

## Temple Israel Extends Invitation to Purim Celebrations

When you hear the word “Purim,” what comes to mind? While some may think of the characters in the Scroll of Esther, others may think of hamantashen or other symbols of the holiday. Whatever comes to mind, Purim’s importance has grown over the years.

“The significance in Purim,” according to the Union for Reform Judaism, “lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become—a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival against all odds.”

With that in mind, the Jewish community and other friends are invited and encouraged to come to Temple Israel to enjoy the many festive Purim celebrations Temple offers, beginning with the **Megillah reading on February 27 at 6:00pm.**

Fourth through sixth grade students from the Wendy and Avron Fogelman Religious School will perform the Kids Purimspiel. Written by Jacob Zelonky and Zoe Zelonky, and edited by Robb “Robbo” Zelonky, “The Fairytale Megillah” entertains with great songs, dances, and funny moments throughout the show. The **Kids Purimspiel**, which is directed by Josh Lipman, is **Sunday, February 28 at 11am.**

With its games, activities, and food offerings, the **MeFTY Purim Carnival** then swings into full gear on **Sunday, February 28 from noon-2pm.** MeFTY, Temple’s high school youth group, gives the money raised at the Purim Carnival to its “tzedakah organizations.”

Then, on **Sunday, February 28 at 7:30pm**, Temple’s crowd-pleasing annual sensation known as “**Purimspiel**” hits the bimah to entertain the near capacity crowd that is anticipated.

This year’s Purimspiel, “Megillah Mia!,” is filled with an abundance of humor and incredibly clever lyrics thanks to the show’s author, Temple member Jim Edelman.

The show is co-directed and co-choreographed by Nancy Shainberg Kline, Amy Filderman, Rusty Graber, and Kathlyn Prentice. David Bearman provides musical direction (and plays a mean guitar in the awesome live band!), Gary Raileanu tackles the technical direction, and Brian Knight serves as the audio expert.

The Purimspiel cast includes the entire Temple clergy (Rabbi Katie Bauman, Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Rabbi Adam Grossman, and Cantor John Kaplan), and features Rabbi Bauman as Esther, Istvan Bardos as King Ahasuerus, Rusty Graber as Mordechai, Wendy Browning as Haman, Joanna Lipman as Vashti, and Jim Edelman and Michael Danziger as, respectively, Bigthan and Theresh.

Temple Israel is located at 1376 E. Massey Road and on the web at [www.timemphis.org](http://www.timemphis.org).