



The Poile Zedek Bulletin

145 Neilson Street, P.O. Box 166 New Brunswick, NJ 08903 * (732) 545-6123

www.poilezedek.org • admin@poilezedek.org

Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff • President: Mr. Danny Ravitz

April/May 2007

Nissan/Iyar 5767

“And you shall tell
your child on
that day saying...”



“והגדת לבנך
ביום ההוא לאמר...”

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

“מצה זו שאנו אוכלים על שום מה?”

“THIS MATZA WHICH WE EAT –
WHAT DOES IT REPRESENT?” (HAGADA)

Both *matzah* - מצה, unleavened bread, and *chametz* - חמץ, leavened bread, contain basically the same ingredients—flour and water. The difference between them is the extra time allowed for *bread* to ferment. If the dough is baked within an 18 minute period, prior to fermentation, it is *matzah*. However, if left to ferment, it is rendered *chametz*.

Interestingly, the similarity between chametz and matza can be seen in the very spelling of the words *chametz* and *matzah*. Both words contain the letters מ (*mem*) and צ/ץ (*tzadi*). Even the third letter, ה (*hey*) in *matzah* and ח (*chet*) in *chametz*, have the very same shape, with only a small space distinguishing between the letters ה and ח.

The Maharal of Prague (1525 – 1609) suggests that *matzah* symbolizes *Pesach* because like the *matzah* which is baked before its time, the Jewish nation was redeemed from Egypt before its fated time. The Jewish nation was fated to be in Egypt for a period of 400 years as G-d informed Abraham. In actuality, the Jewish nation was in Egypt for only 210 years. During their sojourn in Egypt the Jewish people assimilated to such a degree, that had they remained their any longer they would have become completely assimilated and lost as a nation. And thus, Hashem, in His mercy, rescued and redeemed the Jewish nation from their Egyptian bondage before their sentence was completed.

(Continued on page 5)

THE President's MESSAGE

I was delighted to attend our first benefit concert on *Motzpei Shabbat*, March 10. This was our first fundraising effort to bring in sorely needed monies to help the congregation maintain it's day to day activities as well as for the upkeep of the building which is in need of repair. The support we received from our sponsors and concert attendees is deeply appreciated. A debt of gratitude is also owed to our concert committee for the time and effort they put into making it a success. Much thanks also goes to the Hester Street Troupe and to Dustin Widofsky and Max Green for their wonderful performances that evening. If you were unable to attend, an updated Concert Program will be available on our website shortly. Donations on behalf of the synagogue are still needed and would be greatly appreciated. They can be made by check to the synagogue or through our website: www.poilezedek.org.

Our next general membership meeting, for first nominations, will be held April 15, 9:30 AM in the vestry. Please make every effort to attend.

Please note that you can fulfill your obligation to contribute *Maot Chitim* by making a donation to our William Weber Matzo Fund. These monies are used to help many in our community who need assistance, to provide the basics for the *Pesach* holiday.

As we have in the past, Poile Zedek will again be hosting a free Community Seder the second night of *Pesach*. In addition, we will be having the first Seder in the shul as well, for those who wish to attend. Please make your reservations early.

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy Passover.

Danny Ravitz

PASSOVER & SHABBAT SCHEDULE *

Friday, March 30—*Erev Shabbat Hagadol*
Candle lighting 7:00 P.M.

Shabbat, March 31 - Shabbat Hagadol
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat ends 8:15 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Shacharit 8:00 A.M.
Bedikat Chametz/Search for Chametz at night

MONDAY, APRIL 2 – Passover Eve
Shacharit 7:00 A.M.
SIYUM BECHORIM held following services
Latest time for eating Chametz 10:30 A.M.
Burning Chametz before 11:45 AM
Latest time for annulling Chametz 11:40 A.M.
Candle lighting & Mincha 7:05 P.M.

First Seder
TUESDAY, APRIL 3—1ST DAY OF PASSOVER
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Mincha/Maariv 7:05 P.M.

Community Seder following services
Candle lighting not before 8:25 P.M.
Count Sefira after dark.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4—2ND DAY OF PASSOVER
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Yom Tov ends 8:18 P.M.

Thursday, April 5—1ST DAY CHOL HAMOED
Shacharit 7:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6 — 2ND DAY CHOL HAMOED
EREV SHABBAT
Shacharit 7:00 A.M.
Candle lighting & Mincha 7:10 P.M.
Followed by *Kabbalat Shabbat*

SHABBAT, APRIL 7 – 3RD DAY CHOL HAMOED
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat ends 8:20 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 — 4TH DAY CHOL HAMOED
EREV YOM TOV
Shacharit 8:00 AM
Candle lighting 7:11 P.M.

MONDAY, APRIL 9—7TH DAY OF PASSOVER
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Mincha & Maariv 7:15 P.M.
Candle lighting not before 8:25 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 10—8TH DAY OF PASSOVER
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Yizkor 10:00 A.M.
Yom Tov ends 8:25 P.M.

Please allow one hour for repurchase of the Chametz.

FIRDAY, APRIL 13— EREV SHABBAT SHEMINI
Shacharit 7:15 A.M.
Candle lighting 7:15 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat & Maariv 7:20 P.M.

SHABBAT, APRIL 14—PARSHAT SHEMINI
Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat ends 8:30 P.M.

* Please note that times are for the New Brunswick & Highland Park/Edison areas only.

WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM



Millionaire Club — Lunch & Torah study
Tuesday 12:00 — 1:30 P.M.
Thursday 12:00 — 1:30 .PM.

Partners in Torah—Study with your own private rabbi from Lakewood. Refreshments and *Ma'ariv* follow. Wednesday—8:10 P.M.

Torah Study in Russian — Thursday 7:00 P.M.
Learn the Torah with Rabbi Eli Kogan. Men and women. Refreshments served.

Eruv Information

In order to utilize the New Brunswick eruv, you must check weekly on its status (whether it is functioning for that Shabbat) by calling the Eruv hotline: (732) 247-ERUV before Shabbat.

To request to be placed on the Eruv e-mail list, please call the Rutgers Hillel Foundation: (732) 545-2407. For a map of the Highland Park/Edison and New Brunswick Eruvim boundaries go to www.hperuv.org.

PASSOVER LAWS & CUSTOMS

On Passover we celebrate the physical freedom of the Jewish people from their Egyptian bondage and at the same time their spiritual liberation from the ancient Egyptian idolatrous way of life. Thus we commemorate our physical freedom together with our spiritual liberation.

Maot Chitim

Maot Chitim (wheat money) refers to the custom of collecting money during the first days of Nissan, from each individual in the community according to his ability to give. This money is used to assist the poor to purchase food and other necessities for Passover.

Maot Chitim is a separate requirement from the year round mitzvah of giving *tzedakah* (charity). *Maot Chitim* is required since one cannot fully appreciate the implication of Pesach as *Zman Cheirutenu* - the time of our freedom, if he knows that his neighbor is hungry and in need. If he knew that there were hungry people in his town and he had not bothered to come to their assistance, he would not be fulfilling his commitment, which we proclaim at the *Seder* - "Let all who are hungry come and eat."

You can fulfill your obligation by donating to the synagogue's William Weber Matzah fund.

Chametz

Unique to Passover is the eating of Matzah and the stringent prohibition against eating *Chametz*, or even

possessing any *Chametz*. Thus, we have to prepare the home by ridding it of all *Chametz* before Passover.

Chametz is a general term for all foods and drinks made from the five grains: wheat, barley, rye, oats and spelt, or their derivatives, which have fermented. Additionally, the prohibition includes the taste of *Chametz* absorbed in food, utensils or dishes. The slightest trace of *Chametz* can render an entire product *Chametz*.

Preparing The Home

A thorough house cleaning is undertaken in preparation for Passover to be sure that the home is *Chametz* free. In addition to the entire house, the following places should be checked to ensure they are free from *Chametz*:

Office, car, pockets of clothing (especially children's), pocket books etc. Vacuum-cleaner bags should be discarded. Pet foods usually contain *Chametz*. Consult the Rabbi as to which foods can be used.

Mechirat Chametz - Selling The Chametz

Not only is one prohibited from eating *Chametz*, but one is also prohibited from possessing any *Chametz* on Passover. Nor are we allowed to derive any benefit from such *Chametz*. *Chametz*, which was in the

(Continued on page 4)



Enjoy an inspirational COMMUNITY SEDER

With your friends and family



First night - Monday, April 2nd, 8:30 PM
Second night - Tuesday, April 3rd, 8:30 PM

Congregation Poile Zedek

145 Neilson St. (Near the Hyatt), New Brunswick, NJ

FOR RESERVATIONS—732-545-6123 * admin@poilezedek.org

(Continued from page 3)

possession of a Jew on Passover, may not be used even after the holiday. Therefore, any *Chametz* which can not be consumed or disposed of before Passover, must be sold to a non-Jew.

The sale of *Chametz* should take place before the onset of Passover. The legal intricacies covering this transfer of property are many and only a competent Rabbi should be entrusted with its execution. If one is going abroad or in case of emergency when the *Chametz* cannot be sold, consult the Rabbi as to the proper procedure.

To authorize Rabbi Mykoff to sell your chometz, please fill in the form on page 8: 'Delegation of Power of Attorney For Sale of *Chametz*' and mail or fax it to the synagogue (732) 545-0394. You can also call the shul office at (732) 545-6123 and leave a message for Rabbi Mykoff to sell your *Chametz* for you, or you can email your authorization to admin@poilezedek.org. If need be, you can reach the Rabbi at (732) 572-0457. **The deadline for verbal authorization is 11:30 A.M., Monday, April 2.**

Storing Sold *Chametz* & *Chametz* Utensils

All vessels which have been used for *Chametz*, as well as any *Chametz* intended not to be eaten before Passover but to be sold should be put aside in an inaccessible place. The vessels should be thoroughly cleansed of any trace of *Chametz*. If possible these and other items included in the sale of *Chametz* should be stored in a locked room with the key out of reach or the cabinet containing *Chametz* should be taped. Included in the Power of Attorney to sell the *Chametz* is the authorization to rent out the areas containing the *Chametz* for the duration of Passover.

It is best that a set of dishes, pots, pans and utensils be set aside specifically for Passover use. However, if necessary, some utensils used during the year may also be used on Passover provided that they have first been properly Kashered. If you wish to *Kasher* for Passover, consult Rabbi Mykoff.

Ta'anit Bechorim—Fast of the First Born

When the Almighty slew the firstborn of Egypt, He spared the first born of the children of Israel. Therefore, all first-born sons of Israel are required to fast on the day before Passover in gratitude for the Almighty's salvation. It has, however, been a custom for many centuries that the fast day is broken by a *Seudas Mitzvah*, a festive meal in celebration of a *Mitzvah*,

such as a *Siyum*, a celebration at the conclusion of the study of a book of the Talmud. The *Siyum* will be held Monday, March 2, following 7:15 AM Shacharit services.

Bedikat *Chametz*—Search for *Chametz*

In order to assure that no *Chametz* is to be found in one's house on Passover, we perform a Search for *Chametz* the night before Pesach. This year the search is made on Sunday night, April 1. As soon as night falls, we make the final inspection for the *Chametz* by the light of a candle or a flashlight. BEFORE the search we recite the following blessing:



*Boruch Atob A-do-nai E-lo-haynu Melech
Ha'olam Asher Ki'dishanu B'mitzvotav
Vi'tzivanu Al Bi'ur Chametz.*

With the candle lit, we carefully search every room and any area of the house that may contain *Chametz*.

We then take all the *Chametz* that was found in the search and place it in a conspicuous place to be burned on the morning of Monday, April 2, before 11:40 AM. Food intended to be sold or eaten after the search should also be put carefully aside. The search should also be conducted in places of business to be certain no *Chametz* remains.

People leaving their home before Passover must search for *Chametz* the night before their departure without reciting the blessing

Erev Pesach—Day Before Pesach

On the day before Passover, Monday, April 2, *Chametz* may not be eaten after 10:30 AM. From that time on only foods which are kosher for Passover may be eaten. However, one should not eat any *Matzah* the entire day prior to the Seder. *Chametz* should be burned by 11:45 A.M. after which time the possession of *Chametz* is prohibited. The following declaration of nullification should be said before 11:40 A.M.:

"All leaven or anything leavened which is in my possession whether I have seen it or not, whether I have observed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, shall be considered naught and ownerless as the dust of the earth".

Seder Preparation

As is true every year, certain *Seder* preparations should preferably be made before *Yom Tov*. They include:

- roasting the shankbone,
- roasting the egg,
- mixing the salt water,
- grinding or mashing the ingredients for charoset,
- grating horseradish to be used as maror,
- checking the romaine lettuce for insects.

One who forgot to grind the ingredients for charoset or to grate the horseradish for maror before *Yom Tov*, may do so on Monday night for the first *Seder* and on Tuesday night for the second *Seder*.

Requirements of the Seder

There are five basic obligations that are to be performed by each participant during the *Seder*.

1. Eating Matzah. The minimum quantity of Matzah to be consumed is a little more than one third of an average, machine made Matzah.
2. Drinking four cups of wine (*Arba Kosot*). The minimum volume of the cups used during the *Seder* is 3.0 fluid ounces (86 cc). Participants should drink more than half of this amount for each of the cups.
3. Eating bitter herbs (*maror*). The minimum volume for *maror* when using horseradish is 0.7

fluid ounces (19 grams); when using romaine lettuce leaves the minimum amount is 8" x 10"; when using stalks the minimum is 3" x 5".

4. Relating the story of the exodus (*Magid*). No limit!
5. Reciting Psalms of Praise (*Hallel*).

Sefirat Ha'Omer— Counting the Omer

The Torah commands us that from the second day of *Pesach*— the day the *Omer* offering of new barley was brought in the Temple— forty-nine days are to be counted and the festival of *Shavuot* is commemorated on the fiftieth day. This period is called *Sefirat Ha'Omer*, the Counting of the *Omer*.

The *Sefirah* also recalls the seven weeks following the Exodus, when our ancestors prepared themselves to receive the Torah at Mt. Sinai. This responsibility to prepare oneself to receive the Torah is applicable every year, as we relive the Exodus from bondage and strive to be worthy of receiving the Torah.

Originally, the *Sefirah* period was a time of rejoicing, but it is now observed as a period of semi-mourning for several reasons: the absence of the Temple; the death of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students during thirty-three days of the *Sefirah* period; and a string of bloody massacres which devastated Jewish communities during the time of the Crusades.

We begin counting on the second night of *Pesach*, April 3th.

Next year in Jerusalem!

(The Rabbi's Message—continued from page 1)

The forty nine day period of the *Omer*, which we count between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*, symbolizes the elevation of the Jewish nation from the depths of assimilation to becoming the nation of G-d and the recipients of his Torah at Mt. Sinai. We are told that the future redemption will also be in Nissan.

May He once again redeem us and bring about the coming of the Mashiach, Bimheirah B'yameinu.



Good & Welfare

Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

Births

Dr. Peter & Rachelle Kassai on the birth of a grandson to their children Chavi & Ari Satz.

Honors

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard & Joan Israel on being honored by Congregation Ahavas Achim at their annual dinner.

Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following:

Harry & Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, Miriam Goldman, Mike Gross, Yehudit Mitchell, Baruch Savitt, Edith Hess Schwartz, Helen S. Solomon, and Sima Svirskiy.

(Continued on page 6)

Condolences:

The entire Congregation wishes to express their heart-felt condolences to:

Alan Chopp & family upon the loss of his father.
The family of Mildred Kotler.

“May the Almighty console you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.”

Yahrzeit

Nissan 5767 - March/April 2007

- 4 Nissan — March 23**
Mildred Tanzman mother, Dora Siegel
Helen Solowey father, Jacob Siegel
- 5 Nissan — March 24**
Steven Salit grandmother
- 6 Nissan — March 25**
Ruth Grossman brother, Murray Greenberg
- 7 Nissan — March 26**
Bruce Horowitz father
- 11 Nissan — March 30**
Joan Israel father, Rabbi Max Schay
Steven Salit father, Irving
- 13 Nissan—April 1**
Moshe Fridman..... mother
Zinoviy Fridman..... mother
- 14 Nissan—April 2**
Lena Fridman..... father, Joel Rosenfeld
Lena Fridman..... mother, Klara Rosenfeld

18 Nissan — April 6

Bobbi Rubin..... uncle, Robert Buchbinder
Harry Schick..... uncle, Robert Buchbinder

19 Nissan — April 7

Joan Israel.....grandfather, Rabbi Alter Shaul Pfeffer

20 Nissan — April 8

Robert Speismother, Sarah Speis
Herbert Tanzman.....father, Max Tanzman

21 Nissan — April 9

Bernard Israel..... uncle, Ben Evans

23 Nissan — April 11

Helen Soloweygrandfather, Frank Zimmerman

24 Nissan — April 12

Myra Marantz..... father

26 Nissan — April 14

Mark Morrison..... cousin, Marilyn Feldman

27 Nissan — April 15 Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Ted Shegoski..... father, Abram
Ted Shegoski..... mother, Sala
Helene Shegoski mother, Regina
Helene Shegoski father, Markus

Iyar 5767 - April/May 2007

1 Iyar—April 19

Leonard Bier brother, Jack
Joan Sassenoff..... father, Elias Brinstein

2 Iyar—April 20

Mark Berkowitz grandmother, Bert Young
Robert Berkowitz grandmother, Bert Young

3 Iyar—April 21

Ruth Gordon husband

4 Iyar—April 22

Joan Israel..... mother, Anna Schay

8 Iyar—April 26

Joan Israel aunt, Sarah Rosen

9 Iyar—April 27

Bernard Israel..... father, Reuben Israel
Arline Schwartzman.....father

10 Iyar—April 28

Barbara Bruskin..... mother, Fannie Shakin

11 Iyar—April 29

Mark Morrison..... cousin, Ruth V. Auerbach

14 Iyar—May 2

Bertha Bakermother

15 Iyar—May 3

Herbert Tanzman..... mother, Rose Tanzman

16 Iyar—May 4

Fred Schachter..... father, Yisroel Shlomo

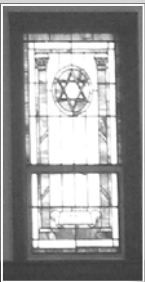
17 Iyar—May 5

Richard Friedman..... father

A Loving Tribute

Memorial Windows

Memorialize your loved ones by dedicating a stained glass window in our beautiful sanctuary. We have a limited number of windows still available for this fitting tribute to the memory of a cherished family member. Each window is \$1500.



Memorial Plaques

Memorialize your loved ones by having their names listed on our bronze Memorial Boards in the sanctuary. A light will be illuminated on their yahrzeit dates. Each plaque is \$150.



Please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123 to dedicate a window, order a plaque, or for more information.

- Ruth Gabowitz mother
- 18 Iyar—May 6**
- Henrietta Buckner husband, Nathan
- 19 Iyar—May 7**
- Esther Marder father, Israel Berkow
- Joan Israel aunt, Estelle Ribowsky
- 21 Iyar—May 9**
- Ruth Grossman husband, Harold Isaac
- 24 Iyar—May 12**
- Bernard Israel aunt, Elsie Evans
- 26 Iyar—May 14**
- Helen Solomon father
- 27 Iyar—May 15**
- Ruth Frankel father, Herman Hoddeson

Your Contributions Count!

The Rebbetzin Fanny Mykoff Torah Fund

Established in the memory of Rabbi Abraham Mykoff's mother, of blessed memory, the Torah fund furthers Torah observance by assisting individuals to meet their social and religious needs.

The Joan Schick Educational Fund

The fund supports Torah education on both a community and individual basis. This fund includes the Joan Schick Memorial Library. It is in memory of a

true woman of valor who devoted herself tirelessly to the synagogue.

The William Weber Matzah Fund

The William Weber Matzah fund was established by William Weber, of blessed memory, a veteran member of the congregation. The Matzah fund provides Passover food for the needy and sponsors our annual Community Seder.

Project Chesed Free Loan Fund

A free loan fund has just been established by Mr. & Mrs. Zalman and Miriam Widofsky, in memory of their parents. This fund provides small, short term, interest free loans to individuals. If you know of anyone who could benefit, please contact the synagogue.

To make a donation or inquire about a free loan, please call the synagogue (732) 545-6123.

The Ellen Schick Gemilat Chesed fund

This fund was established with the help of Barry and Diane Mael to allow people to continue to benefit from Ellen's warmth and compassion for many, many years to come. This fund provides moderate loans to individuals. Donation checks should be made out to: Ellen Schick Gemilat Chesed Fund, c/o: Barry and Diane Mael, 423 Benner Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904. For more information please call (732) 819-3512.

**Making a Simcha?
We make it
AFFORDABLE!**



The magnificent
sanctuary & party room
of
Congregation Poile Zedek

are available for your simcha
at a remarkably affordable price.

Centrally located at
145 Neilson St, New Brunswick, NJ
we are just a few short blocks from NJ Transit
major highways, & the New Brunswick Hyatt.

Don't go anywhere else before calling us!
(732) 545-6123

In the Orthodox tradition.



Friday night, May 4, 2007, 7:30 PM
Festive Sabbath meal following Services
Congregation Poile Zedek

145 Neilson Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08904
(732) 545-6123 * admin@poilezedek.org

DELEGATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, FULLY EMPOWER AND PERMIT RABBI A. J. MYKOFF TO ACT IN MY PLACE AND STEAD, AND IN MY BEHALF, TO SELL ALL CHAMETZ POSSESSED BY ME, KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWINGLY, AS DEFINED BY THE TORAH AND RABBINIC LAW (E.G., CHAMETZ, DOUBT OF CHAMETZ, AND ALL KIND OF CHAMETZ MIXTURES; ALSO CHAMETZ THAT TENDS TO HARDEN AND TO ADHERE TO A SURFACE ON THE INSIDE OF PANS, POTS OR COOKING AND USABLE UTENSILS, AND ALL KINDS OF LIVE ANIMALS THAT HAVE BEEN EATING CHAMETZ OR MIXTURES THEREOF). AND TO LEASE ALL PLACES WHEREIN THE CHAMETZ OWNED BY ME MAY BE FOUND, ESPECIALLY IN THE PREMISES LOCATED AT _____ AND ELSEWHERE.

Rabbi A. J. Mykoff also has the full right to sell and to lease by transactions, as he deems fit and proper and for such time which he believes necessary, in accordance with all detailed terms and detailed forms as explained in the general authorization contract which I have given this year to Rabbi A. J. Mykoff to sell the Chametz.

This general authorization is made a part of this agreement. Also I do hereby give the said Rabbi A. J. Mykoff full power and authority to appoint a substitute in his stead with full power to sell and to lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinical regulations and laws, and is also in accordance with the laws of the State and Federal Governments of the United States. And to this I hereby affix my signatures on the 13 of Nissan in the year 5767.

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Name and Signature: _____