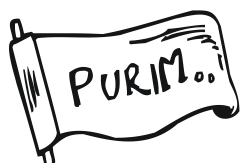


Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

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Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

March 2014



PURIM NEWSLETTER



Saturday night March 15	Maariv	7:45P.M.
	Megillah	8:15 P.M.
Sunday Morning March 16	Schacharis	8:00 A.M.
	Megillah	8:30 A.M.

PURIM'S RELEVANCE TO THE MODERN AGE

Out of all the books of the Bible and all the related miracles to us perhaps no work speaks to us like the Purim story.

Most of the biblical incidents have the blatant presence of the Divine. The exodus story is obviously so. The ten plagues beset the Egyptians to the extent that we still talk of unusual manifestations as reminiscent of those ancient visitations. The crossing of the sea also shows blatant divine presence. The same can be said throughout the Bible. Comes the Megillah, the Purim story, and the divine presence is hidden which can leave those with less belief to assume indeed this presence is absent. Yet the Megillah in a very intricate way weaves a web that only in retrospect leads us to decipher the divine plan and his intervention.

This is the story of the most modern Jewish history. The divine hand is truly hidden. Jewish existence appears precarious and survival appears to be subject to the whim of dictators or at best our own capabilities. It is only later or perhaps in a post messianic world that we will find out just like in the Purim story how divinely miraculous our situation truly was and is.

Purim is a short holiday in duration but its relevance is quite significant. Don't let the carnival atmosphere of this celebration hide its great importance.

A freilichen Purim,
Rabbi Ari Kagan

MAOT CHITTIM

The festival of Pesach will soon be here and the needs and numbers of the poor continue to increase. As in previous years we request that you join in helping the needy with a generous contribution to the matzoh fund. Please respond as quickly as possible. The earlier we have the money in hand the earlier we can distribute it and alleviate the anxiety of those who depend upon us to meet their needs. It is interesting to note that one of the first of all Passover laws is none other than the requirement to support the poor and to help with their Passover needs. We are taking the liberty of enclosing an envelope, which will facilitate your sending your contribution to the synagogue office. In the merit of your contribution we wish all our members and fellow worshipers: A kosher and happy holiday.

Rabbi Ari Kagan

From Our Sisterhood

In addition to what Mordechai had decreed, that the Jews should keep Purim every year by reading the Megillah, giving gifts to the poor people, sending portions of food to one another, and eating a festive meal on the day of Purim, Esther also decreed the same for all time as an official government law and as official Torah law.

We should thank Hashem for saving us at that time and always remember that Haman, a descendant of Amalek, tried to destroy us as a people.

Happy Purim to one and all !

WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

MAZAL TOV

Belated congratulations to Joshua Hillel Keller on his marriage
in October to Julie Kesselman

Mazal tov as well to his mother, Mrs. Joan Keller

REFUAH SHLAIMA

To Mrs. Yolanda Bleich

IN CONDOLENCE

To Mr. Michael Poretsky on the loss of his brother, Allan

To Mr. Chaim Farkas on the loss of brother-in-law, Noach Steinberg

May the period of Adar and Purim usher in only joy and good cheer!