

# *Beth Israel Sinai News*

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

December 2019 Kislev / Tevet 5780

## **From our Rabbi**

I have never been prouder to be your Rabbi. It's hard to believe that last October, I began my 20th year serving Beth Israel Sinai. Max Gordon and Dr. Michael Ganz, of Blessed Memory, were the co-presidents of the synagogue. After three interviews, we agreed that I would serve as the interim spiritual leader for 10 months allowing them time to find a full time ordained rabbi. At that time, though having considerable Jewish knowledge from studying several years in Yeshiva and in Israel, many members desired an ordained leader. Unable to achieve their goal, my contract was extended twice for periods of one and two years respectively. In 2003, our Temple President found an article in Moment Magazine where a Yeshiva in New York, offered long distance study programs. The Board of BIS offered to pay my tuition. Thank G-d sleep is overrated. Besides my two days serving Beth Israel Sinai, I was employed as Cantor in a Brookdale senior citizens home in Northbrook and at Electronic Merchant System a credit card processing company. (When I first joined BIS in 2000, I was a partner in an educational products company specializing in math and language learning programs.) I would often prop a volume of Talmud on the bars of my treadmill while working out four to five miles a day. In June 2006, I became ordained as Rabbi. A special service was held on Shabbat Teshuvah, the Sabbath of Repentance that fell between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur that September. My Dad Myron, Marcia, my children, family members and most of our congregants attended. My Dad passed away three months later. Several failed attempts were made between 2001-2015 to merge with Temple Beth Hillel. Their Rabbi and I have maintained a very cordial relations and presided together at congregational joint activities. Talk began about the need to move to smaller premises. While the building was paid for, it was becoming increasingly impossible to afford the maintenance of the building. After the last unsuccessful attempt to merge with Temple Beth Hillel, it was decided that to SURVIVE, our beloved temple had to be sold. Some lifelong members deeply attached to our synagogue, nicknamed "Hamptons of the Midwest" by one of my children because of its easy access Lake Michigan, could not accept that to financially survive, we had to downsize. To make a long story short, the building was eventually sold. A small store was purchased. Despite the departure of many disgruntled individuals, BETH ISRAEL SINAI, unlike many churches and synagogues lacking members and adequate financial resources, has proudly survived.

Today we are a financially stable congregation of 25 members. Note, I said STABLE—not wealthy. This is possible because of the volunteer participation of all our members. To name a few, our president, Joyce Placzkowski, handles all our secretarial work and is responsible for the publication of our monthly bulletin, with my participation, Jim Barten does all the heavy lifting and construction. Just to name a couple of many achievements, Jim is responsible for putting up the Yahrzeit plaques and Tree of Life. Shelly Vielie our Vice-president who made the transition to the new building smooth. Marion Sperer, our recording secretary helps to maintain the cleanliness of the Temple. One of our newest members David Lee, serves as our Temple treasurer. Rebekah Jones, who recently moved to Racine from Georgia, serves on our Temple board. Without the help of these individuals, my job would be impossible.

I would be remiss not to thank the 150 individuals, largely through the publicity of the Racine Interfaith Council, who attended Rosh Hashanah services after the desecration of our Temple on September 21st. Special thanks to Mayor Corey Mason, who to show his opposition to such acts of hateful vandalism, not only attended both Rosh Hashanah (accompanied by his entire family) and Yom Kippur services, but sent city engineers to power wash the hated symbols off our brick sidewalk. Former Mayor John Dickert and Father Bill Dietzler spoke eloquently during service. My colleague and friend of almost 20 years, Rabbi Dena Feingold of Temple Beth Hillel, who worshipped with many of her congregants with us on the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah. And last but not least, the Good Samaritans who asked to remain anonymous after scraping the graffiti off our glass windows less than 24 hours after its occurrence.

Two weeks ago, I received news from the Camden New Jersey District Attorney's office that the instigator of not only the desecration of Beth Israel Sinai, but also Temple Jacob in Hancock, Michigan the day before. To quote Tobin, "TO TAG THE SH—T OUT OF THEM." Fortunately, his followers limited their activities to the building itself. What was called by Tobin "Operation Kristallnacht," named after the 1938 event in Germany which many historians credit as the beginning of the Holocaust, could have been much worse. The actual perpetrators have yet to be arrested.

To insure the growth of Congregation Beth Israel as a spiritual center for TRADITIONAL-EGALITARIAN Judaism in southeastern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, we have embarked on a major advertising campaign. With the voluntary help of Community Connect, a company owned by my daughter Becky, we have a presence on social media.

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From Rabbi continued

Our two Facebook pages are BETH ISRAEL SINAI and NEW JEWISH OUTREACH. Our websites are bethisraelsinai.org and newjewishoutreach.org. Our Temple board will have a Chanukah dinner on December 27th and a Passover seder next year. (Date TBA). Services are conducted every Shabbat (Saturday) .Torah study begins at 9 am. Services start at 10. Kiddush lunch at 11:30. To all of our Temple members and friends, through your hard work and financial contributions THANK YOU for guaranteeing OUR FUTURE.

Following the desecration of our synagogue, I instituted, with the support of my Temple Board, fund raising for a new shul security system. Bids range between \$3,000—\$4,000. Due to the contributions of generous individuals, over \$1,700 has been raised to date. THANK YOU from all of us at Congregation Beth Israel Sinai. See you in Shul Rabbi Marty

### **Cemetery Notes**

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is five acres located at 612 Lathrop Ave. It is a well maintained, park-like setting. A resting place for all Jews. Donations to cemetery are tax deductible.

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

New members and members who return to Beth Israel Sinai will be able to join our Synagogue for reduced dues the first year. The dues will be \$300 for the first year.

### **The Presidents Message**

I hope to see you at the Chanukah dinner on December 27, 2019 starting at 6:00 pm. The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person please have your RSVP in to the synagogue by December 17, 2019. You can call or email to let us know that you will be there. Please bring your menorah and candles to light. We will be having brisket and latkes along with other tasty treats.

If you want to learn how to make the challah please let me know and we can work out time for us to bake together.

Please feel free to call me if you have any concerns, 262-945-7675  
Joyce

Rabbi Adelberg is offering free Hebrew classes to children. Please call Rabbi Adelberg 847-529-1609 to setup appointments. Donations to the Rabbi's discretionary account are always welcome, and tax deductible.

#### Yahrzeit list

1. Bertha Gold
2. Judith Temkin
3. Sylvia Goldstein
3. Maurice Silverman
4. Libby Donovanitz
6. Leonard P. Baumblatt
7. Joseph C. Frank
7. Samuel M Tabaksman
8. Emil Donner
8. Alfred Shovers
9. Joseph Fishbain
9. Jacob (Jack) Weinberg
10. Jennie Levin
10. Helen Kaplan
10. William Rozumoff
11. Dr. Ruben S. Grant
11. Hannah Lippman Wolf
12. Herman Noll
13. Dr. Budd Gorsky
13. Minnie Kaplan
13. Barbara Lieberstein
14. Dora Mitler
15. Mary Fishbain
17. Alex Dorman
17. Jacob M. Kassel
19. Maynard Greenberg
20. Dr. Charles Robert Bloom
21. Myron Adelberg
21. Lena Hoffman
21. Shirley Levine
21. Dr. Hyman J. Soref
23. Morton Bachman
23. Burton Isaacson
24. Harry Mandelker
26. Sarah Brownstein
26. Dora Schaefer
27. Sydneye Silver
27. June S. Harris
28. Betty Ruben

28. Sol Marcado
28. Harry Donovanitz
29. Mae Brownstein
29. Jacob Jacobson
30. Mitchell Pearlman
31. Abraham Gorsky

If anyone has information that would  
Be interesting about any past relatives  
Please let Max Gordon know



This list was made possible by Max Gordon. Some people like to honor the memory of their loved one by making a donation in their memory to Beth Israel Sinai.

#### Sisterhood

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 paper goods. If you are interested in helping to make food for the Kiddush or a Shabbat dinner just let Joyce Placzkowski know.

#### Donations

Max Gordon in honor of the Hulbert family and in memory of Dr. Budd Gorsky, Judith Temkin cousin, and Dr. Ruben Grant uncle. And health of Judy and Joe Roher

Gertrude Hulbert in memory of Hulbert and Gordon families

Steven Lewis for security

Rebecca Bloomfield for security

Robyn Karlin for security

Leone Niemiec for High Holiday Appeal

Gregg Silver for security

Estelle Esther Schrager for security

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### Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Time

December 6 3:59  
 December 13 3:59  
 December 20 4:01  
 December 27 4:05



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 9:00 study 10:00 service
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 10:00 service
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 9:00 study 10:00 service
22 Chanukah 1 candle	23 Chanukah 2 candles	24 Chanukah 3 candles	25 Chanukah 4 candles	26 Chanukah 5 candles	27 Chanukah dinner 6 pm 6 candles	28 9:00 study 10:00 service
29 Chanukah 8 candles	30	31				