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\* H A K O H O L \*  
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A SPECIAL ISSUE

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS  
562 West 181st Street New York, N.Y. 10033

NISAN-IYAR-SIVAN 5740 APRIL-MAY-JUNE 1980 Vol. XXVIII No. 143

A MOMENTOUS MILESTONE

The merger of our two neighbor-congregations, Beth Hillel and Beth Israel has been enthusiastically approved. Simultaneously held special membership meetings on February 10th rewarded the dedicated and arduous efforts of those who planned and worked for it, by a record endorsement -- ca. 90% by Beth Hillel, 100% by Beth Israel.

In the meantime, the New York Supreme Court duly ratified the merger, as required under State corporation laws, and henceforth we shall be known as Congregation Beth Hillel and Beth Israel, Inc.

The structural alterations in the synagogue at 571 West 182nd Street will be completed before Shovuos, please G'd. Until then, weekday services will continue jointly at 182nd Street while services on Shabbos and Yomtov will be held at our respective, previous premises.

We had originally hoped to be ready by Pesach and the previous issue of HAKOHOL would have been the last. This curtailed issue is designed to cover the interim period. Coinciding with the annual period of counting it aptly reflects our happy, joyous anticipation when our new congregation, vastly strengthened in numbers and greatly enhanced in spirit, will begin its new life in harmony and blessing.

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PESACH PERPLEXITIES

Rabbi Shlomo Kahn

Is it not paradoxical? Pesach is our celebrated festival of freedom, yet it brings us curtailments and limitations galore. We are restricted in our diet. We are handicapped in our movements. What's more, we are made to suffer from a blatant contradiction regarding details.

On one hand, our day-by-day living is painfully disturbed by the housewife's conscientious house cleaning. Her diligence to rid the home of the forbidden chometz demands that we cheerfully tolerate fuss and generously ignore inconvenience. But on the other hand, the unusually severe ban on chometz alerts us to even its slightest trace. No detail, no matter how small, can be overlooked. How do we square this contradiction (ignore details - watch details) with halacha's keen sense of neatness and consistency?

There's a pearl of wisdom in this seeming paradox. Discharge duty faithfully and warm happiness emerges, simcho shel mitzvo (joy of doing a good job). Pesach brings superb simchas yomtov. Happily busy with details, annoyances are forgotten.

Remember this: Joy conquers any possible vexation but leaves vigilance for every mitzvo detail alert and unwavering.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

	Kabolas	Shacharis	Mincho	Maariv	Day break	Shma before
1st day Pesach, April 1.....	6:05	8:30Sermon	6:30	7:00	4:45	8:35
2nd day Pesach, April 2.....	6:30	8:30Sermon	6:30	7:00		
Shabbos Chol HaMoed, April 5..	6:05	8:30Sermon	6:30	7:05	4:30	8:25
7th day Pesach, April 7.....	6:05	8:30	6:35	7:05		
8th day Pesach, April 8.....	6:35	8:30Yizkor	6:35	7:05		
Shmini, April 12.....	6:15	8:30	6:35	7:10	4:20	8:20
Tazria-Mtzoro, April 19.....	6:20	8:30Sermon	6:45	7:20	4:05	8:10
Achare-Kdoshim, April 26.....	6:30	8:30	6:55	7:30	3:50	8:10
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME						
Emor, May 3.....	7:15	8:30	8:00	8:35	4:30	9:00
Bhar-Bchukosai, May 10.....	7:15	8:30Sermon	8:10	8:45	4:25	8:55
Bamidbor, May 17.....	7:15	8:30	8:15	8:50	4:15	8:50

KASHERN: Sunday, March 30, 4 - 5 P.M. (Beth Israel)

EREV PESACH, Monday, March 31:

Siun..... 6:00 A.M. (Beth Israel)

Chometz may be eaten until..... 9:20 A.M.

Chometz must be out of possession by 10:30 A.M.

NOTE: All weekday services, morning and evening, at Congregation Beth Hillel, 571 West 182nd Street (except Erev Pesach)

Chol HaMoed: Thursday and Friday..... 6:45 A.M.

Sunday..... 8:00 A.M.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar, Wednesday and Thursday, April 16-17, 6:45 A.M.

Yom Atzmaut, Monday, April 21

Sheni-Chamishi-Sheni, April 21-24-28, 6:45 A.M.

Pesach Sheni, Wednesday, April 30

Lag bOmer, Sunday, May 4

Yom Yrusholaim, Wednesday, May 14

Rosh Chodesh Sivan, Friday, May 16, 6:45 A.M.

DAILY SERVICES: Mornings: Sunday, Legal Holidays..... 8:00 A.M.

Mondays through Fridays..... 7:00 A.M.

Rosh Chodesh, Sheni-ChamishiSheni. 6:45 A.M.

Evenings: April 3 - April 10..... 6:00 P.M.

April 13 - April 24..... 6:30 P.M.

April 27 - summer..... 7:30 P.M.

SHIURIM: Ladies..... Monday 7:30 P.M. (from April 28, 8:00 P.M.)

T'hilim..... Tuesday after Maariv

Mishna Berura.. Thursday after Maariv

Dinim..... Shabbos 45 minutes before Mincho

Gemoro..... Friday 45 Minutes before Mincho

PERSONALS

Mazeltoy to Mrs. Bernard Lowenstein on her 80th birthday.

Mazeltoy to Mr. & Mrs. Manfred Hirschheimer on the birth of a granddaughter

Mazeltoy to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lichtenstein on the wedding of their son.

The Congregation mourns the passing of:

Helene Frank

Selma Kraft-Weber (sister of Mr. Manfred Hirschheimer)

ZICHRONOM LIVROCHO

## PESACH MANUAL

CHOMETZ is leavened wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt (not only bread and cake but also found in candy, sodas, many foods). Legumes (peas, beans, corn, lentils) are not chometz but are not eaten on Pesach.

EATING: Only food with a reliable rabbinic endorsement may be eaten. Mixtures and traces of chometz are also forbidden. Separate dishes, silverware, etc. must be used.

USE: No business may be transacted with chometz, nor fed to animals -- chometz-free pet food information on request. Soap, perfume, cosmetics are available under supervision and especially tooth-paste, etc. should be kosher-for-Pesach. Medicine, vitamins may contain chometz. Consult rabbi for guidance.

POSSESSION: Chometz must be out of possession (by 10:30 AM March 31). If not used up or destroyed, may be sold to non-Jew before that time. (Should be done through qualified agent; consult rabbi.) For emergencies (baby, ill person) consult rabbi.

PREPARING HOUSE: All rooms, closets, garments, etc. cleaned. Chometz dishes cleaned and locked or taped off. Kitchen tables, shelves, cabinets, refrigerator cleaned well. Oil cloth or heavy paper used for lining where Pesach food or dishes come in contact. Sink thoroughly cleaned, boiling water poured over it, and a rack placed in it (or lined with contact paper). Stove thoroughly cleaned (strong chemical suggested), then flames on maximum left burning one hour; oven cleaned thoroughly, heated to maximum for one hour; sheet metal or aluminum foil placed where Pesach pots contact stove and oven. Grates, racks, shelves must be "glowed" (see next paragraph).

KASHERING: Some chometz utensils may be kashered. Always consult rabbi. GLOWING for utensils used on fire without liquid (oven racks, baking form) fired until red hot. SCALDING for metal and wood utensils used for hot chometz (other than above): silverware, cooking pots, etc.: cleaned well, left unused 24 hours, immersed in boiling water. MILUY V'IRVY (Stellen) for glass used for cold chometz only (drinking glasses but not whiskey or beer bottles and none with narrow necks): filled with water for three days, changing water every 24 hours.

SEARCH FOR CHOMETZ: Sunday night (March 30) everything inspected for chometz. Brocho pronounced and light in hand, thorough search made. Afterwards kol chamiro is said, nullifying undiscovered chometz (must be understood, may be said in translation). Chometz found during search and chometz still to be eaten, must be kept in secure place.

EREV PESACH: No matzo may be eaten but food cooked with matzo meal permitted. Male first-born must fast unless they attend a s'udas mitzvo. A Sium will take place in the synagogue (6 AM). Chometz may be eaten until 9:20 AM; must be out of possession by 10:30 AM. Before then, some chometz is burned and second kol chamiro is said.

SEDER: Shmuro Matzo must be used three times at Seder: for motzi, for matzo-with-moror, for afikomon. For moror either unprepared horse radish or lettuce may be used. Wine cup must hold at least volume of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  eggs and greater part of each of four cups drunk. Minimum of kzayis (approx. half a matzo) must be eaten by each person each of the three times. Haggadah read entirely, story of exodus told and understood (may be recited in translation). NOTE: Egg matzos may not be eaten on Pesach, except for sick or aged persons but these also not for Seder requirements.

CHOMETZ AFTER PESACH: Chometz which was in Jewish possession on Pesach remains forbidden even after Pesach. No chometz may be bought after Pesach in Jewish stores whose owners did not observe Pesach until the old supply of merchandise is exhausted (usually one week).

## SEDER COMMENTS

### V'CHOL HAMARBE L'SAPER...

Is the measure of fulfilling prescribed mitzvos really without a limit? Is the Haggadah correct in saying "the more one tells the more he deserves praise? Is there really praiseworthy merit in doing more and more? On the contrary, just as "you shall not diminish from it" so too "you shall not add." (Deuteronomy 4:2)

Indeed, observance of the commandments is well and accurately defined as to minimum and maximum. But there is one notable exception: Torah study. This mitzvo has no limit. "You shall meditate in it day and night" (Joshua 1:8). "The study of Torah excels them all" (Talmud Shabbos 127a).

Studied enough? Too much knowledge? Impossible!

The Seder commandment to tell the story of y'tzias mitzraim is, of course, a form of Torah study. Therefore "the more one tells about the exodus from Egypt, the more he deserves praise."

(Imre Shofer)

### VAYOREU OSONU...

"The Egyptians treated us harshly" as documented by the Bible verse "Come let us deal wisely with it, lest it multiplies and if war happens, it too joins our enemies..." (Exodus 1:10).

Pharaoh chose his words carefully. They reflect a keen understanding of the strength of the Jewish people and of its weakness. United, we are invincible. Torn by strife we are at the mercy of our oppressors.

"NIS-CHAKMO LO" he said, "let us deal wisely with it" (a singular pronoun. "V'NOSAF GAM HU - it too joins." He saw a people living in peace and brotherhood, and he feared it.

His remedy? To sow seeds of discord and distrust. He levied taxes on them (SOREI MISSIM), each according to his financial assessment. He hoped to break their unity by provoking greed, envy, jealousy.

To their eternal credit and glory, the Jews in Egypt preserved brotherly harmony. Peace won over greed, integrity over material interests.

(Birchas Yitzchok)

### PESACH MATZO MOROR...

So accustomed are we to this sequence of the three Seder themes, that it startles us to note their incorrect chronological sequence. Bitter slavery preceded the hastily baked Matzo and the Pesach offering. Why then does Rabbon Gamliel put Moror, signifying Golus, after the symbols of freedom?

It's the bitter that enhances the sweet. It's the oppression that forged us into a nation. The Jew who suffers discrimination is more readily aware of his Jewishness.

Would we not have retained our Jewish identity but fallen victim to assimilation, we would never have become what we are. Moror is an ingredient of freedom!

(Birchas Yitzchok)

IF YOU DIDN'T MARCH LAST YEAR BECAUSE THINGS WERE GETTING BETTER, MARCH THIS YEAR BEFORE THEY GET WORSE!

Solidarity Sunday April 27th

THE CONGREGATION REPORTS...

...that a special membership meeting on February 10th approved our merger with Congregation Beth Hillel (see page 1)...

...that the annual Chevra Kadisha meeting and luncheon took place on February 24th, at which Chevra matters were discussed, the officers and trustees reelected, and a delicious meal served in festive mood and good spirit...

...that the Nisan issue of the "Rabbi's Newsletter" was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Werner Loew...

...that the Iyar issue of the "Rabbi's Newsletter" was donated by Mrs. Edith Weissfeld...

...that the Sivan issue of the "Rabbi's Newsletter" was donated by Mrs. Kate Philippon...

...that additional donations were made by Mr. & Mrs. David Pine, Mr. & Mrs. Adolf Ullmann, Mrs. Julie Stock (in memory of Leo Stock), Susan & Steven Mayer...

...that (as explained in the previous issue of HAKOHOL) contributions are accepted for Keren Hashmittah...

...that our appeal for Yeshiva Soloveichik netted \$700...

IN LIEU OF PERSONAL LETTERS:

S I S T E R H O O D

Dear Friends:

Several Pesach pleas, all greatly deserving of our warm response, have reached us. As in the past, we appeal to you to take to heart the Seder Haggadah's

"All who are hungry, come and eat!

All who are in need, come and celebrate Pesach!"

and contribute generously to our Pesach Fund.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Edith Weissfeld  
President

-----please clip and return to us-----

I (we) contribute

\$50

\$25

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions payable to the Congregation (marked PESACH FUND) are tax-deductible.

We wish to thank all our good friends in the Congregation for their good wishes and kind words when we moved to our new home.  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Wolf

Information regarding available apartments and jobs, requests for assistance to elderly and ailing, available furniture, may be directed to Jewish Community Council, 121 Bennett Avenue, 568-5450.