

Pesach Customs & Practices

When: Pesach begins on Monday, April 18th at night, and lasts through the day of Tuesday, April 26th.

Prohibition of Chametz: It is not only forbidden to eat *chametz* on Pesach, it is also forbidden to have *chametz* in our possession or in our sight. Therefore, a thorough cleaning of all places where *chametz* may be found is required by the night of Sunday, April 17. What is required is to clean all places where *chametz* may be found, used or stored in our homes, basement, pantries, offices, cars, purses and book bags. Don't forget your talit bag! Spring cleaning of rooms and areas that never have *chametz* there is not necessary. *Chametz* products that we are not consuming or throwing away before Pesach should be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Dishes and utensils used for *chametz* should also be stored separately in order to avoid the mistaken use of these during Pesach.

Kitchen Preparation: We only use Pesach dishes, utensils and cookware on Pesach. The kitchen counters and appliances must be made Kosher for Pesach before any food for Passover is prepared in or on them. The **kashering** process differs for each appliance or utensil, and some may not be koshered at all. Please consult a reliable source for the laws and method of kashering, and do not hesitate to ask the rabbi for assistance. Many of the major supervising agencies have kashering guides on their web sites. Kashering must be completed before you burn the *chametz*.

Shopping: Buy only products with a Kosher for Passover label from a reliable supervisory organization. The primary reliable agencies are the OU, the Star-K, the Chof-K, the OK, and KAJ. Many other supervisory agencies are also acceptable, but consult the rabbi before purchasing a product with a kashrut symbol that you do not know if it is acceptable. Many products can be used on Pesach without a special marking, and most of the kashrut agencies have lists of these on their web sites. When in doubt, please ask the rabbi for assistance.

Mechirat Chametz - Selling of the Chametz: The *chametz* that we have not consumed or disposed of before Pesach may not remain in our possession during the holiday. In order to avoid undue hardship or a large economic loss, arrangements can be made to sell the *chametz* to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. As indicated above, all *chametz* remaining in your home must be stored in a closed or covered cabinet. Non-Passover utensils can be stored separately since we do not need to sell these. In order to execute a legally and halachically binding sale, you must complete the authorization form found in this *ChaiLine* and submit it by 10:00 am on Monday, April 18. It is preferable to do this in person, but forms submitted to the office or by mail are also acceptable.

Bedikat Chametz – Search for Chametz: We check the house and search for any *chametz* that we may not have found during our cleaning after nightfall on Sunday, April 17. It is customary to place 10 pieces of *chametz* around the house prior to the search to make sure that our search is complete. Any *chametz* that we find during our search should be stored or disposed, except for that which we plan to burn the next morning. Before beginning the search we recite a blessing, and following the search we recite a statement of nullification for any *chametz* that we may not have found. The

blessing and nullification can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

Ta'anit Bechorim- Fast of the First Born: The fast of First Born is held on Erev Pesach, Monday, April 18, to commemorate their deliverance from death during the tenth plague in Egypt. It is customary for the first-born to participate in a meal served in celebration of a *mitzvah*, such as a *Brit Mila* (circumcision) or *siyum* (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud). Those who attend one of these events celebrate with the partaking of refreshments and are then exempt from this fast. A *siyum* will be held at Beth David following *Shacharit* services.

Bi'ur Chametz – Burning the Chametz: It is prohibited to eat *chametz* on Erev Pesach, Monday, April 18 after 10:47 am. All *chametz* must be removed from our possession and the *chametz* found the night before during the search must be burned by 11:54 am. A statement of nullification of any *chametz* not found or disposed is recited at the time of burning. The statement can be found in a siddur or Haggadah.

Matzah and food on Erev Pesach: It is forbidden to eat matzah during the entire day of Erev Pesach in order that we may hunger for the taste of matzah at the Seder. Under some conditions, foods containing matzah meal may be eaten, as well as egg matzah, which we generally do not eat on Pesach. Please consult the rabbi for specifics. After 4:20 pm we may only eat small quantities of fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs or fish.

Seder Preparation: The special foods for the Seder plate for both *Sedarim* should be prepared during the day of Erev Pesach. The *Kiddush* at the Seder may not be recited until after nightfall on either night. The *afikoman* should be eaten before 1:02 AM. Some people have the custom of beginning *sefirat ha'omer* – the counting of the omer – at the second Seder instead of counting during the evening service.

After Pesach: *Chametz* that was owned by a Jew during Pesach may not be consumed, even after Pesach. The *chametz* that you arranged to have been sold before Pesach will be returned to your possession at approximately 9:40 pm on Tuesday, April 26. Price Chopper is Jewish owned and arranged for its *chametz* to be sold to a non-Jew through the Albany Vaad Hakashrut. Weis Markets is Jewish owned and the *chametz* in all the local stores was sold by me, while the stores in other areas have been arranged with other rabbis. The *chametz* at the local JCC, Hillel Academy and our synagogue was sold by me. Friendly's Ice Cream outlets are Jewish owned and arranged for its *chametz* ice cream products to be sold to a non-Jew through Rabbi Shaya Kilimnick of Beth Sholom Congregation in Rochester, NY.

This information is accurate as of time of publication. If there are any changes which will affect the ability to purchase or consume *chametz* from or these businesses, I will inform the congregation by e-mail. *If you do not receive e-mail updates from the synagogue, please send a request to rabbisilber@stny.rr.com to be added to our distribution list*



Binghamton Emerges at OU Fair

Armed with boxes of literature, a Power Point presentation, raffle tickets, carousel and city landscape displays, a gorgeous table covering, unwavering smiles and positive energy, an enthusiastic delegation from Beth David Synagogue descended upon the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City for the Orthodox Union's Third Annual Emerging Communities Fair on Sunday, March 27th.

Stationed with 37 other communities from across the United States, our contingent - clad in green shirts with the word "Binghamton" written in Hebrew on the front and "The Top Ten Reasons To Call Binghamton Your Home" on the back - quite effectively conveyed to fairgoers who were looking to move out of the New York - New Jersey metropolitan area the availability of quite a few jobs, very affordable housing, culture, sports, accessibility, superior education, cohesive Jewish community and other features that all add up to why we believe the Greater Binghamton Jewish and overall community is a wonderful place to call home. Quite a few attendees registered with us and one couple e-mailed right after the Fair to express their interest in our community.

So, the groundwork has been laid, the seeds have been planted. It is now time to follow up and keep the connection alive with our newly discovered prospective Binghamtonians. Let's keep the momentum going and help make our shul - and our community - grow.

~Aaron Alweis
Chair - Beth David Emerging
Communities Committee

Thank You

A very special thank you to all those who have sponsored and/or enhanced Kiddushim, Shabbat lunches, Seudah Shlishit, and the *ChaiLine*. This is just a small way to say you are appreciated.

Sunday May 8 • Save the date!

Write it down now so you don't forget.

This is rumored to be the best event so far by the resuscitated BD Men's Club. We are planning a special

Mother's Day Event

What's the big deal you ask? Plans are so secret, I haven't even told myself, but read closely and I will leak a little information, but only to you my reader. (Volunteer/volunteers, puleeeze call Charlie!). The food will be the Men's Club's Finest (No Schmaltz, No Baloney). Great conversation and camaraderie will abound. Who knows what celebrities might attend? Stay tuned to this and other publications for the full details. Be there, don't be square.

Mitzvah Fund

Toby Kohn, 754-4297 or tgkohn@stny.rr.com

Sisterhood acknowledges contributions to the Mitzvah Fund wishing:

Mazel Tov to:

Susan & Michael Wright on the birth of their new grandson
Susan & Michael Wright on Davida's recovery
Marilyn Bell on her son, David's, new job
Ami & Sarah Lynn Adamit on Gilad's engagement to Batsheva Davis
Meryl & Harold Sasnowitz on grandson, Meir, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Refuah Sheleimah to:

Lynne Manasse Leon Feldhamer

Condolences to:

Charles Gilinsky & Family in memory of his mother, Yetta
Carol Herz & Family in memory of James
Alan Piaker & Family in memory of aunt Faye Gerstein
Carol Bell in memory of her brother, Neil
Marge Kaufman in memory of her mother, Sylvia Josephson

NCSY Update

- The weekend of March 25-27 was spent wisely for three local teens.
- Adele Lerner, Zach Baron and Elisa Alweis were in Rochester for
- Upstate New York NCSY's Regional Yarchei Kallah, where they
- spent their Shabbat learning about Pesach and catching up with
- friends. Yarchei Kallah is a chance to delve deeper into Torah study
- than most regional conventions. Another highlight of the weekend
- was hearing Sergeant Benjamin Anthony, a reservist in the IDF,
- speak about our duties as Jewish people to the Land of Israel. He
- also spent time with us speaking about anti-Semitism and how to
- prevent and address it. I think all attendees of the convention would
- agree that listening to Sgt. Anthony deeply affected us.
- Recent Binghamton NCSY events include sushi making, a
- "Friendly's ice cream and learn" and a bake sale. Upcoming events
- include the annual pre-Pesach car wash, a Pizza and Learning
- session and Regional Spring Convention. Look for future updates
- on the times and locations for these events.
- Chag Sameach from Binghamton NCSY!
- Elisa Alweis, President

Rummage Sale

Sisterhood is planning a Rummage/Recycle Sale to be held May 1, 2, and 3, at Beth David.

Your help is needed to set up the sale on Sunday morning, May 1, starting at 8:30 am, also for clean-up, starting at 11:30 on Tuesday, May 3. Neither session will take too long.

We also need merchandise.

Remember - No electronics or appliances that do not work; no incomplete games or puzzles; no torn or dirty clothing or linens and no broken or rusted items.

If the item is really trash please dispose of it.

Please call or e mail me to say you will volunteer
(729-3235, mserkin@stny.rr.com)

Thanks for all your help.

~Marlene Serkin