

Temple Beth Abraham Bulletin

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Purim!

Saturday, March 11

6:45 PM

Maariv, Havdallah, Full Megillah Reading

Sunday, March 12

10:00 AM - Megillah Reading &

Purim Shpiel

11:00 AM - Purim Carnival

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2017

March

adar
nisan



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Men's Club Children's Breakfast 9:30 AM	6 8 adar Yedidim Mom & Dad's Group 10:30 AM	7 9 adar	8 10 adar Avodah Shebalev 9:30 AM Lifelong Learning Comm. 8:00 PM	9 11 adar Torah Study 10:30 AM	10 12 adar CL: 5:29 Services 8:00 PM	11 13 adar Services 9:30 AM <i>Terumah</i>
12 14 adar Purim Shpiel 10:00 AM Purim Carnival 11:00 AM	13 15 adar Forum with Rabbi Jon Visions of Judaism & Our Community 6:30 PM Ritual Comm. 8:00 PM SHUSHAN PURIM	14 16 adar	15 17 adar	16 18 adar Torah Study 10:30 AM JTS Livestream Event 7:30 PM	17 19 adar CL: 6:37 Hai Class Service Services 7:00 PM	18 20 adar Services 9:30 AM Jr. Congregation 10:00 AM Tot Shabbat 10:00 AM Lunch & Learn <i>Ki Tisa</i> SHABBAT PARAH SHABBAT ZACHOR MEGILLAH READING
19 21 adar The Ethical Life 10 AM "How Should I Decide Where to Give" Open House for NAIC Community 1:30 - 3:00	20 22 adar Yedidim Mom & Dad's Group 10:30 AM SHUSHAN PURIM SPRING BEGINS	21 23 adar B.O.D. Meeting 6:30 PM	22 24 adar Avodah Shebalev 9:30 AM	23 25 adar Torah Study 10:30 AM Model Matzah Bakery 3:15 - 4:00	24 26 adar CL: 6:45 Sunday School & Yedidim Dinner & Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30-7:00 Services 8:00 PM	25 27 adar Services 9:30 AM Jr. Congregation 10:00 AM Tot Shabbat 10:00 AM Vayakhele-Pekude SHABBAT HACHODESH
26 28 adar	27 29 adar JTS Livestream Event 7:30 PM	28 1 nisan ROSH CHODESH	29 2 nisan	30 3 nisan Torah Study 10:30 AM	31 4 nisan CL: 6:53 Services 8:00 PM Elisa Vig Bat Mitzvah	

The Masks We Wear

Our custom of dressing up in masks and costumes on Purim comes from the biblical story of Esther.



Rabbi Spira-Savett

In the Purim story, Esther is a young woman instructed by her older cousin, Mordechai, to hide her identity as a Jew in order to be selected as queen of Persia. Esther's name is itself a masquerade. Her given name is Hadassah, a Hebrew name. She is known instead by the name Esther, like the Persian goddess Ishtar. Her Persian name Esther sounds in Hebrew like the word for "hidden."

The story of the Megillah, and the fate of the Jews in the Persian empire, turns on Esther's difficult decision about whether and when to unmask herself.

She knows how vulnerable it is to stand fully revealed. The throne was vacant in the first place after Queen Vashti herself refused to reveal herself (apparently in the nude) to the nobles of the empire at the command of the king. It was Mordechai's "unmasking" as a Jew that brought a decree of annihilation on their people.

And Esther also knows how vulnerable she is in her mask, as a dutiful young queen. She tells Mordechai that if she takes one wrong step out of her isolation in the harem – if she comes to see the king as she is, and not just as he wishes her to be – he will have her put to death.

The Purim story should call our attention to the many masks we wear and to the dilemmas of mask-

ing and unmasking ourselves. Some masks we choose; some of them are pressed on us. Masking, in a positive sense, preserves our privacy. There are things about us, about our lives, that are not for prying eyes.

But masking can also be the dark side of community – conformity, not togetherness. We hide things for fear of being judged by others. Or because we have internalized the judgments of the society we are living in, and turn them on ourselves.

As a Jewish community, we have to be aware about the masks we press others to wear, whether knowingly or unwittingly.

There is a certain set of masks that American Jews wear in relation to wealth and income. There is an assump-

(Continued on the following page ...)

Are We In Shushan?

The holiday of Purim, a strange and joyous holiday, comes to us from the Book of Esther, which describes events that occurred 2,500 years ago,



President Michael Harris

in Persia. The events take place in the time of Xerxes, whom we call Ahasuerus (אחשוורוש), the son of Darius. They take place in Shushan the capital of the great empire, which included, as mentioned in the book of Esther, 127 countries (provinces). The Persian empire was by far the largest empire in the world, and in the time of Darius and Xerxes may have included the largest percentage of the world's population (around

40%) ever ruled by one government. While there were, of course, tensions and disputes among all these diverse peoples, the basic premise of Persian rule included a large degree of respect for and autonomy on the part of the individual communities as well as respect for basic human rights.

But let us take a step back and look at how we came to be in Persia in the first place. One can find the first chapter of this story in the book of Daniel, which describes how the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar came to besiege Jerusalem, which God delivered into his hand. Nebuchadnezzar's forces destroyed and looted the Temple. Many of the notables were taken to Babylon. The king, as we are told, asked his

aide to choose from among the captives "youths in whom was no blemish, fair to look on, and skillful in knowledge, and discerning in thought...that he should teach them in learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans." This was a three-year program in which they were welcomed in the king's palace and provided with the king's food and wine. Full scholarship. Including room and board. Among the youths selected were Daniel, Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah. Now, these youths were first generation 'immigrants', from the 'old country' and they kept strictly kosher. So, Daniel told the 'headmaster' that they couldn't eat the king's food.

(Continued on the following page ...)

tion that Jewish people are more well-off than the median American. While this may be true on average, it's not true for every person in New Hampshire and we are not a community that is particularly wealthy. Nonetheless, we make assumptions or judgments – by how someone dresses, or the neighborhood or town someone lives in.

One of the best programs we do with families in our school explores money, Jewish values, and the messages around money that we have gotten from our own families of origin and our community. When the parents meet separately from the students, we learn that we are much more diverse socioeconomically than we might appear. People often talk about living differently than they did growing up. We talk about the dilemmas of friendship that arise when one person is more financially stable than a friend.

Another set of masks we wear relates to family. It used to be far worse in the Jewish community in America, when we pretended that there was no mental illness, substance misuse, or divorce. Still, in a community that so values family, it is often hard not to feel the need to put on the mask of a “perfect family.”

The headmaster, who was favorably disposed to the youths, was worried that if the king saw that the kids were not well nourished it would look bad for him, really bad ‘endanger my head with the king.’ So, Daniel suggested that the cook provide them with ‘pulse (hummus, lentils, beans, soybeans, peanuts) to eat and water to drink’ for ten days and then let ‘our countenance be compared to the youths who eat of the king’s food’ and then decide. Things worked out well. When they

For families in which someone is struggling with substance misuse or mental illness, it can be very challenging to navigate the questions of masking and revealing. Whether to come to services and pray privately for someone’s healing, and to make small talk at kiddush; to look to others for advice and support, and risk disappointment or pity; to wrestle through feelings of jealousy toward those who seem to be going through easy times; to want to offer support to others who are going through the same or similar things.

When you’re in a small Jewish community like ours this can be even harder. I look for ways that we can be a supportive community. Recently, the synagogue began to host a Narcotics Anonymous group that meets weekly on Thursday nights at 7:30. The group consists of people who are and are not Jewish. It’s of course hard to be anonymous in a building like ours, so we’ve arranged it such that participants can come through the side door and into the youth lounge, and the people from the synagogue who supervise the building at that hour don’t have to see who is here.

were brought before the king after their graduation, the king found them ten times better in all matters of wisdom and understanding than all his other advisors.

In time, Daniel and his three friends were highly elevated. At one point, in punishment for the three friends refusing to bow down to an idol, they were cast into a fiery furnace. Their steadfast faith brought their salvation. Eventually, in the time of Nebuchadnezzar’s son, the kingdom was found wanting. The mandate of

Parents of teenagers have been working on programs of awareness for ourselves and our kids about substance misuse, and others have been talking about suicide prevention and “mental health first aid.”

As a community gathering place and a web of sacred relationships, there is a lot we can do. From education and raising awareness generally, to convening groups for those who would find them supportive, to remembering to pray for those we know and don’t know who are suffering, to asking, how we can each be a better friend, to watching the assumptions hiding in the way we talk.

We all live in a dynamic of masking and revealing. There isn’t a single right place on that continuum; it changes from person to person and from time to time. As we look toward Purim, we should each think about the masks we wear, and the ones we expect others to wear around us. And we should resolve to do what we can to make it easier for others to live authentically in our community.

Simchat Purim – A Joyous Purim,

Rabbi Jon

heaven was withdrawn. Cyrus (who we call כורש), had established the Persian empire and was an enlightened ruler who was the author of the first Charter of Human Rights. He conquered Babylonia. He ruled through respect of all nations and their cultures. Cyrus decreed that the Temple be rebuilt, that funding be provided from the state treasury and that the precious items taken from the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar be returned. He supported the 42,000

(Continued on page 15...)

Nashua Area Interfaith Council Building Connections Across Culture, Faith, Politics

NAIC is an organization of more than twenty congregations and organizations, as well as individuals committed to interfaith understanding and work for the good of the greater community rooted in our commitment to compassion and justice. We are putting the diversity of faiths and cultures in our group to use to combat divisiveness and misunderstanding by bringing people together.

Sunday, March 19

1:30-3:00 PM

**Open House for Community at
Beth Abraham**

Beth Abraham is hosting the first of a series of open houses at places of worship from many faiths around our

area. If you are available to help show people the synagogue, give a short explanation about a Jewish idea, or serve from light refreshments, please be in touch with Rabbi Jon.

1,000 Conversations

Another group within NAIC is working on a goal of 1000 conversations between people of different political outlooks, whether over a meal or coffee or in some other setting. The purpose of the first conversations is to listen with curiosity and interest to the political views of someone who is also interested in your different view.

We will hold a kick-off event and also put out a guide for conversation. We are asking every congregation to commit to catalyzing a certain number of these conversations. Rabbi Jon is looking for 18 people from Beth Abraham. You can find your own partner, or we can match you up.

Community News

Condolences to:

- Joyce and Sharyn Kessler and the Kessler family on the loss of their beloved mother and aunt, Lillian (Gordon) Kessler

Best Wishes to:

- Deb & Lew Snapper on the birth of great grandson, Grayson Arthur Pepin
- Kasia & Daniel Grossman and family on Shira's Bat Mitzvah

To all those people in our community who are ill we wish you a complete & speedy recovery.



SNHJMC Happenings

The SNHJMC has a number of great programs coming up in the next few months. Please keep an eye on our website, www.snhjmc.org or our Facebook page for up to date events and information on our breakfasts and programs!

February 12, Breakfast Recap:

The SNHJMC had a very well attended breakfast, with the speaker being TBA President, Michael Harris. He shared strategy and history revolving around the Six Days War. It was an extremely interesting and informative presentation, and the breakfast was enjoyed by all!

March 5, Children's Breakfast:

It's that time of year again, the highly anticipated SNHJMC Children's Breakfast. This year we are proud to announce Mr. Vinny's Little Puppet, a highly acclaimed Puppet Show! On Sunday morning March 5 at 9:30 AM. The **Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club** is pleased to welcome Mr. Vinny, a member of the hugely popular Toe Jam Puppet Band. Mr. Vinny comes to us with his exciting, unique, and fantastically funny puppet show. Hilarious and high-energy, this interactive program is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. This program is appropriate for all ages.

The SNHJMC will be serving our famous bagels and lox spread with accompanying waffles and eggs. As always, **children are FREE** and the cost for adults is \$8 for members/spouses and \$12 for non-members. Breakfast will start at 9:30 AM at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua and the program will start around 10:00 AM.

For more information or just to let us know you are coming please RSVP to Breakfastsup@snhjmc.org. While not required...reservations help us plan better. We hope to see you there!

March Service Schedule

Services are held every Friday evening at 8:00 PM (unless otherwise noted), Saturday at 9:30 AM and Monday –Thursday at 7:30 PM.

SPECIAL EVENT SERVICES

March 11

Saturday, 6:45 PM Maariv, Havdallah, Full Megillah Reading

March 17

Hai Class Shabbat 7 PM

March 18

Jr. Congregation
Tot Shabbat & Music Together
Lunch & Learn

March 24

Yedidim & Sunday School
Dinner & Service 5:30 PM
Evening Service 8 PM

March 25

Tot Shabbat, USY Shabbat & Jr. Congregation

March 31 & April 1

Elsa Vig Bat Mitzvah

Oneg, Kiddush and Flower Sponsors

March 4

Kiddush sponsored by Ida Stanger and Les Mildenberg in memory of Ida's mother, Edith Stanger, and Les' father, Walter Mildenberg

March 17

Religious School & Parents of Hai Class Students

March 18

Lifelong Learning Committee

March 31 & April 1

Ellen and Harry Vig in honor of their daughter, Elsa's Bat Mitzvah

Elsa Vig Bat Mitzvah

“Hi, my name is Elsa Vig, and I am a 7th grader at Marshall Middle School in North Billerica, MA. I have 2 brothers, Benjamin (15) and Daniel (11), 2 cats, 1 guinea pig, and lots of fish. I like theatre, animals, singing, and dancing. My Bat Mitzvah is April 1 and my Torah portion is Vayikra, which is about how to properly sacrifice an animal to God. When I grow up, I plan to be a veterinarian, so that I can help animals instead of sacrificing them.”



Chesed Committee

The Chesed Committee, under the auspices of TBA Sisterhood, helps families in times of loss or illness. We have arranged for meals after funerals, and have cooked and delivered food to families who are suffering from serious illness or are in mourning. We are grateful for any monetary contributions as well as time spent cooking meals.

We would like to thank the families of Harold Weisman and Mark Ferman for their generous donations.

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Forum With Rabbi Jon (Rescheduled from February)

Monday, March 13

6:30 - 7:30 PM

**An Interactive Session - The Rabbi's
Visions of Judaism and our Community**

Ometz Lev, Strength of the Heart

In February we read Parashat Beshallah. Within this fast paced narrative, we experienced the final step in our people's exodus from Egypt. Just when the people thought that they were free, safely away from Pharaoh, they hit their first challenge: the Reed Sea.



Director of Education
and Family Engagement
Noreen Leibson

Behind them was the Egyptian army in full force raging toward them, and in front of them was a deep sea. Were they trapped? Had they gotten out of Egypt only to be slain or dragged back into the narrowness of their enslaved lives?

At this point the people's courage faltered and more importantly their faith faltered. Even Moses looked to God rather than acting on his faith in God. When he questioned God at this moment, God decried: "Why do you cry out to Me?" This was to be Moses' moment of supreme human leadership, and while he had faith in God, he was still missing faith in himself as leader.

It takes time to forge a new identity. For Moses, he went from Hebrew infant destined by Pharaoh's decree to die to a prince of Egypt

to a Midianite shepherd to finally his ultimate role as leader of B'nei Yisrael. Over many years, we watch Moses grow into a mature and wise leader. It was a process. He had to draw on his innate as well as learned skills in order to become the man who has come to be known as our first prophet.

When we talk about Biblical heroes, certainly Moses is on the top of list. But what makes someone a hero? How do we define hero? These questions took our students on an exploration of a set of Jewish values, *middot*. Over the past few weeks our students learned about *Ometz Lev*, literally strength of the heart, courage. They explore *Gevurah*, heroism.

As I mentioned in last month's article, we had two guests come to our school to talk with our students, Nashua Officer Bill Adamson and Israeli Secret Service, now Hebrew teacher, Barak Cerf. I hope you will read excerpts from our students included in the bulletin. Listen to their voices about what they learned. For me, one of the most important ideas that they came away with is that being brave or courageous does not mean one is not afraid. Most of our students were able to describe a situation where they were brave or a situation that they may not have known called on their fortitude and bravery.

Looking to March, I am excited to welcome Jeannie Lorrey to our Zayin class. For those of you who don't know Jeannie, she was a Nashua middle school history teacher. She will lead an 8 - week unit on the Shoah. I know our students will learn a lot from her, and I am equally confident that she will learn a lot from them.

March also holds the synagogue annual Purim service and Carnival. USY, along with some of our students, will regale us with a "Hamilton" based shpiel. Jessie Mocle will create a kiddie carnival within the larger carnival, and I can't forget Haman's Haunted House. Come in costume, and I mean not just your children but you too! Get into the crazy *upsy daisy* fun while noshing on delicious hamantaschen.

On Thursday, March 23, we are hosting the Chabad Matzah Bakery in our shul. Come learn how to make matzah and find out the simple rule that makes matzah kosher for Pesach. Finally, I hope you will join Kitah Hai for their Friday night service on Friday evening, March 17. Share the joy of learning as our children take to the bimah to lead us in prayer.

L'shalom

Noreen

Student Quotes

‘Officer Adamson put very harmful people in jail. He only used his gun as a last resort. He is very kind like a hero should be. He is trying to socialize with people, so we don’t fear police officers. That is very important.’ *Hannah Rothenberg, Kitah Hai*

‘I felt like the experience was very meaningful to me. The reason it felt meaningful was because, I really like it when I can know that people will protect us.’ *Seth Brown, Kitah Hai*

‘I was so impressed that the police officer was honest that he had been scared before. I think he is very honest like a police man/girl should be. He is especially brave. And I am surprised he found a way to show his weapons without scaring me.’ *Sarinah Spira-Savett, Kitah Dalet*

‘The police officer helped me understand the mindset of other police officers. It helped me connect better with the force and the compassion that they have every time they go to work or have an encounter with someone.’ *Eli Feldman, madrich Kitah Zayin*

‘Courage is standing up for what is right, bravery and not being afraid and being mentally and physically strong.’ *Aliyah Ader, Kitah Dalet*

‘I think courage is when someone stands up for what’s right and being brave when things are scary.’ *Sophie Levin, Kitah Dalet*

‘When the [Israeli] soldier came and when he told the story about the coffee shop, he looked like he was using a lot of courage and sad is in him, and a lot of brave in him too.’ *Moriah Rezaoui, Kitah Gimel*

‘Courage is a really good thing to have. Courage means you are brave. Courage means you don’t give up. Courage means you will go on a mission even though you are scared. Courage means you will face an enemy...’ *Matthew Goldstein, Kitah Gimel*

Shabbat Lunch and Learn

Saturday, March 18

Guest: Historian Dr. Martin Menke

Join us after Shabbat morning services for lunch (around noon) and a discussion with Dr. Martin Menke, professor at Rivier University in Nashua in the History, Political Science and Criminal Justice Department.



He also is executive secretary for the New England Historical Association, a comprehensive organization for professional and avocational historians in all disciplines.

Martin will lead a discussion about the dynamics between Germany and Israel after World War II.

All are welcome. This is a free event.

Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond St, Nashua, NH 03064 – 603-883-8184 – www.tbanashua.org



Dr. Menke teaches courses in modern European history and in U.S. history. His research focuses on the tensions between national and religious identities among 20th-century German Catholics. He is working on a book-length manuscript re-interpreting the role of German Catholics in the Nazi seizure of power in the context of the political Catholicism of the Weimar Republic.

Coming Events and Programming

Brought to You by the Lifelong Learning Committee

BABKA meeting, Wednesday, March 1, 8:00 PM

In the Shadow of God by Chaya Rosen.

Global Refugee Crisis – Time for New Thinking
JTS Livestream Event, Thursday, March 16, 7:30 PM

A discussion of what the international community can and should do about it. Livestream: www.jtsa.edu/live

Lunch and Learn, March 18

Join us for lunch following morning services. Guest speaker Martin Menke. Details elsewhere in bulletin.

The Ethical Life, Sunday, March 19, 10:00 AM

Topic: How should I decide where to give?

Wondering Jews – Abigail Pogrebin and Joseph Telushkin in Conversation
JTS Livestream Event, Monday, March 27, 7:30 PM

A discussion on how 21st century Jews can relate to and find meaning in Jewish observance. Livestream: www.jtsa.edu/live

Ongoing:

Torah Study with Rabbi Jon and Noreen Leibson

Thursdays from 10:30 AM to Noon. Come once or many times.

The Criminal Justice System – Honoring Tradition, Championing Reform
JTS Livestream Event, Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 PM

Manhattan DA Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., shares new approaches to criminal justice reform. Livestream: www.jtsa.edu/live

BABKA meeting, Wednesday, April 5, 8:00 PM

Holocaust to Healing by Kati Preston

Yom HaShoah Commemoration, Monday, April 24, 7:00 PM at Dion Center, Rivier University

Speaker: Kati Preston, Holocaust Survivor

The Architecture and Architects of Jerusalem, Sunday, April 30

Speaker: Adina Hoffman (formerly of Peterborough, NH)

Have Ideas? Want to Help? Join Our Committee!

Contact Jeff Masors at lifelonglearning@tbanashua.org or Rabbi Jon at rabbi@tbanashua.org.

Contribute to the ***Elizabeth Fischer Memorial Fund*** to support TBA's ongoing scholarly and cultural special programming.

Consider sponsoring a specific speaker/event or the food for an event. Contact the office or Rabbi Jon.

Yedidim March Events

Yedidim is the name of a network of Southern New Hampshire Jewish and interfaith families with children who are between newborn and five years old. We regularly gather to form community, learn together, provide support to one another and have fun. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jessie Mocle: yedidim@tbanashua.org

Tot Shabbat - Now Twice a Month!

Tot Shabbat & Music Together with Hebrew

Tot Shabbat is a magical experience for young children between the ages of 0-4. You will enjoy singing, dancing, child-friendly crafts and a snack. Join us with your little ones!

Saturday, March 18, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, April 1, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, May 13, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Tot Shabbat Drop-In

While there will be no formal programming during drop-in days, please join us for a convivial play group. Friendly conversation among parents, snacks and toys will be available for Shabbat morning fun!

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, April 15, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, May 20, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Temple Beth Abraham Religious School - 5 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH 03064



Mom and Dad's Group!

This month, join us for a nosh and a laugh on:

Monday, March 6, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Monday, March 20, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Monday, April 3, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Temple Beth Abraham Religious School - 5 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH 03064

Thank you to the following donors who supported Elzashira “Shira” Welin Grossman’s Bat Mitzvah Project and Restoration of 100 of our Synagogue’s Etz Hayim Chumashim.

Noah & Becky Beit- Aharon
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For more information or to volunteer, contact Jessie Mocle: yedidim@tbanashua.org

Purim Carnival - Now Featuring a Kiddie Karnival!

The TBA Purim Carnival is an amazingly fun time! We'll have a Purim-themed Haunted House, exciting carnival booths, a marvellous Purim Shpiel (this year based on the hit play "Hamilton"), and a chance for kids to win great prizes! Please wear a costume and come prepared to play!

For the first time, we're offering a Kiddie Karnival, with games and activities specifically tailored for the younger set! A safe space adjacent to all the action, little kids aged 0-3 will have a carnival all their own.



Sunday, March 12
10:00 AM - Purim Shpiel
11:00 AM - Purim Carnival
TBA, 4 Raymond St.

Sunday School and Yedidim Dinner and Family Kabbalat Shabbat!



This Shabbat event is planned to meet the needs of families with children. We will enjoy a light supper - featuring "make your own pizza" stations! We'll also hold a special service created to engage the energy and spirit of our Sunday School and Yedidim families!

Please RSVP so we will know how much food to prepare! Cost is \$20 per family.

Friday, March 24 - 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
Temple beth Abraham, Nashua, NH
4 Raymond St, Nashua, NH 03064

We need volunteers to come in on Friday to prepare the meal! Please write to Noreen Leibson:
director@tbanashua.com

Model Matzah Bakery!



Yedidim and Sunday School students and parents are welcome to learn about how to make matzah for Passover from start to finish! You will enjoy this hands-on process!

Thursday, March 23
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM TBA Religious School

Passover Craftstravaganza!

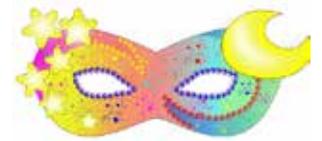
Sunday School and Yedidim families are invited to partake in Passover music, drama, art, cooking and a fantastic time. **Please RSVP** to director@tbanashua.com so we can plan accordingly!



Sunday, April 2
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM TBA Religious School



Come One, Come All! Beth Abraham's Spectacular Purim Carnival is Coming to Town!



**Sunday, March 12,
10:00 AM - Megillah Reading & Purim Shpiel
11:00 AM - Purim Carnival**

The Temple Beth Abraham Purim Carnival is an amazingly fun time!

Get ready to enjoy:

- ✧ **A rollicking and interactive Megillah reading**
- ✧ **A marvellous Purim Shpiel - this year based on the hit play "Hamilton"**
- ✧ **A Purim-themed Haunted House**
- ✧ **Exciting carnival booths**
- ✧ **Delicious Kosher food**
- ✧ **Yummy hamantaschen & mischloach manot**
- ✧ **Music by the Raymond Street Klezmer Band**
- ✧ **A chance for the kids to win great prizes!**



For the first time, we're offering a Kiddie Karnival, with games and activities specifically tailored for the younger set! A safe space adjacent to all the action, little kids aged 0-3 will have a carnival all their own!

Please wear a costume and come prepared to play!

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

Your Jewish Connection
Brought to you by the Life Long Learning Committee
Written by Linda S Trapasso

Purim's Meaning for Today's World

Purim is a joyous holiday where we celebrate victory over enemies. We eat, drink, sing, and are merry. We wear costumes, see a Purim *shpiel*, and give out baskets of food.

For basic holiday information, themes, traditions, celebrating, and food, check out these sites: [aish.com's Purim page](#) and [My Jewish Learning's Purim page](#). And for a long list of Purim resources, visit [Educational and Fun Resources for Purim](#).

There are four *mitzvot* to fulfill for the holiday of Purim. Do you know them? Check out [The Four Mitzvot of Purim](#) and the [Purim page at jkid philly](#) to see what you know.

For the kids, head over to [AlephBeta's Purim page](#). There also are two fun videos for kids at [jkidphilly](#). Take a Purim trivia quiz at [The Jewish Trivia Quiz](#) – be sure to select Purim for the topic!



For Purim *Divrei Torah*, go to [torah.org's Purim page](#). The [Orthodox Union's Purim page](#) also has commentary about the *Megillah*. More of this type of information, along with stories, plus some audio and video, is at [Chabad.org's Purim page](#).

Looking for something else? See the [Adar page at Jewish Heritage Online Magazine](#). For the techies out there, read the [Top 10 Tech Tips Learned from the Book of Esther by Rabbi Laura Baum](#).

Okay. So now that you can find information on Purim, is there more to this story?

- According to Rabbi Laura Geller: “At the end of the public reading of the story of Esther we say a blessing: ‘Blessed are you, G-d, who takes up our grievance, judges our claim, and avenges the wrongs against us. You bring retribution on our enemies and vengeance on our foes.’ This blessing reminds us, in very clear and direct terms that vengeance should never be in our hands, but only in the hands of G-d.” See [Blot Out the Memory – A Purim Reflection](#).
- Harriet Beecher Stowe and Elizabeth Cady Stanton agreed that Queen Vashti took a stand for women and exercised her power. See the articles [The Feminist History of the Jewish Holiday of Purim](#) and [Vashti & Esther: A Feminist Perspective](#).
- The Purim story is about relationships and courage. Queen Esther displayed courage when she approached the king. [Friends in High Places: The Jewish Story of Purim](#) illustrates these themes.
- Some of us are taking off our masks and revealing our hidden selves. Chaim Levin, Jewish LGBT activist, tells his story at [Taking off the Mask at Purim](#).
- The [American Jewish World Service site](#) has resources on the Social Justice connection to Purim.
- “When humans take the risk to act with virtue and courage, invisible forces conspire on the side of good. Those who use power to do evil will fall, tripped up by their own tortuous machinations.” See [Cast Your Lot with Goodness: A 2,300-Year-Old Lesson for Today](#) by Tamar Frankel, PhD.



See you at the Purim *shpiel*

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Are We In Shushan? continued...

Jews returning to Israel. His son Darius continued and reaffirmed this foreign aid. (It was not until the sixth year of Darius' reign that the rebuilt Temple was completed and re-dedicated.)

Daniel rose quickly in Persia to become an invaluable advisor to Darius, which caused some friction with the pre-existing advisors to the king. These advisors devised a plan to depose Daniel. They had the king sign a royal decree stating that anyone who bows down and prays to anything but the king for the next thirty days will be thrown into the lions' den. These advisors of course had observed Daniel bowing to the west and praying three times a day toward Jerusalem. When Daniel was caught, the king was distraught but of course, according to Persian law, a king's decree, once signed, cannot be annulled. Daniel was cast into the lions' den. As we know, it was not God's plan that Daniel would perish. The king was happy to see him survive. Darius' son, Xerxes (who we call Ahasuerus אַחַשְׁוֵרֶשׁ) followed in his father's path of tolerance toward all communities.

By this time the Jews had become very well established in their adopted country, they had thrived and grown exceeding. Several generations had passed. Only some of the Persian Jews would take up the offer to return to Zion and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Life was very good for the Jews in Persia. Most still self-identified as Jews but many were highly assimilated. Many occupied high positions in commerce and in government. By the time described in the Book of Esther, the Jewish community that remained in Persia was powerful and fully integrated.

We read in the Book of Esther that there was a certain Jew in Shushan the castle whose name was Mordecai. We read that Mordecai "sat in the king's gate". We must take this to mean that he was a man of some significance, a minister in the royal court. We read that in response to the king's decree looking for a new wife, Esther was taken into the king's house, into the custody of the keeper of the women. We read of the conspiracy on Xerxes life that was uncovered by Mordecai and reported to the king. All of this signifies how well established the Jewish community in Persia was, Mordecai in particular. Mordecai's father and grandfather had been born in Persia. His great grandfather, Kish, was among the captives taken to Babylon. So, Mordecai was a fourth-generation immigrant doing very well for himself, at the center of power in the great Persian empire. Long gone are the religious fervor and dedication that ruled the lives of the first generation that came into exile.

Here is where the trouble begins. It came to pass that the king elevated Haman above the princes and all the king's servants that were at the king's gate. The other servants at the king's gate started bowing down to Haman, but as we know Mordecai did not. They asked him why and kept at him about it. Eventually they told Haman. They wanted to see if Mordecai would persist. Of course Mordecai does persist, which kindles Haman's wrath. He gets the king to sign an order to permitting Haman to orchestrate the destruction 'of a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of thy kingdom.' In his discussion with the king, there

is no mention of whom Haman is speaking. Nowhere in the text is it revealed why Mordecai refuses to bow down. When Mordecai hears about the royal decree, he rent his clothes and put on sack cloth and ashes and sits before the king's gate because it is forbidden to enter the king's gate with sack cloth. Mordecai's response is strictly political. He orchestrates a mass demonstration. No crying out to God for salvation. Esther reveals the plot to the king who elevates Mordecai above the other ministers and gives all that was Haman's house to Esther. Since the king's decree cannot be annulled, Mordecai gets the king to issue a pre-emptive strike decree. The Jews are saved.

Four generations on and the Jews are doing well. They do not appear to be following the laws. No kashrut. No praying three times a day. They do not call upon God for assistance in time of travail. But they remain a cohesive community. Many of the ones who felt more strongly about retaining the laws have returned to Israel and rebuilt the Temple.

Where are we? Are we in Shushan?

שלום וברכה

Michael Harris

Something to Think About

Buzz and I are continuing our New Zealand adventure. We have visited old friends and familiar places, met new people, and ventured into uncharted (by us) territory.



Elaine Brody

This month I want to write about the value of connections. In mid-January, we were enjoying house sitting for our friends here in NZ while they were in Colorado on a holiday with their daughter and her family. Max had a very serious accident when he hit a tree while skiing. He was flown by air ambulance to Denver in very serious condition. His daughter contacted me almost immediately (thank goodness for mobile phones and Facebook messenger) and asked if we knew anyone in Denver who might lend moral support. Although I don't personally know anyone, I contacted people I thought might.

Here's what happened: I asked my sister and brother if they knew anyone in Denver. My brother-in-law's great niece is a travel nurse who happened to be in Denver. Less than 24 hours after I got the first message, she called in to the hospital to see how things were going. My friend, Laura Horowitz, got in touch with her son who has a friend in Denver. That friend visited Cathy the next day and offered assistance. Our friends are very involved in their Presbyterian church here. I called a friend in upstate New York who is a retired Presbyterian minister. He contacted the Presbytery in Denver. A minister visited Max several times, and a parishioner befriended Cathy for the next three weeks until Max was well enough to be med flighted back to NZ for rehab. Through all of it, our daughter, Heather, was in touch with Denver daily and went to spend a long weekend with them

just before they returned home. This has been an unbelievably stressful time for our friends, but some of the stress was alleviated by these wonderful people who came forward and helped. Max has a long road of rehab ahead, and we pray for his full recovery.

The message? Keep in touch with people you meet along the road of life. Don't hesitate to ask for help when you really need it. The essential goodness of people often manifests itself at times of great difficulty. Being an active member of a faith community has its advantages.

You know...it's something to think about.

L'hitraot,

Elaine

Rabbi Liaison Committee

This committee meets three to four times per year to provide a forum for discussions between the rabbi and a representative group of congregants.

If you have an issue relating to the rabbi that you aren't able to resolve directly, you can contact one of the committee members.

Marsha Feder, chair

marshafeder@gmail.com

Jane Goodman

janegoodman4@gmail.com

Louis Haskell

louisaskell@hotmail.com

Larry Rubin

litlrube@gmail.com

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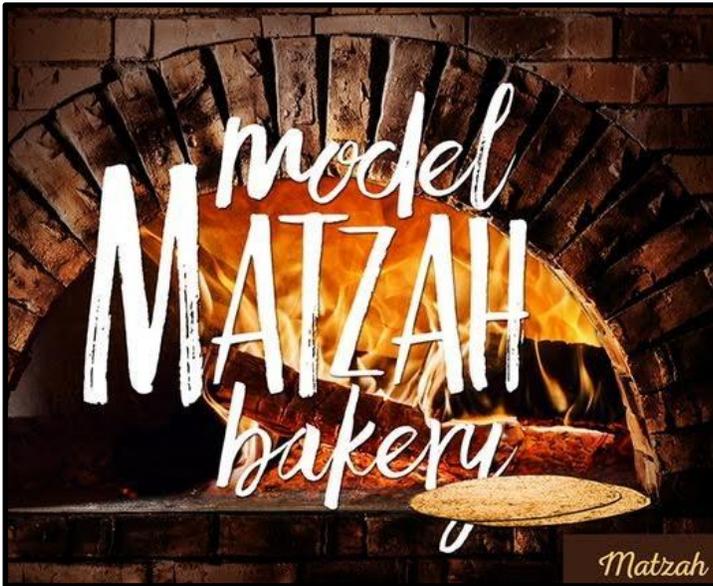
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Thursday, March 23,
3:15 PM - Yedidim & Sunday School Children
4:15 PM - Older Students
Temple Beth Abraham
4 Raymond St, Nashua, NH 03064

Temple Beth Abraham's Community Passover Seder

Tuesday, April 11
5:30 – 8:00 PM

RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Best contact information _____

_____	Adults (13+)	\$30.00 per member/\$36.00 per nonmember
_____	Children (6 – 12 yrs.)	\$15.00 per person/\$20.00 per nonmember
_____	Children (5 yrs. and under)	FREE

*By Jewish law, cost is never a barrier to participation in a Pesach Seder.
You can speak with Rabbi Jon confidentially.*

Indicate if you or any member of your group has dietary needs
such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, or any allergies:

Please bring or send this form and your check to Temple Beth Abraham, or register online.
Please make your reservations in a timely manner so that we are able to
order the correct amount of food!!!!

Do you have a favorite tradition that you would like to share? Would you like to lead part of
the Seder, tell a story, do a skit, add a decoration, etc? What would you like to see
be part of our seder that would make it special to you and your family?

Please check one:

____ I can help set up or prepare on April 8, 9, or 10

____ I would like to help lead the Seder.

____ I can shop.

____ I would love to lead an activity for children during the Seder.

____ Other: _____

Yom HaShoah Observance at Rivier University

Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM

**Dion Center Reception Room on
Clement Street, Nashua**

**Featured Speaker:
Kati Preston, Holocaust survivor**



NASHUA, NH - Temple Beth Abraham, in collaboration with Rivier University, welcomes activist and author [Kati Preston](#), to this year's Yom HaShoah event.

Preston was born in 1939 in Nagyvarad, Romania, at the start of the Second World War, to a Hungarian Catholic mother and a Jewish father. While a Christian peasant girl hid her in a hay barn, the Nazis exterminated all 28 members of her Jewish family.

Preston grew up in Hungary and Romania under communism, and then later immigrated to Israel. She studied in Paris, became a journalist and fashion designer in Israel, worked in fashion in New York, Lisbon, Milan and London where she ran her own large successful fashion business.

In her 70s, Preston wrote a book about her life, "*Holocaust to Healing: Closing the Circle*," which is available in the Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood gift shop. She is also working on a book for middle schools. Preston began speaking to schools and community groups because she says it's important to not forget history.

"I not only speak for the dead," says Preston, "but through my life story, I hope to teach tolerance and acceptance. Young people are living in an exceptional time these days. They are more informed, more open, and they are willing to listen, accept and embrace tolerance."

Preston will share her stories of persecution and survival on Monday, April 24, at 7:00 PM. at Rivier University's Dion Center on 16 Clement Street in Nashua. The program is free and open to the public. No RSVPs are necessary.

Temple Beth Abraham's Zimria Choir will perform with an interfaith choir at the observance.

A question-and-answer session and a candle-lighting ceremony memorializing the victims of the Holocaust will follow the presentation.

For more information, contact Sheryl Rich-Kern at 603-881-7264, or email her at sherylrichkern@gmail.com.

Yahrzeits

*During Friday evening and Saturday morning services,
Memorial prayers will be recited for the following:*

March 3 & 4

Rose Silver, mother of Israel Silver
 Ida Lukatsky, mother of Janet Roth
 Elias Brody, father of Bernard Brody
 Abraham Tubin, father of Barbara Garnick, and
 grandfather of Kevin Garnick & Darren Garnick
 Walter Mildenberg, father of Les Mildenberg
 Benjamin Price, father of Howard Price
 Douglas Goff, brother of Allison Sharpe
 Abe Malin, father of Howard Malin
 Rae Roth, mother of David Roth
 Norman Feder, husband of Helen Feder, and father of
 Robert Feder
 Albert M. Kaplan, husband of Tobey Kaplan, and
 father of Cheryl Franchi
 Edith Stanger, mother of Ida Stanger
 Samuel Freedman, brother-in-law of Henrietta Freedman
 Itzhak Weiner, father of Ruth Harris
 Estelle M. Kahn, mother of Laura Kahn
 Klara Schmatnik, mother-in-law of Reghina Scharf
 John Thibeault, brother of Carol Gorelick
 Sandra Wolpert Trapasso, sister-in-law of Linda Trapasso
 Morris Sobelsohn, grandfather of Alan Green
 Jerome M. Kaplan, husband of Carol Kaplan
 Samuel Silver, father of Israel Silver
 Myra Elaine Sack, mother of Barry Sack
 Dorothy Baer Edith Marcks
 David C. Davis Feiga Zoubritskaya
 Ida Liffman Sumner Gladstone

March 10 & 11

Bernard Rosen, brother of Marilyn Rosen
 Sumner Stern, father of David Stern
 Nathan Cheifetz, father of Gina Vega
 Sumner Foster, father of Joseph Foster
 Max Snapper, father of Lewis Snapper
 Rebecca Freedman, great grandmother of Steven Haime
 Lotte Leah Romer, mother of Hyman Romer
 Elcy Poskanzer, mother of Elaine Brody
 Isaac Velvel Sherman, father of Esther Arlan
 Sam Deifik, uncle of David Deifik
 Reva Arnold, mother of Tamra Devine
 Gloria Corrado, mother of Diane Lerman

March 10 & 11 Continued

Harry Earle Lerman, father-in-law of Diane Lerman
 Betty Goldstein, mother of Steven Goldstein
 Beatrice Lasky, mother of Elliot Lasky
 Helen Gilman, mother of Marc Gilman
 Jeannette Rappaport, mother of Bette Lasky
 Mae Golub, mother of Larry Golub
 Dolly Fischman Louis Weisberg
 Clara Green Benjamin Kahn
 Rita Yelgin Abraham J. Goodman
 Jerome Silverstein

March 17 & 18

Jere LaVine, father of Jeanne Gerard
 Jacob (Jack) Fraser, father of Stephanie Flynn
 Louise Hallet, mother of Harriet Shanzer
 Ray Lillstrang, husband of Colleen Lillstrang
 Rosario Grasso, father of Betsy Franks
 Audrey Rubenstein, sister-in-law of Howard Price
 Gerald Paisner, father of Eliot Paisner
 Rosalyn Lovin, aunt of Mara Friedman
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 Harriet Skorton, mother of Debra Rothberg
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 Dorothy Franks, mother of Paul Franks
 Jacob Berman Rebecca Cushing
 Arnold Delin Phyllis Ferman
 Dora Shaber Rebecca Delinsky
 Rebecca B. Kates Leonard George Levenson
 Boris Rosenbaum Audrey Rubenstein
 Max Sapsowitz Lena London

March 24 & 25

Hyman Andler, father of Dorothy Silber
 Chanka Schnitzer, grandmother of Liliane Sznycer
 Lillian Sidransky, grandmother of Daniel Becker
 Margaret Treitel, grandmother of Nancy Moore &
 Robert Treitel
 Rose Lee Grosch, mother of Jacquelin Yellin
 Patricia Holt Carlson, sister of David Holt
 Lena Farrer, grandmother of Abner Taub
 Devid Levy, father of Philip Levy
 Paul Rosenberg, father of Tobey Kaplan
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March Yahrzeits continued on next page...

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March 24 & 25 Yahrzeits continued...

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Clarence Freedman

March 31 & April 1

Louis Kaplan, grandfather of Jodi Adler
Irving Quart, father of Darlene Drutman
Bruce Golub, brother of Larry Golub
William Schwartz, father of Elinor Schwartz
Luba Eisenberg, mother of Elliot Eisenberg
Bernard Paris, father of Rochelle Goren
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Yiddish Book Center

Dear Colleagues:

Now that 2017 is here and students are starting to think about their summer plans, I want to ask you again to help us spread the word about the Great Jewish Books Summer Program.

As a reminder, Great Jewish Books brings together a diverse group of rising high school juniors and seniors to spend a week reading important works of modern Jewish literature and discussing them in seminar-style classes led by college professors. Outside of class, they meet renowned visiting authors, enjoy group recreational activities, and get a taste of college life while staying in dorms on the Hampshire College campus, adjacent to the Yiddish Book Center.

All students admitted to the program receive scholarships covering the full cost of tuition, room and board, books, and special events.

We're offering two sessions of Great Jewish Books this year: July 23-28 and July 30-August 4. You can learn more about the program and watch a video featuring our alumni at yiddishbookcenter.org/great-jewish-books. You can also call or e-mail us at 413-256-4900, ext. 143, or greatjewishbooks@yiddishbookcenter.org if you have any questions.

Reflecting on her daughter's experience at Great Jewish Books, one of last year's parents writes: "The program brought her back to her Jewish roots and she enjoyed relating to fellow Jews, as well as

Jewish literature, on an intellectual level. She came back glowing with excitement and energy."

We appreciate your sharing this information with any prospective applicants you know and helping us bring this experience to more teens.

All best,

Lesley Yalen

Education Program Manager

PS: Check out the Yiddish Book Center's website for teachers: teachgreatjewishbooks.org; it offers excellent resources for those who want to bring modern Jewish literature and culture into their classrooms.

Yiddish Book Center | 1021 West Street | Amherst, MA 01002

413-256-4900 | yiddishbookcenter.org

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