



Shabbos / Yom Tov Bulletin

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

March 27, 2021 ~ 14 Nisan 5781

Candle Lighting 7:00 pm

Shabbos Ends 8:05 pm

Parshas: Leviticus 6:1 -- 8:36
Haftorah: Malachi 3: 4-24

Chumash pages 568 - 587
Chumash pages 1220 - 1221

Erev Shabbos, March 26

- Mincha & Ma'ariv ~ 6:55 pm

Shabbos, March 27

- Shabbat Services ~ 9:00 am
- Mincha ~ 6:50 pm

Jewish Thought:
with Rabbi Avi Okin *"Seder Matzah and
Seizing Our Opportunities"*

- Ma'ariv/Shabbos ends ~ 8:05 pm



➡ **IMPORTANT Notice:** NHBZ now has capacity for 30 individuals on Shabbat services. If you wish to attend Shabbat and Yom Tov services it is mandatory that you sign up. Call 991-2100 ext. 2 or email jeff@nhbz.org by 4pm Thursday.

We have expanded our capacity to 30 for Daily Minyanim as well! You and your Pesach guests are welcome to join us in the main sanctuary, if you are fully vaccinated or if you are under 65 years old and not considered to be high-risk.

Davening Times

NEXT 4 DAYS	Wed Mar 24	Thurs Mar 25	Fri Mar 26	*Shabbos Mar 27
Shachris	7:00 am	7:00 am	7:00 am	7:00 am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:55 pm	6:55 pm	6:55 pm	6:50 pm

* First Seder

NEXT WEEK	^ Sun Mar 28	<Mon Mar 29	Tues Mar 30	Wed Mar 31	Thurs Apr 1	Fri Apr 2	>Shabbos Apr 3
Shachris	9:00 am	9:00 am	6:45 pm	6:45 pm	6:45 pm	6:45 am	9:00 am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm	7:00 pm	6:55 pm

^1st Day Pesach <2nd Day Pesach

>7th Day Pesach

Birthdays ~ Mimi Fiszal, Sergio Chayet, Irl Solomon, Alan Haber, Amarah Friedman

Anniversary~ Dr. Daniel & Marcela Morgensztern and Drs. Caryn Garriga & Adrian Shifren

NHBZ Pesach Schedule 2021

Thursday, March 25

Shacharis:7:00 am
Siyum for First Born Following Shacharis: At shul
and on Zoom (Link below)

Join Zoom Siyum:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85359901388>

Mincha/Ma'ariv..... 6:55 pm
Bedikas Chametz (Search) After8:03 pm
The beracha and kol chamira are recited.

Friday, March 26

Shacharis:.....7:00 am
Biur Chametz (Burning of Chametz): by 12:06 pm
Mincha/ Ma'ariv.....6:55 pm
Candle Lighting Erv Shabbos.....7:00 pm

Shabbos March 27, Erev Pesach

Shacharis.....7:00 am
Sermon by Rabbi Okin
Finish Eating Chametz..... by 11:02 am
Bitul Chametz (Annulling).....by 12:04 pm
Mincha/Maariv 6:50 pm
Shiur by **Rabbi Okin** "Seder Matzah and Seizing
Our Opportunities"
Candle Lighting Yom Tov..... 8:05 pm
First Seder after 8:05 pm

Sunday, March 28 , 1st Day of Pesach

Shacharis 9:00 am
Sermon by Rabbi Smason
Mincha/Maariv 7:00 pm
Shiur by **Rabbi Smason**: "The Four Faces of
Freedom"
Candle Lighting & 2nd Seder after.... 8:06 pm

Monday, March 30, 2nd Day of Pesach

Shacharis..... 9:00 am
Sermon by Rabbi Okin
Mincha 7:00 pm
Shiur by **Rabbi Okin** "Learning How to Grow from
Counting the Omer"
Yom Tov Concludes..... 8:07 pm

Tuesday - Friday, March 30- April 2

Chol Hamoed

Shacharis.....6:45 am
Mincha/Maariv..... 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 31

Yizkor on Zoom (link below) 5:30 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481064502>

Friday, April 2, Chol Hamoed -Erev Yom Tov

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00 pm
Candle Lighting Erev Yom Tov 7:07 pm

Shabbos, April 3, 7th Day of Pesach

Shacharis.....9:00 am
Sermon by Rabbi Smason
Mincha/Maariv.....6:55 pm
Shiur by **Rabbi Okin** "Stopping to Smell the
Roses"
Candle Lighting Shabbos/Yom Tov 8:12 pm

Sunday, April 4, 8th Day of Pesach (Yizkor)

Shacharis.....9:00 am
Sermon by Rabbi Smason
Yizkor 10:30 am
Mincha 7:10 pm
Pesach Concludes..... 8:13 pm

Important Note: *before eating chometz,
you must wait for at least one hour after Pesach
concludes, until 9:13 pm, so that the rabbis have
time to buy back your chametz & until pesach
utensils are put
away.*



Notice: Rabbi Smason's classes will be taking a Pesach break from Friday, March 26- Sunday, April 4. Classes resume on Monday, April 5.

This Week and Beyond

- **March 25, 7:30 am~ Siyum for First Born Following Shacharis: At shul and on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85359901388>**
- **Sunday, March 28 ~ 1st Day of Pesach- 2-3pm** Join friends and family in Zeid Park for a fun game of Pesach-themed Bingo. Please RSVP to Rabbi Okin at aviokin@nhbz.org . See the flyer below for more details.
- **Wednesday, March 31 ~ Yizkor on Zoom at 5:30 pm.**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481064502>
- **Sunday, April 4~ Last Day of Pesach- 2-3pm** Join friends and family in Zeid Park for a fun game of Pesach-themed Bingo. Please RSVP to Rabbi Okin at aviokin@nhbz.org . See the flyer below for more details.
- **Wednesday, April 7 ~ 7:30 pm~ Join NHBZ for a Yom HaShoah program entitled “Voices of the Generations”** presented by author, **Julie Kohner**. Join the program:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295822730>

The Vaad Hoeir 2021/5781 Pesach guide is now available for download at: <https://ovkosher.org/pesach2021/>

Join Rabbi Okin and young men from all over St. Louis for Torah and Camaraderie **Thursday Nights from 8-830 pm**. Sessions will begin virtually for a text-based and interactive learning session. If you are interested, join the Whatsapp group using this link:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/leuwWw6NTFIDC96XIXkRGv>

Parshas Tzav

The portion begins with G-d continuing to teach Moses many of the laws relating to the Mishkan service. However, while last week's portion described the korbanos (offerings) from the perspective of the giver, this week the Torah focuses more directly on the Kohanim, providing details about their service. After first describing the maintenance of the fire which burned on the altar, the Torah discusses the various kinds of korbanos which Aaron, his sons, and the succeeding generations of Kohanim would be offering. The offerings must be brought with the proper intention and eaten in a state of spiritual purity.

Finally, Moses performs the lengthy consecration service of the Mishkan, and anoints Aaron and his sons for their service in the Mishkan, in front of the entire congregation of Israel.



Shabbos HaGadol

Shabbos HaGadol is the Shabbos that comes before Pesach. The main reason that it is called Shabbos HaGadol is because of the great miracle that occurred then. The Jewish people were ordered to tie the sheep - which they were going to offer as a Korban Pesach - to their bed post. The Egyptians, who worshipped the sheep, could only look on in dismay and said nothing. This was a tremendous miracle.



THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

MARCH 27



Volume 4

Number 12

14 Nissan 5781

March 27, 2021

NHBZ Sisterhood is counting on you to send in your annual dues for 2021.



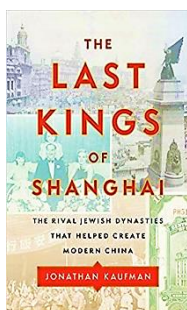
Send your check for \$25 – payable to NHBZ or call the office to pay by phone: **314-991-2100, ext. 3.** For more information email: **sisterhood@nhbz.org**, Or call Fran Alper at 314-993-4024, fran.alper@outlook.com; or Teree Farbstein at 314-753-5035 or tfarbstein2@gmail.com

We invite you to stay connected... and join us!



Sisterhood's Book Club News

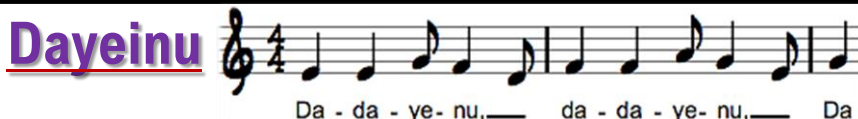
The next Book Club meeting will be **Mon., April 26, 7:15-8:45pm., on Zoom**, to discuss **"The Last Kings of Shanghai"** by Jonathan Kaufman, a multigenerational story of two rival dynasties who flourished in Shanghai and Hong Kong as twentieth-century China surged into the modern era. Linda Shore will lead the discussion.



Mark your calendars for these upcoming Book Club discussions:

- ☐ **June 28 "People of the Book"** by Geraldine Brook - led by Linda Luks
- ☐ **Aug. 23 "Florence Adler Swims Forever"** by Rachel Beanland - led by Faith Waxman

For more information or to get the **Zoom link** call **Terri Schnitzer** at **314-518-4107** or email terrischnitzer@yahoo.com



Dayeinu, the song of gratitude sung toward the end of Maggid during the Passover Seder, explores the kindnesses of G-d to His people on the long journey from slavery to freedom. There are fifteen stages described between leaving Egypt, reaching the Promised Land, and building the Temple in Jerusalem. This song is a *tikkun*, a "putting-right", for the ingratitude of the Israelites in the Wilderness. At almost every stage of their journey they complained: about the water, the food, the difficulties of travelling, the challenge of conquering the land. It is as if we are saying where they complained, let us give thanks. Each stage was a miracle. And each miracle would have been enough to convince us that Hashem is behind all the events in our history.

Why is Shabbat specifically mentioned in *Dayeinu*?

Shabbat is the ultimate expression of a free society, the antithesis of slavery in Egypt. On this day, all relationships of dominance and subordination are suspended. We may not work, or command others to work, "so that your manservant and maidservant may rest as you do" (Devarim 5:15). At many times in history, people have dreamed of an ideal world. The name given to such visions is "utopia" meaning "no place", because at no time or place have these dreams been realised on a society-wide basis. Shabbat is the sole successful utopian experiment in history. It is based on the simple idea that utopia (in Judaism, the messianic age) is not solely in the future. It is something we can experience in the midst of time, one day in seven. Shabbat became the weekly rehearsal of an ideal world, one not yet reached but still lived as a goal, of a world at peace with itself, recognising the createdness, and thus the integrity, of all people and all forms of life. If Egypt meant slavery, Shabbat is collective freedom, a "foretaste of the World to Come."

– Commentary on Dayeinu, from The Jonathan Sacks Haggada

As we sing Dayeinu at our Seders, pause, and think of the many blessings HaShem has bestowed upon us. We have made it through this arduous year – we have a roof over our heads and food in the kitchen, technology has allowed us to communicate with the outside world and keep abreast of news, and now the vaccines are rolling out... The list goes on... There is much to be thankful for.

Sisterhood wishes each of you a wonderful, kosher, and meaningful Pesach!



A Program of
the NHBZ Children & Young
Families Committee



Join friends and family
in Zeid Park
with Rabbi Avi Okin



for a fun Pesach-themed Bingo game
in the beautiful spring afternoon!

Sunday, March 28, 2021
(First Day of Passover)
2 to 3 p.m.

☺ We would love to see you as we slowly and safely come out of seclusion. (Social Distancing measures will be in place.)

There is no cost for this event.

Please RSVP to Rabbi Okin at aviokin@nhbz.org if you are planning to attend



NHBZ Online Classes

Rabbi Smason will keep you connected during this challenging time. The classes listed below are easy to join and you can drop in on one without having previously attended. **All** classes are offered through Zoom video conferencing on your computer or smart phone (you do not need to download Zoom to see the class) **AND** through audio only on your telephone.

Notice: Rabbi Smason's classes will be taking a Pesach break from Friday, March 26- Sunday, April 4. Classes resume on Monday, April 5.

Instructions to attend a class:

***For Zoom video:** each class has a Zoom link- click on the link or copy and paste the link in your browser to join the class.

For audio through your telephone connect in 2 ways:

1. *Preferred option* - **Call 312- 626 - 6799** which connects you to the ZOOM audio number and will enable you to participate fully, except for the video. Toll Free.
2. Or call **314-325-8791** for our old audio connection. We encourage you to use the preferred option as this option will not be available soon.

1. Weekdays at 8:15 pm (Sun 9:15 pm) .New topic: "Tehillim Tips; Insights Into Our Prayers" with Rabbi Smason. Each session is planned to last 30 minutes or so.

Join by video at: <https://zoom.us/j/99013706617>

2. Monday - Friday: 3:00- 3:30 pm ~ "King David: His Life, Times and Spirit" with Rabbi Smason. This class will offer an in-depth study of the King David through sources in the Book of Samuel and Psalms.

Join by video: <https://zoom.us/j/136785930>

3. Friday at 8:15 am ~ Rabbi Smason will discuss the "Haftorah of the Week"

Join by video at: <https://zoom.us/j/99013706617>

4. Every Monday at 7:45 pm ~ "To the Source" with Rabbi Smason. An ongoing weekly class covering contemporary Torah topics using classic and modern English and Hebrew texts.

Join by video at: <https://zoom.us/j/295822730>

5. Every Wednesday at 12:15 pm ~ Study with Rabbi Smason- Pirkei Avos / Ethics of the Fathers. Our long-running class offers contemporary, relevant insights based upon the timeless wisdom of the Torah.

Join by video at: <https://zoom.us/j/214068419>

NHBZ Online Classes (cont.)

6. Thursdays at 7:00 pm ~ Rabbi Smason will offer his popular "Starting Points" program -- a 45-minute discussion/presentation of relevant, contemporary topics. Titles and dates, below.

Join by video at: <https://zoom.us/j/295822730>

March 11 "Good Talk: How to Design Conversations That Matter"

March 18 "Habits for Happiness: 5 Steps for Living Your Happiest Life"

March 25 "What Does Freedom Mean to You?"

April 1 "What Does Pesach Teach Us About Raising Children?"

April 8 "What Makes You Feel Loved?"



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How it works:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in to your Amazon account
3. Under "Pick your own organization", search for "Nusach Hari"
4. Select "Nusach Hari-Bnai Zion Congregation"
5. Start shopping! Every time you shop, sign into smile.amazon.com, and you will earn funds for Nusach Hari.



PASSOVER NEWSLETTER

2021 ✪ 5781

About Passover

What Is Passover?

The eight-day festival of Passover commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, which falls on **March 27- April 3, 2021**. The festival is observed by avoiding leavened food, and it is highlighted by the Seder meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus.

In Hebrew it is known as Pesach, which means 'to pass over', because G-d passed over the Jewish homes when killing the Egyptian firstborn on the very first Passover eve.

The Passover Story in a Nutshell

After many decades of slavery to the Egyptian pharaohs, during which time the Israelites were subjected to backbreaking labor and unbearable horrors, G-d saw the people's distress and sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: 'Send forth My people, so that they may serve Me.' But despite numerous warnings, Pharaoh refused to heed G-d's command. G-d then sent upon Egypt ten devastating plagues, afflicting them and destroying everything from their livestock to their crops.

At the stroke of midnight of 15 Nissan in the year 2448 from creation (1313 BCE), G-d visited the last of the ten plagues on the Egyptians, killing all their firstborn. While doing so, G-d spared the children of Israel, 'passing over' their homes—hence the name of the holiday. Pharaoh's resistance was broken, and he virtually chased his former slaves out of the land. The Israelites left in such a hurry, in fact, that the bread they baked as provisions for the way did not have time to rise. Six hundred thousand adult males, plus many more women and children, left Egypt on that day and began the trek to Mount Sinai and their birth as G-d's chosen people.

In ancient times, when the temple existed, the Passover observance included the sacrifice of the paschal lamb, which was roasted and eaten at the Seder on the first night of the holiday. This was the case until Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in the 1st century.

Passover Observances

The first two days of Passover, which commemorate the Exodus, and last two days, which commemorate the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, are full-fledged holidays. We light holiday candles at night, recite *kiddush* and enjoy lavish holiday meals on both nights and days. We don't go to work, drive, write, or switch on or off electric devices. We are permitted to cook and to carry outdoors. The middle four days are called Chol Hamoed, semi-festive 'intermediate days,' when most forms of work are permitted.

To commemorate the unleavened bread that the Israelites ate when they left Egypt, we don't eat—or even possess—any *chametz* from midday of the day before Passover until the conclusion of the holiday. *Chametz* means leavened grain—any food or drink that contains even a trace of wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt or their derivatives, and which wasn't guarded from leavening or fermentation. This includes bread, cake, cookies, cereal, pasta, and most alcoholic beverages. Moreover, almost any processed food or drink can be assumed to be *chametz* unless certified otherwise.

Ridding our homes of *chametz* is an intensive process of cleaning for *chametz* during the weeks before Passover, and culminates with a ceremonial search for *chametz* on the night before Passover. A destruction of the *chametz* ceremony on the morning before the holiday then follows. *Chametz* that cannot be disposed of can be sold to a non-Jew (and bought back after the holiday).

Instead of *chametz*, we eat matzah—flat unleavened bread. It is a mitzvah to partake of matzah on the two Seder nights (see below for more on this), and during the rest of the holiday it is optional. One should use handmade *shmurah* matzah, which has been zealously guarded against moisture from the moment of the harvest.

The Seder

The highlight of Passover is the Seder, observed on each of the first two nights of the holiday. The Seder is a fifteen-step family-oriented tradition and ritual-packed feast.

The focal points of the Seder are:

- Eating matzah.
- Eating bitter herbs—to commemorate the bitter slavery endured by the Israelites.
- Drinking four cups of wine or grape juice—a royal drink to celebrate our newfound freedom.
- The recitation of the Haggadah, a liturgy that describes in detail the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah is the fulfillment of the biblical obligation to recount to our children the story of the Exodus on the night of Passover. It begins with a child asking the traditional 'Four Questions.'

Passover Preparations

Kashering for Pesach

VAAD HOEIR PESACH GUIDE: Detailed information about Kashering for Pesach can be found in the Vaad Hoeir Pesach Guide for 2021 at <https://ovkosher.org/pesach2021/>

KASHERING UTENSILS: *For information on kashering utensils for Pesach, 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*', a process for burning away any chometz. First, clean the oven with Easy-Off, then don't use it for 24 hours, and finally, turn on the oven for at least one hour. Some Rabbis suggest longer; speak to **Rabbi Smason** for details

Foods for 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. **NOTE:** On the nights of the **Seders**, according to some customs, only the following vegetables may be used: celery, lettuce, onions & potatoes.

KITNYOS: Kitnyos is the Hebrew word for legumes. During Passover, Kitnyos has taken on a broader meaning. The rabbis of the Talmud decided that, in addition to chometz, kitniyos should not be eaten on Pesach, at least by Ashkenazic Jews. **Kitniyos now** includes the following: beans, green beans, peanuts, peas, corn, rice, sesame seeds, caraway seeds, sunflower seeds, soybeans and tofu. It also include the following ingredients: ascorbic acid, BHT, BHA (in corn oil), calcium ascorbate, citric acid, confectioner's sugar, corn dextrose, emulsifiers, flavors (may also be chometz), glucose, hydrolyzed vegetable protein (may also be chometz), isolated soy protein, isomerized syrup, lecithin, malto-dextrin, mustard flour, sodium ascorbate, sodium erythorbate, sorbitan, sorbitol, stabilizers, starch (may also be chometz). Ask Rabbi Smason if you have any questions.

Mechiras Chometz – Selling Chametz

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 chametz. It is customary to make a donation when you sell Chometz. *Please bring or send your check payable to NHBZ with the notation 'Selling Chametz' to our office.* **Chametz must be sold by Wednesday, March 25. You can sell your chametz in the following ways:**

Your authorization form MUST be in Rabbi Smason's possession no later than 3:00 P.M. Thursday, March 26. If you plan on sending the form by regular mail, please allow sufficient time for its arrival to the NHBZ office no later than Wednesday, March 25.

It is customary to offer an honorarium the Rabbi for this service. If you choose to do so, then payments should be made by cash or by check directly to Rabbi Smason.

If you have any questions about the process of the sale of chametz, don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Smason by email (Pepshort613@gmail.com) or phone (314 749-5271)

Please see end of this newsletter for the authorization form.

Bedikas Chametz (Search for Chametz)

The search for chametz takes place on **Thursday, March 25, after 8:03 p.m.** Place **one** piece of chametz (such as pieces of bread) in a room where food is usually eaten during the year. Recite the following blessing **before** the search, gather the chametz with a feather and wooden spoon, by the light of a candle, and place the piece of chametz into a paper bag. This is found in Hebrew at the beginning of most Haggadahs.

Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom
A-sheer Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Al Bee-ur Cho-metz.

Blessed are You, L-rd our d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by
His commandments, and has commanded us concerning the removal of *chametz*.

After the search, recite the following declaration.

Kol chamira v'chamia d'ika virshuti, d'la chamitay oodla viartay oodla y'dana lay libatale v'lehevay he'kare k'afra d'ara

Any chametz or leaven which is in my possession, which I have neither seen nor removed, and about which I am unaware, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth

Erev Pesach - Passover is Here

TANNIS B'CHORIM (FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN) – SIYUM: The **Torah** relates that the first born Egyptians were slain during the tenth plague, but 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 firstborn are exempt from fasting by attending the Siyum. See: **“Addendum: Special Laws for Pesach 2021”**

BIYUR CHOMETZ (DESTRUCTION OF CHOMETZ): The destruction of all chametz 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, March 26 by 12:06 pm**. After the burning of chametz, we recite statement of nullification in which we renounce the ownership of chametz. This formula is found in Hebrew at the beginning of most Haggadahs.

Kol chamira v'hamia d'ika virshuti dachazitay oodla hazitay, dachamitay oola chamitay, d'viartay oodla viartay libatale v'lehevay he'kare k'afra d'ara

Any chametz or leaven which is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have seen it or not, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

Candle Lighting

We light candles on the two Seder nights, and the last two evenings of Passover. See the last page of this newsletter for candle-lighting times. On the first two nights of Passover, we recite both of the following blessings. On the last two nights, we recite only the first blessing. See the schedule at the end of this newsletter for candle lighting times.

The blessings are found in Hebrew at the beginning of most Haggadahs.

1. Bo-ruch a-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ho-olom a-sheer ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-sov ve-tzi-vo-nu le-had-lik ner shel (Sha-bos v'shel) Yom Tov.

Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the light of (the Sabbath and) Yom Tov.

2. Bo-ruch a-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ho-olom she-he-che-ya-nu vi-kee-yi-ma-nu vi-hi-gee-an-u liz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and let us reach this time.

The Seder

SEDER TIMES: In order to celebrate the Pesach Seder at the traditional time, Kiddush and the Seder should not begin until after nightfall, after 8:05 pm on March 27, and 8:06 p.m. on March 28. Check with Rabbi Smason about children and senior citizens who need to eat at earlier times.

THE HAGGADAH: The Haggadah should be read and the melodies should be 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: We recite Kiddush and drink 4 cups of wine at the Seder, reminding us of the 4 expressions of deliverance found in the Torah.

SEDER PLATE: Use the diagram at the beginning of most Haggadahs to set up the Seder plate.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SEDER: Give everyone the opportunity to participate in the Seder. If you have any questions concerning Pesach, or the Seder, do not hesitate to call **Rabbi Smason**.

After the Seder

SEPHIRAS HAOMER (Counting the Omer): 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*. An omer is a unit of measure. On the second day of Passover, in the days of the Temple, an omer of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering. This grain offering was referred to as the Omer. The counting of the Omer must take place after nightfall. Immediately before stating the daily and weekly number in the Omer, we recite the blessing *Al Sephirat HaOmer*. The 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 our spiritual redemption, the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. This period is a time of partial mourning, during which weddings, parties, and joyful events are not conducted, in memory of a plague during the lifetime of Rabbi Akiba that killed 24,000 of his students. Haircuts during this time are also forbidden.

THE LAST TWO DAYS OF PASSOVER - YIZKOR: The seventh and eighth days of Passover are celebrated as Yom Tov. Like other Yomim Tovim, we do no work, other than certain acts connected to food preparation, we recite holiday prayers, and light candles on the eve of both days. The seventh day of Passover commemorates the crossing of the Sea of Reeds. During morning services on the eighth day, we recite Yizkor memorial prayers for departed relatives.

A Zoom Yizkor will take place on Wednesday, March 31 at 5:30 P.M. Link to Yizkor service: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86481064502>



Selling Chametz Pesach 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

The challenging situation of the Covid-19 requires a modification in the way we will be able to sell our chametz this year. Unlike previous years where you could personally meet with Rabbi Smason and then designate him as your *shliach* (proxy) to sell your chametz, current circumstances require the chametz sale to be conducted by email or regular (snail) mail.

Below, please find a form authorizing Rabbi Smason to be your *shliach* (proxy) to sell your chametz for Pesach, this year to begin on the evening of March 27 and conclude on the evening of April 4.

Your authorization form MUST be in Rabbi Smason's possession no later than 3:00 P.M. Thursday, March 26. If you plan on sending the form by regular mail, please allow sufficient time for its arrival to the NHBZ office no later than Wednesday, March 25.

It is customary to offer an honorarium the Rabbi for this service. If you choose to do so, then payments should be made by cash or by check directly to Rabbi Smason.

If you have any questions about the process of the sale of chametz, don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Smason by email (Pepshort613@gmail.com) or phone (314 749-5271)

Date _____

I / We appoint Rabbi Ze'ev Smason to be my/our agent in regard to the sale of *CHAMETZ* prior to Passover, and subsequent re-purchase after Passover, if possible. This agency is bound by the dictates of *Halacha* and all necessary qualifications to ensure that this agency and sales, purchases and rentals enacted thereby meet these requirements are deemed to be part of this agreement.

Reference is made to the standard *SHTAR HARSHA'AH* in this regard. Included in this agency is the right to appoint further agents and to rent/sell real and personal property as need be to ensure that the *HALACHIC* concerns in regard to *chametz* on Passover are met.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Signatures _____