

Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

March 2024

Adar/Adar II 5784

A Purim prayer for peace

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David Wirtschafter

God of groggers and megillahs, of noisemakers and sacred scrolls, of silly costumes and serious lessons, of carnival games and hamantaschen of every flavor, help us remember that the tension in the book of Esther begins with the forced exile of a woman for refusing to degrade

herself and quickly spreads to claims of treason being spread about an entire faith group without so much as a single fact to support their veracity. The unjust banishment of Persia's queen is quickly followed by the besmirching of

its Jews. No one dared to question the first, and only a courageous few challenged the second.

God of Esther and Mordechai, give us the conviction to speak out against what is wrong. Give us the courage to put our access and privilege to good use. Help us overcome the same fears Esther had to face: the fear of physical harm, the fear of being ignored, the fear of failure, the fear of having to stand up to power all alone.

In a harsh world plagued by war, poverty and injustice, Purim is a reminder that miracles are possible when we demonstrate the will to make things better. Esther does not merely pray for salvation; she makes it happen by taking extraordinary risks on behalf of her people. She

See RABBI, Page 2

Coming this month



March 10: TAI on Rye See Page 4

March 23-24: TAI/OZS joint Purim celebration See Page 3





March 21: Yale Spizzwinks a cappella choir See Page 4

As they say on 'Star Trek,' 'Engage!'

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rich Ornstein

In a mid-February email. Rabbi Wirtschafter's message concerned Parashat T'rumah. One of the messages within this parashat is community or community building. Channeling my inner Mark Schachman, I did more research on Parashat T'rumah and was struck by a portion of a D'Var Torah by Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein from the Women of Reform Judaism website. Rabbi Bernstein wrote:

"How does a group of people become a community? Parashat T'rumah teaches us that working together toward a common goal helps the Israelites build an identity as a people. Although God gives explicit instructions for how the Tabernacle is to be built, the construction materials must come from voluntary donations, motivated by the heartfelt longing of the people to have God in their midst. It is only the combined efforts of the people that will establish God's earthly residence."

What does this mean in the context of Temple Adath Israel? From my perspective as TAI president, it means a primary goal should be community building. We can be at our strongest only when our congregation comes together

as one. A topic we discuss at most if not all of our monthly Executive Committee meetings is how to engage more members of our congregation. After discussions with TAI's Board of Directors, we are now taking additional steps to hopefully better engage you.

An example is a new focus group, led by congregant and parent Erik Schwartz, which was charged with coming up with ideas to better engage TAI parents with school-age children, along with new families in our Bluegrass Jewish community. This already is leading to changes in how we conduct Family Shabbat (read more about that from Religious School Director Elissa Weinstein on Page 3). Other ideas from Erik's focus group will be implemented over the next several months. In addition, our reenergized Adult Education Committee, led by Rhonda Miller and Irene Kleiman, has hosted educational events that have drawn many of you and is planning more. In coordination with our friends at Ohavay Zion Synagogue, the University of Kentucky and Centre College, TAI recently hosted the Challah Prince, below. About 100 members of our Bluegrass Jewish community attended this entertaining event, including about 50 of our TAI congregants. Another example of this energized outreach is the efforts of Debbie Masters. Nick Fain and others to better engage our teens through middle school and high school youth groups. Not only are we conducting activities for TAI's teens, we are engaging with OZS's youth. With so few Jewish youth in Lexington, it makes sense to hold joint community activities when we can.

Jews make up 1% of the population in Lexington compared to 0.4% of Kentucky's residents A strong Jewish community is paramount for our growth as a people. As individuals we can only do so much, but as a community, we can outpunch our weight class (and yes, I am a boxing fan).

Challah Prince Idan Chabasov shared his braiding skills and love of challah with more than 100 attendees at his February presentation at TAI

If you have ideas about ways to engage our community, please share your thoughts with me. Executive Director Nick Fain. Rabbi Wirtschafter or any member of our **Board of Directors** or Executive Committee. We'll sort through your ideas and look for ways to implement the most promising ways to bring us together.

RABBIContinued from Page 1

and Mordecai prevent the slaughter of thousands by showing the misguided king that everyone would be affected by the massacre of a minority that has harmed no one. May the Holiday of Purim enhance our willingness to see the humanity in all of God's children. May we speak out against injustice, violence and hatred wherever they are taking place. Help us, O God of Purims past, to make this Purim one that brings light and joy, compassion and peace. Let us aspire to the wisdom and courage of Esther and Mordecai, and reject the malice and cruelty of Haman. May the megillah bring meaning to our lives, and may our choices measure up to its message.

Chag Purim Sameach, Happy Purim!



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Elissa Weinstein, Director

Shalom! Though it's still winter, Religious School is getting ready for spring by starting pea plants for the temple garden. After making Tu BiShvat treats in January, our cooking classes are working on hamantaschen for Purim. Our tzedakah collection has been going great and will continue. Additionally, the 9th/10th-grade class helped assemble at least 50 lunches for the Hopemobile as part of our effort to help the homeless.

This month we will be having some Purim fun. Our mornings are going to be filled with hamantaschen, groggers, megillah readings and songs. We're also looking forward to gathering with our friends from Ohavay Zion Synagogue for a community Purim Carnival at TAI on Sunday, March 24, during Religious School.

While Family Shabbat services have been going great, we will be experimenting with a new format the rest of the school year. All events on March 15 and April 12 will take place in the Mersack & Stern Social Hall. We'll continue to have a complimentary dinner, which will start at 5:30 p.m. instead of 6, followed by Shabbat programming designed to engage our children and their families. Regular Shabbat services will be at 7 in the sanctuary. We are looking forward to trying something new, and hope more families will be able to join us regularly.

We're also looking forward to learning more about Passover.



Hometown tour brings Yale a cappella choir to TAI

The Yale Spizzwinks, billed as America's oldest undergraduate a cappella choir, is bringing its hometown tour to Lexington, and one of its performance venues will be Temple Adath Israel on Thursday, March 21.

So how did TAI get on the Spizzwinks' schedule? Charlie Stephenson of Lexington, Yale Class of 2025, is a first tenor and baritone in the choir. He grew up near the temple and, as a proud alum of TAI Preschool, credits "the social and academic experiences" he had there with playing "a pivotal role in shaping my educational future."

During the group's five-day visit to Lexington during Yale's spring recess, the 'Winks will perform at Charlie's middle and high schools, and some retirement communities. But he says the "pinnacle" of the visit is the hometown concert, which will be at TAI. The hometown tour itself is part of the group's commitment that every member, during their three years with the choir, will perform in all six inhabited continents and sing for family and friends in their hometowns.

Performances by the Spizzwinks, founded in 1914, blend music and humor in a repertoire that spans a wide range of genres, from Sinatra to Marvin Gaye, ABBA to Norah Jones (videos available on YouTube.com). Fans of its music reportedly include Lady Gaga, Joe Biden



Charlie Stephenson performs a solo with the Yale Spizzwinks.

and Magic Johnson.

The concert, starting at 7 p.m. and lasting about 90 minutes, will be in the sanctuary. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and students; information about how to obtain tickets will be shared when it becomes available.



TAI on Rye returns with homemade knishes

TAI on Rye, Temple Adath Israel's pop-up Jewish deli, will be open Sunday, March 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. As always, the menu includes our tasty sandwiches, including corned beef and pastrami; and matzo ball soup, plus we'll have homemade knishes. The knishes will be available ready-to-eat during lunch, plus they are available frozen to order in advance to take home and enjoy later. The deadline for pre-orders, including our popular chopped liver, is Thursday, March 7. To order, go to TAIonRyeJewishDeli.square.site.



Camp Young Judaea Midwest will recognize long-time Temple Adath Israel congregant Linda Ravvin at its Annual Event

at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 10 on Zoom. Linda a former camp committee chair and board member, has



been a mainstay of the camp's leadership for more than three decades. Her children and grandchildren also have attended the camp. To register for camp fundraiser and tribute to Linda, go to Bit.ly/lindaravvin.



Located at Temple Adath Israel Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

Ages 4-15 For more info, contact: susan@jewishlexington.org

FUN FOR

EVERYONE!



\$275/week with discounts available

Ask us about our early registration discounts available until April 1st, as well as UK employee and multiple sibling discounts! Early and late stay available for an additional fee.

REGISTER **ONLINE TODAY:** bit.ly/CampShalom2024

Thened Weeks Week I: July 8 - 12 - Nature Week Week II: July 15-19 - Mission Impossible Week III: July 22-26 - The Arts Week IV: July 29 - Aug 2 - The Olympics





PJ Library Family Hike

3-4 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at McConnell Springs Park, 416 Rebmann Lane. Familes are invited to hike (about ½-mile on paved path) and take part in a scavenger hunt to belatedly celebrate Tu BiShvat. RSVP at Bit.lv/ PJhike3-3-24. Questions? Email carly@jewishlexington.org.

One Book, One Lexington (Rescheduled from January)

2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at

Temple Adath Israel. In partnership with Hadassah. Discussion with University of Kentucky history professor Jeremy Popkin, author of "Zelda Popkin: The Life and Times of an American Jewish Woman Writer." Space is limited; register at Bit.ly/onebook2024.

Maggid: Jewish Storytelling

7 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 at Pivot Brewing, 1400 Delaware Ave. An evening of storytelling, laughs and light snacks. This month's theme: significant and/or funny Jewish moments. Free; beer available for purchase. Contact Joy Fisher at joy@jewishlexington.org for more for more info.

Black and White Masquerade

7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at LexArts, 161 N. Mill St. 2024 Annual Campaign kickoff. Black and white attire optional. \$36 per person; includes one drink ticket and dessert. Cash bar. Purchase tickets at Jewishlexington.org/ donate/masquerade/. Questions? Email joy@jewishlexington.org.

Coming in April

Check upcoming emails for details and registration information.

- Sunday, April 14: An Intimate Evening With Steven Dorff
- Sunday, April 28: Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration.



YAHRZEIT ... These we remember ...



March 1 Louis Abrams Sarah Fox Ades Maurice M. Ballin Sadye M. Breck I. Davis Anita Ditty Ora Slaughter Frankel Barbara "Bobbi" Fried Pauline Goldenberg Esther Hornstein Peter W. Josten Stanley Katz Hilda Kerber Annie H. Kreger Jack Landesberg Avraham Lazurik Henry Loevenhart Melvin Machesney Ethel Medsker Shirley Ades Platt Phyllis Scher Esther Schwartz Elaine Roni Sippy Jonathan William Snyder Corinne Strauss Stern Larry Steur Milton Victor James D. Weil **Howard Weiss**

March 8

Geraldine H. Balmer Julia Bloom Isaac Capilouto Irene Chasen Louis Chasen **Doris Chaples** Harold Chaples Dr. Maurice S. Davis Lewis Epstein Steve Fleckman Irving Fleet Carol Flomenhoft Sidney Gall Emma B. Goldman

Frieda Y. Goldman Martin Goldschmidt Reginald Ernest Haskell Regina Hustedde Hyman S. Hymson Maude S. Jacobson Robert Adam Katz Harry Kessler Dora (Doris) Krekun Joseph Lester Levens Beatrice Milner Ralph Petrone Norman Potter Roland Rabe Morris Rattner Herbert P. Sarett **Edward Shuster** Robert Silverman Nathan Waldman Belle Weill Weil Dr. Abraham Wikler Henrietta "Henny" Witzer

March 15

May Abraham **Burnis Akers** Morris J. Baker Riva Bisnovataya Sophie Bloomfield Ruth Brown D. Kay Clawson Svlvia Skuller Cohen Martin Cremer Stephen Edelstein Leslie Guttman Kate Hymson Lea Kaplan Nathan Kaplan Mark Kaufman Freda Kornreich Ruth Magen Mark Magilow Henrietta (Jettchen) Marx Betsy Matek **Emanuel Meyers**

Anita Morris Jack Neufeld Henry Ravvin Stanton Schuman Pauline Scott Sidney Shain Dorothy D. Stith James M. Strauss Janice M. Weil Douglas Weinberg Rose Wolfson

March 22 Ed Beeman

Banks

Norman Bernard

Rose Newhoff

Bloomfield

Harold Boian Darwin James Braun Charles Cool Dr. Charles F. Flton Jr. Zelma Fleischman John Frank Lillian Frumberg May Golde Michael Ralph Gross Dora Heller Adolf Kerber Harry Klein Cindy Jennings Kline Harry Mertens Moses Moses William Moses Morton Norris Ephim Nudel Isadore H. Pollack Max Saretsky Stanley Scher Gerald Schumer Pavel Sheftel Nell S. Straus Robert Arnold Strauss Sidney Wachtel Matilda Weil

March 29

Lillie Bederman Arlene Cobin Mildred Cool Dorothy Doran Norman Gaddie Gitel Grobstein Delbert F. Haynes Lawrence Hymes Henry Jacobsen Pearl Ann Lowenthal Walter Magid Joseph E. Marks Leonore S. Mayer Bernard H. Miller Sandi Schermer Corinne Wachtel Maree M. Winters Sol Wurmser Ben Abraham Zuckerman

April 5

Hennie Abel Jacob Abraham Jay Abraham

Millie M. Abramson Michael Adelstein Beverly Stith Bitter Rose Brazin Mortimer I. Cobin Esther Cohen Leonard Granville Doran Lillian Klein Eilenberg Erich Fischer Virginia Flovd Sandor Fried Jean Goldschmidt Leon J. Henry Robert Katz **Edward Kessler** Maria Lohmeyer Jacob Mandel Ord Matek Gertrude Meyers Louis Nigoff Lucille Paskowitz Hans Julius Sander Rita Sander

Jay David Weil

Mary Wenneker

In Memorian ...

Harriet Corren, aunt of Lauren (Billy) Hill, great-aunt of Sophie Hill

Frances Jarvis

Marc Kovinow

Sheldon Palley, father of Kevin (Clair) Palley and grandfather of Nathan and Amanda Palley

William Queen, son-in-law of Odette Kaplan

Stefan Schatzki, father of Ted Schatzki (Nora Moosnick) and grandfather of Louis and Helena Schatzki

Sybil Stern, mother of Tom (Eve) Stern and Robert Stern, aunt of Shirley (Jared) Bryan

May their memories be for a blessing

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Betsy Wides



WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE



Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.

March 1

Shabbat 7 p.m.

March 2

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m. Parsha 11 a.m.

Ki Tisa — Exodus 30:11-34:35

March 8

Shabbat 7 p.m.

March 9

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Vayak'heil — Exodus 35:1-38:20

March 15

Family Shabbat 6:15 p.m. Shabbat 7 p.m.

March 16

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

P'kudei — Exodus 38:21-40:38

March 22

Hadassah Shabbat 7 p.m.

March 23

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Vayikra — Leviticus 1:1-5:26

March 29

Shabbat 7 p.m.

March 30

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Tzav — Leviticus 6:1-8:36

April 5

Shabbat 7 p.m.

April 6

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Sh'mini — Leviticus 9:1-11:47

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

with Jewish Texts. The group explores cultural, ethical and

historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



JEWISH TEXTS STUDY

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study

Group. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join any time.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Executive Committee

Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.* Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. *

Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.

*Change in usual meeting day

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 as we take a look at the Torah portion for the week. Sessions are not held when there is a bar or bat mitzvah service.

Directory updates

To protect the privacy of our congregants, updates to the TAI member directory no longer will be published in the bulletin. They will be communicated in a more secure way. Please continue to notify the office about address, email or phone number changes.

TAI MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: AVODAH (Worship); TALMUD TORAH (Torah Study); TZEDEK (Social Justice); and KEHILAH (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.

TAI'S ENDOWMENT AT WORK

The cumulative value of TAI's endowment, which supplements the temple's financial needs, grew about 14.65% in 2023. Based on information compiled by Endowment Committee Treasurer Stacey Myers-Wilson, disbursements were made as follows to meet temple needs through Dec. 31:

- \$44,400 from Enrichment Fund; offset operating expenses.
- \$14K from Hineni Fund; offset operating expenses.
- \$8.9K from Skuller-Cohen-Cerel Endowment Fund; cost of Religious School curriculum and security services.
- \$8.4K from Preschool Reserve Fund (comprised of budget surpluses over the years from the now-defunct preschool); final payment for paving former outdoor playground space.
- \$6.8 K from Ricky Rozen Memorial Fund; fencing former outdoor playground space.
- \$6.7K from Rosenstein Family Fund; offset Religious School operating expenses.
- \$6.1K from Dr. Sherman E. and Fannie H Miller Memorial Fund; youth activities and scholarships.
- \$5.4K from Rosenthal Rabbinic Chair Fund; offsets part of rabbi's compensation.
 - \$5.1K from Music and Worship Fund; partially

offsets part of compensation for musician in residence.

- \$5K from Jayne Bolotin Memorial Fund; cover TAI's insurance deductible from storm damage in August 2022.
 - \$4.4K from Centennial Fund; operating expenses.
- \$3.1K from the Marty Solomon Fund for Jewish Youth Experiences and General Fund Purposes; 2022-23 tuition offset for Religious School families.
- \$3K from Victoria Greenberg Rabbinical Fund; partial payment for live streaming services by Live Control.
- \$2K from Cindy Kline Fund; offsets part of compensation for musician in residence.
- \$1.6K from Anita and Harold Baker Music Trust Fund; offset cost of April concert of Moroccan Jewish music.
- \$1.1K from Perpetual Care Fund; care of nine gravesites at Lexington Cemetery.
- \$1K from Tikkun Olam Fund; replenish L'Chaim Fund, which helps congregants facing financial struggles.
- \$900 from Adolph A. and Celia F. Abraham Music Fund; new electronic keyboard for sanctuary.
- \$600 from Maurice Kaufmann Adult Education Fund, programming expenses.

CONTRIBUTIONS

FLOWER FUND

Stacy Bloomfield in memory of Hugo Bloomfield
Odette Kaplan in memory of Hazel J. "Nicki" Kaplan
Pat Lawrence in memory of Stephen J. "Skip" Ross
Dan Liebman in memory of Susan Kelly Knoll
Annette Milch in memory of Estelle Steinberg
Marc Plavin and Toni Reiss in memory of Richard Glen Reiss
Lou and Bobbi Shain in memory of Jennie Meyer
Alan and Elissa Weinstein in memory of Bertha Pessin,
Allan Forman, and Don Forman
Janet Zusman in memory of Florence Zusman

GENERAL FUND

Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant in memory of Sheldon Palley and William Queen

Stephanie Moon in honor of Pat and Michael Marx **Thomas Musgrave**

Vicki Gay Taylor in memory of Fran Jarvis **Mixon Ware** in memory of Jack Joffe

Nicole Bernard, Kim Colley, Adam Marciszewski

L'CHAIM FUND

Kim Colley

MUSIC AND WORSHIP FUND

Jamie and Brad Fine

Kim and Rob Rosenstein in honor of Janet Zusman's birthday

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Paul Joseph

The Stern Family in memory of Sybil Stern Vicky Gay Taylor in memory of Fran Jarvis

SHERMAN E. AND FANNIE H. MILLER FUND

Samye and Darryl Stith in memory of Bev Bitter, Hattie Gordon, Stan Gordon, Bernice Herman, Nathan Herman, Sam Herman, I.A. (Jack) Miller, Dorothy Stith, Irvin Morris and Morris Waisblum

SOCIAL ACTION AUXILIARY FUND

Julie Mickler

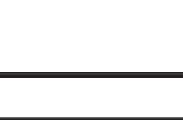












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