

קול בית-הספר

THE VOICE OF THE HEBREW
SCHOOL IN LEWISTON-
AUBURN

שני שנת

כ"ב

למנוח פורים האלה - אלו וצרכו
מחלק היהודים ...

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The Story of Purim

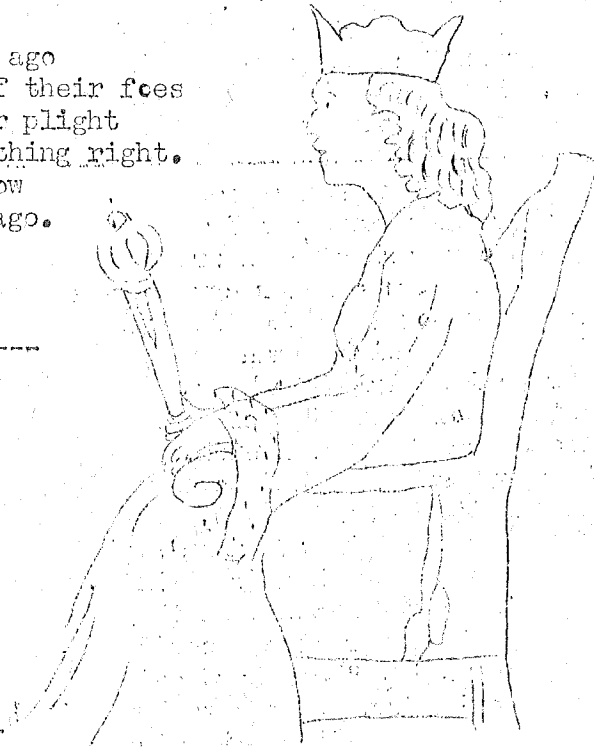
Once upon a time there was a girl named Esther. She lived with her cousin Mordecai. Her mother and father were dead. One day there was great noise in the streets. The servants of the King said "Every maiden must go to King Ahasuerus's Palace and there he will choose a wife". They placed her on a white horse and went away. The King fell in love with the girl called Esther and they got married. One day Mordecai saved the King's life. He heard two servants making a plot against the King. Mordecai told Esther. She told King Ahasuerus and the plot was stopped. The King had a Prime Minister whose name was Haman. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down to him, he was going to kill the Jews on the 13th day of Adar. Esther was very sad. Mordecai told her to ask the King for help. Now one could not enter the King's room unless he was called. She prayed for 3 days and dressed up in her clothing. She went to the King. He said, "Come in and let me feast my eyes on you". She went in and said, "I want to dine with you and I have something to ask you". They dined and Esther said "Let me dine with you tomorrow, and I will tell you what I want". That night the King could not go to sleep. He asked a servant to read him a story. The story told about a man saving the King's life. King Ahasuerus asked Haman what a good reward would be. Haman thinking the reward was for himself, said, "Let him dress up in the finest clothes and be led through the city". So Haman led Mordecai through the city. That night at the feast the Queen said, "Please do not let me die". Haman made a gallows to hang Mordecai and Haman got hung instead.

Roger Tatken
Grade 1

In Shushan

It was a night in Shushan a long time ago
Where the Jews were unhappy because of their foes
But Mordecai and Esther heard of their plight
and hurried to the King to make everything right.
Now we Jews today should certainly know
that Purim honors the brave of long ago.

Carla Marcus
Grade 1



The Festival of Purim

Purim is a happy time,
Every year at Purim time
the Megillah is read
to remind us of how Mordecai
and Queen Esther saved the
Jews from the wicked Haman

Heward Zack Grade 1

Purim Holiday

Purim is a happy holiday
As happy as can be
Every child loves Purim
Just as you and me

Purim comes but once a year,
We wish that it would stay
Sometimes we do say
Why must Purim go away

Jane Shalek Grade 2

Questions:

1. What does the Hebrew word Purim mean?
2. On what Hebrew date does the festival of Purim fall?
3. In what section of the Bible is the story of Purim recorded?
4. What does the Hebrew word "Megillah" mean?
5. By the way: How many Megilloth do we have in our Bible?
6. Name the main characters of "Megillah Esther".
7. How is the Purim Festival observed in the Synagogue?
8. What is a "Gregger" and when do we use it?
9. What does "Mishloach Manoth" mean?
10. What is the "Purim Seudah"?
11. What are "Haman-Tashen"?
12. What other "Purims" some Jewish communities do have besides the main Purim?
13. What does the word "Adloyada" mean, and where is the Adloyada celebrated?
14. Our Rabbis of the Talmud are quoted as saying: "Should all other festivals cease to be observed (In the days of Messiah), the Festival of Purim will never be annulled".
Why has Purim assumed such a special significance in our Jewish life?
15. What double lesson has the Purim episode taught the Jews?

"Queen Esther"

Esther was a maiden fair
 With long dark silky hair,
 And with Mordecai her cousin bold
 The Jews together she did hold
 Haman was a wicked man
 Mordecai he tried to hang,
 Esther told the King of this
 and he granted her a wish.
 A party Esther wished to have
 And invite Haman the bad,
 The King she told of Haman's plot
 And that he also had drawn lots.
 The King asked Haman when they met
 What wealth a great man could get,
 The King said, "Lead Mordecai"
 Then you'll hang on the gallows high!

Stephanie Wiener
 Grade 5

"Haman Tashen"

Purim Now and Then

Here, in brief, is the story of Purim.

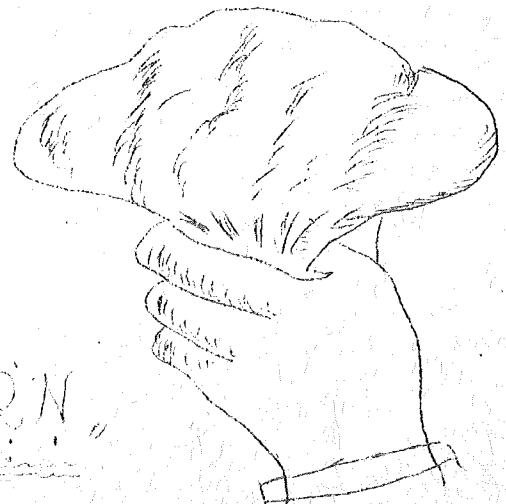
The king's royal messengers come galloping down the street. At every door they stop to read the royal announcement. "Vashti the king's wife has been hanged because she refused to show off before his friends. Vashti has been slain". The proclamation went on to say that the King Achashveras was looking for a new wife. But of course nobody was too over-anxious to wed him despite the rich rewards to be received because of the fate of Vashti. Esther, a beautiful Jewish girl, became the new queen of Persia, and never revealed that she was a Jewess until it was necessary to save her people from the gallows of the villain, Haman.

Of course the Jewish people of Persia were saved, Haman was destroyed, and all things turned out for the best. But there's still a lot more that you can do for Israel right now than just let out a sigh of relief and turn on the television--such as find a J.N.F. box and start filling it up--way up! Don't get me wrong now. I don't mean to rush right out and plant five or six forrests in Israel. I just mean that if thirty people would give just 5¢ mind you, a great big and valuable tree would spring up in Eretz Yisroel (Israel) And believe me--Israel needs that nickel a lot more than you do.

So next time you want that new electric blanket or air-conditioner, say this little verse to yourself:

It's good for you honey
 But Israel needs the money.

by Joel Goldberg Grade 3



The Story of Purim

Once upon a time there was a girl named Esther, and she lived with her cousin for her mother and father were dead. One day the king, Ahasueros, commanded all the unmarried maidens of the country to go to the palace, for the king was to choose his queen. Esther was chosen queen. Sometime after they were married Mordecai overheard a plot to kill the king, Ahasueros. Mordecai told Esther about the plot. Esther saved the king Ahasueros's life. The king thought Mordecai deserved a reward for saving his life. Now Haman was plotting to kill the Jews. He told the king that there were people in his land who did things differently than he did, and thought they should be hung. The king told him to do as he thought would be best. After much planning Haman finished the plot. Now Esther heard about the plans, and went to king Ahasueros asking him and Haman to a banquet, then she thought it would be best to wait, so she invited them to a feast and asked King Ahasueros to save her people. The king soon found out and Haman was hung on his own gallows the next day.

Susan Silverhart Grade 1

Many Kinds of Purim

When we celebrate Purim we hear only the famous story of Esther but there are many other Purim stories.

There is one story about a cruel governor in Egypt. Not only was he cruel to the Jews but also to his own people. One day he went to bathe as usual and was stabbed, not by a Jew but by one of his own people. All the people rejoiced and it was a Purim celebration for them.

In Israel the children get dressed up and go from house to house acting out the play of Purim. The children have a plate with food, fruit and candies covered with a cloth and when they knock on the door, the people in the house take something from the plate and put something else in. Sometimes they put money in the Blue Box, a gift for Israel. This is called Mishloach-Manoth.

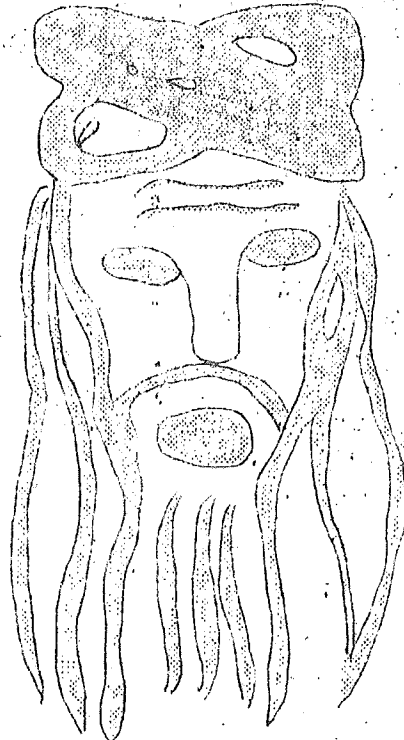
We must not forget about the way we celebrate Purim. We must not forget about all the people, Mordecai, the lovely Esther, King Ahasueros, and especially the wicked Haman. Queen Vashti, of course, played a part too. It all seems like a play although it isn't. It's only our own Jewish History.

Marta Miller Grade 2

Purim

Purim is a happy holiday for the Jews because they were saved from great trouble. Foolish Ahasueros listened to bad Haman when Haman wanted to destroy the Jews. The Lord sent Esther to help him save the Jewish people. When Ahasueros, the King held out his golden scepter to her, when she came before him, Esther knew all would be well with the Jews. And it was. That is why we celebrate Purim.

Judith Lown Grade 2



Answers to questions on page 3

1. "Lots"
2. The fourteenth day of Adar.
3. Megillath Esther - the Book of Esther.
4. A scroll of parchment.
5. Five.
 - a. Megillath Ruth (Is is read on Shovuos)
 - b. Megillath Eicho - Lamentations
(Read on Tisho-B'ov)

When Purim comes we're happy and gay
 Think about the story of this holiday
 Remember Esther so loyal and true
 and her cousin Mordecai, a pious Jew

Haman was a very wicked man
 He said he'd kill every Jew in the land
 But Esther told the king that,
 as a Jewess she would stay
 Together with her people, come what may.

When King Ahasueros heard her, he
 decreed
 That Haman would hang for his wicked
 deed.

So the Jews were saved on this holiday
 And Haman was hanged much to his
 dismay.

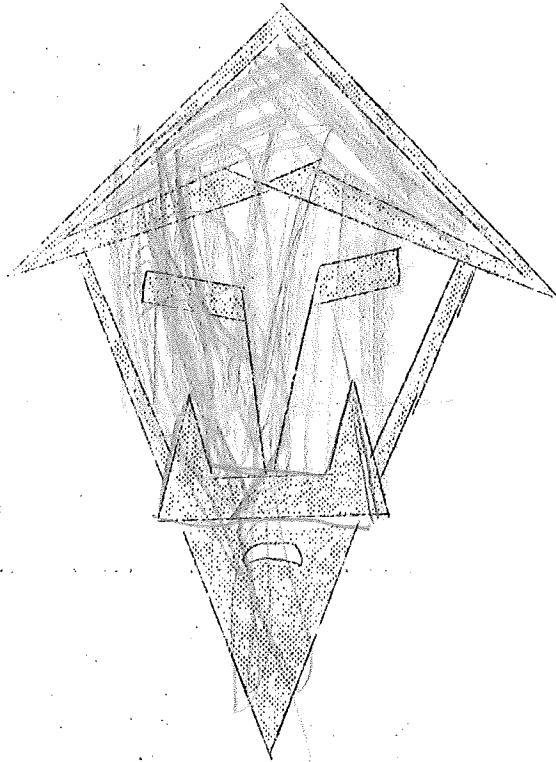
Queen Esther and King Ahasueros
 reigned long after
 And today on Purim there's song and
 laughter.

This story proves it's worthwhile
 to fight
 For Justice and honor and all things
 that are right.

By Susan Bean Grade 3

The Answers (continued)

- c. Kohleth-Ecclesiastes
 (Read on Succoth)
- d. Shir-Hashirim - Song of Songs
 (Read on Pesach)
- e. Megillah Esther
 (Read on Purim)
- 6. Esther, Mordecai, Ahasueros, Haman
 Vashti.
- 7. By reading the Megillah at the
 evening and morning services.
- 8. A noise maker. The children whirl
 the gregger during the reading of
 the Megillah, whenever Haman's
 name is mentioned.
- 9. Sending of gifts.
- 10. Purim Feast.
- 11. Special triangular shaped cake,
 filled with poppy seeds.
- 12. The "Cairo-Purim", The Jews of Cairo
 (Egypt) were saved from a cruel
 wicked Egyptian ruler, in Adar, 1514.
 "Vincenz-Purim", The Jews in Frank-
 fort were saved from a german Haman
 in Elul, 1614.
- 13. The name of the Purim carnival in
 Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- 14. Because the fate of Israel through-
 out the generations is symbolized in the
 story of Purim.
- 15. a. Not to place too great reliance
 (confidence) on the goodwill of the
 ruler of any land.
 b. Not to despair, when the situation
 appears to be extreme, dangerous
 and hopeless.



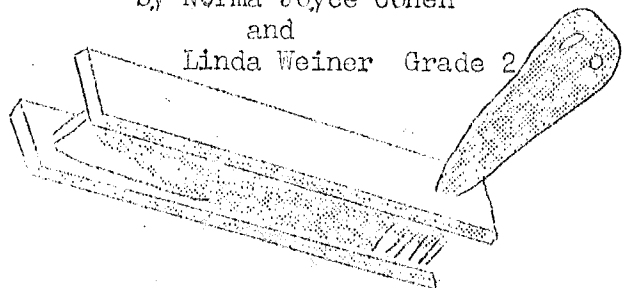
Purim Day

We all dress up on Purim Day
 All are happy, all are gay.
 This holiday comes but once a year,
 And everyone is filled with cheer,
 Homantashen we will soon eat
 And all the things for a good treat.

by Norma Joyce Cohen

and

Linda Weiner Grade 2



Hamantashen

Hamantashen Hamantashen,
 Yum Yum Yum,
 And in the oven there is such a hum
 And when it comes out
 We all seem to shout
 Happy Purim to all
 To big and to small;

by Bonnie Margolin Grade 2

What the Book of Esther means to a Jewess

Did you ever think what would have happened to the Jewish nation if it had not been for the bravery and courage of Esther? In our reading of Jewish history we have found that most of our heroes are men, but at this time God had planned for a woman to save our nation. And doesn't it feel good to say when Purim comes around, that a Jewess saved our nation, and maybe some day we could be as brave as she? There has always been a Haman in Jewish history. Many have wanted to wipe out our people, but God has always come to our rescue. Because of this we have become a mighty nation.

By Alison Smalley Grade 2

Lincoln, Washington and Esther

Lincoln, Washington, and Esther. To me those three names have a lot in common. Oh, yes, it's true that Esther lived in the days of ancient Persia, George Washington lived in colonial times, and Abe Lincoln lived in the days of the Civil War, but their actions, seem to point out a very similar way of thinking. What made Queen Esther dare to go before the king without being sent for? "Oh", you'll probably say, "I know the answer to that right off. She did it because she knew that Haman was going to hang the Jews and she wanted to save them".

But we can come back to that later.

Let's move onto George Washington. What force made George Washington stay with his troops all through that long and cold winter at Valley Forge? Especially when it would have been so simple for a rich General to desert his nation and escape to France—escape to France and escape King George's hangmen!

What about Abraham Lincoln? What prompted him to go in front of the public at Ford's Theatre on that fateful night right after he'd received at least eighty letters threatening his life?

I'm not an expert, but it doesn't take an expert to explain those three people. Esther risked her life to save the rest of her people even if it meant getting hung. Washington stayed at Valley Forge because he wanted the colonists to have freedom just as much as he wanted it himself. His bravery won him one of the greatest honors a man can have—being president of the United States of America. Let us get back to Lincoln. I'll tell you why he gave his life at Ford's Theatre. He wanted to please the Public. Thereby tying the North and the South together with a stronger rope.

All I can say is let's hope that modern Israel and modern America can turn out the kind of men and women that they did in their younger days.

by Joel Goldberg Grade 3

The Festival of Purim

Purim is a Jewish festival to honor the deliverance of the Jews from Haman, the minister of Ahasueros

Haman was a very wicked man who wanted to destroy the Jews.

Esther became the queen of King Ahasueros. Esther and Mordecai, her cousin, stopped Haman from destroying the Jews. Haman was discharged by the King and Mordecai succeeded him. Esther got permission from the King to destroy all those who attacked her people on the day Haman chose for the destruction. There was much joy among the Jews.

Every year to celebrate the deliverance of our people we offer prayers of thanks for Esther's loyalty to her people.

by Margery Gould Grade 1

Purim

Purim is a Jewish national holiday celebrated on the 14th day of Adar. It commemorates the story of Mordecai's triumph over Haman, and the part played by Esther in turning the 13th day of Adar, the day chosen by Haman for the destruction of the Jews, into a day followed by feasting. First we will read the Megillah (Scroll of Esther) in the Synagogue in the evening and

