

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

November 2019 Cheshvan / Kislev 5780

From our Rabbi

Thanksgiving is the holiday when most Americans gather together with family and friends to say “thank you”. For us Jews we say “thank you” to G-d in numerous ways every day. From the time we wake up when we say “Modeh Ani Lefanecah” (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 single 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; 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 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 called upon Jews “to support the government which is founded upon the strictest principles of equal liberty and justice.” 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 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 specific 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**

After the events in September with the hate filled anti-Semitic graffiti spray painted on our building we have come to the conclusion that we need more security outside of the building. If you would have asked me a few months ago I would have said Racine, not here, but it has come to our Shul. Somebody decided their hate needed to be expressed. Well now it is up to us to make sure whoever does this can be caught and prosecuted. If you have any available income to spare please consider donating to Beth Israel Sinai so that we can get some security for the outside of the building. Some very nice neighbors cleaned up the glass, the city took care of the spray paint on the bricks, and so many people came and showed support for us. People have donated to get more security and to those people we here at Beth Israel Sinai offer our deepest thanks. Even with the support that has come in, it is very expensive to increase the security outside. Please consider donating to us for this very necessary project.

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 want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. As you are watching the parades on TV or the football games, or maybe getting into the Black Friday Shopping which starts earlier each year, hopefully you will be able to sit down with family and or friends and enjoy the meal and companionship of each other. Try to remember everything you have to be thankful for.

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. Alter Hulbert
3. Emanuel Marcado
3. Isabel Tannenbaum
4. Isidor Friedman
4. Ben Gellman
4. Meyer A. Goldstein
4. Morris Rozumoff
5. Morris J. Brill
6. Esther M. Lieberman
6. Dr. Robert Savin
7. Sal J. Brown
8. Joseph Blitstein
8. Lillian Gerol
8. Nathan Sideman
8. Else Sternheim
9. Sylvia Blitstein
10. Frances Hirshih
10. Sam Weisman
11. Elena Gorsky
12. Rosalind Barash
12. Jacob H. Marks
13. Max M. Seft
13. Esther Goodman
13. Ben G. Schaefer
13. Faye L. Savin
13. Dr. Norbert Isenberg
14. Owen Levin
16. Edith Isenberg
18. Donald Weiner
18. Fred Dingfelder
18. Fannie Schwartz
18. Henry Dorman
18. Leah Seft
20. Julius Godstein
21. Margaret Soref
22. Edward Alan Sideman
23. Esther Domsky
23. Gladys Gottlieb
24. Abraham Goldberg

24. Claire Wellman
26. Hilda Levitt
26. John Niemiec
26. Joseph E. Reller
27. Jack Gelin
28. Barbara Fabian
29. Ethel Levin
29. Sarah Cohen
29. Chaica Wolfman



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

Mauri Waisman & Naomi Waisman-Zabler had memorial listings for Miriam & Phil Waisman, Morris & Bertha Waisman, Charles & Stella Greenberg, Bruce Zabler

Mrs. Roberta Jacobs had memorial listings for Aleck Kofsky and Bernice Kofsky

Randy and Linda Wolfman for security

Arthur Domsky for security

Laurance and Barbara for security

Paul Wolfman for security

Harvey Blender for security

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Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Time

November 1 5:26
 November 8 4:17
 November 15 4:10
 November 22 4:05
 November 29 4:01



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <small>10:00 a.m. service</small>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 <small>10:00 a.m. service</small>
10	11 <small>Veterans Day</small>	12	13	14	15	16 <small>10:00 a.m. service</small>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 <small>10:00 a.m. service</small>
24	25	26	27	28 <small>Thanksgiving Day</small>	29	30 <small>10:00 a.m. service</small>