

**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...**

# The Mitzvot of Purim

Purim 2011 5771

Congregation Beth Israel

***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.***

**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 19th, at 7:30 PM followed by an Adult Purim Party and Raffle Drawing. The Megillah will also be read on Sunday morning, March 20th, at 9:30am (following Shacharit at 8:45am) as part of the morning service. In the morning, wear a costume, bring your grogger (noisemaker) to blot out the name of Haman, and join us for our carnival following services.

## **EAT a Festive Meal**

During the day on Sunday, 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**

~**Shabbat Zachor:** On SATURDAY, March 19th, we read a special Maftir Torah reading that commands us to remember the nation of Amalek. Through

~**Purim Carnival:** Come celebrate with the entire synagogue community on Sunday, March 20th beginning with the Megillah reading at 9:30. Sponsored by the BI Youth Activities Committee.

~**The Fast of Esther:** A sunrise to sunset fast on Thursday, March 17th, 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 19th and all day Sunday, March 20th.

## **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 available on both Saturday night, March 19th and Sunday morning, March 20th, (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 Sunday, March 20th, during the day, send *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). ***We will not be doing a Mishloach Manot program through the Youth Activities committee, we encourage you to make them on your own.***