



Temple Beth Israel - Shaare Zedek: The Rabbi's Message

We had a great turn out for this past Shabbat, *Ki Tissa*, and I was deeply impressed with the dedication of our local and distance community by their participation in our safety training with the Lima PD.



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ועד הציבור, Anti-Semitism Working Group:

Be on the lookout for a reading (PDF) to be distributed to the general email list for our next session, **Thursday, March 3, 8:30-9:45 pm: *Vaad ha-Tzibbur*, Anti-Semitism Working Group, "Jews, Whiteness, and Race," Zoom only**

***Shabbat Pekudei*,**

Join us online or in-person on **Friday March, 4 at 7:30 pm ET** for Shabbat *Pekudei*.

Purim:

On the horizon for the next Hebrew month, Adar II (remember this is a lunar leap year) is Purim. By tradition, we read the Scroll of Esther after sundown on **Wednesday, March 16. We will read the Megillah at**

8:00 pm ET on Zoom, after a brief evening service to introduce it, so **please volunteer as a reader**. The Megillah is by our laws and traditions permitted to be read in any language. We read in the Mishna (m. Megillah 2:1-2) that:

“MISHNA: With regard to one who reads the Megillah out of order, reading a later section first, and then going back to the earlier section, he has not fulfilled his obligation. If he read it by heart, or if he read it in Aramaic translation or in any other language that he does not understand, he has not fulfilled his obligation.

However, for those who speak a foreign language, one may read the Megillah in that foreign language. And one who speaks a foreign language who heard the Megillah read in Ashurit, i.e., in Hebrew, has fulfilled his obligation” (Trans. sefaria.org).



It is worth taking a moment to pause and think to yourself, why would I, a modern, liberal Jew consider this an obligation? Think about it this way, the story of Esther is an important tale for our times, of women taking agency even as they are oppressed, of Jews figuring out how to work within and alongside a potentially dangerous government power, and, importantly, the limits and consequences of taking revenge against oppressors once Jews come to power. It is a letter from the past to all times. Please join us—we'd like to make this fun, and we need everyone as readers and listeners.

Hamentaschen Cook-along, and Potluck:

Join us online or in-person on **Friday March, 18 at 7:30 pm ET** for Shabbat *Tzav*, which is also “*Shoshan Purim*.” On **Saturday, March 19 at 4 pm ET**, join us in the **Temple kitchen or online** for Hamentaschen class, or to cook your own recipe. If we can get enough people, we could do it *Great British Baking Show* style. We will have a **potluck dinner in celebration of Purim that day (March 19) at the Temple at 6:00pm**, followed by a very sweet and socially challenging new Israeli film, “*שמחה חתני* / *The Women's Balcony*.” **The movie starts at 7:45 pm, and it will be live-cast on Zoom.**

Liturgy Class:

Please reach out to me directly by email to sign up for the liturgy class. We will meet the **last Thursday of each month**, beginning again in March, from 8:30-9:45. Our next topic will be: **The Amidah: Standing before Gd Alone, Together.**

Important Dates:

- Sunday, 27 Feb. 1:00-1:45 pm: Elementary Hebrew: Reading with Confidence and Joy, Zoom only
- Thursday, 3 March, 8:30-9:45 pm: *Vaad ha-Tzibbur*, Anti-Semitism Working Group, “Jews, Whiteness, and Race,” Zoom only
- Friday 4 March 7:30 pm: Shabbat *Pekudei* services
- Sunday, 6 March, 1:00-1:45 pm: Elementary Hebrew: Reading with Confidence and Joy, Zoom only
- Wednesday, 16 March, 8:00 pm: Megillah Reading and Purim Service, Zoom only
- Friday, 18 March, 7:30 pm: Shabbat *Tzav*, and *Shoshan Purim*
- Saturday, 19 March, 4:00 pm: Hamentaschen Bake-Off, in-person and Zoom
- Saturday 19 March, 6:00 pm, Potluck Dinner and a Movie: *The Women's Balcony*
- *Reminder:* Sign up for LITURGY CLASS! (Zoom only). Email to sign up: rabbi.jonathan.lee.jackson@gmail.com
- *Reminder:* Please forward any information you know about people in need of pastoral care, a listening ear, or to share a joy in our sacred community. Text is best, (781) 206-7939