

# Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

May 2016-Nisan-Iyar 5776

## Rabbi's Message

MAY 2016----NISAN, IYAR 5776

The Haggadah we read during our Passover seder can be interpreted on many different levels. First, it is a story of how the Hebrew nation was freed from Egyptian bondage after 430 years of slavery. Second, we are required to vicariously experience the bitter hardship endured by our ancestors under Pharaoh. Third, we witness the havoc wreaked upon the Egyptians by the Ten Plagues reaching its crescendo with the death of the First Born. Fourth, we experience how it felt to be ordered to leave Egypt so quickly that we did not even have time to let our bread rise. Fifth, we try to feel what it was like to wander in the desert for forty years before earning the right to be called G-d's Chosen--or to quote Maimonides, "AS IF WE HAD JUST LEFT EGYPT." Sixth, we repeat this Haggadah every year to ensure that the lesson of freedom is never forgotten or taken for granted.



As important as the story of Passover is, it only describes what it means to be "physically" free. Only after we received the Torah on Shavuot would we become spiritually complete. From the second day of Pesach, we begin a 49 day countdown leading to this historical event. Each day, a grain offering of an omer (about an eighth of a bushel) of barley was brought to the Temple leading up to Shavuot.

Historically, Jews consider this period a time of semi-mourning. Weddings and various simchas are not held during this period as an acknowledgement of what happened to the 24,000 students of the saintly Rabbi Akiba. During the first 33 days of the counting of the Omer, a mysterious plague killed 24,000 of the Rabbi's most accomplished students. What sin did they commit to warrant such an extreme punishment? For all of their wisdom, these scholars lacked respect for each other. (go to page 2)

## Join us for the Celebration!

**100th Anniversary of Beth Israel Sinai  
&  
10th Anniversary of  
Rabbi Martyn Adelberg's ordination**

Special Guest: Rabbi Capers Funneye, Rabbi of B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation and Chief Rabbi of all African-American Jewish Congregations.

Please join us for a special service 9:45 AM Saturday, June 4th. Services will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon. Please RSVP to Beth Israel Sinai by May 26th.

(262) 637-7093

Your participation will help sustain Beth Israel Sinai for another 100 years!

## Sisterhood for May 2016

A big "Thank you!" to our May Kiddush sponsors!

May 7-sponsored by Steve Kushner in memory of Patti.

May 14-sponsored by Jim Barten

May 21-sponsored by John Schnabl

June 4, 2016 we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Rabbi Adelberg as our Rabbi and the 100th Anniversary of Beth Israel Sinai. The Ethiopian congregation choir and Rabbi will be joining us.

We will have a fund raiser for this event. The service will start as usual, but there will be a catered Kiddush that day for \$30 per person. I hope many come out to celebrate.

Please contact Joyce Placzkowski (262) 945-7675 to sponsor a Kiddush (Dairy \$50/Meat \$100) or help with preparations.

(Rabbi's message continued)

While perhaps a harsh punishment, our Rabbis stressed that one has not truly learned Torah if it did not result in becoming a decent and kind human being. On Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day (Lamed=30, Gimel=3. Lamed Gimel=33) of the counting of the Omer, the plague ceased and festive celebrations resumed. Other historically significant events occurred on Lag B'Omer. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the author of the book of Kabbalah known as the Zohar, died on this day. Rabbi Shimon decreed the date of his Yahrzeit (anniversary of his death) would be celebrated as a festive occasion. Many Jews celebrate his life with picnics and barbecues. In Israel, people visit Rabbi Shimon's graveside in Meron. Marriages are conducted. Other significant historical events that occurred during the counting of the Omer include: the commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising; Yom HaZikaron honoring Israel's fallen soldiers; and Yom Ha'azmaut, Israeli Independence Day.



I would like to thank all of our members who participated in our Temple seders. The questions asked led to a greater understanding of the story of the Exodus from Egypt and the meaning of freedom. We were also blessed by the attendance of first time visitors to Beth Israel Sinai.

Looking ahead, our Temple will be celebrating its 100th anniversary and the tenth anniversary of my s'micha (ordination) with a special service held on Saturday morning, June 4th at 9:45 am. Special guests will include Rabbi Capers Funneye, Rabbi of B'nai Zaken Hebrew Congregation and Chief Rabbi of the Ethiopian congregations of America, and members of his Temple choir. A special kiddush will follow Shabbat morning services. Your participation in this historic event will ensure our success for another 100 years.

SEE YOU IN SHUL,  
RABBI MARTY

### Happy Birthday!

#### May Birthdays

Joy Katzman  
Teagan Hoss  
Perry Kivolowitz  
John Schnable



Mark your calendars!  
Judith McGauran will sponsor a Kiddush on June 11th in honor of Sarah Levin's 99th Birthday.

### Notes From the Treasurer

We are a small congregation with big expenses. We will discuss our options for the future at the annual meeting. Be prepared to vote with your check book.

### April Donations

Anonymous-General Donation  
Anonymous-General Donation  
Mary J. McIntyre-General Donation  
John Schnable-Kiddush on May 21 for birthday  
Max Gordon-In Honor of Glenn Gordon, Bob Katzman and Art Domsky's birthdays  
Sarah Levin-In Memory of Keith Addy  
Eileen Schroeder-General Donation  
Arnold Solomon-General Donation  
Sarah Levin-Congratulations to Rabbi and Marcia Adelberg on the birth of Grandson Ethan (This was inadvertently left out of the March donations.)  
Joyce Placzkowski-In honor of the birth of Rabbi Adelberg's grandson Ethan  
Steven Kushner-Kiddush May 7 in Honor of Patty  
Jim Barten-Kiddush May 14  
Anonymous-General Donation

## Yahrzeits-

May Nisan

2 24 Lilly R. Seft

4 26 Max Lippman, Lillian Merens

5 27 Mary Block, Jennie Feiges

6 28 Leslie Kraft

8 30 Sarah A. Kaminsky

Iyar

10 2 Annie Sideman, Joseph Gold, Dr. Frank P. Goldstein, Maurice Leventhal

11 3 Avery Fried, Kate Grant

12 4 David Winters

13 5 Dorothy Barton

14 6 Eva Dorman, Edward Langlieb

15 7 Berthold Donner

16 8 Rose Davidson, Hyman Tannenbaum

17 9 Joseph Goodman

18 10 Albert Gold, Robert M. Jacobson

19 11 Charlotte Weiss, Dave Luby, Abraham Sheft, Edith Singer

20 12 Morris S. Ruben, Alma Schlomovitz

21 13 Sidney Aronin, Jerry Brown

22 14 Helmut Isenberg, Bessie Silver, Charles "Chuck" Brown

23 15 Abe Silver, Isadore Small, Ed Johnson

25 17 Silvia Rosenzweig

26 18 Ruth Shrago

28 20 Sarah Gordon

29 21 Hattie Ruth Gottlieb, Jean Laufman, Lillian Fishbain, William Shovers, Milton Sklansky

30 22 Esther Feldman, Michel Kerner

Many thanks to Max for researching and compiling the Yahrzeits



## Did You Know?

Our little Torah was donated in honor of Don Lang's bar mitzvah February 8, 1943. The Torah once belonged to Don's grandfather who conducted services at his home in Stevens Point. Later, the little Torah was loaned to a congregation in Chicago. When

Don's family went to redeem the little Torah, they found that the congregation had disbanded. After investigation, the little Torah was found and the owners agreed to honor the original loan agreement. Don remains a member of Beth Israel Sinai and contributes generously even though he has lived in Florida for many, many years.





Beth Israel Sinai  
Congregation

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*May 2016*  
*Nisan-Iyar 5776*

### Shabbat Candle Lighting times

May 6----7:41  
May 13--7:49  
May 20--7:56  
May 27--8:03  
June 3--8:08



### Coming Events

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 5  | 6 PM Torah Class   |
| May 7  | 9:45 AM Shabbat Service followed by a sponsored Kiddush luncheon   |
| May 12 | 6 PM Torah Class   |
| May 14 | 9:45 AM Shabbat Service followed by a sponsored Kiddush luncheon   |
| May 20 | 6 PM Shabbat Dinner  |
| May 21 | 9:45 AM Shabbat Service followed by a sponsored Kiddush luncheon   |
| May 26 | 6 PM Torah Class   |
| May 28 | 9:45 AM Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush luncheon   |
| June 2 | 6 PM Torah Class   |
| June 4 | 9:45 AM Double Celebration! Beth Israel Sinai 100th Anniversary & the 10th anniversary of Rabbi Martyn Adelberg's ordination |