

March 2025 Temple Anshe Emeth e-Newsletter

SHABBAT SERVICE, SATURDAY MARCH 29, 10 AM. In-person or on Zoom

(please see link below).

WELCOMING YOUTH VISITORS

Eighteen young people and five adults from Wayne Street Methodist church in St. Mary's will be joining us next week. The confirmation class consists of students between 12 and 15 years of age. The youth minister wants them to learn about different faiths and practices.

Judy will meet with them at 9:30 am for a short introduction to Jewish beliefs, Hebrew, and how to navigate our unusual prayer book ! We are a very welcoming congregation. These is the first we've hosted from the Methodist Church in town.

SUCCESSFUL PURIM CELEBRATION

Twenty of us (plus 1 infant and 1 toddler) enjoyed making hamantaschen, eating them (even the few that burned) and making gift baskets to share.

Marcia Stayer and Renni kept a vigil in the kitchen, checking on the oven. Thanks to all who helped assemble over four dozen hamantaschen in just 25 minutes! And thanks to Eileen and Karen for providing the dough.

We were grateful to people who volunteered for parts in Esther's story. Everyone made lots of noise with the groggers!

MISHE'BERACH - PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Neal Schmidt, Joey Ferrell, Mitzi Saeman, Dede Shuchat

Yahrzeits for March.... in Blessed Memory

Lillian Altschul, Edith Kastner Benjamin, Berne Cohen, Gert Liss, Harry Schutz, Israel Shuchat, Lois Snyder.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. Shabbat Service. Carry-in lunch to follow.

1 p.m. Rabbinic led class on "Judaism Around the World".

MESSAGE FROM RABBINIC INTERN YONATAN BENZION

Purim and the Hidden Essence of the Scroll of Esther

Megillat Esther, or the Scroll of Esther, is a Hebrew noun rooted in the letters Gimmel (ג) (and La mmed (ל). Together they form the word Gal (גל), which has a connotation 'to roll.' For instance, the word Galgal which is derived thereof, means a wheel. When someone is gleeful (גיל), they spin in circles (ma'agalim), and in exultation (gilah). However, something that is revealed shares these Hebrew roots as well. For instance, a matter that is not covered or revealed is called Galui, the very verb that denotes that action is Legalot. The Hebrew word revelation, Hitgalut, also shares those Hebrew roots and can be understood as literally the 'unrolling or unveiling' of a matter. Conversely, the word Esther alludes to hidden, to be concealed — nistar. Jewish tradition claims that her real name was Hadassah (Myrtle, which is linked to the feast of Sukkot). Every time someone asked her name, Esther simply replied: "It is hidden." From this background we can infer that when we unroll the scroll, we reveal its hidden essence. In other words, Megillat Esther is the "revelation of the hidden." While the name Esther can be read in this scroll which is named after it, we should still question what is the hidden message of Purim though? Interestingly, the one name that does not appear in Megillat Esther is God's Name (YHVH). Notwithstanding, looking beneath the surface of the text, we can see that God's Name is hidden in multiple places in the scroll through using the Hebrew method of acrostics (called Notarikon). Under this optic, God's Name is there, revealed, uncovered, forward and backward in the Rashei Teivot (first letters) and Sofei Teivot (last letters). Let us see some examples: (Esther 5:4) let the king and Haman come today — יבוא המלך והמן היום
(Esther 1:20) she and all women shall give — היא וכל הנשים יתנו
(Esther 7:7) for he saw that there was evil determined against him — כי כלתה אלו הרעה
(Esther 5:13) this avails me nothing — זה איננו שוה לי
Esther 8:16, however, is the high point of the Scroll of Esther that contains God essence hidden (הַחַדְשָׁה הַזֹּאת הָיְתָה לְיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ) "honor and gladness and joy and light had Jews The ".:read lines Its .it in (שָׂשׂוֹן וְיָקָר. The Kabbalist sages teach us that these four concepts correspond to the four letters of Havayah, the Ineffable Name of God. These words celebrate the great joy of the turnaround experienced by the Jewish people in that generation, who went from being sentenced to a violent death at the hands of their enemies to a triumphant victory over them. In time of national and personal calamity, God is there, if we only open our eyes and 'unroll the scroll.' Today, more than ever we should say: May the enemies of light, joy, gladness, and honor perish as Haman did — Happy Purim!

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS:

Sheldon Benjamin, Lauren Schmidt, Cory & Sharon Lemmon, Sandy Schaffer, to the Cemetery Fund, **Dan Litchfield**, in honor of Eileen's 70th.

JOIN IN PERSON OR ZOOM.... ZOOM LINK HERE:

To Join Zoom

Service: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQT09>

Or go to your Zoom App and put in this information:

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 Passcode: 0092

Or simply dial by your location: 646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, put in for the Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 and push #Passcode: 0092 and push #

