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April 2016/Nissan 5776

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Message from Rabbi Landau

Dear Friends:

A few of the most exciting parts of the seder for children gathered around the table are the songs we find in the Pesach Haggadah. While we try to make these songs lively for children, a closer inspection reveals the deeper meanings embedded in each verse. To help us tap into this critical analysis, here is my interpretation of one of the Pesach favorites, Echad Mi Yo-dea.

One G-d: Judaism teaches us that G-d didn't just create the world a very long time ago and then go off and do something else. Rather, He is involved in our lives and keeps the world going every single day. From the bad to the good, the concept of G-d's oneness reminds us that nothing can happen in the world without G-d being part of it.

Two Tablets: The Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets and these two tablets teach us about two types of relationships that we must be concerned with as Jews: our relationships with our fellow man and our relationship with G-d. Both of these relationships must be developed in our day to day dealings.

Three Patriarchs: From the three patriarchs, we see the foundations upon which our religion was built. Through Abraham, we see chesed. Through Isaac, we see the degree to which we have to be willing to fulfill G-d's commandments. Through Jacob, we learn that when faced with adversity, we must never lose our faith that G-d is watching over us.

Four Matriarchs: From the four matriarchs, we learn about the ability that each of us has to overcome the negative influences of our surroundings and do the right thing. Accordingly, one of the trademarks of the Jewish woman is to create an environment for her family that will foster a strong Jewish identity.

Five Books of the Torah: The word "Torah" comes from the word "ho-rah-uh," which means instruction. This is because the Torah serves as a user's manual, so to speak, on how to live our lives to the highest potential.

This article continues on page

Adath Israel Pesach Schedule 5776

Erev Shabbat , Fri. April 15		Mincha/Ma'ariv	7:25 PM
Candle lighting	7:28 PM	Earliest candle lighting (existing flame)	8:36 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/ Ma'ariv	7:00 PM		
		Pesach 2 , Sun. April 24	
Shabbat HaGadol , Sat. April 16		Shacharit	9:30 AM
Shacharit	9:00 AM	Mincha and Class	7:30 PM
Youth Programs	10:30 AM	Ma'ariv/Havdalah	8:36 PM
Rabbi's Shiur	6:30 PM		
Mincha	7:15 PM	Daily Minyan for Chol Hamoed	
Ma'ariv/Havdalah	8:28 PM	Shacharit (weekdays)	6:50 AM
Erev Pesach , Fri. April 22		Erev Pesach 7 , Thu. April 28	
Ta'anit Bechorot (Firstborn Fast)	5:00 AM	Shacharit	6:50 AM
Shacharit	6:50 AM	Latest Candle Lighting	7:40 PM
Siyyum	7:30 AM	Mincha/Ma'ariv	7:40 PM
Finish Eating Chametz	10:53 AM		
Finish Burning Chametz	12:01 PM	Pesach 8 , Sat. April 30	
Candle Lighting	7:34 PM	Shacharit	9:00 AM
Mincha/Class/Ma'ariv	7:35 PM	Youth Programs	10:30 AM
Communal Seder	8:00 PM	Yizkor (approx.)	11:00 AM
		Mincha	7:30 PM
Pesach 1 , Sat. April 23		Ma'ariv/Havdalah	8:42 PM
Shacharit	9:30 AM	Chametz that you sold may be eaten	9:15 PM
Youth Programs	10:30 AM		

Rabbinic Thoughts from Rabbi Landau on Pesach

THE MITZVAH OF MAOT CHITIM - WHEAT MONEY The holiday of Pesach is called *z'man cheiruteinu*, or the "time of our freedom." There is a special mitzvah at this time of year called Maot Chitim- giving money to ensure that our fellow Jews have freedom from economic hardship and thereby enabling them to make a dignified Pesach seder for themselves and their families. Please contact the shul office to donate to the Adath Israel Maot Chitim Fund, which is administered in a sensitive and confidential manner by Rabbi Landau. Your generosity will fulfill the promise we make at our sedarim every year: "Let all who are hungry come and eat with us."

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR PESACH

CHAMETZ The purpose of preparing and cleaning your home for Pesach is to remove substances known as chametz. This term is applied to any conceivably edible substance composed of or containing: wheat, rye, oats, barley and spelt. These grains become chametz (or leavened) when they come into contact with water or moisture for more than eighteen minutes, resulting in fermentation. Additionally, it is the tradition of Ashkenazi Jews to refrain from eating legumes, or *kitniyot* in Hebrew. This includes: rice, corn, beans, peas, soy, mustard, etc. The biblical prohibition regarding chametz is not restricted to consumption alone, but also includes the owning of, or the benefiting from, conceivably edible chametz. Therefore, one has to be concerned not only with typical food products, but also with medicines, cosmetics, pet foods, paper goods, frozen vegetables and many other seemingly innocuous products. In short, anything that is not poisonous has to be checked for chametz. Please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Landau before or during Pesach to ascertain a product's status.

KASHERING All utensils and appliances used for preparing and storing food for Pesach must be chametz free. If one wishes to use utensils and appliances that have absorbed chametz, then those utensils must be koshered for Pesach. The Star-K website provides instructions on kashering your utensils and appliances. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Landau if you have any questions or would like his assistance.

TEVILLAT KEILIM (*Immersing Utensils*) The Torah commands that dishes and utensils made of metal or glass which are produced, manufactured or sold by a non-Jew must be immersed in a *mikveh*, or natural body of water. If one was unaware of this mitzvah, their utensils/appliances should be immersed ASAP, even though they have already been used. The Star-K website provides instructions on immersing your utensils and appliances. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Landau if you have any questions or would like his assistance.

BEDIKAT CHAMETZ *April 21* The removal of chametz culminates with a special, final search using a feather (to sweep the last crumbs that may be found) and a candle (or flashlight) to illuminate dark corners. Instructions for this ritual can be found at the beginning of any Haggadah or on page 654 of the Artscroll Siddur. It is customary to place ten small pieces of bread around the house to be "discovered". In families with young children, this is a way each child can become involved with the mitzvah of preparing for Pesach.

BIYUR CHAMETZ (*Destruction of Chametz*) *Morning of April 22* The Torah not only commanded us to remove all chametz from our homes, but also to physically to destroy it as well. Therefore, we take the ten pieces of bread we "found" the night before and burn them outside.

MECHIRAT CHAMETZ (*Selling of Chametz*) Chametz which cannot be disposed of because of its quantity or great value is sold to a non-Jew before Pesach. We must sell the chametz that is located in our regular homes, vacation homes, businesses, etc. This transfer of chametz to a non-Jew is a legal and binding sale, complete with a contract. Therefore, if the non-Jew wishes to avail him/herself of his/her chametz during Pesach, we are legally obligated to let him/her do so. The sale is transacted through the rabbi, who acts as our agent. The chametz that has been sold must be placed in a totally sealed off area and must remain there throughout Pesach. The reason for this is that the area where the chametz is kept is rented to the non-Jew for his storage purposes. All chametz must be sold by Friday, April 22nd at 10:50am. Please complete the form on the back page to empower the rabbi to sell your chametz.

CHAMETZ SH'AVAR ALAV HAPESACH (*Buying Chametz after Pesach*) Due to the severity of the prohibition of chametz, the Sages reinforced the sale of chametz with a fine. The fine was levied on any Jew who kept chametz in his/her possession or ownership during Pesach. The law requires that if a Jew owned chametz during Pesach, no Jew is allowed to eat or benefit from it even after Pesach. The following stores have been approved for the purchase of chametz products immediately after Pesach: 7-Eleven, 99 Cents Store, Albertsons, BevMo, Big Lots, Bristol Farms, Coffee Bean, Costco, CVS, Dollar Tree, Erewhon, Food4Less, Fresh & Easy, Gelson's, Jetto/Restaurant Depot, Jon's, K-Mart, Nuts & More, Petco, PetSmart, Ralphs/Kroger, Rite Aid, Sadaf, Safeway, Sam's Club, Smart & Final, Smith's, Target (in California), Trader Joe's, Vons / Pavilions, Walgreens, Walmart, Wine & Liquor Depot and Whole Foods.

UNUSUAL CHAMETZ CONCERNS

FROZEN VEGETABLES Most large companies purchase their vegetables from many different processors. Due to increased competition from Mexico and Guatemala, many packers are processing pasta and vegetables in their blanching equipment when it is not in use for pure vegetables. **Only frozen vegetables that have a kosher for Passover certification can be used.**

MILK Due to modern pasteurization techniques used in the dairy industry, many nutrients are removed from milk. Governmental regulation require that Vitamin D, and in some cases Vitamin A, be added to the milk before it is sold. These vitamins are often derived from chametz or kitniyot (legumes) and cannot be annulled on Pesach, even if only a minute amount was added. Another matter of concern is the processing equipment. Milk companies often produce chocolate milk on the same equipment that they use for plain milk. The chocolate milk can contain malt, which is a grain derivative. **Therefore, in communities where certified kosher I'pesach milk is unavailable, one may purchase regular kosher milk but ONLY BEFORE Pesach. Specifically, before 12:00pm on the day before Pesach.**

PET FOOD There are two separate Kashrut issues for us to be aware of regarding pet food, one specific to Pesach and the other relevant the entire year. Since we are not allowed to have any benefit from chametz during Pesach, we cannot feed chametz to our animals during this time. The rest of the year, the Torah not only forbids eating a cooked mixture of meat and milk, it also prohibits making such a mixture or having any benefit from such a mixture made by someone else. Feeding your animal is considered benefit. When it comes to animal food, the term "meat" does not include: poultry, venison or any non-kosher animal. Please contact the rabbi if you need help finding suitable pet food.

MEDICINES Liquid and chewable medications may contain chametz or kitniyot (all pill meds are not a problem). Please contact Rabbi Landau if you need to take these type of medicines to find out what to do.



COSMETICS/TOILETRIES Many liquid deodorants, hair mousse, hairsprays, perfumes and colognes contain edible grain based alcohol and therefore should not be used on Pesach.

FAST OF THE FIRST BORN *Friday April 22* It is an ancient and widespread custom for the firstborn to fast on the day before Passover. This commemorates the miracle that spared the firstborn Jewish sons from the plague that struck down the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. By right, this fast should be held on the anniversary of the day on which the miracle occurred, the night of the 15th of Nissan. However, since the 15th is already Passover and we do not fast on Festival days, the fast is pushed forward to the 14th. The tradition has been to treat this fast leniently and therefore it is customary to arrange for a *siyum* (a celebration upon concluding a tractate) to take place in the synagogue after morning prayers on the 14th of Nissan. The firstborn sons who are present participate in the festive meal. Having already broken their fast, they may continue to eat for the rest of the day.

SEDER GUIDE

KADDESH/WINE The rabbis instituted the drinking of four cups of wine to enhance the seder experience and to emphasize the four stages that were involved in the redemption of the Jews from Egypt. It is preferable to use uncooked red wine with intoxicating abilities that has no sugar added. However, if need be, grape juice can suffice. A cup of wine is defined as having a capacity of no less than three fluid ounces and at least 51% should be consumed per cup. The proper fulfillment of this and the following mitzvot (except for maror) is dependent upon eating them while reclining to the left.

MAGID (*Telling the Story*) The obligation to relate the story of the exodus from Egypt is not to merely parrot the Haggadah text. Rather, it is meant to be a meaningful experience for all involved. Therefore, it is imperative to take the time prior to Seder night to prepare with a Haggadah that has commentaries and explanations. An additional resource for enhancing your seder experience is the "Passover Survival Kit," which attempts to "transform your seder into an experience which is thoroughly relevant to some of the most important issues of your life." You can find it on amazon.

SHMURA MATZAH Many people are unaware that the matzah that should optimally be used at the Seder cannot be bought at most stores. The Torah commands that the matzah used for the Seder be *shmura*, guarded/protected from moisture as of its harvest and that the entire process of the making of the matzah be with the intent to fulfill the mitzvah of eating it at the Seder. The regular store bought matzot are protected only from the time they are ground into flour, and though they can be eaten throughout Pesach, it is preferable they not be used to fulfill the mitzvah of eating matzah at the Seder. This year handmade Shmura Matza can be purchased at Costco.

MOTZI (*Eating Matzah*) G-d commanded us to eat matzah. What exactly constitutes "matzvah eating?" This requires the following amounts to be swallowed as quickly as possible: optimally, 2/3 of a machine matzah or a 1/2 of a hand matzah; minimally, 1/2 of a machine matzah or a 1/3 of a hand matzah.

MAROR G-d also commanded that bitter herbs be eaten. Therefore, one should eat either 1 fluid oz. of pure horseradish or enough lettuce leaves to cover an area of 8x10" (if using only stalks, 3x5" is required). Personally, I prefer to mix the two using 1/2 fl. oz. of horseradish and lettuce leaves covering an area of 8x5".

KORECH (*The Sandwich*) Use either 1/2 of a machine matzah or 1/3 of a hand matzah together with 0.7 fluid oz. of pure horseradish or enough lettuce leaves to cover an area of 8x10" (3x5" if using only stalks). Personally, I prefer to mix the two, using 0.35 fluid oz. of horseradish and lettuce leaves covering an area of 8x5".

AFIKOMEN Eating the middle matzah, or *afikomen*, is the final part of the meal, after which no more food should be consumed. Many people are under the misunderstanding that the obligation of eating the afikomen consists simply of a little bite, because once the matzah is broken in half, there is not that much left! However, that little bite should be supplemented with a minimum of 1/2 of a machine matzah or 1/3 of a hand matzah. Optimally though, one should eat 2/3 of a machine matzah or 1/2 of the hand matzah.

CHOL HAMOED *April 25-28*

Pesach is divided into two distinct periods: Yom Tov and Chol Hamo'ed (C"H). Yom Tov is very similar to Shabbat, although cooking and carrying in public are permitted. C"H is unique, as indicated by its name, which means "secular that is sacred." On C"H, we are only permitted to do activities that enhance our holiday experience. Every single action has to be justified vis-à-vis its relevance to enriching our lives during the holiday. C"H is meant to be a type of biosphere, wherein we practice living our daily lives on a higher plain. This experience is meant to teach us how to raise the spiritual level of our everyday lives. Typically C"H is used for high quality family time.

COUNTING THE OMER *April 24-June 11*

Beginning on Sunday night, April 24th, and continuing every night through June 1th, we count the days that lead up to Shavuot, the anniversary of the most important event in human history, when G-d revealed Himself to all of our ancestor's at one time on Mount Sinai. Instructions on how to fulfill this mitzvah can be found in the Artscroll Siddur (pages 284-286) or in the OU Guide to Passover 2016.

YIZKOR *April 30, 11:00AM* It is an ancient Jewish tradition to honor the memory of a parent (and other family members) on their *yahrzeit*, Yom Kippur, the last days of Pesach, Shavuot, and Succot. Judaism teaches that though one's body may cease to function, the essence of a person lives on forever in a different realm. In this new world, they are still aware of and affected by what transpires in the world they left behind. Yizkor is a time to seriously reflect on how grateful we are for all that our parents (and other family members) did for us. By doing so, we not only remind ourselves how important they were to us, but we also convey this sentiment to them. Additionally, by praying for their welfare and making a commitment to do some act of *chesed* or *tzedaka* on their behalf, it gives them great *nachas*.

PERIOD OF MOURNING *April 24-May 26* Sometime after the destruction of the Second Temple during the interval that we count the days leading up to Shavuot, the vast majority of the Jewish leadership perished over the course of a thirty-three day period. Therefore, it is customary to observe many of the traditions of Jewish mourning, such as refraining from haircuts, beard trimming, wedding attendance, and other celebratory activities.

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Golda Miller	Nechemia Galperin
Estelle Monderer	Ester Monderer
Estelle Monderer	Jeanette Monderer
Abraham Newman	Gila Shagan
Ted & Sandra Osheroff	Leah Osheroff
Patty Ozeri	Maria Klein
Bella Pasynkova	Girsul Zelkin
Bella Pasynkova	Boris Pasynkov & Rita Pasynkov
Moshe Pomeranc	Anna Pomeranc
Moshe Pomeranc	Harold Pomeranc
Anna Ratner	Boris Vayman
Sally & Harry Recht	Moshe Recht
David Reselbach & Anna Hartmann	Phyllis Reselbach
Bertha Schaffer	Franzes Loebenstein
Minoo & Stanley Scheidlinger	Toni Sheidlinger
Minoo & Stanley Scheidlinger	Edith Sheidlinger
Masha & Donald Shifs	Sam Wesserman
Sidney Silberberg	Rose Bolkovski
Henry Slamovich	Isaak Recht
Goldie & Martin Sosnick	Malka Sosnick
Goldie & Martin Sosnick	Gedaliah Sosnick

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Goldie & Martin Sosnick	Rachel Goldberg
Goldie & Martin Sosnick	Golda Kaplan
Sherri & Charles Sosnick	Molly Sosnick & Robert Sosnick
Sherri & Charles Sosnick	Hanna Silberberg
Dinah & Joseph Szander	Cantor Abraham Szander
Genie & Thomas Tabak	Adela Shayevitz
Marilyn G. Thorne	Fannie Fontane
Marilyn G. Thorne	Jay I. Fontane
Yaffa & Gary Weinstein	Harry & Betty Weinstein
Esther Weinstein	Allegria Cohen
Daniel Weiss	Rosalie Weiss
Sally & Samuel Weiss	Moshe Weiss
Sally & Samuel Weiss	Sam & Judy Wasserman
Neal Wohlmuth	Joseph, Mendel, Nathan, Samuel Tauba & Leah Wohlmuth
Neal Wohlmuth	Hilda Wohlmuth
Shula & Ray Zerbib	Kaila Kurek

REFUAH SHLEMA**GIVEN BY****FOR**

Emil Knopf	Birdie Klein
Emil Knopf	Judi Rosner
Patty Ozeri	Barnie Klein
Patty Ozeri	Jessica Yona Ozeri
Masha & Alex Rudakov	Family Friend
Roman Slepnyov & Polina Pasyukova	Elizaveta Slepnyov
Larissa & Pavel Vinnitsky	Yael Larisa bat Ida



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Six Orders of the Mishna: The Mishna is a collection of materials from the Oral Torah as well as the man-made laws. Originally, this part of the Torah was transmitted orally to avoid misinterpretation. The only way someone could receive a correct understanding of Judaism was to study with a person who had been trained by someone who had been trained by someone who had been trained by Moshe. However, due to the exile, persecution, and subsequent decrease in Jewish literacy, Rabbi Yehuda Hanasee (the leading Rabbi in the year 200 CE) decided that the Oral Torah had to be written down in some form. He collected all the information he could and organized it into categories, tractates and chapters in order to preserve the tradition.

Seven Days of the Week: The fact that a week is seven days is something that we all take for granted. Throughout history, from the Greeks to the Romans and all the way up to Stalin, many societies expressed their opposition to the Jewish seven day week and suggested alternative timetables. It may seem small, but the simple act of observing a seven day week demonstrates our adherence to G-d's will.

Eight Days for a Brit: The word "brit" means covenant, hinting to the agreement that bonds together Abraham's family and G-d. One reason the covenant is remembered in this manner is that it teaches us all a lesson about self-control. G-d is trying to teach us that in order for a person to have a better quality of life, they need to learn self-control. Therefore, G-d chose the part of the human body that has the greatest need for self-control to teach us this important lesson.

Nine Months of Pregnancy: Before Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the tree of knowledge, the process of having children was meant to be a lot easier and quicker than the nine months it takes today. The purpose of this punishment is to correct the gap that Eve created between herself and G-d when she went against G-d's will. The nine months of pregnancy are a system that G-d setup to motivate women to ask for His help, and thereby close the gap that was created.

Ten Commandments: The giving of the Ten Commandments represents the most important event in Jewish history—the official beginning of the Jewish religion. Having experienced G-d speaking directly to them, the Jewish people affirmed their knowledge (and no longer mere belief) that there is a G-d. The Ten Commandments teach us that only G-d can decide what is considered right and wrong and that no human being can create a law that goes against G-d's will.

Eleven Stars: This refers to Joseph's famous dream when the sun and the moon together with eleven stars bowed down to him. One of the commentaries explains that the constellations represent the different physical and Metaphysical forces that control the world. Their submission to Joseph demonstrates that the Jewish people are not controlled by nature. Rather, G-d takes a special interest in the Jewish people and personally watches over them.

Twelve Tribes: This represents the wide range of diversity that exists within the Jewish people. The division of Jacob's family into twelve different tribes teaches us the importance that each of us has to use our unique talents to make the world a better place.

Thirteen Attributes of Mercy: This refers to a special prayer describing thirteen different types of mercy that G-d shows human beings. According to the Talmud, G-d taught Moshe this prayer after the Jewish people had worshiped the golden calf, saying "Whenever the Jewish people sin against me, let them recite this prayer with the proper devotion and I will forgive them." The idea of G-d forgiving us is not just dependent on our reciting this prayer, but on our being committed to treating other people mercifully.

Wishing you and your family

חג כשר ושמח

Rabbi Joel Landau

