

# Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation  
November 2016---Tishrei/Chesvan 5777

## From our Rabbi

Thanksgiving is the holiday when most Americans gather together with family and friends to say "thank you." For us as Jews we say "thank you" to G-d in numerous ways every day. From the time we wake up when we say "Modeh Ani Lefanechah" (thanking G-d for permitting us to experience another day), to blessings over the food to the time we go to bed at night, we thank Adonai.

President George Washington proclaimed Thursday, November 26, 1789, a day of national Thanksgiving to G-d for "His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we have been blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us."



The Jewish communities in the United States rejoiced in the part they played in establishing this new country. Both Jewish money and blood were given to the American fight for freedom. Unlike any other country in the world, Jews were treated as citizens EQUAL to their non-Jewish neighbors. In 1784, five years before Washington's proclamation, leaders of Congregation Shearith Israel in New York City (established in 1654) sent a letter to Governor George Clinton of New York on behalf of "the ancient congregation of Israelites." In this correspondence they said: "Though the society we belong to is but small, when compared with other religious societies, yet we flatter ourselves that none has manifested a more zealous attachment to the sacred cause of America in the late war with Great Britain....And now we look forward with pleasure to the happy days we expect to enjoy under a constitution wisely framed to preserve the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty."



Jews have historically observed as patriotic Americans the holiday of Thanksgiving. At Shearith Israel in New York, the Rev. Gershom Mendes Seixas arranged a prayer service suitable for the holiday. In his address to the congregation, Rev. Seixas called upon Jews "to support that government which is founded upon the strictest principles of equal liberty and justice." (see page 2)

(from page 1) In later years, Thanksgiving was celebrated at Shearith Israel and other early American congregations. These days were proclaimed in the name of the American people to be observed by each citizen according to his or her own faith. In 1817, the state of New York proclaimed a national observance of Thanksgiving Day. Shearith Israel held services in each of the subsequent years except 1849 and 1854. In those years, the Governor of the state addressed his proclamation specifically to a "Christian people" instead of to Americans of all faiths.

Even the most Orthodox Jews have advocated the celebration of Thanksgiving. Two of the greatest Jewish legal minds of the twentieth century, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein and Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik, advocated the celebration of Thanksgiving as a "secular" or "national" holiday. (Non-Jewish holidays with a specifically religious overtone are not to be celebrated--like Christmas.) This national holiday belongs to ALL Americans. It is only fitting that Jews and Gentiles thank G-d for all the blessings the Almighty has bestowed upon this nation. Jews, in particular, have many reasons to thank Adonai for the freedoms and opportunities granted to us in the United States.



In his famous letter to the Jewish community of Newport in 1790, President Washington wrote: "May the children of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants--while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

See you in shul, Rabbi Marty

### Happy Birthday in November!



Babs Schnabl

Marcia Adelberg

### Update on the move

Regrettably, the Board sold the beautiful building Beth Israel Sinai called home for decades. The sale closed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. The last Shabbat service was on October 29, 2016.

Board members are negotiating to purchase a building on Washington Avenue. We need to meet with the city to get a occupancy permit for the Synagogue to use the building. This should not be a problem.

Once this requirement is met we will hope to take possession of the new building. It is very nice and will meet our needs well. Once the building is ours and we have it set up I would hope everyone will come and enjoy it with us.

We will hold Shabbat services November 5 at the Atrium, 3900 N. Main Street at 9:45 am. One of our members Louise lives at the Atrium and has not been able to come to services for a while because of health concerns. Meeting there will allow her to attend a service.

On Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> we will have Shabbat services at St. Monica's at 9:45am. St. Monica's is located at 3920 N. Green Bay Rd Racine. A Beth Israel Sinai member, Leone, lives at St. Monica's and has not been able to come to services so we will be able to see her and worship with her once again.

I will keep people posted as soon as we get more information.

—Joyce P.



**Yahrzeits**

(Yahrzeit section researched and written by Max G.)

Nov. Tishri

1 30 Rose Leventhal

Nov. Chesvan

2	1	Louis Lippman Blanche A. Dennison
3	2	Victor Goodman Jeanette Weinberg
4	3	Alter Hulbert
6	5	Emanuel Marcado Isabel Tannenbaum Isabel Friedman
7	6	Ben Gellman Meyer Goldstein Morris Rosumoff
8	7	Morris Brill
9	8	Esther M. Lieberman Dr. Robert Savin
10	9	Sol J. Brown
11	10	Joseph Blitstein Lillian Gerol Nathan Sideman Else Sternheim
12	11	Sylvia Blitstein
13	12	Frances Hirshih Sam Weisman
14	13	Elena Gorsky
15	14	Rosalind Barash Jacob H. Marks
16	15	Max M. Seft Esther Goodman Ben G. Schaefer Faye C. Savin Dr. Norbert Isenberg
17	16	Owen Levin
19	18	Edith Isenberg
21	20	Donald Wiener Fred Dingfelder Fannie Schwartz Henry Dorman
21	20	Leah Seft
23	22	Julius Goldstein
24	23	Margaret Soref
25	24	Edward Alan Sideman

Nov. Chesvan

26	25	Esther Domsky Gladys Gottlieb
27	26	Abraham Goldberg Claire Wellman
29	28	Hilda Levit John Niemiec Joseph E. Redler
30	29	Jack Gelin
31	30	Barbara Fabian



**Sisterhood for November 2016**

Thanks to Max Gordon for sponsoring a Kiddush in the honor of Jeff Hansen in October. Jim Barten also sponsored a Kiddush in October.

Thanks to everyone who has been helping with the move. Many people have been working their fingers to the bone to get stuff packed and ready for movers. I don't know what we would have done without their help.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a Kiddush just let Joyce Placzkowski know, 1-262-945-7675. The charge for a dairy Kiddush is \$50, meat Kiddush is \$100. The kitchen can always use coffee and paper goods. If you are interested in helping to make food for the Kiddush or a Shabbat dinner just let Joyce Placzkowski know.

**In the interim....**

**while Beth Israel Sinai seeks a new location, please contact Rabbi Adelberg on his cell phone for any pastoral needs.**

**(847) 529-1609**

**Rabbi Adelberg will continue to make all the usual home and hospital visits!**



Email: [bethisraelsinai@att.net](mailto:bethisraelsinai@att.net)

Web: [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org)

# **Tishrei/Chesvan**

## **5777**

### **November 2016**

#### Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



November 11—4:14 pm

November 18—4:07 pm

November 25—4:03 pm

December 2—4:00 pm

December 9—3:59 pm

#### November Calendar

November 5-Shabbat at the Atrium, 9:45 am

November 10-Torah Study 6 pm

November 12—Shabbat at St. Monica's, 9:45 am (details inside)

November 17—Torah Study 6 pm

November 19—Shabbat services at 9:45 am please call Joyce P. or Rabbi for location (numbers inside)

November 26—Shabbat services at 9:45 am-Please call Joyce P. or Rabbi for location (numbers are inside)