

Beth Israel Sinai Congregation Newsletter

April 2010



NISAN-IYAR 5770

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Our journey towards both “physical” and “spiritual” freedom began on 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.

With the culmination of Passover, we continue our march towards renewing our acceptance of the Torah and commitment to its values. In Leviticus 23:15, we are told to count the Days of the Omer from the second day of Pesach for 49 days until Shavuot. An “Omer” is a measurement of barley that was brought to the Temple for a daily offering during this seven week period. Every night we recite a blessing and state the count of the Omer in both weeks and days.

While the Torah does not specify why we count the Omer, the rabbis over the centuries provided several explanations. One explanation is that since Shavuot is an agricultural festival, we were commanded to give a daily offering which culminated at the time of the wheat harvest. A second was that Israelites counted their days from their liberation as slaves in Egypt until the reception of the Torah at Mt. Sinai on Shavuot. While no longer physically under Egyptian bondage, the Israelites would not attain spiritual freedom until they agreed to become G-d’s children by accepting the Torah. Jewish mystics say each day we count the Omer is an ascension from one of the “49 levels of impurity” we lived as slaves in Egypt. Only after these 49 days of ascension were the Israelites worthy of receiving the Torah.

For many traditional Jews, this is a period of partial mourning during which weddings and parties are not conducted in memory of a plague which killed 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva. On Lag B’Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer, they stopped dying and our mourning ends. (Some commentators suggest that this plague occurred because these students failed to demonstrate respect towards each other). Also, on Lag B’Omer, the author of the central work of the Kabbalah, called the Zohar, died. The death of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai was celebrated because on the day of his death he revealed the light of the Torah to his students.

Many modern Jews celebrate Lag B’Omer with large bonfires and go on picnics. These fires are symbolic of the “Light” of the Torah revealed by Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. (The word “Zohar” means “Bright Light”). In Israel, many travel to the Rabbi’s grave in the northern town of Meron. Lag B’Omer begins this year at sunset on Saturday, May 1st.

Special thanks to Josh Bloom, Jane and John Brosseau, Louise Langlieb, Cele Heck and her wonderful staff and Jeff, our “Shamos” who helped make our communal Seder such a monumental success. “Yasher Ko-ach” to Maxy and Solomon Collins and Ryan Addy for beautifully chanting the four questions. May they go from strength to strength as they continue their educational progress towards becoming B’nai Mitzvah and true daughters of Israel. May the “Light” of the Torah continue to be an inspiration for all of us.

Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

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

OR SEND US A
MESSAGE AT
BETHISRAELSINAI@ATT.NET

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By the time you receive this everyone will be sick and tired of *matzah*. As I write this, we are searching for the leaven and getting all excited about the four questions, those four sons and the always tasty *afikomen*. At this moment, we have 93 reservations for our annual Community *Seder*...the most ever. Hopefully, we can pull it off. I would like to thank Marion for helping with the shopping, Jeff for all the setup and takedown, Sherry Heck for doing a fabulous job cleaning the kitchen, and Sherry & Ceil for preparing the meal.

In two months we will have our annual Congregational Meeting. We have several important issues to discuss. I hope to give a preview in next month's message. Until then, remember to eat plenty of raisins and prunes with your *matzah*.

Shalom

Joshua Bloom

<u>MARCH CANDLELIGHTING</u>		<u>Yahrzeits April 17 to April 23:</u>	
Friday, April 2	7:00 PM	Kate Grant	April 17
Friday, April 9	7:08 PM	David Winters	April 18
Friday, April 16	7:17 PM	Eva Dorman,	April 20
Friday, April 23	7:24 PM	Berthold Donner	April 21
Friday, April 30	7:32 PM	Rose Davidson	April 22
<u>Yahrzeits March 27 to April 2:</u>		Hyman Tannenbaum	April 22
Rose I. Kraft	March 27	Joseph Goodman	April 23
Ise Blitstein	March 27	<u>Yahrzeits April 24 to April 30:</u>	
Joseph L. Waisman	March 27	Albert Gold	April 24
Manny S. Brown	March 28	Robert Jacobson	April 24
Alec Sheft	March 28	Charlotte Weiss	April 25
Sarah Sheft	March 28	Dave Luby	April 25
Rabbi Abraham Cohen	March 29	Abraham Sheft	April 25
Kenneth Speyer	March 29	Edith Singer	April 25
Rachel Belle Gordon	March 30	Morris S. Ruben	April 26
Sari Johanna Prowler	April 1	Alma Schlomovitz	April 26
Frank J. Schwartz	April 1	Sidney Aronin	April 27
<u>Yahrzeits April 3 to April 9:</u>		Jerry Brown	April 27
Laeh Hulbert	April 3	Helmut Isenberg	April 28
Nathan Hulbert	April 5	Bessie Silver	April 28
Rae L. Rabin	April 5	Abe Silver	April 29
Benjamin Shlimovitz	April 5	Isadore Small	April 29
Harold Block	April 6	<u>Yahrzeits May 1 to May 7:</u>	
Lilly R. Seft	April 8	Ruth Shrago	May 2
<u>Yahrzeits April 10 to April 16:</u>		Sarah Gordon	May 4
Max Lippman	April 10	Hattie Ruth Gottlieb	May 5
Lillian Merens	April 10	Jean Laufman	May 5
Mary Block	April 11	Lillian Fishbain	May 5
Jennie Feiges	April 11	William Shovers	May 5
Leslie Kraft	April 12	Milton Sklansky	May 5
Sarah A. Kaminsky	April 14	Esther Feldman	May 6
Anne Sideman	April 16	Michel Kerner	May 6
Joseph Gold	April 16		
Dr. Frank P. Goldstein	April 16		
Maurice Levinthal	April 16		

Temple News

DONATIONS

Seder Underwriting

Max Gordon

Mike and Wendy Jacobson

Josh Bloom

James and Kathleen Schmadl

In Honor of Max Gordon's Bar Mitzvah

Lorin and Judith Lichterman

To B.I.S., Thanks Marty

Glenn Gordon

To the David Schaeffer Memorial Camp Scholarship Fund, In Memory of My Uncles, Joseph and Emil Donner

Vicki Nelson

In Memory of Jean Dorman and Myron Schuster

Karen Knoell

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

Please join us for "Introduction to Judaism" Classes!

Beginning Thursday April 8th and continuing for the next 5 Thursdays from 8-9PM.

Tell your friends and neighbors, this class is open to the entire community!

In lieu of a set tuition, a generous donation to B.I.S.'s Education Fund is suggested. Registration is required and can be made by calling the Temple office at (262) 633-7093. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 29th.

April 2010

S U N M O N T U E W E D T H U F R I S A T						
				1 Hebrew Class	2	3 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
4	5	6	7	8 <i>Hebrew Class</i> <i>Intro to Judaism</i> <i>Class 8 PM</i>	9	10 <i>Yom Hashoah</i> <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
11	12	13	14	15 <i>Hebrew Class</i> <i>Intro to Judaism</i> <i>Class 8 PM</i>	16	17 <i>Yom Ha'atzma'ut</i> <i>Service</i> <i>9:45 AM</i>
18	19	20	21	22 <i>Hebrew Class</i> <i>Intro to Judaism</i> <i>Class</i>	23	24 <i>Service 9:45 AM</i>
25	26	27	28	29 <i>Hebrew Class</i> <i>Intro to Judaism</i> <i>Class 8 PM</i>	30	



HADASSAH NEWS

March 2010

DONATIONS

A Certificate

From Arthur Domsky

To Stanley Rosen

In Memory of his wife.

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

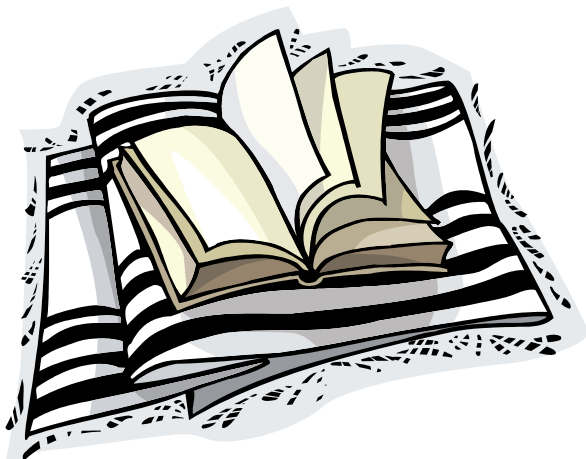
Sidnee Nerad 551-0406

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 Chair: Jane Brosseau