



**SATURDAY,  
MARCH 15 &  
SUNDAY,  
MARCH 16, 2014**

**It's a mitzvah to eat, drink and be merry on Purim!**

## Experiencing Purim

Our Purim celebration begins in the synagogue where the Megillah, the story of Esther, is read to young and old alike. At no other time during the Jewish year is the synagogue this lively or noisy. Full of melodrama and a plot that twists and turns, Purim is all about masks, hidden layers, and double meanings. On the surface the tale represents good overcoming evil. More deeply, it highlights standing up for who you are, fighting against hatred and feeling proud of being Jewish.

Purim tells the story of Esther and Haman, and begins with a feast in the kingdom of Persia, hosted by King Ahashverosh. The king was flaunting his riches and treasures for all to see, and decided that his beautiful wife, Queen Vashti, should also be displayed. But when the king sent for Vashti, she refused to appear before him. In anger, he threw Vashti out of the palace.

In search of a new wife, the king chose Esther, a young and very beautiful Jewish woman. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, cautioned her not to tell the king that she was a Jew.

King Ahashverosh bestowed a special honor on Haman, his power-hungry assistant, telling all the people in his kingdom to bow down to Haman. As a Jew, Mordecai refused. Haman became enraged and devised a plan to kill all the Jews. He even bribed the king into signing the declaration.

To determine the date the Jews were to be attacked, Haman drew lots ("purim" in Hebrew). Mordecai, however, discovered Haman's evil scheme and revealed it to Esther. Esther decided she must tell Ahashverosh, even if it meant her life.

King Ahashverosh was horrified to learn that his beautiful wife and her people were in danger. Haman was condemned to be hanged on the gallows and Mordecai was elevated to the position of Prime Minister. The Jews were safe once again, and Esther and Mordecai proclaimed the day to be one of feasting and merrymaking.

Today, when the Megillah is read, a great noise erupts every time Haman's name is read out loud. Young and old use groggers (noisemakers) to make as much noise as possible. It is a day of magic for everyone, not just a dress-up holiday for children. Adults are given permission and even commanded to drop heavy responsibilities, and lighten their loads and spirits. Put on a wig or outrageous make-up, or wear silly clothes and embrace the child within. Allow fantasy to transform reality for a day of utter enjoyment.

## Saturday, March 15

**Ma'ariv/Traditional Megillah Reading**  
7:07pm in the Epstein Chapel

## Sunday, March 16

**Minyan/Traditional Megillah Reading**  
7:00am in the Epstein Chapel

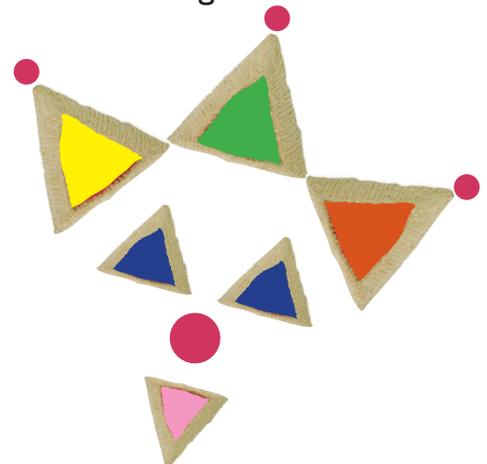
**PURIM  
PALOOZA!** (see other side)

**Family/Creative Megillah Reading &  
Costume Parade**

9:30am in the Sanctuary

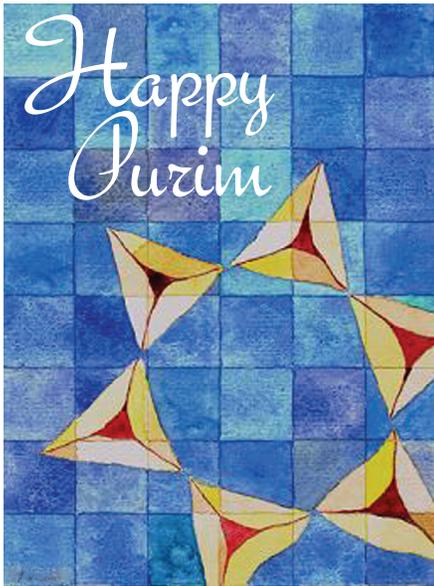
**Carnival & more!**

10:30am in Rabbi Breger Hall



**CONGREGATION  
ANSHEI ISRAEL**

5550 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. • Tucson, AZ 85711  
745-5550 • caiaz.org



A fundraiser to benefit  
CAI's Religious School.

## Shalach Manot Project

Sending food gifts to friends and family is one of the four Mitzvot performed on Purim. It is a heartfelt way to emphasize the Jewish unity that lies at the core of the Purim holiday ... and to create meaningful connections within our own community at the same time. Through this project, you can participate in giving a beautiful gift basket to your **CAI friends and family**. (Note: *This is a members-only project.*)

For just \$4 per recipient, you can order a gift basket to anyone on our membership list. Each recipient will receive one gift basket, along with a Purim scroll listing all the people who participated in their gift.

Baskets may be picked up in CAI's administrative office Friday, March 14, 8AM-4PM, or Sunday, March 16, 9AM-1PM.

All CAI members recently received their personalized code via e-mail. **The deadline to order is midnight March 9.** HURRY... visit [www.HappyPurim.com](http://www.HappyPurim.com) to order your Shalach Manot baskets today!

QUESTIONS? Contact Evelyn Sigafus at 885-4102 or [esigafus@aol.com](mailto:esigafus@aol.com)

# PURIM PALOOZA! SUNDAY, MARCH 16

9:30AM • SANCTUARY

Family/Creative Megillah Reading  
& Costume Parade **FREE!**

10:30AM-12:00PM • RABBI BREGER HALL

Carnival with Games & Prizes  
Face Painting  
Bounce House **FREE!**

11:00AM-12:30PM • RABBI BREGER HALL

Lunch platter (pasta, salad, hamentashen & beverage)  
Adults: \$5 • Kids (under 6) \$3.50



CONGREGATION ANSHEI ISRAEL  
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