

The Mini Scroll



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Purim 5782*2022: A Different Shot in the Arm

I have long said that I wish that every Jew who is planning on only coming

to synagogue a few days per year ought to make one of these days Purim. The miracle of Purim and the raucous celebrations that we have each year are more poignant than ever.

Since the massacre at Tree of Life – and for those of us here, since the shootings at the Jewish Community Campus and Village Shalom – the topic of antisemitism has been relentless. The volume has only increased since the hostage crisis in Colleyville, TX. There cannot be a gathering without thinking about ways to combat antisemitism, physically protect ourselves from anti-Semites, or teach our children how to see nefarious antisemitic actions on campuses.

The festival of Purim has a decidedly different approach. If we take the story literally, the foiled plot of Haman would have been the greatest catastrophe in Jewish history, and the most successful genocide in world history. If you read the Book of Esther to its gruesome conclusion, Haman's evil decree also inspires Jewish violent vengeance which is bone chilling.

This specter of violence and terror is actually not how we celebrate Purim though. We mock Haman with silly noisemakers, we laugh at the foolish king, we drink, eat, give to the poor, and celebrate with others. In short, we celebrate Jewish thriving.

Never has our community needed a time to celebrate more than this year. We are worn down by COVID, by the reports of antisemitism, by being physically distant. So, we are working to bring as many Jews together to celebrate our communal thriving. This celebration will be just the "shot in the arm" our community needs – that doesn't use a needle or have a vaccine booster!

This Purim, we are joining together with nearly every synagogue, the J and the Federation for a "Ted Lasso" themed Purim at Children's Mercy Park (Sporting KC Stadium) with a HUGE PARTY called "Believe in Purim." On Thursday, March 17 from 4:30-7:30 pm, we will gather with BIAV, The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, Congregation Beth Torah, New Reform Temple, Congregation Ohev Sholom, Jewish Experiences, the J and the Jewish Federation.

In addition to this community-wide Purim, we will have an adult targeted Megillah reading on Wednesday at 8:00 pm. At 7 am on Thursday, the Megillah will be read following Shacharit services.

Dord M. Chilman

RABBI DAVID M. GLICKMAN dglickman@bethshalomkc.org

Rose Family Early Childhood Education Center

Purim and Kids

by JUDY JACKS BERMAN | DIRECTOR jjb@bethshalomkc.org | 913-647-7287

- Purim is such a happy time for kids!
- Everyone loves dressing up! Kids love fantasy and pretend and stories and Purim provides that and so much more for little ones!
- We all want to teach our children kindness and generosity. Purim naturally helps with these values!
- We give tzedakah on Purim to help feed and aid others and we bring Mishloach Manot to people we love and care about.
- Mishloach Manot can also provide the perfect baking experience with your child! Make yummy hamentachen!
- There are so many wonderful recipes for hamentachen and fillings or just jelly or chocolate chips will work.



FROM THE Director of Congregational Learning

But Do I Have To Sing It

by HAZZAN TAHL BEN-YEHUDA

hazzantby@bethshalomkc.org



Did you ever notice the way the reading of the Megillah sounds different from the way we read Torah? For that matter, did you ever think about how the Torah reading sounds different from the Haftarah? And what about Eicha? Or Ruth, Shir Hashirim and Kohelet? And why is there a totally different way to chant Torah on the High Holidays??? Who decided all of this, and why do we have to learn all these different ways to chant our sacred texts? Why don't we just read them – why do we sing them at all?

The first mention of the public recitation of any sacred text is from Ezra, when the Israelites returned from Babylon after the destruction of the first Temple, about 510 BCE. Ezra was distressed that the Israelites had stopped studying Torah or observing its laws, and so he read portions of Torah when and where he knew he had an audience – in the market on Mondays and Thursdays, and on Shabbat and festivals. His surroundings were not quiet places, so he did not just speak the words, but rather, chanted them so as to be louder and catch the attention of his audience.

Ezra did not use the music we think of today as his Torah melody, but rather, simply sang the beginnings, middles, and ends of each verse distinctly different from each other. If you have ever prepared a Torah reading, you can imagine that Ezra's basic structure might have been sort of like a zakef katon phrase followed by an etnachta phrase, followed by a sof passuk phrase.

Over the next hundreds of years, the Rabbis of the Talmud are recorded as saying that the Torah and other sacred texts must be performed and even studied with their music. According to Yochanan, a third-century Talmudic rabbi, "Whosoever reads Torah without melody and studies Mishnah without song, to him may be applied the verse from Ezekiel 20:25: 'Moreover I gave them laws that were not

good, and rules by which they could not live." (Megillah 32a)

But it was not until the 6th to 10th centuries that the Masoretes, Israeli scholars in Tiberias, codified the symbols we use for the vowels of Hebrew text and the te'amim (tropes) that serve as music, punctuation and accent markers for the unpointed text of our sacred scrolls, Megillat Esther included.

So now we understand how the tropes came about, what about all the different melody styles? According to the Chatam Sofer (R. Moshe Sofer, Israel, 1762-1839), the "clefs that the cantillations are sung in are dependent upon the nature or occasion of the reading. Thus, for the reading of Eicha, the text is in a more sorrowful pitch, while Megillat Esther is more joyful." Some suggest that the differences between the tropes actually date back to the way the Levites sang in Temple times!

So now, back to Megillat Esther – the music for Esther is definitely upbeat, reflecting the tone of the holiday. The Megillah is supposed to read like a proclamation, as within it, the king makes several proclamations. It is supposed to flow quickly, as it is a story that we are anxious to hear. And in distinction from most (but not all) of our sacred text, there is a requirement of audience participation in that we are supposed to listen carefully so that we can hear every time Haman is mentioned in order to drown out his name.

May you have a joyful Purim, filled with blessing, food, gift-giving, and wherein you hear the Megillah!

Summer Camp Staff for Rose Family Early Childhood Education Center

MWF 8:15 am - 12:15 pm June 13-July 1 July 11-29

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We will have openings for High School students who would like to earn community service hours and get great experience working with very precious little people!

Please call: Judy Jacks Berman at 913-647-7287 or email jjb@bethshalomkc.org for more information.

Todah Rabbah!

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6	Alan & Allison Myers	23	Alan & Eleanor Hoffmann 53
6	Allen & Linda Schick 56	23	Neal & Dana Schwartz 26
11	Norman & Alison Heisler	26	Thomas & Pamela Glickman
13	Sol & Nora Dubin	26	John Goldberg & Marla Brockman 33
14	Joshua & Laura Galler	26	Helene Lotman & Frank Tallman 22
14	Stacy & Scott Winkler	28	Jeffrey & Jamie Wordsworth 29
16	Derek & Amy Gale 14	29	Craig & Amy Both 30
18	Michael & Gabrielle Handler		Louis & Joyce Pack

Bar Mitzvah

Mark Benjamin Kricsfeld March 26/23 Adar 2

Mark Benjamin Kricsfeld is the son of Anya and David Kricsfeld. He is the grandson of Cheryl and Richard Diamond, and Barry and Barbara Kricsfeld of Omaha, Nebraska. He is great grandson of Mara Sukholutskaya of Ada, Oklahoma, and Igor Berdichevsky of Kiryat Shmona, Israel. Mark attends Oxford Middle School. His activities and hobbies include violin, history, and geography. Mark's Bar Mitzvah project involved serving meals to the elderly immigrants. The community is invited to worship with family and friends and attend Kiddush following services.



KCUSY

Winter Shabbaton Memories







$Of Blessed\ Memory$ We express condolences to our Beth Shalom Members, their Families and Friends.

 ${\it Matthew~William~Weiner,~z"l~~JAN~30-27~~SHEVAT}$

Gloria Fish, z"l FEB 8 - 7 ADAR 1

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Yahrtzeits Join 1	is for morning or ea	vening minyan to s	ay Kaddish for you	r loved one. Check	our website for serv	vice schedule.			
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