PURIM POEM

C. 2000 Jewish Cultural School and Society

They first came as slaves after King Zedekiah lost the war against Babylon,

They vowed by the waters of the Tigris and Eurphrates never,

to forget Jerusalem and each other.

And they lived and prospered in Babylon.

They worked hard.

They freed each other from slavery.

They built the first synagogues and JCCs.

No doubt their neighbors thought they kept to much to themselves.

No doubt their neighbors thought that it was amazing

that in two generations, they had gone from being slaves

to being merchants, scientists, physicians, and advisors to

the King.

And also Babylon grew too proud and to greedy and lost its Empire to the

Persians.

But, the Jews kept on thriving.

Well, was there an Esther?

You may ask the question:

Was there an Abraham?

Was there a Joseph? Was there a Daniel? Was there a Tevya?

If there wasn't exactly an Esther there probably was someone like her.

Someone who could have easily used her beauty and brains only

for herself.

Someone who could easily forget where she came from

But, would that someone have stood up to Haman?

No doubt Haman envied the Jews of Persia

Their hard work,

Their honesty,

Their self-reliance.

And he thought of a plot to expel them from the country,

He made it seem to King Ahaseurus that they were

a secret society. Much like the Sith who wanted to enslave Queen Amadala

There is a Haman in every time. Fortunately, there is also an Esther, or a Mordechai.

Who isn't afraid to go out into the larger world and confront them.

So, Brave Esther didn't use her position just for herself.

She didn't forget her friends in the Jewish Quarter of Teheran. But she stood up to Haman

She helped rescind the edict of the 13th of Adar that she and all other Jews

had to leave Persia.

And today when we honor Esther.

We also honor:

Miriam who hid her brother to defy Pharoah.

Queen Alexandra Salome, the other Jewish Queen who started education for

girls.

Hanah Senesh who took up a rifle against the Haman of her day.

Golda Meir who went on a secret peace mission to King Abdullah.

Doctor Judith Resnick, the first Jewish Astronaut

Ruth Bader Ginsburg who fought discrimination against women

And all the others who are too numerous to mention and also their cousins.

Mordechai who were standing by.