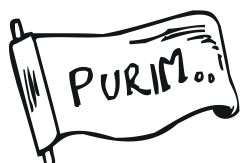


Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

1741 East 3rd Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 - 718-375-3895
Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

February 2013



PURIM NEWSLETTER



Saturday Night February 23	Maariv	6:20 P.M.
	Megillah	6:50 P.M.
Sunday Morning February 8	Schacharis	8:00 A.M.
	Megillah	8:30 A.M.

“AND WHAT IS THE SOUND OF THE SHEEP THAT I HEAR”?

We find that King Saul maintains that he fulfilled the commandment to eliminate *Amalek*. The prophet Samuel responds if that is so “What is the sound of the sheep I hear”. Rabbi Yisroel Miller in his work *A gift for Yom Tov* draws our attention to a prayer said on the fast of Esther. Here *Hashem* says : “ And what is this sound of sheep that I hear”. This is not a negative retort or rebuke to us but rather a reference to Jewish children.

Our sages taught us that Mordechai during the Purim crisis when destruction was hovering over the Jewish people; yet at that time Mordechai continued to learn with the children. What topic did he learn with them? The esoteric and at that point theoretical topic of sacrifices. The Talmud reports that even Haman conceded that these study sessions foiled his diabolical plot.

Saul reasoned that certain omissions were not significant. What difference does it make if I kill the sheep or have compassion on some of *Amalek*. These omissions come back to haunt his people generations later. His descendent Mordechai learns the lesson. He says even commandments now not practiced should still be studied. I will make no excuses. All *mitzvos* in their totality must be studied. This elicited the very same response “What is the sound of the sheep I hear”? If Jewish children are absorbed in study I must intervene.

We must do our part without excuse or delay and then He will guide our destiny in a fortuitous way.

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 worshippers: A kosher and happy holiday.

Rabbi Ari Kagan

FROM OUR SISTERHOOD

At the second of Queen Esther's parties, Haman stood accused by the queen of wanting to destroy the Jewish people. The king walked out of the room and Haman accidentally fell on Queen Esther.

Then the king walked back into the room and was very angry upon seeing Haman on top of Queen Esther. Charvonah noted that Haman had made a tree gallows fifty *amos* high, upon which to hang Mordechai. The king said to hang Haman on his own tree gallows.

May all the enemies of the Jews, the Hamans in this world, be justly punished like Haman in the Purim Megillah, Megilas Esther. A happy Purim to all.

WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY IN CONDOLENCE

To Mr. & Mrs. Farkas on the loss of a brother-in-law, Shlomo Hoffman

To Mrs. Leah Hecht on the loss of a brother-in-law, Morris Hecht

To Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Tropper on the loss of his father, Rabbi Yisroel Mechal Tropper

May we convey only good news from now on.