

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Late Purim Fest held by RI Coalition for Israel

On March 8 the Rhode Island Coalition for Israel presented "Such a Time As This" to about 50 members of the Christian community plus a half-dozen Jewish members of the RIC's board. The event consisted of the showing of a video, the "Book of Esther", and a guest speaker, Tricia Miller of CAMERA's Partnership of Christians and Jews.

The program was hosted by Potters House Church, Providence, which is a largely Guatemalan congregation led by Pastor Daniel West. Israeli and Jewish music was provided by Stan Freedman, of the "Sounds of Simcha", while people settled in. Mary Greene, RIC President, opened with congratulations and thanks to the people and government of Guatemala for their commitment to move their embassy to Jerusalem this spring, and was followed by an opening prayer by Pastor West. David Talan, RIC Board member and President of the Reservoir Triangle Neighborhood Association, then expressed appreciation for Christian support of Israel, as the fulfillment of 2,000-year-old prophecies in the Hebrew Bible.

The "Book of Esther", an hour-long video, a colorful musical play written by a California pastor and performed at his church in Costa Mesa, CA, was then shown. The video was selected specifically because of its close adherence to the Book of Esther without Hollywood embellishments.

With translation assistance from Pastor West, Tricia Miller, Ph. D., then spoke about specific verses in the Megillah. Speaking from her in-depth study of Esther, which was the topic of her doctorate and several books she has written, she explained how Israel's right of self-defense is rooted in the Book of Esther. She pointed out that certain anti-Semitic teachings and anti-Israel writers erroneously paint the Book of Esther as a story of Jews as bloodthirsty and Israel as militaristic because of the killings of Haman and his army contained within it. But Dr. Miller pointed out clearly that the killing in Esther is clearly rooted in self-defense against those acting against King Ahasuerus' overridden decree to slaughter the Jews. "In fact", she noted, "when people don't set out to kill Jews, there is no killing." (A video of her closing arguments can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/aKNolepWx1E>)

Following a brief Q&A session, a closing prayer was offered by Pastor Dave Marquard of Praise Tabernacle Church, and attendees retired to the lobby for home-made Hamantaschen ("Haman's Ears") baked by RIC members from the Jubilee Sisters of Wakefield, and for lively conversation.

The RI Coalition for Israel is RI's Christian/Jewish partnership in support of Israel and the Jewish people. Its website is www.ricoalitionforisrael.org and its email address is ricoalitionforisrael@gmail.com.



Mary Greene with Pastor Daniel West



Plenty of good food and conversation



Cesar Marino, New Bedford (l) and Pastor Dave Marquard, Praise Tabernacle, Cranston