

From the Rabbi

Increasing Our Happiness

There is a famous line from the Talmud that is quoted every year as we enter the Hebrew month of Adar (this year on February 12 and 13). The teaching is, "When Adar enters, happiness increases" (B. Taanit 29a). This year, we have good reason to be happy about the arrival of the month.

Most of the commentary on the statement in the Talmud says that we increase our happiness in Adar because it includes the holiday of Purim, which is, indeed, a joyous occasion. Purim is the holiday of frivolity and topsy-turvy merriment. It celebrates the way that disaster can be suddenly inverted into victory, and the way that suffering can turn into redemption. If that theme resonates with you, please come and join us on Zoom to read the Megillah on the evening of Thursday, February 25. If you wear a costume, it only needs to look good from the waist up. Bring your own hamentashen.

We do have some good reasons to expect increased happiness this spring. A vaccine for COVID-19 should be available by then to most everyone at high risk. We are growing more optimistic that the pandemic will be receding by then. That is certainly something to make us celebrate and rejoice.

Temple Sinai continues to examine our best options to keep our members safe and to reopen our building. Our decisions are being made by our lay leadership in consultation with medical and public health experts – both from our Temple membership and from outside. More information will be coming to you soon about what to expect.

This pandemic has been extremely difficult and painful for members of our community. We offer comfort and support to those who have suffered the worst. We look forward to a time when the words of the Megillah will be fulfilled as we enter "a month that is transformed...from anguish to rejoicing, and from grief to celebration" (Esther 9:22). May it be so.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Jeffrey W. Goldwasser



See You On Zoom

In this time of physical distancing, Temple Sinai is continuing services and programs on Zoom, the video conferencing platform. To participate in programs, or to view recordings of past programs, go to the Temple's website on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

- **Shabbat Evening Services**
Rabbi Goldwasser and Cantor Johnson are leading services on Zoom every Friday at 6 pm.
- **Shabbat Morning Torah Study**
Rabbi Goldwasser is leading Torah study on Zoom on Saturdays at 10 am.
- **Torah Reading Service**
Saturday, February 6th & 20th 11 am.
- **Meditation Service**
Friday mornings at 10 am
- **Havdalah**
Saturday, February 13th at 8 pm
- **Megillah Reading**
Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6 pm
- **Movie Discussion**
A Serious Man, Feb. 4 at 7 pm
- **Concerts with Raymond Buttero**
Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 3 pm.
- **Raymond's Sephardic Cooking**
Mondays at 6 pm

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE
templesinai.org
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**

LOOKS WHAT'S COMING UP ON ZOOM THIS MONTH

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Mondays at 6 pm</p> <p>Cooking with Raymond</p> <p>Learn some Sephardic recipes</p> | <p>The last movie night</p> <p>Thursday, February 4 at 7 pm</p> <p>"A Serious Man"</p> | <p>PURIM!</p> <p>Thursday, February 25 at 6 pm</p> <p>Hop onto Zoom in your costume to hear the Megillah!</p> |
|--|--|---|

JOIN CANTOR DEBORAH AS SHE DISCUSSES "FIVE MODERN JEWISH WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD"

As we watch the well-deserved ascendancy of Black women on the national stage, it is a good moment to consider some of the contributions Jewish women have made to shaping the modern world, from culture to politics. **Over 6 sessions from March 4 to April 8 at 7:00**, we will learn about Sarah Bernhardt, Emma Goldman, Golda Meir, Gloria Steinem, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and discuss the issues their Jewishness raises for themselves and others.

From the Cantor's Desk

By Cantor Deborah Johnson



We all know the story of the Cantor who, one Rosh HaShanah, decided to use the facilities during the rabbi's sermon and forgot to turn off her microphone...I, personally, don't believe it (ahem!)...but the fun continues! Listen to a few stories from colleagues about their recent experiences on Zoom. Fair warning: one of these stories is our own, but my lips are sealed:

"One reason not to stand during the zoom service: when you stand, your computer stays put, and your torso-or below- is the focal point. Once, a male congregant stood, revealing his open fly. So much for the Aleinu!"

"I don't like to mute participants in classes, in case of some insight that a participant needs to share right away. However, one participant got a phone call from his doctor during class, forgot to mute, and we all heard about his prostate problems. Many of us were yelling, "_____, please mute yourself!" But it was like gawking at an accident on the highway; we finally gave up and listened."

"I learned the hard way that the day the computer thinks it is, is very important. For the shabbat just after the shift to daylight savings, for some inexplicable reason, the computer decided it was January 3, 2013. When I began the live stream, what came up was an old video of my daughters pretending to be back up singers for one of Kanye West's more raunchy

rap songs. After I quickly closed that out, the computer got the day right, but it still wasn't sure what time it was: about 3/4s of the way through the service during the reading of the yahrzeit list, it decided we were done and closed the meeting."

"I learned too late after I dropped my iPhone and got back on zoom, that my phone stayed flipped and I was singing Kol Nidrei sideways!"

"One Friday night before the Zoom session ended, someone said, 'drive home carefully.'"

"It took one service for me to realize that I can't sing, cue the pianist, lead the service, move Power Point slides, and monitor the Zoom room alone. One congregant said that it looked like the frenzy of an octopus."

"One of my programs on someone else's platform was hacked, complete with pornographic video. Nervous laughter ensued. I felt horrible about this for days until one congregant remarked with a chuckle that she thought she might have learned something."

I am so grateful that our congregants have been forgiving as we continue to make the best Zoomunity services we can; thank you! (And remember – *please mute!*)

See you at Services!

Cantor Deborah

From our school

Susan Oclassen, Lead Teacher

Purim, a favorite Jewish holiday for many, is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, starting this year on the night of February 25. We normally gather in temple with costumed children to hear the reading of the scrolled Book of Esther, the Megillah. We share delicious hamantaschen, and shake groggers to drown out the sound of Haman's name.

This year, our temple celebration must be online. Perhaps we can consider the adult lessons of Purim here.

We know the story: Esther, also known as Hadassah, and an eventual bride for the King, is warned by Mordechai, her kinsman, not to reveal her religious identity.

Haman, the King's chief advisor, is antisemitic and, by saying the Jews are 'different' and will not follow the royal laws, convinces the King to issue a decree to kill all the Jews.

Esther, at great personal risk, reveals the wicked plot against her people and, forewarned, they protect themselves and are saved.

The Megillah themes of caution and courage in the midst of adversity and prejudice are ones many Jews still must consider today. Here in Rhode Island, a colony founded on religious freedom, we Jews are a distinct minority. There has been an increase in antisemitic activity here, up almost 60 per cent in 2017, and in many areas of our country and the world. Too often, being 'different' is seen as a negative and, lately, those with strong prejudices seem empowered, self-righteous and emboldened to act in vile, anti-social ways.

May we feel confident in our religious and cultural practices and beliefs as we share them with our families and continue to be vigilant and prepared when faced with ignorance and prejudice.

Chag sameach!

From our Keshet Worker

Shana Prohovsky

Many of us struggle with feelings of uncertainty as well as other challenges related to day to day life and the pandemic. As the Keshet worker for the temple, I am available by telephone and virtually to offer congregants confidential support during these trying times.

Feeling tired of the same old routine? Keep an eye out on the temple website for an upcoming article on ideas for how to stay busy, fulfilled, and engaged.

Mark your calendars for an upcoming Keshet special event. On Tuesday, March 9 at noon, Shana and her Keshet co-worker Tara Watkins, LICSW will join the Keshet Café to discuss Exploring Relationships during COVID-19 and Beyond. Look for the Zoom addresses on the temple's website.

What is Keshet and how can Keshet support me right now?

Keshet is the congregational outreach program of Jewish Collaborative Services, which offers services to congregants at Temple Sinai. All Keshet services are confidential and provided at no cost to congregants, as Keshet is generously

funded by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, as well as private donors.

Shana Prohovsky, our Temple's Keshet worker, is currently available by phone 401-428-4084 and email shana@jfsri.org.

Congregants, families, and individuals can reach out for consultation, resource guidance, referrals for counseling, and just to talk.

Shana can provide specific guidance related to housing needs, homecare, eldercare, food programs, financial assistance and more.

Shana has access to all the services currently running at Jewish Collaborative Services (tele-mental health counseling sessions, case management, Lifeline emergency medical alert system monitoring and client support, kosher nutrition, and telephone support offered by JERI and Partners In Care volunteers), as well as those provided through social service agencies throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Temple Sinai is also serving our members through this difficult time with these programs:

- **Crisis Relief Fund** Temple Sinai has launched a Crisis Relief Fund to bring aid to Temple members who are facing financial hardship due to the pandemic. If you are in need of assistance, or you know of a Temple member in need, please contact Rabbi Goldwasser or Keshet Worker Shana Prohovsky.
- **"I Can Run Errands for You."** Some of our members, especially the elderly and people living with chronic health issues, are not able to run routine errands like picking up prescriptions or groceries. Temple members are volunteering to help them. Contact Rabbi Goldwasser or Keshet Worker Shana Prohovsky if you or someone you know could use help with errands or transportation.
- **Drop in with the Keshet Worker.** Shana Prohovsky, our Keshet Worker, is available by phone 401-428-4084 or email her at shana@jfsri.org to talk with her about a difficult transition or struggle you are going through. Shana can also make referrals to additional supportive services.

The Sisterhood

wishes you a

happy and healthy New Year!

We're looking forward to being together again - in person!

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Arleen & Marvin Jacobson, In memory of Jeanette Perler
Deborah & David Greenstein, In memory of
Eleanor Greenstein

Capital Improvement Fund

Hope & Barry Rose, In memory of Mary Lucas
Audrey & Steve Hirsch, In memory of Mary Lucas
Susan & Irv Vederman, In memory of Mary Lucas, beloved
mother of Claire Perlman
Dennis Byrnes & Frank Cerilli, In memory of
Maureen Krasnow
Dennis Byrnes & Frank Cerilli, In memory of Mary Lucas
Irene & Curt Abbott, In memory of Mary Lucas
Irene & Curt Abbott, In memory of Michele Pollack
Dottie Swajian, In memory of Mary Lucas
Frank Cerilli & Dennis Byrnes, In memory of Amelia Cerilli
Sheila Land, In memory of Sheldon Land
Sheila Land, In memory of Dorothy Land
Sheila Land, In memory of Alice Glantz
Sheila Land, In memory of Irving Glantz
Sheila Land, In memory of Everett Glantz
Sheila Land, In memory of Helene Glantz
Fredda & Stuart Yaras, In memory of
Norma Broadman Sondler
Phoebe & Don Sugarman, In memory of Michele Pollack
Audrey & Steve Hirsch, In honor of those who have worked to
bring religious services into the homes of our congregation:
Rabbi Jeff, Cantor Deborah, Bob Serinsky, Raymond Buttero,
David Yopak, Steve Hirsch, Sherry Kriss, members of
Shireinu & John Wright
Judith & Norman Goodman, In memory of
Paul Gershman, father

Horovitz/Wexler Minyan Breakfast Fund

Sherry Feldman, In memory of my maternal
great grandparents, Joseph & Odess Mostofsky
Joan Gray, In honor of Ellie & Marvin Wasser &
Helen Abrams on the birth of Samuel
Joan Gray, In memory of Susan Temkin Cutler
Adrian Horovitz, In memory of David Seidman
Stanley Horovitz & Family, In memory of Leonard Blau
Stanley Horovitz & Family, In memory of Michele Pollack
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rotmer, In memory of Beverly Saffir
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rotmer, In memory of Sheldon Land
Joan Goralnik, Mazel Tov to Ellie & Marvin Wasser on the
birth of their grandson, Sam
Joan Goralnik, Mazel Tov to Helen Abrams on the birth of her
great grandson, Sam
Sherry Feldman, to Ellie & Marvin Wasser, In honor of the
birth of Samuel Henry Abramson
Sherry Feldman, to Helen Abrams, In honor of the birth of
Samuel Henry Abramson
Billie & Charles Fischer, In memory of Dr. Martin Feldman
Billie & Charles Fischer, In memory of M. David Seidman
Stanley Horovitz & Family, In memory of Bernard Levine
Nancy & David Mills, In memory of Raylah Weinstein
Nancy & David Mills, In memory of Rena Mills

Cantor Rennie J. Brown Fund

Caryl Feibelman & Bo Perry, In memory of Mary Lucas,
beloved mother of Claire Perlman
Evy & Sheldon Mittleman, In memory of Mary Lucas
Ann Winograd, In memory of Esther Soifer, mother

General Fund

Billie & Charles Fischer, In memory of Rose Fischer
Scott & Mitzvah Williams, In gratitude for friendship
Ron Brooks, In memory of Mary Lucas
Linda & Paul Miller, In memory of Mary Lucas
Helen Abrams, In memory of my mother, Rachel Abrams
Ellie & Marvin Wasser, In memory of Michelle Pollack
Scott & Mitzvah Williams, In memory of Michelle Pollack
Bette & Arnold Saslavsky, In memory of our moms,
Lillian Milivsky & Sophie Saslavsky
Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil Wolfson, In honor of
Dr. Katharine Batlan in appreciation of her teaching her
excellent adult education class
Cantor Rennie & Marjorie Brown, In memory of
Dorothy Kay, yahrzeit
Cantor Rennie & Marjorie Brown, In memory of
George Brown, yahrzeit
Sherry Kriss, In memory of Betty Kriss
Sherry Kriss, In memory of Marian Treger
Shirley Brandt, In memory of Betty Kriss
Shirley Brandt, In memory of David Brandt

Shapiro/Goldstein Beautification Fund

Richard A. Saltzman, In honor of our
Officers & Board Members
Richard Saltzman, Get well soon Billie Fischer
Richard Saltzman, In memory of Andrea Saltzman
Marica Dronzek & Brian Lavendier, to Ellie & Marvin Wasser,
In honor of your new grandson, Sam – Mazel Tov!
Marcia Dronzek & Brian Lavendier, In memory of
Marshall Greenstein

President's Fund

Deborah & Joel Gerstenblatt, In honor of the birth of
Ellie & Marvin Wasser's grandson

Music Fund

Susan & Irv Vederman, to Ellie & Marvin Wasser, Mazel Tov
on the birth of Samuel
Ann & Louis Messier, In memory of Samuel Aron, grandfather
Elaine & Jeff Land, In memory of Sheldon Land
Helene Klein, In memory of Sadie Deluty, mother
Herbert & Deborah Katz, In honor of the birth of Samuel
Abramson, congratulations to Marvin, Ellie & Helen
Herbert & Deborah Katz, In memory of Eddie Kudish
Herbert & Deborah Katz, In honor of Gaye Gluck,
improved good health
Herbert & Deborah Katz, In memory of Joel Gurwitz, brother,
yahrzeit, (Natural Musician)
Herbert & Deborah Katz, In memory of cousin Howard Katz,
yahrzeit
Audrey & Steve Hirsch, to Flora Treger, In memory of your
beloved sister, Marian Treger

DONATIONS

Ira L. Schreiber Music Fund

Ada Winsten, In memory of Harold Winsten
Joyce Schreiber Tesler, In memory of my dear mother,
Ethel J. Cohen

Maureen & Howard Krasnow Fund

Duffy & Larry Page, In memory of Maureen Krasnow
Alva & Howard London, In memory of Evelyn London
Karen & Howard Ostrowsky, In memory of Maureen Krasnow
Gerald & Esta Cohen, In memory of parents:
Madeline Cohen & David Cohen
Stanley Bleecker, In loving memory of Maureen Krasnow
Leona Spilka, In memory of Stanley A. Roberts

Endowment Fund

Deborah & Joel Gerstenblatt, In memory of Mary Lucas
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Margaret Wlos
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Salvatore Saccoccio, Sr.
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Mary Lucas
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Mary Ruzzo
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Antonio Gama
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Louis Bruno
Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of David Seidman



Join us on Zoom for another fun Purim!
Thursday, February 25 at 6 pm



Yahrzeits

We read the names of people whose Yahrzeits fall in the preceding week at our Shabbat services on Friday evenings. For both Hebrew and Gregorian dates, the Yahrzeit begins on the preceding evening at sundown. Many people have the custom of lighting a memorial candle at that time.

| February | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| *Trudy Baum | 1 | Phillip Portno | 9 | *John Roberts | |
| *Leah Joel | | *Sadie Sonnenstein | | *Abel Gurwitz | 15 |
| *Milton Ostrowsky | | Sylvia Feingold | 10 | Lillian Milivsky | |
| Sophie Saslavsky | | *Jacob Novick | | *Ruth Stone | |
| Michael Kushner | 2 | *Sol Rosenbaum | | *Julie Ann Charren | 16 |
| Eva Perelman | | *Vera Appelbaum | 12 | *Molly Garber | |
| *Eugene J. Silverman | | Frank Cerilli | | Charlotte Schwartz Miller | |
| *Louis Grossman | 3 | *Benjamin Cohen | | *Morris Kortick | 17 |
| Leonid Kulik | | *Eleanor Lyda Gershman | | *Frances Priest | |
| Ruby Kotler | 4 | Irving Kahan | | *Marshall Winograd | |
| *Edwin Gross | 5 | *S. Archie Kapstein | | *Benjamin Berman | 18 |
| *Dorothy Land | | Irene Thomashow | | *Haskell Broadman | |
| Harold Abrams | 6 | Marjorie Loeb Batlan | 13 | *Richard Ehrens | |
| *Sandra M. Gertz | | *Ronald Chase | | *Saul Lehrer | |
| *Robert Shelz | | *Anna Flaxman | | *Dianne Pitchon | |
| Gertrude Maldavir | 7 | *Harold Friedman | | Hannah Finberg | 19 |
| Joseph Saltzman | | *Howard Greenstein | 14 | *Karla Faith Hergenrogher | |
| Daisy Heslop Grundy | 8 | *Tillie Kalin | | *Gary Lappin | |
| | | Roland Remillard | | *Dorothy Waldman | |
| | | | | *Hyman Feldman | 20 |
| | | | | *Ida Feldman | |
| | | | | Anna Galkin | |
| | | | | *Sherry Kerbel | |
| | | | | *Louis Port | |
| | | | | *Harry Shuster | |
| | | | | Robert A. Hesdoerffer | 21 |
| | | | | *Ruth Bloom | 22 |
| | | | | *Meta Hirsch | |
| | | | | Marvin Dronzek | 23 |
| | | | | Ira S. Galkin | 24 |
| | | | | *Rebecca Kaplan | |
| | | | | *George Brown | 25 |
| | | | | *Goldie Greene | |
| | | | | Otto J. Rosedale | |
| | | | | *Tessie Gesualdi | 26 |
| | | | | *Michael S. Roberts | |
| | | | | *Bessie Aron | 27 |
| | | | | *Gilbert Cohen | 28 |

Losses to our Temple Sinai Family

Mary Lucas – Mother of Claire Perlman
 Michelle Pollack – Daughter of Beverly & Steven Pollack
 Marian Sarah Treger – Sister of Dr. Flora Treger
 David M. Greenstein – Husband of Deborah Greenstein

Get Well Wishes to:

Debbie Roberts
 Judy Cohen
 George Cohen

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Meri Kaufman who has volunteered to be the new editor of the Scroll. We worked together for this issue and she did a great job!
 Meri's email is mrkaufman221@gmail.com so starting next month articles will go to her. Thanks, Meri!

February 2021

Shevat - Adar

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
|--|---|---------|---|--|---|---|--|
| | 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Sephardic cooking with Raymond | | 3 pm Raymond's Mini-concert | 7 pm Movie night "A Serious Man" | 10 am Morning Meditation 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Shabbat Service | 10 am Torah Study 11 am Torah Reading Service | |
| 9 am Religious School | 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Sephardic cooking with Raymond | | 3 pm Raymond's Mini-concert | | 12 10 am Morning Meditation 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Valentines Shabbat Service | 13 10 am Torah Study 8 pm Havdalah | |
| 14 | 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Sephardic cooking with Raymond | 16 | 3 pm Raymond's Mini-concert | 18 | 19 10 am Morning Meditation 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm "Ask the Rabbi" Shabbat Service | 20 10 am Torah Study 11 am Torah Reading Service | |
| 21 | 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Sephardic cooking with Raymond | 23 | 3 pm Raymond's Mini-concert | 24 3 pm Raymond's Mini-concert | 25 6 pm Megillah Reading  | 26 10 am Morning Meditation 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Purim Shabbat Service | 27 10 am Torah Study |
| 28 9 am Religious School | March 1 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert | March 2 | March 3 3 pm Raymond's Mini-concert | March 4 7 pm Five Jewish Women Lead By Cantor Deborah | March 5 10 am Morning Meditation 3 pm Raymond's mini-concert 6 pm Shabbat Service | March 6 10 am Torah Study 11 am Torah Reading Service | |



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