

Purim

פורים



Celebrate at Temple Sinai!

Motown Megillah

Saturday, February 27 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Beginning with Havdallah, join us as we read from the Book of Esther, drown out Haman's name with groggers, and sing along to familiar songs. Motown Megillah is directed by Jackie Berkman, musical direction by Lucy Harris, featuring the Temple Sinai band and starring members of the congregation. Laugh, sing, dance and celebrate Purim!

Purim Spiel and Carnival

Sunday, February 28 in the Sanctuary

The carnival begins at **10:00am** for kids pre-k thru 2nd grade.

The Purim Spiel begins at **11:00am** in the Sanctuary.

The carnival continues at **12:00pm** for kids 3rd grade and higher.

Join us at the Purim Spiel, "Motown Megillah," and carnival. We'll have challenging games, thrilling prizes, delicious food and lots of fun! These events have no admission charge. Tickets for activity booths and food during the carnival are available for pre-purchase in the Education Office beginning on February 21 or at the carnival.

**The Carnival will be held at the Jeep dealership across from the Sanctuary.*

Preschool Purim Parade and Shabbat

Friday, February 26 at 11:45am at Merritt Village

Temple Sinai Preschool students will parade around Merritt Village in costume.

Parents are invited to cheer on their kids, take lots of pictures and stay for our Purim Celebration at the weekly Preschool Shabbat.

History

Under the rule of King Ahashuerus, Haman, the King's prime minister, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her uncle Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of the land from destruction. The reading of the Megillah (the Purim story) is typically a rowdy affair, which is punctuated by booing and noisemaking when Haman's name is read aloud.

Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, God is not mentioned in the Book of Esther. Second, Purim, like Hanukkah, is viewed by tradition as a minor festival. The elevation of Purim to a major holiday was a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman became the embodiment of every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance in Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become – a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival against all odds.

Customs



- ✚ At Purim, noisemakers (“groggers”) are in full force to block out the sound of Haman’s name.
- ✚ Costumes and masks are also worn to mirror the many instances of mistaken identities that appear in the story of Esther.
- ✚ It is a tradition to hold a Purim *seudah*, or feast. The feast is shared with family and friends on the afternoon of Purim before nightfall because the Book of Esther says “...days of feasting and merrymaking...” (Esther 9:22) Sharing funny stories and jokes, playing games and being silly all are part of Purim festivities.
- ✚ The Purim feast has no prescribed ceremony. The intention is to make the meal joyous and festive.

Mitzvot

In the Book of Esther 9:22 we are told: “make days of feasting and gladness and of sending gifts to one another.” This forms the basis of the mitzvot of Purim.

- ✚ *Mishloach manot* means, “Sending gifts of food.” It is a mitzvah to send at least two different items, one baked and the other fruit, to family and friends.
- ✚ *Matanot l’eyv-yo-nim* means, “Giving gifts of food to the poor.” It is a mitzvah to give tzedakah on Purim and thereby share our joy and lift the spirits of those less fortunate.
- ✚ It is a mitzvah to hear a reading of the Megillah of Esther, giving thanks for our miraculous rescue, and rejoice with the Jewish Community.

Vocabulary

- ✚ Hamantaschen – triangular shaped cookies that mirror the shape of Haman’s hat.
- ✚ Purim – lots. Haman cast lots to determine the day and month to destroy the Jews, 14th of Adar was switched from a day of potential grief to one of great rejoicing.
- ✚ Purim Spiel – a Purim play, custom of having a Purim satire, spoof, retelling of the story, began at least 500 years ago.



Additional Resources

Purim! – by Camille Kress, A board book for very young children.

Here Come the Purim Players! – by Barbara Cohen, A Purim story for children in grades K-3

Chocolate Chip Challah and Other Twists on the Jewish Holiday Table – by Lisa Rauchwerger, Stories and recipes for the Jewish holidays

Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice – by Mark Washofsky, For adults, a guide to living as a Reform Jew.

Get ideas on how to fulfill the Purim mitzvah of *matanot l’eyv-yo-nim*, giving gifts to the poor at

www.just-tzedakah.org.

*For more information about these, or any other Temple Sinai programs or events, please call Gabby Volodarsky, Membership Liaison/Program Director at (510) 451-3263 x211 or email her at gabby@oaklandsinai.org.