

Celebrating Purim during this War – I had the privilege to discuss this issue with many rabbanim, including the poskim Rav Asher Weiss, Rav Hershel Schachter, Rav Mordechai Willig and Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon. The following is a distillation of their recommendations, with some particular comments attributed. Please feel free to contact me – or, of course, them – for their specific thoughts:

- Purim must be celebrated be-simchah – *bechol shanah ve-shanah*. Part of Haman's goal – and that of Hamas today – is to erase our unique nature and our Yomim Tovim. (See Megillah 13b and Targum Sheini to Esther 3:8). We must celebrate with the appropriate joy and thanks to Hashem for saving us bayamim haheim and bizman hazaeh.
- That being said, the "over the top" celebration – which often includes heavy drinking, extensive costumes (for adults), silliness, and the like is not appropriate. It may *never* be appropriate – but certainly not this year. Appropriate simcha (dancing, singing) should not lead to hollelut. Safek – lehachmir when it comes to these issues as Purim should be celebrated, but something should feel different. Each Rav needs to translate this to his community as appropriate. Rav Willig felt that this would not apply to those beneath the age of Bat/ Bar Mitzvah who so look forward to the costumes and simcha of Purim.
- Throughout Purim – at the tefillot, before megillah reading, and *even at the seudah*. We should be thinking of, and davening for, acheinu bnei Yisrael. This includes Mi she-beirach tefillot for Israel and the chayalim and the recitation of Tehillim. (Rav Rimon)
- *Knos et HaYehudim - Taanit Esther should be emphasized this year as a yom tefillah and teshuvah. Everything should be done next Thursday to remind the kehllah of the real sense of urgency facing our people and power of teshuva, tefillah and tzedakah, to avert gezeirot.* (R. Schachter)
- In the spirit of "yachad nenatzeach," and the power of knisat haYehudim, congregants should be urged to give mishloach manot to individuals outside of their usual circles. (Rav Rimon)

Chomer Lidrush for Purim – Thanks to Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter for giving me permission to share my presentation at the recent RIETS Yarchei Kallah in Boca Raton with the larger RCA group. I presented several topics for derashos and shiurim for this Purim, with a focus on Antisemitism. The recording can be found [here](#) and the source materials can be found [here](#). Feel free, as with all personal materials that I will share, to present without attribution. (Unless you are in Oceanside, NY this Shabbos, where I will be presenting some of these ideas with my chaver, R. Jonathan Muskat).

Opportunities to give in Eretz Yisrael for Purim- From the RCA Listserv

R. Judah Kerbel - I was in touch with Rabbi David Fine yesterday. He thinks Matanot L'evyonim are more urgent than shalach manot at this juncture. His organization Barkai is facilitating that. Click [here](#) for more information. I also recommend [Lema'an Achai](#) or the [Global Jewish Assistance and Relief Network](#)

R. Etan Tokayer – (for Mishloach Manot) – [Connections Israel](#). [Yishai Gelb](#) is our contact there.