

A Message from the Rabbi, March 2017

Dear All,

We are planning a wonderful Purim celebration for Friday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m., that should make plenty of noise!

The traditional object that is used during the Megillah reading, to express our contempt towards Haman whenever his name comes up, is called a grogger, in Hebrew, "raashan".

According to the contemporary rabbi and author Philip Goodman, the custom of using a grogger dates back to 13th century France and Germany. The grogger consisted of two basic parts - the bull-roarer (a long stick with a string tied at the top and a plank at the end of the string) and the scraper (slitted shell, bone or gourd which was scoured with a hard object).

While we will have regular groggers for you all to use on March 10, we will continue to honor the tradition we started last year, of bringing and shaking pasta boxes, which will be taken to the JFS pantry at the UJC after our celebration is over. This year we are raising the bar: Please consider bringing at least 1 to 2 pasta boxes per person.

We cannot fully rejoice when we know that so many people around us are food insecure and struggle on a daily basis. When we shake pasta boxes instead of regular groggers, we say, "Let's put an end to the injustice that is affecting our community! We cannot turn a deaf ear to the suffering of our neighbors!". Just as Haman is the incarnation of evil and we try to make him go away with uproar, one of the plagues of our society is hunger, and we have to fight it by making personal contributions and sacrifices.

Following services, during Oneg, we will make more noise by shouting out answers in a wonderful quiz game about Purim that our Temple President Frank Scott will be leading. The winning team will receive a prize.

Please join us for what promises to be a noisy, fun and meaningful evening!

Chag Purim Sameiach,

Rabbi Séverine Sokol