



# Purim

Jewish

[poor·im](#) 

Purim, a joyous holy day, commemorates a series of events in ancient Persia when Queen Esther saved her community of Jews from a sinister royal official named Haman, who threatened to massacre her people. Her story is retold during Purim, in a raucous fashion. Gift baskets are given to friends and distributed to those less fortunate.



This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).

## Date

- Purim is celebrated annually on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar, the day following the victory of the Jews over their enemies.
- Link to [Interfaith Calendar](#) for date/year lookup.
- Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown.
- Dates may vary depending on observance.

## Greetings

Happy Purim! Depending on tradition, Jewish people might say, "Happy Purim!" or "Chag Sameach! (Happy Holiday!)" to one another.

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- Haman supposedly wore a three sided hat, so three sided cookies called hamantaschen are enjoyed.
- Some people dress up in silly costumes and use noise makers when Queen Esther's story is told, which is often told as a play and chanted from a scroll called a megillah.

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- Some observers of Judaism follow kosher rules of eating.
- Meat and dairy are not eaten together. Pork and seafood are not eaten.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities.
- Expect that observers will not attend meetings or communicate.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages Jewish](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

## Information Sources

- [Purim](#)
- [Kosher Eating](#)

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