

# Temple Talk



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## A Purimshpil Travels from Beregszasz to Waltham By: Rabbi Tracy Nathan

Morris Hollender, Temple Beth Israel *baal korei* (Torah reader) and *ba'al tefilla* (lay cantor), grew up on a farm near Beregszasz, Czechoslovakia (now Berehova, Ukraine). Mr. Hollender has shared with me stories of his childhood Purim, a joyful occasion where the audience for the Purim parade included Christians and Jews, who all cheered for the Parade's leading figures.

Much to my delight, Morris described how Purim players went door-to-door performing *purimshpilin* (Purim plays). Prior to my rabbinic studies, I had studied in the Department of Folklore and Folklore at the University of Pennsylvania, where each year we would perform a mummer's play for students throughout the university. The traditions in Morris' town sounded very much like mumming traditions. As folklore scholar Stephen Winick explains: "Mumming is a word for disguising

oneself, going door to door, and performing songs, dances and plays in neighbors' homes and in public places. It's a very old and widespread custom, going back at least to the Middle Ages." (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephen-d-winick/mummers-play-b-2371695.html>) [In this article, the author references a very funny video on mummer's plays from the satirical news website of *The Onion*].

Both the parade and the *purimshpil* traditions that Morris described seem very similar to other European traditions of folk plays and parades. In *Vagabond Stars: A World History of Yiddish Theater*, Nahma Sandrow describes these local play traditions that were the precursors to Yiddish theater:

"On Purim day, or in the days just preceding and following, after parading and wandering in bands

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### Upcoming Events

Susan Furman's Bat Mitzvah—February 2nd 9:00am  
Board Meeting—Monday February 4th 7:00pm  
Service/Dinner—Friday February 8th 6:00pm  
Purim Megillah Reading—Saturday February 23rd 7:00pm  
Purim Megillah Reading—Sunday February 24th 9:00am  
The Purim Show—Sunday February 24th 3:00pm

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<b>Rabbi:</b>	<b>Tracy Nathan</b>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<b>Ellen Band</b>
<b>President:</b>	<b>Merrill Griff</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jim Baron</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Genevieve Fosa</b>
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**Office Hours**

**Monday - Friday**

**9:30am - 12:30pm**

# PURIM AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

## Evening Megilla Reading

Saturday night, February 23, 7 pm

Join us for a reading of the gantze megilla (the whole megillah!) - with English subtitles. Refreshments sponsored by the Griff family. Costumes are encouraged and feel free to bring your own groggers or other noisemakers.

## Morning Megilla Reading

Sunday morning, February 24, 9 am

We will read the complete megillah as part of our shaharit morning service. Followed by Purim Seudah (festive meal -yes, eating together is one of the four mitzvot of Purim!)

## Afternoon Purim Musical Celebration (see separate listing)

Sunday, February 24, 3 pm

## MITZVAH OPPORTUNITIES FOR PURIM

### Mishloach Manot - "Sending Gifts of Food"

In addition to your own gifts of *mishloach manot*, please contact Rabbi Tracy Nathan if you would like to help make deliveries of *Mishloach Manot* (gifts of food) on Sunday to members who are home-bound and can't get to the synagogue.

### Matanot L'evyonim - "Gifts for the Poor"

On Purim, Temple Beth Israel will join Boston-area congregations, day schools and college Hillels in aiding those in need through Yad Chessed, which provides a safety net for individuals and families in severe economic distress. Yad Chessed distributes \$300,000 annually in emergency aid, ongoing food and clothing assistance, and special holiday allocations - as well as \$50,000 in interest-free loans to 1,400 individuals in the greater Boston Jewish community. In 2012, Yad Chessed distributed \$92,935 in food vouchers to 493 local families through their Purim program.

Temple Beth Israel will collect funds for this purpose at our Megillah Reading on Saturday evening, February 23 at 7:00pm.

**Please bring your checks payable to Yad Chessed with you on Purim night (or bring cash) or drop it off or mail it in advance to the synagogue office.**

We will tally the collection and inform Yad Chessed of the amount on Purim Day, so that all the funds are distributed on Purim day itself, fulfilling the mitzvah of *matanot le'evyonim*.

### SPONSOR A SHABBAT KIDDUSH LUNCH

Sponsor a Kiddush lunch on a Saturday in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Let us know the date. The donation is \$125 per date.

### Saturday Kiddush Sponsors

**Jan 26**—Arnold Pinsley in memory of his mother Barbara Pinsley

**Feb 2**—Ed and Renee Brown in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sue Furman and the Anniversary of the Bar Mitzvah's of Ed Brown, Ed Kaufman and Morris Hollender

**Feb 16**—Merrill and Carol Griff

**Feb 23**—Rabbis Scott Slarskey and Tracy Nathan in memory of Marcia Slarskey's First Yahrzeit



# THE PURIM SHOW!

A Musical Celebration

Sunday, February 24, 3pm

Directed by Hankus Netsky

Featuring Henry Carrey and Amanda Miriam-Khaye Siegel  
and The New England Conservatory Jewish Music Ensemble

Temple Beth Israel

25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02453

Featuring a 1932 Purimshpil (in Yiddish and English) written by Serena Hollender, sister of TBI member and local musical treasure Morris Hollender. Hollender's Purim Shpil was last performed in the 1930s by family members going door to door on the holiday (as was the Eastern-European tradition) in rural Carpato-Ruthenia.

Selections from Itzik Mangers "Megilah Lider."

Purim songs from the repertoires of legendary Boston Jewish radio celebrities, Leyke Post and Ben Gailing.

And actual Persian music!

Dr. Hankus Netsky, chair of the Contemporary Improvisation Department at the New England Conservatory founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and musical director, producer and arranger for "Eternal Echoes," Itzhak Perlman's acclaimed Jewish music project, featuring cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot. He has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, and has also collaborated on projects with such artists as Robin Williams, Joel Grey, and Theodore Bikel.

Henry Carrey is the son of Leah Carrey, longtime Boston Jewish radio celebrity and a veteran Yiddish actor and singer. Amanda Miriam-Khaye Siegel is a member of New York's "Folksbiene" international Yiddish theatre troupe.

Tickets: \$15 TBI Members/\$18 Non-Members/\$5 Children

Tickets may be purchased at [www.tbiwaltham.org](http://www.tbiwaltham.org) and at the door.

Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA, 781-894-5146, [www.tbiwaltham.org](http://www.tbiwaltham.org)

## Memoriams

Julius and Thelma Kennen, in memory of Abe Kennen.

Esther Davidson, in memory of Ethel Potash.

Vadim Bubes and Yelizaveta Goltser, in memory of Maria and Nicholas Goltser and Judith Kilman and Jacob Bubes.

Joseph Weintraub, in memory of Dolores Weintraub.

## Donations

Rosalie and Stephen Fox

Ellen Foust

Israel Tzvi Abusch

Diana Korzenik, in honor of Leila Liat Beit-Aharon.

Joseph Weintraub, in honor of Hanan Nathan-Slarskey.

Joseph Weintraub, in appreciation of Mark Frydenberg.

Baxters Barkery in honor of Morris Hollender.

Diana Korzenik, in honor of the Hollenders history inclusion in the archives at Yad Vashem.

Ellie Handel, Hannah Handel, her sister, her niece and her 2 great nieces, in memory of her father, Julius.

Carol Halberstadt, in honor of Ed and Renee Brown.

## A Purimshpil Travels from Beregszasz to Waltham (Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

through the streets, *Purimshpil*ers burst in at neighbors' houses - sometimes by invitation and sometimes by surprise - and performed their play. (Christian mummers and carolers did the same, and so did German *Fastnachtspielers*). A group might be three or four *shpil*ers or, in big cities, as many as thirty, including musicians. (*Vagabond Stars: A World History of Yiddish Theater*, Syracuse University Press, 1996, p. 5). As in the Christian mumming tradition, the ending verses in subtle or not-so-subtle ways, included a pitch for sweets, liquor, or some coins.

Many of the plays in Morris' town were written by Serena Hollender, his sister. She was the author of two kinds of plays: The first were plays that could be performed any year and perhaps in any village; the second were plays that poked fun at particular events and people in the town itself. Morris often played roles in the plays, and still can recite verses from memory.

On Purim Day (Sunday, February 24), for the first time in Waltham, MA, Temple Beth Israel will present a 1932 *purimshpil* by Serena Hollender as part of an exciting Purim concert that TBI member Hankus Netsky is directing and performing, along with the New England Conservatory Jewish Music Ensemble, and special guests Henry Carey and Amanda Miriam-Khaye Siegel. The play will be performed in the original Yiddish, and we will have a translation available. The program will also feature selections from Itzik Manger's "Megilah Lider" and Purim songs from the repertoires of legendary Boston Jewish radio celebrities Leyke Post (mother of Henry Carey) and Ben Gailing. You won't want to miss this event, and please also join us for our Megillah Readings.

## Mazal Tov

to Babak and Julie Shirazi on the birth of their twins  
Nava Lee Shirazi and Aiden Jacob Shirazi.  
Everyone is now home and doing well.





## Our Shabbat Program for Children



Our monthly Shabbat morning program for children will be held on **February 9 - Mishpatim/Shekalim**. The morning will include a service, Torah learning, and activities for young children all led by Eliana Light. Services will take place in our downstairs space beginning at **10:45am**.

Please stay and join us for a communal kiddush lunch in our social hall following Shabbat morning services.



### Save the Date

**Siyyum—March 25th** after morning minyan.

**Passover** begins on March 25th. We will be holding a **second night seder on Tuesday March 26th**. Details in the March newsletter.

### Waltham Connect: Housing and Home

Come share your ideas and hear what your neighbors think about **Housing and Home**, at the **Waltham Connect** community conversation. We'll view TED talks to spark our discussion, and hear from guest panelists including Officer June Conway, Housing Liaison Officer, WPD, and Erica Schwarz, Executive Director, Waltham Alliance to Create Housing (WATCH). Hosted by First Parish in Waltham (50 Church St.) on **Thursday, February 21, 7:00 - 8:30pm**; refreshments and child care provided.

For more information, visit Waltham Connect on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WalthamConnect>, or send an email to [fpw.internmin@gmail.com](mailto:fpw.internmin@gmail.com).

### Tu B'Shvat address to new members.

**By: Merrill Griff, Temple President**

Tu B'Shvat is here. The holiday marks the winding down of winter and the arrival of spring in the Israel. The different seasons remind us that change is the way of the world.

Change and adaptation also happen to be among the keys to the longevity and vitality of the Jewish people. It's reflected in the changes associated with Tu B'Shvat.

Tu B'Shvat is a perfect example of the evolutionary nature of the Jewish people. It is first mentioned in the Mishna in a debate between Hillel and Shammai. The question was what date should separate one year from another in relation to fruit-tree harvests. Hillel won the debate, and the date was set on the full moon of the month of Shvat, the 15th of Shvat, which is what Tu B'Shvat means.

In the 16th century, Rabbi Isaac Luria and kabbalistic followers in Safed brought new layers of meaning to Tu B'Shvat. The Tu B'Shvat Seder was created as a way to help bring about *tikkun olam* — the repair of the world.

Three centuries later, also in Israel, one of the early Zionist movement's goals was the reforestation of the land. With each successive wave of Jewish immigration to the land of Israel, Tu B'Shvat grew in importance.

The Jewish National Fund, founded in 1901, turned tree planting, particularly on Tu B'Shvat, into part of the national standard. The Zionist movement also turned to Tu B'Shvat as a symbol of revival, beyond just reforestation, when the date was chosen for the opening of the Technion in 1925 and of the first Knesset in 1949.






This theme of revival and its manifestation is what we are celebrating today at Temple Beth Israel. We are celebrating and honoring new members. Without you, we cannot grow, change or adapt.

Our challenge today, as it has been in every generation, is to distill what is at the core of Judaism and discover, when needed, new ways to go forward. Your presence as new members provide the catalyst for Temple Beth Israel to change, grow and improve.

The strength of a tree lies in its flexibility to bend so it does not break in powerful winds. With your help, Temple Beth Israel will remain dynamic yet rooted in the essence of Torah and our Jewish tradition.

Welcome. Shalom Aleichem and baruchim habaim.

# February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  4:40	2 <b>Yitro</b> Susan Furman's Bat Mitzvah -Rabbi Tracy Nathan
3	4 Board Meeting 6:30pm	5	6	7	8  4:49 6:00 - Service/ Dinner	9 <b>Mishpatim/Shekalim</b> Rabbi Tracy Nathan Childrens Service - 10:45am
10	11	12	13	14	15  4:58	16 <b>Terumah</b> Member Led
17	18	19	20	21	22  5:07	23 <b>Tetzave/</b> Zachor Rabbi Tracy Nathan Purim - 7pm
24 <b>Megillah</b> Reading 9:00am The Purim Show - 3pm	25	26	27	28	1  5:15	2

If not specified, Minyan—Monday—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is at 7:00am and on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00am.



## February Yahrzeits



Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date	
2-2	Monroe M. Frankel	1-Feb	Shevat 21
6-3	Saul Cohen	1-Feb	Shevat 21
3-2	Dora Dame	2-Feb	Shevat 22
4-4	Morris Freedman	2-Feb	Shevat 22
1-3	Gussie Kniznik	3-Feb	Shevat 23
	Sam Bogan	3-Feb	Shevat 23
3-4	Samuel Wolk	4-Feb	Shevat 24
	Jacob Koocher	4-Feb	Shevat 24
2-2	Solomon Harris	5-Feb	Shevat 25
	Ida Kulin	5-Feb	Shevat 25
	William Becker	6-Feb	Shevat 26
5-2	Maurry Furman	6-Feb	Shevat 26
1-3	Sarah Milesky	7-Feb	Shevat 27
1-4	Sylvia Weinstein	7-Feb	Shevat 27
1-2	Sarah Mindel Freedman	7-Feb	Shevat 27
2-3	Louis Nochemsohn	7-Feb	Shevat 27
5-1	Irving Norman	7-Feb	Shevat 27
4-2	Florence Lipkin	7-Feb	Shevat 27
5-3	Dorothy Ullian	7-Feb	Shevat 27
5-1	Mildred Rothbart	9-Feb	Shevat 29
6-3	Abigail Decker	11-Feb	Adar 01
2-4	Abraham Tatelman	11-Feb	Adar 01
3-3	Benjamin Lebowitz	11-Feb	Adar 01
4-3	Fannie Blackstone	11-Feb	Adar 01
4-3	Goldie Rachel Webb	11-Feb	Adar 01
1-2	Harry Freedman	11-Feb	Adar 01
1-2	Robert Gordon	11-Feb	Adar 01
1-2	Eva Kaitz	12-Feb	Adar 02
4-4	Mildred Marion	12-Feb	Adar 02
5-4	Evelyn Myers	13-Feb	Adar 03
1-3	Jacob Krinsky	13-Feb	Adar 03
4-2	Benson Griff	14-Feb	Adar 04
2-1	Harry Canter	14-Feb	Adar 04
3-2	Saul G. Ginsburg	15-Feb	Adar 05
1-1	Vittal Crevoshay	15-Feb	Adar 05
6-4	Jacob Shay	16-Feb	Adar 06
5-3	Maurice Katz	16-Feb	Adar 06
5-4	Philip Rosenfield	16-Feb	Adar 06
6-3	Ruth Gordon	16-Feb	Adar 06
2-3	Arthur Nochemsohn	17-Feb	Adar 07
4-4	Marsha Goldstein	17-Feb	Adar 07

Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date	
6-4	Minnie Milesky	18-Feb	Adar 08
1-1	Gnesia Crevoshay	19-Feb	Adar 09
4-1	Harold Katz	20-Feb	Adar 10
2-3	Louis Michelson	20-Feb	Adar 10
3-1	Samuel Margolis	20-Feb	Adar 10
1-1	Yetta Blackstone	20-Feb	Adar 10
2-1	David Beecher	21-Feb	Adar 11
2-4	Frieda Resnick	21-Feb	Adar 11
	Harold Seltzer	21-Feb	Adar 11
	Rose Cohen	21-Feb	Adar 11
	Marcia Slarskey	22-Feb	Adar 12
	Neil Baker	22-Feb	Adar 12
6-3	Ann Wolf	23-Feb	Adar 13
3-3	Joseph Harris	23-Feb	Adar 13
	Harris Griff	24-Feb	Adar 14
	Ira David Seltzer	24-Feb	Adar 14
2-4	Max Ritter	25-Feb	Adar 15
6-3	William Milesky	25-Feb	Adar 15
4-1	Philip Shapiro	26-Feb	Adar 16
4-1	Dr. Samuel Messer	27-Feb	Adar 17
5-4	Edward Gilman	27-Feb	Adar 17
	Gertrude Cohen	28-Feb	Adar 18
3-2	Yetta Fischer	28-Feb	Adar 18
3-1	Fannie Beecher	1-Mar	Adar 19
4-2	Gertrude Levison	1-Mar	Adar 19
	Louis Freedman	1-Mar	Adar 19
1-3	Alex Lietsky	2-Mar	Adar 20
6-3	Bernard Sharfman	2-Mar	Adar 20
3-4	Elizabeth Rosenberg	2-Mar	Adar 20
4-4	David Goldstein	4-Mar	Adar 22
3-2	Dora Milesky	4-Mar	Adar 22
3-2	Jennie Goldberg	4-Mar	Adar 22
6-4	Sal Araten	4-Mar	Adar 22
	Martha Mikelbank	5-Mar	Adar 23
3-1	Rose Nussinow	5-Mar	Adar 23
2-1	Rose Braverman	7-Mar	Adar 25

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one listed above please send it along with a brief note of who you would like remembered to the Temple Office.

Temple Beth Israel

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Website: [www.tbiwaltham.org](http://www.tbiwaltham.org)

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**It is never too late to donate. Use the form below and mail it to the Temple.  
Thank you in advance.**

Donate on the web  
at  
[www.tbiwaltham.org](http://www.tbiwaltham.org)

- Kol Nidre Pledge
- High Holiday Donation
  
- General Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Morris Hollender Music Appreciation Fund
- Carl Goldstein Memorial Fund
  
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to:  
Temple Beth Israel, P O Box 540182, Waltham, MA 02454-0182

I have chosen the fund indicated at the right:

(Please use a separate form for each fund. Minimum donation: \$10)

Attached is my check in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The donation is being made

In Honor Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is made by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_