

Many, Many, Many Thanks!

We dedicate this year's spiel to Edith Newman, Z"L. She never missed a spiel and said each year, "This is the best."

Happy Hour refreshments were created by David Kahn and Mark Dierkhising, with help from Anna Equils, Janet and Jeffrey Stein-Larson, Jared McGee, Barb McGee, Leah Millstein, Anne Steirman. SJ Stoelting created specialty drinks, servers Tressa Bronner and Jeff Sternfeld.

Thanks to Jerry Newman for photography, and to Megan Goldsby for video.

David Ballo helped with sound. Thanks to Bobbie Rosenthal, Rafaela Equils and Betty Boyd for manning the lobby. Thanks to Elizabeth Jarlsberg for holding down the fort every day, and to Jose & Lupe Espinoza and the hard-working AKLEAN staff.

Hamentashen bakers Lee Feinstein, Jeffrey and Janet Stein-Larson, Marge Ballo, Barb McGee, and Leanne Schy created 635 pareve hamentashen, including 170 poppyseed.

Thanks to the donors for our Shalach Manos bags, which were created by Barb McGee with help from Elizabeth Jarlsberg and Myra Stern-Thomas. 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 generous congregation.

Happy Hour Specials

HAMANHATTAN: made with bourbon, served with a cherry

ESTHERITO MOJITO muddled mint, ginger syrup, soda water with either rum, vodka, or bourbon. Can be made non-alcoholic

MORDE-CHAI iced, can add liquor of choice also non-alcoholic

VASHTINI pomegranate martini or non-alcoholic mocktini

Shushan HaBEERa from Moonlight Brewing Company

ROYAL WINE IN GOLDEN GOBLETS donated by David Kahn

Sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres, & **HAMENTASHEN**



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95405 · 707-360-3000

www.BethAmiSR.org email: office @BethAmiSR.org



Presenting the
**Congregation
Beth Ami
Purim Spiel**
March 8, 2026

**Viva
Las
Vegas**



Underwriters: Russ & Terry Gurevitch; Friedman's Home Improvement

Chefs and Hamentashen Bakers Sponsored by: Andy & Nancy Fleming; Joseph Wand

Singers Sponsored by: Evelyn Gurevitch; Len & Elly Cohen

Musicians Sponsored by: Anonymous; Jim & Wendy Stern

SPIELERS

Narrator	Phil Weil
Showgirls / Women....	Carolyn Orlik, Bonnie Boren, Joslyn Metzger, Judy Kupfer
Sammy Mordecai Jr.	Jeremy Lipsin
Frankie	Andy Fleming
Dino	Ronnie Rosenbach
The King	Jon Batzdorff
Queen Vashti	Jenny Levine
Haman	Russ Gurevitch
Zeresh	Nancy Fleming
Bubbe	Leanne Schy
Esther	Susy Boimoil Starr
Bigthan	Phil Dwight
Teresh	Jane Rogan Dwight
Keyboard	Jeremy Lipsin
Guitar	Jon Batzdorff
Bass Guitar	Dave Ballo
Drums	Marc Bernstein
Book	Jane Rogan Dwight
Lyrics	Leanne Schy
Cat Herder	Leanne Schy
Musical Cat Herder	Susy Boimoil Starr
Set and Costume Design	Bonnie Boren
Costume Maven	Judy Gunnar

The Origin of Purimspiels (from Hebrew Union College)

Purim spiels originated in 15th-16th century Europe, particularly in Germany, Italy, and Poland. These theatrical, often musical, satires evolved from European medieval carnival traditions, blending the Book of Esther with irreverent, "topsy-turvy" humor. Talmudic Rabbis declared it an obligation to drink alcohol on Purim, costumes not normally allowed were permitted, and Purim spiels provided an outlet for those without power to parody the powerful.

Musical Numbers (and their sponsors— with thanks)

My Kind of Town	Rabbi Koas, Narrator, Showgirls
All Shook Up (Judy Stern)	King, Frankie, Dino
Heartbreak Hotel (Anonymous)	Vashti
Fly Me To The Moon	Zeresh and Haman
Fever (Barb McGee)	Bubbe and Showgirls
Young at Heart (Anonymous)	Sammy Mordecai Jr. and Esther
I Only Have Eyes for You (Mel Decker)	Queen Contestants
Hound Dog	King
Johnny Get Angry	Esther
Suspicious Minds	Esther and King
Mack the Knife (Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson)	Bigthan and Teresh
Strangers in the Night	Frankie, Dino, King
I Get a Kick Out of You	Haman, Sammy Mordecai Jr.
My Way	Sammy Mordecai Jr., Jews
Don't Be Cruel (Anonymous)	Women, Esther
Can't Help Falling in Love (Anonymous)	Esther and King
What Kind of Fool Am I (David Kahn; Mark & Carol Rosen)	Haman
Blue Suede Shoes	King, Sammy Mordecai Jr., Esther, Vashti, Jews
Burnin' Love	Ensemble

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 eunuchs 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 that 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 meant 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.