



Temple Times



March 2017

Congregation Shaareth Israel

Lubbock, TX

Congregation Shaareth Israel is a vibrant center of Jewish life, which recognizes our rich heritage as a Jewish Community, and strives to maintain and enrich Jewish life on the South Plains through meaningful educational, spiritual, social, cultural and worship experiences.

Dear CSI Family

This month we are celebrating Purim. One of the most well known Purim traditions refers to how drunk one should become in honor of Purim. The Talmud tells us, "It is the obligation of each person to be so drunk [on Purim] as not to be able to tell the difference between 'Blessed Mordechai' and 'Cursed be Haman'."

On its own, the tradition cited above seems to be requiring high levels of toxicity that seems to contradict one of Judaism's highest values: Responsibility. Highly intoxicated people are not able to make responsible decisions. If this is so, what are the rabbis of the Talmud really encouraging us to do?

While the Talmud is encouraging drunkenness and lewd behavior, the Talmud also tells us:

Rabbah and Rabbi Zera joined together in a Purim Feast. They became drunk and Rabbah arose and killed Rabbi Zera. On the next day, he prayed on Rabbi Zera's behalf and brought him back to life. Next year, Rabbah said: "Will your honor come, and we will have the Purim feast together." Rabbi Zera replied: "A miracle does not take place on every occasion." [Megillah 7b]

In this second text, the Talmud reminds us that all of our actions, even the irresponsible ones, have serious consequences. And God is not always available to miraculously undo terrible actions.

Again, I ask: what are the rabbis of the Talmud really encouraging us to do?

While on Yom Kippur, we take time for self-reflection and spiritual growth, on Purim, we have an opportunity to re-calibrate ourselves in a physical way. In the time of the Talmud, the rabbis did not have many activities to choose from when they wanted something to break up the

(Continued on page 4)

Children's Purim March 10th at 6:00 pm
Shabbat Service/Purim at 7:30 pm



Please dress in your most festive wear and be ready to celebrate!

Shabbat Dinner March 31st at 6:45 pm, Services at 6:15 pm

Please RSVP Fela Shturman at shturman@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday March 29th if you would like to attend!



9 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT PURIM

by Julie Wiener, My Jewish Learning

<http://sdjewishjournal.com/sdjj/february-2017/9-things-you-didnt-know-about-purim/>

With costumes, spiels and lots of drinking, Purim is one of Judaism's most raucous holidays. You might know about beautiful Esther thwarting evil Haman's plans, the custom of getting drunk and what hamantaschen are. But we're guessing there's a few things about Purim, which this year starts at sundown March 11, that might surprise you.

1. Esther was a vegetarian (or at least a flexitarian). According to midrash, while Queen Esther lived in the court of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of legumes so that she would not break the laws of

(Continued on page 5)

Community

March Yahrtzeits Zichronam Livracha

*May their memories
be for blessings*

- 1 Ida Wertheimer Sanger
- 3 Nathan Shine
- 4 24 Adar Bertha Gusikoff Kramer
- 5 Ethel Balkan
Sandra Diane Skibell
Stella Shine Laing
- 6 Daniel Inselberg
- 9 Jake Luskey
- 10 Gloria Wolfenson
- 12 Helen Shapiro
- 13 June Meyerson Rothstein
- 14 Bill Green
- 15 William E. Calfin
Jean Koppel
- 16 Abraham Yitzhak Perlman
- 19 Max Stettner
- 20 Anna Bess Calfin
Bernard Skibell
Larry Alan Marks
Sol Kronick
- 21 Leon G. Schwartz
- 23 Alvin Goldstucker
- 25 Alexander Carson
- 26 Joe Kronick
Stefan Strauss
Bella Schloss
Margit Schloss
- 27 Phyllis Specter
- 28 Annie Luger
- 29 Rabbi Alexander S. Kline
- 31 Frank Phillip Eskin

Donations

*Thank you to all our donors for
your continued support.*

General Fund

- Harold Evensky and Deena Katz in memory of Herbert Evensky
- Mitchell Wachtel and June Wagner-Wachtel in memory of Herbert Wachtel
- Gary and Jean Scott

Frances Glassman Memorial Fund

- Dorothy Chansky in memory of her parents, George and Edna Chansky

Building Fund

- Lisa Beason in memory of Scott A. Beason, Sr. and Scott A. Beason, Jr.

Religious School

- Jonathan and Tova Marks in loving memory of Louise Drevfoos Marks

Shabbat Services,

**Our members are invited to
reserve a date to
Host an Oneg Shabbat!**

Please contact Charles and Sherril Skibell to reserve a March Oneg.

3rd Parsha: Terumah 7:30 pm
(Exo. 25:1-Exo. 27:19)

10th Parsha: Tetzaveh 7:30 pm
(Exo. 27:20-Exo. 30:10)

**11th Saturday Morning Service
9:30 am**

17th Parsha: Ki Tisa 7:30 pm
(Exo. 30:11-Exo. 34:45)

24th Parsha: Vayakhel-Pekudei
7:30 pm
(Exo. 35:1-Exo. 40:38)

**25th Saturday Morning Service
9:30 am**

**31st Shabbat Dinner 6:45 pm
Parsha:** Vayikra 6:15 pm
(Lev. 1:1-Lev. 5:26)

April:



7th Parsha: Tzav 7:30 pm
(Lev. 6:1-Lev. 8:36)

Contact Info for Members:

Synagogue: 794-7517

Rabbi Goldmann:

Call her at [310-402-7425](tel:310-402-7425) or email her at dygoldmann@gmail.com please

Urgent Matters:

please contact Jonathan Marks at jonathan.marks@ttu.edu or 806-577-8489, or contact Rabbi Goldmann.

Bulletin Submissions

News, reports, information, etc. can be submitted to the bulletin Editor or to Allison Cook at allisonchelsey90@gmail.com

If you'd like to sponsor an oneg:

Contact:

March-Charles and Sherril Skibell

April-Monty Strauss and Jane Winer

Corner

Shabbat Service Info:

Friday March 3rd: Lay-led
7:30 PM Service

Torah Reading: Terumah
Torah: Exodus 25:1-27:19

Friday March 10th: Rabbi
6:00 pm Children's Purim

7:30 pm Service and Purim

Torah Reading: Tetzaveh
Torah: Exodus 27:20-30:10

Saturday March 11th: Rabbi
9:30 am Service
10:15 am Torah Study

Friday March 17th: Lay-led
7:30 pm Service

Torah Reading: Ki Tisa
Torah: Exodus 30:11-34:45

Friday March 24th: Rabbi
7:30 pm Service

Torah Reading: Vayakhel- Pekudei
Torah: Exodus 35:1-40:38

Saturday March 25th: Rabbi
9:30 am Service
10:15 am Torah Study

Friday February 31st: Lay-led
6:15 PM Service, 6:45 Dinner

Torah Reading: Vayikra
Torah: Leviticus 1:1-5:26

Remember to Check our CSI
website for the calendar at
csitemple.org:

It's now being updated regularly!

Also, CSI's Facebook page is available
at Congregation Shaareth Israel—
Please "Like"

Thank You:

- Intro to Judaism class for their ideas and insight.

Here are the current dates for Rabbi's attendance throughout the year. These are subject to change, so please check the current calendar monthly. If you need to speak with the Rabbi please contact her (see contact info on the bottom of page 2).

2017:

Mar 10-12 (Purim)
Mar 24-26
Apr 7-9
Apr 21-23
May 5-7
May 19-21
June 16-18
July 14-16
Aug 18-20

Remember: In Case of Bad Weather:

Should we have intense or threatening weather and you are unsure of whether synagogue will be open: Before you leave home:

Call the synagogue's answering machine: 806-794-7517: if services, religious school or meetings are cancelled we'll put a message on the answering machine

at least an hour before the event

Check your e-mails before you leave: we'll send an email notice in case of cancellation

(Continued from page 1)

routine, so drinking was a readily available “activity”. Today, we are lucky to have a wider range of activities to choose from. Anything that is completely different than our ordinary day-to-day lives will help us re-calibrate ourselves. Whether you do something that you want to develop into a habit (i.e. you'd like to go running every-day) or checking something off your bucket list (a once-in-a-lifetime activity) it will have the desired effect.

I wish I could go walk on the beach on a regular basis (and I do live close enough to the beach!), but even if I only go once a year, around Purim time, it is enough to remind me of my love for the beach, the ocean, nature. A once a year walk on the beach is enough to remind me how important meditation is in my life and that even if I can't physically set my foot on the beach, I can meditate myself to the beach anytime.

To celebrate Purim, I hope we will each choose an activity (ANY activity) that is outside our daily norm and follow through on it, just this once. It can be something seemingly mundane (but that is not a habit) such as going for a walk, driving out of the city, stargazing. Or it can be something trendy or wild, such as bungy-jumping, sky-diving, going on a spontaneous trip, or “floating” (I learned that there are “floating” tanks in Lubbock!) As long as it is not currently a part of your daily routine, it suffices!

Wishing each and every one of us a unique and out of the ordinary experience this Purim!

Rabbi

PS: This article was written with the help of the Intro to Judaism class. I thank them for their ideas and insights.

Refuah Shleimah:

- Rabbi Vicki Hollander
- Betty Skibell
- Ami Todd
- Ruth Sitzer
- Mark Meyer
- Gwen Meyer
- Arnold Loewy
- Bobby Skibell
- Terry Bennett

If you or someone you know is in need of *refuah shleimah* please let Rabbi know. The only way we know you need some extra strength in prayers is when you tell us!



First Thursday Men's Lunch at Caprock Cafe, 34th and Indiana on March 2nd at 11:45am



Religious School

Corner:

March: 5: 10AM - HAMENTASHEN MAKING! Please join us!

No RS 12: and 19: – Spring Break

26: 10AM Ordinary Moments can be Kadosh

[CSI Google Calendar with RS info](#)



(Continued from page 1)

kashrut (dietary laws). For this reason, there is a tradition of eating beans and peas on Purim. (After all, you'll need something healthy after all the booze and hamantaschen.)

2. You're supposed to find a go-between to deliver your mishloach manot, the gift baskets traditionally exchanged with friends and family on Purim. The verse in the Book of Esther about mishloach manot stipulates that we should send gifts to one another, not just give gifts to one another. As a result, it's better to send your packets of goodies to a friend via a messenger than to just give them outright. Anyone can act as a go-between, so feel free to recruit the postal service or even that nice guy in the elevator to help you deliver your gifts.

3. The Book of Esther is the only biblical book that does not include God's name. The Book of Esther also makes no references to the Temple, to prayer or to Jewish practices such as kashrut [keeping kosher].

4. Hamantaschen might have been designed to symbolize Haman's hat — or his ears or pockets. Or something a little more womanly. Some say these cookies represent Haman's ears (the Hebrew name for them, "oznei Haman," means just this), and refer to a custom of cutting off a criminal's ears before his execution. Another theory is that the three corners represent the three patriarchs whose power weakened Haman and gave strength to Esther to save the Jews. Yet another theory: Because the German word tasche means "pouch" or "pocket," the cookies could signify Haman's pockets and the money he offered the king for permission to kill the Jews. Finally, in recent years, some feminists have suggested the cookies, which after all are not dissimilar in appearance to female reproductive parts, were meant to be fertility symbols.

5. In 1945, a group of American soldiers held belated Purim services inside Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels' confiscated castle. According to JTA coverage at the time, the Jewish chaplain "carefully arranged the candles over a swastika-bedecked bookcase in Goebbels' main dining room," and Jewish soldiers explained to their Christian comrades in attendance "about Haman and why it was so fitting that Purim services should be held in a castle belonging to Goebbels."

6. The Book of Esther, which many scholars theorize is fictional, may be an adaptation of a Babylonian story. Some scholars argue that the Book of Esther adapted stories about these pagan gods — Marduk becoming Mordechai and Ishtar transformed to Esther — to reflect the realities of its

own Jewish authors in exile

7. The Jewish calendar has a regular leap year with two months of Adar (but only one Purim, which falls during the second Adar). To ensure that the holidays remain in their mandated seasons, the Jewish calendar was ingeniously adjusted to accommodate the 11-day difference between the lunar and solar years. In the fourth century C.E., Hillel scheduled an extra month at the end of the biblical year, as necessary. The biblical year begins in spring with Nissan (Exodus 12: 1-2) and ends with Adar. Hillel, in conjunction with the Sanhedrin (Jewish supreme court), chose to repeat Adar (Adar I and Adar II) every third, sixth, eighth, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th year over a 19-year period.

8. Purim is celebrated one day later inside walled cities than it is everywhere else. The Book of Esther differentiates between Jews who lived and fought their enemies for two days within the walled capital city of Shushan and those who lived in unwalled towns, where only one day was needed to subdue the enemy. The rabbis determined we should make that same distinction when memorializing the event. Accordingly, if a person lives in a city that has been walled since the days of Joshua (circa 1250 BCE), as Shushan was, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of Adar, a day referred to as Shushan Purim.

9. Just after the 1991 Gulf War, Israel's most popular Purim costume was of the Israeli army spokesman whose face appeared on TV every time a Scud missile alert sounded — and people snacked on "Saddamtaschen" instead of hamantaschen. Spokesman Nachman Shai's "reassuring tones earned him the sobriquet 'National Valium,'" while Israel was being pelted with Iraqi missiles, according to a JTA report at the time. That year, while many costume-makers avoided the temptation to make Saddam Hussein costumes (it would be like a Hitler costume, one vendor told JTA), bakeries hawked "Saddamtashen," which "look and taste exactly like hamantaschen."



Congregation Shaareth Israel
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www.csitemple.org

Deborah Goldmann, Rabbi

Vicki Hollander, Rabbi Emeritus

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Neil Kurtzman, Past President

March 2017 Calendar at-a-glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Men's Lunch 11:45 am	3 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	4
5 RS 10 am	6	7	8	9	10 Children's Purim 6:00 pm Shabbat Services/ Purim 7:30 pm	11 Shabbat Service 9:30 am Torah Study 10:15 am
12 No RS-Spring Break	13	14	15	16	17 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	18
19 No RS-Spring Break	20 April Bulletin copy due	21	22	23	24 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	25 Shabbat Service 9:30 am Torah Study 10:15 am
26 RS 10 am Membership Committee 1:15 pm Board Meeting 2:15 pm	27	28	29 RSVP Fela for Shabbat dinner!	30	31 Shabbat Services 6:15 pm Shabbat Dinner 6:45 pm	Apr 1

Save the date: CSI Purim Celebration...Children at 6:00 pm and everyone at 7:30 pm!