

Purim Announcements



Taanit Esther

This year, Taanit Esther (Fast of Esther) will fall on Thursday, March 21st and Purim will be on Motzei Shabbat, March 23rd through Sunday afternoon, March 24th. The fast begins at 5:21 am and concludes at 7:27 pm. Since fasting this year is not immediately followed by Megillah reading as in others years, one may eat immediately once the time of concluding the fast arrives on Thursday night. The threshold for not fasting on this fast day is lower than for other fast days. One can break the fast anytime during the day if one has a significant headache. Of course, pregnant and nursing mothers should not be fasting on this fast day.

Machatzit HaShekel: The month of Adar is when half a shekel was collected for the Beit Hamikdash. The mitzvah is mentioned three times in the Torah. As a result, the minhag developed that \$1.50 per family member is donated to Tzedaka close to the Purim holiday. You can pledge Machatzit HaShekel at: <https://forms.gle/7Sj725VAH38ok4vz5>. For those that didn't have a chance to participate on Taanit Esther this past Thursday, plates will also be available for giving machatzit hashekel before Megillah reading Saturday night.

Shabbat Parshat Zachor: This Shabbat, Mar. 23rd we will be reading Parshat Zachor, which will be an opportunity to fulfill the biblical commandment of Zechirat Amalek. This section is read as the maftir of the Torah reading. At our 7:30am Hashkamah minyan, the Shabbat Zachor maftir will be read at approximately 8:00am. At our 9:00am minyan, the Shabbat Zachor maftir will be read at approximately 9:45am. At our 10:00am teen minyan, the Shabbat Zachor maftir will be read at approximately 10:30am. To fulfill the mitzvah of Zechirat Amalek, one need only hear the maftir. Hearing the haftorah in addition is not necessary. Adults are welcome to attend this week's Teen Minyan to hear Parshat Zachor if that fits better with their schedules. If one is unable to be in shul for Parshat Zachor on Shabbat morning, according to the Magen Avraham (Shulchan Aruch OC:685:7), one can fulfill the biblical mitzvah of Zechirat Amalek by hearing the Torah reading (Vayavo Amalek) at Shacharit on Purim morning, Sunday, Mar. 24th, which is read a few minutes before we read the Megillah.

Megillah: It is required to hear the Megillah both evening (Mar. 23rd) and morning (Mar. 24th), to tell and retell the story of our salvation from Haman's evil plot. Both men and women are obligated to hear the Megillah twice.

Saturday Night Megillah Reading and Purim Extravaganza: Since the Megillah is being read this year on Saturday night, we are going to daven Shabbat Mincha earlier at 6:15pm so that individuals could return home to have Seudah Shlishiet and then after Shabbat drive back to shul for Maariv at 8:15pm followed by Megillah reading. There will be no Seudah Shlishiet served at shul. Also, before driving or doing any melacha on Motzei Shabbat before davening Maariv, one should wait until after 7:45pm and make sure to say "Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Lechol." Then one can perform melacha. Havdallah will be recited at shul following the 1st Megillah reading. The shul will be holding its **Purim Extravaganza** (see flier) immediately following the 1st Megillah reading and Havdallah. There will be a 2nd Megillah reading at 9:30pm in the Library. There will not be another Maariv during this second reading.

Matanot La'evyonim: It is required to give charity to the poor during the daytime of Purim (Mar. 24th), evoking the true joy of helping our brethren in need. You can pledge Mattanot La'evyonim at: <https://forms.gle/hk2boXN7X6emTLQr5>. The pledge can be made before Purim and the charity will be distributed on Purim itself. Please respond before 10am on Sunday, Mar. 24th. Baskets will also be available in shul during Purim for this purpose.

Seudat Purim: A festive meal celebrated during the daytime of Purim after Chatzot (12:51 pm).

A Purim Basket is Waiting for You: We are grateful to everyone who participated in our community Mishloach Manot project. Every member in the shul that resides locally is going to receive a Purim basket. We are asking for your help and cooperation in the distribution of the Purim baskets to the shul membership. Following the evening Megillah reading on Saturday night, please stop-by the foyer to pick-up your basket and individualized letters with greetings from your fellow members. If you plan on being out of town for Purim, please let us know by emailing the shul office. It is recommended not to make use of your goodies from the Shul Mishloach Manot Project until Purim day, as that is the traditional time for Mishloach Manot.

Mishloach Manot: In addition to participating in the Shul Mishloach Manot program, it is recommended that during the daytime on Purim, everyone give to one friend, two ready-to-eat food items to fulfill the technical halachic requirements of Mishloach Manot.

Thursday, March 21st: Fast of Esther

Fast Begins	5:21 a.m.
Shacharit	6:50 a.m.
Mincha	6:35 p.m.
Fast End Time	7:27 a.m.

Motzei Shabbat, March 23rd: Purim Evening

Maariv/1st Megillah Reading	8:15 p.m.
Followed by Havdallah and Purim Extravaganza	
2nd Megillah Reading	9:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 24th: Purim!

Shacharit & 1st Megillah Reading	7:30/8:00 a.m.
Shacharit & 2nd Megillah Reading	8:30/9:00 a.m.
Mincha	5:00 p.m.
Followed by Shul Purim Seudah and Comedy	
Maariv	7:30 p.m.

Have an amazing and festive Purim!

