

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



March 8, 2025

Tetzaveh — Parshat Zachor — Purim

8 Adar, 5785

Give the Gift of Love

“Five a day” isn’t only a catch-phrase we should keep in mind when planning what we’ll eat daily. It’s also a way to remember how many extra mitzvot (commandments) we have a chance to perform on Purim, this year beginning Thursday, March 13th in the evening and ending on Friday, March 14th at nightfall.

The “five a day” for Purim are: hearing the Megila (Scroll of Esther), adding the special Al HaNisim to our prayers, giving extra charity to the poor, eating a festive meal and sending shalach manot - gifts of food - to friends.

Shalach manot need only contain a basic minimum of two edible foods. But, the world-over, people have been putting together much more elaborate Purim gifts. From super-fancy and exquisite, to trendy or “theme” Shalach Manot, they often contain hamantashen (filled with prune, poppy seed, apricot or strawberry), cookies and pastries, wines, liqueurs, chocolates, fruit baskets or deli platters. The more the merrier.

Shalach Manot may be presented in virtually anything from A to Z. They are Available in A wide Assortment of Average, Abstract, or Awkward Arrangements: Alcoa Aluminum, Archaeological Artifacts, Acrylic Ashtrays, Artificial Alligator Attache Briefcases, Banana Boxes, Brown Bags, Bowls, Breadbaskets, Baby Bottles, Bigger Bushels or Barrels, Beverage Cans, Crates, “C-thru” or Colored Cellophane, Cereal Containers, Crockpots, Crystal or China Cups, Cornucopias.

Limited space does not permit us to continue this alphabetical listing, so we leave the rest to your imagination.

But instead of getting all wrapped up in what’s superficial, let’s focus on what’s really supposed to go inside the shalach manot, in addition to the goodies.

After all, shalach manot isn’t a care package - the recipients can certainly afford to buy their own fruits and hamantashen. Sadly, the most important shalach manot ingredient is becoming a rare commodity, and it isn’t available at the store like all other Purim stuffers.

The most important shalach manot ingredient is love. Real Genuine Love, not the mushy greeting-card kind of love, or the selfish gratification “love” that they make nowadays.

“Love your fellow as yourself” is always the basis of the Torah. But Purim is when we best express the unconditional love that bonds us together. It is our best response to Haman’s divisive accusations.

Unfortunately, Haman & Co. are only part of the problem. We become our own worst enemies when we discriminate between one Jew and another, when we label or stereotype Jews by association with this or that synagogue, or lack of affiliation.

Did you know that not all Jews think alike? We have our differences. In fact, two Jews have three opinions. But a Jew is a Jew regardless of affiliation or background. True love is blind to external differences, for so much more unites us than divides us. Deep down, we are one and the same. Love is what makes shalach manot go around!

(by Rabbi Israel Rubin from <http://www.chabad.org/>)

What is Purim? Some Background for the Curious

When we think of the ancient world we think of civilizations like the Egyptians, Persians, Babylonians, Greeks and Romans. We think of cities like Antioch, Alexandria, Babylon and Rome; of rivers like the Nile, the Tigris and the Euphrates; and of rulers like Ramses, Hammurabi, Xerxes and Alexander. The truth be known, for many of us this jumble of names is a historical stew of people and places that has little, if any, meaning. At the same time, for Jews of another epoch, Jews who were Jews just like we are, these names and places were as real to them as Warsaw, Berlin and Stalin were to our great-grandparents, and as alive as Chicago, Miami and Saddam Hussein are to us.

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The story of Purim is set in an era that saw the Jewish people sovereign in the land of Israel. That same period was witness to the end of their sovereignty, and the destruction of the First Temple at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. And the immediate events that surround Purim are the defeat of those same Babylonians at the hands of the ascendant power from Media and Persia. The defeat of the Babylonians brought the Jews under the rule of Darius the Mede, Cyrus the Persian, and eventually Achashverosh, ruler of the vast Persian Empire, and co-star of the Book of Esther.

A Thousand Years in Three Pages (Or Your Money Back)

The following chronology, followed by a brief historical overview, will provide a working knowledge of the major events that precede and surround the story of Purim. Far from exhaustive, this section is meant only to provide general historical context in the place of general historical fuzziness.


Event	Jewish Date	Julian Date
Abraham and Sarah	2080	1671 bce
Egyptian slavery begins	2332	1428 bce
Exodus and Torah at Mt. Sinai	2448	1312 bce
Jewish People enter Israel	2488	1272 bce
First Temple built	2935	825 bce
First Temple destroyed and Babylonian exile begins	3338	422 bce
Purim events	3405	355 bce
Second Temple built	3408	352 bce
Miracle of Chanukah	3622	139 bce

(by Rabbi Yehudah Prero from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

<p>Mr. Yonatan and Mrs. Dina Chaya Datsenko are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat in honor of their daughter, Yakira's. Bat Mitzvah.</p> 
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Yahrzeits This Week:			
Rochelle Rubin	13 Adar - Wednesday night / Thursday	for father	Chaim Dovid ben Yaakov

SHUL DIRECTORY	
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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE	
<p>Friday, 3/7 — 7 Adar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 5:47 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.</p> <p>Shabbat, 3/8 — 8 Adar Shacharit — 9:00 a.m. Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:21 a.m. Minchah — 5:35 p.m. Shiur — after Minchah Shkiah — 6:07 p.m. Ma'ariv — 6:49 p.m.</p>  <p>Sunday, 3/9 — 9 Adar Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. <i>Eastern Daylight Time</i> Minchah / Maariv — 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>Monday, 3/10 — 10 Adar Shacharit — 6:50 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p>	<p>Tuesday, 3/11 — 11 Adar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, 3/12 — 12 Adar Shacharit — 7:00 a.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m. Tanya Shiur: 2nd part of Tanya Shaar HaYichud V'Emunah which deals w/the nature of creation and the unity of Hashem — 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday — Tannis Esther, 3/13 — 13 Adar Fast Begins — 5:57 a.m. Shacharit / Slichot — 6:30 a.m. Minchah — 6:40 p.m. Fast Ends — 7:39 p.m. Ma'ariv and Megillah — 7:55 p.m.</p> <p>Friday — Purim, 3/14 — 14 Adar Shacharit — 6:15 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Megilla - 6:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Shabbat Candles — 6:54 p.m. Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.</p>