

***Rabbi & Rebbetzen Lewis,  
Rabbi and Rebbetzen Landau,  
the  
Honorary Officers  
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Board of Management  
wish all Yeshurun members  
and their families***

***A Very Happy Pesach  
חג כשר ושמח פסח***



Yeshurun Federation Synagogue, Edgware

## **Pesach Yomtov Guide – 2018**

***"TOWARDS A GOOD YOMTOV AND A KOSHER PESACH"***

### ***Some Guidance Notes for Pesach by Rabbi Alan Lewis***

**THE FESTIVAL OF PESACH** lasts for eight days and should be observed this year from **7.16pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March until 8.32pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April** (14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Nisan). This festival is unique due to its multiplicity of prohibitions and observances in addition to its universal symbolism. One such prohibition restricts us from possessing or utilising "Chometz" (leaven).

Chometz is the fermentation that results when flour is mixed with water and allowed to stand for the period necessary for this process to activate. Chometz does not just mean bread with yeast as is often thought. The Chometz prohibition applies to the fermented products of five kinds of grain: wheat, barley, oats, rye and spelt and their derivatives. Thus all pastries, cakes, beer, gin, whisky, powdered soups (even if kosher for ordinary use), cereals, custard powder, baked beans, Vesop, Marmite, Gripe Water, Lift (lemon tea powder) and matzos and matzoh meal (where not supervised for Pesach), to mention but a few, are chometz. Whilst Rakusens matzos and matzoh meal are manufactured under supervision, care should be taken to ensure that the packets state "Kosher for Passover" as they also manufacture these products NOT Kosher for Passover.

In order to refrain from Chometz during Pesach, we may use only such processed foods and food products which are manufactured under the supervision of a recognised Rabbinical Authority. One should beware of buying products sold in many shops which simply state KOSHER FOR PASSOVER without having a reliable HECHSHER. With frozen vegetables, there is a problem but frozen fish are in order.

A list of products (not produced under Rabbinical Supervision) but found to be Chometz free (eg baby foods, medicaments and cosmetics) is published regularly by the London US Beth Din, and there are supplements and advertisements in the Jewish press.

### **KOSHERING OF UTENSILS**

The removal of chometz also implies changing all dishes, crockery and cutlery and other kitchen utensils since they all absorb leaven. Separate dishes and utensils

should be used for Pesach although some items can be made fit for use by the process of Koshering. Metal pots, pans or cutlery can be made usable for Pesach by thorough cleansing, leaving them unused for 24 hours and then by complete immersion in boiling water. I or other Mashgichim will be in attendance at the Yeshurun Synagogue on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm to 6pm** to supervise the Koshering of utensils. **Please note: such utensils must not have been used during the previous 24 hours.** Many items such as earthenware, porcelain, plastics objects, pyrex, cutlery with separate handles and vessels with parts inaccessible for cleaning cannot be Koshered for Pesach. It should be noted that all new metal and glass vessels must be dipped in a Mikvah before use. **NB: Yeshurun now has its own Keilim Mikvah.**

### **BEDIKAS CHOMETZ [The Searching for Chometz]**

The night before Pesach (**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March**) the entire home should be cleared of Chometz. Only breakfast the following morning, may remain in the corner of the kitchen. The head of the household pronounces the blessing "**Al Biur Chometz**" [Singers Prayer Book page 307 (page 615, new edition)] and aided by a candle or a torch, thoroughly searches the house to ensure that nothing Chometz has been overlooked. Upon concluding the search, "**Kol Chamiro**" is recited [SPB page 307 (page 615, new edition)]. As it is important that the text recited is clearly understood, the declaration may be recited in English.

### **MECHIRAS CHOMETZ [The Selling of Chometz]**

The Torah commands us that no Chometz "be seen or found" in our possession during Pesach. The best way of fulfilling this injunction would be to dispose of all Chometz but disposing of larger, valuable quantities would cause financial hardship. To avoid this, the transfer of leaven to a non-Jew by a legal Bill of Sale was instituted so that, by such transfer, we no longer own the Chometz. This is no legal fiction but is effected according to true business procedure. The sale is perfectly valid in English Law and every Halachic method of legal transfer of ownership of goods employed. The Rav acts as the representative to the Gentile.

I will be available for **Mechiras Chometz** on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March between 7.45 pm and 9.30 pm**, in the Shul Classroom Block. The Chometz food or drink sold must be locked in a separate room or cupboard. For those who cannot come in person, a special form accompanies this Guide.

### **EREV PESACH [Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan]**

No Matzoh may be eaten at all on Erev Pesach in order that its taste should be new for the evening. No Chometz may be eaten after **10.22am**. Before **11.43am** all Chometz sold must be locked away and any remaining, must be burnt. After this ceremony, one recites the declaration "Kol Chamiro" [SPB Page 308 (Page 615, new edition)] and this must be said before **11.43am**.

### **TA'ANIS BECHOROS [Fast of the Firstborn]**

As a reminder that G-d spared the eldest sons of Israel when the firstborn of the Egyptians were slain, 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan (**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**) is observed as the Fast of the Firstborn "Ta'anis Bechoros". All firstborn and fathers of firstborn sons under thirteen are obliged to fast. The custom prevails that they participate in a Seudas Mitzvoh, a religious meal following a Siyyum, the completion of the study of a Tractate of the Talmud. Participation in this Siyyum exempts one from the duty of fasting. Shacharis will be at **6.45am followed by a Siyyum and a second minyan at 8.00am**.

### **SEDORIM**

**1st Night** – Yomtov begins at **7.16pm** but Seder must not commence before **8.12pm**.

**2nd Night** – No Seder preparations whatsoever, eg arranging the table, etc, are permitted before **8.20pm**. Special care should be taken that the candles for Yomtov must not be lit before this time and that they are lit from an existing flame.

In order to fulfil the mitzvos of Matzoh, Moror and the four cups of wine on Seder night it is not enough just to nibble the matzoh and sip the wine but certain minimum amounts are required:

WINE – A glass containing 3.03 fluid ozs of which over HALF must be drunk.

MATZOH – A piece at least 4"x 3 1/2" must be eaten (egg matzos CANNOT be used to perform this mitzvoh).

MOROR – Lettuce is preferable to horseradish and it must be meticulously examined for greenfly. Leaves of lettuce at least 8"x 10" or horseradish amount as compacted into 0.7 fl ozs.

Each of the above must be CONSUMED within the period of FIVE MINUTES.

Following the above guidelines will enable everyone to have a Kosher Pesach.

Wishing you all a Happy and Kosher Pesach.

***Rabbi Alan M Lewis***