

# BJC Wensa

“WENSA” MEANS “FUN” IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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**METZORAH**

**SHABBAT ENDS 8:09PM**

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## READY, SET, GO PESACH!

### TEN STEPS TO PREPARING FOR PASSOVER

If you take it one step at a time, there is no reason to feel overwhelmed by Passover preparation.

#### 1. Cleaning

Before Passover, the house needs to be cleaned so that all chametz (leavened products) are removed. Don't forget the bag of baby crackers in your diaper bag. What about the Purim treats your 3rd grader has stashed away in her desk? Gotta lift the sofa to get all that popcorn vacuumed up.

#### 2. Sabbath

Before you have looked up from the dusting, Shabbat HaGadol, the Shabbat before Passover, arrives. It is called Shabbat HaGadol because it marks the beginning of the redemption.

#### 3. Shopping

So many kosher for Passover cakes, cookies, and cereals. One can almost last the whole week without missing chametz too much.

#### 4. Cooking

Now that the house is stocked, it is time to start to cook for the Seder. While cooking, be careful to keep the remaining chametz you have in the house in a separate area.

#### 5. Selling the Chametz

We are commanded to have no chametz in our possession during Passover. Do we have to burn the closed bag of snitzel in the freezer? No. Our rabbis have made it possible for us to sell this chametz to a non-Jew prior to the holiday.

Generally, we sell the chametz to a Rabbi who in turn acts as an agent and sells it to a non-Jew. The sale is real in that the non-Jew can actually get the chametz if he/she wants. And if the non-Jew decides to keep the chametz, then he/she must pay for it after the holiday.

#### 6. Searching for Chametz

Finally it is the night before Passover, and it is time to gather your family in your sparkling clean home for Bidikat Chametz. Once all the chametz in the house is found and burned, we are ready for the Passover Seder.

#### 7. Planning the Seder

It is a good idea to put some time and thought into the kind of seder service you want. Will there be children at the seder? During the seder itself, make sure there are opportunities for the children to participate. Perhaps you can prepare some questions about the Passover story to ask the children during the seder.

#### 8. Preparing the Passover Plate

It is important to prepare the six symbolic items - zeroa, beitza, karpas, maror, chazeret, charoset - which should go on the seder plate.

#### 9. Setting the Passover Table

- festive tablecloth and napkins
- kosher for Passover dishes, flatware, and glasses & wine cups
- small dishes of salt water for dipping
- enough bottles of wine and grape juice for each person to have four cups
- a special wine cup reserved for Elijah
- a plate with 3 pieces of matzah and a cover over it
- seder plate
- Haggadot

#### 10. Pesach Kasher!

Make your seder a memorable and enjoyable experience for the whole family. During the seder, make sure everyone is involved and feeling a part of the story of the exodus.

**HAPPY PESACH!**





## Words of Wisdom...

- Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
- If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.
- Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "In an emergency, notify:" I put "Doctor".
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

## FOR LAUGHS... CONTRIBUTED BY MIRA ZARA

### Slackers

*If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!*

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business.

He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Wait right here."

He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

Now that is what you call a super big tip!



### JEWISH JOKE

*Two astronauts land on Mars. Their mission: To determine whether there is oxygen on the planet.*

*'Give me the box of matches,' says one. 'Either it burns and there is oxygen, or nothing happens. He takes the box, and is ready to strike a match when, out of the blue, a Martian appears waving all his seven arms. 'No, no, don't!' The two guys look at each other, worried. Could there be an unknown explosive gas on Mars? Still, the astronaut takes up the match and prepares to strike it.*

*Suddenly, a crowd of hysterical Martians come, all waving their arms: 'No, please no, don't do that! STOP! Please!' One of the astronauts says, 'This looks serious. What are they afraid of? Nonetheless, we're here for science, to know if humans can breathe on Mars.' So... He strikes the match -- which flames up, burns down, and... NOTHING HAPPENS!*

*So then he turns to the Martians and asks, 'Why did you want us to not strike a match?' The leader of the Martians steps forward and says, "Today is Shabbas!"*



### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

(LITERALLY FROM THIS WEEK: APRIL 5, 2011):

**"AT 88, YOU [SHIMON PERES] ARE OF THE YOUNGEST PEOPLE I KNOW AND YOU SAW CHANGES MUCH EARLIER THAN MANY OF US DID," HILLARY CLINTON**

(April 5, 2011: Clinton told Peres, saying she was anticipating the president's vision for the Middle East going forward and how to bring about positive results for the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. Clinton called Peres an "exceptional leader", lauding him for his pursuit of peace. She added that although this is a time of uprisings and uncertainty, it is also an opportunity for change and progress.





# Take a look! PURIM FUN AT THE BJC



## RECIPE By Sally Djiji

Almond Cookies  
(Good for Passover)

*Ingredients*  
2 egg whites  
5 Tbsp sugar

1 lb. slivered almonds  
(Optional: add a dash of cardamon or vanilla for flavor)

### *Directions*

Beat the egg whites with the sugar until it firms up. Add the almonds and mix well.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees F (93.33 degrees C). Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Lightly grease it.

Drop dough by spoonfuls onto prepared sheet, 1 inch apart.

Bake about 30 to 35 minutes or until lightly golden.

Remove to a rack and cool. Enjoy!





## TORAH TALKS ...



**Lashon hara** (or **Loshon hora**) (Hebrew לשון הרע; "evil language/tongue") is the prohibition in Jewish Law of telling gossip.

Lashon hara differs from defamation in that its focus is on the use of true speech for a wrongful purpose, rather than falsehood and harm arising. By contrast, ("spreading a bad name") consists of untrue remarks, and is akin to slander or defamation. Speech is considered to be lashon hara if it says something negative about a person or party, is not previously known to the public, is not seriously intended to correct or improve a negative situation, and most importantly, is true. Statements that fit this description are considered to be lashon hara, regardless of the method of communication that is used, whether it is through face-to-face conversation, a written letter, telephone, or email. According to the majority of Torah scholars, lashon hara is considered to be a most serious sin. Therefore, they proclaim, how much more serious is such a statement that is false?.

There are 31 mitzvot which may be violated when a person speaks or listens to Lashon Hara. This is a staggering number. Even though one does not generally violate them all in one shot, it is important to remember how carelessness can lead one into deeper trouble.

**Lashon Hara** - any derogatory or damaging (physically, financially, socially, or stress-inducing) communication.

**Rechilut** - any communication that generates animosity between people.

Rechilut is often the repeating of Lashon Hara. For example, Reuven tells Shimon that Levi is ugly (Reuven spoke L"H), and then Shimon tells Levi what Reuven said about him. Shimon probably made Levi angry with Reuven, which is Rechilut.

There are several other commandments that directly address "gossip":

Deut. 24:8 - "*Take heed concerning the plague of leprosy*" because it is a punishment of Lashon Hara.

Deut. 24:9 - "*Remember what the L-rd your G-d did unto Miriam by the way as you came forth out of Egypt.*" Specifically, she spoke against her brother Moses.

Lev. 25:17 - "*You shall not wrong one another*" which the Talmud (Bava Metzia 58b) explains that this means saying anything that will insult or anger someone.

Deut. 19:15 - "*One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin*" because, unlike in a court for monetary matters, the testimony of a solitary witness is not binding, so that his testimony damages the defendant's reputation without any beneficial result.

Several other commandments are more general, yet in certain circumstances apply when Lashon Hara or Rechilut is spoken:

Ex. 23:1 - "*You shall not utter a false report.*" Acceptance of a false report also follows from this.

Lev. 19:14 - "*Before the blind do not place a stumbling block.*" This applies to both the speaker / listener since they are helping each other violate the commandments.

Lev. 19:12 - "*You shall not hate your brother in your heart,*" referring to contradictory behavior such as acting friendly but then speaking behind his back.

Lev. 19:18 - "*You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the children of your people,*" such as speaking against someone in anger and for something that was done against the speaker.

Lev. 19:17 - "*You shall rebuke your neighbor and you shall not bear sin because of him.*" This verse contains two mitzvot: (1) stop someone from speaking Lashon Hara (among other interpretations), and (2) don't embarrass him in the process. (Note: rebuke is not a simple topic, especially because the one being scolded may not always listen. This is covered in some detail in the second section of the book, Hilchot Rechilut.)

Lev. 19:18 - "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"

### PARSHA FACTS

In our last episode the *Torah* introduces us to *Tzora'at*. In English it's called Leprosy. But it's not the kind of Leprosy you know about these days. In the times of the *Mishkan* and *Bait Hamikdosh*, *Tzora'at* was a spiritual disease that was cured by doing *Teshuva*.

The number one cause of *Tzora'at* was *Loshon Hora*. A sign of *Tzora'at* was a white spot on the skin and, so far, we know *Tzora'at* could also show up on white wool, linen cloth or leather.



HAPPY  
PASSOVER

If you would like to contribute short jokes, stories, memories, recipes, etc. please email the publisher: [annahakakian@yahoo.com](mailto:annahakakian@yahoo.com).

Limited signed copies of the New Book: ***The Last Tango in Baghdad*** by Dr. Albert Khabbaza is available for sale. For more info please contact: [annahakakian@yahoo.com](mailto:annahakakian@yahoo.com)



**FAMILY SHABBAT UPCOMING DATES:**  
**MAY 28, 2011**

Thanks to Cynthia and Eli Arazi for sponsoring this Family Shabbat in honor of their grandchildren: David Dallal and Isabella Leah Faith.

Thanks!