

B'er Chayim Bulletin

February 2010
Sh'vat - Adar 1 5770

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Turning Injustice On its Head: A Social Action Guide for Purim

Purim is the holiday of opposites. Just as the story of Esther, which begins with the evil Haman ordering all the Jews be killed and ends with Haman himself put to death, is full of the "upside down," so too are our celebrations. We change our appearances with costumes, change our drinking habits for the day, and create Purim spiels in which we make fun of our rabbis, our tradition, and ourselves. Nothing is sacred on Purim.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, our topsy-turvy silliness, Purim remains a holiday about social justice. The commandments to eat, drink, and be merry are accompanied by the mitzvah of matanot l'evyonim, giving tzedakah (literally "gifts to the poor"). In the Book of Esther, we read, "the same days on which Jews enjoyed relief from their foes and the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief to joy and from mourning to festival, they were to observe them as days of feasting and merry-making, and as an occasion for sending gifts [mishloach manot] and presents to the poor [matanot l'evyonim]" (Esther 9:22).

To learn more and to download the full guide for Purim religious action, go to:
<http://rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/purim/>.



Save the Date!

The Community Seder will be held Tuesday, March 30, the second night of Passover. Watch for more details in the March bulletin!

Irma's Input

Bernice and Arthur Friedland, basking in that lovely Florida sun, should also be "basking" in the glory of having been chosen among the fifteen most fascinating people in the current issue of, "Allegany Magazine." How well they - with all their charitable endeavors - deserve such a tribute!



Friday night services are attracting more and more people, it seems. How great is that! Rabbi's informative sermons, those fabulous onegs and the camaraderie we all share are definitely working their magic.

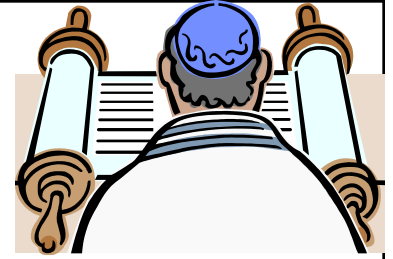
A welcome sight at services lately - wonderful Steve Shapiro. Miss the Litman children when they're not there. Their happy presence brightens our spirits immeasurably.

Two of my favorite girls in all the world have recently announced their engagements and "yours truly" is ecstatic not only because I adore the girls, but because I am so fond of the future spouses they have chosen. Mark and Tim are perfect choices, I feel, for Samantha Schwartz and Lydia Savramis. I have always been "Aunt" Irma to wonderful Samantha; and earlier in her childhood, to the delightful Lydia. They are outstanding and accomplished young women and all of us share their parents' pride in the successes of their lives. Congratulations to Samantha and Mark and to Lydia and Tim and their dear families on this happy, happy news.

Son Rick arrived home safe and sound from South America. Very enthusiastic about the time spent in beautiful Montevideo, but appalled by the abject poverty in Paraguay. Chile, in his opinion, ranked second to Uruguay and Paraguay a distant third. He will present his impressions to Kiwanis in March and at the Bridge/Mah-jong dinner in September.

cont. p 3

From the Rabbi



HAITI - We need to do as much as we can. We need to send money. Multitudes of organizations are collecting money for Haiti, and I am proud that Jewish organizations are in the forefront. I have recommended that we give through the Union for Reform Judaism - [_www.urj.org/relief_](http://www.urj.org/relief) (<http://www.urj.org/relief>) . Let us also not forget that Israel immediately sent aid and set up field hospitals.

PURIM - Haman wanted to kill all the Jews. He failed in his wicked designs. We celebrate. All of us. Purim is not just a holiday for children. So come and support our children when they bake hamantaschen on Sunday the 21st and have a Purim carnival on Sunday the 28th. For those of you who want to hear the entire Megillah reading, join us on Saturday night the 27th.

Throughout history millions of people have suffered and died because of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, and because of murderous hatred. It is our Jewish obligation to help those in need and to enable them to do whatever is possible to rebuild their lives. It is also our obligation not to forget how cruel human beings can be to one another and do whatever we can to reduce, if not eliminate, that cruelty.

Rabbi Stephen L. Sniderman

Donations

Yahrzeits

Donor

Morton Peskin
Betsy Kagey
Paul Snow
Howard and Carol
Mendelsohn
Milton and Sally Stein
Ira and Eva Rosenbaum
Ferne K. Jaffe
David A. Weiss
Elaine and Ross
Jandorf and Allan T. Hirsh, Jr.

In memory of

Morton W. Peskin, Sr.
Freida D. Togut
Betty Atkinson Favre
Rudolph and Bertha
Mendelsohn
Betty Stein
Ira Rosenbaum, Sr.
Goldie Kaplon
Harvey H. Weiss
Ellinor O. Hirsh

In Memory Of Richard Schwab

Larry & Marilyn Brock
David Dezen
Robin & Harriet Douglas
Thomas & Kathleen Dunn
Elaine & Ross Jandorf
Benjamin Elkins
Homer, Rita, Paul, Mark & John Lowenberg

Notes From Our Religious School

Hamantaschen Baking Party

The entire congregation is invited to join the religious school students in making Hamantaschen for Purim. Dough, filling, and cookie cutters will be provided. Please bring your own rolling pin and cookie sheets. We look forward to seeing you **Sunday, February 21, 10:30 am** at Temple for this delightful and delicious Temple tradition!

Purim Carnival & Brunch

Join us for a brunch and the Purim carnival that will feature food, friends, and fun for all ages. Nosh on bagels, lox, and hamantaschen. Play games; win prizes, and make your own Purim masks.

Sunday, February 28
10:00 a.m. at Temple



From the President

Well, on January 11 I chaired my first board meeting as President. It went better than I expected. It was business as usual, and there's more usual business than you would think. Soon the Building committee will meet to begin the process of contacting general contractors and getting estimates for the work we want to do on our building.

The temple board is looking for a congregant to chair our Membership committee. This person would make contact with prospective members and tell them about the congregation. Natalie Rosten has agreed to chair our Fundraising committee. Both of these committees are very important and we would love to have others working with the committee chair people! Things are moving right along, but I would again like to encourage all of you to get involved in some way.

Betsy Woolfson

The History of the Bagel by David Taffet

Abraham didn't eat bagels. Moses didn't eat bagels. Queen Esther and King David didn't eat bagels. Bagels originated in Poland and made it to the United States, but never seemed to make it to Israel.

According to Einstein Bros. Bagels: Legend has it that in 1683 in Vienna, Austria, a local Jewish baker wanted to thank the King of Poland for protecting his countrymen from Turkish invaders. He made a special hard roll in the shape of a riding stirrup -- Bugel in German -- commemorating the king's favorite pastime and giving the bagel its distinct shape.

Polish immigrants brought the bagel to America in the early 1900's. Bagels became an established part of New York culture by 1915 when the Bagel Baker's Local #338 was established. At the time membership was limited to 300 and apprenticeship at one of 38 bagel shops was mostly limited to sons of members. The pay was 19 cents to bake a box of 64 bagels.



Irma's Input (cont)

Allow me to express my pride and my thanks to daughter Babs, who just about ran the store single-handedly in Rick's absence.

Eddie had another episode appearance in, "Sponge Bob," lately. I'll see him in March for his 53rd. I ask myself where has the time gone.

How to further eulogize Dick Schwab. Not an easy job. Beyond the magnificent obituary in the newspaper and the beautiful tributes of family and friends at the services on Monday, January 11, may I add on a personal note that Dickie and my late husband, Bob, were extremely close early in our marriage and times spent in the company of Dick and his first wife, Lois, were absolutely wonderful, often hilarious times. Bobby and Dickie (as we girls called them) shared a passion for Bridge, and they were both splendid, locally acclaimed players. Actually, Loie played also and the three of them playfully chided me about learning to play. (If truth be known, I was more than a little intimidated by them and was afraid to disillusion Bobby and good friend Dickie about my lack of card sense.) My memories of Dick and his beloved family are very special indeed. A guy like "Ricardo" will live on forever in our hearts.

"Me, Myself and I"

Thank You

The family of Jane Schwab would like to sincerely thank all who contributed to Hadassah in Jane's honor to purchase a heated baby bassinet for the mother and child center at Hadassah Hospital. Hadassah has been an important part of Jane's B'er Chayim life. We read the certificate to her and she was very moved and touched.



February 2010

Monday, February 1	7:00 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, February 5	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Friedenber Family
Sunday, February 7	10:30 am	Religious School
Monday, February 8	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 10	12 noon 6:30 pm	Daytime Mahjong - Geatz's Evening Mahjong - Temple
Friday, February 12	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Margie Hartman
Saturday, February 13	10:00 am	Torah Study
Sunday, February 14	10:30 am	Religious School
Monday, February 15		Presidents' Day - No Adult Hebrew
Friday, February 19	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Oneg - Rosten Family
Sunday, February 21	10:30 am	Religious School - Hamantaschen Baking
Monday, February 22	7:00 pm	Adult Hebrew
Friday, February 26	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service and Pre-Purim Commemoration Oneg - Smith-Drelich Family
Saturday, February 27	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Torah Study Megillah Reading
Sunday, February 28	10:00 am	Purim Carnival



... We Remember

Yahrzeits for week ending February 5, 2010/21 Shevat

Bessie Beerman
Harry Parish
Sara Sommer
Madeline Guggenheimer
Johanna Rapp
Charles Schwab
Basya Serebryanaya
Lillian Landauer
Lillian Tanzer Lindauer
Bertha Schmitt
Daphne Castelle
Yakov Gordon
Dr. Harry Kalet

Yahrzeits for week ending February 12, 2010/28 Shevat

Louis J. Cator
Maye F. Freedman
Rebecca Gerson
Isaac Hirsch
Roslyn Leonard
Harry Olin
Maggie Stone
Barbara Heller
Dr. Irving Rosenbaum, Jr.
Shaine Gerson
Joseph H. Lichtenstein
Irving Pallik

Yahrzeits for week ending February 19, 2010/5 Adar 1

Esther Tzirel Klein
Bertha Miller
Lewis Rosenbaum
Edward Kenneth Arch
Arthur Drelich
Celia Dantzig
Fannie Gottlieb
Ann Susan Anderson
Gabriel Goldenberg

Yahrzeits for week ending February 26, 2010/12 Adar 1

Ida Jacobson
Mary Londe
Bertha Miller
Sol Abramson
Nachum Spear
Celia Abramson
Sylvia Gerson
Faye Klawan Hersch
Abraham Jonathan Mirkin
Moshe Hirsh Weedman
Ivan Lichtenstein
Harry Alpert
Marion Hartman
Helen Kaplan
Daniel M. Lipson
Norman Kline
Rebecca Marx

Yahrzeits for week ending March 5, 2010/19 Adar 1

Charles A. Togut
Dorothy Feldstein
Rebecca Kaplon
William E. Lehman
Esther Marx
Dorothy B. Hurwitz
Albert Moses Lichtenstein
Harry E. Mendelsohn
Jacob Schmitt
Dina Abrams
Samuel Hamburger
Warren Everard McConnell
Frumma Duk
George Silverman
Louis Cator
Joseph H. Gerson
Elias Klawan
Nettie Mendelsohn
Ida Friedland
Max Gottlieb



***We mourn the recent passing of
Richard Schwab***

Directory: Whom To Call

Rabbi Stephen Sniderman
B'er Chayim Temple Home
107 Union Street 401 LeFevre Road
301-722-5688 301-759-4454
slshome@aol.com

President Betsy Woolfson
301-724-6663
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First Vice President Debby Schaaf
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debraschaaf@gmail.com

Second VP Deb Litman
301-729-2784
dlitman814@atlanticbb.net

Corresponding Secretary Natalie Rosten
301-722-1411
dinglemom2005@aol.com

Recording Secretary Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
301-759-9385
bhs@9northcentre.com

Financial Secretary (Dues) Doug Schwab
301-759-9385
doug@dougschwab.net

Treasurer Gayle Griffith
301-777-8598 (h)
301-722-8345 (w)
bkcenter@pennswoods.net

Membership Open

Plaques/Tree of Life Gayle Griffith
301-777-8598 (h)
301-722-8345 (w)
bkcenter@pennswoods.net

Religious School Deb Litman
301-729-2784
dlitman814@atlanticbb.net

Bulletin Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab
301-759-9385
bhs@9northcentre.com

Cemetery Larry Brock
301-729-8257
lbrock@gapselfstorage.net

Hadassah Beshie Mandell
301-729-2773

Endowment Committee Open

Grocery Scrip Elena Manasse
301-729-8308
ebmanasse@atlanticbb.net

Ways In Which You Can Help B'er Chayim

Many people have asked how to make contributions to Temple of a more long-lasting nature. Following is a brief list of opportunities.

Endowment Fund

Western Wall Memorial outside of sanctuary
Small stone \$1000 - \$4999 Patron
Middle stone \$5000 - \$9999 Sponsor
Large Stone \$10,000 - \$19,000 Benefactor
Largest stones over \$20,000
Foundation Contributors
You may also donate through
your WILL or a TRUST.
Contact Treasurer Gayle Griffith for more
information on any of these options.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Cost of plaque - \$250
Preparation of plaque - about 1 month
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Tree of Life Leaves

Cost of leaf - \$40, which includes engraving
preparation of leaf - about 2 weeks
Contact Gayle Griffith for more information

Building Fund

Contributions of any amount may be made and
may be given for general building use, or a specific
building project (subject to Board approval).
Contact Debbie Lang for more information

Hadassah

Cards and certificates for all occasions
Contact Beshie Mandell for more information

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

This is a fund solely under the discretion of the
Rabbi. Contributions can be made to this fund
by making arrangements directly with the Rabbi.
The amount contributed is not disclosed to the
membership, nor is the use for these funds.

Ritual Committee

Bob Manasse
301-729-8308
Lee Schwartz
301-777-8598

Marlene Sallerson
301-777-2926
Polly Hightower
304-788-6622