

Congregation Beth El Presents

# MEGILLAH MADNESS

2009



# ROCK, SOUL &



# BILLY JOEL



Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County  
March 9, 2009

**M**ore than 2000 years ago, the Jewish people in Babylonia were doing quite well. Although some had returned to the Land of Israel years earlier to begin rebuilding the Second Temple, the majority chose to remain in Persia. Life was good, and the Jews were moving up the social ladder. And then, in the blink of an eye, a madman named Haman came to power. Fear and despair filled the hearts of the Jews. And at that darkest hour, when the Jews were on the verge of complete destruction, it was left to one brave, intelligence and beautiful Jewish woman, and one stubborn but wise Jewish man, to change the course of Jewish History.

**This is their story .....**

# PROLOGUE

## **"Shushan-town"**

### *Shushan Towne Singers*

Lori Amsellem • Sarah Clement • Barbara Cohen  
Maya Cohen-Shields • Jonina Duker • Benjamin Harris  
Rabbi Greg Harris • Howard Hoffman • Marsha Liss  
Rabbi Bill Rudolph • Jana Singer

## Chapter One

### **"You May Be Right"**

#### *Shades of Discontent!*

Sani Barr • Ed Berger

## Chapter Two

### **"Esther You Could be the One"**

#### *Persian Persuasion*

Sandy Lederman • Jeff Spector

### **"Esther"**

#### *The Not-So-Young Rascals*

Adam Hoffman • Adam Kuhn • Bob Lipman • Jon Shields

## Chapter Three

### *Esther's Jesters*

Stefanie Abramowitz • Rachel Loewy  
Aviva Solkowitz • Elizabeth Warrick

### **"The Jews Will Run"**

#### *Haman and The Hamenettes*

Abigail Cutler • Janie Klein • Hazzan Abraham Lubin  
Ariana Rothman • Becca Sherman • Julia Spiegel

## Chapter Four

### **"Tell Him About It"**

#### *Marak HaYom*

Gina Amsellem • Sasha Berger  
Sarah Cutler • Jenny Fink  
David Friedland • Noah Gavil • Ronni Getz  
Gabriella Kahn • Ruthie Levine • Eddie Simon

## Chapter Five

### **"Something"**

#### *The King and The Fab 4*

Pat Danoff • Leslie Dellon • Henry Kahn  
Penina Maya • Holly Stein

## Chapter Six

### **"Let's Hear It for Mordechai"**

#### *The Odd Couple*

David Abramowitz • Julie Mack

## Chapter Seven

### *Esther's Jesters*

Stefanie Abramowitz • Rachel Loewy  
Aviva Solkowitz • Elizabeth Warrick

### **"Three Times a Hebrew"**

#### *Third Time's a Charm*

Sasha Berger • Sarah Cutler  
Judy Futterman • Margaret Kay • Alan Simon

## Chapter Eight

### "What I Like About Jews"

#### *Ha-mantics*

Stefanie Abramowitz • Jonathan Abramson • Sam Bernstein  
Rebecca Boden • Aliza Broder • Stefanie Brown • Ben Cummins  
Emma Cummins • Jonah Eisenberg • Noah Friedlander • Marek Haar  
David Isaacs • Valerie Kass • Abigail Levine • Olivia Levine  
Joel Liss • Sam Liss • Rachel London • Levi Nathans  
Simon Nathans • Samantha Redlich • Jonah Rosenblum  
Penny Saltzman • Ben Simon • Ellie Spector • Jeannie Spiegel  
Daniel Strauss • Nathan Young

## Chapter Nine

### "Adar"

#### *Four Ba De Ya's and a Ba Doo Dude*

Gail Fribush • Craig Futterman • Bobbi Spector  
Helene Weisz • Janyse Weisz

# Chapter Ten

## "All of the Jews"

### *Paul's Harem*

Lynn David • Paul Haar • Xiangnan Haar  
Julie Liss • Pauline Schwartz

# Epilogue

## "Purim 2009"

### *Purple Ch'rein*

*(The band formerly known as 'Blintz')*

Jeffrey Hausfeld • Elizabeth Simon • Danielle Sultan

### Musicians

Jerry Belson • Jeffrey Hausfeld • Adam Kuhn  
Michael Mendelson • Eddie Simon

# MEGILLAH MADNESS CREW

## Written By

Alan Simon

## Directed By

Alan Simon

## Parodies By

Alan Simon

Eddie Simon

Debbie Brletic

## Stage Manager

Alisa Lipkind

## Stage Crew / Production Assistants

Jonathan Abramson • Jon Shields • Ben Simon

## Musicians

Jerry Belson • Jeffrey Hausfeld • Adam Kuhn

Michael Mendelson • Eddie Simon

## Narrators

Howard Barr

Scott Glick

## **Hebrew Readers**

Sarah Cutler • Adam Hoffman • Ari Kapner  
David Kessler • Hazzan Abraham Lubin • Rachel Simon

## **Shir Atid**

Children's Choir  
Directed By Sandy Lederman

## **Program Guide**

Pam Kocher  
Julie Liss

## **Chapter Signs**

Coordinated By  
Rebekah Harris

## **Chapter Sign Holders**

Dalia Handelman • Benjamin Harris • Maayan Harris  
Coby Kapner • Sam Kapner • Lily Klein  
Amanda Miller • Lindsey Miller • Max Powers • Ethan Rifkind  
Gabi Rifkind • Emma Sorkin • Avi Spector • Jeannie Spiegel

## **Cheerleaders**

Coordinated By  
Phyllis Michaels

## **Audio – Video**

Andy Roberts  
Rockville Music Service

## **Decorations**

Annette Abrams • Tamar Fishman  
Michael Kay • Marsha Liss

## **Catering**

Judy Futterman

## **Ushers**

Carol Alter • Sarah Kass

A special thanks to Pam Kocher, Sheila Bellack, and the Beth El Office Staff for their able help and willing assistance.

An extra-special thanks to Scott Glick for not only being the “Father of Megillah Madness” but for his ongoing advice and counsel to help make this production possible.

# MEGILLAH MADNESS SONGBOOK

## Prologue

### Shushan-town

(To the tune of "Allentown")

Well we're living here in Shushan-town  
Achashverosh wears the royal crown  
And Vashti is his lovely Queen  
They like to feast  
All of the time

Well Achashverosh had too much to drink  
He summoned Vashti but she made a big stink  
It seems she wouldn't boogie down  
For all of the guests  
Wearing her crown  
So Achashverosh needs a brand new Queen  
Because Vashti walked away from the scene  
His advisors said she couldn't stay-ay-ay-ay... Hey Hey Hey...Oh Oh Oh

Well we're waiting here in Shushan-town  
And Haman tell us to bow down  
But Mordechai says to refuse  
Because there's one G-d  
Because we are Jews

And now Haman's issued a decree  
It's posted there for all to see  
Our last day could be Adar 13  
What can we do?  
What does it mean?

And we're waiting here in Shushan-town  
And our minutes may be ticking down  
But survival is the Jewish way-ay-ay-ay... Hey Hey Hey

**Bridge:** Every Jew living in Shushan has got...  
...to stop Haman from his terrible plot  
It would be something just to see Haman's face  
If we can get out of his evil embrace... Oh Oh Oh

Well we're living here in Shushan-town  
And extinction has an awful sound  
If only we could find a way-ay-ay-ay... Hey Hey

### **Bridge**

Hey...Hey...Hey... Oh Oh Oh...  
Here is Esther she will save the day-ay-ay-ay...  
And we're staying here in Shushan-town!

## **Chapter One**

### **You May Be Right**

(To the tune of "You May Be Right")

Friday night we threw a party  
Saturday it was going hearty  
Sunday came and I ordered you to dance  
I was only having fun  
Wasn't hurting anyone  
And we all enjoyed the weekend for a change

I was feasting with the Shushan women  
Sampling all the latest dishes  
To celebrate the Persian way of life  
When you summoned me to dance  
I was not about to prance  
For the pleasure of your lunatic advisors

You may be right  
They may be crazy  
But I'm King, and you must do  
As you're commanded!  
Strike up the band  
Come take my hand now  
You may be right but you must  
Dance for us tonight

Remember how we've ruled together  
In sunny and in stormy weather  
Please don't let this squabble come between us

But you mustn't disobey  
There's not any other way  
It could only lead to family dissension

Now think of all the years you tried to  
Find a Queen to stand beside you  
I might be the perfect one for you  
But you're crazy if you say  
That I have to dance that way  
Must be something I could do  
To change your mind

You may be right  
I may be crazy  
But I'm King, and you must do  
As you're commanded!  
You are my wife  
You must obey me  
Throughout the kingdom  
Men are master of the house

***Instrumental***

You may be right  
I may be crazy  
But I'd rather run away  
Than do the Rhumba  
Turn out the light  
The party's over!

I may be wrong, but you will  
Miss me when I'm gone!

I may be wrong but I may be right,  
But I am not gonna dance tonight  
I may be wrong but I may be right...

## Chapter Two

### **Esther You Could Be The One**

(To the tune "Only the Good Die Young")

Come out Esther, don't make me wait  
The King needs a Queen, and I think you'd be great  
But don't say you're Jewish  
Or you'll seal your own fate  
'Cause Haman will ruin the fun.

Well the time has come to send you away  
Gather your things, no time to delay  
Ah, you never can tell what the King will say  
So darlin' you've got to run

Y'know, Esther you could be the one  
That's what I said  
Esther you could be the one  
Esther you could be the one

You mighta heard I wouldn't bow down to Haman (Ha-MAN)  
Some say it's crazy, but I say it's faith  
Well your Old Uncle Mordy wouldn't send you astray  
Ah, your future has just begun

So c'mon Esther, it's all up to you  
Go see the King, but don't say you're a Jew  
Now is the time to make your debut  
The pageant has just begun

Darlin' Esther you could be the one  
Oh, whoa, whoa  
I tell you Esther you could be the one  
Esther you could be the one

**Bridge:** Put on your nice white dress  
And take the train to Shushan Station  
You could be the brand new Queen  
Mmm, dining on the royal cuisine

And Esther maybe you could be a  
Leader of the Persian nation  
You didn't count on me  
Helping you go down in history...Oh, no no...

And they say Achashverosh will pick a soul mate  
Some say there's pressure but I say there ain't  
Have a laugh with the harem  
And try to look great  
At least you will have some fun

Y'know that Esther you could be the one  
Oh, oh, baby  
Esther you could be the one  
Esther you could be the one

Y'know Uncle Mordy  
All your arguments have been persuasive  
I know you care for me  
And you better say a prayer for me...oh, whoa, whoa...

Come on, come on, come on  
No time to debate  
Got to get to the palace before it's too late  
Sooner or later I'll find out my fate  
I might as well be the one...

...to have my day in the sun!  
Uncle Mordy,  
Maybe I *could* be the one...maybe I could be the one.  
Maybe I/you could be the one...maybe I/you could be the one [Repeat & fade]

# Esther

(To the tune "Good Lovin")

(Es-ther...Es-ther...Es-ther...Es-ther)

I was feelin'...so bad,  
I asked my top advisors just what I had,  
I said advisors, (Yes, King?)  
Listen up, please... (Yes, King?)  
Now can you tell me,  
Who the Queen should be? (Yes, King!)

And they said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah,"  
(Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah)

Yes, indeed, all I, I really need...  
(Is Es-ther)

She's gonna be my Queen  
(Es-ther)

You know what I mean  
(Es-ther)

It's Esther, baby  
(Es-ther)

Now this is big, let's get it right (Get it right)  
Don't you want your leader to be alright? (Be alright)  
I say advisors... (Yes, King?)  
...are you sure? (Yes, we're sure)  
I've got the fever, Yeah and you've got the cure (Got the cure)

Everybody say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah,"  
(Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah)

Yes, indeed, all I, I really need...  
(Is Es-ther)

She's gonna be my Queen  
(Es-ther)

You know what I mean  
(Es-ther)

It's Esther, baby  
(Es-ther)

**Instrumental**

(Esther)  
She's gonna be my Queen  
(Es-ther)  
You know what I mean  
(Es-ther)  
She's the one for me  
(Es-ther)  
It's Esther baby...

## Chapter Three

### The Jews Will Run

(To the tune of "Da Doo Ron Ron")

I got a big promotion from my favorite king  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!  
"Prime Minister" - It has a *certain* ring  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!

Yeah, they bow to me  
Yes, for all to see  
That's the way it should be  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!

He was standing-up straight when he caught my eye  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!  
If I'm not mistaken, it was Mordechai  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!

Yeah, he caught my eye  
Yes, it was Mordechai  
Now, the Jews will pay!  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!

We picked out lots for the Royal Decree  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!  
They'll all be destroyed on Adar 13  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!

Yeah, I feel so fine  
Yes, their riches are mine  
And I'll *really* shine  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!

The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!  
The Jews will run run, the Jews will run!  
[Repeat and Fade]

## Chapter Four

### Tell Him About It

(To the tune "Tell Her About It")

Listen dear, I don't want to see all the Jews here slip away  
Y'know what Haman wants to do, and there is action you must take  
You're a real good queen, but sometimes insecure  
You've got to tell the King or we'll be dead for sure

Listen dear, get past your fears and tell the King 'bout Haman's scheme  
Show your Jewish pride, which you should never hide, and we can end that Haman's dream  
No matter what, the King will love you so  
And you should know he'd never let you go

Tell him about it  
Tell him everything you know  
If Haman wants to kill us, Achashverosh has to know

Tell him about it  
'Cause our future lies with you  
You know the King will trust you, so you have to tell him soon

Listen dear, there's a problem here that we must get under control  
I can't stand watching you like this, so just tell him what you know  
You're a Jewish girl and the King deserves to know  
That Haman wants the Jews to hit the road

Tell him about it  
You gotta tell him you're a Jew  
If you do not tell him, then the Jews will all be through

Tell him about it  
You know us Jews are scared  
Haman wants to kill us, and the King must be aware

'Cause right now Esther, we're all worried  
That the Jews might not be 'round here for so long  
If you don't tell the King anything  
The Jews in all of Shushan will be gone

Listen dear, this ends right here, we're gonna stop that madman's plot  
I don't know what he's thinking, but this madness has to stop  
You'll do what's right, we just can't let it go  
This is something Achashverosh has to know

Tell him about it  
For you know that he will care  
'Cause if the King is with us  
You know Haman wouldn't dare

Tell him about it  
Girl you got to tell the King now  
Tell him about it...

## Chapter Five

### Something

(To the tune "Something")

Something in the way she moves  
I saw it there when she approached me  
Something in the way she spoke to me

I don't want her grieving now  
I just want to please her now

Somewhere in her smile shows  
That there's a secret to discover  
Something in her style that shows me

Don't want her grieving now  
I've got to relieve her now

I asked the Queen why she's so low  
I don't know, I don't know  
Tomorrow night, the truth may flow  
I hope so, I hope so

### **Instrumental**

Something in the way she knows  
And now she's planned another banquet  
Something's causing Esther woes

I thought she'd reveal it now  
I'll make it alright somehow

He'll make it right somehow

## **Chapter Six**

### **Let's Hear It for Mordechai**

(To the tune "Let's Hear It for the Boy")

Oh Haman, I'm glad you're here,  
I couldn't sleep tonight.  
I was reading in the chronicles,  
And learned of something that wasn't right.

And Haman, I want to show  
My gratitude and honor  
Because there's a man deserving of  
Dignity and love

Just ride him through Shushan,  
In a royal cara-va-a-a-a-an  
Dressed in the royal robes  
It's fitting for *this man!*

Whoa, maybe I will finally,  
Be recognized as it should be,  
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa  
When will *my* honor be?

Well Haman, I like your plan  
But this is not for you.  
You see the one that is deserving,  
Is none other than Mordechai the Jew.

And Haman, you need to know,  
That there's a part for you...too,  
'Cause you will lead the honoree  
For all Shushan to see.

Let's hear it for Mordechai  
He's my kinda guy.  
Let's hear for Ol' Mordy  
He'll be riding high.

He helped stop the evil plot,  
His loyalty is not forgot  
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa  
Let's hear it for Mordechai

### **Instrumental**

'Cause he's forever in my debt,  
We cannot forget

Let's hear it for Mordechai  
He's my kinda guy.  
Let's hear it for Ol' Mordy  
He'll be riding high.

Oh, Mordy saved my life, you see  
Surely, Haman, you'd agree  
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa

Let's hear it for Mordechai  
Let's hear it for Ol' Mordy  
Let's hear it for Mordechai  
He's my kinda guy...

## Chapter Seven

### Three Times A Hebrew

(To the tune "Three Times a Lady")

Thanks for the times  
That you've given me  
The memories are all in my mind  
And now that you've moved...  
...to the head of the harem  
There's something  
I must say out loud

You're once, twice  
Three times a Hebrew  
I just learned the news  
    (She's once, twice)  
    (Three times a Hebrew)  
I didn't know you were a Jew  
    (He didn't know...)  
    (He didn't know...)  
But there's no reason to be blue.

If I have, found favor,  
in your eyes, my King,  
then please listen to my demand.

So tell me, Queen Esther,  
your wants and desires,  
your wish dear, will be my command.

When we were together,  
I told you my secret  
We can't let my people be harmed  
We must foil, the plans of...  
...Haman the Evil  
by allowing the Jews to be armed.

### **Instrumental**

You're once, twice  
Three times a Hebrew  
I just learned the news  
    (He didn't know...)  
    (He didn't know...)  
    (He didn't know that she's...)  
    (Once, twice)  
    (Three times a Hebrew)

Now you know that it's true

Yes, you're once, twice  
Three times a Hebrew  
Now I know what we must do

And we will save the Jews

## **Chapter Eight**

### **What I Like About Jews**

(To the tune "What I Like About You")

Hey, uh-huh  
Hey, uh-huh

What I like about Jews  
They're outta sight  
Tell the story, read the scroll  
Have a little fun tonight...yeah!

**Chorus:** Celebrate Purim every year  
'Cause Mordechai and Esther showed no fear  
'Cause it's true  
That's what I like about Jews

What I like about Jews  
They really know how to pray  
Davening up, down, bend & bow  
Pray a little every day ...yeah!

**Chorus**

"Hey!"

What I like about Jews  
They sure put up a good fight  
Never give-up y'know  
'till victory was in their sight, ...yeah

**Chorus**

That's what I like about Jews - That's what I like about Jews  
That's what I like about Jews - That's what I like about Jews  
That's what I like about Jews - That's what I like about Jews

Hey  
Uh-huh...Hey, hey, hey, hey  
Uh-huh...Brrrrrrr...Hey...Uh-huh  
Hey!

# Chapter Nine

## Adar

(To the tune of "September")

Do you remember, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar?  
Love was changing the mind of Achashverosh  
It was Esther who saved the day.

The Jews were singing  
Haman's armies were no competition  
As we fought through the night,  
Remember, how we defended our rights that day.

Ba de ya - say do you remember  
Ba de ya - Haman's a pretender  
Ba de ya - Tried to chase the Jews away.  
Ba doo doo, Ba doo doo, Ba doo doo, Ba doo doo...

Eat hamantashen  
Because Purim is our celebration  
Chalk-up one for the Jewish Nation  
Remember Hebrews are here to stay.

Now we remember, the courage of Mordechai and Esther  
And the whole Megillah  
Remember, the triumph we share today.

**Chorus:** Ba de ya - say do you remember  
Ba de ya - Haman's a pretender  
Ba de ya - Tried to chase the Jews away.

Ba de ya - say do you remember  
Ba de ya - Haman's a pretender  
Ba de ya - In the end we saved the day.

Freedom was ringin', un-huh!  
The Jews were singin'  
Do you remember...Hebrews are here to stay, yao!

**Chorus (2x)**

# Chapter Ten

## All of the Jews

(To the tune "All the Young Dudes")

Well the Jews fought all night, defending their rights  
It was all they could do just to stay alive  
Turned out Mighty Mordechai, was meant to thrive  
And Haman and his men, his sons—one through ten,  
Tried to ostracize the Jews, but...in the end  
The Jews wouldn't bend

Now that Haman guy was crazy  
Saying we couldn't live our lives in peace  
Oh man, but we showed him a thing or two  
About being a Jew, now

**Chorus:** All of the Jews  
Carry the news  
Haman is through  
Esther's a Jew

All of the Jews  
Carry the news  
Haman is through  
Esther's a Jew

Now Esther was brave and she was our queen  
And she turned the tables on...Haman's dream  
And with her decree, Purim made history  
And all was written down 'bout the joyous events  
And letters were sent to Jews near and far  
To the provinces, where the Jews did live

Now they drank a lot of wine, they were feeling fine  
And it was Mordechai's time to shine  
He was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command, the King's right-hand man  
Oh yea, let's all say it again...(Sing it with me now...)

**Chorus (2x and then fade)**

# Epilogue

## Purim 2009

(To the tune of "1999")

I was dreaming when I wrote this, forgive me if it goes astray  
But when I woke up this morning, could've sworn it was Purim Day  
The sky was blue and white, Israeli flags were everywhere  
Tryin' to run to the shul, 'cause Purim is beyond compare

They say, five-thousand seven-hundred sixty-nine, oops, out of time!  
So tonight we're gonna party like it's Purim 2009!

I was kvelling when I wrote this, so sue me if I go too fast  
But Purim is a party, and parties weren't meant to last  
Haman's armies were around us, the Jews had to prepare to fight  
And we are gathered here, to celebrate the victory tonight

They say, five-thousand seven-hundred sixty-nine, oops, out of time!  
So tonight we're gonna party like it's Purim 2009!

If you didn't come to party, don't bother knockin' on my door  
'Cause I ate a hamantashen, and baby I'm ready for more  
Everybody's got a grogger, we drowned-out Haman's name today  
And as for Mordechai & Esther, let's all shout out a big "Hooray!" (Hooray!)

They say, five-thousand seven-hundred sixty-nine, oops, out of time!  
So tonight we're gonna party like it's Purim 2009!

Say it one more time...They say five-thousand seven-hundred sixty-nine, oops, out of time!  
So tonight we're gonna party like it's Purim 2009!

**[Repeat 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> verses]**

Party! (Party!) (Repeat 8X)

Say it one more time...They say five-thousand seven-hundred sixty-nine, oops, out of time!  
So tonight we're gonna party like it's Purim 2009!

Party! (Party!) ... Party! (Party!)