



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

Special Pesach Guide 2019 / 5779

Thursday, April 18	Pre-Pesach Pizza Party	6:30 p.m. at Maggie's Farm Pizza, 1308 Melrose Ave, Iowa City.
Friday, April 19	1 st Seder	No Shabbat evening service
Saturday, April 20	Shabbat/Festival Morning (1 st day)	Service at 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 20	Communal Seder at the synagogue	Second Seder at 6:30 p.m. Requires RSVP. See next page for details.
Sunday, April 21	Festival Morning (2 nd day)	Service at 9:30 a.m. No Sunday School
Thursday, April 25	Erev Pesach service	Service at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 26	Pesach Shacharit service	Service at 9:30 a.m.
Friday, April 26	Shabbat and Festival service	Service at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 27	Shabbat/Festival Morning (2 nd day, Yizkor)	Service at 9:30 a.m.



AGUDAS ACHIM PESACH GUIDE

Welcome to the Agudas Achim Passover Guide for 2019/5779.

Passover is one of Judaism's best-loved holidays. Traditionally lasting eight days (or seven, in Reform contexts and in Israel), there are many ways to observe Passover in line with personal preference, family practice or communal convention.

The most well-known of Passover observances is the mitzvah (commandment) to eat matzah (unleavened bread), the prohibition to eat chametz (leavened products made with five types of grain) and the celebration of the Pesach Seder (ritual meal) on the first night(s) of Passover. These rituals - the Passover cleaning and preparation, the abstention from as well as consumption of specially-designated foods, the re-enactment of the Exodus through the Seder – are meant to sensitize us to and bring alive the meaning of our liberation from bondage. At the heart of Passover is the opportunity to ask ourselves what we are enslaved to in our lives and how we can heed the call to liberate those who are still enslaved today. That is the core message and mission of Passover, reflected in the words of Rabban Gamliel in the Haggadah from the Mishnah (Pesachim 10:5): *'bechol dor vador hayav adam lirot et atzmo ke'ilu hu yatzah mimitzrayim'* – 'in every generation, a person should see themselves as if they had left Egypt.'

Pesach gives us a wonderful textured, layered holiday where we can both enjoy the seasonal delights of finer weather, traditional foods, good company as well as profound insights in how to live a life of freedom, meaning and service to others. It is my wish that this brief Passover Guide will provide you with the resources to do so.

Wishing you a chag kasher v'sameach, a very happy and kosher Passover.



Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz



WHAT'S PLANNED AT AGUDAS ACHIM?

What's planned at Agudas Achim?

The main activities for Passover are our Shabbat and Festival services, including a Yizkor service on the 8th day of Passover as well as a Communal Seder on the 2nd night of Passover. The Seder will feature kosher meat as well as vegetarian and vegan options (only if indicated on RSVP).

The Sisterhood has also planned a 'Pay Your Own Way' pre-Pesach pizza buffet dinner at Maggie's Farm Pizza on the evening of Thursday, April 18.

SALE OF CHAMETZ, KITNIYOT AND PESACH PREPARATION

The formula for what defines chametz is the five Biblical species of grain (wheat, spelt, rye, barley, oats) that have been brought in contact with water (and airborne yeast) for a minimum of 18 minutes. The Torah, supported by rabbinic interpretations in Rabbinic law, commands us to not consume, use or possess chametz during the seven days (eight days, rabbinically) of the holiday.

A second category of food items traditionally prohibited for Ashkenazi Jews (Jews of Northern, Western and Eastern European descent) are *kitniyot* (known collectively as 'legumes' – rice, corn, legumes, peas and nuts). These have always been permitted to Sephardi Jews (Jews of Southern European, Middle Eastern and Asian descent). The Committee of Jewish Laws and Standards of the Conservative Movement has ruled that kitniyot are permissible to Ashkenazi Jews also, expanding the range of foods available for Passover. A guide on kitniyot will be provided towards the end of this package.

Changing one's home over to keep 'kosher l'Pesach' (kosher for Passover) is one of the traditional observances of Passover. Note: preparing the house for Passover does not need to be equal to spring cleaning and is not meant to be a stressful process (rather, it invites us to cleanse symbolically and contemplate our liberation). Rabbinically, anything that is no (longer) fit for human consumption is not consider chametz, including grime, stale breadcrumbs etc. but also toothpaste, beauty products etc that may have traces of chametz in them. Hence, it is possible to observe Passover without resorting to a 'deep clean' of every nook and cranny as long as one is meticulous about cleaning food preparation and consumption areas (mainly the kitchen and dining room area) and removing chametz from the household.

It is traditional to use special crockery, cooking utensils and dishes for Passover, or to kasher ('make kosher') utensils for the occasion. Hard, non-porous, heat resistant plastic, glass, Pyrex and metal can be kashered; earthenware, ceramics and wood (except if one sands it down) cannot. Fine bone china can be used if it has been left standing unused for a year. Kashering is usually done parallel to how the item was used: immersion in boiling water for silverware and cooking pots, heating until red hot on the stove for skillets and simple washing in case of glass. Heat-resistant kitchen surfaces and counter tops that can withstand purging with boiling water can be kashered that way. Covering food preparation surfaces with tinfoil is another option. Stoves and ovens are kashered by cleaning them and heating them (all burners on for about 10 minutes, or a self-cleaning oven cycle). The Rabbi is more than happy to provide guidance on this matter.

The Rabbis of the Talmud, aware that destroying chametz wholesale could cause economic hardship, created a method for storing away our chametz for the holiday and selling it to a non-Jew so that it is legally no longer in our possession. This practice is known as 'mechirat chametz'. A form is provided in this pack which you can fill out and then the Rabbi will sell your chametz to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. You can lock away or store your chametz while sealed during Pesach and reclaim it after three stars appear in the sky (nightfall) on Saturday April 27. Please see the Rabbinical Assembly Passover guide included as a resource or contact the Rabbi if you wish more guidance on Pesach preparation and laws.

Trader Joe's and Hy-Vee will stock some limited kosher for Passover items. The Chabad Rabbi, Rabbi Avremel Blesofsky, is also able to provide some kosher for Passover items. Please be in contact with these purveyors directly. Trader Joe's will have kosher for Passover beef brisket (\$11.99 per lb) and ribeye steak (\$16.99 per lb) beginning on April 9. Hy-Vee will stock Passover goods beginning in early April, and are open to suggestion from our community to help improve and expand the quality of their range. We are grateful to the supermarkets for catering to the needs of our local Jewish community.

BEDIKAT CHAMETZ

There is a custom to engage in a 'chametz hunt' on the night before Passover begins (in this case, Thursday April 18). once the Passover cleaning and koshering has been completed. Some wrap a number of pieces of bread (for example, 10, a mystical number) in tinfoil and hide them around the house (do not forget the number you've hidden as well as their location!) The members of the family go search for these pieces with a candle and feather, or in our contemporary context, a flashlight or the light on your cellphone! Then the retrieved chametz is burned or discarded (biur chametz) on Friday morning with a blessing (the blessings for bedikat and biur chametz can be found in every Haggadah).

BITTUL SHISHIM

Bittul shishim, the nullification of 1/60th of an admixture is a halakhic principle that allows one to purchase non-kosher for Passover products before the start of the holiday but not during the weeklong holiday. The principle at work here is that one may intentionally nullify traces of chametz in food items that are in and of themselves not chametz (think fruit juice, tinned vegetables and fish, cheese, yogurt, milk, eggs etc) as long as they are purchased beforehand. This allows the consumer some leniency in observing the holiday. During the holiday itself, one is limited to buying fresh produce (vegetables, fruit, fish, meat) without a hechsher, while other products will need a hechsher. If you have questions about how to observe the holiday in a way that feels meaningful and authentic to you, do not hesitate to contact the Rabbi.

A NOTE ON RITUAL OBSERVANCE

Our congregation, by virtue of its dual affiliation with both the Reform and Conservative Movements is unique. Hence, the Rabbi is able to offer rabbinic guidance from both perspectives: whether one chooses to observe (elements of) Passover on the basis of informed choice or whether one wishes to be guided by the traditional Halakhah (Jewish Law). While the integrity of ritual observance of Passover is valuable and important, it is equally important to imbue the holiday with a spirit of meaning, joy and sanctity. Being a Jew in the 21st century means that we have to consider the authenticity and validity of our own choices while holding the calling of our tradition in our hearts. Ultimately, it is up to each of us to navigate this as is suitable for our individual lives and relationships (including those with non-Jewish colleagues, friends and family). May we be blessed to make joyous, life-affirming decisions on how to integrate the rich wisdom and traditions of the holiday into our own lives.

The spaces in the synagogue will be prepared according to Conservative Halakhah, including the kitchen and the food at the Seder (featuring kosher meat and vegetarian options). Please be mindful to not bring chametz during Passover into the food preparation and consumption areas of the synagogue.

PESACH RESOURCES

- [*The Rabbinical Assembly Pesach Guide 5778/2018 \(Conservative Judaism\)*](#)

This guide provides the reader with *halakhic* instructions from a Conservative Jewish perspective on how to prepare one's home for Passover and on what foods are fit for consumption during the holiday. If you have questions or need further guidance, please contact the Rabbi.

- [*Passover Resources \(Reform Movement\)*](#)

The Reform Movement's Passover resources provide recipes, readings, a Seder preparation checklist, songs and children's resources to add to your holiday joy, all written from a Reform Jewish perspective.

- [*My Jewish Learning Passover Resources*](#)

My Jewish Learning is a clearinghouse website for all things Jewish, written from an interdenominational perspective and aimed at different levels of learning. Their resources will provide you with insight on the history, customs and textual sources for Passover as well as showcasing diversity and innovation.

- [*The Coffee Shop Rabbi*](#)

Rabbi, Educator and blogger Rabbi Ruth Adar is the author of 'Coffee Shop Rabbi': a blog for accessible Judaism. She has written a compelling post on how to prepare yourself for Passover on the level that feels appropriate to you without excessive pressure. For those who are new to observing the holiday or those who want to review their observance, this is a useful, practical and compassionate guide.

HAGGADAH IDEAS

[Internet Haggadah](#)

[Uncle Eli's Passover Haggadah by Eliezer Segal](#)

[Create your own](#)

[Traditional but free](#)

[Seder for young children](#)

[Nice brief haggadah](#)

[Oranges and Olives](#)

[Punk Torah](#)

PASSOVER BASICS

All products must be labeled as "kosher for Passover". Items marked just as "kosher" are not "kosher for Passover" and should not be included with Passover items.

- Matzah
- Gefilte Fish regular
- Rokeach Sweet Recipe Gefilte Fish

- Red Horse Radish
- White Horse Radish
- Cake meal for baking
- Israel Matza (Yehudah or Streits are two companies that make them)
- Matzah meal
- Macaroons
- Marshmallows dipped in Coconut

- Cake mix
- Kedem grape juice
- Kosher for Passover wine
- Israeli milk Chocolate
- Potato Starch
- Cake meal
- Chocolate chips
- Powdered chicken soup mix
- Matzo farfel

EATING KITNIYOT (LEGUMES) ON PESACH

Responsum of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative Movement)

Question:

In light of the ingathering of the exiles, would it be possible to eliminate the Ashkenazic custom of not eating legumes on Pesach?

Responsum:

1) In our opinion it is permitted (and perhaps even obligatory) to eliminate this custom. It is in direct contradiction to an explicit decision in the Babylonian Talmud (Pesachim 114b) and is also in contradiction to the opinion of all the sages of the Mishnah and Talmud except one (R. Yochanan ben Nuri, Pesachim 35a and parallels). It also contradicts the theory and the practice of the Amoraim both in Babylonia and in Israel (Pesachim 114b and other sources), the Geonim (Sheiltot, Halakhot Pesukot, Halakhot Gedolot, etc.) and of most of the early medieval authorities in all countries (altogether more than 50 Rishonim!).

2) This custom is mentioned for the first time in France and Provence in the beginning of the thirteenth century by R. Asher of Lunel, R. Samuel of Falaise, and R. Peretz of Corbeil - from there it spread to various countries and the list of prohibited foods continued to expand. Nevertheless, the reason for the custom was unknown and as a result many sages invented at least eleven different explanations for the custom. As a result, R. Samuel of Falaise, one of the first to mention it, referred to it as a "mistaken custom" and R. Yerucham called it a "foolish custom".

3) Therefore, the main halakhic question in this case is whether it is permissible to do away with a mistaken or foolish custom. Many rabbinic authorities have ruled that it is permitted (and perhaps even obligatory) to do away with this type of "foolish custom" (R. Abin in Yerushalmi Pesachim, Maimonides, the Rosh, the Ribash, and many others). Furthermore, there are many good reasons to do away with this "foolish custom": a) It detracts from the joy of the holiday by limiting the number of permitted foods; b) It causes exorbitant price rises, which result in "major financial loss" and, as is well known, "the Torah takes pity on the people of Israel's money"; c) It emphasizes the insignificant (legumes) and ignores the significant (hametz, which is forbidden from the five kinds of grain); d) It causes people to scoff at the commandments in general and at the prohibition of hametz in particular - if this custom has no purpose and is observed, then there is no reason to observe other commandments; e) Finally, it causes unnecessary divisions between Israel's different ethnic groups. On the other hand, there is only one reason to observe this custom: the desire to preserve an old custom. Obviously, this desire does not override all that was mentioned above. Therefore, both Ashkenazim and Sephardim are permitted to eat legumes and rice on Pesah without fear of transgressing any prohibition.

4) Undoubtedly, there will be Ashkenazim who will want to stick to the "custom of their ancestors" even though they know that it is permitted to eat legumes on Pesah. To them we recommend that they observe only the original custom of not eating rice and legumes but that they use oil from legumes and all the other foods "forbidden" over the years, such as peas, beans, garlic, mustard, sunflower seeds, peanuts etc. Thus they will be able to eat hundreds of products, which bear the label "Kosher for Pesah for those who eat legumes." This will make their lives easier and will add joy and pleasure to their observance of Pesah.

Rabbi David Golinkin, Approved Unanimously 5749

The Second Seder

AT AGUDAS ACHIM

Saturday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.

SEDER LED BY RABBI HUGENHOLTZ



ADULT MEMBER: \$40

ADULT NON-MEMBER: \$50

CHILD UNDER 12: \$15

Please let the office know if you'd be willing to sponsor meals for others. If payment is an issue, please contact the office.



Menu:

Gefilte Fish (Vegan alternative: Beet Salad)
Fresh Green Salad with Lemon Vinaigrette Dressing
Brisket (Vegetarian alternative: Quinoa)
Baked Vegetable Mélange
Dessert: Fresh Fruit, Macaroons, and Chocolates
Wine



Please RSVP and send payment by April 15.
Return this form or contact the office at
(319) 337.3813 or secretary@agudasachim.org.

**PLEASE CUT OUT AND RETURN THIS FORM TO RSVP TO THE SEDER.
PLEASE INDICATE BELOW IF YOU EXPECT A VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN MEAL.**

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS: _____ **CHILDREN UNDER 12:** _____

NUMBER OF VEGETARIAN MEALS: _____

NUMBER OF VEGAN MEALS: _____

I AM INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING IN PAYMENT: _____

PRE-PESACH PIZZA PARTY

THURSDAY, APRIL 18,
6:30 P.M.

MAGGIE'S FARM
WOOD-FIRED
PIZZA

1308 Melrose Ave,
Iowa City

Cost:
\$25 / person
Children under 12 free

Covers appetizers,
salad, vegetarian
pizzas (gluten-free
crust available), dessert,
non-alcoholic drinks.

Reservations required.
Please RSVP and send
check made out to
Agudas Achim by
Thursday, April 11.

WE ALL DESERVE A BREAK
FROM OUR PASSOVER
PREPARATIONS.

SALE OF CHAMETZ

Authorization Form

I, _____ fully empower and permit Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all Chametz possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law (e.g. Chametz, possible Chametz, and all kinds of Chametz mixtures). Also Chametz that tends to harden and adhere to inside surfaces of pans, pots, or cooking utensils, the utensils themselves, and all kinds of live animals and pets that have been eating Chametz and mixtures thereof.

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz a) is also empowered to lease all places wherein the Chametz owned by me may be found, particularly at the address/es listed below, and elsewhere, b) has full right to appoint any agent or substitute in her stead and said substitute shall have full right to sell and lease as provided herein, and c) has the full power and right to act as she deems fit and proper in accordance with all the details of the Bill of Sale used in the transaction to sell all my Chametz, Chametz mixtures, etc., as provided herein.

This power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinic and Civil laws.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address/es: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

I enclose \$_____ for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Please mail to:

Agudas Achim Congregation

c/o Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz

401 E. Oakdale Blvd

Coralville, IA 52241

or drop it off at the Synagogue Office

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Thank You