

Congregation Beth Am

TNT Mitzvah Project: The Four Mitzvot of Purim

Our Sages teach us *Mishenihnas Adar, marbim bisimha/* he that enters Adar, their joy increases. During the month of Adar we prepare ourselves to celebrate the holiday of Purim. There are four mitzvot, Jewish commandments that apply to the holiday of Purim.

1. **Hear the Megillah reading of the Book of Esther** – The Megillah is read twice on Purim, once at night and once during the day. In order to properly fulfill the mitzvah of Megillah, it is necessary to hear every word during the reading. For this reason it is imperative that people not talk to each other during the Megillah reading.
2. **Mishloach Manot/Shalah Manos - Sending Gifts** – Every Jew is obligated to give at least one *Mishloach Manot* gift containing at least two different types of ready-to-eat food items.
3. **Matanot La'evyonim - Gifts to the Poor** – Giving to the poor is a mitzvah all year round. However, the mitzvah to do so on Purim is in addition to the general mitzvah of *tzedakah* (charity). To properly fulfill the mitzvah of *Matanot La'evyonim* one must give to two poor individuals. Although one may fulfill this mitzvah by giving a very minimal amount of money to each person, the sages noted that the highest form of fulfilling this mitzvah is by giving enough money for a meal, or the equivalent in food. This mitzvah may be fulfilled by donating beforehand to an organization that will distribute the money or food on Purim day.
4. **Seudah - Festive Meal** – One is obligated to partake in a festive meal on Purim day.

This project will focus on Mitzvot related to the Four Mitzvot of Purim

Please have your mitzvah done prior to next event.

Remember for each mitzvah take a picture, and write a one paragraph summary!

This month's TNT is to choose a mitzvah project that will enable you to celebrate Purim and appreciate Adar in the way you will find the most meaningful. Remember for each mitzvah take a picture, and write a one paragraph summary! Please bring your project to our next TNT.

1. If you have already had your Bar/Bat Mitzvah and you would like to read the Megillah, contact Rabbi Earne and he will make you a recording of a couple of verses from the megillah that you can read at the Family Megillah Reading (Please check www.betham.com website for date and time). Rabbi Earne can be reached at rabbie@betham.com or ask him in person if you are interested. Please be aware that the Megillah has no vowels and is read in a different melody.

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2. To fulfill the mitzvah of *MATANOT LAEVYONIM*, you can make a food donation to the Jewish Family Services **Hand Up Food Pantry**. These are food packages that will help our Russian/Jewish community.
3. Another way we celebrate Purim at Beth Am is by having a super Purim Carnival! Each year, Congregation Beth Am and the Jewish Learning Center puts on a fabulous Purim Palooza (please check www.betham.com website for date and time). In order for our Purim Palooza to be successful we need lots of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the carnival contact the JLC Director or let her know at the Beth Am office. Volunteering requires a minimum of a one and a half hour commitment between 11 and 2pm on this day.
4. Volunteer to help assemble Mishloah Manot! Mishloah Manot are baskets that we put together to give to our friends and family. Each year our Youth Director along with our Youth Department assembles over 500 baskets. If you would like to help, please contact the Youth Director at youth@betham.com