



Lots and Lots of Matzah!

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

“On Pesach we eat matzah. Lots and lots of matzah! It’s yummy in my tummy; lots and lots of matzah!”

That is how a fun Passover song begins. We sing it every year in our preschool and at our Early Learning Center Sederim. We also sing it every year at my home during the Morris Sederim. While it begins as a joke, the next 8 days will be filled with matzah.

This year, Pesach (Passover in Hebrew) begins at sundown on Monday, April 22 and ends at sundown on April 30. But as I just finished sharing with our preschool, Passover begins so much earlier than that. Not the actual holiday or the need to not eat any leavened products, but the preparations. There is the cleaning, the shopping, the organizing, the mental preparing; all of this began weeks ago.

Spring cleaning is a thing in most people’s households but it takes on a different level of dare I say, frenzy. I was going to say craziness but it really is a frenzy. There are lists of things that need to be done; the refrigerator, the cabinets, the covering of the food prep spaces. And all the while, this cleaning needs to be done, to remove all of the *chametz* (the bread and any other leavened products) while you are still eating bread and other leavened products in your home.

The next step in this process is shopping. For those of you who read and listen to my WOW regularly, you know I grew up in New York. Shopping was easier. Finding KFP (Kosher for Passover) items could be done at many different stores, in person. Chandler is not quite as easy and even when Phoenix and Scottsdale are thrown into the mix, there are still many things that aren’t available. Or at the very least, one must visit many different stores to put the whole eight days worth of food together. This means that I am revamping my menus several times during the prep. It isn’t just me I must appease, it is the family. Don’t even get me started!



So, I have cleaned, I have shopped, I have created my menus and now I must organize. Where will all of the during-the-year items be stored? Where will all of the Passover items be stored? And remember this is all happening while we can still eat bread.

Ah, the joys of Passover. And while this before part can be a bit stressful (my family would move out during this prep if they could because I may be a control freak), it leads into a beautiful time. A time when family dinners aren't interrupted because we are eating together. A time when we focus on the messages of the holiday and what it means in our lives now.

What were the Hebrews thinking about when they were finally able to leave Egypt and Pharaoh's rule? Can you think of a time when you felt trapped in what you were doing and how liberated you felt when you were able to break away? And this year, these messages bring to mind something that didn't occur thousands of years ago.

Something that happened about 195 days ago. What are the hostages feeling as they are trapped, separated from their families? Are they planning, are they daring to hope that their entrapment will end anytime soon?

This Pesach, the meaning of enslavement takes on a whole new meaning. It might be difficult to imagine ourselves in Egypt and what it meant to be free. But we can imagine what the hostages are feeling. We can put ourselves in their place and how thankful we are to feel that we are free, we are in Chandler, we are with our families.

So this Pesach, I won't complain about cleaning. I won't complain about the upheaval in my home. I will be grateful for the many blessings that my family and I have and to be able to eat lots and lots of matzah.

Shabbat Shalom, *chag Pesach kasher vesame'ach, koshern un freilichen [Pesach](#)*,
Have a happy, blessed Passover. #sendthemhomeNOW