

A Very Special Purim Celebration



Purim was celebrated in style at Traditional. Many, many people were involved in making the various aspects of our holiday fun, festive, and meaningful.

Just prior to Purim, at a special *Shabbat* program, we were privileged to be visited by **Barbara Ribakove Gordon, Founder and Executive Director of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry**. Having just returned from Ethiopia and Israel, Barbara shared with us the current situation of the Ethiopian Jewish Community in both countries, and thanked us for our participation in the Adopt-a-Student Program. The programs NACOEJ operates provide food for poverty-stricken Ethiopian children and adults, schools in Ethiopia and after-school programs in Israel, and adult education programs, and they help to integrate Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society. What a fitting way to get us thinking about *matanot lev'yonim*—gifts for the poor--as we made *Havdalah* and then began Purim services. Thank you to Louise Saltzman and her helpers for preparing a special *Seudah Sh'lishit* (and to Louise for taking care of *Seudah Sh'lishit* every week!)



Our ***Megillah* reading** on Saturday night was organized by Anat Reschke, who also chanted the *megillah* beautifully, as did the Rinder women—Dina, Madison and Morgan. Stan Estrin ably took up the baton for Sunday morning's *megillah* reading.

Dina and Stan also enhanced our reading with beautiful English interpretations of *Megillat Esther*. And Justin Zeid ensured that we made noise at the right time when you-know-who's name was read. Thank you to all.

Judging from the many phone calls and e-mails we've received, **our Purim *Mishloach Manot* project was a resounding success!** We've heard from so many people saying how impressed they were by the beautiful packages, and how touched they were to receive one. One grateful recipient mentioned that she and her husband had

only received one other *Mishloach Manot* gift, and they were so appreciative to receive one from Traditional Congregation. This project was a success in so many ways: The packages were indeed bountiful and beautiful, and so many Traditional people participated in various aspects of preparing and delivering them. Due to the generosity of a number of congregants, *every member* of Traditional received a package, *and* the project was financially successful. A wonderful group of people—from tots to seniors—combined efforts and talents to make this happen: Thank you to Rabbi Gordon, for having a vision, and for nudging a little here and there to bring it to fruition.

Thank you to Liz Holden, Barbara Levin and Anat Reschke for shopping for and selecting all the goodies in the boxes.

Thank you to our assembly line workers, who made quick work of a big job to assemble and fill the boxes:

Joyce Becker	Alayna Lerner	Jan Pinkus
Barbara Gaponoff Berson	Hayley Lerner	Boaz Roth
Christy Brick	Jacob Levin	Sela Roth
Ezra Gordon	Judy Levin	Florence
Marian Gordon	Adina Levy	Schachter
Ranana Gordon	Cyndee Levy	Cecilia Soibel
David Holden	Mimi Levy	Joan Stiber
Ilya Holden	Bob Perlman	Jules Stiber
Liz Holden	Myra Perlman	Lori Tesser
Tobie Hupert	Barb Perlmutter	Zoe Tesser
		Ceil Tobin