



SIYUM BECHORIM— תענית בכורים SERVICES FOR THE FAST OF THE FIRST BORN

Thursday morning, April 10, 2025 • Morning In-Person & Zoom Minyan

A first born (whether of the mother or the father) is commanded to fast on the day before Pesach in commemoration of the deliverance of the First Born of Israel from the 10th plague which killed the Egyptian First Born Sons. The day before means the day on which the First Seder falls (unless it is Shabbat) which this year is Saturday, April 12. The requirement to fast is waived, however, if the first born is present at what is termed a Seudat Mitzvah—a festive meal which follows the performance of certain Mitzvot (i.e. Brit Milah, Baby Naming).

Since it isn't always possible to arrange for a Simcha to fall out on the right day, the custom developed to have a "SIYUM" on that day. A Siyum is a public completion of the study of a section of Rabbinic literature and it is followed by a meal of celebration. The first born who is present is permitted to eat. This effectively negates the fast for the rest of the day. This year, **the SIYUM will take place after our morning service on Thursday, April 10**

SALE OF CHAMETZ - מכירת חמץ

According to Jewish tradition, a Jew should not have in his/her possession any food which contains leaven or which has been in contact with leaven, such as bread, rolls, biscuits, crackers, ice cream, candy, all cereals, dry peas, dry beans, Rye, Scotch and all forms of grain alcohol. Since it is almost impossible to divest ourselves of all Chametz, the Rabbis developed a tradition of "selling Chametz." We sell the Chametz in our possession (which is kept in a closet that is closed throughout the Passover holiday) to a non-Jew and it reverts back to us at the end of Pesach.

Those who wish to have their Chametz sold can either fill out the form to the right which authorizes our Rabbis to sell the Chametz for you or stop by the Synagogue and see one of the Rabbis. Remember, you need not remove the Chametz from your home simply put it in a closet or pantry which is closed and not opened during Pesach.

It is customary to make a donation for the Selling of Chametz which will be used for Tzedakah purposes during the Passover season. Please make your check out to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. **Deadline is Thursday, April 10**

AUTHORIZATION FOR SELLING OF CHAMETZ

I/We hereby give our consent and permission to Rabbi Mario Rojzman and/or Rabbi Edwin Farber to act as my/our agent to sell the Chametz (leaven) in my/our home, business and/or wherever I/we may reside, for this Passover, in the year 5785/2025

Name _____

Home Address _____

Business Address _____

Signature _____

Enclosed please find a check made out to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund FOR distribution of Tzedakah during the Pesach holiday.

MAOT CHITTIM—PASSOVER TZEDAKAH FUND

Yes, please count me/us in for this year's MAOT CHITTIM FUND. I/we want to help Beth Torah respond to the need in our community and abroad so that all can celebrate Pesach and be part of a Seder.

Name _____

Address _____

Attached please find my check in the amount of \$_____ for the Beth Torah Passover Maot Chittim Fund. Please make your check out to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and send it back to Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus, ATT: Marla Cohen, 20350 NE 26th Ave., Miami, FL 33180.

Very early on in Jewish history a tradition was established for the community to raise funds prior to Pesach to be distributed to the poor and organizations which help the poor to make sure that everyone could celebrate the Passover holiday and have what is necessary for a Seder. This fund is called "MAOT CHITTIM" and means literally "Money for Wheat." The wheat, of course, refers to Matzah. Today there are many organizations which see to it that Jews who either cannot afford a Seder or who have no idea what a Seder is (Russian immigrants for instance) are taken care of before Pesach. Many individuals contact our Synagogue requesting help each year. We have our own "Maot Chittim" fund here at Beth Torah which enables us to respond to both the organizations and the individuals who make requests of us.

To the left is the form for you to fill out to make your donations. Please send it in as soon as possible so we can distribute the funds accordingly. Thank you for helping us perform this important Mitzvah.