MEANING
• Pesach in Hebrew, meaning “skip” or “pass over.”
• Festival of freedom commemorating the biblical story of the exodus, the escape of the Jewish people from slavery in ancient Egypt.

GREETINGS
• Chag Sameach (“A good holiday!” – Hebrew).
• Gut Yontif (“A good holiday!” - Yiddish).
• During the middle days of the holiday (called “chol HaMoed”) a customary greeting is “Moadim l’simcha” (may your times be happy), to which a customary response is “chagim u’zmanim l’sasson” (“joyous holidays and seasons!” – Hebrew).

WHEN
• Hebrew Calendar: 15-22 Nisan.
• Western Calendar: March or April.
• Pesach begins at sundown and ends at sundown one week later. Some Jews observe Passover for 7 days, and others for 8 days, depending on denomination and custom.

COMMON PRACTICES
• Pesach begins with a festive “seder” – a meal that tells the story of the Exodus using symbolic foods, readings and songs from a ritual text called a “Haggadah.”
• For the whole week of Pesach it is customary to abstain from “hametz” (leavened food).
• Jews are instructed to clean their homes of any “hametz” (bread and leavened items).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?
Email: inclusion@msu.edu

Type of Calendar:
Hebrew (lunisolar)

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