



SINAI SYNAGOGUE



1102 E. LaSalle Avenue South Bend, Indiana 46617
Rabbi Michael Friedland www.SinaiSynagogue.org

February 2018

Volume 87, #5

Shevat / Adar 5778

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 3 “Shtetl to Broadway” Israel’s Eyal Sherf
(multitalented cantor & musical artist)
Performance at Sinai at 7:30 pm.



February 5 “Torah On Tap” at Fiddler’s Hearth 7:00 pm.

February 10 March Bulletin Deadline

February 12 Lincoln’s Birthday

February 16 Shabbat Dinners (hosted by members)

February 17 No FEAST Program

February 19 President’s Day (No Hebrew School)

February 21 Deadline for Ordering Purim Baskets

February 22 Washington’s Birthday

February 28 Fast of Esther
“Multimedia Purim Extravaganza”
Megillah Reading (Pick up Purim Baskets) 6:00 pm.

Happy Purim

March 1 PURIM - Megillah Reading at morning Minyan

March 2 Shushan PURIM



Rabbi's Message: from Rabbi Michael Friedland



“There was no bread in all the world, for the famine was very severe; ... Joseph gathered in all the money that was to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, as payment for the rations that were being procured, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh’s palace. And when the money ran out in the land of Egypt and ... Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us bread, lest we die before your very eyes; for the money is gone!” And Joseph said, “Bring your livestock, and I will sell to you against your livestock, if the money is gone.” So they brought their livestock to Joseph, ... thus he provided them with bread that year in exchange for all their livestock. And when that year was ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, “... Let us not perish before your eyes, both we and our land. Take us and our land in exchange for bread, and we with our land will be serfs to Pharaoh; provide the seed, that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become a waste.” So Joseph gained possession of all the farm land of Egypt for Pharaoh, ... Only the land of the priests he did not take over, for the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh... Then Joseph said to the people, “Whereas this day I have acquired you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you to sow the land. And when harvest comes, you shall give 20% to Pharaoh, and 80% shall be yours as seed for the fields and as food for you and those in your households, and as nourishment for your children.” And they said, “You have saved our lives!”

Tough question: Is Joseph Egypt’s savior or enslaver, creating a feudal system that place the entire economy under the autonomy of the Sovereign? The narrative appears to show Joseph as Egypt’s savior. Some medieval scholars point out how brilliant Joseph is. The people are starving, they need food, they have sold whatever liquid assets they had for food and Joseph instead of allowing famine to destroy Egypt, centralizes the economy and creates a food policy that allows the people to survive.

Ramban, Moses Nachmanides, pointed out that Joseph goes out of his way to keep the people from doing the most desperate acts – When the people offer their land and themselves to be slaves to Pharaoh, Joseph only takes their land. And Joseph is presented as upright, all his efforts are to nationalize land management. He does not take for himself.

Except that Joseph accomplishes this because of the ultimate insider information – God told him. Moshe Pava, head of Yeshiva University’s School of Business, noted that Joseph held on tightly to his knowledge that a seven year famine was coming after the seven years of plenty. “Why did Joseph abandon the policy of full disclosure? An alternative solution clearly could have been to publicize his forecast and allow the market to solve the problem. Given the information that the seven good years would be followed by seven bad years, a free market could adjust, and, arguably, allocate food more efficiently than Joseph's central planning solution”.

Some medieval commentators appear to criticize Joseph’s actions: Rabbi Shmuel ben Meir, Rashbam, compares Joseph’s actions to the Assyrian King Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:32) by moving the people to centralized cities and away from their ancestral homes. The optimistic explanation would be that food could be more efficiently disbursed. Rashbam, however, explains that Joseph wanted to make sure that the Egyptians could not claim possession of their lands after having sold them (Rashbam to Genesis 47:21).

Rabbi's Message: from Rabbi Michael Friedland



Rabbi Shai Held wonders if the Torah really is not critical of Joseph's administration: "The ironic turns in the text ... Brought to Egypt as a slave, Joseph now becomes Egypt's enslaver....Joseph displays remarkable administrative prowess, but he unleashes forces that eventually end up oppressing and degrading his own people. It is hard to imagine that the Torah makes no moral judgment at all on Joseph's setting this destructive process in motion." Not only that but the Torah itself, when it comes to legislating land management for Israel, commits to rules that are opposed to what Joseph has done.

The Torah rejected political or Temple economies of the Ancient Near East as the Torah forbids landholding on the part of the king or the priestly cult. Priests were to hold residential areas, but neither they nor the king control the means of production in Israel. The Torah establishes new land ethics in the ancient world by promulgating a policy that avoids domination by a few elite of the society, as Israel's land theory declares God to be the sole owner of the land and fairly distributes it to God's people according to their needs. Kilnam Cha, a bible professor at Abilene Christian University, concludes that in the Joseph story "Genesis neither presents Joseph as a role model to be emulated nor endorses Joseph's economic policies."

But of course we are looking at this narrative from our perspective. The Torah, even if it did not see Joseph's policies as worthy of emulation, may still have been impressed with Joseph's actions, proud that a 'Member of the Tribe' created the economic and land policy that the majority of the ancient world followed. We might add that it is admirable that he is not enriching himself, but he is still promoting a horrid system. And to what purpose? By creating a system in which enslavement is normative, it's not a stretch for Egyptians to turn around and enslave Jews.

We look at a feudal system as unfair and cruel and are sad to think one of our heroes created it. Yet we must acknowledge that different eras interpret Torah differently because the social-historical reality we live is not the same. What may have seemed normative or praiseworthy one, two or three thousand years ago, is not normative today. The sanctity and the ability of Torah to remain an eternal guide to our people is that very flexibility. Each generation sees Torah with new eyes. May we learn to appreciate Torah not only with the insights of our ancestors but with clear eyed vision born of our experience, our environment and our reality.



Sunday Evening Minyan: This is a reminder that there is no longer a regular minyan held on Sunday evenings. Anyone who has a Yahrzeit and wishes to get a minyan together, please let Rabbi Friedland know and arrangements will be made to meet at Sinai.

Rabbi's Message: from Rabbi Michael Friedland



MULTIMEDIA PURIM EXTRAVAGANZA!!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Once again, you can experience Rabbi Friedland's "Multimedia Megillah Extravaganza!" A Multimedia Megillah Reading with New Songs! Don't forget your costumes!! Mishloach Manot will be handed out that evening! Also that week, Thursday Hebrew School will be moved to Wednesday.

Thursday, March 1st, we will read the Megillah at our morning minyan.



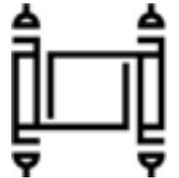
Get Spiritual with Spirits: The Return of "Torah On Tap!"

Join us for a free wheeling discussion on Torah topics at



Fiddlers Hearth 7 PM.

Monday nights - February 5th & March 5th



DAVAR TEFILAH - A Word About Our Prayer Liturgy

If you look at the last letter in the word **Shema** and the last letter of the word **Echad**, the Ayin and the Daled in our prayer books, are enlarged. This is the way the letters look in the Shema verse in the Torah itself (Deuteronomy 6:4). We are not sure why the Torah letters are enlarged but we can speculate. The letter Ayin and the letter Daled when placed together spell the word "Ade" or witness. When we recite the Shema we testify to the truth of that statement - that there is only one God and this God has a special relationship with the Jewish people (Adonai Eloheinu, The Lord is Our God) and is also the sole Divine Power of the Universe (Adonai Echad, The Lord is One).

President's Message: from Ilene New

Happy
Purim

I suppose you're wondering what is new at Sinai Synagogue. Well I'll tell you..... a 203 pound motor to get the heat working in the sanctuary. Due to the very low outside temperatures, the contractor wasn't able to install the new motor until the weather broke. And "why" do you ask, "did we need a new motor?" Well, I'll tell you, it was due to the unfortunate early death of a squirrel that chewed through a wire that blew the fuse which shorted out the motor. This is obviously an unexpected expense costing approximately \$2500.

To report some good news.....we were granted a variance for our membership to the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism saving us \$4,381.25.

If you have not participated in any of the Shabbat dinners, I strongly encourage you to do so. The two Shabbats that were held in members' homes were very successful and those that participated expressed how much they enjoyed the experience. Of course it goes without saying that sharing Shabbat dinner at the Synagogue is enjoyable as well.

Andrea Turbow has put together a survey for the Education Committee and I hope you will participate in this survey to help with planning future programs. The survey is short and you can access it on line.

I am excited to tell you that the pages of Torah dedications from Our Legacy, Our Life, Our Future Endowment campaign have been completed and are present in the beautifully made wooden Star of David/Torah case outside the sanctuary. The pages are beautiful and were done by Leah Elizabeth Moss, niece of congregants, Lionel Jensen and Susan Blum. Please be sure and admire her work.

Please come to Sinai on Shabbat and appreciate the heat generated from our new motor as well as the warmth of our worship service.



Sisterhood News: from Ilana Kirsch

Greetings to all Sinai Sisterhood members! **Be Happy, Adar is coming!!** As you may know, Sisterhood sponsors an annual Purim basket fundraiser, to fulfill the mitzvah of sending *shalach manot* during Purim. In this bulletin issue there is an order form for sponsors, and I encourage everyone to participate. Whether you want to send just a few baskets to friends, or sponsor baskets for the entire congregation, the Sisterhood appreciates your contributions. Donations may be made online through our website, or by sending a check to the office. The form is only needed if you want to specify certain recipients. In the past, this has been our most successful fundraiser, allowing us to continue to support all the important work that Sisterhood does for Sinai and the greater Jewish community. Thank you all in advance for your generosity, and I hope you enjoy the goodies you receive! The baskets will be available for pickup at the Megillah reading, or any time in the following week.

Speaking of Purim, I see that it falls this year on February 28th. So I want to send a very special anniversary greeting to my wonderful husband of 25 years, who married me on February 28, 1993. It was a balmy 72-degree day in Los Angeles at Sinai Temple, and look how far we've come! Happy Anniversary, Mike!

The next Sisterhood meeting will be a potluck dairy brunch at my home on Sunday, March 18th at 10:30 a.m. To RSVP, please send me an email and let me know if you're coming and what dish you will bring (appetizer, main course, or dessert). Contact me at ilanakirsch@gmail.com. We will start by enjoying the meal together (certain to be delicious, if it's anything like what we've had in the past), and will move on to the meeting. If you have any specific items you'd like to add to the agenda, please send me a note about that as well.

I wish all of you and your families much warmth, health and happiness this winter.



ANNOUNCING: Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on March 25th.



SINAI SYNAGOGUE DONATIONS
 (\$10.00 DONATION SUGGESTED)



Rosalyn Anne Berman Memorial
 Brian S. Schuster Social Hall Memorial
 FEAST-TAMID Education Fund
 Fund For The Future
 Joan & Sam New / Sam Katz Israel Experience Fund
 Sinai Landscaping Fund
 Tikkun Olam Fund
 Jake & Rose Weingarten Chumash Fund

Ben Farber Memorial Youth Fund
 Brett and Daniel Morse Memorial Fund
 Friedland Family Meditation Garden
 Sinai Synagogue General Fund
 Satinover-Fagan-Friedland Fund
 Sinai Art and Beautification Fund
 Eleanor & Morris Wolff Chapel Fund

In Loving Memory:

Sally Brumer Oscar LaPlace Ilene Golden
Sanda From Irving From Irvin Goldberg

Mazel Tov to:

Carin & Harvey Weingarten on the birth of 2 new grandsons



PURIM: "Make them days of feasting & joy, of sending portions to one another"

Purim is coming soon! Here is a great way to send special greetings to all of your Sinai friends. **Mishloach Manot**, or **Shalach Manos**, means "sending of gifts." Proceeds will be used to support future projects.

Orders must be in by Wednesday, February 21st!

Pickup is Wednesday, February 28th, after the Megillah reading!

Contact the Sinai office with any questions. (234-8584)

**Please send order form to Sinai with your check made out to Sinai Sisterhood!
 Send to everyone (\$125) or \$12 for the 1st name and \$2 for each additional family.**



Please send Purim Greetings to the following Sinai families:

Send to all Sinai families _____ or send to the following individual families:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |

Family sending this order _____ Total _____

Be Happy! It's Adar!





Yahrzeit Observance



February 1 – February 28, 2018

16 Shevat - 13 Adar 5778

Please note that observance begins the evening before the date listed.

* Denotes a plaque located on the Memorial Wall

Thursday, 2/1 - Shevat 16

- *Mollie New
- *Ida Smith
- *Carin Solloway

Friday, 2/2 - Shevat 17

- *Myer Franklin
- Rivka Gelman
- *Genevieve Ripner Medow
- *Claire F. Schwimer
- *Richard Valencia

Sunday, 2/4 - Shevat 19

- *Doris Burke

Monday, 2/5 - Shevat 20

- *Bennie Janovsky
- *Milton Rubin
- Judith Schiegel

Tuesday, 2/6 - Shevat 21

- Morris Kagan

Wednesday, 2/7 - Shevat 22

- *Sarah Plotkin
- *Ethel Schragar
- Esther Schwartz Gardner

Thursday, 2/8 - Shevat 23

- *Joseph Mendelovitz
- Frieda Mintz
- *Manuel Price
- *Ida Wagner
- *Sadye Weiss

Friday, 2/9 - Shevat 24

- Sarah Resnick

Saturday, 2/10 - Shevat 25

- *Simon Kupperman
- *Betty Sandock

Sunday, 2/11 - Shevat 26

- *Ruth Goldsmith

Monday, 2/12 - Shevat 27

- *Milly Gentner
- *Anna Robinson
- *Stanley A. Rosenstein

Tuesday, 2/13 - Shevat 28

- *Morris B. Hoffman
- *Mollie Nelson

Wednesday, 2/14 - Shevat 29

- *Victor Benator
- *Fannie Fischer
- Marjorie Rapport

Thursday, 2/15 - Shevat 30

- *Anne Gartenberg
- *Jennie Polk
- Erwin Schloss

- *David Shapiro

- *Evelyn Levy Shapiro

- *Meyer Shimkovsky

Friday, 2/16 - Adar I

- *Meyer R. Applebaum
- *Peter Friedman
- David New

- Ethel K. Shapiro

Saturday, 2/17 - Adar 2

- Ilyne Burke
- *Anna Rachel Cohen
- Herman Hersch

- Rabbi Maurice Parzen

- *Esther Lottie Wright

Monday, 2/19 - Adar 4

- *Pauline Cohen
- *Mildred Levenson
- Harry Rosenberg

- Jesmond Wulfsohn

Tuesday, 2/20 - Adar 5

- *Joseph Goldner
- Grace (Gitel) Katz
- Jason Ira Katz

- *Lillian Roland

- *Sylvia Rosenstein

- Leah Tachman

- Lesley Wulfsohn

Wednesday, 2/21 - Adar 6

- Gizella Chmiel
- *Alice Frank

- Harry Rosenstein

Thursday, 2/22 - Adar 7

- Sam Brook

- Eric Hoffman

- *Julius Louis Medow

- Toby Mintz

- *Tela Schulman

- *Gwen Zalkind

Friday, 2/23 - Adar 8

- *Susan Barack

- *Benjamin Brumer

- *Morris Burke

- Ralph Rosenberg

- *Arlene Hassen Warner

Saturday, 2/24 - Adar 9

- *Isadore Janovsky

- *Bernard Masef

- *Philip Weisberger

Sunday, 2/25 - Adar 10

- Bertha Pessell Katz

- Paula Sternberg

Monday, 2/26 - Adar 11

- *Abraham Finkelstein

- *Herman Gentner

- *Betty Ein Katz

- *Charlotte Kornfeld

- Harry Schragar

Tuesday, 2/27 - Adar 12

- *Marvin Breskin

- *Jacob (Yienkiel) Katz

- *Raymond Levine

- *Charles Mintz

Wednesday, 2/28 - Adar 13

- *Dvorah Gentner

- *Belle Goldstein

- Anne Radding

- *Jeanette E. Stein

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U.S. POSTAGE
South Bend, Indiana
Permit No. 129

Return Service Requested

Bulletin published monthly, Sept. - June

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PURIM - "Feast Of Lots"

The festival of Purim is apparently purely historical in origin; however, it bears a striking resemblance to holidays of other folk cultures held at this time of year. (i.e., the emergence of Spring, see Theodore Gaster, Festivals of the Jewish Year, "Purim". The history, as written in Megillat Esther - the scroll of Esther - involves a plot by wicked Haman (ptui, ptui) against the Jews and his eventual defeat & demise through the efforts of that great uncle & niece team of Mordechai & Esther. The Jews were saved, wrongs were righted, and everyone enjoyed a big celebration! In commemoration of this event we similarly gather to read the story and particularly to celebrate.



In keeping with the tradition of not having any joy (or sorrow) unadulterated, the day before Purim (Adar 13) is a fast day. **The Fast of Esther begins at sunrise** (as opposed to other fast days that begin on the previous day at sunset).

Joy and celebration, however are the central elements of the day. Purim festivities begin with the Maariv service. The service is typically done as a spoof or parody of the other services through the year, using melodies particular to the various holidays and exaggerating them or putting them in unexpected places. It is customary to dress up in costume. Also a custom is collecting a 1/2 shekel (50 cents) either before the service or before the Megillah reading. The money is given to charity, and serves as a remembrance of the 1/2 shekel collected in Biblical times from every adult male in support of the Temple.