

## ASK THE RABBI



**Q. In recent years you have asked people going away for Pesach to sign a different form for the sale of their chametz. Why?**

A. The advent of modern travel has meant that people can now easily go to a country for Pesach whose time zone is ahead of ours and where the prohibition of owning chametz would become relevant prior to the time when the normal sale would take place here. The different form relates to an earlier sale that takes place the day before, thus overcoming this problem. In addition, such a sale enables people to dispose of chametz in entire houses or businesses prior to nightfall on the 13<sup>th</sup> Nissan, thus obviating the need for *bedikah* - searching for chametz altogether.

**Q. Why are the Tablets in shule blue?**

A. This accords with the Midrashic tradition that the original Tablets were sapphire. We have done our best to make ours as authentic as possible including the way in which the letters are hewn through the stone. However, you will note that the supernatural elements of the original, whereby the letters read the same from both sides, have proven to be beyond the scope of even our Building Committee.

**Q. Why do Chassidic Jewish men wear a gartel?**

A. A gartel serves as a symbolic separation between the physical and temporal aspects of man and the more cerebral and spiritual.

**Q. Should I light extra Shabbat candles for my children?**

A. Whilst there is no obligation so to do, it is certainly a meritorious custom to light one extra candle for each child on an ongoing basis. However, having decided to do this, one is only obligated to light the normal two candles on occasions when one lights away from home.