

To the families of *Kehilas Anas"h* ו'ש at The European Union - Brussels
and of Virtualcommunity@sichosonline.org

“Reminders” for Pesach 5781 (Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos) - Part 1
From Rosh Chodesh Nissan until Wednesday 11 Nissan

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.

May not be posted on any website, be distributed, be shared on WhatsApp groups etc. without prior consent from the author.

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[May we celebrate this Pesach in the Bais Hamikdosh Hashlishi!](#)

[Rabbi Levi Y. Garelik](#)

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The Alter Rebbe states in his *Shulchon Oruch*, in the beginning of *Hilchois Pesach*, that 30 days prior to *Pesach* we start reviewing the *Halochois* concerning *Pesach*. This year there is an additional importance to do so since ***Erev Pesach occurs on Shabbos.***

The following are only “reminders” part 1 - on *Sichosonline.org* you can find many more details. This page will also be updated on the website with more details.

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 *Nossi* 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, if the *Bechor* is under Bar Mitzvah] should not forget to finish his *Masechta* to be completed by *Erev Pesach*. [As there are still 3 weeks left there is still time to complete a small *Masechta*]. **This year, 5781**, the fast will take place on **Thursday, 12 Nissan**, three days before *Pesach*. (If he wasn't able to finish his own *Masechta* he can listen to a *Siyum* from the *Rov*).
5. ***Matzo***: *Matzo* is not eaten until the *Seder*. [Check with the *Rov* regarding giving children *machine-Kosher-L'pesach-Matzo* (which is not served on *Pesach*) etc. 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. with whom we come in contact. ***For your convenience, Tza"ch has made a service available – contact them at 718-953-1000 - and they will assist.***
7. ***Ma'os Chittim***: Give money to help others with *Pesach* needs. And also educate the children to give.

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. [Due to the current situation, those who do not want to go personally to the *Rov* may do it online. A form can be found on sichosacademy.org]. Those who 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 who are traveling to the USA should sell it in Europe. In any case, discuss it with the *Rov*. [The times when I will be available in my office will be advertised next week *bez”h*].
11. **[Not home for *Pesach*:** To those who are going away for *Pesach* and are planning to sell their entire home through the *Rov* (and no one will enter their home during *Pesach*): It is advisable to discuss the details regarding *Bedikas Chometz* with the *Rov*.
12. **Renting a home: If you are renting a home for *Pesach*,** ensure with the owner that the utensils, oven etc. are *Kosher L’Pesach*. DO NOT rely on *Koshering* Erev *Pesach*....].
13. ***Koshering* the Kitchen:** see “*koshering* instructions” at the end of this document. If help is needed for *Koshering* the kitchen, you can contact: In Crown Heights: R’ Shaltiel Lebovic (1888gokosher).
14. **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.
15. ***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*.
16. ***Yud Alef Nissan*:** Make all the relevant preparations for **the *Rebbe’s* 119th birthday. Bais Shmuel – Chabad will have its own program as every year.**
17. **Haircuts:** Remind the men and boys to get haircuts before *Yom Tov* and not wait until *Erev Yom Tov*. This year (because *Erev Pesach* occurs on *Shabbos*) haircuts may be taken a whole day Friday (not only until *Chatzos* as in other years). Don’t wait until the last minute. From *Pesach* until *Erev Shavuot* It is our custom not to cut one’s hair.
18. **Nail cutting:** This year, nails may be cut all day on *Erev Shabbos*.
19. ***Bedikas Chometz* in the office:** If the office will be used on *Pesach*, 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. a paper bag, b. a candle, c. a feather, d. a wooden spoon, e. string and f. 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 type and color of wine – see laws and customs below on page 7) 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 an אינו-יהודי/יהודי 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 *Bentchers*:** We customarily do not to use the same *Siddurim* and *Bentchers* on *Pesach* that have been around the house during the rest of the year, so it is suggested to purchase new ones (unless you have special ones for *Pesach*).
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 who use glass holders that need to be cleaned after each use should ensure that they have enough for two days of Yom Tov and Shabbos, 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 *Yahrzeit 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 flame is inadvertently turned off.
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 ensure 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* etc.).

**In the following pages will be part 2 -
From the 11th of Nissan until the first day of Chol Hamoed**

This *Pesach* we will celebrate in *Yerusholayim* in the *Bais Hamikdosh Hashlishi!*

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