

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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MAY 2013

IVAR - SIVAN 5773

Rabbi's Message

With the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE and the loss of its priestly class, Jews have turned to their Rabbinic scholars for both secular and religious guidance. The instruction provided by the Torah was augmented with a written version of the Oral Law called the Talmud. Sacrificial Judaism had become a relic of the past. Jews turned to prayer and scholarship to reaffirm their commitment to Jewish life. The most brilliant scholars became the leading decision makers in Jewish society. Their role became even more important during perilous times like the Crusades and Spanish Inquisi-

tion. Scholars like Rashi, Maimonides, Nachmonides, Abarbanel and Rabbi Joseph Caro were not only venerated in their own time, but also in succeeding generations. Rarely did traditional Jewish society focus on its youth for guidance. Unlike many in the 21st century who look to technocratic geniuses to "stay connected," Jewish society preferred to seek comfort in the past decisions of Jewish scholars. Even today, our scholars only modify an existing legal precedent after the most careful consideration and debate.

There were however, many notables exceptions. Nadav and Abihu, the sons of Aaron the High Priest, entered the

Tabernacle's Holy of Holies to offer incense restricted for use by the High Priest. Furthermore, they acted in violation of the prohibition to enter this sacred space only on Yom Kippur. Their Divine punishment was death.

Another example is the demagogue Korah. Moses' fellow Levite resented the power held by Moses and Aaron. He charged that the rules of the Torah were designed to perpetuate their power. The rebel leader acquired a large following that challenged their leadership. G-d punished them by opening up the ground where they stood swallowing the entire (continued on page 2)

President's Message

Warm weather is finally here... Happy May and happy 91st birthday to Victor Ganzl.

We've been invited to attend services with the Ethiopian Jewish Congregation in the Chicago area in the next couple of months. Please keep watch for details.

The annual meeting has been scheduled for Friday, June 21 at 6:00 p.m. prior to our June Shabbat Service and Dinner. A reminder that the Congregation's fiscal year ends May

31. According to the By-Laws, anyone who has not completed payment of their assessed annual dues or has not requested to make an arrangement with Dr. Bloom or myself to adjust their assessment will not have the opportunity to vote at the annual meeting.

We're again planning an August Congregational picnic, although a date hasn't been settled on, we'll get you the details as soon as they're available.

Thanks to Glenn Gordon you've all experienced the new security system entry into

Temple. This has been a good addition, making it safer for all of us! Another building upgrade will be new lighting at both the 10th Street and Main Street entrances, providing better security when it's dark and helping people who are looking for us more easily find us. Thanks again Glenn!

Thanks to all of YOU for being members and fully participating!

Shalom Y'all,
Jeff

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Shabbat Dinner and Service
Friday, May 17
6:00 p.m.

Notice of Annual Meeting
Friday, June 21
6:00 p.m.
The meeting will be followed by our regular Shabbat Service and Dinner

Rabbi's Message Continued...

contingent of thousands. According to one later tradition, a 19th century Bedouin once escorted a group of tourists to the spot where Korah and his followers met their fate. When they put their ears to the ground they heard Korah cry out, "Moses was right."

The last example involves the counting of the Omer which began on the second night of Passover. Our Rabbis teach us that we only became "physically" free during the Exodus

from Egypt. We count 49 days to our "spiritual" freedom when the Torah was given to the Children of Israel by G-d. One of the most important tenets of the Torah is respect. Though great scholars, the students of the saintly Rabbi Akiba had no respect for one another. As a punishment for their sin, a great plague which killed 24,000 students began on the first day of the counting the Omer. The plague stopped 33 days later on Lag (Lemad=30, Gimel=3) B' Omer.

We learn from these stories that whenever Jews deviated from the ethics and

wisdom of their ancestors, it has had a negative impact on our people. Whenever we have held fast to the teachings of our divinely inspired scholars, we have ultimately succeeded. "Am Yisroel Chai." "The Jewish People live." Indeed by acknowledging G-d as the "Rock of Israel" we cannot fail.

Come and learn more at our annual Tikkun Lael Shavout study on Tuesday May 14th at 7PM.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
Rabbi Marty

Sisterhood

At the time of publication, we have had two consecutive days of warm and sunny weather. Hopefully this means spring weather is here to stay and those April showers will soon result in the May flowers we've been waiting for these many cold and gloomy months. Hopefully this also means more of our members and friends will join us for services and Torah study in the coming weeks. The Sisterhood will be ready to serve a tasty lunch to accompany the fellowship after services.

May will be a busy month, with several of our members sponsoring a Kiddush. We thank them for their generosity and for sharing their celebrations with all of us at Beth Israel Sinai. The Ganz family will honor Victor Ganz, who is celebrating his 91st birthday, on May 4. Join us to celebrate this special occasion and wish Victor a happy birthday. Jim Barten is sponsoring the Kiddush on May 11, in honor of 20 years of sobriety. Congratulations, Jim!

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 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're so pleased when you join us for the monthly Shabbat Dinners, held on the third Friday of the month. Remember, no reservations are necessary, and just come as you are. We're planning something new and special for May. Don't miss it! Dinner is provided at no charge, however feel free to make a contribution to help defray costs if you wish.

If you are unable to make a financial contribution, perhaps you might help us keep the kitchen stocked by bringing in a few groceries from time to time. Now that warmer weather is (hopefully) on its way, we'll transition towards a lighter summer menu again, which means we'll be in need of lox, cream cheese, canned tuna, eggs, fresh fruits, vegetables, pickles, olives, cookies, chips, snacks, frozen lemonade or juices, and coffee. It seems we're always running out of paper goods — plastic or paper plates, plastic utensils, paper towels, etc. You can leave the items in the kitchen. Please ensure foods (except fresh fruit and vegetables) are marked kosher to help keep our kosher kitchen kosher.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



General Support

Mary Vite
Eileen Schroeder
Felicia Zusman
Rosalie and Michael Slute

In Memory of Edward M. Langlieb
Louise Langlieb

In Memory of Howard Brown
Vera Ruffalo

In Memory of Herman and Helen Kaplan
and Bobby Kaplan
Anna Hessa



Yahrzeits

Week of May 3

David M. Kupperman	4
Isadore H. Solomon	4
Sonya Rozumoff Brill	4
Frieda Gellman	6
Bertha Gorsky	6
Henry Hornstein	7
Mark William Barshet	7
Phyllis (Peggy) Schuster	7
Ben Waisman	8
Helen Seft LeBrint	9
Harry Kushner	9
Jacob M. Weisman	9

Week of May 10

Saul Rosner	12
Charlotte Bakall	12
Max Brill	13
Laurence Feiges	13
Eva Wollman	14

Week of May 17

Arthur Schwartz	17
Meyer Spracker	17
Vivian Rudolph	17
Sanford Sperer	17
Anna Streicher	17
Harry Alperson	18
Gussie Sideman	19
Joseph Jacobson	20
Bertha Kahn	20
Louis Seft	20
Lillian Sklansky	20
Louis Tattelbaum	20

Week of May 24

William Myron Gottlieb	24
Evelyn S. Gordon	25
Frances Kaplan	26
Abraham Schaefer	26
Reuben Grosky	27
Maurice L. Fox	28
Frima Kassel	28
Ida Krasnow	28
Caroline Haskell	30
Jean Shovers Tepper	30

Week of May 31

Richard Amber	31
Frieda Dankwerth	1
Morris Gordon	2
Barney Silver	2
Jacob Gorsky	3
Oscar Waisman	3
Joseph Wilks	3
Joseph E. Seft	4
Harvey Silverman	4
Celia Frank	4
Sarah Shapiro	5
Kate Fox	6

Week of June 7

Gertrude Kiselow	9
Mamie Faber	11
Louis Rosenberg	11
Ruth Dingfelder	12
Minnie Grant	12
Sadly, we announce that Gloria Weiss, a 50 year resident of Racine passed away on April 25.	

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

May 3 - 7:35 PM
 May 10 - 7:43 PM
 May 17 - 7:50 PM
 May 24 - 7:57 PM
 May 31 - 8:03 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

Cemetery Change Planned

Last year at the annual meeting we discussed that addition of designating a Reform section of the cemetery where Jews and their non-Jewish spouses could be buried. If you have any comments, please get them to me by the end of May. The Congregation will be voting to approve this change at this year's annual meeting on June 21 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the June Friday evening Shabbat dinner and service.

May in Jewish History

Jewish American Heritage Month

By Congressional resolution and Presidential proclamation, May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), a national month of recognition of the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture, JAHM acknowledges the achievements of American Jews in fields ranging from sports and arts and entertainment to medicine, business, science, government, and military service.

Expulsion from Spain

In the spring of 1492, shortly after the Moors were driven out of Granada, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain expelled all the Jews from their lands and thus, by a stroke of the pen, put an end to the largest and most distinguished Jewish settlement in Europe. The expulsion of this intelligent, cultured, and industrious class was prompted only in part by the greed of the king and the intensified nationalism of the people who had just brought the crusade against the Muslim Moors to a glorious close. The real motive was the religious zeal of the Church, the Queen, and the masses. The official reason given for driving out the Jews was that they encouraged the Marranos to persist in their Jewishness and thus would not allow them to become good Christians.



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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**Join us for the Shabbat Service and Dinner on
May 17, 2013 at 6:00 PM**

Friday

May 2013 Ivar - Sivan 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM Kiddush Sponsored by Ganz's in honor of Victor's 91st birthday
5	6	7	8	9 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	10	11 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Kiddush sponsored by Jim Barten in honor of 20 years of sobriety
12	13	14 Tikkun Lael Shavout study 7:00 PM	15	16 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	17 Shabbat Service and Dinner 6:00 PM	18 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
19	20	21	22	23 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	24	25 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
26	27	28	29	30 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	31	June 1 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM