



Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter

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

March/April 2012

From the Desk of the Adirondacker Purim 2012

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.

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

March 7th, 7pm – Purim Celebration
March 16th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
April 6th, 6pm – Passover Seder at the temple
April 20th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck

President's Message – March 2012

Here it is the end of February and winter finally arrived – well maybe. What a strange winter we are having!

I really enjoyed watching Avi Kupperman lead the service for his Bar Mitzvah in January. And I was very impressed by the participation of his guests in reading from the torah. It was good to see a Bar Mitzvah that remembered that this is a religious event and not about a party.

These next two months are busy for our little temple. On March 7th we get to wear costumes and make lots of noise during our Purim Megillah Reading and dessert party. April 6th is our Community Passover Seder which reminds me of the family seders of my youth – lots of very friendly people and lots of sweet wine. If you have not joined us in the past for either of these, perhaps this year will be your first.

Sue Semegram, President

A bisse! a Yiddish– a continuing tutorial

Here are the Yiddish words for this issue:

1. schmeer or schmear or shmear or shmeer

noun: 1. The entire set (as in *the whole schmeer*). 2. Bribe or flattery. 3. Spread or paste.

verb tr.: To butter up; to flatter or bribe.

From Yiddish *schmirn* (to smear, grease, or flatter), from Middle High German *smiren*. Earliest recorded use: 1930. Literally speaking, to *schmeer* is to smear, cream cheese on a bagel, for example. The term is also used in many metaphorical senses: to flatter or bribe someone. Many languages have similar terms. In English we have: "to grease someone's palm" (to bribe) and "to butter someone up" (to flatter). There's another metaphorical sense in English that makes use of *schmeer*'s cousin, *smear*, as in "to smear someone's reputation".

2. noodge or nudzh or nudge (nooj)

verb tr.: To pester; to nag.

verb intr.: To whine.

noun: One who pesters and annoys with persistent complaining.

From Yiddish *nudyen* (to pester, bore), from Polish *nudzic*. The word developed a variant spelling 'nudge' under the influence of the English word 'nudge'. A cousin of this word is [nudnik](#) (a boring pest). First recorded use: 1960.

YARTZEITS 2012

5772



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.

ADAR

Adar 15	March 9	Isaac Velvel Sherman Nathan Ringler
Adar 18	March 12	Fred Futterman
Adar 19	March 13	Herman Ringler
Adar 20	March 14	Jay Leshin Isidor Friedman Louis Brown
Adar 21	March 15	Morris Geostman
Adar 26	March 20	Lillian Rosenburger Ida Finkelstein Katz

NISSAN

Nissan 2	March 25	Martin B. Goldstein
Nissan 4	March 27	Richard Hoffman
Nissan 5	March 28	Meta Alder
Nissan 6	March 29	Albert (Abbey) J. Slavin
Nissan 7	March 30	Irving Stollow Ruth Karp
Nissan 12	April 4	Steven Gellas Helen Rivkin Slavin
Nissan 13	April 5	David Silbergeld
Nissan 14	April 6	Dorothy Futtermand
Nissan 16	April 8	Martha Novich Soloman Gross
Nissan 19	April 11	Ernest Rosenberger
Nissan 20	April 12	Stephen Samuels Wise
Nissan 21	April 13	Victoria Kestenbaum Henry Karp
Nissan 22	April 14	Rose Bloch
Nissan 24	April 16	Maralla Goldberg Benny Block
Nissan 27	April 19	Jack Bellew

LYAR

Lyar 5	April 27	Menahem Andre Barshad Alice Krinowitz
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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

Purim – Megilah, Graggers and Hamantaschen, Wednesday, March 7th, 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. Bring your homemade Hamantaschen or other dessert.

Passover First Seder at the LPS – Friday, April 6th, 6pm

Passover is the time of the year when our tradition demands that we look back on our personal history of slavery in Egypt and as we go through the Seder we feel ourselves becoming free persons once again. This yearly reminder of the slavery in Egypt is the fulcrum on which our appreciation of freedom rests. It is the probable root cause of our long history of concern for those who are not privileged to live in freedom.



Please join our family of the "Frozen Chosen" as we celebrate the first night of Passover with our community Seder at the Synagogue. We do the cooking, catering, and cleaning and you get to enjoy a wonderful Seder complete with reciting the four questions, singing Dayanu, and reminding ourselves and teaching our children about the Passover story. Dinner includes all the "standards" – Gefilte fish, hard boiled eggs, matzo kugel, potato kugel, Salmon, and wonderful Pesadich desserts. Bring the whole family and your guests. A donation is requested. Reservations should be made by April 1st. Call Jordanna at 378-8089 or email jmallach77@gmail.com.

HARRIS'S MACAROONS – these are the best!

3 cups shredded sweetened coconut	1 egg white
1 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk	½ cup matzah meal flour
1 ½ tsp Vanilla	1/8 tsp salt
1 cup chocolate chips	

Preheat oven to 350. Combine the coconut, matzah meal flour and salt and mix well. Add egg white, vanilla and milk. When the ingredients come together in a sticky batter fold in the chocolate chips. Drop by tsps onto a VERY WELL greased foil covered cookie sheet. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes till edges are golden brown and inside is firm.

SUE'S COCONUT MERENGUE MACAROONS

3/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups unsweetened flaked coconut
2 egg whites, lightly beaten
1 ½ tsp vanilla

Preheat the oven to 375. Beat the egg whites to soft peaks. Add the sugar and vanilla, then the coconut. Drop by teaspoons onto lined cookie sheets. Bake until lightly browned, 16 minutes per batch. Let cool partially on the parchment paper, then transfer cookies to wire rack to cool the rest of the way. Makes about 24.

Shabbat Services and Potluck dinner, Friday evening, 6:30pm, March 16th, April 20th

Purim Celebration, Wednesday, March 7th, 7pm

Passover Seder, Friday, April 6th, 6PM

Lake Placid Synagogue

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