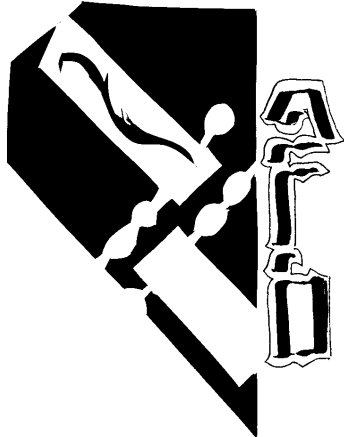


WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

The Hiddur Mitzvah Project



SISTERHOOD GUIDE

Purim Activities

Mishloach Manot: *And that is why...Jews observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and make it a day of merrymaking and feasting, and as a holiday and an occasion for sending gifts (misloach manot) to one another” (Esther 9:18)*

The Houses for Change project (page 38) is an excellent way to enhance the mitzvah of *misloach manot*. Undecorated boxes are available at <http://www.familypromise.org/housesforchange> or from Mark Wasserman, markwboca@gmail.com.

In addition to fulfilling the mitzvah of *mishloach manot*, the recipient can then use the container as a tzedakah box, thus fulfilling the mitzvah of tzedakah. This can be a sisterhood or home activity. At the synagogue, Hebrew school children or youth group members can be invited to decorate the boxes.

Mishloach Manot in your community

While many synagogues now send Purim gift baskets to their own members, perhaps your sisterhood can extend this tradition beyond your own community. Seek out nursing homes that might not be Jewish but that have a number of Jewish residents, VA hospitals, half-way houses, and women's shelters. In the true spirit of Purim, gift giving *should* extend to the wider community.

At home, use the Houses for Change boxes as a teachable moment for your children or grandchildren. Help them research local support agencies, and decide with them where to send their Purim gifts. They can help fill and deliver them.

For the megillah reading

Sponsor an evening of making masks, flags, noisemakers/groggers (pages 34-35) and Esther and Vashti bracelets (page 37). This would be a great opportunity to bring along children and grandchildren.

As a tzedakah project, encourage synagogue members to bring boxes of pasta and rice for making noise during the megillah reading and then donate the boxes to local food pantries.

Be Happy! It's Adar!

As a Rosh Chodesh Adar program (or at a meeting before Purim) debate the following questions:

- *Who is a better feminist role model, Esther or Vashti?*
- *What would you do (or not do) to get your way?*

Ask everyone to come in costume. Serve wine and cheese. (Everything goes better with wine.)