

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

November 2022 Cheshvan / Kislev 5783

Rabbi's Message,

Following Selichot services on September 21, 2019, our synagogue was spray painted with swastikas, and other antisemitic graffiti including the word "JUDE", German for Jew. Thanks to the efforts of some Good Samaritans and the Racine Municipal Government, the graffiti was taken down. The main perpetrator was Yousef Baranesh, age 22 of Oak Creek, WI. Baranesh was a member of a white supremacist group, the BASE, who participated in the organizations online chat group. Their mission was to intimidate African Americans and Jewish Americans through acts of vandalism against Jewish and African American houses of worship. Their goal was to reenact the American version of Kristallnacht. On November 8, 1938, 90% of Germany's synagogues were destroyed by Hitler's Nazis. Baranesh went on to attack Beth Israel Sinai. Another follower attacked an historic synagogue in Houghton, Michigan. The founder of the BASE, is behind bars.

For the second time in three years, following Sukkot (Tabernacle) services, a vandal attacked our beloved synagogue. The synagogues alarm went off at 11:28 pm on Sunday evening. The Racine Police department reported that a brick shattered the back window and a front window. Allegedly, the perpetrator had tried to break the window with her fist. Not succeeding, she took a brick and smashed the window. Five hours later, at 4:47 a.m. Monday morning, the alarm went off again. The perpetrator returned to smash another window in the back of the building along with the inner door. The building is now boarded up.

Like in the previous incident, the outpouring of love and support has come from both the Racine faith community and Government. The Racine Interfaith Council was the first to offer help. Other churches soon followed. Mayor Cory Mason attended a Unity Shabbat service, as he did following the previous incident, to offer his support. Like in 2019, the outpouring of love was overwhelming.

Now the hard work begins. Despite being boarded up, services continue each Shabbat morning. Estimators are being called in not only to repair the physical damage, but to improve our security system. We need both the continued moral and financial support of all our friends and colleagues. To date, we have received more than \$400 in contributions. Most importantly, through education we must insure the acts of hatred never happen again.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY

Three years ago our beloved, Beth Israel Sinai, was vandalized with anti-Semitic graffiti and now once again our synagogue was vandalized by a person throwing rocks and bricks through our windows. We are safe for now, but we need more security. Our back entrance needs to be redone at a high cost. This will make Beth Israel Sinai a safer, secure place for our community to worship. Beth Israel Sinai doesn't have the funds for all the security changes necessary. If you have the ability to donate to help this small intimate synagogue, the only synagogue in Racine, Wisconsin we would be very grateful.

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. .

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 Glenn Gordon 262-639-1924

ZOOM LINK INFO

ID Number 811 5151 1468

Passcode 833720

Phone number

1-312-626-6799

The Presidents Message

We have new email addresses: president@bethisraelsinai.org / treasurer@bethisraelsinai.org / rabbi@bethisraelsinai.org. please send any messages to these new emails.

If you like the new articles about past members please let us know, you can give us info about some past members for future articles and or send in a donation.

You can easily join our synagogue family we have affordable full memberships and we have associate memberships for those who may live too far from us to become an active member. Whether you want to attend weekly or just when you have time please consider joining with a membership. Your membership help to keep our synagogue open and vital.

Joyce Placzkowski President

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.

Edith Isenberg

Cheshvan 18, 5783—November 12, 2022 April 28, 1930—November 3, 2012

In 1938, eight-year-old Edith Sternheim was a first grader in a Jewish school that adjoined a synagogue in Stuttgart, Germany. On the morning of November 10, her parents received a phone call warning them not to send Edith to school. The synagogue was in flames. "We went to the bedroom window and we could see the sky was black. From the front of the house we heard a real commotion. There was a little tobacco shop across the street. It was owned by this Jewish widow. I could see a mob of people breaking in and throwing things out." Later in the afternoon, three Gestapo came to the house to arrest Edith's father. "I was the one who answered the door. I remember it was very quiet, He said 'Goodbye' to us and he blessed me." That blessing further tipped Edith off that something was terribly wrong. Her father always blessed her on the sabbath but, this day was not the sabbath. Late that night the Gestapo brought her father home. They came to search the offices of the newspaper he edited. When the search was over, her father was taken away again.

"I remember going with my mother to all kinds of offices the next day, trying to find out what had happened to my father. We learned that he had been taken to Dachau. The day after we found out where my father was. We went to this little town where my grandparents were." Her father, during his brief return home, had asked his wife Else, to check on his parents in Bensheim. When Edith and her mother got there, they found that her grandfather had been arrested and taken to Buchenwald. Both her father and grandfather were later released.

Edith and her parents left Germany in 1939. They travelled by train to France. The Gestapo kicked the family off the train right before the French border and confiscated her father's passport. The next train was leaving in 4 hours. Her father told her mother that she and Edith should leave without him. At the last minute, the Gestapo returned her father's passport. They wanted to leave as soon as possible. They were told they could walk across the bridge. At the bridge they had to show their papers, answer a lot of questions, and be strip searched before they were approved to walk across. They were finally out of Germany. They stayed with family for a week in Paris and then sailed from Le Havre to New Jersey on the President Roosevelt. Edith recalled seeing the Statue of Liberty.

They stayed with Edith's aunt, uncle, and grandmother. Next, they moved to New Haven, Connecticut where the community offered help finding employment. A law required Edith to start school with in 5 days. She learned English through immersion and performed very well academically. Edith graduated from nursing school at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

At age 20 she married Norbert I. Isenberg, PhD whose family had also fled Europe just before the war. They had four children.

The family moved to Racine when Norbert became a professor of chemistry at UW Parkside. Edith became Director of Student Health Services for UW Parkside.

Edith contributed to the Racine community through her participation in the Racine Nurses Association, Beth Israel Sinai Congregation and Sisterhood, Inter-Generational Art Fairs, and the Retired Nurses Association.

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

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Jacobson for repair of vandalism

Donald Cohen general donation

Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob brotherhood for repair of vandalism

Richard and Penny Block for repair of vandalism

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BETH ISRAEL SINAI
November 2022
Cheshvan / Kislev 5783

Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

November 4 5:21
November 11 4:13
November 18 4:07
November 25 4:02



November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 10 am service in person and zoom
6 Day light savings time ends	7	8	9	10	11	12 10 am service in person and zoom
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 10 am service in person and zoom
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26 10 am service in person and zoom
27	28	29	30			