

the Temple choir in our small southern shul. While my father delivered sermons that went way over my head, my mother's soft soprano voice was teaching me "Mi Chamocha" and "Adon Olam." That's just one reason why I've never underestimated the importance of the Cantor in services from Aviva Katzmann to Cantor Richards and Cantor Chabon. We rabbis may stir or fry the mind and heart, but music soothes even the most secular beast.

As we anticipate this year's Purim (March 15) and Passover Seders (April 14 and 15) we should be attuned and cognizant of the power of a familiar melody. This year's Purimshpiel will include a Beatles' playlist—and we should by all means acknowledge the impact of popular music on the human spirit. However, it is music of our own folk and liturgical traditions which can clear a path in our cerebral gray matter, even when our speech and intellect might fail us.

Please join us for Purim when we'll dine, drink, and play "With a Little Help from Our Friends," and Haman sings "I Want to Kill Your Clan!" And this year's Haggadah Helper will be Saturday morning, April 12th when we'll focus on the Passover melodies that help otherwise argumentative people around the Seder table to harmonize and get along.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



On Saturday night, March 15th, we will celebrate Purim. Purim's date on the Hebrew calendar is the 14th of Adar. Everyone associates Purim with costumes, groggers, and the famous Purim spiel, but there must be more depth to the holiday than silliness and hamentaschen. It's true that on no other holiday are we encouraged to drink (even get drunk!), send and receive gifts, dress up in costume, and make noise in the sanctuary, but is that really all there is to it?