The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

March 2024 | אדר א'-אדר ב' תשפ"ד

WHY DO WE MASQUERADE in COSTUME on PURIM?

On the 14th day of Adar II, Jewish communities worldwide will celebrate Purim, the joyous holiday commemorating the freeing of the Jewish people from a plot to exterminate them in ancient Persia. This story is recounted in the Book of Esther, also known as the Megillah.

Among the traditions of Purim is the custom of wearing costumes and dressing up as something other than yourself. From a religious perspective, this tradition is rooted in the idea of concealment and revelation. The story of Purim is characterized by hidden identities and concealed motivations. Queen Esther concealed her Jewish identity before revealing it to King Ahasuerus, ultimately saving her people. Wearing costumes symbolizes the idea that things are not always as they seem and that salvation can come from unexpected places.

The festive atmosphere of Purim encourages playful expression and creativity. Costumes allow individuals to take on different personas, embracing the spirit of joy and celebration that defines the holiday. Children (and kids-at-heart)) delight in dressing up as their favorite heroes and heroines from the Purim story or simply in other whimsical costumes. From a secular perspective, the tradition of wearing costumes on Purim has evolved into a cultural celebration of Jewish identity and solidarity, which, in today's world, is needed more than ever before. The costume tradition serves as a way for Jewish people to come together and strengthen bonds of friendship and community. Who doesn't love having fun, and wearing costumes add that element! Fun has no age restriction, as far as we checked, and appeals to both young and old and everyone in between.

On the evening of Saturday, March 23 (See flyer below for details), we hope you, your family, and friends will celebrate Purim at CBI with the rest of the community.

Rabbi Abe's high-energy Megillah reading is something to hear and see! Have some laughs while participating in our interactive Improv shenanigans. ALL are encouraged to don a festive costume to really get into this holiday spirit. Enjoy Roberta's famous Sangria (and other adult beverages) and many more tasty treats.

You really don't want to miss this CBI event! **(Please RSVP promptly as requested in the flyer details)**.

CHAG PURIM SAMEACH!

The CBI Scoop Editorial Team

CBI Super Bowl LVIII Fundraiser

WINNERS

First Quarter: $150	Shari & Irv Miljoner
Half Time: $300	Kevin Brandes
Third Quarter: $150	Brandes, Kevin
Final Score: $400	Kaigh Beeh

Congratulations to the winners

With each $36 donation, we will mail up to 10 personalized cards to CBI members of your choice.
$2 for each additional card for members over the alloted 10.
Non-members: $4 per name

Please send in your list of member names by **March 8** to **CBIPurimFundraiser@gmail.com**, or call 917-446-7983 if you have no computer access.

Full list of names/addresses of **non-members** must be submitted at time of purchase to above email address.

Online payment or checks must be received in order for cards to be mailed.
A portion of the proceeds will benefit Magen David Adom.
Click here to send in your donation.

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DURING OUR SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

As noted throughout this newsletter, this month is all about joy and happiness as we celebrate the holiday of Purim, the holiday which is all about the Jewish people being saved from genocide by the wicked Haman of old.

Most years, we read the Megilla and relate the story of Purim in a somewhat detached fashion since we feel that, especially in the last 75 years, things have been good for the Jews. Yes, the Holocaust lurks and looms in the background, but since Israel's founding, and with the flourishing of Jews in America and in other locales around the world, the threat seems to have been a non-issue, and Purim was seen from a historical perspective. The Shushan Jews had it pretty bad, we have it pretty good, is the way the thinking went.

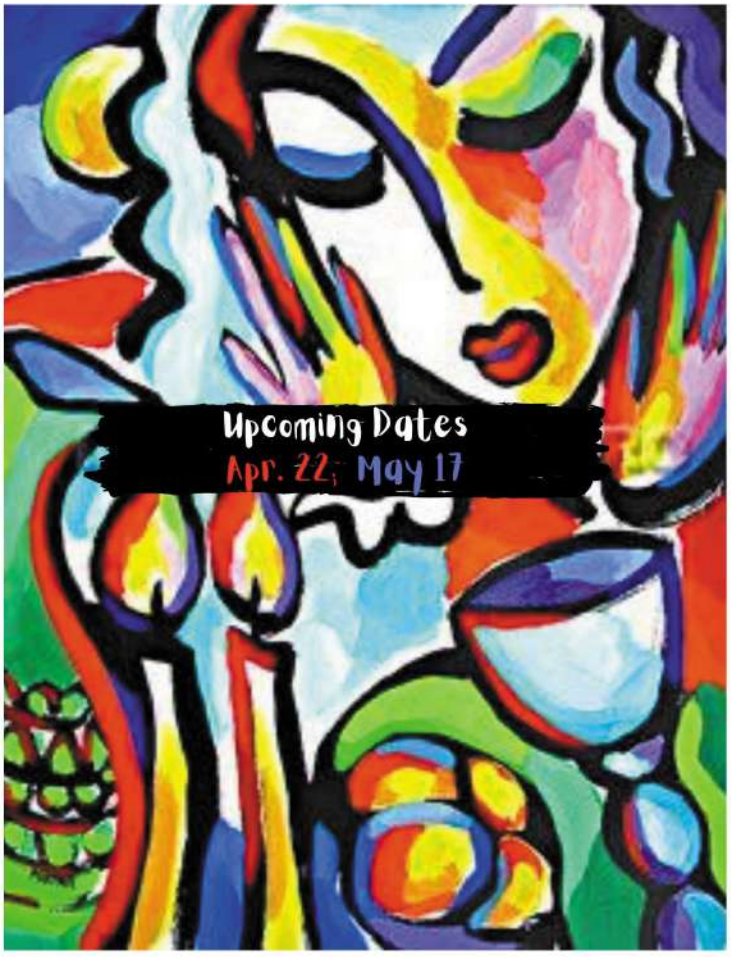
But that illusion has been shattered and is not the case this year.

Since October 7, the idea of Purim, the idea that the whole Jewish nation is capable of being legitimately threatened because a person or a group of people want to completely eradicate and obliterate our existence from the face of the earth, has become, unfortunately, more of a reality. I'm not trying to be an alarmist, but to put things into perspective and to encourage us to realize that Jews cannot afford to be caught utterly off-guard. We must fight back and decry the hatred aimed at us—and, by extension, others. After all, if one hates, it's not usually reserved for one item alone; the Jews might be the official object of the hatred, but the hatred is aimed at many others as well. Hence, Israel's stance that Hama's eradication is not only good for Israel but for the world at large.

So, we must celebrate this Purim of 2024/5784 like never before. J**oy, exultation, luxuriating in our Jewishness, and proudly proclaiming Am Yisroel Chai** are the order of the day. This year, the story of the Megillah is more pertinent and essential than ever before, and we hope and pray that by the time Purim comes around on **March 23**, we will be celebrating a new Purim—an extension of the original Purim in Shushan, only this time it will be **Purim Gaza**, with the enemies of the Jews and the ordinary Palestinians no longer here to sow its hate and destruction.

Chag Purim Sameach,
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

March 22

April 19

May 17

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family

SPONSOR A **KIDDUSH** OR
ONEG TO COMMEMORATE A
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OR A **YAHRTZEIT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL/TEXT 917-446-7983

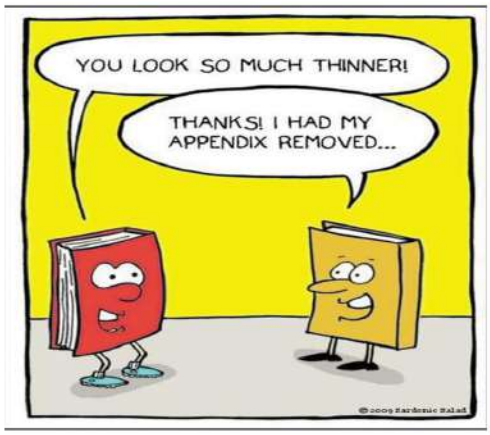
A BIG thank you to the Jan./Feb. Kiddush/Oneg sponsors:

--Marianne Baker: January 27th--Tu Bishvat Seder

--Stacey & Dawn: February 3, in honor of their mom, Marianne Baker's birthday

--Kevin Brandes: February 16, Oneg, in honor of his Super Bowl Pool Winnings

--Yael Coppolino: February 23, in honor of her grandson, Dvir's, enlistment in the IDF



Come on, laugh a lot;
It's Adar and Purim
is here.

March Yahrzeits

- **Morris Goldsmith** 3-3
- **Abraham Kaputkin** 3-7
- **Paula Klein** 3-12
- **George Glasser** 3-21
- **Marvin Levy** 3-31

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Abe & Angie Sabbas (in memory of Rita Bouer, and the yarhtzeits of Efthia Sabbas and Leon Sabbas)
Irene & Richard Sloan (in memory of Rita Bouer)
Mindy & Monte Leeper (in memory of Rita Bouer)
Jay Steinger (in memory of Ann Steinger)
Tilda Lovinger (in memory of my brother, Claude)

Donations

Muriel Levine (In honor of Marianne's birthday)
Joe & Yael Coppolinno (best wishes to Richard & Debbie)
Ilene & Rober Rothschild (paying forward to CBI)
Shari & Irv Miljoner (donating portion of the Super Bowl funds)

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