Many, Many, Many Thanks!

The Purim meal was created by Barb McGee, David Kahn, and Mark Dierkhising. SJ Stoelting worked on specialty drinks with Tressa as well as Aly Davis. Thanks Jerry Newman for photography.

Bonnie Boren did costumes and decorating, with help from Judy Gunnar on costumes and Barb McGee on decor. Mark Stoelting and David Ballo helped with sound. Thanks to Carol Swanson, Judi Hyman and Michelle Zygielbaum for help as greeters. Thanks to Elizabeth Jarlsberg for holding down the fort every day, and to Jose & Lupe Espinoza and the hard-working AKLEAN staff.

Janet Stein-Larson organized the team of hamentashen bakers: Lee Feinstein, Jeffrey Stein-Larson, David Kahn, Marge Ballo, Barb McGee, and Leanne Schy. They created 635 pareve nut-free hamentashen, including 170 poppyseed.

Thanks to the donors for our Shalach Manos bags, which were created by Barb McGee with help from David Kahn and Rabbi Ron Koas. There is one for every Beth Ami member family; if you have not picked yours up yet, please do so. Thanks to Lee Feinstein and Betty Boyd for taking care of the half-shekel sales.

Thanks to Asher Nathan for chanting the real Megillah, and thanks to Rabbi Ron Koas and our tolerant and generous congregation.

Thanks to the Sponsors!

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Musical Direction and Keyboard	Nancy Hayashibara
Guitar	Jon Batzdorff, Susy Boimoil Starr
Lyrics and Narration	Leanne Schy
New York Café Purim Meal Barbara McGee, David Kahn, Mark Dierkhising	
Costumes and Decor	Bonnie Boren

The Story of Purim — Summarized (Spoiler Alert)

King Ahasuerus ruled in ancient Persia, from his palace in Shushan. His queen, Vashti, refused to appear at his 180-day party, and was banished. Ahasuerus then ordered all young women to be presented to him, and chose an orphan named Esther to be his new queen, unaware that she was Jewish. Her cousin Mordecai accompanied her to the palace; he was given a position guarding the palace gates. One day, he overheard a plot by palace eunichs Bigthan and Teresh to assassinate the king. Mordecai 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."

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.

After the first banquet, the king was told that Mordecai saved his life and asked Haman, "What shall be done for the man whom the king wishes to honor?" Thinking the king was referring to him, Haman said the honoree should be dressed in the king's royal robes and led around on the king's royal horse. To Haman's horror, the king instructed Haman to render such honors to Mordecai. That night, at the second banquet, Esther revealed that she was Jewish and that Haman was planning to exterminate her people, which included her. Haman tried to get Esther to pardon him but instead fell onto her couch, making the king even more angry. Ahasuerus ordered Haman's execution and allowed the Jews to defend themselves from Haman's execution militias – thus Esther saved her people and originated Purim.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

(and their sponsors— with thanks)

So Long It's Been Good to Know Yuh, <i>Woodie Guthrie</i> Andy & Nancy Fleming, Linda Elyad	
A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall, <i>Bob Dylan</i> (David Kahn)Leanne Schy, Joslyn Metzger, Judy Kupfer	
House of the Rising Sun, Folk (Ivan Barta) Andy Fleming, Phil Weil, Jon Batzdorff	
It Aint Me, Babe, Bob DylanJenny Levine-Smith, Jon Batzdorff	
Don't Think Twice, Bob Dylan	
The Times They Are A-Changing, Bob Dylan (Mel Decker & Judy Stern, Mark & Carol Rosen)	
Mr. Tambourine Man, Bob Dylan (Elisabeth Van Nuys)	
Maggie's Farm, Bob DylanNancy Fleming, Carolyn Orlik, Susy Boimoil Starr	
I'll Be Your Baby Tonight, Bob DylanJon Batzdorff, Susy Boimoil Starr	
Puff the Magic Dragon, <i>Peter Yarrow</i> Phil Weil, Bonnie Boren, Russ Gurevitch, Joslyn Metzger, Judy Kupfer	
Blowin' in the Wind, Bob Dylan (Mel Decker & Judy Stern, Mark & Carol Rosen)Michael Mundell, Russ Gurevitch, Leanne Schy	
Folsom Prison Blues, Johnny CashMichael Mundell	
There But for Fortune, Phil Ochs Russ Gurevitch, Susy Boimoil Starr	
Wimoweh, Solomon Linda (Ethel & Stuart Schy) Bonnie Boren, Patty Bernstein, Carolyn Orlik, Nancy Fleming, Ensemble	
Girl from the North Country, Bob Dylan Jon Batzdorff, Susy Boimoil Starr	
Like a Rolling Stone, <i>Bob Dylan</i> Russ Gurevitch, Ronnie Rosenbach, Jon Batzdorff, Andy Fleming, Leanne Schy, Ensemble	