

Purim is for the children, and for the child in each one of us. It offers a chance to be silly, to be a friend, to fix the world, and to consider what it means to be different...

At the end of Megillat Esther, Mordekhai writes a letter to Jews all over the world. In these verses the rabbis discovered the four things a Jew should do on Purim. Can you find the four Purim mitzvot? Mordekhai wrote about these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in the provinces of King Ahashverosh... "that they should keep the fourteenth and the fifteenth days of the month of Adar - every year - every single year - as days on which the Jews were saved from their enemies... They should make them days of feasting and joy, of neighbors sending portions to one another and presents to the needy."

Esther 9:20-22



LISTEN to the Megillah

The Megillah, the handwritten scroll of the Book of Esther, speaks of the miracle of Jewish survival. Come hear the reading at Congregation Beth Israel on Saturday night, March 3, at 6:30 PM. Wear a costume, participate in the Purim Costume Parade, and bring your grogger (noisemaker) to blot out the name of Haman! The Megillah will also be read on Sunday morning, March 4, at 8:30 AM as part of the morning service



EAT a Festive Meal

During the day on Sunday (but before the carnival at 3:00 PM), invite some friends to share a festive meal, Seudat Purim, with you. Liven up your feast with a skit about Purim, or perhaps some fun songs.

Other Purim Customs

~*The Fast of Esther*: A sunrise to sunset fast on THURSDAY, MARCH 1, recognizing Esther's prayers and the Jewish resolve to live.

~*Amidah and Birkat HaMazon* - The special "*al hanisim*" paragraph is added to the Amidah and Birkat Ha Mazon on SATURDAY night, MARCH 3 and all day SUNDAY, MARCH 4

~*Shabbat Zachor*: On SATURDAY, MARCH 3, we read a special Maftir Torah reading that commands us to remember the nation of Amalek.

~*Grog & Grogger Party*: On SATURDAY, MARCH 3, after Maariv come to the adult festivities! Come in costume – prizes for most creative, DJ, Pizza, & Delectable Noshes!

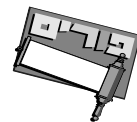
~*Purim Carnival*: Come celebrate with the entire synagogue community at 3:00 p.m. on Purim, MARCH 4. Sponsored by the BI Youth Activities Committee.

GIVE Gifts to the Needy

Help needy members of our community by giving tzedakah. Even in the midst of our greatest joy, we always need to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves. There will be a tzedakah box in the back of the sanctuary on Saturday night, March 3, (proceeds will benefit the Worcester County Food Bank) to help people participate in this important mitzvah.

SEND Gifts of Food

Just as the Jews of Mordekhai and Esther's time celebrated by sending gifts of food to each other, we do the same thing. On FRIDAY, MARCH 25, during the day, send these *mishloach manot* to at least two friends. This reminds us that being a Jew means being part of a Jewish community and sharing our celebrations with others.



Mishloach manot should consist of at least two kinds of ready to eat food (e.g., cookies, nuts, raisins, juice boxes).

Mishloach Manot can also be bought through the Youth Commission!!