



Harlots and Heroines: Purim Exposed *from Beata Abraham*



Thank you Queen Esther, we are grateful to you for being a biblical badass and turning the *Megillah* into a masterclass on courage, sacrifice, and how to leverage feminine wiles to save our people from annihilation. Your grace

and selflessness have inspired a multitude of parents to name their kids after you, and innumerable little girls to don their finest princess wear for Purim each year.

But although there may not be any namesakes for you Vashti, please know that we still see you. It may seem that as the original *Mrs. Achashverosh*, you and Esther only have one thing in common; you both had to suffer the same fool for a husband, but there is actually more, and we must acknowledge your important role in the Purim story too.

Your refusal to obey your husband was the catalyst for the series of events leading to Esther stepping in to avert disaster at the last minute. And while we may never know for sure whether you were absorbed in sipping cheap Manischewitz wine and working on your manifesto to take over the world when your husband decided to summon you for debasement at his 180-day long party, your enigmatic role in the Purim story remains significant. The important thing is that you summarily refused to appear at the party and paid the price of losing it all, for your

insubordination

The story of Vashti has 3 parts:

1. **The king's great banquet.** Achashverosh, king of Persia, holds a royal banquet to honor the powerful men of his vast empire and acts like a frat boy while attempting to display his enormous wealth.
2. **Vashti disobeys her drunken husband.** Toward the end of the banquet when the effects of the alcohol have kicked in, the king orders his wife to appear before his guests to show off her charms and attributes. She refuses to appear before the king's guests, who are also inebriated.
3. **The plot to disgrace her.** Egged on by his advisers, Achashverosh decides to make an example of her by banishing her from his court. He then issues a useless decree ordering all wives to obey their husbands, lest others have

a similarly disobedient spouse. This highlights the fact that he is a fool to all in the kingdom.

In recent years, many have attempted to rehabilitate your reputation from disobedient wife to feminist icon, exhibiting your own strength and courage in defying the orders of royal but

preposterous patriarchy.

But Vashti, we must ask – was your refusal an attempt to loosen the patriarchal grip or borne entirely from egocentric reasons? You might be amused to learn that over the last few hundred years two opposing schools of thought have argued

'But Vashti, we must ask – was your refusal an attempt to loosen the patriarchal grip or borne entirely from egocentric reasons?'

(continued on next page)

Harlots and Heroines: Purim Exposed *from Beata Abraham (continued)*

relentlessly over your true motivations. Please don't let all of this attention go to your head.

The Canadian Jewish feminist Michele Landsberg, reflecting on her elementary-age Jewish Day School years in the late 1940s, admits her ambivalence about your character: "I thought, Hey, what's wrong with Vashti? She had dignity. She had self-respect. She said: I'm not going to dance for you and your pals." There I was, nine or ten years old, and I thought, "I like Vashti but I'm supposed to hate her." It's hard for some to accept your bad rap when your only flaw seems to have been to have dignity.

Of course there are your detractors who famously attribute your reluctance to appear before the revelers to having suddenly grown a tail, or perhaps become afflicted with leprosy or boils. They portray you as Nebucahnezzar's granddaughter and accuse you of being the one who convinced Ahashverosh (referenced in the book of Ezra (4:6) to block the Second Temple rebuilding project. They insist that you brutally enslaved, beat, and humiliated Jewish

women, even forcing them to work for you unclothed on Shabbat. Some go so far as to say that on the eve of the party, you had been holding a parallel party in the king's chambers and would have happily appeared naked had your body not betrayed you, causing you shame and embarrassment.

Vashti, we may never know your truth, but we will continue to ponder and dispute your true identity as either a vile, scoundress or an iconic strong-willed ancient advocate of women's rights, each of us casting you in the role that feels most authentic. In the meantime, we hope that you and Esther are clinking glasses and sipping on strong Purim wine together, exchanging bemused looks while gazing down upon us, perplexed by our preoccupation with your individual roles as strong women who each had an important part in circumventing our demise in the *Purim Megillah*.

Whether heroine or harlot, we are certain that you have both found interesting topics of conversation after that second glass of wine.



Become Involved in Social Action's New Mission *from Don Bass & Felicia Miller*

An introduction to our new vision for the CBINT Social Action Committee was held at Shabbat services on February 24, and followed by a kiddush lunch in honor of the immediate past co-chairs, Barbara Simon and Beth Peterman, and all the synagogue members who have contributed to SAC's efforts over the years.

Our new mission statement:

To engage members of CBINT in programs and activities that encourage positive spiritual growth and promote an improved understanding of those living in our interconnected communities who are underserved, marginalized, and in need. This will be achieved through:

1. Education
2. Direct Service
3. Tzedakah

Our overall theme for the Social Action Committee this year is Mental Health.

In addition to continuing and hopefully expanding the impact of Marge's Mitzvah Knitters and the Green Team, we are also planning the following:

- To establish a Peer Led Support Group – with the help of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). We need to identify one or two facilitators. We believe this will be an important new service we can offer to our CBINT community.
- To engage with our greater Milwaukee community by partnering with three local nonprofit organizations:
 - JFS – many opportunities for education and engagement, including gardening and knitting as well as learning about their counseling related services.
 - Pathfinders – organization working with at-risk youth (ages 11-25). Prepare and serve dinner, mentor, etc. Certain specific areas where help is needed, such as housing, other life skills, etc.



- Project Return – reintegration of people recently released from incarceration. Also, those at risk. "Circles of Support" – there's a simple training for this.

All three of these organizations are excited to partner with us.

As we establish our committee, we will also consider addressing other needs in our community:

- Partnering with Ovation Communities
- Israel and Overseas at MJF – grants are available for programs related to mental health issues due to the current situation in Israel.
- Parental support program – helping parents and families who struggle with challenges related to children with various mental health issues.

Help is needed to run the Social Action Committee. We are looking to establish an executive leadership committee. Please contact Donald Bass (dbcher19@gmail.com) or Felicia Miller (fmiller1102@gmail.com) if you are interested in serving on the committee and helping us to meet our mission.

Men's Club – A Look Back and Ahead *from Bill Fink*

As we begin March, let's look at some past Men's Club activities. On January 14, we hosted the annual Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) regional event. Many members from Chicago made the trek north to join us. The program was capped off with a wonderful speaker, Mary Madden of NAMI, who spoke to us about the need for mental health services available in our community. The event was open to our congregation and many congregants attended.

On January 22, our first Jews and Schmooze of the year was held with our own Marshall Forbes as guest speaker. His topic was Jewish languages through time with an emphasis on Yiddish.

Rolling into February, as of this writing, we have the annual World Wide Wrap, Feb. 11, sponsored by the international FJMC. Jews are connected throughout the world by performing the mitzvah of placing tefillin. Anyone not

knowing how is taught in a communal effort to be part of our Jewish heritage and family.

March brings us to the annual Man of the Year/Youth of the Year event on March 3, in Highland Park. This year's honorees are Dan Fleischman as Man of the Year, who is honored for his work within the shul and outside for helping our community, and Matan Steigmann, who receives high recommendations from the teaching staff.

Men's Club celebrates Men's Club Sabbath on March 16 with a special addition to the service! We invite all to attend.

Mark your calendars now for our next Jews and Schmooze, March 25.

As a Men's Club, we endeavor to provide events and assistance to our congregational family. We invite all men to join us as members to assist and improve our club.

Glass Box Shop is Your Pesach Seder Destination

Passover will be here before you know it and March is the time to get ready! Come to the Glass Box to stock up on supplies for your Seder. We have lovely Miriam cups in addition to Elijah cups, as well as several different vessels to hold charoset and horseradish. Come and admire (and purchase!) our gorgeous Seder plates!

Remember – the Glass Box charges **no sales tax** and there is **no shipping** involved. Prices are at or below most online offerings, and we will meet any other lower price on an identical item. Contact Ellen Goldstein with any questions (414-861-6734).



Interested In Sponsoring a Kiddush Lunch? It's Easy!

Whether it's to celebrate, honor or commemorate, you can be a part of creating community and the warm Shul atmosphere in which we take pride. You can sponsor a lunch yourself, with friends or family, or with a group. Contributions to the full cost are welcome too.

To sponsor a Kiddush, please contact kitchen@CBINTmilwaukee.org



Congrats to Dan and Matan – Man and Youth of the Year

Men's Club is proud to announce our 2024 CBINT Men's Club Man and Youth of the Year – Dan Fleischman and Matan Steigmann! These incredible gentlemen will be honored at a special event in Highland Park, Ill., on March 3.



Winter Vibes on the Roof

Thank you to all who attended Hazzan Stein and Mitchell Shiner's Jazz Fiddler on the Roof Concert!

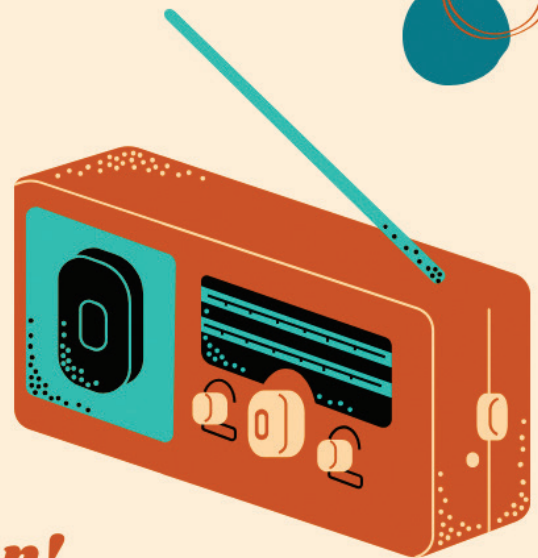


CBINT SISTERHOOD INVITES YOU TO

STAY TUNED!

We've got some fun programming on the horizon:

- Coffee Chats
- Entertainment
- Women's Seder
- Mitzvah Projects
- ...and more!



More details coming soon!

Want to learn more or get involved? We'd love to hear from you!

armonarose@gmail.com
lindsay.propper@gmail.com

Book Group Meets March 18

The CBINT Book Discussion group meets on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 1 p.m. to review *The Marriage Box* by Corie Ajani. Bobby Miller moderates. Join our lively and spirited group members! All are invited to participate!

Contact Bobby Miller for additional information:

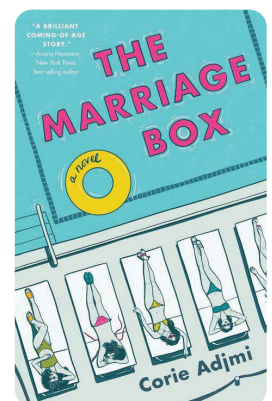
b.jeanmiller6790@gmail.com

Upcoming Schedule:

April 15, 2024 – *The Ventriloquists* by E.R. Ramzipoor (Diana Pogoriler)

May 20, 2024 – *Shanda* by Letty Cottin Pogrebin (Ann Lederman)

June 24, 2024 – *The Matchmaker's Gift* by Lynda Cohen Loigman (Marla Frydman)



Kosher snacks
and lunch
provided



CONGREGATION
**BETH ISRAEL
NER TAMID**

PRESENTS 

**AUGUST,
19-30**

COMMUNITY GAP CAMP

Camp's done, but school hasn't started. What to do?

CBINT Gap Camp!

TWO weeks of Jewish day camp fun at CBINT! 

9am-3pm

6880 N Green Bay Ave

**FOR POTTY-
TRAINED 3YO-4TH
GRADE**

**AFTERCARE
AVAILABLE
3-5PM**

**EARLYCARE
AVAILABLE
8-9AM**

**Non-Members
\$65/DAY***

**MJDS Families
\$63/DAY***

**CBINT Members
\$60/DAY***

**Sibling and Shul
School discounts
available!**

***PRICE PER DAY
HALF DAY RATES
AND
FULL WEEK DISCOUNTS
AVAILABLE**

**Enrollment open now!
For more information, contact Allie:
allieb@cbintmilwaukee.org**

Contributions

***In Honor of the Arrival
of Ziva Diane***

General Fund

Diana and Harvey Pogoriler

***In Honor of the Arrival
of Ziva Diane Picus***

General Fund

Anita and Dick Bensman

In Honor of

***Thelma Sogol's Birthday
Social Action Committee***

Barbara and Al Simon

In Honor of

***Mitch Nelles' Birthday
Social Action Committee***

Barbara and Al Simon

In Appreciation of

***Lorie Wertheimer
Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund***

Sue Ellen Liker

***In Appreciation of Hazzan
Stein's Midwinter Concert***

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund

Harriet Newman

Sherry Blumberg

General Fund

Barbara and Alan Bern

Gail and Harvey Sherman

***In Appreciation of Rabbi Alter
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund***

Sharon Siegel and Steven Picus

Edie Pump

***In Appreciation for the Sanford
Cohen Memorial Service***

General Fund

Genny Cohen

R'fuah Shlema for

Judy Margolis

Social Action Committee

Barbara and Al Simon

In Memory of Sanford Cohen

General Fund

Joel Davis

Joshua Miller

Jeremiah Swisher

Caroline and Theodore Ansani

Nancy and Brian Fitzgerald

School Fund

Leslie Berman

In Memory of

Anne Zeiger Friedman

General Fund

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lerner

Shari and Allan Luck

Irv Dorfman

Leslie Houck

Beth and Joel Spenadel

School Fund

Vicki, Neil, Glenn, Carol Weisfeld

Beth Hearst Scholarship Fund

Judy Wolkenstein

Jacobson Chapel Fund

Joan E. Zeiger-Klein

and Bob Klein

In Memory of David Borkin

General Fund

Bobbie Fishman

Edie Pump

Gary Meyer

Janice Meyer

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund

Cindy Cooper

Ellen and Stephen Goldstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sheila and Hy Eglash

Social Action Committee

Barbara and Al Simon

Youth Scholarship

Endowment Fund

Bobby and Jay Miller

School Fund

Nancy Zetley

In Memory of Ronald Ploor

General Fund

Anita and Dick Bensman

Shirley Bass Floral Fund

Marilee and Eugene Bass

In Memory of Howard Moeckler

General Fund

Jane Chester

Beth Hearst Scholarship Fund

Judy Wolkenstein

In Memory of Elaine Callif

Passport to Israel Fund

Rena and Fred Safer

Beth Hearst Scholarship Fund

Judy Wolkenstein

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund

Judy Glotzer

In Memory of Sophie

Hochman

General Fund

Phillip Israel

Social Action Committee

Barbara and Al Simon

In Memory of Janice Shechtman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Gert and Morrie Shechtman

CBINT Adult Programming

For more information about adult programs and educational opportunities, such as the **CBINT Book Club**, **Marge's Mitzvah Knitters**, and **Mah Jong**, please go to our website:

<https://www.cbintmilwaukee.org/connect/adult-programming>

Hamantaschen Baking

A huge thank you to all who volunteered to assist with hamantaschen baking this year!



Our Congregation Mourns the Passing of:

David Borkin, on January 30, 2024

David was the son of **Vivian (the late Joel) Borkin** and father of **Tyler (Tracy) Borkin** and **Lindsay Borkin**. He was the brother of Marla (Michael) Roth and the late Lori Hunt. He is also survived by grandchildren **Hannah and Noah Borkin** and nephew and niece Michael and Marissa Roth, family, and friends.

Betty E. Weitzen, on February 5, 2024

Betty was the mother of **Caren (Donald) Bass** and Jay Weitzen (Sara Epstein). Betty was the wife of Samuel Weitzen, the daughter of Sol and Bessie Gordon, and the sister of Max, Fannie, and Robert Gordon, all of whom preceded her in death. In addition to her daughter and son, Betty is survived by her grandchildren, Samantha (Stanton) Abramson, Mitchell (Sara) Bass, Erica (Jeffrey) Fishbach, and Samuel Weitzen. She is also survived by great-grandchildren Sadie Abramson and Nathan and Ryan Fishbach, and many other relatives and friends.

We Celebrate March's Member Birthdays!

Please find the complete list of
this month's birthdays on our website:

CBINTMilwaukee.org/celebrate/birthdays



Yahrzeits for February beginning on the evening prior to:

March 1

David H. Lazarus
Sam Pachefsky
Edward Rosen
Louis Rubnitz
Irene Shlimovitz
Jennie Turner
Anna Weber
David Kaiser
Anita Shaw
Ann Stearns
Efrat Atinsky
Noam Atinsky
Ya'ari Atinsky
Ruth Sweet
Dorothy Kovnar
Muriel Abrams
Jacob Kanowitz
Beverly Elovitz
Norbert Sweet
Palmer Abramson
Milton Rosenberg

March 2

Esther Berman
Lillian Klinghoffer
Devorah Melnik
June Sherkow
Miriam Ben Shmuel
Katherine Derzon
David Paley
Abraham Stearns
Israel Ciobotaro
Rose Mark
Jean Ausman
Ruth Plotkin

March 3

Rabbi Maurice Cornfield
Bennie Paley
Morris Siegel
Sylvia Weiss
Irving Zall
Jacob Samosky
Leah Reichel Zamosh
Thelma Moshe
Charlotte Shevick
Helen Swidler

March 4

Samuel Cohen

Kay Silverstein Fleder
Akiva Macagon
Jerome Rogatz
Sylvia Salic
Sam Stameshkin
Rebecca G. Cohen
Catherine Fleder
Gerald Meyer
Laurence Kabins
Saul Blumenthal

March 5

Gertrude Berson
Jacob Pachefsky
Moses Hiller
Bernard Friesler
Gloria Warren
Hans Hauser

March 6

Victor Balkansky
Benjamin Marvin
Ruth Shlensky
Helen Sims
Solomon Cohen
Belle Garfinkel
Jack J. Gimbel
Jeanie Lovy Devorkin
Louis "George" Kracower

March 7

Harold S. Browne
Dorothy Kadwit
Jules Kerbel
Pauline Leshin
Mae Marks-Willenson
Kate Gorens
Sam Wexler
Bess Rosen

Shirley Markowitz
Joseph Kalter

March 8

Leo Dicker
Lois Housfeld
Jacob Kosberg
Meyer Lubotsky
Sidney Mechanic
Gabriel Nissenbaum
Moshe Herchel Paley
Etta Siegel
Rose Winnick

Harry Simon
Herbert Bistriz

March 9

Louis Bloom
Lena Feldman
Anna Selensky
Asne Zaichick
Belle Mallin Zaidins
Cynthia Dale
Abramson-Andrews
Dr. Gabriel Heffez

March 10

Joseph Lester Cohen
Morris Rapkin
Isadore Freedman

March 11

Dorothy Kaiser
Jennie Levitz

March 12

Barney Golper
Toba Levin
Selma Seligmann
Morton Abt
Sylvia Siegman

March 13

Jean Biller
Anna Fishman
Alan I. Roth
Frank Cicerilli
Ronald Wohlauer

March 14

Julian David Galst
Leon Pelc
Barney M. Mendelsohn
Sol Weinberg

March 15

Irving Hansher
Tevel Ruderman
Michael Kleiner
Shirley Wagan
Leonard Loeb
Joseph Peterman
Sally Rosen

March 16

David Mendelson

March 17

Nathan Jacob
Morris Wiviott

Ben Lerner
Boris Solomonik

March 18

Phyllis Zien
Jerome Morrison

March 19

Pauline Altshull
Molly Kaiser Marsh

March 20

William Goldberg
Dr. Samuel J. Hiller

March 21

Henry Stern
Esther Werba
Sally Rosen

March 23

Louis Cohen
Hershel Paley

March 24

Philip Honig
Meyer Bloom
Esther Marie Feldman
Irina Levin

March 25

Gary David Lampenfeld
Celia Rubenstein
Benjamin Rubinstein

March 26

David (Marz) Marozofsky
Bruce Jordan Shaw
Albert Levy

March 27

Michael Alan Feldman

March 28

Abraham Burstein
David Morton Goldberg
Fay Bernstein
Harriet Blumberg

March 29

Morris Miller

March 30

Shirley Rae La Kam

March 31

Sarah Kahn Wichman
Molly Tieger
Eta Lakric
Sylvia Steele



Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid
 Marvin & Marilyn Zetley
 Family Campus
 6880 N. Green Bay Ave
 Milwaukee, WI 53209-2821
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 3426

CBINT Funds

Alan & Rita Marcuvitz Education Endowment Fund – Funds to be used for adult, youth, and family education.

Balkansky Fund – Provides scholarships for Camp Ramah.

Beth Hearst Fund (Formerly Passport to Israel) – Provides funds for current youth and educational programs.

Carl S. and Sandra G. Zetley Generation to Generation Fund – Provides funds for education and family programming.

CBINT/Religious School Fund – Underwrites tuition for children of members attending the CBINT School of Religious Studies.

Ervin & Suzann Colton Education Endowment Fund – Provides funds for Scholars in Residence and other speakers.

Gemilut Hasadim – Provides funds for Shabbat meals for CBINT families with newborns or families in mourning.

General Fund – Provides funds to maintain CBINT.

Harold M. Kramer Beautification Fund – Provides funds for beautification projects at CBINT.

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund – Fund established for charitable causes.

Isadore & Sylvia Blankstein Library Fund – Provides funds for CBINT library acquisitions.

Jacobson Chapel Fund – Provides funds for the maintenance of Jacobson Chapel.

Kenneth Weber Choir Fund – Fund dedicated to supporting the choir and other musical programs.

Marilyn Zetley Children's Library Fund – Provides funds for the children's section of the library (books, furniture, etc.)

Merry Atinsky Kiddish Fund – Helps CBINT Sisterhood provide kiddish lunches after Shabbat services

Panitch CBI Family Education Fund – Assists CBINT families with financial needs who wish to attend family education retreats.

Pentateuh/Humash Fund – Provides funds to purchase Pentateuh/Humashim. Books will have a dedication bookplate.

Prayer Book Fund – Provides funds to purchase prayer books/siddurim. Books will have a dedication bookplate.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Fund established for charitable causes.

Rabbi Panitch Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund – Provides scholarships for Camp Ramah.

Sam & Aidee Cooper Art Fund – Provides funds to purchase art for CBINT.

School Fund – Provides funds for the school and special school projects.

Senior Activities Fund – Provides funds for social, spiritual and educational opportunities for mature adults.

Shirley Bass Floral Fund – Provides bima flowers for the holidays.

Sol & Esther Blankstein Scholarship Fund – Assists high school/college students to pursue Jewish Education.

Soloman & Yetta Soloff Memorial Adult Education Fund – Established in the memory of Dr. Soloman & Yetta Soloff. Promotes and supports Adult Education programs.

Special Scholarship Endowment Fund – Provides scholarships for Jewish education.

Stein Mendelson Scholarship Fund – Provides funds for a Camp Ramah scholarship for one student per summer.

The Schuster Family Endowment Fund for Second Home Cemetery

William & June Sherkow Scholarship Fund – Provides funds for charitable, educational, or religious purposes.

Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund (YSEF) (Formerly Youth Education Endowment Fund) – Provides scholarships for trips to Israel, Jewish overnight camp and advanced Jewish education.

CBINT Office Information

Joel Alter.....Rabbi
 Jeremy Stein.....Hazzan
 Herbert G. Panitch.....Rabbi Emeritus
 Beata Abraham.....Executive Director / Director of
 Congregational Learning and Education
 Allie Barry.....Assistant Director
 of Congregational Learning
 Anita Nagurka.....Business Manager
 Menachem Henny Graupe.....President
 Marlynn Brick.....Executive Assistant
 Lindsay Propper.....Sisterhood Co-President
 Armona Nadler-Strick.....Sisterhood Co-President
 Bill Fink.....Men's Club President
 Michael Johnson.....Facilities Management
 Lorie Wertheimer.....Second Home Cemetery
 Administrator

P: 414-352-7310

Fax: 414-352-2050

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

www.CBINTMilwaukee.org

Please call to confirm office operation hours.

Worship & Service Information

Weekday Services:

7:30 am and 6:00 pm

Sunday and Civic Holidays:

9:00 am and 6:00 pm

Shabbat:

9:30 am

Saturday evening Havdalah services are through Zoom only. See the website or your eblast for the Zoom service link. Please advise Rabbi Alter or Hazzan Stein if needed to help recruit attendees for a yahrzeit minyan.

All information contained in Kehillah Connection is for use only by CBINT congregants.