



הוועד לעניני הדת

RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

United Mashadi Jewish Community of America

Purim Halachot and Minhagim 2026-5786

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)

- 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 \$26 for each male above the age of *bar-mitzva*. Rav Ben-Haim has instructed us that for this year, one may also give a suggested \$10 or any amount they are comfortable. The Mashadi *Minhag* is that women and children are exempt from donating *shekalim*, but as with all charity, the more one gives, the greater the *mitzvah*.

Mr. Robert Livi
(Secretary)

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Rabbi Yosef Bitton
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Rabbi Mosheh Aziz

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Mr. Adam Kordvani
Mr. Joshua Levian

- 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 13th of *Adar*. The fast this year will be observed on Monday, March 2nd.
- The fast this year begins in Great Neck, NY at 5:15 am and concludes at 6:17 pm. For those attending the first Megilla reading on Monday night, the fast should be broken only after the conclusion of Megilla reading.
- 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 Hechal (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 5:47 pm.

Megillat Esther - Reading the Megilla

- There is a *Mitzva* for both men and women to hear the *Megilla* both at night (Monday night, March 2nd) and again during the day (Tuesday, March 3rd). 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.



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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 *Gabai* 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 majority of his Purim funds towards the *mitzvah* of *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).

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*.
- 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. One must not become excessively intoxicated to the point where they put themselves or anyone at risk or *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.
- 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).