



Celebrate Purim!



In the newly renovated gym!

Wednesday March 23rd

7:30pm Megillah Reading & Costume Parade

8:15pm Purim PARTY! Food, drink, fun & games

Back by popular demand ~ Photo booth & free photos!



Our Torah Members

These generous individuals have voluntarily chosen to support our Synagogue at a higher level of dues than is required, in order to help other Jews who are less fortunate and in need of assistance.

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These members provide financial assistance and synagogue membership for families who are enduring financial hardship, as well as a full religious education for their children.

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"Offerings of the Heart"

*The names of our
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are inscribed on the
sculpture in our lobby.*

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2014-15 President's Council 2015-16

The President's Council was established to recognize and honor our **"Leadership Donors"** who contribute \$1,250 or more to our *Kol Nidre Annual Fund*.

These generous individuals are the **"Financial Guardians"** of our synagogue.

(* Indicates a Charter Member of the Council.)

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Are you confused about the Medicare options available to you? Are you interested in hearing about the differences between medicare plans? Are you concerned about premiums and costs on your policy?

Join our member, Evan Fein, of Senior Reserve Group, in an educational seminar about Medicare and you. This seminar would be beneficial to individuals aged 64-75.



If you are interested in attending please let us know your preference of weekday or weeknight.

Please Call 201-947-1735 for more information.



Evan Fein, MBA

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1969; Evan Fein grew up in Staten Island, New York. He graduated from Boston University in 1991 with a Psychology degree and went on to obtain his MBA in Finance from Baruch College in 1995. Evan previously worked as a portfolio manager for several different hedge funds, but after working with his parents to understand the complexities of Medicare programs, he recognized the need to educate people about their Medicare options and transitioned into the Medicare industry. Evan lives in Tenafly, New Jersey with his wife and two daughters.



Last fall, Rosh Hashanah was not particularly “early” or “late.” You may not even think that the upcoming Passover holiday is particularly “late” this year, beginning on April 22.

But by the time we get to Rosh Hashanah, which falls on October 3rd and 4th, you’ll not only think that the holidays are “late”, but also may wonder what on earth is going on?

You may have heard someone say that the Jewish Holidays - all of them - are never early or late; they always fall at the right time *on/in the Jewish Calendar*. But that still doesn’t stop us from classifying them as falling either “early” or “late.”

So, what on earth is going on?

To understand and appreciate the answer, a bit of an explanation is required. Our Hebrew Calendar is largely a Lunar Calendar: it is based on the 29 and one-half day cycle of the moon; a 12-month Lunar Year contains 354 days. If we were to follow a strictly Lunar Calendar, as the Muslims do, we would see our holidays “recede” from year to year by 11 and one-half days, as Ramadan does. (All of us are aware that the Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan, occurs in different seasons, and their strictly lunar calendar explains why). Were we to follow the strictly lunar calendar, the end result would be that Passover, for example, would recede too: at first, it would move from the spring and be celebrated in the winter, and then a few years later, we would find it in the fall, and then in the summer, before returning to the spring. And then that cycle of “receding through the year” would repeat itself again and again.

But the Torah doesn’t just mandate that we follow a lunar cycle; it also requires that our holidays be celebrated in specified seasons: Passover is a spring harvest festival and Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest. In order to accomplish this neat trick of following a Lunar Calendar, but at the same time maintaining the seasons (which requires adhering to a 365-day Solar Calendar), our ancestors devised a Lunar-Solar Calendar. The essential feature of this calendar is that just as we insert a *leap day* every four years at the end

of February to compensate for the earth circling the sun in 365 and *one-quarter* days, we intercalate an entire **Leap Month** once every two to three years (7 times within a 19-year cycle), to keep us on the proper seasonal track (more or less).

So, in some years (if there hasn’t been a 13-month leap year for a while), the holidays will fall “early”, and right after a 13-month year, the holidays will be pushed back a bit and seem “late”.

And the reason that I am writing to you about all of this now, is not only because we are in a Hebrew leap year, but because the month of March straddles the 12th and 13th Hebrew months, Adar I and Adar II. It is the insertion/intercalation of this leap month that will cause/push next Rosh HaShannah to fall in early October.

I readily admit that I am fascinated by the workings of the Hebrew Calendar and I stand in awe of the ingenuity of our ancestors who devised a system that has withstood the test of time. Even more amazing is that this calendar contains a variety of other features, among them one that assures that Yom Kippur will never fall on a Friday or a Sunday (because that would mean two restrictive days of Shabbat in a row, making it either impossible to break the fast with a sumptuous, hot meal or to enter the fast with a full stomach). The devil may be in the details, but so is the genius! Our calendar is one more thing that causes me to marvel at the beauty and depth of our tradition.

But the calendar itself is only a framework—a mere shell. Far more important is to live by and appreciate the rich rhythms of our calendar, its daily, weekly, and annual observances as we celebrate them both in our homes and as a community in our Synagogue.

In that vein, please join us for our **Purim celebration on Wednesday evening, March 23rd, and Thursday morning, March 24th**. I also urge you to participate in the Sisterhood *Mishlo’ach Manot* project. This wonderful undertaking can help to foster the sense of community and belonging that we are continually striving to create for our shul.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Ira Smilovitz	11	Bonnie Weisner	18	Neal Merker
1	Erika Krauss	11	Debra Seidel	19	Joey Guigliano
2	Jordan Sarnoff	12	Eloise Polinsky	20	Brooke Leon
3	Jacqueline Maier	12	Fred Wolodiger	21	Barry Seidel
4	Joseph Ofek	13	Bruce Lager	22	Erwin Dickman
4	Eli Josif	13	Susan Merker	22	Stuart Goldsmith
4	Daniel Kindler	13	Bruce Rosenbaum	22	Alex Salit
5	Kenneth Eisenstein	14	Jerome Goldfischer	23	Marilyn Saposh
5	Richard Kaplan	14	Susan Davis	25	Laura Koszer
5	Ann Bloch	15	Jill Rak	26	Marlene Perkal
6	Marlin Dickman	15	Max Klein	27	Jack Reisner
6	Regina Friedman	15	Jake Klein	29	Milton Davis
6	Samuel Merker	16	Joni Rosen	29	Leslie Fromkin
8	Nadia Fuentes	16	Helene Rabin	31	Steven Schwalbe
10	Chase Barnett	18	Richard Fasman	31	Kenneth Weisman

1	Marvin & Shirley Kochansky	18	Ivan & Elaine Shore
1	Shahin & Fannie Zamanian Rad	20	Murray & Helene Polinsky
4	David Sarnoff & Paige Soltano	20	Daniel Nemet-Nejat & Sarah Kaplan
8	Gerald & Doreen Gold	23	Andrew & Kristin Schulman
9	Irwin & Marjorie Berger	26	Steven & Suzette Kolitch
9	Newton & Sheila Scherl	26	Michael & Sally Seymour
11	Seymour & Nancy Green	30	Stuart Goldsmith & Jeffrey Gordon
14	Alvin & Nili Cohen	30	Arnold & Alice Grodman
18	Howard & Beth Schefflan	30	Walter & Reva Strasfeld

Our celebration service will be held Saturday, March 19th at 9:30am

SHABBAT TOGETHER MUSICAL FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

March 4th - 7:00pm



Led by Rabbi Kenneth A. Stern
& Cantor Paul Zim

COME, ENJOY, PARTICIPATE & LIFT YOUR VOICES IN SONG!!



PURIM - HOLIDAY OF JOY AND DELIVERANCE



Our tradition tells us, “**Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha!**” When we welcome Adar, we increase happiness, meaning and fulfillment in our lives because of the hope that God holds in store for us, even as God saved our people during the time when **Ahashverosh** reigned and **Haman** plotted evil for our people.

This month the festive holiday of **Purim** will be marked on **Wednesday evening, March 23rd and Thursday, March 24th**. It is the most festive and comical of all holidays on the Jewish calendar. People get dressed up in costumes and disguises. During the **Megillah** (**Megilat Esther**) reading we make loud and sometimes sustained sounds when we drown out the name of **Haman**.

The music unique to **Purim** consists of a special chant used to read the **Megillah**. One of our favorite songs of **Purim** (and year round as well) is **Utzu Eitza V'tufar**. The words come from the Prophet Isaiah. This is a melody I remember from my youth and is a

song that was even sung by those who went through concentration camps during WWII. It was a song of defiance against the enemy – the Nazis, and pride in what we as Jews represent. Just as in ancient days God destroyed those who planned evil against us, were themselves destroyed by God. For this reason, those who found themselves in concentration camps sang **Utzu Eitza** with faith, fervor and hope.

As we enter the month of **Adar II**, we must remember to lift our spirits to celebrate the joy of life and survival. So may it be for many years to come.

A Purim Sameach to all, filled with joy and blessings!



HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

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ADAR: HIDDEN MIRACLES

Our lives are filled with miracles each and every day. We don't always recognize them, and as humans, we often take a lot for granted. Rarely are the miracles today as clear-cut and straight forward as when the Sea of Reeds split and the Hebrews fled Egypt.

More often than not, miracles take the form of the Purim story. Every part of the downfall of Haman could be confused with coincidence, the victory of Mordecai and Esther as the result of being in the right place at the right time. No matter how old we are, or for how many years we have been reviewing the story of Purim, we need the Purim story to remind us, as the saying

goes, that coincidence is God's way of choosing to remain anonymous.

We get caught up in our lives: raising kids, making money, and working hard. In Adar, we are busy reviewing the story of Esther, coming up with the next best costume, and preparing Mishlo'ach Manot for our friends and family. We must slow down a bit and use the story of Purim to examine our lives. Do miracles still happen? Yes of course! Through the perspective of Adar we will be able to recognize them all our lives.

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All donations listed were received in January

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SIMCHA HAUSMAN

On the loss of her beloved mother,

INES BARANES

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On the loss of her beloved mother,

HELEN KUSHER

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On the loss of her beloved brother,

SOLOMON BORTZ

Sisterhood & Englewood Cliffs Chapter of ORT America

present

Guest Speaker: Professor Ben Nelson
Topic: Mel Brooks - Tasteless & Terrific

Tuesday, March 8th - 12:30pm

Program Coordinator
Naomi Altschul

Refreshments
Guests Welcome

Our Mishlo'ach Manot deadline has been extended until Friday, **March 11th**. If you haven't submitted your gift list yet, please do so as soon as possible. Once again I must remind you that our project can only be successful if we all pitch in and work together.

It takes many days of preparation before the packages are delivered to your front door. It's not difficult to be a part of our volunteer team. If you would like to help, call me, Ethel Chesen 201-224-7215 or Debbie 201-947-1735 ext 312 and we'll find a job for you. Thank you.

Our synagogue is the major recipient of this project. We also support other causes in the US and Israel.

Passover is right around the corner, visit our gift shop for all your gift-giving needs. We are here all year and stock items not only for the big holidays but for all occasions. If an item you want isn't here, we can special order it for you. Do stop and shop!

***Need we remind you that
Sisterhood is not a grandmother thing,
Sisterhood is not a mother thing,
Sisterhood is not a daughter thing,
Sisterhood is a woman thing,
So join today!!***

Sisterhood Book Group

Thursday, March 10th - 8:15pm

"Gypsy Tears"

By Cora Schwartz

Thursday, April 14th - 8:15pm

"Orphan Train"

By Christina Baker Kline

Refreshments will be served.

Chairpersons

Kathy Grazian & Naomi Altschul



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MARCH 2016

Adar I / Adar II 5776

Daily Service Times	
Mon -Thur	7:00am & 7:45pm
Friday	7:00am & 7:00pm
Saturday	9:30am & Minchah
Sunday	9:00am & 7:45pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		121 Adar I	222 Adar I	323 Adar I <div>Rabbi's Class 10:30am</div>	424 Adar I <div>Bible Study 11:30am</div> <div>Shabbat Together 7pm</div> <div> 5:33PM</div>	525 Adar I <div>MINCHAH 5:15PM</div> <div>VAYAKHEL</div>
626 Adar I	727 Adar I	828 Adar I <div>Sisterhood & ORT Program 12:30pm</div>	929 Adar I	1030 Adar I <div>Rabbi's Class 10:30am</div> <div>Sisterhood Book Group 8pm</div>	111 Adar II <div>Bible Study 11:30am</div> <div> 5:41PM</div>	122 Adar II <div>Eli Josif's Bar Mitzvah 9am</div> <div>MINCHAH 5:30PM</div> <div>PEKUDE</div>
133 Adar II	144 Adar II	155 Adar II	166 Adar II	177 Adar II <div>Rabbi's Class 10:30am</div>	188 Adar II <div>Bible Study 11:30am</div> <div> 6:48PM</div>	199 Adar II <div>Birthday & Anniversary Service 9:30am</div> <div>Club Shabbat 11am</div> <div>MINCHAH 6:30PM</div> <div>VAYIKRA</div>
2010 Adar II <div>Hebrew School Purim Celebration 9am -12pm</div>	2111 Adar II	2212 Adar II	2313 Adar II <div>HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED</div> <div>Megillah Reading 7:30pm</div> <div>Purim Party 8:15pm</div>	2414 Adar II <div>Rabbi's Class 10:30am</div> <div>PURIM</div>	2515 Adar II <div>Bible Study 11:30am</div> <div> 6:56PM</div>	2616 Adar II <div>MINCHAH 6:45PM</div> <div>TZAV</div>
2717 Adar II <div>HEBREW SCHOOL CLOSED</div>	2818 Adar II	2919 Adar II	3020 Adar II	3121 Adar II <div>Rabbi's Class 10:30am</div>		

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