

# Get It, Got It, Good!

## CHAG PURIM

by ELYSE GLICKMAN

Purim is one of the most festive holidays of the Jewish calendar, which begins this year at sundown on Monday, March 9. The celebration of Queen Esther's triumph is marked with a reading of the megillah and twirling groggers at the sound of Haman's name, masquerading in costume and handing out gift baskets of food, known as *mishloach manot* (literally, "the sending of portions"), to relatives, friends and neighbors.



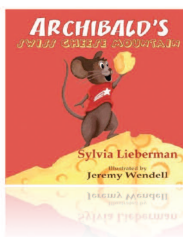
French dairy cafe **A Cow Jumped Over the Moon** (421 N. Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills. (310) 274-4269, [www.acowjumpedoverthemoon.com](http://www.acowjumpedoverthemoon.com)) offers kosher baskets for a gourmet palate, while award-show favorite **Fancifull**

features "Kosher Delights" and "Strictly Kosher" baskets at \$75 and \$54.95, respectively. Fancifull also boasts a bountiful gourmet food shop stocked with thousands of ideas and options for custom baskets (5617 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood. (323) 466-7654, [www.fancifull.com](http://www.fancifull.com)).



**Herzog Wine Cellars** offers gift baskets for the serious connoisseur. You could order online at [www.herzogwinecellars.com](http://www.herzogwinecellars.com), but then you'd miss an opportunity to dine at the Oxnard winery's acclaimed kosher restaurant, Tierra Sur. For more information, call (805) 983-1560.

Children's bookstore **Storyopolis** creates gift baskets for kids, from toddler to elementary-school age. Owners Kristine and Matthew Abramowitz offer customized baskets for Purim, ranging from \$125 to \$300, brimming with books that recall the Queen Esther story, offer celebration tips and dazzle with stunning illustrations. (14945 Ventura Blvd., Studio City (818) 990-7600, [www.storyopolis.com](http://www.storyopolis.com).)



Putting together a basket for someone with a sweet tooth? **Munchies** in Pico-Robertson features kosher-certified bulk candy, dried fruit, chocolate and nuts. Eat your heart out, Willy Wonka! (9959 W. Pico, West Los Angeles. (310) 777-0221, [www.lamunchies.com](http://www.lamunchies.com).)

And no Purim celebration is complete without hamantaschen. **Continental Bakery** (12419 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood. (818) 762-5005) offers pastry and cookie dough varieties with poppy seed, chocolate, apricot, raspberry and prune fillings. Sugar-free hamantaschen is available with the apricot, raspberry or prune filling. Prices run \$8.95 a pound for the regular-size treats and \$1.65 each for the large size. **Stone Ground Bakery** (5005 Kanan Road, Agoura Hills (818) 597-8774, [stonegroundbreads.com](http://stonegroundbreads.com)) offers its version of heaven at \$8.50 a pound in chocolate chip, apricot, raspberry, poppy seed and prune, and sugar-free on request in chocolate chip, raspberry and apricot.



Connecticut-based **The Challah Connection** features one-stop online shopping for all things kosher, comforting and cool, along with a dozen specialty baskets dedicated to Purim with such themes as "Purim Basket Royale," "Traditions in a Box" and "The Whole Megilla Basket." ([www.challahconnection.com](http://www.challahconnection.com).)