

Purim Palooza Reimagined:

Tikkun Olam & Contemporary Jewish Themes

Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Venue: Jewish Community Center
February 10, 2013



It is an annual tradition here at the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester to host a Purim Palooza at the Jewish Community Center approximately two to three weeks before Purim. Traditionally Purim Palooza includes a carnival theme with art/craft activities and large muscle games (for example, a bounce house, Velcro wall, obstacle course and photo booth). In 2012 I initiated a few additions to the regular menu of activities by providing a workshop facilitated by a social worker that introduced children to the Purim cast of characters and how everyone was bullied by Haman. There was also a social worker from our Jewish Family Services on hand to guide children through bullying situations using puppets for role playing scenarios.

In January 2013 I surveyed my PJ Library and Family Learning Committee to find out what everyone wanted to include in Purim Palooza in February. The overwhelming sentiment was to reformat our annual celebration by including more contemporary Jewish themes, like Tikkun Olam (repair of the world).

The following activities were then included to encourage families to explore the world of mitzvot:

- ✓ Guest appearances by **Guiding Eyes for the Blind** puppies
- ✓ Guest appearances by **Brighton Volunteer Fire Department**
- ✓ Two Chabad puppet shows with Jewish themes (“A thread of kindness” and “As big as an egg”)
- ✓ Two workshops with Jewish themes (“The Hero Book Workshop” using a book by Ellen Sabin, and “A Picture is worth a thousand words” incorporating the Voices and Visions poster exhibit). Both workshops were led by local Jewish professional educators
- ✓ Mishloach Manot creations that were donated to Asbury Dining and Caring Center (a soup kitchen)
- ✓ Art/Craft activities included Megillah making, Purim cast of characters puppet making, Purim themed button making (with “Be happy it’s Adar”, “The power of one” and “Pay it forward”).
- ✓ Community story tellers reading Purim stories and creating appropriate crafts (“The Mystery Bear”, “Cakes and Miracles” and “Sammy Spider’s First Purim”)

PJ Library of Rochester also celebrated its second birthday with song and cake!



Email to families:
Purim Palooza Workshops this Sunday!

Dear PJ Library Family,

I hope you are keeping well!

I'd like to remind you to register for two **Workshops** for **Purim Palooza** on **Sunday, February 10** from **2 – 4 PM**.

These **Workshops** have been designed with your **6 – 12 year old** children in mind. Please contact Shelly Stam at ssam@jewishrochester.org to register.

The first is **The Hero Book Workshop** at **2:30 PM** with Master Educator **Rachel Rosner** – the first 15 families to register will receive a copy of this book **free of charge**. There will be additional copies for sale at \$15 each. **The Hero Book** was created by Ellen Sabin. The link below contains information about the book.

<http://www.wateringcanpress.com/html/herobook.html> (please register at www.jewishrochester.org/PJLibrary)

The second is “**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words**” at **3:00 PM** with Master Educator **Eleanor Lewin**. Ms Lewin will lead children through the process of illustrating Jewish quotes as well as tour the new “Voices and Visions” poster exhibit at the JCC. Art supplies are provided.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

I look forward to seeing you all at **Purim Palooza** on Sunday!
Love Jacqui

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