

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 95, Issue 12

MAY 2015 IYAR - SIVAN 5775

Rabbi's Message

From the second day of Passover, Jews began the counting of the Omer. The Omer was a daily grain offering brought to the Temple during the period between Pesach and Shavuot. While the Children of Israel became physically free following the exodus from slavery in Egypt, the nascent nation would only become spiritually complete with G-d's presentation of the Torah to the Jewish people on Shavuot. Each day we count the Omer we become closer to receiving G-d's greatest gift to mankind.

The counting of the Omer is a period of semi-mourning. Between Passover and Shavuot during the early second century, 24,000 students of the greatest Sage of

the Mishnah, Rabbi Akiva, died in a mysterious plague. According to tradition, they died because they lacked RESPECT for one another. On the 33rd day of the Omer, (LaG=33) they stopped dying. That is why this is considered a period of semi-mourning. Also on Lag B'Omer, a later disciple of Rabbi Akiba, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, passed away. Having fulfilled his mission in this world as the author of the Zohar, the main work of Kabbalah, the Rabbi died. His request was that his Yahrzeit, the anniversary of his death, be celebrated as a joyous occasion.

The entire period between Pesach and Shavuot is considered a time of deep spiritual reflection. What if G-d had not chosen the Jewish people to be the recipients of the greatest gift to mankind, the

Torah? Would our ancestors, lacking the support of their Creator, been relegated to the status of so many ancient cultures? Despite the lasting influence of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome on later societies, their forms of government based on man's inhumanity to man could not survive. The same could be said for the other great empires that existed between the 4th and early 20th centuries culminating in the First World War. The Torah, that divine lesson of instruction, provided the foundation not only for Judaism but every monotheistic religion. It could be argued that its ethical teachings also pervaded non-monotheistic religions. Jews in every generation adhered to the same Divine Word transmitted to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

On the first night of Shavuot,

the ancient Israelites gathered around Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. Today, many congregations conduct all night Torah marathons reminiscent of this monumental event. The next morning, Sunday May 24th, every man, woman and child attends services to hear the story of the Ten Commandments. It is especially important that children attend since they are the guarantors of our future.

Join us for our learning marathon, Saturday night, May 23rd, at 7pm. Following services, the study of the Ten Commandments will be followed by a question and answer session. Services on Sunday morning will begin at 9:45am which will include Yizkor. It is customary to eat a Continued on page 2

Board's Message

As we gaze to the future and contemplate possibilities for our congregation, we may be reassured by our vibrant and event-filled present. This reality is exemplified by our May schedule.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 17th at 2:00pm. Please note the starting time has been pushed back one hour. We urge every member to attend this significant event. Your voice is important! Please remember that all assessed or arranged dues for the fiscal year 2014-2015 must be paid in full prior to the meeting. Members not in good standing will be ineligible to vote.

Rabbi Adelberg's lecture series, *A Taste of Judaism*, will continue and conclude this month. Programs are scheduled for Thursdays, May 7th, 21st and 28th, at 7:00pm. The series has received a very positive response from attendees. Please contact the Rabbi for further details.

Our monthly Friday Evening Shabbat Service and Dinner will be May 15th at 6:00pm. Please join us as we celebrate food, fellowship, and beautiful weather.

These dinners are amongst our most freilich events, and we hope to see everyone.

Following the Shabbat morning service of May 23rd, the congregation will have the honor to host a **reading by the distinguished writer David Kherdian**. Born in Racine, David is an acclaimed poet, novelist and memoirist. We express our sincere gratitude to Steve Platt for arranging this event and sponsoring the Kiddush that will accompany it.

Don't forget our **Shavuot learning marathon** on Saturday, May 23rd at 7:00pm. The service will be followed by study of the Ten Commandments. Bring your questions. We look forward to a lively and informative evening! We'll resume with a **Shavuot service** at 9:45 Sunday morning.

Our first film showing was as much fun as we had hoped. Attendance was good and the afternoon felt like a large and friendly family gathering. The movie was excellent, the company was excellent, the popcorn was buttered! For all of this, we express our deep thanks to impresarios Sara and Perry Kivolowitz.

The next **film showing at BIS** is

Sunday, May 31st at 2:00pm. We will be screening *"The Infidel."* It's a British comedy from 2010. The plot concerns a Muslim man who discovers he was actually born Jewish! Mahmud, it seems, was originally Solomon. How will he deal with this terrible dilemma? Please join us on the last day of May and find out.

Once again, we observed Passover with two wonderful Seders, each well attended. The evenings were filled with good feeling, delicious and comforting food, and a deep connection to our Heritage. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the many people who labored to make this possible.

We thank Jeff Collen, belatedly, for his extraordinary service to BIS. As President, he encouraged the congregation to consider difficult but necessary questions. Industrious and inventive, Jeff was a leader of uncommon courage.

Thanks to Bob and Joyce Katzman for yet another transfusion of kosher wine.

We are usually successful in assembling a minyan for our **weekly Shabbat morning service** at 9:45, though it is sometimes a close call. **All are warmly encouraged to attend.** Stay for

the friendly and tasty Kiddush. Join the MIN crowd!

Though Racine may be a center of the universe only to those who are here, the temple regularly receives a variety of visitors and inquiries from near and far. The past month was no different –

Several former members who had moved away years ago appeared for a visit. They were pleased we remain intact, with the building not much changed from their memories. Those memories included marriage, the funeral of a spouse, observation of countless holidays and Shabbats, and wall plaques signifying decades of family history.

Also visiting was a young woman from Kenya and two of her Carthage College classmates, who are studying comparative religion. When she returns to Kenya after completing her education, she will carry a small memory of Beth Israel Sinai to equatorial East Africa.

We will paraphrase Henry David Thoreau and say our temple has traveled widely, in Racine.

Shalom,

Max, Joyce, Jim, Sandy, Brian

Rabbi's Message Continued...

dairy Kiddush since the laws of Kashrut had not been formally enacted prior to the receiving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Another reason is that many of our ancient Sages considered the highest form of Kashrut is to be vegetarian. Indeed many scholars have written that once our ancient Temple is rebuilt following the coming of the Messiah, there will only be grain offerings brought to the our Holy sanctuary. Everyone is encouraged to join our Temple family for a night of study, food and fellowship.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY



Treasurer's Message

We spent more money this year than we expected. For details, attend the Congregational Meeting.

Max Gordon

MAXFACT: Did you know that Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong spoke Yiddish?

Sisterhood

Thanks again to the Katzmans for their donation of wine. Our Shabbat dinners and Kiddushes are enriched by their thoughtful gifts.

Max Gordon honored the occasion of his brother Glenn's birthday by sponsoring a delicious Kiddush on April 23. Thanks, Max, and Happy Birthday Glenn!

Thanks to Jim for sponsoring the Kiddush on May 16, in memory of his wife Dorothy. We'd also like to thank Jim for the pounds of butter he provided for our popcorn at BIS film showings. Join us for the next film on May 31st at 2:00PM to share this treat!

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 the Following Birthdays: Glenn Gordon, Teagan Penland, Gail Hoss and Rachel Hoss Max Gordon			In Memory of My Grandparents Helen and Herman Kaplan and Uncle Bobby Kaplan Anna Hessa
In Honor of Leone Niemiec-- A Prayer Book Max Gordon	General Support Anonymous	High Holiday Appeal Eileen Schroeder	
Rabbi's Class Paul Gordon Mary McIntyre Max Gordon	For Shabbat Dinners Max Gordon	In Honor of Sarah Levin's 98th Birthday in June Sandra Levin and Brian Rose	
	In Honor of Joyce and Robert Katzman Sandra Levin and Brian Rose		



YAHRZEITS

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

Week of May 8 to May 14

Sarah Gordon	9
Hattie Ruth Gottlieb	10
Jean Laufman	10
Lillian Fishbain	10

William Shovers	10
Milton Sklansky	10
Esther Feldman	11
Michel Kerner	11
David M. Kupperman	13
Isadore H. Solomon	13
Sonya Rozumoff Brill	13
Richard Amber	13

Week of May 15 to May 21

Frieda Gellman	15
Bertha Gorsky	15
Henry Hornstein	16
Mark William Barshet	16
Phyllis (Peggy) Schuster	16
Ben Waisman	17
Helen Seft LeBrint	18
Harry Kushner	18
Jacob M. Weisman	18
Saul Rosner	21
Charlotte Bakall	21

Week of May 22 to May 28

Max Brill	22
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Laurence Feiges	22
Eva Wollman	23
Arthur Schwartz	26
Meyer Spracker	26
Vivian Rudolph	26
Sanford Sperer	26
Anna Streicher	26
Harry Alperson	27
Gussie Sideman	28

Week of May 29 to June 4

Joseph Jacobson	29
Bertha Kahn	29
Louis Seft	29
Lillian Sklansky	29
Louis Tatelbaum	29
Stanley Donovitz	1
William Myron Gottlieb	2
Evelyn S. Gordon	3
Frances Kaplan	4
Abraham Schaefer	4



Shabbat Candle Lighting

May 1 - 7:33 PM
May 8 - 7:41 PM
May 15 - 7:17 PM
May 22 - 7:55 PM
May 29 - 8:02 PM
June 5 - 8:07 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.



Annual Congregational Members Meeting

May 17 - 2:00 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"

May 7, 21, 28

7:00 PM

For details please contact the Rabbi

BIS Film Showing

SUNDAY, MAY 31

2:00 PM

"The Infidel"

An afternoon of fun, film, and popcorn

Reading by Award Winning Writer

DAVID KHERDIAN

May 23 - following Shabbat Service



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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***Please join us for Shabbat Dinner & Services
on Friday May 15th at 6:00!***

May 2015

Iyar - Sivan 5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
3	4	5	6	7 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Rabbi's Lecture Series 7 PM	8	9 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
10	11	12	13	14	15 Shabbat Service and Dinner 6 PM	16 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
17 Annual Congregational Members Meeting 2:00 PM	18	19	20	21 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Rabbi's Lecture Series 7 PM	22	23 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM David Kherdian Reading Following Service Shavuot Learning 7 PM
24 Shavuot Services 9:45 AM Yizkor	25	26	27	28 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Classes Rabbi's Lecture Series 7 PM	29	30 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
31 Film Showing "The Infidel" 2:00 PM						