

Or Ami ^{congregation}
you're home



**PURIM CELEBRATION
SUPPLEMENT**

Couch Comfortable Purim

with

Rabbi Paul Kipnes

Cantor Doug Cotler Rabbi Julia Weisz

Songs, Stories, Wonderful Wackiness

For all ages: Adults, Children, Individuals and Families

MARCH 18, 2022

15 Adar II 5782

DEDICATE YOUR PURIM CELEBRATION

Jewish tradition encourages us *kivein et libeinu* (to direct our hearts) toward holiness. We dedicate our Purim celebration to people (deceased or living) who have helped us this past year as our world turned upside down:

I dedicate tonight's celebration to:



Name

Because



Name

Because



Name

Because



Name

Because



Name

Because



Name

Because



Name

Because



Name

Because

My *kavannah* (purpose or intention) for this year's Purim service is to:

HAPPY PURIM!

After Or Ami's clergy and leaders received over-flowingly positive feedback on our live-streamed High Holy Days and Chanukah services, we set out to enhance Purim, to again make meaningful that which would be fundamentally different. Again, we have created an exciting celebration that will have you laughing and loving, chuckling and kvelling, pondering and praising our community celebration

Our Purim service on Friday, March 18th will be fun, festive, and couch-comfortable! Tune in to feel the warmth of our community. Sing Purim songs with Cantor Doug Cotler, reflect upon Purim's timeless messages with Rabbis Julia Weisz and Paul Kipnes, and enjoy unbounded joyfulness.

Let this Purim Celebration Supplement guide you on your costumed journey. It contains silly song lyrics, games, suggestions for how to transform your home, and the story of Purim. Can't figure out the technology? Tech help is just a phone call away.

On the blank pages, dedicate your Purim celebration to those who helped you through this upside down world, name and negate those who represent the evil Haman in our day, and illuminate your hopes. With the Purim Celebration Box, created by our Or Ami staff for all Or Ami partners, you can shape your spiritual experience ahead.

The Megillah, or Scroll of Esther, reminds us that when the world turns upside down, we each have a role to turn it right-side up. Our actions, like Queen Esther's and Mordechai's, can return us to our timeless values of chesed v'rachamim (kindness and compassion) and tzedek v'emet (justice and truth). Together may we fill our world with renewed faith in the future.

One final suggestion: even as you stream our Purim service, simultaneously set up a private call, FaceTime, Duo, or Zoom with family or dear friends. That way, you can "go to Purim service together."

Chag Purim — Wishing you a fun-filled Purim

Susie Gruber, Henaynu Chair • **Craig Steinhauer**, President • **Rabbi Paul Kipnes**



How to Stream Services

Stream the service at **oramiLIVE.com** or on Congregation Or Ami's Facebook page **facebook.com/CongregationOrAmiCalabasas**.

Connect your computer to a television screen for enhanced view.
For ideas on how, visit **orami.org/tech**.

Live Tech Support

If you have questions or experience difficulty accessing any of our services, live technical support is available to assist you.

Prior to services, you can reach us Monday through Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.

On Friday, March 18th, you can reach us starting at 5:30 pm:

orami.org/tech

Contact us by email: **office@orami.org**

For complete information and updates on our Purim service,
visit **orami.org/purim**

Thank You to Our Wonderful Sponsors



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Rich & Terry Abrams

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(Eric, Joanna, Tilly, Henry)

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Rabbi Kipnes Discretionary Fund

CHECKLIST: TO DO BEFORE SERVICES

Do Now (or Very Soon)

- ☐ Read *Mikdash M'at - Creating a Home Sanctuary* (p. 5)
- ☐ Connect your computer to your television (orami.org/tech)
- ☐ Test the stream at oramiLIVE.com (orami.org/tech)

Prepare

- ☐ Make your sitting area comfortable
- ☐ Hang your *Shiviti* (orami.org/shiviti)
- ☐ Decorate your whole house for Purim

Gather

- ☐ Groggers, masks, funny hats, and costumes
- ☐ Shabbat candlesticks and candles
- ☐ Purim Celebration Supplement
- ☐ Pen/Pencil

Reflect and Fill Out

- ☐ Dedicate your Purim celebration (inside cover)

TO DO FOLLOWING SERVICES

Reflect

- ☐ Become a Grogger for Goodness (p. 9)

Give

- ☐ Donate to our Purim Tzedakah Drive. We are working with partner organizations to help care for the unhoused with About My Father's Business, Pastor Kathy Huck's homeless outreach ministry, sponsor heart surgeries for young children around the world through Israel's Save a Child's Heart, and support Jewish pluralism in Israel thru our Reform Jewish sister synagogues near Jerusalem. Any additional funds help Or Ami teach the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) throughout our community. Please dig deep and give: orami.org/donate

Kvell (Praise)

- ☐ After the service, offer thanks and praise to those who transformed our inspiring in-person Purim service into a beautiful streaming worship experience. Send Rabbi Kipnes an email so we can pass on your praises: rabbipaul@orami.org.

MIKDASH M'AT - CREATING A HOME SANCTUARY

Can we pray or celebrate in places outside of the synagogue? The rabbis asked the same question right after the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple. Their answer: our homes become our *mikdash m'at* (miniature sanctuary), our personal holy place.

To enjoy Or Ami's couch-comfortable celebration, we can create sacred space in our homes. Prior to Purim, take time to create that fun festive space, so that when you are streaming Congregation Or Ami's services, the festive mood surrounds you.

- ☐ Choose your celebration space carefully in advance.
- ☐ Say a blessing or *kavannah* ("intention") over it to mark it as your *mikdash m'at*.

Birkat Habayit (home blessing):

<i>B'zeh hash'a'ar lo yavo tza'ar.</i>	Let no sorrow come through this gate.
<i>B'zot hadirah lo tavo tzara.</i>	Let no trouble come in this dwelling.
<i>B'zot hadelet lo tavo behala.</i>	Let no fright come through this door.
<i>B'zot hamach'laka lo tavo machloket.</i>	Let no conflict come to this section.
<i>B'zeh hamakom t'hee v'racha v'shalom.</i>	Let there be blessing and peace in this place.

- ☐ Make your space feel festive and fun: Decorate your room with wild colors. Lay out your costumes, color your masks, and place your groggers nearby. Surround yourself with cherished mementos, family heirlooms, and photos of loved ones.
- ☐ Transform your computer from your work space to a festive stage (*bima*) by covering the desk or table with a colorful tablecloth, colorful runner, or colorful placemat. Add a vase of flowers.
- ☐ Move your computer, if possible, away from where you are sitting, so you can pray toward the screen, rather than looking down on it. Connect your computer to a TV so it feels less like a work device.
- ☐ *Shiviti*: Historically, many synagogues and even homes had a decorative work on the wall called a *Shiviti*, taken from the first Hebrew word of the verse, "I always set Adonai before me" (Psalm 16:8). We have commissioned a *shiviti* from artist and congregant Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik as a gift to all service participants. We hope you will hang it in front of you, so it becomes another focus of inspiration. You can download it at orami.org/shiviti.

4 MITZVOT OF PURIM

Megillah: Read the Scroll of Esther

On Purim, the Megillah is read aloud in synagogues all over the world – and this is one time when no one is discouraged from making noise during the service! In fact, listeners shake their groggers (Yiddish for “noisemakers”) every time they hear the name of the story’s villain, Haman.

Mishloach Manot: Give Gifts to Friends and Neighbors

Following the instructions of Queen Esther at the end of the Megillah, we send gifts of food, or mishloach manot, to friends and colleagues to ensure that everyone has the means to be happy, further foiling the evil plans of Haman.

Matanot L'evyonim: Give Support to Those Who Need Help

Giving directly to those experiencing poverty, matanot l'evyonim, ensures that everyone has the means to celebrate during the holiday and also honors Esther and Mordechai's legacy of saving the Jewish people. Fulfilling the mitzvah of matanot l'evyonim can be as simple as dropping coins into a tzedakah box, making donations of food or clothing to a local pantry or shelter, or making online donations to favorite charitable organizations that help those in need.

Purimspiel: Put on Fun Plays and Celebrate

Purim is a noisy, riotous, carnival-like festival, in which children and grown-ups dress up in costume, bake hamantaschen, enjoy a delicious seudah (Purim feast). We put on plays which make fun and increase the joy!



REFLECT: BECOME A GROGGER FOR GOODNESS

The Megillah story tells us that Queen Vashti, Queen Esther and Mordechai each stood up to the evil they witnessed in their midst. Each raised their voices to speak truth to power, endangering themselves to ensure others were protected. Like the grogger that drowns out evil Haman's name, we too can become forces of goodness that triumph over evil.

Consider:

Chesed (kindness): How will I create **kindness** in my home, my community, and my world?

Rachamim (compassion): In what 2 ways will my **compassion** toward others reverberate throughout the world?

Tzedek (justice): In what 2 ways will I stand up, becoming a beacon for **justice**?

Emet (truth): How will I speak truth to power, illuminating truth in the face of falsehood?

Purim Madlibs

Instructions: Ask someone to give you words of the types listed, then read the wacky story that is created.

Ahasuerus was the king of _____.
NOUN

extravagant _____ that would last 180 days. One
PLURAL NOUN

day he demands that his wife, Queen Vashti _____
VERB

for his guests. Vashti refuses and Ahasuerus banishes her
Ahasuerus grows lonely and begins searching for another
_____ to marry. He holds a _____
NOUN NOUN

for all the eligible _____ in the kingdom. Esther
PLURAL NOUN

catches the king's eye and she is chosen as queen. Shortly after,
Ahasuerus' _____ minister, Haman, sends out a
ADJECTIVE

declaration to _____ all the Jews in the kingdom.
VERB

Esther's cousin Mordechai, a _____ man, tells Esther
ADJECTIVE

that she must _____ the king to save the Jewish
VERB

people. Esther risks her life and approaches the king without
being _____. She reveals to the king that she is
ADJECTIVE

_____ and asks him to spare her people. Ahasuerus
ADJECTIVE

has Haman _____ in the _____,
PAST TENSE VERB NOUN

and the Jews in the kingdom are saved.

A Purim Word Hunt

Find the words listed below hidden in the grid of letters.
(One example is done for you). Words appear horizontally, vertically
and diagonally. The leftover letters spell out a sentence.

Adar-	festival	mishloach
Ahasuerus	gallows	manot
banquet	gragger	Mordecai
bow	Haman	Persia
charity	Hamantaschen	plot
costume	Jew	Purim
decree	king	queen
drinking	lots	Shushan
Esther	mask	spiel
feast	Megillah	Vashti



H	A	H	A	M	A	N	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
M	B	F	E	A	S	T	A	N	H	T	A	S	E	C
H	A	M	A	N	T	A	S	C	H	E	N	Q	S	H
C	N	H	M	H	B	E	A	N	S	M	A	U	T	A
G	Q	R	A	E	K	O	D	E	H	O	V	E	H	R
R	U	L	S	S	L	I	W	I	U	R	A	E	E	I
A	E	S	K	H	U	W	N	I	S	D	S	N	R	T
G	T	P	S	D	E	E	P	G	H	E	H	I	L	Y
G	O	I	P	J	E	E	R	E	A	C	T	G	O	U
E	M	E	U	M	R	C	M	U	N	A	I	A	T	S
R	F	L	R	S	A	U	R	R	S	I	E	L	S	S
P	A	H	I	B	T	N	M	E	G	I	L	L	A	H
L	D	A	M	S	A	K	O	E	E	D	W	O	I	T
O	A	H	O	L	O	V	E	T	F	O	R	W	P	U
T	R	C	R	D	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	S	I	M

Mordechai Says:

How can I tell my beloved niece, Esther, that it may be time to step out of the existence I helped cultivate for her because her people need her help? It was dreadful enough that I upended her life and pushed her to leave her community and family. I did so to set her up with a better life than she would ever have had. And now I am asking her to upend her world yet another time.

My beloved niece followed my instructions and entered the king's harem for the chance to live in the palace as wife to the king. She's a beauty, yes. But she's also wise and cunning, and she was smart enough to keep her eyes and ears open, to ask the right questions of Hathach, the harem attendant, and to follow the best advice. And so Esther became Ahasuerus' favorite.

But, living comfortably in the royal chambers with the other courtier women, does she know the great danger her people are facing? That Ahasuerus has once again failed to see through the megalomania of his chief vizier? That Haman issued a decree that all Jews must die? That if the Jewish people are condemned, Esther's secret will be revealed and her life put in jeopardy? Is it fair of me to approach her again, to ask her to endanger herself for me and our people? Given Haman's decree, do I really have any choice?

I pushed my beloved Hadassah to hide her Judaism behind the veils of Ahasuerus' women, to become Esther, Queen of Shushan. But now, I have to make her understand that the only way she can save our people is to reveal the truth that I pushed her to ignore.

Megillat Esther 4:10-17

Esther [sent] Mordechai the following reply: "All the king's courtiers and the people of the king's provinces know that if any person, man or woman, enters the king's presence in the inner court without having been summoned, there is but one law for him – that he be put to death. Only if the king extends the golden scepter to him may he live. Now I have not been summoned to visit the king for the last thirty days." When Mordechai was told what Esther had said, Mordechai had this message delivered to Esther: "Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king's palace. On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father's house will perish.

And who knows, perhaps you have attained your royal position for just such a crisis." Then Esther sent back this answer to Mordechai: "Go, assemble all the Jews who live in Shushan, and fast on my behalf; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens will observe the same fast. Then I shall go to the king, though it is contrary to the law; and if I am to perish, I shall perish!" So Mordechai went about the city and did just as Esther had commanded him.

Esther Says:

Sometimes, I wonder what my life would have been like if my uncle had never heard that Ahasuerus was searching for a new bride. As a young girl, covered in dirt and burdened with chores, I dreamt of the palace and the beauty of Queen Vashti's rooms. But now that I live within the palace walls, now that my body has been given to the king, now that there is nowhere to run, I dream of our pastures and the beauty of a single blade of grass. Now I dream of being the wife of a man who is content with my love and does not seek out or collect the love of others. Now I dream of being simply Hadassah and no longer Queen Esther.

I have just received a message from Mordechai and his words are sharp and fierce. I can hear his fear even though he has made his words ring with strength and passion.

Once again I am responsible for changing the fate of those whom I love, and this time it is not only my uncle but the entirety of my people that I must carry. I sit amongst the women of my husband's court and wonder whether all of us are here because our families traded our bodies for the promise of their prosperity. I imagine that the harem is a richly appointed bank and that each one of us is simply a unit of currency, locked away until our husband has use for us.

If Mordechai's message is correct, and the Jewish people are threatened, I can at least be glad that the king has placed a high value on my currency. If the lives of the old or unloved wives were threatened, there would be no recourse available to them.

I supposed that I have made my decision. I will do what my uncle has asked me to do. I will expose Haman's wickedness to my husband and will use his fondness for me to save my people.

I will use the power that Hadassah dreamt of and that Esther despises to protect the Jews of Shushan. I will once again put my life and happiness in danger in order to change the fates of the people that I love. And, if I survive this latest ordeal, I will continue dreaming about the life I could have led had I never been currency and was instead only a woman.

THE STORY OF PURIM

(For Young Children) Adapted from joyfuljewish.wordpress.com

Once upon a time in a town called Shushan, there lived a man called Mordechai. He was a very good man, and always tried to help people and do the right thing. Mordechai lived with his niece Esther, and they were Jewish. In the same town there was a king called King Ahashverosh. He lived in a big palace and had lots of gold, but he was a bit lonely. He needed a new queen to come and live with him in the palace. He looked everywhere and eventually he decided that the one person he liked most of all was Esther, who was not only pretty but also kind and very smart. Esther said goodbye to her Uncle Mordechai and went to live in the palace with the King and become his queen, but she didn't tell him she was Jewish.

Now a man named Haman who worked in the palace was not very nice. Haman expected everyone to do exactly what he said, and to bow down to him when they saw him, and he got angry if someone didn't do what he wanted. One day Haman met Mordechai, and Mordechai did not bow down to him. Haman became very angry and he went to the King and said, "There are some people around here who do things differently from other people, and I think you should make them go away."

The King didn't really know what Haman was talking about, but he said "Okay, you can tell those people to go away, the ones who do things differently." What Haman wanted to do was to get rid of Mordechai and Esther and all their Jewish friends! The Jewish people were very sad, because they liked living in the kingdom and they didn't want to go away. What could they do? Mordechai sent a message to Esther at the palace, and the message said, "Esther we need your help! That nasty Haman wants to get rid of us all! Please talk to the King and ask him to stop Haman." Queen Esther thought, "I must be very brave," and she made a special dinner for the King, with all his favorite foods. Then she invited the King and Haman to come and have dinner with her. The King thought dinner was delicious. He was so happy that after he

finished eating, he said to Queen Esther, “What can I do for you, to say thank you?”

Queen Esther said, “Oh please, I need you to help me and my uncle Mordechai and all our friends, because someone wants to make us go away.” “That is terrible!” said the king, because he really liked Esther and he didn’t want her to go away. “Who wants to get rid of you and your family and friends?” Esther pointed at Haman and said “It’s him! Haman wants to get rid of us!” “Oh no!” said the King, and he was very angry indeed. He called his guards and said, “Take away Haman and get rid of him instead!”

Then the King asked Mordechai to come and work at the palace and do Haman’s job – but of course Mordechai was much nicer than Haman! And nobody had to go and live anywhere else if they didn’t want to. So after that, everyone lived happily in the Kingdom. Queen Esther saved the Jews, and Mordechai did a really good job working for the king.



PURIM SONGSHEET

1 Shabbat Candles Blessing

Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu
Melech Haolam
Asher kiddishanu b'mitzvotav
Vitzivanu l'hadlik ner shel
Shabbat v'shel Yom Tov.

2 Purim Day

New words by Julie Silver

Hag Purim (2x),
Hag gadol hu la-y'hudim.
Ma-se-chot, ra-a-sha-nim,
zmirot r'ku-dim.
Hava narisha,
rash rash rash (3x)
Bara-a-sha-nim

Purim day, Purim day,
such a joyous holiday
Happy throngs, singing songs,
masked and dancing gay
Round go the graggers,
rash, rash, rash (3x)
For this is Purim day

Purim day, Purim day,
present-giving holiday
Homentash, good to eat,
cakes and candies sweet
Round go the graggers,
rash, rash, rash (3x)
For this is Purim day

Purim's here, Purim cheer,
it's a holiday so dear
Mask and song, bring along
graggers loud and clear
Here go the graggers,
rash, rash, rash (3x)
Gragger time is here

3 Mi Shebeirach

By Debbie Friedman & Drorah Setel

Mi shebeirach avoteinu
M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu
May the source of strength
Who blessed the ones before us
Help us find the courage to make
our lives a blessing
And let us say Amen

Mi shebeirach imoteinu
M'kor hab'rachah l'avoteinu
Bless those in need of healing
with r'fuah sh'leimah
The renewal of body,
the renewal of spirit
And let us say Amen

4 Runaway

New lyrics by Doug Cotler

As I walk along, I think of what
went wrong,
With Haman and why he's so obscene
Didn't he get enough attention,
Does he suffer from anal retention,
Is that why he's always so mean?

I'm a-walking tall and proud.
Ain't ashamed and I'll sing out loud
Ain't no way I bowing down
To some meglo-maniacal clown
And I wonder. I wo-o-o-o- wonder
Why. Whyyyyyyy. Haman acts that way
But it's no wonder, I will not sway
I'm not gonna runaway
Run, run, run, run, runaway

Haman does not like his mother
I'm sure he treats his brother
With a great deal of disdain
And now he's acting so demonic
He's needs high colonic
He really is a pain

5 Megillah (Ob-la-di)

Achaverosh is the king in Shushan town
Haman his advisor is so mean
Mordechai's the Jewish guy who won't bow down
And then there's Vashti, now it's Esther as the Queen

Megillah Megillha Megillah -la. It's all in the Megillah (2x)

Esther was selected to be Persia's Queen.
Didn't tell the king she is a Jew
Mordechai said she must be the go-between
Tell the truth or else the Jews will all be through

Achaverosh couldn't sleep at all one night
When he heard about how Mordy saved his life
He saw the light

Mordechai is riding on the king's white horse
Haman has to lead him, he's so mad
Esther tells the king and saves the Jews of course
And Haman's history so everybody's glad

Megillah Megillha Megillah -la. It's all in the Megillah (2x)
And if you want some fun... Read the Megillah

6 Megillah Blessings

*Baruch Ata Adonai El-heinu Melech ha-olam asher kideshanu
b-mitsvotav ve-tsivanu al mikra megila.*

We praise You, Eternal our God, Guide of the Universe, who has
made us holy through mitzvot and commanded us to read this scroll.

*Baruch Ata Adonai El-heinu Melech ha-olam she-asa nisim la-avote-nu
bayamim haheim, ba-zeman hazeh*

We praise You, Eternal our God, Guide of the Universe, who did miracles
for our ancestors in those days, as at this season.

*Baruch Ata Adonai El-heinu Melech ha-olam shehecheyanu vekiyeinu
vehigi-anu la-zman hazeh.*

We praise You, Eternal our God, Guide of the Universe, who has kept
us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to celebrate this festive day.

7 Mourner's Kaddish

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba b'alma di-v'ra chir'utei, v'yamlich
malchutei b'cha-yeichon uv'yomeichon uv'chaye d'chol beit Yisrael,
ba'agala u'viz'man kariv, v'imru Amen.*

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei almaya.

*Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpa'ar, v'yitro-mam, v'yitnasei, v'yit'hadar,
v'yit-aleh, v'yit-halal sh'mei d'kud'sha. B'rich hu. L'ela min kol birchata
v'shirata, tushb'chata v'neche-mata da'amiran b'alma, v'imru Amen.*

*Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya v'chayim aleinu v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru
Amen.*

*Oseh shalom bim'romav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisrael,
v'imru Amen.*

8 Hashkiveinu © Mah Tov

Hashkiveinu Adonai Eloheinu
l'shalom l'shalom.
V'ha-ameedeinu Shomreinu l'chayim
Ufros aleinu sukkat sh'lomecha
Ufros aleinu sukkat sh'lomecha
Amen

Shelter us beneath thy wings,
O Adonai.

Guard us from all harmful things,
O Adonai.

Keep us safe throughout the night
'Til we wake with morning's light
Teach us daily wrong from right.
Amen



HELP US REPAIR THE WORLD

As a community, let's support these important projects:

- For *About My Father's Business* and Pastor Kathy Huck, provide support, clothing, and food to care for the unhoused
- Through Israel's *Save a Child's Heart*, sponsor heart surgeries for young children around the world
- In partnership with two Jerusalem area Reform synagogues, deepen Jewish pluralism
- Additional funds help Or Ami teach the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)

orami.org/donate

Join Congregation Or Ami Today! 65% off Partnership Fees

Our Purim gift to you:
A synagogue that is
a sanctuary of kindness,
a safe Jewish community for today,
your second home.

Or Ami
congregation
you're home

No one is more welcome at Or Ami than you!

*Come home to Judaism.
Come home to Congregation Or Ami.*

*Learn how to become a part of this inspiring community.
Contact us at (818.880.4880 or office@orami.org).*

Or Ami's Purim Celebration

Friday, March 18, 2022

6:30 pm

(pre-show beginning
at 6:15 pm)



**Enjoy our
Couch-Comfortable Celebration
of our Festival of Fun**

For adults, families, children... everyone!

Featuring

**Cantor Doug's Purim Rap
Purim Singalong with Frozen's Elsa
Wacky Clergy Retelling the Megillah**

*If you found Or Ami's High Holy Days meaningful,
you will love our Couch-Comfortable Purim Celebration*

SAVE THE DATE

SUN, MARCH 13, 2022

10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Sova Sundays
food drive
orami.org/sova