

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

February 2023 Shevat / Adar 5783

Rabbi's Message,

The beginning of the festival of Tu B'Shevat (the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat), will begin its 24 hour celebration from Sundown on February 5th until sunset on February 6th. Though an ancient festival, after the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70CE, it only regained its popularity after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Tu B'Shevat falls midway between fall and spring. Half of the winter has passed. The cold is not as severe. The foundation has been established to begin the process of planting. Tu B'Shevat marks a turning point when under all the cold and snow the sap of trees is increasing in preparation for spring. Throughout the Torah and our history, trees play a critical part in the lives of the Jewish people. As the Torah says "man is a tree of the field." We celebrate the 15th of Shevat by eating different types of fruit. Many Jews follow the traditional observation of conducting a seder on the eve of Tu B'Shevat. The table is set with flowers and the following items: wine or grape juice; fruits with a hard pit such as apricots or cherries; fruits with shells or peels, such as oranges, almonds and walnuts; and challah. In addition, fruits like olives, dates grapes, figs and pomegranates, which are famous in the land of Israel, are also consumed. The following blessings are recited

The blessing for the fruit of the vine: Baruch attah Hashem, Elokainu Melech ha'olam, borei pri ha'gafen. (Blessed are you, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.)

The blessing for the fruit: Baruch attah Hashem, Elokainu Melech ha'olam, borei pri ha-etz. (Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.) If tasting the fruit for the first time of the season, the Shehecheyanu blessing is also recited. Boruch attah Hashem, Elokainu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, vekiyamanu, vehigianu lozman hazeh. (Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.)

Since the beginning of the Zionist movement, it has become customary for families and individuals to plant trees in Eretz Yisroel. Under the leadership of the Jewish National Fund, this is how we all participate in the continuing miracle of making the Israeli desert bloom. In fact, the highest humanitarian reward of the JNF is called the Tree of Life Award. By planting seeds in Israel, we ensure a bright future for the Jewish community both in Israel and the rest of the world.

Join us for our ZOOM Tu B'Shevat seder, Sunday, February 5th at 5 pm.

Be Well

Stay Safe

SEE YOU IN SHUL,

RABBI MARTY

PS. I would like to thank all of you who honored me at the DUAL CELEBRATION on my 22nd anniversary at Beth Israel Sinai and the 59th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah. Ah, it seems only yesterday that I was driving my Bar Mitzvah teacher mishugah. GOOD TIMES.

We will be having entertainment for Purim this year. Please consider coming and or join us on zoom for the Klezmer entertainment. March 6, 2023 Megillah reading at 6 pm, Klezmer entertainment at 7pm.

Tu B' Shevat will be celebrated on zoom on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 5pm. Please join us on zoom to celebrate.

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

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 helps to keep our synagogue open and vital.

If there are any programs you think would be interesting and they are on zoom let us know and we can try to have the program on zoom for you to enjoy at the synagogue. We just watched an interesting program on the Architects of Auschwitz.

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.

Max B. Grust Shevat 18, 5783—February 9, 2023

August 10, 1886—January 30, 1975

There are still a few old timers who remember Max Grust. He was one of the founders of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation. After serving as president for 18 years from 1939 to 1947, he was unanimously elevated to president emeritus and chairman of the board. Under his guidance Beth Israel Sinai planned a new temple at Tenth and Main. By 1943 we had raised \$85,000.00 WWII intervened and by 1949 the cost had risen to \$150,000.00 A fund drive kicked off March 10, 1949 with the goal of raising the remaining \$65,000.00 by May 1. "The dream of six years ago to build one of the most beautiful temples in the country on one of the most beautiful sites in the city, must go ahead this year."

During his career Max also served as president of B'nai B'rith, board member of the Milwaukee Jewish home, and board member of the United Jewish fund. He served as a director of the Racine Downtown Association, a director of the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 18 as well as the Elks' Club.

Max was a native of Riga Latvia. At the age of 16 he emigrated to South Africa where he lived for five years. He joined his family in the U.S. in 1907 and entered the retail furniture business as an employee of the Cincinnati branch of the Bloch Furniture company. His naturalization petition is dated July 22, 1914 in Ohio. Also in 1914, Max married Anna H. Schur in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had a daughter, Minnette and a son, Jack. The following year he was transferred to Milwaukee. By his faithful attention to business and knowledge of the trade, he was soon advanced to assistant manager of the Racine branch and later to manager and vice president. Max believed in dreams. One of them materialized in 1923 when he moved the business to a commodious four story building at 412 Main Street, one of the best appointed and most complete furniture establishments in Wisconsin. In 1962, he leased the building from Bloch Furniture and opened Grust Furniture Company. He retired in 1965.

At the 1963 annual dinner of the Racine Committee for State of Israel Bonds, the Jewish community paid tribute to Max Grust. "Max Grust represents to us the kind of spiritual integrity which has made possible the success of the State of Israel," said Robert Goodman, dinner chairman. Goodman noted that it was the 15th anniversary of Israel's independence and the redemption the first issue of Israel bonds.

The Jewish National Fund planted a grove of trees in honor of Max Grust in the Jerusalem Peace Forest on the slopes of the Holy City to express the gratitude of his many friends for his outstanding contribution and dedication to civic welfare, education and religious endeavors.

In 1959 I was 13 and all I new of Max Grust was that he was old, Never-the-less, I have an anecdote to share. At the time, Elvis Presley (Elvis the pelvis) was the rock 'n roll idol of every teen in the country. Adults thought Rock 'n Roll was a Stalinist plot to corrupt American youth. My cousin David, barely old enough to shave, grew sideburns like the ones Elvis wore. When Max saw David in shul he remarked in disgust under his breath, "It took us 50 years to get rid of those things!" Years later I realized that Max thought David's sideburns were payes.

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

Maresh-Meredith Funeral Home LLC in honor of Rabbi Adelbergs Bar

Mitzvah Anniversary

Marc Shovers general donation

Robin Dorman for Repairs

Joyce Placzkowski general donation

Anonymous for repairs

Colleen Dorsey for Repairs

Susie Morja for Kiddush

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BETH ISRAEL SINAI
February 2023
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Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

February 3 4:48
February 10 4:58
February 17 5:07
February 24 5:16



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 ^{10 am service in person and zoom}
5 ^{Tu B'Shevat 5pm zoom service}	6 ^{Tu B'Shevat}	7	8	9	10	11 ^{10 am service in person and zoom}
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 ^{10 am service in person and zoom}
19	20 ^{Presidents Day}	21	22	23	24	25 ^{10 am service in person and zoom}
26	27	28				