

March 2016/Adar 1 - Adar 2 5776 From the Rabbi

Of all the Jewish Holidays, without doubt, Purim is the strangest. Here we have a heroine, Esther, who hides her Jewishness only to become the spokesperson and savior of the Jewish people by pointing out the plot that was to be perpetrated by Haman.

As you remember, Haman wanted to destroy the Jews because 'they don't follow our laws' and, through some court intrigue, Esther points out Haman's plans to Haman's boss, King Ahahashuerus.

Today, there are plenty of Hamans running around blaming this group or that group for all of the woes in the world. It has become so hackneyed that any of us could probably name a country, an ethnic group, or a religion and then immediately tell you who they blame for everything. For 700 years, Russia has always blamed the West. For 1200, Arabs have always blamed the Jews. For 1000 years the Chinese blame the Japanese. And so on. There is a Haman who blames all the tzoris on someone else and can never see the hate that consumes his soul.

But Purim teaches us that where there is a Haman, there is also an Esther. There always emerges one who had been silent, maybe even unknown who, through moral strength alone, changes the course of history. Moses was a shepherd and a stutterer who would never be have been nominated to be the great leader he was. The 'man from Dothan' changed the course of Jewish history by directing Joseph's to his brother brothers and thereby began a string of events that would change world history. Esther saves her people through inner strength although even her husband did not really know where she came from. And the list throughout history, Jewish and otherwise, is endless. I take from the lesson of Purim what I think is the most important lesson: that there is



a sacred hiddeness where we think God is absent but is not truly absent. The moral God resides in the heart of so many but it takes one person with the moral courage to act on it and to lead. That courage is the greatest of God's gifts - greater than empathy and greater than love for it is courage that changes the direction of civilization more than anything else.

Today too many people confuse strength and bravado with courage. They are not the same thing. The real leaders are the ones who inspire, not offer a match and say 'burn the place down.' Esthers are rare but they exist always and the real prayer at Purim - with all of its fun and joy - is for the Esthers of the world to lead with courage and insight to build a place of justice and respect. Anyone can burn down a house - it takes an Esther to keep it standing but change the inside. That is what Esther has shown us and that is what Purim is really about. 180 Lincoln Avenue Elberon, New Jersey 07740 732.222.3754 www.templebethmiriam.org

A Reform Congregation Serving Monmouth County.

We welcome you to Temple Beth Miriam's Newsletter.

If you are in need of more information about the temple, we are always ready to help out.

If you are 'shul-shopping" we would love to show you around the temple. Just drop in to the Rabbi's office (but call first at 732.222.3754 to make sure he is there) and he will be your guide.

You are welcome to worship with us any time. We hope you do. Check the calendar for details.

If you are viewing this as a PDF or online all links are active.

TBM welcomes the following new members with open arms and open hearts

*Sandra Maseda Asbury Park, NJ

*Marc Behar & his daughter Sophia Ocean, NJ

Soup Time!

On March 6th the Social Action Committee will be selling soup in the atrium and out in the car lane. We will have vegetarian lentil soup, Michael's famous chicken noodle soup, and mushroom barley soup. Quarts will be \$5 each. We also plan to make challah rolls to sell too.

All proceeds of the soup sale benefit the pantry at the Lutheran Church in West Long Branch. Our last sale resulted in almost \$300, which we used to buy vegetables, mashed potato mix, and other sides for a Christmas dinner for over 200 families that use the pantry.

Please plan to stop by and buy soup for lunch or dinner. We're sure you'll enjoy it. And you're doing a mitzvah! If you'd like to help us make the soup, please contact Gayle Topper at rqggtopper@aol.com or 732-571-1202. We will be at TBM on Saturday March 5th starting around 5 PM. Everyone is invited.

Did You Know?

You can pay your dues, make donations, register for events as well as for school ONLINE by simply using your credit card?

If you have never opened a Chaverweb account, please call Stella Stanway at 732-918-1940 and she will set you up.

A note from the Cantor



Be happy it's Adar II! Purim is almost here and our Purim Players have been hard at work since January preparing for our Descendants Purim Spiel, written and directed by me. The spiel will be on Sunday, March 20 at 11:00am. Our Descendants Purim Spiel is based on the Disney Channel TV movie musical of the same name, which is based on a book called The Isle of the Lost by Melissa de la Cruz. The story revolves around the children of the villains and heroes of Disney princess movies all living and going to boarding school together. The music is modern, upbeat and fun- running the gamut from techo, rock n roll, soul, pop, to Broadway. It all makes for a fantastic Purim retell-ing!

Todah Rabbah to our cast and crew: Evan Beson, Lia Bram, Maya Brosniak, Cantor Marnie Camhi, Araiya Casriel, Barry Edison, Paige Edison, Marissa Feldman, Reese Figueiredo, Marian Gross, Eliza Howard, Josie Howard, Briana Jacobson, Danna Kawut, Sadie Kawut, Ysabella Lehman, Rachael O'Neill, Alexandra Preston, Adi Raz, Janet Rosen, Monte Rosen, Eve Segal, Sharon Silverman, and Rabbi Cy Stanway. I hope to see you there!

Shalom, Cantor Marnie cantor@bethmiriam.org





Temple Beth Miriam Newsletter

Purim Activities

Purim is coming and, with it, many activities at Beth Miriam. Mark your calendars for the Purim Speil and Purim Carnival on March 20th beginning at 11 AM. On Wednesday, March 23 come hear the Megillah reading at 5:15 and potluck dinner at 6 PM. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP the temple at 732-222-3754 and let us know you are coming.





"Captivating"



Sunday, March 27, 11 AM

Axelrod Performing Arts Center 100 Grant Ave. Ocean Twp.

\$10 per person \$20 for 3 people, \$25 for 4

Register: axelrodartscenter.com or call the box office, 732-531-9106

For questions, contact Sarah Portilla sarahp@jewishheartnj.org, 732-588-1838

Presented by The Axelrod Performing Arts Center and the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey with PJ Library and the following co-sponsors

MISTER G

Latin Grammy winner performs songs from his Mitzvah Bus CD





Thank you!

Thank you to the Levine Family, owners of The Windmill, for generously providing fresh hot onion rings and French fries, as well as a delicious cake baked by Amy Levine for our Canadian Picnic. It was great to see Steve, Sandy, Amy, Aaron and Kasey, and their daughter Elle.

Thank you for those who helped shop and or Sponsor our Onegs in the past couple of months. Paul & Marjorie Edelson, Linda Davies, Deborah Cotler, Heather Minsky, and the Fiedler Family who sponsored in honor of their baby naming. Also a big thanks to the parents of the 6th grade children as well as the Sisterhood.

TBM would like to thank the following volunteers for helping at the pantry: Todd Edison, Paige Edison, Joann Edison, Amy Goldman, Susan Hodes, Pat Shapiro, Elliot Topper Gayle Topper

In The Classroom

What better way to teach the geography of Israel than to bake a cake? That is exactly what Mrs. Gross' class did a couple of weeks ago in their classroom. So Israel is now the Land of Milk and Honey.....and Icing!



Temple Beth Miriam Newsletter

Beth Miriam is grateful for the following contributions

A big thanks to Lenny & Dawn Berkeley who graciously volunteered to fund the repair of the Yahrtzeit boards. We also want to recognize Milkulka Electric for repairing the boards so beautifully and charging us at cost. Their number is 732-363-8954.

Rabbi Joseph Goldman Fund For Jewish Learning

Adi Raz on the loss of her beloved father Shmuel Raz The Gavin Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the Bader Bris Cantor Mark Kushner

The Milton Ziment Fund For Scholastic Achievement

In honor of Toby Stevens very special Birthday Virginia Wiener

> DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO ANY OF OUR MANY FUNDS In memory of
> In honor of
> Bar/Bat Mitzvah Birthday • Anniversary• Birth • Thank you • Marriage for any occasion...



Want to reach out to one of the Religious School teachers?

Nancy Maling: Jill Herbert: Karen Pingitore: Gayle Hackman: Lisa Jacobson: Adi Raz: Marian Gross: Orna Tuvy: Cantor Marnie: Stella Stanway: Rabbi Cy:

nmaling@bethmiriam.org jherbert@bethmiriam.org Sharon Silverman: ssilverman@bethmiriam.org kpingitore@bethmiriam.org ghackman@bethmiriam.org ljacobson@bethmiriam.org mraz@bethmiriam.org Stephanie Harari: sharari@bethmiriam.org mgross@bethmiriam.org otuvy@bethmiriam.org cantor@bethmiriam.org stellastanway@bethmiriam.org rabbicy@bethmiriam.org

Kvelling Corner

Mazal Tov to **Andrea Phox** - Andrea was named a Platinum Medalist during Professional Photographing raphers of America's 2015 International Photographic Competition. A panel of 43 eminent juyors congrefrom across the United States selected the top photographs from nearly 5,200 total subratted al family? Here is your place entries at Gwinnett Technical College in Georgia. Judged against a standard of excellence, just over 2,100 images were selected for the General Collection and 1,085 (roughly 21 percent) were selected for the esteemed Loan Collection—the best of the best. Phox was named a Platinum Medalist, meaning that three of her merited images entered the PPA Loan Collection. In 2015, she was one of only 69 Platinum photographers of the Year.

Moreover, due to this level of success she is being inducted in the American Society of Photographers (ASP) and in addition she will be awarded the Master of Photography Certification at the annual awards ceremony on Jan 12, 2016, due to the fact that she has received the required number of blue ribbons and service merits needed.

Audrey Vernick, always willing to sacrifice for her art, traveled to San Diego in February to accept the California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) for her nonfiction picture book, Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team. The CYRM program encourages recreational reading of popular literature among California students. Since its inception in 1974, millions of California children have nominated, read, and voted for the winners of the California Young Reader Medal. Hundreds of school librarians attended the reception where Audrey was presented with the medal by a sixth-grade student who had competed for the honor. Brothers at Bat is the story of the Acerra family of Long Branch New Jersey. Of sixteen siblings, twelve were brothers who played baseball together for decades and were honored by the Baseball Hall of Fame as the longest playing all-brother baseball team in history. The book was published in 2012. Audrey has four new books for children coming out this year.

What's Happening at TBM

HEBREW MARATHON

Learn to read Hebrew in two fun sessions — just a few hours! This year, read along with the prayers at services, and make Hebrew a language you can read! Tons of fun! Yes, there will be food! Only \$25 for the course which includes the materials and the food!

April 10 9am April 17 9 am

PLEASE RSVP TO THE TEMPLE TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING 732-222-3754

Need to get in touch with your board representative?

Committee

President Rabbi Cantor **Religious School Principal** Administrator Administrative Assistant Youth Group Leader Youth Group President **Building Superintendent** Family Affair **Fund Allocation** House Committee Investment Comm Membership Rel. Sch. Bd. Sisterhood - Point Persons

Relig. Pract.

Special Events Youth Group Social Action Programming Fundraising Immediate Past President Vice Presidents Treasurer

Men's Club Secretary Trustees

<u>Chairperson</u>

Harry Silverman Cy Stanway Marnie Camhi Stella J. Stanway Shari NIghtingale Sarah Domino Stella Stanway Sallie Haas **Rosy Franceschy** Lois Pess/ MaryBeth Nadler **Bob Kellert** Larry Nagel Harry Silverman **Emily Feldman** Steve Peckman Debbie Gerbman **Cindy Singer** Sharon Silverman Marian Gross **Bob Kellert** Gary Pess Steve Peckman I. Mark Cohen Steve Peckman Michael Gross Robert Kellert Lori Goldstein Steve Peckman I. Mark Cohen Barry Edison **Emily Feldman Deborah** Cotler **Emily Feldman** Andrea Fiest Scott Gerbman Brian Gillet Lori Goldstein Marian Gross **Bob Kellert** Joel Kreizman Steve Peckman Andrea Phox Patricia Shapiro Sharon Silverman Wendy J. Sloter **Gayle Topper** Joseph Goldman

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Volunteers Needed to Shop for Onegs

The Sisterhood has set up a volunteer sign up for oneg shopping each week. This is NOT a request for set up or break down of the oneg, just shopping for some food items and bringing them to the temple prior to that week's service. Volunteers are only needed to shop for onegs that are not being sponsored by a bar/ bat mitzvah family, religious school class, or other special event. This should mean that each temple family should only have to shop once every 2-3 years! A new list of dates, along with the guidelines below, will be posted every 3-4 months. Please go to this link to sign up for a week to volunteer: www.SignUpGenius.com/ go/70A0E4CACAC29A20-tbmoneg7 (If the link does not work, please type or copy this address into your web browser).

Items can be dropped off in the TBM kitchen on Wednesday 9-6, Thursday 9-4, or Friday 9-12. No Shellfish or Pork Please.

List A - Pick at least 2: Berries, Pineapple, Grapes, or Melon List B - Pick at least 2: Cookies, Brownies, Cupcakes, Other Small Portion Cakes List C - Pick at least 1: Cheese and Crackers, Dips (Hummus, Spinach, Veggie, etc.) and Chips/Bread, Frozen Appetizer, Small Veggie Platter, etc. Give receipts to the office for a maximum reimbursement of \$40. Thank you again for your help in making our weekly worship an even

help in making our weekly worship an even more wonderful experience. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Debbie Gerbman 732-383-8575

This Month's Birthdays!

Youth who Dream Dreams

Anna Vernick Evan Beson Carly Fiest Rachel Wolson Kasey Minsky Rachel Oglensky Halle Krantz Raina Lambert Joshua Horowitz Matthew Bazer Jacob Bazer Aria Harkavy Paige Edison Benjamin Girard

This Month's Anniversaries!

Our Wise Seniors

Edith Landberg Virginia Wiener Howard Jewell Carole Maling

What happens when you get a new kidney and you still have a sense of humor? You put mustaches on hospital masks to entertain the children! That is exactly what Bob Kellert, one of our board members and vice presidents of the temple, did while recovering from his kidney transplant. Bob never lost his sense of humor and, in bringing humor to the sick children, helped them cope just a bit better. Bob is doing great, by the way.



This Month's Yahrzeits

March 4

berg

March 11

Rose Barnett* Joseph Bernat Lois-Lee Bierman* Sadie Bier* Leonard Bierman* Walter Blazer **Evelyn Blank*** Melvin Block Ann Bosniak Lillian Blumenthal Max Brown Hannah Buckman* Joseph Corman* Louis Chancer Jerome Dobken* **Robert Friedman*** Barry Gillman* Sylvia Domes Louis Glickman Gertrude Etter Frances Foster Marvin Goldstein* **Bessie Fried** Joel Gruskin Dorothy Gellis Steven Hollander* Reina Hechter* Bernard Kaye Louis Hersch Rose Klein Henrietta Krantz Edmund Hersh* Fanny Levin Joseph Lubin Frank Kasson* Anne Mintzer Gloria LeBlanc **Ruth Mulnick** Sidney Leichter* Aaron Neimark Hazel Lerner Maxine Rosenbloom Frances Lewis* Sylvia Rosenkranz Michael Lichtman **Rena Schlesinger** George Luxner Leon Massar* Louis Sirotkin Sylivia Stamler Gins- Daisy Massar* Ben Moser Sara Nadler* Bertha Stein Jacob Stolzenberg Lillian Pashall*

March 18

Alan Arbus Jerry Braiman **Fannie Brooks** Ralph Conn Paul Epstein **Florence Farber** David Gray **Miriam Gross** Nettie Kane* Ira Katchen* Louis Kaye* **Beatrice Kirschner*** Eileen Lemansky* Minnie Levitt* Sigmund Herschaft* Bertha Milberg Madeline Muscara **Richard Nawratzki*** Kay Nelson* Monroe Pincus* Anita Posner Julia Rapps Samuel Schoninger* **Benjamin Schultz** May Stambler Seymour Teich* Estelle Tucker* Evelyn Nissenberg* Isadore Zlotkin* Marjorie Nussbaum Hannelore Sweetwood **Phyllis Toner** Abraham Reigel* Jacob Wolin* Nettie Revits* Frieda Zimring Michael Selbst* Jeanette Zweben*

April 1

Sydney Berger* Milton Berger* **David Berman*** Eli Bialik* Jennie Cohen* Sidney Darnell Stella Eidelsberg Sidney Erlanger* Edith Fetz Alexander Franklin* Sol Goldstein Martin Greenstein* Nathan Heller Helen Hirsch Simon Jacobson* Celia Jaffe* Gilbert Kart Max Kasson* Larry Katz Gussie Kotkin Samuel Marlin* Lillian Marsh **Ruth Morse** Sam Richlin Shirley Rossien **Ronald Rubenstein*** Morris Rutenberg* Becky Selbst* Maurice Stalberg Ida Stein Sophie Tenzer* Seymour Wenger

Temple Beth Miriam Mourns the Passing of:

Ann Sachs*

Shmuel Raz **Annelise Schott**



Memorial Plagues, which are dedicated to a loved one, can be purchased through the Temple Beth Miriam Office. They are hung on the side walls of the sanctuary. Cost per plaque is \$500. Please call the office at 732.222.3754 for details.















