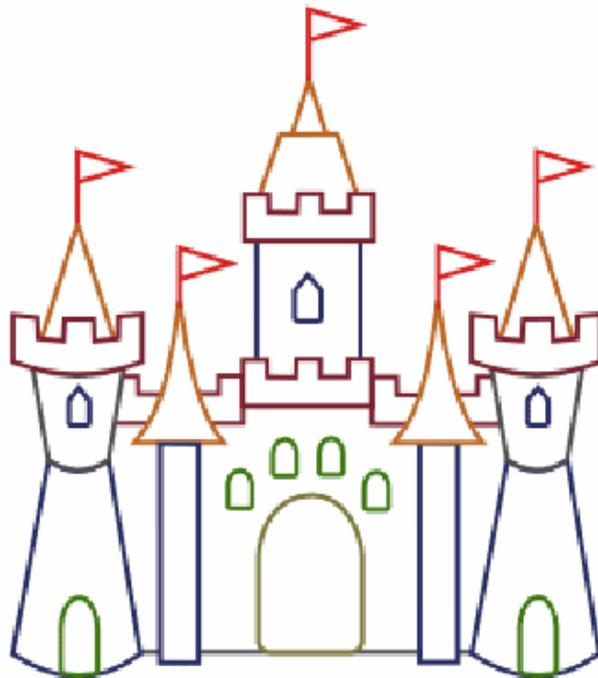


Congregation Beth El Presents

# Shush-A-Lot...

or

# Mesillah Madness 2010



February 27, 2010

**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 .....**

# Chapter One

## "Shush-A-Lot"

### *The Opening Knights*

Lori Amsellem • Arielle Calem • Ben Cummins • Sam Cummins  
Pat Danoff • Nate Gillman • Diane Goldman • Sarah Klein  
Alan Simon • Ben Simon • Eddie Simon

# Chapter Two

## "All For One"

## "C'est Moi"

### *The Light on the Knight Table*

Sani Barr • Howard Barr • Rabbi Greg Harris  
Michael Kay • Rabbi Bill Rudolph • Bruce Simon

## Chapter Three

### *Esther's Jesters*

Rebecca Bender • London Gracey  
Maayan Harris • Rachel Scissors

### **"What Do the Jewish Folk Do?"**

#### *The Persian Kvetchalots*

Jerry Danoff • Julie Mack

## Chapter Four

### **"You Won't Succeed in Persia"**

#### *My Fair Spam*

Naomi Brown • Lynn David • Steve Escobar • Judy Futterman  
Maggy Kay • Marsha Liss • Sheldon Novek

## Chapter Five

**"Then You May Take Me to the Ball"**

*The Knights of the Round Bagel*

Jerry Belson • Leslie Dellon

Paul Haar • Sandy Lederman

## Chapter Six

**"I Wonder What the King Is Doing Tonight"**

*Haman & The Shpilkes*

Sam Boxerman • Sarah Cutler • Xiangnan Haar • Penina Maya

Hazzan Abraham Lubin • Elizabeth Simon • Holly Stein

## Chapter Seven

**"If Esther I Would Leave You"**

*In the Royal Kitchen*

Marilyn Hammerman • Henry Kahn

*Esther's Jesters*

Rebecca Bender • London Gracey

Maayan Harris • Rachel Scissors

## Chapter Eight

**"We Are Not Dead Yet"**

**"Fie on Haman"**

*The Cantor Lubin Tales*

Rebecca Boden • Aliza Broder • Stefanie Brown  
Lexi Bucher • Emma Cummins • Jonah Eisenberg  
Marek Haar • David Huberman • David Isaacs  
Lily Jacobson • Abigail Levine • Olivia Levine  
Sam Liss • Zoe Marder • Levi Nathans  
Simon Nathans • Emily Nestel • Jonah Rosenblum  
Abigail Snyder • Jeannie Spiegel • Nathan Yang

## Chapter Nine

**"His Name is Mordechai"**

*Mordy y las Shushaletas*

Judy Baldinger • Gail Fribush • Craig Futterman  
Helene Weisz • Janyse Weisz • Sharon Zissman

## Chapter Ten

### **"Shush-A-Lot Reprise"**

*Marak HaYom*

Sasha Berger • Mariel Berlin-Fischler • Sam Cummins  
Sarah Cutler • Jennifer Fink • Noah Gavil  
Ronni Getz • Abby Lederman • Simone Levine  
Eddie Simon • Tanya Silverstein

## Epilogue

### **"Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"**

*The Knights Who Say "Oy"*

Ed Berger • Jeffrey Hausfeld • Danielle Sultan

Musicians

Jerry Belson • Jerry Danoff • Sid Getz  
Jeffrey Hausfeld • Eddie Simon

# MEGILLAH MADNESS CREW

## **Directed By**

Alan Simon

## **Song Parodies By**

Sarah Cutler

Rachel Gafni

Mara Greengrass

Sheldon Novek

Alan Simon

## **Narration Written By**

Mara Greengrass

Alan Simon

## **Stage Manager**

Alisa Lipkind

## **Stage Crew**

Jonathan Abramson • Nate Gillman

Joel Liss • Ben Simon

## **Musicians**

Jerry Belson • Jerry Danoff • Sid Getz

Jeffrey Hausfeld • Eddie Simon

## **Narrators**

Jonina Duker  
Jon Shields  
Maya Cohen-Shields

## **Hebrew Readers**

Ilana Berger • Sarah Cutler • Adam Hoffman  
Jeremy Kaplan • David Kessler • Joseph Levine  
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**

Addie Bard • Ethan Bender • Anna Berger  
Daniel Berger • Noah Berger • Stefanie Brown  
Benjamin Harris • Julia Nestel • Aviva Odintz • Bo Rider  
Lily Rosenberg • Aaron Titlebaum • Eve Titlebaum • Ben Topol

## **Cheerleaders**

Coordinated By  
Phyllis Michaels

## **Audio - Video**

Andy Roberts  
Rockville Music Service

Andy Rodbell  
Doug Ross  
Bethesda Video Services

## **Decorations**

Tamar Fishman

## **Catering**

Judy Futterman

## **Ushers**

Lesli Gillman • Rita Rubin

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

# MEGILLAH MADNESS SONGBOOK

## Question:

What do you get when you cross Camelot, Spamalot, and the story of Purim?

## Answer:

Shush-A-Lot

## Songs

- Chapter 1: Shush-A-Lot (to the tune of "Camelot" from Camelot)
- Chapter 2: All For One (to the tune of "All For One" from Spamalot)  
C'est Moi (to the tune of "C'est Moi" from Camelot)
- Chapter 3: What Do the Jewish Folk Do? (to the tune of "What Do the Simple Folk Do?" from Camelot)
- Chapter 4: You Won't Succeed in Persia (to the tune of "You Won't Succeed on Broadway" from Spamalot)
- Chapter 5: Then You May Take Me to the Ball (to the tune of "Then You May Take Me to the Fair" from Camelot)
- Chapter 6: I Wonder What the King is Doing Tonight? (to the tune of "I Wonder What the King is Doing Tonight?" from Camelot)
- Chapter 7: If Esther I Would Leave You (to the tune of "If Ever I Would Leave You" from Camelot)
- Chapter 8: We Are Not Dead Yet (to the tune of "He Is Not Dead Yet" from Spamalot)  
Fie on Haman (to the tune of "Fie on Goodness" from Camelot)
- Chapters 9: His Name is Mordechai (to the tune of "His Name is Lancelot" from Spamalot)
- Chapter 10: Shush-A-Lot Reprise (to the tune of "Camelot Reprise" from Camelot)
- Epilogue: Always Look on the Bright Side of Life (to the tune of "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" from Spamalot)

## Shush-A-Lot

(to the tune of "Camelot")

It's true! It's true! The crown has made it clear.  
The climate must be perfect all the year.

A law was made a distant moon ago here,  
Tammuz and Tishri cannot be too hot.  
And there's a legal limit to the snow here,  
In Shush-A-Lot.

The winter is forbidden till Tevet here,  
And leaves Adar the second on the dot.  
By order, summer lingers through Elul, it's clear  
In Shush-A-Lot.

Shush-A-Lot! Shush-A-Lot!  
I know it sounds a bit bizarre,  
But in Shush-A-Lot, Shush-A-Lot,  
That's how conditions are.

The rain may never fall till after sundown.  
By eight, the morning fog must disappear.  
In short, there's simply not  
A more congenial spot  
For happily-ever-aftering than here in Shush-A-Lot.

Will Mordechai and Esther share the glory?  
We'd tell you now, but that would ruin the plot.  
Sit back and we'll relate to you the story,  
Of Shush-A-Lot.

Shush-A-Lot! Shush-A-Lot!  
I know it gives a person pause,  
But in Shush-A-Lot, Shush-A-Lot,  
Those are the legal laws.

The snow may never slush upon the hillside.  
By nine p.m. the moonlight must appear.  
In short, there's simply not  
A more congenial spot  
For happily-ever-aftering than here in Shush-A-Lot.

## All for One

(to the tune of "All For One")

Introduction:

And so, King Achashverosh gathered his advisors together,  
Bringing from all corners of the Kingdom the wisest and smartest in the land...  
The stunningly brilliant Sir Galahad,  
The always insightful Sir Think-A-Lot,  
The homicidally evil Sir Haman,  
The not quite so smart Sir Drinks-A-Lot, who once challenged  
the Prince of Macedonia to an all-night drinking contest  
on the eve of an important battle,  
And the aptly named Sir Not-appearing-in-this show...  
Together they formed a band  
whose names and deeds were to be re-told throughout the centuries...  
The Knights of the Triangular Table.

All for one  
One for all  
All for one  
And one for all

Some for some

None for none

Slightly less for people we don't like

And a little bit more for me

All round this Persian land  
We are his wisest men  
Oooo-oooo  
We're the King's smartest dudes  
We are prepared to choose  
Whooo-ever.

All for one  
Two for all  
Four for some  
And free for all.

## C'est Moi

(to the tune of "C'est Moi")

Shush-A-Lot! Shush-A-Lot!  
Achashverosh, I've heard your call.  
Shush-A-Lot! Shush-A-Lot!  
And here am I to give my all.  
I know in my soul what you expect of me,  
And all that and more I shall be.

The wife of Persia's king should be so beautiful,  
Succeed where a less fantastic girl would fail.  
She must learn to be a wife,  
And prepare for that kind of life,  
So that she can be in the Purim tale.  
No matter the deed she ought to be invincible,  
Impossible tasks should be her daily fare,  
But where in the world,  
Is there in the world,  
A girl so extraordinaire?

C'est moi! C'est moi, I'm forced to admit.  
'Tis I, I humbly reply.  
That young girl who  
These marvels can do,  
C'est moi, c'est moi, 'tis I.  
I never lose,  
And I'm not ashamed  
To say I'm the best by far.  
It's me you'll choose,  
This perfect young dame,  
Tell the others au revoir!  
C'est moi! C'est moi! So admirably fit!  
The best there is to be seen.  
And here I stand, with courage untold,  
Exceptionally brave, amazingly bold,  
To be Shushan's brand new queen.

C'est moi!

## What Do the Jewish Folk Do?

(to the tune of "What Do the Simple Folk Do?")

What do the Jewish folk do...  
That separates them from me and you?  
The Rabbi with his Bible,  
The mohel with his knife!  
The scholar who is liable...to study for life?

On their Sabbath, why don't they ride?  
How has it been sanctified?  
Their holidays are different, from those which we observe...  
Oh why—do Jewish folks all...have such nerve?

Many years ago, in Egypt they were slaves,  
And waited for the day they would be free;  
Now they celebrate,  
at every chance they get,  
and enjoy their freedoms just like you and me~  
And that's what Jewish folk do...so I'm told...  
they celebrate... so I'm told...

Why else do the Jews make a fuss...  
That keeps them so different from us?  
Since they have their own version,  
Of food that they can eat;  
They even call it "Persian"...just with Kosher meat!

What would the harm be to lose...  
Their old habits, and eat cous-cous?  
Why do they think they're better, than their king and queen?  
Oh why - do Jews only eat...their own cuisine?

I have been informed by those who know them well,  
That food's the thing that makes their lives divine;  
They even bless their meals,  
Before they break their bread,  
And thank their G-d above after they dine.  
And that's what the Jewish folk do...when they eat...  
they bless their food... when they eat...

Where do the Jewish folk go...  
To help them escape from their foe?  
The sofer who is writing,  
The tailor who's a stitch!  
The shochet who's providing...the meal for the tish?

When they're beset on all sides...  
With threats of complete genocide-  
How ever have they managed, all these years to survive?  
Oh what—do Jewish folk do... to stay alive?

Often, I am told, they pray to their one g-d,  
In some foreign language - I can't say;  
Then their souls are cleansed,  
And all are feeling great,  
As praying seems to brighten up their day~  
And that's what Jewish folk do...to survive...  
they pray... so they say...

And why doesn't Mordechai bow?  
You must do something right now!

The king has passed an order,  
I'll run them out of town...  
And that's what *Haman* will do!

Oh no, really...  
I have it on the highest authority...

Yes, that's what *Haman* will do!

## You Won't Succeed in Persia

(to the tune of "You Won't Succeed on Broadway")

In every civilization,  
We've been able to peruse  
Prosperity depends upon the people you can't lose.  
So, listen, Achashverosh, closely to this news:  
You won't succeed in Persia,  
If you kill off all the Jews.

Fill the place with Haman's kids,  
But sadly, they're not Yids,  
He may have the finest clothes and be best groomed.  
He may fight and he may sneer,  
But I'm sorry, Esther dear,  
Wipe out the Jews, this kingdom will be doomed.

Oy!

You may have gentiles by the score,  
Whom Haman will adore,  
Won't be enough to save him from the blues.  
Though he's got silver coins galore,  
And lots of minions to abhor,  
God's going to know for sure if he hasn't any Jews.

God won't care if Haman's happy,  
Or if everything is snappy,  
He'll simply say it's crappy and refuse  
Shushan will not go, dear  
If we're gone then it's just "oh, dear!"  
If so, then all your blessings you will lose.  
So put on your finest frock,  
Bolt the door with a fancy lock,  
But believe that God alone can see right through.

Oy!

Hashem won't give a damn, dear  
If he has the finest ham here.  
He won't succeed in Persia  
If he kills off all the Jews!

He may be the smartest king,  
Who may know most everything,  
He may even have somewhat of a clue.  
But what you guys are saying,  
There's really no use praying,  
Talking to the king is now what I must do.

So, despite the pretty sights,  
Of harem girls with fishnet tights,  
And the most impressive feasting and great booze.  
He may have dancing at the palace,  
And a housekeeper named "Alice,"  
But God will sure have malice  
If he kills off all the Jews!

## Then You May Take Me to the Ball

(to the tune of "Then You May Take Me to the Fair")

Achashverosh!

Do you recall that recently, when you cast your regal eyes on me,  
You said my every wish was your command?  
Well after what I've heard and seen, In my position as the queen,  
I want to party-plan throughout the land.

And Haman's power is so far-reaching, it will affect us one and all,  
That is why I am beseeching-that he sit beside you at the ball!

My Queen is so thoughtful to invite him,  
It's good he will be honored near and far;  
How good of you Esther not to want to slight him,  
For sure he will remember this Adar!

You're sure he'll be there?  
He'll be in his chair!  
You'll guarantee it?  
You know I mean it!  
He'll drink some wine?  
His nose will shine!

Then I will see you at the ball, If you do all the things you've promised.  
I'd have just you to blame in case ol' Haman missed the ball!

Oh Zeresh!

I have some rather startling news, relative to the subject who's  
to be beside the king at his next ball!  
For when I saw Esther there today, I was shocked when I heard her say  
that I was invited back, by one and all....

You see now I have been promoted over the princes of the king,  
And with my riches and my many children I'm able to do anything!

Oh Haman dear, you are so successful,  
Your family is so very proud of you;  
So why on earth is life for you so stressful,  
When soon you'll be the kingdom's number 2?

I should just chill then?  
It fits the bill then!  
I've got it made then?  
Like in the shade then!  
I'm number 2?  
Why that is you!

Then to the palace I'll return, and plan for fame that must await me.  
You'll see I will be high up so quick buy up stock in me!

Oh Haman dear!

When you came home not long ago, you were so angry now I know  
at that lowly Jew named Mordechai...  
Since he is quite a nasty man, you must devise a nasty plan  
to make him pay for that, and this is why...

Now you must send the Jews a message, they must bow down to my big guy,  
So I suggest you build a gallows as a place to hang him way up high!

Every morning at the gate I see him,  
At the palace where he sits ignoring me;  
I'd rather he would be in a museum,  
As the man who paid his dues for all to see!

You'll use a noose then?  
It won't be loose friend!  
You'll hang him high?  
Up in the sky!

Then that will make me proud of you,  
If you can carry out your promise;  
I know you'd bring great shame on the  
Haman name, if you fail!

Now maybe we shall put and end to...  
These problems plaguing Shush-A-Lot.  
If we do all that we intend to,  
It will complete our cunning plot.

We're planning banquet number 2,  
Gaining the trust of Achashverosh.  
And building gallows high, for Mordechai, who will be, history,  
Wait and see...  
At the royal ball!

## I Wonder What the King is Doing Tonight?

(to the tune of "I Wonder What the King is Doing Tonight?")

I know what our leader is thinking tonight...  
He's summoned me now to the palace.  
Everyone will be cheering to show their delight,  
As they ride me through town on a horse.

Whenever they hold my parade,  
I'll be Mordechai will be dismayed.

Go...go see the king...

I wonder what the king is doing tonight.  
I wonder what's in store for Haman tonight?  
The candles at the court, they never burned as bright.  
I wonder what the king is up to tonight?  
How goes the midnight hour,  
As we contemplate the power,  
Being regally paraded all around.  
Well, the Shushanites will cheer for Haman tonight:  
Hooray! Hooray!

You mean that the king of the Persian nation,  
Wants to reward our good friend, Haman,  
With parades and accolades, I guess?  
Yes!

He'll be clad in royal clothing,  
On a horse, he will be roving,  
Demonstrating all our Persian might.  
Right!

You mean that appalling Mordechai,  
Who won't bow down, (I don't know why),  
Will finally be driven to his knees...  
Please!

I'll tell you what the king is thinking tonight...  
It's Mordechai the Jew, he'll honor tonight!  
And I should be the one, instead of that clown.  
But I'm ordered by the king, to lead him through town.

And oh, the expectation,  
The sublime anticipation,  
To be stolen from beneath your royal feet!

Well, I'll tell you that the king has blundered tonight!  
He's dumb!  
A snake!  
The Jews...will pay!  
And that's what the king is doing tonight.

## If Esther I Would Leave You

(to the tune of "If Ever I Would Leave You")

If Esther I would leave you,  
It wouldn't be in Summer  
How you cook in Summer, I never would go!  
Your hair streaked with flour,  
Your blintzes so sweet,  
Your face with a luster,  
When it's time to eat.

But if I'd ever leave you,  
It couldn't be in Autumn,  
How I'd leave in Autumn, I never will know!  
I've tasted your kugel,  
Knaidl light as air,  
Your brisket so tender,  
And I must be there.

And could you leave me,  
Baking cakes that are so royal  
Or on a wintry evening,  
As my latkes fry in oil?

If Esther I would leave you,  
How could it be in Springtime?  
Knowing how at Pesach, your charoset will flow!  
Oh no, not in Springtime,  
Summer, Winter or Fall,  
No never could I leave you at all!

If ever you would leave me  
What would you have to nosh?  
Knowing how in Springtime I will make hamentasch!

Your (my) cooking and baking,  
Frying, boiling, and schmaltz  
No never could I (you) leave you (me) at all!

## We Are Not Dead Yet

(to the tune of "He Is Not Dead Yet")

We are not dead yet,  
We can dance and we can sing.  
We are not dead yet,  
Achashverosh is our king.

We are not dead yet,  
No need to go to bed.  
Haman tried to kill us,  
But we're not yet dead.

We are not yet dead,  
We were hanging by a thread.  
No we're not yet dead,  
The Jews have moved ahead.

'Cause Mordechai  
Took Haman to the shed.  
Let's finish the Megillah  
Then we'll all get fed.

*<Instrumental>*

Now Haman's dead,  
His family has fled.  
And the royal court  
Is Mordechai's instead.

Let the Jews rejoice,  
Just like Esther said.  
Start the celebration  
'Cause we're not yet dead!

## Fie On Haman

(to the tune of "Fie On Goodness")

Fie on Haman, fie  
Fie on Haman, fie

Haman is punished for his sins now,  
Celebration in Shushan can begin...[begin!]

No one is worried for their kin now.  
As bad as it's been,  
now we can grin.

Oh, fie on Haman, fie  
Fie, fie, fie

He was a villain to deplore!  
[Bring him down, bring him down]  
He didn't know what was in store!  
[Bring him down, bring him down]

But now the King's decree brings freedom to our door,  
Joyful and alive once more.

Oh, fie on Haman, fie  
Jews of Persia, fly  
Fie on Haman  
Fie on Haman

Fie, fie, fie, fie, fie

## His Name is Mordechai

(to the tune of "His Name is Lancelot")

Mordechai, you might as well just fess up...  
Really, you're a different kind of Jew.  
Put aside the challahs,  
For underneath that tallis,  
There is waiting to escape a worldly dude.

His...name...is...Mordechai  
And God he won't deny  
But he likes mayo on rye  
You know you do.

I do?

Now he's the Number 2  
In Achashverosh crew  
He pulled off a mighty coup!

His name is Mordechai  
And he is quite a guy  
If kosher style is what you mean!  
And when he wears all black  
He's not part of our pack  
But he can always dream.

I'm a Jew who really likes the Persian life,  
But shul is not the coolest place to be.  
Every day I troop, to hear the latest scoop,  
At the Shush-A-Lot JCC.

His name is Mordechai,  
He bid Haman goodbye,  
He wouldn't bow down any day.

No way!

And when he starts to pray  
He'll blow your socks away

We can finally come out and say that he is G.R.E.A.T. He's great!

I'm great!

Olé!

## Shush-A-Lot Reprise

(to the tune of "Camelot Reprise")

Shush-A-Lot! Shush-A-Lot!

Each Purim in Adar you must remember,  
Before you drift asleep upon your cot,  
Think back on all the tales that you remember,  
Of Shush-A-Lot.

Ask every person if they've heard the story,  
And tell it strong and clear if they have not,  
That once there was a fleeting wisp of glory,  
Called Shush-A-Lot.

Shush-A-Lot! Shush-A-Lot!  
Now say it out with pride and joy!

Where once it never rained till after sundown,  
By eight a.m. the morning fog had flown.  
Don't let it be forgot,  
That once there was a spot,  
For one brief shining moment that was known as Shush-A-Lot!

## Always Look on the Bright Side of Life

(to the tune of "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life")

Some things in life are bad,  
They can really make you mad,  
Other things just make you kvetch and curse.  
When you're chewing on life's gristle,  
Don't grumble, give a whistle,  
And this'll help things turn out for the best...

And...always look on the bright side of life...  
Always look on the right side of life...

If life seems jolly rotten,  
There's something you've forgotten,  
And that's to laugh and smile and dance and sing.  
When you're feeling in the dumps,  
Don't be silly chumps,  
Just purse your lips and whistle - that's the thing.

And...always look on the bright side of life...  
Always look on the right side of life...

For life is quite absurd,  
I'm certain that you've heard,  
You must always face the music with a grin.  
Mordechai would not give in, Haman tried to do us in,  
But Esther turned the tables with a win!

So...always look on the bright side of life...  
Always look on the right side of life...

'Cause Purim comes and goes,  
As everybody knows,  
And there's nothing like a Purim Spiel, it's true!  
And when you hit a bump,  
There's no point to be a grump,  
Just remember that we told you what to do...

So...always look on the bright side of life...  
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So...always look on the bright side of life...  
Always look on the right side of life...

Always look on the bright side of life...  
Always look on the right...side of life...side of life...side of life...side of life.