

Pesah Guide 2021

By Rabbi Yoseph Oziel

THURSDAY MARCH 25

Siyum

- This year, Erev Pesah being Shabbat, the Ta'anit Bechorot – fast of the firstborn – cannot be observed as it should be, on Erev Pesah. Some fast on Thursday instead.
- Either way, it is customary for the firstborn to participate in a Siyum – celebratory conclusion of a tractate of Gemara – and then partake of the seudah that follows.
- The Siyum will be held at our synagogue after Tefillah, at approximately 7:45am. Takeout food items will be served.
- The Siyum will also be available by Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061020709>

Bedikat Hametz

- After 8:15pm, have someone place 10 small pieces of hametz throughout your house; say the Berachah: "*Baruch... asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al bi'ur hametz,*" and search for the pieces with the light of a candle; collect them, and save them.
- After the search, recite the "*Kal Hamira*" passage that you can find at the beginning of your Haggadah. It is important to understand what one is saying: "*All Hametz in my property that I have not seen and disposed of shall be nullified and worthless like the dust of the earth.*"
- It is recommended that you wrap the pieces in paper to prevent crumbing. And wrapping them in paper specifically will allow the pieces to burn the next day.

FRIDAY MARCH 26

Biur Hametz

- Even though we are allowed to consume hametz until Shabbat morning, we burn hametz on Friday morning between 11:00am and 12:00pm as we normally would.
- We burn the 10 pieces of hametz from Bedikat Hametz. An easy way to accomplish this is to do so inside a disposable foil pan in your backyard.
- We do not recite the second Kal Hamira at the burning of hametz. We shall do so on Shabbat morning.
- If you need to dispose of some excess hametz garbage, there will be a private garbage pickup service available for \$3.95 per bag / \$19.95 for 6 bags. Visit www.garbagebuddy.ca/pesach for information and to book a pickup. Space is limited.

Candle Lighting

Candle lighting for Shabbat is no later than 7:20pm.

Shabbat Night

- In order to avoid halachic complications, it is most advisable that Shabbat meals be completely Kasher LePesah, and that all dishes and cutlery be of the disposable kind.
- As far as HaMotzi, it is recommended to plan such that there be as little, if any, hametz left over after the seudah of Shabbat morning. Some prefer pita to bread, as it tends to leave less crumbs.
- One who eats 2 small pitas at each meal fulfils the obligation of eating the minimum amount of bread required for a Seudat Shabbat (approximately 45g); and the person saying HaMotzi on 2 small pitas also fulfils the requirement of Lehem Mishneh (saying HaMotzi on 2 loaves).
- One may then supplement the seudah with 'matzah ashirah,' or egg matzah.
- It is important that one does not diminish from the Kavod of Shabbat because of Pesah. One should try to have as normal a Seudat Shabbat as possible.

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SHABBAT MARCH 27

Shabbat Morning

-We will, BeEzrat Hashem, be praying Tefillah early so that we can begin our Seudot, and finish eating hametz, well before the time limit of 10:54am.

-If you have any hametz left, it must be disposed of no later than 12:09pm.

-There are a few options as to how to dispose of it: you can put it into a bag and place the bag inside a public trash bin (in a park, for example); or, if all you have left is a very small quantity of hametz, you can break it down into crumbs, wash the crumbs down the sink, and then pour some bleach down the drain.

-If you have too much hametz for the previous methods to work, you can place the hametz inside your city-issued trash bin and declare it "hefker" – ownerless – in front of someone. **BUT**, this will only work if you've included your bin in your sale of hametz.

-If possible, it is better to place the actual hametz inside the bin and pour bleach all over it. In that way, it isn't necessary to sell the bin or to declare the hametz 'hefker.'

-After you've gotten rid of all your hametz, recite the second Kal Hamira found in your Haggadah before noon, and then recite it in English: *"All Hametz in my property - that which I have seen and that which I have not seen; that which I have disposed of and that which I have not disposed of - let it be nullified and worthless like the dust of the earth."*

Seudah Shelishit

-If one wishes to fulfil the obligation of Seudah Shelishit by incorporating a Mezonot-type food item, one can do so by eating matzah ashirah, as regular matzah is prohibited to eat on Erev Pesah. If one will eat matzah ashirah, one must do so before 4:30pm.

-If eating matzah ashirah at Seudah Shelishit will make it challenging to eat matzah on Pesah night with appetite, one may fulfil the obligation of Seudah Shelishit with lighter foods like fruit.

Seder Preparation

One may not do any preparations for the Seder during Shabbat. One does so either before Shabbat, or after 8:22pm on Motzae Shabbat.

Candle Lighting

-After 8:22pm, light candles for Yom Tov and say the Berachah, *"Baruch...asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel yom tov."*

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The Seder begins after 8:22pm

Seder Plate

-The plate is set up according to the opinion of the Ariza"l: top-right - shank-bone; top-left - egg; bottom-right - haroset; bottom-left - Karpas (celery); center - maror (romaine lettuce); and directly below maror - more romaine lettuce (for Korech). And of course, 3 Matzot.

1. Kaddesh

- We fill up a cup of wine and then recite the Kiddush while standing.
- This year, the first night of Pesah being on Motzai Shabbat, we recite the special Kiddush-Havdalah combination printed in your Haggadah.
- Even those who don't enjoy red wine should try to use red wine for the Four Cups.
- If this is very difficult, one may mix grape juice into the wine, or even use grape juice alone.
- When reciting "*Bore peri hagefen*," one should try to keep in mind the Second Cup, which will be drunk after the Haggadah; and when reciting "*Shehehiyanu*," one should try to keep in mind all of the special Mitzvot of the night.
- We sit down and drink the wine while leaning (on something) to our left.

2. Urhatz

- Right after Kiddush, we wash our hands for Karpas without saying a Berachah.
- It is customary to wash your hands the way you would for eating bread; ie, fill up the cup of water with your right hand; take the cup with your left hand; pour water onto your right hand 3 times; take the cup with your right hand, and pour water onto your left hand 3 times. Add water to the cup if needed.
- Do not speak after washing your hands until after eating the Karpas.

3. Karpas

- Take a small piece of celery, dip it in vinegar or saltwater and say the Berachah, "*Baruch...Melech ha'olam, bore peri ha'adamah*," and eat the celery without leaning.
- It is customary for each person to recite their own Berachah for Karpas.
- We leave some celery in the Seder Plate.

4. Yahatz

- We take the middle of the 3 matzot and break it in half; we put the smaller half back between the 2 whole matzot, and we put the larger half somewhere for safekeeping, for use later as Afikomen.

5. Maggid

- At this point, it is customary to take the entire Seder plate and sing festively "*Bibhilu yatzanu mimitzrayim, ha lahma anya...*" 3 times, while waving the plate over each person's head.
- We then recite the Haggadah starting with "*Ha lahma anya...*" It is important to translate the Haggadah into a language that those in attendance can understand.
- For most of the Haggadah, the matzah in the Seder plate should be uncovered and visible, except where we are instructed to raise a cup of wine; we cover the matzah anytime we raise the cup, and then uncover it again afterwards. We raise our cup and cover the matzah in 3 places:
 - 1: When we recite "*Vehi she'amedah...matzilenu miyadam.*"
 - 2: During the entire section of the 10 Makkot: "*Ube'otot, zeh hammatteh...detzach, adash, be'ahav.*"
 - 3: From "*Lefichach...*" until "*Baruch Attah...Ga'al Yisrael.*"
- We fill our 2nd cup of wine right after "*Ha lahma anya*," right before "*Ma nishtannah...*"

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-The one leading the Haggadah will pour the wine out of his cup into a basin 16 times when reciting the 10 Makkot:

- 1-3: Right before the 10 Makkot: 1) Dam, 2) va'esh, 3) vetimrot ashan;
- 4-13: During the 10 Makkot: 4) Dam, 5) tzefarde'a... 13) makkat bechorot;
- 14-16: Right after that: 14) Detzach, 15) adash, 16) be'ahav.

-It is customary for someone – usually the mother of the household – to pour some water into the basin simultaneously as the wine is being poured.

-Both the cup of wine and the cup of water are emptied completely into the basin, and then the contents of the basin are poured out into the sink.

-He refills his cup with wine right afterwards.

-When we recite "*Pesah shehayu avotenu ochelim...*" we look at the shank-bone.

-When we recite "*Matzah zo she'anu ochelim...*" we point to the (top) matzah.

-When we recite "*Maror zeh she'anu ochelim...*" we point to the romaine lettuce.

-After the Berachah "*Ga'al Yisrael,*" we drink the 2nd cup while leaning, without saying any other Berachah.

6. Rohtzah

-We wash our hands and say the Berachah, "*...asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al netilat yadayim.*"

7. Motzi-Matzah

-We take all 3 matzot and recite the 1st of 2 Berachot: "*Baruch...Melech ha'olam, hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.*"

-We drop the bottom matzah, and while holding only the top and the half matzot, we recite the 2nd of 2 Berachot: "*...asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al achilat matzah.*"

-Our custom is to not dip the matzah in salt.

-One must eat one "*kezayit*" minimum in order to fulfill the mitzvah of matzah. A *kezayit* is approximately 29cc (we measure in volume), which translates to approximately half a typical handmade matzah shemurah.

-One must eat this amount in no more than 9 minutes.

-One must lean to the left while eating this matzah.

-The person saying the Berachah eats half of the *kezayit* from the top matzah and half from the broken matzah. Those in attendance can use matzot from the box for their *kezayit*, but they should include in their *kezayit* at least a small piece from the 2 matzot used for the Berachah.

8. Maror

-We take a *kezayit* from the romaine lettuce that is in the center of the Seder Plate; we put some *Haroset* on it; we say the Berachah: "*...asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al achilat maror,*" and we eat it without leaning.

-A typical, large romaine lettuce leaf is a *kezayit*.

9. Korech

-We take a *kezayit* from the 3rd matzah (the bottom one), and a *kezayit* from the romaine lettuce that is at the **bottom** of the Plate; we put some *Haroset* on the lettuce; we say the passage of "*Zecher laMikdash...*" and we eat the 'sandwich' while leaning to the left.

-A quarter of a handmade matzah and a medium-sized leaf of romaine lettuce suffices for this mitzvah.

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10. Shulhan Orech

-One eats the Seudah. It is recommended that one not eat too much food to the point that one cannot savour the *Afikomen*. Also, care must be taken to conclude the Seudah on time to be able to eat the *Afikomen* before *Hatzot* (Halachic midnight), this year 1:22am.

11. Tzafun

-After the Seudah, before Birkat Hamazon, we take the half-matzah that was put away earlier in the night as *Afikomen*; we say "*Zecher lekorban pesah...*" and we eat a *kezayit* from it while leaning to the left.

-A quarter-matzah suffices for this mitzvah.

-The person saying the Berachah eats his *kezayit* from the bottom matzah; and those in attendance can take matzot from the box, but should include at a little piece from the main matzah.

-After the *Afikomen*, one may not eat anything else that night.

12. Barech

-We fill a 3rd cup of wine and recite *Birkat Hamazon* while holding the cup in our hand.

-After Birkat Hamazon, we say the Berachah "*Bore peri hagefen*" and we drink the wine while leaning to the left.

-While reciting the Berachah one should try to keep in mind the 4th and final cup, upon which we will not say a Berachah.

13. Hallel

-We pour our 4th and final cup of wine and recite the passage of "*Shefoch*" with the door to the outside open, followed by the *Hallel* (as printed in the *Haggadah*) with great emotion.

-Some have the *minhag* to pour a Fifth Cup at this point as well, as the "*Kos shel Eliyahu HaNavi*."

-After the Berachah at the end of the Hallel – "*Baruch...Melech mehullal batishbahot*" – we drink the cup of wine while leaning to the left.

-We then recite the *After-Berachah* of "*Al Hagefen*."

-One can drink water only after this point. If one needs, one may drink a tea or coffee.

14. Nirtzah

-After having done the Seder properly, all that is left is to pray that Hashem accept our deeds.

-At this point some have the *Minhag* to sing the different *Piyutim* printed at the end of the *Haggadah*.

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SUNDAY MARCH 28

Morid HaTal

-We switch from "*Mashiv HaRuah*" to "*Morid HaTal*" starting in the Musaf, and we recite the special Prayer of "*Shezifat Shemesh*" before *Musaf*, as printed in the *Mahzor* of Pesah.

Sefirat HaOmer

-We begin counting the Omer after Arvit, after 8:23pm.

Candle Lighting

-Light candles after 8:23pm.

MONDAY MARCH 29

Motzae Yom Tov

-Hag ends at 8:25pm.

-We switch from "*Barech Alenu*" to "*Barechenu*" in this Arvit.

-Havdalah is recited with wine only.