

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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APRIL 2015 NISSAN - IYAR 5775

Rabbi's Message

The epic story of the enslavement and freedom of the Israelites from Egypt resonates with every generation. Pesach is so important that an entire volume of the Talmud is devoted to the laws governing this holiday. Jews exiled after the destruction of the Second Temple developed many lesser known customs. Different customs developed amongst Jews living under Moslem and Christian rule between the 7th and 15th centuries. Jews exiled during the Spanish Inquisition brought these customs to central Europe, North Africa, the Ottoman Empire and

ultimately the New World of North and South America. Many are still practiced by Jews today. These "minhagim" (customs) enhance our knowledge of the holiday of Passover. To name a few:

(1) "USING THE LULAV TO BURN CHAMETZ OR TO BAKE MATZAH." Rabbi Judah ben Kolonymous, a 12th century German scholar, used to save the willows (aravot) in order to burn the chametz. In Yemen, it was the custom to use the lulav (palm), hadassim (myrtles) and aravot to fuel the ovens when baking matzah shemurah. These examples fulfill the requirement of reusing items used in fulfilling one

mitzvah to help fulfill another. (Shabbat 117b) This also establishes a connection of the last pilgrim festival, Sukkot, with the first festival of Pesach.

(2) "OPEN DOORS AND CLOSED DOORS." The ninth century Babylonian Rabbi, Rav Mattiyahu Gaon, declared that it was the custom of our forefathers to leave the doors open during the seder so poor Jews would feel free to come in and join them. In many Arab lands, the door was left open to allow a swift exit to greet the Messiah.

(3) "CHAROSET WITH AN EARTHY FLAVOR." During the

American Civil War, a group of Jewish soldiers made a seder in the wilderness of West Virginia. Since no charoset was available, they put a real brick on the Seder plate. This originated from a 13th century Italian custom to put a little bit of clay or grated brick into the charoset.

(4) "THE POWER OF THE AFIKOMAN." Many Jews believed the afikoman to have protective powers. In Tunisia and Libya, it was carried by sea travelers to ward off raging seas. In Persia, it was kept as a charm that would bring upon the owner and his family many blessings. It was also used as an
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Board's Message

Spring has sprung! The rhythm of our community responds to the change of season. As the synagogue is filled with more people, it is filled with more life.

We will observe Passover with the **Rabbi's Seder** on Friday, April 3rd, at 7:00pm. The **Congregational and Community Seder** will be Saturday, April 4th, at 6:00pm. These traditional Seders are, of course, among the profound observations of our year, and we look forward to sharing them with as many as possible.

Rabbi Adelberg's lecture series, "A Taste of Judaism," will commence Thursday, April 9th, at 7:00pm. Members of the general public, as well as the congregational community, are warmly invited to attend this worthwhile event. The series has been designed to foster a greater understanding of Judaism amongst all people. Additional lectures this month are scheduled for April 23rd and 30th. The series is without charge to temple members.

Our next **Friday Evening Shabbat Service and Dinner** will

be April 17th at 6:00pm. Please join us as we celebrate food, fellowship, and balmy (we hope) weather. All are welcome!

We are very pleased to announce a **film showing** on Sunday, April 26th, at 2:00pm. As a result of efforts by movie mavens Perry and Sara Kivolowitz, we will be screening "*The Little Traitor*." Based on an acclaimed novel by Amos Oz, it tells the coming-of-age story of a Jewish boy in Palestine in 1947, one year before the creation of the modern state of Israel. You are cordially invited to watch, schmooze and nosh popcorn! Our gratitude to Perry and Sara for bringing this event to BIS! We hope the showing of movies will become a regular event.

The Maxwell Street Klezmer band is performing at UW-Parkside on Thursday, April 9th at 7:30pm. Further information is available from the Box Office at 262.595.2564.

Last month's anniversary celebration of Shelly's Bar Mitzvah was a moving affair. The Bar Mitzvah boy presented recollections of a day sixty-seven years ago, featuring his grandfather Sam and a world now mostly

gone, except in cherished memory. Shelly paid tribute to his wife, Yvonne, and expressed gratitude to Rabbi Adelberg for his friendship and counsel.

The special March 12th morning service was well attended and an education for many. The weekday schedule permitted a number of community members to attend. It was a particular treat to see Stan and Judy Rosen, Lorin and Judy Lichterman, Art Domskey and Moshe Geffen. Our thanks to Max for his idea of this service and making it happen.

Our sincere thank you to Melissa and Jay Warner for the donation of a lovely lithograph by artist Seymour Rosenthal, entitled "*Moses Holding Tablets*." This print presents an image in which flesh, rock, word and spirit are powerfully united. It is now hanging on the west wall of the Lounge.

Thank you to Donna Addy for so ably conducting a Shabbat service while the Rabbi was on vacation. Thank you to Sara and Perry for their delicious contributions to our Shabbat lunches. Thanks also to Sara for shopping, schlepping and creating a lovely presentation at the serving table. Thank you to

Cassie for an emergency coffee improvisation that was actually drinkable. Welcome back to Jeff Hansen! And big thanks to Jim for cleaning and maintenance duties performed while Jeff was on vacation.

It was pleasure to meet Elissa, Bart, Ruth and Ariela at a recent Shabbat service. We hope to see them again!

Our Annual Congregational Members Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17th at 1:00pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important event.

A reminder, that all assessed or arranged membership dues for the 2014-2015 fiscal year must be paid in full prior to the annual meeting. Letters will be sent to those who have not completed payment.

Interested in participating on the Temple Board? Please let us know by May, so that your name can be placed into nomination at the Annual Meeting. It is a mitzvah to serve.

Shalom,

Joyce, Max, Jim, Sandy, Brian

Rabbi's Message Continued...

amulet to ensure pregnant women would give birth to male children, to cure a mute's deafness, to ensure an ample harvest, to protect against bullets, and to prevent a river from overflowing its banks.

(5) "THE PARTING OF THE REED SEA." This last minhag deals with events on the seventh day of Passover. The Gerer Hassidim would gather in their shteibel on the seventh night of Pesach. They drank "le'chaim" and danced the entire evening. Then they poured a barrel of water on the floor, lifted up their long cloaks and pretended to cross the Reed Sea. At the end, they thanked G-d for helping them reach their final destination.

As we sit down to our celebratory Passover meal, let us not forget the widow, the orphan and the poor. As stated in the Passover Haggadah, "let all who are hungry come and eat." Contributions to the Milwaukee Jewish Food Pantry and organizations like Ma'ot Chittim in Chicago and Mazon will ensure that those less fortunate will get to share in our holiday of freedom. Also, if you know of anyone new to the Racine area who is looking for a Seder to attend, please invite them to attend our Temple seders.

Marcia, Becky, Robyn, Joe, Lara, Sam, Greg, Lisa, Myles and Mollie would like to wish our Temple family a "chag kasher v'sameach"--A HAPPY AND KOSHER PASSOVER.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
Rabbi Marty

P.S. Don't forget! Our seminar, "A Taste of Judaism" begins Thursday, April 9, at 7pm. This series of six one hour lectures is open to the entire Racine and Kenosha communities.



Treasurer's Message

Dues cover less than half of our expenses. As of the end of January, eight months through our fiscal year, dues revenue was less than last year. If you have not paid your dues, pay now. If you are not paying full dues, come a little closer to the mark.

Contributions help with our expenses. I prefer to give numerous small contributions rather than a large one. According to the theory of relativity, giving the price of one restaurant meal a dozen times a year doesn't hurt as much as giving a month's rent. Donate in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, bar mitzvahs, graduations, engagements, births and brides. Give memorials for the recently departed, as well as yahrzeits of relatives. At any time, you can honor a person for service to the community with a donation. We will send acknowledgment of your donation in the mail, as well as through this newsletter, if you include an address with your check.

The remainder of our expenses is paid by significant withdrawals from our treasury. Our resources are diminishing. Our future is imperiled. Give generously, please.

Max Gordon

MAXFACT: Did you know First Lady Michelle Obama's cousin, Capers Funnye, is the Chief Rabbi of Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation on the Southside of Chicago? We have exchanged visits with them.

Sisterhood

We will be baking cookies for the Passover Seder on Thursday, April 2nd at 1:30. Please join us; the more, the merrier!

Thanks to Eileen, Mary Jo, Gail, and Joyce for preparing hamantaschen for Purim. It was fun, as always, and delicious too! Our appreciation to those who helped assume the innumerable duties normally performed by Jeff Hansen, who was on vacation.

As we approach Pesach, our Temple kitchen becomes a buzzing hive of Jewish industry! A very sincere thank you to Jim, Joyce, and Mary Jo for helping to kasher the kitchen for the holiday. A heartfelt thank you to Joyce for her ceaseless shopping, schlepping and organizing in preparation for the Seder. We all appreciate her hard work and positive attitude!

A visit to Temple this afternoon found massive Seder food supplies spread nearly across the full width of the stage. Many of the kitchen work surfaces were covered by an array of enormous pots, pans and trays. Guess who's coming to dinner?

We so appreciate all donations and sponsorships. They help us to maintain a gracious and welcoming atmosphere that is a benefit to all!

Is someone in your family celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other milestone? Consider sponsoring a Kiddush to commemorate a special day or honor a loved one. It's easy. Just speak to a board member and we'll take care of the details. We also welcome financial contributions, grocery gift cards, and donations of kosher grocery items or paper goods to help the Sisterhood fund the cost of the weekly Kiddush. We always seem to run short of bottled water, soda, and paper goods (especially cups, napkins, and forks) and items such as coffee, fresh fruit, cookies, and other kitchen basics are also needed on a regular basis. Please ensure that any packaged, canned, or otherwise processed foods are marked "kosher". You may drop these items off in the kitchen at any time.

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|--|--|--|--|
| In Memory of Sgt. Leonard Hulbert Gertrude Hulbert |  | | General Support Anonymous Sandra Levin and Brian Rose |
| In Honor of Arnold Solomon's 90th Birthday Renata Lac and Randall Rotter | In Memory of My Father D. I. Gordon Max Gordon | High Holiday Appeal Eileen Schroeder | |



YAHARZEITS

Week of March 27 to April 2

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Sol M. Dorman | 28 |
| Rose Grant | 29 |
| David Hulbert | 29 |
| Edward Dunya Silver | 31 |
| Rose I. Kraft | 1 |
| Ise Blitstein | 1 |
| Joseph L. Waisman | 1 |
| Manny S. Brown | 2 |
| Alec Seft | 2 |
| Sarah Seft | 2 |

Week of April 3 to April 9

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Rabbi Abraham Cohen | 3 |
| Kenneth Speyer | 3 |
| Rachel Belle Gordon | 4 |
| Sari Johanna Prowler | 6 |
| Frank J. Schwartz | 6 |
| Laeh Hulbert | 8 |

Week of April 10 to April 16

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Nathan Hulbert | 10 |
| Rae L. Rubin | 10 |
| Benjamin Shlimovitz | 10 |
| Harold Block | 11 |
| Lilly R. Seft | 13 |
| Max Lippman | 15 |
| Lillian Merens | 15 |
| Mary Block | 16 |
| Jennie Feiges | 16 |

Week of April 17 to April 23

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Charles Wollman | 17 |
| Sarah A. Kaminsky | 19 |
| Annie Sideman | 21 |
| Joseph Gold | 21 |
| Dr. Frank P. Goldstein | 21 |
| Maurice Levinthal | 21 |
| Avery Fried | 22 |
| Kate Grant | 22 |
| David Winters | 23 |

Week of April 24 to April 30

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Dorothy Barton | 24 |
|----------------|----|

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Eva Dorman | 25 |
| Edward Langlieb | 25 |
| Berthold Donner | 26 |
| Rose Davidson | 27 |
| Hyman Tannenbaum | 27 |
| Joseph Goodman | 28 |
| Albert Gold | 29 |
| Robert M. Jacobson | 29 |
| Charlotte Weiss | 30 |
| Dave Luby | 30 |
| Abraham Sheft | 30 |
| Edith Singer | 30 |

Week of May 1 to May 7

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Morris S. Ruben | 1 |
| Alma Schlomovitz | 1 |
| Sidney Aronin | 2 |
| Jerry Brown | 2 |
| Helmut Isenberg | 3 |
| Bessie Silver | 3 |
| Charles "Chuck" Brown | 3 |
| Abe Silver | 4 |
| Isadore Small | 4 |
| Ed Johnson | 4 |
| Silvia Rosenzweig | 6 |
| Ruth Shrago | 7 |

Shabbat Candle Lighting

April 3 - 7:01 PM

April 10 - 7:09 PM

April 17 - 7:17 PM

April 24 - 7:25 PM

May 1 - 7:33 PM



Cemetery Notes

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is five acres located at 612 Lathrop Avenue. It is a well maintained, park-like setting. A resting place for all Jews.

There is a Reform section of the cemetery where Jews and their non-Jewish family members can be buried together.

For more information about the purchase of cemetery plots or perpetual care, please call Jim Barten at 262-886-0381.

PASSOVER SEDERS

Rabbi's Seder

Friday, April 3rd
7 PM

Congregational Seder

Saturday, April 4th
6 PM

Hadassah

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making your charitable contributions.

Cards \$5; Shares \$10; Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10; Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18.

For information call Sarah Levin, 262-886-9331.

Lecture Series

by Rabbi Martyn Adelberg

"A Taste of Judaism"

April 9, 23, 30

7:00 PM

*The series will continue in May
For details please contact the Rabbi*

BIS Film Showing

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

2:00 PM

"The Little Traitor"

An afternoon of fun, film, and popcorn



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

***Please join us for Shabbat Dinner & Services
on Friday April 17 at 6:00!***

April 2015 Nissan - Iyar 5775

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--|---|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 Passover Cookie Baking 1:30 PM | 3 Rabbi's Seder 7 PM | 4 Shabbat Services- Yizkor 9:45 AM Congregational Seder 6 PM |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Rabbi's Lecture Series 7 PM | 10 | 11 Shabbat Services- Yizkor 9:45 AM |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Shabbat Service and Dinner 6 PM | 18 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Rabbi's Lecture Series 7 PM | 24 | 25 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM |
| 26 Film Showing "The Little Traitor" 2:00 PM | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Rabbi's Lecture Series 7 PM | | |