

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 93, Issue 9

FEBRUARY 2013
SHEVAT - ADAR

Rabbi's Message

On Sunday, February 24th at 10:00 AM, Beth Israel Sinai Congregation will celebrate Purim with the reading of Megillat Esther. "Once there was a wicked, wicked man and Haman was his name, sir. He would have murdered all the Jews, but they were not to blame, sir. Oh, today will merry, merry be. Oh, today will merry, merry be. Oh, today will merry, merry be AND nosh some HAMENTASCHEN." These lyrics encapsulate the historical Jewish experience. After persecution comes our prayers to G-d and then we eat. Esther, the niece (some commentators say cousin) of the Jewish merchant and communal leader Mordechai, wins the love of the Persian king Ahasuerus during a royal beauty contest. From her royal throne, Esther (also known as Hadas-

sah) witnesses the rise to power of the evil Haman. A descendent of the Amalikite nation, Haman's ancestors tried to prevent the Israelite conquest of Canaan. As prime minister, Haman sought to consolidate his control over the vast Persian Empire. In exchange for a large sum of money,

King Ahasuerus gave Haman permission to rule his 137 provinces as he wished. This included a plan to annihilate one of the king's most loyal nations---THE JEWS. In fact, Jews were so assimilated that when they attended the royal banquet to celebrate the King's rise to power, the Jewish representatives didn't realize they were being served on utensils that had been stolen from the First Temple after its destruction 200 years earlier.

All the different nations, from India to Ethiopia (Ma-Hodu Ad Kush), bowed to Haman's dictates. Their sub-

mission was "rewarded" by the plunder of their national resources and subjugation of their peoples. Only Mordechai the Jew refused to bow down to Haman. Though not openly rebellious, Mordechai explained that Jews could not bow down to worship any mortal.

Angry at this insubordination, Haman plots the destruction of the Jews. The prime minister asked the King to grant his request to murder an entire nation. The pathological Haman even offered the King 10,000 gold talents for permission to kill all the Jews. Not wishing to be bothered with affairs of state, Ahasuerus readily grants Haman's request and tells him to keep his money. The 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar was established as the date the Holocaust would begin. Other provinces notified their (continued on page 2)

President's Message

January's Friday Shabbat Dinner — a pasta meal — was wonderful and the Tu B'Shavat Frutopia Kiddush was outstanding! There were 19 different fruits used, most cooked into excellent offerings. Thanks Rita!

If any of you see the RIC annual report, thanks to Steve Platt, Beth Israel Sinai was recognized with an ad. RIC

also used Beth Israel Sinai for their annual strategic planning session. Also, thanks to Steve, the Polish Hero's exhibit will begin on Sunday February 10 at the Racine Public Library. Everyone's invited to the opening reception at 2:00 PM. Steve will also be speaking on February 26 at 6:00 PM about the "Jewish Armed Resistance."

Thanks Max and Glenn Gordon and their cousins who all honored their Uncle Solo-

mon with a donation to the congregation. We hope more people will do the same!

Our next holiday season is coming! Purim and then Passover! Save March 26 for the Congregation's Passover Seder.

Please note that the February Shabbat Dinner will be held on the 22nd. (This is one week later than usual.)

Shalom Y'all,
Jeff

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**Shabbat Dinner
and Service
Friday, February 22, 2013
6:00PM**

**Polish Hero Exhibit
Begins
February 10, 2013
2:00 PM
at
The Racine Public Library**

**Congregation Passover
Seder
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
6:00 PM**

Rabbi's Message Continued...

citizenry to turn against their Jewish neighbors. The kingdom would provide them with weapons to kill the Jews. The Jews were forbidden from defending themselves.

Word reaches Esther of Haman's plot to annihilate her people. Since Ahasuerus was unaware of her Jewish origins and passionately loved his Queen, Esther's safety was virtually guaranteed. A reluctant heroine, Esther was persuaded by her uncle to use her position to save her people. Esther fasts and prays to G-d for a solution to her dilemma.

Esther decides to hold a series of private banquets to be attended by only three people--the King, the Queen and Haman. She hoped the King's professed love for her would enable her to succeed. Esther had to approach Ahasuerus cautiously, for if the King failed to hold out his royal

ring as a supplicant entered, that individual would die. As Esther approached, the King held out his ring and Ahasuerus said: "What can I do for you my Queen? Any request shall be yours--up to half of my kingdom." Esther invites the King and Haman to dine with her over a series of three banquets. Astounded by the simplicity and generosity of this request, Ahasuerus eagerly accepts her invitation. A messenger is sent to inform Haman that his presence is requested.

So as not to arouse Haman's suspicions, the first two banquets are attended with little fanfare. It is at the third banquet where Esther asks the King: "If it pleases Your Majesty, it is with a heavy heart that I must make a special request. There is a powerful man in this kingdom who wishes to kill me and my people." Ahasuerus immediately demands to know who would dare threaten to harm his beloved Queen? Esther points to the wicked Haman. Without a moment's delay, the King orders the arrest of Haman and his

ten sons. Later, they would be hung on the gallows built by Haman for Mordechai and other Jewish leaders. Notification was sent to the 137 leaders of of Persia's different nationalities to supply their Jewish subjects with weapons to defend themselves against their neighbor's attacks. Not one Jew lost their lives. Casualties were limited to acts of self defense.

Come join us for our annual celebration of this magnificent struggle for Jewish freedom on Sunday, February 24th at 10AM. Also, Marcia and I would like to invite all of our Temple family to the Hebrew baby naming of our granddaughter, Mollie Isabella, on Shabbat morning, February 23rd at 9:45 AM. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the emails, cards and phone calls from congregants wishing me a speedy recovery.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY

Sisterhood

Over the past month, our weeks of warmer-than-usual weather have settled into a pattern of steady cold temperatures. Cold or warm, snowy or sunny, rest assured that the Sisterhood will provide a tasty Kiddush to enjoy while you visit after services and prepare for Torah study. Our January experiment of serving hot foods has been well-received so we will continue this as often as possible during the remaining weeks of winter. How long that will be is up to Punxsutawney Phil. Regardless of his predictions, please continue to join us for services and lunch! This is possible due to the generous contributions of our members and friends. A Sisterhood contribution or sponsoring a Kiddush are thoughtful ways to honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion. To sponsor a Kiddush, call Rita and let her know the date, the occasion, and whether you prefer a meat or dairy meal. The suggested donation is \$54 for a meat meal and \$36 for a dairy meal, however all contributions (larger and smaller) are welcomed. We'll take care of the shopping, cooking, and serving.

We were honored to have the Kiddush on February 2 sponsored by two families — Joyce Placzkowski and Ruth Hulbert. Many thanks for bringing some extra warmth to a chilly morning! Ruth will be moving to Minneapolis early this month to live closer to her family. We wish Ruth well and will keep her in our thoughts as she settles into her new home. Our "Anonymous Angel" came through for us again, this time with kosher wine AND grape juice. Thank you! All are welcome to help keep our kitchen stocked. Items such as lox, bagels, cream cheese, coffee, canned tuna fish, eggs, fresh fruit, juice, cookies, cakes, wine, paper plates, disposable spoons and forks, and other basics are always in demand. If you'd like to donate an item or two, just leave them in the kitchen. Please ensure any packaged food items you bring in are marked kosher. Please contact Rita or Rabbi Adelberg if you have any questions.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



General Support

Wendy Dorman
Baroukh Levi

In Memory of Minnie Goodman

Roberta and Dale Jacobs

In Honor of Beth Israel Sinai in the RIC Yearbook

Steve Platt

In Honor of Sonny Solomon on his Birthday

Max Gordon
Randy Rotter
Linda Rotter
Dorie Shrago
Glenn Gordon

In Honor of Louise Langlieb on her Birthday

Vera Ruffalo



Yahrzeits

Week of February 1

Eva Gorsky	1
Manfred Oelsner	1
Edith Seft	1
Joseph Magner	5
Zachary Dorman	6
Joseph L. Harris	6
Jane Kiselow	6
Gertrude Fishbain	6
Frank Shovers	6
George S. Cohen	6
Eli Hulbert	7
Mary Soref	7
Rose Kaminal	7

Week of February 8

Darnold Blivas	8
Beverly Schuster	9
Marc Lee Silver	9
Paul Kaplan	9
Joseph I. Donner	10
Sam Fishbain	10
Solomon Levin	10
Fritz Roos	10
Sheine Chayne Aronin	11
Ralph Levin	11
Genevieve Lillian Gold	11
Simon Grant	11
Hyman Lauffman	12
David W. Watt	12
Eugene J. Aronin	13
Sarah Spracker	13
Dori Gorsky	13
Max J. Bassewitz	14
Dr. Ernest Wolf	14
Anna Brill	14
Meyer Domsy	14

Week of February 15

Joseph (Jack) Gould	15
Goldyne R. Mann	15
David Schwartz	17
Marjorie Bernbaum	17
Sarah C. Dorman	18
Birdie Metz	18
Mary Shovers	21
Pearl Levin	21

Week of February 22

Necha Weissbard	22
Samuel A. Grant	23
Emily Alperovitz	24
Foster Gould	24
Rashe Berson	24
Ben Kaplan	25
Moses H. Rubin	26
Goldie Shlimovitz	26
Sarah Blitstein	27
Fanny Alperovitz	28
David Alperovitz	28
Joseph A. Dunya	28

Week of March 1

Louis Gorsky	1
Sarah Silverman	1
Ruben A. Gorsky	2
E. Adrian Silver	2
Philip Waisman	3
Rabbi Hyman Cohen	3
Harold Levin	4
Bertha Sobodkin	4
David Merens	5
George Stern	6
Dr. Mark Temkin	6
David Isaac Gordon	6
Anne Kraft Seidita	6
Ben Silver	6
Rose S. Wiener	7
Charles Greenberg	7

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

February 1 - 4:46 PM
 February 8 - 4:55 PM
 February 15 - 5:04 PM
 February 22 - 5:13 PM
 March 1 - 5:22 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

Polish Heroes Exhibit

Racine Public Library - Opening and Reception
 Sunday February 10, 2013 at 2:00 PM

Purim: a Synopsis



Purim, one of the most joyous holidays in the Jewish calendar celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people in exile in Persia. The story is told in the Book of Esther, which is read as part of the holiday, remembering how a young Jewish girl became queen of Persia and risked the anger of her new husband to get him to prevent an attack on all Jews living in Persia, men, women, and children. The story, also called the Megillah, tells of the fall of the king's feared adviser, who perishes out of his own malice, the bravery of a young woman, and the perseverance of the Jewish people. The festival is celebrated with gifts of food and drink, feasting, and games, especially dressing in costumes to remember how Esther was chosen as most beautiful in the kingdom.





Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

*Join us for a Friday Shabbat Service and Dinner
on February 22, 2013 at 6:00 PM*

February 2013 Shevat - Adar 5773

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Kiddush Sponsored by Joyce Placzkowski and Ruth Hul- bert
3	4	5	6	7 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	8	9 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
10	11	12	13	14 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	15	16 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
17	18	19	20	21 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	22 Shabbat Dinner and Service 6:00 PM	23 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Baby Naming for Rabbi Adelberg's Granddaughter.
24 Purim Service and Celebration 10:00 AM	25	26	27	28 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	1 March	2 Shabbat Services 9:45AM