

Purim Customs and Practices

When: Purim begins on Saturday, March 15, at night, after Shabbat, and lasts through the day of Sunday, March 16. The fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, March 13.

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 of the *maftir* during four *Shabbatot* from the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh Adar until the Shabbat of 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 15, 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. Since the day before Purim is Shabbat, the fast is observed on the Thursday before Purim, March 13. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 5:56 am and ending at 7:50 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, March 15, at 8:15 pm, and Sunday morning, March 16, at 9:00 am, following *Shacharit*. If you cannot make the morning reading, it will be read again at the *shul* at 2:15 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. 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 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 11, while gifts for Israeli poor may be made until the morning *Megillah* reading.

Mishloach Manot – food gifts to friends: Commonly known as *shalach manot*, 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, March 16, at 3:00 pm. *See announcement in this issue!*

Special prayers: On *Ta’anit Esther* 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 *Amidah*. 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.

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 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 11. Donors are asked to make their checks out to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund, mark them as “Purim charity” and specify whether they wish the money to be distributed locally or in Israel. Contributions received after March 11 will be sent to Israel. Those contributions may be made up to the *megillah* reading on Purim morning.

Sisterhood

The three things I love best about Purim, not necessarily in this order, are hamentashen [my mother’s recipe], spring being right around the corner and the children dressing up in their costumes. And after this difficult winter, all of this is most welcome.

Sisterhood was a little quieter than usual. The January meeting was again held at the Endicott library where we are always treated so well. This time the attendees were shown how to insert graphics and designs into cards, letters, posters, flyers, etc. and thus enhance their computer skills.

The February meeting was cancelled so as not to conflict with that evening’s Haifa Symphony performance at Binghamton University. Our March meeting will feature Elliot Fiks discussing nutrition.

With a thaw setting in, it will be wonderful to have our members join us and enjoy an informative evening with delicious refreshments.

Claire Ladenheim
Sisterhood President

Beth David Family

Gazing back at the fall, I note the pleasure Rabbi Ami and Sarah Lynn Adamit had when their daughter Tal Bemanash arrived in Binghamton with her two children from their Israeli home. Ruth and Howard Buschman spent Sukkot with their daughter Susie Erez and her family in Israel. Also visiting Israel were Hanna and Shelley Zacks and Lillian Sommer, who spent time with her children Rachel and Avi Nadel in Kohav Hashachar. Judy and Irwin Simon journeyed to Cincinnati, their home town. They topped their busy winter of visits to their children Sandy and Isaac in Manhattan and to Erin and Sam in New Hampshire with a two week respite on Florida’s west coast. Susan and Gerry Hubal chose Florida’s east coast to escape winter weather. Dina Danon and Eliav Bock and their son Matan headed to Mexico to catch the sun’s warm rays, while Marilyn Bell found her warmth aboard a Caribbean cruise.

Charney and Pinchas Oppenheim’s extended south Florida get-away included visits to their children Heather and Jonathan Douek in St. Louis and Michael in New England. While they were in Florida away from their Jerusalem home, the Oppenheims exerted effort to spruce up their condo. Roz and Harry Wiesel’s trip to Hawaii took them away from...well, I can’t say the warmth of Florida, so I’ll say it took them on a vacation with their children David and Yocheved and the grandchildren. To hear about Marti Klionsky’s journey to China, you’ll have to attend the next shul Shabbat luncheon where she’ll share her motives and memories. Susan and Michael Wright combined business with pleasure during their stay in New Orleans. While most headed south away from cold temps, Harold and I took the northern route. In January, we went to Niagara Falls with Toby and Harold Kohn, and in February we went to Cleveland. While in Ohio, we visited Tziporah and Gary Coleman.

Kol Hakavod to two of our *Beth David Family* members who were this year’s Hillel Academy Dinner Journal honorees. Lori Tuberman was presented with the *A.M. Pierson Award*, and Abigail Sasnowitz Lazarus was recognized as a *Distinguished Alumni* of the school. *Mazal Tov* to Lori, Brian, Melanie and Samantha Tuberman and to Abigail, Tzali, Yonina, Malka, Avi, and Tzipora Lazarus. We all know it takes a family to support a volunteer! I have to wish a hearty *Yasher Koach* to our community for keeping a secret several months prior to the surprise birthday party for Rivky Slonim. It was a lovely event highlighted by the arrival of Rivky’s mother Mrs. Sternberg from Brooklyn. May Rivky enjoy many more birthdays and *s’machot* until 120!

New babies are always a joy to welcome into our Family. A son, Hillel, was born to Bethany and Josh Strulowitz of NYC. Grandparents Rita and Larry Bleier certainly love having those grandchildren a short drive away! Great grandmother Marlene Serkin, Grandfather Paul Serkin, and Great Uncle David Serkin are thrilled to announce the arrival of Tal Gavriel to Yonit and Yosef Serkin. Thanks to modern technology, Marlene and David watched the Israeli brit live from their Vestal home. To clarify an earlier announcement I made, I’ll wish Merri Pell-Preus and Tony Preus a Mazal Tov on the birth of their first grandchild, Maya Elizabeth to Anna Binstock and Alexander Preus of Pittsburg. Vestal smiles can be seen from Dora and Sol Polachek on the birth of their first grandchild, Aaron Jonathan, to parents Gila and Nathaniel. I’m sure they’ll eagerly show you pictures of their grandson. Rivky and Aaron Slonim are the grandparents of a baby girl, Channa, born to Chaya Mushka and Yehuda Slonim. Mazal Tov also to Aunt Hadasa and Uncle Levi Slonim of Vestal. Mazal Tov to all

the families. May the babies each be blessed with good health and *Mazal* until Bar/Bat Mitzvah and *Chuppah* and to 120!

Janet and Moshe Shmaryahu celebrated the marriage of their youngest child, their Binghamton born daughter Yona, to Shoval Ben Shushan. Janet and Ken Wilson attended the wedding and report the couple lives in Elkana, the same community as Janet and Moshe. Elaine and Jerry Cohen kvelled at the wedding of their daughter Laura to Ami Efrati. Mazal Tov to Elaine and Jerry and to Laura’s brothers Peter and Daniel. May each of the couples build a *bayit ne’eman b’Yisroel*.

Rika Katz filled us in on her and Steven’s family’s adventures. Their daughter Shira Reifman and her children spent the summer with them in Massachusetts, their daughter Tammy is doing her psychiatric residency in Boston, and their son Yehuda is a vet in the Boston area.

Many thanks to Mark and Jackie Berkowitz who bring assorted foods from Monsey to enhance our afternoon Shabbat *Seuda Shelshet* when they come to Binghamton to visit their parents Marion and Norman Rudin.

Refuah Shelema to Marion Rudin, Sam Ladenheim, and Doris Zolty.

We mourn the loss of Lillian Greenberg, the mother of Alvin Greenberg. We wish that Alvin, Renee, and their children Donna and Steven know no more sorrow. We mourn the loss of Beverly Kolb, Marge Kaufman, and Sandra Lazarof. May Beverly’s husband Jordan Brinn and children Sharon and Ian, Marge’s husband Stuart and children Kerry and Matthew, and Sandra’s children Debbie and Alan find comfort among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. We also mourn the passing of Mel Manasse, the brother of Lynn Manasse and Charles Manasse, and the passing of George Vale, the father of Asher Vale of Toronto. May the Manasse and Vale families know no more sorrow.

I wish all of you a *freilach* Purim. I look forward to seeing you at our Purim Seudah on Sunday, March 16, co-chaired by our chefs extraordinaire Saba Wiesner and Charlie Manasse.

Be sure to look for emails about our upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration of our 39 Riverside Drive location which will be held on Sunday, May 18th. You’ll also find ad blanks for the *Golden Anniversary Book* we’re printing to mark this occasion. Get your ads in as soon as possible, as space and time are limited.

Remember to let me know about your family’s happenings so I can share them with our *shul* Family. E-mail me at msasnowitz@gmail.com or call at 797-5458.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 8	Kiddush Luncheon
Wednesday, March 12	Sisterhood Mtg. 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 13	Fast of Esther (5:56 am-7:50 pm)
Saturday, March 15	Megillah reading 8:15 pm
Sunday, March 16	Purim – Megillah reading 9:00 am & 2:15 pm
Sunday, March 16	Purim Seudah 3:00 pm
Thursday, March 20	Shul Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 2	Pesach Workshop 7:45 pm
Sunday, May 18	50th Anniversary Dinner

Recipe

The following recipe was submitted by Judy Silber after many requests from attendees who enjoyed it at a Shabbat Luncheon.

Couscous salad with dried cranberries and cashews (serves 4)

¾ cup uncooked couscous
1 cup broth or water
Salt to taste – omit if broth is salty
Grated zest of ½ orange
2 Tbs. orange juice
1 - 2 tsp. maple syrup
1 Tbs. olive oil
½ cup raisins
½ cup roasted cashews, chopped
2 scallions, sliced thin, or ½ chopped medium red onion
Put couscous in heatproof bowl.
Bring broth (or water) to boil. Pour over couscous. Stir.
Cover bowl and let stand 5 min. so couscous is tender. Fluff with fork.
In a small bowl, whisk together other liquid ingredients and zest. Pour over warm couscous.
Add cranberries (raisins) nuts, scallions or red onion and toss.
Serve warm or at room temperature.

Mitzvah Fund

Toby Kohn, 754-4297 or tgkohn@stny.rr.com

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Sam & Claire Ladenheim on the Bar Mitzvah of their great grandson Michael & Susan Wright on the birth of a grandson Michael & Susan Wright on both receiving a Yasher Koach Award Suzanne Triebwasser on passing the Maryland Bar Abigail Lazarus on receiving the Hillel Alumni Award Steve & Dora Feuer on the Bat Mitzvahs of their twin granddaughters Annette & Barry Shaw on the birth of their granddaughter, Dorie Julianna Annette & Barry Shaw on the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay Annette and Barry Shaw Thank you Lori Tuberman on receiving the AM Pierson Memorial Award from Hillel Academy Sol & Dora Polachek on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Jonathan Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Kaplan on making Binghamton their new home & welcome to Beth David Ruth Goldstein on her new home Rose Sigal Ibsen on her new home Nathaniel & Gila Polachek on the birth of their son, Aaron Jonathan Harold and Toby Kohn on the marriage of Daniel & Anna Rabbi Ami & Sarah Lynn Adamit on the recent birth of their grandchildren Debbie Greenberg-Strano & Family on Sarah's achievements Rabbi Eliav Bock thanking him for speaking at the Shabbat luncheon Marlene Serkin & Rabbi David Serkin on the birth of a great-grandson/grand-nephew, Tal Gavriel Rita and Larry Bleier on the birth of a grandson, Hillel

Refuah Shelemah:

Harold Kohn	Susan Hubal	Susan Wright's father
Sandy Paston	Ayal Adamit	David Kammerman
Shirley Raff	Brenda Levy	Shalom Shoer
Michael Kohn	Peter Grekin	Doris Zolty

In Memory Of:

Becky Raphael, daughter of Alan & Janet Raphael
The husband of Ida Lebovic
The father/father-in-law of Stanley & Linda Lebovic
George Vale, father of Rabbi Asher Vale
Marge Kaufman, wife of Stuart Kaufman
Beverly Kolb Brinn, wife of Jordan Brin
The mother of Professor Igor Balsim
Mel Manasse, brother of Charlie and Lenore Manasse

Contributions

General Fund from:

Irving & Myra Memis to Dora & Steven R. Feuer in honor of the Bat Mitzvahs of their twin granddaughters
Paula & Charles Rubin to Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine in honor of their marriage
Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine to Sol & Dora Polachek in honor of the birth of their grandson Les & Barbara Bank to Sy Klionsky in honor of his birthday
Dora & Steven R. Feuer to Ellen & Jerry Schachter in honor of their 50th anniversary
Sheldon Edison to Susan & Gerry Hubal, Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz, and Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy to say Thank You
Shelly & Hanna Zacks to the Sasnowitz Family in honor of Abigail being honored by Hillel
Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy to Beth David to help pay for the new computers
Dan & Hadassah Gold to Rabbi Aaron Slonim and Rabbi Zalman Chain to say Thank You
Michael & Saba Wiesner to Mark Budman for all his work on the Web site
Merri, Tony, Linka, Alexander, Anna & Maya Preus to Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine in honor of their marriage
Laura Greger, Henry & Marsette Perl, Robert & Maria Kutz, Teresa & Robert McCabe

Refuah Shelemah:

Susan Hubal from Maxine & Louis Rosenberg, Michael & Saba Wiesner, and Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus
Howard Zendle from Saba & Michael Wiesner
Harold Kohn from Saba & Michael Wiesner

Shul Beautiful to:

Sandra Weitsman-Wishing you a happy birthday and a wonderful year from Marcy & Gabi Yonaty
The Kaufman Family with sincere condolences on the loss of Marge from Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz

Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon Fund

Marie Werner