

Congregation Ohav Yisroel of Blueberry Hill

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Alfred Cohen, Rabbi

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Dear Members and Friends:

In households all over the world, preparations for Pesach are long underway. Most housewives already have their list of necessities for the Yomtov, and stocking up on provisions has begun. They have calculated how many pounds of matzoh must be ordered, they have begun to empty kitchen cabinets--in short, a beautiful and meaningful celebration is being carefully organized.

It is interesting to note, however, that when the *Shulchan Aruch* presents the laws of Pesach, it does not commence with the method of baking the matzoh, nor with a description of how to eliminate chametz. Rather, the *Shulchan Aruch* commences by citing the age-old custom of giving monies to the poor so that they, too, will be able to enjoy the upcoming Festival. Evidently, the first activity in preparing for Pesach is making sure that the needy will not be forgotten.

This year, as every year, you have the *z'chut* to participate in the great mitzvah of helping families in need, by contributing to our *ma'ot chittim* campaign. And if you know of individuals who could use a little financial boost for the holiday, please let the Rabbi know. No one who asks for help is ever turned down by us. Please join in this fundamental mitzvah, by giving as generously as you can.

Sincerely yours,

Yaacov Grunstein
President

Rabbi A. Cohen