



Congregation Beth El Pesach Guide 5783

15–22 Nisan 5783 April 5-13, 2023

Dear Beth El family,

It's Pesach time! This year, the sederim fall on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, April 5th and 6th, and these first 2 days roll right into Shabbat, for a whopping "3-day Yom Tov". The last 2 days fall on Wednesday and Thursday, April 12th and 13th.

In this Guide, you'll find information about:

1. Food and prepping your kitchen
2. Disposing of chametz
3. Planning your seder
4. Siyyum for the Firstborn
5. Holiday services

Please take this opportunity to register for our (free!)

post-Pesach Chametz-Fest Shabbat Dinner & Olive Oil Tasting on Friday, April 14.

1. What shall we eat?

- ☐ **What to eat, and how to clean?** Whether you scrub yourself or have some help; whether you change your dishes or not; whether you're planning for apples-and-walnuts charoset or dried fruit-and-coconut charoset; whether you're avoiding or embracing kitniyot (legumes); whether your seder features a brisket or a chicken or is dairy (what?! You can do that?!)... we've got you covered. Everything you need to know is in the [Rabbinical Assembly Pesach Guide](#). If you have any questions along the way, please get in touch with Rabbi Paskind.
- ☐ Since the first 2 days roll right into Shabbat, you may prepare an Eruv Tavshilin before the holiday begins to enable you to cook on Friday for Shabbat. I'll include those instructions in a note much closer to the start of the holiday.

2. All About (Getting Rid of) Chametz

We are commanded to not own, or even see, chametz for the duration of Pesach. You *could* just eat it all, but that might be challenging. The most common solutions are to enter into a temporary sale agreement and to symbolically burn some of what's left. Read on.

- ☐ **Sell it.** This year, we will again sell our chametz through the [Rabbinical Assembly's online platform](#). It is customary to make a donation at this time, and you are encouraged to Venmo the synagogue (@Congregation-BethElNorwalk) and earmark it "Passover donation". Please use and return the form by **Tuesday, April 4 at Noon**. Your chametz will return to you at the end of the holiday on Thursday, April 13 at 9:30pm.

- ☐ **Remove it from your home.**

- *Search for it.* After nightfall on Tuesday, April 4, we search our homes for chametz. Any chametz still to be eaten should be put together in one designated area. You may prepare a candle (or flashlight), a feather or old toothbrush, and a small bag. Place some chametz, (usually pieces of bread) in ten different places around the house. Chametz is hidden so that the searcher will have something to find, and the blessing will not be said in vain. Turn off the lights, and light the candle or flashlight. In the room in which the search will begin, one should say,

*"Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam,
asher kidshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al bi'ur chametz."*

"Praised are you God, Ruler of the Universe,
who has sanctified us with the commandments, and commanded us to burn chametz."

Using the lit candle or flashlight, search the house for chametz, and use the feather or toothbrush to sweep it into the bag. It is fun to divide the responsibilities so that one person handles the candle, another the feather, etc. When all the chametz has been found and gathered, the following is said:

*"Any leaven that may still be in the house, which I have not seen or have not removed,
shall be as if it does not exist, like the dust of the earth."*

- *Burn it.* The next morning, April 5, the chametz that was found in the search is burned. Recite the following before burning or disposing of this chametz:

*"All leaven and anything leavened that is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have observed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, shall be considered nullified and ownerless
as the dust of the earth."*

The mitzvah of searching for chametz includes the search on Tuesday night, the renunciation of the ownership of chametz made at night, and the burning or disposing of the chametz on Wednesday morning.

We'll be burning chametz in the Beth El parking lot on Wednesday, April 5 at 9:00am.

Last time to eat *chametz*: 10:48am

***Chametz* must be disposed of by 11:52am**

3. Plan Your Seder

“All who are hungry, let them enter and eat”. Pesach is a time to celebrate together, and we want to help. We’re serious.

- ☐ **Seder Matching (in person only)**
 - If you’re looking to attend a seder, let me know.
 - If you’re hosting a seder and would like to welcome fellow congregants, let me know.
- ☐ **Online Haggadot.** It’s always fun to try out a new haggadah. You can shop online for a hard copy, or check out these free downloadable haggadah texts (click on ‘em!):

[Sefaria’s online Haggadah](#)

[30-Minute Seder](#)

[PJ Library Haggadah](#)

[HIAS Passover Readings](#)

[A plethora of other options...](#)

Wait ... there’s a bit more!

4. **Siyyum for first-borns.** We’ll join Rabbi Mordy Schwartz for a Conservative Movement-wide siyyum on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30am on Zoom. Register [here](#).
 - Our morning minyan will meet at **7:00am** that day in order to conclude in time for the Siyyum.
 - After the siyyum, come on over to the parking lot to burn your chametz.
5. **Yom Tov/Holiday services.** Join us in the sanctuary or on Livestream—10am on Yom Tov and Shabbat (Thursday 4/6, Friday 4/7, Shabbat 4/8; Wednesday 4/12, and Friday 4/13 with Yizkor), and 8am on Zoom on weekdays, as usual. We’ll also be hosting an abbreviated Friday evening service on Friday 4/7 at 6pm.

Wishing each of you a *Chag Kasher v’Sameach, a zissen and kosher Pesach,*

Rabbi Ita Paskind