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B'nai Portland

Thoughts From Rabbi Laura



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Spring can't be far off! How do I know? Well, the days are getting longer, the temps are getting warmer, the snow is starting to melt, and the pot holes in the roads are getting bigger! I guess we have to learn to take the good with the bad. For me, the approach to Passover is as meaningful as the Seder itself. Even the prep for our Chocolate Seder places me in a reflective and purposeful mind. But before we can recline and celebrate our freedom from Pharaoh, we need to celebrate our victory over Haman. Our kids are learning about Purim, and the town of Shushan. This week, they will make Shelach Manot bags to share. Please ask them about the significance of these portions. I hope to make Hamantaschen and bring them to class as well. They are nut free.

Your child should have brought home raffle tickets and a prize sheet. PLEASE

help them to sell lots of tickets. It is our only fundraiser of the year and it is critical to us for programming and materials. There are lots of tickets, so if you need more, please let me know and I will make sure you get them. Please don't cut out the tickets, as then they are easy to lose. Just fill out what is requested, return with check or cash for the appropriate amount and I will take care of the rest.

Thank you for your continued support!

~ Rabbi Laura

Upcoming Shabbat Services

& Suggested Donations:

All Services begin at 6:30pm
at Lunt Auditorium in Falmouth

March 8th - Food Drive for April break
Please bring snack foods and
tooth brushes!

No Shabbat Services in April, but April 7th is
our Chocolate Seder and Passover
Fundraising Raffle - please join us!



Check out our new website at
www.bnaiportland.com

Thanks to Rich Brooks and **FLYTE
MEDIA** for their donation and help
creating our site!

Chocolate Seder!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR B'NAI PORTLAND'S ANNUAL CHOCOLATE SEDER.

WHEN: SUNDAY APRIL 7th 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Lunt Auditorium, 74 Lunt Rd Falmouth.

WHO: OPEN TO EVERYONE, BRING YOUR FRIENDS, RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS.

RSVP: by EMAIL BY APRIL 1st Firm!!

COST: Only \$5.00 per person, and it's FREE for B'nai Portland students.

We will also be calling our Fabulous Passover Fundraising Raffle!

Tickets will be on sale until right before we call the winners.

Want to see the prizes? Want to purchase tickets? [Open the PDF](#) to see what this is ALL about!

Kids and Adults - come and share the wonder and miracle of Passover, enjoy chocolate treats, and win amazing prizes in our raffle!



Raffle tickets prices are:

\$5.00 – 1
 \$20.00 – 5
 \$50.00 – 12
 \$100.00 – 25

Cash or Check
 (Bnai Portland)

Winners don't need to be present to win. Winners who aren't present will be notified by email or phone call.

***All tickets sold are eligible for all prizes.**

***Tickets are on sale now**

***Tickets sales will close right before the drawing.**

Some of the Fabulous Raffle Prizes from these Vendors - with more to come!

Simchas & Sorrows

We mourn the loss of the Honorable James Goodman, who passed on February 9, 2019, father of Joe Goodman and father in law of Hilary Goodman.

We mourn the loss of Arthur Goldberg, who passed on February 24, 2019, uncle to Lisa Friedlander.

***Zichron tzadik livracha
 May the memory of these
 righteous ones be for a blessing.***

Please let B'nai Portland know of any simchas or sorrows so we can share them with the Congregation.

- Bliss Hair Salon
- Funky Chunky
- Ember Mug
- Soakology
- Cheese Iron
- Benkay
- Cinemagic, Westbrook
- Chilton Furniture
- Mainly Tubs
- House of Lights
- Wilbur's Chocolate
- Evo Rock Gym
- UPS Store Northgate
- Bruno's Restaurant
- Dunkin' Maine
- Scarborough Family Chiropractic
- Sea Dogs

- Snowflower Baking
- Get Air
- Greener Postures
- Saigon Nails
- Hannaford
- Pet Life
- Centerpoint Martial Arts
- Rejuvenations Spa
- Falmouth Footlights
- First Impact NY
- Swiss Chocolates direct from Switzerland
- Wilbur's Chocolates
- Willa Wirth Silversmith
- Cookbooks by Lora Brody
- The Buxton Common

PURIM - March 21, 2019

The story of the joyous holiday of Purim might appear somber at first glance: It tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by Haman, an adviser to the Persian King Ahasuerus. However, Ahasuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther - who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom - is secretly a Jew.

Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as "Megillat Esther," or the Scroll of Esther.

There are several common practices on Purim:

- * We give gifts to poor people.
- * We read the megillah, the Purim story.
- * We eat a festive meal.
- * We give food gifts, called **mishloach manot**, or **shelach manot**, to our friends.
- * We eat hamantaschen, triangle-shaped cookies named for the villainous Haman.



Many people dress up in costume, following the theme of Purim as a holiday of disguise where nothing is quite as it seems. Some synagogues and communities hold plays and festivals specifically for the day. Traditionally, a noisemaker or gragger (*ra'ashan*) is sounded when Haman's name is said aloud during the megillah reading.



The Purim Story in a Nutshell

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination.

The story of Purim is told in the Biblical book of Esther. The heroes of the story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia, and her cousin Mordecai, who raised her as if she were his daughter. Esther was taken to the house of Ahasuerus, King of Persia, to become part of his harem, and he loved her more than his other women and made her queen. But the king did not know that Esther was a Jew, because Mordecai told her not to reveal her nationality.

The villain of the story is Haman, an arrogant, egotistical advisor to the king. Haman hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman, so 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 the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from those of every people; neither keep they the king's laws; therefore it does not profit the king to suffer them." Esther 3:8. The king gave the fate of the Jewish people to Haman, to do as he pleased to them. Haman planned to exterminate all of the Jews.

Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people. This was a dangerous thing for Esther to do, because anyone who came into the king's presence without being summoned could be put to death, and she had not been summoned. Esther fasted for three days to prepare herself, then went into the king. He welcomed her. Later, she told him of Haman's plot against her people. The Jewish people were saved, and Haman was hanged on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai.

Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March. The 14th of Adar is the day that Haman chose for the extermination of the Jews. In leap years, when there are two months of Adar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar, so it is always one month before Passover.

Hamentashen - Makes about three dozen

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 5 1/2 to 6 cups flour
- 1-2 small jars filling (apricot, prune or cherry preserves, poppy seed filling, etc.)

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix together eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla.
3. Add baking powder and flour.
4. Knead until smooth.
5. Roll out very thin (1/8 inch if you can) on a floured board.
6. Cut out circles with a drinking glass.
7. Put a dollop of filling in the center of each circle.
8. Fold in three sides over the filling to make a triangle with filling showing in the center.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes on a greased cookie sheet.

You can dip your finger in water and use it to gently moisten the rim of the dough circles before you fold them.

**Some Purim Inspired Mitzvah Opportunities:**

- Is your Queen Esther costume already picking up dust in your closet? Donate old costumes, clothing and accessories to a clothing drive or bring them to a clothing drop off.
- After Mordechai thwarted the plan to kill the king, Achashverosh wrote about Mordechai in his Royal Chronicles. By writing down the noble story, Achashverosh was able to reward and publicly recognize Mordechai for his good deed. Take the time to write a nice note to someone who has helped you achieve a goal or get through a tough time.
- God's name is not mentioned anywhere in the Purim story but it's clear that God's presence was there. Too often, we receive help from people who blend into the background and barely get recognition. Take the time to thank people who make an impact in your life every day like a parent, teacher, or bus driver.

Homemade Juice Box Groggers*Materials:*

- empty juice box container
- colorful paper
- dried beans, rice, seeds, or macaroni
- crayons, paints, stickers, etc.

Instructions:

Fill the empty juice box with dried beans or macaroni. Cover the top of the box with tape to keep the contents inside, and the outside of the box with colorful paper and decorate using crayons, paints, stickers - use your imagination! Then make some noise!

**Links to more Purim recipes and projects:**

<https://www.forkly.com/food/celebrate-purim-with-8-traditional-jewish-recipes/>

<http://www.aish.com/h/pur/p/>

<https://joyfuljewish.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/purim-puppets-from-wooden-spoons/>

<https://toriavey.com/home-garden/arts-crafts/purim-holiday-projects/>

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/361573/jewish/Coloring-Crafts.htm

<https://www.bimbam.com/purim-gragger/>

Area Events and Happenings

Mitzvah Team Donations Drive - we want your kids' stuff!

Looking for an opportunity to declutter your kids' space and share the joy of their toys with other kids? PJ Library and Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services want your kids' stuff! Donations of new or gently used SMALL toys (Legos, cars, puzzles ...), card games, books and art supplies (drawing and construction paper, pompoms, safety scissors, googly eyes ...) are needed for the creation of Vacation Week Activity Bags to be distributed through the KJFS food pantry. Donations accepted at the JCA by March 15th. No stuffed animals please. Join us on March 28th to help assemble the bags and enjoy a potluck dinner!

Paddington - Free Family Film

Sunday, March 10, 12:30-3:00

Jewish Community Alliance, 1342 Congress Street, Portland

Join us for pizza and kids' crafts and activities before a free screening of Paddington, a classic film featuring a young Peruvian bear who travels to London in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone at Paddington Station, he meets the kindly Brown family, who offer him a temporary haven.

This program is sponsored jointly by the Maine Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine <<https://www.facebook.com/mainejewish/>>, PJ Library Southern Maine

<<https://www.facebook.com/PJLibrarySouthernMaine/>> and Levey Day School

<<https://www.facebook.com/leveydayschool/>>. Tickets are free but advance registration is required. Tickets are available here: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4066024>

Mitzvah Team Giving Night

Thursday, March 28, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Jewish Community Alliance, 1342 Congress Street, Portland

What would you want and need for a vacation week at home with your family? Join PJ Library and Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services to assemble Vacation Week Activity bags to be distributed to Portland-area families through the KJFS Food Pantry. We will share a potluck dinner, decorate and assemble bags with snacks and activities, and talk about kindness and other ways of helping. Please bring a favorite dairy/vegetarian dish to share at our potluck dinner (no meat please). Donations of new or gently used books, small toys (no stuffed animals), puzzles, games and art supplies will be accepted at the JCA until March 15.

Purim All Over Portland

Purim All Over Portland is coming up on Wednesday, March 20th for an evening of Purim revelry for all to enjoy with 3 amazing ways to celebrate this awesome holiday.

Starting at 5:30 all over the city, all are welcome to any of the following parties- **Costumes Strongly Recommended:**

- **Malt and Megillah at Shaarey Tphiloh** - traditional reading with a keg of beer courtesy of Bow St Beverage
- **Raucous Reading and Purim Party at Maine Craft Distilling** - Starting with a reading of the Megillah and flowing into live music and dancing! Cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase all through the evening!
- **Traditional Hebrew Megillah Reading at Etz Chaim**