

**GROGGERS &
HAMANTASCHEN**

presents

O Hadassah!

an
"Oklahoma-style"
Purimspiel

at **TEMPLE SINAI**
(3405 GULLING ROAD, RENO)

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 9, 2025
7:00 PM**



TEMPLE SINAI
RENO'S REFORM CONGREGATION

with (in alphabetical order)

Jeremy Cohen
Neva Donovan
Lindsay Duffié
John Louie
Moishe Matthews
Tova McGilvray

Suzy Ramos
Adam Safdi
Laura Smith
Rose Whitaker
Benjamin Zober
Sara Zober

Parodied by
Rabbi Benjamin Zober

Musical arrangement by
Rabbi Sara Zober

Accompaniment by
Patty Dickens

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

(In absolutely no particular order)

RABBI SARA ZOBER (Haman) - While not the first Jewish woman to preach formally from a pulpit in the United States, Rabbi Zober inaugurated a career as “the Girl Rabbi of the Golden West” that would help to blaze new paths for women in Judaism. Virtually overnight, Rabbi Zober became a sensation in the Jewish world.

TOVA MCGILVRAY (Esther) - Tova is quick to point out that her resemblance to the famed thief “Miss Trixie” is purely coincidental. While both women are known for sharp wits and a reputation as a card sharp, Tova can sing, unlike her stage-coach robbing doppelganger.

ADAM SAFDI (Vashti) - Adam “Doc” Safdi made a fortune in prospecting before setting up a small medical practice in Virginia City. He was the first to use silver in fillings and last to use anesthetic, both of which are weird, because he wasn't a dentist.

LINDA DUFFIÉ (Contestant 1) - Linda is making her waaaaaay off Broadway debut in O Hadassah! She could not be more excited to share her gift with everyone and mashed the potatoes for the pies for the after-party. **בתיאבון!**

RABBI BENJAMIN ZOBER (Memucan) - Rabbi Benjamin takes full responsibility for desecrating this classic of American musical theater. He only takes partial responsibility for eating all of the oneg leftovers.

PATTY DICKENS (Accompanist) - Patty Dickens has been part of Temple Sinai since the '70s, and enjoyed leading the TS choir under Rabbi Myra's tenure. She is a retired WCSD elementary music teacher who relished singing with “Mr. Guitar” for the Sunday schoolers when her three, Yani, Aaron, & Kenny, attended. She's fortunate to have them & their families, including 6 grandsons, all living here. Avocations include subbing ES music, playing lever harp with the Valley Sweetharps, enjoying get-togethers with family & friends, and accompanying every Purimspiel thus far. Thank you for the years past & hopefully many years to come!

JOHN LOUIE (Teresh) - John served frequently on the Temple Sinai Board over the past 25 years, and as President from 2017-19, before repeatedly losing his head plotting against the King in recent Purim Spiels.

MOISHE MATTHEWS (Eller) - Moishe left home to join a travelling circus. Afraid of heights, lions, fire, and people, he found his calling as a pickpocket, relieving guests of their wallets and stealing the occasional puff of cotton candy.

ROSE WHITAKER (Bat Haman) - Rosie Sage is delighted to be returning to the stage. As a child actress, she became a legendary American sharpshooter and star of the Buffalo Wild Wings Wild West show. She was known as “Little Sure Shot” and was one of the first and most popular female sharpshooters to perform for audiences. She hung up her holster, but was glad to put it on one more time, for this show.

LAURA SMITH (Bightan) - Laura was playing piano in a bordello east of Winnemucca when she first met the Rabbis. What they were doing there is anyone’s guess. She promised to make their joint more “respectable” and they said, “Yes, Ma’am.”

NEVA DONOVAN (Mrs. Lovett) - Neva’s prime theatrical talents shine as an appreciative audience member. She’s grateful for this bite-sized part, in honor of which she’s taking a stab at mincemeat hamentashen.

JEREMY COHEN (King) - Making his Purimspiel debut, Jeremy is thrilled to play King Achashverosh, a man of great power, questionable judgment, and a fondness for throwing a good party. By day, he’s busy in the kitchen, but by night, he’s trading his apron for a crown (and a cowboy hat) to rule over Shushan with style. He’s grateful to be part of this incredible cast and tips his hat to the whole crew for making this ride one to remember.

SUZY RAMOS (Mordechai) - Suzy is a last minute fill-in for Mordechai, Tova McGilvray’s mother, and a semi-retired surgeon. She hasn’t done stage work since her teens, but always wanted to...just no time...

She HAS done costuming for Space Theatre and Broadway Beginnings.

SPIEL ETIQUETTE

The cast and crew involved in today's production are working hard to give you a great performance. Practicing good theater etiquette demonstrates your appreciation of the show itself. Here are a few tips to get you started:

Traditionally, in a reading of the megillah, when Haman's name is read, we boo and jeer. This is not a megillah reading, so while Haman is contemptible, we ask you to be respectful of the performers and not interrupt, no matter how wicked he is.

You can still clap and cheer at the usual moments as you would any other show. But please don't throw tomatoes; it stains the carpet.

FUN FACTS:

Critic Andrea Most argues that the original musical reflected its author's and composer's Jewish heritage and desires for Jewish Americans. Most assert that the musical was written at a time when America presented Jews with an opportunity to gain privileged status by assimilating into mainstream American culture and passing as white Americans. Most claims that although there were rarely any identifiably Jewish characters in plays of this time period, characters such as Ali and Jud allowed for subtle Jewish representation, Ali embodying an accepted and friendly ideal for Jewish-Americans and Jud embodying Jewish-Americans' fear of becoming a marginalized minority like black Americans. (Kinda makes you think about the Story of Esther)

Bat Haman is a real character, from Midrash. In one story, she sees the parade from above and empties a chamber pot, thinking it will land on Mordechai, but it lands on Haman instead. Really. You can't make this stuff up.

A 1967 production in Tokyo, Japan had an all-female cast.

Walter Winchell was not optimistic about the show. He watched the auditions and sent a telegram reporting: "No girls. No legs. No chance."

For the film version of the show, finding "corn as high as an elephant's eye" proved to be quite a challenge. Since filming was to take place out of season, no tall cornfields were to be found anywhere. The job was given to the people of the University of Arizona Agricultural Department, who planted each stalk in individual containers and held their breath. With rain and good luck, the corn grew to a height of 16 feet, causing Oscar Hammerstein to quip: "The corn is now as high as the eye of an elephant on top of another elephant."