

Talks by (Rabbi) Avi Robinson, Scholar in Residence
Congregation Darchei Noam, Pesach 5766

7th Day of Pesach, Wednesday, April 19, after Musaf

Schadenfreude and Shira

God shushed the ministering angels while the Egyptians were drowning. “My handiwork is drowning in the sea – and you are singing?!” Why, then, do we celebrate the song of Moses and the Jews? Was their rejoicing appropriate?

7th Day of Pesach, Wednesday, April 19, before Mincha (6:45 pm)

How to Fit a Square Matzah into a Round Tradition

We will explore the history of the shape of Matzah, from Talmudic times through the present. In particular, we will examine the methods by which Dov Behr Manischewitz convinced the Jewish world to embrace his machine-made *matzah* during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

8th Day of Pesach, Thursday, April 20, after Musaf

Sefirah and Yizkor: Overlapping Memorials

What do the mourning customs of *Sefirat Haomer* and the recitation of *Yizkor* have in common? These two esoteric practices share a common history, which we will elucidate together.

Special Teen Program:

4:00 pm, Thursday, April 20, Rapoports' house, 4605 W. 28th St.

Jewish Responses to Genocide: How does Darfur Affect Us?

In this text-based study directed for young men and women, we will attempt to formulate an appropriate Jewish response to atrocities taking place halfway around the world.

8th Day of Pesach, Thursday, April 20, (6:45 pm)

Where do we go from here? (and I don't mean the pizza store!)

Sefirat Haomer serves as a bridge between Pesach and Shavuot. In the last hours of Pesach, we will delve into the various ways that Jewish thinkers – *Hasidic* and *mitnagdic* – have elucidated this connection, thus setting the spiritual mood for the coming days and weeks.

Avi Robinson, a senior *semicha* student at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, was born and raised in Newton, MA. After attending *Yeshivat Har Etzion* in Israel, Avi studied at Yeshiva University, majoring in chemistry. Yeshiva University honored Avi with five awards at his 2003 graduation, including “Student Best Representing the University’s Ideal of *Torah U’Madda*.” While at RIETS, Avi taught review sessions for the *shiur* of R. Michael Rosensweig, and edited the most recent edition of the Yeshiva’s annual Torah journal, *Beis Yitzchok*. Avi has served as a rabbinic intern at shuls in Columbus, OH, and in New York, NY. Avi teaches first-year chemistry labs at Yeshiva College, and is an avid bicyclist.