



# PURIM RESOURCES

in the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center

## IN THE PINSOFF CHILDREN'S READING ROOM:

### ***The Mystery Bear* by Leone Adelson (E240.5)**

When he awakens from hibernation, Little Bear's hunger leads him to a house where a Purim celebration is just beginning.

### ***The Queen Who Saved Her People***

by Tilda Balsley

### ***Queen Esther Saves Her People* by Rita Gelman**

### ***Queen Esther, the Morning Star***

by Mordicai Gerstein

### ***The Story of Esther* by Eric Kimmel**

### ***The Story of Queen Esther* by Jenny Koralek (E240.5)**

### ***Esther's Story* by Diane Wolkstein (J224)**

These are all beautifully illustrated picture book retellings of the story of Queen Esther.

### ***Is it Purim Yet?* by Chris Barash (E240.5)**

It's time to fill the hamantaschen, swing the loud groggers, and dress up in costume to celebrate the cheerful holiday of Purim!

### ***Purim Chicken* by Margery Cuyler (E240.5)**

The animals are putting on a Purim play. Can Cluck find the courage of Queen Esther to rescue Quack and save the show?

### ***Problems in Purimville* by Karen Fisman (J240.5)**

Jacob and Sarah must draw on their wits and courage as they try to solve the problems in Purimville.

### ***The Mitzvah Girl* by Beverly Geller (E240.5)**

On Purim, Shira has the opportunity to perform many *mitzvot* and has the best Purim ever.

### ***Cakes & Miracles* by Barbara Goldin (E240.5)**

Young, blind Hershel finds that he has special gifts he can use to help his mother during Purim.

### ***The Better-Than-Best Purim***

by Naomi Howland (E240.5)

An old woman makes *hamantaschen* cookies, with no assistance from her lazy pets who are secretly planning a surprise.

### ***Sam & Charlie (and Sam too!)***

by Leslie Kimmelman (JF)

Sometimes even the best of friends can have their disagreements like who gets the last *hamantaschen* in "Story Two: Sharing," one of the stories in this book.

### ***It's Purim Time!* by Latifa Berry Kropf (E240.5)**

Photographs and easy-to-read text portray children in a Jewish preschool celebrating Purim.

### ***The Purim Superhero* by Elisabeth Kushner (E240.5)**

Nate wants to dress as an alien for Purim but his friend wants him to wear a superhero costume, so Nate seeks guidance from his Daddy and Abba, who advise that being yourself makes you stronger.

### **NEW! *Talia and the Haman-Tushies* by Linda Marshall (E240.5)**

Talia is confused when she thinks the *hamantaschen* cookies she and Grandma are baking for Purim are called Haman-tushies.

### ***Not for All the Hamantaschen in Town***

by Laura Aron Milhander (E240.5)

The three little pigs worry that the Purim festivities will be spoiled by the big bad wolf.

### **NEW! *Purim is Coming!* by Tracy Newman (E240.5)**

In this board book, a family and their dog get ready for Purim by baking *hamantaschen*, making costumes, and reading the megillah.

### ***Sammy Spider's 1st Purim* by Sylvia Rouss (E240.5)**

A young spider wants to join in as Josh and his mother bake *hamantaschen*, make a costume, and spin the *grogger* for Purim.

### ***Raisel's Riddle* by Erica Silverman (E240.5)**

A Jewish version of the Cinderella story, in which a poor but educated young woman captivates her "Prince Charming," a rabbi's son, at a Purim ball.

### ***Festival of Esther* by Maida Silverman (E240.5)**

Explains the history and meaning of Purim and includes a traditional holiday song and a recipe for *hamantaschen*. See also "Disguises: A Story for Purim" in *The Glass Menorah* (J240).

### ***The Purim Surprise* by Lesley Simpson (E240.5)**

Having moved to a new city just before Purim, Naomi reluctantly agrees to help deliver *shalach manot*, while worrying that her mother has forgotten her seventh birthday.

***Barnyard Purim* by Kelly Terwilliger (E240.5)**

Farmer Max's animals decide to put on a Purim play, directed by Chicken.

***Goldie's Purim* by Jane Breskin Zalben (E240.5)**

Goldie overcomes her stage fright to play Queen Esther in the synagogue's celebration of Purim. See also *Beni's Family Cookbook for the Jewish Holidays* for Goldie's *hamantaschen* recipe and other Purim treats (J741).

***It's Party Time!* by Jonny Zucker (E240.5)**

Here is a simple introduction to Purim that follows a family as they wear costumes, go to synagogue, and make lots of noise!

**IN THE MAXWELL ABBELL LIBRARY:**

***The One Hour Purim Primer***

**by Shimon Apisdorf (240.5)**

Everything a family needs to understand, celebrate, and enjoy Purim is included in this step-by-step guide.

***Strong as Death is Love: The Song of Songs, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, and Daniel* by Robert Alter (224)**

An award-winning translation brings new immediacy to these beloved books of the Bible.

***Haman and the Jews: A Portrait from Rabbinic Literature* by Elaine Rose Glickman (220.1)**

A scholarly, yet accessible, study of Haman provides insight into the nature of hatred and evil, as well as reconciliation and triumph. Also discusses what rabbinic literature can teach us about the Hamans of our time.

***The Gilded Chamber* by Rebecca Kohn (F)**

This sweeping, meticulously researched novel restores Esther to her full, complex humanity while reanimating the glittering Persian empire.

***Game of Queens: A Novel of Vashti & Esther* by India Edghill (F)**

A lavish reimagining of the stories of two biblical queens recounts how Vashti lost her crown by defying the king before the Esther risked her life to advocate for her people.

***Queen of Secrets* by Jenny Meyerhoff (TF)**

Fifteen-year-old Essie Green, an orphan who has been raised by her secular Jewish grandparents in Michigan, experiences conflicting loyalties and confusing emotions in this modern-day twist on the Queen Esther story.

***Reclaiming Judaism as a Spiritual Practice* by Goldie Milgram (150)**

Includes a chapter on Purim, "Odd Lots of Spirit."

***After the Apple* by Naomi Rosenblatt (305)**

Blending history, psychology, and storytelling, this collection of stories of women in the Bible includes Esther.

***Good for the Jews* by Debra Spark (F)**

This novel holds a modern mirror to the book of Esther with a cast of characters from present day Wisconsin who identify with Jewish culture rather than religion.

***Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays: Hanukkah, Tu b'Shevat, Purim***

**by Paul Steinberg (240)**

Bursting with primary sources, poems, prayers, rituals, and stories, this guide will help you create a holiday experience rich in meaning and spirit.

***The Murmuring Deep* by Avivah Zornberg (220.1)**

With concepts drawn from psychoanalytic thinkers, provides a new understanding of the desires and motivations of the men and women of the Bible, including Queen Esther.

**DVDs:**

***Shalom Sesame: Be Happy, It's Purim***

Avigail is inspired by the story of Esther. Moishe Oofnik is his usual grouchy self but who is that mysterious masked singer at the Purim Spiel?

***For Your Consideration***

In this satire about Oscar hype, the "cast" is making a film entitled "Home for Purim," and when news of possible Academy Awards for the film's actors reaches them, each one responds in a unique way. (PG-13)

***One Night with the King***

This epic theatrical release depicts the Purim story, as Hadassah, the young Jewish orphan, becomes Esther, the Queen of Persia and saves her people. (PG)

**RECIPES**

Recipes for *hamantaschen* and other Purim treats can be found in many of the cookbooks in our collection. Browse the 741 shelf or ask for a recommendation.

**Contact Rachel Kamin at 847/926-7902 or  
rkamin@nssbethel.org for more information on  
these and other available resources.**