

פסח 5781

Passover 2021

MARCH 27-APRIL 4, 2021 / NISAN 14-22, 5781



Shemot 12:15: "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day you shall remove leaven from your houses..."



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A Message from Rabbi Kalender

Pesach is a such a wonderful holiday, filled with our celebration of freedom, considerations of those who are not yet free, delicious food, and companionship. It's hard to believe that this will be our second COVID Pesach, and that's frustrating and painful. However, we learned a great deal last year. Some learned how to connect with others through technology, some learned how to lead their first seder, others discovered how to make matzah ball soup. We realized that even though it wasn't a 'normal year,' we are resilient and that our faith and customs are more powerful than the current obstacles.

The blessings of our religion and traditions, however, are that even amid the restrictions, Pesach will arrive. We will be able to celebrate the holiday and experience the familiar and comforting rituals. The Four Questions will still be asked, the matzah will still be crumbly, the marror bitter, and the charoset sweet. This is a holiday about redemption and dreams, suffering and its alleviation, about joy and perseverance.

Like every Pesach, this will be one to remember both because of the challenges we are facing and because of the triumphant ways we will surmount these obstacles to experience the power of the holiday. No matter the difficulties and frustrations, we will be another powerful link in the unbroken chain of our tradition. May God grant us the same strength, perseverance, and resiliency given to our ancestors and may we all find comfort around our seder tables this Pesach.

Rabbi David Kalender

Dishes, Utensils, Pots and Pans

Utensils used for baking during the year should be put away for the holiday.

Chinaware, enamelware, earthenware, porcelain, and plastic cannot be kashered. Only dishes and cooking utensils especially reserved for Pesach should be used, with the following exceptions:

Silverware, knives, forks, and spoons made wholly of metal can be kashered by a thorough cleaning and immersion in boiling water (known as *hagalah*). Any utensil which is to be kashered should not be used for a period of 24 hours between the cleansing and the actual kashering by immersion.

Here's how:

1. Bring a Pesach pot of water to a rolling boil
2. Dip the silverware into the water one piece at a time, until it is totally immersed (or you can do several in a net bag).
3. They're kosher! When you polish them (what would Bubbe think), make sure you use Kosher-for-Pesach (new) polish.

Glassware

There are two acceptable methods for kashering glass:

- Immerse the glassware in room-temperature water for 72 hours, changing the water every 24 hours.

OR

- Clean them, then run them through a dishwasher cycle (the dishwasher must have already been scrubbed).

Though it is not easy to balance Pesach preparation with *chametz* meals, it certainly can lead one to creative solutions. Enjoy the warm weather and eat on the deck, or have a picnic on the lawn. Little things make it fun and keep you from constantly worrying about mixing things together.

10 EASY STEPS TO PREPARE YOUR KITCHEN FOR PESACH



1. Set aside a special Pesach area. Empty and clean only the number of cabinets you will need for Pesach food and utensils. Simply clean the outside of the others and tape them closed.

2. **Refrigerators** should be cleaned, inside and out. Some people also cover the shelves with foil. You should place a piece of foil in one area and keep your chametz food there until the onset of the holiday. Remember to reserve a place on your counters, too.

3. Decide how many days in advance you can do without your **oven** (what did we do before toaster ovens?). The oven is kashered by a thorough scrubbing and cleaning, followed by placing it on the highest heat for ½ hour. If it is self-cleaning, scrub, then run through a self-clean cycle. Speaking of toaster ovens, simply put them away for the holiday.

4. **Stoves** can be kashered by a thorough scrubbing, then turned on to the highest heat for 15 minutes.

5. **Dishwashers** can be kashered by scouring, not using for 24 hours, and then running it empty through a full cycle.

6. **Microwaves** can be kashered by a thorough scrubbing, then placing a glass of water inside and running it on high for a few minutes until the cavity fills with steam and the water disappears. A microwave that has a browning element cannot be kashered.

7. **Electrical appliances** can be kashered if the individual parts can be removed and kashered in the appropriate way (metal or glass). If the parts that come into contact with chametz cannot be removed, it cannot be kashered.

8. **Countertops** and **shelves** that will be used should be thoroughly cleaned. They should be covered with plastic, foil, shelf paper or vinyl tablecloths. If you have granite surfaces, simply clean them and pour boiling water over them.

9. A **metal sink** is kashered by a thorough cleaning and pouring boiling water over it. A **porcelain sink** should be cleaned, and a sink rack and dish basin used throughout the holiday, as a porcelain sink cannot be kashered.

10. Put your feet up and relax for a little while.

PERMITTED FOODS

WHAT SHALL WE EAT?

****The following do not require Kosher-for-Passover labels if purchased before Pesach:**

Sugar, pure tea, non-iodized salt, pepper, natural spices, frozen uncooked fruit and vegetables with no additives, and milk (however, if milk is purchased during Pesach, it must be K-for-P).

****The following do not require Kosher-for-Passover labels if purchased before or during Pesach:**

Fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, kosher fresh fish and meat.

****Don't be confused: the following do require Kosher-for-Passover labels:**

Canned or bottled fruit juices (even if they seem to be pure), canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, oils, dried fruit, candy, ice cream, yogurt, butter, cream cheese, and soda.

**** Last year, due to the pandemic and limitations on product availability, and in order to limit individuals having to check multiple stores, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, which determines Jewish Law for the Conservative movement, has stated that if you are unable to find an item below with a Kosher-for-Passover certification due to COVID-19, you may use it as long as it is newly purchased:**

Unflavored regular coffee and tea bags, pure oils, plain butter (salted or unsalted), whole or half pecans (not pieces), and OU/Star-K Raisins

PROHIBITED FOODS

WHAT SHALL WE NOT EAT?

- Leavened bread
- Cakes
- Biscuits
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Coffee with cereal derivatives in it
- Wheat
- Barley
- Oats
- Spelt
- Rye
- Any liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol





Kitniyot on Pesach

For nearly 700 years there has been one primary difference between the way Ashkenazim and Sefardim observe Passover: *Kitniyot*. *Kitniyot* are foods such as rice, legumes, and seeds. These foods are not *chametz*, but Ashkenazi Jews have refrained from eating them on Pesach since the Middle Ages for various reasons, including to avoid any mix-ups with forbidden flours.

Six years ago, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, which guides Conservative Jewish practice, issued a *teshuvah* (responsa) that permitted Ashkenazi Jews to eat *kitniyot* on Passover. It was a somewhat controversial decision, creating a new division, not just between Sefardim and Ashkenazim, but now between Ashkenazi Jews who will and won't eat *kitniyot* on Passover.

The 2015 *teshuvah* did give those who want to buy and eat *kitniyot* guidance on how to do so. The five main guidelines are as follows:

1. Fresh corn on the cob or beans are treated like other vegetables. They may be purchased before Pesach without concern of *chametz*.
2. Dried *kitniyot*, such as rice or dried beans, if not certified as Kosher-for-Passover, **must be sifted** before Pesach and checked for *chametz*. If any *chametz* is found, it should be discarded. The *kitniyot* may still be used on Pesach.
3. Canned *kitniyot* must be certified as Kosher-for-Passover.
4. Frozen, raw *kitniyot* may be purchased before Pesach, without certification, so long as it can be absolutely verified that no shared equipment was used. If not, the *kitniyot* must be inspected.
5. All processed foods need Kosher-for-Passover certification.

It is important to remember that *kitniyot* are not *chametz*. Anyone should feel comfortable in a home where the custom to eat *kitniyot* is observed and understand that eating in that home does not violate any observance of Passover.



Kitniyot on Pesach, continued

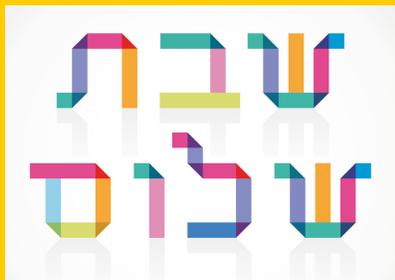
The lack of both *chametz* and *kitniyot* in our diets on Passover contributes to a feeling that everything about our lives, most notably our eating habits change dramatically during Pesach. Indeed for many of us, it is the foods of the holiday, the recipes, which have been handed down from great-grandparent to grandparent to parent to child, that define our emotional connections to the holiday, that make it a joyous day because we feel as though we are sitting at the seder table with our loved ones of generations past.

Yes, keeping Kosher-for-Passover can be difficult and challenging, even more so than keeping kosher during the rest of the year, but it is partly that challenge and that struggle that reminds us of what our ancestors endured in order for us to sit freely at each seder as we celebrate Pesach.

For me, observing these laws and customs, including avoiding *kitniyot*, connects me to the Biblical story as well as my family history.

Thankfully, *elu v'elu divrei Elohim chaim* - Judaism offers a multiplicity of paths towards meaning. One of the greatest strengths of the Conservative Movement is that there is a wide spectrum of ritual approaches to Jewish law and tradition. This means that regarding *kitniyot*, there is space that permits maintaining *minhag avoteinu*, the traditions of our ancestors, as well as a space for following the Sephardic tradition of eating those foods during Pesach. Both are valid approaches to maintaining a Kosher-for-Passover home and both are beautiful and meaningful ways of celebrating the holiday as long as one is scrupulous in avoiding *chametz*.

May we all continue to fuse our contemporary experiences with the beauty and power of tradition to access the very best of Jewish life.



THURSDAY, MARCH 25

- Fast of the Firstborn (except for Yom Kippur we don't fast on Shabbat and we never fast on a Friday)
- Do *Bedikat Chametz* (the Search for Chametz) after dark on this night. It is done just as you would any other year (see page 10).

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

- Do part of *Bi'ur Chametz*, the burning of *chametz*, this morning.
 - **Do not** recite the blessing before or after burning.
 - **Just burn** the *chametz* that you found last night. Either burn it as you usually do at home or join us at Geshet for the Community Chametz Burning from 10-11:30am. See details at olamtikvah.org/passover
- At candle lighting light an additional, long-burning candle (36-48 hours). This will serve as the existing flame (see page 13).
- See the panel to the right for guidance on the *motzi* on Friday night.

SHABBAT, MARCH 27

- **Bittul Chametz- Nullification of Chametz**- On Shabbat morning, we must nullify our *chametz* before 10:30am. You are encouraged to recite the 2nd paragraph normally said when burning the *chametz* (see page 10) before services. Rabbi Kalender will also recite it at the beginning of our service. Join via livestream at olamtikvah.org/livestream

FIRST SEDER, MARCH 27

- Passover begins when Shabbat ends at 8:11pm
- Havdalah is added **during Kiddush**. Follow the instructions in the Haggadah.

WHEN SHABBAT PRECEEDS PESACH

Just to complicate things...

When Pesach begins on Saturday night, as it does this year, there is a tension between the need to remove *chametz* before the holiday starts and to honor Shabbat observances. Nearly all the pre-Pesach rituals are impacted. Most notably, Shabbat too is modified as our houses must be prepared for Pesach before Shabbat begins.

What about my Shabbat challah, you ask? There are two *teshuvot* concerning the *motzi* for Shabbat dinner when Pesach begins on Saturday night.

The most straightforward option is to use **egg matzah** instead of challah. This is because we have started the process of nullifying the *chametz* and we had to sell our *chametz* before Shabbat began. We use egg matzah as it is not the type of matzah used at the seder. We say *only* the blessing of *HaMotzi Lechem Min HaAretz*, just as we would over challah.

Another option is to set aside a **challah** for your Shabbat meal. To prevent any crumbs from coming into contact with Pesach dishes, it is recommended that plastic or paper plates and cutlery be used. After the meal, the residue of *chametz* should be flushed away or otherwise disposed of since, of course, nothing can be burned on Shabbat. The tablecloth should be carefully removed from the table, shaken outside of the house, and then stored with the other *chametz*.

Shabbat Shalom!

Bedikat Chametz Searching for Chametz

This year our pre-Pesach rituals are performed early because of Shabbat. Therefore we search for *chametz* on the Thursday night before Pesach. After nightfall on Thursday, March 25, we search our homes for *chametz*. Any *chametz* still to be eaten should be put together in one designated area. For the search you will need a candle (or flashlight), a feather or old toothbrush, some newspaper, and a small bag. Place pieces of *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. In the room in which the search will begin, one should say,

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר
קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בְּעוֹר חֵמֶץ

“*Baruch atah, Adonai, Eloheinu melech haOlam asher kiddishanu 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, search the house for *chametz*, and use the feather or toothbrush to sweep it into the newspaper. Put all the *chametz* 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.”

Bi'ur Chametz Burning Chametz

The next morning, Friday, March 26, the *chametz* that was found in the search is burned. This year, we have partnered with Gesher Jewish Day School for a Community Chametz Burning on Friday, March 26 from 10:00-11:30am. Visit olamtikvah.org/passover to sign up to burn your *chametz* at Gesher.

On Shabbat morning, before 10:30am, we say: “All *chametz* in my possession whether I have seen it or not, whether I have noticed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.”

Remember, this year the *mitzvah* of searching for *chametz* includes the search on Thursday night, the renunciation of the ownership of *chametz* made at night, the burning of the *chametz* on Friday morning, and the second renunciation on Shabbat morning.



M'chirat Chametz

In preparation for Pesach, we rid our homes, cars, and work spaces of as much *chametz* as possible. However, that is virtually impossible! The rabbis recognized this and created a means by which we can fulfill this obligation, without throwing out pounds and pounds of food, and without being concerned with the small crumbs we may have missed. The ritual that was devised was to sell all the remaining *chametz* to someone who is not bound by the prohibitions of Pesach.

Olam Tikvah is happy to help facilitate this sale on your behalf. You can find the form to sell your *chametz* on the OT website at olamtikvah.org/passover. Please sell your *chametz* by 9:15am on Friday, March 26.

We will arrange to repurchase it for you at the end of the holiday, on Sunday, April 4 at 8:20pm.

Ta'anit Bechorim

Fast of the Firstborn

The Fast of the Firstborn (*Ta'anit Bechorim*) commemorates the horrific tenth plague that God inflicted on Pharaoh and the Egyptian people. After Pharaoh again refused to let the Children of Israel go, Moses warned of the impending plague that would see the death of every firstborn child in the land.

In recognition of this moment, when we are grateful the Israelite children were spared, we are also empathetic to the suffering of the Egyptians, and so first-born Jews fast, normally on Erev Pesach. When Passover begins on a Saturday night though, as it does this year, the fast gets pushed back to Thursday, as Yom Kippur is the only fast permitted on Shabbat and we never fast on a Friday.

As this is a minor fast, there is a widely practiced exemption: 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 piece of text, called a *siyyum* (conclusion).

The rabbis initiated the practice of studying a portion of text after morning services. After the study session it is permitted for those present to partake in the *siyyum*, and they are not required to fast for the rest of the day.

Unlike a communal prayer, studying and the celebration of that study **do not** require a minyan (10 individuals physically in the same place). Additionally, it is permissible to participate in a *siyyum* so long as one can hear the learning.

We invite you to participate in the Rabbinical Assembly's virtual *siyyum* on Thursday, March 25 at 8:00am or 10:30am. Visit olamtikvah.org/passover for details.



Brachot | Blessings

The first two nights & the eighth night

We light candles on the first two nights of Pesach, March 27 and 28, and on the last, April 3. On these nights the blessing we say is:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב

*Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu melech haOlam,
asher kiddishanu be'mitzvotav ve'tzivanu le'hadlik
ner shel Yom Tov*

She'hechyanu

On the first two nights of Pesach we also add the She'hechyanu blessing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזִמְנָן הַזֶּה

*Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu melech
haOlam, she'hechyanu ve'kiyemanu
ve'higgianu laz'man ha'zeh*

The seventh night

The 7th night, April 2, is also Shabbat. On this night the blessing we say is:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת וְיוֹם טוֹב

*Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu melech haOlam,
asher kiddishanu be'mitzvotav ve'tzivanu
le'hadlik ner shel Shabbat ve'Yom Tov*

An Extra Candle

On *Yom Tov* a flame may be transferred from one candle to another. Some have the custom of lighting a long-burning candle to serve as a pre-existing flame throughout the first and last two days of the holiday. There is no blessing for this candle. If you are going to use this candle, make sure to light it before Shabbat.

Havdalah at the Seder

A reminder that this Havdalah separates between two holy days, Shabbat and Passover, rather than Shabbat and a regular day. Thus, the liturgy for Havdalah is modified. For Havdalah follow the instructions in your Haggadah.



HAPPY PASSOVER!

Thursday, March 25

8:00am or 10:30am Fast of the Firstborn *Siyyum*
After Dark *Bedikat Chametz/Search for Chametz*

Friday, March 26

9:15am Last chance to sell your *chametz*
10:00am Community Chametz Burning at Gesher
7:09pm Shabbat candle lighting

Saturday, March 27

By 10:30am Nullify *chametz*
8:11pm Candle lighting followed by first seder

Sunday, March 28

10:00am-12:00pm Yom Tov Service
8:12pm Candle lighting followed by second seder

Monday, March 29

10:00am-12:00pm Yom Tov Service

March 30-April 2: Chol HaMoed Pesach

Friday, April 2

7:16pm Candle lighting for Shabbat and Yom Tov

Saturday, April 3

10:00am-12:00pm Shabbat/Yom Tov Service
8:17pm Candle lighting

Sunday, April 4

10:00am-12:00pm Yom Tov Service
8:17pm Passover ends
8:20pm *Chametz* is yours again!

Olam Tikvah will hold Shabbat and Yom Tov services during Passover via livestream and in-person, following all of our COVID guidelines and safety measures. To request to join the pool of attendees for Shabbat and/or Yom Tov services, visit olamtikvah.org/passover, or join us virtually at olamtikvah.org/livestream.

PESACH SCHEDULE



A ZISSEN PESACH

Pesach is the ultimate home holiday. It takes the most work, but it also allows us the most wonderful collection of home traditions.

This guide is meant to help walk you through the various rituals of home preparation. Don't hesitate to call or email with questions.

*Chag Kasher
& Sameach*

Rabbi Kalender