



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.

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.
- Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown.
- Dates may vary depending on observance.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

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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