



BARON HIRSCH CONGREGATION

PURIM GUIDE

5784

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Purim Guide 5784, prepared to assist members celebrating Purim and the festive days that surround this holiday. It is my intent to provide you with any information you need to celebrate Purim with Baron Hirsch in the hopes that the Jewish people around the world experience the great favor and love of Hashem that the Jews of Persia experienced then.

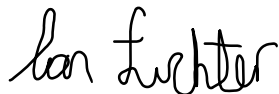
This Purim looks like it will be celebrated still amid the crisis and war in Israel. Our hearts and minds continue to be with the hostages who we pledge to remember every day as we pray for their safe return. The heroic soldiers of the IDF continue to inspire us and we are grateful for their fortitude in the face of evil. May Hashem bring salvation to Am Yisrael and may our commitment to our faith instill an unconquerable spiritual and physical strength within our nation.

Although this heaviness remains, I want to encourage us to continue to celebrate Purim with all its joy. Costumes are still appropriate as well as all the Purim parties that people host. We should include Divrei Torah dedicated to Eretz Yisrael and its people at such gatherings and inform each other of the miraculous stories that Hashem provides every day on behalf of the Jewish nation. We can make this Purim a meaningful one for us in Memphis and an impactful one for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

This year Purim is celebrated on Saturday night and Sunday, March 23-24. Check the schedule for the times of Megillah readings throughout Purim and join us for the Palooza on Saturday night as well as the communal Seudah on Sunday.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about hearing Megillah or fulfilling the other mitzvot of the day, please feel free to call (516) 859-5123 or email me at rabbi@baronhirsch.org.

On behalf of my family, I wish the community a Purim Sameach!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Lichter'.

Rabbi Ian Lichter

ויהי בימי...ותען אסתר...לכל זרעו

“And it was in the days...so Esther answered...all his posterity” (*Esther* 1:1, 5:7, 10:3)

QUESTION: The *Megillah* contains a total of 167 verses. The middle verse is the one beginning “*Vata’an Esther* – and Esther answered” (5:7). Thus, at the beginning, end, and midpoint of the *Megillah* is a *vav*. What is the significance of this?

ANSWER: The letter “*v*” (*vav*) can be spelled fully in three ways:

- 1) “*ו*או”, which has the numerical value of 13, the same numerical value as that of the word אחד - one. Thus, the letter *vav* represents Hashem, who is truly the only One.
- 2) “*ו*יו”, which has the numerical value of 22 and thus represents the Torah, which is written with the 22 letters of the *aleph-beit*.
- 3) “*ו*”, having the numerical value of 12, and thus represents the Jewish people, who consist of 12 tribes. (Vedebarta Bam)

בשושן הבירה

“In Shushan, the capital...” (*Esther* 1:2)

QUESTION: In the *Megillah* we find the expression “*Shushan Habirah*” – “*Shushan* the Capital” – ten times, and nine times “*Ha’ir Shushan*” – “The City of *Shushan*” – or just plain “*Shushan*.” Obviously, this is intentional. Why the distinction?

ANSWER: *Shushan Habirah* was the capital of *Achashveirosh’s* kingdom. Near it, was a suburb known also as “*Shushan*”. The two cities were separated by the Ulai River (see *Daniel* 8:2). It was forbidden for Jews to live in the capital city, but they were permitted to live in the city of *Shushan*. Therefore, when the *Megillah* speaks about *Achashveirosh* or the issuing of decrees, *Shushan Habirah* – *Shushan* the Capital – is mentioned. Whenever the *Megillah* speaks about the Jewish people, *Ha’ir Shushan* – the city of *Shushan* is mentioned. (Vedebarta Bam)

ויתלו את המן על העץ

“And they hung Haman on the gallows...” (*Esther* 7:10)

How long was *Haman* in power? *Haman* was in power for a total of seventy days. It is interesting to note that from the verse “*After these days the King promoted Haman*” (3:1) till “*They hung Haman on the gallows*” (7:10) there are a total of seventy *psukim*. The word “*ha’eitz*” – the gallows – has the numerical value of 165, which alludes to the name *Haman*, numerical value of 95, plus the seventy days of his reign.

The Jew suffered from *Haman* for seventy days as punishment for attending *Achashveirosh’s* feast, at which they drank from the “royal wine which was in abundance” (1:7). The word “*yayin*” – wine – has the numerical value of seventy. *Esther* rectified this through inviting *Achashveirosh* and *Haman* to the *mishteh yayin* – wine feast (7:2) and thus one is obligated on *Purim* to achieve a joyful state through drinking wine (see *Megillah* 7b, *Rashi*).

(*Orah V’Simcha*)

SCHEDULE FOR PURIM

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 – TA'ANIT ESTHER

Fast Begins: 5:45 am

Shacharit: 6:15/7:20 am

Mincha/Maariv: 6:50 pm

Fast Concludes: 7:44 pm

SHABBAT, MARCH 23 – ERUV PURIM/PARSHAT ZACHOR

Shacharit: 7:50/9:00 am

Afternoon Shiur: 6:00 pm

Mincha: 6:45 pm (Cooper Chapel)

Seudah Shlishit: 7:05 pm

Insights to Megillat Esther: 7:45 - 8:15 pm (Belz Sanctuary)

Shabbat Ends: 7:56 pm

****We are giving people time after Shabbat ends to change into costumes and drive to Baron Hirsch for Megillah reading. Please say hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol after Shabbat before changing into costumes and coming to shul.*

It is preferable to first read the Megillah before making Havdalah over a cup of wine.

Maariv followed by Megillah Reading: 8:15 pm (Belz Sanctuary)

Purim Palooza: Following Megillah Reading ~ 9:15 pm

Late Megillah Reading: 10:00 pm (Cooper Chapel)

****Pick up Mishloach Manot for deliveries the next day: 9:30-10:00 pm*

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – PURIM DAY

Shacharit w/ Megillah: 7:30 am (Cooper Chapel)

Shacharit w/ Megillah: 9:00 am (Belz Sanctuary)

Women's Megillah Reading: 10:00 am (Cooper Chapel)

****Pick up Mishloach Manot for deliveries: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm*

Purim Carnival at the Jewish Home: 11:00-12:00 am

Late Megillah Reading: 4:00 pm (Cooper Chapel)

Mincha: 4:45 pm (Cooper Chapel)

Community Purim Seudah: 5:00 pm

Maariv: 7:00 pm (Cooper Chapel)

GUIDELINES FOR THE MITZVOT OF PURIM

PARSHAT ZACHOR

The Torah (Devarim 25:17) writes that there is an obligation to remember what Amalek did to us on our way out of Egypt. The Shulchan Aruch rules it is a biblical obligation. We fulfill this mitzva annually on the Shabbat before Purim because Haman descended from Agag, the last king of Amalek. The accepted ruling is that one should hear Parshat Zachor read from a Sefer Torah during the Kriat haTorah.

The Sefer HaChinuch rules that women are not obligated to read Parshat Zachor because they do not wage war, and this obligation relates to the obligation to wage war against Amalek. The Minchat Chinuch raises two objections to this. Firstly, it seems that women should be obligated in remembering Amalek because they indeed do go to war in a milchemet mitzva, an obligatory war, such as wars against Amalek. Secondly, the mitzvah of remembering is listed as a separate mitzvah from erasing Amalek. Most authorities rule that women are not obligated. Women should, however, make an effort to hear Parshat Zachor.

Shabbat Zachor this year is Shabbat, March 23 and we hope to see everyone in shul.

THE FAST OF ESTHER

Each year on the day before Purim we observe the Fast of Esther. Due to Purim falling out on a Sunday, the Fast of Esther is moved up to Thursday. The fast commemorates the fact that it was the 13th day of Adar, the day before the battles against Haman and his supporters, and that the Jews fasted and prayed for success. Ta'anit Esther is Thursday, March 21. The fast begins this year at 5:45 am and concludes at 7:44 pm.

THE HALF SHEKEL

Beginning with mincha on Taanit Esther (and through Purim morning) it is customary to give charitable contributions as a symbolic remembrance of the money that was collected from each Jew for the Beit HaMikdash. That money is given in the form of a half dollar in commemoration of the half shekel collected during Temple times. Since the word "terumah" is mentioned three times in connection with this donation, our minhag is to give three half dollars. These coins will be available for you, to be exchanged for a contribution of an amount that you feel appropriate. The money which we will collect will be distributed to worthy causes.

GUIDELINES FOR THE MITZVOT OF PURIM

MIKRAH MEGILLAH - THE READING OF THE MEGILLAH

The Megillah, which describes the Purim story, is read twice on Purim. The first reading occurs at night after the stars are visible and the second reading during the day. It is obligatory upon all men and women above Bar and Bat Mitzvah age to hear the reading of the Megillah at both of these times. Accordingly, there are several readings to accommodate everyone. It is our custom that one person serves as the reader of the Megillah, and all others in the congregation fulfill their obligation through him. Therefore, it is essential for every word of the Megillah to be properly heard by those listening to the reading. It is for that reason that idle conversation is not permitted during the reading of the Megillah, and an atmosphere of quiet attentiveness is encouraged.

The reading of the Megillah at night is preceded by three blessings. Both the reader and the congregation stand for the recitation of those blessings. However, the congregation is seated for the actual reading of the Megillah. These same blessings are recited before the reading of the Megillah during the day. When listening to the third blessing during the day, the blessing of shehechyanu, we keep in mind that the blessing should apply to the other mitzvot appropriate for the day of Purim as well. Although the custom is to make noise during the time when Haman's name is read, the commotion should be restrained so that everyone has a chance to hear every word of the Megillah.

MISHLOACH MANOT - THE SENDING OF GIFTS

During the day of Purim, every Jew is obligated to send to at least one friend two varieties of food needing no further preparation. There are many who practice this custom through the use of a messenger who delivers their packages and thus meticulously fulfills the mitzvah of "sending" rather than just giving. The sending of such packages is a wonderful way in which to celebrate the happiness and joy of Purim together with others in the community. Baron Hirsch has a beautiful Mishloach Manot project that we hope you will participate in. Not only does it help facilitate the fulfillment of the mitzvah, but it also is a nice fundraiser for the shul. Although a mourner is obligated to send these packages in fulfillment of the mitzvah, it is inappropriate to send to a mourner. The package may be sent to other members of the mourner's family though.

MATANOT LA'EYONIM – GIFTS TO THE POOR

On Purim day every Jew is obligated to give a charitable contribution to at least two poor people. Such contributions should be in accordance with our ability to give. If there are no poor people available on Purim day, the money should be set aside and specifically designated to be given to poor people as soon as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR THE MITZVOT OF PURIM

I will ensure that Matanot La'evyonim reaches both local people in need as well as worthy charitable organizations. When you contribute, please include in the notes that it is for Matanot L'evyonim. You can fulfill the mitzvah of Matanot La'evyonim through giving to the rabbi's discretionary fund using the links below:

[BARON HIRSCH PAYPAL](#)

[BARON HIRSCH VENMO](#)

In addition to contributing Matanot La'evyonim this year, I also encourage you to continue supporting organizations that are helping Israeli families throughout the war. [Paamonim](#) is one such organization that is doing so much to aid families experiencing financial difficulty.

SEUDAT PURIM – THE PURIM MEAL

Customarily begun before sundown and continuing into the night following Purim there is an obligation to partake in a festive meal. Al HaNisim is included in Birkat HamaZon. Perhaps the best-known component of this obligation is to celebrate the holiday until the point is reached when one can no longer distinguish between "Blessed is Mordechai" and "Cursed is Haman". We are extraordinarily blessed to host a communal Seudah each year on Purim day. The Seudah begins at 5:00 pm and includes delicious food, great ruach and dancing and a special tribute to our chayalim and Israeli brethren for this year.

Rabbi Moshe Isserles writes that this can be fulfilled by drinking a bit more than what is usual and going to sleep. As a result of one being asleep, a person fails to distinguish between "Blessed is Mordechai" and "Cursed is Haman". I highly recommend this manner of fulfilling the mitzvah. Please note that even slight intoxication can lead to a neglecting of commandments and inappropriate behavior that can have adverse effects on our families and community. It goes without saying that the obligation of personal safety overrides all else and therefore it is prohibited to drink in honor of Purim if one will be driving afterwards.



BARON HIRSCH CONGREGATION

PURIM PALOOZA

FREE ENTRY
400 S. YATES ROAD

MAARIV/MEGILLAH READING - 8:15PM
FOLLOWED BY FOOD, MUSIC & GAMES

MARCH 24, 2024

SPONSORED
IN MEMORY OF DAVID & BELLE ROSENBERG
BY THE WEISS AND ROSENBERG FAMILIES
AND BY
EMILY & ALVIN STEINBERG

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
AT 5:00 PM

BARON HIRSCH CONGREGATION
400 SOUTH YATES ROAD



COMMUNITY PURIM SEUDAH

REGISTER ONLINE HERE BY MARCH 21
\$36/ADULT & TEEN \$15/CHILD > 3 FREE
ADVANCED RSVP FAMILY CAP/\$120

AT DOOR ON PURIM DAY
\$54/ADULT & TEEN \$25/CHILD > 3 FREE

- **AROUND THE WORLD BUFFET**
- **CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL**
- **LIVE MUSIC & DANCING**
- **FUN FOR EVERYONE**

SPONSORSHIPS:
\$425/TABLE FOR 10
\$100/CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

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