

Torah Tidbits from Rabbi Larry Moldo

It's here at last!

Not the Seder, not quite yet.

It's Shabbat HaGadol (the big Shabbat).

Why is it so big?

Long ago, in the days before smartphones or even the internet; in the years between the invention of the printing press and the invention of cheap books (the rise of the internet and the rising price of books seems to be simultaneous - but it could just be coincidence and inflation), if somebody wanted to know what to do between the last Shabbat meal and the first Seder, they came to hear the Rabbi speak. The Rabbi spoke, then, only twice a year. Once, between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur to remind the people how much they and the world had to be forgiven for. The second time was Shabbat HaGadol.

So the Rabbi spoke for a very long time. I suppose, in a way, most Rabbis have always spoken an equal amount. I divide my statements up throughout the year, so even if this was my "on" week, you wouldn't have to worry about an overly long sermon.

So, as I won't be delivering a typical Shabbat HaGadol sermon, if you have something you need to know, please contact me. If it isn't urgent, email me. If it is, call my cell phone. I don't answer on Shabbat or Holydays, although I do check the messages in case of a pastoral care emergency.

Our hearts go out to the Sasson family of Brooklyn, who lost several children due to the malfunction/misuse [I wasn't there, so I don't know whether that which was reported is accurately stated.] of some food preparation hardware. Please be careful yourselves, as we clean, prepare and cook over the next few weeks.

Hopefully you all have somewhere to go for the Seder nights. The congregation is holding one on April 3 beginning at 6 pm run by me, and a number of families will also be holding a Seder on the traditional second night of Pesach. (500 years from now, if both Israel and America still exist as independent countries [God willing], the tradition may go back to holding one night of remembering. In the meantime, feel free to have fun with the tradition. If you want some help in developing new traditions, or repackaging old traditions, please send me a note.) IF YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO GO, LET SOMEONE KNOW.