



PURIM IS COMING!

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Hamantaschen are being baked, costumes are being pulled together, and graggers are spinning. It can all mean only one thing: Purim is coming!

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Purim, like many Jewish holidays, is a celebration of the Jewish people's redemption from catastrophe. It's also a noisy, riotous, carnival-like festival, which makes it especially fun for kids! Children and grown-ups alike dress up in costume and get ready to party. The story of Purim – how the Jewish queen of Persia, Esther, saved her people from doom – is told in the Book of Esther (*Megillah* in Hebrew). On Purim, the *Megillah* is read aloud in synagogues all over the world – and this is one time when no one is discouraged from making noise during the service! In fact, listeners shake their *graggers* (Yiddish for “noisemakers”) every time they hear the name of the villain of the story, Haman. Many communities also stage funny Purim *spiels* (Yiddish for “plays”) to accompany the *Megillah* reading.

In addition to dressing in costume and listening to the *Megillah*, many families make *hamantaschen*, filled triangular cookies, and share these and other treats with friends and relatives in Purim baskets (*mishloach manot* in Hebrew). For an easy *hamantaschen* recipe and more ideas about how to celebrate Purim with your family, visit pjlibrary.org/purimiscoming. *Chag Purim Sameach* – Happy Purim!