

# Beth Israel Sinai Congregation Newsletter

## February 2010



SHEVAT—ADAR 5770

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, B.I.S. celebrated Tu B'Shevat. Representing the end of the rainy season in Israel, Tu B'Shevat (15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat) epitomizes this transition period. The origins of the Tu B'Shevat can be traced back to a commandment in the Torah in Deuteronomy 14:22. Jewish farmers are instructed to contribute 10% of all fruit produced yearly to the Cohanim (Priests). Also known as "Rosh Hashonah L'Elanot", the New Year of the Trees, Tu B'Shevat only became a formal holiday after the destruction of the second Temple and the exile of the Jewish people from their ancestral homeland. Liturgically speaking, Tu B'Shevat is a minor holiday. No special prayers are recited. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Ashkenazi communities in Europe sampled as many fruits as possible grown in Israel. The blessing "Shehecheyanu" praising the new season, was recited prior to eating. During the same period, Sephardic communities began to place greater emphasis on the holiday. A special "Seudah" (meal) modeled on the Passover Seder, which included the drinking of four cups of wine, was prepared. In 1753, the liturgy for this special meal, as well as additional holiday poems, were compiled in a book entitled Peri Ez Hadar (Citrus Fruit).

For many Kabbalists, eating fruit grown in Israel at a special Tu B'Shevat Seder has tremendous spiritual ramifications. According to these mystics, every piece of fruit produces the seed of life for the next generation. If we eat the fruit in a "holy way", with the proper blessing and gratitude, then we are aiding G-d in the renewal of nature. Each time we plant trees in Israel, we insure the continuation of the flow of life.

Since the establishment of the first Zionist settlements in Palestine during the 1880's, Tu B'Shevat began to acquire greater importance. This holiday has come to symbolize the "rebirth" of the Jewish state following the conquest of the desert. Children sing songs in honor of the "Feast of Trees" and plant trees donated by the Jewish National Fund. For generations, world Jewry has generously contributed to the Jewish National Fund. Recently, the emphasis has changed from planting trees to providing additional water for Israel. Yearly requirements for domestic, agricultural and industrial use will exceed 550 billion gallons in 2010. Your generous contributions to build over 100 new reservoirs will ensure the continuation of the dream of our early Zionist pioneers to make the "desert bloom". Special thanks to Becky Adelberg for conducting our Tu B'Shevat Seder.

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WE ARE  
ALWAYS  
AVAILABLE AT OUR  
WEBSITE,  
[WWW.BETHISRAELSINAI.ORG](http://WWW.BETHISRAELSINAI.ORG)  
  
OR SEND US A  
MESSAGE AT  
[BETHISRAELSINAI@ATT.NET](mailto:BETHISRAELSINAI@ATT.NET)

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Rabbi's message continued...

On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM, B.I.S. will celebrate Purim with the reading of Megillah Esther. "Once there was a wicked, wicked man and Haman was his name. He would have murdered all the Jews, but they were not to blame." These lyrics from the popular Purim song encapsulate the Jewish experience. Esther, the niece of the Jewish merchant and communal leader, Mordechai, wins the love of the Persian King during a royal beauty contest. From the royal household, Esther (also known as Hadassah) witnesses the rise to power of the evil Haman. A descendent of the Amalakite nation, who viciously tried to prevent the Israelites passage into Canaan, Haman sought to consolidate his control over the empire. King Ahasuerus, a good-hearted but dim witted monarch, gave his Prime Minister total freedom to govern the 137 Persian provinces.

All the different nationalities, from India to Ethiopia ("Ma-Hodu Ad Kush") bowed to Haman's dictates. Even provincial leaders, while meeting with Haman on ministerial business would prostrate themselves before the evil ruler. Their submission was rewarded by the plunder of their national resources and virtual servitude of their people. Only the Jewish people refused to adhere to Haman's dictates. Though not openly rebellious, their religion dictated that a Jew could only bow before Adonai.

Angry at this insubordination, as symbolized by Mordechai's refusal to bow down in Haman's presence, Haman plots the annihilation of Israel. Ahasuerus, not wishing to be bothered with the daily affairs of state, accedes unwittingly to Haman's genocidal request. The 14<sup>th</sup> of the Jewish month of Adar became established as the date the Holocaust would begin. Other provinces are notified to inform the citizenry to turn against their Jewish neighbors.

Word reaches Esther of Haman's plot to annihilate her people. Since Ahasuerus was unaware of her Jewish origins; Esther had nothing personally to worry about. A reluctant heroine, the Queen is persuaded by her uncle to use her position to save the children of Israel. Though not personally observant, Esther fasts and prays to G-d for a solution to her dilemma.

Esther decides to hold a series of banquets for the exclusive attendance of only three people – the King, the Queen and the Prime Minister. 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 ring was held out and Ahasuerus said: "What can I do for you my Queen? Anything you request shall be yours – up to half of my kingdom." Esther invites the King and Haman to dine with her. Astounded by the simplicity and generosity of his wife's request, Ahasuerus eagerly accepts the 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 the third banquet where Esther asks the King: "If it pleases your Majesty, it is with great sorrow that I must make a special request. There is a powerful man in this kingdom who wishes to kill me and my people." Astounded by this revelation, Ahasuerus demands to know who would dare to wish harm to his beloved Queen? Esther points to the wicked Haman. Immediately, the King orders the arrest of Haman and his ten sons. Ultimately, they would be hung on the gallows intended for Mordechai and other Jewish leaders.

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Rabbi's message continued...

Have you ever noticed how comfortable Jews are talking to G-d? Even our prayers emphasize this direct form of discourse. The Shabbat song, La' Chah Dodi talks about the Jewish people as G-d's "Kalah"- "Bride". The following story further illustrates this point:

Billy Graham went to see the Pope in Rome. While he was waiting, Billy noticed a Red phone. As he was ushered in to talk to the Pope, he asked, "What's the red Phone for?"

"That's to talk to G-d," came the reply.

"Really," Billy gasped, "how much does a call cost-it's and awful long way?"

"\$10,000 a minute, but it's well worth it." Answered the Pope.

Some weeks later, Billy Graham went to see the Chief Rabbi in Jerusalem. He noticed that he, too, had a red phone. "I don't suppose," asked Billy, "that this phone is to talk to G-d?"

"Yes it is." Came the reply.

"And how much does that cost?" Billy inquired.

"Twenty-five cents a minute," shrugged the Chief Rabbi.

"How come it's so cheap?" Billy asked, "the Pope has a phone like that and it costs \$10,000 a minute!"

"Well, grinned the Chief Rabbi, "From here it's just a local call."

Recent statistics emanating from Haiti forecast approximately 200,000 dead and countless injured. Please donate as generously as possible. Note that the Chabad representative in the Dominican Republic has traveled with a medical team to the Haitian border to care for the Haitians able to cross over their mutual border. We also must do our part. Remember the Talmud teaches if you save the life of one person, it is as if you saved the entire world

See You In Shul,

Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

## ***President's Message***

After a rousing December, things have quieted down a bit at our good old Synagogue. Rabbi leads a spirited service every Shabbat morning. After a nosh from the *Oneg*, there's a 15 minute recap and/or preview with the Torah study group. Hebrew School continues each Thursday with our talented pupils eager for learning.

Donations from our first Annual Appeal continue to arrive. I thank all of you for your generosity. This helps to offset various holes in our budget, including a drop in income due to the current low interest rates on our investments. The Board will continue to consider ways to improve our finances.

Looking ahead, plan to attend our Purim Megillah reading, *Hamentashen* and all, on Sunday February 28 at 10 AM. Finally, mark your calendars for our annual Congregational Passover Seder on Tuesday March 30.

***Shalom***

**Joshua Bloom**

# Temple News

## **DONATION APPEAL**

Arnold Solomon  
Alan and Doreen Marvin  
Jennifer Menghe  
Ben and Judith Sidran  
Myron Schuster  
Marc Shovers  
Leslie Grant  
Karen Knoell  
Mauri Waisman  
Beverly Sklansky  
Ronald Sklansky  
Dr. Ari Kaz  
Wendy Dorman  
Don Lang  
Sheldon and Yvonne Vielie  
Victor Ganz  
Pastor Warren and Joanne Williams  
Dennis Gaeta

## **In Memory of Geraldine Shover's Yahrzeit**

Harlene Tague  
Ellen Antman  
Avery Gould

## **To Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Alexandra and Stephan Schmidt

## **In Memory of Jean Dorman**

Leone Niemiec  
Blanche Kahn  
Sarah Levin

## **In Honor of Ruth Hulbert's Birthday**

Linda Hulbert

## **In Loving Memory of George and Mary Stern**

Michael and Brenda Stern

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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

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Mark your calendars!  
Passover begins on  
March 29th at  
sundown.

Our Congregational  
Passover Seder  
Will be held on  
Tuesday March 30th.

**FEBRUARY CANDLELIGHTING**

Friday, Feb. 5 - 4:52PM  
Friday, Feb. 12 - 5:01 PM  
Friday, Feb. 19 - 5:10 PM  
Friday, Feb. 26 - 5:19 PM  
Friday, Mar. 5 5:28 PM

**Yahrzeits Feb. 30 to Feb. 5:**

Samuel G. Laufman Jan. 30  
Tillie Sideman Jan. 30  
Elizabeth Goldberg Jan. 31  
Kathryn Raftenberg Feb. 1  
Max Grust Feb. 2  
Harold Tabaksman Feb. 2  
Esther Gottlieb Feb. 3  
Isadore Milch Feb. 3  
Bertha Waisman Feb. 3  
Joseph Popkoff Feb. 4  
David Shovers Feb. 4  
Julius Lichterman Feb. 4  
Oscar Shovers Feb. 4  
Eva Gorsky Feb. 5  
Manfred Oelsner Feb. 5  
Edith Seft Feb. 5

**Yahrzeits Feb. 6 to Feb. 12:**

Joseph Magner Feb. 9  
Zachary Dorman Feb. 10  
Joseph Harris Feb. 10  
Jane Kiselow Feb. 10  
Gertrude Fishbain Feb. 10  
Frank Shovers Feb. 10  
George S. Cohen Feb. 10  
Eli Hulbert Feb. 11  
Mary Soref Feb. 11  
Rose Kaminal Feb. 11  
Darnold Blivas Feb. 12

**Yahrzeits Feb. 13 to Feb. 19:**

Beverly Schuster Feb. 13  
Marc Lee Silver Feb. 13  
Paul Kaplan Feb. 13  
Joseph I. Donner Feb. 14  
Sam Fishbain Feb. 14  
Solomon Levin Feb. 14  
Sheine Chayne Aronin Feb. 15  
Ralph Levin Feb. 15  
Genevieve Lillian Gold Feb. 15

Simon Grant Feb. 15  
Hyman Laufman Feb. 16  
David W. Watt Feb. 16  
Eugene Aronin Feb. 17  
Sarah Spracker Feb. 17  
Marjorie Bernbaum Feb. 17  
Dori Gorsky Feb. 17  
Max J. Bassewitz Feb. 18  
Dr. Ernest Wolf Feb. 18  
Anna Brill Feb. 18  
Meyer Domskey Feb. 18  
Joseph (Jack) Gould Feb. 19  
Goldyne R. Mann Feb. 19

**Yahrzeits Feb. 20 to Feb 26:**

David Schwartz Feb. 21  
Sarah C. Dorman Feb. 22  
Birdie Metz Feb. 22  
Mary Shovers Feb. 25  
Necha Weissbard Feb. 26

**Yahrzeits Feb. 27 to March 5:**

Samuel A. Grant Feb. 27  
Emily Alperovitz Feb. 28  
Foster Gould Feb. 28  
Rashe Berson Feb. 28  
Ben Kaplan Mar. 1  
Moses H. Rubin Mar. 2  
Goldie Shlimovitz Mar. 2  
Sarah Blitstein Mar. 3  
Fanny Alperovitz Mar. 4  
David Alperovitz Mar. 4  
Joseph A. Dunya Mar. 4  
Louis Gorsky Mar. 5  
Sarah Silverman Mar. 5

# February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Hebrew and Adult Ed. Clas- ses	5	6 Service 9:45 AM
7	8	9	10	11 Hebrew and Adult Ed.	12	13 Service 9:45 AM
14	15	16	17	18 Hebrew and Adult Ed.	19	20 Service 9:45 AM
21	22	23	24	25 Hebrew and Adult Ed.	26	27 Service 9:45 AM
28 Purim Service 10 AM						



# HADASSAH NEWS

February 2010

## DONATIONS

A Tree Certificate from Judy McGauran  
To the family of Jean Dorman In Memory  
of Jean

A Certificate from Arthur Domskey to Mrs.  
Devorah-Gelin In Memory of Rose Levin

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**

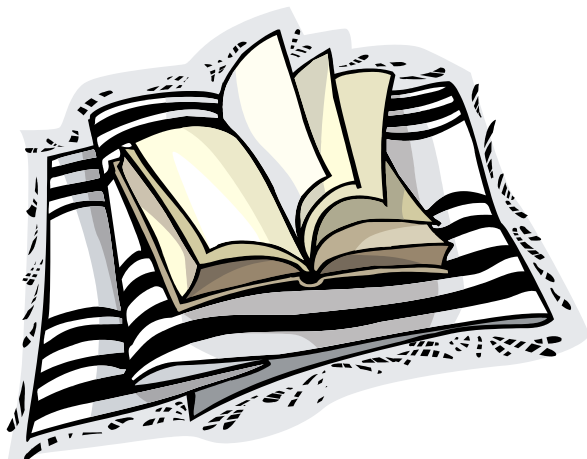


# Sisterhood

## 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.



### In Memory of Norma Seidman

From Rabbi and Mrs. Adelberg

### A Prayer Book In Memory of Jean Dorman

From Rabbi and Mrs. Adelberg

### In Memory of Jean Dorman

From Max Gordon

### A Prayer Book in Memory of Jean Dorman

From Max Gordon

### In Memory of Jean Dorman

From Rabbi and Mrs. Adelberg

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 Chair: Jane Brosseau