

LMS PASSOVER GUIDE 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

In an effort to ease your Pesach preparations Rabbi Shmidman has produced this guide. All times provided are for Bala Cynwyd. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Shmidman with any specific questions you may have, either by phone 610.664.5626 or by email at rabbi@lowermerionsynagogue.org. Rabbi Shmidman will be available to answer questions and to arrange the sale of chometz on Sunday, April 10 and Sunday, April 17 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., as well as daily before and after minyan. If necessary, please contact Rabbi Shmidman to make other arrangements.

Rabbi Shmidman will give a pre-Pesach a class on Pesach preparation, product updates and question and answer sessions on Wednesday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Compliance with the prohibitions of eating, owning or possessing chometz, or deriving any benefit from chometz takes three forms. The first is the actual removal of chometz from our homes, either through consuming it or disposing of it. This culminates in a search for chometz on the evening before Pesach (*bedikas chometz*), and in the burning of the chometz (*biur chometz*) on Erev Pesach morning. The second is the recitation of a formula of nullification of ownership (found in the hagadah or siddur) over any chometz which we might still inadvertently have in our possession (*bitul chometz*). This nullification is recited twice, once after *bedikas chometz* and then a final time after *biur chometz*. Finally, any chometz which can neither be consumed nor disposed of before Passover may be sold to a non-Jew (*mechiras chometz*). The form for *mechiras chometz* is found at the end of this Guide and is available online as well.

Dishes and utensils used for chometz throughout the year should be packed away in preparation for Pesach. Certain dishes and utensils used may also be used for Pesach once they are properly kashered and any chometz they have absorbed has been removed. The following section provides a brief summary of the issues involved in kashering utensils and appliances for use on Pesach as well as several other laws and customs pertaining to the Seder and Pesach observance.

II. GLOSSARY

Many Hebrew words and phrases are utilized in this guide, rather than their sometimes cumbersome English translations. We therefore provide this glossary of terms. All italicized words in the text of this glossary are also individual entries within it.

Bedikas chometz - the candlelight search for leaven. On Sunday, April 17th, after 8:23 p.m., all rooms of the house are searched for *chometz*. This search is preceded by a special blessing, and followed by a special prayer, known as *bitul chometz*. These can be found in the Artscroll Siddur on p. 654.

Beitzah - the egg placed on the *karah*. It commemorates the Festival Offering offered at the time The Temple stood.

Bitul chometz - the renunciation of ownership of *chometz*. This is achieved by recitation of a special "Kol Chamira" formula. One form is recited immediately following the *bedikas chometz*. An expanded version is normally recited after the *biur chometz*. The burning of the *chometz* must be done on Monday, April 18th before 11:42 a.m. These prayers are printed in the Artscroll Siddur on p.654. Reciting these prayers absolves one from the possible transgression(s) of possession of *chometz*.

Biur chometz - the burning of any *chometz* that has not been sold, plus the crumbs and container used in the *bedikas chometz* the night before. The *biur chometz* must take place on Monday, April 18th no later than 11:42 a.m.

From 8:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., *biur chometz* will take place in the Kohelet Yeshiva High School parking lot for those who lack the means for proper *chometz* disposal.

Charoses - paste made of wine, apples and nuts with the appearance of mortar. It is symbolic of the bricks our ancestors formed for Pharaoh in Egypt. It is one of the items placed on the *karah*.

Chazeres - bitter herbs, usually romaine lettuce, placed on the *karah*. It recalls our exile, which began in a pleasant manner but ended in bitter slavery. *Chazeres* is eaten together with the *maror* and included in the *korach* sandwich.

Chometz - any of five types of grain (wheat, barley, spelt, rye, and oats) allowed to remain in contact with water for a period of time before baking.

Erev-eve, day before. Erev Pesach is the day before Passover. This year, that date is Monday, April 18th.

Hagalah - the process by which utensils made of metals, bone, wood, marble, granite and natural rubber are purged of their *chometz* and made suitable for Pesach use. This process, known as *hagalas keilim*, is achieved by fully submerging clean and rust-free utensils, previously used with *chometz* in combination with hot water, in the presence of direct heat, e.g. pots, into a pot containing water heated to a rolling boil. Prior to *hagalah* the utensils being kashered may not be used for a 24-hour period. After being immersed in boiling water, the utensils should be dunked in cold water. *Hagalah* will take place at the shul on Sunday, April 10th and on Sunday, April 17th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Karah - *seeder* plate. The plate contains six items: *beitzah*, *charoses*, *chazeres*, *karpas*, *maror*, and *zeroah*.

Karpas - vegetable placed on the *karah*. It is symbolic of our potential for growth and rebirth.

Kitniyos – non-grain species that grow in pods and can be ground into flour. Ashkenazi Jews do not consume these products or their derivatives on Pesach. There are exceptions to prohibit certain foods that do not have these characteristics and to permit certain foods that do have these traits. There are also varying customs with regards to certain foods as to whether they should be designated as *kitniyos*.

Korach - the *matzah*, *maror* and *charoses* sandwich consumed during the *Seder* meals to recall the ancient custom of eating the Paschal offering with *matzah* and bitter herbs. The great sage Hillel introduced this custom.

Kosher l'Pesach - designation indicating that a food, utensil, or establishment is "kosher for Passover" or suitable for use on Passover. Make sure when purchasing products for Pesach use that they are marked accordingly.

Libun - process for *kashering* utensils used with *chometz* without hot water, e.g. baking pans. Two forms of *libun* exist. Basic *libun*, or *libun kal*, requires that the utensil is heated until the heat penetrates sufficiently throughout the utensil. When paper is placed on such a utensil it will burn. *Libun*, or *libun gamur*, requires that the utensil is heated until it becomes red hot. *Libun kal* is achieved by heating in ovens; *libun gamur* by use of a blowtorch.

Maror - bitter herbs, usually raw horseradish. These remind us of our "embittered" bondage in Egypt.

Mechiras chometz - the sale to a non-Jew of all leavened products and utensils prior to Pesach. Rabbi Shmidman is glad to serve as your agent to sell your *chometz*. A sale of *chometz* form appears at the end of this Guide. Additional forms are available online or from the office. Please ensure that the filled out form is received by Rabbi Shmidman no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 18th for your *chometz* to be included in the sale

Siyum bechorim - festive meal celebrating the conclusion of a Talmudic tractate intended specifically for first-born males who would otherwise have to fast on the day immediately preceding the first eve of Pesach. This year a siyum will be conducted after each of the morning services on Monday, April 18th.

Zeroah - shankbone, or chicken neck. The *zeroah* is placed on the *karah* to represent the Paschal Lamb first sacrificed on the eve of the Exodus from Egypt.

III. KASHERING

The laws of *kashering* are many and varied. It is best to use dishes and utensils especially set aside for Passover use. However, under certain conditions, some of the utensils used throughout the year may also be used on Passover if they are *kashered* and prepared in a special manner for Passover use. It is recommended in all cases when *kashering* becomes necessary that you consult the Rabbi. All *kashering* of utensils for Pesach should be completed prior to Pesach. *Kashering* methods vary, depending on the manner in which *chometz* entered those vessels. The procedures delineated below are definitive guidelines to follow for the specific items mentioned and should not automatically be applied to other situations without rabbinic consultation.

Cooking utensils - Pots and other utensils used to cook *chometz* in liquid may be *kashered* with *hagalah* (the process explained in the glossary). Pot covers and handles also require *hagalah*. These should preferably be unscrewed before *kashering*. Baking pans and other utensils which were used with heat or fire but without water require *libun kal* (see glossary) to purge the *chometz*.

Countertops - Stainless steel, solid granite or marble counters may be *kashered*. After a thorough cleaning the counter should not have any hot *chometz* come in contact with it for a 24 -hour period. Prior to *kashering* the entire surface should be totally dry. Boiling water should be poured in a continuous flow directly from the kettle or pot over the entire surface. Treated stone surfaces, Corian, Formica, plastic and porcelain countertops are *unkasherable*. They should be thoroughly cleaned and subsequently covered.

Dishwashers - Dishwashers are extremely difficult to *kasher*. They should be sealed and not used during Pesach.

Glass - In Europe, where glass was expensive and hard to obtain, it was customary to *kasher* drinking glasses by immersing them in cold water for three (3) twenty-four (24) hour periods in the following manner: The glasses were submerged for twenty-four (24) hours. The water was then emptied and refilled. This procedure was repeated two (2) more times for a total of seventy-two (72) hours. This procedure, however, was never applied, nor should it be, to Pyrex or to a glass that is put on the fire or in the oven. In general, *kashering* glasses is only recommended in cases of extreme need, but whenever glasses are readily available for purchase, special glasses for Pesach are the best and preferable solution.

Kiddush cups - Due to the fact that they are washed with *chometz* dishes in hot water, *hagalah* should be performed on kiddush cups after a period of 24 hours of non-use.

Kitchen cabinets - The pantry, cabinets, drawers, and closets which are used for food, silverware and dishes should be cleaned thoroughly and covered. Shelving paper is sufficient for this purpose.

Microwave ovens - After a thorough cleaning and a 24-hour period of not being used, a large kosher l'Pesach glass of very soapy water should be boiled for fifteen minutes. However, when using a microwave on Pesach, one should cover the food and replace (or, at least cover) the tray that holds the food.

Ovens - Conventional gas and electric ovens that have a self-cleaning function, along with their racks, will be fully *kashered* merely by self-cleaning them. (Care should be taken to see that the door of such an oven is totally clean after running the self-cleaning function.) A conventional oven that does not have a self-cleaning function should be thoroughly cleaned with a caustic cleanser. Careful attention should be paid to removing any rust that may have built up over time. The oven should then sit for a 24-hour period, after which the oven should be set to its highest temperature for at least one hour. Should grease or dirt spots remain, the process should be repeated. Any spots remaining after two cleanings may be disregarded. Continuous-clean ovens require the same process as conventional ovens not having self-cleaning functions. Continuous-clean ovens should not have caustic cleaners applied to them. Instead, the continuous clean function is sufficient to clean such ovens. It is not, however, sufficient to *kasher* them. Once the oven is cleaned and 24 hours have elapsed without it being used, it should be run on its highest temperature for an hour.

Refrigerators - Refrigerators and freezers should be washed thoroughly, making sure to reach all areas where *chometz* could have spilled. Special care should be taken to ensure that no *chometz* adheres directly to the racks or around the rubber gaskets, which often collect crumbs. All places that make contact with hot *chometz* need to be covered. When covering shelves, one may make openings to allow for air circulation.

Silverware - After 24 hours of non-use, spoons, forks, and knives may be *kashered* with *hagalalah*, provided they do not have handles. Cutlery with handles, e.g. steak knives, cannot generally be *kashered*.

Sinks - China and porcelain sinks should be completely lined with contact paper or other appropriate material. In addition, dishes that are to be washed in such sinks (china or porcelain), must be washed in a Pesach dishpan and placed on a Pesach rack.

Stainless steel sinks can be *kashered* by the following method: Clean the sink thoroughly, leave it dry and unused for twenty-four (24) hours. The sink should then be *kashered* by pouring boiling water over every part of it, from the bottom upwards, in a continuous motion.

This should be done from a Pesach kettle/pot. Care should be taken to cover every part of the drain and the spout of the water faucet, after *kashering*. Due to the fact that pop-up stoppers are extremely difficult to *kasher*, they should be removed or replaced.

Stovetops - On a gas range, the cast iron or metal grate, on which the pots on the range sit, may be inserted into the oven after they have been thoroughly cleaned, and *kashered* together with the oven. For an electric stovetop, one need only turn on the burners on the highest heat setting until they glow for a few minutes. The knobs with which the gas or electricity is turned on should be cleaned. No other process is necessary to *kasher* the knobs.

Tablecloths, towels - Where it is impossible or costly to purchase new ones, tablecloths and towels used with *chometz* may both be *kashered* by laundering them with detergent in hot water.

Kitchen Items That Cannot Be Kashered

China, Corning Ware, graters (any), knives with plastic handles, Melmac, mixers, plastic utensils porcelain, porcelain-enameled pots, Pyrex, Silverstone, Stoneware, synthetic rubber and Teflon

Shopping Note

Please remember that products often bear kosher for Pesach labels even though they contain *kitniyos*, and sometimes stores are not careful to separate between the *kitniyos* and non-*kitniyos* products.

**Please Return This Form to Lower Merlon Synagogue
before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 18, 2011**

Please fill out one form per address.

Authorization

I hereby authorize Rabbi Avraham Shmidman to sell my chometz and to rent the locality where my chometz is stored, which is presently at the following address:

in the following designated areas (List specific cabinets, closets, garages, rooms, storage facilities at the above address):

and consists of (List types of chometz, e.g. food products, alcoholic beverages, chometz adhering to utensils):

as well as all other chometz that is in my possession (including transit goods that will be delivered to me during the period of Monday, April 18, 2011 to Tuesday, April 26, 2011 inclusive), excluding all chometz that I shall retain for use until 11:42 a.m. EST Monday, April 18, 2011, to a non-Jew of his choosing. The buyer has free access to the chometz acquired by him.

The chometz has an approximate dollar value of \$_____. (Where the exact amount is not known, underestimate, **DO NOT** overestimate value.)

I further empower Rabbi Shmidman, at his choosing, to appoint a substitute in his stead with full power to sell my chometz and rent the location(s) where such chometz is stored.

The exact assessment of quantity and value of the chometz will take place after Pesach 5771, April 2011.

Name -please print.....

Signature.....

Address.....

Date.....

I will be home all of Pesach

I will be in a different time zone for the start of Pesach**

I will be in this time zone the end of Pesach

I will be away all of Pesach

I will be in a different time zone for the end of Pesach

I will be in this time zone for the start of Pesach

**Please specify which time zone you will be in._____.

Please note this form is **only** valid if you will be in this time zone for Pesach. Please see Rabbi Shmidman if you will be in a different time zone.

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

5771 – 2011

Thursday, April 14-Sunday, April 24

A dumpster will be at LMS for your chometz trash. No other household items please.

Sunday, April 17th

Bedikas Chometz this evening after 8:23 p.m.

EREV PESACH

Monday, April 18th

Shacharis with Siyum for first born after both the 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. Shacharis.

Chometz may not be eaten after 10:23 a.m.

Chometz must be destroyed by 11:42 a.m.

Mincha Gedola at 1:35 p.m.

Mincha at 7:30 p.m.

PESACH I

Monday night, April 18th

Candle lighting at 7:24 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19th

Shacharis at 7:15, 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Mincha at 7:20 p.m.

PESACH II

Tuesday night, April 19th

Maariv at 8:25 p.m.

Candle lighting after 8:26 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20th

Shacharis at 7:15, 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Mincha at 7:20 p.m.

Maariv at 8:30 p.m.

Yom Tov ends at 8:36 p.m.

CHOL HAMOED

Thursday, April 21st and Friday, April 22nd

Shacharis at 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Thursday Mincha at 7:35 p.m.

EREV SHABBOS CHOL HAMOED

Early Mincha at 6:10 p.m.

Candle lighting at 7:28 p.m.

Mincha at 7:30 p.m.

SHABBOS CHOL HAMOED

Shacharis at 7:15, 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Shir HaShirim is read this morning

Mincha at 7:20 p.m.

Maariv at 8:33 p.m.

Shabbos ends at 8:38 p.m.

CHOL HAMOED

Sunday, April 24th

Shacharis at 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 a.m.

Mincha Gedolah at 1:35 p.m.

Mincha at 7:40 p.m.

PESACH VII

Sunday night, April 24th

Candle lighting at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 25th

Shacharis at 7:15, 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Mincha at 7:40 p.m.

PESACH VIII

Monday night, April 25th

Maariv at 8:30 p.m.

Candle lighting after 8:32 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26th

Shacharis at 7:15, 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.

Yizkor is part of this service

Mincha at 7:40 p.m.

Maariv at 8:37 p.m.

Yom Tov ends at 8:42 p.m.

You will be notified by email if and when your chometz has been repurchased.