



# THE CHRONICLE

Jericho Jewish Center | Purim 2020 | 5780

On the festive holiday of Purim there are four Mitzvot, or commandments that the Jewish people should fulfill:

1. Reading the Megillah, also known as the Book of Esther
2. Sending mishloach manot, or gift baskets,
3. The Seudah, or festive meal
4. Matanot La'evyonim, giving to the poor.

How have you and your family fulfilled these mizvot?



## Outline of the Purim Story

- King Ahasuerus dethrones Queen Vashti.
- Esther is crowned queen after winning a beauty contest.
- Mordecai (Esther's cousin) uncovers a plot to kill the king and reports it.
- King Ahasuerus promotes Haman, making him more powerful than all the other officials.
- Mordecai refuses to bow before Haman [a close confidant of the king].
- Haman seeks to destroy the Jews after his run-in with Mordecai.
- Mordecai appeals to Esther to save her people. Esther approaches King Ahasuerus and invites him and Haman to a banquet.
- Mordecai is honored for having saved the king's life. Esther entertains the king and Haman, and invites them to a second banquet.
- Esther pleads for her people at the second banquet. She accuses Haman.
- The king grants Esther's request and condemns Haman to die on the gallows that he built for the Jews.
- The Jews defend themselves throughout Persia [against those following out the decree to destroy the Jews].
- The holiday of Purim is established.
- Mordecai advances to a position of importance.

# JJC Leadership

## From Our Rabbi Matthew Abelson



Judaism is a teaching of joy. The Haftorah from Isaiah that we read on Yom Kippur states, “Call the Sabbath ‘delight’” (58:13). Yet, too many think of Judaism as somber and restrictive. No holiday encapsulates the joy of Judaism like Purim. Purim is, in a sense, Yom Kippur’s opposite. You can even see that in the very names of each holiday: Yom Ha’Kippurim (יום ה'כיפורים) and Purim (פורים). The word Purim is contained within the name Yom Ha’Kippurim. Purim means “lots” and speaks to the role of luck in our lives. Yom Kippur speaks to order and life’s providential quality. Most of us live within the reality of Purim more than we live within the reality of Yom Kippur, yet year after year, Purim draws far fewer congregants than Yom Kippur. That’s unfortunate because not only is Purim Yom Kippur’s opposite, it is truly its complement. The somber contrasts with joy; fasting contrasts with feasting; cosmos contrasts with chaos. I would go further and say that unless one observes Purim, Yom Kippur’s full power can never be realized. Yom Kippur’s teaching that all that happens in our lives is God’s will is too much for flesh and bone to digest without the antidote of Purim, which tells us the nothing makes sense. For this reason, Haman and Mordecai – representing evil and good – can even switch places!

As JJC’s rabbi, I have officiated at nearly ten funerals in the last seven months. In addition, two people I was close to have passed away during that same period. Several of these deaths have been sudden and occurred to people who passed before their time. When I contemplate the passing of these congregants and family members, I revolt against the notion that they simply were not written in this year’s Book of Life. Purim gives me an opportunity to express that revolt. It allows me to give vent to the feeling that life – and death – is not fair. The universe is chaos – disordered – not cosmos – ordered. Through my celebration of Purim, I gain the strength to affirm the ultimate truth of Yom Kippur.

When God created the universe, Genesis teaches, the unformed and void, darkness, the surface of the deep, wind, and water already existed. This was the chaos. In contrast to the chaos, God developed the “good.” The word “good” occurs six times in the opening chapter of Genesis, and the phrase “very good” is stated once. We all aspire to experience the goodness of Creation, but sometimes we wonder, What is the good? Purim’s answer is as baffling as it is entertaining. What we think is good may be bad, and what we think is bad may be good. Perhaps, only by putting on a costume can we be the people we truly are.

Like Hanukah – with which Purim does have quite a bit in common – Purim is cast as a children’s holiday. The messages contained in Purim that I share with you in this special newsletter demonstrate that it is a most adult occasion – and an occasion that is not to be missed. If you are susceptible to the misplaced but common belief that Judaism is a serious rules-based religion that is all about what we can’t do and not a religion that places joy at its center, celebrate Purim this year. Purim is for children and adults.

**Mark your calendars! Heed my call!!! Locate your costume, or go out and buy one!!!**  
**Join us at the JJC for Purim the evening of Monday, March 9 or the following morning Tuesday, March 10. We are fortunate to have one of the best Megillah readers around in Dr. David Hoch. In addition to food and drink, we will vote on the best costume. I look forward to celebrating Purim 5780 with you and your family.**

# JJC Religious School

By Amy Kahane, Education Director



Purim, the Jewish holiday in which we celebrate strong women, dress up, and drink until we plotz, is coming soon! This year, Purim begins on the evening of March 9, so, that's right: It's time to get ready!!

Our **JJC PURIM PALOOZA** takes place on **Saturday, MARCH 7 at 7:00PM**.

**NEW this year: Human Foosball.** That's right.. We will be the players on a huge foosball inflatable table. **PRIZES FOR ALL!** **Costumes strongly encouraged.**

Fortunately (or not, depending upon your perspective) Purim is not really a holiday that involves special pajamas or sweaters. After all, **Purim is all about costumes!** But not all of us are the dressing up type — and that's totally fine — so a little Purim pin, earrings or special bracelet is enough to mark the holiday.

Come **JOIN US ON Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** during Religious School where we will be making our delicious **Hamantashen—NO PRESERVATIVES**. Special Flavor to be revealed that day!! Purim Shpiel plus Special Purim songs!

Celebrate Purim with your families. Look for Purim Parody's on your computers.  
Many fun ones on the Internet!



**Helpers are needed on March 8th to pack baskets and to transport.**



**Please contact  
Barbara Rosenblum  
or  
Sue Mishan**

## A PURIM RAP

I'm a Dog Person, but I hear the cats purrin.....  
Come on, Everybody, Let me tell you bout Purim.  
There was Hashi, Esther and Vashti, too.  
Haman was evil; Mordechai was a Jew.  
One day Haman told the Jews to bow.  
Much to his chagrin, they said, "we don't know how."  
Haman was mad, smoke coming from his ears...  
He said, Come with me, Hashi, lemme buy us some beers.

Once they sat down Haman spun a fable...  
Hashi's head was spinnin, started lookin like a dreidel.  
That group they won't listen, they're up to no good....  
If you give me the chance, I'll get rid of them, I would...

Mordechai was in the garden.... Cleaning up some shards,  
When he overhead a plot by some scheming guards.  
They were planning on killing the current king.  
This would lead to a new regime, redo everything.  
Mordechai took this information, ran faster than a snail.  
As his teachers always said, you should tattle-tale.  
He said, Hashi, I was in the garden, and heard your guards plotting  
What they said was so bad, it was like an apple that was rotten.  
Hashi's life was spared. The guards' bodies were thrown in the gutter.  
Mordi was a hero, Hashi loved him like a brother.

While this was goin on, Hashi's eating filet mignon  
Vashti and her girls, they going to the salon.  
Ring. Ring. Vashti's phone was going off.  
It was Hashi on the other end, inviting her to show off.

She declined the invitation. Said it would hurt her reputation.

Hashi could not believe it... His invite being spurned....

This would not look good to the people in his realm.

So he had her killed. Vashti was no more.  
But a King without a Queen is as good as being Poor.  
All the Beauties in the land, were vying for the role,  
No matter what it took, even dancing on a pole.  
Esther was a young Jew, a niece of Mordechai,  
He pushed her to the palace, and she caught the king's eye.  
She became royalty... they call her Queen Esther,  
No longer a joke, no longer a jester.

One day, Mordi said to Esther... Ya gotta choose....

Stay idle in the kingdom or protect the Jews.  
Haman's got nothing but murder in his head...  
I saw the gun in his room and he's fillin it with lead.  
Esther looked focused like she was reading a file...  
Hashi hasn't summoned me in quite a while.....  
But Mordi said, yeah... you cannot wait...  
You better go now, or I'm afraid for our fate.  
After 3 days of fasting, and 3 days of prayer,  
Esther goes to the king, and says....Listen, I swear  
Someone's trying to kill me and Mordechai,  
What I'm tryin to tell you is, I wear a "Chai..."  
The King realized what she was tryin to say.....  
So, he said to Haman, This plot stops TODAY!  
The Jews were spared... But Haman can't say the same...  
That's why on Purim we drown out his Name!!!

**by Anonymous**

## Accounting

By Kimberly Stahl, Financial Administrator



I want to thank the congregation of Jericho Jewish Center for the opportunity to work with you in the financial office because it has been a lifelong dream to work within the Jewish community.

When I was 13, my parents took me to Israel for my Bat Mitzvah and I fell completely in love. In high school, I joined a youth group and took several summer tours to Israel as a Counselor in Training. After High School, I moved to Kibbutz Magal and lived in Israel for 5 years including time spent serving in the Israeli army for 18 months. While in the service, I moved to Jerusalem but eventually I came home to America because I missed my family, but I will always consider Jerusalem my home.

I am happily married to my Beshert, and for the past 5 years we have been raising my beautiful 13-year-old daughter. We joyfully celebrated her Bat Mitzvah last year and I look forward to taking her to Israel in the near future.

I have been a CPA for over 19 years, and for me accounting is more than just a job, it is my life's journey. While growing up I did not know what I wanted to do but because my father was a CPA, I promised myself I would never be an accountant. Little did I know that after one accounting class at Turo College in Jerusalem, I would fall in love with the field and make it my career. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from SUNY Old Westbury and a Master's in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University.

In my short time here in the JJC I have greatly appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality of Rabbi Matt, the office staff, our volunteers and congregants. I look forward to a long and happy relationship moving forward. Please feel free to come into the office to say hi or with any questions you may have.





## Jericho Jewish Center Purim Calendar 2020

- ❖ Torah Study (The book of Esther) and breakfast with Rabbi Matthew Abelson, Wednesdays, 8:30-9:30 am.
- ❖ Purim Palooza, Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.
- ❖ Packaging of Mishloach Manot, Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.
- ❖ Fast of Esther, Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:49 am; Ends at 7:23 pm
- ❖ Megillat Esther reading, Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, followed by Ice cream, cookies, and hamentashen!
- ❖ Purim day, Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Shachrit at 7:15 am followed by Megillah reading at 7:45 am.

We look forward to celebrating Purim with you at the JJC!



Purim, a lesser Jewish festival held in spring (on the 14th or 15th day of Adar) to commemorate the defeat of Haman's plot to massacre the Jews as recorded in the book of Esther.

Purim literally means "lots" (and is sometimes known as the Feast of Lots,) is the Jewish holiday in which Jews commemorate being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian Empire. Haman casts lots (hence the name of the holiday) to determine the date he would carry out his plan: the 13th of Adar.

# Purim Costume Suggestions



## Jewish - Holidays - Purim

a	c	i	t	w	e	l	n	i	n	k	l
i	c	a	t	i	s	i	o	o	g	g	i
a	e	r	c	w	e	u	i	e	a	e	k
t	e	h	o	e	n	w	s	k	f	i	e
e	s	s	s	w	q	u	e	e	n	g	e
c	h	r	t	o	n	s	m	g	g	a	j
l	n	l	u	o	t	r	a	s	e	l	e
o	p	l	m	h	w	n	k	e	w	l	p
e	i	o	e	o	a	j	e	w	a	o	a
e	r	r	k	t	l	f	r	m	k	w	r
u	q	c	c	c	o	l	s	f	a	s	t
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fast  
hamentosh  
esther  
party  
scroll  
costume  
jew  
gallows  
noisemakers  
queen  
crown  
king

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