

Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter

2307 Saranac Avenue, Lake Placid, NY 518-523-3876

January/February 2013

Happy New Year!

From the Desk of the Adirondacker Purim 2013

They say that the Jewish holidays are never on time they are either early or late. 2013 will have our celebrations very early, the earliest in about 400 years. For example Chanukah 2013 will start on Thanksgiving. Let us be prepared.

Esther must be one of the most familiar books of the Bible, because we read it as our main observance of the festival of Purim. We learn the basics of the story as children. As we get older, more and more subtleties become apparent in this fascinating story.

'Purim' means 'lottery' – specifically the lots that Haman drew to determine the date on which the Jewish population of the Persian Empire would be destroyed. Looking at the story, it is really the recounting of an extended series of chance events, like beads in a string, which describes how the loss of a nail in a horseshoe leads inexorably to the loss of a kingdom.

If Vashti had not had the spirit to refuse her husband's demands, she would not have been cast out, and the king would not have looked for a new queen. And the lottery of the beauty contest would not have taken place so that Esther could win the heart of the king.

How did Haman conceive his burning hatred of the Jews? Because, on one occasion, one Jew had refused to bow down to him. Had Haman never encountered the proud Mordecai, had Mordecai conformed to the protocol of the palace gate and had he bent the knee as he was required – then, maybe, Haman would never have become the prototype anti-Semite and the Persian Jews would have lived on in peace. If the king had slept well he would not have heard of Mordecai's loyalty and Mordecai would have been forgotten.

The Purim story shows how the fate of an entire people hangs, not on one lottery draw, but on many. For almost a year the Jews of Persia lived in fear for their lives. Today, Jews and Arabs in Israel and Palestine look forward to a renewed peace process; Syria moves on. The actions of one gunman in Connecticut changed the lives of 26 families and a whole town. How can we make sense of the senseless in our world? More draws in the lottery of history.

The Book of Esther reminds us of the extent to which the world is vulnerable to the outcome of unpredictable or even chance events, and the extent to which we have to rely on the courage and wisdom of those who find themselves in positions of power. Mordecai warns Esther: 'If you keep silent in the crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place'. God is never mentioned in the Megillah. But perhaps God is really here, all along, in another hidden place, bringing the world relief and deliverance through the wise decisions of world leaders...and the fall of the dice.

Happy Purim!!!! And Shalom - Peace!!!!

Alec H. Friedmann Rabbi

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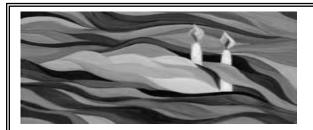
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JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES AND POTLUCK DINNER THE THIRD FRIDAY EVENING OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM

January 18th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck February 15th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck February 24th, 7pm – Purim Celebration

President's Message - January 2013

As I write this it is just a few days after the next 'Sandy' disaster – this time the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Twenty innocent children taken from us along with the teachers who hoped to fill their lives with the joys of learning. My own grown children each called to reach out and say I love you. I wonder if it was the need for community that brought out so many families on the next night for our Chanukah celebration. Life is so short that we have to live it to the fullest and share it with our family and friends. And our children need to know there are safe places such as the synagogue.

Speaking of sharing, we certainly did just that. We had over 40 members and guests at our Chanukah party including 10 children. I was thrilled to see that. And everyone brought bags of food for the LP Ecumenical Food Pantry. Once again we had a car full of groceries for the food pantry. Thank you for your very generous support.

With so many families with children in the area the question came up about Sunday School. Many of the families have expressed an interest in gathering monthly on Sunday evenings for some learning and socializing. We will be organizing this. And since most said the best way to get them out was to include dinner such as Pizza or a pot luck, we plan on pursuing that. Watch your email for more on this.

Sue Semegram, President

A bissel a Yiddish— a continuing tutorial

Here are the Yiddish words for this issue:

- 1. **nudnik** (NOOD-nik) noun A boring pest. From Yiddish nudyen (to bore), from Polish nudzic + nik (suffix denoting a person associated with a particular quality, group).
- 2. **schnook** (shnook) noun A stupid, easily deceived person. From Yiddish shnuk (snout) or from German schnucke (a small sheep).
- 3. **schlub** (shlub) noun, also spelled as zhlub or zhlob. A clumsy oaf. From Yiddish, from Polish zhlob (blockhead, trough, manger).

YARTZEITS 2013 5773



Yartzeit Candle/Yizkor Service

There are 4 times a year when Jews light a special candle, called a Yartzeit Candle, in memory of loved ones who have died. Yizkor is a memorial service recited on Yom Kippur as well as the last days of Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Yizkor, the Hebrew word for "remember", asks God to remember those we mourn and to grant them proper rest.

A Yartzeit Candle is lit at sundown on...

The first night of Yom Kippur

The night of Shemini Atzeret (the 8th night of Sukkot)

The second night of Shavuot

The last night of Passover

Yizkor service takes place the following day.

TEVET Tevet 21 January 3 Joseph Samuels Tevet 28 January 10 Blanche Levine Tevet 29 January 11 William Prager Jack Davis	
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Tevet 28 January 10 Blanche Levine Tevet 29 January 11 William Prager	
Tevet 29 January 11 William Prager	
,	
JOUR LIAVIS	
Alan Leff	
SHVAT	
Shvat 1 January 12 Lina Harburger	
Mack Leff	
Shvat 5 January 16 Isaac M. Polsky	
Shvat 6 January 17 Leon Goldberg	
Rebecca Polsky	
Harry Kovensky	
Shvat 7 January 18 Anna Greenberg	
Shvat 8 January 19 Sol Nager	
Shvat 9 January 20 Eli Mitnik	
Shvat 11 January 22 May Gingsberg	
Shvat 13 January 24 Adolph Effenbach	
Shvat 14 January 25 Rabbi Leo Gutel	
Shvat 15 January 26 David Goldenberg	
Shvat 16 January 27 Max Alder	
Shvat 18 January 29 Arnold Roberts	
Shvat 20 January 31 Norma Snarch Miller	
Shvat 21 February 1 Max Banner	
Shvat 24 February 4 Mildred Bellew	
Shvat 25 February 5 Harold H. Blank	
•	
Shvat 27 February 7 Hyman Arlan	
Sally Chatzky Shvat 28 February 8 Samuel S. Sadove	
•	
Sidney Katz	
ADAR Adar 2 February 12 Roxy White	
Adar 3 February 13 Dr. Martin Buchband	
Jacob Ringler	
David Davis	
Adar 4 February 14 Felica Leon	
Adar 5 February 15 Hugo Zacharia	
Dora Stern	
Herman Oppenheimer	
Martin Klein	
Adar 15 February 25 Isaac Velvel Sherman	
Nathan Ringler	
Adar 18 February 28 Fred Futterman	

Each issue of the newsletter contains YARTZEIT observances of individuals that have some connection to the temple. We would appreciate your help by carefully reviewing the list and advising us of any additions or corrections. If your loved ones names do not appear please send the correct information including the exact date so it can be converted to the Hebrew date. We would be honored to publish their names. Please email this to Sue at: sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org

Chanukah Thanks to our Latke King

What a wonderful turnout we had for our Chanukah celebration. On Saturday evening, December 15th, about 40 members and guests of the congregation gathered to celebrate the eighth night together. Each family lit their own menorahs which brightened and warmed the room. We enjoyed latkes made by our 'Latke King', Steve Erman and Chinese food to go along with it. The many children did some arts and crafts and we all enjoyed each other's company. It was truly a warm and memorable evening.

Purim – Megilah, Graggers and Hamantaschen, February 24th, 7pm

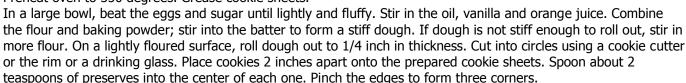
Dress up or dress down – wear a costume if you would like, but come and enjoy this festive holiday with us. This is your chance to make lots of noise in the sanctuary and taste the best Hamantaschen. Never made them before – here is a great recipe.

Hamantaschen

3 eggs 1 cup granulated sugar

3/4 cup vegetable oil 2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract 1/2 cup orange juice 5 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1 tablespoon baking powder 1 cup fruit preserves, any flavor

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cookie sheets.



Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Allow cookies to cool for 1 minute on the cookie sheet before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

Shabbat Services and Pot luck dinner Friday evening, 6:30pm, January 18th, February 15th **Purim Celebration,** Sunday, February 24th, 7pm

Lake Placid Synagogue PO Box 521 Lake Placid, NY 12946-0521