



THE FOUR MITZVOT OF PURIM

“...that they should make them days of feasting and gladness (*mishteh v’simchah*), and of sending portions one to another (*mishloach manot*), and gifts to the poor (*matanot la-eyyonim*).” (Esther 9:22)

Four mitzvot associated with Purim are mentioned in the Scroll of Esther:

K’riat Megillah “Reading of the Megillah” – We read the Megillah, the scroll that Mordechai and Esther composed and sent to all of the Jews in the Persian Empire after Haman’s evil plot was discovered. ***Come hear the Megillah on Wednesday evening, February 28 at 6:00 pm at Congregation Sinai.***

Mishteh v’Simchah “Feasting and Gladness” – One should hold a festive meal of celebration on the day of Purim – a Purim Seudah – with old and new friends. ***Join us for lunch during the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 4 from 11:30 – 1:30 pm.***

Mishloach Manot “Sending of Portions” – It is customary to give gifts of food on the day of Purim. Technically, the minimum requirement is to give two separate dishes to one person, but the practice has expanded greatly, so that many people prepare baskets of treats for all of their friends and acquaintances. ***All Sinai members receive a Mishloach manot gift. It can be picked up on Wednesday, February 28 at the Megillah reading or at the Purim carnival on Sunday, March 4.***

Matanot La-eyyonim “Gifts to the Poor” – Originally meant to ensure that even the poorest Jews could enjoy a Purim Seudah, one would give two gifts to two poor people. ***Today, one can donate money at the synagogue on Purim, which will be distributed on Purim by Rabbi Berkenwald.***

Together, the four mitzvot of Purim contribute to a day of joy and unity for Jews everywhere.