

# Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

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Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America



April 2016  
Pesach 2016-5776



## PASSOVER NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### FIRST DAYS

FRIDAY APRIL 22

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:20 P.M.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY APRIL 23-24

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:25 P.M.

### CHOL HAMOED

MONDAY- THURSDAY APRIL 25-28

SCHACHARIS 6:15 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:25 P.M.

### LAST DAYS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 29-30

SCHACHARIS 8:45 A.M.

MINCHA & MAARIV 7:30 P.M.

## THE THREE CONCEPTS THAT GET SPECIAL ATTENTION

There are 3 concepts which require more elaborate explanation at the seder; the korban Pesach (Paschal sacrifice); matza and maror (bitterherbs). The question becomes why these three elements? Moreover, if you look at the Haggadah you see reasons for these mitzvos, something the Torah rarely does although the Torah is a rational work.

The great twentieth century rabbinic authority, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein o.b.m. Explains that these 3 concepts represent the Jewish outlook on life.

1. The Paschal sacrifice teaches us the fundamental notion of Divine Providence. Egyptian firstborn were killed and we were spared. The application that he gives is if I drive to a destination and arrive safely this is not luck or even my driving acumen but rather what is responsible is a divine act which has protected me from all of the terrible drivers on the road.
2. Matza we eat because of its speed in preparation. So too we have to realize that no matter how difficult present circumstances may be in our lives we should not despair. Divine salvation can come in a blink of an eye. One should not be complacent either; just because you are successful now does not mean it will continue.
3. Marror teaches us that we should never be comfortable in golus or exile. You can have a viceroy in the palace and suddenly you are a slave.

We sit at the seder like free men and women but we must not forget the fundamentals of Jewish existence. The Divine interacts with us hopefully benevolently but we have a responsibility to be aware and acknowledge that reality and never get complacent.

*Chag kosher va sammaach,*  
Rabbi Ari Kagan

## **SELLING YOUR CHAMETZ**

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 April 16. 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 Thursday April 21. 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 22 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 11:34 a.m. On Friday, April 22, 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 10:14 a.m., Friday April 22.

## **FROM OUR SISTERHOOD**

We don't see Eliyahu coming to our seder, but we know he comes. Similarly, Rav Yaakov Ruderman ZT"L taught, we may not see the effects of the Mitzvos we do, but they are real, and the outcome is not limited time place or who benefits.

May the families of our shul have a happy and kosher Pesach.

## **MAZAL TOV**

To Mrs. Marlene Anteby on the birth of a granddaughter to Jeff & Glades Weg.