

To: Students and Visitors to Campus
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Memo

This year, Passover will be celebrated from Friday evening, April 19, through Saturday night, April 27, after dark. Keeping Passover in a college setting **doesn't** need to be overly challenging; it can be an inspiring experience of living Jewishly in a broader community. Get ready to answer a lot of questions from curious friends and floor mates, Jewish or not.

The Vaad Hoer of St. Louis (OV Kosher) and the Chicago Rabbinical Council publish useful guides for Pesach at <http://www.ovkosher.org> and <http://www.crcweb.org>.

Cleaning for Passover

Leavened foods (henceforth, *chametz*) are forbidden to be eaten during the holiday of Passover. Owning *chametz* is also forbidden. Common forms of *chametz* include bread and baked goods, breakfast cereals, grain-based drinks such as beer and most hard alcohol. Jews of European descent (aka *Ashkenazim*) refrain from eating certain grains and legumes that are similar to *chametz* (including rice, soy, and corn) though these are not actually *chametz*.

Prior to the day of the first Seder, students must thoroughly inspect any spaces in their control – including common spaces – where their *chametz* may have been brought during the year. Any *chametz* found must be removed or destroyed. This can be accomplished by giving to a friend who is not Jewish or by donating to a food drive. Small amounts of *chametz* can be rendered inedible by spraying it with detergent. Do not push this off until the day before Pesach! (Pro tip: dirt is not necessarily *chametz*.)

Here are some areas you may want to double check

- Your room, including under and around your bed
- Dressers and other storage
- Closets
- Backpacks and carry-ons
- Clothing pockets
- Car. Especially under the seats.
- Locker/s
- Desk
- Toothbrush – replace it, it's probably time anyway!

Preparing a shared kitchen for Passover presents a host of challenges that are beyond the scope of this memo. Suffice it to say that your cooking and eating utensils need to be put away for the holiday and sold with your *chametz* (see below). Some dishes/utensils may be cleaned thoroughly and Kosherized appropriately. As a college student, your best bet is probably to acquire disposable silverware, plates, and cups for the holiday. If you have a kitchen and intend to cook, you may want to purchase a new frying pan or small pot (under \$10 on Amazon).

I am glad to discuss this further and answer any questions that students might have. Call or text me at 314.757.2884.

Selling *chametz*

Another way to dispose of *chametz* is to sell it to a person who is not Jewish. After Passover, the *chametz* may be repurchased. For this mechanism to work, a legitimate sale document must be drawn up. It is tricky to do this yourself, so please don't "sell" your toaster to your roommate. Instead, do so online here: chabadwashu.org/111191.

There is no reason to wait until the last minute to sell your *chametz*, which must be done before very early Friday morning, Erev Pesach, April 19, so please fill out the online form by 11 pm on Thursday, April 18. Whatever you sell must be stored away for the duration of the holiday; it isn't yours and you shouldn't steal!

Searching for *chametz*

A complete check for *chametz* should be performed on Thursday evening, April 18, after 8:09 PM. The procedure is at chabadwashu.org/266838. Where candles are forbidden, a cell phone flashlight can substitute. If you plan to leave before Pesach and intend to return during the middle days of Pesach, you should clean and search for *chametz* before you leave.

Shopping reminders

Packaged or prepared food bought for Pesach should have reliable certification. Food products used on Pesach ought to be from packages not opened or used throughout the year. It is best to shop early as occasionally stores run out of certain Pesach items. The Schnucks on Ladue Road (at 170) and Kohn's typically have the widest selection of Passover Products.

Caveat emptor!

- Some Passover-certified food products look quite similar to their non-Passover counterparts. In fact, some Manischewitz brand Matzos (!) are actually **not** Kosher for Passover!
- Just because something happens to be in a Passover aisle does not mean that it is Kosher for Passover.
- A product that was Kosher for Passover last year is not necessarily Kosher this year.
- Some Passover-certified foods are restricted to Jews of Sefardic descent, children, and people who are ill.
- In the past, the Matzah pizza for sale in the DUC and Bear's Den was neither certified as Kosher for Passover, nor was it Kosher at all! Dining Services has terminated this practice.

Passover meal schedule at Chabad

Unless otherwise noted, all these meals will be in the Chabad House. RSVP at www.chabadwashu.org.

Campuswide Seder in College Hall
(Partially funded by Student Union.)

Friday, April 19, 7:30 – 9:30 PM.

Passover Seder II – The Encore

Saturday, April 20, 8:00 PM

Passover Holiday Lunch

Sunday, April 21, 12:30 - 2:30 PM

“Pop Up Matzah Stop” at various
locations on campus

Monday – Thursday, April 22 – 25

Passover Holiday Dinner

Thursday, April 25, 7:30 PM

Passover Holiday Lunch

Friday, April 26, 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Passover Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 26, 7:00 PM

Passover Shabbat Lunch

Saturday, April 27, 12:30 PM

Saturday, April 27, 6:50 pm

Seudat Shlishi / Seudas Moshiach

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 pm

Clean Up Pesach + Grand Pizza Party!

Ritual schedule 2019

Thursday, April 18

Search for the *chametz* after dark (8:09 pm). Set aside any *chametz* you still need before Pesach in a safe place. Recite the blessing and search for *chametz*. Then annul the *chametz* you didn't find by stating the “Kol Chamira” found in most Hagadas.

“Kol Chamira” was written in Aramaic so everyone would understand it. Say it in a language you understand.

Friday, April 19 – Erev Pesach

A day of fasting for firstborns. To be exempt from fasting one must participate in a siyum or mitzvah meal.

Morning Minyan at 8:00 am, followed by a siyum at about 8:45 am.

Stop eating *chametz* by 10:45 am.

We will burn *chametz* behind Chabad at 11:20 am (until ≈ 11:45). Don't wrap *chametz* in aluminum foil or plastic.

Formally annul remaining *chametz* prior to 11:53 am. See the Hagada text or say:

ALL LEAVEN OR ANYTHING LEAVENED WHICH IS IN MY POSSESSION, WHETHER I HAVE SEEN IT OR NOT, WHETHER I HAVE OBSERVED IT OR NOT, WHETHER I HAVE REMOVED IT OR NOT, SHALL BE CONSIDERED NULLIFIED AND OWNERLESS AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH.

Friday night, April 19 – Seder I

Yom Tov begins tonight.

Candlelighting is 7:24 pm.

Saturday night, April 20 – Seder II

Candlelighting is after 8:24 pm. Begin counting the Omer tonight.

Sunday, April 21

Yom Tov concludes at 8:25 pm.

Monday, April 22 – Thursday, April 25

Chol Hamoed

Thursday, April 25 – Saturday, April 27

Yom Tov begins tonight.

Thursday candlelighting is 7:29 pm

Friday candlelighting is 7:30 pm

Both Pesach and Shabbat conclude at 8:32 pm on Saturday night.

Wait 40 minutes before reclaiming any sold *chametz*.

(All times local to Clayton, Missouri)

Kosher for Passover food on campus

Again in 2019: The L'Chaim station in Bear's Den will be OPEN for Passover! Lunches on Monday through Thursday, April 22 – 25. Dinners on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 22 - 24.

Kosher for Passover pre-packaged meals will be available at Paws & Go Market, Millbrook Market, and throughout campus. Certified by the Vaad Hoer of St. Louis. For more information see: <https://diningservices.wustl.edu>.