

PASSOVER 2020 / 5780

Tuesday night, April 7th

Search for *Hametz* after dark

All Services Will Be Conducted Using ZOOM

Please be on the lookout for an email invitation

If you cannot use email, you can also dial into the services!

Wednesday, April 8

9:00am
 10:45am
 11:45am

Fast/Feast of the Firstborn
 Last “opportunity” to eat *Hametz*
 Burn *Hametz* (if not earlier)

If at all possible, the *Seder* should begin after dark on each night.
 We begin *Counting the Omer* at the *Seder* on the Second Night.

First days

Thursday, April 9th

10:30am

Shacharit followed by *Mincha*

Friday, April 10th

10:30am
 7:00pm

Shacharit
Mincha...and *Ma'ariv* for Shabbat

Shabbat Hol haMo'ed

Saturday, April 11th

10:30am
 8:00pm

followed by *Mincha*
Ma'ariv & *Havdalah*

Intermediate days / Hol haMo'ed

Sunday & Monday April 12th-13th

9:00am & 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 14th

9:00am

Concluding days

Tuesday, April 14th

7:00pm

Wednesday, April 15th

10:30am
 8:15pm

followed by *Mincha*
Ma'ariv for the 8th night

Thursday, April 16th

10:30am (including *Yizkor*) followed by *Mincha*
 8:30pm *Ma'ariv* & *Havdalah* for conclusion of the holiday.



Please wait until 9:00pm before using any Hametz that you may have “sold” through the Rabbi

Our Torah Members

These generous individuals have voluntarily chosen to support our Synagogue at a higher level of dues than is required, in order to help other Jews who are less fortunate and in need of assistance.

ETERNAL LIGHT MEMBERS

These members provide financial assistance and synagogue membership for families who are enduring financial hardship, as well as a full religious education for their children.

Anonymous
David Korn
Stephen & Merilee Obstbaum

"Offerings of the Heart"

*The names of our
Torah Members
are inscribed on the
sculpture in our
Community Room.*

Joni Rosen
Ann Rosenberg
Myrna Weissman
Mordechai & Suzanne Warshavsky

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Passover 2020



This graphic has been making its way around; I am sure many of you have seen it before now. And it's true: our congregational Seder was cancelled. I disinvented dear cousins who have been guests at our table

**Biblical Irony:
Passover Seder
may be delayed
by a plague.**

year-in, year-out since we moved back East in 1996, and the kids informed us that they were probably going to stay home this Pesach—and who can fault them?

Still, our scaled down/back *S'darim* will go on! Some may connect with friends and relatives via any one of the numerous video conferencing apps that are available, and those less proficient in the ways of the computer world may opt for the “lower-tech” cell phone route.

Had this pandemic occurred decades ago, I would have “suffered” through the Seder in relative isolation. But my attitude has softened, largely due to a few occasions in past years when my mother-in-law could not join us in person. We set a laptop on the Seder table at her accustomed place, with the screen facing inward, and FaceTimed her so she would not be alone and we would not be deprived of her memorable solos in *Hallel* and the songs at the very end.

But delay the Seder? I have never been a fan of delaying anything in Judaism to a more convenient day or date. I bristled when hearing members talk of delaying the Seder to the next weekend—or to whatever date the kids were free to come in. I wouldn't postpone a *Brit Milah* except for legitimate medical reasons, and I know there are those who would rather not inconvenience friends so they hold off on funerals until the next Sundays, no matter when the death occurred.

But the truth is that our history teaches us about the delay of 2 of the 3 Torah-based Pilgrimage festivals. There is precedent for it: The Maccabees couldn't fight a guerilla war against the Seleucids while sitting in Sukkot; it would have made them sitting ducks. So they delayed the holiday until they were victorious. How do we know? In the Second Book of Maccabees (not part of our Jewish Bible) it says that Judah and his followers recalled how a little while before they were living in the forests like wild animals, but now, carrying *lulavim*, the processed in the rededicated Temple.

What gave them the right to do this? It's one thing to say the Maccabees had no choice, but *on what/whose authority* did they observe Sukkot some 3+ months later?

For that we turn to the Torah...

Numbers, Chapter 9 ⁴Moses instructed the Israelites to offer the Passover sacrifice; ⁵and they offered the Passover sacrifice in **the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight**, in the wilderness of Sinai. Just as Adonai had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did.

⁶But there were some men who were unclean by reason of a corpse and could not offer the Passover sacrifice on that day. Appearing that same day before Moses and Aaron, ⁷those men said to them, “Unclean though we are by reason of a corpse, why must we be deprived of presenting Adonai's offering at its set time with the rest of the Israelites?” ⁸Moses said to them, “Stand by, and let me hear what instructions Adonai gives about you.”

⁹And Adonai spoke to Moses, saying: ¹⁰Speak to the Israelite people, saying: When any of you or of your posterity who are defiled by a corpse or are on a long journey would offer a Passover sacrifice to Adonai, ¹¹they shall offer it in **the second month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight**. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, ¹²and they shall not leave any of it over until morning. They shall not break a bone of it. They shall offer it in strict accord with the law of the Passover sacrifice. ¹³But if a person who is clean and not on a journey refrains from offering the Passover sacrifice, that person shall be cut off from his kin, for he did not present Adonai's offering at its set time; that person shall bear his guilt. - *The New JPS Translation*

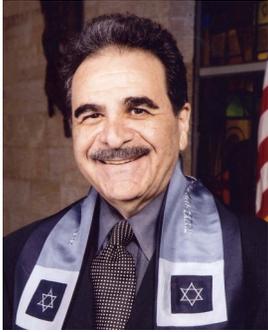
So now we know! It's God who, more-or-less, gave the Maccabees permission to delay Sukkot for as long as it would take. The institution in this passage in Numbers is known as *Pesach Shenit* (Second Passover), and it's a wonderful, compassionate enactment, full of understanding for unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

That goes double for our present situation. While I wish we had the confidence to assert that this 11th Plague will subside by the evening of Friday, May 8 (the eve of the second month), I am willing to bet that we will be in no position to fully and joyfully observe Passover by that date. So we will do the best we can in our observance of Passover come April 8—and when God has given us rest, respite and relief, let's come together to celebrate Passover to the fullest, as it should have been observed “in strict accord with the law of the Passover sacrifice.”

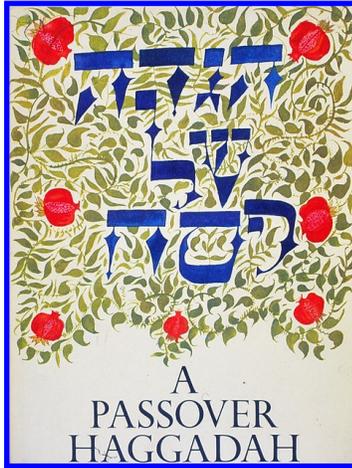
**Please see the Passover Guide
on pages 6,7, & 8**



PESACH IS COMING: SINGING AND PRAYING DURING CHALLENGING TIMES



I had already finished another message about Pesach, but because of the uncertainty of today's world, I am changing the tone and nature of this article. The world has really changed!



but the important thing is not to be overcome by fear." In modern times, one of Judaism's finest composers happens to be a Rabbi, Baruch Chait. He makes his home in Israel for the last three or four decades, and has written a "gevaldig" melody to those powerful words of Reb Nachman. This melody (that I occasionally include in the musaf Kedusha for Mimkomo) has become almost an anthem at many Jewish events, where people yearn for peace.

We have been living in difficult times these past several weeks. Synagogues and all Houses of Worship have been shut down. The President announced new guidelines to follow in our country. One of the first questions we ask is how do we survive as a house of worship during this critical period?

We as a community must stay strong, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually. Our immune systems have to fight off this "Coronavirus." We have to listen to our medical professionals by following their instructions and guidelines. We must follow social-distancing provisions.

As we are all aware here in our own congregation we are working on using technology that will allow us to make sure that our homes are filled with shabbat spirit. We are after all, a congregation that looks out for each other, and wants to feel closer to God. What Rabbi Stern and I are trying to do through prayer and song is bring comfort to you. Once implemented, we draw energy from you, knowing that you are with us.

Do not fear! Do not panic! We will get through this, stronger than ever before!

Warmest wishes for a Happy Passover, and a Chag Kasher V'Sameach!

In the Haggadah that we will use the coming days at our Seders, we read about wondrous miracles that took place at the red sea, as the children of Israel were passing through and the Egyptian hosts, led by Pharaoh and the pursuing Army were drowned as the waters closed in above them.

Box containing Hebrew text and its English translation: 'Kol ha'olam kulo Gesher tzar me'od Veha'ikar lo lifached k'lal. The whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the main thing is to have no fear at all.'

An early Rabbinic master, Reb Nachman of Bratzlav once wrote: "the whole world is like a narrow bridge,

ANNOUNCING

The Resumption of our Weekday Minyanim Beginning Wednesday, April 1 (this is not a joke) 9:00am & 7:00pm

Download—and print out-- the services here: https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/form-download-e-siddur-0

You will want:

- Siddur Sim Shalom: Shaharit for Weekdays
Siddur Sim Shalom: Afternoon Service for Weekdays
Siddur Sim Shalom: Evening Services for Weekdays



ZOOM Invitations were sent out via email. If you did not receive the invitation please call the office for more information

Kashrut Subcommittee of the Rabbinical Assembly Recommendations for Passover 5780 in Light of COVID-19 (modified by kas)

You are invited to join Rabbi Stern for a special **ZOOM** session on preparing your home for Pesach under these unusual circumstances. Friday, April 3 at 11:00 am

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7180014464?
pwd=MzF5RjIUVnpDTHhEZ0JPQzBCR0d2dz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7180014464?pwd=MzF5RjIUVnpDTHhEZ0JPQzBCR0d2dz09)

Phone in: 929-205-6099 or 718-001-4464

Meeting ID: 718 001 4464

Seder:

This year most of us have been instructed (or mandated) to remain home. This presents significant challenges to both the traditions of family and large seders, and communal seders as well. We feel that as a matter of Jewish law (which certainly includes public health concerns instituted by civic and medical authorities) these directives should be maintained. We don't take this decision lightly, as we are very aware of how emotionally significant Seder can be with family members and special friends and with as many people as possible at the physical table. God willing, these private small immediate family & individual seders will not be necessary in the future. But they are necessary this year, so please stay home. We also recognize that emotional concerns play an active role in the halakhic process. We know will we see communities and individuals adapting to meet their emotional needs and reconcile them with Jewish life.

A few tips to keep in mind when purchasing food for the seder:

Matzah - One is obligated to avoid hametz throughout Passover, but the obligation to eat matzah is limited to fulfilling the rituals of the first/second night seder alone. Therefore, communities should ensure that each home has at least enough matzah for each person to fulfill the obligation of *אכילת מצה*, eating matzah, for [each] seder. Think, basically, about one piece of matzah per person, per seder.

Karpas - Can be any vegetable. [In Israel, boiled potato is a common food for karpas]

Maror - If horseradish is not available, people are encouraged to find other vegetables or fruits that can bring a tear to the eye if consumed raw: hot peppers, fresh ginger, mustard greens, raw lemon. In Israel, romaine lettuce is commonly used as maror.

Egg and Roasted Shankbone on Seder Plate - A roasted beet and rice (if consuming kitniyot) in place of the shankbone and egg. (Pesachim 114b)

Kashering/Cleaning:

This may be one area in which not much has to change, for many households. The directions are laid out in the

CJLS Pesah Guide (see url above). Cleaning this year may actually be a bit more difficult as many of us have been in our homes living differently than normal. But the general rule is, places must be well-searched and specifically cleaned for *hametz* only if it's a place for which and in which hametz is normally consumed and cooked. Furthermore, the prohibition of owning & seeing hametz applies specifically to amounts of pure hametz that is at least the size of an olive (*k'zayyit*). This is your yearly reminder that dirt is not hametz.

Destruction of Hametz/Bi'ur Hametz and Bittul Hametz/Renouncing of Hametz:

It is a mitzvah to search for and destroy Hametz. If cleaning is unusually difficult this year due to conditions of isolation, it is well to remember that at the end of that process we renounce "all hametz whether I am aware of it or not." If cleaning is sufficient to protect against obvious contact with hametz, we can rely on the formula of bittul (renunciation).

Cleaning/Kashering for elderly/infirmary:

In these households, if there is an already living-in-home caretaker in place, cleaning and kashering should be carried out, to the extent possible, according to the guidelines which apply to all. In a household where there is no able-bodied caretaker in place, the residents of the household should do their best to remove hametz from every surface that will be used for the preparation or consumption of foods during Passover. These surfaces should be wiped down with all-purpose cleaning materials. If possible, refrigerator shelves should also be wiped down. If the oven will be used during Passover, the walls of the oven should be wiped down and aluminum foil placed between the rack and the baking dish. For homes in which vessels will not be able to be kashered in the normative manner (due to physical capability or general concerns of danger with heating elements), we recommend designating a few cooking vessels to be used for passover cooking before and during the holiday, to clean them well, and let them sit for 24 hours (or at least overnight). So long as they don't have visible foodstuff caked on, they are acceptable for preparing Passover food. This technique can also be used for cutlery and non-porous dishes as well.

Purchasing of Food:

Hierarchy of purchasing: While the CJLS formally permitted Ashkenazim (who choose) to consume kitniyot in 2015, due to the unprecedented disruptions in the food supply, the CJLS encourages everyone to consider putting aside the Ashkenazic custom of eschewing legumes (beans and lentils) corn and rice, if only for Passover 5780 (2020).

Below are guidelines for following “best practice” under trying circumstances:

It is important to note that many products that are plain, unflavored dairy products (like milk, yogurt, cottage cheese, and hard cheeses), frozen fruits and vegetables, packaged legumes, and rice can be purchased with a year-round hekhsher before Passover as a matter of course. This is not latitude granted during difficult circumstances, this is normative halakhah. It is only if they are purchased during Passover itself that many of these items need to carry a Kosher for Passover certification. In general, we tend to be strict on our Passover lists due to the overall complexity of certifying individual items. This year we have simply relied on our current knowledge to lessen the burden we are all feeling, while still being within the normative constructs of Passover Kashrut. This year, due to the limitations on product availability and in order to limit individuals having to check multiple stores, if you are unable to find an item below with a Kosher for Passover certification due to COVID-19 then here's what you can do.

Food requiring no Kosher for Passover certification no matter when purchased:

Baking soda
Pure bicarbonate of soda, without additives
Eggs
Fresh fruits and vegetables (including pre-washed bagged)
Fresh or frozen kosher meat (other than chopped meat)
Nestea (regular and decaffeinated)
Pure black, green, or white tea leaves
Unflavored tea bags
Unflavored regular coffee
Olive oils (and other pure oils)
Whole or gutted fresh kosher fish
Whole or half pecans (not pieces)
Whole (unground) spices and nuts
OU/Star-K Raisins
Kosher wine
Plain butter, either salted or unsalted

The following list of basic foods is ideally for pre-Passover purchasing food, but could extend, if determined necessary based on food supply shortages, and their likely production before Passover began, to purchase on Hol-HaMoed as well.

all pure fruit juices
Filleted fish
Frozen fruit (no additives)
Plain cheeses (without added flavor morsels)
Non-iodized salt

Pure white sugar (no additives)
Quinoa (with nothing mixed in)* GF ideal
White milk
Some products sold by Equal Exchange Fair Trade Chocolate
Frozen Vegetables (needs to be checked for possible hametz before cooking)
Chopped meat
Plain, non-flavored almond milk, rice milk, soy milk, cashew milk.
Non-flavored Cream Cheese with ingredients of milk and cream, salt, stabilizers (xanthan and/or carob bean and/or guar gums)
Non-flavored Yogurt with milk and bacteria, only (which are Lactobacillus bulgaricus and Streptococcus thermopiles).
Canned Tuna with just tuna, water or oil, salt, and pyrophosphates
100% maple syrup
100% Agave
Ground Salt and Peppers
Plain (non-Flavored) Decaf Coffee
Pure Honey
Dried fruit, prunes only without potassium sorbate
Canned vegetables/fruit with year-round hekhsher in which ingredients are the item itself, salt and water.

Kitniyot:

Fresh kitniyot: Corn on the cob and fresh beans (like lima beans in their pods) may be purchased before and during Passover, that is, treated like any other fresh vegetable.

Dried kitniyot (legumes, rice and corn) can be purchased bagged or in boxes and then sifted or sorted before or on Passover. These should ideally not be purchased in bulk from bins because of the concern that the bin might previously have been used for hameitz, and a few grains of hameitz might be mixed in. In any case, one should inspect these to the extent possible before Passover and discard any pieces of hametz. If one could not inspect the rice or dried beans before Passover, one should remove pieces of hametz found in the package on Passover, discarding those, and the kitniyot themselves remain permissible.

Frozen raw kitniyot (corn, edamame [soy beans], etc.): One may purchase bags of frozen non-hekhshered kitniyot before or during (if necessary) Passover provided that one can either absolutely determine that no shared equipment was used or one is careful to inspect the contents before Passover) and discard any pieces of חמץ hameitz). Even if one did not inspect the vegetables before Passover, if one can remove pieces of (hameitz) found in the package on Passover, the vegetables themselves are permissible.

PASSOVER GUIDE CONTINUED

Requires Kosher for Passover label at any time:

All baked goods
Farfel
Matzah
Any product containing matzah
Matzah flour
Matzah meal
Pesah cakes
All frozen processed foods
Candy
Chocolate milk
Herbal tea
Ice cream
Liquor
Soda
Vinegar
Margarine

Another way to potentially find acceptable foods without a specific Kosher for Passover designation during pre-Passover shopping, when the situation demands, is to prefer certified Gluten Free (and oat free) products.

Lastly, many of us have already opened products in our homes that are *Hametz*-free, but used in the course of normal year-round cooking. If one is able to ascertain/highly assume that no *hametz* contaminated the opened product, or at best a negligible amount, it is possible to use such products during Passover this year.

An Important Note: It may not be possible for you to follow all the instructions contained in the Passover Guide this year. Please contact me with questions you have about how to modify them if you discover that you cannot obtain certain food products or other Passover “necessities”. Keep in mind that the Seder does not have to be an elaborate meal, and that there are easier ways to prepare the kitchen and to do many things when you make use of disposables!

PURIM WITH JCC OF FORT LEE AND CBIOTP



People Who Can Sew Are Desperately Needed



Are you any good with a sewing machine?

Masks are needed urgently for a number of crucial purposes-- and homemade masks will serve the purpose!

Please call or email Rabbi Stern if you can help. 201-947-1735 or rabbi@geshershalom.org

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*Our Sages taught:
 The giving of tzedakah is as great as all
 the other mitzvot together —
 Bara Batra 9a*

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Our condolences to . . .

KAREN MEYERS

*On the loss of her mother,
 Our esteemed member,*

RENEE GRUENSPECHT

~

MILTON BREIT

*On the loss of his wife,
 Our esteemed member,*

PHYLLIS BREIT

Donations listed were received in February

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

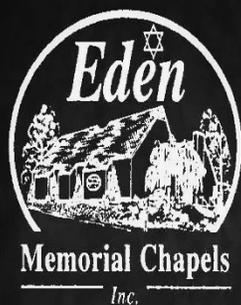
1	Paul Cohen	11	Barry Sussman	21	Hugh Gilenson
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8	Shira Feuerstein	13	Laurie Small-Levy	24	Casey Danoff
9	Ian Gilenson	16	Doryne Davis	28	Jeffrey Gordon
9	Alex Gilenson	16	Terry Gensler		
10	David McGrath	16	Tobey Lyden		

*Happy
 Birthday!*

3	Leo & Mary Rettig
7	Marvin & Janet Chertkoff
16	John & Tobey Lyden
18	Martin & Rochelle Carus

*Happy
 Anniversary*

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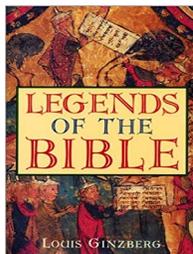
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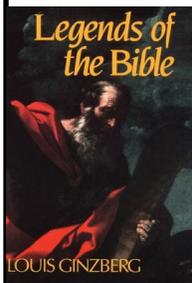
Re-Inventing the Bible

Thursdays at 10:30 am

Want a zoom invitation? Email the Rabbi!



Join Rabbi Stern as we discover the amazingly creative juices of the classical rabbis! They were masters at spinning yarns, embellishing narrative, and inventing out of whole cloth to really make the Bible come alive through what they called **Midrash Aggadah**.



Using Louis Ginzberg's one-volume *The Legends of the Bible* (you can buy a used copy online for less than \$10), we will contrast the biblical text with these rabbinically enhanced narratives.

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AD HERE**

**Call Kathy Grazian
201-592-0463**

APRIL 2020

Nissan/ Iyar - 5780

Daily Service Times

Mon -Thur 7:00am & 7:45pm
 Friday 7:00am & 7:00pm
 Saturday 9:30am & Minchah
 Sunday 9:00am & 7:45pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p align="center">SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT</p> <p align="center">Until further notice, all services will be held virtually, via ZOOM.</p> <p align="center">If you did not receive an invitation via email, please let the office know.</p>			1 7 Nissan	2 8 Nissan	3 9 Nissan  7:05PM	4 10 Nissan Service via zoom 10:30 am TZAV
5 11 Nissan	6 12 Nissan	7 13 Nissan	8 14 Nissan	9 15 Nissan <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Passover Schedule on the cover.</div>	10 16 Nissan  7:13PM	11 17 Nissan Service via zoom 10:30 am CHOL HAMOED PESACH
		SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ	FIRST SEDER	PASSOVER	PASSOVER	INTERMEDIATE DAY
12 18 Nissan	13 19 Nissan	14 20 Nissan	15 21 Nissan <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div>	16 22 Nissan	17 23 Nissan  7:20PM	18 24 Nissan Service via zoom 10:30 am SHEMINI
INTERMEDIATE DAYS - - - - - INTERMEDIATE DAYS				PASSOVER	PASSOVER	
19 25 Nissan	20 26 Nissan	21 27 Nissan YOM HASHOAH	22 28 Nissan	23 29 Nissan	24 30 Nissan  7:27	25 1 Iyar Service via zoom 10:30 am TAZRIA METZORA
26 2 Iyar	27 3 Iyar	28 4 Iyar YOM HAZIKARON	29 5 Iyar YOM HA'ATZMAUT	30 6 Iyar		

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