

# Purim Customs & Practices

**When:** Purim begins on Monday, February 27 at night, and lasts through the day of Sunday, February 28. The fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, February 28.

**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, February 27 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 the Thursday before Purim, February 25. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:35 am and ending at 6:30 pm. If you have special circumstances that may make it difficult to fast, 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 Saturday night, February 27 at 7:00 pm and Sunday morning, February 28 at 9:00 am, following Shacharit. If you cannot make the morning reading, it will be read again at the shul at 1:30 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. Since Purim starts right after Shabbat, we make this contribution either on the Fast of Esther

before Mincha, or before we read the *Megillah* on Purim day

## ***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 February 19, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning *Megillah* reading.

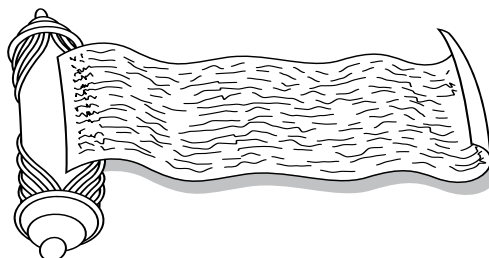
## ***Mishloach Manot – food gifts to***

**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 Sunday, February 28 at 2:00 pm. *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 this day.



## Purim Schedule

### Ta'anit ester

|                   |                    |         |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Thursday, Feb. 25 | <i>Fast begins</i> | 5:35 am |
|                   | Shacharit          | 6:40 am |
|                   | Mincha             | 6:35 pm |
|                   | <i>Fast ends</i>   | 6:30 pm |

### Shabbat Zachor

|                  |                 |          |
|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Friday, Feb. 26  | Shacharit       | 6:40 am  |
|                  | Candle Lighting | 5:32 pm  |
|                  | Mincha          | 5:35 pm  |
| Shabbat, Feb. 27 | Shacharit       | 9:00 am  |
|                  | Parshat Zachor  | 10:30 am |
|                  | Mincha          | 12:35 pm |

### Purim

|                 |                |         |
|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| Friday, Feb. 27 | Shabbat ends   | 6:33 am |
|                 | Ma'ariv        | 6:55 pm |
|                 | Megillah       | 7:00 pm |
| Sunday Feb. 28  | Shacharit      | 8:30 am |
|                 | Megillah       | 9:00 am |
|                 | Second Reading | 1:30 pm |
|                 | Mincha         | 2:00 pm |
|                 | Purim Seudah   | 2:00 pm |
|                 | Ma'ariv        | 6:30 pm |

*Please Clip and Save*

## Beth David Funds

| <u>Fund</u>                    | <u>Donation</u> | <u>Contact</u>            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Mitzvah Fund</b>            | \$2.50          | Toby -754-4297            |
| <b>Shul Beautiful</b>          | \$5.00          | Toby -754-4297            |
| <b>Library Fund</b>            | .....           | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Discretionary Fund</b>      | .....           | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>General Fund</b>            | .....           | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Mikvah Fund</b>             | .....           | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Ansell Tikun Torah Fund</b> |                 | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Siddur(Prayer Book)</b>     | \$35.00         | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Chumash</b>                 | \$60.00         | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Gemorrah</b>                | \$75.00         | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Shabbat Luncheon</b>        |                 | Shul Office -722-1793     |
| <b>Seudah Shlishit</b>         |                 | Rabbi Adamit - 773-8980   |
| <b>Shabbat Kiddush</b>         |                 | Meryl Sasnowitz -797-5458 |
| To schedule use of kitchen --  |                 | Hadassah - 772-8410       |
| To schedule use of Mikvah --   |                 | Susan - 772-8576          |

## 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 February 19. 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 February 19 will be sent to Israel. Those contributions may be made up to the *megillah* reading on Purim morning.

## Seudah Shlishit

I would like to thank Dan and Hadassah Gold, Charles and Paula Rubin, Dora and Sol Polachek and Chaim Melman for recently sponsoring *Seudah Shlishit*. Thank you for supporting these meals not only for the *gashmiut* (food), but also for the *ruchniut* (the spirit).

If you are interested in sponsoring a *Seudah Shlishit*, please call me at 773-8980.

..... Yasher Koach, *Rabbi Aminadav Adamit*

## Letter

*The following letter was sent to the Shul, accompanied by a donation, from the former editor of the ChaiLine.*

Dear Friends at Beth David,

This donation is made in honor of Beth David Synagogue and its members. Although I am far away, I follow with interest all that is happening through friends, the *ChaiLine*, and *Reporter*. May you go from strength to strength.

With love always, *Phyllis Ansell*

## Beth David Web Page

In case you are not aware, Beth David has a web page at [www.bethdavid.org](http://www.bethdavid.org). It is maintained by Mark Budman.

Besides interesting and important information and links about the shul and community, you can find a link to past issues of the *ChaiLine* as well as to the monthly *Minyan* calendar. There is also a button to submit your e-mail address to the shul to request that you be included in important announcements from the Synagogue and rabbis. Check it out!