

To the families of *Ana"sh* שיחיו of the community at the EU – Brussels
And virtual community of Sichosacademy.org

Reminders for First Days of Sukkos – 5777

[May not be posted on any internet website without prior consent from the author]

Experience has shown that it is best if both husband and wife review it each day thoroughly so that miscommunications and last-minute panics can be avoided, and *Yom Tov* can be truly celebrated joyfully.

Please post this on the refrigerator or another central location.

Wishing you a true Simchas Yom Tov, which we will celebrate in the Bais Hamikdosh Hashlishi

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A few days before *Yom Tov*

1. ***Sukkah***: Ensure that the *Sukkah* is properly prepared.
2. ***Daled Minim***: ascertain that the father bought the *Daled Minim* (*Lulav, Esrog, Hadasim* and *Arovois*). Some buy a kosher set also for the children.
3. ***Eiruv Chatzeiros***: If it's necessary (example: a two-family house, apartment building etc.) ensure that you have an *Eiruv Chatzeiros* in place which allows to carry things from the house to the *Sukkah* on Shabbos. If you are unsure – check with the *Rov* BEFORE *Yomtov* and don't wait for the last minute.
4. ***Netilas Yodayim***: Ensure that there is a place to wash for *Netilas Yodayim* near the *Sukkah*.
5. **Long-lasting candles** (like *Yohrzeit licht*) – If one does not have a gas fire lit for the duration of *Yom Tov*, buy 2 *Yohrzeit Licht* (or one *Licht* that lasts several days) that will last for a minimum of 26 hours each, in order to be able to light candles the second night of *Yom Tov* etc. Those who plan to have a gas fire lit and have hired help should anyway light a *Licht* as a precaution because sometimes the helper turns off the gas flame....
6. **Honey**: Ensure that there is honey to be used for *Hamotzie*.
7. **Candles holders**: Those that use glass holders for their candles (that must be cleaned before each use) should make sure to have enough clean holders to last for **two** nights of *Yom Tov*.
8. **Carbon monoxide detector**: Those who have the gas on for a prolonged time during *YomTov* should ensure that they have proper ventilation and that they have a proper carbon monoxide alarm system in place. Make sure to test it a couple of days before *YomTov*.
9. ***Tzedaka***: We add in giving *Tzedaka*- especially to those who need necessities for *Yom Tov*, just like *Maos Chitim* for *Pesach*.

י"ג תשרי - Shabbos - Yom Hahilula of the Rebbe Maharash – Lechatchila Aribor

* The Rebbe *farbrenge*d many times on this day.

Motzoei Shabbos

- * At the end of *Maariv* we do not say “*Vihi Noam*” nor “*Veato Kodoish*”.
- * *Havdolo* is regular.

Erev Sukkos- Sunday

- Ensure that all matters listed above were taken care of.
- **Daled Minim:** On *Erev Yom Tov*, the father puts together his *Lulav*, if possible in the *Sukkah* (the Rebbe use to do it in the afternoon), and checks to see if anything else needs to be fixed in the *Sukkah*.
- **Tzedaka:** Prepare a double amount of *Tzedaka* to be given before candle lighting for two days of *YomTov*.
- **Shabbos clock:** Make sure that the Shabbos clock is set for both days of *Yom Tov*.

First evening of Yom Tov – Sunday evening

When Yom Tov begins:

1. If there will not be a gas fire lit throughout *Yom Tov*, light the long-lasting candle.
2. Candle lighting time is 18 (or 23) minutes before *Shkiah* (see local calendar). If it is possible, the candles should be lit in the *Sukkah*. [If one missed the proper time, they can light them later **but only from a pre-existing fire**].
3. **Those that are eating elsewhere should not forget to light candles!**
4. *Tzedaka* is given for **two** days of *Yom Tov*.
5. The two *Brochos* said are: 1. של יום טוב and 2. שהחיינו.

Maariv

- We begin from שיר המעלות.
- We say the *Amidah* for *Sholosh Regolim*.

Kiddush and the Seuda:

Ushpizin (guests): *Ushpizin* for tonight (and tomorrow, the first day of *Yom Tov*) are *Avrohom Ovinu* and the *Baal Shem Tov*. [Their commonality is that they both spread *Elokus* in the world].

1. Similar to the first night of *Pesach*, we begin the meal after nightfall (see local calendar), and make sure to eat a *kezayis* before midnight (see local calendar).
2. We eat in the *Sukkah*. Women are allowed, but not obligated, to eat in the *Sukkah* and they may say the *Brocho* לישב בסוכה.
3. Boys who are not dependent on their mothers should eat in the *Sukkah*. (This is usually from age 6. If he is smart and mature, this can be even younger.) If the mother sees that the boy is eating in the house, she does not need to reprimand him.
4. [Those who are *Yotzey Kidush* from someone else (from their father, husband, host etc.), seemingly, should have in mind not to be *Yotzey* on his *Brocho* of לישב בסוכה, rather they say it themselves after they recite המוציא. This pertains to all the meals].
5. *Kiddush:* The order is: אתקינו then בורא פרי הגפן then קידוש and then we **look at the S'chach** and say לישב בסוכה, after which we say שהחיינו. (A woman who makes *Kiddush* does not say שהחיינו because she already said it at candle lighting).

6. We dip the *Challah* in honey. (Salt is also placed on the table). (Some Chassidim relate that the Rebbe would, during the meal, dip 3 pieces of *Challah* in salt).
7. In *Birchas Hamozoin* we add:
 - ברוך... אשר (If one forgot but did not yet say “*Boruch*” of the next *Brocho*, then he says אשר... אשר (as written in the *sidur*). However, if he already began the next *Brocho* by saying “*Boruch*” he returns to the beginning of *Birchas Hamozoin*).
 - We also add: *Horachamon* for *Yom Tov* and *Horachamon* for *Sukkos*.

Simchas Beis Hasho’eva

The *Simcha* and celebration of *Simchas Beis Hasho’eva* begins from the first night of *Sukkos*.

The First Day of *Yom Tov* — Monday ט"ו תשרי

1. We don’t eat before *benching* on the *Lulav*, and healthier people don’t taste or drink anything.
2. In the morning we get up early [we go to the *Mikva*] in order to *bentch* on the *Lulav* and the מינים ד'. Preferably this should be done in the *Sukkah*, if not - we can *bentch* in the house.
[I recall hearing that the Rebbe once said that after *bentching* on the *Lulav*, one should eat some *Mezonos* and make a *Leishev BaSukkah*, (which can also be connected to the *Netilas Lulav*). Therefore, it’s advisable to prepare this prior to *Benching* on the *Lulav*].
3. Stand facing מזרח, take the *Lulav* in your right hand, the spine of the *Lulav* facing you, and make the *Brocho* על נטילת לולב. Then take the *Esrog* in your left hand and say שהחיינו. At the end of the *Brocho* put them together and shake them to the six directions.
4. One, who is left-handed, takes the *Lulav* in his left hand and the *Esrog* in his right.
5. On the first two days of *Sukkos*, first the father makes the blessing on the *Lulav*. If he later gives it to his wife and children above *Bar/Bas Mitzva*, he has to say to them that he gives it “*Matono Al Mnas Lehachzir*” (-a gift with the condition that it be returned). To the children below *Bar/Bas Mitzva* (if they do not have a set of their own) he loans it to them for educational purposes.
6. Women shake the *Lulav* only once (and they do not do the “*Naanaim*” - shaking of the *Lulav* in 6 directions).

Davening

1. Arrange that the children should go to *shul* for *Birchas Kohanim* towards the end of *Musaf*.
2. After the *Amidah* for *Sholosh Regolim* we say the entire *Hallel*, *Hoshaanos* and *Musaf* of *Sholosh Regolim*.

Kidush and the meal

1. **Kiddush:** לישב בסוכה then בורא פרי הגפן then אלה מועדי then אתקינו
2. We dip the *Challah* into honey. (Salt is also placed on the table.)
3. In *Birchas Hamozoin* we add:
 - ברוך... אשר (If one forgot but did not yet say “*Boruch*” of the next *Brocho*, then he says אשר... אשר (as printed in the *sidur*). However, if he already began the next *Brocho* by saying “*Boruch*” he returns to the beginning of *Birchas Hamozoin*).
 - We also add: *Horachamon* for *Yom Tov* and *Horachamon* for *Sukkos*.

During the Day

- * We go on *Mivtzah Lulav* to encourage as many *Yidden* as possible to do the *Mitzvah*..
- * One may not prepare on the first day of *Yom Tov* for the second day or evening of *Yom Tov*. All preparations must begin after nightfall (see local calendar).

Second night of *Yom Tov* – Monday evening

* After צאת הכוכבים (see local calendar) you can start all the preparations for the meal.

Maariv

* We start from “*Shir Hamaalos*”.

* We daven the davening of *Sholosh Regolim*.

Yom Tov Candle Lighting

- We light the *Yom Tov* candles after nightfall and many women do it right before *Kiddush*.
- **Only light from a pre-existing flame!**
- The two *Brochos* said are: 1. של יום טוב 2. שהחיינו

Kiddush and the evening Seuda

Ushpizin: *Ushpizin* tonight (and tomorrow, the second day of *Yom Tov*) are *Yitzchok Avinu* and the *Mezritcher Maggid*. [Their commonality is that they both remained in their place of residence. *Yitzchok* did not leave *Eretz Yisroel* and the *Maggid* would not travel. Each Jew, as well, has their particular place for their *Neshama* to impact.]

* Make sure all the women and girls (especially the guests) lit candles. If there aren't enough candles, don't rely that they're going to light later, rather borrow candles from a neighbor, and they should light **before** *Kiddush*.

* **Kiddush:** The order for *Kiddush* is: יין, קידוש, זמן (שהחיינו), סוכה. – יקז"ס – which stands for: .

* We dip the *Challah* in honey. (Salt is also placed on the table).

* In *Birchas Hamozoin* we add:

- ברוך... אשר (If one forgot but did not yet say “*Boruch*” of the next *Brocho*, then he says אשר... אשר . However, if he already began the next *Brocho* by saying “*Boruch*” he returns to the beginning of *Birchas Hamozoin*.)
- We also add: *Horachamon* for *Yom Tov* and *Horachamon* for *Sukkos*.

Simchas Beis Hasho'eva

- We go to the celebration of *Simchas Beis Hasho'eva*.

Second day of *Yom Tov* - Tuesday – ט"ז תשרי

נטילת לולב

1. We don't eat before *benching* on the *Lulav*, and healthier people don't taste or drink anything.
2. In the morning we get up early [we go to the *Mikva*] in order to *bentch* on the *Lulav* and the מינים ד'. Preferably this should be done in the *Sukkah*, if not - we can *bentch* in the house. [Prepare *Mezonos*].
3. Stand facing מזרח, take the *Lulav* in your right hand, the spine of the *Lulav* facing you, and make the *Brocho* על נטילת לולב. Then take the *Esrog* in your left hand and put them together and shake them to the six directions. (*Shehecheyonu* is not recited).
4. The rest of the laws are like yesterday.

Davening and Kiddush

1. Arrange that the children should be able to go to *Birchas Kohanim* at the end of *Musaf*.
2. We say the *Amidah* for *Sholosh Regolim*.
3. After *Hallel* we say *Hoshaanos* (of the second day) and *Musaf* of *Sholosh Regolim*.
4. *Kiddush* is of *Yom Tov* and we add *Leishev BaSukkah*.
5. We dip the *Challah* in honey. (Salt is also placed on the table).
6. In *Birchas Hamozoin* we add:
 - ברוך... אשר (If one forgot but did not yet say “*Boruch*” of the next *Brocho*, then he says אשר... אשר . However, if he already began the next *Brocho* by saying “*Boruch*” he returns to the beginning of *Birchas Hamozoin*.)
 - We also add: *Horachamon* for *Yom Tov*; *Horachamon* for *Sukkos*.

During the day

* We go on *Mivtzah Lulav*.

Mincha

* *Korbonois, Ashrei, Uvo Letzion, Amida of Sholosh regolim, Ledovid Hashem Ori, Oleinu.*

Motzoei Yom tov

* In *Maariv* we add אתה חוננתנו and יעלה ויבוא.

– "המחזיר שכינתו" of the *Brocho* "ה" – [if you forgot יעלה ויבוא (or are unsure) and remember before you said the "ה" of the *Brocho* – you go back to יעלה ויבוא. If you remember after you already said the *Brocho* and did not start *Modim*, say it where you remembered (and you don't say "ותחזינה" again). If you remember before you took three steps back, you go back to "רצה". If you remember after you already moved your feet, you go back to the beginning of the *Amidah*].

*We don't say “*Vihi Noam*” nor “*Veato Kodoish*”.

* *Havdalah* is performed in the *Sukkah* (No *Besamim* and no candle). At the end we say *Leishev Basuka*. We do not say “*Veyiten Lecho*”.

* **Ushpizin:** *Ushpizin* tonight (and tomorrow-the first day of *Chol Hamoed*) are *Yaakov Avinu* and the *Alter Rebbe* [The commonality between them is: Both have 2 names; and both reflect *Torah* (בעל התניא) יעקב איש תם, (והשו"ע)]

First day Chol Hamoed – Wednesday י"ז תשרי

1. We *bentch* “על נטילת לולב” (and **no** “*shehecheyanu*”) on the ד' מינים in the morning in the *Sukkah* (if possible, and if not - in the house). Take the *Lulav* in your right hand and *bentch* “על נטילת לולב” then take the *Esrog* in the left hand, join them together and shake.
2. During *Davening* we add “יעלה ויבוא”, (if forgot – see above in *Motzoei Yomtov*), *Halel, Hoshaanos* (ליום ג') and *Mussaf*.
3. During the day the men should drink a *Kos* of wine for *Simchas Yom Tov*.

4. During *Bentching* we add “יעלה ויבוא”. [If you forget in *bentching* and you already started the next *Brocho* you don't have to go back] In *Birchas Hamozoin* we also add הרחמן הוא יקים לנו את סוכת דוד הנופלת.
5. We go to *Mivtzah Lulav*.

Ushpizin: *Ushpizin* tonight (and tomorrow - the second day of *chol hamoed*) are *Moshe Rabbeinu* and the *Mitteler Rebbe* [The commonality between them is: הרהבה בתורה]

י"ח תשרי - Thursday – Second Day of *Chol Hamoed*

1. We *bentch* “על נטילת לולב” (and **no** “*shehecheyanu*”) on the ד' מינים in the morning in the *Sukkah* (if possible, and if not - in the house). Take the *Lulav* in your right hand and *bentch* “על נטילת לולב” then take the *Esrog* in the left hand, join them together and shake.
2. During *Davening* we add “יעלה ויבוא”, (if forgot – see above in *Motzoei Yomtov*), *Halel*, *Hoshaanos* (ליום ד') and *Mussaf*.
3. During the day the men should drink a *Kos* of wine for *Simchas Yom Tov*.
4. During *Bentching* we add “יעלה ויבוא”. [If you forget in *bentching* and you already started the next *Brocho* you don't have to go back] In *Birchas Hamozoin* we also add הרחמן הוא יקים לנו את סוכת דוד הנופלת.
5. We go to *Mivtzah Lulav*.

Important note:

Since this year *Hosha'ana Rabo* is on a Sunday, I suggest to go through the list below (at the end of the “reminders”) that lists the items needed for *Hoshaano Rabo* and take care of (most of) them today, on Thursday.

Ushpizin: *Ushpizin* tonight and tomorrow are *Aharon Hakohen* and the *Tzemach Tzedek*. [Their commonality is *Ahavas Yisroel* and *Achdus Yisroel*.]

י"ט תשרי - Friday – Third Day of *Chol Hamoed*

1. We *bentch* “על נטילת לולב” (and **no** “*shehecheyanu*”) on the ד' מינים in the morning in the *Sukkah* (if possible, and if not - in the house). Take the *Lulav* in your right hand and *bentch* “על נטילת לולב” then take the *Esrog* in the left hand, join them together and shake.
2. During *Davening* we add “יעלה ויבוא”, (if forgot – see above in *Motzoei Yomtov*), *Halel*, *Hoshaanos* (ליום ה') and *Mussaf*.
3. During the day the men should drink a *Kos* of wine for *Simchas Yom Tov*.
4. During *Bentching* we add “יעלה ויבוא”. [If you forget in *bentching* and you already started the next *Brocho* you don't have to go back]. In *Birchas Hamozoin* we also add הרחמן הוא יקים לנו את סוכת דוד הנופלת.
5. We go to *Mivtzah Lulav*.

Preparations for *Shabbos Chol Hamoed*:

* Put the *Lulav* and *Daled Minim* in a safe place that they will not be moved on *shabbos* (as most are *Muktzah*).

* **Eiruv Chatzeiros:** If it's necessary (example: a two-family house, apartment building etc.) ensure that you have an *Eiruv Chatzeiros* in place which allows to carry things from the house to the *Sukkah* on *Shabbos*. If you are unsure – check with the *Rov* BEFORE *Yomtov* and don't wait for the last minute.

Mincha

*In *Mincha*, הודו is not said, but *Posach Eliyohu* and *Yedid Nefesh* are said.

Candle Lighting

* Candles should be lit **18 (or 23) minutes before sunset** like every Friday (see local calendar). If possible – in the *Sukkah*.

* We say only one *Brocho*: להדליק נר של שבת קודש.

* Those that are not eating at home should make sure to light candles at home (18 (or 23) minutes before sunset) or to go to their hosts home early enough to light the candles 18 minutes before Sunset.

Friday Night

Maariv

* *Maariv* begins from מזמור לדוד.

* In לכה דודי חן we say **בשמחה** ובצהלה.

* The *Amidah* is that of *Shabbos* and יעלה ויבא is added. (If he forgot יעלה ויבא or is unsure if he said it, see above in *Motzoei Yomtov*)

Kiddush and the meal

Ushpizin: *Ushpizin* tonight and tomorrow are *Yosef Hatzadik* and the *Rebbe Maharash*. [Their commonality is לכתחילה אריבער].

1. שולם עליכם, כי מלאכיו, אשת חיל, אתקיננו are all said quietly.
2. *Kiddush* is that of *Shabbos*, and לישב בסוכה is added at the end.
3. During *Bentching* we add רצה and יעלה ויבא. [If you forgot יעלה ויבא and you already started the next *Brocho* you don't have to go back], הרחמן הוא ינקים לנו את סוכת דוד and הרחמן הוא ינחילנו ליום שכולו שבת, הנופלת.

Fourth day of Chol Hamoed - Shabbos.

1. We do not make a *Brocho* on the *Lulav*.
2. In *Shacharis*, add *Yaale Veyovo*, *Hallel* and *Musaf* of *Sholosh Regolim*. *Hoshaanos* are not said.

Kiddush and the meal:

* לישב בסוכה and בורא פרי הגפן and על כן is said quietly. Then say until מזמור לדוד.

* During *Bentching* we add רצה and יעלה ויבא [If you forgot and you already started the next *Brocho* you don't have to go back] and הרחמן הוא ינקים לנו את סוכת דוד הנופלת and הרחמן הוא ינחילנו ליום שכולו שבת.

Mincha

* Like every *Shabbos* but we add *Yaale Veyovo* (and in *shul* we read *Parshas Vezos Habrocho*).

* We don't say "Tzidkoscho".

Motzo'ei Shabbos

Maariv

* In *Maariv* we add אתה חוננתנו and יעלה ויבוא.

[if you forgot יעלה ויבוא (or are unsure) see above in *Motzoei Yomtov*]

* We do not say “*Vih Noam*” nor “*Veato Kodoish*”.

Havdala: Is made in the *Sukkah*. We say בורא פרי הגפן then בשמים then נר then המבדיל then לישיב בסוכה. We say ויתן לך but it is recited quietly.

Ushpizin: *Ushpizin* for tonight and tomorrow (*Hosha'ana Raba*) are *Dovid Hamelech* and the *Rebbe Rashab*. [Their commonality is *Sfiras Hamalchus*: *Dovid* “*Hamelech*” - and the *Rebbe Rashab* was born in the year [כתר"א].

Preparations for *Hosha'ana Raba* and the last days of *Sukkos*:

1. **Arovois:** Buy *Arovois* for *Hoshaanos* for all the members of the household (even infants).
2. **Kreplach:** Prepare *Kreplach* to be eaten on *Hoshaana Rabba*.
3. **Long-lasting candles** (like *Yohrzeit licht*) – If one does not have a gas fire lit for the duration of *Yom Tov*, buy 2 *Yohrzeit Licht* (or one *Licht* that lasts several days) that will last for a minimum of 26 hours each, in order to be able to light candles the second night of *Yom Tov* etc. Those who plan to have a gas fire lit and have hired help should anyway light a *Licht* as a precaution because sometimes the helper turns off the gas flame....
4. **Honey:** Ensure that there is honey to be used for *Hamotzie*.
5. **Candles:** Those that use glass holders for their candles (that must be cleaned before each use) should make sure to have enough clean holders to last for both nights of *Yom Tov*.
6. **Carbon monoxide detector:** Those who have the gas on for a prolonged time should ensure that they have proper ventilation and that they have a proper carbon monoxide alarm system in place.

- To be continued -

May we merit to see the *Simchas Bais Hashoeiva* in the *Bais Hamikdosh Hashlishi!!!! A Gutten Yom Tov!*