

March - April  
2021  
אדר - ניסן - אייר  
תשפ"א

# ATC Bulletin



## ATC Launches New Mishloach Manot Initiative



*See article on page 8.*

# Ahavath Torah Congregation

1179 Central Street, Stoughton MA 02072  
www.atorah.org

## Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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## Executive Board

**President** Bob Bornstein

**Executive Vice-President** Open

**Vice President** Jeff Blacker

**Vice President** Rob Yunich

**Treasurer** Wendy Schulze

**Financial Secretary** Howard Levenson

**Corresponding Secretary** Diane Thaler

**Recording Secretary** Paula Gaffin

## Board Of Directors

Stacy Andler	Marv Asnes	Peter Asnes
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David Schulze	Cindy Smith	Debbie Springer
David Steinberg	Fred Sussman	Rob Vazzana
Cindy Weiner	Stu Weiner	

## President's Message



It's March! Shortly, we will see daffodils, sunshine, warmer days, longer days, and new beginnings. Hopefully, many of you by now have received your COVID-19 vaccinations. This will help us all get back to some semblance of "normal" - or, whatever

the new normal may be. Our ATC Covid Team ONE meets regularly to discuss our next steps and the safety of our members.

At this time, our Teams are quite busy, whether it be in temple or virtually.

Building and Grounds is in the process of preparing a Homeland Security Grant, in order to enhance our building's security, with improvements such as new doors, secured glass film over our lobby and school office windows, additional cameras for our system, repairing the fence behind the dumpsters, and placing better controls on our exterior lighting system.

Once this is completed and submitted to our local government, we all begin to pray to be one of the lucky houses of worship to be granted a Grant, as only 52% of the applications in 2020 were awarded.

A capital improvement project for this year will be to upgrade our entryway with the removal of the existing garden, repairing leaks in the concrete, painting the entry, and finally creating a sitting area with benches and planters.

*Continued on page 9*

## Team Leaders

**Annual Community Dinner** Diane and Bob Cohn Helayne Magier

**ATC Judaica Shoppe** Lynne Rosenbloom Sandy Stogel

**Bingo** Leslie Boyle David Schulze

**Bingo Cafe** Marcia Boland-Wells

**Blood Drive** Howard Levenson

**B'nai Mitzvah** Paula Gaffin

**Book an Event** Maria Woolf

**Brotherhood** David Schulze Stu Weiner

**Building and Grounds** David Schulze

**Bulletin** David Steinberg

**Communications** Emily Prigot Rob Yunich

**Development and Special Events** David Lurie

**Finance and Budget** Fred Sussman David Steinberg

**Financial Assistance** Howard Levenson

**Fundraising** Rob Yunich

**Israel Engagement** Michael Shain

**Jewish Family Table** Elliot Rosen

**Lifelong Learning** Arthur Arkanase Michael Shain

**Member Services** Bob Cohn Marv Asnes

**Ritual** Everett Levenson Rob Vazzana

**School** Sheryl Asnes

**Sisterhood** Madeleine Lewis Cindy Smith

**Scrip** Sheryl Asnes Wendy Schulze Helayne Magier

**Tree of Life** Cindy Smith

**Youth and Family Education**

Sheryl Asnes Lesley Bornstein Madeleine Lewis Nancy Hait

**Youth and USY** Lesley Bornstein

**Please! No calls or e-mails regarding ATC on Shabbat or holidays.**



## From the Rabbi's Desk

### *Multiple meanings of matzah*

At the end of March, we will experience a lot of matzah. Indeed, the Seder will teach us everything that we would or could ever want to know about unleavened bread. During the Seder we ask why we eat matzah, but most of us cannot fully answer the question.

There are (at least) three different reasons for eating unleavened bread. Combined with a fourth, symbolic reason, all of these reasons tie together in one of those mystical weaves in which the Torah and Judaism is so rich.

Exodus 12 instructs us that matzah represents the speed with which the Israelites were forced to leave Egypt: "And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had taken out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, since they had been driven out of Egypt and could not delay" (Ex. 12:39). Here is the first reason - matzah represents haste.

Later in the Torah, however, two words give an additional meaning to the matzah. In Deuteronomy 16:3, we read: "For seven days thereafter you shall eat unleavened bread, bread of affliction (*lehem oni*), for you departed in haste from Egypt." The root of *oni* (*ayin-nun-heh*) can also connote starvation, as we see earlier in Deuteronomy 8:3.

Matzah also represents a reminder of what the Israelites ate when they were subject to the Egyptians. As we read in the "*Ha Lahma Anya*" section of the *Haggadah*, "This is the bread of affliction which our forefathers ate in Egypt." Matzah was the staple of the slave.

Here are two, contradictory messages: matzah represents the imminent freedom of the Israelites and the haste with which they had to grab that freedom, and it represents the years of slavery and oppression, a reminder of the scant food they survived on in Egypt.

The third meaning embraces both. In the Talmud (Pesachim 115b), the great Sage Samuel says that *oni* means answer. Matzah is the bread with which one answers. Matzah provokes and provides the response to the questions of Passover.

The *Gemara* goes on to suggest that *oni* means not only affliction but also poverty. Matzah is the kind of bread a poor person might be forced to eat, which returns us to the idea that it was the bread of slaves.

We see multiple meanings in the matzah, yet they are all woven together. In breaking off the *afikomen*, we are symbolically suggesting that both sides, freedom and slavery, are represented in the matzah. One half accompanies us through the meal, and the other provides the triumphant conclusion.



Ralph Waldo Emerson grew up with his "earliest and best teacher," his aunt, Mary Moody Emerson. Many of her sayings and teachings shaped her young nephew. Emerson tells the story that once, when told to "hurry up," his aunt responded, "Hurry is for slaves."

That single sentence - hurry is for slaves - encapsulates the multiple meanings of matzah. When you have no control of your own time, you are a slave. When you cannot pause to appreciate what surrounds you, you are a slave - whether an actual slave or a slave to your own compulsions. When at the Passover meal we recline, we take our time; we are proving that unlike slaves, we are free.

This is part of the deep wisdom of the matzah for our world. We know that the Rabbis teach us that matzah represents humility, and bread, ego, a "puffed up" sense of self. But just as matzah represents both slavery and freedom, we can understand that in our day it represents both humility and self-importance. For when we rush about, isn't it often because we think the world cannot do without our efforts, our presence, our voice? When we say "I'm so busy," we are matzah - enslaved by our own speed and thinking well of our own engagements.

Passover comes once a year, but its lessons are always relevant. The difference between matzah and leaven is just an instant, a few more seconds of baking. Sometimes the most powerful lessons about slavery, freedom, ego and humility are not large decisions but the commitments of a moment. When we take time, when we remember our blessings, when we recall how small is the difference between service to ego and service to G-d, we are in the land of matzah.

From my family to yours, a *zissen* and meaningful Pesach.

*Rabbi J*





## Calendar

Please note that as of this printing, the building may not be available for any of the services listed below. Please watch your email or contact the office (781-344-8733 or [office@atorah.org](mailto:office@atorah.org)) if you are unsure.

*Virtual services may be available. Check for times and instructions.*

### Shabbat Parah/ Ki Tissa

#### Friday March 5

Candle lighting.....5:21 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

#### Saturday March 6

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
Havdalah.....6:23 PM

### Shabbat HaHodesh

#### Friday March 12

Candle lighting.....5:29 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

#### Saturday March 13

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
Havdalah.....6:31 PM

### Shabbat VaYikra

#### Friday March 19

Candle lighting.....6:37 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

#### Saturday March 20

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
Havdalah.....7:39 PM

### Fast of the First Born

#### Thursday March 25

*Fast begins at 5:48 AM and ends at 7:45 PM*

### Shabbat HaGadol/Tzav

#### Friday March 26

Candle lighting.....6:45 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

#### Saturday March 27

Tefillah.....9:30 AM

*First Seder traditionally begins at Havdalah 7:47 PM*

### Pesach I

#### Sunday March 28

Tefillah.....9:30 AM

*Second Seder traditionally begins at 7:48 PM*

Begin counting the Omer

### Pesach II

#### Monday March 29

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
Ma'ariv.....7:30 PM  
Havdalah.....7:50 PM

### Pesach VII

#### Friday April 2

Candle lighting.....6:53 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

#### Saturday April 3

Tefillah.....9:30 AM

### Pesach VIII

#### Sunday April 4

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
*Yizkor will be recited*  
Havdalah.....7:57 PM

*If Rabbi J sold your Chametz, please refrain opening your cabinets until 8:15 PM, so that there is sufficient time to repurchase the Chametz Contracts*

### Shabbat Shemini

#### Friday April 9

Candle lighting.....7:01 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM  
Omer Day 13

#### Saturday April 10

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
Havdalah.....8:04 PM

### Shabbat Tazria- Metzora

#### Friday April 16

Candle lighting.....7:09 PM  
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM  
Omer Day 20

#### Saturday April 17

Tefillah.....9:30 AM  
Havdalah.....8:13 PM

### Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:30 PM

These will be virtual (Zoom) meetings. Watch your email for instructions.



## Calendar

### Shabbat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

Friday April 23

Candle lighting.....7:16 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Omer Day 27

Saturday April 24

Tefillah.....9:30 AM

Havdalah.....8:21 PM

### Lag B'Omer

Friday, April 30

### Shabbat Emor

Friday April 30

Candle lighting.....7:24 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Omer Day 34

Saturday May 1

Tefillah.....9:30 AM

Havdalah.....8:30 PM

## Lag B'Omer

Friday, April 30

Lag B'Omer literally means the 33rd day of the Omer. The Omer is counted for 49 days between the end of Passover and the holiday of Shavuot (derived from the practice of counting the days from the barley offering at the Temple to the day of the wheat offering on Shavuot, in the Torah). The holiday celebrates a break in a plague that is said to have occurred during the days of Rabbi Akiva. The Talmud states that the great teacher of Jewish mysticism Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai died on Lag B'Omer, and in modern times the holiday has come to symbolize the resilience of the Jewish spirit.

Lag B'Omer is the one day during the 49 days of the Omer (which is considered to be a period of semi-mourning) in which celebrating is allowed. Many Jews like to plan weddings on this date for this reason... in fact, I officiated at my niece's wedding on Lag B'Omer! However, the most popular activity on the holiday is creating a bonfire (this is particularly popular in Israel). Other activities include having picnics and playing sports.

While many dishes are associated with other holy days, anything that goes well with a picnic or BBQ is appropriate for Lag B'Omer.

## The Fast of the First Born

Thursday March 25

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn) is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated). The father of a child too young to fast fasts for him, and if he himself is *bekhor*, the mother fasts for the child on the day of Erev Pesach (the day in which Passover begins at nightfall). Since it is forbidden to abstain from eating on Shabbat (except for Yom Kippur), when Passover Eve falls on Saturday night, the fast takes place on Thursday.

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of Talmud, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). The Rabbis initiated the practice of

studying a portion of a Talmud tractate after morning services, held especially early on Erev Pesach. All the firstborn are invited to be present for the conclusion and share cake and schnapps afterward, considered a *seudat* (meal) *mitzvah* (in honor of a commandment; in this case, studying the Torah). Other celebratory rituals may also include a *bris*, *Pidyon HaBen* for the first born who is a male, or a wedding.

Among some Sephardim, women used to observe the fast of the firstborn. The Syrian Jewish communities, which stringently observe it, include their women in the *siyyum* and *seudat mitzvah* following morning services. As an alternative, a community would sometimes arrange for the poor to be married on the day of Erev Pesach. The firstborn were invited, since the wedding meal is a *seudat mitzvah* exempting them from the fast.

As such, this Fast day is considered to be among the most minor.



## Women of ATC



Shalom.

As Purim approaches, we can look toward Spring.

Our exercise group is now exercising using a light impact program and walking together every afternoon . We all agree that we feel much better and also enjoy meeting with friends each day. Please let me know if you would like to participate, even if only

a few days a week.

Our Rosh Chodesh Group and Book Club continue to meet. Please watch our emails for the date of our next meetings.

Sisterhood Shabbat will be held on Friday, March 5th. We hope to have as many women participating and attending as possible. Please let me know if you would like a part, either English or Hebrew.

Our Women's Virtual Seder will be held on Wednesday, March 17th. Susan Bernstein will be leading this year. Please join us. It is always a very meaningful and enjoyable evening. Watch for details.

Please contact Beverly Barbell at [bbarbell@aol.com](mailto:bbarbell@aol.com) for cards for all occasions.

Please contact me with any suggestions.

Stay safe and well.

*Madeleine Lewis*

*Cindy Smith*

Co-Presidents

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## Our sympathies are with...

Sue Casey and family, on the loss of beloved brother,  
Alan Koplan

Steve and Rona Baker, and family, on the loss of beloved  
sister, Lois Koven

Marcia and Paul Schneider, on the loss of beloved father,  
Abraham M. Bornstein

Milt Rosenthal, on the loss of his beloved wife, Willa

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Joe and Dot Spivack, in memory of beloved stepfather,  
George Kay

Susan and David Bernstein, in memory of beloved mother,  
Goody Safer

Susan and David Bernstein, in memory of beloved father,  
Myer Bernstein

Larry Perlmutter, in memory of Marion Speyer

Donna and Rich Sandler, in memory of our parents Robert  
Gold, Roslyn Sandler and Harold Sandler

Toby and Paul Barbell, in memory of beloved parents,  
Sam and Rebecca Barbell

Melissa Crane, in memory of beloved grandparents,  
Rose and Isadore Crane

Melissa Crane, in memory of beloved aunt,  
Annette Crane Feldman

Melissa Crane, in memory of beloved aunt,  
Sarah Mooshel Kreinowicz

Roz Nadler, in memory of beloved father, Sidney Nadler

Diane and Ed Thaler, in memory of beloved mother,  
Bella Drukman

Paula Manburg, in beloved memory of parents,  
Yvette and David Feinstein

Denise and Bev Chmara, in memory of our beloved father,  
Nathan Chmara

The Rabinovitz-Belitch-Berman family, in memory of  
beloved husband, father, uncle, great-uncle and great  
great-uncle, Leo Weiner

Peter Sylvia, in memory of beloved teacher and Holocaust  
survivor, Rabbi Eric Lowenthal

Peter Sylvia, in memory of beloved wife, Linda Sylvia

Nancy and Gary Rubin, with thanks

Susan and Sandy Toochnin, with thanks



Finishing the basement?

Use ATC scrip ...

It's a Mitzvah!



## Women of Ahavath Torah Congregation

Good day, and as co-president, I would like to thank everyone who generously donates to the Women of ATC in recognition of all we have done and ***are doing during these times.***

May we also thank ***all*** those who participate in our activities. Your participation helps so greatly to keep our community connected and have made these times easier for me and hopefully for everyone else.

Women of ATC, just look what we offer:

Women of ATC provides low impact exercise each weekday morning at 9:30. Then our walking group meets at 1:30 each day except Shabbat.

Our monthly Rosh Chodesh group meets to learn about the upcoming Jewish month.

If you missed our beginner's crochet class, watch for another class starting soon. We even provided the yarn.

Enjoy reading? Our Book Club meets every few months to discuss a book we have read.

We welcome ***ALL*** to our second annual Women of ATC Virtual Shabbat Service. This year we join together March 5, to celebrate our Women of ATC, and then together for our Women's Passover Seder on March 19.

Be well, take care, and join in

**It's so easy to support ATC and the Women of ATC !!!!!**

Contact Madeleine Lewis at [lewis.madeleine@gmail.com](mailto:lewis.madeleine@gmail.com) for more information.

Together, Connected — Our ATC Family thanks you



## ATC Launches New Mishloach Manot Initiative

The Purim tradition of giving *mishloach manot*, or Purim baskets, goes back many years. It is meant to ensure that everyone has enough food for the Purim feast held later in the day, and to spark and inspire love and friendship among Jews and their neighbors.

Although ATC has distributed *mishloach manot* in the past, Ahavath Torah Congregation updated its efforts this year. A new model, suggested by Rob Yunich, was implemented: members could select other congregants to send greetings along with a basket. Each member who was selected received multiple greetings but only one basket. Members also could buy additional baskets for their friends or family, and kids' baskets for the younger generation. The baskets included traditional *hamantaschen* (three-cornered pastry), a *grogger* (noise maker), coffee, and other treats.

Three ATC families - Alan Jacobson, Miriam Stoll and Marc Happes, and a third who wished to remain anonymous, were generous enough to send greetings to the entire congregation. In keeping with the tradition of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), 11 Purim baskets were donated to residents and nurses at the Copley Rehab Center in Stoughton.

All these efforts could not have been completed without Rob Yunich, ATC's VP of fundraising, and Janna Gabel, who did yeoman's duty of acquiring the supplies for the baskets. Other people who volunteered their time distributing and packing baskets include Marcia Boland Wells, ATC President Bob Bornstein, Lesley Bornstein, Larry Gabel, Alan Jacobson, Elana Milstein, Emily Prigot, Ellen Nager, ATC House Chair David Schulze, Deb Springer, and Fred Sussman.

Additional thanks go to Helayne Magier, who donated a huge number of lollipops, Larry Gabel, who did a large amount of schlepping, and Marcia Boland Wells, who donated several items for the baskets.

Gratitude also goes to Marcia Boland Wells, Janna Gabel, Ellen Nager, Emily Prigot, Deb Springer, and Rob Yunich for delivering a small number of bags that were not picked up during the two-day distribution window.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the following businesses for donating to the effort: Costco in Dedham and Stoughton; BJ's in Dedham; Shaw's at Cobb Corner; and Stop & Shop in Stoughton and Norwood (on Route 1 next to Home Depot).

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*A note from one of the regular "exercisers":*

Thank you Madeleine,

I look forward to the classes so much. This is a beautiful ministry that you are leading through your temple and I just wanted to express my gratitude to you for this sparkle of light, during this dark global season, that you and the ladies bring to me in my home every time we meet.

### Save the Dates

Virtual Passover  
Cooking Demonstration  
Sunday, March 21

Special Passover Box  
from Katsiroubas Produce  
Pick-up Thursday, March 25

Stay tuned for more information!





## President's Message (cont.)

Our sanctuary is being refreshed with painting, thanks to Ron Wells, a bit of carpentry, by myself, and a bit of sweat equity by several members.

Our new Fundraising Team, led by Rob Yunich, celebrated their first fund-raising efforts with Purim's Mishloach Manot bags. Over 200 were distributed, with ATC also providing Purim bags to Jewish residents at the Copley Rehabilitation Center. Congratulations to all who helped assemble all those bags. By the way - there may be 1 missing Twizzler from someone's bag.

For the past weeks, Rabbi J and I have been working with Temple Beth Emunah to provide space at 1179 Central Street. This is a most wonderful opportunity for these 2 communities to be together under one roof. Temple Beth Emunah will have their congregational meeting in early March to vote and agree on this arrangement, and by the time we are reading this edition of our Bulletin all will be confirmed, and ATC will welcome TBE to their new home at 1170 Central Street, September 1.

Passover begins March 27. Our Ritual Team, along with volunteers are planning a week of activities before the holidays. Elana Milstein and Rob Yunich once again will co-host "The Passover Chefs" showcasing Passover recipes in time for the holidays. Please watch for our broadcast schedule.

Passover is just a few short weeks away and is the most observed of all the Jewish holidays. It is also my favorite. With all its stories, the foods, the songs, and the foods. Passover has always been my most vivid memory of any Jewish holiday. Growing up, my family would meet at my home in Providence from Boston (Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan) and New York, with all my aunts, uncles, and cousins. If you did not speak Yiddish, you were left out. It is a wonderful memory of our family heritage and long past. But now this virtual seder is a real opportunity for our family to come together because now all these young families years ago have their own and extended families across the country. Last year and this upcoming Passover we are thrilled to have family join us, even if it's for five minutes to say hi or to stay for the service and compare dinner menus.

And to all, have a *Zissen* (Sweet) Pesach!

See, I read Millie's Yiddish words each morning!

**Robert Bornstein**

President

[president@atorah.org](mailto:president@atorah.org)

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781-828-7216  
[www.sharonmemorial.com](http://www.sharonmemorial.com)

## Mah Jongg

Thank you to all who ordered Mah Jongg cards for the 2021 season. I managed to place the order for 200+ cards and ordered a few extra. If you still need one or know someone who does, kindly contact me: Helayne at 781-344-7566.

Your cards will be mailed directly to you around Pesach time at the end of March and/or beginning of April.

Happy playing

*Helayne Magier*

For all your grocery shopping



use ATC scrip ...



It's a Mitzvah!



Shalom,

I write this as Purim is approaching. We are looking forward to our Purim Party, where the children will virtually perform a play about the "Esther-minator" and we will hear the reading of the Megillah. The students are excited to spin their *groggers* when Haman's name is read.

We are busy practicing for our next Class Service which will be on Friday, March 19th. Please join us to show your support.

All of our students show great growth both in Hebrew Reading and prayer skills. The younger students have learned about Rebecca and her kindness, while our older students study a different *Parshah* every week. We have discussed some *Mitzvot* and learned about a Jewish hero.

*Pesach, Yom Haatzmaut, Lag B'Omer and Shavuot* will be here soon. We have activities and study planned for each of those holidays.

Abraham, Brent, and Dylan are preparing for their B'nai Mitzvah Services. While COVID has caused some scheduling problems here, we wish them a hearty Mazel Tov and we hope they can occur as soon as possible.



Please help us by giving me the names of anyone who might be interested in joining our School.

Stay well and safe

B'Shalom,  
*Madeleine Lewis*  
Ed Director  
[school@atorah.org](mailto:school@atorah.org)

## Get Well Wishes to:

Ron Gorin



## Levy Chapel Fund

June and Gary Blumenthal, in honor of the birth of our  
grandson, Isaac

The Rabinovitz family, in honor of Millie Berman's 94th birthday

*Donations received after February 21st will be  
acknowledged in the next issue.*

## Scrip sellers:

Wendy Schulze

Sheryl Asnes

Helayne Magier

781-856-1409

781-915-4131

781-344-7566



## How am I special?

Gabi

1. cheerleader
2. gymnast
3. Fully Jewish

Devin

1. I built a snowman at the beach
2. A lot kinder than other people in my family
3. I like instrumental and rock music.

Dylan - my intellect

Brent - my family and friends

Dustin - really good at sports

Noam - I like science.

Abraham— my knowledge and being Jewish





## What would you ask G-d *To do for me ?*

Help me with my Bar Mitzvah  
Provide homes for the homeless.  
Make sure I'm always in a good position.  
Teach me things about my religion.  
Protect me.  
Protect the world by making everyone feel better.  
Respect others  
Help people

## What can I do *To help G-d ?*

Pray to Him at night  
Become more of a mensch  
Be nice to people  
Help my family  
Do good things for Him

Ahavath Torah's Rabbi Gerson  
and  
Temple Beth Emunah's  
South Area Religious School







**BARNES & NOBLE**

bloomingdale's

## ***What is scrip?***

Scrip is a term that means "substitute money". When you purchase scrip, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn revenue for ATC.

### ***How scrip generates revenue for ATC***

Our supplier acts on behalf of churches, schools and other non profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from grocery stores, department stores, and other retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. ATC buys the scrip at a discount, and re-sells the certificates to families like yours for full face value. The discount from two to fifteen percent or more – is our revenue.

### ***Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"***

Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don't have to sell anything. Our congregants produce revenue by making regular household purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with scrip. Scrip is available at most major ATC functions.

### ***Find out more***

We stock scrip in various denominations for Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Roche Brothers, Butcherie, Barnes & Noble, Home Depot, Best Buy, Outback, and more. Go to [www.atorah.org](http://www.atorah.org) for a complete list of available vendors.

### ***Scrip sellers:***

Wendy Schulze  
Sheryl Asnes  
Helayne Magier

781-856-1409  
781-915-4131  
781-344-7566

***Put your shopping dollars to work for ATC!***



*Handwritten signature: H. Taylor*



## Mishloach Manot bags compliments of our Ahavath Torah Congregation



Thank you for your generous donation of Purim baskets to our Jewish population.  
I took this picture of the baskets before delivering them.  
Please be assured our residents were very grateful. They expressed joy and send their thanks.  
Once again, you brought smiles to their faces.

Thank You,  
Cheryl Woodward  
Activity Director  
Copley at Stoughton

# PASSEOVER PREPARATIONS

## *A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED*

### I. What is Chametz?



The basic rule which underlies the dietary laws of Passover is that during this holiday a Jew must not eat, own or derive benefit from Chametz. Chametz refers to the five species of grain - wheat, barley, spelt, rye and oats - which have been subjected to a leavening process. In their unleavened states, these same five grains can be used to make Matzoh. The word "Chametz" itself refers to fermenting or souring. Dough (flour and moisture) can rise by just sifting (sour dough) or by a leavening agent being added.

Chametz includes not only bread, crackers and macaroni, but Items formed of fermented grain used in other ways - such as beer, whiskey and grain vinegar.

The elaborate cleaning ("Kashering") process, involving putting away "regular" foods and dishes, renouncing ownership of leaven, and buying special foods, are all steps to ensure that no Chametz is found in places where it might be used. Any presence of Chametz, however minute, is forbidden on Passover. The rabbis made an exception to this very strict rule: If an accidental mixture took place before Pesach began, it can be considered negated if Chametz is less than 1/60 of the whole mixture. This is why it is safer to purchase various foods (for example, milk) before the holiday begins. If you buy milk before Passover, no special "Hechsher" (certification of Kashrut) is necessary, but if such items are bought during the holiday, they do require a "Hechsher." (Shopping for most things before Pesach will also increase the number of items you can economize on).

### II. What about legumes?



In our definition of Chametz, rice, millet, corn, peas and beans weren't mentioned ("Kitniyot," in Hebrew). All agree that these are not Chametz. Sephardic Jews generally follow the practices of the Talmud and Shulchan Arukh (16th century law code) permitting these Items on Passover. Ashkenazim (European Jews) followed the custom of prohibiting these Items, either because of fear of "contamination" (e.g., rice might have grain mixed in) or confusion (e.g., because beans can be ground into a flour-like substance, it might be confused with grain flour). Custom plays an important role in Jewish life, but one should be aware that there is a significant difference between eating soda crackers (100% Chametz) and soy beans. Many Ashkenazic Jews eat string beans because the kernel has not been formed, and there are differences of opinion regarding peanuts and a variety of seeds (sunflower, safflower, cottonseed, etc.). Chocolate used to be a problem for Ashkenazim, because lecithin, used as an emulsifier, comes from soybeans. Today, most Israeli chocolate factories use a substitute emulsifier, from rapeseed, for Passover, and can label their chocolate l'lo hashash kitniyot (without suspicion of Kitniyot)

### III. How do you get Rid of Chametz?



- A. Eat it up before Passover.
- B. Give it away to a non-Jew.
- C. Renounce ownership by selling it - this is usually done by making a rabbi your agent, signing a document, allowing him to sell it to a non-Jew for a token down payment. After the holiday, when the purchaser discovers that he really doesn't want all the leftover graham crackers in your closet, he normally sells it back and the down payment is returned. This is legal fiction, but it solves the problem of what to do when you have too much Chametz to merely give away.

**ALL CHAMETZ SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY 11:36 AM ON MARCH 27, 2021, AT WHICH TIME CHAMETZ IS BURNED AND THE CONTRACTS WILL BE SOLD.**



*Baking Matsot, Mantua, 1560*



*Matsah making, Utrecht. 1663.*



*Cooling hands in cold water before handling dough, Venice, 1609.*

# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

## *A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED*

### **IV. Why go through all this bother?**



Ultimately, as with all rituals, the meaning you derive from it is a very personal matter and often it cannot be explained rationally. Here are some possibilities:

- The cleaning out of Chametz symbolize the cleaning out of the old ways of slavery as our ancestors had to do to leave Egypt. It can symbolize our desire to cleanse ourselves of our "evil inclinations," the "Chametz of the heart."
- It is a "spring cleaning," a chance to air out our houses, and ourselves, after the long winter's hibernation. In the spring, we are spiritually and physically reborn. In this sense, the themes of Passover and Easter are very similar.
- The more effort we put into preparing for a holiday, the more intense are our feelings and memories associated with it. This is why Passover has maintained such a powerful hold on even the most assimilated of Jews, while other celebrations have fallen from favor.

We all have vivid memories of childhood Passovers, and they are so vivid because of all the work that went into the preparation. On Passover, we simultaneously recall the infancy of our people and of ourselves. We are transformed both to Egypt and to wherever we grew up. But such a moving experience does not come for free: we must earn it the old fashioned way — by removing leaven.

### **V. When do we start eating Matzah?**

Matzah can be eaten all year round. But we should avoid it for 24 hours before the first Seder so that its taste is fresh. It probably is a good idea not to eat much of anything during the afternoon before the first Seder. Some don't eat Matzah for two weeks prior to the holiday.

### **VI. How do I clean my house for Passover?**

Areas where eating takes place should be cleaned thoroughly. Also, check places like briefcases, purses, desks and coat pockets, if you occasionally put food there. Offices, lockers in school, and automobiles should also be cleaned. There is no need to go overboard with this, however. The house can still be Kosher for Passover, even, if every window isn't washed and the bathtub isn't scrubbed.

### **VII. What about (oy, gevalt) the kitchen?**



Shelves, counters, tables and drawers should be well cleaned. They can be Kashered by pouring boiling water over them. An easier solution (and less messy) is to cover them with shelf paper or just tape them shut if you don't need them. The refrigerator should be defrosted and cleaned (no shelf paper is necessary here). To "Kasher" a stove - clean it well with a commercial cleanser, do not use it for 24 hours, then heat it to maximum temperature for one hour. If you plan to use the broiling pan, cover it with heavy foil. For a self-cleaning oven, run it through one self-clean cycle.

Electric burners should be treated in a similar manner: clean, don't use for 24 hours and then heat until they are red hot for at least five minutes.

For gas burners, either heat them to the hottest possible temperature for 15 minutes or immerse the burners in a pot of boiling water.

For a microwave oven, place a utensil with boiling water inside until thick steam fills it.

#### **KITCHEN UTENSILS:**

Launder dishtowels and cloth tablecloths.

In general, items are "Kashered" according to how they are used: Ovens and oven racks require high heat, pots and silverware require immersion in boiling water. Items used only for cold may be "Kashered" by rinsing. Dishwashers should be run through one cycle with soap after laying idle for 24 hours.





# PASSEOVER PREPARATIONS

## *A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED*



### ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE MADE KOSHER (IN ANY PRACTICAL WAY):

- Meat spits
- Metal baking pans
- Earthen ware
- Toaster ovens
- Porcelain
- Items that will be damaged by hot water
- Items which cannot be cleaned (for example, graters, pots and pans with burned on food)
- Silverware and cooking utensils of more than one piece  
(for example, knives with wooden handles; Chametz can be stuck in the crack)

### ITEMS WHICH CAN BE KASHERED:

- Metal pots, frying pans, (including those glazed or enameled, Teflon is questionable).
- One piece wooden utensils (in theory)
- One piece silverware
- Glass (no boiling necessary, for dishes and glasses, just a thorough scouring)
- Pyrex, Duralux and Corelle ware
- China: if it hasn't been used in a year, it is Kosher if scoured and cleansed with hot water
- Hard plastic
- Nylon
- Bakelite
- Rubber that can be immersed in boiling water briefly

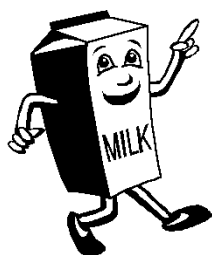


### POINTERS:

1. Don't forget to also immerse the lids of jars and containers.
2. Use a big pot for boiling, dip items with tongs or tied to a string, while the water is actually boiling.
3. For the largest pot (too big to be dipped) boil water in it, then fill it to the brim with more water. Later, pour boiling water on the outsides and handles.
4. Remove handles of pots and pans before boiling (if possible) and boil separately. Of course, it is, in many ways, easier to use a separate set of kitchenware and dishes for Passover. But this is not necessary.

For questions on specific items, feel free to call.

### **VIII. What foods can I buy?**



Please beware. Many foods are marked up for profit to take advantage of the consumer who is unaware that not all items need rabbinic supervision. If you buy the following before Passover and leave it unopened, no rabbinic supervision is needed:

- Coffee
- Tea
- Sugar
- Pepper (Pure herbs & spices, not garlic salt)
- Dried fruit (with no preservatives)
- Honey
- Hard cheese (preferably sealed in the factory)
- Butter
- Fruit Juice (no additives, sweeteners or preservatives)
- Kosher meat, chicken, fresh or frozen (not breaded or in sauce)
- Detergents (may also be bought on Passover)
- Fresh milk
- Eggs
- Vegetables, fresh or frozen
- Nuts in their shells

# PASSEOVER PREPARATIONS

## *A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED*



- Pure olive oil (no additives): also safflower & peanut oils
- Tuna and other types of fish, frozen or fresh, (kosher types of fish and unbreaded, of course)
- Paper and plastic goods
- Aluminum products
- All prescribed medicines in cases of medical **necessity**

### ITEMS WHICH MUST HAVE PASSEOVER SUPERVISION:

- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Matzah and Matzah products | • Margarine     |
| • Cake/Cake Mixes            | • Liquors       |
| • Soups                      | • Ice Cream     |
| • Pudding                    | • Pickles       |
| • Candy/Chewing Gum          | • Gelatin       |
| • Chocolate                  | • Canned Foods  |
| • Cocoa                      | • Mayonnaise    |
| • Gefilte Fish               | • Ketchup       |
| • Prepared Horse radish      | • Mustard       |
| • Processed Meats            | • Soft Drinks   |
| • Baking Powder              | • Seasoned Salt |
| • Cider Vinegar              | • Wine          |

This list does not claim to be exhaustive.

### **IX. Above all, what does all this come down to?**

Common sense. When you heat an oven or boil a pot, strict safety measures should be employed. Remove all soft plastics from the area.

### **X. Miscellaneous issues**

The situation regarding cheese requires a fuller explanation. The Conservative Movement allows for the consumption of hard cheese that is not supervised, while Orthodox practice is to require supervision, whether on Passover or not. This has to do with the dispute over the nature of rennet, an animal by-product used in the formation of cheese.

Vodka may or may not be kosher for Passover; you must check the label. Usually, vodka is made from potatoes. Most Israeli wines and brandies are produced kosher for Passover the year around, for simplicity's sake. But some liqueurs may not be Pesach friendly, so, again, label reading is a must.

A perennial question is whether one can use ordinary alcohol based perfumes, aftershaves and other scents, which might contain grain alcohol. There are two distinct schools of thought on this subject. The stricter school says that only approved for Passover cosmetics of any type may be used. The more lenient school holds that since these products are inedible, the source of the alcohol does not matter. Anything "not fit for a dog to eat" is classed as an inedible. Both views are valid ones.

### **XI. Conclusion**

In the end, Passover is purely a personal experience. For some it is a game, as exemplified by the Search for Leaven, a favorite of children, which takes place the evening before the Seder. For others, it is a dreaded chore. And others have long since given up preparing for it so elaborately. What I've presented here are, for the most part, the strictest requirements of Jewish law. Many people go way beyond these requirements, others are more selective. On this festival of freedom, we are free to question tradition, but just as powerful, is our freedom to enrich our lives by turning just another spring evening into a night different from all other nights.





## THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

Halacha requests no Jew own any Chametz after 11:36 AM on Shabbat morning March 27, 2021. Rabbi Hausman is authorized to prepare a bill of sale, and arrange for the transfer of ownership of your Chametz to a non-Jew. Members of ATC may arrange to appoint Rabbi Hausman as their agent to sell their Chametz after daily Minyan or at any other mutually arranged time. You may mail the following contract making sure that it reaches the synagogue office no later than 12 Noon on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Please detach and return to Rabbi Jonathan Hausman  
Ahavath Torah Congregation, 1179 Central Street, Stoughton, MA 02072



### Contract for Authorization to Sell Chametz

I/we understand that Rabbi Hausman is willing to act as my agent for the sale of any Chametz which I shall still have in my possession by Saturday March 27, 2021. Rabbi Hausman is authorized to sell such Chametz to a non-Jew of his choosing, and the buyer has free access to the "Chametz" acquired by him.

I/we hereby authorize Rabbi Hausman to sell my/our Chametz which is in my/our possession, knowingly or unknowingly, or at my address (please print clearly):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbi Hausman is fully authorized to sell, lease, dispose of and conduct all transactions that he deems fit and proper in accordance with Torah and Rabbinic regulations and in conformity with the laws of the State of Massachusetts. I/we undertake to store these items under lock and key and NOT to make use of them, or the places in which they are stored, during the Pesach period. I/we understand it is customary to make a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund at this time. I/we understand that this donation is not obligatory. Donations are used for the local Maot Chittim Fund.

If possible, please itemize your chametz possessions. Please include the contents of your liquor cabinet. You may list the closets in which your chametz has been placed. You may make this listing on the back of this contract.



We have metal !

There are 4 glasses  
of wine at each  
Passover Seder.  
  
AND  
  
The Judaica Shoppes  
of ATC has just the  
right glass  
  
FOR YOU!!!



We have ceramic !



We have glass !



Candlesticks too !



See our flyer emailed to all on March 1 or contact  
Madeleine Lewis at [Lewis.Madeleine@gmail.com](mailto:Lewis.Madeleine@gmail.com)





## Donations

Richard Nadler, in memory of Sidney Nadler	Eliot Bloom, in memory of Mildred Bloom	Richard Frederics, in memory of Rosalind Frederics
Richard & Irene Goldman, in memory of Harry Goldman	Matthew & Marla Potter, in memory of Alan Koplan	The Indeck family, in memory of David Swerdlick
Lawrence & Janna Gabel, in memory of William Gabel	Barry Levy, in memory of Bennette Schultz	Elaine Robinson, in memory of John Lefkovith
Gerald & Roslyn Rosenberg	Alan & Anita Ames	Elaine Robinson, in memory of Richard Robinson
Deanna Russell, in memory of Louis Rubin	Helen Myerow, in memory of Stanley Myerow	Howard Swerdlick, in memory of David Swerdlick
Richard & Lynda Levine, in memory of Richard J. Levine	David & Hilda Egel, in memory of Gloria Bromberg and Irving Bromberg	Warren & Linda Keller, in memory of Harry Keller
Warren & Margie Freshman, in memory of Maurice M. Gould	Howard & Stacy Andler, in memory of Harvey Jason Freedman	Beverly Kozol-Tattlebaum
Helene Fisher	Warren & Linda Keller, in memory of Evelyn Figure	Hap & Beverly Leven, in memory of Max Waxman
Paul Triber, in memory of Mary Winterberg	Beverly Barbell and Al Gersin, in memory of Gertrude Goodman	Lillian Goldberg, in memory of Steve Goldberg
Allan & Marjorie Slotnick, in memory of Adam Slotnick	David Moonay, in memory of Bennette Schultz	Warren & Margie Freshman, in memory of Samuel Freshman & Alane Freshman
Sandy & Susan Toochin, in memory of Efin Toochin & Renee Toochin	Robert & Lesley Bornstein, in memory of Roger Spivack	Paul Triber, in memory of Barbara Triber Silverman
Karl & Marcia Flanzer, in memory of Nathan Flanzer	Gerald & Roslyn Rosenberg	Alan & Judy Litwack, in memory of Jack & Phyllis Shuman
Allan & Marjorie Slotnick, in memory of Sylvia Close	Norman & Susan Gotshalk, in memory of Celia Gotshalk	
Milton Crane, in memory of Isadore Crane	Alan Paskind, in memory of Harry Paskind	
Neil & Ellen Nager, in memory of Lois Koven		

*Donations received after February 21st will be acknowledged in the next issue.*

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## March Yahrzeit Calendar

### **March 1**

Constance Bernstein  
Ruth Bornstein  
George Bress  
Ethel Carlin  
William Goldstein

### **March 2**

Eleanor Azerrad  
Isaac Cohen  
Mary Halpern  
Leon Rudman  
Irving Spivack  
Oscar Thaler

### **March 3**

Frances Oppen

### **March 4**

Sarah Denbo  
Daniel Lipsky  
Marilyn Selby  
Rose Silverman

### **March 5**

Stephen Metrick  
Lawrence Shifman  
Rachel Singer

### **March 6**

Spencer Cox

### **March 7**

Jeanette Berman  
Aron Fisher  
Louis Rosenberg  
Sarah Spivack  
Frank Stacey

### **March 8**

Mary Chandler  
Martha Fogel  
Abraham Harfield  
Nathan Kramer  
Elizabeth Lipman  
Edwin Manburg

### **March 9**

Blanche Drobnis  
Dora Smith

### **March 10**

Charles Pearlstein  
Richard Barry Wallace  
Lt. Bernard Wilensky

### **March 11**

Louis Rostoff

### **March 12**

Donald Mark Berkovitz  
Sally Lemkin  
Jacob Lipsky  
William Lipson  
Sheldon Murray Moonay  
Samuel Slotnick  
Martin Stroll

### **March 13**

Deborah Jane Gould  
Alex Kostick  
Martin Lerner  
Paul E. Policow  
Albert Rosen

### **March 14**

David Weiner

### **March 15**

Irv Dembling  
Morris Heller  
Mary Zeidman

### **March 16**

Sylvia Kandler  
George Litwack  
Howard Weinstein

### **March 17**

Fannie Adleman  
Milton Bailet  
Steven Slotnick

### **March 18**

June Dulman  
Lillian Figure  
Sam Komrower

### **March 19**

Solomon Franklin

### **March 20**

Mildred Goldstein  
Ester Green  
Minnie Kerner  
Alvin Kostick  
Philip Musman  
Bertha Plotnick

### **March 21**

Paul Jaffe  
Louis Kellner  
Harold Krasnoff

### **March 22**

Abraham Fruit  
Ethel Goodman  
Shayna Rose Guarino  
Beatrice Sandler

### **March 23**

Leonard Leppo  
Joanne Rice

### **March 24**

Bernice Bauman  
Fishel Fisher  
Alan Goldstein  
Annette Silverstein

### **March 25**

Shoshana Grushow  
Jacob Schwalbe

### **March 26**

Samuel Smith

### **March 27**

Stanley Blumenthal  
Bernice Spigel

### **March 28**

Tina Katz  
Israel Shterental

### **March 29**

George Arbit  
Arnold Glasser  
Abraham Silverman

### **March 30**

Elyse Enman  
Alexander Reinstein  
Ruby Soloway

### **March 31**

Goldie Hoffstein



## April Yahrzeit Calendar

### April 2

Diana Beth Cooper  
Rose Sibulkin  
Sarah Tattlebaum

### April 3

Harry Gotshalk  
Jordan Sandman

### April 4

Abraham Brezner  
Morel Kessel  
Gertrude Schwalbe  
Hyman Worobey

### April 5

Carl Sorin  
Israel Zelbow

### April 6

Louis Baker  
Kenneth Paul Glasser  
Zev Grossman  
Tillie Grubert  
Mildred Lipshires  
Israel Morris  
Bessie M. Waterman

### April 7

Louis Kurlansky  
Leona Worobey

### April 8

Rubin Zeidman

### April 9

Milton Wish

### April 10

Philip Andler  
Hyman Koch  
Joseph Shaw

### April 11

Charles Goodman  
Norma Marron  
Julius Smith  
Arlene Triber

### April 12

Martin Cohen  
Myer Goodman

### April 13

Morris P. Sarner  
Mollie K. Silverman  
Miriam Raizal Zlobinskaya

### April 14

Marjorie Asnes  
Ruth Fox  
Gloria Gabel  
Benjamin Kohner  
Ida Levy

### April 15

Lillian Kaplan  
Joseph Lapido  
Charles Weisberg

### April 16

Donald Baker  
Jacob Egel  
Max Platter

### April 17

Edward Fogel  
Benjamin Gerofsky  
Israel Lichtman  
Sidney Novoson  
Maurice Plotnick  
Morris Rutfield

### April 18

Frances Nager

### April 19

Percy Carpman  
Edward Corr  
Julius Gelman  
Lillian Smith

### April 20

Philip Bass  
Samuel Dorfsman  
Joseph Epstein  
Miriam Lawrence

### April 21

Joseph Pearlman  
Samuel Rosenfield  
Ida Sharrow

### April 22

Julie Ann Cooper  
Ruth Kuritz  
Leonard Landa  
Israel Livingstone  
Gertrude Max  
Samuel Rosenblatt  
Melvin Savage

### April 23

Simon Brown

### April 24

Rose Greenblatt  
Norman Isaacs

### April 25

Marcia Bornstein  
Theodore Kaplan  
Jules Mendelson  
David Resnick  
Gerald Tattlebaum

### April 26

Max Davis  
Edith Geller  
Clara Heller

### April 28

Paul E Bloom  
Bessie Goldman  
Ida Goldman  
Myer Hoffman

### April 29

Ada Arkanase  
Morris Hadgi

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