



# Connection

Congregation B'nai Israel "Bringing God and the Community Together"

Volume 100 • Issue 2



## *From the Rabbi's Desk*

Towards the beginning of our Passover Seder, the matzos are raised and the following words are read;

*This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry come and eat; all who are in need come and celebrate the Passover.*

But is this not a redundancy? Why do we say "all who are hungry" and "all who are in need"? Does this not refer to the same thing? Are not people who are hungry in need as well?

Not so, taught the great Orthodox Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik. "All who are hungry" refers to those who literally do not have enough food. To them we extend an invitation to join us in a meal and feed their bellies. "All who are in need" refers to those who have plenty to eat and drink, but are lonely and lack human companionship. To them we extend an invitation to come and fill their souls with our company. In our society, we have both people who are quite literally hungry for food, who survive from meal to meal and live in poverty and fear. Over one million of them are children. But we also have so many, including too many in our community, who are hungry for companionship and company, who spend their days in loneliness and their nights in isolation. Passover is a good time to remember those who hunger for food and to help them, and for those who hunger for companionship to provide comfort and support.

Hag Sameach

Rabbi Doug Sagal

171 Ridge Road  
Rumson, NJ 07760  
Phone: 732-842-1800  
Fax: 732-842-7269  
[www.cbirumson.org](http://www.cbirumson.org)

## *Virtual Services*

Thursday Minyan 8:00 am  
Friday 7:30 pm  
First Fridays 6:30pm  
(April 3)  
Saturday 9:30 am

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Rabbi Emeritus, Jack M. Rosoff, D.D., x217  
Cantor Emerita, Marla J. Barugel  
President - Francine Semaya  
Operations VP - Dr. Eric Menell  
Education VP - Danielle Liss  
Financial VP - Richard Sussman  
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Executive Director, [Emilie Kovit-Meyer](#), x203  
SHMA Education Director, [Michael Wikes](#), x213  
Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Director, [Suzanne Wycoff](#), x209  
Communications Specialist, [Judy Kochis](#), x206  
Accounting, [Alice MacPhee](#), x211  
Librarian, [Mikki Grodman](#), x214  
Youth Advisor, [Jen Eagle-Baker](#), x210

Main Office

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Accounting

Monday - Wednesday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Alice MacPhee, x 211



USCJ News

Check out the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's website, [www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org). It's loaded with wonderful articles and information, a great resource site.

Please Note

Because of the HIPAA laws, we are not informed by the hospital when a congregant has been hospitalized. If you or someone you know from the congregation is ill or in the hospital, please notify:

**Rabbi Doug Sagal D.D.**, 732-842-1800, x202  
or email: [rabbisagal@cbirumson.org](mailto:rabbisagal@cbirumson.org)

**Rabbi Emeritus, Jack M. Rosoff, D.D.**, 732-842-1800, x217

Mi she-berach

(Prayer for the Sick)

Anyone wishing a mi she-berach to be acknowledged should call the office and give the person's Hebrew name whenever possible. Mi she-berachs will be acknowledged for 4 Shabbats. If you need the mi she-berach to be continued, please call the office at 732 - 842-1800.

*Mazal Tov*

*CBI extends its warmest wishes to:*

Joel and Linda Weissglass,  
on the marriage of their daughter, Elysha to Alex Schmieder

Adrienne and Fred Straus,  
on the birth of their great granddaughter, Hannah Rose

Tootsie Olan and Aaron Zwas,  
on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jesse

Barbara Zucker, whose grandson Ezra Stein  
graduated from Cornell University in 3½ years

*If you have a simcha or good news to share,  
please let the office know so that we can wish you  
a Mazal Tov in our bulletin.*

*Condolences*

*We regret with sorrow the passing of CBI Members:*

Mildred Cohen  
Mildred Howitt  
Rose Miles

*We regret with sorrow the passing of relatives  
of CBI Members:*

Eliezer Shamash, father of Rivka (Rikki) Milchman  
Randy Abbott, sister of Eileen Koenigsberg

*We regret with sorrow the passing of a relative of CBI Staff:*

Gabriel Azhari, father of SHMA teacher Dorith Werthaim

*Check with the office if you are unsure whether we have a  
record of all the yahrzeits you want the synagogue to  
acknowledge. We will need the deceased's name and  
relationship to observer, also the English date  
and time of death (before or after sundown).*

**We gratefully acknowledge those who participated  
in our January and February Shabbat services.**

**Abby Cahn  
Rona Kaplan  
Steven Lee  
Iris Michaelson  
Rabbi Sagal  
Moshe Segal  
Fran Semaya  
Rich Semaya  
Yona Shulman  
Al Zager**



## President's Message

Dear Friends:

**We hope you and your families are in good health. We are all under a lot of stress over the concerns with COVID-19. Please remember that even though our building is closed, CBI is always open to its community. We are taking every precaution necessary to protect our community and the physical premises. CBI is continuing to doing its best to keep our facilities clean and safe. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [flsemaya@gmail.com](mailto:flsemaya@gmail.com) or 732-241-8090 or Emilie at [emilie.kovit-meyer@cbirumson.org](mailto:emilie.kovit-meyer@cbirumson.org) or 732-842-1800 ext. 203.**

**Please read our emails and bulletins to keep up-to-date on our virtual programs, services, GAN and SHMA classes happening throughout the week, in addition to any actions being taken by CBI.**

Now for some good news:

Let's start with the overwhelming vote for Rabbi Doug Sagal to be our Full-time Rabbi. We had a record turn-out vote - both in person and by proxy, engaging Rabbi Sagal with a 91-2 vote as our full-time Rabbi. In the Fall, we will have an Installation Celebration for Rabbi. Stay tuned for details.

Working with Rabbi as we plan for the rest of this fiscal year and for the next 3 years has become an exciting personal experience for me and I know that CBI and its members will benefit from our joint efforts to help CBI meet its goals **building for the future.**

Let's look back over the events in recent months. First and foremost, CBI joined congregations throughout the United States and Canada in its first observance of Shabbat Across America on February 28. Thanks to Iris Michaelson, Chair, and her dedicated committee: Anne Greene, Helene Matorin, Donna Rubin and Miriam Daitz Vogel we had a most successful intergenerational learning service and Shabbat Dinner. I look forward to this event becoming an annual event for CBI.

Please come join the growing class led by Rabbi Sagal on Tuesday mornings—now being held virtually via zoom. As Rabbi takes us on a journey through the Torah portion for the week, with his broad knowledge of the sages and his own sense of humor, you leave the class yearning for more. Come join in on Tuesday mornings when you can and you will find yourself working your schedule to make time for the class.

On the first Friday night of each month, join us at 6:00 p.m. for wine and cheese (via zoom on April 3), followed by our Friday night service and birthdays of the month celebrations. Each month the crowd increases—all ages are welcome to celebrate their birthdays with your CBI family. We will be able to resume these weekly events in person again once the COVID-19 health scare subsides.

In March we celebrated Purim and learned the story of Queen Esther. The Story of Queen Esther is not a religious story, in fact G-d is never mentioned, but a secular one where the Jewish people fought against adversity, as we have had to do throughout our history, led by the fearlessness of a Jewish woman, who was brave enough to step forward and protect her people. This year's Purim Carnival, chaired by Tema Lesser and GAN mom, Jenna Levy-Lesser, was amazing and oh so much fun. The new inflatables, games and activities and super prizes kept our children and parents enthralled and happy. Thank you to Tema and Jenna for an outstanding Carnival and lots of fun for all and especially for your willingness to chair the Purim Carnival next year. Special thanks to Suzanne Wycoff and her GAN teachers and aides for all their creativity and help. In addition, thanks to all our donors and our volunteers that day – too many to mention, but you know who you are. On Erev Purim, we had another well-attended intergenerational event, a Pizza dinner & Purim Spiel with participation by families. And Rabbi's Tuesday morning class continued with a full reading of the Megillah and a lesson along with it, with many dressed in costume. We also want to thank Ezra for the sale of CBI's soup with proceeds going to local charities. Ezra's continued efforts to support our local communities throughout the year must be commended.

*President's Message continued on page 4*

## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Corner

March 28, 2020

Jesse Zwas, son of Tootsie Olan and Aaron Zwas



My name is Jesse Zwas and my Hebrew name is Yeshai. I live in Fair Haven with my parents and younger brother and sister, Dylan and Simone. I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Knollwood Middle School. I've been attending CBI since we moved to this area when I was in kindergarten. I began in the Shabbat Enrichment class at the Gan and continued on to Hebrew School. I love to play soccer, tinker with technology and care and play with dogs. I have spent three summers at Walden sleepaway camp and it has become a huge part of my life.

I was really excited for my Bar Mitzvah in March. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means moving towards Jewish adulthood, being able to wear a tallit and read from the Torah. As we all know, almost overnight, March changed for all of us and we had to change our plans for my bar mitzvah too. We realized that the coronavirus was going to impact our plans and my parents mobilized our Plan B. We moved up my bar mitzvah service by 10 days (so I had to, very quickly, learn the final pieces of my torah!) We decided to have a very intimate ceremony to keep everyone involved safe and healthy and we live streamed the service so that our friends and family could be a part of my bar mitzvah. It wound up being a very special, crazy and definitely memorable bar mitzvah. Instead of the large planned party, after the service, we came home and ate turkey sandwiches and chocolate chip cookies- pretty different from what we had planned. But one of the best parts was seeing so many people's photos of themselves watching the service- in their bathrobes, with their pets, in the car, on their couch having

breakfast! It was definitely not the bar mitzvah we expected but it was really great in its own way. We postponed the party to September and we cannot wait to celebrate with all of our family and friends then.

My Mitzvah Project was born out of my love for dogs. I created a Go Fund Me page to raise money for the Monmouth County SPCA because they help care for animals in need. Because I also love technology, I am making personalized pet treat holders with my at home 3D printer for people that make a minimum donation of \$20. People can find my fundraiser and project at [gofundme.com/f/jesse039s-giving-project-for-monmouth-county-sPCA](https://gofundme.com/f/jesse039s-giving-project-for-monmouth-county-sPCA).

I would like to give an especially big thank you to Rabbi Sagal and Jodi Woolley. Not only did they support and encourage me, but they were so awesome in making my bar mitzvah happen under these unusual circumstances. My family would also like to thank Fran Semaya and Mike Wikes for their particularly wonderful support of our family on this milestone.

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*President's Message from page 3*

I would be remiss if I did not sing the praises of our Cultural Programming Committee. Each program brings us amazing speakers, authors and so much more. For now, our excellent programs are postponed. Please stay tuned to know when we will have our rescheduled celebration of Jewish poetry & poets. This program was the brainchild of our dear member, and former chair of the CBI Cultural Programming committee, Professor Jack Needle, who passed away July 31, 2019. Jack taught History at Red Bank Regional High School for 16 years and at Brookdale Community College for 34 years, so was well known in our community. He was also one of the founders of the Center for Holocaust Studies at Brookdale, now known as the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (CHHANGE). Some of Jack's friends and loved ones will read poetry or perform songs by famous Jewish poets as a loving tribute to our dear friend.

Ezra's spectacular event, honoring the Volunteer of the year – Iris Michaelson has also been postponed. When we are able to reschedule, please join us as we celebrate all that Iris has done and will continue to do for CBI. Being a volunteer means that you give of yourself – you are not required nor obligated to do what you do – it comes from the heart. Thank you, Iris for all that you do and for your deep caring for CBI.

Passover is around the corner. I can just hear the sighs and groans for all the preparation we each have to do to prepare our homes and cooking for the Seders. Passover is a time for family and friends to come together (even if virtually this year) - to recite the Story of Passover, to teach our children, to sing together and to eat a sumptuous meal.

There is so much to do at CBI - and with your CBI family. I can only hope my enthusiasm is contagious. Join us for an event or for all the events, but come. Online for now, but soon in person once again.

Our prayers are with those who have been afflicted with COVID-19 and hope for a speedy recovery. Please stay safe and use precautions in your daily lives.

On behalf of the Officers and Trustees, I wish you and your families good health and a joyous Passover holiday.  
Chag Pesach Sameach.

L'Shalom  
Fran Semaya  
President

## Get Connected at the Library

Hello from the Library!

Our Lunch and Movie event featuring *Marshall* was a huge success and well attended. A special thank you to Sandy Blackman, Jeanine Budwick and Sue Glynn for organizing the event, and to Margo for the delicious lunch! A great time was had by all. If you were unable to attend the event, but still want to see the movie, we have a copy here for you to borrow once CBI reopens.

The Library Committee and Cultural Programming Committee co-sponsored program with *New York Times* bestselling author Adam Gidwitz, and his wife, historian Lauren Mancia, was a huge success. Their insight into Gidwitz's Newberry Honor and Sydney Taylor Award-winning book, *The Inquisitor's Tale*, was moving and informative. We have *The Inquisitor's Tale* at the library, come check it out if you haven't yet read it.

We are pleased to announce our newly acquired books.

For our adult readers:

***All This Could Be Yours*** by the *New York Times* best-selling author Jami Attenberg. "Told from multiple perspectives, *All This Could Be Yours* illustrates the heartbreak, isolation and chaos that comes from really getting to know your family" - *Time*

***Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History*** by Steven J. Zipperstein. "*Pogrom* is a splendid book that pinpoints the moment at the start of the twentieth century when exile in Europe turned deadly in a way that foretold the end of everything. It tells us the horror that occurred street by street, butchery by butchery-with gripping clarity and admirable brevity." -Phillip Roth

For our cooks and bakers:

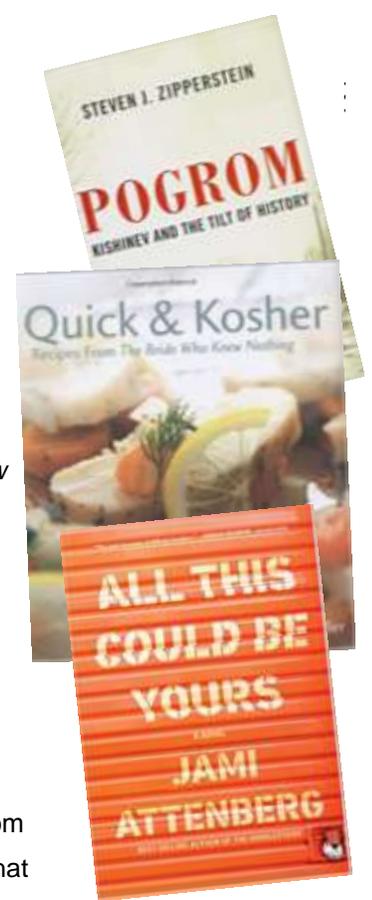
***Quick and Kosher: Recipes From The Bride Who Knew Nothing*** by American-born Israeli celebrity chef, Jamie Geller. Geller teaches us super easy and delicious recipes that you are able to prepare in 15 minutes or less.

As always, we welcome you to drop by Tuesday mornings or during SHMA classes on Wednesdays and Sundays, once we reopen. Please keep in mind that if you find yourself at the synagogue, wanting to check out a book and no one is in the library, you are, in fact, able to check out a book. Just leave us your name and the title of the book on our notepad on the front desk and we'll enter it in the computer the next time we're open. We want everyone in the congregation to feel free to make use of our collection, no matter the hour. And as always, I can be contacted via email at [librarian@cbirumson.org](mailto:librarian@cbirumson.org).

Thanks! Mikki Grodman, Librarian

### **Rabbi Sagal's Surprise Birthday Kiddush**

On Saturday, January 18th, over 40 members surprised Rabbi with a special Kiddush in honor of his birthday. It was spontaneously planned after his Tuesday morning class when he casually mentioned to someone that the next day was his birthday. A team went to work and asked Chef Margo to prepare a chocolate birthday cake, lemon squares and a special frittata. A decadent french toast was also served. Lox supplemented the usual bagel/tuna/egg salad spread and flowers and decorations adorned the room. Thank you to Karen Becker, Elaine Danzig, Jean Klerman, Anne Greene and Robin Zager. Rabbi was totally surprised and most appreciative. Who knows, maybe we can do it again next year, around January 15th?





## From the Education Director

Except for K and 1st grade, our entire SHMA Program spent the first semester in Judaics studying the Jews of Ashkenaz in the Middle Ages. Students discovered that our Ashkenazik heritage dates back to this period and they explored the people and the times through our Project Based Learning curriculum. Projects included several on the foods of the time and region and the students actually prepared the dishes in the kitchen under the guidance of Chef Margo. These dishes were then served as part of our Friday Night Shabbat Experience dinner on January 10. P.S., they were all delicious!!

At that same Shabbat Evening Service, third graders were presented with their own personal copy of *Siddur Lev Shalem* by Board of Education Chair, Michelle Martens. The entire evening, which included a Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service and a complete Shabbat Seder with all the traditional blessings was truly a highlight of the school year for students and parents.

One of the dominant figures of the time period was Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzchak, known as Rashi. Many student projects explored Rashi's Torah commentaries which influence our interpretation to this day. The first grade took the concept of interpretation personally as they illustrated some of the most famous Bible stories, learning that their drawings revealed their understanding of the text, not unlike Rashi in his writings.

This semester our timeline curriculum moves to the Jews of Spain and the Sephardic Middle Ages, when much attention will be focused on Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, known as Maimonides or Rambam, doctor, philosopher and codifier of Jewish law.

SHMAGAN Havdalah was held in January and, despite a sparse turnout due to threatening weather, a great time was had by all in attendance. Musician Sam Levine led the *kumzitz* (sing around) and families worked together on a craft bringing wishes for a *Shavua Tov* (Good Week) into the home in a decorative wall hanging.

SHMA celebrated *Tu B'Shevat*, (Birthday of the Trees) by sampling the Seven Species of the Promised Land. The Torah names seven items of produce that will await the Israelites when they settle their new Homeland: figs, dates, grapes, pomegranates, olives, wheat, and barley. After blessing and sampling the foods, students created Tu B'Shevat themed decorations, challah covers and centerpieces, that were used at the CBI celebration of Shabbat Across America.

Purim Events this year included the popular SHMA Purim Casino that replaced the entire Sunday morning school session on March 8. In addition to the fun of pretend gambling, the Casino reinforces the theme of the Purim story, namely that the fate of the Jews of Shushan were determined by a game of chance, the drawing of lots. The Casino also offers students the opportunity to learn and practice the four *Mitzvot* of Purim: Charity (share your winnings), Feasting (a cafe serving favorites), *mishloach manot* (one of the games produces a food basket) and the hearing of the megillah (recited at the end).

Our SHMA Passover celebration usually includes our Progressive Seder, which spreads the 15 steps of the Seder around the Social Hall, with a unique and interesting challenge at each station. Students crush their own grapes to make wine for Kiddush, compete to make the saltiest salt water, try to break a board of matzo as symmetrically as possible and so on. We serve traditional Passover foods and students even make their own *haroset*. This year we are planning special programming online.

When Passover ends, we board the very steep sliding board, speeding to the conclusion of another school year. Many thanks to our supportive Board of Education and all the lay leadership, especially CBI President Fran Semaya (who actually takes time to edit our SHMA Newsletter). Thanks to Rabbi Sagal for joining our SHMA minyan every Wednesday to share the *Parashat HaShavua* with students. To Emilie and the whole staff, especially Judy Kochis and Jayne Sklon, who pitch in whenever SHMA needs a hand.

Links for CBI Services, Classes and Events will be announced in weekly emails.  
 Links for Gan Yeladim, SHMA and Aleinu Virtual Events are announced through the schools.  
 If you are interested in attending Bedtime Sh'ma or Gan Shabbat live,  
 contact [Suzanne Wycoff](#) for links .and for SHMA/Aleinu events contact Mike Wikes.

## April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 VIRTUAL SHMA 2-7	2 VIRTUAL 8am Minyan  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	3 VIRTUAL 11am Gan Yeladim Shabbat  FIRST FRIDAYS 6pm Wine & Cheese 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Candlelighting 7:03 pm	4 VIRTUAL 9:30am Shabbat Service 7:25 CBI/SHMA Havdallah Link in weekly email  <i>Tzaz</i>
5 VIRTUAL SHMA Seders Aleinu  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	6	7 VIRTUAL 10:30am Tuesday Morning Study Group led by Rabbi Sagal  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	8 Erev Passover  VIRTUAL 8:00 am Fast of First Born Minyan  First Seder	9 Passover 1st Day/2nd Evening VIRTUAL 9:30am - 11:30am Passover Service Virtual 2nd Seder 6-8pm WATCH FOR EMAIL w/ Links and Instructions	10 Passover 2nd Day VIRTUAL 11am Gan Yeladim Shabbat  7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Candlelighting 7:12 pm	11 Passover 3rd Day VIRTUAL 9:30am Shabbat Service  CBI/SHMA Havdallah Link in weekly email
12 Passover 4th Day  VIRTUAL  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	13 Passover 5th Day	14 Passover 6th Day  VIRTUAL 6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma 7:30pm Minyan 7:45pm Religious Committee Meeting	15 Passover 7th Day 8th Evening VIRTUAL 9:30am - 11:30am Passover Service w/ Yizkor  WATCH FOR EMAIL w/ Links	16 Passover 8th Day VIRTUAL 8am Minyan  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	17 VIRTUAL 11am Gan Yeladim Shabbat  7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Candlelighting 7:19 pm	18 VIRTUAL 9:30am Shabbat Service  CBI/SHMA Havdallah  <i>Shmini</i>
19 VIRTUAL  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	20	21 Yom HaShoah VIRTUAL 10:30am Tuesday Morning Study Group led by Rabbi Sagal  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	22 VIRTUAL SHMA 2-7  5:30pm SHMA Faculty Meeting	23 VIRTUAL 8am Minyan  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	24 VIRTUAL 11am Gan Yeladim Shabbat  7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Candlelighting 7:26 pm	25 VIRTUAL 9:30am Shabbat Service   <i>Tazria-Metzora</i>
26 VIRTUAL SHMA Classes K-7 Aleinu Class  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	27	28 VIRTUAL 10:30am Tuesday Morning Study Group led by Rabbi Sagal  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	29 VIRTUAL SHMA 2-7	30 VIRTUAL 8am Minyan  6:30 pm Gan Yeladim Bedtime story & Sh'ma	28 VIRTUAL 11am Gan Yeladim Shabbat  7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Candlelighting 5:20 pm	29 VIRTUAL 9:30am Shabbat Service   <i>Terumah</i>

### 2020 Passover Dates and Candle Lighting Times

#### **Tuesday, April 7 – Bedikat Chametz (Search for Leaven)**

Bedikat Chametz with wooden spoon, candle, and feather anytime after 7:57 PM

#### **Wednesday, April 8 - Erev Passover**

Latest time to eat Chametz: 10:47 AM

Latest time to burn any remaining Chametz that will not be sold: 11:52 AM

Time that the Sale of Chametz officially goes into effect: 12:58 PM

First Seder - Candle Lighting: 7:11 PM

#### **Thursday, April 9 - First Day & Second Evening**

Second Seder - Candle Lighting: 8:12 PM

#### **Tuesday, April 14 - Sixth Day / Seventh Evening**

Seventh Evening - Candle Lighting: 7:18 PM

#### **Wednesday, April 15 - Seventh Day & (Eighth Evening for those who observe 8 days)**

Eighth Evening - Candle Lighting: 7:55 PM

End of Passover for those who observe 7 days: 8:19 PM

#### **Thursday, April 16 - Eighth Day for those who observe 8 days**

End Passover for those who observe 8 days: 8:20 PM

## CANDLE-LIGHTING BLESSINGS FOR PASSOVER

### Day 1 : Wednesday evening, April 8

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר  
שֶׁל שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Asher Kid-shanu B-Mitz-votav,  
V-Tzivanu L-Hadlik Ner Shel Shabbat V-Shel Yom Tov.*

&

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, She-Heche-yanu V-Kiyemanu  
V-Higi-yanu La-Zeman Ha-Zeh.*

### Day 2 : Thursday evening, April 9 for those who observe 2 Seders

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר  
שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Asher Kid-shanu B-Mitz-votav,  
V-Tzivanu L-Hadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov.*

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בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, She-Heche-yanu V-Kiyemanu V-Higi-yanu  
La-Zeman Ha-Zeh.*

### Day 7: Tuesday evening, April 14

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר  
שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Asher Kid-shanu B-Mitz-votav,  
V-Tzivanu L-Hadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov.*

### Day 8: Wednesday evening, April 15 for those who observe Passover for 8

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר  
שֶׁל שַׁבָּת וְשֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-Olam, Asher Kid-shanu B-Mitz-votav,  
V-Tzivanu L-Hadlik Ner Shel Shabbat V-Shel Yom Tov.*

## Ma'ot Chittim (Passover Fund)

Please remember that one of the traditional ways of preparing for Pesach is to contribute to a Passover Fund. Ma'ot Chittim (literally: money for wheat) is the traditional way to refer to these funds, which distribute Pesach supplies to needy Jewish families so that all can celebrate the holiday with dignity.

The members of our synagogue have been very generous in past years and we look forward to your continued contributions to our Passover Fund as a convenient way to fulfill this mitzvah. Please make checks payable to: Congregation B'nai Israel and mark for the Passover Fund. We will then distribute these funds to those agencies in our local community, as well as the metropolitan area, which provide Passover supplies and assistance to those in need, as well as Jews who may be in hospitals or nursing homes.

## Removal of Chametz

### SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ (Tuesday, April 7)

The house should be thoroughly cleaned during the week before Passover. Special attention should be given to those areas where *Chametz* is likely to exist--cabinets, cupboards, etc. This is the original "spring cleaning!"

The final search for *Chametz*, called *B'dikat Chametz*, is conducted the night prior to Passover. Since in most cases the house has already been thoroughly cleaned, large bread crumbs are placed in each room by a member of the household so that the blessing pronounced over the search is not said in vain. The prayer may be found at the beginning of many editions of the *Haggadah*. The family should turn off the lights and, by the light of a candle carried by a member of the household, proceed from room to room collecting the *Chametz* with a feather that serves as a brush, a wooden spoon as a dustpan, and a paper bag (because it is flammable) as a receptacle. Any *Chametz* found is gathered, and together with the feather, spoon, candle and bag is set aside to be burned in the morning.

After *B'dikat Chametz* it is necessary to formally renounce ownership of, or desire to benefit from, any undiscovered *Chametz* in one's possession. This formula of renunciation begins with the blessing over *Bi'ur Chametz* (Destroying *Chametz*), and continues with the paragraph of *Kol Chamira*. It may be recited in any language one understands, although traditionally recited in Aramaic (or sometimes Hebrew). The power of this formula of renunciation is, theoretically, unlimited. It is both the climax and the single most important aspect of Passover preparation! It should be done in the presence of the entire family.

### CHAMETZ REMOVAL TIMES (Wednesday Morning, April 8)

The following times vary each year depending on the exact time of sunrise and sunset.

10:47 AM	Latest time to eat <i>Chametz</i>
11:52 AM	Latest time to burn the <i>Chametz</i>
12:58 PM	<i>Chametz</i> is officially Sold

### BURNING THE CHAMETZ (Wednesday Morning, April 8)

All *Chametz* in one's possession (including that which was gathered the evening before through *B'dikat Chametz*) that has neither been sold nor destroyed should be burned. The Hebrew term for this is *Bi'ur Chametz*. Another *Kol Chamira* formula of renunciation of ownership (similar to the one recited after *B'dikat Chametz*) is recited at *Bi'ur Chametz*. This too is found at the beginning of most editions of the *Haggadah*. The entire house is now officially clean of all *Chametz* and ready for Passover.

# SALE OF CHAMETZ

The traditional prohibition of Chametz (leavened material) forbids not only consuming Chametz during Passover, but, also owning or deriving any benefit from it. This includes both food products containing any Chametz, but, also any utensils or surfaces used with such food products.

Until modern times, most Jews lived in tiny homes with very little cookware, dining ware, or supplies of food (both because they were poor, but, more importantly because of lack of refrigeration and preservatives). Getting rid of all Chametz (leavened material) and replacing cheap (unglazed) crockery and one's few (usually wooden) utensils was relatively simple, and because of its poor quality, needed annually.

As kitchen and dining realities changed, disposing of all Chametz and Chametz utensils became financially prohibitive. Rather than simply disregard this essential Mitzvah of Passover, the compromise (still in practice) was to get rid of as much Chametz as possible and then, for the remaining Chametz food products and utensils, to segregate them and place them out of sight, and to arrange for them to be legally sold to a non-Jew (who has no obligation to follow the laws of Passover) for the duration of the holiday (although the Chametz is not physically transferred). The contract of sale specifies the reversion of ownership at the conclusion of Passover. While rarely exercised, technically the non-Jewish purchaser is legally entitled to claim the Chametz while the sale is in effect.

Typically, the Rabbi is authorized to act as one's agent for arranging for the formal sale of Chametz for the duration of Passover (technically beginning a few hours before the onset of the holiday). Rabbi Sagal is happy to serve as your agent for this purpose, and you may arrange this in person at CBI or simply sign the form below and send it to him as shown below:

**For Rabbi Sagal to perform the sale on your behalf this form must be completed & received (submit form online by clicking here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZFVFS9> or you can email to [rabbisagal@cbirumson.org](mailto:rabbisagal@cbirumson.org)) by Tuesday, April 7:**

Rabbi Doug Sagal  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
171 Ridge Road  
Rumson, NJ 07760

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby fully empower and authorize Rabbi Doug Sagal to dispose of all *Chametz* which I may possess – wherever it may be (whether known or unknown to me) for Passover 5780 (2020).

Rabbi Doug Sagal has the right to sell and conduct all transactions as he deems fit and proper and for such time as he believes necessary, in order that I conform to the requirements of Jewish law and tradition regarding Passover.

(To ensure conformity with Jewish law, this authorization includes any pets and pet food I may possess.)

I am authorizing this sale of Chametz on behalf of: *(Please check one)*

- Myself only  
 Myself and all other family members who reside with me

For how many days do you observe Passover? *(Please check one)*

- (Some CBI members observe Passover for the traditional 8 days while others observe only the biblical 7 days)  
 8 days (ending Thursday, April 16)  
 7 days (ending Wednesday, April 15)

To all of the above, I affix my signature this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **What are the main items for the seder?**

1. Three Matzot placed separately in the sections of the special matzot cover, or in the folds of an ordinary napkin; two of these symbolize the two loaves of bread over which a benediction is pronounced on Sabbaths and festivals. The third matzah emphasizes the role of the matzah in the Pesach ritual. The matzah is a symbol of the affliction of Hebrew slaves in Egypt and a reminder of our hasty departure. Another explanation is that the three matzot represent the three groups into which the Jewish people is divided: Kohen, Levi, Yisrael. If we are ever to be successful, we must always be united.

2. A Roasted Shankbone commemorates the Paschal lamb sacrifice that our ancestors brought to the Temple on Pesach in ancient times.

3. Bitter Herbs (Maror) symbolize the bitterness of Israel's bondage in Egypt.

4. A Roasted Egg symbolizes the Hagigah (festival sacrifice), which was always brought to the Temple on festive occasions and which on Pesach supplemented the paschal lamb.

5. Charoset symbolizes the mortar the Israelites used building the "treasure cities for Pharaoh." Charoset is a mixture of grated apples, chopped nuts, cinnamon, and a little wine.

6. Parsley (Karpas), Lettuce, Watercress, or any other green herb and a dish of salt water into which it is to be dipped before being eaten; these greens symbolize the coming of Spring and suggest the perpetual renewal of life. Hence, they represent the ever sustaining hope of human redemption. The message to us is that we must always be optimistic.

7. Four cups of Wine to be offered during the Seder service: one at Kiddush, one following the recital of the first part of the Hallel, one after Birkat Ha - Mazon, and one at the conclusion of the Seder. These four cups symbolize the four-fold promise of redemption which, according to the Bible, God pledged to Israel: "I will bring you forth," "I will deliver you," "I will redeem you," and "I will take you" to me for a people (Exodus 6:6-7)

8. Salt Water: used as a simple spice for vegetables (karpas). Some say it represents tears shed in Egypt.

9. Cup of Elijah: Elijah has always been associated with the coming of the Messiah. Pesach, the holiday of freedom, is an ideal time to usher in the messianic age, so we invite Elijah to be present with us. Also, in Exodus 6:8 there is a fifth promise, "I will bring you to the land." Throughout the ages, Jews looked forward to this promised return to the Holy Land.

### **Why do we wash our hands prior to eating the vegetables at the beginning of the seder?**

The hand washing is to cleanse the fingertips before handling the vegetables and has no symbolic meaning. It is done merely to elicit questions from the children at the Seder.

### **What is Afikomen?**

It is a piece of the middle of the matzah set aside at the beginning of the Seder (yahatz) as a substitute for the Paschal lamb and eaten at the conclusion of the meal. It is hidden during the Seder to keep the children awake and interested in the Seder as time passes by.

### **Why is the "Ha Lachma" written in Aramaic instead of Hebrew?**

The spoken language, at the time it was written, was Aramaic. As an invitation has to be extended in a language which is understood by all, Aramaic was used. Today we should be sure to say it also in English.

### **Why do we dip herbs twice?**

We dip parsley in salt water because it reminds us of the green that comes to life again in the springtime. We dip the maror, or bitter herbs, in the sweet charoset as a sign of hope. Our forefathers were able to withstand the bitterness of slavery because it was sweetened by the hope of freedom.

### **Why do we recline at the table?**

Reclining at the table was a sign of a free person in ancient times. As our ancestors were freed on this night, we recline at the table.

### **Why are there four different kinds of children?**

The Rabbis found in the Torah four different versions of the command that the father tell the story of the Exodus to his child. From this they deduced that there were four different kinds of children who were to be addressed on four different maturity levels.

### **Why do we recite Hallel?**

We attribute our exodus from Egypt to God's power. Therefore, we recite psalms of praise.

### **Why do we pour a little wine out of our cups as we say the 10 plagues?**

Even though the Egyptians persecuted us, we still feel pain that they suffered so much through the plagues. We, therefore, diminish our joy by pouring out the wine to indicate that Jews shed tears for all human suffering, even that of our enemies.

### **Why two blessings over the Matzah?**

One is the usual blessing for the bread (matzah). The other blessing is specifically for the matzah that is eaten on Pesach eve.

### **Is there any special significance to "Had Gadya"?**

The kid, cat, dog, etc. each devouring the other have represented the mighty empires of the past, each one defeating the succeeding ones until God puts a final end to their power.

### **Why do we eat hard-boiled eggs?**

As a symbol of the festival sacrifice.

### **Why do we say "L'Shanah Ha Ba'ah Bee-Ru-Sha-La'Yim?"**

Next year in Jerusalem! This wish has always been associated with a future of perfect peace. To Jews today it also expresses their close ties with Israel and their desire to visit.

## PASSOVER SEDER

The highlight of Passover is the Seder held on the first two nights of the holiday. "Seder" means "order" and refers to the prescribed procedure to be followed in the home on these nights. The Seder has always served as an occasion for strengthening family ties and bringing the spirit of Jewish life and values into the home.

It is important that the person who conducts the Seder should become familiar with the Haggadah beforehand. Every detail should be planned carefully. All family members should participate actively. Each person should be given a chance to read some portion of the Haggadah whether in Hebrew or English.

The Seder leader should:

- (1) Sing the Kiddush.
- (2) Let the youngest at the table ask the four questions.
- (3) Chant the important parts of the Haggadah.
- (4) Explain the symbols.
- (5) Recite the prayers over the Karpas, Matzot and Maror.
- (6) Sing the grace after meals.
- (7) Sing concluding hymns and well-loved songs, eg; Adir-Hu, Ehad Mi Yodea, and Had Gadya.

### CHECKLIST FOR SEDER

- A. Uniform Haggadahs for each person
- B. A seder plate containing symbolic foods
- (1) Maror-bitter herbs or horseradish
  - (2) Karpas-vegetables. eg; parsley or celery
  - (3) Z'roah- roasted shankbone or chicken neck
  - (4) Charoset-mixture of apples, cinnamon, and wine
  - (5) Chazeret-lettuce, horse-radish
  - (6) Roasted hard-boiled egg
- C. A plate for three whole Matzot.
- D. A few saucers of salt water, charoset, shredded maror, and assorted vegetables placed at strategic points around the table depending on number of guests.
- E. A wine cup or glass for each person with enough wine available for 4 cups.
- F. A plate of hard-boiled eggs.
- G. A pillow for the chair of the Seder leader (better yet, for everyone).
- H. A special wine goblet in the center for Elijah.
- I. Simple gifts for all the children and/or guests.
- J. A large pitcher filled with water and a basin for hand-washing.
- K. Kipot (yarmulkes).

## SUMMARY OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE ON JEWISH LAW AND STANDARDS OF THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY PESACH

### FOOD

#### Complete Guide

A complete guide to making a home Kosher for Passover and of permitted and forbidden foods may be found at:  
[rabbinicalassembly.org](http://rabbinicalassembly.org)

#### Prohibited Foods

Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereals, coffee, substances derived from cereals, wheat, barley, oats, and all liquids that contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

#### Permitted Foods

- Requiring no Kosher L'Pesach label: The following are permitted in unopened packages or containers: Natural coffee, sugar, tea, salt, pepper, fresh fruits and vegetables. Wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly before using.
- If certified for Passover use by Rabbinical authority: Matzot, Matzah flour, Passover noodles, candies, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, jams, cheese, jellies, condiments, dried fruits, salad oils, vegetable gelatin, shortening, vinegar, wines and liquors. The above are permitted if certified by competent Rabbinical Authority and they bear a Rabbinical signature. Kosher L' Pesach label are of no value if they do not bear a Rabbinical signature.



# Todah Rabah! We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions.

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