

—The Story, Continued from inside

Mordecai pleaded with Esther to intervene. Going to the King unsummoned was punishable by death, unless he commuted the sentence by raising his golden scepter. Esther decided, "If I perish, I perish," and went to the King. When he raised his golden scepter, she invited him and Haman to two banquets, where she revealed that she was Jewish and persuaded the King to let the Jews defend themselves from Haman's execution militias — thus saving her people and originating Purim.

Okay, But Why Chickens?

The Petaluma region proved to be an ideal incubator to hatch a thriving egg industry at the turn of the 20th century. In 1904, the first local Jewish chicken farmer, Sam Melnick of Lithuania, bought 7 acres near Cotati. By 1925, Sonoma County had 100 poultry-raising families of Jewish descent, with the number eventually growing to between 200 and 300 families. The farmers, known for their socialist politics, had fled Eastern Europe via New York's Lower East Side, dreaming of escaping urban poverty and working closer to the land. After World War II, however, the small family farms were slowly bought out, and the once-proud "Egg Capital of the World" collapsed in the mid-1960s. — *From Sonoma Magazine*

Many, Many Thanks!

Thanks to the **Purim Spiel party organizers**: chair Judy Stern and her committee of Marge Ballo, Anne Brown, Susan Miller, Tammy Jaffe, Terry Gurevitch, Louise, Marilyn Sommer, Barb McGee, Elly Cohen, Len Cohen, Carol & Chip Swanson, Judi Hyman, Roz Edelson, Adrea Moss, Barbara Tomin, Bobbi Rosenthal, Judy Kupfer, Ahuva Simon Sa'ar and Myra Thomas.

Thanks to Judy Gunnar and Elizabeth Jarlsberg for holding down the fort every day, and to Jose Espinoza, Miguel Monroy and their hard-working AKLEAN staff.

This year, Lee Feinstein organized the team of **hamentashen bakers**: Ahuva Simon Sa'ar, Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson, Jim Sweeney, Tish Levee, Leanne Schy and Bill Leeb. After weeks of assembling and baking, they created 966 kosher dairy hamantashen. Thanks to all who donated for the party and play.

Thanks to the staff of the religious school and thanks to all of the contributors and participants in the **Shalach Manos** program. There is one for every Beth Ami member family; if you have not picked yours up yet, please do so.

Thanks to Asher Nathan and Ahuva Simon Sa'ar for chanting the real **Megillah**.

Bonnie Boren, our fabulous **set and costume** designer, thanks Mark Stoelting, Russ Gurevitch, Jeff Sternfeld, Michael Newman (and his 1950 red truck) for getting the set up, plus Sonoma Cutlery for its storage. Carol and Chip Swanson provided their expertise and projector, Ahuva Simon Sa'ar and Ronnie Rosenbach assisted with the set. Besides costume mavin Judy Gunnar, Claire Miller, Russ McCracken, Larry Gregg, Michelle Guttenberg, Barbara Boren, judiyaba, Ivan Barta and Daniels Chapel of the Roses helped with or donated costumes.

Thanks to Phil Dwight of On Q for the ever evolving **sound** system. Leanne Schy did **graphics**, and Rick Krigstein the **video**. And thanks to Rabbi Miller and the tolerant congregation of Beth Ami.

Congregation Baeth Ami
4676 Mayette Avenue,
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
707-360-3000
www.BethAmiSR.org
office @BethAmiSR.org

CONGREGATION
BETH AMI
PRESENTS THE



PURIMSPIEL
MARCH 3 & 4, 2018

Friedman's
HOME IMPROVEMENT

Veterinary Referral
Surgical Service
Russ Gurevitch, D.V.M.

Spielers

(and their sponsors— with thanks)

**Brought to you by Friedman’s Home Improvement and
Terry & Russ Gurevitch of Veterinary Referral Surgical Service
with Sonoma Cutlery, Carolyn Metz Realtor, Barta Hides,
Rio Nido Lodge, Zachary & Sanford Bressick Financial Services,
Dierk’s Parkside Café**

Announcer	Phil Dwight
The King	Stefan Rubin
Princes.....	Ronnie Rosenbach, Russ Gurevitch, Phil Weil, Leanne Schy
Queen Vashti (Mark Rosen).....	Jenny Levine-Smith
Ladies.....	Carolyn Orlik, Bonnie Boren, Judy Kupfer
Billina (Judi Hyman)	Patty Bernstein
Penny	Jane Rogan Dwight
Mordecai.....	Rabbi Mordecai Miller
Esther (Judi Hyman).....	Susy Boimoil Starr
Bubbe (Judy Stern & Mel Decker).....	Leanne Schy
Draft Board	Joslyn Metzger, Phil Weil
Bake-Off Contestants.....	Carolyn Orlik, Judy Kupfer, Jane Rogan Dwight
Bigthan.....	Joslyn Metzger
Teresh.....	Bonnie Boren
Guards.....	Carolyn Orlik, Ronnie Rosenbach
Jews	Everybody available
Haman	Phil Weil
Songleader (Evelyn Gurevitch, Stan Feingold & Roz Edelson).....	Russ Gurevitch
Keyboard/Musical Direction (Marge & Dave Ballo)	Nancy Hayashibara
Guitar (Stephanie & Jim Sweeney)	Dave Ballo
Bass Guitar.....	Ross Jones
Drums.....	Marc Bernstein
Sound	Phil Dwight
Book & Lyrics (Ethel & Stuart Schy)	Leanne Schy
Cat Herder	Patty Bernstein
Set Design (Susy & Bob Rafal)	Bonnie Boren
Set Execution	Mark Stoelting, Carol & Chip Swanson
Costume Construction	Judy Gunnar

Purim of Love Musical Numbers

(and their sponsors— with thanks)

If You’re Going to San Francisco (Maury Jones)	Announcer
Sunshine of your Love	Ensemble
Let’s Spend the Night Together	King and Princes
Respect (Pam Letourneau).....	Vashti and her Ladies
Somebody to Love	Vashti, King, Princes, Ladies
The Chicken Dance.....	Billina, Penny
Different Drum (Judy Stern & Mel Decker)	Esther, Billina, Penny
The Golden Road) (Ethel & Stuart Schy).....	Mordecai, Bubbe, Billina, Penny
I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Die Rag	Draft Board, Mordecai
Piece of My Heart	Bake-Off Contestants, Men
Brown Eyed Girl (for Ilana Schy Stoelting).....	Esther, King
Light My Fire.....	Bigthan & Teresh, Mordecai
Purple Haze	Haman
Groovin’	Jews, Mordecai, Haman
For What It’s Worth.....	Jews, Billina
The Letter.....	Mordecai and Jews
This is Dedicated to the One I Love (Eli Cohen & Betty Boyd, Nancy & Ed Sherman, Edee Sternfield-Squires).....	Esther and Jews
Never My Love (Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson).....	Esther and King
I Can See for Miles	King and Haman
Happy Together (Nancy & Ed Sherman)....	Bubbe, King, Esther, Mordecai, Ensemble
All You Need Is Love (Pam Letourneau)	Songleader and Audience

The Story — Summarized (Spoiler Alert)

King Ahasuerus ruled in ancient Persia, from his palace in Shushan. His queen, Vashti, refused to appear at his party, and Vashti was exiled from the kingdom. After comparing every fair maiden in Persia, the King selected an orphan named Esther to be his new queen, unaware that she was Jewish. When she moved to the palace, her cousin Mordecai accompanied her, in order to watch over her. He was given a position guarding the palace gates, and one day, he learned of a plot by two palace eunuchs to assassinate the king. He reported the plan and saved the King’s life. Meanwhile, the King appointed a new prime minister, Haman. When the Jews would not bow down to him, this evil man proposed that all of the Jews of Persia should be executed, telling King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them.”

—Continued on back 3