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lence for a chance to win prizes. Children who consistently attend the learning sessions will have a chance to participate in the Grand Raffle.

Grand Event for Parent-Child Learning: NEXT WEEK: Next Motzai Shabbat, Mar. 11th we are planning to hold the highly anticipated grand finale of our learning season starting at 7:30pm! There will be treats, pizza, an ice cream bar, and many prizes including a grand prize for each learning group. Thank you to Paula and Ernest Fraenkel for sponsoring the Grand Finale.

Thursday Morning Learning with Rabbi Segal on the Parshat Hashavuah will take place this Thursday, Mar. 9th at 11am via Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed on Thursday.



~Purim Announcements~



Shabbat Parshat Zachor

This Shabbat we will be reading Parshat Zachor, which will be an opportunity to fulfill the biblical commandment of Zechirat Amalek. This section is read as the maftir of the Torah reading. At our 7:30am Hashkama minyan, the Shabbat Zachor maftir will be read at approximately 8:00am. At our 9:00am minyan, the Shabbat Zachor maftir will be read at approximately 9:45am. At our 9:55am teen minyan, the Shabbat Zachor maftir will be read at approximately 10:30am. To fulfill the mitzvah of Zechirat Amalek, one need only hear the maftir. Hearing the haftorah in addition is not necessary. Adults are welcome to attend this week's Teen Minyan to hear Parshat Zachor if that fits better with their schedules.

If one is unable to be in shul for Parshat Zachor on Shabbat morning, according to the Magen Avraham (Shulchan Aruch OC:685:7), one can fulfill the biblical mitzvah of Zechirat Amalek by hearing the Torah reading (Vayavo Amalek) at Shacharit on Purim morning, Tuesday, Mar. 7th, which is read a few minutes before Megillah reading.

The Mitzvot of Purim

Taanit Esther: Monday, Mar. 6th is the Fast of Esther. The fast begins at 4:49am and concludes at 6:09pm. The minhag is to wait until after the Megillah reading to break the fast. For those who are going to be hearing the Megillah at a later reading or are finding it difficult to continue fasting beyond 6:09pm, they may break the fast before hearing the Megillah. However, it is best not to have bread until after the Megillah reading—if that is not too difficult. The threshold for not fasting on this fast day is lower than for other fast days. One can break the fast anytime during the day if one has a significant headache. Of course, pregnant and nursing mothers should not be fasting on this fast day.

Machatzit HaShekel: The month of Adar is when half a shekel was collected for the Beit Hamikdash. The mitzvah is mentioned three times in the Torah. As a result, the minhag developed that \$1.50 per family member is donated to Tzedaka close to the Purim holiday. You can pledge Machatzit HaShekel at: <https://purimdonate.bethelnewton.org/>. The pledge will be put on your shul account.

Megillah: It is required to hear the Megillah both evening and morning, to tell and retell the story of our salvation from Haman's evil plot. Both men and women are obligated to hear the Megillah twice.

Childcare During 1st Evening Megillah Reading will be available in the downstairs classrooms for preschoolers.

Drop-off will begin at 6pm and the program will last until after Megillah reading.

Mattanot La'evyonim: It is required to give charity to the poor during the daytime of Purim, evoking the true joy of helping our brethren in need. You can pledge Mattanot La'evyonim at: <https://purimdonate.bethelnewton.org/>.

The pledge can be made before Purim and the charity will be distributed on Purim itself. The pledge will be put on your shul account. PLEASE PLEDGE BY 10:00AM PURIM DAY.

Seudat Purim: A festive meal celebrated during the daytime of Purim after Chatzot (1:00pm).

Have an amazing and festive Purim!

Rabbi Gershon Segal

Monday, March 6th: Fast of Esther

Fast Begins 4:49 am
Shacharit 6:50 am
Mincha 5:20 pm

Fast End Time: After Megillah Reading (or after 6:09pm if difficult to wait until after Megillah)

Maariv/1st Megillah Reading 6:00/6:10 pm

Childcare for preschoolers will be available during this 1st Megillah reading. Drop-off beginning at 6pm

2nd Megillah Reading (Upstairs Library) 7:30pm

Tuesday, March 7th: Purim!

Shacharit /1st Megillah Reading 6:30/6:50 am
Shacharit /2nd Megillah Reading 8:00/8:30 am
Mincha/Maariv

This synagogue welcomes, values and includes people of all abilities.

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER

