



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Sue Semegram,
518-523-5611, sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org

V. President – Margie Philo,
518-524-7347, margie@adkpp.com

Treasurer – Phil Feinberg,
518-891-3955, psfeinberg@hotmail.com

Secretary – Barbara Miller,
518-891-0080, barbiedoll6@roadrunner.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adrienne Ratigan, Peter Rosenberger,
Steve Bellew, Jordanna Mallach,
Steve Erman

Past President – Jon Vinograd



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 potluck, we plan on pursuing that. Watch your email for more on this.

Sue Semegram, President

A bisel 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
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.

In a large bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until lightly and fluffy. Stir in the oil, vanilla and orange juice. Combine the flour and baking powder; stir into the batter to form a stiff dough. If dough is not stiff enough to roll out, stir in more flour. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough out to 1/4 inch in thickness. Cut into circles using a cookie cutter or the rim of a drinking glass. Place cookies 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of preserves into the center of each one. Pinch the edges to form three corners.

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