

# הקשר היהודי שלך

## Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

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### Purim's Meaning for Today's World

Purim is a joyous holiday where we celebrate victory over enemies. We eat, drink, sing, and are merry. We wear costumes, see a Purim *shpiel*, and give out baskets of food.

For basic holiday information, themes, traditions, celebrating, and food, check out these sites: [aish.com's Purim page](#) and [My Jewish Learning's Purim page](#). And for a long list of Purim resources, visit [Educational and Fun Resources for Purim](#).

There are four *mitzvot* to fulfill for the holiday of Purim. Do you know them? Check out [The Four Mitzvot of Purim](#) and the [Purim page at jkid philly](#) to see what you know.

For the kids, head over to [AlephBeta's Purim page](#). There also are two fun videos for kids at [jkidphilly](#). Take a Purim trivia quiz at [The Jewish Trivia Quiz](#) – be sure to select Purim for the topic!



For Purim *Divrei Torah*, go to [torah.org's Purim page](#). The [Orthodox Union's Purim page](#) also has commentary about the *Megillah*. More of this type of information, along with stories, plus some audio and video, is at [Chabad.org's Purim page](#).

Looking for something else? See the [Adar page at Jewish Heritage Online Magazine](#). For the techies out there, read the [Top 10 Tech Tips Learned from the Book of Esther by Rabbi Laura Baum](#).

Okay. So now that you can find information on Purim, is there more to this story?

- According to Rabbi Laura Geller: “At the end of the public reading of the story of Esther we say a blessing: ‘Blessed are you, G-d, who takes up our grievance, judges our claim, and avenges the wrongs against us. You bring retribution on our enemies and vengeance on our foes.’ This blessing reminds us, in very clear and direct terms that vengeance should never be in our hands, but only in the hands of G-d.” See [Blot Out the Memory – A Purim Reflection](#).
- Harriet Beecher Stowe and Elizabeth Cady Stanton agreed that Queen Vashti took a stand for women and exercised her power. See the articles [The Feminist History of the Jewish Holiday of Purim](#) and [Vashti & Esther: A Feminist Perspective](#).
- The Purim story is about relationships and courage. Queen Esther displayed courage when she approached the king. [Friends in High Places: The Jewish Story of Purim](#) illustrates these themes.
- Some of us are taking off our masks and revealing our hidden selves. Chaim Levin, Jewish LGBT activist, tells his story at [Taking off the Mask at Purim](#).
- The [American Jewish World Service site](#) has resources on the Social Justice connection to Purim.
- “When humans take the risk to act with virtue and courage, invisible forces conspire on the side of good. Those who use power to do evil will fall, tripped up by their own tortuous machinations.” See [Cast Your Lot with Goodness: A 2,300-Year-Old Lesson for Today](#) by Tamar Frankel, PhD.



See you at the Purim *shpiel*