MADDENING MOMENTS EREV SHABBAT AND YOM TOV
OR
QUESTIONS I WOULD NEVER ASK THE RABBI

by Hannah Gordon

1) It was two weeks before Pesach, and I used up my flour by baking challahs. Right on? Wrong! I didn't realize that the towel I was using to cover the rising dough mixture was covered with bits of moist, sticky dough. I then threw this towel into the washing machine, along with the rest of my dirty laundry. When I took my laundry out of the dryer, it was covered with bumps of dried dough.

Question. What do I do with my chametz towels, sheets, and underwear? Do I sell them along with my other chametz?

2) It is erev Shabbat, and I am expecting a lot of company for Shabbat lunch . I cook and cook and cook. In the middle of my culinary extravaganza the four foot long fluorescent lights go out in my overhead kitchen fixture. " I'm strong," I say to myself, "I'll continue to cook in the dark." Right on? Wrong! A half an hour before candle lighting my husband gets on a chair to put in the new bulbs. Two seconds after he gets down, the bulbs come crashing down shattering into thousands of pieces. Many of the pieces fall into the trays of food I've prepared for Shabbat lunch.

"RABBI, WHY DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN ON EREV SHABBAT?"

Quickly I throw out the food, and my son borrows a neighbor's vacuum cleaner. We vacuum up all the glass furiously. As I light candles, I ask myself these questions, "How many cans of tuna fish do I need to serve my luncheon guests? How many moments before Shabbat should a husband replace four foot long flourescent bulbs?"

3) It is several weeks before Chanukah. I decide that this year I am going to make gourmet potato latkas, no more frozen packaged latkas for me and my family. I scour my cook books looking for recipes and ask my neighbors for suggestions. I test every recipe, I try frying them, I try baking them, I add this, I add that . Right on? Wrong! Each latka is a disaster.

But by this time, the first night of Chanukah is only hours away. I run from store to store trying to purchase (you guessed it) frozen packaged latkas: They are all sold out.

Question. How many stores should I run to before I collapse and give up?

4) It is 6:00 A.M. on a snowy, icy Friday, and I am in the kitchen cooking. I feel confident I'll get my Shabbat cooking done, because I think to myself, "who in her right mind would go out on a day like today?" Right on? Wrong! A few hours later my infant son wakes up with a fever. I quickly dress him and make the treacherous drive to the doctor's office. I pick up the prescription in the pharmacy and retreat to the warmth of my apartment where my baby falls asleep.

One hour before candle lighting time I see the baby's fever has gone way up. I bundle him up, call a friend to come with me in the car and sit in it while it is double parked because by this time there is no parking allowed near the doctor's office. (This is N.Y.C., with 10,000,000 cars and no legal parking).

As I get out of the car to run into the pediatricians's office, I feel icy water come up to my knees. I look down and realize I'd forgotten to put on my boots and was still wearing my bedroom slippers. I run in and out of the doctor's office. I drive 70mph down Queens Blvd. to get a new prescription filled, drop off my friend, and make it in time to light Shabbat candles.

By this time I'm chilled to the bone. As I light the candles and make the bracha waiting for the Shabbat peace to descend upon the household, I start sneezing uncontrollably and accidentally blow out the candles.

Question . How may sneezes am I allowed when I make the bracha over the Shabbat candles?

Hannah Gordon teaches writing at Queensboro Community College

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Stefanie (Shira) Chait and Harry Feld
Jamie Saslow and David Mitchell
Nina Wohl and Doug Tare

MARRIAGES

Chava Eisner and Jay Gottlieb
Elisa Joffe and Dan Hancock
Rachel Brenner and Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot
Mazal Tov to parents Dr Rose and Salomon Helfgot
Susan Tucker and Gabbi Peretz
Laurie Latt and Richard Wolff

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Sara Steinhardt and David Berman, on the birth of a boy, Jacob
Ofira and Daniel Diker, on the birth of a girl, Talia Ashira
Vardi and Dr. Leonard Jacober, on the birth of a girl
Joanne and Alan Goldberg, on the birth of a boy, Eliyahu Emanuel
Anat and Dr. Gabriel Levi, on the birth of a girl, Talia Sophie
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Sheryl and Mark Schwartz, on the birth of a girl, Jessica Nicole

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THANK YOU

Helen Ginns for her extreme acts of chessed on behalf a former beginner

CONGRATULATIONS

Rabia Mitchell for being honored at the Hineni Women's League Fall Luncheon
Beryl Korot and Steve Reich on the successful premiere of the "Hindenberg" at Brooklyn Academy of Music

SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons - Saturdays 12:30 pm – $15
Jan 2, Feb 6, March 6

Beginners Schmooze – Mondays 8:15 pm – Free
Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1

Beginners Shabbaton
Fri, Sat Dec 4-5

Chanukah Party
Mon, Dec 14

Shabbat Across America
Fri, March 12, 1999

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, December 4th
Candle Lighting ..... 4:11 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:15 p.m.

Shabbat, December 5th (Vayishlach)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:20 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:05 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:11 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:15 p.m.

Friday, December 11th
Candle Lighting ..... 4:10 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:15 p.m.

Shabbat, December 12th (Vayeshev)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:20 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:05 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:10 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 13th
Kindle first Chanukah Candle after ..... 5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 14th CHANUKAH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.
Kindle two Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15th CHANUKAH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.
Kindle three Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16th CHANUKAH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.
Kindle four Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17th CHANUKAH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.
Kindle five Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:01 p.m.

Friday, December 18th CHANUKAH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.
Kindle six Chanukah Candles before ..... 4:12 p.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:12 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:15 p.m.

Shabbat, December 19th (Miketz) CHANUKAH, ROSH CHODESH TEVET
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:40, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:20 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:05 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:12 p.m.
Kindle seven Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:12 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:20 p.m.

Sunday, December 20th CHANUKAH, ROSH CHODESH TEVET
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.
Kindle eight Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:02 p.m.

Monday, December 21st
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.

Friday, December 25th
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:16 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:20 p.m.

Shabbat, December 26th (Vayigash)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:25 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:10 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:16 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:20 p.m.

Tuesday, December 29th ASARA B'TEVET (10th of Tevet)
Fast Begins ..... 6:08 a.m.
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:30 a.m.
Mincha ..... 4:10 p.m.
Fast Ends ..... 5:07 p.m.

Friday, January 1st New Years Day, 1999
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 8:30 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:21 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:25 p.m.

Shabbat, January 2nd (Vayechi)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:30 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:15 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:21 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 8th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:26 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:35 p.m.

Shabbat, January 9th (Shemot)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:40 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:25 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:28 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:40 p.m.

Friday, January 15th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:35 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:40 p.m.

Shabbat, January 16th (Va'era)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:45 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:30 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:35 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:45 p.m.

Monday, January 18th ROSH CHODESH SH'VAT
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 a.m.

Friday, January 22nd
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:43 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:50 p.m.

Shabbat, January 23rd (Bo)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:55 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:40 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:43 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:55 p.m.

Friday, January 29th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 4:52 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:55 p.m.

Shabbat, January 30th (Beshalach)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:00 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:45 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:52 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:00 p.m.

Monday, February 1st TU B'SHVAT
Morning Services ..... 7:05 & 7:50 a.m.

Friday, February 5th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 5:00 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:05 p.m.

Shabbat, February 6th (Yitro)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:10 p.m.
Mincha ..... 4:55 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:00 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:10 p.m.

Friday, February 12th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 5:09 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:15 p.m.

Shabbat, February 13th (Mishpatim), PARSHAT SHEKALIM
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:20 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:05 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:09 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:20 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16th - ROSH CHODESH ADAR
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.

Wednesday, February 17th ROSH CHODESH ADAR
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.

Friday, February 19th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 5:17 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:20 p.m.

Shabbat, February 20th (Terumah)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:25 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:10 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:17 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:25 p.m.

Friday, February 26th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:5[illegible]
Candle Lighting ..... 5:[illegible]
Mincha ..... 5:[illegible]

Shabbat, February 27th (Tetzaveh), PARSHAT ZACHOR
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:35 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:20 p.m.
Additional reading of Parshat Zachor after Mincha
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:26 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:35 p.m.

Monday, March 1st FAST OF ESTHER
Fast Begins ..... 5:19 a.m.
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:30 a.m.
Mincha ..... 5:20 p.m.
Maariv & Megila reading ..... 6:18 p.m.
Fast Ends ..... 6:18 p.m.
Late Megila Reading ..... 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2nd PURIM
Morning Services ..... 6:30 & 7:30 a.m.
Extra Megila Reading ..... 1:30 p.m.
Early Mincha ..... 4:50 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:35 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3rd SHUSHAN PURIM
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.

Friday, March 5th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 5:33 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:40 p.m.

Shabbat, March 6th (Ki Tisa), PARSHAT PARAH
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:45 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:30 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:33 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:45 p.m.

Friday, March 12th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Candle Lighting ..... 5:41 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:45 p.m.

Shabbat, March 13th (Vayakhel-Pekudei), PARSHAT HACHODESH
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:50 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:35 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:41 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:50 p.m.

Thursday, March 18th ROSH CHODESH NISAN
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 a.m.

Friday, March 19th
Services ..... 7:10 & 7:[illegible]
Candle Lighting ..... 5:[illegible]
Mincha ..... 5:55 p.m.

Shabbat, March 20th (Vayikra)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Talmud & Bible class ..... 5:00 p.m.
Mincha ..... 5:45 p.m.
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:49 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:55 p.m.