

Purim Customs and Practices

When: Purim begins on Saturday, March 11 at night, after Shabbat, and lasts through the day of Sunday, March 12. The fast of Esther is observed on Thursday, 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 11, 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 9. This fast is observed from morning to night, beginning at 4:58 am and ending at 6:46 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 11, at 7:10 pm and Sunday morning, March 12, 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. Rabbi Silber 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 2 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 12 at 3:15 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 *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.



Matanot La'evyonim – Purim Charity

One of the *mitzvot* of Purim is to deliver gifts to the poor on Purim day. Rabbi Silber 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 the rabbi 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.

Mitzvah Fund

Toby Kohn, 754-4297 or tgkohn@stny.rr.com
Sisterhood acknowledges contributions
to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Aaron & Miriam Alweis on their new grandson
Claire Ladenheim on her new GREAT granddaughter
Harold Sasnowitz on his special birthday
Bob Groh on the marriage of his grandson, Michael to Lea
Sharon Groh Mintz on the marriage of her son, Michael to Lea
Harold & Meryl Sasnowitz on Yonina's becoming a
Bat Mitzvah in Yerushalayim
Rabbi Ami & Sarah Lynn Adamit on their new
granddaughter
Marcy Yonaty on her beautiful renovation of
Beth David's Ladies' Room
Marlene Serkin on her first GREAT granddaughter,
who joins her 2 brothers

Refuah Shelemah to:

Susan Wright Kerry Wright
Meryl Sasnowitz Leonard Preston

Condolences to:

Ferne Weintraub in memory of Dorothy Friedman
Dorothy Coven in memory of her husband
Sandy Foreman in memory of her dear friend, Gail Weinberg
Marcia Hofstein in memory of her mother
Lori Lewis in memory of her mother, Joan Bowman

Easy Pareve Cheesecake

This delicious cheesecake was baked by Adina Harkavy for the Sisterhood Paid-up Meeting Dinner.

Pre-heat oven to 325°

1 pre-made graham cracker crust

Filling:

Whisk together until smooth:

3 eggs 1/2 cup sugar 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups Tofutti sour cream (12 oz. container)

Pour into graham cracker crust. Bake about 35 minutes or until set. Cool to room temperature.

Before serving, spoon blueberry or cherry filling over the top.

Topping: 1 can blueberry or cherry pie filling

Give Double Chai

The *ChaiLine* is our newsletter keeping you, the reader, informed of what is going on at Beth David. In it is information on Candle lighting times, service times, Sisterhood and Shul events, simchas, and unfortunately, sorrows.

The *ChaiLine*, as the name implies, is the lifeline of Beth David and we would like to keep it coming into your home. Each issue needs sponsors. You can be a sponsor for a minimum donation of \$36.00 or a **Special Sponsor** for a minimum donation of \$180.00. You can sponsor in honor of, in memory of, to celebrate an anniversary or birthday, or for any, or no reason whatsoever.

We will also print a thank-you note for a minimum donation of \$18.00. It is an easy way to say thank you for Mitzvah Cards received, or for an act of kindness. I look forward to hearing from you. Just call me, Marlene Serkin, at 729-3235, or send your check, with a cover note, to the shul office, before the next deadline (3/19/17) and you will be included among the sponsors of the Pesach issue.

Happy Purim to all.

Marlene Serkin

Thanks to our Sponsors

Sima & Neil Auerbach in honor of
Rabbi David Serkin

Marlene Serkin in honor of the birth of her great-granddaughter, **Lila Sarit Serkin**, daughter of Yosef & Yonit Serkin of Modiin, Israel

Cathy Velenchik & Chaim Joy in memory of Cathy's parents **Max & Helen Velenchik**.