



# March 2016 Adar I/Adar II 5776

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Purim pointers

MARCH 25 - Betenu celebrates Purim and its tale of Jewish survival against all odds. As recounted in the Book of Esther (Megillat Esther), the Persian royal advisor Haman plotted to exterminate all the Jews in the kingdom—only to be foiled by Esther and her cousin Mordechai. Purim is a joyous, rowdy holiday ... complete with booing and noise-making during readings, whenever Haman's name is mentioned!

Purim's hallmarks include feasting, merrymaking, exchanging gifts and offering presents to the poor. There are costumes, parties and even plays. Here are a few traditional ways to celebrate, as outlined at reformjudaism.org:

- Hamantaschen: 3-cornered pastries eaten on Purim, reminiscent of the villainous Haman's triangular hat. In Israel at this time of year, freshly baked hamantaschen can be smelled on every block.
- Costumes: Esther initially "masked" her Jewish identity. Today some dress as characters from the story, as Jewish heroes in history, or whatever strikes their fancy.
- Grager: the noisemaker used to drown out Haman's name as we read the megillah.
- Mishloach manot: gifts of food exchanged on Purim, often in baskets, with a wide variety of foods and treats.
- Matanot l'evyonim: gifts to the poor so they, too, can celebrate Purim with a special meal.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Student-led Service, grades 6-7, 7:00 pm	5 <i>Vayakel</i>
6 Sunday School, 9 am	7	8	9	10	11 Rav Rebekah led service 7:30 pm  Adult Ed to follow	12 <i>Pekuda</i>
13 Sunday School, 9 am  Hamantaschen workshop, 11 am	14	15	16	17	18 Lay led service, 7:30 pm	19 <i>Vayikra</i>
20 Sunday School, 9 am	21 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm	22	23 Erev Purim	24 Purim	25 Rav Rebekah led Purim service 7:00 pm	26 <i>VTzav</i>
27 Snow Day for Sunday School (9 am if needed)	28	29	30	31		