

MARCH 2024



MESSIAH'S HOUSE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
CONGREGATION BETH MESSIAH
A MESSIANIC JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

MARCH

2024

This Month's Events

3/01 ECHAD SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA
3/02 GUEST: DR. ARNOLD FRUCHTENBAUM
3/02 QUARTERS FOR QUARTERS COLLECTION
3/02 TORAH CLUB
3/02 YOUTH "HIGH WAY" MEETING
3/03 MITZVAH MINISTRY
3/06 WEDNESDAY NIGHT RECHARGE
3/09 COLLEGE & CAREER MEETING
3/09 YOUTH LUNCH FUNDRAISER
3/09 2B1 MARRIEDS MINISTRY MEETING
3/09 SPECIAL ARTIST: EMMANUEL RORO
3/10 ECHAD SECOND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
3/16 GENESIS CAMPOS BAT MITZVAH
3/16 TORAH CLUB
3/20 WNR & HAMANTASCHEN MAKING
3/21 TA'ANIT ESTHER (FAST OF ESTHER)
3/23 COLLEGE & CAREER MEETING
3/23 CBM PURIM CELEBRATION
3/27 WEDNESDAY NIGHT RECHARGE
3/30 FOUNDATIONAL DANCE CLASS
3/30 ECHAD 5TH SHABBAT PRAYER & WORSHIP
3/31 ANSHE CHAYIL BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP

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MARCH

Sign-Ups



Saturday, 6PM-9PM

2BI Marrieds Ministry

Married couples can enjoy a time of prayer, fellowship and food. On this month's menu: a traditional Ghanaian dish. You will need to register to secure your plate!

Register [HERE](#)

Mar
09
2024



Saturday, 1PM - 3:30PM

Youth Fundraiser - Shabbat Lunch

The youth is raising funds to send the group to the MJAA conference in Orlando. Get a great lunch and support the youth at the same time!

[Purchase your lunch plate HERE.](#)

Mar
09
2024



Sunday, 3-6PM

Echad Singles, Second Sunday

Don't stay in your lane. The singles are going bowling! Sign up for fellowship and fun [HERE](#)

Mar
10
2024



Wednesday, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Hamantaschen Making

These traditional holiday cookies represent Haman's (boo!) ears. Learn how to make these sweet treats in preparation for Purim.

Register [HERE](#)

Mar
20
2024



Sunday, 9AM-12N

Anshei Chayil Monthly Event

Men! Join your brothers for a time of food and fellowship. Our monthly event will be in the Oneg room. For more information, click [HERE](#)

Mar
31
2024

Sign Up. Connect. Fellowship

From Sadness To Gladness



by Helen Floyd



Esther 9:20-22 "Mordecai recorded these events and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, urging them to celebrate the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar every year as the days when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into celebration."

Purim, known as the Feast of Lots, is a Jewish festival commemorating the deliverance and survival of the Persian Jews from one of the most horrific plots in history to exterminate the Jewish people.

The story is related in the Biblical book of Esther and takes place at a time when the Jewish people lived outside the Land of Israel. Displacement from the Land was punishment for sins. So, when the Jews failed to keep God's commands, He sent them out of the Land. But the Jews eventual restoration to the Land is a sign that God kept His promise. And this covenant of the Promised Land is still valid today.

One of the more interesting aspects of the book of Esther is that God's Name is never directly mentioned. However, despite this, His Presence is powerfully evident. It was through an amazing chain of events, filled with intrigue and concealment, that the beautiful Jewish woman Esther was brought to the attention of King Ahasuerus. Esther did become Queen, but her willingness to risk her life as she obeyed the Godly council of her uncle Mordechai eventually saved the Jewish people from a royal decree of death. This decree was based, as we all know, on the lies of Haman, the king's advisor who hated God's people.

I had the great privilege of living in Jerusalem for 10 years (1996 – 2006).

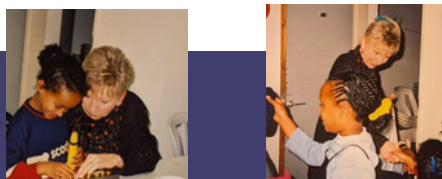
During those 10 years, the celebration of Purim was one of my favorite feasts because it is one of the most fun-filled days of the year! Leading up to the holiday of Purim, all throughout Jerusalem, the stores were full of costumes usually displayed outside their shops. The days were filled with excitement and joy which made this holiday a favorite for the children.

So, one question people ask is – why do people dress up for Purim? There are a few reasons, but the most accepted one is that it replicates the idea of Esther hiding her Jewish identity from the King. Another reason suggested is that it may represent the miracles that were being disguised as natural events in the story. But it is very important to know that it has absolutely nothing to do with Halloween and cannot be compared with that.

The main Jewish traditions surrounding the feast of Purim are:

- Reading and/or listening to the Esther Scroll
- Dressing up in costumes.
- Sending at least two ready-to-eat foods to a friend.
- Giving charity to at least two poor people.
- Eating a festive meal during the day of Purim.
- Reciting the "Al HaNisim" in prayer.

Al HaNisim: We thank You G-d for the miracles, the redemption, the mighty acts, the saving acts and for the wonders that You have done for our fathers, in those days at this time.



Continued to the next page

Purim is traditionally a time to give gifts and so I would bring gifts to Jewish friends. We would usually discuss the reasons for the feast and it often allowed me to mention the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua. It was also a great time to reflect on God's mighty hand to deliver His people. Be encouraged that He will deliver again and again. . . as many times as necessary! Why? Because HE made a covenant with the Children of Israel. Throughout history there have been many attempts to destroy the Jewish people, but God always miraculously delivered them as a nation! We can clearly see the attacks on October 7 were just another one of those very attempts to destroy the Lord's people and land.

We MUST stand in the gap and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It's a command. We must pray for the deliverance of the Jewish people. We must pray for their salvation. Just as Queen Esther took a stand for her people, we must also take a stand for Israel and God's chosen ones, especially during times such as these! It's not always easy but it is always necessary.

Romans 10:1 says, "Brothers, my heart's deepest desire and my prayer to God for Israel is for their salvation;"

I'm reminded of one particular Purim, back in 2000, during the Second Intifada in Israel. During this time, Hamas carried out a series of suicide bombings and terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and around the country.

This caused very much tension in day-to-day living, as you can imagine.

This particular year, a couple of my co-workers and I were invited to go to a local Ethiopian community center and host a Purim party for the children. (The Ethiopian Jewish community is one of the poorest groups of people in Israel. Most of them live below the poverty level.) We dressed up in costumes, gave out lots of toys, and hamantaschen cookies. We provided music, games, and prizes and had an absolutely wonderful time as the children played, danced, and enjoyed the refreshments.

For a few hours, we were able to let go of the tension and uncertainty that surrounded us, due to these attacks, and reflect on God's unfailing faithfulness. It brought much needed encouragement to all our hearts as, for a few hours, we turned our sadness and sorrows into joy and gladness.

No matter how devastating the situation is, God is mighty to save. He is always working behind the scenes. He honors His Word and He keeps His promises. As we stand with Israel, in the midst of unthinkable evil, we stand with God Himself. Let us be thankful as we remember the stories of the Torah and Tanakh celebrating God's deliverance of His people. Esther was brought into her position "for such as time as this". When we remember these words, celebrate Purim with even more gratitude, confidence, and determination. We are here for such as time as this to stand with God's chosen people. Let Purim also be a time to put away our sorrows and to celebrate with joy.

Take time to turn your sadness into gladness and remember, God always wins!



ministry highlight



The Zichron HaMashiach ministry purposes to provide the communion elements (grape juice and matzah) to the congregation.

It's a memorial to Yeshua where we remember his sacrifices by eating the bread and drinking the wine/juice. Yeshua gave his body (represented by bread) and blood (represented by wine/juice) as a sacrifice for the removal of our sins. Luke 22: 17-19

We follow his example when He took the cup of wine and bread and made a bracha over them.

As a congregation we do this four times a year, on the fifth Shabbat,

Paul and Karen Buhmann lead this ministry and welcome questions. For more information, contact info@cbmhouston.org

The next Zichron HaMashiach: March 30



Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum with
Ariel Ministries
@ CBM - **March 2nd**
@ Hineni Ministries - **March 3rd**

SPECIAL GUESTS

Guest Worship Leader:
Emmanuel Roro
@CBM - **March 9th**



Ask **THE** Rabbi

Rabbi? When we parade the Torah, I see people touch the scroll and then touch their lips. What does this mean? Why do we do this?

Rabbi's Answer: Let me first say what it is **not**. It is **not** idolatry or bibliolatry or any form of worship of the Torah. It represents an esteeming and an honoring of God's written word given to us.

This is a Jewish tradition found in many synagogues. Some touch the Torah with a siddur, tallit or bible, some kiss it, and some even embrace it.

The touching of the scroll and then the touching of the lips is based on a Scripture from Psalm 119.

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119: 103

4 QUESTIONS WITH...

GREETERS

Leigh and Kim Meyers



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



1. Kim what advice would you give to wives praying for unbelieving husbands?

First, pray continually and don't be afraid to ask others to pray with you. Second, educate yourself and be prepared for difficult conversation and objections...you never know when an opportunity will arise. Third, have patience and do not get frustrated - remember that God's timing is perfect.

2. Leigh, How has life changed since accepting Yeshua as a Jewish person?

Since accepting Yeshua, I have an inner peace that I never knew existed. I now have Shalom in my home! My early mornings are committed to Yeshua and I am reading the New Testament for the second time. My life now has a defined purpose and I try to do everything as if it is directly for Him. Every interaction could be an opportunity to tell others about Yeshua. This means that I must be on my best behavior at all times, and for those of you who know me understand what a challenge that can be! I now represent the King of Kings and I take this responsibility very seriously.

3. What advice would you give to a pre-believing Jewish person?

First, read Isaiah 53. This chapter explains the Messiah's first coming as the suffering servant. Second, learn more about the blood sacrifices described in the Tanakh and the correlation of being protected by the blood of the lamb at Passover with the ultimate protection we have being covered by the blood of Yeshua. Third, Genesis 1:26 says Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness!" Who was HaShem speaking to? I believe HaShem was speaking to Yeshua.

4. If you were creating a band, what music would you play, who would be in it?

Kind of Music - 80's Rock; Band Name – The Shalomies;

John Ross – accordion; **Jesse Post** – lead kazoo; **Ralph Leal** – banjo

Javier Benavides – ukelele; **Dane Kappler** – harmonica;

Peter Worman – triangle, **Todd White** – cowbell

Sean Derrickson – lead male vocalist/frontman,

Melanie Stafford – lead female vocalist;

Misty Post – band manager/tour bus driver

Michael Campos - audio technician

Fans/Roadies – **Doris, Kelly, Nancy, Susan, Debbie, Heather, Kasia**

Purim Celebration

Join CBM as we celebrate the
story of Purim,

*This year's spiel will be a
musical!*

March 23 @ 5PM



PASSOVER SEDER 2024

GSH Event Center
Wed Apr 24, 2024
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM CDT

Join the waiting list [HERE](#)

PASSOVER RESOURCES

Pick up holy day resources at the
CBM Resource Center

Access the resource center [HERE](#)



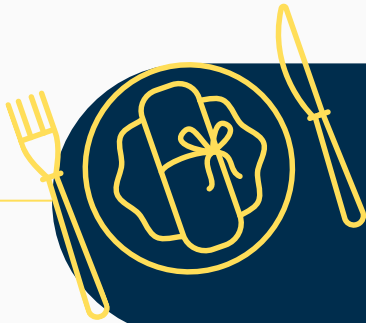
CONGREGATION
BETH MESSIAH
Resource Center



WHAT'S HAPPENING

M A R C H

CBM YOUTH



Youth Lunch Fundraiser

Meals are \$15 a plate and will help sponsor registration and travel to the MJAA conference

March 9



YMJA South Central Retreat

Youth are encouraged to sign up for this retreat in Glenrose, TX [HERE](#)

March
8-12



Outdoor Outing

Expect an exciting outdoor outing to come. This will be Farm Day 2.0
More info to come!

March 17



Youth Garage Sale

Donate your gently worn clothing t's a chance to clean out your closet and help the youth.
Stay updated at cbmhouston.org/events

TBD

WNR High Jack and Armor Discipleship classes March 6, 20, and 27

MJAA March

Bible Readings

These readings are from the MJAA Bible reading plan for 5784 (2023-2024). They are available on our Beth Messiah app on Apple and Google devices as well as on our website at

<https://www.cbmhouston.org/daily-bible-readings/>

Date	Day	Readings
3/1	Fri	Torah Portion: Exodus 30:11-34:35
3/2	Sat	Haftarah: 1 Kings 18:1-39
3/3	Sun	Ezekiel 40-42, Acts 17
3/4	Mon	Ezekiel 43-45, Acts 18
3/5	Tue	Ezekiel 46-48, Acts 19
3/6	Wed	Hosea 1-3, Acts 20
3/7	Thu	Hosea 4-6, Acts 21
3/8	Fri	Torah Portion: Exodus 35:1-38:20
3/9	Sat	Haftarah: 1 Kings 7:40-50
3/10	Sun	Hosea 7-9, Acts 22
3/11	Mon	Hosea 10-12, Acts 23
3/12	Tue	Hosea 13-14, Acts 24
3/13	Wed	Joel 1-3, Acts 25
3/14	Thu	Amos 1-3, Acts 26

MJAA March

Bible Readings

Date	Day	Readings
3/15	Fri	Torah Portion: Exodus 38:21-40:38
3/16	Sat	Haftarah: 1 Kings 7:51-8:21
3/17	Sun	Amos 4-6, Acts 27
3/18	Mon	Amos 7-9, Acts 28
3/19	Tue	Obadiah 1, Romans 1:1-17
3/20	Wed	Jonah 1-4, Romans 1:18-32
3/21	Thu	Micah 1-3, Romans 2:1-16
3/22	Fri	Torah Portion: Leviticus 1:1-5:26
3/23	Sat	Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23
3/24	Sun	Micah 4-7; Romans 2:17-29
3/25	Mon	Nahum 1-3, Romans 3:1-20
3/26	Tue	Habakkuk 1-3, Romans 3:21-31
3/27	Wed	Zephaniah 1-3, Romans 4:1-12
3/28	Thu	Haggai 1-2, Romans 4:13-25
3/29	Fri	Torah Portion: Leviticus 6:1-8:36
3/30	Sat	Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 9:22-23
3/31	Sun	Zechariah 1-3, Romans 5:1-11