

Beth Israel Sinai News

The Monthly Newsletter of the Beth Israel Sinai Congregation

Volume 92, Issue 6

NOVEMBER 2011
CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5772

Rabbi's Message

By now, you have all been signed, sealed and delivered in The Book of Life. What a fantastic holyday season we had. Record number of individuals turned out for Rosh Hashonah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah services. After Ne-eilah at the Break-fast, over 45 people attended. But we must not become complacent with our past successes. In order to remain a viable congrega-

tion, we must double our efforts to support our congregation spiritually, culturally and financially. Each and every Temple member is necessary to guarantee our success. Many events are being planned for 5772. I will be conducting an adult education class on the "Parshat Ha-Shavua", the Torah portion of the week, Thursday evening at 7:30. In less than three years, our Shabbat education class conducted during our morning Kiddish, has completed the Five Books of

Moses, Joshua, Judges, Samuel I and will be completing the Second Book of Samuel (chronicling the life of Kings Saul and David) in the next couple of weeks. Several people have expressed an interest in learning how to read Hebrew or improving their Hebrew skills. Others have expressed an interest in learning Mishnah and Gemara (the Talmud). Three people are taking conversion classes--one aspirant completing the process before the end of the secular year. A

Inside this issue:

Rabbi's Message Continued...	2
Donations	2
Hadassah and Sisterhood News	2
Yahrzeits and Candle Lighting Times	3
Cemetery News Armistice Day Request	3
Our Jewish Calendar	3
Calendar	4

President's Message

Howdy and Happy November!

While October was a month of holidays, those of solemn prayer followed by the joy of the harvest season, November looks to be a month of events.

Check out the Kristallnacht Commemorative event at the Milwaukee Holocaust Education Resource Center on Sunday November 6 from 1:30-3:00 PM. Information is available from the Milwaukee Jewish Organization.

Do you have any stories of newspaper articles about

Racine Jews who served in World War I? We'd like to honor them for Armistice Day by sharing their stories at our Saturday, November 12 Shabbat morning service. Send your stories to temple or email them to bethisraelsinai@att.net by November 9.

Later that evening, Saturday, November 12, at 7:00 PM we'll host an Interfaith Music Night in cooperation with the Racine Interfaith Coalition. We'll hear music from Stereo Sinai, a group with local origins (John and Jane Brosseau's daughter Miriam and her husband Alan), as well as music from local Buddhist, Christian and

Muslim individuals and groups. It should be fun!

Join us on November 18 at 6:00 PM for a Shabbat dinner and service.

Thanks to those who have made contributions to insure that Beth Israel Sinai remains a strong and vibrant option for Jews in Racine and surrounding communities. We're less than \$1,500 away from achieving our goal for the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund. We'll receive matching gifts from Max and Glenn Gordon, increased by Joe and Judy Roher!

Shalom Y'all!
Jeff

Special Happening:

Send stories about Racine Jews in WWI. (see president's message)

Interfaith Music Night "Sounds of Faith" at Beth Israel Sinai - November 12 at 7:00 PM. Music from Stereo Sinai, as well as from Buddhist, Christian and Muslim individuals and groups.

Friday Shabbat Service and Dinner - November 18 at 6:00 PM.

Rabbi's Message Continued...

fourth individual has expressed interest in learning more about Judaism with the possibility of considering conversion to our faith. Times for Friday (Kabbalat Shabbat) evening services, followed by a special Shabbat meal, are being considered by our Temple board. If there are any topics of interest you would like con-

sidered, please either call or email me or our Temple president, Jeff Collen.

Our Rabbis ask the question: If the human being was created in G-d's image, why did G-d not make us perfect in the first place like the angels? The answer is simple. The human being was created with the power of choice. Thus we have the opportunity to be holier than the angels who can only sing the praises of

Hashem. We come closest to G-d on the Shabbat. Once a week we become the masters of time instead of being controlled by it. After Havdalah is recited, signifying the end of Shabbat, G-d has given us the responsibility of continuing the Divine mission of making this world a better place for all its inhabitants.

See you in Shul,

Sisterhood

Thanks to the generous contributions of many congregants and friends, Beth Israel Sinai Congregation was able to enjoy a festive High Holiday season. We had a record number of contributors to the oneg celebrating the New Year on Rosh Hashanah. The oneg was sponsored by the Collen Family and Adelberg Family and many other families who contributed cakes and other treats to provide a festive beginning to the new year! Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

Thank you to Ruth Hulbert for contributing the beautiful floral arrangement for Yom Kippur to honor the memory of Etta and Nathan Hulbert and Leonard, David, and Bernard Hulbert.

The break-the-fast meal following the last blast of the shofar on Yom Kippur has become a treasured tradition here at Beth Israel Sinai. Thank you to Patti and Steve Kushner – who sent their contribution in honor of their fellow congregants – along with Ellen and Gerry Jaffe and Jane and John Brosseau for sponsoring the break-the-fast this year. They provided a tasty buffet that was enjoyed and appreciated by all. Also, a special thank you to Jeff Hansen for his help setting up the onegs and break-the-fast meal!

Happy Birthday to Rebecca Bloom, Jane Brosseau, Paula Donovitz, and Eileen Schroeder and our thanks to these generous ladies for sponsoring the oneg after services on October 15 in honor of their birthdays.

The Paula and E.L. Donovitz Philanthropic Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation has also provided a contribution in memory of Paula's grandmother, Jeanne Swain Baum. Thank you, Paula!

Your Sisterhood contributions are used to enrich community life at Beth Israel Sinai in many ways. You can honor life cycle events, family birthdays or anniversaries, or any special occasions by sponsoring an oneg on the Shabbat of your choice. Sponsoring an oneg is simple. Just reserve your date, and let the Sisterhood take care of all of the details. The suggested contribution is \$36, however you may contribute any amount you wish. Send your Sisterhood contributions to the synagogue office (clearly marked "Sisterhood"). For more information or to reserve your oneg date, contact Rita Collen or Jane Brosseau.

Sisterhood Chairs: Jane Brosseau & Rita Collen

Donations

In Memory of Sylvia Schwartz

Max Gordon
Miriam Noll

In Honor of The Ganz's 62nd Anniversary

Sarah Levin

In Honor of Sarah Levin and Her Grand Daughters

Judy McGauran

To the Evelyn Gordon Memorial Fund

Anonymous
Dr. Joshua and Rebecca Bloom
Miriam Noll
Sylvia Schwartz

In Honor of Loraine Ganz's Birthday

Vera Ruffalo

In Memory of Jeanne Swain Baum

Paula Donovitz

For Rosh Hashana Honey

Anonymous

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

Yahrzeits

Week of October 29th

Louis Lippman	29
Blanche A. Dennison	29
Victor Goodman	30
Jeanette Weinberg	30
Alter Hulbert	31
Emanuel Marcado	2
Isabel Tannenbaum	2
Isidor Friedman	3
Ben Gellman	3
Meyer A. Goldstein	3
Morris Rosumoff	3
Morris J. Brill	4

Week of November 5th

Esther M. Lieberman	5
Dr. Robert Savin	5
Sol J. Brown	6
Joseph Blitstein	7
Lillian Gerol	7
Nathan Siderman	7
Else Sternheim	7
Sylvia Blitstein	8
Frances Hirshih	9
Sam Weisman	9
Elena Gorsky	10
Rosalind Barash	11
Jacob H. Marks	11

Week of November 12th

Max M. Seft	12
Esther Goodman	12
Ben G. Schaefer	12
Faye C. Savin	12
Dr. Norbert Isenberg	12
Owen Levin	13
Donald Wiener	17

Fred Dingfelder	17
Fannie Schwartz	17
Henry Dorman	17
Leah Seft	17

Week of November 19th

Julius Goldstein	19
Margaret Soref	20
Edward Alan Sideman	21
Esther Domsy	22
Gladys Gottlieb	22
Libby Donovitz	22
Abraham Goldberg	23
Claire Wellman	23

Week of November 25th

Hilda Levitt	25
John Niemiec	25
Joseph E. Redler	25
Jack Gelin	26
Barbara Fabian	27
Ethel Levin	27
Sarah Cohen	27
Chaica Wolfman	27
Bertha Gold	29
Sylvia Goldstein	1
Maurice Silverman	1

Week of December 2nd

Leonard P. Baumblatt	4
Joseph C. Frank	5
Samuel M. Tabaksman	5
Emil Donner	6
Alfred Shovers	6
Joseph Fishbain	7
Jacob (Jack) Weinberg	7
Jennie Levin	8
Helen Kaplan	8
William Rozumoff	8

How Our Jewish Calendar Works

A few years ago, I was in a synagogue, and I overheard one man ask another, "When is Chanukkah this year?" The other man smiled slyly and replied, "Same as always: the 25th of Kislev." This humorous comment makes an important point: the date of Jewish holidays does not change from year to year. Holidays are celebrated on the same day of the Jewish calendar every year, but the Jewish year is not the same length as a solar year on the civil calendar used by most of the western world, so the date shifts on the civil calendar.

The Jewish calendar is based on three astronomical phenomena: the rotation of the Earth about its axis (a day); the revolution of the moon about the Earth (a month); and the revolution of the Earth about the sun (a year). These three phenomena are independent of each other, so there is no direct correlation between them. On average, the moon revolves around the Earth in about 29½ days. The Earth revolves around the sun in about 365¼ days, that is, about 12.4 lunar months.

The civil calendar used by most of the world has abandoned any correlation between the moon cycles and the month, arbitrarily setting the length of months to 28, 30 or 31 days.

The Jewish calendar, however, coordinates all three of these astronomical phenomena. Months are either 29 or 30 days, corresponding to the 29½-day lunar cycle. Years are either 12 or 13 months, corresponding to the 12.4 month solar cycle.

The lunar month on the Jewish calendar begins when the first sliver of moon becomes visible after the dark of the moon. In ancient times, the new months used to be determined by observation. When people observed the new moon, they would notify the Sanhedrin. When the Sanhedrin heard testimony from two independent, reliable eyewitnesses that the new moon occurred on a certain date, they would declare the rosh chodesh (first of the month) and send out messengers to tell people when the month began.

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

November 4	- 5:23 PM
November 11	- 4:15 PM
November 18	- 4:08 PM
November 25	- 4:04 PM
December 2	- 4:00 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 Glenn Gordon at 262.639.1924

Relatives in WWI? Please mail information about Racine Jews who served in WWI to Temple or email bethisraelsinai@att.net by November 9th. We'd like to honor their memory for Armistice Day at the November 12th Shabbat morning service.



Beth Israel Sinai
Congregation

944 Main Street, Racine, WI, 53403

Phone: (262) 633-7093

Email: bethisraelsinai@att.net

Web: www.bethisraelsinai.org

*Join us on November 12 at 7:00 PM for an
Interfaith Music Night*

November 2011 Cheshvan / Kislev - 5772

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	4	5 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
6 Kristallnacht Commemoration 1:30 - 3:00PM in Milwaukee	7	8	9	10 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	11	12 Shabbat Services 9:45AM Interfaith Music Night 7:00PM
13	14	15	16	17 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	18 Special Shabbat Service and Congregation Dinner 6:00PM	19 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
20	21	22	23	24 Hebrew & Adult Ed. Class	25	26 Shabbat Services 9:45AM
27	28	29	30	31 Hebrew or Adult Ed. Class	1	2 Shabbat Services 9:45AM