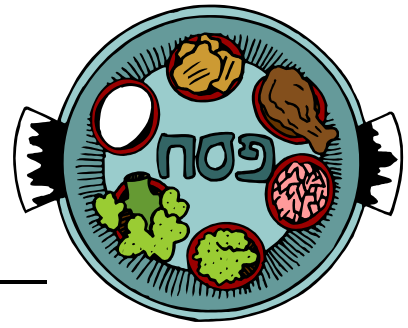


PASSOVER

SUPPLEMENT – 2010/5770



Forbidden Foods

The following foods are forbidden to Ashkenazic Jews during *Pesach*: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers; cereals, coffee substitutes derived from cereals; wheat, barley, oats, rice, dry peas, dry beans, and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. (Sephardic Jews have some different practices.)

Permitted Foods

Requiring no *kosher l'Pesach* label, the following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: natural coffee, sugar, tea, salt, pepper, and fresh vegetables (except peas and beans, although string beans are permitted on *Pesach*).

The following foods are permitted if certified for *Pesach* use by Rabbinical authority (have a *kosher l'Pesach* label): *matzah*, *matzah* flour, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, jams, cheese, jellies, relishes, dried fruits and vegetables, salad oils, vegetable gelatin, shortening, vinegar. Wines and liquors are permitted if certified by a Rabbinical authority as fit for *Pesach* use.

Dishes and Utensils

Only dishes and utensils specially reserved for *Pesach* should be used with the following exceptions: silverware made entirely of metal if used during the year may be used on *Pesach* if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking), if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on *Pesach*. They must first be thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. The utensils should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between their cleaning and immersion in boiling water.

Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used for Passover. Earthenware, enamelware and porcelain utensils used during the year may not be used. Fine translucent chinaware if not used for a year is permitted if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

Authorities disagree as to the method of koshering drinking glasses. One opinion requires soaking in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion requires only a thorough scrubbing before *Pesach* or putting them through a dishwasher. A dishwashing machine may be used for Passover after a thorough scouring and non-use for 24 hours. Authorities disagree whether a new tray is necessary.

The stove is prepared by a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of all parts, then turning on the ovens and all burners full-flame for one half hour. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned, then put through the self-cleaning cycle.

Continuous cleaning ovens must be *kashered* in the same manner as regular ovens.

Microwave ovens should be cleaned, and then a cup of water placed inside. The oven should be turned on until the water disappears. A microwave that has a browning element cannot be *kashered*. In all the above cases the appliance cannot be used for 24 hours prior to *kashering*.

If the parts of electrical appliances that come into contact with Hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way. If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered.

Non-Passover dishes, pots and *hametz* whose ownership has been transferred should be separated, locked up or covered and marked in order to prevent accidental use.

If you have specific questions, please contact our rabbis.

Bedikat Hametz

(The Search For and Burning of Leaven)

On the evening of Sunday, March 28, the Search for Leaven, *bedikat hametz*, is conducted. This is a ritual that symbolizes the final cleaning of the house of all *hametz*. It is customary to place pieces of bread in various rooms around the house before the search begins – remember how many pieces there are and where they are hidden! The search is conducted with a candle for light and a feather and wooden spoon to collect the *hametz*. The *hametz*, feather and wooden spoon should be put in a bag and set aside to be burnt in the morning.

In the morning – this year on March 29 – after eating our last meal of *hametz*, add any remains from breakfast to the bag of *hametz* from the previous night, and burn them outside the home. This is the final act of removal of *hametz* from our homes. *Hametz* should be burned by 9:45 a.m.

The appropriate prayers for the search for and destruction of *hametz* are found at the beginning of every *Haggadah*.

Mechirat Hametz (Sale Of The Hametz)

In addition to the thorough cleaning of the house before *Pesach*, we are commanded to completely free ourselves of leavened products. Anything made from wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt, which had a chance to leaven (rise or ferment), must be destroyed. Today a simple but meaningful tradition is followed:

- Each Jewish home must be cleaned before *Pesach*.
- The Rabbi contractually arranges for the sale of the *hametz* to a non-Jew so that it will, technically, be out of Jewish possession during *Pesach*.
- At the end of *Pesach*, everything in your stored-up area will be repurchased for your immediate use.

Please see Mark Stadler or use the form below to sell your *Hametz*. Please contact Mark no later than Sunday morning, March 28. A voluntary contribution should be made upon selling *Hametz*. All gifts will be added to our *Maot Chitim* fund.

Maot Chitim (Portions of Wheat). It is traditional for Jews who have been blessed by the Almighty to make sure that their less fortunate brethren have all that is necessary to celebrate a joyous *Pesach*.

Special funds for this purpose, known as *Maot Chitim*, are collected in synagogues through the world. Beth El participates in this activity. If you would like to make a contribution to the *Maot Chitim* fund, please mail it directly to the synagogue, or bring it in personally, and earmark it accordingly. These funds will be distributed to the Greater Chicago *Maot Chitim* and other institutions that provide *Pesach* food to the less fortunate.

Maot Chitim Delivery

Please plan to participate with the Greater Chicago *Maot Chitim* in the delivery of packages on Sunday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more details and directions, go to www.maotchitim.org or www.nssbethel.org.

Siyyum Bechorim (Fast of the Firstborn)

At the Minyan service Monday, March 29, at 6:30 a.m. the ceremony of *siyyum bechorim* will take place in the Field Family Sanctuary, led by Rabbi Vernon Kurtz. It is customary for the first-born male to fast on the day preceding Passover. In place of the fast, however, tradition developed the practice of concluding a portion of study of a Rabbinic text after which celebration and feasting takes place. The *siyyum bechorim* ceremony is the means of obviating the need for a fast. We encourage all first-born males to attend.

Detach and send to: Mark Stadler, NSS Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, IL 60035

I, (please print name) _____ hereby authorize Rabbi Vernon Kurtz to act as my agent to sell *Hametz* that may be in my possession wherever it may be at home, place of business or elsewhere in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish law.

My home address is:

My office address is:

Signed:

Date:

I enclosed \$ for *Maot Chitim* (list amount)