

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 94, Issue 4

SEPTEMBER 2013

ELUL 5773 - TISHREI 5774

Rabbi's Message

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. Once again we stand before our Creator pleading for our lives. And what kind of life will it be? Will our families retain our health or will we experience illness? Will we reap riches or will our financial situation deteriorate? Will we support those less fortunate or will we withhold "tzedakah" to the orphan, the widow, the poor and medical research? Will we continue to politically and financially support the State of Israel and strive for a just solution for all the inhabitants of the Middle East? Will we gossip about our friends and enemies or will we say nothing unless there is something positive to say? Will we become more observant Jews or become even more ambivalent about fulfilling our role as G-

d's Chosen People? Will we continue to actively support the Racine Jewish community and strive to make known to others the beauty and warmth of our congregation? Will the piercing blast of the Shofar inspire us to strive for the above and many other ways to become a better human beings?

Rosh Hashonah is the time when all Jews reflect and seek forgiveness for the past year. Repentance is the goal of every Jewish person during this time of the year. One can repent out of fear or out of love. Our Talmudic authors wrote (Yoma 86b): "GREAT IS REPENTANCE OUT OF LOVE, FOR IT TURNS SINS INTO MERITS." Repentance out of love is more difficult than repentance out of fear. The following story by one of the Chassidic masters beautifully illustrates this point.

A thief came upon the idea to steal from the king's treasury. He spent many days trying to figure out how to dig a tunnel beneath it. Having completed this passage-way, the thief would enter and fill his sacks with royal treasure. Eventually, he worked out a plan and dug a tunnel.

Unfortunately for the thief, instead of leading to the king's treasury, the tunnel led to the great hall next to it. The thief entered the dark corridor and felt around, but could not find any riches at all. Disappointed, he turned around and escaped before sun up.

That same night, another thief also tried to break into the king's treasury. But unlike the first thief, he managed to successfully enter the treasury and fill his sacks with (continued on page 2)

President's Message

Happy New Year!!! The High Holidays are here. Please plan on joining us if you're in town. The times of services are listed to the right and also on the Temple's web site, www.bethisraelsinai.org.

The 5774 New Years Greeting/Book of Memory is now available in print at Temple and on the Temple's web site www.bethisraelsinai.org

The annual picnic at Eileen

Schroeder's home was great fun! THANKS Eileen! And Max (Gordon)... great job again cooking. You're a superb grill chef! THANKS Max! And thanks to everyone for providing the side dishes to go along with the burgers and dogs... all kosher of course.

We've had some excellent conversations with Beth Hillel about the potential of merging. We've started with Ritual committees evaluating similarities and differences.

I've included on page three a joint communication we've prepared with additional information.

Friday evening Shabbat Services and Dinner will begin again on the third Friday in October.

The High Holiday Appeal will be out to you soon... watch for it and please consider a contribution!

Shanah Tovah!!!
Jeff

Inside this issue:

Rabbi's Message	2
Continued...	
Donations	2
Sisterhood News	2
Yahrzeits and Candle Lighting Times	3
Cemetery News Hadassah	3
Progress Report - Merger Discussions	3
Calendar	4

High Holiday Services Schedule

Rosh Hashanah Eve
Sept. 4 - 8:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah, 1st day
Sept. 5 - 9:30 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd day
Sept. 6 - 9:30 a.m.

Kol Nidre
Sept. 13 - 6:45 p.m.

Yom Kippur
Sept. 14 - Morning 9:00
a.m. - Afternoon 4:30 p.m.

Rabbi's Message Continued...

silver, gold and precious stones. But before leaving the thief stopped and thought: "How could I be so bold as to steal from the king himself when in fact I am obligated to honor him?"

The thief emptied his bags and escaped to his home. When day broke, the king's attendants noticed that there were two openings into the great hall and treasury. Careful investigation indicated that nothing was missing.

The king wanted to know the reason behind these strange occurrences. He ordered his sheriff to conduct a full investigation. Soon the two thieves were brought before the king. The sov-

ereign asked them to explain the meaning of their actions. "I will not deny it," said the first thief. "I entered the king's treasury, but did not find a thing. Since I feared that it would soon be daybreak, I escaped to save myself." The king immediately ordered that the thief be taken to the dungeon.

"I," confessed the second thief, "entered the treasury and took whatever I could. Suddenly, I realized and understood that what I was about to do was very bad. I was not only stealing what was not mine, but my actions would result in an insult to the king's honor. Out of love for the king, I decided not to follow through with this wicked deed." After hearing this, the monarch sent the man home with many wonderful and valuable gifts.

So too, our rabbis conclude, in relation to repentance, we give the GREATEST honor to the KING OF THE WORLD when we repent out of love. For such an act of "teshuvah," we will also receive the greatest rewards.

At this time Marcia and I, Becky, Robyn, Joe, Lisa, Greg, Lara, Sam, Myles and Mollie would like to wish our Temple family a Happy and Healthy New Year. May our Yom Kippur fast be an easy. And with the concluding blast of the Shofar after the Ne'ilah service, may all of us be signed and sealed in the Book of Life. "L'shana tova umetuka."

SEE YOU IN SHUL,

Rabbi Marty

Sisterhood

With the help of several BIS members, the Sisterhood met its goal of having at least one sponsored Kiddush per month during the month of August. Thank you to Yaakov and Kathy Schmadl and the Collen Family for providing food for the Kiddush on August 17, when we hosted Rabbi Funney and the Beth Shalom B'nai Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation and many guests from the community for a festive lunch and an afternoon of fellowship. Special thanks to our "Little Sisters" Maxie and Solomyn Collen for providing their sous chef and pastry-making skills for this event.

The High Holidays are a busy time and the Sisterhood will be especially busy preparing the Kiddush and meals during the holidays. This wouldn't be possible without the support of BIS members and friends and we are grateful for their contributions. In keeping with our synagogue's tradition of having the congregation's president and rabbi sponsor the Erev Rosh Hashanah oneg, the Collen and Adelberg families invite you to join them after services for coffee and sweets to usher in the new year. Last year, for the first time in many years, we provided lunch after services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah as well as the first day. This idea was well received so we plan to do this again. (If you'd like to be a sponsor, please contact Rita). Thank you to the Gaeta family — Dennis, Brenda, Jonathan, and Gienna — for sponsoring this year's break-the-fast in honor of the new year. It will be held immediately after services on Yom Kippur.

We send our thanks to Louise Langlieb, Sandy Levin and Brian Rose, and an anonymous donor for financial gifts during the past month. Thanks to their support, the buffet table will be well supplied during the coming month! Gifts to the Sisterhood (whether financial, in-kind, or extra pairs of hands) enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai and will be enjoyed throughout 5774! If you'd like to schedule a Kiddush, to honor a life cycle event, birthday, anniversary, or any occasion, please give Rita a call. Contributions can be sent to BIS (designate it for Sisterhood).

Many thanks to Marion Sperer for contributing the flowers for Rosh Hashanah in memory of Marion's mother, Bea Goodman. Thank you, Ruth Hulbert, for once again gracing the Bimah with flowers for Yom Kippur in memory of David Hulbert, Bernard Hulbert, Etta and Nathan Hulbert, Leonard Hulbert, Norman Gordon, and Leonard Gordon. Your gifts of flowers will add an extra touch of beauty to the holiday services.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

General Support

Eileen Schroeder
Mary Vite

In Honor of Miguel Barajas' Birthday

Vera Ruffalo

In Honor of Vera Ruffalo's Birthday

Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl

In Memory of her mother Caroline Haskell, her father Kalman Haskell, her brothers Jacob Haskell, Saul Rosner and David Rosner

Louise Langlieb



Yahrzeits	
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
Week of September 13	
Nette Sunshine	13
Rose Gorsky	14
Ruth Rissman	14
Esther Levin	16
Alex Sideman	16
Marjorie Wolfman	16
Charles Gordon	17
Louis Philip Seft	17
Samuel Friedman	18
Herman Gold	18
Benjamin Wolfman	18
Morris Gottlieb	19
Vilma Donner	20
Benjamin Singer	20
Week of September 21	
Frances S. Laufman	21
Nathan Blitstein	22
Nellie Rozumoff	22
Ethel Seft	22
Sadie Tabaksman	22
Albert Kleffmann	24
Benjamin Feen	26
Harry Kraft	26
Janice Fried	27
Week of September 28	
Diane Bel Brown	28
Ada Wolfe	28
Tena Kaminsky	28
Leah Feldman	30
Lillian Feiges	30
Julius Feiges	1
Lillian B. Kupperman	1
Dr. Joseph Prowler	2
Beatrice Waisman	2
Jack Sklansky	3
Max Spero	3
Week of October 4	
Rose Levinthal	4
Louis Lippman	5
Blanche A. Dennison	5
Victor Goodman	6
Jeanette Weinberg	6
Alter Hulbert	7
Emanuel Marcado	9
Isabel Tannenbaum	9
Isidor Friedman	10
Ben Gellman	10
Meyer A. Goldstein	10
Morris Rosumoff	10

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

September 4 - 7:04 PM - Rosh Hashannah
 September 6 - 7:00 PM
 September 13 - Kol Nidre
 September 21 - 6:35 PM
 September 28 - 6:23 PM
 October 4 - 6:11 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

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.

Progress Report: Merger Discussions

As we told you at the Annual Meetings of both of our congregations, Beth Hillel Temple and Beth Israel Sinai Congregation are exploring a merger. We told you that the next steps would be for people from both congregations to begin to meet together on important topics. The first of those meetings, a meeting to discuss Ritual, took place on July 31. Jeff Collen, Josh Bloom, Joan Shepard Lustig, Max Gordon, Fred Varhula, Ben Goldstein, Esther Letven and Rabbi Feingold discussed and defined a number of potential issues that needed to be explored further. The group will meet again in mid-August.

As we explore the potential benefits of a merger, and how it will strengthen Judaism in Southeast Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, one of the questions that many of you have asked relates to Rabbis. If it makes sense to go ahead with a merger, board members of both congregations feel confident that Rabbi Dena Feingold will be an excellent choice as our full-time Rabbi, and will find ways to accommodate the needs of the new, united congregation. Rabbi Feingold is excited about, and very supportive our discussions.

In addition to meetings on ritual, congregants from both congregations will be invited to participate in meetings on buildings, operations and finance. When major points have been discussed and defined, we plan to hold two "Town Hall"- style meetings, one at each congregation, so that every member of both congregations has a chance to listen to the plans and to question and comment.

If you have thoughts, ideas, or want to participate in any of the meetings, please let one of us know.

Members of both congregations have been discussing various aspects of a potential merger for some time. We, as Presidents of our respective congregations, are proud and delighted at the openness, enthusiasm, and willingness to consider new ideas of everyone who has participated in our conversations. The Jewish Community in Southeast Wisconsin and far Northern Illinois will benefit from everyone's efforts.

Jeff Collen
 President, Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Joan Shepard Lustig
 President, Beth Hillel Temple



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

L' Shanah Tovah

Join us for High Holiday Services!

September 2013 Elul 5773 - Tisrei 5774

Sun	M	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Rosh Hashanah Eve Services 8:00 PM	5 Rosh Hashanah Services 9:30 AM	6 Rosh Hashanah Services 9:30 AM	7 Shabbat Services 8 9:45 AM
8	9	10	11	12 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	13 Kol Nidre Service 6:45 PM	14 Yom Kippur Services 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM (Break-the Fast following final service)
15 Sukkah Building Party 10:00 AM	16	17	18	19 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class Sukkot - 1st day services 9:45 AM	20	21 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
22	23	24	25	26 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class Shemini Atzeret and Yizkor Services 9:45 AM Simchat Torah Services 7:00 PM	27	28 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
29	30	1 - Oct.	2	3 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	4	5 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM