

## Message From The Rabbi



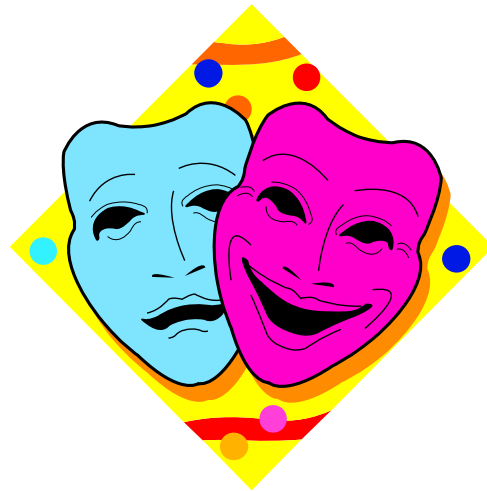
**"All the world's  
a stage".**

Shakespeare's lines in  
As You Like It conjure up  
the world of Purim. Al-  
most, but not quite. We

are introduced to an incredible world in which a stupid king (Ahasuerus) guided by an evil man (Haman) passes a law to annihilate all the Jews in his massive Persian Empire, but the plan is thwarted, and all the Jews saved, by the beautiful secretly-Jewish queen (Esther), guided by her uncle (Mordecai). Can this be anything other than a play, a fable, a fairy-tale?

Surely that is why the holiday of Purim itself was really the birthplace of the Yiddish theater. It was the Purim-Spiel-er, or Purim players, who would go from house to house, re-enacting the story, and receiving money from householders to whom they would say: "Haynt is Purim, morgen iz ois, gib mir a groshen un varf mich arois!" (Loosely translated: "Today is Purim, tomorrow it's done; give me a penny and I'll be gone.")

Actually to the Jews of Eastern Europe throughout past centuries, the first part of the story, the attempt to destroy the Jews, must have seemed all too real. After all the persecution they had suffered, the expulsions, ghettoization, pogroms—a government edict to destroy all Jews in a country was an exaggeration, maybe, but within the realm of possibility. They would have had no difficulty believing it. (And a little later, alas, it proved to be all too true.)



But the second part, the saving of all the Jews, and through a royal personage, no less, who turned out to be Jewish—this would have been impossible to imagine. No, it would have to be a play. Real life was not like that.

Could this be why we are enjoined on Purim to get drunk? Rava said: A person is obligated to drink on Purim until he does not know the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordechai" (Talmudic Tractate Megillah 7b). (Before you rush out to stock up on alcohol in preparation for inebriation, I hasten to add that Maimonides, puritanical here as in other areas, "explains" that the Talmud merely means one drinks enough to fall asleep and it is then that one does not know the difference between Blessed be Mordecai and Cursed be Haman.) Is it only in that state that one can believe this story with the happy ending?

I hope not. After all, we are the people of eternal hope. Despite everything that has befallen us, we have witnessed the miracle of the State of Israel in our own time. Let us therefore rejoice on Purim, reasonably sober, or if not, not, and celebrate our history and our future.

**RABBI BARRY SCHECHTER**

### Services

Friday Evening	8:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning	9:30 a.m.

### Minyan

Sunday Morning	9:15 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings	7:40 p.m.
Lower level chapel	

Refer to calendar for holiday service times.

## Sisterhood News

Sisterhood had a busy and successful fall with our membership dinner, Torah Fund luncheon and book reviews. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy 2014 filled with many blessings.

We could use a little help with our Kiddushes and Oneg Shabbats to keep us financially stable. For further info on the costs, check with **Paulette** or **Sarine**.

Looking forward to our future programs beginning with our book review scheduled for March 25th, "The Storyteller" by Jody Piccult.

Stay warm and stay safe.

**Sarine Rohde and Sheila Wexler**

## Men's Club News

At our November Sunday Breakfast our members and guests were treated to an informative talk by George Castle. He is the historian for the Chicago Baseball Museum. His topic was about Chicago sports teams and personalities.

Watch the Synagogue web site and fliers for information about the March 30 breakfast and speaker.

Have a safe and pleasant winter.

**Herman Nussbaum**

**Congregation Kol Emeth Sends Deepest Sympathy to:**  
**Lloyd Gordon** on the passing of his beloved wife, **Betty Gordon**  
**Dr. Paul Helman** on the passing of his beloved brother, Norman Helman  
**Brian Katzman** on the passing of his beloved aunt, Agnes Ellegant  
**Leona Katzman** on the passing of her beloved sister, Agnes Ellegant  
**Lee Price**, on the passing of her beloved husband, **Brad Price**  
**Bill Raffeld**, on the passing of his beloved nephew-in-law  
**Bob Rohde**, on the passing of his beloved aunt, Pearl Slovin

## Yahrzeit / Yizkor Donations

Eve and Maurice Alfille  
Nata Andinysh  
Howard Aronson  
Lester Ascher  
Marsha Barnett  
Dr. Nissin and Olema Behar  
Berta Benhabib  
Mary-Jane Bension  
Irwin and Karen Berkley  
Howard and Beverlee Bernstein  
Harry and Margaret Besser  
George and Judy Blinick  
Dr. Richard Bloom and Micki Ross  
Leona Boris  
Nancy and Arthur Chodoroff  
Len and Helene Colen  
Sharon and Barry Curtis  
Janet M. Eisenberg  
Norman and Betty Elkin  
Walter Fleishhacker  
Claire Foreman

Chester Gaynes  
Maureen Gold  
Lloyd and Betty Gordon  
Linda Green  
Freya Greenspahn  
Linda Halperin  
Ilona Hartman  
Elaine Heilig  
Raquel Hochwert  
Michael Horowitz  
Marlene Iser  
The Jaffe Family  
Caren Kaplan  
Bernard and Fern Katz  
Alfred and Shirley Kleifield  
Irene Kogan  
Michael Levin  
Sunnie Levin  
Paulette Lieb  
Gloria Manus  
Ruth Margolin

Should you wish to honor the memory of your beloved departed with a permanent Memorial Plaque, please contact the synagogue office at 847-673-3370.

## CKE News

### Year End Fund Raiser a Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the special Year End Fund Raiser. Although our goal of \$10,000 was a significant jump from the goal in previous years, congregants and non-members stepped up to the plate and we have brought in \$9,899 so far. The improvements are visible all around the congregation. If you would like to help us complete our goal (only \$101 to go) please send a check to the Synagogue office.

### Broken Water Pipe and Subsequent Repairs

On January 6th a water pipe ruptured as we went through Polar Vortex I of the year. A special thank you to **Bill Raffeld** and the members of the Old World Theatre Company for doing what they could to mitigate the damage that evening.

Unfortunately there was still significant damage, most of which is being covered by insurance money. We appreciate your understanding as we go through the repair process. With Sisterhood's assistance we will continue to have the Onegs on Friday evening and the Kiddushes on Saturday mornings to be as plentiful as ever, however we cannot use both of the kitchens at all until the repairs are completed. Please watch for more information as the damage is repaired and we can move beyond this unfortunate incident.

### The Jewish Dog

*A man walks into shul with a dog. The shammass comes up to him and says, "Pardon me, this is a House of Worship. You can't bring your dog in here."*

*"What do you mean," says the man, "this is a Jewish dog. Look."*

*The shammass looks carefully and sees that in the same way that a St. Bernard carries a brandy barrel round its neck, this dog has a tallis bag round its neck.*

*"Rover," says the man, "kipa!" "Woof!" says the dog, then he stands on his hind legs, opens the tallis bag, takes out a kipa, and puts it on his head.*

*"Rover," says the man, "tallis!" "Woof!" says the dog, then he stands on his hind legs, opens the tallis bag, takes out a tallis, and puts it around his neck.*

*"Rover," says the man, "daven!" "Woof!" says the dog, who then stands on his hind legs, opens the tallis bag, takes out a siddur, and starts to daven.*

*"That's fantastic," says the shammass, "absolutely amazing, incredible! You should take him to Hollywood, get him on television, get him in the movies, he could make millions of dollars!"*

*"You speak to him," says the man. "He wants to be a doctor."*

Mitchell and Joyce Messer  
Howard Mirsky  
Diane Mulkerin  
Jerry and Trudy Myers  
Ruth and Herman Nussbaum  
Janine Oberrotman  
Arnold and Karen Okmin  
Michael and Iris Okmin  
Bernie Perlstein  
Esther Peven  
Dmitriy and Irina Polevoy  
Lee Price  
Phyllis Myers Projansky  
Bill Raffeld  
Harriet and Jacob Reifer  
Bob and Sarine Rohde  
Chaplain Robert and Dawn Rosen  
Jean Rosenblum  
Rita Rosenthal  
Lois Schwrtz  
Marjorie Shlaes  
Milton Shlaes and Linda Schiffman  
Judith Silver  
Eleanor and Daniel Zeff

# We Celebrate... We Pray... We Remember...

*Mazel Tov*

**Iris and Barry Jutovsky** on the engagement of their son, Mark to Karen DiCarly

## *Book Donations*

Shabbat Prayer Book donated by **Bill Raffeld** in memory of **Lorri and David Rosen**

## *Congregation Wants To Wish A Speedy Recovery To*

**Howard Bernstein**  
**Richard Snow**

## *Donations For Speedy & Complete Recoveries*

<b>Len and Helene Colen</b>	<b>Phyllis Projansky</b>
<b>Roger and Trudye Fischhoff</b>	<b>Bill Raffeld</b>
<b>The Jaffe Family</b>	<b>Bob and Sarine Rohde</b>
<b>Paulette Lieb</b>	<b>Sheila Wexler</b>

## *General Donations*

<b>Roger and Trudye Fischhoff</b>	<b>Phyllis Projansky</b>
<b>The Jaffe Family</b>	<b>Bill Raffeld</b>
<b>Brian Katzman</b>	<b>Bob and Sarine Rohde</b>
<b>Leona Katzman</b>	<b>Sheila Wexler</b>

## *Speedy Recovery to*

<b>Phyllis Borak</b>	<b>Marlene Iser</b>
<b>Miriam Goldberger</b>	<b>Michael Okmin</b>

## *Donations for Speedy Recoveries*

<b>Bernard and Fern Katz</b>	<b>Leona Katzman</b>
<b>Brian Katzman</b>	<b>Elaine and Richard Snow</b>

## *General Donations*

**Bernard and Fern Katz**

## Tree Of Life

Perfect for a Special Birthday or a Special Anniversary, the Kol Emeth Tree of Life offers a unique and lasting record of your simcha. Any type of happy occasion is beautifully engraved for all to see.

Consider purchasing a Leaf, an Acorn or even a Rock for our beautiful Tree Of Life. For only \$118.00 you can purchase a Leaf, for \$236.00 an Acorn or for a Rock it is only \$354.00. Please contact **Judy Kessler** in the Synagogue Office for more information or to order.

This is such a terrific way to honor someone on a special occasion.

## One Of Our Own!

**Megan Goldish**, a graduate of the Mandell Hebrew School, who had her Bat-Mitzvah at Kol Emeth, and whose family are life-long members of Kol Emeth, is running for Cook County Circuit Court Judge in the 9th judicial sub circuit (Rogers Park, Skokie, Lincolnwood, Evanston, Niles, Morton Grove, Wilmette, most of Glenview, Golf, portions of Winnetka, Northfield, Kenilworth, Edgebrook, and Sauganash).

The primary election is March 18; early voting takes place March 3-17.

## Have You Seen It?????

The new CKE website is up and running at [www.kolemethskokie.org](http://www.kolemethskokie.org). Be sure to stop in and look around at what's going on in the congregation as well as pictures from the past. The calendar is interactive and if you follow the links on events you can get more information, including fliers when there is one available. There are updated sections on all of the different activities that are available as well.

You can be a part of the website. There is still time to bring in your photos to be put up on the website. Contact **Judy** in the office at [office@kolemethskokie.org](mailto:office@kolemethskokie.org) or at 847-673-3370 for more information.

A special thank you to the web site committee for their help in this endeavor. **Bill Dunn, Norman Gelfand, Dr. Jane Halpert, Judy Kessler, Mike Okmin, and Leigh Sisk.**

## In February and March Old World Theatre Company Presents "Of Mice and Men" and "The Heiress!"

Old World Theatre Company's second production of the season - *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, opened Saturday, February 1, 2014 and played Sunday February 2, and the following weekend Saturday and Sunday February 8 and 9.

Following in March, the third production of the season - *The Heiress* by Ruth and Augustus Goetz, comes to CKE playing on Saturdays, March 22 and 29 and Sundays, March 23 and 30.

Both plays share the same literary and adaptation history! First they were novels, then plays and finally movies. Both have remained modern American classics. It is not too early to order tickets! Tickets are \$20.00 for CKE members and \$23.00 for non members.

Student tickets are \$10.00. You may order your tickets in advance by sending your order to the synagogue office. Indicate the date and the number of tickets you wish to purchase. Call the office 847-673-3370 to make your reservations now.

## Maj Jongg Players

Thanks for helping the sisterhood earn extra money. When you receive your renewal notice, please remember to send or call in your order,

\$8.00 for small, \$9.00 for large, payable to:

**Marilyn Cooper**

1175 Lake Cook Rd. #407

Northbrook, IL 60062

847-498-9348

## Newly Revised Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Our office secretary is **Judy Kessler**.

We appreciate and encourage newsletter contributions from all our congregants but, hard copy (paper) submissions will no longer be accepted. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact **Judy** in the office. All emails must be sent to [hakol@fischhoff.com](mailto:hakol@fischhoff.com). Articles must be sent by the 10th of the following month's newsletter.

Ha Kol is compiled by **Judy Kessler** and edited by **Roger Fischhoff**.

## Congregation Kol Emeth

5130 West Touhy Avenue  
Skokie, Illinois 60077



*Address Service Requested*

Rabbi	<b>Barry Schechter</b>
President/Religious Matters	<b>Dr. Paul Helman</b>
Secretary	<b>Leigh Sisk</b>
Treasurer	<b>Michael Okmin</b>
House Committee Chairman	<b>Len Colen</b>
Sisterhood Representative	<b>Sarine Rohde</b>
Men's Club Representative	<b>Bob Rohde</b>

## Mishloach Manot

To \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_



# THANK YOU... THANK YOU... THANK YOU...

**Jane and Sol Bernstein** - Thank you Kol Emeth for my Birthday wishes. I don't know where the time goes and here I am 86. and Janie and I celebrated 63 years for our anniversary. These occasions are a blessing.

**Judy Blinick** - I would like to thank our Kol Emeth friends for their good wishes sent on the occasion of my eye surgery. Their kind thoughts are greatly appreciated.

**Dr. Don Charous** - Thanks to all of our Kol Emeth family for thinking of me during my recent illness and also for your good wishes for my complete recovery. Happily I look forward to returning to shul on Shabbat and other occasions and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again.

**Helene and Len Colen** - We wish to thank everyone who sent us a Leagram on our birthdays.

**Brian Katzman** - Thank you to the Men's Club for honoring me as "Man of the Year." It was a total shock to me but wonderful nachus for mom.

**Judy Kessler** - A special thank you to every one who sent your good wishes for my birthday.

**Judy Kessler** - Thank you to **Dr. Jane Halpert, Nathan and Anna Kagan, Bernard and Fern Katz, Ann Moltz, and Leigh Sisk** for your help in the office over the last several months. You have made my life so much easier.

**Harriet Reifer** - Thanks to my well wishers... Your good thoughts for my speedy recovery are greatly appreciated.

**Elaine and Richard Snow** - We wish to thank all of our Kol Emeth friends for the Leagrams you sent us for our birthdays and for the speedy recovery wishes for Richard's accident. It's great having so many caring friends

**Remember... HaKol's deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Thanks!**

**SISTERHOOD NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH ONEG SHABBATS & KIDDUSHES**

Sisterhood is in need of help with sponsoring Oneg Shabbats and Kiddushes. We would appreciate it if you would like to help us by contributing any amount or share your Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush with someone. You do not have to pay for the whole Oneg or Kiddush unless you want to.

You can honor someone, or celebrate birthdays or anniversaries and you can also sponsor in memory of a dear one. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> the whole Oneg Shabbat will be \$90.00 (not fancy), and a whole Kiddush will be \$170.00 (not fancy). These prices really do not cover everything, but it will help defray some of the costs to Sisterhood. This way we can continue to give you nice Oneg Shabbats on Friday evening and on Saturday morning a nice Kiddush.

If you are interested in doing any of the above, please contact Sarine Rohde at 847-966-9882 or Paulette Lieb at 847-679-3235 for sponsoring either an Oneg Shabbat or a Kiddush.

Thank you for your help – Sisterhood appreciates whatever you can do. So just give one of us a call and we can plan together.

Thank you,  
Sarine Rohde,  
Sisterhood Representative

=====

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

OCCASION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE TO SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

JUST A DONATION TO DEFRAY COSTS \_\_\_\_\_

# Kol Emeth Young Adults Doing The Right Thing

Congregation Kol Emeth would like you to know of several extraordinary teens, **Vivianna Garbaty Smith** and **Isabella Puccini** who frequently volunteer for Teens@JUF activities.

**Isabella, Vivianna** and her older sister, **BrookLynne** have volunteered on previous occasions at the Uptown Cafe, Maot Chitim, as well as at the Anti-Cruelty Society. As of recently **Isabella** and **Vivianna** spent part of their day off from school in honor of Lincoln's Birthday (Wednesday, February 12th) at Cornerstone Community Outreach helping to stock Cornerstone's food pantry, cook and serve lunch and visit with their clients.

In the past, **BrookeLynne and Vivianna** regularly volunteered as teaching assistants at the Milton Levy Hebrew School of Shaare Tikvah B'nai Zion assisting those students who had learning disabilities, and **Isabella** was a valued substitute teaching assistant!

Both **Isabella and Vivianna** are looking forward to another volunteer opportunity and are hoping other teens (Attention all parents and grandparents of teens!) may want to take part in as well.

Maot Chitim--Packing Passover Packages:

When: Sunday, March 30, 2014

Where: TBD--Likely a Northern Suburb

Time: 12:45pm - 2:30pm

Volunteers Needed: 13

Details: We will help pack 5000 Passover Food Packages for nearly 12,000 Chicagoland Jews in need--and give people who might have no Passover a chance to celebrate with dignity. Join us to assemble boxes and pack non-perishable food items.

For more information, and the link to sign up, go to: [http://www.juf.org/teens/mtv\\_form.aspx](http://www.juf.org/teens/mtv_form.aspx)

Not only will you "feel good" about performing these mitzvot, but may also meet new friends at the same time!!

**Isabella, Vivianna and BrookeLynne** are to be commended for being exemplary role models. We're honored that the **Garbaty and Puccini** families and all our new members have joined Congregation Kol Emeth.

**Trudye Fischhoff**

## THE FOUR MAIN MITZVOT OF PURIM

1. MEGILLAT ESTHER -- we read the story of Purim in the evening and the next day. And whenever Haman is mentioned, we make as much noise as possible to blot out his name and his memory!
2. SENDING GIFTS OF FOOD to at least one friend or relative, because Purim is a time of love and friendship between Jews.
3. GIVING GIFTS OF MONEY TO THE POOR because Purim is a time of sharing and caring and helping.
4. EATING A FESTIVE PURIM MEAL – the special holiday meal eaten on Purim afternoon.

## AND DON'T FORGET, PURIM IS COSTUME-TIME!

We celebrate how everything can turn upside-down and into something else, and nothing is exactly what it seems to be. So start thinking about who you want to be on Purim!

A joyous Purim to all of you! May Purim – and all other days in the year!-- be full of light and gladness, honor and joy, just as it was for the Jewish people in the time of Esther and Mordechai so many years ago.

## "PURIM SMARTS"

Put on your Purim cap and see how much of the Purim story you remember.

- Name the country; name the king.  
Who made the threats? Who got the ring?  
Name the wise counsellor; name the two queens.  
Which remained silent and which ranted and preened?  
Who looked for honor but soon fell from power?  
Who set up gallows as high as a tower?  
Who sat and watched at the palace gate?  
Who came to the king filled with evil and hate?  
Where did it happen – which country and city?  
What was the date? Who was filled with self-pity?  
Who made a party to save the Jews?  
Who sent out letters to tell the good news?  
Where can you read the entire story?  
When do you hear it with joy, noise and glory?  
Name Four Purim things we do to remember this dreadful-turned-happy Jewish adventure!

Excerpted from Aish.com