

# Passover

## Preparations 2018 – Chag Sameach!

Please direct any questions to Rabbi Glick.

Each year the Rabbinical Assembly updates its Passover Guide in full detail. For more details, see:

[https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/jewish-law/holidays/pesach/pesach\\_guide\\_5778.pdf](https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/jewish-law/holidays/pesach/pesach_guide_5778.pdf)



### Fast of the Firstborn and Siyyum

Traditionally, firstborn sons fast during the day preceding the Seder. In some communities, firstborn daughters also choose to fast. This commemorates the death of the firstborn Egyptians in the Tenth Plague, and expresses our gratitude to God for having 'passed over' the Jewish homes in Egypt, sparing their firstborn.

Today Jews end their fast at morning minyan time with a siyum, a celebratory meal following a teaching concluding a Jewish text. The "seudat mitzvah" – the festive meal grants the firstborn an override to the fast. The siyum will take place **Friday, March 30th**, at the close of morning minyan.

### Observance

The ceremony of removing leaven is to take place before sundown on Thursday, March 29th. Bedikat chametz, the search for leaven, takes place after sundown.

Leaven (chametz) may be eaten until 10:00 am on the morning of Friday, March 30. The noon meal on Friday is to be of Passover food, but matzah is to be avoided so that we have a good appetite for it at the Seder.

One of the most ancient of Passover customs is the thorough cleaning of the home in all its parts and the removal of all chametz in preparation for the welcoming of Pesach. We follow the cleaning with the meticulous avoidance of the use of chametz throughout the Passover days, both at home and away. This creates the unique Pesach home atmosphere of the holiday.

The term "chametz" is applied not only to foods, the use of which is to be avoided during Pesach, but also to the dishes and utensils in which foods are prepared or served during the year. Many dishes or utensils may not be used during Pesach except as herein indicated.

### Foods During Pesach

#### 1. Forbidden for use:

Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, coffee substances derived from cereal derivatives (the grains wheat, barley, oats, spelt and rye). Any food containing these grains or derivatives from them (the

five prohibited species for Pesach) is prohibited. All flavorings or liquids made from grain alcohol require Pesach supervision.

Last year, the Conservative Movement published a teshuvah (a decision of Jewish law) regarding kitniyot for Ashkenazim. It permits **Ashkenazim** eating kitniyot: rice, corn, soy, millet, beans and peas. **Sephardim** have long permitted these foods.

We know that many families will not change their custom after a lifetime of avoiding kitniyot, but please know that the Conservative movement now permits them.

#### 2. Permitted Foods:

(a) The following are permitted in unopened packages or containers, requiring no "Kosher L'Pesach" label: coffee, tea, eggs, olive oil, juices, sugar, milk, quinoa, fresh fruits and vegetables including string beans.

(b) Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Passover use are permitted in their frozen state.

(c) If certified for Passover use: matzah, matzah flour, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, chocolate milk, butter, cheese, yogurt, jams, jellies, vinegar, wines and liquors, gelatin, relishes, salad oils, dried fruits, shortening.

### Dishes and Utensils

1. Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used with the following exceptions:

(a) Silverware: knives, forks and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.

(b) Heavy-duty plastic items including dishes and cutlery, provided they can withstand very hot water and do not permanently stain, may be kashered through scouring and immersing in boiling water.

(c) Metal pots and pans and glassware used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking), if made wholly of metal, though

used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.

(d) Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Passover.

2. Earthenware, enamelware and porcelain utensils used during the year may not be used on Pesach. However, fine chinaware that was stored and not used for over a year may be used after thorough washing.

3. The stove is prepared for Pesach by thorough scrubbing and cleansing of all parts and turning on full flame in the bake oven for one hour and on all the grates turn red and glow.

4. For microwave ovens (with no convection oven), thoroughly cleanse, then microwave an 8 oz. glass of water until almost all water evaporates.

5. Dishwashers may be used for Passover after thorough scouring with boiling water and running through a cycle empty.

*Prepared and approved by Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly, see link above.*

### Selling Hametz

"Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses" (Exodus 12:19), is one of the sources from which the law of selling one's chametz is derived. Not only are we commanded to remove bread and leaven from our homes and properties, but also to dispose of leaven that may be in our possession, even if we do not see or know about it. Thus, our Rabbis of old instituted the "selling of chametz" to a non-Jew for the duration of Passover. It is also customary to make a donation, *maot hitim*, to the Jewish needy in order to enable them to celebrate the Passover Seder. Rabbi Glick can arrange for the selling of your chametz via Shtar Harsha'ah – a special document available in print or on our website. Forms must be returned to the synagogue by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 28th.

**Chag Sameach!**