



February 25,2021

Purim ("lots", from the word translated as 'lot' in the Esther, also called the Festival of Lots) is a Jewish holiday which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, an Achaemenid Persian Empire official who was planning to kill all the Jews, as recounted in the Book of Esther; usually dated to the 5th century BC).

Haman was the royal vizier to King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I or Artaxerxes I of Persia, and he planned to kill all the Jews in the empire. His plans were foiled by Mordecai and Esther, his cousin and adopted daughter who had become Queen of Persia. The day of deliverance became a day of feasting and rejoicing.

According to the Scroll of Esther, "they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor." Purim is celebrated among Jews by:

- Exchanging gifts of food and drink known as mishloach manot
- Donating charity to the poor
- Eating a celebratory meal
- Public recitation of the Scroll of Esther
- Reciting additions to the daily prayers and the grace after meals
- Other customs include wearing masks and costumes, public celebrations and parades, and eating; men are encouraged to drink wine or any other alcoholic beverage.

According to the Hebrew calendar, 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.
February 25,2021.
More info on page 3.



**FIND
6
DIFFERENCES**



Free Masks

Lavelle Ford and Barbara Spencer are still making masks. Masks are free to all members and to all TMRC residents and staff.

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The United States Postal Service (USPS; also known as the Post Office, U.S. Mail, or Postal Service) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for providing postal service in the United States, including its insular areas and associated states. It is one of the few government agencies explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The USPS traces its roots to 1775 during the Second Continental Congress, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first postmaster general. The Post Office Department was created in 1792 with the passage of the Postal Service Act.

Each day, according to the Government's submissions here, the United States Postal Service delivers some 660 million pieces of mail to as many as 142 million delivery points." As of 2017, the USPS operates 30,825 post offices and locations in the U.S., and delivers 149.5 billion pieces of mail annually.

The Department of Defense and the USPS jointly operate a postal system to deliver mail for the military; this is known as the Army Post Office (for Army and Air Force postal facilities) and the Fleet Post Office (for Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard postal facilities)

The USPS operates one of the largest civilian vehicle fleets in the world, with an estimated 227,896 vehicles. Some rural letter carriers use personal vehicles. All contractors use personal vehicles.

It is by geography and volume the globe's largest postal system, delivering 47% of the world's mail. (More on page 4)

February

Flower: Violet
 Birthstone: Amethyst
 Zodiacs:
 Feb 1-18 = Aquarius
 9-28 = Pisces



- National Bacon Day - February 26
- National Pistachio Day - February 26
- National Kahlua Day - February 27
- National Strawberry Day - February 27
- Open that Bottle Night - February 27, 2021 (last Saturday of February)
- Golden Globe Awards (Beverly Hills) - February 28, 2021
- National Science Day - February 28
- National Tooth Fairy Day - February 28 (Tooth Fairy avg \$4.70)
- Superman's Birthday - February 29

February 2021 National Days						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Serpent Day	2 Groundhog Day	3 Wedding Ring Day	4 Thank a Mail Carrier Day	5 Chocolate Fondue Day	6 Frozen Yogurt Day
7 Ballet Day	8 Boy Scout Day	9 Pizza Day	10 Umbrella Day	11 White Shirt Day	12 Abe Lincoln's Birthday	13 Kiss Day
14 Valentine's Day	15 Hippo Day	16 Almond Day	17 Cabbage Day	18 Drink Wine Day	19 Tug of War Day	20 Cherry Pie Day
21 Grain Free Day	22 Margarita Day	23 Banana Bread Day	24 World Bartender Day	25 Quiet Day	26 Pistachio Day	27 Strawberry Day
28 Science Day	American Heart Month			Library Love's Month		

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Finding a good old-fashioned mailbox where you can drop off a letter is becoming almost as difficult as finding a pay phone. The iconic blue boxes are getting to be few and far between.

Collection boxes were first introduced in 1858. In their heyday, the boxes also served as storage facilities for carriers who made their rounds on foot, holding items such as rain gear and coats. Now that most carriers have vehicles, the gear is in the truck and the mailboxes just collect mail.

For well over a century, the number of collection boxes grew along with the population of the country. By the early 1970s, there were almost 400,000 of them.

According to data provided to the PRC by the Postal Service, the number of boxes fluctuated throughout the 1970s and 1980s, sometimes going up, sometimes down. In some years, there were as few as 260,000, while at other times, there were as many as 386,000. According to this USPS report, in 2000 there were still 365,000 collection boxes on the street.

Then in 2002, in order to save fuel and labor costs, the Postal Service began an aggressive program to cull what it considered underused boxes. Over the next few years, the number of collection boxes decreased dramatically. A 2009 news report observed that the Postal Service had been removing the boxes nationally at the rate of more than 60 per day. According to a BBC report, there were 175,000 boxes as of July 2009.

And that's basically the issue: By removing the collection boxes, the Postal Service saves some money, but the savings comes at the expense of average customers, who end up having to spend their own time — and often gas too — going to a box that is further away.

There are still at least 26 United States Postal Service collection boxes and post offices available to the public in Arlington, TX