Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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KISLEV - TEVET 5772

Rabbi's Message

The rancor of extreme political rhetoric resonates through the halls of power. Inflexible ideological positions are used to shout down opposing political points of view. Political opposites are accused of being national traitors. A nation built on consensus for over two and one half centuries has suddenly found it impossible to carry on the affairs of state. The main objective has become appeasing local constituents at the risk of alienating the entire nation. Nothing substantive can be achieved.

If you think I am referring to our current national political dilemma, think again. I am referring to the two centuries between the political conquest of the known world by Alexander the Great in the latter 4th century BCE and the Chanukah rebellion of 165 BCE. Under the early Greek conquest, different political subcultures and religions were allowed to exist provided they accepted the ultimate political authority of the Greek Empire. Israel continued to maintain its sacrificial religion in Jerusalem under the guidance of the Priesthood. Many Jews became infatuated with various aspects of Greek culture. The first translation of the Bible from the ancient Hebrew was into Greek in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. Jews who accepted Greek culture became known as Hellenists. Hellenists were divided into those who became totally assimilated into Greek culture, some going so far as to try to reverse their circumcisions, and those Jews who selectively incorporated aspects of Greek culture while still adhering to their traditions. Hellenists of all shades of opinion initially coexisted in Israel for most of the third century BCE and the first part of the second century BCE. Consensus on the issues of the day was virtually always achieved. This political and religious pragmatism (continued on page 2)

President's Message

Wow, what a great November! We had great weather and many good things happened in the Racine and Kenosha Jewish communities. Now we can look forward to the fun of December… Chanukah is here!!! Hooray for Chanukah!!!

Special thanks to Rebecca Bloom for again leading the effort to organize our annual Chanukah get together. She's preparing the exceptional menu that we all look forward to, so please plan on joining us on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. The Chanukah party is free for our members, but if you'd like to sponsor parts of the event that would be great! $18/$36/$54/$72 etc. will buy you naming rights for portions of the meal. Thanks to those of you who already have become sponsors!

Annual fund drive letters are on their way to you. We need everyone's extra help if we're going to keep the temple functioning the way everyone would like it to, and beyond that, our future depends on it. Membership dues are just not enough, so please, if you've not done so yet, be generous!!!

Also, remember that we're in striking distance of our $10,000 goal for the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund which will be matched by Max and Glenn Gordon.

Perhaps another way to contribute is to ask those who would normally give you a gift for your birthday or anniversary to give the gift to the Temple instead to honor you!

Well, I hope I've not missed anything. Have a good December and see you at services.

Shalom Y'all!

Jeff

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Congregation Chanukah Party

Tuesday December 20
6:00 PM.

Members Free
Public & Guests:
Adult $18
Senior $12
Children under 12 $8

RSVP by December 14 to temple by phone or email

Rabbi's Message Continued...

continued until the rise of the Assyrian King, Antiochus.

One of the Antiochus's first acts was to make the study of Torah illegal. Many of the more rabid Hellenists accepted the validity of this law as a means to further their acceptance into Greek society. Soon they were at odds with many of their coreligionists. Factions could no longer compromise. Tensions accelerated as Jews often reported other Jews to the authorities who had the temerity to study Torah. The incident that resulted in the rebellion of the Maccabees was the attempt by Hellenist fanatics to slaughter a pig in the Holy Temple. Judah Maccabeus and his sons launched the first recorded fight for political and religious freedom.

Perhaps the situation in America is not exactly the same as in Greek ruled Israel. No one has outlawed what Americans can read or banned a particular form of religious observance. Still, the fact that our political leaders stress ideology at the expense of doing what is best for the nation has often resulted in the inability to compromise that existed in ancient Israel. The story of Chanukah just might prove to be a valuable tool for politicians who wish to forge political compromise benefiting the greatest number of our citizens.

See you in shul,
Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

Sisterhood

Your Sisterhood contributions are used to enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai in many ways. You can honor life cycle events, family birthdays or anniversaries, or any special occasions through your generous gift to the Sisterhood.

You can also honor your loved ones or special events (large and small) by sponsoring an oneg on the Shabbat of your choice. Sponsoring an oneg is simple. Just reserve your date, tell us how you would like your oneg announced, and let the Sisterhood take care of all of the details. The suggested contribution is $36, however you may contribute any amount you wish. For more information or to reserve your oneg date, please contact Rita Collen.

As 2011 draws to a close, we want to thank everyone who contributed to the Sisterhood throughout the year. Your gifts have provided our congregants and guests with delicious onegs after services, provided hospitality at a variety of events, and beautified the synagogue with flowers at the Passover seders and High Holidays services.

It's not too late to make a year-end gift! Perhaps you'd like to sponsor an oneg or send a gift in honor of a loved one during Hanukkah. As always, the person you honor or the family of the individual you memorialize will be notified of your thoughtfulness. If you choose to make a Hanukkah contribution, it will be acknowledged to the honoree with a beautiful Hanukkah greeting card from the Sisterhood shop as an added festive touch for the holiday. Sisterhood contributions can be sent to the synagogue office (clearly marked "Sisterhood").

To facilitate your tax preparation, everyone who sent monetary contributions will receive a statement from the Sisterhood that includes your total Sisterhood donations for the 2011 calendar year. Statements will be sent around mid-January. If you have not received your statement by the end of January, please contact Rita Collen to request a duplicate.

Sisterhood Chairs: Jane Brosseau & Rita Collen

Donations

Thanks to those who have made contributions so that Beth Israel Sinai remains a vibrant option for Jews in Racine and surrounding communities.

We're less than $1,500 away from achieving our goal for the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund. We'll receive matching gifts from Max and Glenn Gordon, increased by Joe and Judy Roher!

Consider a gift to Temple to honor your spouse, siblings or children on their birthday or anniversary instead of to them!

To the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund
Anonymous

In Memory of Edward J. Block
Vera Ruffalo

In Honor of Steve and Patti Kushner
Shawn and Julie Jones

For Shabbat Dinner
Sarah Levin

In Honor of Mary Shapiro
From her Nieces

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

Yahrzeits

Week of December 2nd

Leonard P. Baumblatt	4
Joseph C. Frank	5
Samuel M. Tabaksman	5
Emil Donner	6
Alfred Shovers	6
Joseph Fishbain	7
Jacob (Jack) Weinberg	7
Jennie Levin	8
Helen Kaplan	8
William Rozumoff	8

Week of December 9th

Dr. Ruben S Grant	9
Hannah Lippman Wolf	9
Harry Donovitz	9
Herman Noll	10
Dr. Budd Gorsky	11
Minnie Kaplan	11
Barbara Lieberstein	11
Dora Mitler	12
Mary Fishbain	13
Alex Dorman	15
Jacob M. Kassel	15

Week of December 16th

Maynard Greenberg	17
Dr. Charles Robert Bloom	18
Myron Adelberg	19
Lena Hoffman	19
Shirley Levine	19
Dr. Hymon J. Soref	19
Morton Bachman	21
Burton Isaacson	21
Harry J. Mandelker	22

Week of December 23rd

Sarah Brownstein	24
Dora Schaefer	24
Sydneye Silver	25
June S. Harris	25
Betty Ruben	26
Sol Marcado	26
Mae Brownstein	27
Jacob Jacobson	27
Meyer Levin	27
Mitchell Pearlman	28
Abraham Gorsky	29

Week of December 30th

Abe Goodman	30
Jacob Slobodkin	30
Elvin Wolfman	30
Sarah Woolf	30
Herman Sunshine	31
Rose Blitstein	1
Abe Goldberg	1
Abraham Krasnow	1
Rudolph Kahn	2
Abraham Karlitzky	2
Ruth L. Meyer	2
Mary Shapiro	2
Ida Tabaksman	2
Celia Woolf Westphall	3
Ida Blume Weisman	4
Harry M. Blitstein	5

Some Chanukah Tidbits!

Chanukah or Hanukkah, how is it spelled?
In the Hebrew, Chanukah is pronounced with the letter chet. The chet's "ch" sound is not enunciated like the "ch" in child; rather it's a guttural, throaty sound—like the "ch" in Johann Bach—which does not have an English equivalent. The letter "H" is the closest, but it's not really it. So while some people spell and pronounce it "Chanukah" and others settle for "Hanukkah," they really are one and the same.

What does the word Chanukah mean?
Chanukah means "dedication" or "induction." Following their victory over the Greeks, the Maccabees rededicated the Holy Temple and its altar, which had been desecrated and defiled by the pagan invaders.

The word Chanukah can also be divided into two: Chanu—they rested, and Kah—which has the numerical value of 25. On the twenty-fifth day of the Hebrew month of Kislev the Maccabees rested from their battle, and triumphantly marched into the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, ready to rededicate it.

In what order do we light the candles?
On the first night of Chanukah, set one candle to the far right of the menorah. On the following night add a second light to the left of the first one, and then add one light each night of Chanukah—moving from right to left.

Each night, light the newest (leftmost) candle first, and continue lighting from left to right. In other words, we add lights to the menorah from right to left, and we light from left to right.

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

December 2 - 4:00 PM
December 9 - 3:59 PM
December 16 - 4:00 PM
December 23 - 4:03 PM
December 30 - 4:08 PM

Cemetery Notes

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is a resting place for all Jews. **All.**

The cemetery is five acres located on the 600 block of Lathrop Avenue and is a well maintained, park-like setting.

Call Glenn Gordon at 262.639.1924

The Chanukkah Song - In English

Chanukkah, Oh Chanukkah
Come light the menorah
Let's have a party
We'll all dance the hora
Gather round the table, we'll have a treat
Shiny tops to play with, latkes to eat

And while we are playing
The candles are burning low
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago

The Chanukkah Song - In Hebrew

Chanukkah, O Chanukkah
A yontev a sheyner
A lustiger a freylicher
Nito noch azoyner
Ale nacht in dreydl shpiln mir
Zudigheyse latkes esn mir

Geshvinder tsindt kinder
Di dininke lichtelech on
Zogt "al ha-nisim," loybt G-t far di nisim
Un kumt gicher tantsn in kon

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Join us for a Chanukah Party on December 20 at 6:00 PM. RSVP by December 14.

December 2011 Kislev - Tevet 5772

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	2	3 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
4	5	6	7	8 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	9	10 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
11	12	13	14 RSVP for Chanukah Party Due	15 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	16	17 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
18	19	20 Congregation Chanukah Party 6:00 PM	21	22 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	23	24 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
25	26	27	28	29 Hebrew or Adult Ed. Class	30	31 Shabbat Services 9:45AM