



THE LAWS OF PURIM

SHABBAT PARASHAT ZACHOR, 8 ADAR, FEBRUARY 20TH

The Shabbat immediately preceding Purim is called Shabbat Zachor. It is very important that everyone comes to synagogue to hear the Torah reading of this special Maftir, since it is a fulfillment of a law found in the Torah. Please bear in mind that hearing Parashat Zachor is a fulfillment of this mitzvah. **Please remember to register to attend services in the synagogue.**

FAST OF ESTHER, 13 ADAR, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

This fast commemorates both when the Jews fasted at the behest of Queen Esther in response to the evil decree from the Persian empire and when the Jews fasted on the 13th of Adar in preparation for their defense against Haman's decree. There are leniencies for women who are pregnant, nursing or anyone not feeling well. If you have any questions about whether to fast, contact Rabbi Hassan.

MACHATZIT HASHEKEL

In remembrance of the half-shekel given by all males to the Beit Hamikdash in Adar. The machatzit hashekel is given in the synagogue after Mincha on the Fast of Esther or during Purim. This year, because of Covid we are asking you to do this online by donating to SBH online. **The recommended amount is \$6 per person.**

THE LAWS OF PURIM CONTINUED

READING THE MEGILLAH

Both men and women must hear the reading of the Megillah at night and day. It is customary to bring children to the synagogue to hear the Megillah. . Each word of the Megillah must be heard to fulfill the mitzvah of listening to the Megillah. **Please remember to register to attend services in the synagogue. If you are unable to attend services, you are exempt from this mitzvah.**

MISHLO'ACH MANOT

On Purim day (and not at night), men and women must send to a fellow Jew at least one food parcel containing two kinds of food or drink which are ready to eat without further preparation. Although one is required to send only one parcel, it is praiseworthy to send parcels to many friends. However, one should spend more money on Matanot La'Evyonim.

MATANOT LA'EVYONIM

All men and women must give gifts to the poor on Purim day. The minimum requirement is to give gifts (money or food) to at least two poor persons. Those who are liberal with their giving on Purim will be blessed. The Nathan Etkin Chesed Fund distributes Matanot La'evyonim to local poor people on Purim day. **This year, we are asking you to donate online ahead of time. All monies will be donated on your behalf on Purim day. The recommended amount is \$20 per person.** Link: <https://bcmhseattle.org/purim/>

THE PURIM FEAST

Men and women are obligated to have a festive bread meal on Purim day that contains meat and wine. **The best way to do the Mitzvah is to have the meal in the late morning after concluding the other mitzvot.** This will allow time to get ready for Shabbat and still enjoy the Shabbat dinner. If one is unable to do this the next best thing is to conclude the meal by 4pm. The final position is the least recommended. It is to begin the Purim Seudah right before Shabbat and continue the meal into Shabbat. Then covering the Table with a sheet, lighting Shabbat candles and making Kiddush. This should only be done under pressing circumstances. **A word about drinking - one should do so responsibly. It is not a mitzvah to get drunk.**