

Making Purim Fun for Your Residents (cont.)

(continued from pg. 1)
packages, it's especially fun to do it in costume.

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 (or see below for inexpensive groggers).

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 tambourine.

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

When You Have Sad News:

Facilities with monthly programs:

Please notify us when a resident passes away!

- *We may try to go to a funeral or shiva* (during the week after the funeral, when the family receives condolence callers.)
- Also, it is jarring to get the news just before a program. *With advanced notice, the Chaplaincy visitor might prepare and conduct a brief memorial service with residents.*

Reminiscing about a Topsy-Turvy Holiday

Purim plays (called Purim-shpiels), carnivals, men dressing up as women (and vice-versa) 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 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 *oznay 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

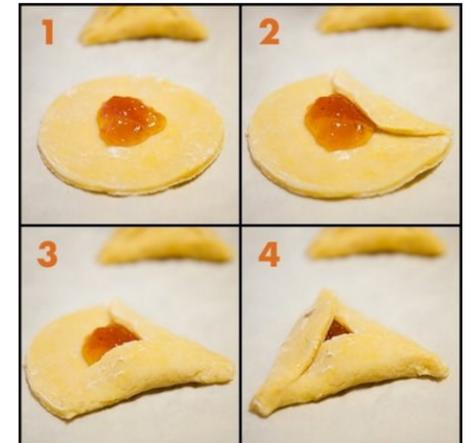
Traditional fillings:

- 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 thinly (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 to know
how many
Jewish residents
you have,
so that we can deliver
egg matzah
for *Passover*,
which begins
at *sundown on*
FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

**ARE YOU THE NEW
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR?
PLEASE SEND US YOUR
NAME, FACILITY, AND
EMAIL ADDRESS, SO
THAT WE CAN UPDATE
OUR RECORDS!!!**

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Purim Groggers



Chaplaincy Services of
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Upcoming Jewish Holidays 2019–2020	
HOLIDAY	DATE
Purim	Wed. night Mar. 20 – Thurs. Mar. 21
Passover (8 days)	Fri. night April 19 – Sat. April 27
Shavuot (2 days)	Sat. night June 8 – Mon. June 10
Rosh Hashanah (2 days)	Sun. night Sept. 29 – Tues. Oct. 1
Yom Kippur	Tues. night Oct. 8 – Wed. Oct. 9
Sukkot (7 days)	Sun. night Oct. 13 – Sun. Oct. 20
Shmini Atzeret	Sun. night Oct. 20 – Mon. Oct. 21
Simhat Torah	Mon. night Oct. 21 – Tues. Oct. 22
Hanukkah	Sun. night Dec. 22 – Mon. Dec. 30
Tu B'Shevat	Sun. night Feb. 9 – Mon. Feb. 10

Jewish Life Newsletter

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Chaplaincy Services of Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

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Celebrate Purim: Thursday, March 21, 2019 (beginning Wednesday evening)

Purim is a joyous and fun holiday filled with merriment. Like many other early spring holidays, it includes costumes and silliness. 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



Hamantashen

people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all 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 permission to Haman 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 and dressed in her royal finery. Then she 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.

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. Use funny voices. 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 two types of food). Use trinkets for those who can't have food. Put in packages and deliver to every resident. Residents, volunteers, or even staff may 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" (cont. pg. 2)

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