

HEIGHTS BULLETIN

HEIGHTS JEWISH CENTER

Purim is About Togetherness

By the Rabbi

*P*urim is a Holiday that shares many features with other Yomim Tovim. However, each common feature is enhanced when it comes to Purim.

To wit, halacha mandates festive meals on YomTov that should include wine. However, Halacha mandates that the wine of the Chagim be consumed in moderation. Purim's wine consumption knows no halachic moderation.

The Torah frequently mentions our obligation to the poor when Yom Tov is mentioned. However, Purim doesn't mandate *tzedakah* in the general sense. It calls for a new, heretofore unheard of mitzvah of *Matanos LaEvyonim*, Gifts to the destitute. What's wrong with old-fashioned *tzedakah*? The Talmud even mentions that the poor look forward to *Matanos LaEvyonim* in a way that is different from the way they await *tzedakah* the rest of the year.

Purim is unique in its requirement that Jews send one another portions of food. This is unheard of on any other Yom Tov.

All these Purim peculiarities can be understood with one quote by Haman in the Megillah. Haman

refers to the Jews as "One nation, dispersed and broken down among the nations." Haman explained to Achashveirosh that the people he had in mind to do away with were

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... celebrates the fact that we were a destitute nation and the Unseen Hand of Providence gave us hope and brought us together.

easy pickings. True, they are one nation, but they're all *tzubrochene*. Remember that the Megilla starts off with a banquet that was staged to celebrate the perceived end of a Jewish future. Achashveirosh rolled the credits for the Jews when in his estimation the end of the seventy years of exile came and went and the Jews were not returned to their land.

Seen in this light, Purim celebrates not merely a salvation from genocide. On a larger scale, it

celebrates the fact that we were a destitute nation and the Unseen Hand of Providence gave us hope and brought us together. Thus, every aspect of the Purim celebration is in honor of that victory. Sure, in some respects, Purim looks like any other Yom Tov. But when you look closer, it has a theme all its own. That theme is one of uniting Jews and restoring hope. Thus, the festive meal with its overabundance of wine is a lowering of the inhibitions that prevent people from really opening up to one another. It is the giddy silliness of a man who has been taken away from the scaffolds after having received a pardon. The giving of gifts is also nothing but a demonstration of immediate friendship. We give gifts to the poor not in a context of *tzedakah* but in a context of making the poor happy, reviving the spirit of the downtrodden and uplifting the hearts of the oppressed, in emulation of the concealed G-d in the Megillah.

Let us take advantage of this time of year to strengthen our bonds of camaraderie with one another and with the shul that bring us together as a close-knit community devoted to Torah, Tefillah and Chesed.

Rabbi Raffy Davidovich

You are invited to a very special memorial gathering to commemorate the first yahrzeit of our beloved

Horav Doniel Schur

Sunday, March 11 '07 at 10 a.m.

Heights Jewish Center

*Speakers: Former President Alex Adelman Hagoan Horav Yisroel Grumer
Rabbi Raphael Davidovich*

Siyum will follow by Rabbi Davidovich Light refreshments will be served

Mazal Tov-Mazal Tov to ...

Faige and Harold Males and their children Aaron & Estee Males of Israel on the birth of their son Avraham Yeshayahu.

Faige and Harold Males and their children Joshua & Sora Devorah Males of Israel on the birth of their daughter Rachel Elisheva. **Double Mazal Tov.**

Fred and Katia Bolotin and Mrs. Sarah Greenberg on the birth of a granddaughter great-granddaughter.

Rabbi and Mrs. Justin Hofmann on the birth of a great-grandson in Toronto.

Rabbi Thav on the birth of a baby girl.

Let's keep filling the world with Jewish children!

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Muller and family on the bar mitzvah of their son Aaron.

Special thanks to our Social Committee Members for all their hard work toward many **successful** social functions.

*To Lenn Katz,
Happy 40th
Anniversary of
Service to Heights
Jewish Center.
Thank you for your hard
work and dedication which
knows no bounds.
May you be with us in
good health to 120.*

Pesach is coming...

Before you know it, Pesach will be here. To help you start getting ready, here are a few things that will keep you busy for a while...

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The garage | <input type="checkbox"/> Cupboards | <input type="checkbox"/> Buggies and strollers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The basement | <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerator | <input type="checkbox"/> Play pens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closets and drawers | <input type="checkbox"/> Briefcases and purses | <input type="checkbox"/> High Chairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office desk and drawers | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stove and oven | <input type="checkbox"/> Cover kitchen counters | <input type="checkbox"/> Toy boxes |



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Fast of Esther 5:49 - 7:06 11 Adar	2 Shabbos starts 6:00 12 Adar	3 Shabbos Zachor Parsha: Tetzaveh Shabbos Ends: 7:09 13 Adar
4 Purim Deluxe Brunch 14 Adar	5	6	7	8	9 Shabbos starts 6:08 19 Adar	10 Shabbos Parah Parsha: Ki Tissa Shabbos Ends: 7:17 20 Adar (DST starts)
11 Rabbi Schur's Yahrzeit 21 Adar	12	13	14	15	16 Shabbos starts 6:19 or 7:16 26 Adar	17 Parsha: Vayakhel-Pekudei Shabbos Ends: 8:25 27 Adar
18	19	20 Rosh Chodesh Nisan 1 Nisan	21	22	23 Shabbos starts 6:25 or 7:23 4 Nisan	24 Parsha: Vayikra Shabbos Ends: 8:32 5 Nisan
25	26	27	28	29	30 Shabbos starts 6:30 or 7:31 11 Nisan	31 Shabbos Hagadol Parsha: Tzav Shabbos Ends: 8:40 12 Nisan

Adar 5767/March '07



Nisan 5767/April '07



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 13 Nisan	2 Fast of 1st Born Erev Pesach (starts 7:34) 1st Seder 14 Nisan	3 1st Day of Pesach, 2nd Seder (> 8:43) 15 Nisan	4 2nd Day of Pesach (ends 8:44) 16 Nisan	5 Chol Hamoed 17 Nisan	6 Shabbos starts 6:36 or 7:39 Chol Hamoed 18 Nisan	7 Shabbos Ends: 8:48 Shabbos Chold Ha Moed
8 Chol Hamoed, Erev Yom Tov (starts 7:41) 20 Nisan	9 Seventh Day of Pesach (last day starts 8:50) 21 Nisan	10 Eighth Day Pesach, Yiskor (ends 8:51) 22 Nisan	11	12	13 Shabbos starts 6:41 or 7:46 25 Nisan	14 Birkat Hachodesh Parsha: Shemini Shabbos Ends: 8:55
15 Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance 27 Nisan	16	17	18 1st Day Rosh Chodesh Iyar 30 Nisan	19 2nd Day Rosh Chodesh Iyar 1 Iyar	20 Shabbos starts 6:47 or 7:54 2 Iyar	21 Parsha: Tazria- Metzora Shabbos Ends 9:03 3 Iyar
22	23 Israel Independence 1948-5708 5 Iyar	24	25	26	27 Shabbos starts 6:53 or 8:01 9 Iyar	28 Parsha: Achare- Kedoshim Shabbos Ends: 9:10
29	30					

Purim

The Days of Purim can either fall on the 14th or the 15th of Adar, depending upon where you live. The reason for this is because the Jews of Shushan originally observed the festival on a different day than the Jews who lived elsewhere. In the other provinces the Jews waged war on the 13th and observed the 14th as a day of festivity and rejoicing. The Jews of Shushan waged war during the 13th and 14th of the month and observed the 15th as a day of festivity and rejoicing.

Therefore, Purim celebrated on the 14th of Adar is called Purim of the Open Cities while Purim on the 15th of Adar is called Purim of the Walled Cities. These days, the only city that has the status of Shushan and therefore celebrates Purim on the 15th is Jerusalem. In a number of other places, the scroll of Esther is also read on the 15th of Adar due to doubt. In those communities, the essential observance of Purim is fixed for the 14th of Adar (since this is when everyone reads the Megilla) and though the reading of the Megilla is repeated on the 15th, the blessing that precedes the Megilla reading is not recited.

The Observance of the Day. There are four obligatory mitzvot on Purim:

Reading of Megillas Esther

Both men and women are required to read the Megilla both by day and night. One may read the Megilla all night until dawn, and from sunrise until sunset.

Feasting and Rejoicing

It is a mitzvah to have a sumptuous meal on Purim, including meat dishes and wine. This feast must be held during the day. The miracle of Purim came through wine. Vashti's and Haman's downfall came through a wine feast! There is also a custom of drinking until intoxication as our Sages tell us, "A person is obligated to drink on Purim until he no longer knows the difference between cursed is Haman and blessed is Modechai." If one fears that he or she may be harmed by excessive drinking of wine or come to levity thereby or even forget the required brachot one is required to make, drinking excessively is not required.

Matanot L'Evyonim (Gifts for the Poor)

One is required to give at least a gift to each of two poor people on Purim. Even a poor person who subsists on charity is required to perform this mitzvah. This obligation can be fulfilled through food or drink or even clothing. The gift should be sufficient to buy bread. The gifts to the poor are given during the day, usually after the reading of the Megilla.

Shalach Manot (Gifts to One Another)

Both men and women must give a gift which consists of two portions to another person. The food must consist of something edible or drinkable without further cooking or preparation. One may send meat, fish, cooked pastry, wine and other beverages. These gifts should be sent to as many people as one chooses but they should be sufficient to convey regard for the recipient. If at all possible, these gifts should be sent by messengers, rather than delivered personally because the Megilla uses the word mishloach (sending) for these gifts.



- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 2 eggs - 3 for double recipe
- 2 tablespoons pareve milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 lb. margarine
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup water
- 3-1/2 cups flour
- Various flavors of jam or filling

Beat sugar and margarine until fluffy. Add eggs, parve milk and vanilla. Beat well. Combine flour and baking powder and stir into creamed mixture. If dough feels sticky, cover and refrigerate one hour.

On lightly floured surface roll dough to 1/8" thickness. Cut with floured drinking glass (top part) or any round object.

Top each round with about 1/2 teaspoon fruit filling. Shape into triangle by lifting up edges with knife and pinch in dough together to make three corners.

Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 16-18 minutes. Makes 2-1/2 to 3 dozen cookies.



Happy birthday— Feb—Mar

May you Have many, many more happy birthdays in the company of your family and good friends in good health.

Irving Bell	Madelyn Pollack	Frank Moss
Marvin Gale	Mitchell Rose	Sandra Zeitler
Barbara Pinkis	Alvin Fein	Mary Ireland
Tamas Muencz	Anna Michal	Reb. Shoshana Schur
Barb Schlesinger	Judy Schur	Irwin Shulman
Margaret Schuster	Ronnie Steinberg	Louisa Steinberg

Happy anniversary — Feb—Mar

May your years together continue with much happiness, health and appreciation for each other.

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Ritzenberg	Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Gale
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Klein	Mr. & Mrs. Max Heizler
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Waxman	

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Join us on Purim

Sunday, March 4
after the megilla reading
Deluxe Brunch
Heights Jewish Center

(megilla reading at 8:45 am)

Call the shul at 382 1958 for prices and reservations as soon as possible. Prices listed on posters around the shul.



		Purim in a Nutshell		
March 1	Fast of Esther		Starts - 5:49 a.m. Ends - 7:06 p.m.	
March 3	Megilla Reading	Motzei Shabbos 7:00 p.m.	Hamentashen and groggers for the kids	
March 4	Sunday morning minyan at 8 a.m.	Morning Megilla Reading 8:45 a.m.	Brunch - approximately 9:45 a.m.	
March 4	Send Mishloach Monos on Sunday to two people—Two different kinds of food for two types of brochos.	Give Charity	Say Ahl Hannissim Purim prayer in Shmoneh Esray and Birchas Hamozon	

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Camp Assistance has March Deadline

Students wishing to apply for assistance from JECC for overnight camp from Aguda Israel, Benei Akiva, Chabad, NCSY or Morasha, must submit their applications by March 15 to be considered.

For more information, please contact Jeff Muller at 381-2701.

**Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 14
8 p.m.
Heights Jewish Center**

Thanks to our Sponsors

Kiddush:

Mrs. Lena Katz in celebration of her 40 years of service to Heights Jewish Center.

The Peerless/Mandel family in honor of Mr. Jack Mandel

Mrs. Barbara Gulko in memory of her husband Marty's first yahrzeit.

Mr. and Mrs. Chanon Perkel in memory of his mother's yahrzeit.

Shelosh Seudah:

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lipman memory of Marla's father's Yahrzeit.

Mr. Alex Adelman in memory of his mother's Yahrzeit.

Condolences to ...

Lena Katz and her family on the passing of her sister Edith Silverman.

Condolences to the Robert Pinkis family on his passing. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Yirushalayim.

Thanks to Our Donors

Thanks to the many of you who make donations regularly. You know who you are. We really appreciate you.

**A freilechen
Purim to all.
Looking
forward to a
Kosher,
healthy and
meaningful
Pesach.**

**Heights Jewish Center Synagogue
Beth Hamidrosch Hagodol**
14270 Cedar Road
University Heights, Ohio 44121
heightsjewish@sbcglobal.net

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14077 Cedar Road Suite 7
Cleveland OH 44118

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