

בית הוראה דיעטראיט
BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HaRav Shmuel Irons שליט"א VAAD HALACHA Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher • Rav Yissachar Wolf • Rav Boruch Miller

KITCHEN * SHABBOS * YOM TOV * BRACHOS * AVEILUS * TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA * EVERYDAY SHAILOS

ISSUE #26 – Sheva Brachos FAQs

Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Below are some common questions and answers based on psakim from the rabbonim of the Bais Horaah. Please note: in the event one believes they have heard a different opinion in the past, one's family posek should always be consulted. Mareh mekomos for any specific answers below are available by email request to ask@bhdetroit.org.

- **Is there an obligation to hold Sheva Brachos on all seven days?**
 - It is proper to make as many Sheva Brachos as possible. However, since there is no obligation to have one each day, if it creates stress or hardship the family should consider not having one every single day.
- **How many people must wash in order to recite Sheva Brachos at a meal?**
 - There must be at least seven men over bar mitzvah who wash and will recite Birchas HaMazon, including the chassan. Additionally, three more men must have eaten or drunk something at the seudah (excluding water).
- **Do both the chassan and kallah need to be present?**
 - Ideally, both should be present and wash for the meal. If only one can attend or either of them cannot wash, a halachic authority should be consulted. Please note: the seudah must be held in their honor. For example, if the couple is present at a bris or other simcha, Sheva Brachos may not be recited, even if ten men are gathered, since the meal was not arranged specifically in their honor.
- **How is the final day of Sheva Brachos determined?**
 - The seven-day count begins from the day of the chupah. For example, if the chupah took place on a Wednesday before sunset, Sheva Brachos may be recited until the following Tuesday before sunset. On the seventh day, bentching and Sheva Brachos must be completed before sunset, although the meal and speeches may continue afterward. This arrangement also helps avoid uncertainty regarding which desserts require a separate bracha rishona.
- **For how many days are Sheva Brachos recited in a second marriage?**
 - Sheva Brachos are recited for seven days when either the chassan or kallah is marrying for the first time. If both have been previously married, Sheva Brachos are recited only on the day of the chupah. Therefore, it is advisable to schedule the wedding either earlier in the day or after nightfall. If the chupah takes place shortly before sunset, it becomes questionable whether Sheva Brachos may be recited at all. In such cases, a halachic authority should be consulted.
- **May someone who didn't partake of the seudah be given one of the Sheva Brachos?**
 - Yes, it is permitted.
- **How many panim chadashos are required?**
 - At least one male over bar mitzvah who did not attend the wedding meal or any previous Sheva Brachos must be present.
- **Who qualifies as panim chadashos?**
 - A man over bar mitzvah who hasn't participated in the wedding or prior Sheva Brachos.
 - Ideally, it should be someone whose presence adds joy to the chassan and kallah, but anyone qualifies, even if they do not bring additional simcha. Women and children do not qualify.
- **Can someone who briefly attended the wedding still count as panim chadashos?**
 - Yes. If someone attended briefly (e.g. for part of the dancing or to say mazel tov) but did not partake in the seudah or stay for bentching, they may still serve as panim chadashos, even if they were present at the chupah.
- **Must the panim chadashos partake of the seudah?**
 - Ideally, yes. However, if they are present at bentching, they still qualify, even without partaking in the meal.
- **Are panim chadashos required on Shabbos or Yom Tov?**
 - For the main seudos of Shabbos or Yom Tov, panim chadashos are not required due to the inherent simcha of these meals. At Shalosh Seudos or additional meals the requirement is uncertain, a Dvar Torah may be shared specifically in this context to fulfill the role of panim chadashos.

בית הוראה דיעטראיט
BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HaRav Shmuel Irons שליט"א VAAD HALACHA Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher • Rav Yissachar Wolf • Rav Boruch Miller

KITCHEN • SHABBOS • YOM TOV • BRACHOS • AVEILUS • TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA • EVERYDAY SHAILOS

● **Can an avel serve as a panim chadashos?**

- An avel within 30 days of the start of shiva for a relative or 12 months for a parent, may not attend a wedding, bris, or Sheva Brachos. However, if he is needed for the minyan or for panim chadashos, he may attend. In a case of great need, such as a close relative's Sheva Brachos where he's not needed as panim chadashos or for the minyan, a halachic authority should be consulted to determine if there is a permissible way to attend.

● **What if there are fewer than 10 men or no panim chadashos?**

- If the seudah is held in honor of the chassan and kallah, with at least three men (one of whom is not a family member), then the zimun should include "shehasimcha bim'ono" and just the final bracha of "Asher Bara" is recited.

● **What if men left unexpectedly, leaving less than a minyan or no panim chadashos?**

- Once the first Sheva Bracha is recited with a minyan and panim chadashos, the rest may be completed even if the minyan is no longer present or the panim chadashos have left.

● **When Sheva Brachos are said at Shalosh Seudos after nightfall, should the chassan and kallah drink the wine?**

- The common minhag is that the chassan and kallah drink a minimal shiur of maleh lugmav (approximately 1.6 ounces) between the two of them. Al HaGefen is not recited. Some are stringent to specifically have the chassan lead the bentching.
- Some have the minhag to delay the hagafen until Havdalah and then the chassan and kallah partake of the wine as normal.

● **Can someone leave a Sheva Brachos early?**

- A person who washed must stay for the bentching and Sheva Brachos. If someone knows in advance that they must leave early, they should either not wash or explicitly stipulate beforehand that they do not intend to join the zimun or Sheva Brachos. If the person is the only panim chadashos or needed for the minyan, they may not leave early.

● **What is the procedure of the kosos (cups) used for Sheva Brachos?**

- Prepare two filled kosos of wine and one empty cup.
- The person leading Birchas HaMazon holds one of the kosos.
- The second kos is held by each individual honored with reciting a Sheva Bracha.
- Both kosos are then placed in front of the one who will recite the hagafen.
- Pour some from each kos into the empty cup and then some back into the kosos.
- The cups are given to the chassan, kallah and the one who recited HaGafen.
- They should each ideally drink 3 oz, or at minimum, a maleh lugmav (1.6 oz). If needed, they may share that amount between them.

● **Can a microphone be used for Sheva Brachos?**

- This is the subject of halachic uncertainty. If ten male participants over bar mitzva would be able to hear the Brachos had the microphone not been used, there is room to be lenient.

● **Is it permitted to dance on Shabbos in honor of the chassan and kallah?**

- Although dancing and clapping are generally avoided on Shabbos, light dancing is permitted in honor of the chassan and kallah.

To receive future issues, send an email to subscribe@bhdetroit.org
Tax-deductible donations can be made via Zelle or PayPal: donate@bhdetroit.org

THIS ISSUE IS SPONSORED BY:
MR. & MRS. MORDECHAI KOGAN
IN HONOR OF RAV BORUCH MILLER