



Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter

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

Winter 2014

Happy New Year!

From the Desk of the Adirondacker Purim 2014

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.

The potluck on February 21 will make the twentieth anniversary of my arrival in Lake Placid. I invite you all to come to this potluck to celebrate with me. When I look back I can see the chance events that brought me to this beautiful place. During these years I have had the privilege of being your rabbi and serving the liturgical, spiritual, educational and life cycle events of you, the congregation. I have named children, conducted bar/bat mitzvah ceremonies, counseled, married and buried. That is what rabbis do.

I have also completed my time with Corrections and after nearly twenty years I have ceased being a civil servant/state worker. This is a time of transition and I look forward to making life in Lake Placid even more meaningful.

Happy winter, Happy Purim, and Shalom – Peace!!!

Alec H. Friedmann, Rabbi
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JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES AND
POTLUCK DINNER THE THIRD FRIDAY
EVENING OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM

January 17th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
February 21st, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
March 15th, 7pm – Purim Celebration
March 21st, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck

President's Message – January 2014

As the new year begins I reflect on the past year and look ahead to the new one, wondering what it will bring. I know last year was wonderful. I wish the best for everyone in the coming year. As Maya Angelou said, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

We have switched to a quarterly newsletter – sometimes there just is not enough to write about. If we do have news to share, it will go out via email so please be sure we have your correct email address. If you have news you would like to share with the congregation, please let me know.

Sue Semegram, President

Windows on the Future

The new windows warm the sanctuary and we have just about covered our costs. Thanks to the following donors who have given or pledged as of December 31st:

Lawrence & Eva Adler
Stephen & Linda Agus
Ruth Blank
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Barbara Taylor & Maurice Singer
Alan & Sherrie Turkheimer
Martha White

Donations are still being accepted towards this. Send to the temple – PO Box 521, Lake Placid, NY 12946.

A bissel a Yiddish – a continuing tutorial – why "sh" is so important in Yiddish

Here is a little more of this fun list of Yiddish words that begin with "sh". More to come next time.

SH	NOOK	A creep
SH	USH	Quiet
SH	IVA	Sit in mourning
SH	TETEL	Small village
SH	MEER	"Rub" as when bribing or spreading butter on bread

YARTZEITS 2014 5774



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.

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

TEVET

Tevet 29	January 1	William Prager Jack Davis Alan Leff
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SHVAT

Shvat 1	January 2	Lina Harburger Mack Leff
Shvat 5	January 6	Isaac M. Polsky
Shvat 6	January 7	Leon Goldberg Rebecca Polsky Harry Kovensky
Shvat 7	January 8	Anna Greenberg
Shvat 8	January 9	Sol Nager
Shvat 9	January 10	Eli Mitnik
Shvat 11	January 12	May Gingsberg
Shvat 13	January 14	Adolph Effenbach
Shvat 14	January 15	Rabbi Leo Gutel
Shvat 15	January 16	David Goldenberg Avram Klein
Shvat 16	January 17	Max Alder
Shvat 18	January 19	Arnold Roberts
Shvat 20	January 21	Norma Schnarch Miller
Shvat 21	January 22	Max Banner
Shvat 24	January 25	Mildred Bellew
Shvat 25	January 26	Harold H. Blank
Shvat 27	January 28	Hyman Arlan Sally Chatzky
Shvat 28	January 29	Samuel S. Sadove
Shvat 30	January 31	Sidney Katz Janevive Jean Mechanic Bernard Auslander

ADAR

Adar 2	February 2	Roxy White
Adar 3	February 3	Dr. Martin Buchband Jacob Ringler David Davis
Adar 4	February 4	Felica Leon
Adar 5	February 5	Hugo Zacharia Dora Stern Herman Oppenheimer Martin Klein
Adar 15	February 15	Isaac Velvel Sherman Nathan Ringler
Adar 18	February 18	Fred Futterman
Adar 19	February 19	Herman Ringler
Adar 20	February 20	Jay Leshin Isidor Friedman Louis Brown
Adar 21	February 21	Morris Geostman Lillian Rosenberger
Adar 26	February 26	Ida Finkelstein Katz
Adar 27	February 27	Dominik LaPollo

Chanukah Thanks to our Latke King

What a wonderful turnout we had for our Chanukah celebration. On Sunday evening, December 1th, about 35 members and guests of the congregation gathered to celebrate the fifth 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. It was truly a warm and memorable evening as always!

Purim – A celebration for adults – March 15th, 7pm

Dress up and join us for a different type of Purim celebration – a dinner party. Details to follow by email, but save the date!

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.



Passover Seder

Please save the date for our Passover Seder - April 14th. More details to come about this by email and in the next newsletter.

Shabbat Services and Pot luck dinner Friday evening, 6:30pm, January 17th, February 21st, March 21st
Purim Celebration, Saturday, March 15th, 7pm

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