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A Note from the Editor

The rabbis tell us “that even if all the other holidays would cease to be observed, the celebration of Purim would not be forgotten,” (Midrash on Proverbs, 9:2). And why not? What other holiday is filled with such fun and merriment: On how many holidays is it a mitzvah to become so drunk that you are unable to tell the difference between the evil Haman and the good Mordecai? It’s Adar! Be happy and

celebrate.

This issue presents ideas for you to use to make Purim come alive in your classroom or at home. For more ideas on teaching Purim or enhancing home observance, please give us a call or visit the CJL Creativity Center.

Chag Sameach חג שמח
Alice Jacobson

The Purim Story

Long ago in the land of Persia, a king named Ahasuerus got upset with Queen Vashti. He decided to choose a new queen. All the young ladies in the kingdom were gathered. Esther was the most beautiful of all, and Ahasuerus was happy to choose her. She was more than beautiful though—she was also kind, smart, and very brave (and Jewish).

The king had a very evil man named Haman helping him. Haman wore a three-cornered hat wherever he went. He wanted people to bow down to him as though he was the king. Ahasuerus did not know how evil Haman really was. One day Mordecai, who was Esther’s cousin, was walking down the street and passed Haman, but did not bow down to him. Haman got very angry, and because Mordecai was a Jew, Haman decided to punish all the Jews by putting them to death. He put numbers in his three-cornered hat and drew one out. It was number fourteen. So he chose the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Adar as the date to punish the Jews.

Meanwhile, Mordecai often came to the palace to visit his cousin Esther. One day he happened to hear two people talking about their plan to harm the king. Mordecai told Esther about what he had heard, and the king was saved. Mordecai’s good deed was written down in the palace records.

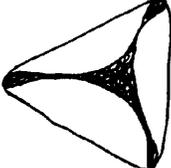
Mordecai had a problem. The fourteenth day of Adar was near, and he wanted to help save the Jewish people from the evil Haman. He wanted Esther to ask the king to help. In those days, it was against the law to talk to the king unless he asked you to, for fear that you would be killed by his guards. Not even the queen was allowed to speak to him; but Esther was brave and knew she had to help her people. She thought of a plan—she invited the king to a feast.

While he was enjoying himself at the party, Ahasuerus wondered how he could reward the good man, Mordecai, who had once saved his life. He asked Haman, “What honor should be given to a man who had been good to the king?” Of course, Haman thought the king was talking about him and didn’t know that the man to be honored was really Mordecai. Haman said the man should be dressed in royal clothes and led through the streets on the royal horse. The king thought it was a good idea and said that Mordecai deserved the honor. How angry Haman was!

From talking with Esther, the king learned how evil Haman was and how he wanted to harm the Jewish people. She told Ahasuerus that because she too was Jewish, she would be punished if Haman was allowed to carry out his plan. The king was surprised and angry. Haman was ordered punished instead of the Jews. The beautiful and brave Esther had saved her people. Because the Jews of Persia were so happy, they celebrated their good fortune.

Ever since then, Jews have celebrated Purim. It is a very happy holiday. We go to the synagogue on the fourteenth of Adar to hear *The Book of Esther* from a scroll called a *megillah*. Whenever Haman’s name is mentioned, we “boo” and stamp our feet and shake our *graggers* because we don’t want to hear Haman’s evil name. We wear masks and dress in costumes. We eat hamantashen, which are special cookies shaped like Haman’s hat. We also give *Mishloach manot*, baskets of food, to our friends and *tzedakah* to the poor. On Purim, we remember brave Mordecai and Esther and how they saved the whole Jewish people. We also remember that every Jew can be a hero—even you.

Purim Rebus

פּוּרִים celebrates the rescue
 of the Jews by . She was
 chosen to be the wife of .
 told  of 's plan to kill
 the Jews and she told . The
 story of  is read in the 
 from the . When the 
 is read aloud, whenever
's name is said, everyone
 makes noise with the .
 To celebrate **פּוּרִים** we
 send  to the needy & eat
, pastries that symbolize 's
 L +

-  Queen Esther
-  King Ahashverosh
-  Mordechai
-  Haman



-  synagogue
-  Megillah (Scroll)
-  gagger
-  Mishloach manot (gifts of food)
-  hamantashen

Purim Story Props

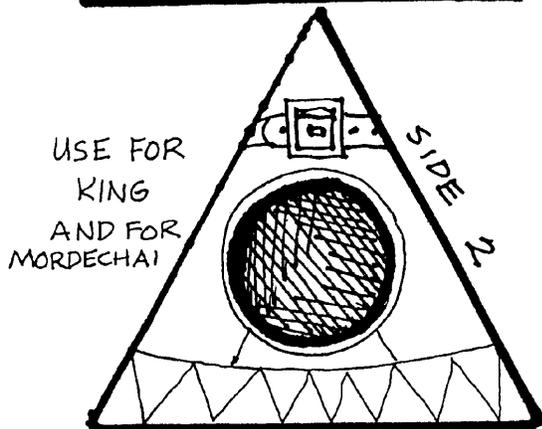
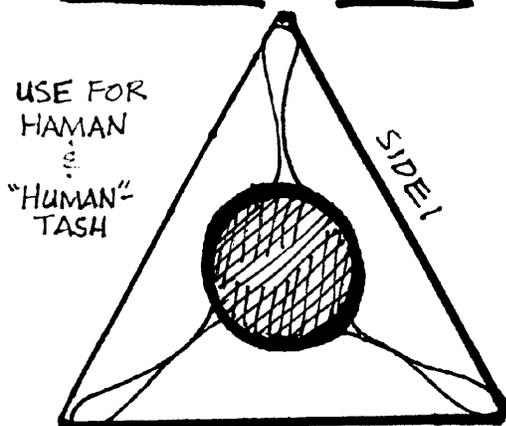
What to get...

- * 1) 2, 24" TAGBOARD TRIANGLES
- 2) MARKERS
- 3) SCISSORS

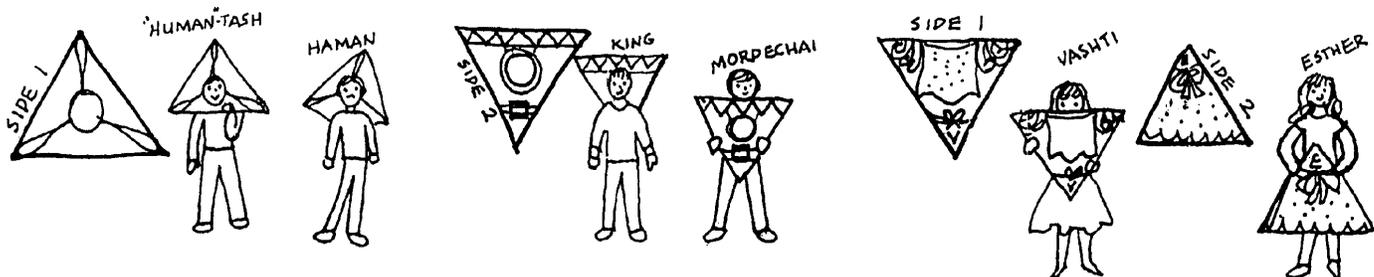
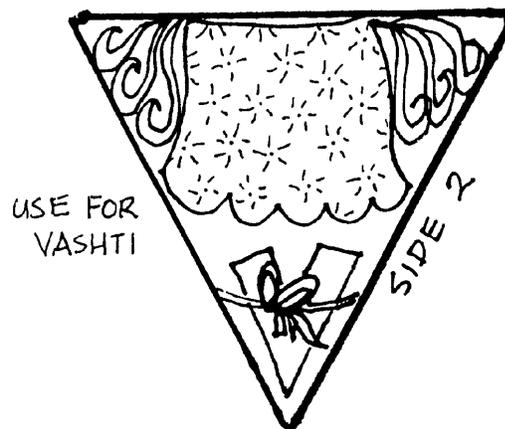
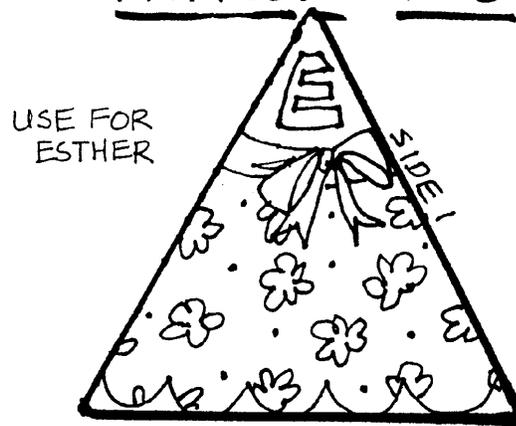
What to do...

- 1) CUT 6" CIRCLE IN CENTER OF ONE TRIANGLE
- 2) DECORATE FOUR SIDES AS FOLLOWS:

TRIANGLE ONE



TRIANGLE TWO



* FOR ONE-SIDED PROPS, USE FOUR TRIANGLES

© CJL Creativity Center

Purim Masks

Directions:

1. Bend a wire hanger into a circle.
2. Cover it with the top of an old nylon stocking.
3. Let your child/students glue on felt scraps, cloth or yarn and decorate.



The CJL Creativity Center has a large selection of ideas for making Purim masks and costumes. We even have Purim mask and crown die cuts.

Face Painting

A fun, safe alternative to masks!

1. Blend 1 tsp. cornstarch and 1/2 tsp. cold cream.
2. Add 1/2 tsp. water and stir.
3. Add food coloring, one drop at a time, until you get the color you like.
 - 3 drops blue and 1 drop green make turquoise
 - 2 drops yellow and 1 drop red make orange
 - 2 drops blue and 1 drop red make violet
4. Paint designs on faces with a small paintbrush.
5. Remove with soap and water.
6. Store paint in clean, dry covered containers.

Edible Purim Mask

Spread peanut butter on a piece of bread. Use different foods for the parts of the face.

Ideas:

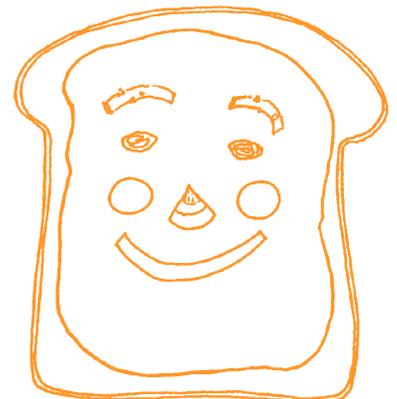
Eyes: raisins, chocolate chips, M & M's, carrot rounds, marshmallows

eye brows: carrot sticks, pretzels

Nose: radish slice, carrot slice, partial slice of cucumber

Mouth: carrot stick, red string licorice, raisins

cheeks: radish slices, carrot rounds



Mishloach Manot משלוח מנות

The Book of Esther 9:22 enjoins the Jews to "make days of feasting and gladness and of sending gifts to one another (mishloach manot), and gifts to the Poor." It is typical of Judaism that, even during a holiday of revelry, we remember others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves. It is customary to send two gifts to at least one friend and to give a single gift to at least two poor people. Even the poorest Jew is expected to share with others. Thus we learn that tzedakah, at all times and in all places, is a religious duty.

Source: *The Jewish Home, A Guide for Jewish Living*. Daniel Syme. UAHC Press. New York. 1988.

A great class activity for children of any age is to make mishloach manot baskets to distribute to residents at the Milwaukee Jewish Home and Care Center, the Golda Meir House, the Habush House, to members of the synagogue or their friends or family.



Mishloach Manot Bags

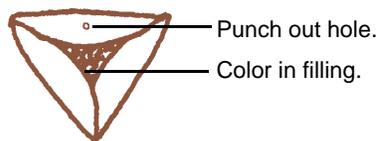
Place a plastic bag over the desired picture. Trace and color with permanent marker.

Styrofoam food containers, plastic fruit baskets or sturdy paper plates make excellent containers for mishloach manot.

Fill it with desired foods. Some ideas are hamen-tashen, cookies, raisins, gum, nuts, hard candy, potato chips, miniature candy bars, fresh fruit, small can of juice or mini wine bottle, pennies for tzedakah.

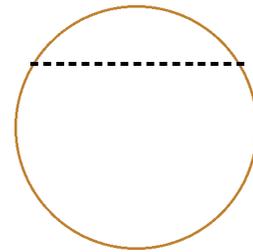
Put your container with foods in the decorated plastic bag. Tie with yarn or ribbon. Attach a card.

Card suggestion: Fold a piece of paper in half and cut out a hamen-tashen shape. Decorate the outside with "filling" and write your greeting inside. Punch out a hole at the top, string yarn through the hole and tie to bag.



Paper Plate Mishloach Manot

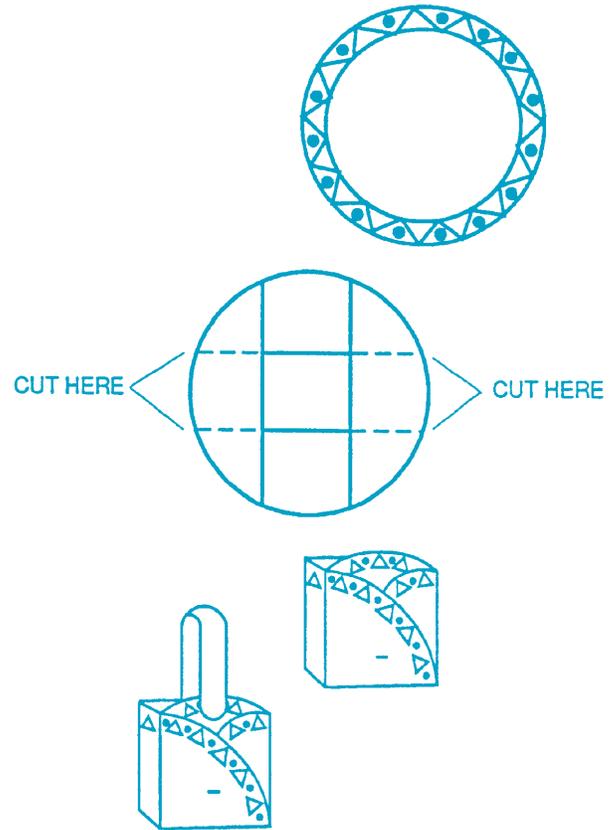
Take two paper plates. Cut off top of both. Decorate each side as you wish, using markers, sticky tape, sequins, etc. Write Chag Sameach on one side and Happy Purim on the other side. Put the two plates together and staple around edges. Fill with goodies and distribute!



NOTE: Restaurant food carry out containers and fancy paper bags can also be decorated and used for mishloach manot.

Mishloach Manot Basket

1. Turn a 9" plain paper plate upside down and decorate the border.
2. Turn the plate right side up. Fold into thirds – fold the top third down towards the center, then fold the bottom third up.
3. Turn the plate 90° and fold into thirds again. (When the plate is unfolded, it will have a tic-tac-toe pattern folded into it.)
4. Make 4 cuts along the dotted lines as shown in the diagram.
5. fold the sides of the paper plate up at the fold lines to form a square basket and staple.
6. Staple a 1 1/2"x12" poster board handle on the inside of the basket.



Source: *Head Start on Holidays*. Roberta Goodman. A.R.E. 1991. Page 271.

Haman•Tash Parade

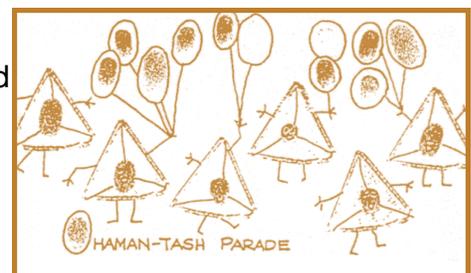
Materials

- 1 – 4"x6" piece of corrugated cardboard scored twice at 2" intervals for easy bending
- 1 – 6" piece of white paper
- ink pads (used for rubber stamps) in all colors plus black
- 1 black crayon or felt-tip marker
- tape
- "dough" colored crayon (beige, gold or yellow)



Directions

1. Fold cardboard into a triangular column and secure with tape.
2. Use it as a stamp on the black ink pad and make triangular prints on paper (parading hamantashen).
3. Using the various colored ink pads, make fingerprints to represent the fruit fillings in the centers of the hamantashen and fingerprints here and there in bunches to represent balloons.
4. Add arms, legs, facial features and balloon strings with the marker or crayon.
5. Lightly color in hamantashen with the "dough" colored crayon.

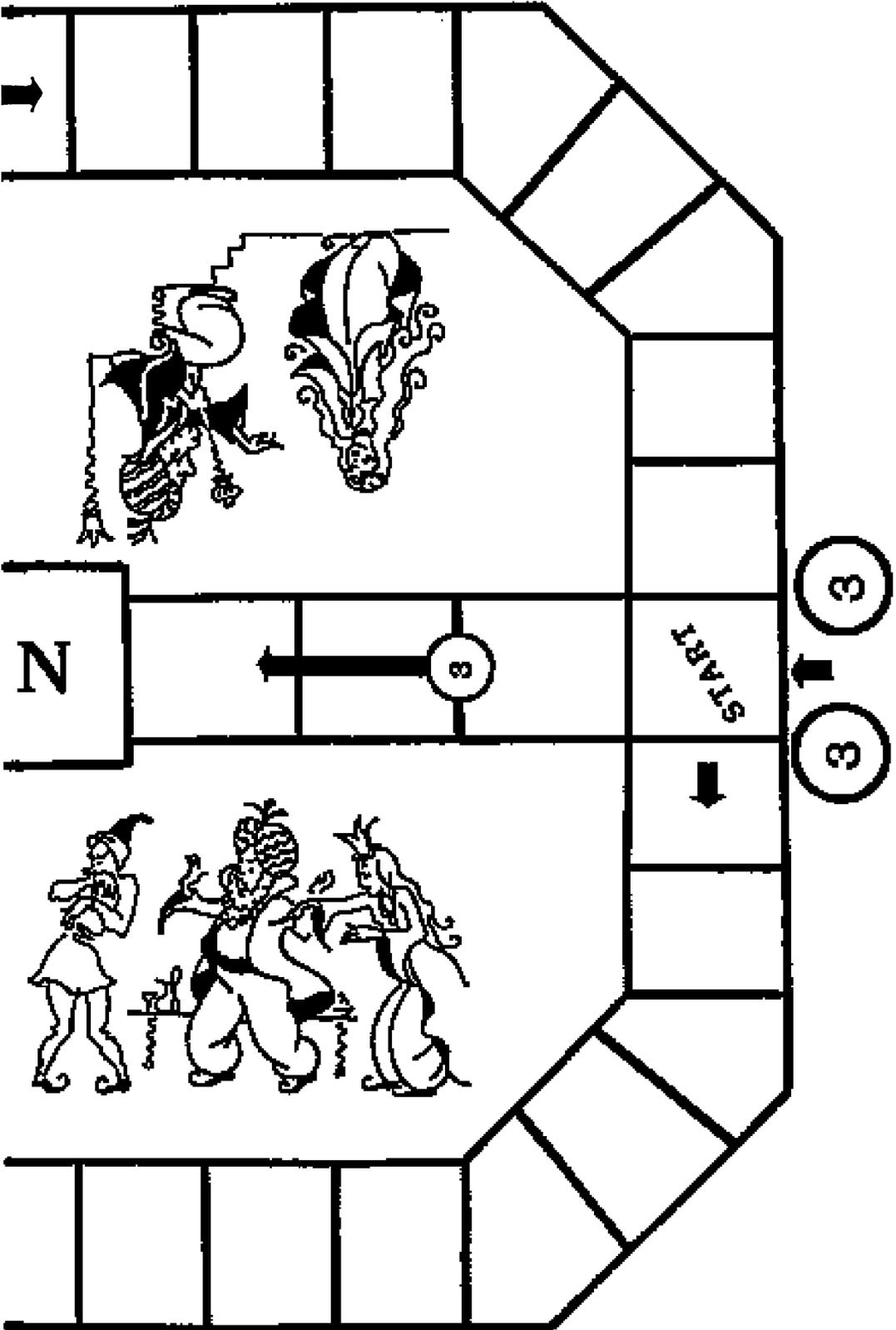


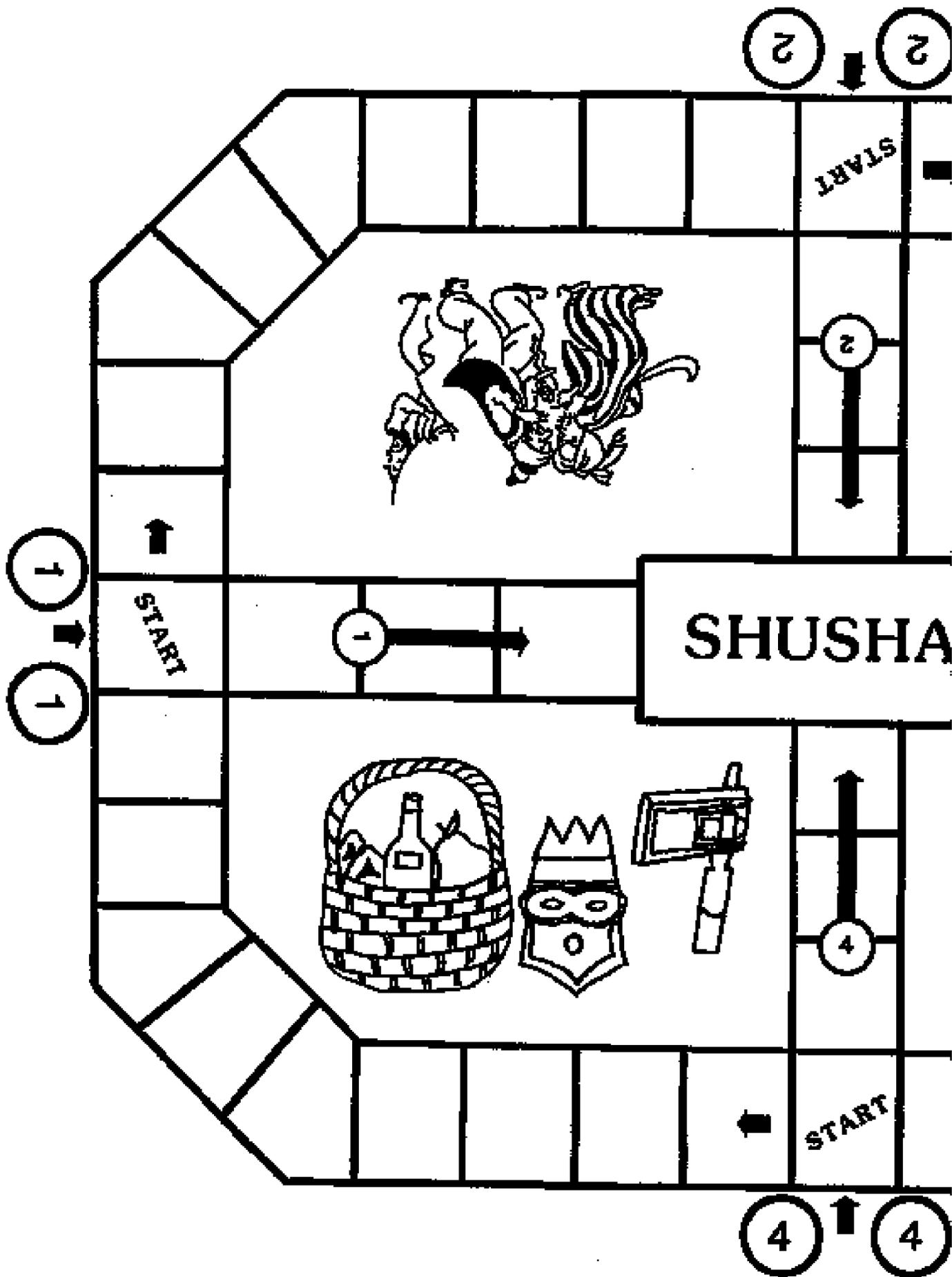
Shushan Game

Object of Game: Player must get his/her 2 pawns to Shushan.

To Make Game: Glue the game board onto the inside of a file folder. Color the gameboard, if desired.

To Play: each player places his 2 pawns on the two circles by a "START". Players take turns moving one of the pawns clockwise. (Use either a spinner or die for determining the number of spaces to move.) Player can only go into his lane to "SHUSHAN" after going around the board once clockwise. The game ends when a player gets both of his/her pawns to "SHUSHAN". If player lands on a space occupied by another pawn, send that player's pawn back to his "START" circle.





Graggers

Body Gragger

What to get...

1. Ziplock freezer bag
2. Permanent markers
3. Tape
4. 30" of thick yarn
5. Beans, buttons or other items that will make noise when shaken

What to do...

1. Decorate outside of bag using markers.
2. Fill bag 1/4 full of beans or other chosen items.
3. Seal bag making sure it is inflated with air.
4. Tape top of bag of yarn.
5. Tie yarn around child's waist.
6. Jump and shake when you hear Haman's name!



A child's shoe can become a "gragger". Write Haman's name on the sole of a child's shoe and have him/her stamp on his/her feet to erase the name of Haman!

Paper Plate Gragger

Materials

two 6" round paper plates (preferable without wavy edges)

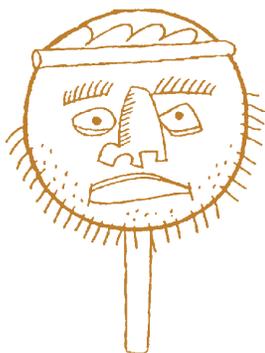
crayons or markers

sticky tape and yarn

tongue depressor

dried peas or beans,
buttons, golf tees, small
pebbles or other
noisemaking items

stapler or tape



Directions

1. Decorate one plate or both (Use the bowed out part), making designs, faces of Purim characters.
2. Attach the tongue depressor firmly to one plate by stapling or taping plate edges to the

tongue depressor.

3. When only a small opening remains, insert the noisemaking items.
4. Finish closing the paper plates with staples or tape.

Container Gragger

Paper bag gragger – Decorate the bag, insert noisemaking items and tie securely with string or yarn. Twist the open end to make a handle.

Small carton, cereal box, Pringles can, etc. – Clean and dry container. Paint or cover with construction paper. Insert noisemaking items and seal.

Small juice can – Paste strips of masking tape around the can so that it can be painted and decorated. Insert noisemaking items. Stretch several layers of heavy plastic across the top and tie securely.

Purim Games for School or Home

WHAT AM I?

On the back of each member in a group, pin a picture of one of the symbols of Purim (Megillah, crown, hamantashen, gallows, gragger) or any of the Purim characters. Each member of the group must try to find out who s/he is by asking questions of the other people. Only questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no" can be asked. As soon as the person guesses who he is, the picture on his back is moved to the front of his shirt.

PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY

The group is seated in a circle. The first person begins: "I packed my trunk with a Purim costume". The second person continues, "I packed my trunk with a Purim costume and a gragger...". The third player repeats the first two objects and adds another. Each person repeats all articles already mentioned and adds a new one. If one fails to repeat the list correctly, s/he drops out of the game, which continues until the contents of the trunk are unanimously declared too numerous to remember!

SHORT PURIM STORY MADE LONG

One player starts a story about Purim and leaves off at an interesting point; the next player continues with the story, and so on until all have had a chance to contribute the works of their imagination.

PURIM MAGIC MUSIC

The gragger is hidden after a child leaves the room. When they return to the room, they must try to find the hidden gragger using music as a guide. As the child approaches the hidden gragger, the music gets louder. When the child is further from the hidden gragger, the music is softer. If music is not available, the children can sing Purim songs to guide the searcher.

GUESS WHAT?

In a box place cards, each one containing the name of a Purim character or object. Each player must take one of the cards, and then on the back of the card, write a four-line rhyme about the character or object, without mentioning the name, and put it back into the box. The rhymes are then read and the other players must guess what is being described.

WHAT IS WRONG? OR PURIM DETECTIVE

Tell the story of Purim, making planned mistakes in names of people, symbols, events, etc. For older

groups, each participant may have a pencil and paper on which to jot down mistakes; alternatively, as soon as a child detects a mistake, s/he may raise his/her hand. Prize may be given to the player who detects the most mistakes.

SUPPLY THE MISSING WORD

The leader tells the story of Purim, stopping to let the players supply the missing key words of people, places, symbols, etc. (This may be played orally for younger children, and in either oral or written form for older ones.)

PASS THE GRAGGER

A gragger is placed on a paper plate, and given to one person to start. When the music begins, players pass the plate around the circle, each trying to pass as quickly as possible so as not to be holding the plate when the music stops. When the music stops, whoever is holding the plate is dropped from the game, and the plate is given to the person to his/her left. The game starts again. A prize is awarded to the last one remaining in the game.

HIDE THE GRAGGER

Send one child out of the room. Hide a gragger. The player returns to the room and must find the gragger. The group should sing a Purim song louder when the player nears the object, and more faintly when the player goes away from the gragger.

MOCK TRIAL

Older children can arrange a court room scene in which Haman is accused of all kinds of funny things. Choose a prosecutor, a defender, a Haman and a judge. The rest of the children can be the jury.

WHAT AM I?

Pin a picture of a Purim object on the back of each participant (e.g. megillah, crown, gragger, gallows, etc. or any of the Purim characters). Each player must find out what s/he is by questioning the other players. Only questions that can be answered by yes or no are allowed (e.g. "Am I useful?" "Am I made of wood?") As soon as the person guesses what s/he is, the picture is pinned to the FRONT of his/her coat. Play until all players are identified.

Source: The above Purim Games were adapted from *Purim Parties*, issued by the Euclid Avenue Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, 1931

Intermediate Grade Purim Activities

1. Write a diary: 3 days in the life of _____.
(Choose one major and one minor character from *Megillat Esther*.)
2. Choose a character from the Megillah and retell an incident from is/her point of view.
3. The *Book of Esther* describes 4 different banquets. What was the purpose of each one? List the host/hostess, the guests and put it on a banquet chart.

BANQUET CHART

Banquet	Purpose	Host/Hostess	Guests

4. You are a reporter for *The Persian Times* and you have been granted an exclusive interview with one of the characters. Write your story and a headline (*from Megillat Esther*).
5. Prepare to tell your classmates one of the following from The *Book of Esther* :
 - a. The most important moment
 - b. A coincidence that played an important part
 - c. Your favorite part of the story and why
 - d. The part you don't like and why
6. Write a telegram to Esther, giving reasons why she should go to the King to plead for her people. The message should consist of 25 words or less. Start it: "I urge you to..." Compare text with your classmates.
7. It is the year of the first Purim. You are a citizen of Shushan. It is the 16th day of Adar. Write to your cousin who lives far away describing what happened in Shushan and how you felt.
8. Different characters receive advice or counsel in the *Book of Esther*.
 - a. List as many examples as you can
 - b. Compare the samples and discuss it with a classmate, or make a chart:

Character	Advice from	Effect
e.g., Esther	Hagai	

9. Group Quiz: Each person prepares three questions about the *Book of Esther*, writes each one on a separate card, (Write your answers in your notebook.) and puts it into a decorated box. Plan a time for your group quiz.

Source: Bettman, Batia. *A Purim Packet*. Limud Publications, 1977.



Books and Films for Purim

Compiled by Laurie Herman, CJL Library/Media Center Director

TEACHER MATERIALS

Building Jewish Life: Purim – Joel Grishaver

Resource produced by Torah Aura for K-2 teachers and parents. Step-by-step celebration with activities, a brief Purim spiel, and a recipe for Hamentaschen. Activity book available.

My Jewish Year: Celebrating Our Holidays – Adam Fisher

Textbook for elementary school age children that presents the story of each Jewish holiday as well as customs, traditions and legends. Includes brachot. Teacher's guide available.

Purim Fun for Little Hands – Katherine Janus Kahn

Booklet of activities designed for preschoolers and beginning. Includes fun worksheets and cutout activity ideas.

Teaching Jewish Holidays: History, Values and Activities – Robert Goodman

Wonderful resource that provides historic background information to each holiday as well as many creative activity ideas, including student skits. There is a comprehensive resource list of books, films and games for each holiday as well. A glossary for every holiday is provided.

Together: A Child-Parent Kit

Creative kit designed to be used as a megilla scroll that is taken apart and assembled – to be read together. Retells the Purim story with photographs of children acting it out.

The Whole Megillah – Shoshana Silberman

Lively abridged version of the Megillah designed for congregations, schools and families who wish an easier version for young children. Includes chapter summaries, discussion questions and ideas for making the Megillah reading more festive.

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS ON PURIM

A Costume for Noah: A Purim Story – Susan Remick Topek

Noah's parents are so busy with preparations for the new baby that they don't have time to help him with his Purim costume. What will Noah wear for Purim?

Esther's Story – Diane Wolkstein

Beautifully illustrated book that tells the story of Esther from Esther's point of view.

Goldie's Purim – Jane Breskin Zalben

Goldie the bear overcomes her stage fright to play Esther in the Purim play at the synagogue.

Here Come the Purim Players – Barbara Cohen

Newly illustrated version of this favorite Purim tale set in Prague in which the Purim story is acted before a lively, participatory crowd. Note: There is a CJL "Sefer Safari" study guide accompanying the book.

On Purim – Cathy Goldberg Fishman

As a family prepares for Purim a young girl questions the reasons behind the customs.

A Purim Album – Raymond A. Zwerin and Audry T. Marcus

This book takes the form of a scrapbook in which each page shows a different scene from a children's Purim play.

Purim Goodies – Amalia Hoffman

Two girls cannot resist the tempting smell of the Purim goodies they were sent to deliver for Shalach Manos . Includes a Hamentaschen recipe.

Purim Play – Roni Schotter

Frannie is upset because an elderly neighbor is going to play the part of Haman in this year's Purim play – but is pleasantly surprised.

The Purim Surprise – Lesley Simpson

Naomi's family has just moved to a new city, and Naomi's mom is having her deliver shalach manot to many strangers. Naomi worries that her mom may forget her 7th birthday amid the rush.

Queen Esther – Tomie dePaola

Very simple, colorful rendition of the story of Esther, with cutout puppets in the center of the book.

Sammy Spider's First Purim – Sylvia A. Rouss

Purim tale from the popular "Sammy Spider" series, in which Sammy watches the Shapiro family's Purim preparations and gets trapped in a grogger.

PURIM FILMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Festival of Purim in Israel

Gives the viewer a glimpse of how Purim is celebrated in Israel. 18 min. AGE: 6 to Adult

Guignol in the Land of Esther

The puppets of Lyons reenact the traditional Purim story of Queen Esther. *Note: The puppets are of the old fashioned variety, with no facial movement or animation.* 28 min. AGE: 6 to 9

Ha Ra'Ashan

Short Hebrew animated film in which a young boy finds a magical gragger which works only when the name of Haman is mentioned. *In Hebrew* 10 min. AGE: 5 to 10

In the Days of Ahasuerus: The Animated Book of Esther

Computer-animated version of the story of Esther. *Note: This adaptation stems from Traditional and Talmudic texts, including details which may be unfamiliar to many viewers.* 25 min. AGE: 6 to 11

Purim (Parpar Nechmad Series)

Hebrew children's film presenting Jewish holidays and traditions through games, songs, stories and puppets. 25 min. AGE: 6 to 10

Purim and Tu B'Shevat (DVD)

Presents the background, customs and songs of Purim. Israeli film in English.

Queen Esther (Hanna-Barbera's Greatest Adventure Stories)

In this animated Bible story presented in the framework of three contemporary children traveling back in time, Esther marries King Ahasuerus and saves the Jewish people from the wicked Haman. 30 min. AGE: 4 to 10

The Whole Megillah (Alef...Bet...Blast-Off! Episode 8) (VHS & DVD)

David and Rachel don't feel like celebrating Purim this year until Mitzvah Mouse whisks them back to ancient Persia to meet Queen Esther and watch her stand up for the Jews. Utilizes real people and puppets. 24 min. AGE: 4 to 8

PURIM FILMS FOR ADULTS

Esther

Ma'ale Compilation #1: Purim

One Night with the King (DVD)

A Purim Message

Queen Esther: Far Away and Long Ago (Mysteries of the Bible Series)

Save the Dates

Day of Discovery, Sunday, February 24, 2008, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at the JCC.

Ateret Cohn Holocaust Educators Symposium - Teaching the Holocaust: Lessons for the Future, March 2-3, 2008 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Creativity Center Purim Make It/Take It, Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the CJL Creativity Center in the the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC.

Jewish Film Series - The Global Jewish Family: Are We Really this Dysfunctional? at 7:00 pm, Sunday, March 16 (*Wondrous Oblivion*).

The Salon – A Forum for Jewish Thought - 7:00 - 8:00 pm., Monday, March 10 – *What Is Jewish Art?*; Monday, May 12 – *Beyond Borat: Does the Jewish Artist Have the Responsibility to Show Jews in a Good Light?* The forums will be moderated by Dr. Steven Baruch and Jody Hirsh in the Reading Room at the JCC.

Teen Day of Social Action, Sunday, April 13, 2008.

The Coalition for Jewish Learning is ...

- A Library/Media Center
- A Creativity Center
- A Professional Development Program
- Teen Enrichment Activities

• Advocacy for lifelong Jewish education
• Educational resources and programs
• Coalition building to meet emerging needs

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(414) 963-2710

Hours: M-Th 8:00-5; F 8:00-2:30
www.cjlmilwaukee.org

Coalition for Jewish Learning
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Purim

Make It/Take It Workshop
Tues., March 11, 2008
7:00 - 8:30 pm
in the CJL Creativity Center
6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

To ensure enough materials, please
RSVP by March 6, 2008.
Call the Coalition for Jewish Learning
(414-963-2710), or email Alice
(alicej@milwaukeejewish.org).

**The Coalition for Jewish Learning is now in its new permanent location.
We are located in the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center
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Professional Jewish Educator

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Programs and Resources

Congregational School Initiative • Creativity Center • Day of Discovery • Distance Learning Programs •
Early Childhood Institute • Education Bridge • Family Education Council • Learning Links • Library/Media Center •
Mentoring • Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center • Principals Council • Teacher Preparation •
Teacher Recognition and Incentive Program (TRIP) • Teen Enrichment Programs • Ulpan

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