

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation
January 2017---Tevet/Shevat 5777

From our Rabbi

Jewish history can be summarized as the miracle of Jewish survival against overwhelming odds. As the words of the Hanukah song reminds us: "Who can retell the things that befell us, who can count them? In every age a hero or sage arouse to our aid." The Maccabean revolt had little chance of success. The Greek Syrian ruler Antiochus had banned the study of Torah. How ironic it was that until the King made the study of Torah illegal, many Jews supported the assimilation of Greek customs into their daily lives. Some men went so far as to have their circumcisions reversed in order to have the physical appearance of other male Greeks. Only when Jews were not given free choice did some revolt against their government.

Similar stories have reoccurred throughout Jewish history. Jews have often wanted nothing more than to become integrated into their host societies while simultaneously maintaining their cultural and religious integrity. The Talmud teaches s that one must adhere to the laws of their adopted countries as long as those laws do not forbid their sacred practices. Furthermore Jews are encouraged to contribute to the welfare of their host societies.

History is replete with examples. Prior to the Hanukah rebellion, the community of Israelites would have loved nothing more than to be recognized as both good Jews and good Greeks. The renowned scholar Maimonides was both a famous Judaic Scholar and physician to the Caliphate, Don Isaac Abarbanel pleaded with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella NOT to expel the Jews from Spain. Theodor Herzl only became the founder of Jewish nationalism (Zionis) after reporting on the French anti-semitic persecution of Alfred Dreyfus. Many Germain Jews, after years of embracing the writings of Hegel, Heine and Nietzsche and music of Wagner and Straus, refused to believe that any ruler would persecute and ultimately annihilate them.

In the U.S., Jews have fought on the side of the working man and the civil rights of all its citizens. They have also actively participated in both political parties and the growth of the American economy. While some Jews have become completely assimilated, most have maintained (in varying degrees) both their religious and national identities. As mentioned earlier, the Talmud emphasizes "the law of the land is the law." It is our duty to do everything possible to improve civil society. Only laws ifribging upon our ability to practice Judaism can be ignored.

As the United States enters a new era in the American political experience, let us pray that our President-Elect works for the welfare of ALL citizens. Only then cab we ever make "America Great Again."

See you in Shul
Rabbi Marty

We have moved to the new building located at 3009 Washington Avenue, Racine, WI. Our mailing address is P.O.Box 081725 Racine, WI 53406. We are in the process of getting all of our belongings moved into the building. So far we have the sanctuary set up with the tapestries, seats, temporary Ark, and the kitchen is starting to get ready for use. We need to get some flooring put in and then get the stove, fridge, freezer and dishwasher installed. I hope soon everything will be moved in. I hope to see everyone back in the Synagogue. So far, the last two weeks we have had very moving Shabbat services with new people coming.

We have some sad news. Because of health reasons, Bob and Joyce Katzman will no longer be on the board, though they plan on helping as much as possible with Synagogue activities.



Please! When you come to Shabbat services, bring a guest with you. We would like to have more people and this is a good way to grow our membership.

We can also use help with moving our belongings into the Synagogue. If you have a truck, car or van, you could bring boxes to the Synagogue and unload them.

We welcome any volunteers to help cook for Shabbat Kiddush. If you have special kosher dishes you would like to share, feel free to make them in our kitchen.

We will also need some help to keep the place clean and orderly, if you have an overwhelming urge to organize and clean, please come and help.

Yahrzeits

January

1 Mae Brownstein
1 Jacob Jacobson
1 Meyer Levin
2 Mitchell Pearlman
3 Abraham Gorsky
4 Abe Goodman
4 Jacob Slobodkin
4 Elvin Wolfman
4 Sarah Woolf
4 Lucille Bloom
5 Herman Sunshine
6 Rose Blitstein
6 Abe Goldberg
6 Abraham Krasnow
7 Rudolph Kahn
7 Ruth L. Meyer
7 Mary Shapiro
7 Ida Tabaksman
8 Celia Woolf Westphall
9 Ida Blume Weisman
10 Harry M. Blitstein
11 Alice Letsche
11 Herman Kaplan
11 Abraham Grant
12 Paula Shovers
12 Hans Sternheim
13 Evelyn Goldberg Kupperman
13 Jeanne Brown
14 Herman Levin
15 Sadie Kaufman
18 Toby B. Gorsky
18 Morris Mitler
18 Irving Schulman
19 Bessie Levin
20 Ben Mitler
21 Solomon Reder
21 Dan B. Levit
22 Don Brown

22 Marcia Grant
22 Rose Hulbert
23 Nathan I. Silver
24 Elaine Adelberg
24 Geraldine Shovers
24 Hyman Kraft
25 Meyer Levin
26 David Gottlieb
26 Martha Kleffmann
26 Beverly Lichterman
26 Philip D. Cohen
27 Minnie Goodman
27 Bertha Julian
28 David Schaefer
29 Edith Kronson



Sisterhood for January 2017

Thanks to Jim Barten for sponsoring the first Kiddush in the new Synagogue.

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.

Donations

John Schnabl-General Donation December
Eileen Schroeder General Donation December
Anonymous General Donation December
Anonymous General Donation January
Joyce Placzkowski General Donation January



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Unaddressed copy for the lobby

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Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

January 6 at 4:15 p.m.
January 13 at 4:23 p.m.
January 20 at 4:31 p.m.
January 27 at 4:40 p.m.
February 3 at 4:49 p.m.
February 10 at 4:59 p.m.



Synagogue Calendar

January 5, 2017 Torah Study at 6:00 p.m.
January 7, 2017 Shabbat Services 9:45 a.m.
January 12, 2017 Torah Study at 6:00 p.m.
January 14, 2017 Shabbat Service 9:45 a.m.
January 19, 2017 Torah Study at 6:00 p.m.
January 21, 2017 Shabbat Service at 9:45 a.m.
January 26, 2017 Torah Study at 6:00 p.m.
January 28, 2017 Shabbat Service at 9:45 a.m.