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**When Adar Begins, Joy Increases**

**Rabbi Brown**

This year, the first day of March is also the first day of the Hebrew month Adar. Adar is the month during which Purim falls. Purim will be here in two weeks. Our Jewish tradition has a slogan that comes straight out of the Talmud: "When Adar begins, joy increases" (Babylonian Talmud, tractate Ta'anit, 29a).

But I'm not feeling very joyous this year. As I write this, the funeral for the Bibas family has just taken place. Politics in this country are a mess. The sky is grey. I'm just not feeling it. Usually Adar is my favorite month. I look forward to the hijinks and merriment of Purim all year. I think of funny practical jokes and fantasize about doing them during Adar. I carefully plan and make my costume

But this year is different. I just don't feel like it.

According to the translation of the Talmud by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, the Talmud actually says “Just as when Av begins one decreases rejoicing, so too when the month of Adar begins, one increases rejoicing.”

The month of Av falls in the summer. The Ninth of Av is the day on which we remember the destruction and exile that took place against Jews since the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE: the destruction of the Second Temple; the expulsion from England in 1290, the expulsion from Spain in 1492. During the month of Av, it is traditional to behave as if we are mourning: no attending concerts or plays, no shaving (for men), no weddings. In traditionally observant Jewish communities, people don't swim or listen to music at all.

In the month of Av, we are supposed to act like we are in mourning.

Likewise, in the month of Adar, we are *supposed to act* like we are celebrating. So that's the key? It's action. We act like we are celebrating.

In the book of Esther (9:22), it says that the month of Adar was transformed from a time of mourning to a time of celebration. When we act like we are celebrating, we transform this time. We reach down deep inside ourselves and find the joy that is there – even if there isn't much, even if the celebrating is only for a short time.

Finding the joy, even just a little, even for a short time, will help us have hope for a future of light, hope for peace to finally come to the middle east, hope that every citizen of our country, every person on our planet, will have their needs met for decent housing, clothing, food, medical care, and education.

If you are as sad as me, I invite you to join me in looking deep inside and finding that sliver of joy. Opportunities to mourn will still be in abundance. But maybe we can dare to hope for, and work toward, a better future – one where our mourning is transformed into celebration.

**Rabbi Rachel Brown**



## President's Desk

Hello everyone. It feels like just yesterday that I was writing to you for the February Bulletin – time sure is flying by.

I want to start with a quick reminder about our upcoming Purim festivities. March 14 is the Purim fun-raiser. March 16 is the Purim spiel and carnival at Temple. And don't forget about Queen Esther's Cafe that day.

More importantly, I want to speak about the world at large. So much has happened since the November election and the January inauguration. It seems like every day brings something new. Some of our members may be applauding what is happening in Washington and Columbus; others may feel threatened and attacked.

As someone who works on a college campus, I am particularly attuned to the way that the government is dealing with higher education issues and how legislation impacts students.

Everyone has their own way to deal with the news cycle but I'd like to share mine. I have found two ways to confront the onslaught on news. First, I rarely look at news sites – I used to be a regular reader of the New York Times, CNN, and NPR online; now, I might glance at them once or twice a day. I want to know what's happening but doom-scrolling does me no good. Second, I breathe. I don't meditate or do yoga. I just take some deep breaths and know that what is happening will pass. Beth Israel is an incredibly welcoming, friendly, and open community. We have members from across the political spectrum who all get along. We don't talk politics but we will speak out when we believe that certain members of our community, or the community at large, are being mistreated.

If you find things to be overwhelming and want an ear to bend, please reach out. If you want to vent or cheer, please reach out. I am here to help in any way that you need it.

**Josh Levy** ( [president@thewesttemple.org](mailto:president@thewesttemple.org) )

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If you find things to be overwhelming and want an ear to bend, please reach out. If you want to vent or cheer, please reach out. I am here to help in any way that you need it.

**Josh Levy**

president@thewesttemple.org



## Educator's Desk

This month on the Hebrew calendar is *Adar*. There is something special about Adar that differentiates it from all other months. In Chapter 9:22 of the Book of Esther it says the month was transformed for the Jews from one of grief to one of joy. In Masechet Ta'anit 29a, the rabbis of the Talmud say that "When the month of Adar enters, we increase in joy." From these two sources we learn that the general theme of the month of Adar is happiness.

Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-12:30 pm, we will once again celebrate Purim as a community when our High School class will perform their annual Purim Spiel. This will be followed by a Costume Parade, Carnival and Queen Esther's Café-to-Go. The schedule will be as follows:

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Public Relations Coordinator: Becky Watts  
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Bulletin Editors: Geralda Simko & Pat Outlaw

## **Beth Israel- The West Temple's Purim Festivities**

**Sunday, March 16, 2025 10am-12:15 pm**

Schedule of Events!

The **High School Class** will perform their annual **Purim Spiel** from **10AM-10:30AM**

Following the Spiel, the students will **march in a costume parade**. **Students and teachers are encouraged to wear their costumes!**



The **Purim carnival** will run from **11AM-12:15PM**- tickets will be **\$.50 a ticket** (each game requires one ticket) or 10 tickets for \$4.00. Tickets can be purchased the day of the carnival with cash, or a check made payable to BI-TWT or you may pay via Venmo @bitwt

**This year Grades 6/7 BIC class will sponsor  
Queen Esther's Café Bagged Lunch  
Sunday, March 16, 2023 from 11:00AM-12:15 PM**

The lunch will be packed in bags ready to eat and enjoy! You may eat lunch in Ratner Hall or take the bagged lunch home. Included in the lunch is: beef hot dog/bun, chips, piece of fruit, Hamantaschen, can of soda, kisses from Esther and condiments.

**Cost: \$8.00 per lunch** (proceeds support the BIC Junior Youth Group)

You may also be able to purchase a la carte hamantaschen will be sold for **\$2.00 per hamantaschen** beginning at 11:30 am.

You can pick up and pay cash or check (payable to BI-TWT) in Ratner Hall or via Venmo at @bitwt

Wishing everyone a season of good health and happiness!

Debbie Chessin

Director of Education\*

\*This position is partially funded through the Fund for the Jewish Future of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

## March Schedule

**Sunday, 2nd-** 10-12:00 pm Religious School

- Yad B'Yad- 10:30 am with Rivienne Levin

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 6:30 pm- Hebrew School

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>** - No Religious School- Women's Retreat

**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup>** - 6:30pm- Hebrew

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>** - **10-12 pm-** Religious School

- **10-10:30-** Purim Spiel & Costume Parade
- **10:30-11-** Class Time
- **11-12:15-** Purim Carnival and Queen Esther's Café to Go

**Monday, 17<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30 pm- Hebrew School

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 10-12:00 pm- Religious School

- 10:30-11:15- Music with Rabbi Micah- Guest musician for Preschool to Grades 3

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>- Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>-** No Religious or Hebrew- Spring Break!

8:00-11:00 FONDUE, DESSERTS, TWO  
DRINK TICKET AND CASH BAR

# BETH ISRAEL

## Purim

A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF THE  
PURIM HOLIDAY FOR ADULTS

HOSTED AT BETH ISRAEL THE WEST  
TEMPLE - 14308 TRISKETT ROAD

14 MARCH 2025

MEGILLAH READING BY  
RABBI RACHEL BROWN AND  
FRIENDS 7:30-8:00 PM

RSVP REQUIRED BY MARCH 9TH AND CHOOSE A TICKET  
CONTRIBUTION THAT IS COMFORTABLE FOR YOU

DJ, DANCING, AND RAFFLES.  
SHUTTLE PARKING AVAILABLE

See newsletter for link to RSVP form



**Save the Date!**  
**Beth Israel - The West Temple**  
**Community Seder**  
**Monday, April 14, 2025**



## Highlights from January/February

In January and February we offered programming for learners of all ages. We enjoyed Winter U - which included workshops including -Planting Terrariums for Tu B'Shevat, What's Cooking in Golda's Kitchen, Hinoch Piven artist's workshop and Israeli dancing. Our youngest students also enjoyed celebrating Tu B'Shevat by having a Tu B'Shevat seder and making seven species cookies. Our Grades 4-7 students and their families participated in a program called "It's All About Torah". Enjoy the pictures!



# We welcomed our new members- the Copen family!



☆ Celebrations ☆

**March Wedding Anniversaries**

Rabbi Rachel Brown and Rabbi Michael Ross

**March Birthdays – Young People**

Lana Sweet	March 8 11th
Ava Watts	March 12 18 <sup>th</sup>
Avital Shmois	March 15 18 <sup>th</sup>
Stella Melott	March 21 13 <sup>th</sup>
Kailynn Cruz	March 21 13 <sup>th</sup>
Vivian Griffith	March 26 11 <sup>th</sup>
Samuel Decker	March 28 13 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline Sumner	March 28 12 <sup>th</sup>
Alex Watts	March 30 16 <sup>th</sup>



**March Birthdays – Adults**

Zach Robock	March 4
Irma Laszlo	March 6
Lawrence Goodman	March 9
Dr. Robert Dreshfield	March 15
Richard Keller	March 16
Bette Goodman	March 21
Ryan Lercher	March 21
David Maynard	March 22
Rosalind Roberts	March 24
Sidney Donahoe-Goldberg	March 29
Patricia Lehrer	March 29
Jan Rutenberg Morse	March 30
Dr. Melissa Morse	March 30

# PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

March 2025

## **WEEK ENDING March 1**

Harold Friedman  
Nita Zisser  
Herman Provder  
Wayne T. Puntel  
William Winokur  
Jeana Mandel  
Alfred Zisser  
Charlotte Ryan  
Sara Brecher  
Lona Gruber  
Joann Zabarsky Jessup  
Ruth Erlick Lisbon  
Morris Schwartzenfeld  
Janice Eilberg  
Shepsel Grinberg  
Carol Schwartz

## **WEEK ENDING March 8**

Rodgers Gerhardt  
Harry Miller  
David Finkelstein  
Benjamin Rimm  
Naomi Sharman Ault  
Florence R. Stern  
Estelle Edman Grey  
Louis Schwartzenfeld  
James D. Kahn



## **WEEK ENDING March 15**

Catherine Diamond  
Marvin M. Goldberg  
Seymour Himmel  
Nanette Dreshfield  
Vivian Tamarkin  
Benjamin Gruber  
David G. Sweet  
Emanuel N. Stern  
Cheryl Horvitz  
Lee Lazar  
Dolores Pordy

## **WEEK ENDING March 22**

Kenneth Lawrence Dunn  
Zelda Greenfield  
Bina Levin  
Charles K. Seldin  
Alan DeWolfe Wright  
Estelle Scheinman Keen  
Howard Sackett  
Otto Eckstein  
Leon Altfeld  
Aron Altchouler  
Clara Altchouler  
Daniel Barnes  
Sanford Gold  
Tino Fernandez  
Sonia Keller

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# PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

March 2025

## WEEK ENDING

**March 29**

Harold Friedman  
Nita Zisser  
Herman Provder  
Wayne T. Puntel  
William Winokur  
Jeana Mandel  
Alfred Zisser  
Charlotte Ryan  
Sara Brecher  
Lona Gruber  
Joann Zabarsky Jessup  
Ruth Erlick Lisbon  
Morris Schwartzenfeld  
Janice Eilberg  
Shepsel Grinberg  
Carol Schwartz

## WEEK ENDING

**April 5**

Harold Friedman  
Nita Zisser  
Herman Provder  
Wayne T. Puntel  
William Winokur  
Jeana Mandel  
Alfred Zisser  
Charlotte Ryan  
Sara Brecher  
Lona Gruber  
Joann Zabarsky Jessup  
Ruth Erlick Lisbon  
Morris Schwartzenfeld  
Janice Eilberg  
Shepsel Grinberg  
Carol Schwartz

**May their memory be a blessing**



## Service Schedule March

### Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,  
unless otherwise noted.

### Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,  
unless otherwise noted.

### February 28

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Ken Dunn

### March 1

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am Shabbat Service  
Luis Fernandez

### March 7

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Rabbi Enid Lader

### March 8

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am Shabbat Service  
Rabbi Enid Lader

### March 14

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
On ZOOM  
Rabbi Brown

### March 15

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am Shabbat Service  
Rabbi Brown

### March 21

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
ON ZOOM  
Luis Fernandez

### March 22

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00 am Shabbat Service  
Luis Fernandez

### March 28

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
ON ZOOM  
TBA

### March 29

9:30am Torah Study  
11:00 am Shabbat Service  
TBA

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## **General Fund**

In Memory of  
Herman Provder  
-Dr. Ted Provder

## **Rabbi Brown's Discretionary Fund**

In Memory of  
Joe Hilliard Smith  
-George & Alice Copen

## **Religious School Fund**

**In Memory of  
Harvey L. Keller**  
-Shosh Ault  
Bernadene Strager  
-Shosh Ault

## **Ritual Fund**

In Memory of  
Gertrude Sackett  
-Peter Sackett

## **The Evy & Lou Rosenblum Fund for Education & Social Justice**

In Memory of  
Molly Lader  
-Dr. Harry & Rabbi Enid Lader



**Thank you!**