



Drasha for Adar Sheini



By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein

We celebrate Purim on the second Adar of a leap year in order "to join one redemption to another" (Purim to Pesah)

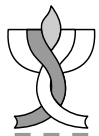
In fact the "redemption" of Purim is a relatively paltry affair. Nor for nothing did the Rabbis tell us that the recitation of Hallel does not apply to the miracle of Purim. After all, the Hallel Proclaims – "הללו עבדי ה'" "Praise God O servants of God" but as the Talmud notes, even after the first Purim, אַחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ אֲנִי – "we remain the slaves of Ahashverosh". Purim, unlike Pesah, does not celebrate freedom. Purim celebrates mere survival. Mere survival is an unlovely, if essential condition.

But the celebration of Purim is uniquely unrestrained. While it is almost certainly a Halakhic mistake to take literally the Talmud's admonition "One is obligated to drink wine on Purim until one no longer knows the difference between "Cursed be Haman" & Blessed be Mordecai" – it certainly bespeaks celebration! But why does merely nullifying a genocidal threat and continuing to be able to maneuver successfully in a condition of political servitude warrant such intense celebration? If you want to celebrate, celebrate Pesach when we become a free people! What is there to celebrate in merely surviving the monstrous designs of a tyrant?

But the judgment of Jewish history as well as Halakha is of course different. Purim celebrates a different kind of victory – the victory of a dispossessed vulnerable people who set their own path and live by their own laws in defiance of all of the ordinary rules of the game.

The exodus from Egypt and the giving of the Torah come about through a wondrous intrusion of God into history. The sheer overpowering character of those events leads our sages to conclude that there was little human choice here. Matan Torah is characterized in the Talmud through an imaginative presentation of the "choices" involved. In this Aggadic presentation, God is imagined casting Mt. Sinai over Am Yisrael as if it were a giant tub and saying to them "If you accept the Torah, well and good. If not, this will be your grave". The Talmud's own conclusion here is that if that account stands alone, every Jew should be able to say "I am not bound by a choice that was coerced."

Remarkably, the Talmud concludes this discussion by saying that the truly free choice that binds each Jew to the Torah came centuries later at the time of the Purim story. At the time of the Purim story, the Jews were threatened with annihilation. Instead of instituting Purim, the more prudent choice would have been to choose assimilation and to abandon the vulnerability that Judaism creates for a diaspora of powerless Jews. The proclamation of Purim as a perpetual holiday, coupled with renewed determination to live as Jews represents a new Kabbalat HaTorah in which the Jews choose the Torah in spite of the risks. This is what lies at the root of the unreserved celebration of Purim and the entire month of Adar.



IN SYMPATHY

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

TO ZEV KESSLER AND FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF THEIR WIFE AND MOTHER CHERYL KESSLER, WHO PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 1ST.

TO AARON & TOBY FLEISCHMAN ON THE LOSS OF AARON'S MOTHER, MADELINE FLEISCHMAN.

MAZEL TOV

To Talya Engelhart on her Bat Mitzvah, and to her parents Gerry & Miriam Engelhart and grandmother Esther Offer.

To Shmulie & Daryle Spero on the birth of twin grandsons born to Reva and Binyomin Holczer of West Hempstead, NY.

BOY SCOUTS ARE COMING!

Green Road Synagogue will soon be hosting a Boy Scouts troop led by our member, Andy Stone. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact David (also a Boy Scout) in the office for more details. This troop will be open to anyone in our Jewish community, so bring a friend!



MINYAN EMERGENCY!

We are calling on all men in our membership to commit to coming to one morning or evening Minyan each week. There are days where we barely have 10. It is crucial that the backbone of our Shul be strengthened by your participation. If you can, please try to come at least once during the week to support our Minyanim.

DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Synagogue.

IN MEMORY OF:

Esther Ellen's Mother, Miriam Sasson: Morry & Judy Weiss; Anne Pearl; Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Gita Kalus: Michael & Paula Seiger

Jenny Albert: Liz Tuly

Juoli Noy: Liz Tuly

Philip Epstein: Anne Pearl; Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Cynthia Uvlin's Sister, Charlotte Oratz: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Dr. David Rothner's Mother, Shirley Rothner: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Nathan & Betty Berliner's daughter, Sherry Dimarsky: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

IN HONOR OF:

Moshe Lovinger's Auf Ruf: Nathan & Kathleen Weiss

Moshe Lovinger's Marriage to Robin Fisher: Bruce & Amy Good; Morry & Judy Weiss; Sheila & Herschel Pickholtz; Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Irv & Lollie Silber's 50th Wedding Anniversary: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Rochel Feig's new Granddaughter: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Ken & Ruth Weider's new Twin Grandchildren: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Shmulie & Daryle Spero's new Twin Grandsons: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

Mark & Ellie Shoag's new Grandson: Miriam Katz & Ze'ev Rabinowitz

KIDDUSH:

February 23: By Marla & Joe Shafran together with Joe's sisters, Paula & Joan of New York and Boston in honor of the Yahrzeit of their father, Nate Shafran.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT:

February 9: By Steven & Edith Greenberg in memory of Steve's mother, Lillian Greenberg, on the occasion of her Yahrzeit.

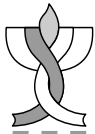
February 16: By David & Adina Seltzer & Family in memory of David's father, Josh Seltzer, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.

February 23: By Karol & Joan Saks in memory of Karol's father, Mayer Saks, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can sponsor a Kiddush for the entire congregation starting at \$400, or with Cholent at \$1000? Team up with friends who have birthdays or Yahrzeits around the same time and sponsor together. Every family event is enhanced when shared with the Shul. To schedule a Kiddush, call the office at 216-381-4757 or email Jane@GreenRoadSynagogue.org





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Fax: 216-381-5059
Email:
Office@GreenRoadSynagogue.org
Website:
www.GreenRoadSynagogue.org

Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday
9:30 am — 5:00 pm
Friday
9:30 am — 3:00 pm



**Come grow
with us!**

Spiritual Leader
Rabbi Melvin Granatstein

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Ari H. Jaffe

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MAR-APR 2008
ADAR II 5768

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Jane: 216-381-4757

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★ Green Road Synagogue invites one and all to our Purim Chagiga! ★

Join us for the Megillah followed by a break-the-fast dairy dinner celebration!

Thursday, March 20th

Ma'ariv & Megillah Reading 8:05 PM

PRE-PAID Reservations must be received by
Friday, March 14th.

Call Jane at 216-381-4757 Today!

MEMBERS

Adults: \$16.00

Children (4-10): \$8.00

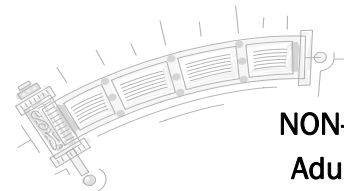
Family Max: \$60.00 — FOR MEMBERS ONLY

NON-MEMBERS

Adults: \$21.00

Children (4-10): \$14.00

*costumes
welcome!*



Green Road Synagogue Purim Chagiga 5768 Reservation Card

Name: _____

of Adults _____ # of Children _____ # Under 4 _____

To reserve a table of 10 indicate family names



MONTHLY CALENDAR

Friday, March 7 - **Rosh Chodesh Adar II**

**** Please Note Time Change ****

Weekday Morning Services 6:30 a.m.

Friday, March 7

Candle Lighting..... 6:08 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 8

Parshat Pekudei - Rosh Chodesh - Shekalim

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 5:00 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club 5:30 p.m.

Mincha..... 6:00 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 7:07 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 7:15 p.m.

**** Daylight Savings Time Begins - Move clocks ahead 1 hour ****

Sunday, March 9

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, March 12

Executive Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 14

Candle Lighting..... 7:14 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:00 p.m.

**** When you daven at an early Kabbalat Shabbat, you should light candles at that time.**

Saturday, March 15

Parshat VaYikra - Zachor

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 6:05 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club 6:35 p.m.

Mincha..... 7:05 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 8:13 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 7:20 p.m.

Sunday, March 16

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

PURIM SCHEDULE

Ta'nit Esther - Thursday, March 20

Fast Begins..... 6:18 a.m.

Morning Service..... 6:30 a.m.

Mincha..... 7:20 p.m.

Purim

Thursday, March 20

Ma'ariv & Megilla Reading 8:05 p.m.

Friday, March 21

Morning Service..... 6:25 a.m.

Shabbat Candle Lighting..... 7:21 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:00 p.m.

**** When you daven at an early Kabbalat Shabbat, you should light candles at that time.**

Saturday, March 22

Parshat Tsav

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 6:15 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club 6:45 p.m.

Mincha..... 7:15 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 8:20 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Friday, March 28

Candle Lighting..... 7:29 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:00 p.m.

**** When you daven at an early Kabbalat Shabbat, you should light candles at that time.**

Saturday, March 29

Parshat Sh'mini - Parah

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 6:20 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club 6:50 p.m.

Mincha 7:20 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 8:28 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 7:35 p.m.

Sunday, March 30

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Friday, April 4

Candle Lighting..... 7:37 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:00 p.m.

**** When you daven at an early Kabbalat Shabbat, you should light candles at that time.**

Saturday, April 5

Parshat Tazria - HaChodesh

Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 6:25 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club 6:55 p.m.

Mincha 7:22 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 8:36 p.m.

Sunday Morning ****ROSH CHODESH****... 8:00 a.m.

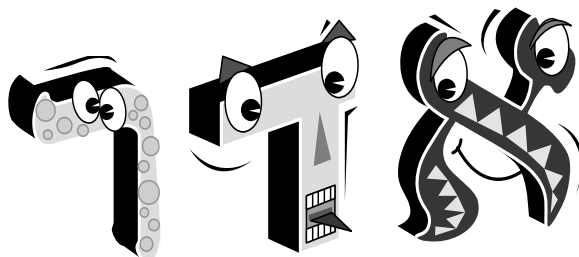
Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services..... 7:40 p.m.

Sunday, April 6

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

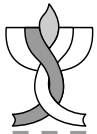
At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.



THANK YOU!

We would like to give a special thank you to those who supported this year's season of **The REEL Jewish Experience**. Once again we were able to provide a wonderful atmosphere for bringing the community together in topics of interest. There were many people who pitched in to make this another successful season, from our sponsors to our volunteers - some who were both!

We pray that we can continue our work together in being a cornerstone of our community for generations to come.



FROM OUR RABBI...

Seder Arba Parshiot

Before Pesach, on four Shabbatot, four special Torah readings are read from a second Torah. The first, Parshat Shekalim, was read on the Shabbat before Adar. The second Parshat, Zachor, is read on the Shabbat immediately preceding Purim. This Parsha speaks about the eternal war against Amalek — the embodiment of evil. On the next Shabbat we read Parshat Parah, which details the Laws of the Red Heifer and the provisions for purification in order to enter the precincts of the Temple. We read this Parsha now because Jews would have to purify themselves in order to be able to offer the Korban Pesach, or Pesach offering. On the Shabbat immediately preceding the month of Nisan, we read Parshat HaChodesh in which the Torah tells us that Nisan is the first month of the year and we are given the laws of the Korban Pesach.

Purim

The festival of Purim is the most joyous day of the Jewish calendar, and the month of Adar is the most joyous month of the year. In the Talmud, the month of Adar is contrasted with the month of Av.



When it comes to Av, the Talmud says משוכנס אב ממועדים בשמחה - "when Av enters, we diminish celebration." And when it comes to Adar, it says אדר מרבין בשמחה - "when Adar enters, we multiply celebration."

The Temple was destroyed in Av, and the people of Israel were saved from destruction in Adar. Purim thus celebrates Israel's transcending of all the foes that seek her destruction. It is well known that God's name does not appear in Megillah at all. The presence of God in the Purim narrative is not to be found in this or that event but can rather be found in connection in the entire story that leads to Israel's deliverance.

Mitzvot of Purim

Mikra Megillah: The Megillat Esther, the story of Purim, is read twice: once in the evening service and then a second time in the morning service. It must be read from a scroll written in accordance with complex laws and every word must be heard to fulfill the Mitzvah; for this reason, it is important to control the noise level in order that the reading can be heard. The obligation to hear the Megillah is incumbent on women as well as men since Jewish women, Esther above all, were instrumental in the miracle of Purim.

Matanot L'Evyonim: Every person is obligated to give a gift to at least two needy people. In this way we share the joy of the festival with those less fortunate than we are. It is also customary to "acquire," with a charitable contribution, three fifty-cent pieces at the Synagogue and "contribute" them to a charity designated by the Synagogue in the memory of the Machtzit HaShekel — the half shekel that every Jew contributed to the Holy Temple (may it be speedily rebuilt in our day).

Mishloach Manot: Each Jew is obligated to give a gift of at least two different food items to at least one other Jew. The more gifts one sends, the more praiseworthy. However, as the Rambam points out, where possible, gifts to the poor take precedence - the more given, the more praiseworthy.

Seudat Purim: One enjoys a Purim feast with one's family during Purim day. Normally we do this after Mincha and continue the meal into the night. However, when Purim occurs on Erev Shabbat, the general custom is to celebrate this feast in the morning.

