

*From the desk of
Rabbi Ze'ev Smason*



Moshe is a constant presence from the time he is introduced in the beginning of the Book of Exodus. It is puzzling to realize that with one exception, no mention of Moshe is found in the Haggadah. Not only did Moshe lead us out of Egypt, but he also took us to Mount Sinai where we received the greatest gift of our national life, the Torah. Together with Avraham, Moshe is arguably the individual most responsible for our Jewish existence and identity. The Midrash takes note of Moshe's omission when it says, "On the night of Pesach I sought out the beloved one of my soul, I sought him, Moshe, and could not find him." Why, then, is Moshe missing from the Haggadah?

Moshe undoubtedly plays a central role in the Passover story. However, on the night of Pesach we concentrate on expressing our gratitude to Hashem alone, since one of the principal themes of the Exodus is that it was Hashem Himself and not an intermediary who took us out of slavery. As the Haggadah says: "*Ani v'lo shliach — I, and not a messenger.*" It might be said that Moshe was the major human actor in the drama of the Exodus, yet on the Seder night we deliberately focus our attention on the Divine and underplay the human element. To show gratitude and to express appreciation for the good Hashem has done for us is a fundamental Jewish ethical principle, and is referred to by the term *ha'kares ha'tov*. On the Seder night, we take extra care to teach our children that it is of the utmost importance to show appreciation for the small as well as the great kindnesses shown to us shown by Hashem.

The Almighty has been good to us since last Pesach. Though our beloved Israel remains "a sheep surrounded by 70 wolves," we're comforted by the promise expressed in the Haggadah: "In every generation they rise against us to destroy us, but the Holy One, blessed be He, saves us from their hands." Locally, we delight in the bountiful gift of a beautiful new facility. We appreciate the many new members and friends we have made since our relocation, and look forward to continued growth as we settle into our new 'digs'. We have shared many happy occasions as an extended family, and pray that Hashem enable us to continue to be spiritually nourished by our friends and family — both in our simchas, as well as in our personal challenges.

As we continue to celebrate our first year in Olivette, please come to visit. I would love for you to join me for our Shabbos Learner's Service and Kiddush, our Wednesday Lunch & Learn, our monthly Pizza Nite (but not during Pesach!) or one of the many uplifting and enjoyable programs, classes and social opportunities we offer. My Rebbitzen Chani joins me in wishing you a *Chag Kosher v'Sameach* — a beautiful and joyous Pesach.

Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

Schedule of Weekday Services

MORNING - SHACHARIS:

Sunday.....	8:00 a.m.
Monday - Friday.....	7:00 a.m.
Erev Pesach: Shabbos, April 6.....	7:00 a.m.
Chol Hamoed Pesach:	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday April 9-12.....	6:45 a.m.
Rosh Chodesh Iyar:	
Sunday, April 22.....	8:00 a.m.
Monday, April 23.....	6:45 a.m.

EVENING - MINCHA/MAARIV:

Throughout the Spring & Summer Months, (other than Shabbos afternoon & holidays) until Rosh Hashana.....7:00 p.m.

CALL US WITH YOUR GRADUATES!

Before you know it, we will be heading into Graduation Time. Do you have a graduate in your family? Please call Sandie, 314-991-2100, ext. 2, and give us your graduates' names and schools so we can wish you and your graduates a big Mazel Tov!

Eruv Tavshilin

Since the last days of Pesach fall on Thursday night, Friday and Shabbos this year, it is necessary to make an ERUV TAVSHILIN in order to prepare food from Yom Tov to Shabbos. The Biblical prohibition against labor on the Festivals (*Exodus 12:16*) specifically excludes preparation of food. Still, it is forbidden to prepare food on a Festival for use on another day. When a Festival falls on Friday, however, it is permitted to prepare food needed for Shabbos.

According to Jewish Law, one is permitted to cook on Yom Tov - *only for that day*, but not for the following day. Thus the problem - how to cook for Shabbos when Yom Tov occurs on Friday?!

To prevent the impression that one may cook on a Festival even for a weekday, the Rabbis attached a condition to the preparation of Shabbos meals on a Festival — preparations must be started *before* the Festival (*Pesachim 46B*). Thus, if a Festival falls on Friday, preparations for the Shabbos meal must begin on Thursday. *Eruv Tavshilin* literally means *mingling of cooked foods*. The Rabbis instituted the ERUV TAVSHILIN to solve the problem. If one begins preparation for Shabbos BEFORE Yom Tov on Thursday, April 12, before Yom Tov, then it is permitted to continue the preparation on Yom Tov for Shabbos.

Therefore, make a hard boiled egg, take gefilte fish and set aside a piece of matzo on Thursday, April 12, as the beginning of preparations for the coming Shabbos. For more details, call Rabbi Smason. **The following prayer is recite.**

ערוב תבשילין

The eruv-foods (see commentary) are held while the following blessing and declaration are recited:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל מִצְוַת עֶרֶב.

בְּהַדְרִין עֲרוּבָא יְהֵא שְׂרָא לָנָא לְאַפְנוּי וּלְבִשְׁוֵלֵי וּלְאַטְמוּנֵי
וּלְאַדְלוּקֵי שְׂרָגָא וּלְתַקְנָא וּלְמַעֲבַד כּל צְרָכָנָא.
מִיּוֹמָא טְבָא לְשַׁבְּתָא (לָנָא וּלְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל הַדְרִים בְּעִיר הַזֹּאת).

ERUV TAVSHILIN

The eruv-foods are held while the following blessing and declaration are recited:

ברוך Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe,
Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has
commanded us concerning the mitzvah of eruv.

בהדין Through this eruv may we be permitted to bake, cook,
insulate, kindle flame, prepare, and do anything necessary
on the Festival for the sake of the Sabbath (for ourselves
and for all Jews who live in this city).



Pesach Time Schedule

A big thank you to our Sisterhood for their generous donation to help sponsor all the Pesach Kiddushim!!!

April 5 Thursday

Shacharis.....	7:00 a.m.
Bedikas Chometz (Search).....	After 8:13 p.m.

April 6 Friday - Erev Pesach

Shacharis.....	7:00 a.m.
Siyum for First Born.....	Following Shacharis
Dov Axelbaum , Tractate Ta'anis	
Mechiras Chometz (Selling).....	By 7:45 a.m.
Finish Eating Chometz.....	10:31 a.m.
Biyur Chometz (Burning).....	By 11:47 a.m.
Bitul Chometz (Annuling).....	By 11:47 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv.....	7:00 p.m.
Bench Licht Erev Shabbos/Yom Tov.....	7:11 p.m.
First Seder.....	After 8:14 p.m.

April 7 Shabbos, 1st Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....	9:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason	
Kiddush sponsored by Jeff & Murray Baker	
Mincha/Maariv.....	6:55 p.m.
Bench Licht & Second Seder.....	After 8:15 p.m.

April 8 Sunday, 2nd Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....	9:00 a.m.
Kiddush sponsored by Irwin & Rosalind Rosen and Marvin & Jackie Gitel	
Mincha.....	7:10 p.m.
Yom Tov Concludes.....	8:16 p.m.

April 9,10,11,12 Mon/Tue/Wed/Th ~ Chol Hamoed

Shacharis.....	6:45 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv.....	7:00 p.m.

April 12 Thursday Evening - Erev Yom Tov

Make an Eruv Tavshilin in order to cook for Shabbos	
Mincha/Maariv.....	7:00 p.m.
Bench Yom Tov Licht Yom Tov.....	7:16 p.m.

April 13 Friday, 7th Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....	9:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason	
Kiddush sponsored by Ron & Ina Makovsky and Dr. Milton Tofle	
Mincha/Maariv.....	At 7:00 p.m.
Bench Licht - Shabbos & Yom Tov.....	After 7:17 p.m.

April 14 Shabbos, 8th Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....	9:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason	
Yizkor.....	10:30 a.m.
Kiddush sponsored by Sam & Shirley Bluestein, Shirley Fredlich, and Adrienne Jackson & Cynthia Grossman Geller in memory of Victor Grossman	
Mincha/Maariv.....	6:30 p.m.
Pesach Concludes.....	8:21 p.m.

Important Note: YOU MUST WAIT FOR AT LEAST 1 HOUR, UNTIL 9:21 P.M., SO THAT THE RABBIS HAVE TIME TO BUY BACK YOUR CHOMETZ & UNTIL PESACH UTENSILS ARE PUT AWAY BEFORE EATING CHOMETZ.

Kashering for Pesach

KASHERING UTENSILS: Some chametz utensils can be kashered for Pesach use. The kashering must be completed before Thursday, April 5, at 10:00 a.m. The following **can be kashered: metal utensils** (if it is one solid piece), **table ware, pots & pans.** The procedure is as follows: scrub & wash utensils and keep **unused** for 24 hours. Immerse utensils in a pot of boiling water . . . then rinse in cold water. To kasher large pots, fill with water to the top, heat until water is boiling and then place a hot stone or nail into the water, which will cause the water to bubble, and allow the water to run over the sides of the pot. To kasher utensils, one can use a clean chametz pot that was not used for 24 hours and was kashered for Pesach. Call **Rabbi Smason** to verify procedures.

GLASS UTENSILS: Used for **cold liquids** (except whiskey & beer) can be converted to Passover use by soaking in lukewarm water for 3 days prior to the day before Pesach, changing the water every 24 hours.

UTENSILS THAT C-A-N-N-O-T BE KASHERED: **used dishes, chinaware, pottery, all earthenware, plastic & glass utensils used for hot foods (such as pyrex), utensils with patches, cracks, dents or narrow openings** (such as a sieve or a bottle with a narrow neck) **that cannot be cleaned properly.** Teflon coated pots & pans should not be kashered. Please call **Rabbi Smason** to verify procedures.

MICROWAVE OVENS: A microwave oven which is used during the year should not be used on Pesach.

REGULAR OVENS: Regular ovens are kashered by "libun" - first cleaned with Easy-Off, left unused for 24 hours, and then turned on for at least one hour. Some Rabbis suggest longer; speak to **Rabbi Smason** for details.

Foods for Pesach

BAKERY ITEMS: Pratzel's, Schnuck's & Dierberg's Bakeries **DO NOT BAKE FOR PESACH!!** All macarons that are made Erev Pesach by local bakers **CANNOT BE USED DURING PESACH.**

VEGETABLES: Vegetables that may be used on Pesach are: **fresh beets, squash, peppers, potatoes, radishes, scallions, spinach, cabbage, carrots, celery, tomatoes, garlic, lettuce, turnips, zucchini, mushrooms, parsnips and onions.** **N-O-T-E:** On the nights of the **Seders**, it is customary to use **ONLY** the following vegetables: **celery, lettuce, onions & potatoes**, according to some customs.

Kitniyos

The rabbis decided that, in addition to chometz, kitniyos should not be eaten on Pesach. Today's kosher consumer has to be part detective, part food scientist and sage - enough to ask their Rav or posek if a question does arise. **Kitniyos by any other name:** ascorbic acid, beans, BHT, BHA (in corn oil), calcium ascorbate, caraway seeds, citric acid, confectioners sugar, corn dextrose, emulsifiers, flavors (may be chometz), glucose, green beans, H.V.P. (kitniyos, possibly chometz), isolated soy protein, isomerized syrup, lecithin, malto-dextrin, mustard flour, peanuts, peas, rice, sesame seeds, sodium ascorbate, sodium erythorbate, sorbitan, sorbitol, soybeans, stabilizers, starch (kitniyos, possibly chometz), sunflower seeds, tofu.

Pesach Guide for Medications

Rabbi Smason has a copy of a Passover Guide for cosmetics and medications. If you want to check on Pesach use of lipsticks, lotions, shampoos, medications, denture adhesives, etc., please call the Rabbi.

Hag'olas Kalim & Kalim Mikvah for New Dishes, Cookware & Utensils

HAG'OLAS KALIM: **Kashering** utensils for Pesach use will take place on the parking lot of the Vaad Hoer Office at 4 Millstone Campus Drive on Sunday, April 1, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

KALIM MIKVAH: The Kalim Mikvah (for **immersion** of utensils) will be available for use on Sunday, April 1, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,

Important Note about Seder Times

In order to celebrate the Pesach Seder at the traditional time, Kiddush and the Seder should not begin until after nightfall, after 8:14 p.m. on Friday evening, April 6, and 8:15 p.m. on Shabbos, April 7. Check with Rabbi Smason about children and senior citizens who need to eat at earlier times.

Mechiras Chometz 5772/2012 Selling Chometz

All non-Pesach food that cannot be eaten before Pesach can be sold to a non-Jew. **RABBI SMASON** will be available to act as your agent for the selling of chometz. "I hereby authorize Rabbi Ze'ev Smason to act as my agent to sell my chometz and rent the space where chometz is stored for the entire Passover, beginning Friday night, April 6."

IN PERSON WITH RABBI SMASON: If you want to raise the handkerchief with Rabbi Smason, thereby making him your agent, please call and make a definite appointment with Rabbi Smason - whether in the office or at minyan.

BY TELEPHONE: Call Sandie at the shul office, 314-991-2100, ext. 2 (only until noon on Thursday morning, April 5), or call Rabbi Smason on his cell phone, 314-749-5271, and we will add your name to the list. Please call Rabbi Smason **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 6, BY 7:30 A.M.**

PLEASE BRING OR SEND YOUR CHECK TO OUR OFFICE.

Make checks payable to NHBZ or The Rabbi's Charity Fund with the notation SELLING CHOMETZ.

Erev Pesach - Passover Eve

BEDIKAS CHAMETZ: The search for chometz takes place on **Thursday night, April 5**, after 8:13 p.m. Place **ten** pieces of bread in rooms wherein food is usually eaten during the year. Recite the blessing **before** the search, gather the bread with a feather and wooden spoon, using the light of a candle, and place into a paper bag. After the search, recite Kol Hamira (in Aramaic or English), which is found in the beginning of most Haggadahs, together with the first blessing.

THE SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ/LEAVEN

בריקת חמץ

ברוך Blessed are You, HASHEM, our God, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us concerning the removal of chametz.*

After the search, the chametz is wrapped and put aside in a safe place to be burned in the morning. Then the following declaration is made:

כל חמירא Any chametz* or leaven that is in my possession* which I have not seen, have not removed and do not know about, should be annulled and become ownerless, like dust of the earth.

ברוך אתה הי אלקינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו על בעור חמץ.

After the search, the chametz is wrapped and put aside in a safe place to be burned in the morning. Then the following declaration is made:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי הלא חמתה ודלא בערתה ודלא ידענא לה לבטל ולהוי הפקר בעפרא דארעא.

בריקת חמץ / THE SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ

בעור חמץ – The removal of chametz. Since the Torah forbids a Jew to have chametz in his possession during Pesach, the Rabbis ordained a search of all homes, shops, and any other places where chametz may have been brought during the year. The Talmud derives from Scriptural implications that the search be made by candle light and therefore it is done at night when a candle's flame is noticeable (*Pesachim* 24). Although the destruction of the chametz will

take place on the next morning, the blessing is made now because the search is in preparation for, and part of the mitzvah of, the destruction. It is customary to hide ten bits of bread so that the searcher will truly search and the quest for chametz will not be in vain.

כל חמירא – Any chametz. It is essential that all chametz be declared ownerless so that one not be in possession of chametz without knowing it. The evening declaration carefully omits any chametz that one wishes to retain for the next

day's breakfast, the chametz that will be burned the next morning, and the chametz that will be sold to a non-Jew in the morning.

ברשותי – In my possession. An agent appointed to conduct the search or burn the chametz for another should say, "... that is in so-and-so's possession ..." Nevertheless, it is preferable that the owner of the chametz recite the declaration, wherever he may be.

TANNIS B'CHORIM - SIYUM: The Torah relates that the first born Egyptians were slain during the tenth plague and the first born Jews were saved. It is therefore customary for the first born (**B'Chorim**) to fast on Erev Pesach in thanksgiving to **G-d**. The Rabbis have ruled, however, anyone attending a Siyum - the completion of the study of a book of the Talmud - is permitted to partake of food served in honor of the Siyum. Hence, the first born are exempt from fasting by attending morning minyan at the Shul on **Friday morning, April 6**. A Siyum will be made by **Dov Axelbaum**. Services begin at 7:00 a.m.; the Siyum will follow services.

BIYUR CHOMETZ: The burning of all chometz that has not been consumed or sold, together with the pieces of bread from the search, the feather, spoon and candle should take place on **Friday morning, April 6**, by 11:47 a.m. The Kol Chamira formula, in which we renounce the ownership of chametz is recited after the burning of the chometz. This formula is found at the beginning of most Haggadahs. Chometz may not be eaten after 10:31 a.m. Friday morning.

כל חמירא Any chametz or leaven that is in my possession,* whether I have recognized it or not, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, should be annulled and become ownerless, like dust of the earth.

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי: דחמתה ודלא חמתה, דבערתה ודלא בערתה, לבטל ולהוי הפקר בעפרא דארעא.

Seder Suggestions

It is traditional that the Seder not begin until nightfall. On the first two evenings of Pesach, please remember the important elements of the Seder home service: ****THE HAGGADAH:** The Haggadah should be read and the melodies chanted by all members of the family, preferably in Hebrew, but if not, certainly it should be read in English. It is a mitzvah to retell the story of the Exodus and the history of Pesach. ****KIDDUSH:** Kiddush should be recited and 4 cups of wine consumed at the Seder, reminding us of the 4 expressions of deliverance found in Exodus 6. Kosher wines that we recommend are **Kedem** and **Manischewitz with O-U-P**. ****SEDER PLATE:** Use the diagram at the beginning of most Haggadahs to set up the Seder plate. ****PARTICIPATE IN THE SEDER:** Give the opportunity for everyone to participate in the Seder. If you have any questions concerning Pesach, or the Seder, do not hesitate to call **Rabbi Smason**.

Sephirat HaOmer

SEPHIRAT HAOMER: Beginning with the 2nd night of Pesach, and continuing for 49 nights, we count the Omer, in accord with the Biblical injunction: **From the Morrow of Pesach, From the Day of Your Bringing the Omer, You Shall Count Seven Full Weeks**. The Omer was a special offering of barley gathered from the newly ripened grain, which then permitted the use of the spring harvest. In Temple times, the harvesting of the Omer, on the 2nd night of Pesach, was an occasion for great celebration in the streets of Jerusalem. The counting of the Omer must take place after nightfall. Immediately before stating the daily and weekly number in the Omer, we recite the benediction **Al Sefirat HaOmer**. These 49 days link the festival of Pesach, the celebration of our physical redemption, with the festival of Shavuot, which occurs on the 50th day, when we celebrate the spiritual redemption, the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. It is customary for 33 of the 49 days not to take haircuts, have weddings, nor attend concerts. We mourn the loss of 24,000 students of **RABBI AKIVA**. ****SPEAK TO RABBI SMASON CONCERNING THE CUSTOM OF SEMI-MOURNING AND THE SPECIFIC 33 DAYS INVOLVED.****

Lag B'Omer

LAG B'OMER refers to the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer. It was a happy day in the Jewish calendar. The thousands of students of **Rabbi Akiva**, who had perished in a plague, stopped dying on Lag B'Omer. Because of the death of 24,000 students of the famed Akiva, the sages of Israel declared a mourning period of 33 days, between Pesach and Shavuot. However, festivities are permitted on Lag B'Omer, which occurs this year on Thursday, May 10. Haircuts and weddings are permitted on Lag B'Omer.