

Jewish Center of Teaneck

Daniel Fridman, Rabbi

OFFICERS

Uri Horowitz, President
Dr. Benjamin Cooper, Vice President
Allen Ezrapour, Treasurer
Daniel Chazin, Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shmuel Elhadad
Ginnine Fried
Eva Lynn Gans
Ephraim Love
Dr. Steve Myers
Bob Rabkin **
Rebecca Richmond
Daniel Wetrin

PAST PRESIDENTS

Edward Anfang*
David N. Bilow
Dr. Barnet Bookstaver*
Henry Dubro
Jules Edelman*
Sen. Matthew Feldman*
Eva Lynn Gans
David W. Goldman*
Joseph Gottesman
Leonard Gould*
Steven Morey Greenberg
Sanford Hausler
S.E. Melvin Hecht
Kurt J. Heilbronner*
Seymour Herr*
George H. Kaplan*
Philip Kaplan*
Martin H. Kornheiser
Major L. Landau*
Herman B. Levine*
Merwin S. Levine*
Leonard Marcus*
Murray Megibow*
Milton Polevoy
Howard Reinert*
Adolf Robison*
Sidney Roffman*
Abbe Rosner
Mark I. Schlesinger
Abraham Schluskel
Fred Schneider*
Dr. J. Dewey Schwarz*
Louis Stein*
Herbert Stern
Archie A. Struhl*
Isaac Student
David S. Waldman
George Jack Wall*
Dr. Howard Wang
Jeffrey Weber
Norman Weiss
Albert Zorn*



70 Sterling Place
Teaneck, NJ 07666
Phone: 201-833-0515
www.jcot.org

בס"ד

April 17, 2020

Dear Friend,

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for your grace and resilience over Pesach. So many of you commented to me regarding the unique meaning of this experience, even as it was singularly challenging as well. Chaya and I continue to think of each of you.

Table of Contents

- I. Community Updates
- II. Drashah and Parsha Questions for Shabbat Shemini
- III. Shabbat Mevarchim
- IV. Pirkei Avot
- V. Schedule for Erev Shabbat-Sunday
- VI. Purchasing Chametz after Pesach
- VII. Customs of Sefirat HaOmer- Recorded Music this Year

I. Community Updates

Our thoughts continue to be with all of those afflicted with this virus, and their families, especially those who are critically ill.

We equally continue to think of all of those who have lost loved ones.

We wish nechama to our Yoetzet Halacha Tova Warburg Sinensky and to Tamar Gross on the loss of their grandmother, Mrs. Mindy Lamm. Mrs. Lamm was a woman of uncommon grace and a full partner in the exceptional communal work of her husband, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm. May the Almighty comfort the entire Lamm, Mehler, and Warburg families at this time.

We continue to think of Effie Love, and wish him nechama on the loss of his brother Steven. Effie is sitting shiva through Wednesday morning. Effie can be contacted at 914-441-8387. For the Zoom information and times, please click [here](#).

We wish continued nechama to Yossi Rosner on the loss of his sister, Marsha. Yossi's shiva concluded with the onset of Yom Tov on Tuesday evening.

II. Drashah and Parsha Questions for Shemini

Regarding the importance of reaching out and comforting those who are experiencing loss at this time, without the normal structures of communal support, please see my drashah for Shabbat Parshat Shemini [here](#). In addition, please find questions for children of all ages on the Parsha [here](#).

III. Birkat HaChodesh

I would like to encourage everyone to recite Birkat HaChodesh for Iyar on Shabbat morning. Rosh Chodesh will be observed on Friday and Shabbat. May Hashem bless us this forthcoming month with life and good health.

IV. Study of Pirkei Avot

Sefirat HaOmer is the designated time period for study of Pirkei Avot. Each Shabbat afternoon it is customary to study one Chapter of Avot. It seems to me that amongst the

** Immediate Past President
* deceased

reasons for this custom is that Pirkei Avot is our core ethical text, and the mourning practices normally associated with this time of year are a product of the lack of mutual respect demonstrated by the students of R. Akiva (Yevamot 62b). **I would like to encourage everyone to participate in this beautiful minhag this year, even if you have not done so in the past. May our learning be a zchut for all those who are afflicted with the virus.** We have been studying Pirkei Avot between Mincha and Ma'ariv of our daily Zoom Minyanim. Attached, please find a recording from today's Mishnah.

V. Schedule for Erev Shabbat, Shabbat Parshat Shemini, and Sunday

23 Nissan, Isru Chag, Friday, April 17, Omer VIII

Shacharit, 7:30 AM

Mincha, 4 PM

Earliest Times for Candle Lighting, 6:09 PM

Last Candles, 7:21 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat, 7:25 PM

Sefirat Ha-Omer, 8:21

24 Nissan, Shabbat Parshat Shemini, April 18, Omer IX

Shacharit/Birkat HaChodesh/Mussaf, 9 AM

Mincha, Pirkei Avot Chapter I 7:15 PM

Maariv/Sefirat Ha-Omer, 8:22 PM

Havdalah, 8:30 PM

25 Nissan, April 19, Omer X

Shacharit 7:30 AM

Mishnah 4th and 5th Grades, 8:30 AM

Mincha/Maariv 7:25 PM

VI. Purchasing Chametz After Pesach

There is a Talmudic dispute regarding whether Chametz owned by a Jewish person during Pesach, in violation of the Torah prohibitions of *bal yira'eh* and *bal yimatze*, is prohibited for consumption and benefit on a Torah level or a rabbinic level.

The latter opinion is accepted as normative, though it is of a broad scope, not only impacting the one who violated by failing to expunge his chametz on Pesach, but rendering that chametz prohibited for consumption or benefit for any Jewish person following Pesach.

The definition of chametz, as far as this particular restriction is concerned, **is restricted to those items such as bread, pasta, cereals, and cookies**, which are considered *chametz gamur*, as opposed to items in which chametz is one ingredient in a larger mixture, such as in ketchup, mayonnaise, and dressings.

As non-Jews are not subject to any prohibitions regarding chametz, there is no restriction whatsoever consuming or benefiting kosher chametz products that were owned by non-Jews over the holiday.

Finally, any items defined as kitniyot, which Ashkenazic Jews do not consume on Pesach, but are permitted to own, such as rice, soy, legumes, beans, chickpeas, peanuts, mustard seed, and the like, are not subject to this prohibition altogether.

All kosher supermarkets under RCBC supervision can be patronized immediately following Yom Tov. In addition, the following non-Jewish owned stores are immediately acceptable: Shop Rite in New Milford (River Road) and Palisades Park, Dunkin Donuts, BJ's, CVS, Duane Reade, Rite Aid, 7-Eleven, Trader Joe's, Walgreens & Walmart.

Generally, my view, in accordance with the position of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, is that supermarkets under Jewish ownership which continue to transact chametz which they "sold," and even acquire new chametz over Pesach, cannot be considered to have engaged in a valid sale. The same analysis holds true for Jewish owned suppliers of chametz products who continue to transact it on Pesach by selling it to non-Jewish owned supermarkets. Rav Moshe Feinstein, it should be noted, accepted the validity of these sales insofar as obviating the prohibitions concerning Chametz owned by a Jew over Pesach was concerned.

As such, it remains optimal to wait **one week** following Pesach to purchase breads, cereal, cookies, and other items primarily composed of grain products at ShopRite in Paramus,

Shoprite in Englewood. Stop & Shop, Acme, Key Food, Food Town, and Target. [It should be noted that **in other years, waiting for two weeks is advisable**, but the very high turnover rates in supermarkets in these unique times militates in favor of a shorter waiting time for new chametz products, ones that were not under Jewish ownership on Pesach, to enter the inventory in these markets.]

However, this year alone, given the safety issues surrounding food purchases, and a concern of overcrowding the kosher supermarkets in town on Erev Shabbat, it is permissible, for those who cannot safely access the kosher markets, or who simply do not feel safe doing so, to purchase Chametz products at all of the aforementioned markets for basic chametz products immediately following Pesach, in accordance with the ruling of Rav Moshe Feinstein.

In all cases, for alcoholic beverages primarily composed of grain products sold at these stores, which have a longer turnover time, waiting until after Shavuot is advisable.

VII. Customs of Sefirat HaOmer

While it is customary not to listen to music during Sefirat HaOmer, for individuals who are afflicted with a sense of melancholy, and certainly, depression, one may certainly be lenient regarding listening to musical recordings to help one maintain a positive and healthy frame of mind during this time.