

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

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JUNE 2013

SIVAN - TAMMUZ 5773

Rabbi's Message

Over the next few issues, I will be highlighting the historical background of various life cycle events. With the impending nuptials of my daughter Robyn to Joe, I will begin by focusing on the Jewish marriage.

The Shabbat before the wedding is the "aufruf" (going up). Usually hosted by the groom's parents, this special Shabbat signals to the community the couple's impending marriage during the following week. Both the chatan (groom) and kallah (bride) are called up to the Torah for an aliyah. A special blessing is given by the officiating Rabbi. As they leave the bimah (pulpit), candies are

thrown at them by the congregants to ensure they begin their life together on a "sweet note."

The day of the wedding is a joyous yet solemn occasion. Because the bride and groom are starting a new life together, this is a Yom Kippur-like day for them. Many prospective brides and grooms fast until the ceremony (provided that this does not cause great physical problems for them). Even when allowed to eat, the bride and groom should not overindulge. Their focus should be on the transcending importance of their coming together, expressed in special meditation and prayer. Prior to the wedding, the officiating Rabbi prepares the Ketubah (marriage contract) which will be given to the

bride during the ceremony. Before the signing of the Ketubah, one of the witnesses gives the groom his own handkerchief or other item. The groom picks it up and agrees to all his obligations to his bride as outlined in the marriage contract. The bottom of the Ketubah is then signed by the designated witnesses.

The wedding ceremony uniting bride and groom is composed of two parts---the erusin, or betrothal, and nisuin, or marriage. In the first part the bride is consecrated to her beloved for the purpose of united together. Two blessings are recited by the officiating Rabbi over a glass of wine. The wine symbolizes life's sweetness and (continued on page 2)

President's Message

It's hard to believe it's June already and we're into a new fiscal year. Along with the new fiscal year, comes the reporting for the previous year at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. This year it will again be held in conjunction with the Friday evening Shabbat Service and Dinner on June 21. The agenda will include:

The year-end finance report; a report on the state of the Congregation; and a vote on

the proposed cemetery change.

In addition, we'll provide an update on the talks that the congregation asked us to have with Beth Hillel about the potential of combining our efforts. Please take a look at the note on page 2 that clarifies what we're trying to accomplish to strengthen the Jewish Community in Southeastern Wisconsin.

A reminder that, according to the by-laws of BIS, only those who have fully paid their 2012-2013 dues assessment

will be eligible to vote.

Happy 91st birthday again to Victor Ganz and thanks again to the Ganz family and Jim Barten for sponsoring Kiddushes in May!

Join the birthday celebration for Sarah Levin at the Kiddush on Saturday June 15. Happy 96th birthday Sarah!

Lastly, mark your calendar for Sunday August 18 for the congregation's annual picnic.

Shalom Y'all
Jeff

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Shabbat Dinner and Service
Friday, June 21
6:00 p.m.
Following the Annual Meeting

Notice of Annual Meeting
Friday, June 21
6:00 p.m.
The meeting will be followed by our regular Shabbat Service

Rabbi's Message Continued...

joy. The first blessing is the traditional blessing over wine (bo'rah p're ha-gafen). The second blessing proclaims the sacredness of marriage. Both bride and groom then take a sip of wine. The groom places an unadorned ring on the bride's forefinger in the presence of the witnesses who signed the Ketubah. If it is a double ringed ceremony, the bride places a ring on

the groom's forefinger. After that, one or both recite the words "Behold you are consecrated to me with this ring according to the law of Moses and Israel."

In the second part of the ceremony, the nisuin, the actual uniting, is effected through the Seven Blessings (Sheva B'ra-chot). These blessings proclaim the creation of the world, the joy of children, Jerusalem, love, friendship, and rejoicing with the bride and groom. The ceremony

concludes with the groom breaking a glass with his foot reminding us that even at a joyous occasion, we must not forget the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. (It also might be the only time the groom will be able to put his foot down and get away with it.) Everyone joins in shouting "mazal tov" as the wedding party, led by the newlyweds, exit the chupah (marriage canopy.)

SEE YOU IN SHUL,
RABBI MARTY

Dear Members,

It was nearly a century ago when small groups of Jews in Kenosha and Racine began to coalesce into two strong congregations. Galvanized by a cadre of downtown Kenosha merchants, Beth Hillel Temple opened its doors in 1924 to Reform Jews seeking a spiritual home. Evolving from both Orthodox and Reform roots, Racine's Beth Israel Sinai was formed in 1925. Today, as the lay leaders of these two venerable institutions, we are writing to inform all of our members that we believe the time has come to ensure that a strong regional community in Southeastern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois is not only historically significant, but also a source of pride for generations to come. As such, we are exploring ways our existing congregations can come together as one with the goal of strengthening and sustaining the Jewish community for our region.

In the most forthright way we know, we are committing to a transparent and inclusive process that will seek to discover if merging our two congregations is a healthy and wise next step for the regional Jewish community. Towards this end, we are entering into open discussions during the coming months to examine all aspects of how our existing congregations might work as a single entity. We will look at our respective rituals, facilities, resources and memberships to discern what steps would be prudent to follow, and most importantly, what ways we can realize our mutually desired outcome of a robust congregational community in our region that can be responsive to the distinct individual needs of a diverse membership.

As we move forward, we invite all of our respective members to reach out to those of us who have signed this message as well as others currently serving in congregational leadership positions. As time progresses we will invite members to explore specific areas of interest. In the spirit of frankness, we want to state now our shared belief that we can arrive at some points of significant agreement fairly quickly, and we hope to articulate those points of consensus by the end of this summer. We expect more sensitive points of dialogue and decision-making to take until the end of 2013.

We ask now for your collective engagement and support as we seek a way forward. Please know that we are entering this discussion with a deep respect for our congregational histories, as well as a practical appreciation for the respective current levels of congregational health and vibrancy. We hold no forgone conclusions, but we are committed to moving forward with a strong shared sense of Jewish identity, pride and perhaps a bit of chutzpah as we work to secure our regional community for the century to come.

Warm regards,

Jeff Collen, BIS President,
Alice Thomson, BHT President
Dr. Joshua Bloom, BIS Past President
Mark Gesner, BHT Past President
Joan Shepard-Lustig, BHT President Elect



General Support

Mary Vite
Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl
Louise Langlieb
Eileen Schroeder

In Honor of Victor Ganz's 91st Birthday

Kathy and Yaakov Schmadl
Max Gordon

In Memory of Gloria Weiss

Irving Lewis
Miriam Noll
Leslie Schwartz-Nason and Ken Nason

In Honor of Jim Barten

Max Gordon
Anonymous

In Honor of Sarah Levin's 96th Birthday

Vera Ruffalo

Yahrzeits

Week of June 7

Gertrude Kiselow	9
Mamie Faber	11
Louis Rosenberg	11
Ruth Dingfelder	12
Minnie Grant	12

Week of June 14

Mynette Davis	14
Frank Hoffman	14
Cherna Shovers	14
Tillie Hornstein	14
Rebecca Karlitzky	15
Norman Shovers	16
Max Tannenbaum	17
Freda Altman Epstein	19
Anna Levin	19
Julius Fishbain	20
Samuel Gluck	20
Edward Shovers	20
Brian Held	20

Week of June 21

Myron M. Goldberg	21
Isador Karlitsky	21
Sophia Gottlieb	22
Mary W. Lippman	23
Genevieve S. Ruben	24

Fannie Shovers	24
Emma Dunya Silver	25
Esther Laufman	26
Josephine Levit	26

Week of June 28

Pfc. David Lester Gordon	28
Julia Kaminsky	28
Isador Silver	29
Jacob Silver	29
Chaim Weissbard	29
David Goodman	1
Stella Greenberg	2
Dr. Leo M. Lifschutz	2
Beatrice Marvin	3
Sidney J. Marks	4

Week of July 5

Dr. Eugene H. Kaufman	5
Carol R. Wolfman	5
Harry Dingfelder	7
Florence Margaret Sheff	8
Hyman H. Brown	8
Harry Laufman	8
Mona A. Brown	9
Betty Goldberg	10
Evelyn Hahn Milch	10
Shirley Marcado	11

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

June 7 - 8:08 PM
 June 14 - 8:12 PM
 June 21 - 8:15 PM
 June 28 - 8:15 PM
 July 5 - 8:14 PM



Cemetery Notes

The Racine Jewish Cemetery is five acres located on the 600 block of Lathrop Avenue and is a well maintained, park-like setting. It is a resting place for all Jews.

Call Jim Barten at 262.412.8457

Cemetery Change Planned

Last year at the annual meeting we discussed that addition of designating a Reform section of the cemetery where Jews and their non-Jewish spouses could be buried. If you have any comments, please get them to me by the end of May. The Congregation will be voting to approve this change at this year's annual meeting on June 21 at 6:00 p.m. prior to the June Friday evening Shabbat dinner and service.

Hadassah

Hadassah gratefully accepts any donations. Please remember Hadassah and its many good works and projects when considering making charitable contributions. Cards \$5; Shares \$10; Children's Pavilion Certificates \$5 & \$10; Trees (JNF) Certificates \$18. For more information call Sarah Levin, 886-9331 or Sidnee Nerad, 551-0406.

Sisterhood

While the warm weather we were hoping for back in May didn't stick around for very long, we are wishing for a nice summer! We also hope to see more of our members and friends as they join us for services and Torah study as our snowbirds migrate north and travel to shul becomes easier. The Sisterhood is ready to serve a tasty lunch to accompany the fellowship after services. May was a busy month, with several members sponsoring a Kiddush. We thank the Ganz family, who honored Victor Ganz for his 91st birthday on May 4. Thank you to Jim Barten who sponsored the May 11 Kiddush in memory of his wife.

June will be a month of joyous celebrations! The Adelberg Family will sponsor the June 8 Kiddush in honor of the aufruf and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Robyn, to Joe Reiser. Best wishes to Robyn and Joe on their wedding and congratulations to Rabbi and Marcia Adelberg on gaining a son-in-law! Sarah Levin is sponsoring the Kiddush on June 15 to celebrate her 96th birthday. Join Sarah and wish her a very happy birthday!

Many thanks to Sandy Levin and Brian Rose for all of their help preparing the delicious French-themed Shabbat dinner on May 16 and for contributing the kosher French wines that made the dinner extra festive. A "Bon Appetit" was enjoyed by all! Thanks also to an anonymous (and generous) donor for contributing Target gift cards in May. They came in handy for purchasing the paper goods and coffee the kitchen needed.

The Sisterhood exists to enhance community life at Beth Israel Sinai by providing the weekly Kiddush, flowers for the Bimah, decorations for special dinners, etc. This is possible due to the generous contributions of our members and friends. A Sisterhood contribution or sponsoring a Kiddush are thoughtful ways to honor life cycle events, birthdays or anniversaries, or any occasion. Contributions can be sent to BIS (designate it for Sisterhood) or to sponsor a Kiddush, contact Rita for details.

Sisterhood Chair: Rita Collen



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

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***Join us for the Annual Meeting, Shabbat Service and Dinner on
Friday June 21, 2013 at 6:00 PM***

June 2013 Sivan - Tammuz 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM
2	3	4	5	6 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	7	8 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Afruf for Robyn Adelberg and Joe Reiser
9	10	11	12	13 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	14 Beth Hillel Home Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner 7:30 PM 406 16th St., Racine	15 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM Sarah Levin's 96th Birthday Celebration.
16	17	18	19	20 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	21 Annual Meeting, Shabbat Service and Dinner 6:00PM	22 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
23	24	25	26	27 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	28	29 Shabbat Services 9:45 AM