# THE HEBREW ACADEMY TIMES

# "The HAT"

FEBRUARY 2023, Issue #9

SPECIAL EDITION in honor of PURIM!!!

A Newspaper FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE of Hebrew Academy of Tampa Bay

### We ROAR with LION PRIDE!!!



### Written & Published by:

Maya Sasser
Chana Lipszyc
Moshe Chaim Dubrowski
Naomi Mendelson
Daniel Mendelson
Arik Yarmush
Nosson Rubashkin
Tzvi Dubrowski
Sholom Rubashkin
Dov Yarmush
Emet Howitt-Vallone

### A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PURIM

By: Maya Sasser

#### 1. PURIM IS THE HAPPIEST TIME OF THE YEAR



Purim is celebrated every year at different times. This year it is the 14th of the Jewish month of Adar (late winter/early spring). Purim 2023 begins after sunset after the Fast of Esther, which is on Monday, March 6. Purim lasts all day on March 7 until the stars are out. The next day is Shushan Purim, the day Jews in Jerusalem celebrate Purim.

(Extending through Wednesday in Jerusalem). It commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Human's plot "to destroy, kill and annihilate all of the Jewish people" (chabad.org.)

### 2. DID YOU KNOW THAT PURIM IS A PERSIAN NAME?

Did you know that Purim means "lots" in ancient Persia? The holiday was named Purim because Haman had thrown lots to determine when he would carry out his evil scheme.

### 3 MORDECHAI AND ESTHER ARE THE HEROES OF PURIM.

Mordechai was the leader of the Jewish people in Persia, and Esther was Mordechai's cousin.she became With no choice made, queen of Persia. Esther was brave by putting her own life on the line.



#### 4. THERE ARE FOUR PURIM MITZVAHS

- 1. Reading the megillah which recounts the story of the Purim miracle. This is done once on the Eve of Purim and again the following day,
- 2. Giving monetary gifts to at least two poor people make sure to read Chana's article to learn more!
  - 3. Sending gifts of two kinds of food at least one person,
  - 4. A festive purim feast, which often includes wine or other intoxicating beverages.

### 5. PURIM IS CELEBRATED A DAY LATER IN JERUSALEM.

Purim is observed on Adar 14, the day that the Jews rested after beating their enemies in battle. In the capital city of Shushan, there were so many bad guys that took an additional day of fighting to ensure their safety, so they rested on the following day, Adar 15.



An extra fact I learned is the reason for a Jewish leap year. We have two Adars in those years so we can synchronize our lunar calendar with the solar calendar. Purim is celebrated during the second Adar in those years, so it is close to Passover. This is so that the miraculous salvation of Purim is as close as possible to the miracle of the Exodus, commemorated on Passover. This year we only have one adar. There will be two adars next year. (but we do not celebrate two Purims.) Next year, Purim will be in the second month of Adar, which is 30 days before Pesach.

# Ways to Celebrate Purim

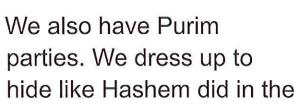
By Sholom Rubashkin

Did you know that Purim is one of the happiest holidays?

There are 4 different mitzvahs on Purim.

- Megillah: We have a custom to read (or listen) to the Megillah.
- Mishloach Manot: we pack a basket of food to send to a friend
- Matonos L'evyonim: We give at least one coin or bill to at least two poor people or donate to synagogues.
- Mishteh (Feast): we have a Feast on Purim.

We also have Hamantaschen. It is a cookie in the same shape as Haman's hat. The cookies also have jelly or chocolate hiding inside them, like Hashem's name is hidden in the Megillah.



Megillah. This year, Purim starts Monday night March 6, and continues through Tuesday. In Jerusalem Purim extends through Wednesday. Before Purim we have the fast of Esther.

I got this information from chabad.org.



## The History of the Hamantaschen

By Naomi M.



MY FAVORITE PART OF PURIM IS THE HAMANTASCHEN, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THEM

HAMANTASCHEN, THOSE TREATS FILLED WITH POPPY SEEDS (OR OTHER THINGS) IN HEBREW, IS OZNEI HAMAN. NOW YOU CAN FIND THEM FILLED WITH ANY TYPE OF FILLING, BUT A CLASSIC HAMANTASCHEN IS FILLED WITH POPPY SEEDS. THEY'VE BEEN PART OF THIS HOLIDAY FOR CENTURIES. IT TOOK PLACE IN SHUSHAN HAMANTASCHEN, TRANSLATED AS "HAMAN'S EARS." IT

IS A MYTH THAT BEFORE HE WAS HANGED THAY CUT OFF HIS EARS. ANOTHER REASON FOR CORNERS IS IN HEBREW THE WORD FOR CORNER WHICH MEANS HORN OR PRIDE OR FORTUNE

BUT WHY DO WE EAT THEM??? ACCORDING TO THE "TOOLS FOR TORAH" BOOK MY VERY OWN PURIM GUIDE," WRITTEN BY RABBI CHAYIM ALEVSKY, "WE EAT HAMANTASCHEN BECAUSE IT IS LIKE DESTROYING HAMAN WHEN YOU EAT IT. THE 3 CORNERS ON HIS HAT REPRESENT THE AVOS (FOREFATHERS) AVRAHAM, YITZCHAK AND YAAKOV WHO DAVENED FOR US AND SAVED PURIM." BUT SUM SAY THAT HIS HAT HAS 3 CORNERS TO COMMEMORATE HIS DOWNFALL IN A THREE CORNERED PASTRY.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FLAVOR HAMANTASCHEN?



# All about Mishloach Manot By Chana Lipszyc



One of the mitzvot of Purim is Mishloach Manot.

But what is Mishloach Manot? To an outsider, it might look like one big candy exchange. But there is more to it than that. Let me tell you what I learned.

First, you need at least two foods to give to at least one person.

The source for mishloach Manot is Megillah. "Mordecai.... Enjoined the Liews] to make the

fourteenth day of Adar... feasting and joy and sending portions to one another and gifts to the poor," (chabad.org). If a person cannot afford to give Mishloach Manot they can trade gifts with one another and Both are included in the mitzvah.

I asked my class friends Maya and Moshe Chaim which kind of shalach manos they like to give and what kind they would like to get. Here is what they said:

Moshe Chaim said he would like to give a box of Dots to our teacher Ms. Katy, and he would also like to give custom made candies to his teacher Rabbi Zalman.

Maya would give Ms. Katy all the red candy in the world because she LOVES red candy.

I like the cuteness of the Primary classroom and if I could give them all Shaloch Manos, I would give them chocolates, hamantaschen, chips, lollipops, and apple juice. They are so cute, I just HAD to interview some of them! So I asked what they would give their teachers. Here is what they said.

Ita would give Miss Lynn winkey (candy).
Bella would give Morah Yael chocolate
orange juice, and twizzlers.

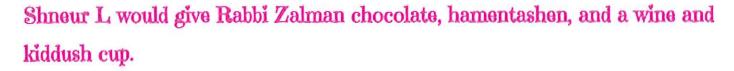
Nissi D. would give Rabbi Alon chocolate, wine, and a kiddush cup.

Sarah would give Morah Yael chocolate.

Noah would give Morah Yael chocolate.

Sylvan would give Morah Salit chocolate.

Isaac would give Morah Salit a beard. LOL! Harrison would give Miss Lynn a lollipop.



I hope you learned something about Mishloach Manot.

So this Purim, what would you give and to who?



# The History of the Grager Why We Boo Haman

By Dovid Yarmush

Just like Shofors, Graggers make noise. I like spinning Graggers and that's what I am about to telling you in this article.

There is an old widespread minhag (custom), that when the name of Haman is read during the Megillah on Purim, the



congregation (especially the children) spin grggers and generally raise a ruckus. This minhag was explained in the writings of Rabbi David Abudraham (he was in the 14th century, Spain. Since Amalek (a very bad person) was an ancestor of Haman, today, we spin Graggers.



Some didn't like this custom;

John but Rabbi Yosef Caro and

John Rabbi Moshe Isserles liked it.

John Even though the simple reason

for making noise is to erase

Haman's name, there are

different reasons for this custom. Rabbi Moses Sofer and the Chasam Sofer tell us that we are commanded from the Torah to destroy the remembrance of Amalek. But there is no bigger remembrance of Amalek than of Haman. We make a ruckus after Haman's name to show that we really didn't hear its name. If his plans actually happened, we wouldn't exist (G-d forbid). He is therefore a threat to every generation of Jews.

Rabbi Chaim Palagi, a Rabbi of Turkey, says that when we bang during the reading of Haman's name then in a spiritual sense Haman lost again in Purgatory. Many people bang at every single time Hamans name is read in the megillah. The Chabad custom is to only bang when there is an in order to honor attached to Haman's name, or when it discusses his downfall. Some people make noise by stamping their feet. Amalek is like the heel, the smallest and the lowest of the low. Stamping your foot serves to weaken and topple Amalek.



While I was doing research on the Grager, I found the word "mystics" being used. I didn't know what that word means, so I went to Rabbi Zalman, my Judaics teacher in Upper El (who is a great teacher) and he told me they were the mystics of Kabbalah. The Kabbalist people tell us that the spiritual war with Amalak happens in every generation, especially in the bad days before exile. When we do the mitzvah of obliterating the spirit of Amalek, then we can bring Moshiach in our days.

I learned a lot about Gragers while writing this article, and I hope you did too. I'd like to give a special shout out to the upper El teacher's Ms. Katy and Rabbi Zalman for helping me learn.

# The Four Mitzvos of Purim

### BY: TZVI DUBROWSKI

" In multitude there is majesty " Source of quote unknown

The four mitzvos of purim are:

- 1. We read the megilah (scroll) once at night and once in the day.
- 2. We give mishloach manos (gift bags) to at least two people during the day.
- 3. We give tzedakah (charity) to the poor during the day.
- 4. We have a meal after mincha (afternoon prayers).

  Now I will tell you about the deeper meaning of these four mitzvos and explain some halachos (laws) about them.

A person is required to read the Megilah at night and at day in the it could be read until the coming of dawn. In the day it could be read from sunrise till sunset. If someone read before sunrise, but at least after dawn, he has fulfilled the mitzva of listening to the Megillah. Men and women are both obligated to read the Megillah (or hear it be read). The לחתכילה lechatchilah (best) way to fufil the mitzva of reading megilah is to read it publicly, in a shul (synagogue). Even if there are a hundred people accompanying him at his house, it is still better to do it at a synagogue, since, " In multitude there is majesty;" and the miracle is known to more people.

The second mitzva of Purim is to eat a meal, including meat and wine. The meal is eaten during the day, if he does it at night he does not fufill his obligation. The main Purim meal is held in the afternoon and then it goes into the night. But most of it should take place during the day.

The third mitzva of purim is to give מנילוח מנילוח mishloach manos (sending gifts to your friends). You are obligated to send a gift to your friend with at least two brachos (blessings). Both men and women are part of this mitzva. For example: cooked fish, grilled meat, drinks, candys, and snacks.

The last mitzva of Purim is the most beloved. The mitzva of giving at least two poor people 777% tzedaka (charity). This mitzva is also done during the day. Giving this tzedaka is meant to be done in addition to the daily obligation of giving tzedaka. Women are also obligated to do this mitzva.

I asked my friends what their favorite mitzva of purim is and why. Here is what they said: Arik: "mishloach manos because I get to meet a lot of people."

Nosson: " The feast, because I like food."

Dovid: "mishloach manos, because it is fun and I get a lot of treats."

Sholom: "The meal because I like meals."

Daniel: "misloach manos because I get snacks from school."

My favorite is the megilah because it is interesting and fast. I like it because I like reading and it has a very deep meaning in every word.

These are pictures of mishloach manos and matonos lievyonim





# Mordechai By Moshe Chaim Dubrowski

What is Mordechai's favorite holiday? Stay tuned to find the answer.

This article is made possible with the help of Rabbi Zalmen. You might think that Esther was married to Mordechai, but she was not. Mordechai was actually Esther's uncle.

King Achashveroshnib made a great feast for his birthday. And he asked his wife to come, but she said no because meforashim said that Vashti had pimples and a tail. I had a hard time explaining meforashim, so I looked it up. According to Jewish-Language.org, meforshim are the commentaries written by rabbis on religious texts.

The king got very angry so he told his guards to kill her. So the king was now lonely. And he held a beauty contest. Mordechai told Esther that she would go to the beauty contest and become the new queen.

At first Esther did not want to go to the Beauty contest. Then the guards came to find all the women. So Esther had no choice; she had to go. Before she went, Mordechai told her to remember that you are a Yid (Jew), and you can not tell anyone that you are a Yid. It is top secret, do not tell anyone. Then Mordechai said goodbye to Esther, and she left the house.

She had become kween After a long time Hamen was now in power second to the king. He was making a plot to destroy all the Yidden (Jews).

Before I tell you more let me explain who Hamen was. Hamen was not in power when he was young nor did he have relatives in power. He came to power because he had a lot of money, and bribed Achashverosh (king of Shooshon in Persia). His plan was to make a big feast with non-kosher food. When Achashverosh had his 100th birthday. he made his plane. Mordechai tried to make the Yidden not go to the poetry, but many did not listen when the Yidden ate the non-kosher food Haman took control of the Yidden.

This is just a preview of the story of Mordechai. There's more I could tell you, but that would be a book and not an article for my school newspaper The Hat.

So... what is Mordechai's favorite holiday?

Purim! Because Mordechai is in the Purim story.



## Haman's Evil Plot

### By Daniel Mendelson

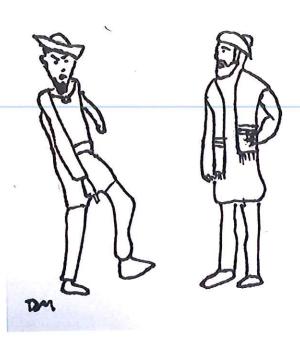
# Mordechai is more loyal to Hashem than a soldier is to his flag!

After the story of Vashti, the king's advisor (Haman) soon became Prime Minister! With the opportunity he ordered everyone who saw him walking on the street, to bow to him. When they saw each other on the street, Mordechai refused to bow.

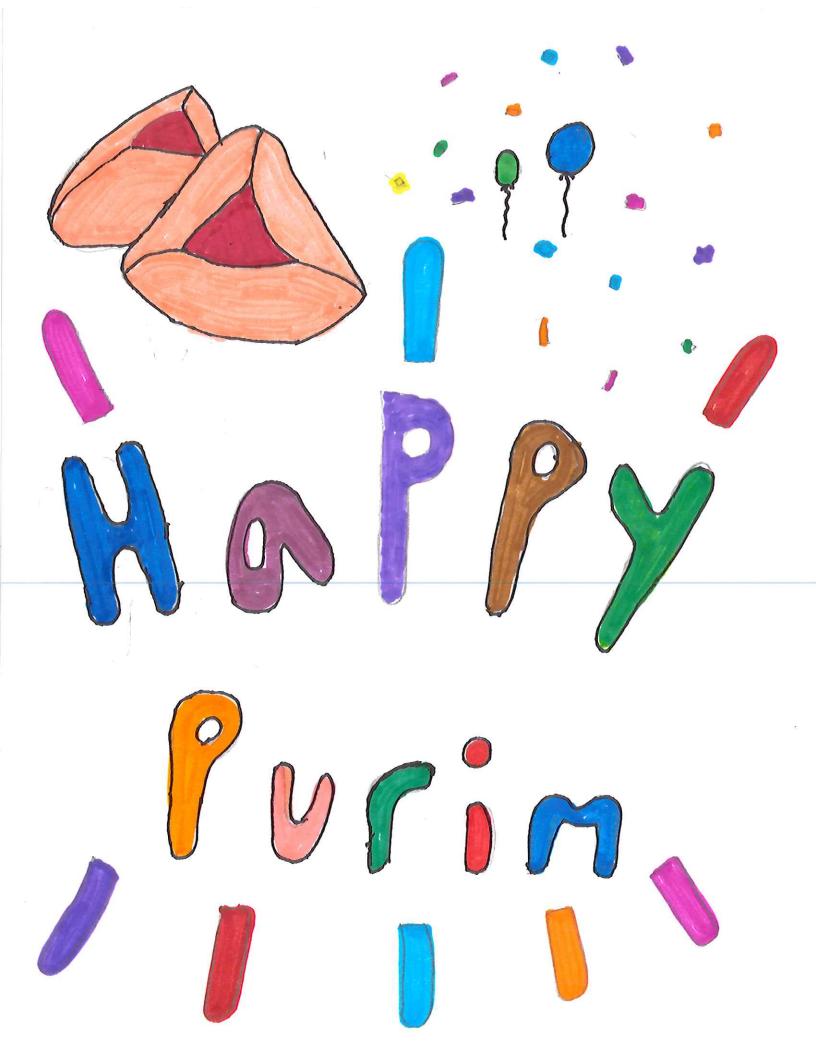
Haman then decided to kill not only Mordechai, but ALL the Jews. So he went to king Achashveirosh and said, "we need to kill them. They have so many holidays, every other day they aren't working. They don't marry into our families, and they even make fun of your kingship!"

Achashveirosh agreed but he was afraid. Then Haman said "don't worry they were bowing to me. Their G-d abandoned them so it will be fine and he won't save them."

After that, Haman wanted to know the perfect day to do it. The lot fell on Adar. Haman was happy because he knew Moshe Rabeinu passed away in the same month (but what he didn't know was that he was also born in that month).



To me, keeping a kosher diet is a way to show loyalty to Hashem. No matter what, a Jew should ALWAYS stay on Hashem's side. Just like a loyal soldier salutes his flag, and Mordechai NEVER bowed to Haman, we should always remain loyal to Hashem.



# Purim Then and Now By Emet Howitt-Vallone

When we celebrate all of our holidays, we are not only celebrating something that happened many years ago. The message and meaning of the holiday is going on here and now. In all times and places, Hashem is involved in our world. This is one of the main messages and lessons that we can learn from Purim. Hashem is running every detail in the world constantly although we do not see it. This all happened in the year 3395 from creation and now!

"H.P. = hashgacha pratis", sometimes translated as divine province. According to Rabbi Chayim B.Alevsky, "sometimes we deserve to understand why things happen after they happen", like in the Purim story. We went to the party that King Achashveirosh hosted to celebrate Hashem severing our connection. We (the Jews) ate a lot of unkosher food. We were so happy that the king invited us to his party

that we messed up and went. Mortichai understood this.

Hashem re-creates and directs everything in the world all the time. Hashem is not mentioned once in the Megillah, because Hashem is behind everything. Hashem created the nature or the teva of the whole world. What we call nature is really Hashem in disguise. The miracles performed through Esther were the most hidden of hidden in the "coincidences". The Jews tried to get in with the Persians and that is how ham-n came to power. We forgot our role. By the end there was light (Torah). "Hashem is running the world even though we do not always see it".



#### Sources:

- 1.) Megillas Esther
- 2.) Alevsky, R. Chayim B. Purim Study Guide and Workbook

# Hidden Hashem

## By Arik Yarmush

There once was a man named Reuven. Reuven was walking to the marketplace at 11:30 to buy fruits. He bought a bunch of apples for his family's lunch and put them in his basket. While he was walking he didn't notice that there was a rock in the way. He tripped over the rock and the few apples that were in his basket fell out. He stood up and bent over to pick up the apples. Meanwhile another guy named John, also tripped but didn't completely fall. John also had apples in his basket and accused our friend Reuven of stealing. John brought Revain to court and Reuven was found guilty. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail. But a few days later, a guard came and told him to leave the jail. Reuven leaves jail unknowing why the guard let him go. He wondered who told the guard to free him. The identity of the person responsible for Reuven's freedom remains hidden, but the impact is undeniable. Now you might be wondering why I told you this random story. The answer is not so random and can be found... hidden in the Megillah.

Costumes have been a big part of Purim. Everyone is asking what the other person is dressing up as. People are arguing who has better costumes, what costs more, what looks better etc. Now have you ever wondered why we wear costumes? What is the reason why we dress up on Purim? Well I'm going to answer it... in this article. Have you ever listened intently to the Megillah? Did you realize that all of the miracles of Purim are disguised with natural events? All of the miracles in the Megillah are disguised into the regular day. For example in the Chanukah story, the

oil lasted 8 days when it should have only been LESS THAN A DAY! But in the Purim story nothing out of the ordinary happened. Obviously it's a miracle that we were saved from Haman's plot but how it was done was in an ordinary way. That is one of the reasons why we disguise ourselves in costumes. I'll give you another reason why we wear costumes. Did you know that Hashem's name is not even found once in the Megillah.



Hashem hid himself; so just like Him we hide ourselves in costumes. That is another reason why we wear costumes. Another reason why we dress up is because Moradachi was "dressed up in the king's clothes." The Talmud says that the Jews in the Purim story pretended to serve idols. Also Hashem pretended to kill the Jews but in the end He didn't. Rabbi Tzvi Elimelech Shapiro also known as Bnei Yissaschar says this is the reason for dressing up on Purim because we pretend to be something else. Some ways to dress up is:

- 1.) Dress up for the theme of your local Chabad House.
- 2.) Dress up for your favorite thing.
- 3.) Dress up as one of your favorite characters in the Purim story.
- 4.) Dress up as any character in the Purim story.
- 5.) Ask a person to say a random thing and dress up as that.

Obviously you can find any way but if you can't here's some help. I went around my classroom and asked people what they're going to dress up as and Why they like to dress up.

Sholom "I don't know and it's fun."

Nosson " An alligator and it's fun and I like to see what other people are dressing up as."

Tzvi "A water carrier and its fun."

Daniel "I don't know but it's a good conversation starter."

Naomi "a food and it's fun, cool, and interesting."

In other words if you thought that dressing up is a random thing to bring kids joy you're wrong. There are reasons why we dress up and now you know why. I looked up at guinnessworldrecords.com and I found out that the most people wearing costume masks is 30,050

and was achieved by Alliance In Motion Global Inc. (Philippines) at the Philippine Arena, Ciudad de Victoria, Santa Maria, Bulacan, Philippines, on 31 May 2015.

I now asked my teacher Ms. Katy about what she likes about dressing up. Ms. Katy said she thinks "it's fun to make believe."

So I hope to see you dressed up this Purim and until next time see you soon.



### Purim In Depth By Nosson Rubashkin

"Purim is the only holiday that is on the 14th of the month. Most holidays are on the 15th." — Rabbi Zalman Goldblatt

What is Purim and why do we celebrate it? Around 2000 years ago in Ancient Persia there was a king by the name of Achashverosh. He ruled over 127 countries, almost the entire world. He held a party that lasted for 180 days for the people of his kingdom. At the end of the 180 day party, he held a seven day party for all of the residents of the capital city of Shushan. On the seventh day of the party, a drunk Achashverosh ordered his wife Vashti to appear to his guests to show off her beauty. Vashti did not listen to his orders so he ordered her execution. Once Achashverosh's anger slowed down, he started becoming lonely; he had no wife. His advisers suggested that he make a beauty contest for every girl in the kingdom and the winner would be crowned.

The leader of the Jews at that time was Mordechai and he had a cousin (who was an orphan) named Esther (pronounced "Ester"). Esther did not want to be queen but she was forcibly taken to the king. All the other contestants were beautifying themselves, while Esther did nothing. Even though Esther did nothing, Hashem decided that she should be queen and once Achashverosh saw her, he immediately loved her and she became the queen.

She never told the king her identity as a Jew. Because Esther became queen, Achashverosh allowed Mordechai to sit by the palace gate. One time while sitting by the gate, he overheard a conversation with two of the king's chamberlains talking about assassinating the king. He immediately told Esther. She told the king and they were both executed.

Meanwhile Haman became Achashverosh's prime minister and he was a really big Jew-hater.

Immediately after he was promoted, Achashverosh issued a decree that everyone must bow down to Haman whenever they passed him. Haman would have an idol hanging from his neck so whenever someone bowed, it would be to him and his idol. Every time Haman would walk past Mordechai,

Mordechai would not bow down and that made Haman furious. Because of Mordechai Haman drew lots, that's why we call this day Purim. (Purim means "lots") to find which day he should attack the Jews.

Can you guess which day it was? Yep, on the 13th of Adar. Haman gave 10,000 silver talents (equivalent to 14,001,165,700 today) to destroy the Jews. Achashverosh (not a friend of the Jews either) told Haman that Haman can keep his money and can do whatever he pleases with the nation. Immediately, Haman sent proclamations to all the king's land. It said on these proclamations to rise up and kill all the Jews (men women and children) on the following 13th of Adar.

Mordechai was aware of the decree and he tore his clothes and donned sackcloth. He asked Esther to approach the king and beg him to spare her people. Esther said "anyone who was not invited to the king's throne room would be put to death unless the king extended his golden scepter" and then she said "I have not been invited to the king's throne in thirty days!"

Mordechai said "Do you think that you can escape the fate of the Jews in the palace? If you remain silent at this time the salvation will come from another source and you and your fathers house will be lost. And who knows why you were put in such a high position. Esther agreed on one condition. That all the Jews of Shushan and fast for three days and after the fast Esther will go into the king. After three days of fasting Esther donned royal garments and she entered Achashverosh's chambers. Immediately Achashverosh extended his scepter and asked "What is it? What is your request?" She said "I would like to invite the king and Haman to a feast."

During the feast Achashverosh asked "What is your request? Esther responded "I would like to invite your majesty and Haman to a second feast. On his way out of the palace, Haman saw Mordechai and he became infuriated. He stomped home and then it happened. Haman thought of a great plan. Can you guess what it was?

He decided to build a gallows fifty cubic feet for Mordechai to be hanged. Once the gallows were finished Haman went straight to the king. Meanwhile, that night the king was not able to fall

asleep, so he asked his servants to read from the book of chronicles (the one reading the book happened to be one of Haman's sons). Hashem made a miracle that the page went straight to the story of Mordechai when he saved the king. When he was done reading, Achashverosh asked "was he rewarded?". His servants said "No he was not".

At that exact moment, Haman came into the room to ask if he could hang Mordechai on the gallows he built. Before Haman could say anything Achashverosh asked "What should be done to the man I want to honor?" Of course, Haman was a very arrogant person and thought "who else would he want to honor besides me?" So Haman said "He should wear royal clothes and ride on a royal horse pulled by one of the king's nobles saying "Thus shall be done to the man the king wishes to honor." Achashverosh then said "Do all that you said for Mordechai the Jew." He reluctantly did exactly as he said. Then he immediately rushed to join queen Esther and king Achashverosh at the second feast. King Achashverosh asked curiously, "What is your request?" Queen Esther replied. "Please save my life and the life of my people." Achashverosh said, "Who wants to destroy my dear queen!" Esther replied, "Haman the man sitting right next to us." At that time Achashverosh was informed about the gallows that Haman built. He ordered Haman to be hanged on those exact gallows that were built for Mordechai. On that day Mordechai became prime minister but Esther was far from satisfied.

According to Persian law, once a decree is made it cannot be undone. Mordechai made a decree that all the Jews can defend themselves. All the Jews were celebrating; they almost had victory. On the 13th of Adar all the Jews came and fought their enemies. Among them were Haman's ten sons (who were later hanged). From that day on we celebrate the night of the 13th and the day of the 14th of Adar. Ever since the victory that happened 2000 years ago, Jews worldwide celebrate Purim. And in walled cities like Shushan, they also celebrate the 15th, because Esther asked Achashverosh for the Jews to give Shushan one more day to fight.

I asked my friends what their favorite part of Purim is and why:

Arik: "Mishloach Manot (gifts of food) because I get to meet people"

Moshe Chaim "Party because it's a lot of fun."

Dovid: "Joy because I like to be happy."

Emet: "Haman Tashin Because they taste good."

Sholom: "Mishloach Manot because it tastes good."

Daniel: "No school because I dislike the hard work."

Tzvi: "Costumes because they're fun."

And as for me, I like dressing up because I like to see everyone elses costumes and its fun too.

Before:



After:

