

# Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 93, Issue 7

DECEMBER 2012

KISLEV - TEVET

## Rabbi's Message

When most of us think of Chanukah, we think of a male dominated story. The main theme is the military and religious fight of the Maccabees, led by Mattathias and his five sons, against the Assyrian Hellenists. What is little known is the role played by two women, Judah and Hannah, against the tyrannical Antiochus.

During the siege of the Jewish city of Bethulia, the widowed daughter of the High Priest Jonathon, is determined to assassinate the Assyrian general, Holofernes. The General was about to lay siege and destroy her town. Acting as if she was forced to flee Bethulia accompanied by her maid, Judith reached the military camp. She convinced Holofernes that victory would soon be his since the besieged

city would be out of food within five days. The General invited Judith into his tent hoping to seduce the beautiful widow. Instead, Judith fed him salty cheese which caused him to drink too much wine. After Holofernes fell asleep, Judith grabbed his sword, chopped off his head and brought it in a sack to the elders of Bethulia. Seeing the Holofernes was dead, the defenders of the city invaded the military camp and annihilated the leaderless troops.

Another legend tells of the story of Chana, a mother who is forced to watch while King Antiochus tortures and murders her seven sons when they refused his command to eat pork. (Other versions claimed that Hannah's sons refused to bow before idols.) When it is the youngest son's turn, the King urges Chana to convince her son to eat the pork and spare his life. Instead she told

her son to follow the example of his older brothers. When the youngest son is about to be murdered, she kisses him and whispers to him: "Say to Father Abraham, do not pride yourself on having built an altar to offer your son Isaac. Our mother built seven altars and offered her seven sons in one day. Yours was only a test. Hers was real.

As the letter of the dreidel proclaim, "nas gadol haya shom."----"A great miracle happened there." May G-d continue to guarantee the existence of the Jewish people." And may the Jewish people merit the achievements of their ancestors.

See you in shul,  
Rabbi Marty

## President's Message

Happy December and all that goes with it!

Chanukah comes quickly this year. The Congregation's Chanukah party is scheduled for this Friday, December 9 at 5:00PM. Thanks again this year to Rebecca Bloom and her Sous Chefs, we can again look forward to an excellent meal of brisket and latkes! A reminder again that the

deadline to make reservations is the December 5.

Thanks again to Patti and Steve Kushner for sponsoring the November Shabbat dinner. It was well attended and the food and sense of community were exceptional. If you'd like to sponsor a Shabbat dinner, please let me know. They're scheduled for the 3rd Fridays each month except when we have

A special holiday event like we do this month with Chanukah. Plan on joining us for the next Friday Shabbat dinner on January 18, (can you believe 2013), at 6:00PM! If you'd like copies of recipes from the Shabbat dinners, they're available at the Congregation's web site, [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org).

Watch for more information about the "Polish Heroes of (continues on page 2)

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Join us on  
Sunday, December 9  
5:00 PM  
for the Congregation's  
Chanukah Dinner!

Saturday December 8  
Kiddush sponsored by  
the newlyweds  
Felicia and Leo Vaytsman

Polish Hero Exhibit  
Begins  
February 10, 2013  
At  
The Racine Public Library

**President's Message Continued...**

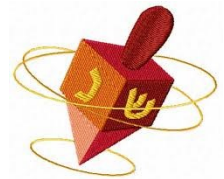
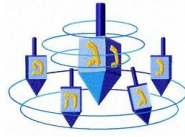
the Holocaust" exhibit coming in February to the Racine Public Library. Watch for more information! A special thank you to Steve Platt and his work with the Racine Interfaith Coalition, (RIC), for making this happen!

Again, please join us on Sunday, December 9 for the Chanukah dinner... and bring your menorah. We'll light the candles together!

Shalom Y'all  
Jeff

**Some Fun Dreidels!**

[www.jewfaq.org](http://www.jewfaq.org)

**Sisterhood**

Although the High Holidays are long behind us, we're still busy creating tasty Kiddush meals for our members and guests following services and hope you are enjoying these times of food and fellowship. We extend our thanks to the anonymous member who sponsored the Kiddush on November 3. Mr. and Mrs. Leo Vaytsman are sponsoring the Kiddush on December 8 in honor of their recent marriage. Mazel Tov, Felicia and Leo! And thanks!

Anyone is invited to sponsor a Kiddush on the date of their choice. This is a thoughtful way to honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion. Just call Rita and let her know the date, the occasion, and whether you prefer a meat or dairy meal. The suggested donation is \$54 for a meat meal and \$36 for a dairy meal. We'll take care of the shopping, cooking, and serving.

Thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Ganz for bringing in the delicious salads these past weeks. We also continue to be treated so well by the "Anonymous Angels" who surprise us with gifts of cookies, fruit, beverages, etc. Thanks so much for helping to keep our kitchen stocked. Items such as bagels, cream cheese, canned tuna fish, eggs, fresh fruit, juice, cookies, cakes, wine (Maneschewitz, Mogen David, kosher table wines, etc.) and other basics are always in demand. We are currently in need of coffee (regular and decaf) and lox and would like to replenish our stock of paper/plastic plates and plastic spoons and forks. If you'd like to donate an item or two, just leave them in the kitchen. As our kitchen is kosher, please ensure the items you bring in (with the exception of fresh fruits and vegetables) are marked kosher. If you have any questions, consult Rabbi Adelberg or Rita.

Special thanks to Jim Barten for sharpening the kitchen knives. They work so much better now! Also, as another year draws to a close, we want to thank Jeff Hanson for his faithful efforts to prepare the fellowship hall for the weekly meals, serving, and keeping the kitchen running for us. Many thanks, Jeff!

Just a reminder that, as noted in January, the Sisterhood will not be sending out separate year-end statements this year. The receipt letters sent to you have all of the information needed to document your donation for tax purposes. It's not too late to make a year-end contribution the Sisterhood! To contribute, send a check to Beth Israel Sinai and designate it for the Sisterhood.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen

**Donations****General Support**

Eileen Schroeder

**For the High Holidays**

Wendy and Michael Jacobson

**A Prayer Book In Memory of Edith Isenberg**

Max Gordon

**In Honor of Jim Barten**

The Lichterman Family

**In Memory of Edith Isenberg**

The Lichterman Family  
Wendy and Michael Jacobson  
Nancy Hall  
Sarah Levin  
Blanche Kahn and Family  
Dominic Cibrario  
Laurence and Terri Schwartz

**Congratulations Leo and Felicia on your marriage!**

Vera Ruffalo



*Tikkun Olam*

תיקון עולם

**Yahrzeits**

**Week of November 30**

Dora Mitler	30
Mary Fishbain	1
Alex Dorman	3
Jacob M. Kassel	3
Maynard Greenberg	5
Dr. Charles Robert Bloom	6

**Week of December 7**

Myron Adelberg	7
Lena Hoffman	7
Shirley Levine	7
Dr. Hymon J. Soref	7
Morton Bachman	9
Burton Isaacson	9
Harry Donovitz	9
Harry J. Mandelker	10
Sarah Brownstein	12
Dora Schaefer	12
Sydneye Silver	13
June S. Harris	13

**Week of December 14**

Betty Ruben	14
Sol Marcado	14
Mae Brownstein	14
Jacob Jacobson	14
Meyer Levin	14
Mitchell Pearlman	15
Abraham Gorsky	16
Abe Goodman	17
Jacob Slobodkin	17
Elvin Wolfman	17
Sarah Woolf	17
Herman Sunshine	18
Jacob Levin	18

Rose Blitstein	19
Abe Goldberg	19
Abraham Krasnow	19
Rudolph Kahn	20
Abraham Karlitzky	20
Ruth L. Meyer	20
Mary Shapiro	20
Ida Tabaksman	20

**Week of December 21**

Celia Woolf Westphall	21
Jean Dorman	22
Ida Blume Weisman	22
Harry M. Blitstein	23
Alice Letsche	24
Herman Kaplan	24
Abraham Grant	24
Paula Shovers	25
Hans Sternheim	25
Evelyn Goldberg Kupperman	26
Jeanne Brown	24

**Week of December 28**

Herman Levin	28
Sadie Kaufman	29
Harry Gordon	30
Toby B. Gorsky	31
Morris Mitler	31
Irving Schulman	31
Bessie Levin	1
Ben Mitler	2
Solomon Reder	3
Dan B. Levit	3



**Shabbat Candle Lighting Times**

December 7 - 3:59 PM
December 14 - 3:59 PM
December 21 - 4:02 PM
December 28 - 4:06 PM
January 4 - 4:12 PM



**Cemetery Notes**

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is a resting place for all Jews. **All.**

The cemetery is five acres located on the 600 block of Lathrop Avenue and is a well maintained, park-like setting.

Call Jim Barten at 262.412.8457

**Hadassah**

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions.

Thank you.

Sarah Levin 886-9331

Sidnee Nerad 551-0406

Cards \$5

Shares \$10

Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10

Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18

**Beautiful Menorahs**





Beth Israel Sinai  
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: [bethisraelsinai@att.net](mailto:bethisraelsinai@att.net)

Web: [www.bethisraelsinai.org](http://www.bethisraelsinai.org)

*Join us for a Chanukah Celebration*  
*Sunday December 9 at 5:00 PM*

*December 2012      Kislev - Tevet 5773*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Chanukah Party Reservations Due	6 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	7	8 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Oneg sponsored by newlyweds Felicia and Leo Vaytsman!  Chanukah 1st. Night
9 Congregation Chanukah Party - 5:00PM	10	11	12	13 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	14	15 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Chanukah 8th. Night
16	17	18	19	20 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	21	22 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
23	24	25	26	27 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	28	29 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
30	31	1 Happy New Year 2013	2	3 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	4	5 Shabbat Services 9:45AM