

**Friday, February 12, 2021, 7:30 PM Shabbat Zoom Service
& (early) PURIM CELEBRATION**

(NEW ZOOM LINK at the bottom of this e-newsletter)

PURIM COMES EARLY TO ANSHE EMTH

Our “actors” for the retelling of the story of Esther have their costumes and are ready for our ZOOM service on Friday, February 12, 7:30 PM.

See below for the NEW ZOOM LINK. The .pdf of the Purim Spiel is attached. If you are coming to the Purim CARnival to pick up hamantaschen and groggers, you will receive a printed copy of the spiel then.

From Rabbinic Intern Tzvia: “Sport your best costume, pour yourself a glass of wine (grape juice for the kiddos), and get ready to sing and laugh during our Purim Spiel!”

ANNOUNCING THE 2021 PURIM SPIEL CAST: Jason Schmidt, King Ahasuerus; Janessa Bowman, Queen Esther; Jamie-Sue Farrell, Mordechai and Mike Feinstein as Haman!



Purim 2020 our last in-person service: Jese Shell as Mordechai, Steve Shuchat as King Ahasuerus, Elliana Bowman, Narrator, Janessa Bowman and Evey Thomas both Queen Esther's, and Eileen Litchfield as Haman.

Yahrzeits for February: *May their Memory be for a Blessing*

Sam Kastner, Morris Kaufman, Rose Louis, Leo Shapiro and Sally Shuchat

And most recently: Jerry Hillelson and Fred Freed

PURIM MESSAGE FROM RABBINIC INTERN TZVIA RUBENS:

Shalom Anshe Emeth,

Next week, as a community, we will join together as we celebrate (albeit a tad early) Purim! We will come together in music, in laughter, and maybe with a drink or two. Purim often dubbed the 'Jewish Halloween' is much more complicated than we often give it credit for. Woven throughout the narrative are themes such as feminism, courage, and the responsibility to speak up for your community.

Whether it is Vashti's refusal of the King's crude demands, Esther's strength by approaching the King unannounced, or Mordechai's tenacity to protect the Jewish people, there are many lessons that we can learn from this holiday. One that I would like to take a moment to focus on is the tradition of *Matanot L'evyonim* - the act of giving gifts to the poor. On Halloween, we hand out candy to little kids dressed up in all sorts of adorable costumes. With Purim, everyone dresses up and is required to give a gift to the poor, typically including the ever-famous hamantaschen. We find this requirement in Megillat Esther 9:22. It reads, "as days of feasting and gladness, and sending portions of food to one another, and gifts to the poor."

While this mitzvah is typically reserved for food and food only, today, when we have to be much more cautious about spreading illness, there is so much more that we can give. There are many that live on the fringe of our society. Many go without the basic necessities to survive food, water, shelter, and warmth. We see them all the time, standing on the corners of streets, heads bowed, trying to survive another day. By keeping basic supplies in the car (e.g. snacks, gloves, water bottles, etc.), we are fulfilling the mitzvah – which is not just found in our Purim texts but littered throughout the Talmud.

On Purim, we sing a song I am very fond of called, *Layehudim*. Also taken from Megillat Esther, it translates to, “The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness and honor. Grant us these same miracles.” May we bring that same light to others who need it during this bitterly cold winter. May we be the miracle someone else needs right now.

During my next visit, we will **not** be having breakout rooms or a Torah service. Instead, sport your best costume, pour yourself a glass of wine (grape juice for the kiddos), and get ready to sing and laugh during our Purim Spiel!

Chag Purim Sameach – I pray we are able to give what we can and receive what we need,

Tzvia

MISHEBERACH *Prayers for healing to;*

Carol Polino, Shelley Roberts

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO TEMPLE:

Josh Brownx2

Jon Holt

Cory & Sharon Lemmon

Given in memory of Fred Freed, Z'L:

Judy Freed
Eileen Litchfield
Janet Freed

Given in honor of Lora Kaufman's 90th birthday:

Eileen Litchfield

Given in memory of Jerry Hillelson, Z'L:

Margaret Christofalo
Becca Thomas – to the EL Sustainability/Legacy Fund
Eileen Litchfield – to the EL Sustainability/Legacy Fund
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Cleo, Don and Jim Webb
Dr Allen and Ellen Stein
Cory & Sharon Lemmon
Michael Goldstein
Rosemary Kaufman
Lora Kaufman
Evanthia Owen
Gary & Jane Hochstein
Clara Hochstein
Carol Polino

HOW DO I ACCESS OUR ZOOM SERVICE?

The NEW link is below or on some computers you can just go to Zoom and put in meeting ID: 9376231234 and passcode: 0092.

Join Zoom Meeting LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9376231234>

Meeting ID: 937 623 1234

Passcode: 0092

or DIAL FROM ANY PHONE (please be aware of background noise)

929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 937 623 1234 #

Passcode: 0092 #

