

Spirituality

PURIM FUN ABOUNDS!

Lions 'n' Tigers 'n' Haman ... Oh My!

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Contributing Writer

Surrounded by the sights and sounds of a tropical forest, hundreds of guests celebrated at “Purim in the Jungle” on March 20, hosted by the Sara and Morris Tugman Bais Chabad Torah Center of West Bloomfield and Young Israel of Southfield.

“They were welcomed into the hall [at Dovid Ben Nuchim-Aish Kodesh in Oak Park] by plastic, inflatable animals hanging on vines from the ceiling, zebra prints across the tables and animal masks at everyone’s seat,” said Zeesy Silberberg, who heads Bais Chabad’s youth department and Jewish Women’s Circle.

The costumed group — many in jungle-themed attire — began the evening by hearing *Megillat Esther* read by Rabbi Shneur Silberberg, the synagogue’s outreach director. Bais Chabad Rabbi Elimelech Silberberg explained that Queen Esther’s saving of the Jews was indeed to her credit, but on a deeper level it was because she initiated repentance amongst the Jewish people.

The children who attended the event had their hair braided African-style, enjoyed a live jungle animal show, complete with a chinchilla, tree frog, lizard and birds, and took a shot at the animal ring toss game. The very brave among them allowed a 5-foot snake to coil around their necks. “But they came out of there in one piece, in time for a magic show by Bais Chabad’s Magic Club members led by Ethan Gross [of West Bloomfield] who had been rehearsing their tricks for months,” Zeesy said.

An African-themed buffet dinner, complete with tropical fruit smoothie stations got the group energized for the evening’s highlight, a drum circle led by Lori Fithian of Drummunity in Ann Arbor.

“Giant drums, tambourines and other instruments were passed around, and the large group of over 250 people created a magnificent beat,” Zeesy said. “The delight on the children’s faces was incredible. The noise from the 200 drums was deafening, powerful and beautiful.”

Added Kenny Borin of West Bloomfield, “Every single child and adult present fell into the rhythm. The drumming engendered a really awesome unity in the hall.” □

Purim takes on a jungle theme, complete with animals and drums.



Laya Kleinman of West Bloomfield encourages the kids to beat the drum during the drum circle.



Seth Gross, 11, of West Bloomfield holds a boa constrictor during an animal show and tell.



Zeesy Silberberg and her husband Rabbi Shneur Silberberg of West Bloomfield help themselves to some chicken during the party.



Shalom Shomer of West Bloomfield gets into the jungle theme in his gorilla costume while parading around with his son, Meir, 3.

Purim In West Bloomfield

Left:
Rabbi Norman Roman leads a rip-roarin’ Old West “Yee-Haw” Purim at Temple Kol Ami. Students performed songs and a “Purim Idol” skit.

Right:
Dressed as a cat, Jennifer Siporin of Southfield reads from *Megillat Esther* at Congregation B’nai Moshe.

