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SHABBAT TIMES
MOBILE ALABAMA



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Volume 2, Issue 2

LOWER ALABAMA L'CHAIM



SPECIAL PURIM EDITION

ChabadofMobile.com

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Dear Friends, This newsletter is a community effort sharing information, thoughts and inspiration of interest to Jews living in or passing through lower Alabama. It is my hope that you will find this newsletter educational and inspirational, and that it will help you experience your Judaism with renewed excitement. The Lower Alabama L'Chaim is a publication of Chabad of Mobile. For questions & comments, contact rabbi@chabadofmobile.com – *Rabbi Yosef Goldwasser*
To dedicate an edition in honor or in memory of someone, or to donate, visit chabadofmobile.com/donate

March 2025 | Adar 5785

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



JEWISH PRIDE! by Rabbi Yosef Goldwasser



Over 4,000 Cteens in Times Square

and that by strengthening your

Of course, we know that the Jews decided to choose the second option which led to a miraculous victory over the anti-semites.

Friends, I just got home from the largest Jewish Teen Shabbaton, with over 4,000 teens from all contents of the globe. They came together to celebrate their Judaism, and even went to have a Jewish music concert in Times Square!

Friends, this is how we are victorious over the haters that are out there. Not by fighting them or arguing with them. Rather, by standing up as a proud Jew and strengthening your connection with Hashem, doing more mitzvahs, adding in your Torah study and walking around with your pride wherever you go, *that is how we will win!*

Let's learn from Mordechai and all of the Jews in his generation. Let's take on another mitzvah that we can do to shine our Jewish pride and make the world a brighter place.

As we are getting ready to celebrate Purim, let's take a moment to think about the similarity between the times that we were in during the story of the Megillah, and our current situation.

The Jewish people were in a very dangerous situation. There were terrible decrees and lots of antisemitism. They just didn't know what the future would bring.

They had two options: 1) Assimilate, and by doing so, avoid all decrees, or 2) Stand up as a proud Jew and remember that Hashem is in charge and that by strengthening your connection to Him, you will have the best outcome.

SOUTH ALABAMA KOSHER

Kosher Store

Mobile Kosher Market

451 Azalea Rd
mobilekoshermarket.com

Kosher sections - Mobile

Publix (dry goods and freezer)

4628 Airport Blvd
Mobile, AL 36608

2370 Hillcrest Rd J
Mobile, AL 36695

Winn Dixie (dry goods)

6300 Grelot Rd
1550 Government St

Walmart (dry goods)

101 E Interstate 65 Service Rd S

Kosher Sections - Eastern shore

Publix (dry goods and freezer)

22530 US-98 Suite 100
Fairhope, AL 36532

27955 US-98 Ste 1
Daphne, AL 36526

160 Cotton Creek Dr #100
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Winn Dixie (dry goods)

187 Baldwin Square

Walmart (dry goods)

10040 Co Rd 48

Facebook group

Kosher Finds in Mobile and Baldwin, AL

Q & A CORNER: ASK THE RABBI



Q: During prayer, am I allowed to ask Hashem for my own personal needs?

A: Yes! Hashem wants to hear from you. He wants you to ask Him for your needs. By doing so, your show that you believe that it all comes from Him. This causes two special things: 1) Hashem will give you what you need in the merit of your belief in Him. 2) you will conduct your life in accordance with how He wants you to live.

Send your questions to: rabbi@chabadofmobile.com

CHASSIDIC QUOTE Hayom Yom: 8 Adar 1



When someone walks the street and thinks words of *Mishna* or *Tanya*, or sits in his store with a *Chumash* or *Tehillim* - that is more valued today than it was when the streets were bright with the light of Torah. We must not go about in the street with a vacant heart. We must have some Torah memorized, to take with us into the street.



Purim, celebrated on the 14th of Adar, is the most fun-filled, action-packed day of the Jewish year. It commemorates our nation's miraculous salvation more than two millennia ago.

Purim 2025 begins Thursday night, March 13 and continues until Friday evening, March 14 (extending through Sunday in Jerusalem). With Purim leading right into Shabbat this year (2025), be sure to schedule your Purim celebration and observances so as not to compromise the sanctity of Shabbat.

The Purim Story in a Nutshell

The Persian empire of the 4th century BCE extended over 127 lands, and all the Jews were its subjects. When King Ahasuerus had his wife, Queen Vashti, executed for failing to follow his orders, he orchestrated a beauty pageant to find a new queen. A Jewish girl, Esther, found favor in his eyes and became the new queen—though she refused to divulge the identity of her nationality.

Meanwhile, the antisemitic Haman was appointed prime minister of the empire. Mordechai, the leader of the Jews (and Esther's cousin), defied the king's orders and refused to bow to Haman. Haman was incensed, and convinced the king to issue a decree ordering the extermination of all the Jews on the 13th of Adar—a date chosen by a lottery Haman made (hence the name *Purim*, "lots").

Mordechai galvanized all the Jews, convincing them to repent, fast and pray to G-d. Meanwhile, Esther asked the king and Haman to join her for a feast. At the feast, Esther revealed to the king her Jewish identity. Haman was hanged, Mordechai was appointed prime minister in his stead, and a new decree was issued granting the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

On the 13th of Adar the Jews mobilized and killed many of their enemies. On the 14th of Adar they rested and celebrated.

How to Celebrate Purim in 4 Easy Steps

Though we dress up in holiday finery, Purim doesn't feature holiday work restrictions. Nonetheless, all the better if you can take the day off from work & focus on the holiday and its four special mitzvahs:



1. Hear the Megillah

Head to your synagogue to hear the whole Megillah. The Megillah, a.k.a. "The Book of Esther," is the scroll that tells the Purim story. Listen to the public reading **twice**: once on Purim night, and again on Purim day. This year, that's **Thursday night, March 13th and Friday, March 14th**. *Pay attention!—it is crucial to hear every word.*

When Haman's name is mentioned (Chabad custom is that this is only when it is accompanied with a title), you can twirl *graggers* (noisemakers) or stamp your feet to eradicate his evil name. Tell your kids that Purim is the only time when it's encouraged to make noise during services!

The Megillah is read from a handwritten parchment scroll, using an age-old tune. Contact your local Chabad rabbi if for any reason you can't make it to your synagogue for the Megillah reading. He'll do his best to send a Megillah reader to your home or office.



2. Give to the Needy (*Matanot LaEvyonim*)

One of Purim's primary themes is **Jewish unity**. Haman tried to kill us all, we were all in danger together, so we celebrate together too. Hence, on Purim day we place special emphasis on caring for the less fortunate.

Give money or food to at least two needy people during the daylight hours of Purim, March 14. In case you can't find

any needy people, your synagogue will likely be collecting money for this purpose. At least, place two coins in a charity box earmarked for the poor.

On Purim, we give a donation to whoever asks; we don't verify his or her bank balance first. As with the other mitzvahs of Purim, even small children should fulfill this mitzvah.



DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?

Do you really believe
There are no bad journeys
Do you really believe
There are no mistakes
Do you really believe
It is orchestrated
All the twists and turns that your life's road takes

Do you really believe
That it all has meaning
Do you really believe
That you're never lost
Do you really believe
That they're so important
All the streets and faces that your path has crossed

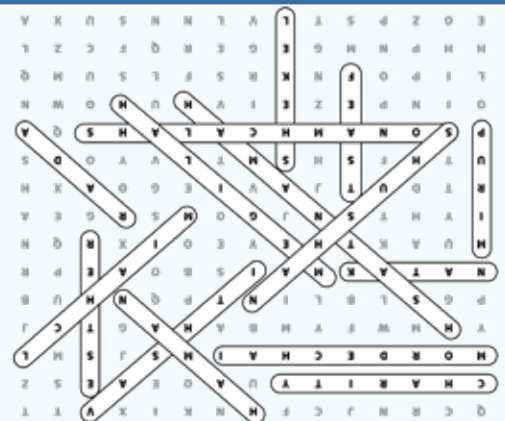
Do you really believe
When you're going nowhere
Do you really believe
When you've chosen wrong
Do you really believe
When there's lots at stake here
And the path behind you is steep and long

Do you really believe
That He wants the questions
Do you really believe
That He wants the tears
Do you really believe
That you haven't wasted
All the hours waiting till the traffic clears

Do you really believe
In the bigger picture
Do you really believe
That there's work to do
Do you really believe
That your steps were led here
Cuz the job that's waiting here is just for you?

Do you really believe
That we all have journeys
Do you really believe
That the grass counts too
Do you really believe
If the ant's important
That there's unimportant journeys of a Jew?

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION





3. Send Food Gifts to Friends (Mishloach Manot)

On Purim we emphasize the importance of friendship and community by sending gifts of food to friends.

On Purim day, March 14, send a package containing at least two different ready-to-eat food items and/or beverages (e.g., pastry, fruit, beverage) to at least one Jewish acquaintance during the daylight hours of Purim. Men send to men, and women to women. It is preferable that the gifts be delivered via a third party.



4. Feast!

During the course of **Purim day, March 14,** gather your family, maybe invite a guest or two, and celebrate with a festive Purim meal. **Note:** When Purim falls on a Friday, out of deference to the approaching Shabbat, *we start the meal earlier, ideally before midday.*

Purim fun: Masquerade!



On Purim, children—and some adventurous adults too—traditionally dress in costumes, an allusion to G-d's hand in the Purim miracle, which was disguised by natural events. Make sure your children masquerade as good, cheerful characters, such as Mordechai and Esther.

Special Prayers

On Purim, we include the brief *V'al Hanissim* section in all the day's prayers, as well as in the day's Grace after Meals. This prayer describes the Purim story and thanks G-d for the "miracles, redemptions, mighty deeds, saving acts and wonders" that He wrought for our ancestors on this day many years ago.

In the morning service there is a special Torah reading (*Exodus 17:8-16*), describing the battle Joshua waged against *Amalek*—Haman's ancestral nation—almost one thousand years before the Purim events unfolded.

Before Purim: The Fast of Esther

To commemorate the prayer and fasting that the Jewish people held during the Purim story, we fast on the day before Purim. This year we fast on **Thursday, March 13th.** The fast begins approximately an hour before sunrise (**Mobile, AL time - 5:49 am**) and lasts until nightfall.

Before Purim: The "Half Coins" (Machatzit HaShekel)

It is a tradition to give three coins in "half" denominations—e.g., three half-dollar coins—to charity, to commemorate the half-shekel that each Jew contributed as his share in the communal offerings in the time of the Holy Temple. This custom, usually performed in the synagogue, is done on the afternoon of the "Fast of Esther," or before the reading of the Megillah.

Shushan Purim

In certain ancient walled cities—Jerusalem is the primary example Purim is observed not on the 14th of Adar (the date of its observance everywhere else), but *on the 15th of Adar.* This is to commemorate the fact that in the ancient walled city of Shushan, where the battles between the Jews and their enemies extended for an additional day, the original Purim celebration was held on the 15th of Adar.

The 15th of Adar is thus called "*Shushan Purim*," and is a day of joy and celebration also in those places where it is not observed as the actual Purim.

Hamantaschen Recipe by Nadine Mendelsohn-Ziskind



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 large eggs | Filling ideas: |
| ½ cup oil | Fruit jam |
| ½ cup sugar | Poppy seed |
| ½ tsp vanilla extract | Nut butters |
| ½ tsp baking powder | Melted chocolate |
| ¼ tsp kosher salt | for dipping |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
 Mix egg, oil, sugar, and vanilla together with a spoon.
 Add the flour, baking powder and salt.
 Roll out the dough to ¼ inch thick.
 Using a round cookie cutter or glass cut the dough into circles.
 Place 1 teaspoon of your filling in the center.
 Pinch closed to form a triangle.
 Bake for 10-12 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Fillings: Fruit jams, poppy seed, nut butters.
 To make the hamantaschen fancy, dip a corner in melted chocolate, then add sprinkles, coconut flakes, or chopped nuts. *B'teavon!*

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Find the words below taken from this month's Purim guide!

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Adar | Hamantash |
| Purim | Feast |
| Shushan | Charity |
| Mordechai | Megilah |
| Haman | Shekel |
| Esther | Lchaim |
| Vashti | Katan |
| Shalachmanos | |

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 Gulfport, MS 39503

Chabad of Louisiana
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 New Orleans, LA 70118

Chabad Jewish Center Metairie
 4141 W Esplanade Ave
 Metairie, LA 70002

STRONG JEWISH WOMEN by Rachel Leah Fry



Throughout history there have been strong Jewish women. Esther braved two unannounced visits to her husband the king, Ahasuerus to save her uncle Mordecai and the Jewish people from the death Haman had decreed. Her incredible strength and bravery are celebrated each Purim.

Yocheved, Moses' mother, saved him when Pharaoh had called for the slaughter of all male Hebrew newborns. She set him adrift at the edge of the Nile, where he was found and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter as Moses' big sister Miriam kept watch and then bravely offered her mother to be his wet nurse. Miriam and her mother kept the secret of their relationship to Moses, saving the life of Hashem's greatest prophet. Though Moses grew up as a royal prince, he was faithful to his Jewish roots and

eventually led the Jewish people out of Egyptian slavery and brought them the Torah at Mt. Sinai.

Sisters Rachel and Leah, Jacob's wives were two of Judaism's matriarchs. Jacob worked seven years for his father-in-law Laban, to have Rachel as a wife. She was beautiful and perfect, and Jacob loved her. Laban wanted to trick him into marrying Leah but Jacob had already prepared a secret sign he shared with Rachel as a caution for this exact scenario. Rachel selflessly revealed the sign to her sister so that she would not be shamed at the wedding. Our Sages tell us that Leah was actually destined to marry the wicked Esau, but her powerful prayers and trust in G-d changed this destiny. These two mothers of the Jewish people, sisters, became the progenitors of Israel's twelve tribes.

Though Rachel was not buried with the family in the Cave of Mount Machpelah, but alone on the side of the road where she died, her burial place is elevated as a place for prayer throughout the centuries, a prayer that reaches straight to the heavens in merit of Rachel's selfless care for her sister.

Following on the path of our foremothers, we Jewish women stand on their shoulders and look to Hashem for the extraordinary strength with which each of us has been gifted. We are blessed to have been given the status and responsibility of being G-d's chosen people. And as wives and mothers we are tasked with raising strong, cohesive Jewish families.

Every Jewish woman can truly say that her strength—emotional and physical—was passed down through the ages by those who came before and left us guidance, and by the grace of Hashem. May we strong Jewish women continue to hold to our Jewish past and present as we usher in the coming of Moshiach.

G-D IS REALLY HERE by Yehudah Silverwolf



When we think of Purim, most of us visualize festivities. Food, drink, costumes, music...everything that makes a party is attributed to the holiday. We also listen to the reading of *Megillat Esther*, we give *zedakah* and we acknowledge the deliverance of our ancestors from an evil plot of genocide against the Jewish people under Persian rule.

When we hear the *Megillah*, it's like listening to an action/adventure story. It doesn't sound much like a religious teaching at all. In the Exodus from Egypt, G-d's name is

everywhere. G-d personally and directly intercedes on behalf of the Hebrews through miracles and intimate communication.

In *Megillat Esther*, G-d doesn't make an appearance. If it weren't included in the *Tanakh*, it could be dismissed as a fun story, yet its inclusion invites us to take a closer look. Indeed, we are taught that G-d is everywhere in the book, working behind the scenes, arranging people and events to fulfill the ultimate salvation of the Jews. This is easier to see in hindsight as each piece of the story contributes to its exhilarating ending.

This is why we wear costumes for Purim. We imitate G-d by concealing our identities just as G-d is concealed within the *Megillah*. My question is, what can we learn from the story?

I look back on my life, and I can see how circumstances, people and events have aligned in order for great things to happen to me. I can dismiss these as coincidence, happenstance or just good *mazal*. But, *Megillat Esther* teaches me that there is a G-d who cares and intervenes on behalf of humanity; G-d helps you and me, and when we exercise our spiritual muscles through Torah and *Mitzvos*, it becomes a lot easier to see. *A gutte Purim to everyone!*

CHABAD OF MOBILE

Chabad of Mobile is a local non-profit organization serving the needs of Jewish people living in or visiting throughout the lower Alabama region. We are part of the worldwide Chabad organization established by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, with centers in every US state and more than 100 countries. We service Jews of all ages, backgrounds, affiliations, and abilities. We provide opportunities for Jewish practice, experience and education and strive to be an all around resource for every Jew.

Chabad of Mobile offers an array of programs and services including community Shabbat meals, holiday celebrations, Brunch and Learns, weekly Parsha class, weekly Tanya class, children's programs, women's events, one on one learning, home and hospital visitations, prison visitations, prayer services, kosher store, woman's mikvah, Jewish art calendar, and more.

EVENTS



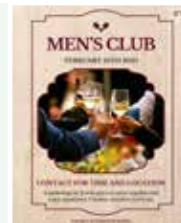
4 Mobile Teen at Cteen in Times Square



Purim@TheGrandHotel



Purim in Israel Party



Mobile Men's Club

