

PESACH 2015



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A Message From The Rabbi ...

Looking Forward to Passover

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

How do most of us react when it dawns on us that Passover is approaching? Oy, I must begin cleaning! Pesach is so expensive! How can I go a week without cereal? But is this really how we should be feeling during the time leading up to Passover?

We can find the answer in Parshas Bo, which describes the Exodus. The Parsha offers a unique description of the night of Passover: ליל שמרים הוא לה' להוציאם מארץ מצרים הוא הלילה הזה לה' שמרים לכל בני ישראל לדרתם 'It was a night of watching unto God for bringing them out from the land of Egypt; this same night is a night of watching unto the God for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.' Both Rashi and his grandson Rashbam agree about the first half of the verse: God was looking forward to taking the Israelites out of Egypt from the days of the forefathers. Regarding the second half, however, their interpretations diverge.

Rashi, with his usual Midrashic bent, offers the explanation with which we are familiar: משומר ובא מן המזיקין, בענין שנאמר (פסוק כג) ולא יתן המשחית וגו' – Passover is a night of special divine protection for the Jewish people in all times. Rashbam, however, with his customary very literal approach, interprets the second half of the line as an extension of the first half, meaning 'looking forward.' ולישראל הוא ליל שימורים לדורותם, שמצפים לזה הלילה לחוג בו חג פסח (בכל חקותיו) ומשפטיו – throughout their generations, the Jewish people anxiously await the night of Passover to be able to perform so many important mitzvos.

According to Rashbam, it is a lack of fulfillment of the principle of ליל שימורים 'night of watching' if we view Seder night with any sense of dread. The very nature of the night is that we must look forward to it and rejoice in its beautiful laws, not feel ourselves burdened by them.

We must plan early if we are to turn Seder night into an experience we anticipate with longing. Make sure to clean for Pesach early and don't clean more than necessary. Make your Seder plans early. Prepare

a menu of your favorite dishes for the Seder meal, and plan to make the Seder the length that works for you.

If we make it our business to fulfill the Rashbam's perspective on the 'watching' of Seder night, may we merit Rashi's interpretation as well with extra divine protection for the entire Jewish people and the rebuilding of the Beis Hamikdash speedily in our days. 🙏

Shul Events:

January 2, Annual Chinese Dinner. Our annual Chinese dinner was, as usual, a festive affair, this year catered by Chop Chop, which provided good food and reliable service. The speaker was **Rabbi Alec Goldstein**, musmach of YU and founder of the Kodesh Press (<http://www.kodeshpress.com>). He talked about halacha and intellectual property. Thanks to **Bob Wolf** who arranged for the speaker, and **Ilse Gruenspecht, Shelley Bulman, and Ada Maccabee** who helped with the meal itself.

February 7, Tu B'Shevat Lunch. The guest speaker at our annual Tu B'Shevat lunch was Mt. Sinai's own **Rabbi Ezra Schwartz**, whose topic was "Circumventing Shmitta: Methods or Madness?" An area of halacha of particular interest to Rabbi Schwartz, he spoke about the history of the various ways in which the mitzvah of shmitta has been fulfilled in Eretz Yisrael. His wife **Dr. Schwartz** and several of their children joined us. We all enjoyed Israeli food from Grill 212 as well as almonds, watermelon, and even Bamba, thanks to **May Deutsch**. Thanks also to **Ilse Gruenspecht** and **Marjorie Gregor** for their help.

March 4, Purim. **Rabbi Yaakov** and **Giti Hoffman** treated us to a delicious brunch in lieu of conventional Mishloach Manot. Among the highlights: French toast! It was a wonderful way to start the day. Many thanks to them for the meal and to Rabbi Hoffman for his excellent leining of the Megillah from a distinctive leather scroll that he himself wrote.

March 22, annual Aaron Bulman Memorial Lecture. **Rabbi Neil Fleischmann** spoke on the topic "Haggadah Helper – Thoughts on the Haggadah for the Seder Night". A teacher, guidance counselor, and

director of Torah Guidance at The Frisch School, Rabbi Fleischmann is also a licensed social worker, writer, poet, and comedian. **Aaron Bulman**, o”h, was his dear friend and mentor, making the talk personal and full of memories as well as filled with insights about the Haggadah. Members of the Bulman family as well as people from across the spectrum of the Washington Heights community attended.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, April 26th, 4 PM: “Ethiopian Jews in Israel and still in Ethiopia: Status Update” Talk by **Barbara Ribakove Gordon**, Founder and Executive Director of North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ). Lower level, Mt Sinai JC. Free admission. Ethiopian crafts will be available for purchase.

Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai, May 16: Yom Yerushalayim lunch. Food will be from Y & Y Catering.

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Ina Sondheim** on the birth of a great-grandson in Israel and to **Debbie Sondheim & Fred Distenfeld** on the birth of a grandson

To **Max & Gloria Spira** on the birth of a great-granddaughter and to **Dr. Ira & Sara Cooper** on the birth of a granddaughter

To **David Errico-Nagar** and **Leah Powers** on their marriage

To **Sara (Reif) & Lenny Plotitsa** on the birth of a daughter

To **Mr. Gerhard Salinger** on his 93rd birthday

To **Dvora Hersh** on the birth of a granddaughter and to **Dovid & Rachel Hersh** on the birth of a daughter

To **Dvora Hersh** on the engagement of her son **Chaim** to **Rebecca Gotlib**

To **Max & Gloria Spira** on the birth of a great-granddaughter and to **Dr. Ira & Sara Cooper** on the birth of a granddaughter

To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the birth of a great-grandson and to **Dr. Lawrence & Judy Rossman** on the birth of a grandson and **Josh & Alisa Rosner** on the birth of a son

To **Ilse Gruenspecht** on her birthday

To **Mr. & Mrs. Itshak Holtz** on their 65th wedding anniversary

To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the birth of a great-granddaughter

To **Shelley Bulman** and **Meir & Dvora Bulman** on the bar mitzvah of **Yaakov Mordechai**

To **Shelley Bulman** and **Pinny & Melissa Bulman** on the bat mitzvah of **Ariella Esther**

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the wedding of her granddaughter **Devorah Jacobs** to **Yosef Weiss** and to **Shmuel & Michelle Jacobs** on the wedding of their daughter

To **Max & Gloria Spira** on the birth of a great-grandson and to **Dr. Ira & Sara Cooper** on the birth of a grandson

To **Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** on the birth of a granddaughter and to **Aryeh & Tali Gregor** on the birth of a daughter **Yehudis** (and **Noach Gregor** on the birth of a sister!)

To **Max & Gloria Spira** on the birth of a great-grandson and to **Reuven & Chayke Spira** on the birth of a grandson

To **David Sclar**, who has been awarded a research fellowship at Oxford University and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Judaic Studies, Princeton University

Kiddush Sponsors:

January 3rd, Vayechi: Co-sponsors **Laura & Morris Whitcup** on the yahrzeit of Laura's mother **Myrna Treitel** and on the yahrzeit of Morris's grandfather **Morris Berlin** AND **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the twenty-first yahrzeit of Judy's maternal grandmother **Alice Einhorn Cohen**

January 10th, Shemot: **David Nagar** and **Leah Powers** on the occasion of his aufruf

January 17th, Vaera: The shul in honor of **Gerhard Salinger's** 93rd Birthday

January 24th, Bo: Co-sponsors **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the first yahrzeit of Elan's maternal grandmother **Menucha Paltiel AND Elaine Manning** on the yahrzeit of her parents **Louis & Clara Tischler**

January 31st, Beshalach: **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the fifth yahrzeit of Elan's maternal grandfather **Yehuda Paltiel** and the twelfth yahrzeit of Judy's paternal grandmother **Zelda Wohlberg Kunofsky**

February 28th, Tetzaveh: **Judy & Elan Rieser** in celebration of the first birthday of their son **Itiel Manoach**

March 5th, Purim: brunch after the Megillah reading sponsored by **Rabbi Yaakov & Giti Hoffman**

March 7th, Ki Tisa: **Margot Fein** on the yahrzeit of her father **Louis Fein**

March 14th, Vayakhel-Pekudei: **Morris Whitcup** and **Harry Epstein**, Scotch and trimmings kiddush

March 21st, Vayikra: **May & Gary Deutsch** to welcome **Na'avah Walker** and her son **Gidon**

March 28th, Tzav: **Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** on the birth of a granddaughter **Yehudis** to **Aryeh and Tali Gregor**

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush, please call the Shul office (212) 923-4407

רפואה שלמה /

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

Mrs. Trude Kahn
Mrs. Rivka Rosenberg
Mr. Ira Schatten

Mrs. Monica Spier
Ms. Dulcie Zirkind

Condolences to:

Condolences to **Susi, Miriam, and Esther** and their families on the loss of their mother, our long-time member **Sary Lieber**

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Pesach-Tisha B'Av 5775

EREV PESACH/SHABBAT, FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Eat Chametz	before 10:35am
Destroy Chametz	before 11:40am
Candle Lighting	7:04pm
Mincha/Maariv	7:10pm
Kiddush	after 7:56pm
Afikoman	before 12:59am

SHABBAT/PESACH DAY 1, APRIL 4

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:05
Maariv	8:05

Candle Lighting for the second day
from an existing flame, not before 8:05

PESACH DAY 2, SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:10
Maariv/Yom Tov ends	8:06

LAST DAYS OF PESACH, THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Candle Lighting	7:11
Mincha/Maariv	7:20

PESACH DAY 7/EREV SHABBAT, FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Shacharit	8:40
Candle Lighting for Shabbat and Yom Tov from an existing flame, not after	7:12
Mincha/Maariv	7:15

SHABBAT/PESACH DAY 8, APRIL 11

Shacharit	8:40
Yizkor	approx. 10:00
Mincha	6:55
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:13

Do not eat chametz that has been sold

until 1.5 hours after the end of Shabbat/
Yom Tov

YOM HASHOA, APRIL 16

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM, PARASHAT SHMINI, APRIL 17-18

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:19
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:30*
Candle Lighting	7:19
Shema	after 8:12
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:20
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:21

YOM HAZIKARON, APRIL 22

YOM HA'ATZMAUT, APRIL 23

SHABBAT PARASHAT TAZRIA- METZORA, APRIL 24-25

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:24
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:35*
Candle Lighting	7:27
Shema	after 8:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:25
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:29

SHABBAT PARASHAT ACHREI- MOT/KEDOSHIM, MAY 1-2

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:30
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:40*
Candle Lighting	7:34
Shema	after 8:28
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:35
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:38

LAG B'OMER, MAY 7

SHABBAT PARASHAT EMOR, MAY 8-9

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:35
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:50*
Candle Lighting	7:41
Shema	after 8:36
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:40
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:46

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT BEHAR-BECHUKOTAI, MAY 15-16

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:41
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:55*
Candle Lighting	7:48
Shema	after 8:44
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:50
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:54

YOM YERUSHALAYIM, MAY 17

SHABBAT PARASHAT BAMIDBAR, FRIDAY, MAY 22

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:46
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:55
Shema	after 8:51

SHABBAT/EREV SHAVUOT, MAY 23

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:55
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:02
Candle Lighting for Shavuot Day 1 from a pre-existing flame, not before	9:02

SHAVUOT DAY 1, SUNDAY, MAY 24

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:00
Maariv	9:03
Candle Lighting for Shavuot Day 2 from a pre-existing flame, not before	9:03

SHAVUOT DAY 2, MONDAY, MAY 25

Shacharit	8:40
Yizkor	approx. 10:00
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Yom Tov ends	9:04

SHABBAT PARASHAT NASSO, MAY 29-30

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:51
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	8:01
Shema	after 8:58
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:00
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:09

SHABBAT PARASHAT BEHA'ALOTCHA, JUNE 5-6

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:55
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:06
Shema	after 9:04
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:14

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM, PARASHAT SH'LACH, JUNE 12-13

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:59
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:10
Shema	after 9:08
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:19

SHABBAT PARASHAT KORACH, JUNE 19-20

Earliest Candle Lighting time	7:01
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:12
Shema	after 9:11
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:21

SHABBAT PARASHAT CHUKAT, JUNE 26-27

Earliest Candle Lighting time	7:02
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:13
Shema	after 9:12
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:22

SHABBAT PARASHAT BALAK, JULY 3-4

Earliest Candle Lighting time	7:02
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:13
Shema	after 9:11
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:21

FAST OF SHIVA ASAR B'TAMMUZ, JULY 5

Fast begins	3:25am
Fast ends	9:11pm

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM, PARASHAT PINCHAS, JULY 10-11

Earliest Candle Lighting time	7:00
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:11
Shema	after 9:09

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:18

SHABBAT PARASHAT MATOT- MASEI, JULY 17-18

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:58
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:07
Shema	after 9:04
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:13

SHABBAT HAZON, PARASHAT DEVARIM, EREV TISHA B'AV JULY 24-25

Earliest Candle Lighting time	6:53
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	8:02
Shema	after 8:58
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	3:00
Fast begins	8:15
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:15

TISHA B'AV, JULY 25-26

Times to come

*For those whose families daven with the shul's minyan, candles should be lit no later than 25 minutes after Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat starts

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