

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

March 2022
Volume 34 Issue 9

Shabbat Service

Friday evenings
7:00 PM

Zoom available



Oneg

Special Purim Oneg

Dairy Potluck Dinner March
18th following services

Education

Classes with the Rabbi
Hebrew and Torah Study
Every Thursday at 6:30 PM



Board Meetings

Tuesday, March 1st
6:00 Executive Board
7:00 Entire Board



Dinner with the Tribe

La Septima Café
Saturday, March 26th
6:00 PM

Page Turners

"Israel"

By Noa Tishby

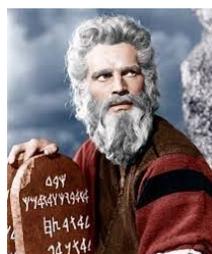
Meeting on April 18th
7:00 PM

Food Bank

Sunday, March 20
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

FROM THE PULPIT

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz



We live in a world where many questions could be asked. Things happen that do not make sense to use. People experience prolonged difficulties and they do not understand why. They pray, they try to improve and they even may try introspection. All this to understand what they might be doing wrong but matters still stay the same. There are stories of success and but there are often times when this does not occur. If someone is having difficulty but, has faith that G-d is in charge and is causing things to happen for the best reason, then they are acting in the way G-d wishes. "True faith constitutes not only a belief in G-d, but a trust that G-d always does what is good and right. True faith does not waiver, even if things do not work out as we would have liked. Yes, we may have doubts. Yes, we may feel saddened by the neediness and suffering in the world. Yes, we may want to confront G-d for allowing tragedies. But abandoning your faith in G-d means that you are compromising yourself. When we witness suffering at the hands of other people, we should direct our anger where it belongs — at man. If we can overcome the questions and trust G-d, we will have more peace of mind." Even though we cannot comprehend the ways of G-d, it is comforting to know that G-d is present in our lives and there is meaning in everything we do.

B'ahava - with love,

Rabbi Lefkowitz

"Faith is our most powerful resource. It enables your spirit to soar above and beyond the pains and difficulties of life below" — The Rebbe



Special Purim Issue

Rabbi

Robert Lefkowitz

Cantorial Soloist

Sandy Santucci

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Steve Billor

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Gerry Pliner

First Vice President

Gerry Pliner

Second Vice President

Toby Koch

Third Vice President

Sheryl Finke

Secretary

David Friedman

Treasurer

Sandy Schwartz

Members at Large:

Anita Clifford

Lynn Kaler

Gabe Lifschitz

Allan Weber

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

***The Kibbitzer***

Volume 32, Issue 7

Published Monthly by
 Congregation Beth Shalom
 706 Bryan Road
 Brandon, FL 33511
 Phone 813-681-6547

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 TheKibbitzer@hotmail.com
 For current news and events
 see the congregation's website:
<http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>

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Office hours:

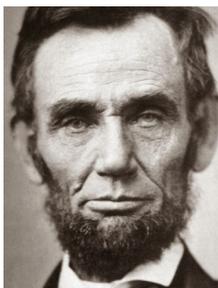
By appointment.
 Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.
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Weekly Email Blast submissions**MEMBERSHIP**

Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.

The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody,

I don't really have a topic for this month, as I am finishing up with some family matters. So, I just want to summarize and paint a picture of our wonderful temple's status and the direction we are going. We have so many people to be thankful for within our small congregation and my thanks and praise can only slightly measure their efforts. So here I go.

Our new and wonderful Treasurer Sandy Schwartz continues to bang away at our budget and streamline our costs. Gerry Pliner is working alongside Sandy to get the budget in check. Our Building and Grounds guy Gabe Lifschitz continues to work on the inside and outside of our Temple, bringing it back to its original luster. Gabe is also working hard to secure federal grants for Beth Shalom (never a guarantee, but if you don't try, you won't get anything.) Sheryl Finke and Dave Friedman give tirelessly of their hours and donations to improve our place of worship. Meral Ginsberg and Steve Feldman putting Beth Shalom on the map with our Food Bank, as well as our members contributing toward the supplies. Judith Pliner who continues to work for new members as well as coordinating the Onegs. Anita Clifford and Myron Feldman coordinating our monthly get together dinners. Lynn Kaler who has taken on the position of Editor of our Kibbitzer. Toby Koch and Alan Weiss for setting up the temple with a new key fob system. Carol Ann Friedman and Toby Koch for doing the Eblasts. Marvin and Julie Shienbaum for many mitzvahs they do for the Temple and our Rabbi. Mark Finke for the many, many hours he gives to the Temple, whenever and wherever he is needed. And the rest of our membership who participate in the activities and services. I am sure I am leaving an important person out of my article, so please forgive me and accept my apology and thanks for all you do for Beth Shalom. We are moving in the right direction, and with everybody's love and support, we will again achieve greatness.

As always, thank you for taking the time for reading our articles.

Steve Billor

Your Humble President

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon



**We Do Things Better
When We Do Them Together.**

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, March 4	6:14 PM
Friday, March 11	6:18 PM
Friday, March 18	7:22 PM
Friday, March 25	7:26 PM



Oneg Schedule

March Sponsors

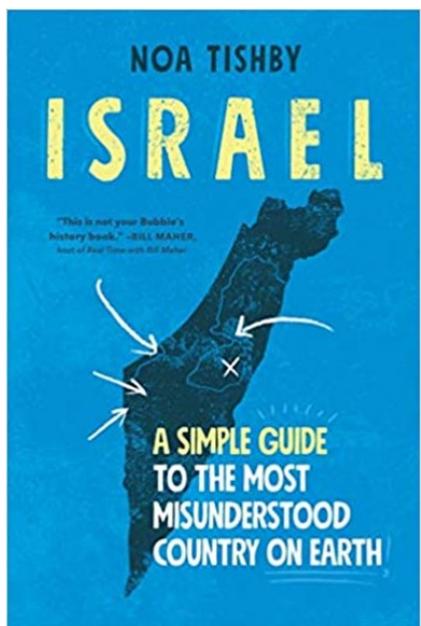
There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

4-Mar	Anna & Stephen Feldman	In honor: Anna's birthday
11-Mar	Debbie & Ben Miller	In honor: Debbie's birthday
18-Mar	CBS Congregation	Purim Potluck - Dairy
25-Mar	Open	

If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call Judith Pliner at (856)816-2174

Page Turners



The April selection is “*Israel*” by Noa Tishby.

We will be meeting Via Zoom* on April 18 @ 7pm. Noa Tishby’s book, “Israel”, is by far the best way to learn about Israel, short of living there. Even for those of you fortunate to live in Israel, her book will provide you with a greater understanding of her history, politics, and people. Tishby is a Sabra, therefore her knowledge of Israel is personal, and her insights are born of personal experience. She illuminates how Israel encourages dissent and debate, as well as being a leader of innovation, while firmly rooted in tradition. But Israel is so much more; she is “a light unto the nations,” ([Isaiah 49:6](#)), in a very dark and hostile neighborhood.”

*The Zoom link will be emailed at a later date.

Books to Give...And Read

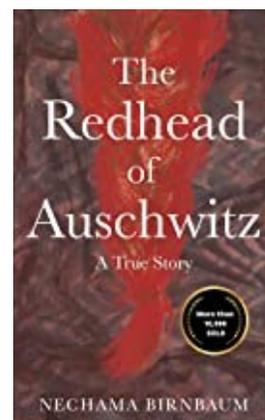


The Redhead of Auschwitz

By Nechama Birnbaum

I can already hear you groaning, “Not another holocaust book!” But, yes, this is one more holocaust book you really should read.

This victorious biography, written by Nechama Birnbaum in honor of her grandmother, is as full of life as it is of death. It is about the intricacies of Jewish culture that still exist today and the tender experiences that are universal to all humanity: family, coming of age, and first love. It is a story that celebrates believing in yourself no matter the odds. This is a story about the little redheaded girl who thought she could, and so she did. The book is beautifully written and it was difficult for me to put it down. Please try it and let me know what you think.



Dinner with the Tribe & Men's Club



Myron Feldman

La Septima Cafe, Brandon
702 West Lumsden Rd.
Brandon, FL 33511
Phone: (813)685-0502



Anita Clifford

Saturday, March 26th at 6:00 PM

Our next dinner will be at La Septima Cafe. Let's have simple, authentic Cuban food right in the heart of Brandon. I've gone there numerous times and haven't been disappointed. It's a family-owned restaurant where the food and prices are good, and we'll be in their separate dining area. I hope that you can join us for this feast. So, we can keep an accurate count, please RSVP to Anita Clifford at niewdnarb@yahoo.com. Hope to see you there!



CBS Members enjoy dinner together at PF Chang's on February 19th.



Donations

Committees/Chairpersons

Building/Capital Fund

Gerry Pliner

Finance

Gerald Pliner

Fundraising

Open

Life Long Learning

Open

Strategic Planning

Steve Feldman

Membership

Judith Pliner

Caring Committee

Judith Pliner

Oneg

Open

Publicity

Toby Koch

Ritual

Open

Facility and Safety

Gabe Lifschitz

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

Religious School

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

Eblast:

Toby Koch and Carol Anne
Friedman

Other Programs

CBS Singles Over 50

Anita Clifford

Chavurah

Open

Dinner With the Tribe

Anita Clifford

Kibbitzer Editor

Lynn Kaler

Library

Sandy Saviet

Men's Club

Myron Feldman

Page Turners

Anita Clifford

Web Administrator

Toby Koch

In Loving Memory:

Daniel Workman	Nephew	Of Anna Feldman	Anna & Stephen Feldman
Phillip Friedman	Grandfather	Of Dave Friedman	Carol Anne & Dave Friedman
Eugene Becker	Father	Of Lynn Kaler	Carol Anne & Dave Friedman
Doreen & Eugene Becker	Parents	Of Lynn Kaler	Lynn & Larry Kaler

High Holiday Pledge

Anna & Stephen Feldman

Kibbitzer Kudos

Anna Feldman	Keeping our Temple Clean
Julie Shienbaum	Keeping our Temple Clean
Meral Friedman	Another successful Food Bank!
Anna & Stephen Feldman	Supporting our Food Bank
Rabbi Lefkowitz	Being a mensch
Sandy Schwartz	Starting off the Treasurer position with a bang!
Judith Pliner	Helping organize the Onegs
Toby Koch	Putting up with my continuous questions
Toby Koch	Writing and distributing the Eblast
Carol Anne Friedman	Writing and distributing the Eblast
Anita Clifford	Organizing Dinner with the Tribe
Dave Friedman	All of your contributions and hard work
Myron Feldman	Helping host Dinner w/the Tribe
Steve Billor	Holding a safety and security meeting
Gabe Lifschitz	Holding a safety and security meeting



Our Congregation

Yahrzeits

3/1	Charlie	Reisner	Uncle	Of Gary	Ronay
3/1	Lillian Bellavance	Santucci	Mother in law	Of Sandy	Santucci
3/2	Arthur	Ratner	Father	Of Ira	Ratner
3/2	Ely	Sandberg	Father	Of Sandy	Santucci
3/3	Louis	Kay	Grandfather	Of Iylene	Miller
3/11	Irwin	Zazulia	Uncle	Of Iylene	Miller
3/16	Meyer	Feldman	Father	Of Steve	Feldman
3/16	Abraham	Siegel	Grandfather	Of Eric	Miller
3/21	Sophie	Goldman	Mother	Of Sharon	Aronson
3/31	Jeffrey	Zazulia	Brother	Of Iylene	Miller



3/27 Myron and Jackie Feldman
 3/27 Toby Koch and Alan Weiss
 3/28 Anna and Steve Feldman



Birthdays

3/2 Scott Ellis
 3/9 Anna Feldman
 3/11 Carole Plesur
 3/12 Sandy Schwartz
 3/18 Dave Friedman

Shabbat Services

Our Shabbat services will take place Friday Nights at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as well as online. Our livestream feed is available on Zoom and Facebook. For outdoor services, the Zoom link will not work, so please sign in to Facebook. Join us in the celebration of Shabbat and you are welcome to like, comment, and share.

We established a new Zoom link. You will be able to login from our weekly eNews. The process has not changed, just the link. For your information here is the new link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9794793696?pwd=N3JhSzl4YURTbnhUL0hDVkVzODJtUT09>

Meeting ID: 979 479 3696
Password: 259255

We are glad that you enjoy our shabbat services and hope to see you on the Zoom screen this Friday.

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. Someone can be reached at [cbs-brandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or rlefkowi@bellsouth.net. Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 407-222-6393 to schedule an appointment.



Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns or questions.



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To reserve your place in the next issue, e-mail John Zelatis at

jzelatis@zomesa.com or call the

CBS office at

813-681-6547.

SHARE A MAZEL TOV!

Do you have a family member, friend, spouse or congregant you would like to wish Mazel Tov to in our Kibbitzer? You can send an email to thekibbitzer@hotmail.com with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in our community.



Building and Grounds



Gabe Lifschitz



Key Highlights

Discussions with the Boy Scout Troop for community service and camping are on standby pending the local council review of the agreement.

Spectrum is up and running. We have a new Zoom address for Shabbat Services.

Building expenses have been significantly decreased due to canceling cleaning, garbage disposal services, and pest control. This means we are depending on volunteers. Please consider being one of our angels so we can continue to keep costs down and have our Temple looking good. November through April, the lawn service will come once a month.



Free fire wood available next to the woodshed. Just pick your log and bring an axe.

Interior wish list:

- Large print copies of Mishkan HaNefesh
- Two 4-foot tall bookcases for classrooms
- 60 wine glasses and water glasses (plain not decorative)
- 8 white large round table cloths
- 3 large round tables (to replace the broken ones)
- 10 deadbolt door locks
- School supplies and crafts

Exterior wish list:

- Exterior wall paint for the temple
- Pressure treated privacy fence sections 6 X 8 (non-overlapping slats) and 4X4 by 8 feet long Fence posts. Available at Home Depot or Lowes

The temple has a Mitzvah list for items of work. When you visit the temple, the mitzvah board is in the hallway. You can select an item from the list by adding your name and contact information.

If you can help with our wish or mitzvah list, please contact: Gabe Lifschitz at (571) 277-1416

Social Action



Meral Ginsberg



Third Food Bank – Our Best Yet!

On Sunday, February 20th, our usual cadre of members and community volunteers (including our exceptional middle and high schoolers) joined forces for the third time to distribute food and other household and personal items to members of the community. We are very pleased that we were able to help a record 45 families this month (including members of our congregation).

We were blessed with a plethora of donations from our members and a very large contribution of goods from an anonymous source, giving us a great head start towards this and our fourth food bank on March 20th- but we are still in need of certain items: **cleaning supplies, hand soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and sanitary pads; canned fruit, soups, corn, and applesauce; rice, coffee, and cereal.** Donations of these items would be very much appreciated during the next several weeks to balance out our supplies. You can drop these off in the lobby or kitchen of the synagogue or contact me at 813-690-5713 to arrange for a pick-up. We would also be pleased to accept gift cards in any amount, preferably to Wal-Mart, Publix, and Winn-Dixie. Anna and Steve Feldman are usually able to receive these Friday evening in shul.

Again, our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who participated in this continuing outreach program, part of our “commitment to being an active presence in the community” (website statement) and a fulfillment of our stated mission to “creating a caring community (by) providing comfort and contributing to the ongoing well-being of the communities in which we live (with) deeds of love and kindness.”

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Meral Ginsberg at 813-690-5713 or email her at Meralgins@gmail.com.



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Our Congregation

GERRY NEEDS OUR HELP

Gerry Pliner has been a member of CBS since 2007. During the 15 years he has served on the Board of Directors as First Vice President; acting President, twice and acting Treasurer. He unselfishly gives his time and energy to our congregation. Now he needs help from us.

Below is a copy of heart wrenching Face Book post written by Gerry's niece.

“My name is Andria Armato and I am writing this message with hope that social media can work its magic this holiday season! My Uncle Gerald, my mom's brother, is suffering from severe kidney disease and needs a new kidney as soon as possible. He is on the national donor's list and has been for some time, but as we all know that's not an easy or quick process, especially for a 77 year old man. Our family would do ANYTHING we could to help him, unfortunately none of us are a match for both blood type and other medical reasons. My uncle's blood type is O+ and he has been giving of himself his whole life, so I am hoping an angel somewhere can return the favor and give him the gift of a healthy kidney! Uncle Gerald has given decades of service as a volunteer and also has served as a Board Trustee member for numerous organizations. He was the patriarch of his immediate and extended families as my grandfather passed away long before I was born. In addition, he owned a business in his community where he served other people in need. Uncle Gerald has always taken care of us and others, and now we want to take care of him. If you are reading this and may be interested or know anyone who could be a match and would be willing to save a life, please message me at Thank you all so much and if you are unable to help personally, please share this message and story with all you know....my family and I would be ever so grateful!

Holiday blessings,

Andria Armato”

If any of the readers of this Kibbitzer can help Gerry contact him at gp@pliner-inc.com. Thank you, Toby Koch, Second VP

Caring Committee

The Caring Community of Congregation Beth Shalom reaches out in times of need and special challenges. Members of the committee extend support through calls, visits, meals or transportation. Unique challenges, such as during hurricane season and the COVID-19 pandemic are always addressed as needed. We strive to honor our mission statement to **offer a warm and welcoming presence and a nurturing environment**. This not only helps foster the wonderful feelings of connection and support, but those who assist another experiences the opportunity of fulfilling *mitzvot* by helping another person.

If each of us contributes just a little, we can do a great deal, do a great deed, and truly be a caring congregation.

Our Caring Community helps in many ways, such as:

- ♦ Providing support to families who are grieving the loss of a loved one
- ♦ Supply and deliver cooked meals to members who are ill
- ♦ Assist members with various transportation issues
- ♦ Visiting the elderly and ailing
- ♦ Responds to the needs of our members

Please inform Rabbi Lefkowitz at 407-222-6393 or Judith Pliner at 856-816-2174 if you know of an individual who is in the hospital or in need of some type of assistance.

We need your support and help. The Caring Community needs to be comprised of every member of our wonderful Congregation Beth Shalom family who unite through volunteering their time and support. Join the Caring Committee to support the bereaved, to visit the sick, to lend a hand to those in need in our community. We have no committee meetings. If we all pitch in and work together to support one another, we surely will live up to our mission statement to be a warm, welcoming presence and engage in the mitzvot of helping our community.



Time for a Nosh

Hamantaschen

THE DOUGH

2 cups plus 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/8 teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon grated lemon or orange zest
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature,
 Cut into 12 pieces
 2 tablespoons cold water
 2 large egg yolks



1. Place the flour, sugar, baking powder, zest, and salt in powder in a food processor and process for 20 seconds. (Or whisk them together by hand in a large mixing bowl.)
2. Distribute the butter evenly over the flour, and process until the mixture resembles coarse meal, 15 – 20 seconds. (Or rub the butter into the flour with your fingertips or cut it in with a pastry blender.)
3. In a small cup, whisk together the cold water and egg yolks. With the processor running, pour the egg mixture in a steady stream through the feed tube and process just until the dough comes together, 20 to 30 seconds. (Or sprinkle the egg mixture over the flour mixture while tossing with a fork.)
4. Place the dough on a lightly floured work surface and knead until it comes together. Shape the dough into two thick disks, wrap each one in plastic wrap, and refrigerate them for one hour.
5. Line several baking sheets with parchment paper, or grease them lightly with vegetable oil.
6. Remove one disk from the refrigerator and roll it out to form a round approximately 12 inches in diameter and a generous 1/8 inch thick.
7. Using a 2 1/2-inch cookie cutter, cut out as many rounds as possible. Place them 1/4 inch apart on the prepared baking sheets. Repeat with the second disk.
8. Place 1 rounded teaspoon of filling in the center of each round. Then fold the edges of the dough toward the center to form a triangle, leaving a bit of the filling showing the center. Pinch the edges in three places to seal them. Place the baking sheets in the refrigerator for 30 minutes, or in the freezer for 15 minutes, to chill the triangles.
9. Fifteen minutes before baking, preheat the oven to 375°F
 Bake the hamantaschen until they are crisp, firm to the touch, and golden around the edges, about 20 minutes. Let them cool completely on the baking sheets.

Recipe from “Rosie’s Bakery: Chocolate-Packed Jam Filled Butter-Rich NO HOLDS-BARRED COOKIE BOOK” BY

By Judy Rosenberg

Filling: Fruit preserves, poppy seeds, Nutella, M&Ms, chocolate chips, dates, and prunes.

If you’d like a more creative approach, try these different flavors.

Cinnamon Bun Hamantaschen

Carrot Cake Hamantaschen

Cookies and Cream Hamantaschen

Chocolate Chip Cookie Hamantaschen

Babka Taschen Hamantaschen



For these recipes and more, google the article, “The 100 Best Hamantaschen Recipes of All Time”

PURIM!!!

Purim is a joyous holiday in which we celebrate our salvation, which was Divinely orchestrated, in ancient Persia from Haman, an antisemite, who had planned the destruction of the Jewish people. This is a story about the miracle our ancestors experienced by escaping death, and how G-d orchestrated our destruction through their actions.

The Story of Purim is told in the Megilla, (The Book of Esther). It took place in Persia, more than 2,000 years ago. The king of Persia, Ahasuerus became displeased with his first Queen, Vashti. He had her removed and married a Jewish girl named, Esther who kept her Jewish identity hidden.

The King's chief minister, Haman, who hated The Jewish people, got the King to agree to a decree ordering the annihilation of all the Jews. Haman cast Pur (lots) to select the date of the Jews extermination, which turned out to be the 13th of Adar. Mordechai, Esther's uncle, informed her of the plot and directed her to appeal to the King. Esther was afraid to approach The King without being summoned, but due to her courage, she was able to step forward and do what was needed.

Queen Esther went before The King and told him her true identity as a Jew and what Haman had planned for her and her people. The king was aghast but couldn't stop the decree. Instead, he changed it so the Jews could rise up and fight back. The Jews mobilized themselves and fought bravely, thereby putting an end to Haman and his decree. They celebrated their victory on the 14th of Adar.

So, to commemorate our salvation, we celebrate the holiday, Purim, every 14th of Adar by being merry and reading the Megilla (The Book of Esther). This is the only time of year that we are allowed to make noise in The Synagogue, and we do so by making so much noise, we won't hear Haman's name.

This year, Purim will be celebrated at Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon,

Friday, March 18, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.

B'ahava, (with love)

Rabbi Lefkowitz



PURIM!!!

Four Mitzvot (Good Deeds) to do on Purim

Hear the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther)

Come to CBS on Friday, March 18, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.



Give Misloach Manot (Small food package) to a friend

Gifts of food or drink. There's no special requirement on what to provide.



Give Tzedakah (charity)

“And one must give gifts to the poor during the day of Purim; and no less than two poor people, one gift to each of them to anyone who holds out their hand, you shall give it to them” (Mishneh Torah: Laws of Megillah 2:16).



Have a Purim Feast with family and friends

Purim celebrate the strength and resilience of an entire people! Use this day to celebrate your family, your friends, and your ancestors who made life today possible.



PURIM!!!

Mishloach Manot Themes

Trader Joe's Theme

Place all of your favorite Trader Joe's finds into a Trader Joe's tote bag or a brown grocery bag! If you go with the brown grocery bag option, you can print out the Trader Joe's logo and tape it to the outside of the bag.



Tea Time Theme

Gather some sugar cookies, tea biscuits, honey, sugar cubes and teas/coffees of various flavors (you can also use iced tea), and package everything together with a tea kettle and/or mug.



Picnic Theme

Line a picnic basket with a tea towel, and add in items such as an apple, watermelon slices, macaroni salad, coleslaw, sandwiches, vegetable sticks, hummus, guacamole and other picnic-oriented items that come to mind.



Shabbat Theme

This year, Purim falls out right before Shabbat. Package challah rolls with grape juice, wine, a babka and/or other favorite Shabbat treats! You can wrap everything up on top of a challah board or along with a challah cover.



Chocolate Theme

Combine your favorite chocolate treats (like milk chocolate bars, Hershey kisses, Reese's peanut butter cups, M&Ms, Kit Kats, and chocolate lollipops), and package them together in a brown gift bag or a cute chocolate-lover themed mug.



Farmer's Market Theme

Place seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, and fresh bread – along with your other farmer's market favorites – into a reusable tote bag.



