

ONEG SHABBAS

THE UNOFFICIAL PARASHAH SHEET FOR KIDDUSH CLUBS

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A Declaration of Independence

Not once, but multiple times in this week's Torah portion do we read of Moshe proscribing the children of Israel from eating leavened products, but also from even having them in their house. While we read of this in Exodus 12:15, we come across it in other appearances, as well (12:19, 12:20, 13:3, & 13:7). While we immediately think of bread as the paradigmatic leavened product that is forbidden during Passover, this product is not the only one. In fact, it may even be that beer may be one of the most significant aspects of this prohibition.

While beer existed in Israel, it was much more significant of a beverage in Egypt. It then turns out that the abandonment of beer and bread products for the duration of Passover (and a little bit beforehand) stands as a very clear statement of independence and throwing off of our Egyptian bonds of slavery. More than simply avoiding bread, beer, and other such products, we are also to remove them from our houses as a very bold statement that we are leaving our Egyptian experience behind us in an effort to strike it out on our own as an independent nation.



It's fascinating to read of the only reference to beer in the Mishnah (mPesahim 3:1) that Median beer is one of the seven specified materials upon which one transgresses prohibitions of Passover. The reason this is specified, as described by both Talmuds, is that grains are included in this beer, seemingly indicating that beer in Israel was not grain-based at the time of the Mishnah. Yet, grain-based beers are clearly off-limits for Passover.

While missing beer during the season of Passover is certainly something we miss (just as we miss bagels, pizza, etc.), hopefully, this can provide a new perspective that it's a bold statement of independence as a nation, throwing off our bonds of Egyptian slavery.

If you are or know of someone who struggles with alcohol abuse, alcoholism, or other substance abuse, there are resources out there to help. You can check out JewishDrinking.com/alcoholabuse/

Recent Episodes

After taking a four-week winter break, *The Jewish Drinking Show* kicked off 2023 with episodes on places on either coast of the US, with Long Beach Beer Lab on the west coast and Lehrhaus on the east coast. They are vastly different places, as Long Beach Beer Lab has been open since 2017 and sells packaged beers (and now RTD cocktails), along with delicious breads, pizzas, and more. Lehrhaus, on the other hand, is opening up this coming week, with an expected opening on February 1st. Enjoy!



Upcoming Episodes

Stay tuned for upcoming episodes:

January 31 - Prof. Glenn Dynner - Jewish tavernkeepers in 18th and 19th century redux

February 7 - Dr. Michal Shaul - Kiddush Clubs II

February 14 - Hudi Zinar - Kiddush Clubs III

L'chaim

While sampling the 2020 Nava Blanc from Tzafona Cellars, I, as well as my drinking comrades were pleasantly surprised by this really enjoyable white wine. Look, I'm a fan of red wines and seldom care for white wines, yet this product was extremely refreshing. A well-balanced white wine with some citrus notes, it would be amazing in the summer, but it is drinkable year-round. It would serve excellently as a great meal-starter. For more on this, you can check out <https://youtu.be/EM-XJHH4kQA>
Disclosure: a review sample was provided to Jewish Drinking for review purposes.



Oneg Shabbas is a project of Jewish Drinking, Inc., a 501(c)3 initiative to educate about drinking in Jewish wisdom, tradition, history, practice, and more. For more on Jewish Drinking, you can check out [JewishDrinking.com](https://www.JewishDrinking.com).