

Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

1741 East 3rd Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 • 718-375-3895 • www.ahavathachimonline.org
Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America



March 2013
Pesach 2013-5773



PASSOVER NEWSLETTER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FIRST DAYS

MONDAY MARCH 25

MINCHA & MAARIV 6:55 P.M.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26-27

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 6:55 P.M.

CHOL HAMOED

THURSDAY & FRIDAY MARCH 28-29

SCHACHARIS 6:15 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 6:55 P.M.

SATURDAY MARCH 30

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

TENTATIVE TALMUD CLASS 5:55 P.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 6:55 P.M.

SUNDAY MARCH 31

SCHACHARIS 8:00 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:00 P.M.

LAST DAYS

MONDAY APRIL 1

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY APRIL 2

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

YISKOR 10:00 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:00 P.M.

THE HERESY OF THE EVIL SON

We all remember the notion that there are four sons portrayed in the Haggadah. One is the evil son. He says that the exodus occurred for you- the clear implication is that this event has no relevance for him. For this observation the Haggadah not only deems him evil but a heretic. The question has been asked what is so heretical about this comment? Evil he no doubt is since he separates himself from the Jewish people but what is the heresy?

Rabbi Pilichowski in his work *The Moadim* gives a simple answer. The Sabbath teaches us about the creator who can fashion a universe *ex nihilo* (out of nothing) but who says the Divine is interested in us, in our behavior. That is what the evil son is objecting to. Not only is he separating himself from the Jewish people but also denying Judaism by saying in effect the Almighty doesn't influence and care about what we do- This is truly heretical!

Chag kosher va samaach,
Rabbi Ari Kagan

SELLING YOUR CHOMETZ

There are two prohibitions on chametz during Passover per Torah prohibitions. That is why every Jewish home is thoroughly cleaned of chametz before Passover. To avoid the financial loss which would accompany destruction of large amounts of chametz, we may remove it from our possession by selling to a non-Jew. Your Rabbi serves as your agent in the transaction to make sure the sale is valid according to Jewish law and to assure the repurchase of the Chametz which had been yours after the conclusion of the holiday. See Rabbi Kagan and do it today!

SHABBOS HAGADOL DROSHA

This year the abbreviated drosha will be delivered during the morning services on Shabbos March 23. This sermon will hopefully be informative, delving in some depth into the topic that will be discussed. Join us for some enlightenment and inspiration.

YOUR PASSOVER TIME TABLE

Bedikas Chametz: The first mitzvah relating to Passover takes place on the evening of Sunday March 24. Just after dark on that evening, a final search for chametz is made to the light of a candle. It is customary to distribute 10 pieces of bread throughout the house to be found during the search. The bracha said at the time of the search may be found in most siddurim and Haggadahs. The chametz gathered during the search is then set aside for burning the following morning.

Siyum Bechorim: The last of the ten plagues was the slaying of the Egyptian first born. The first born of the Israelites, however were spared. To commemorate this miracle it is the practice for the first born, bechor, to fast. This fast occurs this year on March 25. However participation in a Seudas Mitzvah such as a seuda at the conclusion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud (siyum) removes the requirement to fast. Led by an esteemed member, the siyum will follow the morning service at 6 : 15 a.m.

Bior Chametz: At about 11:48 a.m. on Monday March 25, the chametz collected during the previous evening is destroyed by burning. The prohibition of eating chametz includes also part of Erev Pesach as well. Thus chametz may be eaten only during the first third of the day; until no later than 10:34 a.m., Monday March 25.

FROM OUR SISTERHOOD

Our Holy Sages o.b.m. have said : “The term strength refers only to Torah,” and if the People of Israel keep the Torah, surely they will be blessed with peace, as it is written”Its (Torah's) ways are ways of pleasantness, and its paths are peace.” (Source: The *Ben Ish Chai* on the last 2 lines of the Grace after meals).

We wish a Happy Passover to all!

CONDOLENCE

The sisterhood of Ahavath Achim deeply feel sorrow and mourn the loss of our president, Mrs. Lee Hecht, o.b.m. She was the anchor of our sisterhood, and she surely kept the Torah. We will miss her dearly.

May her family know of no more sorrow.

WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

CONDOLENCE

To the Bomzer family on the loss of our member and President of the Rabbinical Board of Flatbush, Rabbi Herbert Bomzer.

As noted above, to the Hecht and Rich families on the loss of the President of our sisterhood, Mrs. Lee Hecht

May we merit the redemption and the resurrection of the dead, speedily in our day!

