

WHY IS THIS PESAH DIFFERENT?

WHEN PASSOVER BEGINS ON SATURDAY EVENING

When Passover immediately follows Shabbat there are several changes in our preparations for the festival. They are explained below:

- Since we are prohibited from fasting on Shabbat (Yom Kippur is the sole exception), the *Fast of the Firstborn*, which is usually observed on Passover eve, is held on Thursday instead. A firstborn child is permitted to forego this fast by participating in a *mitzvah* that is typically followed by a celebratory meal (*seudat mitzvah*). It has become customary to schedule the completion of a Talmudic tractate (*siyyum*) on this day, since those who attend are exempt. ***Join us on Thursday morning, April 10th at 7 AM for morning minyan at which time Rabbi Lubliner will complete the tractate Eduyot. A light breakfast will follow.***
- Most years we burn any remaining leaven in our possession by late morning on Passover eve. Since this year *erev Pesah* is on Shabbat, the task must be completed before Shabbat. Accordingly, we search for leaven (*bedikat hametz*) on **Thursday evening, April 10th** and then burn it (*biur hametz*) on **Friday, April 11th before 12:23 PM**. The sale of leaven will also take place on Friday morning.
- We are required to have bread or its equivalent at our Shabbat meals on Friday evening and Saturday midday. We are also prohibited from eating *matzah* on *erev Pesah* until the time of the *seder*. The easiest solution is to use kosher-for-Passover egg *matzah* (*matzah ashirah*) Friday night and Shabbat morning. Egg *matzah* may not be used to fulfill the *mitzvah* of eating *matzah* at the *seder*, but we do recite *hamotzi* over it and treat it as the functional equivalent of bread, making it possible to use in lieu of *hallah* on Shabbat.

- Those who opt to use *hallah* instead of egg matzah for Shabbat (NOT RECOMMENDED) must be very careful to keep the *hallah* separate from Passover dishes and foods and pay extra attention to removing even the smallest of crumbs from all surfaces after eating. The latest one may eat leaven on Passover eve, April 12th is 11:19 AM. All remaining bits of bread used for Shabbat must be disposed of by 12:23 PM. At this time one recites the formula divesting oneself of ownership of any leaven, which is usually recited when the *hametz* is burnt.
- All cooking and food preparation for the *seder* must be done before Shabbat.

HOME RITUAL BEFORE PASSOVER

B'DIKAT HAMETZ - THE SEARCH FOR LEAVEN

Two nights before the first *seder* (this year it's Thursday, April 10th after nightfall) we conduct a symbolic search for leaven. The traditional tools used for this search include a candle, a feather and a wooden spoon. Though modern technology has made the original purposes of the above largely obsolete, their use in this ritual is a time-honored tradition. For your convenience B'dikat Hametz kits are available for sale in the Sisterhood Judaica Shop.

The procedure for the search is as follows. Pieces of leaven are placed around the house so that the search has a purpose. While there is no set number, there is a mystical tradition of using ten pieces of leaven. The candle is lit, and the blessing below recited before commencing the search. After all the pieces are collected, they are placed together with the candle, feather and spoon in a paper bag. The declaration nullifying one's leaven is then recited. The next morning, the bag containing the hametz is burnt along with the wooden spoon, etc. This year all leaven should be burnt on Friday, April 11th by 12:23 PM.

The ritual of B'dikat Hametz is a great opportunity to involve your children with Passover preparations in a religiously meaningful way.

It's easy to do, and can be presented as a family game. "Hide" the pieces and have your children search for them, or vice versa.

A few hints: Writing down each "hiding" place will help avoid forgetting where you've placed the pieces of leaven. Don't use leaven products that are very crumbly, and wrap each in a paper towel or napkin so that crumbs are not left behind. Wrap the bottom of the candle in foil so that wax does not drip onto furniture or carpeting. After "hiding" your leaven and lighting the candle, the following blessing is recited:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל
בְּעוֹר חָמֵץ.

*Barukh ata Ado-nai Elo-henu melekh ha-olam, a-sher kid-sha-nu
b'mitz-vo-tav v'tzi-van-nu al biur hametz.*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has sanctified us through God's commandments, commanding us to remove all leaven.

After the search recite the following:

כָּל חֲמִירָא וְחֲמִיעָא דְאַכָּא בְּרִשׁוּתִי, דְלֹא חֲמִיתָהּ וְדִלָּא בְּעִרְתָּהּ וְדִלָּא
יִדְעָנָא לִּיה, לְבָטֵל וְלֵהוּי הֶפְקֵר כְּעֶפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.

All leaven in my possession which I have not seen or removed, or of which I am unaware, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

On Shabbat morning, April 12th we recite the following declaration no later than 12:23 PM:

כָּל חֲמִירָא וְחֲמִיעָא דְאִכָּא בְּרִשׁוֹתַי, דְּחִזַּתְהּ וּדְלָא חִזַּתְהּ, דְּחֲמַתְהּ וּדְלָא חֲמַתְהּ, דְּבַעַרְתְּהּ וּדְלָא בַעַרְתְּהּ, לְבָטֵל וְלֵהוּי הַפְּקֵר כְּעֶפְרָא דְאַרְעָא.

All leaven in my possession which I have seen and that which I have failed to see, that which I have eliminated and that which I failed to eliminate, may it be annulled and made ownerless, as free as the dust of the earth.

Some add the following Kavanah:

Just as we have eliminated hametz from our houses and all we possess, may it be Your will, Eternal One, God to us and God to our ancestors, to rid us of the *Yetzer Ha-ra*, the evil inclination. May we be privileged enough to have all that is base, haughty, uncharitable, and selfish, burnt from the depths of our hearts as the hametz which we burnt yesterday. And so, too, may You, rid the world of arrogance and evil as we have attempted to rid our homes of leaven in the remembrance of our redemption from bondage. Amen.

IMPORTANT PASSOVER DATES/TIMES

Thursday, April 10th

7:00 AM - Fast of the Firstborn *Siyyum*

After dark - Search for Leaven (*Bedikat Hametz*)

Friday, April 11th

12:23 PM - Sale of Leaven, Burning of Leaven (*Biur Hametz*)

6:00 PM - *Kabbalat Shabbat* in the Round

Shabbat, April 12th

9:00 AM - *Shabbat Ha-Gadol* Morning Service

12:23 PM - Declaration Nullifying Ownership of Hametz

2:00 PM - *Minhah* Service

No Evening Service

8:29 PM - Candle lighting Passover First Night

Sunday, April 13th

9:00 AM - First Day Passover Morning Service

6:00 PM - Young Family *Seder*

7:30 PM - *Minhah/Ma'ariv*

8:00 PM - Community *Seder*

8:29 PM - Candle lighting Passover Second Night

Monday, April 14th

9:00 AM - Second Day Passover Morning Service

7:30 PM - *Minhah* followed by study session & *Ma'ariv*

8:31 PM - *Yom Tov* ends

Tuesday, April 15th - Friday, April 18th

7:10 AM - Intermediate Days Passover morning *minyan*

Tuesday, April 15th - Thursday, April 17th

6:30 PM - Intermediate Days Passover evening *minyan*

Friday, April 18th

6:00 PM - *Minhah/Ma'ariv*

7:38 PM - Candle lighting Shabbat & Yom Tov

Shabbat, April 19th

9:00 AM - Seventh Day Passover Morning Service

6:45 PM - *Minhah, Seudah Shlishith, Ma'ariv*

8:33 PM - Candle lighting Yom Tov

Sunday, April 20th

9:00 AM -- Eighth Day Passover Morning Service with *Yizkor*

7:30 PM - *Minhah* followed by study session & *Ma'ariv*

8:35 PM - Festival ends

9:30 PM - Purchase/Use *Hametz*