

# *Beth Israel Sinai News*

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

November 2023      Cheshvan / Kislev 5784

## Rabbi's Message

Thanksgiving is the holiday when most Americans gather together with family and friends to say "thank you." For us as Jews we say "thank you" to G-d in numerous ways every day. From the time we wake up when we say "Modeh Ani Lefanechah" (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; for 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 of 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 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 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 American the holiday of Thanksgiving at Shearith Israel in New York, the Rev. Gershom Mendes Seixas arranged a prayer service suitable for the holiday. In his address to the congregation, Rev Seixas called upon Jews "to support that 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 of the 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 20th century, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein and Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik, advocated the celebration of Thanksgiving as a "secular" or "national;" holiday. (Non-Jewish holidays with a specifically 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 the 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."

As I SEE YOU IN SHUL,  
RABBI MARTY

We have a new zoom link please check your new emails for the link so you will be able to join our service by zoom if you wish. We miss you when you don't attend.

The next Holiday will be upon us sooner than you may think. Chanukkah is starts on December 7, 2023. We will have supplies out for purchase if you need anything. We have assorted gifts, cards, and candles for purchase. If you need anything after a service or before check out what is available for purchase.

### **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 Marc Greenberg 702-465-4805

### **ZOOM LINK INFO**

**Meeting ID 86963820547**

**Passcode 812975**

**Phone Number**

**1-309-205-3325**

### **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.

Jennie Levin

December 25, 1883—November 17, 1964

Jennie Levin's most memorable contributions to our Jewish community was an annual Hadassah Medical Organization charity linen shower. She organized the first one in 1922 and continued for 42 years until she passed away in 1964. Hadassah dedicated the 1965 HMO fundraiser to her memory and repeated it each November as the Jennie Levin Hadassah Medical Organization shower for years and years. In 1979, fifteen years after she passed away the national vice-president of Hadassah, Mrs. Joan Sacarob, came to Racine to speak at the Hadassah Medical Organization fundraiser dedicated to the memory of Jennie Levin.

The Hadassah Medical Organization is Hadassah's oldest and primary project. The project has supported the Hadassah Hebrew Medical Center in Jerusalem and the medical facilities on Mount Scopus.

Jennie was born on December 25, 1883, grew up in Milwaukee and moved to Racine in 1913. As well as founding and running the HMO annual fundraiser for forty-two years, Jennie served as president of the Racine chapter for twelve years. She was a member of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation, president of Beth Israel Sinai Sisterhood, and a charter member of St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary. She is buried in the Racine Jewish Memorial Cemetery.

Please send articles for this section of the newsletter about any former family or friends of yours that belonged 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**

Gregory Walters High Holiday Donation  
Edward Villarreal General Donation  
Joyce Placzkowski General Donation

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**BETH ISRAEL SINAI**  
**November 2023**  
**Cheshvan / Kislev 5784**

**Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times**

November 3 5:23  
November 10 4:15  
November 17 4:08  
November 24 4:03



# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 10 am service in person and zoom
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends	6	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	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 10 am service in person and zoom
26	27	28	29	30		