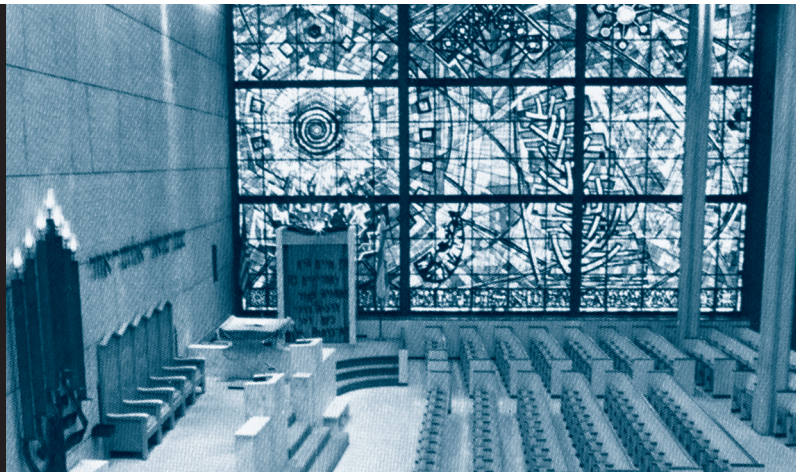


# The BULLETIN of the CHICAGO LOOP SYNAGOGUE



VOL. XLXI

MARCH, 2012

ADAR-NISSAN, 5772

NO. 3

*"The Synagogue bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of Sarah Berlow"*

## President's Message

My Dear Friends,

As we look forward to Purim, I'd like to share some photos from our Chanukah Party. This year's entertainment was provided by Darnit D. Clown. Both young and old enjoyed Darnit's antics. Our young attendees especially enjoyed Darnit's magic show. Many thanks to all who participated in this wonderful program. Special thanks to our office administrator, Mary Lynn Pross, for arranging this year's entertainment, to Rabbi Kroll for selecting the special Chanukah Party treats and to Mike Miselman, Lloyd Lowinger, Irv Esterson and the synagogue custodian, Darrell Brumley, for helping decorate the Crown Auditorium for this festive party.

Our upcoming Purim Party will follow the Megillah reading on Wednesday, March 7th. The party will again feature our immensely popular costume contest. Prizes will be awarded for the best adult and children's costumes. There will be special prizes for all children who participate.

Hamantashen and other special delights will be served.

I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Joseph Telushkin will be returning to the Chicago Loop Synagogue to participate in this year's Scholar-In-Residence Program. Rabbi Telushkin is the author of many notable publications, including *Jewish Literacy* and *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal*. He will be joining us on the weekend of April 27th through the 29th. Please contact the synagogue office for more information.

On a personal note, this year begins my "Bar Mitzvah" year as president of the Chicago Loop Synagogue. Over the years, I have been given the affectionate titles of "Mr. President", "El Presidente" and "President for Life". I've always been a little uncomfortable with the last title, only because it's never been my intention to serve for the rest of my life, which is a bit shorter than it was when I was first elected. I've continued to serve because I love our synagogue. It has been an honor and privilege to be its president.

My best wishes for a joyous Purim!

*Mark J. Schechter*

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ritual Committee requests the cooperation of all synagogue worshipers who are available for Mincha and Maariv Services on Shabbos and Sunday to make a special effort to be at these services, thus helping us to maintain uninterrupted Minyanim for the remainder of the Winter and beginning of the Spring months. The Mincha service begins at 4:30 P.M. on Shabbos and Sunday.

We thank you for your participation in this important Mitzvah.

## Lunch & Learn Program

The Lunch & Learn Program of the Chicago Loop Synagogue affords our community an opportunity to take a break from work, enjoy a lunch, hear a spiritually meaningful D'Var Torah from a guest rabbi and worship in the time it would normally take just to have lunch.

The program is offered once a week on Wednesday. Lunch begins at 12:45 P.M.; the D'Var Torah is at 1:15 P.M., followed by Mincha services at 1:30 P.M. Kosher lunch is provided by the Sandwich Club under CRC supervision. Reservations and a \$10.00 donation are required. Please contact the Synagogue office for more information. We encourage you to participate in this excellent program.



Lauren LeBoyer and her son, Austin



Chanukah Party participants

*from the*  
**RABBI**



The students of an eminent rabbi complained about the existence of so much evil in the world and asked him how they might drive out the forces of darkness. The rabbi said that they should take brooms and attempt to sweep the darkness from the cellar of the synagogue. The bewildered students went down to the cellar and attempted to sweep out the darkness.

When this failed, they again approached their teacher, and he advised them to take sticks and beat vigorously at the darkness. This, of course, did not help either. Then, the rabbi suggested that they descend into the cellar and shout at the darkness and protest loudly against it.

When this likewise failed, he said, "My children, let each of you meet the challenge of darkness by lighting a candle." The students descended to the cellar and kindled their lights. They looked and, behold, the darkness had disappeared!

The evil of the world is great, but the power of good is also great. The power of good is derived from many, many small deeds of goodness. The more individuals, who share in the act of goodness, the mightier it becomes. If each person were determined to do the very most he can to create a better world, he will really make it better. For, as the poet said, "If each person will sweep in front of his door, then the whole world will become clean."

*Rabbi Stanley E. Kroll*

The Chicago Loop Synagogue website is:  
[www.chicagoloopsynagogue.org](http://www.chicagoloopsynagogue.org)  
Contact us at our e-mail address:  
[loopadmn@chiloopsyn.org](mailto:loopadmn@chiloopsyn.org)

**The Following Individuals  
Have Made Contributions  
to The Chicago Loop  
Synagogue**

**IN MEMORY AND APPRECIATION**

**TORAH FUND**

Rabbi Gerry & Renee Rosenberg  
*In Honor of the  
Chatan Bereshit Aliyah*

Beatrice Crain  
*In Memory of Her Mother,  
Eva Goldberg*

Ed Maslov  
*In Memory of Marcia Maslov*

Dr. Michael S. & Gina Maling  
*In Memory of Their Uncle,  
Reuben Feinberg*

Bruna Blandin  
*In Honor of Josephine Gendler's  
Birthday*

Jeffrey Jahns  
*In Honor of Michael Miselman*

**RABBI'S FUND**

Dr. Michael S. & Gina Maling  
*In Memory of Their Grandmother,  
Eva Goldberg*

Beatrice Crain  
*In Memory of Her Nephew,  
Samuel J. Feinberg*

Barry J. Wolk  
Harvey Schneider  
*In Memory of His Father,  
Louis Schneider*

Beatrice Crain  
*In Memory of Her Brother-In-Law,  
Reuben Feinberg*

Robin Honig  
*In Memory of Herbert Honig*

Lawrence, Mitchell & Rebecca Dolins  
*In Memory of Their Father,  
Louis Dolins,  
and Their Grandfather,  
Harry Dolins*

Phil Moss  
Barry Wolk  
*In Memory of His Father,  
Jacob Wolk*

**RITUAL FUND**

Deanna Mitzenmacher  
*In Memory of Her Mother,  
Kate Mitzenmacher*

Benjamin & Patricia Beiler  
*In Memory of Mae C. Myers*

Cynthia Matti Goldberg  
*In Memory of Louis D. Goldberg*

Phil Moss  
*In Memory of His Father,  
Irving Moss*

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**  
Ken Ziejewski & Sara Vegh  
*In Memory of Sara's Father,  
Jack Vegh*

Ronnie Skol  
*In Memory of Her Father,  
Bernard Sokol*

Steve & Diane Dubey  
*In Memory of Josephine Scott and  
Milton & Shirley Eulenberg*

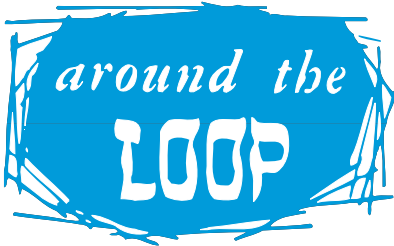
David & Lois Rakov  
*In Memory of Their Parents*

Mark Epstein  
*In Memory of His Father,  
Louis Epstein*

Helen Bresky  
*In Honor of Her Brother,  
Howard Arvey's, 90th Birthday*

**Chicago Loop Synagogue**

*Rabbi Stanley E. Kroll  
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Chairman of the Board  
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Martin Wise  
Honorary Vice Presidents  
David S. Bern, Esq.\*  
Edward Harris\*  
Presidents Emeriti  
Max Nierman\*  
Samuel Shkolnik\*  
\* Of Blessed Memory*



The Chicago Loop Synagogue welcomes into membership the following individuals and their families: **Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey R. Light, Michael Levy, Barry Scher, and Snir Spinner.**

On December 16th, **William Posternack** sponsored a breakfast in observance of the yahrzeit of his mother, **Dinah Posternack**, of blessed memory.

On December 18th, the Chicago Loop Synagogue sponsored a **Chanukah Party** starring **Darnit D. Clown**. The family program featured interactive comedy, magic and audience participation. Over 50 adults and children joined in the celebration and enjoyed delicious, traditional holiday food along with great entertainment.

On December 24th, **Morey Slodki** sponsored a Shabbos Kiddish in observance of the yahrzeits of his father-in-law, **Max Sass**, and his grandfather, **Hyman Slodki**.

On January 6th, **David & Scott Newberger** sponsored a breakfast in observance of the yahrzeit of their father, **Arnold Newberger**, of blessed memory.

On January 7th, **Harvey Wittenberg and Heide Hirschtick** co-sponsored a Shabbos Kiddish in observance of the yahrzeits of **Harvey's** parents, **Irving & Rose Wittenberg**, and in honor of the naming of **Heidi's** daughter, **Joice Willow**.

On January 20th, **Albert Karoll** sponsored a breakfast in observance of the yahrzeit of his mother, **Ellen Baklor**, of blessed memory.

On January 25th, **Gary and Robert Wigoda** sponsored a breakfast in observance of the yahrzeit of **Gary's** son, **Jacob Wigoda**, of blessed memory.

**Daily Kosher Lunches available in the Loop.**

Kosher box lunches are available at  
 The Chicago Loop Synagogue  
 16 S. Clark Street  
 Monday through Friday,  
 12:00 Noon - 2:30 P.M.  
 Donation Required

Hamantaschen... Gragers... Treats... Music

It could only be...  
**The Chicago Loop Synagogue's Annual Purim Party**

When: Wednesday, March 7th  
 Megillah reading at 6:20 P.M.  
 Festivities to Follow

Where: 16 S. Clark Street, between Madison & Monroe Streets, directly across from the Chase Bank

Admission: Free-of-charge to Haman-haters of all ages!

Join the fun...Wear a costume!

R.S.V.P to the Synagogue at 312-346-7370 by Monday, March 5th

Twenty-five hundred years ago, the Jews were living under the rule of the Persians. The Persian king, Ahasuerus (Xerxes I), governed the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of his empire from the capital city of Shushan. His large and luxurious court included Vashti, the proud queen; Haman, the overbearing Prime Minister; and Mordecai, leader of the Jews and a palace official.



Vashti was dethroned when she refused to obey the king's order to appear at one of his drinking banquets.

A new queen was sought among the most beautiful maidens of the land, and the one chosen and crowned was Esther, the cousin and adopted daughter of Mordecai. Esther, on the advice of her cousin did not at first reveal her Jewish identity. Meanwhile, Haman rose in favor with Ahasuerus and was appointed Prime Minister. Inflated with a sense of his new-found importance, he demanded that all the courtiers bow to him whenever he appeared. This, Mordecai the Jew refused to do. Haman became so incensed that he planned to exterminate not only Mordecai but also all of his people, the Jews. With this in mind, he went to the king, and representing the Jews as rebellious subjects, received royal permission to arrange for their massacre. The day of their doom – Adar 13 – was fixed by the casting of lots (*Purim*).

Gloom fell upon the Jews of Shushan and of the provinces. Mordecai seized upon the one hope that Esther would intercede with the king in behalf of her people. He asked Esther to do so, and, after fasting and prayer, she approached the king. Esther arranged for a banquet to be attended by the king, Haman and herself to provide an opportunity to expose Haman's perfidy. At this banquet, she pleaded that her life and those of her people be spared. She then revealed Haman's villainous plot, and the king ordered him hanged on the very gallows on which Haman had planned to hang Mordecai. Ahasuerus authorized the Jews to defend themselves, and on the appointed day they routed their enemies. On the morning, they celebrated their victory and call the day *Purim*, in allusion to the lots which Haman had cast.

Mordecai and Esther subsequently ordained that Jews in every generation should joyously observe Purim to commemorate the miraculous redemption of their people.

### Customs and Observances

The most important observance of Purim is the reading of the *Megillah*, the Hebrew handwritten parchment scroll of the Book of Esther, on the evening of Purim as well as on the following morning. Both men and women are obliged to hear the reading of the

*Megillah*, and children, too, should hear the story. Following the Maariv service on Purim eve, the *Megillah* is brought to the reading table, unrolled, and chanted in full. As the reader encounters and chants the name of Haman, which occurs 53 times, the children respond by making a joyous din with their noisemakers or *groggers*. All in all, the synagogue on Purim has an exceptional air of gaiety and merry-making.

The *Al ha-Nissim* prayer, thanking God for the miracle of Purim, is included in the *shemoneh esreh* at all Purim services as well as in the grace after meals. At the morning service, the Torah reading recounts the story of the attack of Amalek (the traditional ancestor of Haman) on the Jews. Other customs, made obligatory by Jewish law are

the sending of gifts – usually of Purim delicacies – (*mishloah monet*) to friends and distribution of charity to the poor. On Purim afternoon, a family feast known as the *Purim Seudah* is an important feature of the celebration.

### The Meaning of Purim Today

Purim commemorates the victory over Haman, prototype of all the persecutors of the Jews, of whatever country in whatever century. Its story affirms the indestructibility of the Jewish people and directs attention to the miracle of our eternal survival. Purim affirms that where there is faith in God, there follows inevitably as the day follows the night, the same "light and joy and gladness and honor" that our fathers experienced on the first Purim long ago.

## The A to Z of Purim

**Adar** – The twelfth month in the Jewish calendar which falls in late February or March. Purim occurs on the fourteenth day of Adar.

**Adloyada** – A word recently coined in Israel to designate the Purim carnival. The name is derived from the talmudic saying, "One should drink 'ad d'lo yada' (till one knows not) the difference between 'Baruch Mordecai' (Blessed by Mordecai) and 'Arur Haman' (Cursed be Haman)."

**Ahasuerus** – The king of Persia who plays an important role in the book of Esther. He is usually identified as Xerxes I (485-465 B.C.E.).

**Al ha-Nissim** (For the miracles) – A special prayer included in the Eighteen Benedictions and the Grace after Meals on Purim and Hanukkah.

**Esther** – The heroine of the Purim story, originally called Hadassah.

**Fast of Esther** – See Taanit Esther.

**Grogger** – Noisemaker used on Purim in the synagogue during the reading of the *Megillah* whenever the name of Haman is mentioned.

**Hadassah** (Myrtle) – See Esther.

**Haman** – Minister of King Ahasuerus and villain of the Purim story.

**Hamantash** – A three cornered Purim pastry filled with poppyseed. It derives its name from a combination of the two German words –Mohn (poppyseed) and Tash (pocket). The original name Mohntash was later punned as Hamantash.

**Megillah** (Scroll) – Usually refers to *Megillah Esther* (Scroll of Esther) read on Purim during the evening and morning services.

**Mishloah Monet** (Sending of Gifts) – The practice of sending gifts to friends and to the poor on Purim.

**Mordecai** – The hero of the Purim story and the cousin of Esther.

**Purim** (Lots) – The Feast of Lots or the Feast of Esther. The name is derived from the fact that Haman cast lots to discover the day most favorable to his plan for destroying the Jews.

**Purimspieler** (Purim player) – Purim players or actors who would go from house to house to dance, sing and produce episodes of the Book of Esther.

**Seudah** (Meal) – The joyous observance of Purim is culminated in a festive meal at the conclusion of the day.

**Shabbat Zakor** (Sabbath of Remembrance) – The Sabbath before Purim when the portion of the Maftir that is read begins with the words Zakor...Amalek (Remember... Amalek). Haman is considered a descendant of Amalek.

**Shalah Monet** – See Mishloah Monet.

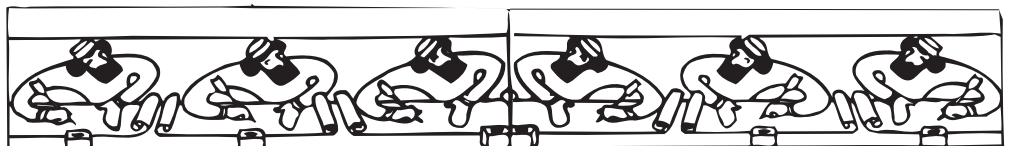
**Shushan** – The capital of ancient Persia where the main events of The Book of Esther occurred.

**Shushan Purim** – The day following Purim, Adar the fifteenth. The holiday was celebrated on this day in Shushan as final triumph was achieved in that city then.

**Taanit Esther** (Fast of Esther) – A fast day which occurs on the day before Purim, Adar the thirteenth.

**Vashti** – Queen of King Ahasuerus, deposed for refusing to show herself to his guests.

**Zeresh** – The wife of Haman.





**CHICAGO LOOP SYNAGOGUE**

Presents

*The Nineteenth Annual*



**Scholar-In-Residence Weekend**

*“Learning, Fellowship and Jewish Self-Understanding”  
with*

**RABBI JOSEPH TELUSHKIN**

*Renowned Author & Teacher  
An Authority On Jewish Life  
Celebrated For His Wit As Well As His Scholarship*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2012**

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

1. *Rabbi Hillel: Seven Lessons for the 21st Century*
2. *The Sky is not Falling:  
God, Love and Money in Times of Crisis*
3. *The Ten Commandments of Character*
4. *The 50 Best Jewish Jokes and  
What They Say About the Jews*

**WEEKEND INCLUDES:**

- *One Night Hotel Accommodations at the Standard Club*
- *Friday Night Shabbat Dinner*
- *Saturday Lunch*
- *Saturday Afternoon Seudah Shlishit Buffet*
- *Sunday Morning Lecture & Continental Breakfast*

**Call (312) 346-7370 for reservations & information**

The Scholar-In-Residence Program is partially funded through a grant from the Arthur Rubloff Foundation for Jewish Studies.

**MAIL FORM & CHECK TO: CHICAGO LOOP SYNAGOGUE, 16 S. CLARK ST., CHICAGO, IL 60603**

Please check one of the options and indicate

Entire Weekend 1 Night at hotel, 3 Meals & Programs

A. Double Occupancy Per Person \$175.00

OR  B. Single Occupancy Per Person \$225.00

Entire Weekend without hotel: 3 Meals & Programs  
\$100.00 Per Person

**# of People**

**Total Cost**

X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Print*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

