

Resources for Torah Living

"Where Do I Find It?"

Purim Websites

<http://www.holidays.net/purim/>

Craft instructions for grogger and masks, Purim greeting cards

<http://search.aisi.com/holidays/Purim/>

Stories, songs, greeting cards, coloring pages, recipes, celebration ideas.

<http://www.torah tots.com/holidays/purim/purim.htm>

Coloring pages, holiday information, greeting cards, games, international traditions

<http://www.cyber-kitchen.com/rfcj/category.cgi?category=PURIM>

Lots of recipes for traditional and not-so-traditional Purim treats

<http://www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/>

Activities, audio stories, and a costume gallery.

<http://www.tzivos-hashem.org/yomtov/purim/slideshow/prmslshw.html>

The whole story of the megillah, with colorful illustrations.

<http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/purim/purim.asp>

Vocabulary, blessings, a Purim play, and a children's megillah

<http://www.jafi.org.il/education/festivals/purim/>

Teaching units on Purim. Lots of information and classroom activities.

Book Reviews

The Artscroll Children's Megillah
by Shmuel Blitz
Illustrated by Tova Katz

Available at Artscroll.com
\$16.99 (hardcover)
\$10.99 (paperback)

79 pages
Interest Level: All ages



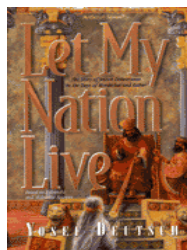
Review by Elisabeth Niedrauer
The Artscroll Children's Megillah is a megillah for children. Besides the text of the entire book of Esther in both Hebrew and English, it contains many interesting and colorful illustrations, "did you know," midrashic traditions and rabbinic interpretations of the story. It also includes the blessing before and after the the reading of the megillah, and a few selected rules for the celebration itself.

If your family is an assortment of big and little ones, (like ours) this megillah would be an excellent compromise between a Bible storybook and the plain text of the scripture. The illustrations and simplified English appeal to young children without compromising the suspense and excitement of the original story, making this book one that the whole family can enjoy.

Let My Nation Live
by Yosef Deutsch

Available at Artscroll.com
\$21.99 (hardcover)
\$18.99 (paperback)

358 pages
Interest Level: High school
(with some caution) to adult



Review by Elisabeth Niedrauer

Did you know that Esther was 75 years old when she was crowned queen? Or that Haman was Mordechai's slave? *Let My Nation Live* includes these midrashic traditions and many more. It is an attempt to tell the story of Esther as it might have happened if most of the

Jewish midrashim on the book of Esther were to be taken literally. Although the book is not intended to be funny, the result of this approach, while fascinating, is often humorous.

Some parts of this book might not be appropriate for children, so use some discretion. Parents may want to read the book first to determine which parts are acceptable for their children to read.

Jewish Holidays and Traditions Coloring Book

by Chaya Burnstein
Dover Publications

Available at Amazon.com
\$3.95 (paperback)

48 pages
Interest Level: 4-8



Review by Isaac Niedrauer
This book, by the author of *The Jewish Kids' Catalog*, is a great children's introduction to the biblical and traditional Jewish festivals. It has numerous coloring pages along with information on each feast. It tells how we celebrate and why these days are important. The pictures are interesting and well done.

On the downside, it has several pictures of Purim costumes—including a mermaid and a skeleton—that you may not want your children coloring. However, with those pages pasted together, your children will love coloring and reading about the Jewish holidays.

Purim 1946

The most recent—and probably most incredible—sequel to Purim had to be the events of the Nuremberg Trial, in 1946, after the Holocaust. As Julius Streicher, one of the leading Nazis, was led to the gallows, he inexplicably shouted out *Purimfest*—Purim Festival.

...In the Purim story, the book ends with the ten sons of Haman being hanged. The judgment of Nuremberg came to a close with exactly ten Nazi leaders condemned to pay for their crimes by hanging! Was Streicher's last word also just a "coincidence" or was it one of those miracles of God acting in hiding that are the very theme of the Purim holiday?

—from *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Judaism*, by Rabbi Benjamin Blech