

# Purim Customs & Practices

**When:** Purim begins on Monday, March 9 at night, and lasts through the day of Tuesday, March 10. The fast of Esther is observed on Monday, March 9.

**Work:** is permitted on Purim. However, we usually spend most of the day in fulfillment of the various mitzvot of Purim, as will be enumerated below.

**The Four Parshiot:** There are special Torah readings as the *maftir* during four *shabbatot* from the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Adar until the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Nisan. The *Shabbat* before Purim we read **Parshat Zachor – remember** – and this serves as an affirmation to remember the evil that occurred to the Jewish people in the past and a commitment to never forget, and never again allow genocidal murder to take place. According to most authorities, hearing this portion of the Torah read is one of the 613 *mitzvot*. You are encouraged to be in shul on Shabbat morning, March 7 to fulfill this obligation.

**Ta'anit Ester – the fast of Esther:** We fast on the day before Purim in commemoration of the fasting that the Jews observed on the day of the battle. The name of the fast is associated with Queen Esther, as she had declared three days of a national fast before approaching the king to request the annulment of Haman's decree. The fast is observed on Monday, March 9. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 6:16 am and ending at 7:44 pm. It is customary not to eat until after the reading of the *Megillah*. If you have special circumstances that may make it difficult to fast, or you need to eat before the reading of the *Megillah*, please consult with the rabbi.

**Reading the Megillah:** It is a mitzvah to hear the *Megillah*, the scroll of Esther, read both at night and during the day of Purim. At Beth David we will be reading the *Megillah* on Monday night, March 9 at 7:45 pm and Tuesday morning, March 10 at 7:00 am, following Shacharit. If you cannot make the early morning reading, you are invited to join Hillel Academy at 9:00 am for their reading, or at the shul at 5:15 pm, prior to the festive meal.

It is customary to contribute to synagogue maintenance before hearing the *Megillah*, in commemoration of the

*machatzit hashekel*, the three half shekels that were given each year in Adar for the maintenance of the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

## **Matanot La'evyonim – Gifts to the**

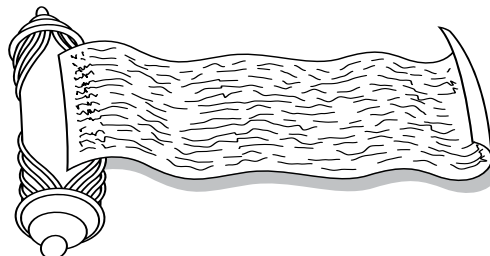
**poor:** It is a mitzvah to give at least two gifts to each of two poor people on this day as Purim charity. The rabbis will be collecting and distributing Purim charity to local Jewish poor through the Jewish Family Service and to the poor in Israel through the *Od Yosef Chai* organization. Contributions for this purpose should be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and please note how you wish your contribution to be divided, between local or Israel needs. Contributions for local needs must be made by March 2, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning *Megillah* reading.

## **Mishloach Manot – food gifts to**

**friends:** Commonly known as shalach manos, we give at least two portions of ready-to-eat foods to at least one other person. The mitzvah of sharing Purim joy through food is commendable, but more of our holiday funds should be allocated for gifts to the poor.

**Seudat Purim – the Purim feast:** It is a mitzvah to participate in a festive meal on Purim day (not at night). Beth David will conduct its annual Purim Seudah on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 pm. There will be no charge for attending. *See announcement in this issue!*

**Special prayers:** *On ta'anit Ester* we add special prayers and Torah reading at both the morning and afternoon services, as is customary for fast days. On Purim we add *al hanissim* in Grace after meals and the *amida*. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. There is a special Torah reading in the morning, before the *megillah* reading. The day after Purim is known as **Shushan Purim** and is the day that Purim is celebrated in Jerusalem. We do not say *tachanun* in honor of day.



## Purim Schedule

### Ta'anit ester

Monday, March 9	Fast begins	6:16 am
	Shacharit	6:40 am
	Mincha	6:35 pm
	Fast ends	7:44 pm

### Purim

Monday, March 9	Ma'ariv	7:30 pm
	Megillah	7:45 pm
Tuesday, March 10	Shacharit	6:30 am
	Megillah	7:00 am
	Reading at Hillel	9:00 am
	Second reading	5:15 pm
	Mincha	5:45 pm
	Purim Seudah	6:00 pm
	Ma'ariv – following the Seudah	

## Ten plus one reasons for celebrating Purim

1. Making noise in shul is a mitzvah.
2. Levity is not reserved for the Levites.
3. If you're having a bad hair day, you can always wear a mask and no one will know who you are.
4. Purim is easier to spell than Khanuka, Chanukah, Chanuka, Hanuka.
5. You don't have to kasher your home and change all the pots and dishes.
6. You don't have to build a sukkah and eat outside.
7. You get to drink wine and you don't have to stand for Kiddush.
8. You're invited to read a XXX story.
9. You won't get hit in the eye by a lulav.
10. You can't eat hamentaschen on Yom Kippur.
11. Mordechai - 1; Haman - 0!!!!

*Arieh Ullmann*

## Thank you to recent sponsors

### Kiddush

Meryl Sasnowitz

Tom and Suzanne Triebwasser

Dan and Hadassah Gold

The Ice Cream for Breakfast committee

### Seudah Shlishit

Ami and Sarah Lynn Adamit

A special thank you to those who enhance the weekly Kiddushim.

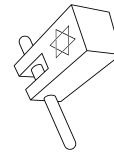
Please call Meryl Sasnowitz (797-5458) to sponsor a Kiddush, or Rabbi Adamit to sponsor a Seudah Shlishit

## Matanot La'evyonim— Purim Charity

One of the mitzvot of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on Purim day. Your rabbis will again distribute gifts to local needy through the Jewish Family Service, and to Israeli poor through the Od Yosef Chai charitable organization.

Believe it or not, there are Jewish needy in our city and when they have received help at holiday time, they have expressed great thanks and satisfaction. Purim, being a holiday dedicated to simcha – joy, requires us to assure that all Jews can rejoice. The poor rejoice when they have the means to sustain their lives, leading to the importance placed on this mitzvah.

In order to participate in this mitzvah, donations may be sent to the shul or given to one of the rabbis by March 2. Donors are asked to mark their checks as "Purim charity" and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. Contributions received after March 2 will be sent to Israel. Those contributions may be made up to the megillah reading on Purim morning.



PURIM SEUDAH TUESDAY  
MARCH 10TH  
6PM

## Recipe

### Cranberry-Orange Bread

*This recipe is the one Lillian Zodikoff made for the February sisterhood meeting.*

In a large bowl, mix together

4 C flour ½ tsp. cinnamon 1 Tbl. baking powder

¼ tsp. nutmeg 1 tsp. baking soda 1 C white sugar

1 tsp (or less) salt 1 C packed brown sugar

In medium bowl, beat together

½ C oil 1 ½ C orange juice

1 ½ Tbl. orange zest 2 eggs

Add to dry mixture – mix just enough to moisten

Add to batter and mix evenly

2 C raw cranberries, chopped 1 C chopped nuts (optional)

Turn batter into lightly greased loaf pans. Bake in 350 degree oven for 50-60 minutes. Check with toothpick in center (should come out clean).

Cool bread in pans 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on wire rack over night.