

Beth Israel Sinai Congregation Newsletter Iyar-Sivan 5770

May 2010



IYAR-SIVAN 5770

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Our journey towards both “physical” and “spiritual” freedom began on the second day of Pesach. With a strong hand and awesome force, G-d enabled us to leave our Egyptian captors. After the crossing of the Red Sea, we attained our physical freedom. But the ancient Israelites were not ready to receive G-d’s greatest gift. Nor were they ready to assume the responsibility as G-d’s chosen people. Constantly complaining about a lack of food and water, building a golden calf, and more than once demanding a return to the “good life” of Egypt, our ancestors had not become spiritually free. Only a new generation, untainted by previous persecution, would be ready to accept the yoke of Heaven.

On April 11th, the 27th of Nissan, we commemorated Yom Hashoah—a day of commemoration of the destruction of two-thirds of European Jewry. Like our ancient ancestors, prior to the advent of Hitler, most Jews had comfortably assimilated into their secular environments. Released from ghettos and gradually permitted social, political, and cultural freedoms throughout Europe, these modern Jews often neglected to maintain their Jewish identity. Hitler changed all that. The destruction of five million adults and one million children forced World Jewry to recognize the need to support a physical Jewish homeland. The state of Israel was established as a haven from persecution for all time to ensure that “Am Yisroel Chai”—“the Jewish people live.”

Several holidays occur during the month of Iyar. On Iyar 5, May 19, Jews worldwide celebrated the 62nd Anniversary of Israeli Independence Day. We showed solidarity with our brethren at this important time of our history. On the fourteenth day of Iyar, many Jews celebrate a second Pesach, “Pesach Sheni.” After the destruction of the golden calf, many Jews felt “spiritually impure” and refused to participate in the Passover sacrifice. Moses gave them a second chance to make the sacrificial offering on “Pesach Sheni.” Many Jews commemorate this day by eating a piece of Matzo.

During the first thirty two days of counting the omer, 24,000 students of the saintly Rabbi Akiba lost their lives. Though extremely talented, they were afflicted with a terrible plague caused by their failure to treat each other with respect. That is why many Jews consider this period one of “semi-mourning.” On the 33rd day of the omer, Lag B’Omer, the plague ceased. Lag B’Omer is also the day of the death of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, the author of the Kabbalah.

The holiday of Shavuot has many different names. They include “Chag Ha’Shavuot” (the Festival of Weeks), “Yom Ha’Bikkurim” (the Day of the First Fruits), and “Chag Ha-Katzir” (the Harvest Feast). Along with Pesach and Sukkot, Shavuot is one of the three Pilgrim festivals when Jews throughout the land of Israel traveled to Jerusalem for communal prayer and ritual sacrifices. The holiday falls on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, exactly 50 days after the second Pesach Seder.

WE ARE
ALWAYS
AVAILABLE AT OUR
WEBSITE,
WWW.BETHISRAELSINAI.ORG

OR SEND US A
MESSAGE AT
BETHISRAELSINAI@ATT.NET

Inside this issue:

RABBI'S MESSAGE CONT..	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
CANDLELIGHTING	4
TEMPLE NEWS	5
CALENDAR	6
HADASSAH	7
SISTERHOOD	8

Continued next page...

Continued from page 1....

More importantly, Shavuot is known as “Zaman Matan Toratenu,” the time of the giving of the Torah. According to tradition, the ancient Israelites stayed up all night eagerly anticipating the return of Moses with the Holy Covenant. Upon his descent from Mt. Sinai, Jews thanked G-d for the return of their leader and the miraculous gift bestowed upon them.

Imagine what it must have been like to be at Sinai almost 3300 years ago. “With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm” G-d led you out of Egypt. You were accompanied by over 600,000 Israelite soldiers and their families, totaling two million people, who escaped from the tyranny of Pharaoh. You had witnessed G-d’s wrath during the Ten Plagues. Unsatisfied with the leadership of Moses and Aaron, you participated in the building of the Golden Calf. You heard how Nabad and Abihu were consumed in the temple by a “Strange Fire” for entering intoxicated. Finally, you saw the “Cohen” (priest) Pinchas eliminate those responsible for trying to assimilate with the Canaanite peoples. G-d provided you with “manna” for sustenance and the promise of your own nation. This land would “flow with milk and honey.”

The Torah was provided as a blueprint for that society. This masterpiece contained laws on social, religious, and ethical conduct. The earliest medical theories and cures for diseases were written down. All this was given to you and your brothers and sisters. Your people were chosen to be an “Ohr La’Olam”—a cultural light to the nations. No wonder our ancestors studied and prayed all night in anticipation of G-d’s present to our people.

In connection with that momentous occasion, Jews around the world on the first night of Shavuot will study the Torah. Some will study all night, others for two or three hours. This is so important that at times our rabbis consider “study” above prayer. This is your chance to identify with both your ancient brethren and modern co-religionists in keeping Torah alive for you and your children. I urge you to share in this learning experience on Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 18th¹ at 7:00 PM. Our topics for discussion will include:

1. The Book of Ruth.
2. The giving of the Torah on Shavuot
3. The Ten Commandments.

Each and every one of our congregants is encouraged to participate in this exciting evening. Any topics you wish to explore during our “Tikkun Lael Shavuot” should be forwarded to me as soon as possible. Refreshments will be served. On Thursday, May 20th, we will be conducting a Shavuot/Yizkor service at 9:45 AM. May we continue to grow as a congregation from strength to strength.

See You in Shul!

Rabbi Martyn Adelberg



Now that we have all recovered from Passover, it is time to prepare for our annual meeting. It has been my privilege to serve as President of Beth Israel Sinai for the past six years. During this time we have faced many challenges and opportunities. In the coming years we will be faced with decisions that impact the future of our congregation. Much work lies ahead.

I am pleased to report that Jeff Collen has accepted the nomination to become President. I am confident that his leadership skills and talent will serve BIS well. I also believe that Jeff will help renew the energy and vitality of our Board.

I would like to thank all the members who have served on the Board with me. They have worked tirelessly for many years. Most of us, myself included, will continue to serve. Of course, the Board would welcome any new recruits to join (and eventually replace) us. I wish to thank Rabbi Adelberg for his wisdom. I wish to thank my wife, Rebecca, for her patience. I wish to thank Julie Nelson, and her predecessors Kathy McVicker & Jill Coates, for keeping the ship afloat. Finally, I wish to thank the congregation for its trust.

Please join us for our annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 13 at 4 PM. We will have important business to decide. You will receive an agenda in late May.

Shalom

Joshua Bloom

<u>MAY CANDLELIGHTING</u>			
Friday, May 7	7:40 PM		
Friday, May 14	7:47 PM		
Friday, May 21	7:55 PM		
Friday, May 28	8:00 PM		
Friday, June 4	8:06 PM		
<u>Yahrzeits May 1 TO May 7:</u>			
Ruth Shrago	May 2		
Sarah Gordon	May 4		
Hattie Ruth Gottlieb	May 5		
Jean Laufman	May 5		
Lillian Fishbain	May 5		
William Shovers	May 5		
Milton Sklansky	May 5		
Esther Feldman	May 6		
Michel Kerner	May 6		
<u>Yahrzeits May 8 to May 14:</u>			
David M. Kupperman	May 8		
Isadore H. Solomon	May 8		
Sonya Rozumoff Brill	May 8		
Frieda Gellman	May 10		
Bertha Gorsky	May 10		
Henry Hornstein	May 11		
Phyllis (Peggy) Schuster	May 11		
Ben Waisman	May 12		
Helen Seft LeBrint	May 13		
Harry Kushner	May 13		
Jacob M. Weisman	May 13		
Harry Kushner	May 13		
<u>Yahrzeits May 15 to May 21:</u>			
Saul Rosner	May 16		
Charlotte Bakall	May 16		
Max Brill	May 17		
Laurence Feiges	May 17		
Eva Wollman	May 18		
Arthur Schwartz	May 21		
		Vivian Rudolph	May 21
		Sanford Sperer	May 21
		Anna Streicher	May 21
		<u>Yahrzeits May 22 to May 28:</u>	
		Harry Alperson	May 22
		Gussie Sideman	May 23
		Joseph Jacobson	May 24
		Bertha Kahn	May 24
		Louis Seft	May 24
		Lillian Sklansky	May 24
		Louis Tatelbaum	May 24
		Mark Barshop	May 25
		William Myron Gottlieb	May 28
		<u>Yahrzeits May 29 to June 4:</u>	
		Evelyn S. Gordon	May 29
		Frances Kaplan	May 30
		Abraham Schaefer	May 30
		Reuben Gorsky	May 31
		Richard Amber	May 31
		Maurice L. Fox	June 1
		Frima Kassel	June 1
		Ida Krasnow	June 1
		Jean Shovers Tepper	June 3

Temple News

DONATIONS

To B.I.S.

Ruth Hulbert

Maxime Soudry

An Anonymous Donation

Robert and Harriet Gordon

In Honor of Rabbi and Marcia Adelberg

Michael and Rosalie Slute

In Memory of Myron Schuster

Robert and Harriet Gordon

In Memory of Avery Fried

Rabbi and Marcia Adelberg

Edward Langlieb's Yahrzeit should have been listed last month on April 20th. My apologies.

Condolences go out to Wendy and Mike Jacobson upon the recent passing of Wendy's Father, Avery Fried. Avery most recently resided in Tucson AZ with Mike, Wendy and his wife Janice.

Contributions by congregants and others are really appreciated; however, please keep in mind that mitzvahs remembered should not only be memorials. Also remember loved ones' mitzvahs (birthdays, anniversaries, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, etc.) with a donation to our congregation

Join us for Torah Study

Tuesday, May 18th at 7 PM

This is your chance to identify with both your ancient brethren and modern co-religionists in keeping the Torah alive for you and your children.

Our topics for discussion will include:

1. The Book of Ruth
2. The giving of the Torah on Shavuot
3. The Ten Commandments

Any topics you wish to explore during our "Tikkun Lael Shavuot" should be forwarded to the Rabbi ASAP.

Refreshments will be served
Please RSVP to the Temple office by May 13th

May 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
2	3	4	5	6 <i>Hebrew, Adult Ed. and Intro to Judaism Classes</i>	7	8 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
9 <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Hebrew, Adult Ed. and Last Intro to Judaism Classes</i>	14	15 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
16	17	18 <i>Erev of Shavuot Tikkun Lael Shavuot 7 PM</i>	19 <i>First Day of Shavuot</i>	20 <i>Second Day of Shavuot Services w/ Yizkor 9:45 AM</i>	21	22 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
23	24 30	25 31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 <i>Hebrew and Adult Ed. Classes</i>	28	29 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>



HADASSAH NEWS

May 2010

DONATION ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTED.

PLEASE CONTACT SARAH LEVIN TO
MAKE A GIFT TO HADASSAH

H.I.E.S., Youth Aliyah, Young Judea,
HMO, Children's Pavilion, Shares
Cards \$5.00
Shares \$10.00
Children's Pavilion \$5.00 & \$10.00
Certificates \$18.00
Trees (JNF) Certificates

Sarah Levin 886-9331

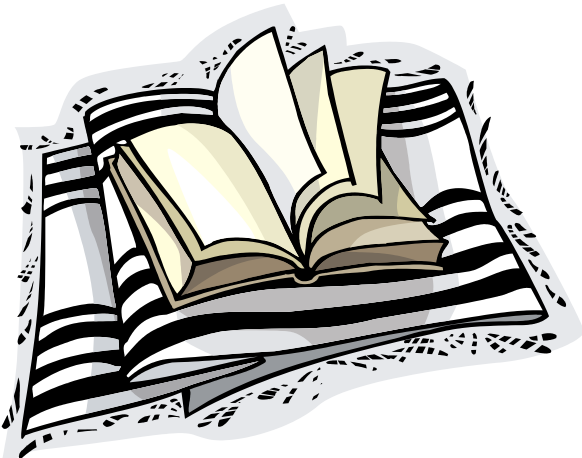
Sidnee Nerad 551-0406

Sisterhood

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are always gratefully accepted. Please continue to remember the Sisterhood Fund, the Floral Fund, and the Prayer Book Fund, as well as the fund to purchase the new *Etz Hayim*, when you consider donations to the Temple. Contributions are encouraged in honor of a special person, of a special life cycle event, or in memory of a loved one, friend, or neighbor. Just designate your contribution to this fund. Thanks!

Sisterhood purchases prayer books, provides flowers for the bema, and coordinates and provides refreshments for the Saturday morning Kiddush, as well as sponsoring onegs and planning special events for our holidays. We are always open for suggestions of what we can further do to make your membership more meaningful.



Sisterhood Fund:	min.	\$5.00
Sisterhood Floral Fund:	min.	\$30.00
Prayer Book Fund:	min.	\$25.00
<i>Etz Hayim</i> :		\$55.00

To make a contribution, please call
Rita Collen
262-752-0223
Or mail contributions to 2811 N. Main St.
Racine, WI 53402

Sisterhood Chairs: Jane Brosseau
Rita Collen