



Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism | aieamontgomery.org



THE RABBI'S COLUMN

RABBI SCOTT KRAMER

Time is moving quickly as we approach spring. One of the things I missed while living in Los Angeles was spring fever.

Salt Lake City had bitter cold winters, snow and endless dreariness. When the snow and ice melt and the green reappears and the birds return, my energy seems to come out of its hibernation.

I can get more done and my problems don't seem so heavy – at least for short while. Even though the winters here in Montgomery are not bitter, they are colder than Los Angeles and therefore I do look forward to it being milder in temperature and greener. Not the heat and humidity of summer. That I can wait for a little longer.

The Jewish holiday that seems to be the precursor to this spring fever is Purim. Makes sense. Purim is a joyous holiday that changes and turns everything upside down. When all seems lost and hopeless, the situation is changed, like fast days into festival days or mourning into dancing.

Michael Strassfeld in "The Jewish Holidays" has this to say about the story of Purim as told in Megillat Esther, the Scroll of Esther:

"Perhaps the first hint of the story's farcical nature is in the first chapter when the king and his advisers decide they have to get rid of Queen Vashti in order to keep all the wives in Persia obedient to their husbands. What could be more farcical than a group of men issuing a decree that they must be obeyed by their wives!

The numerous plot devices also point to the whimsical nature of the story. Why does Vashti refuse to come before the king? Why is Esther told to keep her identity a secret? Why is Mordechai not immediately rewarded for saving the king from a plot against his life? Why does Mordechai refuse to bow down to Haman? The answer, of course is that without these contrivances the plot could not have reached its grand conclusion."

The scholar H. L. Ginsberg surmises that the name of God nowhere appears in the Book of Esther because it would be irreverent to mention God in such a comic setting. The Book of Esther is then the first of a genre of Jewish literature, 'The Purim parody.'

The Rabbis devised one holiday where Jews don't have to take themselves so seriously.

We have enough serious holidays and even the most joyous major holiday, Sukkot, has its own serious tone in the many rules and regulations around the building of the Sukkah and the picking out of a lulav and etrog.

Yes, there are rules and regulations around Purim, but they mainly have to do with the reading and listening of the Megillah. There are only three other mitzvot for the holiday. You must enjoy a Seudah, a feast to celebrate Purim. You must send baskets of food to your friends and you must donate money for Tzedakah for charity. Anything seem too hard or unreasonable? Purim is a time to feel good and let loose and a time to masquerade as someone other than yourself. Some find it a time to get a little tipsy so we don't

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Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem Synagogue

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From Our President

Leadership
Rabbi Scott Kramer

OFFICERS

Barbara Handmacher
President

Tina McManama
President Elect
Vice President, Fundraising

Barry Ehrlich
Treasurer

Jerald Labovitz
Financial Secretary

Emily Allen
Vice President, Education

David Zaslawsky
Vice President, Membership

Dickie Blondheim
Building & Grounds
Maintenance

Rick Richburg
Immediate Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joy Blondheim

Phil Ensler

Chris Ginsburg

Kathy Hess

Elaine Kirkpatrick

Ira Kupferberg

Bert Shephard

Fern Shinbaum



Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem is honored to host Jewish groups traveling to Montgomery and we want to extend a warm welcome to each of them.

Several out-of-state groups plan visits in March and April and having AIEA members on hand to greet them and extend our heartfelt hospitality is so important.

Please make plans to join me on one or more of the times below to share our synagogue and its membership with our guests. Meals and food service are already taken care of, just bring your smiling face!

- Monday, March 4, 6 p.m.
dinner at the synagogue

- Wednesday, March 6, 8 a.m.
breakfast at the synagogue
- Wednesday, March 6, 6 p.m.
dinner at the synagogue
- Thursday, March 7, 7:15 a.m.
minyan and seated breakfast at the synagogue
- Tuesday, March 12, 6 p.m.
dinner at the synagogue

This is just a sampling. More information will be shared as available. Please call or email Terri to let her know the days you are available.

Let's work together sharing the joy and affection of our community with our guests.

*Love,
Barbara*



Do you need transportation to and from an appointment, religious service or community event?

Call JFCA
24 hours in advance to
request a ride at no cost to you.

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know the difference between blessed by Mordechai from cursed be Haman.

I don't advocate the alcohol route, but I do advocate levity. I have always enjoyed dressing in costumes for Purim.

Join us this year. Find a fun costume to come to shul with on Saturday,

March 23 at 6:30 p.m. to hear the reading of the Megillah and to enjoy a great spaghetti dinner.

Come with a light spirit and an open heart and relish in the close and warm community we have here at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem. This service will be in conjunction with the Alabama Community Virtual Havdalah available via Zoom.

Tzedakah Funds

GENERAL FUND

**In memory of
Walter Brenner's kindness**
Leah Goldfield Maltz

In Memory of Helen Bern
David Cohen Michael Cohen
and Raymond Cohen

In memory of Helen Bern
Cheryl Weinstein

In memory of Helen Bern
Rita Susan and Michael Hood

In memory of Lowell McManama
Tina McManama

In memory of Helen Bern
Charlotte Mussafer

Generous Donation
Hannah Alperst and Brian Freidin

In memory of Benjamin Margulis
Stephen Lande

Generous Donation
Stephen & Amanda Hering

In memory of Abraham Stamm
Susan Stamjm

ETZ AHAYEM FUND

In memory of Helen Bern
Jo Anne & Buddy Rousso

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of David Brenner
Leah Goldfield Maltz

In memory of Helen Bern
Micki Beth Stiller
and Anna Laura Stiller

SYNAGOGUE SECURITY

In memory of Mike Orange
Steve and Marsha Orange,
Janice Prescott and Warren Simons

BUILDING FUND

In memory of Helen Bern
Barbara Handmacher

Good health to Esther Scheuer
Barbara Handmacher

In memory of Harry Labovitz
Albert, Debbie, Michelle, Matthew,
Lori, Lucy, and Rae Labovitz

In memory of Scott Jaffe
Barbara Handmacher

In memory of Elie Bahan
Barbara Handmacher

In memory of Leola Hays
Barbara Handmacher

In memory of Rebecca Rich
Esther Miller and family

LABOVITZ LEADERSHIP FUND

**In memory of our beloved father,
Norman Goldfield**
Leah Goldfield Maltz

SARA AND SIGMUND SEGALL CHILDREN'S FUND

In memory of Scott Jaffe
Bobby and Sandy Segal and family,
Lisa Segall and family,
Bob Taffet and family

In memory of Eva Owens
Esther Varon

NACE ALLEN YOUTH FUND

**Continued good health
to Margie Allen**
Jeffrey Brenner & Joseph Dumas

Good health to Esther Scheuer
Emily Allen

Good health to Esther Scheuer
Sharon and Mitchell Allen

In memory of Barbara Rosen
Emily Allen

In memory of Faye Allen
Emily Allen

In memory of Scott Jaffe
Emily Allen

In memory of Sally Green
Emily Allen

BLANCHE AND SAMUEL SASS FAMILY LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Morris L. Mayer
Neil and Susan Sass

SHINBAUM FAMILY HEALTH FUND

In memory of Marian Shinbaum
Cheryl Weinstein



Yahrzeits

Remembering Loved Ones We Have Lost
May G-d give comfort to the families along with
all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

MARCH 1 | 21 ADAR I

☆ FAY ALLEN

Remembered by Mitchell Allen
and Emily Allen

☆ ABRAHAM STAMM

Remembered by Susan Stamm
and Donna Spiegel

MARCH 2 - 8 | 22 - 28 ADAR I

☆ TERI ARONOV

Remembered by Jack Aronov
and Owen Aronov

☆ BOLY C. AVZARADEL

Remembered by Dr. Gilson Capilouto

☆ BEULAH AVZARZADEL

☆ NESSIM BETON

☆ JERRY FINKELSTEIN

☆ EDWARD MORRIS FRANCO

Remembered by Alan Franco,
David Ray Cohen, Joel Cohen,
Michael Cohen and Raymond Cohen

☆ MORRIS R. FRANCO

Remembered by David Ray Cohen,
Joel Cohen, Michael Cohen
and Raymond Cohen

☆ YALE C. FRIEDLANDER

Remembered by Nathan L. Friedlander

☆ ETHEL GLODBLATT

☆ VICTOR MORRIS HANAN

Remembered by Morris V.
and SueEllen Hanan

☆ BARBARA KRAMER

Remembered by Rabbi Scott Kramer

☆ PHILLIP PLOTKA

Remembered by Cynthia Shaker

☆ VIGDOR RAFAEL SARASOHN

Remembered by Ethel S. Labovitz

☆ REBECCA SENTER

☆ MAX STEINBERG

☆ HARVEY TAFFET

Remembered by Bob & Robin Taffet

☆ DAVID N. VARON

Remembered by Rhea Schneider,
Milton and Arlene Goldstein
and Billy Kleinberg

MARCH 9 - 15 | 29 ADAR I - 5 ADAR II

☆ MORRIS FRANCO

☆ ROSIE GELLERMAN

☆ HELEN HELLER

Remembered by Michael Mandelbaum

☆ SAMUEL LEBOW

☆ NATALIE MOSCO

Remembered by Chris Ginsburg

☆ JULIA ROSENBERG

☆ JACOB SHINBAUM

Remembered by Steve Kermish

☆ ISRAEL J. TARICA

☆ JOSEPH WEINSTOCK

Remembered by Jerald Labovitz

MARCH 16 - 22 | 6 - 12 ADAR II

☆ ROSE BARDACH

Remembered by Sharon Allen
and Robin Greenberg

☆ EDITH CIARLETTA

Remembered by Esther Varon

☆ RACHEL JAFFE

☆ ELIZABETH HOBIE WRIGHT

Remembered by Paul Freehling

☆ GARY ZASLAWSKY

Remembered by David Zaslowsky

MARCH 23 - 29 | 13 - 19 ADAR II

☆ DAVID COOLIK

☆ PINKIE HASSON

Remembered by Pearl C. Hasson

☆ MELAINE N. KNURR

Remembered by Dr. Werner Knurr

☆ ESTHER COHEN LEBOWITZ

☆ HAROLD LEGHTENSTEIN

☆ ANNA LEE LITVAK

Remembered by Betty Ehrlich,
Barry Ehrlich and Elaine Kirkpatrick

☆ LOUIS SHINBAUM

MARCH 30 - 31 | 20 - 21 ADAR II

☆ BEULAH BETON

☆ ROSE MARIE CLARK

Remembered by Martin
and Susan Gross Clark

Yahrzeit Memories

*Kind words from Stephen Landa
in memory of his great uncle,*
Benjamin Margulis

Ben had a shoe store in Clanton
and as a child, my dad, Irv Lande
would work for him on Saturdays.
Ben was like a second father to my
dad. When my dad was 16, Ben and
Alex bought him a car.



Sisterhood

by Co-Leaders Emily Allen
& Elaine Kirkpatrick

Our book club met at the Wharf in February to discuss the book “She’s Up to No Good.” We had a very nice meeting and took the opportunity to visit and enjoy each other’s company. Join us for our next book club meeting in April (date TBA) when we discuss “The Lonely Hearts Book” by Lucy Gilmore.

March is a busy month for Sisterhood. We start with Sisterhood Shabbat and the installation of synagogue officers at 6 p.m. March 1. Following the service, enjoy a fantastic meal

(brisket, salmon, salad, carrots, potatoes, challah and deserts) lovingly prepared by Chris Ginsburg and Amy Labovitz.

Dale Evans will coordinate distribution of Shalach Manot greetings and treats again this year. This is a big fundraiser for Sisterhood and Dale works very hard to make it successful. The bags will be delivered in March so you still have time to send in your order to Dale – March 18 is the deadline. Your participation helps the Sisterhood fund activities for our congregation and community

throughout the year.

Purim services are March 23 at 6 p.m. After the service enjoy the famous Ken Shinbaum and Sisterhood Spaghetti Dinner. This is always such a fun evening for all – the more the merrier! Call Terri to make your reservations by March 19.

Stay tuned for more exciting Sisterhood news and events. Thank you for supporting Sisterhood and we hope to see you a lot during March!



APRIL (Date TBA)

“The Lonely Hearts Book” by Lucy Gilmore.

Contact Elaine Kirkpatrick at elainek1922@charter.net for a copy of the book.



MANAGING EXECUTIVE TEAM

Emily Allen and Elaine Kirkpatrick
Co-Presidents

Fern Shinbaum
Membership VP

Chris Ginsburg and Amy Labovitz
Programming Vice Presidents

OFFICERS

Elaine Kirkpatrick
Financial Secretary

Irene Kramer
Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Adena Kramer
Irene Kramer
Sukkot Refreshments

Chris Ginsburg
Amy Labovitz
Shabbat Dinner

Kathy Hess
Yvette Hochberg
Shabbat Service

Dale Evans
Shalach Manot Bags

Chris Ginsburg
Amy Labovitz
Linda Smith
Kitchen

Linda Smith
Shiva Pantry

Emily Allen
Tribute Funds

Irene Kramer
D'Var Torah

Yvette Hochberg
Book Club



Join Sisterhood on June 23
for ASF the production

ZELDA IN THE BACKYARD

Contact Elaine Kirkpatrick at elainek1922@charter.net for reservations and discounted tickets.



Several out-of-state Jewish groups on Montgomery Civil Rights tours will visit Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem in March.

We need congregation members on hand to greet them and extend our heartfelt hospitality.

Please join us for one or more day and share our beautiful synagogue and history with our guests. Meals and food service are taken care of – just bring your smiling face!

Monday, March 4, 6 p.m. – Dinner at the synagogue

Wednesday, March 6, 8 a.m. – Breakfast at the synagogue

Wednesday, March 6, 6 p.m. – Dinner at the synagogue

Thursday, March 7, 7:15 a.m. – Minyan & seated breakfast at the synagogue

Tuesday, March 12, 6 p.m. – Dinner at the synagogue

Contact Terri with the days you can join us! 281-7394
or office@agudathmontgomery.com. See you there!



EVERY MONDAY AT 6 P.M. AGUDATH ISRAEL ETZ AHAYEM

Rabbi Scott Kramer is leading an *Introduction to Judaism* adult education class Mondays at 6 p.m. at the synagogue.

Whether you were born Jewish, a “Jew by choice” or are thinking about joining our family, you will enjoy this class. The *Introduction to Judaism* class is designed to help us appreciate Jewish history, heritage, observances, holidays, prayers and ethics.

The Rabbi will be using the curriculum from the American Jewish University, Los Angeles “Miller Intro to Judaism Program.” Contact the Rabbi if you have questions.

CALENDAR *March* CALENDAR CALENDAR

Services in red are also livestreamed on aieamontgomery.org, Facebook and YouTube. Blue events are on Zoom. All other events are purple.

- 1 **Friday, March 1 | I Adar 21**
Kabbalat Shabbat - Sisterhood Shabbat
and installation of Synagogue officers
Shabbat Dinner - 6 p.m.
- 2 **Saturday, March 2 | I Adar 22**
Shabbat Services - 9:30 a.m.
Havdalah - 6 p.m.
- 3 **Sunday, March 3 | I Adar 23**
Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens Kol Ami
Religious School - 9:30 a.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 4 **Monday, March 4 | I Adar 24**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
Introduction to Judaism Class - 6 p.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 6 **Wednesday, March 6 | I Adar 26**
L'Chaim League trip: The American
Village Festival of Tulips
Montevallo, AL - 9:30 a.m.
Will depart from TBO parking lot
- 7 **Thursday, March 7 | I Adar 27**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
- 8 **Friday, March 8 | I Adar**
Kabbalat Shabbat - 6 p.m.
- 9 **Saturday, March 9 | I Adar 29**
Shabbat Services - 9:30 a.m.
Havdalah - 6 p.m.
- 10 **Sunday, March 10 | I Adar 30**
Daylight Savings Time begins
Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens Kol Ami
Religious School - 9:30 a.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 11 **Monday, March 11 | II Adar 1**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
Introduction to Judaism Class - 6 p.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 12 **Tuesday, March 12 | II Adar 2**
Board of Directors Meeting - 5 p.m.
- 14 **Thursday, March 14 | II Adar 4**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.

- 15 **Friday, March 15 | II Adar 5**
Kabbalat Shabbat - 6 p.m.
- 16 **Saturday, March 16 | II Adar 6**
Shabbat Services - 9:30 a.m.
Havdalah - 6 p.m.
- 17 **Sunday, March 17 | II Adar 7**
Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens Kol Ami
Religious School - 9:30 a.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 18 **Monday, March 18 | II Adar 8**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
Introduction to Judaism Class - 6 p.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 21 **Thursday, March 21 | II Adar 11**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
- 22 **Friday, March 22 | II Adar 12**
Kabbalat Shabbat - 6 p.m.
- 23 **Saturday, March 23 | II Adar 13**
Shabbat Services - 9:30 a.m.
Purim Services - 6 p.m.
Purim Dinner - after service
- 24 **Sunday, March 24 | II Adar 14**
No Religious School
- 25 **Monday, March 25 | II Adar 15**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
Corresponding Angles returns
to Alabama Shakespeare Festival - 1 p.m.
Introduction to Judaism Class - 6 p.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem
- 28 **Thursday, March 28 | II Adar 18**
Minyan with breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
- 29 **Friday, March 29 | II Adar 19**
Kabbalat Shabbat - 6 p.m.
- 30 **Saturday, March 30 | II Adar 20**
Shabbat Services - 9:30 a.m.
Havdalah - 6 p.m.
- 31 **Sunday, March 31 | II Adar 21**
Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens Kol Ami
Religious School - 9:30 a.m.
at Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem

BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Kelly Capouya
- 02 Bonnie Varon
- 05 Lauren Labovitz
- 05 Nathan McDonald
- 06 Anna Bern
- 06 Evalynn Monsky
- 07 Robin Blitz
- 07 Dickie Blondheim
- 07 Ken Shinbaum
- 08 Betty Ehrlich
- 08 Wendy Finkelstein
- 08 Rabbi Scott Kramer
- 09 Stanley Varon
- 11 Marjorie Allen
- 11 Eli R. Capouya
- 11 Adam Kupferberg
- 11 Vera Planchard
- 14 Blake Cohen
- 16 Laurie (Shinbaum) Feigenberg
- 18 Esther Capouano
- 20 Barbara Handmacher
- 22 EJ Bern
- 22 Samantha Broder
- 23 Jeff McKinney
- 25 Nathan Ashner
- 28 Sylvia Capouano
- 29 Leah Bruchis

ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Marsha & Steve Orange
- 06 SueEllen & Morris V. Hanan
- 20 Tina McManama &
David Zaslawsky
- 30 Nick & Lani Ashner