held on Saturday night, August 31st, at 9PM.

See you in shul,  
Rabbi Marty

P.S. DON'T FORGET. On Shabbat morning, August 17th, members of the Beth Shalom B'nai Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation will be joining us. Rabbi Capers Funneye and his synagogue choir will incorporate many of their soulful melodies.

## Sisterhood

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 is a thoughtful ways to honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion. Contributions can be sent directly to BIS (designate it for Sisterhood).

The Sisterhood is also responsible for planning and cooking the monthly Shabbat dinners held on the third Friday of each month from September through June. Mark your calendars for the next Shabbat dinner, which will be held on Friday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Back at the Annual Meeting in June, the Sisterhood announced its goal of having at least one Kiddush per month sponsored by a member or friend of Beth Israel Sinai. So far, we haven't met our goal, as we did not have a sponsor for a Kiddush in July. It isn't too late, however, to help us catch up and keep us on track to meet a goal of at least 12 sponsored weeks by the end of the fiscal year! It costs approximately \$40-50 to provide the food and beverages for the Kiddush each week. If you would like to honor a family member, friend, or occasion with a Kiddush (or just want to be a sponsor), please contact Rita Collen to choose a date and let us know how you would like us to announce it. The suggested contribution is \$36 for a dairy lunch, or \$54 for a meat lunch, however any amount is appreciated and acceptable.

On that note, with the High Holidays coming, perhaps you might like to sponsor a floral arrangement for the Bimah or an Oneg following a service. We order fresh flowers for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Arrangements are typically in the \$35-50 range and members or friends of the congregation can sponsor all or part of the cost of the flowers. If you'd like to sponsor flowers for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, a Kiddush on the first or second days of Rosh Hashanah, or the Break-the-Fast after Yom Kippur, please contact Rita.

Thank you to Glenn Gordon for donating fresh Michigan blueberries for the July 6 Kiddush! Everyone is welcome to help stock the kitchen by bringing in the items we always seem to need, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, canned tuna, cheeses, eggs, 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.

At a recent board meeting, the board discussed the idea of having a "community" Kiddush a couple of times per year, with congregants bringing in a kosher dairy/pareve dish (such as a salad, kugel, etc.) or dessert of their choosing to share potluck style. Watch future newsletters and the calendar for details about the first community Kiddush!

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



**General Support**  
Eileen Schroeder  
Mary Vite

**In Honor of Vera Ruffalo's Birthday**  
Sarah Levin

**In Memory of Alex Kofsky**  
Roberta and Dale Jacobs

**In Honor of Mary Soley's Birthday**  
Vera Ruffalo

**In Honor of Kathy Schmadl's Birthday**  
Vera Ruffalo

**In Honor of Miguel Barajas' Birthday**  
Vera Ruffalo

**In Memory of Leiby Kletzky**

**Yahrzeits**

**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

**Week of August 9**

Martin Brill	9
Leah Lifschutz	9
Lillian Schulman	9
Max Bloch	10
Samuel Feldman	10
Bea Goodman	11
Bobby Kaplan	11
Frank J. Shovers	11
Bluma Jacobson	12
Sgt. Norman H. Gordon	13
Anna Tannenbaum	13

**Week of August 16**

Max Gordon	17
Sarah P. Mark	17
Henry Shapiro	17
Harry Frank	18
Dr. Arthur Grant	18
Louis Kraft	18
Rebecca Small	19

**Week of August 23**

Sarah F. Bassewitz	24
Lillian R. Kronson	24
Bessie Gelin	25
Hyman Wolfman	28
Anna Blitstein	29
Marjorie Gottlieb	29
Sylvia Schwartz	29

**Week of August 30**

Bernard Goldstein	30
Samuel Kiselow	30
I. Wolf Mark	30
Genesse Levin	31
David Davidson	2
Arnold L. Marks	2
Louis Levitt	4
Louis Sidran	4
Ralph Feiges	5
Israel Kanshepolsky	5
Alice Marx	5
V. Daniel Smith	5

**Week of September 6**

Morris Kaufman	6
Gordon Weiss	7
Marian Lang	9
Lillian Waisman	9
Herbert Rudolf	10
Anna H. Grust	10
Leon L. Savin	10
William Seft	10
Pfc. Harvey R. Shovers	11
Jeanne Swain Baum	11

**Shabbat Candle Lighting Times**

August 2 - 7:53 PM
August 9 - 7:45 PM
August 16 - 7:35 PM
August 23 - 7:24 PM
August 30 - 7:12 PM
September 4 - 7:04 PM - Rosh Hashannah
September 6 - 7:00 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 pareve 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.

**High Holiday Dates and Times**

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 - 6:45 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 was mailed to all members, inviting participation in the High Holidays services. If you're not a member, but will be in town, please plan on joining us and feel free to complete and return the form letting us know you'd like to participate.





Beth Israel Sinai  
Congregation

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Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

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

*August 2013 Av - Elul 5773*

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				August 1 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	2	3 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
4	5	6	7	8 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	9	10 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
11	12	13	14	15 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	16 New Year's Greeting/Book of Memory listing requests and payments due.	17 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM - We'll be joined by the Ethiopian Jewish Congregation from Chicago!
18 Congregation Picnic 2:00 PM at Eileen Schroeder's	19	20	21	22 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	23	24 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
25	26	27	28	29 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	30	31 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM Selichot Service 9:00 PM