



our house

Passover - emancipation of the Israelites

Passover, the Jewish festival of freedom contains a message of hope to people everywhere who still live under dictators and totalitarian governments. To those of us who are privileged to live in a democracy, Passover brings a challenge.

Can we in our own lives experience an exodus from the bondage in which so many tyrants hold us? Is it not true that we who live in the land of freedom are still subject to inner pharaohs that hold us in chains.

On the day after a snowstorm a manufacturer of tire chains ran an ad in the newspaper that urged, "Check Your Chains". The message of Passover tells us to check our chains, the chains that keep us in bondage and prevent us from exercising our human freedom.

Some of us are chained by blind prejudice, that keeps us from seeing people as they really are.

Some of us are enslaved to tyrannical habits that rule over us with an iron fist.

Some of us are imprisoned by greed and mean ambition, by status and pursuing phony values.

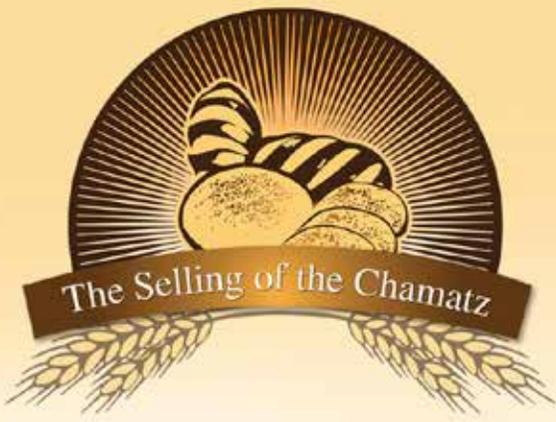
Some of us are shackled by jealousy sours us and self doubt that this disables us.

Mark Twain told the exasperating but encouraging story of the man who spent

many a long, hard years in prison only to walk out one morning when he discovered that the doors had never been locked.

We who spend years imprisoned by the chains we ourselves forged can, if we try, open the doors and walk out into the sunshine of freedom to which Passover encourages us.





The “Selling” of the Chamatz (Leavened and Non-Passover Foods)

In the Haggadah it says: on all other nights we eat chamatz or matzah, but on this night we only eat matzah. How can we understand eliminating the consumption of bread and other leavened products during Passover?

All year long we have around us essential, as well as, not so necessary things. At Passover time, we honor only what is

fundamental and what is most basic to sustain us. When we eliminate chamatz from our diets, and only eat matzah, we remind ourselves of what is truly important in life.

One of the central rituals at Passover time involves the removal of chamatz from our homes. We do our best to clean out from our kitchens, drawers and pockets of any and all amounts of chamatz. Any leavened products and non-Passover foods in boxes or cans, according to the custom, are to be “sold” to a non-Jewish person. This act transfers ownership of that food to the person with whom we signed a contract. We can “sell our chamatz” symbolically as well.

If you would like more information about the “selling of chamatz”, as well as a contract to create the transaction, please see the link below.

<http://www.chabadworld.net/page.asp?pageID=421F422A-98FC-42FF-8615-285BDE6B4C23&act=search&selArchive=2&selKw=sell&selDisplay=1>

Passover in the Bible

There is a verse in the Bible that expresses the mood of Passover more than any other. In the Book of Exodus, chapter 22 verse 21 we read: “For you were strangers in the land of Egypt”.(ki gayrim heyitem be-eretz mitzrayim.) The text wants us to empathize with our history and the plight of our people in the days of Moses.

Another reason for the importance of remembering this historical circumstance is they we are taught that one of the most difficult of human conditions is to be a stranger. To be a stranger is to be alone, cut off , even near death. On the other hand, the condition of the greatest human satisfaction is to belong, to be a part of something, to be accepted.

It is no accident that Passover is celebrated through the Seder in which we come together as families ,as Jews and as members of a larger community. When we celebrate Passover we are making a statement that we are no longer strangers, that we are part of something sacred, something unique and something eternal. As a Jewish people we are united by common memories, by common experiences.

The Seder is celebrated in the home because Jews understand that the family and the home give us our greatest sense of belonging. It is a reminder of the life giving spiritual resources our relationships provide us.

If we find ourselves this time of year estranged from a family member, a friend or our people, may we commit ourselves to be strangers no more.

Follow
the **Blog**

Rabbi Cove's Weekly Blog Post

See what Rabbi Cove has to say about a variety of topics.

http://beiteinu.org/rabbi_s_blog

Community

Meet the Olhasso Family:

Beiteinu
Community



One of the first families to join the Beiteinu family was the Olhasso family. Alizabeth, David, Nathan, and Miranda Olhasso have shared their energy, creativity, and positive spirit with us.

Liz and Dave met at college at Rensselaer. Dave is a computer systems engineer and Liz is an environmental engineer working for the EPA. They have been married for 20 years. From the beginning of their budding relationship Liz and Dave spoke openly about their differing faiths. In their ability to embrace each other's traditions, as Liz has always said: "We have a lot to celebrate". Indeed, Nathan (now age 14) was a bar mitzvah last year and, Miranda (age 11), will celebrate her bat mitzvah next year. At Christmas time the Olhasso's have a tree and at Hanukkah, they have a menorah. Liz's birthday which falls on Saint

Patrick's Day, allows the family to celebrate with a huge party, featuring corned beef and cabbage and lots of costumes. Passover Seders, are of course, also a part of the family rituals.

When the Olhasso family is not at home in Holland Pennsylvania, there's a good chance they are visiting family up on Lake Winnepesaukee. Liz's parents have the pleasure of seeing family several times a year. This summer, the entire family will be traveling to Amsterdam to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Nathan and Miranda's grandparents. They look forward to visiting the Anne Frank house, the Van Gogh Museum and eating one of their favorite foods of all time – poffertjes; a small pancake smothered with butter and powdered sugar. When the Olhasso's first joined the Beiteinu, they expressed a desire to have Miranda continue her Jewish education. After multiple conversations and phone calls to other families, Alizabeth and several other families were able to form the first Beiteinu classroom. Hebrew, holidays, Jewish values and pizza are all part of the Beiteinu classroom experience. The first gathering held at the Olhasso's took place in November. Alizabeth says: "Beiteinu feels like family. It's the relationships that matter most" Beiteinu is truly blessed to have this loyal, involved, and caring family be part of our Beiteinu family

Thank you Dave, Liz, Nathan and Miranda!

Minyanim Every Thursday 7:30am

Meet us in Yardley, where we start the day with prayer, Torah study, thought-provoking conversations, and reflection.

Worship is followed by breakfast and friendly conversation.

Please call **Rabbi Cove** at **267.243.8155** or email him at **rabbi@beiteinu.org**





Fred & Harriet Cove

Ark Dedication

On Friday night, February 6th, at the Quaker meeting House in Yardley, members of the Beiteinu community witnessed a beautiful service to dedicate our new Torah mantle cover. It was dedicated in lasting memory to Fred and Harriet Cove. We know that the mantle cover will beautify Beiteinu services and our ark for many years to come. It will bring much aesthetic pleasure to those who worship with us in the future.

Passover Recipes

Whether you are a meat-eater or vegetarian these links below have some great ideas to make your Passover gathering something to remember!

25 Vegetarian Passover Recipes

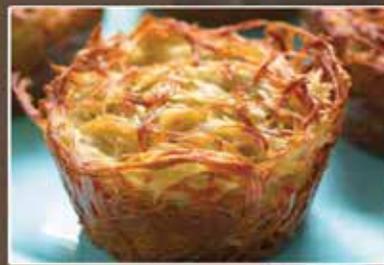
<http://kosheronabudget.com/25-vegetarian-passover-recipes/>

10 Best Passover Desserts

<http://kosheronabudget.com/my-10-favorite-passover-desserts/>

Other Passover Recipes

<http://kosheronabudget.com/kosher-recipe-index/>



December Trip to Israel

Rabbi Cove is making tentative plans for a pilgrimage to Israel. He is planning a trip from late December 2015 into the early days of January 2016. If you have any interest or know of anyone who might be interested in this experience of a lifetime, please notify the Rabbi by phone call or email as soon as possible.



Purim Review

Some say the celebration of Purim is like Mardi Gras or Halloween. At Beiteinu, the celebration of Purim took on the theme of a 1970s disco. To quote the title song from Donna Summer: We were "Hot Stuff". We say to Queen Esther and Mordacai, the heroes of the Purim story, and all others who sacrificed for Jewish survival; thank you for helping us "Stayin Alive"!

BEITEINU
Shabbat on
the beach

What do you get when you combine an 80° late summer afternoon, the ocean, a sandy beach under your feet, candlelight, friendly and kind people, beautiful music and prayer, followed by wine, cheese and good conversation? The answer: Beiteinu at the beach.

Our second annual celebration of Shabbat at the Jersey shore will take place on August 14th at 7 PM. More details will follow. Please check the Beiteinu website or Facebook page for information in the months to come.



Important Dates

2015 Scheduled Events:

Friday, April 3rd

Community Seder *Passover – First Night*

Wednesday, April 15th

Yom HaShoah begins at sunset

Friday, April 17th

Shabbat Services - Quaker Meeting, Yardley

Friday, May 15th

Shabbat Services - 139 Rose Lane, Haverford

Friday, May 22nd

Shabbat Services - Quaker Meeting, Yardley

Friday, June 12th

Shabbat Services - Quaker Meeting, Yardley
Last scheduled Yardley Shabbat Services

Friday, June 19th

Shabbat Services - (TBD Montgomery County)

Friday, August 14th

Shabbat Services at the Beach - Margate, NJ
(pending confirmation)

Sunday, September 13th

New Year's Under the Stars - 6:00 – 8:30 pm
ACE Conference Center, Lafayette Hill, PA

Monday, September 14th

Rosh Hashanah Services - 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
ACE Conference Center, Lafayette Hill, PA

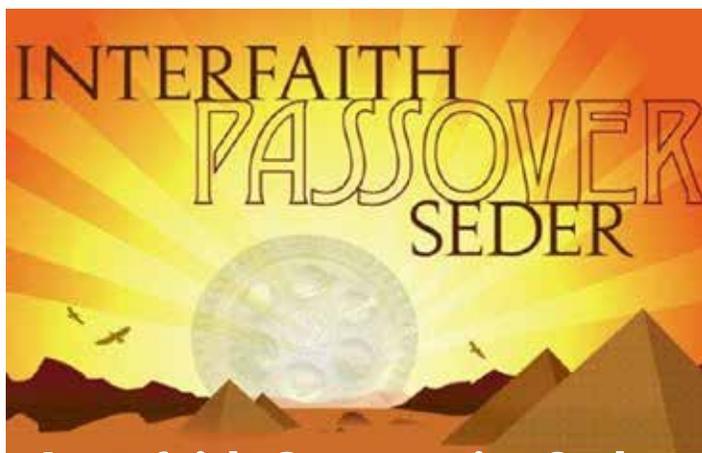
Tuesday September 22nd

Kol Nidre - 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
ACE Conference Center, Lafayette Hill, PA

Wednesday September 23rd

Yom Kippur Yizkor 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
ACE Conference Center, Lafayette Hill, PA

Dates, times and locations may change after this newsletter is sent out. Please double-check the website for times, locations and other events.



Interfaith Community Seder Tuesday, April 7th at 6pm

Church at the Mall - Plymouth Meeting Mall
500 Germantown Pike
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

A complete kosher meal provided as well as a Seder lead by Rabbi Howard Cove. We are fortunate to have teachings by other faith leaders as well.

Price \$26.00

RSVP to Meryl: shonemanfamily@comcast.net
Rabbi Howard Cove: 267-243-8155



Book a Meeting & Save



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VALID ONLY FOR NEW BOOKINGS TAKING PLACE
THROUGH APRIL 5, 2015 AND BASED ON AVAILABILITY.

CONTACT LANAY ZARALLO
610-940-4783

Passover Trivia:

(Answers on next page)

This Passover trivia quiz has 12 multiple-choice questions. Answers to the Passover trivia questions can be found at the end of the quiz. Enjoy and share them with your Jewish friends.

- 1. The Passover holiday is a commemoration of which significant event in Jewish (biblical) history?**
 - a) The re-dedication of the (2nd) Holy Temple in Jerusalem
 - b) The deliverance of the Jewish people from Haman
 - c) The exodus of the Jews (slavery) from Egypt
- 2. In Israel, Passover typically lasts for how many days?**
 - a) 3
 - b) 7
 - c) 8
 - d) 10
- 3. On the Jewish calendar, which of these holidays is celebrated before Passover?**
 - a) Hanukkah
 - b) Rosh Hashanah
 - c) Yom Kippur
 - d) Purim
- 4. Which event in the New Testament was connected to Passover?**
 - a) Jesus' Birth
 - b) Baptism of Jesus
 - c) The Last Supper
 - d) None of these
- 5. What is Passover seder?**
 - a) A traditional/ritual feast
 - b) A special prayer recited during services in synagogues
 - c) A fast
 - d) A public reading of a holy book
- 6. The traditional bread consumed during Passover is _____.**
 - a) Malawach
 - b) Matzo
 - c) Bialy
 - d) Challah
- 7. How many cups of wine one is required to consume in a traditional Passover meal?**
 - a) 8
 - b) 7
 - c) 4
 - d) 3
- 8. In the story of Passover, who (as commanded by God) helped free the Jews from slavery and lead them out of Egypt?**
 - a) Moses
 - b) King David
 - c) Judah Maccabee
 - d) Solomon
- 9. According to traditions, the Jews were freed from slavery after the Egyptians suffered the Ten Plagues. What was the first plague?**
 - a) Hordes of frogs overran Egypt
 - b) A disease that killed all of Egyptian livestock
 - c) Water in the Nile turned into blood
 - d) A swarm of locusts attacked Egypt
- 10. Passover is one of three pilgrimage festivals. The other two are Shavuot and _____.**
 - a) Purim
 - b) Tu Bishvat
 - c) Rosh Hashanah
 - d) Sukkot
- 11. Passover falls on which month(s) in the Gregorian calendar?**
 - a) March
 - b) April
 - c) May
 - d) A or B
- 12. True or false. The special plate used in Passover seder is designed to contain or display 6 different food items.**

Please Donate

Beiteinu.org is a non profit organization. In the spirit of giving our mission includes providing financially challenged families and individuals the opportunity to worship with our congregation. For your convenience, you can donate to Beiteinu electronically on our website, beiteinu.org or write a check and send it to: **Beiteinu Charitable Trust**

P.O. Box 231, Haverford, PA 19041

Tell Us What You Think!

What you would like to see in this newsletter?
What activities you would like to do? Email your feedback to:

info@beiteinu.org

Learn With Us

As Beiteinu evolves and we identify specific interests and needs, classes and opportunities to learn will be organized. In the meantime, please check out the links we have provided to connect with local resources for intellectual, spiritual and creative growth:

[Gratz College](#)

[Interfaith Family](#)

[Tablet Magazine](#)



Answers to Passover Trivia Questions:

1)c 2)b 3)d 4)c 5)a
6)b 7)c 8)a 9)c
10)d 11)d 12)True

Classifications:

of correct answers

10-12 Master,
7-9 Expert,
4-6 Intermediate,
0-3 Novice

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