



Carnegie Shul Chatter

April 9, 2024



Light candles 7:38pm

Shabbat Services 9:20am

Shabbat Services

Carnegie Shul hybrid services begin at 9:20am. Join us in the synagogue, or attend virtually. If you haven't received our Zoom link for services, please contact our secretary, Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2492729/jewish/Tazria-Torah-Reading.htm

Seeking Miracles

With Passover rapidly approaching we are reminded of the big miracles that God performed way back then, which led us to our deliverance from bondage in Egypt and our eventual arrival in the Promised Land. There were huge miracles like the parting of the Red Sea and the giving of the Ten Commandments, miracles of such tremendous visibility and impact that no one could deny them or forget them.

And still, today, some people ask, "Where are the miracles? Where is God?" Somehow they overlook the many miracles that are happening all around them every day. How about all of the many breakthroughs in science and medicine that allow us to live better and longer lives? Are they not miracles too?

The world is full of miracles if we only open our eyes to the fact that all that we have is a gift from God.

This week, I am experiencing a miracle – a visit from my son and his wife who live in Israel and who we haven't seen in

Continued on next page.

Continued from previous page.

more than five years. With what has been happening with the war in Israel, that they could come and visit is a true miracle.

But I guess I am selfish. I am asking for one more miracle. Free the hostages and let Israel live in peace. That would be a wonderful, wonderful Passover miracle.



Please continue reciting the Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel daily and pray for the wellbeing of all of our Israeli brothers and sisters.

Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel

“Our Father Who art in Heaven, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless Thou the State of Israel which marks the dawn of our deliverance. Shield it beneath the wings of Thy love. Spread over it Thy canopy of peace; send Thy light and Thy truth to its leaders, officers, and counselors, and direct them with Thy good counsel.

“O God, strengthen the defenders of our Holy Land; grant them salvation and crown them with victory. Establish peace in the land, and everlasting joy for its inhabitants.

“Remember our brethren, the whole house of Israel, in all the lands of their dispersion. Speedily let them walk upright to Zion, the city, to Jerusalem Thy dwelling-place, as it is written in the Torah of Thy servant Moses: ‘Even if you are dispersed in the uttermost parts of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather and fetch you. The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it.’

“Unite our heart to love and revere Thy Name, and to observe all the precepts of Thy Torah. Shine forth in Thy glorious majesty over all the inhabitants of Thy world. Let everything that breathes proclaim: The Lord God of Israel is King; His majesty rules over all.” **Amen.**

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Rose Ann Tisherman

Emanuel Ash

Sam Ofsay

Morris Speizer

Morris Wilk

Estella Frances Weiss

Madeline Hirsh Cataio

Mabel P. Korsen

Jacob Steinberger

Anna Browarsky

Richard Joel Goldstein

Shlomoh Peresman

Jacob I. Sherman

Bessie Levine Bronstein

Kate Broida York

May their memories be for a blessing.

Tazria in a Nutshell

From Chabad.org

Leviticus 12:1–13:59

The name of the Parshah, “Tazria,” means “conceives” and it is found in Leviticus 12:2.

The Parshah of Tazria continues the discussion of the laws of tumah v’taharah, ritual impurity and purity.

A woman giving birth should undergo a process of purification, which includes immersing in a mikvah (a naturally gathered pool of water) and bringing offerings to the Holy Temple. All male infants are to be circumcised on the eighth day of life.



Tzaraat (often mistranslated as leprosy) is a supra-natural plague, which can afflict people as well as garments or homes. If white or pink patches appear on a person’s skin (dark red or green in garments), a kohen is summoned. Judging by various signs, such as an increase in size of the afflicted area after a seven-day quarantine, the kohen pronounces it tamei (impure) or tahor (pure).

A person afflicted with tzaraat must dwell alone outside of the camp (or city) until he is healed. The afflicted area in a garment or home must be removed; if the tzaraat recurs, the entire garment or home must be destroyed.

Haftorah in a Nutshell

II Kings 4:42-5:19.

This week’s haftorah describes how a prophet miraculously cured an Aramite general of his tzara’at ailment. The bulk of this week’s Torah reading discusses this skin disease and its related impurity.

The haftorah begins with a brief mention of one of the prophet Elisha’s miraculous feats. He received a paltry gift of twenty loaves of bread and a sack of grain. At Elisha’s insistence, this gift was shared amongst his hundred students. The food was enough for all—and there was even leftovers.

Naaman, general of the powerful Aramite armies, contracted tzara’at. A young captive Israelite maid advised him to seek the assistance of the “prophet in Samaria.” Acting on this suggestion, the king of Aram dispatched a message to the king of Israel, “Behold I have sent Naaman my servant to you, and you shall cure him of his tzara’at!”

The king of Israel panicked, until Elisha sent him a message: “Why have you rent your garments? Let him come to me now, and let him know that there is a prophet in Israel!”

Elisha advised Naaman to immerse in the Jordan River. Despite his initial reluctance to do so, Naaman carried out the prophet’s orders, and was immediately healed.

Elisha refused to accept any gifts from Naaman. The general promised Elisha that he would no longer serve any deity other than the One G-d, and he departed.

We’ve have the great pleasure of knowing his brother, who has led our High Holiday services for several years. Clearly this is a family of super-achievers. Meet A.J.’s brother Alex.

Alex Edelman’s ‘Just For Us’ premieres on HBO and Max, with Jewish identity and antisemitism again in the spotlight

By Ben Sales April 5, 2024 5:26 pm



Alex Edelman’s antisemitism-focused one-man show, “Just For Us,” is premiering on HBO as a comedy special. (Courtesy Max)

(JTA) — Alex Edelman’s acclaimed comedy special “Just For Us,” about his experience as a Jew attending a white supremacist meeting in New York City, first premiered at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in the summer of 2018.

Months later, the worst antisemitic attack in American history occurred when a white supremacist killed 11 worshippers at a Pittsburgh synagogue. Since then, “Just For Us” has racked up positive reviews as Edelman’s meditation on whiteness and Jewish identity has moved from off-Broadway to Broadway and beyond. It will premiere on HBO and the streaming service Max on Saturday.

But even as it hits screens at the six-month mark of another Jewish tragedy — Hamas’ Oct. 7 invasion of Israel, which launched the ongoing war in Gaza and a reported spike in anti-Jewish hate crimes in the United States — Edelman says the show isn’t about antisemitism, but assimilation.

In other words, it aims to raise the question of how Jews, or anyone, can fit into a society where they aren’t always comfortable. It asks: Where do I really belong? How can I connect with people across seemingly unbridgeable differences? How empathetic should I be when those gaps can’t be closed?

“There’s a question that everyone is asking and everyone is interested in, which is: What is our

place in the world?” Edelman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Friday. “That question has seemed a lot more visceral to Jews, and non-Jews, in the past couple of months.”

While Edelman has packed theaters in major cities around the country, the streaming special — and promotional appearances this week on “The View” and “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” — makes his brand of Jewish

comedy accessible to audiences with potentially little exposure to Jews in their own lives. It also takes a conversation about Jewish identity mainstream — and back to an earlier era.

Watching (or rewatching) “Just For Us” brings viewers to a setting — a meeting of white supremacists in Queens — that is reminiscent of a very recent, but different, era of rising antisemitism. It was a time when terms like “white nationalists,” and the “alt-right” (which appear in the show and its promotional materials) were more at the center of conversation.

Conversations about antisemitism in recent months have usually revolved around Israel, its war in Gaza and anti-Zionism (though watchdogs say white supremacists also feel emboldened by this moment). Edelman said the passage of time, and the way antisemitic discourse has changed in the past six years, doesn’t alter the show’s resonance.

(Speaking to JTA in 2021, Edelman also recognized that the show would stay relevant even as the headlines changed: “I don’t think antisemitism is ever going out of style,” he said then — an insight he later called “brutally depressing.”)

“It’s about the rumination on how one deals with being a person from a specific group in a world where they don’t always feel they belong,” he said. “I’ve been doing the show since 2018 and if it was beholden to the vicissitudes of what types of antisemitism were prominent at the moment, the show would have felt out of step at one point or another.”

Edelman said the past six months have affected the way audiences, particularly Jewish viewers, receive the show.

“All comedy at its best should be conversant with the moment but also an escape from it,” he said. “Personally doing the show has been a pretty cathartic experience and has been made a little more cathartic by the fact that Jews of every political persuasion have been pretty thoughtful in how they engage with me on it afterward.”

Not just Jews. This week the legendary Monty Python comedian Eric Idle tweeted, “I was fortunate to catch the very last performance of Alex Edelman’s remarkable stand-up, anecdotal play, Just for Us at the Taper on Sunday. Luckily you can see it soon on HBO. Don’t miss it, it’s an extraordinary evening. He has moved the boundaries of comedy. Bravo!” Edelman’s response: “Oh my gosh.”

Edelman references Israel a couple of times in the story he weaves over the course of “Just For Us” — the precipitating event occurs when he adds Twitter antisemites to a list called “Jewish



Nat'l Fund Donors." But it's much more about Jewish identity in the United States and, more than anything, his identity. His narrative moves seamlessly between stories of his Orthodox Jewish childhood and the 2018 white supremacist meetup.

The show has traveled around the United States and beyond, and like much of Edelman's comedy, it is a high-energy experience. He molds his face and body into exaggerated expressions while sometimes literally jogging back and forth or in circles around the stage. Like the performances of one of his mentors and an executive producer of "Just For Us," Mike Birbiglia, he punctuates uproarious anecdotes with contemplative interludes and long, silent pauses.

Edelman has also had to cope with personal tragedy during the show's Broadway run and now its HBO premiere: His close friend and longtime director and creative partner Adam Brace died last April, shortly before the Broadway opening. "I miss him terribly, terribly," Edelman said.

In 2021, Edelman had told JTA that he was considering making his next special about Israel. The past six months have affected that thinking, he said, but he also said he's weighing that idea "maybe a bit more hesitantly" because Brace won't be there to work on it with him.

"I miss my friend, chiefly, but creatively I miss the difficult conversations we'd have," Edelman said. "They were very Talmudic, those conversations. They were big holistic discussions about art and what it should do, and very granular, about how to access those big holistic things."

Since it premiered in 2018, "Just For Us" has evolved — and so, Edelman said, has the meaning of its title. He has an informal list of possible interpretations of those three words that now has more than 20 entries.

"It's an invitation to consider the ambiguities of who 'us' is," he said of the title. "I want more ambiguity in my work." He then made an analogy to two different sections of a standard page of Talmud, and explained: "I want it to be more something that you pick apart and argue and discuss, and less something that offers a specific truth."

