



# הוֹעֵד לְעִנִּי הַדָּת RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

United Mashadi Jewish Community of America

בס"ד

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## *Purim Halachot and Minhagim 2024-5784*

Written by Rabbi Mosheh Aziz & R' Michael Livi in accordance with the teachings of Rav Eliyahu Ben-Haim.

Rabbi Eliyahu Ben-Haim  
(Co-Chair)

### *Zecher LeMachatzit Hashekel*

Mr. Nissim Bassalian  
(Co-Chair)

Mr. Robert Livi  
(Secretary)

Rabbi Mordechai Kohanim  
Rabbi Yosef Bitton  
Rabbi Adam Sabzevari  
Rabbi Mosheh Aziz

- The custom nowadays to donate "*Shekalim*" is done to remember the *Mitzva* which was once performed during the Bet Hamikdash
- The custom is to give this donation during the month of Adar
- Based on the price of silver, the proper amount to donate for this year is approximately \$8 for each male above the age of *bar-mitzva*. The Mashadi *Minhag* is that women and children are exempt from donating *shekaim*, but as with all charity, the more one gives, the greater the *mitzvah*.

Mr. Shmuel Livian  
Mr. Louis Ebrani  
Mr. Morris Aziz  
Mr. Mehrdad Kohanim  
Mr. Doron Hakimian  
Mr. Besalel Ben-Haim  
Mr. Moshe Enayatian  
Mr. Adam Kordvani  
Mr. Joshua Levian

### *Ta'anit Esther*

- To commemorate the fast that Mordechai decreed for the Jewish people as recalled in the *Megillat Esther*, the custom has developed to fast on the 13<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*. However, since the 13<sup>th</sup> of *Adar* falls out on Shabbat, the fast this year will be observed on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The fast this year begins in Great Neck, NY at 5:34am and concludes at 7:42pm
- All healthy men and women above *Bar/Bat Mitzva* should fast.
- A pregnant or nursing woman, and a woman within 24 months of childbirth (even if she is no longer nursing) is exempt from fasting.
- In order to have an Aliya to the Torah during Shacharit or Mincha, one must be fasting that day. Everyone is eligible for Petichat Heichal (opening the Ark) and carrying the Torah, whether or not they are fasting.
- During Mincha, there is Birkat Kohanim for Kohanim who are fasting so long as Mincha is recited within half an hour of sunset. Sunset this year is 7:08pm.

### *Shabbat Zachor*

- On the Shabbat that precedes Purim (Shabbat, March 23rd), we take out an additional *Sefer Torah* and read the *Parasha* of *Amalek*, remembering how *Amalek* attacked the Jews in the desert. The name of this Shabbat is "*Shabbat Zachor*."
- The reading of *Parashat Zachor* is a biblical obligation to remember *Amalek* and his descendants, while recalling their iniquity. There is an obligation on all men above the age of *bar-mitzva* to hear this reading in Kanissa once a year.
- Ideally, women should make an effort to hear *Parashat Zachor*. However, if a woman is busy taking care of her children and it is burdensome for her to attend the reading, she is exempt.
- On *Shabbat Zachor* both the *Mashlim* and the *Maftir* have *Kaddish*.



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### ***Tefilla/Havdala on Saturday Night***

- Since Purim falls out on *Motzae Shabbat*, after the Arvit *Amida*, half *kaddish* is recited, followed by the normal additions for *Motzae Shabbat Arvit* (*Shuva Hashem, ViHi Noam, Yoshev BeSeter*) until *veAtta Kaddosh*, where the *Megilla* is then read. At the conclusion of the *Megilla*, the *Chazzan* resumes with *veAtta Kadosh* and finishes Arvit as he normally does on any Saturday Night.
- Some have the custom to recite *Bore Me'Ore Ha'Esh* before reading the *Megilla*. However, Rav Ben Haim maintains that one should keep the *Havdala* in its regular order and recite it at the conclusion of the tefilla. If the Gabbayim fear that many people will leave before hearing *Havdala*, it should be recited immediately at the conclusion of the *Megilla* reading.
- If one intends to attend a later *Megilla* reading, they should say *Havdala* in its entirety immediately at the conclusion of Shabbat, before attending the *Megilla* reading.

### ***Megillat Esther - Reading the Megilla***

- There is a *Mitzva* for both men and women to hear the *Megilla* both at night (Saturday Night, March 23rd) and again during the day (Sunday, March 24th). One must be careful to hear every word of the *Megilla* to fulfill the obligation.
- Traditionally, children are brought to hear the *Megilla*, as well. Parents should be extra cautious to only bring children into the sanctuary if they can follow along with the *Megilla* and will not disturb the *Minyan* during the reading of the *Megilla*.
- It is improper to make excessive noise during the *Megilla* reading when Haman's name is mentioned if doing so makes it difficult for the listeners to hear the reader.

### ***Matanot La'evyonim (Gifts to the Poor)***

- There is a *Mitzva* for each person to give two food items to two poor people. This *Mitzva* can be accomplished through food or money and must be given on Purim Day. The *Minhag* has developed to give the approximate value of two meals in cash to a trusted *Gabbai* to distribute on Purim Day. The recommended amount to fulfill the obligation is **\$20 per person** above the age of *Bar/Bat Mitzva*.
- It is important to note - of all the *Mitzvot* on Purim, one should try and allocate the most money towards *Matanot La'evyonim*.

### ***Mishloach Manot***

- There is a *Mitzva* for each person to give at least two food items to one friend on Purim Day. This *Mitzva* can only be fulfilled on Purim Day (and not at night).



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### ***Purim Seuda (Purim Meal)***

- There is a *Mitzva* on Purim Day to have a special festive *Seuda* (meal). This meal should include meat and wine. Having bread is preferred, but not mandatory. One must be happy and rejoice to Hashem for the miracles that occurred to our forefathers during the story of *Megillat Esther*.
- One must be cautious not to become excessively intoxicated to the point where they put themselves or anyone at risk, or may *chas veshalom* cause a desecration of Hashem's name. Intoxication to this degree is not a *Mitzva* in any way and should not be attributed to the happiness of Purim. The *Mitzva* of drinking on Purim is only to drink slightly more than the amount one is used to drinking, for one who drinks responsibly.
- A custom has developed in recent times to wear costumes on Purim. Anyone participating in this custom should be careful not to wear costumes that are immodest or to cross-dress (making oneself appear to be of the opposite gender).