

Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

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Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America



April 2015
Pesach 2015-5775



PASSOVER NEWSLETTER **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

FIRST DAYS

FRIDAY APRIL 3

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:05 P.M.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY APRIL 4-5

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:05 P.M.

CHOL HAMOED

MONDAY- THURSDAY APRIL 6-9

SCHACHARIS 6:15 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:10 P.M.

LAST DAYS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 10-11

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:10 P.M.

WHY IS IT CALLED SHABBOS HAGADOL

There are several Sabbaths that are appended with an adjective. For example: Shabbos Tshuva; Shabbos Shira to name just two. The Sabbath before Pesach is called Shabbos hagadol, the great Sabbath. Some in a jocular vein suggest when the rabbi gives a lengthy sermon it is great in length. It is most likely taken from one of the early words in the Haftora.

Yet some suggest that what makes it great is that the Jewish people exhibited greatness. As opposed to the initial encounters of Moses leadership where the Jewish people either ignored him or hurled complaints- here when told to take a sheep which would be the Paschal sacrifice, an animal venerated by Egypt, they did it. Here they exhibited self sacrifice; this was worthy of making them suitable for redemption. As opposed to at best being passive and allowing Moses to act they took the risky step of taking the sheep and following through.

We too are faced from time to time a similar predicament. We can act in the way of Torah and Halacha dictates and be subject to derision and ridicule by society at large or we can take the safe route and be a "Jew at home and a gentile in the street". Such behavior may make us less worthy in the eyes of the divine. Let us always make the right choice.

Chag kosher va sammaach,
Rabbi Ari Kagan

SELLING YOUR CHOMETZ

There are two prohibitions on chametz during Passover. 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 now and do it today!

SHABBOS HAGADOL DROSHA

This year the abbreviated drosha will be delivered during the morning services on Shabbos March 28 . This sermon will hopefully be informative, delving in some depth into the 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 Thursday April 2. 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 April 3 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 6:20 a.m.

Biur Chametz: At about 11:43 a.m. On Friday, April 3, 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 10:28 a.m., Friday April 3.

FROM OUR SISTERHOOD

The Hagaddah's DaYeiNu composition is introduced with a phrase that asks "how many stages of benevolence did the Omnipresent grant us?". The Malbim explains that one should read the word "Ma-aLos" as praises rather than as stages of benevolence. Thus, the phrase would read "how many praises do we owe the Omnipresent?".

For each kindness done to us we owe HaShem many, many praises with all of our being. How many more praise do we owe HaShem for all the kindnesses that he has done for us?

We wish a happy and healthy Pesach to one and all!

WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

MAZAL TOV

To Mr. & Mrs. Yakov Weitz on the birth of a baby boy.