

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

March 2023 Adar / Nisan 5783

Rabbi's Message,

One could easily interpret the story of Purim as a story of palace intrigue and lucky circumstances. A banquet was held for 180 days for the representatives of the 137 provinces of the Persian Empire. This vast entity stretched from India to Ethiopia. Along with their Gentile colleagues, the Jewish representatives participated in debauchery and other forms of merriment. They had become so assimilated in the relatively few years since the destruction of the First Temple, they failed to recognize that they were eating their meals on the holy vessels stolen from their beloved institution. Other scholars suggested they enjoyed themselves a little too much. They would fail to recognize the danger posed to them by Haman after he rose to power. Plans for their annihilation were made secret. A royal decree, devised by Haman and approved by King Ahasuerus, was sent to all representatives of the Persian Empire. From the capital of Shushan, the destruction of the Jews would begin on the 14th of Adar. An additional day, the 15th of Adar, was established for the destruction of the Jews living in the imperial capital of Shushan. Jews would not be permitted to fight back.

What was the palace intrigue and series of lucky circumstances that prevented the destruction of Persian Jewry? Had

Ahasuerus not ordered Queen Vashti to be executed for refusing to dance nude before his royal guests, the Jewish Esther would never have become queen. Had Esther's uncle Mordechai not become aware of Haman's plan to kill the Jews, he would not have been able to impress upon his niece her duty to save her people. Had Ahasuerus not believed her accusation that Haman wanted to kill her, a Jewess, and all the Jews. Mordechai had become an enemy of Haman ever since he was honored for saving the King's life from an assassination attempt. On the gallows built by Haman to kill Mordechai, Haman and his 10 sons were killed for the plot to annihilate Persian Jewry. While it was too late to reverse the Royal Edict of destruction, Jews were permitted to defend themselves against their attackers. Not one lost their life. Upon the death of Haman, Mordechai was elevated to the position of Prime Minister.

While G-d's name is not mentioned in the Megillat Esther, the presence of the Holy One is obvious. The period following the Holocaust has been heralded as a period of political awareness and religious renewal for the Jewish people. The "political awareness" is the realization that anti-semitism still exists and could again raise its ugly head. The "religious renewal" is a stronger than ever connection to the tenets of our faith.

Please join us for the reading of the Megillah at 6 pm on Monday, March 6th followed by a special Klezmer Band at 7 pm. Either in person or on ZOOM.

Chag Sameach to everyone.

Be Well
Stay Safe
SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY

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. Donations are welcome. You can come in person or join by zoom.

Chag Sameach

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.

You can reach me by phone 262-945-7675

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.

Rabbi Hyman Cohen Adar 21, 5783—March 14, 2023 February 27, 1915—March 18, 1971

In 1955 Rabbi Hyman Cohen arrived in Racine from Auburn, New York with his wife, Sophie, and his daughters, Judy and Sharon. On the way, the family stayed at a motel where they met an executive of the Braves baseball team which had just moved from Boston to Milwaukee. When the Cohens arrived at our congregation's parsonage at 419– 17th Street, four tickets to a Braves game were in the mail box. Sophie had little interest in baseball so Rabbi Cohen invited Ronnie Waisman, the son of our president, Ben Waisman, to watch Eddie Mathews, Johnny Logan, and the amazing young Henry "Hammerin" Hank Aaron.

Even more than baseball, Rabbi Cohen was devoted to Judaic and secular learning. He was an outstanding student in Toronto, Canada (where his family had emigrated from Poland) and graduated from the University of Toronto with high honors. He was awarded a fellowship to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. At that time, Nazis had begun destroying the Jewish community's of Europe. He turned down the fellowship and enrolled in the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City. He was ordained as a Conservative Rabbi in 1942. His first congregation was in Meridan, Connecticut where he also served as a military chaplain at nearby Bradley Airfield. Rabbi Cohen loved our new, handsome synagogue on Main Street, the beautiful Lake Michigan setting, and the nearby public library which he visited daily. The shy and humble man was warmly embraced by the more than one thousand Jews who lived here. A friend of the Rabbi's daughter said her parents and other residents along Main street and College avenue admired the elegant, tall rabbi, white hair at his temples, as he walked to services every Saturday morning.

Beth Israel Sinai services were Conservative. They included contemporary English readings along with traditional Hebrew prayers and hymns. He was devoted to traditional Jewish prayer, ritual, and Talmudic examination. His daughters, along with their friends and visitors to their home, studied with him on Saturdays afternoons. Each day, including the last day of his life, he read the traditional four blatt of Talmud.

Every week he brought guest home for Shabbat dinner—strangers or newcomers to town—Harvard Business School students interning at Johnson Wax—Jewish college students visiting friends in Racine—job applicants at J.I. Case. One visiting Wellesley College student wrote, "I will never forget the holy atmosphere at your Sabbath table, summoning it in my memory in times of serenity and joy."

On Passover members of the congregation whose loved ones were deceased or out of town were invited to the Seder at the Cohen home. In April, 1958 the Journal Times published a two page photo-article about the Cohen family Seder.

Rabbi Cohen officiated at 90 bar and bat mitzvahs.

At age 56, a few month after announcing the birth of his first grandchild, Rabbi Cohen suffered a heart attack in his office at the synagogue. As an example for his family and congregants, he elected to have the new coronary bypass surgery at St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee. He died during the operation. Rabbi Cohen is buried with his beloved community of Beth Israel Sinai in the Racine Jewish Memorial Cemetery.

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 Rabbi's Bar Mitzvah Anniversary
Judith McGauran in honor of Rabbi's Bar Mitzvah Anniversary
Sarah Levin in honor of Rabbi's Bar Mitzvah Anniversary
Anonymous General Donation
Joyce Placzkowski General Donation

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 Racine WI 53405

262-633-7093

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treasurer@bethisraelsinai.org

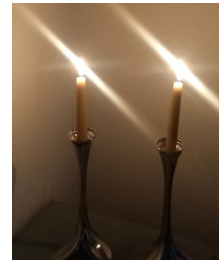
rabbi@bethisraelsinai.org

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

BETH ISRAEL SINAI
March 2023
Adar / Nisan 5783

Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

March 3 5:25
 March 10 5:33
 March 17 6:42
 March 24 6:50
 March 31 6:58



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>service 10 am zoom and in person</i>
5	6 <i>Purim Megillah reading 6pm Klezmer music 7 pm</i>	7 <i>Purim</i>	8 <i>Sushan Purim</i>	9	10	11 <i>service 10 am zoom and in person</i>
12 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18 <i>service 10 am zoom and in person</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>service 10 am zoom and in person</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31	