

Temple Sinai

713 Hodges St. Lake Charles, LA 70601

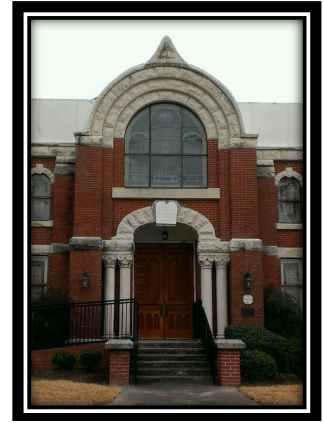
<http://templesinai.info> / T: 337-439-2866

March 2022

April 2022

Adar II 5782

Nisan 5782



WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 2022 Adar II 5782

April 2022 Nisan 5782

Friday, March 4 · Erev 2 Adar II

Exodus 38:21-40:38

Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Friday, April 1 · Erev 1 Nisan

Leviticus 12:1-13:59

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:25;

Isaiah 66:1, 23

Shabbat HaChodesh

Friday, March 11 · Erev 9 Adar II

Leviticus 1:1-5:26

Haftarah: Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17

OR I Samuel 15:2-15:34

Shabbat Zachor

Friday, April 8 · Erev 8 Nisan

Leviticus 14:1-15:33

Haftarah: Malachi 3:4 - 3:24

Shabbat HaGadol

Friday, March 18 · Erev 16 Adar II

Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Haftarah: I Kings 7:51-8:21

Friday, April 15 · Erev 15 Nisan

Yom Rishon shel Pesach

Exodus 12:37-42, 13:3-13:10

Haftarah: Isaiah 43:1-43:15

Song of Songs is read

Friday, March 25 · Erev 23 Adar II

Leviticus 9:1-11:47

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22 - 36:36

Shabbat Parah

Friday, April 22 · Erev 22 Nisan

Leviticus 16:1-17:16

Haftarah: Ezekiel 22:1-14

Friday, April 29 · Erev 29 Nisan

Leviticus 18:1-18:30

Haftarah: Ezekiel 22:6 - 22:19

Machar Chodesh

LIVE STREAMED SERVICES

The sanctuary is still closed due to repairs from Hurricane Laura. We will continue to stream services with Rabbi Barry, and we will keep everyone informed and updated as situations change.

You may watch past services and events on our YouTube Channel at [temple-sinai.tv](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPujlK_V4hMql5s5GXxqOTQ) -OR-

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPujlK_V4hMql5s5GXxqOTQ

Annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

7:00PM

**The Temple will be open for an Oneg at
6:30PM.**

Congregants are encouraged to come at this time to view the progress of the repairs and renovations that have been made to date.

You must be a member of Temple Sinai and caught up on your Temple dues in order to attend and vote at the Congregational Meeting.



**Temple Sinai
Lake Charles, LA**

March Anniversaries:

6 Sarah & Terry Hodnett
8 Mindy & Adel Barkat

April Anniversaries:

9 Ruth & John Gerrard

Mark Your Calendar!

Passover Seder

We will have our 2022 Passover Seder on the 2nd night of Passover, April 16th, at Reeves Catering. Letters will be going out when our plans and costs are finalized.

Kroger Reward Program

www.kroger.com/account/update

log in, and renew your card with:

Organization Name:

Temple Sinai

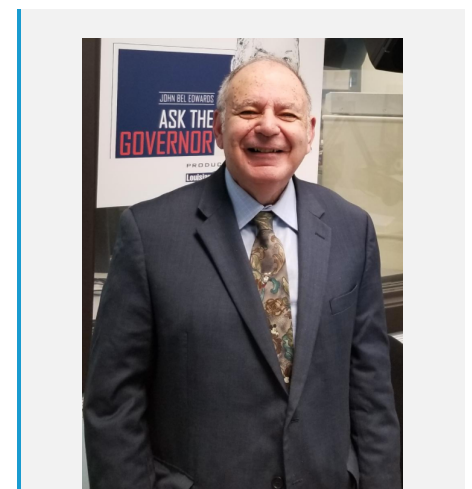
Organization Number:

IE298

Ukraine Urgency

Ukraine. Belarus. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia. Poland.

These names are very familiar to us "Second Generation" born Americans Jewish People. Linda's Mom Z'L immigrated from a village in Poland in the early 20th century. Linda's Dad Z'L arrived here from Greece about the same time. My maternal and paternal Grandparents Z'L came from Minsk, the capital and largest city in Belarus. Estimated Jewish population of Ukraine ranges from 40,000 to 100,000 or more.



The scenes of thousands upon thousands of Ukraine citizens fleeing the country are so intensely heartbreaking. The attacks on Ukraine as being somehow "Nazi" are utterly absurd. This excerpt from an article in "The Forward" ("America's most prominent Jewish newspaper" - The New York Times, 2021") helps to explain:

"As Russia invaded Ukraine, beginning at five in the morning, Vladimir Putin's statement that his purpose was to 'de-Nazify' Ukraine clearly disgusted Ukraine's first-ever Jewish President. Volodymyr Zelensky - whose three great-uncles were murdered in the Holocaust - responded on Twitter that Russians attacked Ukraine just 'as Nazi Germany did.'"

The framing of Zelensky as a Nazi has been going on for a while. In October, the former president of Russia and current deputy chairman of its Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, published „an expletive-laden article aimed at Ukraine and at President Volodymyr Zelensky, describing his country as a vassal state of the U.S. with whom it is impossible to negotiate," according to Stephen Blank, an expert on Russia and Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

...This, Medvedev continued, meant Ukraine's head of state resembled a Jewish Sonderkommando, a reference to those incarcerated Jews forced on pain of death to dispose of gas chamber victims during the Holocaust. Negotiations with such people and such a state are, therefore, 'pointless,' he said, Blank wrote in an

Online journal published by the Center for European Policy Analysis."
(*"The Forward"*, February 25, 2022)

Many of us are aware of Babi Yar, a ravine on the outskirts of Kiev (today spelled Kyiv) where Einsatzgruppen mobile squads killed at least 34,000 Jews over a one-week period in late September 1941.

This Russian invasion of Ukraine is the most horrific military action since the end of World War II. We know that historically our Jewish People inevitably suffer greatly when the country in which they reside is involved in a military conflict. Our hearts overflow with prayers for all of Ukraine, especially Ukraine's Jewish People. How endlessly fortunate are Linda and I, our daughters and our son-in-law and granddaughters to have been born in America. Surely within our hearts are deepest prayers for the continuing Safety and Security of the United States of America. Below are important statements and prayers from our Reform Jewish Movements here in Louisiana, America, and Israel.

Certainly, our heartfelt prayers join with each of these pleas for peace and safety for all of Ukraine at this perilous time.

A nation shall not lift up sword against nation, it shall not learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)

Rabbi Barry

For the Return of Peace

O Peace, you fleeting dream,
O Justice, you fickle hope,
Today we do not pray in your name.
Today we pray in the name of the children
Who have never met you,
Who have not been blessed
With your love or your truth.
Surely, their cries must someday
Drive you out of hiding,
Summoning you to cast your healing
Upon all the earth.
One G-d,

Ancient and merciful,
Justice and Peace are Yours.
Halt their retreat from the world
And send them to us for good.
Do it for the sake of Your name,
Do it for the sake of Your right hand,
Do it for the sake of holiness,
Do it for the sake of Your children,
So that all may live in the fullness of Your gifts,
As one family on earth,
Under Your canopy of love.
© 2021 Alden Solovy and tobendlight.com.

The Stormy, yet Rich History of the Jews in Ukraine

Rabbi Lance J. Sussman

February 21, 2022

Image by Menakhem Kipnis/Wikimedia...

Ukraine is in the news. Daily reports pour in about the buildup of Russian troops – as many as 130,000, to the north, east and south of the country. Diplomatic activity is also escalating but without a clear path to resolving the situation. NATO is on alert. Ukrainian civilians are beginning to train militia-style to resist a possible invasion. Worst of all are the projections of massive casualties, especially if the capital city of Kyiv is attacked. It is a “night of watching” (Exodus 12:42) for Ukraine.

In the middle of this storm is Ukraine's Jewish community and remarkably, although only 100,000 Ukrainians are Jews at this moment, the President of the country, Volodymyr Zelensky, is Jewish and embraces his identity. Few countries, including the United States, can make that claim. Eight decades ago, members of the Zelensky family were murdered during the Holocaust and others fought in the Red Army.

Another surprising fact about the Ukrainian Jewish heritage is that the novel on which the musical “Fiddler on the Roof” is based, “Tevye the Dairyman”, is most likely modeled on shtetlach in Ukraine where Tevye's creator, Sholem Aleichem (1859-1916), grew up. At the end of the 19th century, Ukraine was in the Pale of Settlement, a vast area established by the Czars to quarantine Jews along the western border of the vast Russian Empire. The Pale included not only Ukraine but also Poland and other large centers of Jewish population. Indeed, the territory of the Pale was the site of the largest Jewish population in the world until the Shoah.

Today, it's hard to know exactly how many Jews live in Ukraine, but it's believed to be about 100,000, down considerably from 400,000 before the massive waves of Jewish emigration at the end of the 20th century. At its high point, Ukraine had more than a million Jews whose native language was nearly 100% Yiddish.

Temple Birthdays

March Birthdays:

- 2 Barbara Maxey
- 3 Leslie Goldsmith Katz
- 4 Aaron Ginsburgh
- 6 Suzette Gall
- 9 George Bodin
- 9 Tevya Desadier Turner
- 14 Charlotte Kaough
- 16 Garrett O'Quain
- 22 Marc Davidson
- 22 Karen Kleinman
- 25 Susan Strauss Battestin
- 26 Katherine Makuch

April Birthdays:

- 1 Ross Raley
- 1 Anne Reinauer
- 3 Sadie Segall & Ann Kathryn Ginsburgh
- 4 Michael Goldman
- 13 Kayla Desadier Singer
- 18 Josh Green
- 22 Adam Raley
- 24 Scott Holtzman
- 24 Mary Amanda Reinauer

Currently, Ukraine has the fourth largest Jewish community in Europe following France, Great Britain and Russia but ahead or equal to Germany. Included in that Ukrainian Jewish population are Bratslaver Hasidim who have returned to Uman, south of Kyiv, to be near the grave of their late Rebbe, Reb Nachman (1772-1810) and have [re-established a Yiddish-speaking community and kindergarten](#). Yes, you read that correctly. There is literally a new shtetl-like community in “the old country”, in addition to the massive annual Rosh Hashanah pilgrimage.

Historians speculate that Jews have lived in the Ukraine at least since the 9th century. By 1648, the Jewish population of Ukraine, then part of Poland, was massive and as many as 20,000 Jewish civilians (revised from earlier estimates of as high as 250,000) were killed during the Khmelnytsky Cossack Uprising, 1648-1655. One hundred years later, the Hasidic movement was founded among Ukrainian Jews in villages to the south and west of Kyiv and quickly spread across much of East Europe. In 1791, the Pale was established on the western edge of the Russian Empire to contain (geographically) the country's vast Jewish population. Subsequently, both Czars and Soviets targeted Ukraine for Jewish settlement as part of their respective south Russia policies.

Aside from giving birth to the Hasidic movement, Ukraine also has a rich legacy of Yiddish culture. The classic writer Sholem Aleichem was born in the shtetl of Pereiaslav, south of Kyiv; the “father of the Yiddish theater”, [Avrom Goldfaden](#) (1840-1908), was born in Starokostyantyniv, western Ukraine, and the poet and songwriter [Itzik Manger](#) (1901-1969) was born in Czernowitz (Tshernovits), which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but is now Ukraine.

Czernowitz was also the location of the first international Yiddish language conference, held in 1908. That conference was attended by the Yiddish writers Y. L. Peretz, Sholem Asch, [Avrom Reisin](#) and [Hersh Dovid Nomberg](#).

Long caught in the crosshairs of history, Ukraine's Jewish population suffered terribly during the pogroms of the late 19th century, leading to massive Jewish emigration, principally to the United States. They also sparked the development of the Zionist movement. Odessa became a leading port city for early Zionist pioneers on their way to Turkish Palestine, some of whom trained in Jewish agricultural schools in the region. They went on to help create some of the original kibbutzim. Indeed, a number of Zionist leaders including [Ze'ev Jabotinsky](#), [Golda Meir](#) and [Natan Sharansky](#) were born in Ukraine.

Ukrainian Jews were caught in the crossfire of history during the Russian Revolution and the bloody wars, which followed until the founding of the Soviet Union in 1922, five years after the Bolsheviks first sought to overthrow the Czar. Soviet Communists then worked to destroy all religious expressions of Judaism in the USSR and control the nature of secular Jewish, mostly Yiddish, culture in their country. In the early 1930s, Stalin's policies of collectivization and political suppression led to the complete failure of the Ukrainian agricultural sector and led to millions of deaths by starvation. During this period known as the Holodomor, Jews increasingly left their villages in Ukraine to look for food and work in the larger cities intensifying the region's native anti-Semitism.

But the worst was yet to come. In 1941, the Nazis broke their non-aggression treaty with Russia and launched Operation Barbarossa, the largest military operation in history, to create "living space" for Germany in the east and seize the area's rich natural resources. SS Einsatzgruppen followed the German army and slaughtered as many as one million Ukrainian Jews in mass shootings including the massacre at Babi Yar in September 1942. Knowledge of Babi Yar was suppressed by the Communists who ruled Ukraine until 1991 and the fall of the Soviet Union.

Since independence, Ukraine has witnessed both massive emigration and a revival of Judaism, although most of the country's Jews, who are Russian speakers, are secular. Today there are large Jewish community centers in Ukraine and about 30 Chabad houses. The Reform movement in Judaism claims that as many as 14,000 Ukrainian Jews identify with it. Reports from Ukraine suggest that the country's Jewish population plans to remain in place as the drama with Russia and a potential military invasion unfolds. Whatever happens, Ukrainian Jews again find themselves caught in the crosshairs of history. As Tevye the Milkman says in "Fiddler", "may God be with them."

MAZEL TOV!

Congratulations to Brenda & Mike Goldman on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Eleanor Kate Moulton, granddaughter of Brian & Deborah Goldman.

HEART FELT CONDOLENCES

Condolences go out to Dan Boitnott on the tragic loss of his cousin, Mark Anthony Boitnott. We will hold Dan and his family close in our hearts and prayers. May Mark's memory be for a blessing.

Mi'she'bei'rach

Wishing a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy recovery, to:

Tevya Turner

Kim Davidson Ruby

Suzette & Joe Gall

If there is anyone who needs to be added to the mi'she'bei'rach list for prayers for continued health improvements, please let Sandy know.

sdesadier@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

March 2022

To all Congregants and Friends of Temple Sinai of Lake Charles:

Not sure how to begin. With continuing coverage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it is hard to believe we are living in 2022. With all that has happened in the short time frame since March 2020 when we were alerted of the Covid Virus, we continue to be challenged to think and stay positive. We all need to be positive. Why? Because we believe good always wins over evil! We have so much to be appreciative of and we must never forget that.



The Temple Board and the Construction Committee met in the Sanctuary last week. This meeting was held as follow-up to our congregants' visit to the Temple earlier in February. This allowed us to have open discussion on the rebuild of Temple Sinai. The progress is going well. The Board will present at the Congregational Meeting the direction we plan to take in the redesign of the Bema area. We will discuss options and call for a vote to allow us to move forward. It is very important to join us on March 8th. We will gather at 6:30 for a Pre-Oneg and call the meeting to order at 7:00pm. It will be great to see each other and visit about our future gatherings.

With the continued needs of many, always remember our "dedicated fund" for **Tzedakah**, thereby making a *tikkun olam* difference! Our Board chooses the ways that we can help so let us know if you are aware of a need. Please consider giving to the **Tikkun Olam Fund**. We need and appreciate your support.

Please stay focused on your needs and please communicate if you need to talk or require any financial support. We are a K'hi'lah (a Jewish congregation), not individuals alone.

Shalom,

Joel Davidson, President

337-529-6710



Zichronam Livracha
May their memories be a blessing



March 4, 2022

James S. Greenberg (2)

Great-Uncle of Davidson Siblings

March 11, 2022

Ethel Faye Barnhart (6)

Aunt of Barbara Peck

Helen Marx Zander (6)

Sister of Adolph Marx

Mrs. Simon Goldsmith (7)

Grandmother of Robert Goldsmith

Bettie E. Hoffman (7)

Wolf Hoffman (7)

Jake Kushner (7)

Uncle of Bill Kushner

Carrye Klaus Armentor (8)

Pauline Oshen Beilin (9)

Harold Greenberg (9)

Fred Hart (9)

Elaine Judith Bresler Weiss (9)

Ann Batsell (10)

Mary Callsen (10)

Julius Frank (10)

March 18, 2022

Abner Horn (13)

Mother of Todd & Barry Holtzman

Lynne Holtzman (14)

Manny Sachs (14)

Gertrude Atlas (15)

Aunt of Corene Davidson

Ella Bachrack (15)

Mother-in-Law of Brenda Bachrack

Max Edelstein (15)

Father of Francis Rogers

Bessie Kaufman Mayer (15)

Gladys Triche (15)

Cousin of Barbara Peck

Mary Warshaw (15)

Louis Avner (17)

Father of Henry Avner

Louis Thibodeaux (17)

Father of Pat Seamons



Zichronam Livracha
May their memories be a blessing



March 25, 2022

Sam Schoolsky (21)

Jim Billings (21)

Rose Stander (21)

James Brown (22)

Katherine Eucharist Toerner (22)

Ralph Rubin (24)

Joseph Schwartz (24)

Father of Calvin Billings

Mother of Jerry Stander

Father of Deborah Brown

Grandmother of Barbara Peck

Husband of Beverly Rubin

Brother-in-Law of Michael Goldman

April 1, 2022

Lena Bressler (Mar. 26)

Gabriel Paymar (26)

Benjamin Stopnik (Mar. 27)

Edward Geoffrey Clapham (28)

Billy Holman (28)

Sterling Little (28)

Kate Ordinsky (28)

Edwin D. Steyerman (28)

Joseph Camalo, Jr. (29)

Sarah Deutscher (29)

Leopold Kaufman (29)

Lena D. DiBartolo (31)

Henry Weiss (31)

Reve Milstein Greenberg (Apr. 1)

Ellen Kaufman (1)

James Landry (1)

Robert Levite (1)

Mother of Elaine Weiss

Uncle of Corene Davidson

Great-Grandfather of Davidson Siblings

Cousin of Millie Mylander

Brother-in-Law of Pat Seamons

Father of Nancy Schwartzberg

Mother-in-Law of Eli Sorkow

Father of Regina Steyerman

Brother of Katherine Lipy

Mother-in-Law of Bill Kushner

Mother of Tony DiBartolo

Aunt of Davidson Siblings

Mother of Laura Myrick

Husband of Hilda Landry, Father of Robert Landry

Father of Beverly Buncher

April 8, 2022

Gertrude Rose Clapham (2)

Rose Horn (3)

Lucille Greenwood Levy (3)

Grandmother of Millie Mylander

Aunt of Titter Wise



Zichronam Livracha
May their memories be a blessing

**April 8, 2022**

Edward Raymond Clapham (4)
Elaine Kushner (5)
Jolene David (6)
Mayer Greenwood (6)
Dr. Richard Harris (6)
Wilton Charles Mylander (6)
Ruth Buncher (7)
Charles A. Levy, Jr. (7)

Grandfather of Millie Mylander
Aunt of Bill Kushner
Mother of Jan Davidson
Grandmother of Titter Wise
Uncle of Davidson Siblings
Father of Millie Mylander
Father of Alan Buncher
Uncle of Dr. Stanley Levy, Jr.

April 15, 2022

Julie Kaufman Marx (9)
Celia Greenberg (11)
Myrtle Altman (12)
Herman Fleckman (12)
Arlene Mitchell (12)
Gus Weill (13)
Hannah Hoffman (14)
Valerie Whiting (14)
Dolly Slaven (15)

Mother of Susan Battestin
Aunt of Sheldon Rosenthal
Aunt of Tootsie Fournet
Uncle of Tootsie Fournet
Mother of Kathy Steirman

Cousin of Davidson Siblings

April 22, 2022

Elaine Levy Dafour (16)
Maurice Frank (17)
Robert Goldsmith (17)
Viola Coplen (19)
Annie Hutkin (20)
Meyer Paymar (20)
Henry Hudson Weinstein (20)
Eda Green (21)
Maureen Bates (22)
Melvin H. Gold (22)
Benjamin Goldsmith (22)

Father of Leslie Goldsmith Katz
Aunt of Titter Wise

Uncle of Corene Davidson

Sister-in-Law of Eula Kleinman Green

Grandfather of Leslie Goldsmith Katz



Zichronam Livracha
May their memories be a blessing



April 29, 2022

Rose Katz (26)

Mother of Bruce and David Katz

Bella Sandler (27)

Herschel Lowenthal (28)

Adeline Loeb Strauss (29)

Grandmother of Susan Battestin

May 6, 2022

Rabbi Jerome Mark (Apr. 30)

Former Rabbi of Temple Sinai

Randy Ryan (30)

Juliette Scott Onuf (30)

Aunt of Robert Landry

We have changed the format of our Yahrzeit list to include our congregational relationships to the remembered. We have filled in the list as best as we could with the current documentation on file. If you have information that would help us complete this list, please send it to Sandy Desadier at sdesadier@gmail.com.

As always, if you have any corrections or additions that need to be made to our Yahrzeit list, please send this information to Sandy as well.



Temple Contributions

Funds:

Sisterhood:

Decorating Fund
General Fund
Meal of Consolation

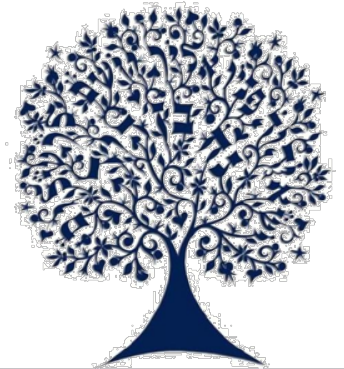
Send Checks to:

Ellen Raley
4270 Indigo Place
Lake Charles, LA 70605

Temple:

Building Fund
Cemetery Fund
Courtyard Fund
General Fund
Music Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Tikkun Olam Fund
Tree of Life Fund
Youth Fund

Temple Sinai
713 Hodges St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601



Contributors

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Fund Designation: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Other: _____

(Please print, clip, and submit this form with your contribution to avoid any confusion during the acknowledging process.)

We are grateful for these contributions:

Tree of Life Fund

From: Maurice Gold

In Memory of: Anita Gold

Cemetery Fund

From: LK Greer

In Memory of: Ethyl & Abner Horn

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From: Barbara & Tony DiBartolo

In Honor of: Linda Weinstein's Birthday & Prayers for Many More

Hurricane Recovery

From: Robert B. & Shirley K. Haspel Endowment Foundation

Youth Fund

From: Pat Seamons

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

Tikkun Olam Fund

From: Betsy Doucet & Bob Goldman

In Memory of: Anita Fields Gold

From: Gail & Percy Johnson

In Memory of: Walter J. Armentor, Jr.

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins





PURIM'S ORIGINS

With celebrations including costumes, skits and songs, noisemakers, and gifts of food, Purim is definitely full of fun! Purim is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history. The main communal celebration involves a public reading—usually in the synagogue—of the Book of Esther (M'gillat Esther), which tells the story of the holiday: Under the rule of King Ahashverosh, Haman, the king's adviser, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of Persia from destruction. The reading of the *m'gillah* typically is 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 biblical book in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like [Hanukkah](#), is viewed as a minor festival according to Jewish custom, but has been elevated to a major holiday as a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman has come to symbolize every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance of Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become: a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival.

Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/purim> for family fun, recipes, and more!



PURIM & GIVING

What's Our Obligation?

LISA PAQUETTE

Fun costumes, drinking (for those who drink), delicious [hamantaschen](#), Haman (booo!), [Esther and Mordecai](#), another tale of Jewish persecution and redemption: These are the first thoughts that come to mind when I think of [Purim](#).



I grew up living a somewhat "typical" Reform Jewish East Coast life, where I learned about and celebrated the various Jewish holidays at Hebrew school, camp, and youth group. The annual production of the [Purim spiel](#) in my home congregation was a huge deal; an outside producer was even hired as the director! As a child, Purim served solely as an excuse to [dress up in costume](#) and run around with friends.

Though all of these images are integral parts of Purim, we cannot forget that another crucial component of the celebration is to remember the less fortunate. But there is another, more serious component on Purim, *matanot la-evyonim*, which means "gifts to the poor." [All of the fun and merriment of the holiday aside](#), the true obligations of Purim are not fulfilled if we do not help the needy. With all of the partying associated with the holiday, it is easy to focus on our wants and forget about others' needs.

The [M'gillah](#) instructs us that "sending food portions one to another and giving gifts to the poor" must be included in our Purim celebrations. Traditionally, adults must give donations to two people in need as well as two different foods to someone who is hungry. The two donations to the poor can be given as food or money to cover the cost of a meal. Of all the [mitzvot](#) that are required of us on Purim, [giving to the poor](#) is surely the most important.

I honestly do not remember learning this lesson during Purim as a child. It is possible that my memory fails me, but it is equally possible that this lesson was lost in the shuffle of the costumes and parties and celebrations. Every child (and adult) should make *matanot la-evyonim* a priority. It is never too late (or early) to enhance how we celebrate a holiday, and it is enriching to find a philanthropic link already incorporated in our traditions.

During this year's Purim celebration, I challenge you to try something new. For every [hamantaschen](#) you eat, every drink you enjoy, every time you hear Haman's name (booo!), try putting a dollar in a jar. When your festivities end, double the money you saved and find a way to help someone in need. Donate it, buy someone a sandwich, do something to help someone less fortunate than you have a chance to not be hungry this Purim.

See our [Purim Social Action Guide](#) for more ways to make your Purim especially meaningful.