



Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter

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

Winter 2016

From the Desk of the Adirondacker Winter 2016

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.

This winter has special meaning for me. On February 19th I will complete my three score years and ten. We have a Service and Pot Luck planned for the evening at 6:30pm. From 8:00 to 9:00 we will serve dessert. Please help me celebrate this milestone achievement and begin my seventies. You can come to the whole megillah, or just come for dessert. Either way let Sue know so that we have enough for all. Sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org and/or sue@thetradeshowcoach.com.

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

Alec H. Friedmann, Rabbi
adkreb@gmail.com

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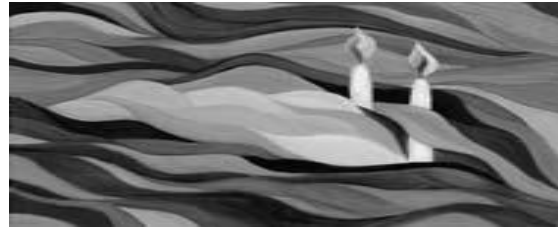
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* New board members



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

January 15th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
February 19th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck &
Birthday celebration
March 18th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
March 23rd, 7pm – Purim Dinner
April 22nd, Passover Seder

President's Message – Winter 2016

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."

Thanks to Steve and Margo Erman for yummy Latkes at our Channukah party which had a great turnout. The kids made edible Menorahs and dreidels thanks to Jordanna Mallach. As always, a great time was had by all.

Our family Shabbat pot lucks in member's homes on the second Friday of the month have been very well attended by many families with young children. Thanks to Jordanna Mallach and Beth Brunner for organizing these. If you have not been getting an email invite to these, contact me and I will add you to that list.

Our esteemed Rabbi's 70th birthday happens to fall on our regular Shabbat Service night of February 19th. I hope everyone will come out and join us that evening to help us wish him a very happy 70th birthday.

Sue Semegram, President

Family Shabbat at a member's home on the second Friday of the month at 6pm will resume this month. The January gathering will be at the home of Beth and Frank Brunner. Please contact Sue at sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org or Jordanna Mallach jmallach77@gmail.com with any questions and for the address.

We will be reading about Israel and make an edible map of Israel. Story and crafts will start at 6:00 with Kiddush at 6:30 followed by dinner.

As with all of the Family Pot Lucks hosted by the Lake Placid Synagogue Community these events are open to all families with an interest in Judaism. We encourage you to share this invitation with anyone who you think might be interested in attending.

Birthday Celebration for Rabbi Alec's 70th Birthday, Friday, February 19th

Please join us as we celebrate the Rabbi's milestone 70th birthday during our regular Shabbat Service and potluck dairy dinner. Service will be at 6:30 followed by dinner. Or just come for dessert around 8pm.

YARTZEITS 2015 5776



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 28	January 9	Blanche Levine	Shvat 28	February 7	Samuel S. Sadove
Tevet 29	January 10	Richard Pacharz William Prager Jack Davis Alan Leff	Shvat 30	February 9	Sidney Katz Janevive Jean Mechanic Bernard Auslander

SHVAT

Shvat 1	January 12	Lina Harburger	ADAR	February 11	Roxy White
Shvat 5	January 15	Mack Leff	Adar 2	February 12	Dr. Martin Buchband
Shvat 6	January 16	Helen Levinson	Adar 3		Jacob Ringler
		Isaac M. Polsky	Adar 4	February 13	David Davis
Shvat 7	January 17	Leon Goldberg	Adar 5	February 14	Felica Leon
Shvat 8	January 18	Rebecca Polsky			Hugo Zacharia
Shvat 9	January 19	Harry Kovensky	Adar 15	February 24	Dora Stern
Shvat 11	January 21	Anna Greenberg			Herman Oppenheimer
Shvat 12	January 22	Sol Nager	Adar 18	February 27	Martin Klein
Shvat 13	January 23	Eli Mitnik	Adar 19	February 28	Isaac Velvel Sherman
Shvat 14	January 24	May Gingsberg	Adar 20	February 29	Nathan Ringler
Shvat 15	January 25	Sade Kaplan			Fred Futterman
		Adolph Effenbach	Adar 21	March 1	Herman Ringler
Shvat 16	January 26	Rabbi Leo Gutel			Jay Leshin
Shvat 18	January 28	Avram Klein	Adar 26	March 6	Isidor Friedman
Shvat 20	January 30	David Goldenberg	Adar 27	March 7	Louis Brown
Shvat 21	January 31	Max Alder			Christopher Brown
Shvat 24	February 3	Arnold Roberts			Morris Geostman
Shvat 25	February 4	Norma Schnarch Miller			Albert Levinson
Shvat 27	February 6	Max Banner			Lillian Rosenberger
		Mildred Bellew			Ida Finkelstein Katz
		Harold H. Blank			Dominik LaPollo
		Hyman Arlan			
		Sally Chatzky			

Purim – A celebration for adults – Wednesday, March 23rd, 7pm

Dress up and join us for a different type of Purim celebration – a dinner party. The past few year's dinner have been so outstanding that we are going to repeat it. Chef de Banquet de Ahasuerus Rabbi Alec will once again be assisted by his 2 "Sue" Chefs to create an authentic Persian dinner. The courses will be separated with elements of the Purim Saga. Suggested donation of \$18 per person. BYOB and your best homemade Hamantaschen. Reservations required by March 9th. Call or email Sue at 518-523-5611 or sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org.

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 or 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.



Save the date for Passover Seder: Friday, April 22nd, 6pm

Please join our family of the "Frozen Chosen" as we celebrate the first night of Passover with our community Seder at the Synagogue. Led by Chef Rabbi Alec assisted by the two "Sue chefs", 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, potato kugel, Salmon, and wonderful Pesadich desserts. Bring the whole family and your guests. Reservations are required and should be made by April 6th. The minimum donation is \$18 per adult and \$9 per child. Call Susan Friedmann at 569-5610 or Sue Semegram at 523-5611.



Some of our children making edible Menorahs and dreidels during our Chanukah Party.