

PURIM CELEBRATIONS!

So, what is Purim all about, and what are we celebrating? The Union for Reform Judaism does a good job explaining:

“Purim is celebrated by the reading of the Scroll of Esther, known in Hebrew as the *Megillat Esther*, which relates the basic story of Purim. Under the rule of King Ahashuerus, Haman, the King’s prime minister, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her uncle Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of the land from destruction. The reading of the megillah is typically a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman’s name is read aloud.

Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only Book of the Bible in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Chanukah, is viewed traditionally as a minor festival, but elevated to a major holiday as a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman became the embodiment of every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance in Purim 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.”



Let’s read the Megillah together!

Here are the many festive ways Temple Israel celebrates Purim:



MEGILLAH READING

Saturday, March 19, 6:00 pm

If you have yet to experience the original and boisterous reading of the *megillah*, now is the time to take advantage of an evening to remember!

KIDS PURIMSPIEL

Sunday, March 20, 11 am

Written by Kids Purimspiel alumnus Jacob Zelonky, “A Harry Potter Purim” is a show that must be seen to be believed! The Kids Purimspiel, directed by Sophie Samuels, is performed by a very talented group of Temple 4th-6th graders.



Another fun Kids Purimspiel



The Purim carnival is tons of fun!



MeFTY PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 20, noon-2 pm

Kids like fun and games, right?! Right! The MeFTY Purim Carnival packs a ton of fun in a two-hour window. Temple’s high schoolers active in their youth group, MeFTY, plan, stage, and staff this entertaining annual fundraising event. The proceeds go to MeFTY’s *tzedakah* efforts.

PURIMSPIEL

Sunday, March 20, 7:30 pm

Thanks to the lively and entertaining all-original script by Jim Edelman, the vision of Director Nancy Shainberg Kline, the excellence of Musical Director David Bearman, the talent of Technical Director Gary Raileanu, and an amazing ensemble cast and crew of Temple members, all you have to do is come to Temple and enjoy this year’s Purimspiel (giving a nod to the legendary musical group, *The Beatles*) entitled “Megillah Mystery Tour.”



Purimspiel’s “cast of thousands” entertains the crowd.

