

LIVING
KIDDUSH
HASHEM

Purim Guide



“One is obligated on this day [of Purim] to have an abundance of simcha, and to eat and drink to contentment. However, we are not commanded to become drunk to the point of diminishing ourselves through the simcha, for the simcha that we were commanded to have is not one of frivolity or foolishness but one of spiritual pleasure that brings us to the love of Hashem and praise for the miracles He performed for us.”

- Meiri (as quoted in the Bi'ur Halacha, Orach Chaim 695)



“I tell the bachurim that their main goal is not to make money but rather to make a Kiddush Hashem... Every person you interact with should walk away with the impression of ‘praiseworthy is the person who is taught Torah’ (Yoma 86). Everything you do should always be with this mindset — Purim is no different.”
“Purim is not defined by costumes or drinking, but by kabbalas haTorah mei'ahavah.”

- Rabbi Avrohom Katz (Menahel)

the simcha that we were commanded to have... brings us to the love of Hashem

◆ Kiddush Hashem and chillul Hashem sensitivities are fully applicable on Purim. One may not become drunk on Purim if doing so will cause inappropriate behavior that leads to a chillul Hashem.

◆ **Be Fully Aware of Your Surroundings:** Whether you are driving, playing music at night, or drinking, remember that neighbors are watching.

◆ **Consider Your Neighbors:** Placing mishloach manos at non-Jewish neighbors' doors with a short note or a simple letter explaining Purim can go a long way in minimizing misunderstandings and enhancing *darchei shalom*.

◆ **Keep Track of Children:** Know where your children are at all times. If they are collecting, make sure a responsible adult is the designated driver.

*Know where your
children are at all
times*

“More damage can be inflicted by an insensitive Purim play than the damage wrought by drinking.”

– *Executive Director of a Yeshiva*

“For many years, the KKK and other racist groups, who murdered and lynched minorities, used a noose or a hanging doll to threaten and intimidate. Our fellow community members and neighbors often do not know Haman's history, and it's extremely painful and insensitive in their view.”

– *Agudath Israel of America*



◆ **Participation in Learning:** Engage in the learning programs, such as Yeshivas Mordechai Hatzadik.

◆ **Costume Sensitivity:** Exercise caution in your choice of costumes. Avoid any costumes that may mimic other cultures in a way that could be perceived as mockery. Consider how the outside world will perceive costumes like fake dreadlocks or an Arabic turban.

“Please refrain from using ‘blackface’ (coloring the entire face in black/brown makeup). Also, please refrain from enacting the hanging of Haman from trees or poles.”

– *Torah Umesorah*



*Engage in
the learning
programs*

◆ **Be Mindful of the Broader Public Perception:** In our digital age, every action can be publicized within seconds to thousands of people worldwide. Think about the potential ramifications before making jokes or engaging in behavior that could be misinterpreted. With the prevalence of social media, there is no longer any such thing as a “private” joke.



“Don’t send them in a party bus or a fancy loaded stretch limousine... It’s not appropriate for our bnei Torah.”

– *Baal Tzedakah from NY*

Kiddush Hashem **Purim Stories**

Mesivta of West Bloomfield

Last year, the menahel of the Mesivta of West Bloomfield asked the van driver who chauffeured the bachurim all Purim day how they behaved. The driver responded:

“Those young men were amazing, respectful, and better than most of the adults I take care of. I just wanted you to know how respectful and kind they were all day, and they all got along great.”

Baal Tzedakah from NY

“In the past, when I went to my bank in New Jersey before Purim and asked for \$5,000 in 20s, 10s, and 5s, they’d question, ‘What’s this about? This seems a bit suspicious.’ I explained, ‘This is all for charity, and lots more is given in the form of checks. This amount is little in comparison to the monies distributed throughout Purim day.’ The look of shock and disbelief on their faces is something I’d never forget! *Mi kamcha Yisrael!*”

Letter from Lakewood Cheder Security Guard, Mr. Louis Cuevas:

“I was asked if I would work a Purim event at a private residence...

Countless young men approached me and either hugged me or shook my hand. As the day proceeded, I still had concerns because I knew the effects of alcohol would soon be taking its toll.

Those concerns never materialized.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn the madness which occurred on a daily basis in my law enforcement career does not occur here.

I should have known this because my large family at the Lakewood Cheder School demonstrates this to

me every day. There is no ill will here. Everyone is caring for each other.

Working within the Jewish community has been the most gratifying experience in my professional life which spans many decades. They’ve adopted me as their own son. In turn, I vow to protect every community member as if they were my own son or daughter.

Leaving Lakewood that Purim evening, Solomon texted, “U ok?” I responded, “You were 110% right. Boys will be boys. They were rowdy but they were very polite.” Solomon replied, “Politely rowdy, that’s awesome.”

Solomon, yes my day was awesome. Everyday I work in the Jewish community is awesome!”

Louis Cuevas
Point Pleasant, NJ

Clothing Store

My son and his friends from Yeshiva Gedolah of Detroit were shopping last week at a local discount clothing store, gathering various items for costumes. At the door, there is an employee checking receipts and bags, to verify that items were paid for. When this group approached the door to leave, the employee waved to them and said: “You boys can go. We love having you come around. I know you’re honest and have nothing extra in your bag. You’re always so respectful and nice to us all.”

Insight

The immense joy of Purim is a celebration of Kiddush Hashem and represents a glimpse of the unlimited joy that will be experienced after the final Redemption, when the world will be filled with kavod Shamayim. On Purim, we must refrain from frivolous behavior that could lead to a chillul Hashem. The true source of our joy is found in the advancement of Hashem’s honor.

Additional Resources

Full Statements from: [Agudah](#), [Torah Umesorah](#) and [Agudah 2023](#)

[Interview in the Hamodia](#)

Purim During a Time of War: <https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/israel-news/2270295/ahead-of-purim-rare-instructions-from-hagaon-harav-landau-to-yeshivah-bochurim.html>

A sample communication to neighbors from a group of Chassidim in Outremont Montreal: [Chassidim in Outremont Montreal – Sample Communication](#)



י. גרשון אדלשטין
ראב"ד 17, בני ברק

"אמנם ראוי לנו לדעת ולהשיב אל לבנו, כי אין שום היתר של בטול תורה בימים אלו, אדרבה ימי הפורים הם זמן הראוי לחיזוק בעסק התורה, וכבר אמרו חז"ל (מגילה ט"ז ע"ב) ליהודים היתה אורה, אורה זו תורה. והיום הזה מסוגל לזכות לעסק התורה באהבה, כמו שהיה בימים ההם.

עוד צריך לדעת, כי ימי הפורים נתקנו להרבות אהבה ואחוה, ומשלוח מנות איש לרעהו, על כן יש לזהר בימים אלו ביותר בהנהגה שבין אדם לחברו, וחלילה לא לגרום חלישות הדעת למישהו, וכבר היו מעשים ידועים, שאלו שלא נזהרו בזה, נענשו אח"כ בעונשים גדולים ר"ל.

יהי רצון שבזכות למוד התורה, וההנהגה במדות טובות, בימים מסוגלים אלו, נזכה אנחנו וכל בית ישראל לישועות ונחמות, כמו שזכו אבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה."

י. גרשון אדלשטין

Zahava Emanuel
with **Rabbi Shraga Freedman**
of the Living Kiddush Hashem Foundation

A Proper Purim



YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT PURIM IS A DAY OF INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A KIDDUSH HASHEM! LET'S LOOK AT WHAT THE PEOPLE OF ELMVILLE ARE THINKING AS PURIM WINDS DOWN...



I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I WATCHED TODAY! THEY WERE ALL DRINKING AND DANCING, BUT NOBODY WAS FIGHTING AND EVERYBODY LOOKED HAPPY! AND THE SINGING... IT WAS WONDERFUL!

I KNOW THAT MY NEIGHBOR IS A RICH FELLOW. THE OTHER NEIGHBORS HAVE EXPLAINED TO ME OVER THE YEARS THAT PURIM IS A DAY OF CHARITY, AND I SAW PEOPLE COMING UP HIS WALKWAY AND KNOCKING ON HIS DOOR ALL DAY. IT'S REMARKABLE TO SEE HOW MUCH CHARITY HE GIVES!

THE AMOUNT OF CASH WITHDRAWN FROM BANK ACCOUNTS FOR CHARITY ON PURIM IS AMAZING!



BANKER



THE SHUL WAS PACKED WITH ADULTS AND CHILDREN LEARNING THIS PURIM. IT WAS INCREDIBLE!



IT WAS SO NICE OF KALMAN TO BRING MISHLOACH MANOS TO MY SON. MY SON DOESN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS, AND EVEN THOUGH HE SWITCHED SCHOOLS THIS YEAR, IT WAS GOOD FOR HIM TO SEE THAT SOMEONE FROM HIS OLD SCHOOL WAS THINKING ABOUT HIM ON PURIM.



THIS YEAR'S SIGNS, SKITS, AND GRAMMEN WERE VERY SPECIAL. THEY WERE FUNNY BUT DIDN'T HURT ANYONE'S FEELINGS. HOW WONDERFUL!

THERE WERE NO FIGHTS, AND WE RECEIVED SO MANY THANK YOUS FOR PROVIDING SECURITY! THESE PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIC!



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