

Making Purim Fun for Your Residents (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Hold a mask-making workshop. Use balloons and papier-mâché, paper plates, and brown bags. Gather together feathers, sequins, glitter, and glue. Let your residents make Queen Esther, the King, Haman, or Mordecai.

Stamp out the name of Haman. When we tell the story, we make noise to blot out Haman's name. Write Haman's name on the sole of your shoes to "stamp him out" as you read the story of Purim included in our newsletter.

Make a grogger. Synagogues use noisemakers to blot out Haman's name. Using paper plates or tin cans and dried beans, make and decorate your own grogger.

Have a party! On Purim we celebrate Jewish survival. So party! It's traditional to have a festive dinner and dress in costumes, so use any of the suggested activities to make the day special.

Silly Jingle

You may hear this rhyme:

Heint iz Purim

Morgen iz Oyse

Gib mir a pfennig

Und varf mir ah-royse!

Today is Purim
Tomorrow it's gone
So give me a penny
And send me along!

(Said by children
bringing goody baskets –
shahlach mahnehs –
to family and friends.)

Purim Music

There is no real Purim music that is traditional. Most of what you'll find on CDs is modern Israeli or American, and will not be familiar to your residents.

However, if you're having a Purim party or a carnival, all of your residents would probably enjoy some lively *Klezmer music*. Klezmer (a Yiddish word derived from the Hebrew for "instruments") is lively music that was played at weddings and other happy occasions. Usually it features a violin, clarinet, and a tambourine.

Go to Hatikvahmusic.com, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble and look at their Klezmer offerings. There are many good bands (e.g. Klezmatiks, Klezmer Conservatory Band, Andy Statman) that play lively music that everyone will love!

Chaplaincy Shorts:

I. Facilities with monthly programs:

Please notify us when a resident passes away!

We may try to go to a funeral or shiva (bereavement visit to a family). Also, it is jarring to get the news just before a program. With prep time, sometimes the Chaplaincy visitor can conduct a brief memorial service with residents.

II. We are Growing!

Chaplaincy Services is expanding to some independent-living facilities

Reminiscing about a Topsy-Turvy Holiday

Purim plays (called Purim-shpiels), carnivals, men dressing up as women and vice-versa—these are some of the memories your residents may have of this holiday.

They may have gone to a carnival where they tried to knock off Haman's head with a ball or guessed the number of candies in a jar. Maybe they won a goldfish.

When they were older, they might have gone to a Purim masquerade

ball. It was also a time when the rabbis allowed men to get drunk.

Sometimes the reading of the Megillah (the Book of Esther) may have been accompanied by silly songs or skits that poked fun at the synagogue, the rabbi, teachers, or community politics.

Purim has always been a time to be silly and turn the world upside-down!

Baking Hamantashen

Various reasons are given for eating these triangular pastries. Some say they are reminiscent of the tri-cornered hat worn by Haman and the other officers of the Persian court. In Hebrew, they are called *oznei Haman*—Haman's ears. Tradition holds that Haman had pointy ears—like Mr. Spock! They are filled with poppy seed, prune, apricot or other fillings. The actual origin of hamantashen may be a German pastry "*mun taschen*," or poppy seed pockets, which, in a play on words, became "humuntaschen" with the Yiddish pronunciation of hamantashen. **Whatever the origin, eat and enjoy!**

This recipe yields about 4 dozen cookies.

Dough

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1/3 cup margarine
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 4 cups flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 egg, beaten for glaze

Traditional fillings:

- Apricot or prune jam
- Poppy seed filling in a can

Non-traditional fillings:

- Other types of jam
- Chocolate chips or spread

- 1) Preheat oven to 350° F.
- 2) Blend sugar, oil, and margarine.
- 3) Add eggs and juice.
- 4) Add dry ingredients and roll into a ball.
- 5) Refrigerate for one hour.
- 6) Divide dough into four parts. Roll out each piece very thin (1/8 inch) on a floured board. With the rim of a glass or a cookie cutter, cut circles into the dough.
- 7) Place 1/2 to 2/3 teaspoon of filling in the middle of each circle.
- 8) To make into triangles: pull together right and left sides of each circle so that they meet in the center, leaving the bottom side down. Lift the bottom side up to meet the other two sides, forming a triangle. Seal the sides very lightly; they will easily open in the oven, revealing the filling.
- 9) (optional) Brush dough with beaten egg before baking.
- 10) Place on greased cookie sheets. Bake for approximately 20 minutes until light brown.

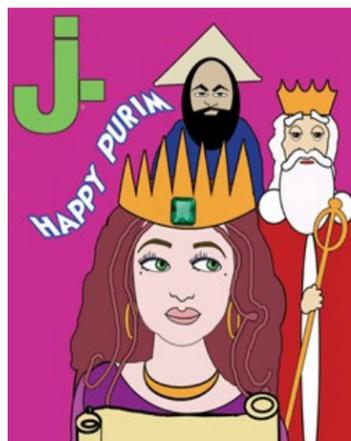


Please watch for our Jewish resident survey coming to your email box soon. We need your numbers and names so that we can deliver egg matzah for Passover, which begins at sundown on Monday, April 10.

Activities Directors:
*Are you new? Do we have your email address?
If not, send it to bmagidson@jewishfedny.org*



Happy Purim Chocolate





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Celebrate Purim: Sunday, March 12, 2017 (beginning Saturday evening)

Purim is a joyous and fun holiday filled with merriment. The celebration of Purim begins with the story in the Book of Esther, also called the Megillah (muh-GILL-ah).

The heroes of the story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia, and her cousin Mordecai, who raised her as an adopted daughter. Esther was taken to the harem of King Ahasuerus of Persia, and he chose her to be Queen. However, Mordecai told her to keep their Jewish identities a secret, which she did.

The villain of the story is Haman (HAY-men), an arrogant, egotistical advisor to the king. Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. Therefore, Haman plotted to destroy the Jewish people. In a speech that is all too familiar to Jews, Haman told the king, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all



Queen Esther

the provinces of your realm. Their laws are different from those of every other people's, and they do not observe the king's laws; therefore, it is not befitting the king to tolerate them." (Esther 3:8)

The king gave the fate of the Jewish people to Haman, to do with as he pleased. Haman then plotted to exterminate all of the Jews. Haman created a lottery to pick the execution date. *The word Purim refers to the "lots" Haman pulled in the lottery to decide the date of the extermination.*

Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people. This was a dangerous thing for Esther to do, because entering the king's court uninvited was punishable by death. Esther fasted for three days to prepare, then went to the king and was warmly welcomed.

Later, at a banquet, she told him of Haman's plot to kill her people. Haman was hanged on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai. The Jewish people were saved. Everyone celebrated the victory.

Upcoming Jewish Holidays 2017-2018

HOLIDAY	DATE
Purim	Sat. night March 11-Sun. March 12
Passover (8 days)	Mon. night April 10-Tues. April 18
Shavuot (2 days)	Tues. night May 30-Thurs. June 1
Rosh Hashanah (2 days)	Wed. night Sept. 20-Fri. Sept. 22
Yom Kippur	Fri. night Sept. 29-Sat. Sept. 30
Sukkot (7 days)	Wed. night Oct. 4-Wed. Oct. 11
Shmini Atzeret	Wed. night Oct. 11-Thurs. Oct. 12
Simhat Torah	Thurs. night Oct. 12-Fri. Oct. 13
Hanukkah (8 days)	Tues. night Dec. 12-Wed. Dec. 20
Tu B'Shevat	Sat. night Jan. 20-Sun. Jan. 21

Jewish Life Newsletter
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Making Purim Fun for Your Residents

Here are some fun ways to celebrate the holiday.

Read the Book of Esther. Read the whole book or the abbreviated version in this newsletter. Pass out groggers or other noisemakers and make noise whenever Haman's name is read.

Bake hamantashen. The recipe is in this newsletter. Your residents can share holiday memories as they shape the dough.

Make "shlach mahnehs" bags and give them out. Decorate paper bags or paper plates, and

bake hamantashen. Buy some candy, fruit, dried fruit, or nuts (use 2 types of food). Put in packages and deliver to every resident. Residents, volunteers, or even staff can deliver these tasty gifts.

Wear a costume to work. A few Queen Esthers, Mordecais, Hamans, or King Ahasueruses will liven up your facility. If you're delivering "shlach mahnehs" packages, it's especially fun to do it in costume. (to p. 2)

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