ATC Bulletin

ATC Launches New Mishloach Manot Initiative

See article on page 8.
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
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
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.
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 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.
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 for cards for all occasions.

Please contact me with any suggestions.

Stay safe and well.

Madeleine Lewis
Cindy Smith
Co-Presidents

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 Toochin, with thanks

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

Finishing the basement? Use ATC scrip ... It's a Mitzvah!
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 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 kamentaschen (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).

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!
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

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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

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For all your grocery shopping

use ATC scrip ...

It's a Mitzvah!
Rabbi Gerson South Area Religious School News

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 goggers 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

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 is fundraising while you shop

Scrip sellers: Wendy Schulze 781-856-1409
Sheryl Asnes 781-915-4131
Helayne Magier 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

Light Shabbat candles
No more remote classes
End Hunger
The end of
Do chores
Be happy with what I have
No more anger and bad thoughts!
No more fighting
Sleep overs at my cousins
No more sick-
Hopes for the future!
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 Congregation
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 for a complete list of available vendors.

Scrip sellers:
Wendy Schulze  781-856-1409
Sheryl Asnes  781-915-4131
Helayne Magier  781-344-7566

Put your shopping dollars to work for ATC!
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
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.
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.
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 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, Duralex 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
PASSOVER 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 PASSOVER SUPERVISION:

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

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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.
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 metal!

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
Donations

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

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

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 Sondler

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

Ahavath Torah Congregation
Just a Few of the Participants at the ATC Purim Celebration 2021