

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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AUGUST 2015 AV - ELUL 5775

Rabbi's Message

On the 9th of Av, from the eve of July 25th to dark on July 26th, we mourned the destruction of the First and Second Temples by fasting for twenty-five hours. The Book of Lamentations was read, describing how a once proud nation had descended into self denigration and destruction. The Hebrew word for Lamentations is "eichah." Eichah means "how." HOW did the surrounding nations, who once feared and idolized the Kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon, come to mock their successors? HOW did our adoption of alien customs lead to our spiritual demise? HOW did the lack of Jewish unity lead to our physical and spiritual exile among the nations of the world?

Between the 17th of Tammuz--a minor fast day commemorating the breach of the walls of

the Second Temple by the Roman armies--and Tisha B'Av, we had a three week period of semi-mourning. No weddings or celebrations were conducted during these three weeks. The ten week period following Tisha B'Av is dedicated to our personal spiritual renewal. We take comfort that G-d has not abandoned the Jewish nation. Indeed, the Shabbat following this important fast day is called the "Sabbath of Comfort," "Shabbat Nachamu." G-d informs us that the Divine presence will never be absent from our daily lives. All that is asked is that we devote ourselves to Torah, service to mankind and acts of kindness. This introspection reaches a crescendo during the period from Rosh Chodesh Elul to Yom Kippur. On the first day of Elul, Moses ascended Mt. Sinai with the Second Tablets of the Ten Commandments. The next forty days were

days, when we aroused G-d by our deeds, to forgive us for our transgressions. We review our behavior of the past year. We become introspective about our past thoughts, actions and deeds, and resolve to lead better lives. By the eve of Rosh Hashanah, we have become prepared to argue our case before the Holy One to renew our lease on life for another year. May we continue to grow as a Temple family from strength to strength.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
Rabbi Marty



President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I announce the first pre Yom Kippur dinner and concert to be held at the synagogue on the eve of Kol Nidre, Tuesday, September 22, 2015. The catered dinner and concert will begin at 5 PM. This will allow everyone to relax and enjoy fine music before going into the sanctuary for Kol Nidre services, which will begin at 6:45 PM. Reservations are appreciated. Please call the synagogue at 262-633-7093 or my cell 262-989-9333 to place your reservations. A donation of \$25 for this fine evening of excellent food and music would also be appreciated.

Also, as of August 1, 2015, we will be accepting Master Card, Visa, Discover and American Express credit cards for payment of your dues, donations and any other items relating to the synagogue.

SHALOM,
Shelly

Sisterhood

We would like to thank Joel and Judy Roher for sponsoring a Kiddush on August 8th in honor of their children.

Linda Hulbert is graciously sponsoring a Kiddush on August 22nd in honor of her mother, Ruth Hulbert. Everyone has such fond memories of Ruth. There will be an unveiling of Ruth Hulbert's stone on August 23rd. Please join the family at the cemetery.

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a Kiddush or helped in the preparation of a Kiddush. And thanks to those who prepared the Shabbat dinner. If you would like to help with cooking in the future, please contact Joyce Placzkowski 262-945-7675 or Joyce Katzman 847-612-6091. Your involvement is welcomed.

Is someone in your family celebrating a special day or milestone? Consider sponsoring a Kiddush to commemorate that special day, or to honor a loved one. It's easy. Just call Joyce Placzkowski 262-945-7675. A dairy Kiddush is \$50, a meat Kiddush is \$100. We welcome financial contributions, grocery gift cards and donations of kosher grocery items and paper goods (especially cups, napkins, plates and forks). This helps the Sisterhood keep down the costs of the weekly Kiddush. We can also use coffee, fresh fruit and other kitchen basics that are needed on a regular basis. Please make sure that any packaged or canned foods are marked kosher. You may drop these items off in the kitchen.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Would you be pleased if congregants contributed to the temple in honor of your birthday, anniversary or other simcha? Record the month and type of your simcha on the temple answering machine, 262-633-7093, and we will announce it here in the bulletin. The honors will roll in.

When you send a gift in honor of a friend or relative, we will acknowledge your thoughtful generosity. We will send a personal acknowledgment if you provide contact information. Tell us if you do not want us to publish either your name or the amount of your gift.

A gift of "chai", or \$18, is always appreciated. Dedicating a prayer book is only \$36. A group could work together to purchase a rock or leaf for the Hulbert Tree of Life. Call for prices of rocks and leaves

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Anna Hessa, in honor of my grandparents, Helen and Herman Kaplan, and my Uncle Bobby Kaplan

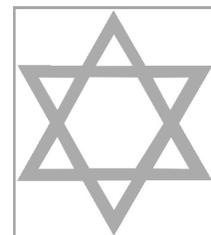
Warren and Joanne Williams, in honor of Sarah Levin birthday

Max Gordon, to welcome Bob and Joyce Katzman to Racine

Perry Kivolowitz, donation for Restoration Fund

Eileen Schroeder, general donation

Condolences to the Lichterman family on the passing of brother-in-law and uncle Michael "Skip" Levin. Also, condolences to Ina Lichterman Levin and daughters Dana and Geanna on the passing of their beloved husband and father. Michael and Ina were married at Beth Israel Sinai 40 years ago.



Yahrzeits		Week of August 22	
Week of August 1		Max Kiselow	16
Ida Gordon	26	Jordan Davidson	17
Mildred Domsky	26	Otto D. Weiss	17
Rose Friedman	28	Martin Brill	18
Bella Tattelbaum	29	Leah Lifschutz	18
Arnold Goodman	1	Lillian Schulman	18
Raye Sheft	1	Max Bloch	19
Week of August 8		Samuel Feldman	19
Sam Rozumoff	2	Bea Goodman	20
Margery B. Small	2	Bobby Kaplan	20
Gertrude Blumberg	4	Frank J. Shovers	20
Harry S. Metz	4	Bluma Jacobson	21
Anna Davidson	5	Sgt. Norman H. Gordon	22
Grace Daneman	5	Anna Tannenbaum	22
Max Tabaksman	5	Week of August 29	
Peggy Metzger	8	Max Gordon	26
Albert W. Levin	8	Sarah P. Mark	26
Week of August 15		Henry Shapiro	26
Anna Marvin	9	Harry Frank	27
Dora Noll	9	Dr. Arthur Grant	27
Samuel Shapiro	9	Louis Kraft	27
Morris S. Waisman	9	Rebecca Small	28
Anna Grant	10	Week of September 5	
Aleck Kofsky	13	Sarah F. Bassewitz	2
Etta Hulbert	14	Lillian R. Kronson	2
Sol Fox	15	Bessie Gelin	3
Abraham M. Schomovitz	15		

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

August 7	- 7:48 PM
August 14	- 7:38 PM
August 21	- 7:27 PM
August 28	- 7:16 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

Hadassah

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions. Cards \$5; Shares \$10; Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10; Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18. For more information call Sarah Levin, 886-9331

Did you know?

Do you feel at a loss when someone asks you, "What do Jews believe?" You are being asked for the Jewish creed, a list of core beliefs. Most religions are organized around a creed. Judaism has no creed. This does not mean Jews don't believe anything. It means our minds do not wear chains. You don't have to accept a set of beliefs to be Jewish any more than you have to believe certain things to be Italian.

When Maimonides was young he wrote a creed for Jews. He was vigorously criticized by other scholars, not only for the contents of the creed, but also for the very concept. Maimonides repudiated his own work, but it was so popular with the people that it is still included in our prayer books.





Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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No Shabbat dinner this month, as we will be having our annual picnic at noon on Sunday, August 9th at the home of Eileen Schroeder, 119 Stuart Road in Racine. We will supply hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a non-dairy dish to share. Don't forget to mark your calendars and get your reservations in for the pre-Yom Kippur dinner with music on September 22nd at 5pm. Kol Nidre service begins at 6:45pm.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
2	3	4	5	6 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	7	8 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
9 Annual picnic At home of Eileen Schroeder at noon	10	11	12	13	14	15 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
16	17	18	19	20 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	21	22 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					