

Flipping Traditions, Inspiring Action



*We are grateful to Repair the World
for creating this activity.*



Purim has a rich set of traditions, and while we create time for immense joy and celebration, we are also obligated to acknowledge that there is still brokenness in the world. The very same verse in the Book of Esther that instructs us to feast and send gifts of food to our friends also requires us to give to those in need:

*"...that they should make them days of feasting and gladness,
and of sending refreshments one to another, and gifts to the poor."*

(Esther 9:22)

"...לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתָם, יְמֵי מְשֻׁתָּה וְשִׂמְחָה, וּמְשֻׁלַּח מְנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ, וּמִתְּנוּת לְאֲבִינָיִם."

On the topic of Judaism's approach to happiness, Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer wrote in [Moment Magazine](#): "...achieving happiness requires action, doing righteous work for the benefit of oneself and others and surrounding oneself with a community of shared values." At [Repair the World](#), we believe that helping others fulfill their needs can increase our own happiness and sense of gratitude while also creating a more just world. In order to meet those two goals, we need to make sure that we are doing this service in an intentional and thoughtful way.

Service to others can make us happy and grateful for what we have, but it can also reinforce dynamics of racism and classism. How can you help others fulfill their needs while also lifting up the beauty, strength, and resources that already exist in historically marginalized communities, such as Black or low-income communities?

In the spirit of *nahafochu*, the flipping of Haman's decree against the ancient Jewish community in Persia, let's flip the Purim traditions so that they are not only fun celebrations, but also reminders to take action — leading to happiness and collective liberation for all people.

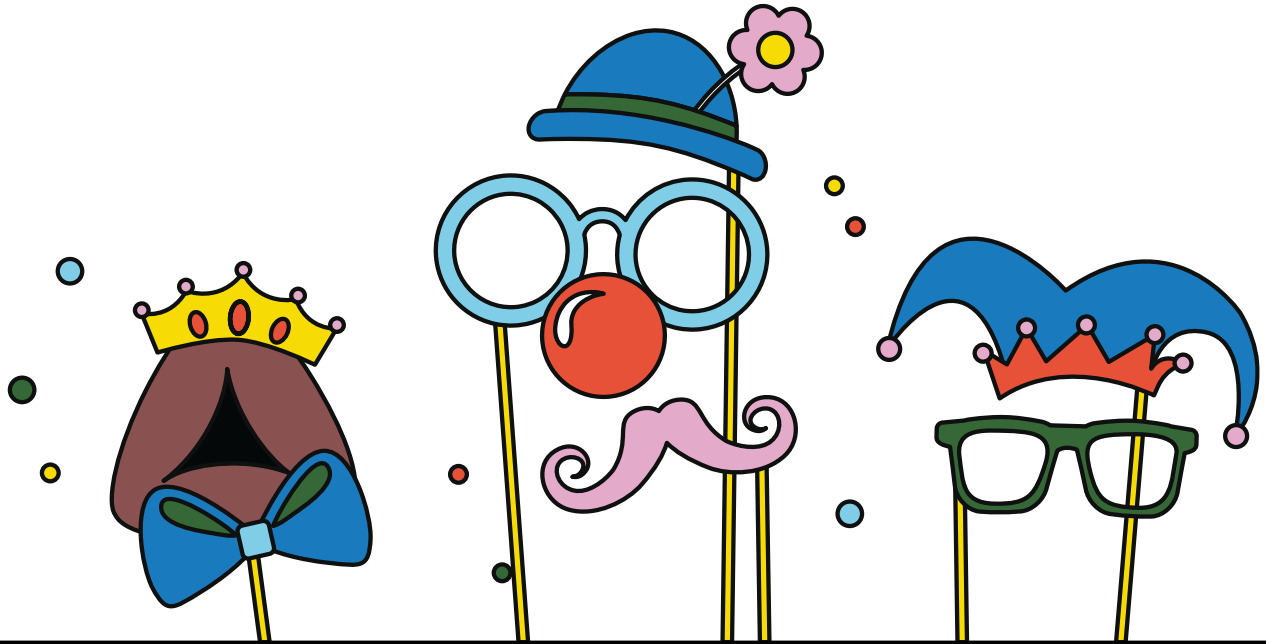
Instructions:

Fill out the following chart and then take action on it!

We've pre-filled a couple of suggestions for Purim traditions that you might treasure and left space for you to add more. While filling out the chart, keep these three questions in mind:

- ◆ What Purim traditions are you most grateful for?
- ◆ Which communities would be the most meaningful for you to give back to during and around Purim?
- ◆ How will you hold yourself accountable for supporting those in need during times of celebration?

I'm grateful for the Purim tradition of:	Which reminds me of:	Whom I can support by: (fill in the blank)
Giving gifts of food	<u>High rates of people experiencing food insecurity before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.</u>	Example: Volunteering with a <u>local emergency food provider</u> or an organization like <u>Hunger Free America</u> to get the word out about SNAP Benefits.
Reading the megillah	<u>The ways in which Black people have fought to advance and protect the right to vote, overcoming obstacles such as literacy tests.</u>	Example: Find a local organization to volunteer with on <u>this list</u> compiled by the Movement Voter Project, or help people get critical voter ID information with <u>Vote Riders</u> .



Practicing gratitude regularly can look like many different things and can include many different components. Serving by giving your own time, talent, and treasures (like financial contributions) can be a deeply intentional way of expressing your gratitude, helping you acknowledge what you have while also working towards the more just world that you want to see.

For more inspiration on giving back, Repair the World hosts opportunities to [volunteer virtually](#) and [in person](#).