

# THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 5 SHEVAT-ADAR 5763 FEB./MARCH, 2003

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## RABBI'S MESSAGE

Purim is a topsy-turvy holiday. All the usual decorum of the synagogue service is thrown out. Children are allowed to make noise. Not only are you allowed to “boo” and “hiss” in shul, you can even be obnoxious and bring your own ear-grating noisemaker. Imagine if you could do that during the rabbi's sermon! You can wear whatever you want, no matter how outrageous. Men can dress as women; women can dress as men. You can eat and drink to heart's content without any restrictions. Children are allowed to dress as adults and in some religious schools, they are allowed to mock their teachers during the Purim play. The story we read in synagogue is the inversion of the Jew in exile story foretold by the prophets (The prophets said that following the exile from our homeland, we would be scattered to the countries all over the world and lose our prestige as a people). In the Story of Esther, the Jews begin as a small, oppressed minority in a kingdom stretching from India to Ethiopia and, by the story's end, they essentially take over the empire with a nod from the king.

On Monday, March 17th, we will be holding our annual Purim celebrations at Temple Israel, beginning at 6:00 PM complete with eating, drinking, and the reading of the Megillah. Please come! I encourage you to come dressed in your goofiest best. Bring *mishloach manot*, packaged treats, to give to your friends. According to Jewish law, you are supposed to include two items and a beverage. Remember to give to at least two poor people in fulfillment of the law that include everyone--rich and poor--in the celebration of this holiday. Bring funny songs, jokes or limericks to share.

Purim is the time of year we Jews make all-out war on the strict order of other holidays. Remember “seder” means “the order!” The stand up/sit down Service, replete with a liturgy sung in a minor key, goes out the window in favor of pure

merriment in a Dionysian rhythm. So bring your good spirits. With the doldrums of winter leaving us, we could use some levity. I will be bringing mine.

Be happy! It's Adar!

Jon Perlman  
Chief Rabbi of Temple Israel



## SHABBAT SERVICES AND PURIM CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHT END OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH ACTIVITIES

Another Shabbaton—and yet another opportunity to enjoy Shabbat as a community--comes on the evening of Friday, February 28 and on Saturday, March 1. On Friday evening, we will have a “dairy-vegetarian” potluck dinner at 6:00, followed by a Shabbat service at 7:00 and a delicious Oneg after the service at 8:00. Please give a call to Karen Davis, Dinner Coordinator, at 978-724-8832 to give us an idea of what you plan to bring for the potluck dinner. We are usually particularly in need of main dishes.

Then, on Saturday morning, we have meditation with Dr. Maron, beginning at 9:15. The Shabbat service itself will be from 10:00 to 12:00 with a special lunch at noon.

**NOTE: Child care for the little ones will be available from 9:15 until lunchtime.**

The afternoon will be filled with learning and fellowship. You may join us in singing or learning some traditional Shabbat songs, if you like. We will conclude with some lovely poetry reading and discussion at 5:45 and then a beautiful

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Ma'ariv/Havdalah service, beginning at approximately 6:15 P.M. Please accept our warm invitation to attend any or all of the components of this wonderful Shabbat. One final note: Immediately following our Havdalah service, we will have a **Board of Directors meeting** which should run from about 6:30-8:30 p.m.

As Rabbi Perlman mentioned, we will celebrate **Purim** with a Potluck Dinner and Service on Monday, March 17. The vegetarian/dairy dinner will begin at 6:00, and the service (costumes and fun optional but encouraged) commences at 7:00.

**For more information, please call Temple Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481 or contact Co-presidents Dr. Myron Maron at 978-724-0238 or Mitchell Grosky at 978-249-9090.**



**Monday, March 17—Purim Dinner/Service**

**April 4 and 5—Shabbaton Weekend**

**Monday, April 28—Yom Hashoah Evening  
Holocaust Remembrance Day Special  
Program and Play--Details to Come**

**May 2 and 3--Shabbaton Weekend**

**QUESTION:** How do we know if a Temple activity is cancelled because of snow?

**ANSWER:** Just give us a call! All cancellations will be announced on the Temple Israel Telephone Answering Machine at 978-249-9481.