

Rusach Hari B'nai Zion Congregation

Rabbi
ZE'EV SMASON
Rabbi Emeritus
AARON BOROW



PESACH

1st Seder ~ Monday, April 18, 2010
8 Days of Pesach:
Tuesday, April 19 through Tuesday, April 26
15 - 22 Nisan, 5771



Rabbi Ze'ev & Chani Smason,
the Officers and Trustees,
and the members of the Boards of Directors of
Shul, Sisterhood and The Irvin Alper Social Club
wish each of you, and your families,
a Happy & Kosher Pesach!

Chag Kosher V'Sameach חג כשר ושמח



Schedule of Weekday Services

SHACHARIS:

Sunday.....8:00 a.m.
Monday through Friday.....7:00 a.m.

Pesach

1st & 2nd Days of Pesach:
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 19 & 20.....9:00 a.m.
Chol Hamoed Pesach:
Thursday & Friday, April 21 & 22.....6:45 a.m.
Shabbos, April 23.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 24.....8:00 a.m.
7th & 8th Days of Pesach:
Monday & Tuesday, April 25 & 26.....9:00 a.m.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Wednesday & Thursday, May 4 & 5.....6:45 a.m.

Memorial Day Brunch & Learn

Monday, May 30.....8:00 a.m.
Followed by Brunch and Learn. **Rabbi Smason** will speak on the topic: **"Four Types of Students."**

Rosh Chodesh Sivan

Friday, June 3.....6:45 a.m.

MINCHA & MAARIV

April 10-17.....7:00 p.m.


Pesach

Monday, April 18, Erev Pesach.....7:20 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19, 1st Day of Pesach.....7:20 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20, 2nd Day of Pesach.....7:20 p.m.
Thurs. & Friday, April 21 & 22, Chol Hamoed Pesach.....7:00 p.m.
Shabbos, April 23, Chol Hamoed Pesach.....7:10 p.m.
Sunday, April 24, Erev Yom Tov.....7:25 p.m.
Mon. & Tuesday., April 25 & 26, Last Days of Pesach.....7:25 p.m.
April 27-29.....7:00 p.m.
Throughout the Spring & Summer Months, (other than Shabbos afternoons & holidays) until Rosh Hashana.....7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 7, Erev Shavuos.....8:00 p.m.
Wednesday & Thursday, June 8 & 9, Shavuos.....8:05 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 our office, 314-991-2100, EXT. 2, and give us the names and schools so we can wish you and your graduates a big Mazel Tov!





Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

PHONE: 314.991.2100
ON-LINE: www.nhbz.org

Rabbi	Rabbi Ze'ev Smason
Rabbi Emeritus	Rabbi Aaron Borow
Executive Director	Sandie Abrams
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Pesach Schedule

April 17 Sunday Evening

Bedikas Chometz (Search).....After 8:24 p.m.

April 18 Monday, Erev Pesach

Shacharis.....7:00 a.m.
Siyum for First Born.....Following Shacharis
Siyum will be conducted by **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**
Mechiras Chometz (Selling).....By 7:30 a.m.
Finish Eating Chometz.....By 10:23 a.m.
Biyur Chometz (Burning).....By 11:41 a.m.
Bitul Chometz (Annulling).....11:41 a.m.
Mincha.....7:20 p.m.
Bench Licht Erev Yom Tov.....7:22 p.m.
First Seder.....After 8:25 p.m.

April 19 Tuesday, 1st Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....9:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason
Kiddush sponsored by Jeff Baker and Murray Baker
Mincha.....7:20 p.m.
Bench Licht & Second Seder.....After 8:26 p.m.

April 20 Wednesday, 2nd Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....9:00 a.m.
Kiddush sponsored by
Sam & Shirley Bluestein and Irwin & Rosalind Rosen
Mincha.....7:00 p.m.
Yom Tov Concludes.....8:08 p.m.

April 21/22/23/24 Chol Hamoed: Thurs., Fri., Shabbos, Sun.

Thursday & Friday Shacharis.....6:45 a.m.
Thursday & Friday Mincha.....7:00 p.m.
Bench Licht Friday Night.....7:26 p.m.
Shabbos Morning.....9:00 a.m.
Kiddush sponsored by our NHBZ SISTERHOOD
Shabbos Mincha.....7:10 p.m.
Shabbos Concludes.....8:30 p.m.
Erev Yom Tov, Sunday, April 24
Shacharis.....8:00 a.m.
Mincha.....7:25 p.m.
Bench Licht.....7:28 p.m.

April 25 Monday, 7th Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....9:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason
Kiddush sponsored by
Adrienne Jackson & Cynthia Geller
in memory of Victor Grossman,
Dr. Milton Tofle and Ron & Ina Makovsky
Mincha.....7:25 p.m.
Bench Licht.....8:32 p.m. or After

April 26 Tuesday, 8th Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....9:00 a.m.
Sermon by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason
Yizkor.....10:30 a.m.
Kiddush Sponsored by
Bob & Sandie Abrams and Morris & Shirley Fredlich
Mincha.....7:25 p.m.
Pesach Concludes.....8:33 p.m.

Important Note: YOU MUST WAIT FOR AT LEAST 60 MINUTES, UNTIL 9:33 P.M., SO THAT THE RABBIS HAVE TIME TO BUY BACK YOUR CHOMETZ & UNTIL PESACH UTENSILS ARE PUT AWAY BEFORE EATING CHOMETZ.

From the desk of
Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

“Gut Yom Tov” means happy holiday. **“Gut Pesach”** means happy Passover. **“Gut yahr”** means have a happy year. The inherent optimism of Judaism, recognized universally, is on display on this Yom Tov. From where does this optimism on Pesach come?

Pesach is an “up” holiday. On it, families gather in unusually large numbers with extended family and invited guests, and together read the Haggadah. The Haggadah is a beloved text among the Jewish people, and it describes the strenuous and tragic details of slavery and of the freedom from Egyptian slave-masters. Nonetheless, it is the optimism that we survived then and can survive another travesty, that makes it a celebration of freedom and survival. **“B’chol Dor va’dor,”** in every generation, the Haggadah tells us, we confront major enemies, and folded into that message, is that in every generation we have nonetheless succeeded. Even beyond the Seder optimism can be felt at this time of year. Pesach occurs in the month of Nisan — the month of *aviv*, springtime. Spring is a time of warmth and renewal of beauty and fragrance. There’s even a special brocha said in the month of Nisan to be recited when first seeing blossoms of fruit trees. The weather in St. Louis — and certainly in Israel — is usually glorious at this time. Warm but not hot, and the smells and sights of springtime and renewed life fill our souls. In *Shir HaShirim*, King Solomon described it thusly: **“the times of the rain are passed, the time of the songbird has arrived, the blossoms of the trees are seen throughout the land.”** Aren’t these sights and sounds real and present before our eyes at this time of year?

Pesach inspires me with optimism, and I find particular reason to be optimistic in looking at our wonderful shul as this time of year approaches. Our new building is rising before our eyes, and on the verge of being completed. Wonderful programs and classes in the offing. New members and families, and an engaged, hardworking Board of Directors and officers. Pesach 2011 is a great time to be alive — and a wonderful time to be together with you at Nusach Hari Bnai Zion.

My Rebbitzin Chani joins me in wishing you a **Chag Kosher V’Sameach** (a joyous Holiday) this coming Yom Tov.

Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

Kashering for Pesach

KASHERING UTENSILS: Some chametz utensils can be kashered for Pesach use. The kashering must be completed before **Monday, April 18, at 10:23 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: Schnuck's & Dierberg's Bakeries **DO NOT BAKE FOR PESACH!!** All macaroons 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

The **Vaad Hoer** Passover Guide for cosmetics and medications is available in the office. 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 10, and Sunday, April 17, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days.

KALIM MIKVAH: The Kalim Mikvah (for **immersion** of utensils) will be available for use on Sunday, April 10, and on Sunday, April 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both days.

Mechiras Chometz 5771/2011 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 Sunday night, April 18, 2011."

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 Friday morning, April 15), 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 MONDAY, APRIL 18, BY 7:30 A.M.** (Sandie will be out of town for Pesach beginning Sunday, April 17, and will return to the office on Monday, May 2, 2011.)

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 **Sunday night, April 17**, after 8:24 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. A set of: candle, feather, spoon and bag can be purchased at the local Jewish book stores.

❖ { THE SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ/LEAVEN } ❖

❖ { בדיקת 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 דאבא ברשותי דלא חמתה ודלא בערתה ודלא ידענא לה לבטל ולהיו הפקר בעפרא דארעא.

❖ { THE SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ / בדיקת חמץ } ❖

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 2a). 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.

בישורי — 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 **Monday morning, April 18**. A Siyum will be made by **Rabbi Smason**. 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 **Monday morning, April 18**, by 11:41 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 10:23 a.m. Monday 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 דאבא ברשותי דחמתה ודלא חמתה ודלא בערתה ודלא לבטל ולהיו 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 OU-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**. ****If you can provide Home Hospitality for students, call Hillel at 726-6177.**

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 8:25 p.m. on Monday evening, April 18, and 8:26 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19. Check with Rabbi Smason about children and senior citizens who need to eat at earlier times.

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 Sephirat 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 Sunday, May 22. Haircuts and weddings are permitted on Lag B'Omer.