Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 91, Issue 9

April 2011

Adar II - NISAN 5771

President's Message

Recovering still from a really fun Purim on the 20th, it's time to think about Passover coming in just a couple of weeks. The first Seder will be the Rabbi's Seder on Monday evening, April 18. The Congregational Seder will be the second Seder on Tuesday night, April 19. Please RSVP by April 10 for each or both! We're looking forward to a crowd!

A special oneg is planned for Saturday April 9, sponsored by Yaakov and Kathy Schmadl. Join the party and help to celebrate Yaakov's 65th birthday! Do you have something to celebrate? Work with the sisterhood to sponsor an oneg!

The board met in March and approved an investment policy that will diversify the Temple's financial portfolio. The board members have agreed that that a small additional risk will yield an extra, long term benefit. The board also approved the first step in strategic planning and scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, a longer than normal meeting to focus on the future and the long term health of the congregation. We'll explore options to generate additional revenue, and will discuss how we can continue to maintain a strong Jewish community. Later in the spring as we're get further into the process, the board plans to offer a few listening sessions because we'll need everyone's input. I hope that when we hold these sessions you'll all plan on being a part of the process.

Congratulations to Julie Nelson, our congregational secretary for the last three years. She's been offered an increase in hours and a benefit package at her other job and though sadly she'll no longer be available to us, we wish her the best of luck… Mazel Tov! It also means we'll be operating for a short time on less than all cylinders as many of the board members learn and take on the responsibilities of what Julie was doing. We hope you'll see only positive changes, but hang in there… we'll get it right!

Lastly, beginning in June we'll be sending hard copies of the newsletter only to members and friends who don't have access to email. Please complete and return the enclosed form to express your preference. This will greatly conserve resources, both financial and environmental!!

Thank you all for your participation, it's keeping Beth Israel Sinai a vibrant congregation.

Shalom!

Jeff

Rabbi's Message

The late Jewish comedian, Jack Benny, once quipped " My favorite meal on Passover is fried Matzo– with bacon, ham or sausage." This joke illustrates how assimilated Jews had become during the early and mid 20th century. Eager to prove they were "good Americans." Jews shed many of their outwardly Jewish characteristics. Often their leaders led them in the march toward assimilation. The participants at the first banquet establishing the Hebrew Union College dined on frogs' legs. Socialist Yiddish poets spoke against the evils of capitalism and helped organize American labor. The founder of the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) was a British Jewish immigrant, Samuel Gompers. American Jewish financiers and philanthropists like the Schiff (whose Episcopician descendants married to former Vice President Al Gore's daughter), Guggenheim and Strauss families contributed to many American and Jewish causes and charities. President Theodore Roosevelt appointed the first Jew to a cabinet position, Oscar Strauss as his Secretary of Labor. Three prominent Jewish jurists, Louis Brandeis, Benjamin Cardoza and Felix Frankfurter were appointee to the Supreme Court. Several prominent Jewish Americans served under President Franklin Roosevelt. Having made such great strides, no wonder so few Jews supported the

Inside this issue:

Rabbi's Message Continued…	2
Donations	2
Yahrzeits	3
Candle Lighting Times	3
Hadassah and Sisterhood News	3
A Few Pictures	3
Calendar	4

Of Special Interest:

- Yaakov and Kathy Smadl have sponsored the Oneg on April 9.
- Rabbi's Seder - Monday April 18. RSVP to Rabbi by April 10.
- Congregational Seder - Tuesday April 19. RSVP by April 10.
- Complete and return your email or snail mail preference.
- Need to sell your Chometz? Information is enclosed.
- Don't miss Passover services!

Rabbi's Message Continued...

establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The "new Jerusalem" was Washington D.C. Jewish counterparts in Europe felt the same way about Paris, London and Berlin as American Jews did about the United States. Germany had a Jewish Foreign Minister, Walter Rashenau, who in 1922 was assassinated by right wing radicals. Leon Blum became both French Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The advent of Hitler and the destruction of two-thirds of European Jewry would shatter these illusions.

The story of Passover and the events preceding this holiday commemorating our freedom can be similarly told. A former slave, Joseph, had become Pharaoh's chief advisor. His plan to save the Middle East from starvation by storing grain during the years of plenty was acclaimed. Jews became a prominent part of the Egyptian society. Settling in the fertile plain of Goshen, they became prominent contributors at all levels of Egyptian society. They too shed most outward signs of being Jewish. So assimilated had Egyptian Jewry become that it was only after the eighth plague, the Plague of the Locusts, that Jews became convinced it was time to leave. Years of slavery had not changed their longing to be accepted by Egyptian society.

We are instructed on Passover to pretend that we are fighting alongside our ancient brethren in the quest of freedom – as if we too were escaping from Egypt. Our Passover Seder should become an educational journey leading us to become better Jews and to work on behalf of oppressed peoples everywhere.

On the second day of Pesach, we will begin counting the Omer. (An Omer is a measurement representing the tithes offered to the Temple.) This begins our 49 day journey towards receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai by Moses on Shavuot.

To prepare for Passover, like our ancestors before us, we create an environment similar to that of almost 2600 years ago. Though the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb ceased after the destruction of the second Temple,. We judiciously follow the biblical injunction prohibiting the eating of Chametz (leaven).

But this involves far more than eating Matzah, the "bread of infliction" baked in haste by the children of Israel prior to their exodus from Egypt. It also involves making sure that we do not ingest any products containing even a trace of chometz. This includes any food or drink containing wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt or other derivatives which is forbidden on Passover because it is leavened or fermented. Foods containing any of these ingredients cannot be certified as "Kosher for Passover." We must neither eat, sell, or even have any of these products in our possession during the eight days of Pesach. With the exception of fresh fruits and most vegetables (excluding legumes) all prepackaged foods and drinks must have a U P or other reliable supervising authority to be considered edible during the holiday. Examples of forbidden foods in addition to these mentioned above include breakfast cereals. Licorice, most candy bars, pasta, vinegar, beer and whiskey.

To ensure that all the "chometz" is removed, both food items and utensils used during the year are stored away in closets that will either be locked or taped shut. You will sell this chometz temporarily to a non-Jew (forms available in the newsletter.)

The entire house is then cleaned, purging it of all crumbs and small pieces of food. Don't overlook desks, drawers, your car or office. Special attention is given to cleaning the kitchen which has been used for chometz during the entire year. A separate set of dishes is used for Pesach only. For those wishing to "Kasher" their kitchens fir Passover, please see the enclosed flyer.

On the evening of April 17 after all the preparations for the holiday have been complete, we conduct a final inspection of our homes for chometz. This is burned (or discarded outside of the house) on the morning of Monday, April 18.

April will be a busy month for Beth Israel Sinai. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Please join Marcia and me for the "Rabbi's Seder" on Monday April 18 at 7:00 p.m. The Congregational Seder will be conducted on Tuesday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome! Pesach morning services will be held on Tuesday April 19 at 9:45 a.m. Yizkor will be recited on the last day of Passover, April 26 at 9:45 a.m.

Our Yom Hashoah Service, honoring the memory of our six million brethren who perished during the Holocaust, will be held on Sunday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m. As in previous years, Racine civic and religious leaders will show their solidarity with local Jewry by participating in the awesome occasion. Your attendance at this event is strongly encouraged, to help perpetuate the memory not only of our fallen brethren, but also those righteous gentiles who risked their lives on behalf of European Jewry.

Marcia, Becky, Robyn, Lara, Greg, Sam and I would like to wish our entire Temple family "Chag Kasher v'Sameach." A happy and kosher Passover.

See You in Shul!

Rabbi Adelberg

P.S. I am happy to report the highest turnout ever for our Purim celebration! What a joyous celebration for young and old alike. May we continue to celebrate many more holidays and life cycle events together as we diligently work to expand our Temple family. Let us work once again to fill our sanctuary with song and jubilation.

Donations

In Memory of Sgt. Leonard Hulbert

Gertrude Hulbert

In Memory of Pearl Levin

Rebecca Dolin
Jeff and Michelle Green
Estelle and Lee Siegman
Blanche Kahn
Sylvia Rosenzweig
Miriam Noll

For Rabbi's 10th Anniversary

Lucille Bloom
David Kohn
Norman Levin
Marsh Meredith Funeral Home
Kathy McVicker
Jill Coates
Elizabeth and Paul Howes

Yahrzeits

March 26 - April 1
Reuben A. Gorsky March 26
Philip Waisman March 27
Rabbi Hyman Cohen March 27
Harold Levin March 28
David Merens March 29
George Stern March 30
Dr. Mark Temkin March 30
Ben Silver March 30
Rose S. Wiener March 31

April 2 - April 8
Arthur J. Kraft April 2
Reeva Dorman April 2
William Woolf April 3
Rela Markovits April 4
Benjamin Grant April 5
Benton Kaufman April 7
Leo H. Finsky April 8
Morris Gerol April 8
Bessie Luby April 8

April 9 - April 15
Charles Wollman April 9
Alice H. Wolfman April 10
Sol M. Dorman April 12
Rose Grant April 13
David Hulbert April 13
Edward Dunya SilverApril 15

April 16 - April 22
Rose I. Kraft April 16
Ise Blitstein April 16
Joseph L. Waisman April 16
Manny S. Brown April 17
Alec Sheft April 17
Sarah Sheft April 17
Rabbi Abraham Cohen April 18
Kenneth Speyer April 18
Rachel Belle Gordon April 19
Sari Johanna Prowler April 21
Frank J. Schwartz April 21

April 23 - April 29
Laeh Hulbert April 23
Nathan Hulbert April 25
Rae L. Rubin April 25
Benjamin Shlimovitz April 25
Harold Block April 26
Lilly R. Seft April 28

April 30 to May 6
Max Lippman April 30
Lillian Merens April 30
Mary Block May 1
Jennie Feiges May1
Leslie Kraft May 2
Sarah A. Kaminsky May 4
Annie Sideman May 6
Joseph Gold May 6
Dr. Frank P. Goldstein May 6
Maurice Levinthal May 6

April Candle Lighting Schedule

Fri., April 8	7:07 PM	Fri., April 15	7:15PM
Fri., April 22	7:23PM	Fri., April 29	7:31PM

Sisterhood

Your Sisterhood contributions are used to enrich community life a 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.

Contributions of any size may be sent to Rita at 2811 North Main Street, Racine WI 53402.

February Contributions:
Leone Kaufman Niemiec - In honor of Rabbi Adelberg
Leone Kaufman Niemiec - In honor of Jane Brosseau's Bat Mitzvah

The Sisterhood thanks Louise Langlieb for sponsoring the oneg following services on February 26 in honor of her 85th birthday. Happy birthday, Louise (February22)!

Sisterhood Chairs: Jane Brosseau & Rita Collen

Purim Pictures

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

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_____

Please continue my newsletter by regular mail_____
Please send my newsletters by email_____
Email address_____

Thanks! We'll begin emailing newsletters in June. If we've 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.

Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

Happy Passover

APRIL 2011 *ADAR II-NISSAN 5771*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	*2* *Services 9:45AM*
3	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7* *Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*8*	*9* *Services 9:45AM*
10 *Seder RSVPs Due*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14* *Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*15*	*16* *Services 9:45AM*
17	*18* *Rabbi's Seder 7:00PM*	*19* *Passover Service 9:45AM* *Community Seder 6:00PM*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23* *Services 9:45AM*
24	*25*	*26* *Yizkor 9:45AM*	*27*	*28* *Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class*	*29*	*30* *Services 9:45AM*