

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SHABBAT SERVICES, FEBRUARY 2010**

Friday, February 5 7:30pm: Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Ruth and Rabbi Robin	Saturday, February 6 9:30am: Shabbat morning service; Kiddush to follow
Friday, February 12 7:30pm: Kabbalat Shabbat / JNF Shabbat with Cantor Ruth and Rabbi Robin	Saturday, February 13 Shabbat at home
Friday, February 19 5:45pm: Young Family Shabbat Service	Saturday, February 20 9:30am: Shabbat Services with Vav/Zayin families
Friday, February 26 7:30pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Cantor Ruth and Rabbi Robin	Saturday, February 27 No Shabbat morning Services but plan to attend our lively Purim celebration at 6:30pm. Details to follow.



CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT PURIM ✨

God's name isn't mentioned even once in the entire Scroll of Esther.

The longest verse in the Bible is found in the Scroll of Esther (VIII: The original text contains 43 words while the English translation has 90.)

The day on which Purim is celebrated (14th of Adar) can never occur on the Sabbath. The 15th of Adar does occasionally fall on the Sabbath. The Jews of Jerusalem, who celebrate the 15th of Adar then must celebrate a "three day Purim." On the 14th, the Megillah is read; on the 15th the blessing "who wrought miracles" is recited; and on the 16th the Seudah (Purim Feast) takes place.



Queen Esther Street is found in the heart of Tel Aviv.

In a speech on January 30, 1944, Hitler said if the Nazis went down in defeat, the Jews could celebrate "a second Purim." (And we've been celebrating ever since!)

The Hadassah organization was founded on Purim in 1912. Hadassah is another name for Esther.

Mordecai is said to have descended from King Saul and Haman from Agog, King of the Amalekites, whom Saul defeated. Many years after this battle their great great grandchildren met once again in the court of King Ahasuerus and relived the life and death struggle between Israel and Amalek.

**MAZEL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE CELEBRATING FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

ANNIVERSARIES: Josh & Josie Brody, 2/18; Jay & Amy Leveton, 2/20.

BIRTHDAYS: Jerry Rose, 2/1; Bill Weiss, 2/1; Steve Draizin, 2/4; David Goodell, 2/5; Steve Friedlander, 2/8; Dan Fox, 2/9; Ed Schwartz, 2/12; David Stermon, 2/13; Judi Goldman, 2/14; Jay Blum 2/16; Steve Goren, 2/18; Howard Fern, 2/20; Jay Bycer, 2/26; Martin Coopersmith, 2/27; Steve Helfgot, 2/28.

Make a contribution in honor of a birthday or anniversary, and we'll be delighted to send an acknowledgement card from OC to the recipient.

NEW LIGHT NEWS

5770 Shevat / Adar— February 2010

CONGREGATION OR CHADASH • 16447 N. 91st Street, Suite • 102 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 Ph: 480.342.8858



TO:



Nu? What's New?

The congregation gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following contributions over the past month. Contributions received after publishing deadline will be printed next month:

In Memory Of: Ethel Kanter from the Latos, Fingers, Frohlichsteins, Pam Baron, Harriet Burns, Selma Fox; Maurice Mordka from the Clapicks; Anna Goodman from Murray Goodman and children, Hana Lange's aunt from the Moskowitzs; Gertrude Kaplan from the Kohners; Norman Rubin and Marvin Rubin from the Latos; Bernard Helfgot from the Helfgots; Sarah Lifshutz from the Rubins.

Mazel Tov to: Judy Gardenswartz & David Efron on their engagement from the Clapicks and Silbermans; Noah Goldstein & his family on his bar mitzvah from the Friedmans, Franks, Moskowitzs, F. Langes, Hirschs, J. Shapiros, Hammermans and Liebers; Allen Silberman on 50th anniversary of his bar mitzvah from the Hirschs and Gellers; Dr. & Mrs. Sanders on the birth of their grandson from the I. Feinbergs; Francis Horn from the Moskowitzs.

Oneg-Kiddush Fund: From the Toltzs in memory of his father; Cantor Ruth and family in honor of her birthday; Judy Gardenswartz & David Efron in honor of their engagement; Dolly & Steve Draizin in honor of their birthdays.

Etz Hayim Fund: David & Dayna Schlang in honor of Noah Goldstein's bar mitzvah; Steve Goldstein & Beth Shapiro in honor of their children; Judy Gardenswartz in memory of her parents.

Memorial Wall: In memory of Sam Racowsky and Julius Cohen from the Racowskys.

**Purim Celebration
at Or Chadash
Saturday,
February 27, 6:30 pm
Bring groggers, wear
costumes, be silly, have fun!**



CANTOR RUTH BERMAN HARRIS

“LOTS” TO DO

On Saturday evening, February 27th we will celebrate Purim with the oldest and longest running play in the history of the world! For those of you who are familiar with Broadway in New York, you might think that we are going to be performing CATS...most people are under the misconception that CATS was the longest running play. WRONG! The answer is “The Megillah,” What? You might reply...Who wrote that play? Where was it published? When did it play on Broadway? Are the tickets expensive? Is there anyone famous playing the characters? Is it violent? Can I take my children to see it? Will my husband fall asleep in the chair? So many questions and here are the answers.



This play is known by two names: The Book of Esther and the The Megillah (scroll). Although there are five books of Jewish scriptures that are properly referred to as “Megillah” (Esther, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations), this is the one people usually mean when they speak of “The Megillah.” It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp feet and rattle groggers (noisemakers) whenever the name of Haman is mentioned in the service, to “blot out the name of Haman.” I bet you never did that in a Broadway show! This play has been running once a year all over the world, in various shapes and forms, for hundreds of years. (The producers must have made lots of money! laugh) It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination.

This book is unusual in that it is the only book of the Bible that does not contain the name of God. In fact, it includes virtually no reference to God. Mordechai makes a vague reference to the fact that the Jews will be saved by someone else, if not by Esther, but that is the closest the book comes to mentioning God. The word “Purim” means “lots” and refers to the lottery that Haman used to choose the date for the massacre. In addition, we are commanded to send out gifts of food or drink, and to make gifts to charity. The sending of gifts of food and drink is referred to as “Mishloach Manot” (sending out portions). A common treat at this time of year is hamentaschen (Haman's pockets). These triangular fruit-filled cookies are supposed to represent Haman's three-cornered hat.

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. So, join us for all the festivities that Congregation Or Chadash offers to celebrate this holiday! We are counting on YOU.

Hag Sameach,
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RABBI ROBIN DAMSKY

TRAGEDY, HOPE, AND HELPING HANDS

The month of Adar approaches, and we are commanded to be happy. The Gemara teaches, “*Mishenichnas Adar marbin b'simcha*.” – as Adar approaches, we increase our level of joy. But how can we be happy when tens of thousands have just lost their lives in the Caribbean earthquake or suffer there with broken bodies, crumbled homes, lack of food and water, and disease everywhere?

As I shared in my Shabbat sermon, we can take our cue from the Haitians themselves. “In spite of all the destruction, trauma and loss, their hope springs eternal. God speaks in a still, small voice, we learn from the Prophet Elijah. He had a vision at Mt. Sinai of a great wind, but God was not in the wind. Then he had a vision of an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. Then he had a vision of a fire, but God was not in the fire. Then, finally, Elijah heard a still, small voice, and that was the voice of God. (1 Kings 19:11-12).”

“In the response of the Haitians the still, small voice of God can be heard so clearly. With no homes, loved ones dead or missing, everything they know of their daily lives destroyed, they are out in the open, under God's sky, under God's trees, singing. Singing of joy and peace, thankful to be alive. Singing to God to protect them for another day, and to protect their loved ones, wherever they may be.”

“Even today I heard them singing. Their singing goes on, now combined with grassroots organizing. People are forming communities outside until the aftershocks subside and the inspectors give them clearance to return to their homes. Pooling their food, cooking together, sharing their medical supplies and their knowhow, they have come together. They sleep in the night as a community, spreading out their sheets for a bed, taking turns to watch over each other.”

“God is in these communities, in every gesture of kindness, every act of faith, every outreach to share. God is in the song, in the beautiful lilting of the Creole prayers, with a sweetness in them that brings soothing to the soul and a smile of joy and peace to the lips. It is the sound of love. It is the sound of people coming together to re-create, even in the aftermath of a shock that is so grand that it cannot even be understood.”

This same still, small voice brought Mordecai to Esther, telling her to approach King Ahashverosh in order to save our people. The same voice inspired Esther to have all the Jews in Persia fast as she prepared to approach the king.

The still, small voice brings us together. It saves us in times of crisis, whether that crisis is in Haiti or in front of the Jewish people. It is the voice that brings hope and allows us to sing, even in the face of unimaginable trauma.

Let us lift our voices this month and sing of hope and joy. Let us sing for the freedom we have today as Jews. Let us sing too for the Haitians, joining our song to theirs so that God's still small voice passes through us into them, helping them to be strong in this time of crisis.

Continued, right hand column



STEVE GOLDSTEIN, PRESIDENT

STAYING IN TOUCH

This is a time of excitement at Or Chadash, with so many significant changes in the works. The Rabbi Search committee received resumes from many interesting and capable candidates. It completed remote interviews with four promising rabbis last week, and we continue to receive more applications each week. Stay tuned as the committee progresses toward weekend visits with the leading candidates.

The Relocation committee brought two excellent options to the board last month, both of which are located very close to our current location. We will be finalizing that decision in the coming weeks and will begin the process of designing and building our new space!

The Capital Campaign committee is wrapping up its work, having reached its initial goal. Everyone in the congregation will be given the opportunity to participate in the campaign. If you have not had a chance to make your pledge and would like to do so, please contact Eddie Lange or Allen Silberman.

As of this writing, we are counting down the days to our *Shabbat Shirah* weekend and Cantor's Concert, with guest Rabbi Silvina Chemen. I am sure it will be a smashing success. Thank you to Cantor Ruth and her husband, Laurence Harris, for all of their effort on this event, and to Allan Friedman and Debbie Bernstein for leading a hard-working committee of volunteers.

The message is clear—stay tuned!
There are big announcements just around the corner.

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-Cont'd-

Let us also fulfill the mitzvah of *matanot le'evyonim*: money for those in need. Haiti needs our dollars to provide food and water, and for the long term to help them rebuild. I recommend American Jewish World Service, www.ajws.org, and the Joint Distribution Committee, www.jdc.org, as two Jewish organizations getting direct aid into Haiti. Let us find joy in our own blessings and in the gifts we can give to others.

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