



Bet Israel Bulletin
רבעון של ק"ק בית ישראל

בית הכנסת המסורתי בנתניה

Vol. No. 3

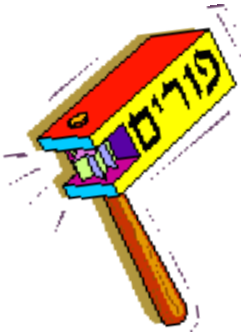
February 2013

Purim 5773

פורים: אדר תשע"ג

פורים - קריאת המגילה

באוצ"ש 23 בפברואר בשעה 18:30



Purim - Megilla Reading

Motzei Shabbat, 23 February at 6:30pm



Followed by

hamentaschen and drinks

ומיז לאחר מכן

שתייה חמה ואוכלי האן

Please come in costume

נא לבוא בתחפושת

Sunday Morning 24 February at 8am: Purim – Shacharit and Megilla

יום ראשון 24 בפברואר: פורים – שחרית עם קריאת המגילה בשעה 08:00

Bet Israel Masorti Congregation of Netanya

19 Yehuda Hanassi St.

P.O.Box 437, 42103 Netanya, Israel

Office: Sun.-Thu. 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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קהילת בית ישראל, מסורתי, נתניה

רחי יהודה הנשיא 19

ת.ד. 437 נתניה 42103

משרד: ימי אי עד 08:30 עד 14:00

Email: office@betisrael.org Website: <http://www.betisrael.org/>

From the Rabbi's Desk:

אז פורים שוב כאן וכל העולם מלא באזני המן במילויים שונים וטעימים. אגב, אזני המן מקורם מעוגיות שנקראות ביידיש "המן טאשען", שפירושו "הכיסים של המן".

כמובן שחשיבות החג אינה נובעת מהעוגיות המשולשות, וגם לא מהמסיכות או מהתחפושות, ואין זה משנה אם מדובר במלכת אסתר, המן הרשע, המלך אחשוורוש או פיטר פאן. פורים היא אבן דרך בהיסטוריה היהודית כי זהו המקרה הראשון שבו הוצג לעולם דגם לאנטישמיות. הממציא – המן.

המן כעס על מרדכי שהסכים להשתחוות ל-ה' בלבד ולא לראש ממשלת פרס. לכן רצה המן להתנקם לא רק במרדכי, אלא בכל עמו. וכך הוא אומר למלך "יש עם המפוזר בכל ממלכתך ובכל זאת נפרד מכל עמי הממלכה, דתם אחרת, הם אינם פועלים על פי רצונות המלך ויש במעשיהם יותר נזק מאשר תועלת והדבר הכי נכון יהיה להשמידם". והמלך מסכים לכך.

הגורל שלנו נחתם. אך ככל שיום הדין שלנו מתקרב, מגיעה ההצלה הבלתי צפויה. המן הרשע נתלה ולמרדכי, אסתר והעם היהודי יש סיבה לחגוג – בחג פורים.

גם אם לא כל הפרטים בסיפור נכונים מבחינה היסטורית, אין ספק שלפני כ- 2500 שנה תוכננה השמדת העם היהודי על ידי מושל רשע ואנו חוגגים ביום שבו ניצלנו. שמחתנו גדולה עוד יותר מאחר שבמהלך השנים הללו שוב ושוב היינו מאויימים, מושפלים, נרדפים ונהרגים. העננים השחורים עטפו אותנו, שוב ושוב היינו על סף ייאוש... וגם כיום אנחנו מוקפים מכל עבר על ידי אויבים, שחלומם הוא לראות אותנו נעלמים מהעולם, כששוב בעלי ברית אינם באים לעזרנו. ובכל זאת, יש לנו אמונה בתוך לבנו שכפי שהקדוש-ברוך-הוא עזר לנו לצאת ממצבים קשים בעבר, צעד אחר צעד, לפני 2500 שנה, כך יהיה גם היום ומחר. הוא יהיה לצידינו כדי לחזק אותנו ולתמוך בנו, בעודנו מגיעים לעתיד מזהיר ויצרני.

חג פורים שמח לכל אחיי ואחיותי, לעם ישראל בכל מקום!!!

הרב ארוין בירנבאום

So Purim is coming once again and we are never out of sight of "Homentaschen" filled with jam, chocolate, poppyseeds, and other mouth-watering stuff.

Incidentally, the word "Homentaschen" means in Yiddish "pockets of Haman". The Hebrew word for the same delicacy is "Oznei Haman" meaning "the ears of Haman". Please don't ask me what the pockets or ears of Haman have to do with the festival, because I do not know. If anyone of our dear readers has an inkling or a theory, please share it with us.

Of course, we all realize that the real significance of Purim is not in the triangularly shaped cookies. Neither is it in the ingenious masks, nor in the charming outfits of Queen Eszter, wicked Haman, gullible King Achashverosh, or Peter Pan. Purim is actually a milestone in Jewish history because for the first time a formula for anti-semitism was presented to the world. Its inventor was Haman.

Angry at Mordechai who would bow only to God and refuses to bow to the Prime Minister of Persia, Prime Minister Haman wants to take revenge not on Mordechai alone but on all of his people. Thus speaketh Haman to the king: "Your majesty, there is in our midst a people dispersed among the nations in all the provinces of your kingdom, and yet separated from them, for their faith is different from that of all your subjects, they do not live and act by the King's wishes, the King derives more harm than profit from them, and the most fitting thing would be to destroy them". Lo and behold, the King agrees.

Our fate is sealed. But as our day of doom approaches, from the clear blue comes our salvation. Wicked Haman winds up on the gallows and Mordechai, Esther and the Jewish People have cause to celebrate the festival of deliverance, Purim. Even if some details of the Purim story may not be historical, there is no doubt that around 2,500 years ago a wicked ruler planned our people's annihilation, and we celebrate on this joyous festival our great deliverance. Our joy is all the greater because in the course of 2,500 years we were threatened, humiliated, persecuted and decimated time and time again. With dark clouds enveloping

us, we were repeatedly pushed to the brink of despair with not a glimmer of hope left for us on the horizon. And even today, we are surrounded on all sides by enemies whose dream is to see us wiped off the face of the globe, and no friends, near or far, coming to our aid.

And yet, we have faith and we know deep down in our hearts, that as the Almighty has helped us step by step in our darkest moments those 2,500 years, so today too, and tomorrow, He will be on our side to strengthen and support us as we reach ever forward to a productive and glorious future.

CHAG PURIM SAMEACH TO ALL MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS,
TO ALL 'AM YISRAEL' EVERYWHERE!!!

Rabbi Ervin Birnbaum



From the President's Desk Purim 2013

חברים וחברות יקרים,

התקופה שבין פורים לפסח מכניסה אותי בדרך כלל לאמביציה – איך ומתי לארגן את הבית, לערוך קניות לפסח, בקיצור – לעשות סדר.

עבורי זהו פרק זמן נוסף לעצור ולבדוק מה עשיתי ומה לא, לחשבון נפש נוסף. תקופה להיזכר בה במה שהיה ולתכנן את מה שיהיה. כן, אני מאלה שכבר בראש השנה בודקים מתי יחול ראש השנה הבא...

השנה יש עניין נוסף – סיום תפקידי כיו"ר משותפת של קהילת בית ישראל, עם שותפי לתפקיד, מורי קפורובסקי. עברו עלינו ארבע שנים מעניינות, שנים של ראייה משותפת ושל שיתוף פעולה שזכינו בו מצד חברי הקהילה. אנחנו מעבירים את הלפיד לעתיד טוב יותר לידי הוועד שייבחר לאחר חג הפסח. אנחנו נשארים כאן כדי להמשיך ולתרום לקהילה שלנו.

אני מאחלת לכולנו שהחגים הבאים עלינו לטובה יביאו אתם שמחה, אהבה ושלוש.

רחל קרופניק-הולמן

Dear friends,

The period of time between Purim and Pesach is usually a challenge for me – how and when to organize my home, shop for Pesach groceries – in short how to make order or "Seder" in my life. In addition, this is the time when I stop and try to check what I have achieved so far, a time to remember the past and to plan for the future. I belong to the club that checks the date for next year's Rosh Hashana as soon as I get the new calendar...

This year there is another matter – Morrie Kaprovsky and I are concluding a four-year stint as co-presidents of Bet Israel.

We have had four very interesting years, of seeing matters in a similar way and with full co-operation that we received from the community members. We pass on the torch for a better future to the new Executive Board that will be elected after Pesach. We will stay on and continue to contribute to our congregation.

I wish us all that the coming Holidays bring with them joy, love and peace.

Rachel Krupnik-Holman



Est un zingt gezunterheyt!! - Eat and sing in good health!

Batya Fonda

www.jewishfolksongs.com

We all know that Jews - and everyone else - love food. Gefilte fish, tsholnt, kugel, knishes, rogelekh ... oy, a *mekhaye*!! But getting enough food to eat has, for most people, always been a problem. As God told Adam, "By the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground"

(Bereishit, 3:19) - and this has been the course of the history of mankind. Except

for rich people, of course! As the song "*Lomir ale zingen*" [let's all sing] tells us, rich people can afford sweet challot with raisins, while poor people have to make do with a dry crust; rich people enjoy fruit compote, while all the others have "*gehakte tsores*" - chopped up troubles!

Oy, *s'iz gut tsu zayn a yid!* - How great it is to be a Jew! This song lovingly enumerates all the special dishes we prepare for the festivals. "*Lekoved shabes*" similarly relates the foods traditionally eaten on the three Shabbat meals: "*Fish, un a tsimesl fun merelekh* [carrot stew], *un a kugel oykhet; tsholnt, un a tsimesl fun pasternak* [parsnip stew] *un a kugel oykhet; kalte fish, un teygelekh* [honey dough] *un farfelekh* [noodles], *un a kugele oykhet.*" But what happened if you couldn't afford all these delicacies? "*Vu nemt men oyf shabes?*" [Where will we get food for Shabbat?] - the wife asks her husband, and the husband asks the rabbi. "*S'vet zayn*" [You'll have food] answers the rabbi in the song "*Lekoved dem heylikn shabes*" [in honour of the holy Shabbat], even if it is "*Bulbes*" [potatoes], the poor family's daily fare, disguised as a kugel. Somehow or other, one managed to scrape up enough to eat on Shabbat, but it was on Motzaei Shabbat, when the three stars appeared in the sky and the Jews were promised "*Zareynu vekhaspeynu yarbe kakhol*" [God will multiply our seed and our coins like the grains of sand], that the *baleboste* [woman of the house] started to worry seriously about where the money was coming to feed all those mouths in the coming week.

Oy vey - perhaps it's good to be a Jew, but it's not so easy, especially for a woman. If a young wife did not know how to prepare the shabes kugel she might be beaten and sent back to her parents, as we hear in the song "*Hot a yid a vaybele*" [a Jew has a wife]. Poor Yakhne Dvoshe, who brought her mother-in-law Purim *homentashn* which were "half raw and half burnt" has become common laughing stock! And in the song "*Tsvey shayles*" [two questions], a housewife asks the rabbi how to kosher a meat cup into which her gentile neighbour has poured milk, and also what to do about her husband, whom the neighbour has been dallying with. The rabbi pronounces the same judgment regarding both questions: "Give him/it a good wash and a good rub, heat him over coals, bury him with straw, and in a year, God willing, he will be kosher!"

There are many songs describing the destitution of life without bread, such as "*Der kranker shnayder*" [the sick tailor] or "*Hungerik dayn ketzele*" [your kitten is hungry]. But a Jewish mother will somehow know how to deal with deprivation: "*Dos broytele*" [the little loaf] shows her magically feeding one loaf of bread into eight hungry mouths - all except her own! In the lullaby "*S'iz keyn broyt in shtub nito nokh*" [there's still no bread in the house], the hungry child is told that he will one day manage to learn how to make the land fertile and will eventually understand why his mother was forced to bring him up severely.

Despite the hardships, it IS good to be a Jew! What can be better than to sleep off the shabes kugel, or, if you are a little younger, to go *shpatsirn* with your *bashert* [to promenade with your predestined partner] - listen to the song "*Shabes nokhn kugel*" [Shabbat after the kugel]. As we learn in Psalm 126, 5: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joyful song." I invite you to come to the singalong lecture on 5th March to hear and sing many of the songs connected with Jewish food - and also to taste a "*bisele shpayz*" [a little bit of food]. In the meantime, read an expanded version of this article on my website: www.jewishfolksongs.com/en/Ashkenazi-food.

Happy Purim, everyone! *Est gezunterheyt* [eat in good health] and *Zingt gezunterheyt* [SING in good health]!!

Lehitra'ot,

Batya Fonda

In ancient Persia, when the Purim story took place, our people were placed in mortal danger by the machinations of the hateful Haman who was bent on the total annihilation of the Jews. But, due to the good fortune and wisdom of Mordechai, who overheard the plot of Bigthan and Teresh to assassinate the king, he was able to foil the attempt by convincing Esther to take her life into her hands and approach Ahasuerus, the king, without having been summoned and to inform him of the imminent danger. Now that the Knesset elections are over we have to think how our government should deal with the modern-day Ahasuerus and Haman.

Meanwhile, in Bet Israel, we are looking forward to being together with the Bet Israel family and the families and children of the Havura who will join us as the Megilla is read on Motzei Shabbat 23 February at 6:30pm. This will be followed by a sing-along with Batya. Please join us afterwards for hamentashen and coffee.

Joyce Frank was missed at our last board meeting and we send her our best wishes for good health and to enjoy her new home in Haifa with her family.

Kudos to Freda Sacharen for a supremely professional job in organizing and running the Annual BICA Bazaar, which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, 5 and 6 February. Freda, we hope you have had time to rest and recuperate. Many thanks to all who participated, by donating goods, by purchasing goods, and by helping set-up, sell and clear up. It was "all hands on deck" and you all "came up trumps"!

Looking beyond Purim, we will be having a delightful evening combining the musical skills of Batya Fonda with the culinary skills of some of our members. On Tuesday 5 March at 7pm there will be an evening dedicated to our Ashkenazi palates, both in music and in food. The evening is entitled, "A lek and a shmek", and we will be serving cholent, kugel and mandelbrot to round off Batya's lecture/recital/sing-along on the theme of food. Not to be missed – all this just 30 shekels.

And, before the Seder is upon us, we will meet for a Pre-Pessach Oneg Shabbat on Friday evening 22 March immediately following *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, which begins at 5:40pm. The seuda costs 70 shekels per person, and of course, must be reserved and paid for in advance. This is a great way to solve that final pre-pessach Friday night meal, when your kitchen is already prepared for the chag, and you are ready to call it a day --- so make sure you join us all. In the meantime, I wish you all a joyous Purim.

Helen Brawer, co-President of BICA



Havurah-- for Hebrew-speaking families with young children

▶ The Havurah is gaining momentum! At the last meeting for Tu B'Shvat there were 8 families with 12 children among them, ranging in age from 4 to 8 years old. The children learned about the typical fruits and trees of Israel, planted seeds and took them home to watch them grow. As always the meeting ended with lighting the Shabbat candles, Kiddush and hamotzei over the challot.

▶ ***We meet once a month on Erev Shabbat for a Jewish-calendar-based activity led by our member Elizabeth Fontanills (whose two daughters and their friends are in the picture on the left). We will join in the Megilla reading and singing on Erev Purim --- See you there!***

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To Rabbi Ervin & Hadassa Birnbaum, on your Wedding Anniversary

Claudja Khenkin

My granddaughter and her husband

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Plaque

Norma Nicolayevsky, in memory of her mother, Hermosa Yaffa Farca

Bet Israel mourns the loss of

Helen Marks

Elizabeth Levy

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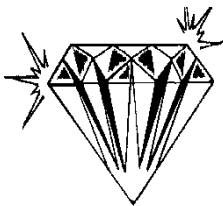
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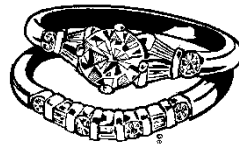
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