

To the families of *Kehilas Anas"h* ו"ש at the EU – Brussels Belgium
and of Virtualcommunity@Sichosonline.org

“Reminders” for Pesach 5778 Part 1 – from *Rosh Chodesh* until *Erev Pesach*.

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

Please print and display on the refrigerator etc. or a place where it can be in clear view.

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

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***Mechiras Chometz*:** 1468 Union St. (bet. Kingston and Albany avenues – basement entrance). Generally I am in the office 11am-1 pm and 5-11 PM. Even then (and at other times), I suggest that you text me at the above cell number before you come.

May we celebrate this *Pesach* in the *Bais Hamikdosh Hashlishi*!

Rabbi Levi Y. Garelik

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Due to the volume of information, the “Reminders” are divided into three parts:

1. From *Rosh Chodesh Nissan* until after *Bedikas Chometz*.
2. From *Erev Yom Tov* until the first day of *Chol Hamoed*.
3. From *Chol Hamoed* until after *Yom Tov*.

The following is only a “reminder”. On *Sichosonline.org* you can find many more details.

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During the month of *Nissan* (in general):

1. ***Tachanun*:** *Tachanun* is not recited throughout the entire month.
2. ***Nossi*:** From *Rosh Chodesh* until *Yud Gimmel Nissan* the נשיא is said.
3. ***Brocho on Trees*:** During *Chodesh Nissan* there is a special *Brocho* to be said on trees that blossom.
4. ***Taanis Bechorim (Fast of the first born)*:** If the household has a *Bechor*, he [or his father] should not forget to finish his *Masechta* by *Erev Pesach*. (In case he wasn't able to, he can listen to one from the *Rov*).

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5. **Matzo:** We don't eat *Matzo Shmuro* until the *Seder*. You may give the children machine *matzo* (which you do not serve on *Pesach*) until the evening before *Erev Pesach*.
6. **Mivtza Matzo Shmuro to acquaintances:** One of the **first** *Mivtzoim* of the *Rebbe* was that we should distribute *Matzo Shmuro* to friends, neighbors, doctors, etc. that we come in contact with. **For your convenience, Tzac"h has made a service available – giftmatzah@gmail.com - and they will ship the Matzo to whoever you wish.**
7. **Ma'os Chittim:** Give money to help others with *Pesach* needs. Mothers, especially, should give, to educate their children.
8. **Learning the Halochois:** It is customary that fathers set aside time to learn the *Halochois* of *Pesach* with their children. (They can start with the "reminders"....)
9. **Four Questions:** Review with the children the פיר קושיות.
10. **Selling the Chometz:** Any time after *Rosh Chodesh*, the head of the household goes to the *Rov* to appoint him to sell the *Chometz* of the home, office, summer home, etc. It is advisable/educational to take along the children. Those that are traveling eastward for *Pesach* [e.g., to *Eretz Yisroel*, or further east] should sell the *Chometz* at their destination or discuss this with your *Rov* who will assist you. Those living in Europe and are traveling to the USA should sell it in Europe. In any case, discuss it with the *Rov*.
11. **Not home for Pesach:** Those who are going away for *Pesach*, and sell their entire home through the *Rov* (and no one will enter their home during *Pesach*), do not need to do *Bedikas chometz* in their home [They will do *Bedikas Chometz* at their destination]. It is advisable to discuss the details with the *Rov*.
12. **Koshering the Kitchen:** If help is needed for *Koshering* the kitchen, you may contact: In Crown Heights: R' Shaltiel Lebovic (1888gokosher).
13. **Medicines and special gluten free diets:** Those who take medicines on a regular basis should consult with their doctor if it is necessary to do so during *Pesach*. If yes, contact the *Rov* **but please don't wait for the last minute** as many times it may take a few days for research. The same applies to gluten free diets.
14. **Beis** (second day in) **Nissan, Yorzeit of the Rebbe Rashab:** See *Sefer Haminhogim* page 86 regarding the customs of a *Yom Hahilula* of a *Rebbe*.
15. **Yud Alef Nissan:** Make all the relevant preparations for **the Rebbe's 116th birthday.**
16. **Haircuts:** Remind the men and boys to get haircuts before *Yom Tov*, and not wait until *Erev Yom Tov*, for there are many *Shailos*... From *Erev Pesach* after *Chatzos* (midday) until *Erev Shavuot* it is our custom not to cut one's hair.
17. **Bedikas Chometz in the office:** If the office will be used on *Pesach*, and it is distant from the house, and it will be difficult to go there on Thursday night prior to *Pesach*, ask the *Rov* for the procedures of an "early" *Bedikas Chometz*.

Things to buy in advance:

1. **Bedikas Chometz set:** consisting of a paper bag, a candle, a feather, a wooden spoon, string and a paper to wrap all of the above.
2. **Matzos:** Buy enough *Matzo* for the *Sedorim*, all eight days of *Pesach*, guests, etc. Don't wait for the last minute.
3. **Wine:** Buy enough wine for the *Sedorim*, all eight days of *Pesach*, the four cups for *Acharon Shel Pesach*, as well as for guests, etc. Suggestion: if you have a אינו-יהודי/ה working in the house, or are making a public *Seder* etc. buy only יין מבושל (unless you can have special arrangements).

4. **Haggadas:** Buy enough *Haggadas* for the parents and adults, as well as for the children ***with pictures*** – *per the Rebbe's instruction*, (if they don't have yet, or they haven't received one from school, etc.)
5. **Siddurim and Benchers:** We try not to use the same *siddurim* on *Pesach* that have been around the house during the rest of the year, so it is suggested to purchase new ones.
6. **Scale:** There are those who buy a small kitchen scale (portion control) to measure the correct amounts for the *Matzo* and *Moror*.
7. **Candles and candle-holders:** Those that use glass holders that need to be cleaned after each use, should ensure that they have enough for two days of *Yom Tov*, as on *Yom Tov* there is a *shailo* regarding the removal of the washer that is stuck to the wax.
8. **Long-lasting candles** (like a *Yortzeit Licht*): At least two long-lasting candles for those who do not have a gas flame lit over *Yom Tov*. However, those who have household help should light one even if there is a gas flame lit, for sometimes the maid turns off the flame.
9. **Clothes and Jewelry:** One should buy clothes and jewelry for his wife and children according to his means.
10. **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. Make sure to test it a couple of days before *YomTov*.
11. **Vacuum cleaner bag:** To be replaced on *Erev Pesach*.

Also to plan the purchases of those things that will be bought closer to *Yom Tov*, such as:

1. Fish.
2. Chicken.
3. *Zeroa* for the *Ke'oro* (the neck of the chicken).
4. Eggs.
5. Lettuce.
6. *Maror*.
7. Potatoes.
8. Onions.
9. Nuts.
10. Fruits for *Charoses*: **apples, pears, nuts**, etc. If one is using fruits from *Eretz Yisroel*, ensure they have a proper *Hechsher* so that *Terumos* and *Ma'aseros* have been taken and that they are not from *shmitah*.

Shabbos Hagadol, 8 Nissan

* After *Mincha* we read the *Haggadah* from "עבדים היינו" until "לכפר על כל עונותינו" (at the end of the paragraph "על אהת כמה וכמה"). The *Rebbe* would say it with the *Minyan*, while sitting at his place. On our website, there is a wonderful *shiur*, based on *Likutei Sichos* where the *Rebbe* explains beautifully why it is called *Shabbos Hagadol* and why we say the *Haggadah*. <http://theonlinerabbi.com/sichosonline/parshas-bo/>

Motzoei Shabbos Hagadol

*In *Maariv* we say "ויהי נועם" and "ואתה קדוש".

* ***Kidush Levana***: If there is a visible moon, then *Kidush Levana* should be recited tonight.

* **Havdolo:** Right after *Havdolo* don't forget to put away the *B'somim* in the *Chometz* (as our custom is not to use *B'somim* on *Pesach*). Even though this year it will not be used as we have no *Havdolo* on *Motzoei Shabbos*.

Tuesday, *Yud Alef Nissan*, י"א ניסן – יום הבהיר, The **Rebbe's 116th birthday.**

*After *Davening* we begin to say the *Rebbe's* new *Kapitel*, 117, in *Tehillim*.

*This is a day for reflection and taking on *Hachlotos Toivos*, and it is appropriate to read additional details in *Sefer Haminhogim* p. 85.

Wednesday night:

*If one has braces, retainers, fillings or false teeth he should refrain from eating hot (or sharp) *Chometz* from now on, and at least to ensure that cold *chometz* does not get stuck, and to clean these well. (See further concerning what must be done tomorrow night.)

Thursday, 13 Nissan, י"ג ניסן, יום ההילולא של הצמח צדק, 152th *Yorzeit* of the ***Tzemach Tzedek***

* See *Sefer Haminhogim* page 86 regarding the customs of a *Yom Hahilula* of a *Rebbe*.

* Today, instead of the נשיא, we say from "זאת חנוכה המזכה" until "כן עשה את המנורה" and we do not say the *Yehi Rotzon*.

Thursday evening:

Bedikas Chometz (In NY: after 7:45):

Ensure before *Bedikas Chometz* that the *Chometz* was sold!! Do not begin *Bedikas Chometz* until this has been done!

1. We search for the *Chometz* after *Maariv*.
2. *Chometz* that is left to be eaten tomorrow morning should be put away so that the children do not get to it. The areas that are to be sold to the *goy* **should be closed off and marked.**
3. All the areas where *chometz* is stored should be locked and marked at this time.
4. We prepare:
 - a. A **bag** to place the *Chometz* which is found during the *Bedika*,
 - b. A **wooden spoon**,
 - c. A **feather**,
 - d. A **paper** to wrap around all of the above,
 - e. **String** to tie the paper,
 - f. **10 pieces of Chometz** as follows:
 1. We take ten pieces of *Chometz*, preferably something that does not make crumbs.
 2. Each piece should be less than a *kezayis*.
 3. We wrap each one in paper or napkin, not foil, so that it should burn well.
 4. We put them out in several different places in the house.
 5. It is better to put them in the corners of the rooms rather than in the middle of the rooms.
 6. Someone should write down where each piece was placed.

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5. There are those who have the custom to wash נטילת ידים before beginning the search.
6. The father should gather the members of the household next to him when he makes the *Brocho*.
7. After the *Brocho*, one should not speak until completing the *Bedika*. The search should be performed slowly and meticulously, and should begin in the room closest to where he is when reciting the *Brocho*.
8. The places that will be sold to the *goy* and are sealed for the duration of *Yom Tov* do not have to be searched.
9. The *Chometz* that is found is placed in the paper bag.
10. If one of the ten pieces is lost or misplaced, call the *Rav* after the *Bedika*.
11. After the *Bedika* say the first "*Kol Chamiro*" and then wrap the paper around the bag, the candle, the feather and the spoon, making sure that the handle of the spoon is visible and then tie it. Ensure that there is at least a *Kezayis* of *Chometz* to burn.
12. **Thank you!!!** The father should give a heartfelt "Thank you" to the mother and the children for having done such a superb job in preparing the house so nice and clean for *Pesach*.
13. If the father has not yet done *Bedikas Chometz* in the office (and it will not be sold in the *Chometz*), he should do that at this point.
14. **Car:** Don't forget to make *Bedikas Chometz* in the car (if it will be used on *Pesach*). It can be done with a flashlight.

* **Vacuum cleaner bag:** Remember to empty and discard the vacuum cleaner bag.

* **Retainers, fillings and braces:** Whoever has fillings or braces should rinse their mouth with hot or warm water (hot or warm as they would usually use when having a tea or coffee). Whoever has retainers for their teeth, should also pour hot water on them (not boiling water that may ruin them).

* **Be very careful with any *Chometz* left over for the next day. It should be put out of reach of the children.**

Friday morning, Erev Pesach, Birthday of the Rambam, until after *Biur Chometz*, in brief:

* ***Mikva*.**

* ***Shacharis*** (we don't say מזמור לתודה).

* ***Siyum* for the *Bechorim*.**

* **End of the time for eating *Chometz*:** See local calendar for times. (In New York: before 10:52 am.)

* **End of the time for burning *Chometz*:** See local calendar for times. (In NY: before 11:55 am.)

- See part 2 for the continuation -

In (the month of) Nissan they were redeemed, in (the month of) Nissan they will be redeemed!!

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