

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

March 2024 Adar 1 / Adar II 5784

Rabbi's Message

In times of tragedy, Jewish leaders would declare a day of prayer and fasting to invoke divine intervention. On the thirteenth of Adar, the Viceroy, Haman, concluded his preparation to begin the slaughter of the Persian Jewish community. In a remarkable turn of events, aided by the newly remorseful King Ahasuerus, the Jews would wage a war defeating their attackers the next day. This epic battle, to be known throughout history as Purim, would begin on the 14th of Adar. Remembering our brave ancestors led by Esther and Mordecai, Jews throughout the world will fast on the Fast of Esther. Being a leap year in the 5784, Purim will be celebrated in Adar II.

Purim commemorates the military victory of the Persian Jews over an anti-Semitic ruler. During the seventy-one year period between the destruction of the First Temple (586 BCE) and resurrection of the Second Temple (515 BCE), the exiled Jewish community lived freely under the Persian King Ahasuerus until he elevated the Amalekite Haman to the position of Viceroy (Prime Minister) over the entire Persian Empire stretching from India to Ethiopia. Haman. With the consent of the King, was given permission to kill ALL Jewish men, women, and children. By casting of lots (Purim in Farsi), the 14th of Adar was chosen as the date to fulfill this evil decree. Familiar with Jewish history, Haman deduced that this would be the perfect month to carry out his plan because Moses died during Adar. He forgot that Moses, the savior of the Jewish nation, was also born during Adar.

Through a series of miracles, G-d began preparing for Haman's downfall. Ahasuerus killed his first wife Vashti for refusing to dance naked before a party of visiting dignitaries. Invited were honored guest from all 127 provinces including Israel. (One midrash describes how the Jewish representatives were so ignorant of Jewish customs that they did not even know they were eating off dishes stolen from the destroyed First Temple.) Subsequently, the King married the beauty, Esther. At the time, he did not know that she was Jewish. The Jewish leader, Mordecai, a relative of Esther, saved the King from a plot to poison him by the royal guards, Bigdan and Teresh. Earlier, Ahasuerus had wrongly suspected that Haman was behind the assassination attempt. Only at the culmination of three private parties, attended only by Queen Esther and Haman, would the Queen reveal her Jewish identity. She expressed the fear that Haman would kill her and her people, the Jewish nation. Begging for mercy, the coward Haman was condemned to death. Not only was the Jewish community saved, but Haman and his ten sons were killed on the gallows that the ex-Viceroy had prepared for Mordecai. The Jews were given weapons to defeat their attackers. Not one Israelite was killed.

At the request of Esther and Mordecai, the Sages ruled that each year the story of their victory would be celebrated by Jews for all time. The reading of Megillat Ester (the Story of Esther) would be heard by every man, woman and child on both the night of Purim and the following morning. During the reading, the name of the evil Haman would be blotted out by noisemakers called graggers or ra'ashanim. Gifts would be distributed to the poor (matanot la'evyonim). A festive Purim meal would be held on the day of Purim. Costumes are worn by children of all ages. This is the only holiday where the Rabbis permitted celebrants to drink more than usual so they would not know the "difference between cursed by Haman and blessed be Mordecai."

Join the Temple family and guest Cantor Susan Friedman for the festive reading of Megillat Esther on Saturday, March 23rd at 7:00 pm.

**See you in Shul
Rabbi Marty**

Buy Israel Bonds. The war in Gaza is expensive. Give an Israel Bond to mark any occasion. Bonds are issued with several interest rates and maturities. Contact Israel Bonds at 800-253-2779 <https://israelbonds.com>

Saturday, March 23, 2024 we will be celebrating Purim. We will have a guest Cantor Susan Friedman. Please come and invite all your friends. Please feel free to give a donation for this Holiday celebration. I hope to see everyone here for this. If you are not able to attend in person you will be able to join by zoom.

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.

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.

George Stern

June 12, 1913—March 19, 2001

Many of you may remember George Stern. He has been gone only a little over 20 years. He and his wife, Mary, were deeply involved in every corner of our Jewish community— religious, charitable and social. There were so many articles in the newspaper about him and his wife Mary hosting dinners and events for the congregation that there is not room here even for a summary. George and Mary Spira were married in Germany July 10, 1938. Later that year they were on a cruise when they received a telegram from home, "Don't come back." Kristallnacht was November 9, 1938. In June of 1939 they arrived in the U.S. and in July they settled in Racine, likely sponsored by an anonymous group here that sponsored a number of other European Jewish refugees. WWII began September 1, 1939. They had a son Michael, now in Colorado and a daughter Sandra who has passed away. The family lived on Kingston Avenue until they retired to a condo on Harborview Drive.

George had a brother Willy, who settled in Kenosha. Together they bought an old Moon automobile and "bingo!" they were in the salvage business.

George and Mary owned the Stern Wastepaper and Iron Company at 1415 Durand for 40 years. At one point, George's paper recycling tonnage was 100 tons per month, 40% of what the Journal Times was using. During the early '70s, when the recycling movement was rapidly becoming a "thing," George worked with the city and state governments to organize their recycling programs. The Journal Times published five photos of George's operation.

George and Mary kept a kosher home. They always arrived early at shul and sat in the same seats. George was Israel Bond chairperson and ritual chairperson of the Beth Israel Sinai board of directors, board member of the Racine Jewish Welfare Council, a member of sisterhood and member of Hadassah. They often hosted dinners and events for the congregation and were heavily involved with building our synagogue at 944 Main St. which was dedicated in 1952. Like many others, George volunteered for Sisterhood's program to relieve the regular volunteers at local hospitals on Christmas Eve so they could be with their families.

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

Judith McGauran for Rabbi's Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Sarah Leven for Rabbi's Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Max Gordon for Rabbi's Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Joyce Placzkowski general donation

Ellen Myers Purim Donation

Mary Vite general donation

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BETH ISRAEL SINAI
March 2024
Adar I / Adar II 5784

Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting Times

March 1 5:23
March 8 5:32
March 15 6:40
March 22 6:49
March 29 6:57



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 service 10 am in person and zoom
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 service 10 am in person and zoom
10 Day Light Savings Time Begins	11	12	13	14	15	16 service 10 am in person and zoom
17	18	19 Spring Begins	20	21 Fast of Esther	22	23 Purim Service 10 am and 7 pm
24 Purim	25 Shushan Purim	26	27 Board Meeting 6 pm	28	29	30 service 10 am in person and zoom
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