

**The Shul**  
at the Lubavitch Center  
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March 7, 2020

Tetzaveh — Parshat Zachor

11 Adar, 5780

### The Divine Chess Game

Imagine a chess game in which the pieces on the board seem to move of their own accord. Pawns, rooks, queens and kings all move in the correctly prescribed manner, yet of their own volition. The chess pieces, we decide, must be puppets with invisible strings or they're magnetized or computerized. Somewhere, somehow, there is a hidden hand pushing the pieces around.

The events we commemorate on Purim are their own kind of chess game. In the Megilla, the record of the story of Purim, one does not see, nor hear any mention of G-d. In fact, G-d's Name is not mentioned in the entire Megilla; the Book of Esther is the only book in the entire Bible in which G-d's name never appears. And yet, somehow, somehow, after learning about the "chess game" that took place in those days, one must conclude that G-d's hand was controlling the game.

Judaism teaches that G-d supplies the "recovery" before He brings the "illness." In the case of Purim, the beginning of the recovery took place before Haman convinced King Ahasuerus to let him annihilate all the Jews. The King became angry with his wife, got rid of her, and began a search for a new queen.

Enter Esther, a woman who had no interest in becoming the new queen, who, in fact, hid herself from the royal messengers and, according to many sages, was even disqualified from participating in the "beauty contest." In addition, Esther did nothing whatsoever to beautify herself once she was placed among the "contestants" in the palace. Add to this the fact that, though Esther's relative, Mordechai, was well-known by all, no one in the palace knew or realized that Esther was Jewish, nor did it ever leak out and enter the King's ears until Esther told him herself.

Esther was already well-placed in the palace and a favorite of the King when Haman's evil plan was signed into action. The Divine recovery had begun its work before the illness had begun.

Throughout the entire course of events, everyone moved as he should have; the King one square at a time, Esther, as she pleased but in accordance with Torah, Mordechai in a straight line. To the untrained eye, it looked like a regular game. Except that chess pieces don't move by themselves.

The story of Purim, with its overt lack of G-d's Name even once in the entire Megilla, was a Divine chess game, par excellence. And the best thing about it was that our side won. Which is why we celebrate with extra joy and mitzvot.

*(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)*

### The Hamantash – Food for Thought

There is a widespread custom that during Adar, people make and bakers bake three cornered filled cookies called Hamantashen.

One year, on the day before Purim, Rav Yaakov Berlin, the father of the famous Rabbi Naftoli Berlin (the Netziv), went to the market to purchase this special treat in honor of Purim. He went from baker to baker, but no Hamantashen were to be found. He found this situation to be quite odd, and he therefore asked one of the bakers why no one had any Hamantashen. He was informed that the year had been one of a serious drought. The price of flour skyrocketed, and bakers were only able to afford flour for the Shabbos challah. Flour for any other purpose, including Hamantashen, was not even considered because it was so expensive.

As soon as Rav Berlin heard this, he immediately called for all the city's bakers. Once they were assembled he presented them with a large sum of money. Rav Berlin told them that the money was to be used to purchase flour so that they could bake Hamantashen. Why did Rav Berlin feel so strongly about having Hamantashen available? He explained that these special cookies had for generations been consumed during Adar. Being that it was a long standing tradition to have Hamantashen, and it is forbidden to annul customs, Hamantashen must be baked.

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Rav Berlin then explained how Hamantashen got their name. In Megillas Esther, we find that Achashverosh had never rewarded Mordechai for his role in saving the king from a plotted assassination. However, one night, "the sleep of the king was disturbed." On that night, Achashverosh was reminded that Mordechai had not been rewarded, and he ordered Haman to parade Mordechai around in royal fashion. This marked the beginning of the salvation of the Jews from the murderous scheme of Haman. The Yalkut Shimoni tells us that Achashverosh was not the only one who had his slumber disturbed that night. On that night, the "slumber" of our three forefathers Abraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov was disturbed because of the evil that was to befall the Jews. They pleaded with G-d to spare the Jewish people from destruction. In the merit of the forefathers, Haman's power weakened. When combined with the prayers and repentance of the nation, this merit helped saved the people from destruction. The word for "weaken" in Hebrew is "Tash." Thus, the three cornered cookie, with each corner representing one forefather, is named "Haman tash," "Haman was weakened." The presence of this highly symbolic cookie was a long standing custom, and therefore, Rav Berlin explained, the custom must continue.

(by Rabbi Yehudah Prero from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))

### Community Information of Interest

**March 7: Two Parties and a State: Israel and the Jewish People 1980-1983.** Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. *Fundamentalism vs. Klal Yisrael: American Jewry in the Early Eighties.*

**This lecture will begin at 8:45 p.m.** and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

**NOTE:** Due to construction, there will **NOT** be youth groups this Shabbos!

**Please note. The Rov is in availus for his mother so, in accordance with Halacha, Shlach Monos should not be sent to him this Purim.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Tarshish** are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat

in memory of Shmuel's father

**Harav Leib Yitzchak ben Harav Elazar Halevi**

whose yahrzeit is this Sunday.



### Yahrzeits This Week:

Shmuel Tarshish	12 Adar - Saturday night / Sunday	for father	Harav Leib Yitzchak ben Harav Elazar Halevi
Rochelle Rubin	13 Adar - Sunday night / Monday	for father	Chaim Dovid ben Yaakov

### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

#### Friday, 3/6 — 10 Adar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 5:47 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'aiv — 5:45 p.m.

#### Shabbat, 3/7 — 11 Adar

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:20 a.m.  
Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 5:05 p.m.  
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 5:35 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 6:49 p.m.

#### Sunday, 3/8 — 12 Adar

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.



#### Monday — Tannis Esther, 3/9 — 13 Adar

Fast Begins — 6:03 a.m.  
Shacharit / Slichot — 6:30 a.m.  
Mincha — 6:45 p.m.  
Fast Ends — 7:35 p.m.  
Ma'ariv and Megillah — 7:40 p.m.

#### Tuesday — Purim, 3/10 — 14 Adar

Shacharit and Megillah — 6:15 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah — 4:30 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

#### Wednesday — Shushan Purim, 3/11 — 15 Adar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Kerisus Gemora Shiur — 7:45 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

#### Thursday, 3/12 — 16 Adar

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Kerisus Gemora Shiur — 7:45 p.m.  
Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

#### Friday, 3/13 — 17 Adar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 6:54 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'aiv — 6:55 p.m.