Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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MAY 2011

NISAN - IYAR 5771

President's Message

Another very eventful month has gone by! We enjoyed the Bar Mitzvah of Josh Birndorf on April 30th, ("CONGRATS, JOSH"!), the 65th birthday celebration oneg for Yaakov Schmadl and both the Rabbi's Seder and our Community Seder were well received.

During April, the board began a strategic planning process. Strategic planning always reminds me of Alice in Wonderland, when she meets the Cheshire Cat and asks which direction she should take. He questions, "Where do you want to go?" She answers, "I'm not sure," and he says, "Then any direction will do." But for Beth Israel Sinai, any direction will not do. We need to choose the right path! So, to begin with, we started by looking at our strengths and weaknesses and how we can better use our strengths and overcome or eliminate our weaknesses. We also reviewed the threats that exist and the opportunities we have. Much was accomplished in the first meeting, and when we meet again on June 12 we'll build on the results! Once the next step is complete and we have a draft plan, we'll offer some opportunities for everyone's input. We hope you'll take advantage of the chance to review the plan and voice your opinion. Your input is a crucial part of the direction we take.

A reminder again, that ***beginning in June we'll be sending out this monthly newsletter by email only — except to those who have specifically requested to continue receiving it by regular mail***. If you have not completed the mail preference form on page 3, emailed me, or let me know personally what your preference is by May 15 we'll assume your preference is to view the newsletter on the Temple website: www.bethisraelsinai.org.

Lastly, a wonderful opportunity has come to us. Max and Glenn Gordon have offered a matching opportunity. They will match, dollar for dollar up to $10,000, any contributions made to the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund between now and early next year. This fund is unrestricted, so that money can be used as needed. Thanks Max and Glenn for leading the way to keep a strong, vibrant Jewish Community in Racine. It's going to take everyone's financial commitment to realize the full benefit of this offer.

Shalom!

Jeff

Rabbi's Message

At our Passover seder, we mentally transported ourselves back to ancient Egypt. We attempted to feel the pain and exuberance of our ancestors as they emerged from slavery unto freedom. Once physically free, the ancient Israelites embarked on a journey to become spiritually fulfilled. This would only happen 49 days later when the Torah was received on Shavout as an instrument of instruction for all time.

Modern Jews also begin their march towards spiritual freedom on the second day of Pesach with the counting of the Omer. (An "Omer" was a measure of barley brought as an offering to the Temple for 49 days beginning on the second day of Passover and ending on Shavout.) For many traditional Jews the first 33 days of the counting of the Omer is a time of mourning. It was during this period that 24,000 students of the saintly Rabbi Akiva were killed by a strange plague. Most rabbinical commentators attributed this to a lack of respect for one another.

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Of Special Interest:

- Complete and return your email or snail mail preference.
- Annual Meeting - Sunday June 26, 2011 at 4:00PM.
- Yom HaShoah Services on Monday, May 1 at 1:00PM
- Oneg Shabbat on May 28, sponsored by Ruth Hulbert in honor of her daughter Benita Johnson's birthday.

Rabbi's Message Continued...

Crusaders carried out their murderous raids against "nonbelievers" during this period. Scores of Jews and Muslims were massacred or were forcibly converted to Christianity between Passover and Shavout. Ironically, all death ceased on the day

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the author of the Zohar (Kabbalah), died. Just before his death on Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer), the saintly Rabbi demanded that the yearly anniversary of his death (yahrzeit) be celebrated as a joyous occasion. Many Jews throughout the world celebrate Lag B'Omer with family picnics and the lighting of bonfires. The "fires" symbolize the "light" of the Torah as revealed by Rabbi Shimon in the Zohar. Many Israelis travel to the grave of the Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai in the northern town of Meron to say Kaddish on the day of his yahrzeit. Lag B'Omer begins this year after Shabbat ends on Saturday night, May 21st.

May will prove to be a busy month for Beth Israel Sinai. On Sunday May 1st at 1PM, we will be honoring the memory of those who perished during the Holocaust at our annual Yom Ha-Shoah service. We will honor not only the loss of six million Jews (two-thirds of European Jewry), but also the memory of all who perished during both Hitler's genocide and the millions murdered during subsequent "Holocausts" in Cambodia, Rwanda and wherever tyranny reigns. The entire Racine community is encouraged to attend this important event.

On Saturday, May 7th, following morning services we will commemorate both Yom Hazikaron, in honor of Israel's fallen soldiers, and the 63rd anniversary of Israel's independence-Yom Ha'atzmaut. Israeli food will be served. All are encouraged to attend.

Last, but certainly not least, a very special MAZAL TOV to Dr. Michael, Sara and Josh Birndorf on the celebration of Josh's Bar Mitzvah on April 30th. It has been my pleasure and honor to have taught such an eager and conscientious student. I look forward to sharing the bima with Josh on many future occasions as he continues his quest for Jewish knowledge. May you and your family continue to grow from strength to strength.

See you in Shul,

Rabbi

A Few Pictures from Rabbi Adelberg's 10th Anniversary Party

Donations

In Memory of Ed Langlieb
Louise Langlieb

In Memory of Pearl and Harold Levin
Ruth Hulbert

In Memory of Sara Rose Pilver
Anonymous

In Memory of David Hulbert and Nathan I. Hulbert
Gertrude Hulbert

In Memory of Kathy Schmadl's Grandmother
Anonymous

To Honor Joshua Birndorf on his Bar Mitzvah
Anonymous

For Rabbi's 10th Anniversary
Al an Betty Shovers

For Passover Seder
Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl

To Honor Victor Ganz on his Birthday
Anonymous

Yahrzeits

Week of April 30

Max Lippman	April 30
Lillian Merens	30
Mary Block	May 1
Jennie Feiges	1
Leslie Kraft	2
Sarah A. Kaminsky	4
Annie Sideman	6
Joseph Gold	6
Dr. Frank P. Goldstein	6
Maurice Levinthal	6

Week of May 7

Avery Frico	7
Kate Grant	7
David Winters	8
Eva Dorman	10
Edward Langieb	10
Berthold Donner	11
Rose Davidson	12
Hyman Tannenbaum	13
Joseph Goodman	13

Week of May 14

Albert Gold	14
Robert M. Jacobson	14
CharlotteWeiss	15
Dave Luby	15
Abraham Sheft	15
Edith Singer	15
Morris S. Ruben	16
Alma Schlomovitz	16
Sidney Aronin	17
Jerry Brown	17
Helmut Isenberg	18
Bessie Silver	18
Abe Silver	19
Isadore Small	19

Week of May 21

Ruth Shrago	22
Sarah Gordon	24
Mark Barshop	24
Hattie Ruth Gottleib	25
Jean Laufman	25
Lillian Fishbain	25
William Shovers	25
Milton Sklansky	25
Esther Feldman	26
Michel Kerner	26
Richard Amber	27

Week of May 28

David M. Kupperman	28
Isadore H. Solomon	28
Sonya Rozumoff Brill	28
Frieda Gellman	30
Bertha Gorsky	30
Henry Hornstein	31
Mark William Barshet	31
Phyllis (Peggy) Schuster	31
Ben Waisman	June 1
Helen Seft LeBrint	2
Harry Kushner	2
Jacob M. Weisman	2

Email or Snail Mail Choice

Please complete and return this form to:

Beth Israel Sinai
944 Main St.
Racine, WI 53403

or email your preference to bethisraelsinai@att.net

Name_____

Select one option:

_____ **Please continue my newsletter by postal mail**

_____ **Please send my newsletter by email**

Email address_____

Thanks! We'll begin emailing newsletters in June. If we have not heard from you by May 15, we'll assume you prefer to view the newsletter on our website, www.bethisraelsinai.org, where it's posted every month.

May Candle Lighting Schedule

Fri., May 6	7:38 PM	Fri., May 13	7:46 PM
Fri., May 20	7:53 PM	Fri., May 27	8:00 PM

Sisterhood

Your Sisterhood contributions are used to enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai in many ways, such as providing food and beverages for the onegs after services, flowers during the High Holidays, and by assisting with the community Seder and other special events held at the synagogue.

You can also honor life cycle events, family birthdays or anniversaries, or any special occasions by sponsoring an oneg on the Shabbat of your choice.

For more information or to reserve your oneg date, contact Rita Collen at 262-752-0223 or email: rcollen@soaringeagleconsulting.com.

April Contributions:
The Sisterhood thanks Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl for sponsoring the oneg following services on April 9th in honor of Yaakov's 65th birthday. Happy birthday, Yaakov!

Looking Ahead to May:
Ruth Hulbert is sponsoring the oneg on May 28 in honor of her daughter, Benita Johnson's, birthday. Thank you, Ruth, and our warmest birthday wishes to Benita!

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

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Please Complete the Email or Snail Mail Preference Form Inside

May 2011 NISSAN– IYAR 5771

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Yom HaShoah Services 1:00PM	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*6*	*7 Services 9:45AM Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut Remembrances*
8	*9 Israel's Independence Day*	*10*	*11*	*12 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*13*	*14 Services 9:45AM*
15	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*20*	*21 Services 9:45AM*
22	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*27*	*28 Services 9:45AM * Oneg sponsored by Ruth Hulbert **
29	*30*	*31*	*1*	*2 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*3*	*4 Services 9:45AM*