

# CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

MARCH 2024 ADAR I / ADAR II 5784

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From the Desk of  
Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner

## Purim

PURIM IS the Jewish carnival of happiness, commemorating the rescue of the Jewish people during the ancient Persian Empire from the evil Haman (a descendant of the Jewish arch-enemy, Amalek) who tried "to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day," (Esther 3:13). The story is recorded in Megillat Esther, the Scroll of Esther.

The word "Purim" means "lots" in ancient Persian and became the name of the festival because Haman drew lots to determine when he would carry out his plot.

### THE STORY

*The Persian Empire of the **4th century BCE** extended over 127 lands, and Jews were spread across the Empire. When King Achashverosh had his wife, Queen Vashti, executed for failing to follow his orders, he arranged a beauty pageant to find a new queen.*

*A Jewish girl named **Esther** found favor in his eyes and became the new queen, but she hid her nationality. Meanwhile, the Jew-hating Haman was appointed Prime Minister of the Empire.*

***Mordechai**, the leader of the Jews, refused to bow to Haman, which was in defiance of the royal decree. Haman was furious, and he persuaded the King to issue a decree ordering the destruction of all the Jews on the 13th of Adar, a date randomly chosen by drawing lots.*

*Mordechai urged Esther to confront the King and inform him of Haman's plans. Esther, although reluctant at first for fear of her life, agreed.*

*She asked Mordechai to gather all the Jews in Shushan and convince them to spend three days repenting, fasting, and praying to G-d.*

*On the third day, Esther invited the King and Haman to join her for a feast. At a second feast, Esther revealed her Jewish identity to the King and accused Haman of attempting to destroy her people. Haman was hanged, Mordechai was appointed Prime Minister in his stead, and a new decree was issued, granting the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.*

*On the 13th of Adar, the Jews mobilized and killed many of their enemies.*

*On the 14th of Adar, they rested and celebrated.*

*In the capital city of Shushan, they took one more day to finish the job, and so in areas which have been 'walled cities' from the time of Joshua (like Shushan), Purim is celebrated on the 15th of Adar instead of the 14th. Today, this only applies to the city of Jerusalem, which celebrates "Shushan Purim" the day after all other Jewish communities.*

## HOW WE CELEBRATE PURIM

There are **4 Mitzvot** on the day of Purim, and they all begin with the letter **M** (or mem in Hebrew). These are:

- **The reading of the Megillah** (the Book of Esther), which tells the story of the Purim miracle. We listen to the Megillah-reading as a Congregation, once on the night of Purim, on Saturday, March 23, 2024, (right after Havdallah) and then again on the following day.

**This year, because Shabbat ends so late at 8:19 pm, the public reading of the Megillah Esther will be on SUNDAY MORNING, March 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM!**

- **Matanot La-Evyonim** – giving money gifts to at least two poor people.
- **Mishloach Manot** – sending gifts of two kinds of ready-to-eat food to at least one person.
- **Mishteh** – a festive Purim feast, which often includes wine or other intoxicating beverages (Se'udat Purim). There is a general spirit of liveliness and fun on Purim that is unparalleled in the Jewish calendar. It is also

customary to dress up in costumes. This is because the role of G-d is hidden in the story of Purim (and in fact even the name of G-d is starkly missing from the Megillah), and so we too, hide our faces beyond masks (not the N-95 mask!!!).

A traditional Purim food is **Hamantaschen** (three-cornered pastries bursting with sweet fillings such as poppy seeds, my favorite, or apricot, cherry etc.). "Taschen" means "pockets" in Yiddish and German, but some believe these pastries represent Haman's favorite three-cornered hat, and in Hebrew we call them "**Oznay Haman**", meaning "Haman's ears"!

On the day before Purim, or this year on Thursday morning, March 21, 2024, at dawn, it is customary for those over Bar and Bat Mitzvah age to fast. (The fast is moved to Thursday because we do not fast on Friday Erev Shabbat).

This is called "**Ta'anit Esther**", it is a minor fast day (12 hours approx.), in remembrance of the 3-day fast Esther proclaimed for all Jews in advance of her perilous seeking of an audience with the King to plead to save the Jewish people.



**PLEASE, JOIN US FOR OUR PURIM PARTY IN – PERSON,  
SUNDAY MORNING, March 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM**

**For the reading of the Megillah in our beautiful Sanctuary,**

followed by our Purim Party in our Social Hall  
with Brunch, Lox & Bagels, and Hamantaschen  
WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY PURIM - CHAG PURIM  
SAME'ACH

חג פורים שמח

SEE Y'ALL IN YOUR PURIM COSTUMES!!

*Rabbi Ben-Zion Laxner*



A brief note from the President, Judy Hersh:

*I hope everyone enjoys the reinstitution of our CAJ monthly bulletin. Please let Shannon know if there are announcements or other information you want to share with the congregation. Any comments and/or suggestions regarding the bulletin would be welcome.*

*Beginning Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be having regular board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 5:15 at the shul. Our less frequent meetings*

were running too long. If there is no business for a particular month, the meeting will be cancelled.

Thank you to all those who attend services allowing us to have minyanim, especially for those who need to say kaddish. If you don't already attend, we would love to see you there.

A special thank you to Mike Pesses for arranging our Active Shooter Training program. It was not only informative but thought provoking as well.

Finally, our relatively "new" administrative assistant, Shannon Reynolds, has miraculously survived our crashed computer and has things back up and running. Thank you to her because a lesser person would have given up. We are fortunate to have her!

Have a great March,

Judy

## March Service Schedule

		Candle Lighting	7:19 pm
<u>Friday, March 1</u>			
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm		
Candle Lighting	6:09 pm		
<u>Saturday, March 2</u>			
Shacharit	9:30 am		
Shabbat Ends	7:04 pm		
<u>Friday, March 8</u>			
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm		
Candle Lighting	6:14 pm		
<u>Saturday, March 9</u>			
Shacharit	9:30 am		
Shabbat Ends	7:09 pm		
<u>Friday, March 15</u>			
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm		
		<u>Saturday, March 16</u>	
		Shacharit	9:30 am
		Shabbat Ends	8:14 pm
		<u>Friday, March 22</u>	
		Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
		Candle Lighting	7:24 pm
		<u>Saturday, March 23</u>	
		Shacharit	9:30 am
		Shabbat Ends	8:19 pm
		<u>Sunday, March 24</u>	
		Purim	10:00am
		<u>Friday, March 29</u>	
		Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm

Candle Lighting                      7:29 pm  
Saturday, March 30

Shacharit  
Shabbat Ends

9:30 am  
8:24 pm



March 15  
Gerald Bonneville

March 27  
Susan Silver

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



**March 22**  
**Susan and Abbye**  
**Silver**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Starting March 20, there will be a monthly Board Meeting every third Wednesday of the month. If there is no particular business that month, the meeting will be canceled.
- ❖ We will have a Purim Celebration on Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 am. Please see flyer for additional information.
- ❖ 2024 First Quarter dues payments are due March 31, 2024. Please contact the office with any questions.

**THANK YOU** for your donations in FEBRUARY!

### *Shabbat*

Javis Howeth

Jeff Levin

David & Maura

Judy Hersh

Steven & Carrie

Jortner

George Keller

Draher

Debbie Hersh

Susan Raphael

Rabbi & Susan

Joseph Settle

Lanxner

### *In Memory Of*

Dr Stanley Hersh

Judy Hersh

Florence Hersh

Anna Hersh

Florence Hersh

Judy Hersh

Larry Harelík

Harry Harelík

Esther Anna Gulman

Jeff and Lea Levin

Sheila Schnur

Barbara Dankenbring

## *In Honor Of*

Rabbi Lanxner

Florence Hersh

## Yahrzeits

The following names of dearly departed will be read aloud by the Rabbi preceding the Mourner's Kaddish on Shabbat morning. It is fitting and customary that the nearest of kin be present in the synagogue for the recitation of this special prayer in their memory. Attendance not only honors the departed but also enhances and guarantees that a Minyan is present to recite the Kaddish.

### Kaddish will be read on March 1

Adar 21	Harry Brodkey*
	Pearl Greenfield*
	Frank Israel
	Thelma Lipinsky*
	Bessie Novy*
Adar 22	Carlos Sifuentes
Adar 23	Anna Goldman Hersh*
Adar 24	Mrs. Harry Brodkey*
	Robert Gurkoff
Adar 25	Ana Nieves
Adar 26	Mrs Morris Rubinsky*
Adar 27	Gerardo Romero

Goldie Stern

### Kaddish will be read on March 8

Adar 28	Mike Perry
Adar 29	Secil Chazanov*
	Ethel Cecile Israel*
	Bessie Katz
	Pamela Powell
	Dorothy Marie Taub*
Adar II 1	Tama Settle
Adar II 3	Ruth Budin
Adar II 4	Cecelia Dreyfus
	William Ruttenburg



**Kaddish will be read on March 15**

Adar II 5 Emma Podrizki\*  
Adar II 6 I Aronson\*  
Harry J Siegel\*  
Adar II 7 Mrs A (Ray) Lowich\*  
Esther Sigel\*  
Adar II 8 Chaym D Silevitch  
Adar II 10 Rachel Stein  
Adar II 11 L Weisberg\*  
Shmuel Tzvi Lanxner  
Rose Patlis

**Kaddish will be read on March 22**

Adar II 12 Louis Belove\*  
Adar II 14 Max Levy\*  
Adar II 15 Isidor Sacks\*  
Adar II 16 Fannie H Englander\*  
Max Jortner  
Dora Pesechovitz

**Kaddish will be read on March 29**

Adar II 19 Mrs I Chodorow\*  
Esther Harris  
Anna Jacobson\*  
Adar II 20 Eli Hoffman\*  
Norma Norat  
Adar II 24 Dave Wizig\*  
Adar II 25 Emanuel Kestner\*  
Audre Rapoport\*



Please join us for a Purim Celebration **Sunday, March 24, at 10:00 am** with the reading of Megillah Esther.

Following the reading we will have brunch.

Crazy hats, costumes, or painted faces are welcome! What a wonderful time to socialize together.

Please RSVP to [cajassistant@grandecom.net](mailto:cajassistant@grandecom.net) or call 254-772-1451 by Wednesday, March 20.

