



Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter

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

Winter 2015

Happy New Year!

From the Desk of the Adirondacker Purim 2015

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.

We are living in a world that is just acknowledging the rapid Muslimization of Europe as a consequence of the recent terror attacks in Paris. The themes in the Book of Esther take on new meaning as we look for the road to peace. Now we know who the newest Haman is. If a few good men do nothing

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

Alec H. Friedmann, Rabbi
adk-reb@ix.netcom.com

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 16th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
February 20th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
March 4th, 7pm – Purim Celebration
March 20th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
April 3rd, Passover Seder

President's Message – January 2015

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."

For the past few months we have been holding family Shabbat pot lucks in member's homes on the first Friday of the month. This has been very well attended by many families with young children. Thanks to Jordanna Mallach and Adrienne Ratigan for organizing these. If you have not been getting an email invite to these contact me and I will add you to that list.

We are hoping to get an adult education class going soon that will include Hebrew reading/refresher as well as a discussion session. Watch your email for more on this.

Sue Semegram, President

Chanukah thanks to our other "Latke King"

What a wonderful turnout we had for our Chanukah celebration. On Sunday evening, December 21st, about 35 members and guests of the congregation gathered to celebrate the sixth night together. Each family lit their own menorahs which brightened and warmed the room. We enjoyed latkes made by our other 'Latke King', Steve Bellew and homemade Chinese food to go along with it. It was truly a warm and memorable evening as always. Perhaps we will have a cook-off between our 2 Latke Kings next year!

A bissel a Yiddish – a continuing tutorial

Here are some more Yiddish words that have made it into our language:

schnozzle *noun*: A nose, especially a large one. From Yiddish shnoytsl, diminutive of shnoyts (snout)

bupkis *noun*: Absolutely nothing; worthless. From Yiddish, short for kozebubkes (goat droppings)

schmo or schmoie or shmo *noun*: A stupid, boring, or obnoxious person.

A truncated form of schmuck (an idiot), from Yiddish schmok (penis).

dreck or drek *noun*: Rubbish; trash. From Yiddish drek (filth, dirt, dung).

YARTZEITS 2015 5775



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 10	January 1	Rae Sheckley	Shvat 30	February 19	Janevive Jean Mechanic
Tevet 11	January 2	Fanny Feinberg			Bernard Auslander
Tevet 12	January 3	Meyer Finkelstein	ADAR 2	February 21	Roxy White
Tevet 13	January 4	Saul Amarel	Adar 3	February 22	Dr. Martin Buchband
Tevet 16	January 7	Jacob Kaplan			Jacob Ringler
Tevet 18	January 9	Ernest Mayman			David Davis
		Lillian Weinstein	Adar 4	February 23	Felica Leon
Tevet 21	January 12	Joseph Samuels	Adar 5	February 24	Hugo Zacharia
Tevet 28	January 19	Blanche Levine			Dora Stern
		Richard Pacharz			Herman Oppenheimer
Tevet 29	January 20	William Prager			Martin Klein
		Jack Davis	Adar 15	March 6	Isaac Velvel Sherman
		Alan Leff			Nathan Ringler
SHVAT 1	January 21	Lina Harburger	Adar 18	March 9	Fred Futterman
		Mack Leff	Adar 19	March 10	Herman Ringler
Shvat 5	January 25	Helen Levinson	Adar 20	March 11	Jay Leshin
		Isaac M. Polsky			Isidor Friedman
Shvat 6	January 26	Leon Goldberg			Louis Brown
		Rebecca Polsky	Adar 21	March 12	Christopher Brown
		Harry Kovensky			Morris Geostman
Shvat 7	January 27	Anna Greenberg			Albert Levinson
Shvat 8	January 28	Sol Nager			Lillian Rosenberger
Shvat 9	January 29	Eli Mitnik	Adar 26	March 17	Ida Finkelstein Katz
Shvat 11	January 31	May Gingsberg	Adar 27	March 18	Dominik LaPollo
Shvat 12	February 1	Sade Kaplan			
Shvat 13	February 2	Adolph Effenbach	NISSAN 2	March 22	Martin B. Goldstein
Shvat 14	February 3	Rabbi Leo Gutel	Nissan 4	March 24	Richard Hoffman
Shvat 15	February 4	Avram Klein	Nissan 5	March 25	Meta Alder
		David Goldenberg	Nissan 6	March 26	Albert J. Slavin
		Max Alder	Nissan 7	March 27	Irving Stollow
Shvat 16	February 5	Arnold Roberts			Ruth Karp
Shvat 18	February 7	Norma Schnarch Miller			Hannah Sorscher Jessie
Shvat 20	February 9	Max Banner	Nissan 8	March 28	Steven Gellas
Shvat 21	February 10	Mildred Bellew	Nissan 12	April 1	Helen Rivkin Slavin
Shvat 24	February 13	Harold H. Blank			David Silbergeld
Shvat 25	February 14	Hyman Arlan	Nissan 13	April 2	Frank White
Shvat 27	February 16	Sally Chatzky			Dorothy Futtrmand
		Samuel S. Sadove	Nissan 14	April 3	Martha Novich
Shvat 28	February 17	Sidney Katz	Nissan 16	April 5	Soloman Gross

Purim – A celebration for adults – Wednesday, March 4th, 7pm

Dress up and join us for a different type of Purim celebration – a dinner party. Last year's dinner was 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 February 25th. 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.



Passover Seder - Friday, April 3rd, 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. 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 now. The minimum donation is \$18 per adult and \$9 per child. Call Susan Friedmann at 569-5610 or Sue Semegram at 523-5611.

Mississippi Praline Macaroons

3 egg whites
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans, plus 24 pecan halves

Heat the oven to 275 degrees. Beat the egg whites on medium-high speed until soft peaks form, about 3 minutes; add the sugar slowly, beating until whites form stiff peaks, about 2 minutes. Stir in the chopped nuts by hand. Cover a cookie sheet with foil; grease the foil. Spoon heaping teaspoons of batter on the foil, leaving 1 inch between cookies; press down flat. Place a pecan half on each.

Bake until the cookies are firm but still shiny, about 30 minutes per batch; transfer to wire racks to cool.

Shabbat Services and Pot luck dinner Friday evening, 6:30pm, January 16th, February 20th, March 20th
Purim Celebration, Wednesday, March 4th, 7pm
Passover Seder, Friday, April 3rd 6pm