

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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MARCH 2015 ADAR - NISSAN 5775

Rabbi's Message

The Persian Empire assisted in the construction of the Second Temple. After conquering Babylonia, Emperor Cyrus encouraged Jews to return to their ancient homeland. Due to the freedom the Israelis experienced in Persia, fewer than 20% of those in exile returned to the Promised Land. Fifty years later the Emperor Darius, a grandson of Cyrus, offered to help finance the building of a Second Temple in Jerusalem. In 515 BCE, the second Temple was completed. Smaller than the First Temple built by Solomon during the 10th century BCE, it became the epicenter of world Jewry. Still, relatively few Jews returned to Israel. In less than eight decades following the destruction of the First Temple by the Babylonians, most Jews saw

no reason to return to the Promised Land. They had become an integral part of Persian society. In fact they had become SO ASSIMILATED, that they did not recognize that food served during the parties thrown by Ahasuerus was served on the vessels stolen from the First Temple. Life was good for Persian Jewry until Haman rose to power.

Haman became prime minister just prior to the selection of Esther as the new Persian Queen. Like in Nazi Germany, the Jews of Persia could not believe that the land where they had been living for almost two centuries would seek their demise. After all, Persian Jews had contributed to the political, economic and military success of their adopted land. In all 127 provinces, from India to Ethiopia, Jews were in positions of power. Even Esther would not

initially believe the warnings of her Uncle Mordechai. Only later would the Queen believe that the wicked Haman had offered ten thousand talents of silver for royal permission to annihilate the Jews. Only then would Esther realize that she would have to save her people from destruction. Unaware of his wife's religion and madly in love with his Queen, Esther was ultimately able to persuade her husband to provide weapons to her correligionists to defend themselves. No Jews lost their lives. Mordechai became prime minister. Haman and his ten sons were hung on the gallows built for Mordechai and other prominent Persian Jews.

Throughout history, anti-semitism has raised its ugly head. In 1070, the British town of York, Jews preferred suicide to

forced conversion. The Catholic Church, fearing the loss of power to the Arab Empire, conducted a series of Crusades offering their Jewish and Moslem captives a choice of conversion or death. The Spanish Inquisition resulted in the expulsion of Spanish Jewry from their ancestral land after burning thousands of our correligionists at the stake. This included even Jews who had formally converted to Catholicism. Pogroms were carried out between the 17th and 20th centuries by Tsarist Russia. Their Communist successors would soon prove to be equally anti-semitic. Adolf Hitler was the most ambitious anti-semitic. Over 6 million European Jews were gassed, starved or shot to death. Fleeing the advancing Allied Armies, the Nazi perpetrators tried to burn all evidence of their crimes. Continued on page 2

Board's Message

We are delighted to note Louise Langleib's return to the temple, following a lengthy recuperation. Shabbat has not been the same without her. Two weeks ago, Louise was the tenth (and final) member to enter the sanctuary for our morning service, thus making the Torah service possible. On behalf of all the congregation: Welcome Back, Louise!!!

Please join us at this year's Congregational and Community Seder on Saturday, April 4th at 6:00pm. Reservations should be made by March 26th. Additional information concerning the Congregational Seder, as well as the Rabbi's Seder, may be found on pages two and three.

Our Purim services will be held Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00pm. Help us make a racket at the mention of Haman, hear the story of Esther and nosh a hamantash.

Shelly will be celebrating the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah on March 7th and sponsoring the

Kiddush. It's certain to be a very special day and we hope all will join the celebration. *Mazel tov*, Shelly, and thank you!

On Thursday, March 12th at 9:45am, the congregation will host a special weekday service. Experience the difference between weekday morning services and a Shabbat service. See you there!

Our next Friday Evening Shabbat Service and Dinner will be March 20th at 6:00pm. We invite all members of our congregational community to attend. Everyone is expected to be in a jovial mood, as it is also the first day of spring!

It was good to see Dennis Gaeta at our last Shabbat Dinner. Dennis has an energetic optimism and sense of connection that is a blessing for our temple.

Thanks to Jim & Marion for the fabulous beef barley soup, which was a perfect antidote for our cold winter's night. It was the rare diner who did not feel the necessity of more than one bowl.

Thank you to Bob and Joyce for continuing to provide wine for the congregation. *L'Chaim!* Thanks also to Bob for telling the best story we've heard in a while.

Thank you to the Anonymous Angel who assists each month with the *yahrzeit* details that appear in the newsletter. Truly, it is a *mitzvah*.

Thanks to Steve Platt for arranging a reading by the distinguished writer David Kherdian in May. Steve will also sponsor the Kiddush on that day.

The heartwarming anniversary celebration of Max's Bar Mitzvah last month proved that practice does, indeed, make perfect. Our thanks to Rabbi Marty for sponsoring the special Kiddush lunch featuring KFC (that is, Kosher Fried Chicken).

Bon voyage to Jeff Hansen, who is visiting his sister in Florida. We will try to keep the building upright during his vacation.

The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

appeared recently at UW-Parkside. They were joyous, they were soulful, they were great! Another concert is scheduled for April; details will be provided next month.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17th, at 1:00pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important event.

We ask all members of the congregation to consider service on the BIS board for the coming fiscal year, which begins June 1st. Last year's mass retirement of board members created a board that is simply too small. If you have an interest in serving, or would like more information, please speak to a board member. Board nominations and election will take place at the annual meeting.

Shalom,

Max, Joyce, Jim, Sandy, Brian

Rabbi's Message Continued...

Today anti-semitism has again reared its ugly head. Jews in Germany are afraid to wear Yarmulkes in public. More French Jews, following the incident at Charlie Hebdo and the Hypercacher (Kosher supermarket), have emigrated to Israel than ever before. The synagogue in Copenhagen was attacked. The good news is that the vast majority of Moslems have disavowed the activities of a tiny segment who have perverted their religion for political purposes. Moslems danced with Jews outside the main synagogue in Oslo, Norway. It was a Moslem policeman who lost his life trying to prevent the massacre at Charlie Hebo. It was a Moslem clerk at the Hypercacher that was responsible for saving lives including the life of a young mother and her new born baby.

What does the future hold? One can only hope that leaders of all faiths will continue to work for the respect of all points of view. Only through education will future generations come to realize that the preservation of life takes precedence over the rhetoric of false prophets. The lesson of Purim is a reminder that once hatred becomes rampant it becomes difficult to contain. It is through education and not confrontation that the world will become a more humane and civilized place for all its inhabitants. May the future hold for mankind no more "Purims," "Inquisitions" or "Holo-causts." Come and celebrate the holiday of Purim with the reading of the Megillah on Wednesday March 4th, at 7pm.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY

"P.S. In order to bring a greater understanding of Judaism to all who are interested, I will be offering a course entitled "A Taste of Judaism" to the general public. A series of six lectures on various topics will begin Thursday, April 9th at 7pm. The topics will include (amongst other topics): Judeo-Christian-Moslem relations. The cost will be \$50 per participant for all six lectures. The lectures are without charge for members of the congregation. All proceeds will go to Beth Israel Sinai, and checks should be made to the congregation. Also, it is not too early to reserve your seats for both the Rabbi's seder on Friday April 3rd at 7pm and the Congregational seder, Saturday, April 4th at 6pm. All congregants and the general public are welcome to attend both seders. The cost of the Rabbi's seder will be \$30 per person. (This is the first increase in five years due to the rising cost of meat and chicken.) Please write all checks for the Rabbi's seder to "Rabbi Martyn Adelberg." Call me with your reservation no later than Thursday, March 26th so I can know how much food to order. I look forward to once again celebrating our holiday of freedom with all of you."

RABBI MARTY



Treasurer's Message

Want some good food? Eat at shul. Meals are served every Saturday after services and one Friday evening per month. Most dishes are homemade and all are strictly kosher. Wine is included. Our kitchen is as important as our sanctuary. **As we nosh and shmooze, we transform our congregation from an audience to a Jewish community.** Our volunteers spend hours schlepping for groceries and preparing sumptuous dishes. We even bake our own challah. All are welcome! Donations are appreciated. Max Gordon

Sisterhood

Help bake Hamantashen! A festive afternoon of creativity and tasting. Tuesday, March 3rd, at 1:30PM.

Where does our delicious homemade challah come from? It comes from the heart and hands of Joyce Placzowski. Thank you, Joyce!

Mark your calendars for the annual kashering of the kitchen to prepare for Passover. Join us on Thursday, March 26 at 2PM to help out. Many hands working together will make the work go quickly and it might even be fun!

We would appreciate any sponsorships to help offset the costs of the Congregational/Community Seder. Suggested donations are: \$24/wine, \$12/matzo, \$12/table decorations, \$25/dinner for someone who could not otherwise afford to attend.

Come help bake cookies for the Passover Seder! The more, the merrier! Thursday, April 2nd at 1:30

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.

In Honor of Max Gordon's Bar Mitzvah	Tikkun Olam  תיקון עולם	General Support
	Donation for Shabbat Dinner	
Joyce Placzowski Dennis Gaeta Barry Langlieb	Max Gordon	Mary McIntyre Mary Vitte Anonymous
In Memory of Lucille Bloom-A Hadassah Donation	In Honor of Sheldon Vielle's Bar Mitzvah Anniversary	High Holiday Appeal
Stan and Judy Rosen	Max Gordon	Eileen Schroeder
Donation for Heat and Light	In Honor of Louise Langlieb's Birthday	In Honor of Louise Langlieb
Perry and Sara Kivolowitz	Barry Langlieb	Sandra Levin and Brian Rose



YAHRZEITS

Week of February 27 to March 5

Sarah C. Dorman	27
Marjorie Bernbaum	27
Birdie Metz	27
Mary Shovers	2
Pearl Levin	2
Necha Weissbard	3
Samuel A. Grant	4
Leah Levin	4
Emily Alperovitz	5
Foster Gould	5
Rashe Berson	5

Week of March 6 to March 12

Ben Kaplan	6
Moses H. Rubin	7
Goldie Shlimovitz	7
Sarah Blitstein	8
Fanny Alperovitz	9

David Alperovitz	9
Joseph A. Dunya	9
Louis Gorsky	10
Sarah Silverman	10
Ruben A. Gorsky	11
E. Adrian Silver	11
Philip Waisman	12
Rabbi Hyman Cohen	12

Week of March 13 to March 19

Harold Levin	13
Bertha Sobodkin	13
David Merens	14
George Stern	15
Dr. Mark Temkin	15
David Isaac Gordon	15
Anne Kraft Seidita	15
Ben Silver	15
Rose S. Wiener	16
Charles Greenberg	16
Ben Marvin	17
Irving Matthew Silver	17
Emma Sweed	17
Arthur J. Kraft	18
Reeva Dorman	18
Harold S. Browne	18
Colette Schaefer	18
William Woolf	19

Mildred Shovers	19
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Week of March 20 to March 26

Rela Markovits	20
Louis Shapiro	20
Benjamin Grant	21
Benton Kaufman	23
Leo H. Finsky	24
Morris Gerol	24
Bessie Luby	24
Solomon Maier	25
Charles Wollman	25
Alice H. Wolfman	26

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

Shabbat Candle Lighting

March 6 - 5:29 PM
March 13 - 6:37 PM
March 20 - 6:45 PM
March 27 - 6:53 PM
April 3 - 7:02 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.

Rabbi Irwin Kula

Presentation:

"Beyond Tolerance: The Indeterminacy of Truth and the Too Muchness of Our Identities"

**March 18th - 7:00 PM -- Carthage College
Todd Wehr Center, Rm 128A
Free and open to the public.**

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

Sale of Chametz

If you'd like to sell your chametz, the form is attached to the emailed newsletter, and the online newsletter at **bethisraelsinai.org**. It will also be available at the temple.

P A S S O V E R S E D E R S

Rabbi's Seder Friday, April 3rd 7 PM

\$30 per person

**Please make checks payable to:
Rabbi Martyn Adelberg**

Reservations due by March 26th

Congregational Seder Saturday, April 4th 6 PM

**\$25 adults, \$10 children (6-13)
no charge for children under 6**

**Please make checks payable to:
Beth Israel Sinai Congregation**

Reservations due by March 26th. A reservation form is attached to the emailed newsletter as well as the online newsletter. Forms will also be available at the temple.



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

***Please join us for Shabbat Dinner & Services
on Friday March 20 at 6:00!***

March 2015

Adar - Nissan 5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Hamentashen Bake 1:30 PM	4 Purim Service 7 PM Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes	5	6	7 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM Anniversary Celebration of Shelly Vielle's Bar Mitzvah
8	9	10	11	12 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes	13	14 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
15	16	17	18	19	20 Shabbat Service and Dinner 6 PM	21 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
22	23	24	25	26 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Kashering Temple Kitchen for Passover 2 PM	27	28 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
29	30	31				

Beth Israel Sinai Congregational Passover Seder

Saturday April 4, 2015 - 6:00 PM

You're invited to Beth Israel Sinai for our annual Congregational and Community Seder on the second night of Passover. You won't want to miss this wonderful celebration!

COST: \$25 Adults - \$10 Children (6-11) - Children under 6 Free

Seating will be assigned. We will try to accommodate requests for seating arrangements but cannot guarantee them. If you have a preference, please include it on this reservation slip. We will work on a first come, first served basis, so get your reservations in early.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please reserve seats for: _____ Adults @ \$25 = \$ _____
_____ Children (6-13) @ \$10 = \$ _____
_____ Children under 6 = FREE

Total for reservations = \$ _____

If possible, I would like to sit with: _____

SEDER DONATIONS

We would appreciate any sponsorships to help offset the costs of the Congregational/Community Seder.

I'd like to sponsor: _____ wine (\$24) _____ matzo (\$12) _____ table decorations (\$12)
_____ dinner for someone who could not otherwise afford to attend (\$25)

Total for Sponsorships = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Your check, payable to Beth Israel Sinai must accompany your reservation.
Registration Deadline - Must be received by March 26.**

Beth Israel Sinai Congregation, 944 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403



Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI 53403 - Phone: 262-633-7093 - Fax: 262-633-3477

SALE OF CHAMETZ 5775

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Martyn Adelberg to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly wherever it may be and in whatever form it may be, as defined by Torah and Rabbinic law.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Rabbi Adelberg must receive this form, along with \$1.00, by Wednesday, April 1, 2015.