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March 1, 2019 (5779)

Kol Kehilat

THE NEWSLETTER OF KEHILAT CHAVERIM

Masquerade!

On Purim, nothing is as it seems.

That ferocious monster is really sweet shy Sarah from second grade. That beautiful Queen Esther with the jewel-studded crown is really your brother Moishe. Is that a gigantic three-cornered poppy-seed-filled cookie walking down the street? And how did little Michael grow that luxuriant white beard?

Why do we disguise ourselves on Purim? Because on Purim nothing is as it seems. Was the banishment of Vashti simply one of those things that happen when a debauched Persian emperor gets drunk? Was it just coincidence that Mordechai happened to overhear a plot to kill the king? Did Achashverosh choose Esther to be his queen because she happened to be the most beautiful woman in the empire? Was it plain bad luck for bad Haman that he happened to come visit Achashverosh just when the king was having Mordechai's heroic deed read to him? Was it Esther's charm and Achashverosh's flippancy that made the king suddenly hang his favorite minister?

Purim was instituted because the Jewish people at the time understood that it was G-d Himself who did all of the above, to save His people. He was just disguising Himself as a Persian palace soap opera.

When G-d took the Children of Israel out of Egypt on Passover, the entire neighborhood, from Giza to Gaza and from Memphis to Mesopotamia,

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REMINDER

Please let us know if any of your contact information changes. Periodically, we will send out a membership list, and want to make certain that it is current.

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resonated with the miracles wrought by the G-d of the Hebrews. When a small jug of oil burned for eight days on Chanukah, the most skeptical Hellenist saw that it was an act of G-d. Purim (“lots”) is unique in that the most miraculous of salvations was shrouded in the garments of nature, luck and coincidence. G-d was hidden and remained hidden—His name does not once appear in the entire Megillah (Scroll of Esther)!

Purim is a masquerade. Esther (“I shall hide”) is scrolled up. Even the poppy-seed filling is barely peeking out of the folds of dough of the hamantash (or is it prune?), not to mention the wholly concealed meat (chicken?) filling in the kreplach.

Not paradoxically, Purim is also the most joyous festival on the Jewish calendar. It’s great to celebrate miracles, but how often does a miracle come your way? Far more exhilarating is the realization that nothing is as it seems, that G-d is always pulling the strings, even when things seem to be “just happening.”

By Yanki Tauber

(Reprinted with permission of Chabad.org)

Membership Support

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

“Healing wishes are sent to members who are ill or grieving. If we can help by providing food or sustenance, a ride, or a sympathetic ear, please reach out to one of us.”

If you become aware of a member in need please contact one of us. If you are comfortable please ask your friend/member if they mind having a person from membership support reach out. Some people prefer to keep their situation private or only among their inner circle. Thank you for caring.

Debby Szajnberg	860-463-5425	debbyysz@comcast.net
Marcey Munoz	860-951-6877	marceynews@gmail.com
Joan Walden	860-233-2379	joan@joanwalden.name

Contact Marcey for General
Membership Information

Shabbat

January Shabbat

By Bob Abraham and Sue Doran

Deb and Bob Abraham hosted the January 18th Shabbat, slipped in between winter weather events. “Despite the morning precipitation, the evening was clear and all who attended enjoyed the service led by Bob, the delicious finger-food and dessert potluck, and most of all, each other,” said Sue. “We reconnected with some longtime members, and welcomed new guests,” said Bob, adding, “We ate, we shared Shabbat, and we ate again.”



Community, Culture and Education Committee

The Education-Culture/Community Engagement Committee invites you to join us:

An afternoon at the movies!



When: Sunday, March 10, 4:00 PM

Where: Spotlight Theaters, Front Street, Hartford. Park at the Front Street South Garage, 62 Front Street Crossing, Hartford, and get your ticket validated at the theater.

Film: “Redemption,” sponsored by the Jewish Film Festival (Winner - Audience Favorite Award - Jerusalem Film Festival 2018). The film is 104 minutes long, Hebrew with English subtitles. See description of the film below.

After the movie: All are invited to get together to compare notes about the movie and schmooze at the **Front Street Bistro** inside the theater, where drinks, snacks, or early dinner are available: <http://frontstreetbistro.com/lunch-menu/>

If you plan to stay for the discussion, please **RSVP to Hila Yanai**, hila1226@gmail.com so we have a head count when we make a reservation for our group. Thanks!

To order movie tickets: Go to the Film Festival website, <https://hjff2019.eventive.org/schedule> and click on “Redemption.” You can also choose to buy tickets at the theater, if you don’t mind taking the risk that the movie will sell out.

See a description of the movie below. We hope to see you on March 10!

Redemption

Menachem, a former front man for a rock band, is now religious, and a father to a six-year-old. When his daughter is diagnosed with cancer, he must find a creative solution to fund the expensive treatments. He reunites his band for one last tour. The journey to save his daughter exposes old wounds and allows him to reconnect with his secular past. Menachem understands that only a new connection to his past and to his music can pave the road to his own redemption.

Purim

"On Purim, we remember that the Jewish people escaped Haman's evil plot to destroy them. It has been a custom for families and communities to celebrate special Purims each year to remember their own escape from danger." . . .



KEHILAT CHAVERIM'S SHABBAT & FESTIVALS COMMITTEES

INVITE YOU TO A SPECIAL PURIM CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019, 7:00 PM

At the home of Jane and Lewis Gordon,

A brief Shabbat service will be followed immediately by a
community musical celebration of the pivotal role that
women played in the Purim story. Get Ready to Sing!

Costumes Optional:

Come dressed as your favorite Women's Rights Activist, or in any festive costume of your choice!



Oneg Shabbat with Hamentashen following the celebration.

Contributions of other sweets/fruit are welcome, but never required!

Please RSVP to Andrea Igdalsky: iggie52@aol.com

Bridge Bags Reminder



The need for supplies for the girls at the Bridge STAR Home in West Hartford is ongoing, and they count on us to provide welcome bags for their new residents. KC provided 13 bags in December, as well as warm hats, to help ease the transition for new residents.

If you haven't donated in a while, or if you are able to donate again, the list of items for the bags is below. Feel free to provide any of items from the list or a complete bag, or a financial contribution if you prefer that we do the shopping. All contributions are appreciated!

- Set of single sheets
- Towel and washcloth
- Shampoo
- Scented bath soap (bar or liquid)
- Small stuffed animal
- Pajama pants, large or medium
- Colorful socks
- Journal and pen

The Purim party on **March 15th** and the Creative Seder program on **March 24th** are great opportunities to bring in your contributions. Bags will be available at both events but any bag will do. If those dates don't work, feel free to contact me and we will make other arrangements.

Thank you for your support of this important community initiative!

Robin Kriesberg

robin.kriesberg@gmail.com

Come join us for...

***Intersection of Faith & Justice:
a film/discussion series***

sponsored by the Hartford Friends Meeting (Quakers)

FREE ADMISSION

**Films to be shown at the Quaker Meetinghouse
144 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford, CT 06119
6:00 p.m. dessert; 6:30 p.m. film followed by discussion**

Sat., Mar. 16th (snow date: Sat. Mar. 30th)

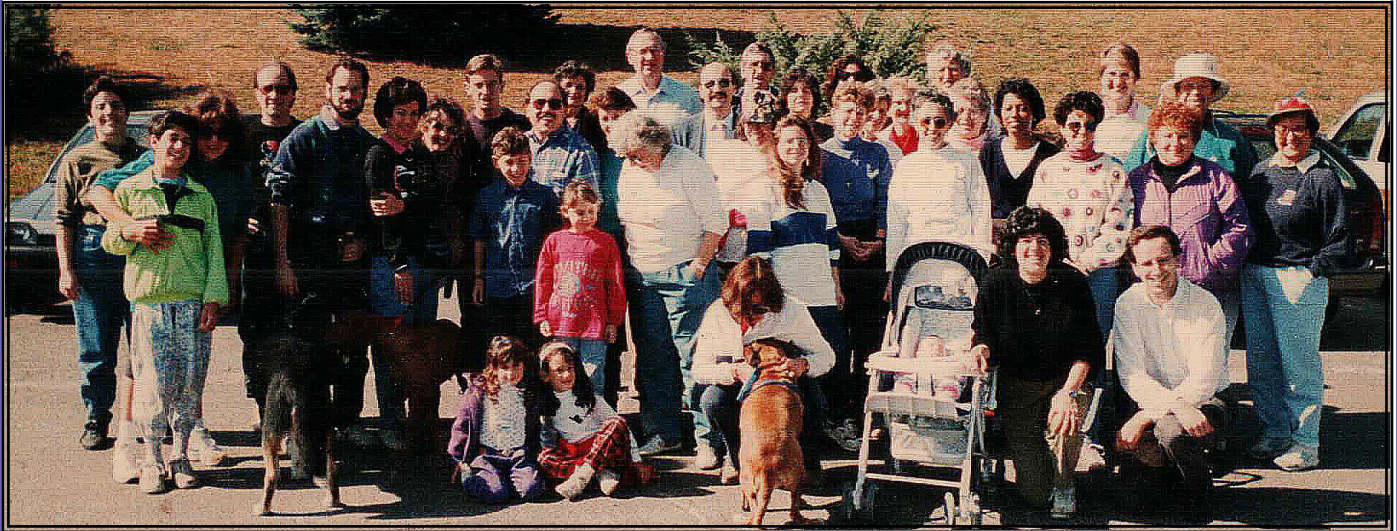
Promises

A beautiful, intelligent and personal film which offers a perspective on the
Palestinian/Israeli conflict through the eyes of its biggest victims
– the children of both sides)

For childcare for children under the age of 12,
e-mail: peaceandsocialconcerns@hartfordquakers.org
at least a week before the film.

Leave your name, phone number and the ages of your children.

Co-sponsors of these films include Kehilat Chaverim and the
Hartford Food System

KC History**Yom Kippur Hike****Are You In This Picture?**

Help us figure out what year this picture was taken.

Contact Joan Walden with your ideas.

joan@joanwalden.name

Community Action**Hands On Hartford Soup Kitchen**

Following preparation by groups of KC members at two homes, Linda Busch delivered what must have been close to 100 pounds of chili along with salad and cookies to the Hands on Hartford Soup Kitchen on Monday morning. They were very grateful and said to thank everyone who helped.

Community, Culture and Education Committee**Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy**

The movie DVD “Broadway Musicals A Jewish Legacy” as seen on PBS is available to borrow. It is a 2 disc selection with performances by Matthew Broderick, Kelli O’Hara, Zero Mostel, Nathan Lane, Barbra Streisand, Idina Menzel, Kristin Chenoweth, and many more.

Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy examines the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricist in the creation of the modern American musical. The film showcases the work of legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, George and Ira Gershwin, Lorenz Hart, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Leonard Bernstein, and Stephen Sondheim. Interviews with songwriters and luminaries including Sheldon Harnick, Stephen Schwartz, Harold Prince, Arthur Laurents, Charles Strouse, and Mel Brooks provide insight, alongside standout performances and archival footage.

Engaging, Humorous and Provocative !!

Contact Marcie Schwartz mschwartz@megahits.com

or Hila Yanai hila1226@gmail.com

to borrow the DVD.

Communications**Announcement**

We have changed the KC Newsletter e-mail address to:

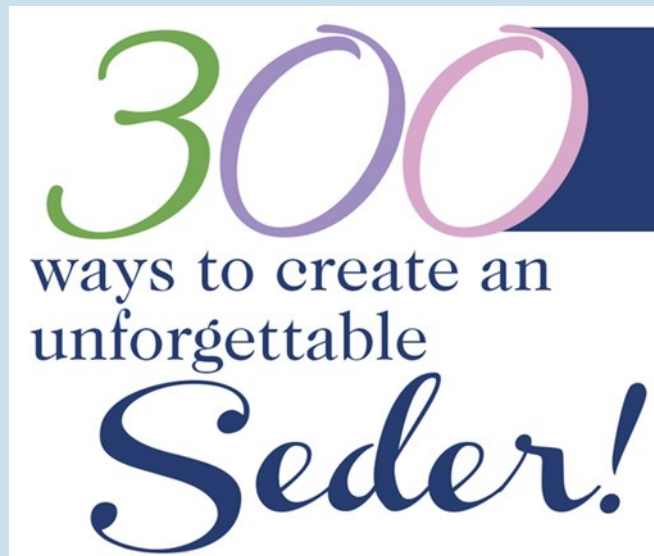
KCNewsletter1978@gmail.com

This e-mail address is only to send information for the newsletter.

Passover

*Kehilat Chaverim of Greater Hartford
In partnership with Mandell JCC*

Presents Dr. Murray Spiegel



**Sunday, March 24
3-4 p.m.**

A unique and entertaining participatory workshop!
Dr. Spiegel has been featured in the New York Times
and on PBS.

**Free and open to the public
Bring friends!
MANDELL JCC
335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford**

for more info, contact Kehilat Chaverim debbysz@comcast.net 860-521-1776

Community, Culture and Education Committee

KEHILAT CHAVERIM

Please Join Us for a Presentation and Discussion:

[Media Coverage of Religion: How and Why it Matters in American Politics](#)

Sponsored by the Ed-Cult/Community Engagement Committee:

Sunday April 7, 1:30 PM

at the home of Art Feltman & Dale Wallington

From Evangelicals to BDS*, from church sex scandals to congregations giving sanctuary to immigrants-- how the media reports on these and other controversies in American religious life shapes public opinions about religious institutions and leaders.

If you are curious to know more about how people in your community and across the country are influenced by stories on religious issues in newspapers, TV, and social media, join us for this fascinating talk and a lively follow-up discussion!



Mark Silk, our presenter, is uniquely qualified to speak about religion and politics. He is the Director of the Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life and Professor of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College. He previously worked as a journalist at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He has examined the role of media and religion in American life throughout his career.

RSVPs appreciated, but not required.

You can RSVP to Hila Yanai hila1226@gmail.com

*BDS – Boycott Divestment Sanctions



Kehilat Chaverim Calendar

Updated February 28, 2019

Day, Date	Time	Event & Location
2019		
March		
Sun. Mar. 10	4:00 pm	Film: Redemption, Spotlight Theaters, Front Street, Hartford.
Fri., Mar. 15	7:00 pm	Shabbat—Purim Celebration At the home of Jane and Lewis Gordon,
Sat. Mar. 16	6:00 pm	Film: Promises Quaker Meetinghouse 144 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford, CT
Sun. Mar. 24	3:00—4:00 pm	Creative Seder—Murry Spiegel, Mandell JCC
April		
Sun. April 7	1:30 pm	Mark Silk "Media Coverage of Religion"
Fri. Apr. 19		First night of Passover
May		
Sun. May 5	TBA	Annual Meeting, Mandell JCC

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For additional dates, see the KC Website at www.kehilatchaverim.org.

Please check the website calendar for conflicts before scheduling events.

***Kehilat Chaverim* Contact List**

2018-2019 Steering Committee Members—

Jewish Calendar-Driven Events

Youth Education, Activities and Bar/Bat Mitzvah

	Sharon Langer*	sdlanger@comcast.net
Sabbath	Susan Doran*	susan@doran.us
High Holidays	Sue Garten*	suegarten1@gmail.com
	Marcie Schwartz*	mschwartz@megahits.com

Life-Long Learning

Education and Culture	Linda Carlson*	pegasus891@aol.com
	Hila Yanai	hila1226@gmail.com

Community Support

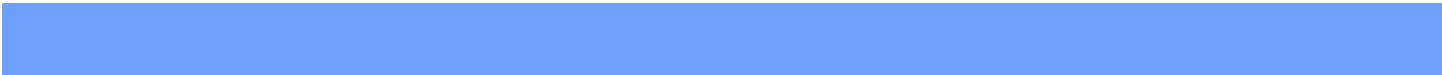
Community Action	Robin Kriesberg*	robin.kriesberg@gmail.com
	Linda Busch	linda-b@mindspring.com
Festivals/Social Activites	Ellen Coffey*	ercscoffey@comcast.net
	Harriet Winograd*	h.winograd@comcast.net
Membership Support/Life	Maggie Cohen	hellofrommaggie@gmail.com
Cycle	Debby Szajnberg*	debbysz@comcast.net
Community Engagement	Karen Harrington*	karhar14@hotmail.com
	Marcie Schwartz*	mschwartz@megahits.com

Administration

Administration	Marcey Munoz*	kehilatchaverim@sbcglobal.net
Communication	Wendy Swift*	wendymillstein@aol.com
	Joan Walden*	joan@joanwalden.name
Treasurer	Nancy Malley*	mnmalley@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Wendy Swift*	wendymillstein@aol.com

* Steering Committee Member

Thank you to Joan Walden, Eric Hammerling, and Dan Harr for proofreading this newsletter.



Kehilat Chaverim

c/o Linda Carlson

21 Bremen Rd.

Manchester CT 06040

Featured this Month:

- [Purim Party](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [KC History](#)