

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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JUNE 2014

SIVAN - TAMMUZ 5774

Rabbi's Message

On Passover, the Children of Israel became physically free from the oppression of Pharaoh. It took ten increasingly severe plagues to convince the Egyptian ruler to let our people go. The Israelites would wander in the desert forty years before G-d would permit them to enter the Promised Land. The older generation, plagued by their "slave mentality," were not ready for freedom. Ultimately, they would perish in the Sinai. Their children and grandchildren too young to be affected by Egyptian bondage, would become the leaders of an independent Jewish nation.

Physical freedom without a commitment to a higher moral ideal is not sufficient to maintain a prosperous society. Near the end of the second Pesach seder, the Jewish people began the counting of the Omer----our countdown to spiritual freedom. (An "Omer" is an of-

fering of .125 bushel of barley brought to the Temple each of the 49 days.) Our freedom became, in theory, completed by G-d's gift of the Torah handed to Moses during the holiday of Shavuot on Mt. Sinai. This eternal document provided the spiritual, moral, legal, civic and ethical foundations for a new and truly free society.

Why did the Jewish people only "theoretically" become spiritually as well as physically free on Shavuot? Just consider a few of the many examples provided by Jewish history. After Joshua, the successor to Moses, conquered the Land of Israel, the nation descended into a period of anarchy under the rule of weak and often corrupt Judges. Despite almost two centuries of stability under Kings Saul, David and Solomon, their progeny presided over the division of a united kingdom into Israel and Judea. The last Judean rulers saw the kingdom absorbed into the Babylonian Empire and the destruction of the First Temple. Though

nominally free, as long as they did not challenge the political leadership of the Greek and subsequent Roman Empires, a combination of Jewish assimilation and the rise of politically subversive movements led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple. A Roman city, Aelia Capitolina, was built on the graves of our decimated Eternal City. Later threats to our existence through assimilation and forced conversion include the Arab conquest of Europe, the Christian Crusades, and the Spanish Inquisition. The Tsarist regime of Nicholas I had a plan to rid itself of its Jewish population. The Jewish population of Russia would become extinct when one-third became Russian Orthodox, one-third emigrated and one-third, included boys as young as 12, would die in the Army. Any remaining Jews would die in government inspired pogroms. Hitler went one step further. The Fuhrer sought the extinction of the

President's Message

As I end my four years as president, I'd like to thank the congregation's members and especially the board members who served with me for their support in helping to make Beth Israel Sinai

a warm and welcoming place. I'd like to thank Marion Sperer, Dr. Josh Bloom, Glenn Gordon, Steve Platt, Kathy Schmadl and my wife Rita, all of whose terms expire and will also be going off the board as well as Max Gordon whose

board service will continue. To the new board members, thanks for taking on this worthwhile and awesome responsibility.

As always... Shalom Y'all!
Jeff

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Special Happenings

Sarah Levin's 97th Birthday Celebration Kiddush

Saturday, June 14 after services

Friday Night Shabbat Service and Dinner

Sponsored by The Gaeta Family

June 20, 6:00 p.m.

Rabbi's Message Continued...

entire Jewish people. After six million Jews perished during the Holocaust, a guilt ridden world allowed the creation of a Jewish state. Too bad they had not bombed the railroads leading to the concentration and extermination camps.

The struggle for Jewish existence continues today on many levels. In our own community, over the last two years, well intentioned individuals have worked both for and against the creation of a single Jewish congregation in southeastern Wisconsin. The debate is now over. Let us all work together to preserve the existence of Beth Israel Sinai for future generations.

Extraordinary measures must be taken to insure our future. Action and not words are now required. I have taken the first step. To ease our financial situation, I have agreed to

our Temple Board's request for a substantial reduction in my salary. Funds will now be available for advertising in Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and newspapers in north suburban Illinois. These ads would extol the virtues of our 'post-denominational' Jewish congregation. Many unaffiliated Jews, as demonstrated by the recent Pew survey, consider the major denominations as unresponsive to individual needs. Interfaith families must be unconditionally welcomed into our congregation. Different programs must be initiated to attract both new Jewish and non-Jewish participants interested in learning more about our heritage. To name a few possibilities: conversational Hebrew classes both for beginning and advanced students (such classes are already being conducted at Beth Israel Sinai); an Israeli film night; a Holocaust studies course; and a lecture series on modern Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations. Any funds charged for these programs would be used for the

preservation and growth of our Temple. Social media promoting the warmth and openness of Beth Israel Sinai would also play a crucial role in our future. All suggestions leading to the perpetuation of our existence are welcomed.

This FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE will be the main topic of discussion following Shavuot services on Tuesday evening, June 3rd at 7pm. All members, non-members and recipients of this bulletin are encouraged to make their suggestions. Out of town readers can email their suggestions to the Temple. (Go to bethisraelsinai.org to learn more about BIS and the various email addresses.) May we all become positively engaged in the future of our congregation. Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazake. May we grow together from strength to strength.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

Sisterhood

The start of summer in June brings with it the opportunity to help Sarah Levin celebrate her 97th birthday. All are invited to join Sarah and her family at a Kiddush following the June 14 service in honor of this wonderful occasion! Many thanks to Sarah for sponsoring the Kiddush. We wish her a happy birthday filled with the love and joy she brings to all who have the honor of spending time with her!

Many thanks to Max Gordon for sponsoring the June 28 kiddush in honor of Gail and Rachel's birthdays. Happy birthday, Gail and Rachel!

The Sisterhood will host an oneg following Shavuot Eve services on Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. Plan to stay and visit over coffee, cheesecake, and other dairy treats!

Be sure to join us at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20. for a Shabbat evening service, followed immediately by a buffet dinner. This month's menu includes baked chicken, smashed potatoes, and a variety of seasonal sides, salads, and cakes. We send our thanks to the Gaeta family, our sponsors for the June Shabbat Dinner. It's always a treat when they come to visit and we look forward to an evening of fun and fellowship together. Remember we do not have the Shabbat dinner in July, and have the annual congregation picnic in August. Look for details in upcoming newsletters.

Once again, thanks to everyone who sponsored a Kiddush during the past fiscal year. As I noted in the Sisterhood's annual report, the Sisterhood met its goal of having at least one sponsored Kiddush each month over the past year. This would not be possible without your support! It's not too early to reserve a Kiddush to commemorate a special milestone or honor a loved one. Just give me a call with your date and we'll take care of the details. You may also help by donating kosher grocery items. With summer (hopefully) on its way we always seem to run short of bottled water, soda, and paper goods (especially cups, napkins, and forks) and nonperishable items such as canned tuna, cookies, peanut butter (donations of peanut butter means Jim Barten's favorite peanut butter bars will soon be on the menu) and other basics on hand. You may drop these items off in the kitchen.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

General Support
Eileen Schroeder
Mary Vite



In Memory of Helen and Herman Kaplan
Anna Hessa

In Honor of Sarah Levin's 97th Birthday
Max Gordon

Yahrzeits

Week of June 6

Arthur Schwartz	6
Meyer Spracker	6
Vivian Rudolph	6
Sanford Sperer	6
Anna Streicher	6
Harry Alperson	7
Gussie Sideman	8
Joseph Jacobson	9
Bertha Kahn	9
Louis Seft	9
Lillian Sklansky	9
Louis Tatelbaum	9
Charles Amber	11
Mark Barshop	11
Stanley Donovitz	11

Week of June 13

William Myron Gottlieb	13
Evelyn S. Gordon	14
Frances Kaplan	15
Abraham Schaefer	15
Reuben Grosky	16
Maurice L. Fox	17
Frima Kassel	17
Ida Krasnow	17
Caroline Haskell	19
Jean Shovers Tepper	19

Week of June 20

Frieda Dankwerth	21
Morris Gordon	22
Barney Silver	22
Jacob Gorsky	23

Oscar Waisman	23
Joseph Wilks	23
Joseph E. Seft	24
Harvey Silverman	24
Celia Frank	24
Sarah Shapiro	25
Kate Fox	26

Week of June 27

Katherine Silver	28
Gertrude Kiselow	29
Mamie Faber	1
Louis Rosenberg	1
Ruth Dingfelder	2
Minnie Grant	2

Week of July 4

Mynette Davis	4
Frank Hoffman	4
Cherna Shovers	4
Tillie Hornstein	4
Rebecca Karlitzky	5
Norman Shovers	6
Max Tannenbaum	7
Freda Altman Epstein	9
Anna Levin	9
Julius Fishbain	10
Samuel Gluck	10
Edward Shovers	10
Brian Held	10



Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

- June 6 - 8:08 PM
- June 13 - 8:12 PM
- June 20 - 8:14 PM
- June 27 - 8:15 PM
- July 4 - 8:15 PM
- July 11 - 8:12 PM



Shabbat ends on Saturday one hour later than candle lighting on Friday.

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. Changes in cemetery policy approved by the congregation at its 2013 annual meeting have created a Reform section of the cemetery where Jews and their non-Jewish family members can be buried together.

For more information about the purchase of cemetery plots or perpetual care, please 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. 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.

Some Fun Shavuot Pictures



**Elected Board of Directors
2014 - 2015**

- Sandra Levin - Recording Secretary
- Joyce Placzkowski - Financial Secretary
- Brian Rose - Member at Large
- Max Gordon - Member at Large





Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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***Join us for a Friday Shabbat Service and Dinner
on Friday June 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.***

June 2014 Sivan - Tammuz 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>Eve of Shavout</i> <i>Services 7:00 PM</i> <i>Oneg to follow</i>	4 <i>1st Day of Shavout</i>	5 <i>Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i> <i>Shavout Services 9:45 AM</i>	6	7 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	13	14 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i> <i>Sarah Levin's 97th Birthday Celebration Kiddush!</i>
15	16	17	18	19 <i>Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	20 <i>Shabbat Service and Dinner 6:00 PM</i> <i>Sponsored by the Gaeta Family</i>	21 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>
22	23	24	25	26 <i>Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	27	28 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i> <i>Kiddush sponsored by Max Gordon</i>
29	30	1 July	2	3 <i>Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class</i>	4 <i>Independence Day!</i>	5 <i>Shabbat Services 9:45 AM</i>