

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 681-6547

www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

April 2023 Volume 33 Issue 11

Happy Passover!



Seder (2010), by **Nicole Eisenman**, presents a familiar holiday scene rendered with comic aplomb. The perspective of the viewer (and artist) is from the head of the table, the best vantage point to witness the tensions gathered around the traditional Passover ceremony; children and adults are both attentive and bored, with expressions ranging from grotesque and distorted to charming and affectionate.

Photographed in the Jewish Museum in Manhattan.

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From the Rabbi's desk...



Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what G-d, the G-d of Israel, has said: 'Send forth My people, so that they may celebrate a festival for Me in the wilderness.' " Pharaoh replied, "Who is G-d that I should heed His voice and let Israel go? I do not recognize G-d, nor will I let Israel leave."

Pharaoh was so angry at their request; he decided the slaves were being lazy and he would give them more work. They would no longer receive their straw to make bricks, but had to go gather the straw themselves. Furthermore, it wouldn't be tolerated if they were unable to meet their quota of bricks.

The Israelite's foremen complained bitterly to Pharaoh that when they were unable to meet their quota of bricks, they were flogged mercilessly by the taskmasters. They said the fault didn't lay with them, but with Pharaoh's edicts, therefore the fault lay with the Egyptians. Pharaoh was even angrier with their complaint and told them they were lazy. He told the Israelite foremen, "Now go and get to work! You will not be given any straw, but you must deliver your quota of bricks!" The Egyptians now began to enforce the Jew's quota of bricks so rigidly that if it was not fulfilled, they immured their children into the walls.

Moses returned to G-d and cried out the question of why was G-d mistreating his people. Not only has G-d not delivered his people, but he has also made their lives more difficult and the Egyptians were entombing children into the walls when the brick quotas weren't met.

Moses asked G-d: "How he could allow them to do such a horrific act?" G-d's reply: "If these children would have survived, they would have turned out wicked." G-d said: "Take out one of the babies to see what happens?" So, Moses chose a baby named Micah, who eventually became the creator of the golden calf.

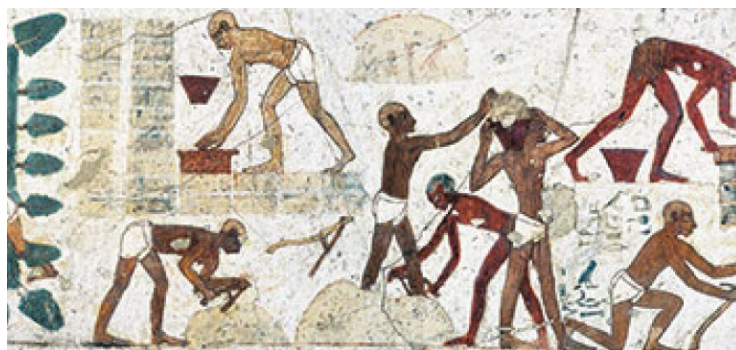
Another interpretation of what G-d told Moses, was to communicate to the Jewish people: "I Will Be As I Will Be!" As we recall, the Talmudic sages and Rashi explain this to mean, "I will be with you in your present distress, just as I will be with you in future exiles and persecutions." What is the message behind these words?

I am a mystery, G-d confesses. I am strange, infinitely strange. My script of history is quite unfathomable to the human mind and heart. Yet you ought to know one thing: I am not a detached G-d, residing in the heavens and objectively governing the destiny of each human being the way I see fit. I am present with you in your anguish. I am in the groan of a beaten slave, the wail of a bereaved mother, and the spilled blood of a murdered child. You are crying? I am weeping with you. You feel crushed? I am crushed with you. No matter how deep your darkness, I am deeper still. I do not orchestrate human suffering from some distant planet, removed from your existential distress. I am there with you, suffering with you, sobbing with you, praying for redemption together with you.

Man may never comprehend G-d's "mind." But let him not think, G-d tells Moses, that G-d, who understands the purpose of the pain, gives Himself the luxury of not feeling the intensity of the darkness. Every tear we shed becomes His tear. He may not wipe them away, but He makes them His.

Chag Passover Samayach,
Rabbi Lefkowitz

Chabad.org



The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Shalom Everybody

We had such a wonderful Purim Service and Purim Play. Our actors in the play are WAY underpaid! The food after the service was wonderful, in other words, YUMMY! We were standing room only for our Friday night Purim spiel. We also had a large turnout of children at this service which was so refreshing and exciting. The children are our future, and we all want to see them grow at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Our next big event will be our Passover Seder which will be held at the Tampa JCC on the first night of Passover (Wednesday April 5th). I am hoping we have a great turnout and fulfilling Passover Seder experience. Hope to see you there!

As always, Todah Rabah (Thank you very much) for being a part of the Beth Shalom Family and your time in reading this article.

Steve Billor



A Passover Short Story

Jews are a special people, no use denying it.

The Rabbi of Berditchev knew this better than most. One year, the day before Pesach, the Rabbi asked that six silken scarves and six loaves of bread be brought to him at once. People searched the whole town and returned with six scarves, but not one loaf of bread.

The Rabbi held the scarves in his hand and said: "Master of the Universe, the czar forbids the importing of scarves. He has soldiers and policemen to help enforce this law. But here are the scarves, somehow smuggled across the border. Master of the Universe, three thousand years ago You commanded Your children not to bring bread into the house on Pesach. You have no soldiers or policemen, yet there is no bread to be found in all Berditchev. Truly, Your children ARE special!"



CBS will be joining with Chabad Chai South Tampa for a

Community Passover Seder

Wednesday, April 5th at 7:30 PM

At the Bryan Glazer Family JCC



EXPERIENCE an inspiring Seder journey to freedom with Rabbi Mendy. Children will enjoy special activities designed by Dina.

SPIRIT is what transforms a dinner into a Seder. Let the power of song elevate you to a state of liberation.

ENJOY a 5-course dinner by Executive Chef Kenny Mendoza Complemented by award winning Israeli and European wines.

A MEANINGFUL moment is waiting for you.

Couvert: Adults \$50: Young Adults \$36: Child \$25: Sponsor \$540

RSVP Required by March 28

Call 813/922-1723 or visit www.chabadchaicenter.com/Seder

CBS Members: You must make your reservation with Chabad Chai Center. Then, contact Julie Shienbaum at 813/215-3381 or jul78clint@aol.com. This will ensure an accurate count of CBS members attending and we will be able to sit together.

From Gabe Lifschitz



Gabe Lifschitz

What can you do to bring CBS to the spotlight in Hillsborough County and the State of Florida? Houses of worship of different faiths seem to be struggling with people finding purpose to attend and participate. One thought is to bring meaning to CBS by integrating with the County and State protection, preparedness, and response services. Every year we prepare to deal with those who hate or mean harm to our religious beliefs. Additionally, we prepare for the hurricane season. Would you like to know more about how you can help? Send a note to cbs-building@outlook.com.

While our temple is just 22 years old, in the United States there are other temples that have withstood the test of time. The oldest temple is the Touro Synagogue built from 1759 to 1763. It is in Newport, Rhode Island. It was built for congregation Jeshuat Israel. Peter Harrison, a noted British architect designed the synagogue so the ark is on the east wall and the ten commandments are above the ark. In 1946, it was declared a National Historic Site. The congregation, initially made of 15 Spanish Sephardic Jews, arrived in 1658 via the communities in Curaco, home to the oldest Jewish congregation in the Americas, dating to 1651.



Chaim Topol, born in Tel Aviv in 1935, passed away at age 87. He is best known for playing Tevye, the main character in the movie "A Fiddler on the Roof". Chaim went on to play Milos Columbo in the 1981 James Bond film "For your Eyes Only". While he continued to act in films, he became an illustrator of books in English and Hebrew. Last year, his son Omer announced that Chaim had Alzheimer's disease and his health began to decline.



CBS Building Upkeep

If you know someone who does interior electric and communications cable work, please send their contact information to cbs-building@outlook.com. Our temple requires detailed work on interior electrical and communications wiring outlined below.

Connecting router in the sanctuary - install new ethernet connector

Tracing power wire fault for security camera

Replacing exhaust fan motors in bathrooms

Troubleshooting possible shorts and mechanically affixing outlets

Trace and troubleshoot other faults not listed here

Thanks,

Gabe

CBS Business

Shabbat Services

Meeting ID: 897 3400 8923
Password: 770549

Our Shabbat services will take place Friday Nights at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as well as online. Our livestream feed is available on Zoom and Facebook. For outdoor services, the Zoom link will not work, so please sign in to Facebook. Join us in the celebration of Shabbat and you are welcome to like, comment, and share.

We established a new Zoom link. You will be able to login from our weekly eNews. The process has not changed, just the link. For your information here is the new link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89734008923?pwd=WEtGZXN1UVVNM0lCa3BoTzJyZUc0UT09>

We are glad that you enjoy our shabbat services and hope to see you on the Zoom screen this Friday.

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>



Advertise in The Kibbitzer

Business Card—New Ads at \$10/month for the first six months, then \$20/month.

Get a 10% Discount by

Prepaying for one year.

To reserve your place in the next issue, e-mail John Zelatis at

jjzelatis@zomesa.com or call the

CBS office at

813-681-6547.

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. We can be reached at [cbs-brandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or rlefkowi@bellsouth.net. Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 407-222-6393 to schedule an appointment.



Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns or questions.



SHARE A MAZEL TOV!

Do you have a family member, friend, spouse or congregant you would like to wish Mazel Tov to in our Kibbitzer? You can send an email to the-kibbitzer@hotmail.com with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in our community.



Senior Rabbi

Robert Lefkowitz

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Gerry Pliner

1st Vice President

Gerry Pliner

2nd Vice President

Toby Koch

3rd Vice President

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Anita Clifford

Lynn Kaler

Gabe Lifschitz

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TheKibbitzer@hotmail.com
For current news and events
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<http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>

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813-681-6547 • CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Office hours:

By appointment.
Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.
Office is closed on holidays

Weekly Email Blast submissions**MEMBERSHIP**

Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, April 7	7:32 PM
Friday, April 14	7:36 PM
Friday, April 21	7:39 PM
Friday, April 28	7:43 PM



Oneg Schedule

April Sponsors

There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

April 7	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
April 14	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
April 21	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share
April 28	CBS Congregation	Please bring a dish to share

**If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call
Judith Pliner at (856)816-2174**

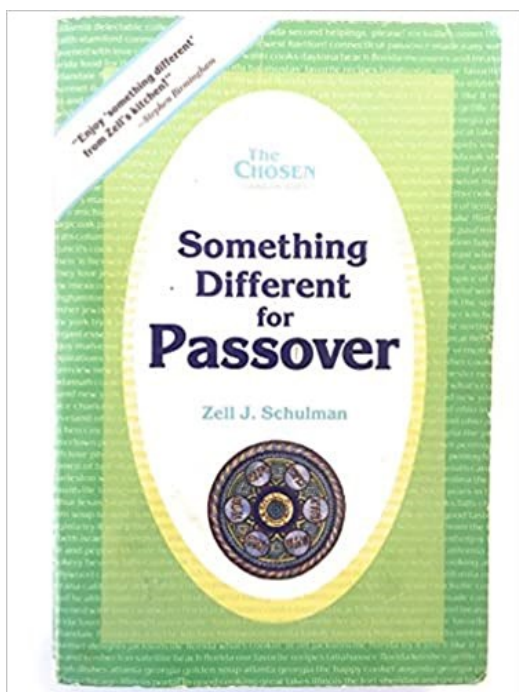
New Member



**CBS wishes a warm
welcome to
Drew McKinney**



Books, Books, and Books



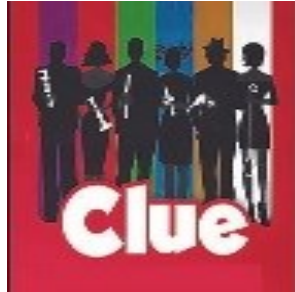
I bought this cookbook from the gift shop of the hospital I was working in during my years in Cleveland. Every recipe I've tried, and there have been many because I bought this book 1986, has been a success. It is still available on Amazon and you can buy a used copy for under \$3.00. Below is a brief description by Amazon.

In order to banish boredom from the Seder table, Schulman, an experienced cooking teacher and food columnist, skillfully combines old with new, suggesting modern recipes not too innovative while facilitating traditional dishes with contemporary methods and equipment. Two full Seder menus are offered, along with timetables for preparation up to a week in advance. In addition to 10 other Passover menus, there are over 100 recipes here, each written with adaptations for food processors and microwave ovens. They include such dishes as veal scallops with lemon, baked tomatoes with basil, fresh lake trout baked in wine, macaroon torte, brandied fruit, and raspberry sorbet for the Passover sponge cake. Schulman also includes descriptions of Passover preparations and a conversion table listing substitutions for foods that are prohibited during this period.

Dinner (and a Show!) with the Tribe



Anita Clifford



Village Players Murder Mystery...CLUE the "Board Game" comes to life on the James McCabe Theater stage. Directed by Gail Pierce. Based on the iconic 1985 Paramount movie which was inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, Clue is a hilarious farce-meets-murder mystery. The tale begins at a remote mansion, where six mysterious guests assemble for an unusual dinner party where murder and blackmail are on the menu. When their host turns up dead, they all become suspects. Led by Wadsworth – the Butler, Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock and Colonel Mustard race to find the killer as the body count stacks up. Clue is the comedy "whodunit" that will leave both cult-fans and newcomers in stitches as they try to figure out...WHO did it, WHERE, and with WHAT!

You MUST buy your ticket — Senior ticket is \$15 + \$1.75 fee = \$16.75/person

Tickets are on sale here: <https://tvpvalrico.ticketleap.com/clue/>

Fill out the form to let Chris with the Village Players know your are with our group and he will reserve your place for the play.

**James McCabe Theater
506 5th Street
Valrico, FL 33596
813/643-8292**

**Sunday,
April 23rd
3:00 - 5:30**

We will go see the play, and then go to dinner at The Cheesecake Factory in Brandon at 6:15. Tickets for the play will cost about \$18. I have a phone call into The Village Players to reserve our seats together. People will need to let me know if they will be there and will need to get their own tickets. Tickets are non-refundable. Please RSVP by sending me an email, niewdnarb@yahoo.com to reserve your spot.

**Cheesecake Factory
Westfield Brandon
781 Brandon Town Center Mall
Brandon, FL 33511**

**Sunday,
April 23rd
6:15 PM**

Food Bank

A Mile-long Line for Free Food Offers a Warning as Covid Benefits End

Story by Tim Craig, Washington Post
 Edited by Stephen Feldman, Food Bank Committee

Last spring, Kentucky, a state we lived in for 27 years, cut food stamp benefits created to help weather the worst of COVID-19. Perhaps as a result of this reduction in aid, there was a mile-long line for free food at the Hazel Green Food Project recently.

Some people in the line said they can now only afford to eat once a day. Danny Blair received a letter announcing that his pandemic-era benefit to help buy groceries was about to be slashed. Instead of \$200 a month, he would get just \$30.

He thought, “Wow, the government is trying to kill us now...They are going to starve us out.”

To avoid that from happening, Blair and his wife drive twice a month at 4 a.m. to ensure they get some staples at the Hazel Green Food Project giveaway. Sometimes they wait nine hours until local prisoners on work duty start loading bags of food into vehicles in one of the nation’s most impoverished communities in the Appalachian foothills.

The sea of despair and hardship along a desolate Kentucky highway foreshadow what may be in store for millions of Americans, including Floridians, as the federal government ended the remaining pandemic increase in monthly food stamp benefits last month.

Over the past year, 18 states ended official states of emergency and rescinded the COVID food benefit. For the other 32 states, Congress mandated that the extra help sunset in March. Social service agencies, including Tampa’s Jewish Family Services and our own CBS Food Bank, are now preparing for a summer of misery as food prices continue to soar due to inflation.

Demand at Food Banks such as ours soared last year as retail prices rose by over 11%, more than five times the historical annual average. We served up to 50 families at times last year.

What does all this foretell? Hunger rates are going to increase among Florida’s seniors and families, and our children are going to fall behind academically because they are not going to be able to concentrate on empty stomachs. Indeed, if you are hungry, it’s hard to learn.

As you know, CBS and Faith Family Church are working to help alleviate food insecurity by holding a food distribution regularly, usually on the third Sunday of each month. We depend on your generous contributions of food, personal items and gift cards to sponsor this continuing mitzvah to help improve the lives of our fellow Floridians. Thank you for your support!



Our Volunteers



Carol Hindin clearing yard debris



Gabe Lifschitz cleaning our CBS sign



Carol Anne and Dave Friedman



Carol and Steve Hindin clearing yard debris



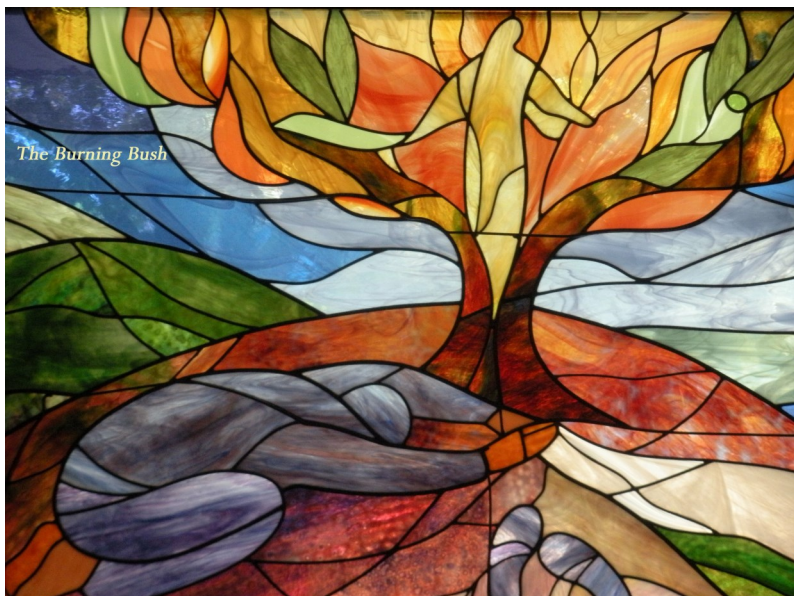
Donations

Donations:

Stephen Feldman	Honor of Anna's birthday
Stephen Feldman	High Holiday Pledge
Sheryl & Mark Finke	Repair/replace fence
Arlene & Steven Grey	Food Bank donation
Lynn & Larry Kaler	Holiday donation
Anonymous neighbor	Tree removal

In Memory:

Meyer Feldman	Father	Of	Stephen Feldman
Nathan Spindel	Grandfather	Of	Neil Spindel



The Burning Bush by Jennifer Labin

Our Congregation

Yahrzeits



4/2	Joseph	Magdovitz	Father-In-Law	Of	Caren	Magdovitz
4/3	Allen	Workman	Brother	Of	Anna	Feldman
4/4	Carl	Frye	Grandfather	Of	Kevin	Frye
4/6	Samuel	Lifschitz	Father	Of	Gabriel	Lifschitz
4/10	Julius	Pearlstein	Grandfather	Of	Kevin	Frye
4/13	Sylvia	Pliner	Mother	Of	Gerald	Pliner
4/16	Rosa	Besterman	Grandmother	Of	Leslie	Boyar
4/23	Barbara	Berkley Shapiro	Mother	Of	Jan	Sperry
4/28	Shirley	Cohen	Grandmother	Of	Sheryl	Finke
4/29	Rose	Reisner	Grandmother	Of	Gary	Ronay
4/29	Joseph	Reisner	Grandfather	Of	Gary	Ronay
4/29	Alice	Koch	Mother	Of	Toby	Koch

Birthdays

4/1	Lizette	Howard
4/12	Jeffrey	Miller
4/13	Iylene	Miller
4/16	April	Katz-Newport
4/21	Marvin	Shienbaum
4/23	Barbara	Glaser



Anniversaries

4/17 Gabriel and Ruth Lifschitz



Committees/Chairpersons

Building/Capital Fund

Gerry Pliner

Finance

Gerald Pliner

Fundraising

Open

Life Long Learning

Open

Strategic Planning

Steve Feldman

Membership

Judith Pliner

Caring Committee

Judith Pliner

Oneg

Open

Publicity

Toby Koch

Ritual

Toby Koch

Facility and Safety

Gabe Lifschitz

Social Action

Meral Ginsberg

Religious School

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

Christine Stockelman

Eblast:

Toby Koch and Carol Anne Friedman

Other Programs

CBS Singles Over 50

Anita Clifford

Chavurah

Open

Dinner With the Tribe

Anita Clifford

Kibbitzer Editor

Lynn Kaler

Library

Sandy Saviet

Men's Club

Myron Feldman

Page Turners

Toby Koch & Anna Feldman

Web Administrator

Toby Koch

Got something to sell?

What's better than a garage sale?

A CLASSIFIED AD IN THE KIBBITZER!

A 5-line add is just \$9 for members
\$18 for non-members



Your ad for selling household items benefits CBS

Congregation Beth Shalom

provides a meaningful spiritual home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and to celebrate, and a place to find a community that cares.

We offer:

- ✧ Friday worship services at 7:00 PM
- ✧ Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation
- ✧ Adult Education classes
- ✧ Community-wide events
- ✧ Community Food Bank

We ♥ Advertising

Happy Passover!

YOM HAZIKARON & YOM HAATZMAUT

“The State of Israel wouldn’t be able to celebrate its existence if it weren’t for those who gave their lives for it.”

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, four new holidays have been added to the Jewish calendar – [Yom HaShoah](#) (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), Yom HaAtzma'ut (Independence Day), and Yom Y'rushalayim (Jerusalem Day, which celebrates the reunification of the city in 1967). In Israel, these days are observed as national holidays; around the world, they are observed in various ways by Jewish communities.

The Israeli Knesset (parliament) established the day that precedes Yom HaAtzma'ut as Yom HaZikaron, a day to memorialize soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the War of Independence and subsequent battles, as well as a day to remember civilian victims of terrorism. The official State name given to the day is *Yom HaZikaron LeChalalei Maarachot Yisrael ul'Nifg'ei Peulot HaEivah* (יום הזכרון לחללי מערכות ישראל ולנפגעי פעולות פטריות) which means "Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism" and was enacted into law in 1963.

Yom HaAtzma'ut marks the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Israel. It is observed on or near the 5th of the Hebrew month of Iyar on the Jewish calendar, which usually falls in April.

How Yom HaAtzma'ut and Yom HaZikaron are connected

Typically, in other countries, Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and Independence Day occur on two separate days of the year. So why is it that, in Israel, Independence Day begins the moment that Memorial Day ends?

“The State of Israel wouldn’t be able to celebrate its existence if it weren’t for those who gave their lives for it,” the IDF explains. “We wouldn’t be able to have one of those days without the other one. We honor their memory and everything they fought for, so that today, we can celebrate our independence.”



Songs from the Haggadah

From the time I was six until confirmation, I went to Hebrew School. Classes were two hours after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Sunday, classes were four hours long. We'd start preparing for Passover weeks before the holiday, and for the final Sunday School class before the holiday, we'd have a "Mock Seder". There were no shortcuts, we went through the entire Haggadah. My grandmother was orthodox, and my siblings and I went to her house to help her prepare. My best memory of that time was when we were tired of shlepping up and down the stairs to the basement with dishes and food. My big brother came up with the idea of a passing line. We each had our stations, and we'd pass the items along to each other. Seders were wonderful at her house. Of course, the food was great, but I loved singing the songs with my sisters since they knew the same tunes.

I have made a list of a few of my favorites and tried to find the best YouTube videos to match. The explanation of the songs comes from ReformJudaism.com.

Ha Lachma Anya <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFn5EhR99WM>

Our first encounter with matzah at the seder table takes place when the middle piece of matzah is split in two to create the afikoman (dessert). Explaining the presence of the matzah, we sing Ha Lachma Anya, "This Is the Bread of Affliction," remembering the bread that our enslaved ancestors ate in Egypt. There are a number of modern renditions of Ha Lachma Anya, as well as a traditional middle eastern sounding chant.

Avadim Hayinu <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09jmwmHJZgI>

Now that we've heard The Four Questions, we answer them, starting with the explanation of how the story of our enslavement begins, told in the setting of the text of Avadim Hayinu, We Were Slaves in Egypt.

Eliyahu Hanavi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwHnPNPIBKs>

No seder would be complete without a place for Eliyahu HaNavi, Elijah the prophet, who is a guest at every seder table. Why? According to legend, the prophet Elijah returns to earth from time to time to help those in need. And, it is said that he will return to earth to precede the coming of the messianic age (Malachi 3:23-24). So we set a cup of wine and open the door to invite the prophet into our homes with the singing of Eliyahu HaNavi.

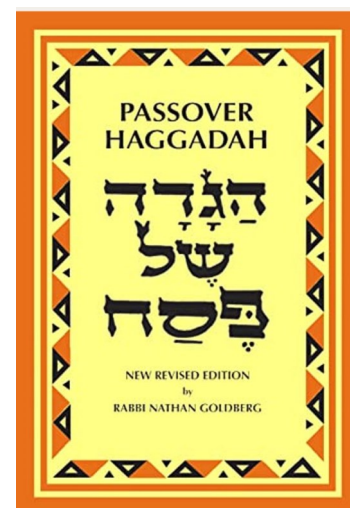
Echad Mi Yodeia (Who Knows One) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKQtknBtIhg>

Repeats the question to help us remember some of the foundations of our tradition, One G-d, two tablets of the covenant, three fathers, four mothers, and so on.

Adir Hu (G-d of Might) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZp_B4Dm83c

Extols the many virtues of G-d.

Chad Gadya (One Goat) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWUfNbv-R9U>



Preparing the Seder Plate

ReformJudaism.org

6 Parts of a Seder Plate



Roasted Egg
Beitzah ביצה



Shankbone
Zeroa זרוע



Bitter Herbs
Maror מרור



Apple, nuts,
spices & wine
Charoset חרוסת



Lettuce
Chazeret חזרת



Parsley
Karpas כרפס



Some people also have an orange on their seder plate. Learn why at ReformJudaism.org

Placement of ritual items on seder plates vary based on origin, artist, and production

The seder plate holds ritual foods used throughout the Passover seder. Each item on a seder plate is a symbol of the Exodus story and helps participants at the seder retell the story each year. These items are:

Beitzah: The roasted egg is symbolic of the festival sacrifice made in biblical times. It is also a symbol of spring the season in which Passover is always celebrated.

Chazeret: Lettuce is often used in addition to the *maror* as a bitter herb. The authorities are divided on the requirement of *chazeret*, so not all communities use it. Since the commandment (in Numbers 9:11) to eat the paschal lamb "with unleavened bread and bitter herbs" uses the plural ("bitter herbs") most seder plates have a place for *chazeret*.

Zeroa: The shank bone is symbolic of the Paschal lamb offered as the Passover sacrifice in biblical times. Some communities use a chicken neck as a substitute. Vegetarian households may use beets.

Charoset: This mixture (often apple, nuts, and spices ground together and mixed with wine) are symbolic of the mortar used by Hebrew slaves to build Egyptian structures. There are several variations in the recipe for *charoset*; the *Mishnah* describes a mixture of fruits, nuts, and vinegar.

Karpas: Parsley is dipped into salt water during the seder. The salt water serves as a reminder of the tears shed during Egyptian slavery. The dipping of a vegetable as an appetizer is said to reflect the influence of Greek culture.

Maror: Bitter Herbs (usually horseradish) symbolize the bitterness of Egyptian slavery. The maror is often dipped in charoset to reduce its sharpness. Maror is used in the seder because of the commandment (in Numbers 9:11) to eat the paschal lamb "with unleavened bread and bitter herbs".

Optional social justice additions: Passover offers a variety of opportunities to infuse our holiday celebrations with social justice themes, including a number of modern additions to consider adding to your seder plate. See "[7 Modern Additions to the Seder Plate](#)" to learn more.



The Order of the Seder

ReformJudaism.org

THE SEDER

The seder is the centerpiece of any Passover experience. A seder is a festive meal that takes place on the first night (and in some families also on the second night) of the holiday. Family and friends join together to celebrate. The word seder literally means “order,” and the Passover seder has 15 separate steps in its traditional order. These steps are laid out in the Haggadah. Many congregations hold a community seder during at least one night of Passover. There are also synagogue services held on the first day of the holiday, and *Yizkor* services held on the last day.

The 15 steps of the seder can be summed up by this Hebrew rhyme:

*Kadeish, Ur'chatz,
Karpas, Yachatz,
Magid, Rachtzah,
Motzi, Matzah,
Maror, Korech,
Shulchan Oreich,
Tzafun, Barech,
Hallel, Nirtzah*

To listen to the "Order of the Seder," based on the ancient Babylonian chant, copy and paste this link into your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/fg2JJPyzkJQ>



A Short Story: The Meaning of Freedom

The Meaning of Freedom

Source: Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust, Yaffa Eliach

Bergen Belsen, the Foreign Nationals section of the camp, 1942.

A group of Jews had approached Rav Yisroel Spira, the Bluzhover Rebbe, with an incredible request. Passover was only two weeks away, and many of them, sensing this might be their last Passover, were desperate to find a way to celebrate the festival. The thought of eating chametz (unleavened bread) was anathema to them, so they came up with an idea. They would appeal to the logical German mind of their oppressors and ask to receive their rations as flour and water instead of bread, and they would ask as well to build, on their own time at night, a crude oven with which to bake their rations into matzah. They reasoned, if the prisoners would start baking their own bread, this would be more efficient and economical, which would appeal to the mindset of their masters.

They asked the Rebbe if he would be willing to present their petition, signed by over eighty inmates, to the SS commandant of the camp, in the hopes that his merit and the merit of his illustrious ancestors would somehow protect them all and ensure a successful outcome. The Rebbe took some time to consider their request. Handing the Nazis a list of Jewish names was a very dangerous thing to do, especially in a concentration camp. Yet here was a group of Jews, enslaved, starving, almost beyond hope, and yet still willing to risk everything for the sake of a mitzvah. How could he be the obstacle to the fulfillment of such a holy deed?

So, the Rebbe asked for an audience with the camp Commandant, and through some miracle (and after a number of severe beatings,) their request was granted. Two weeks later, on the eve of Pesach (Passover) the Jews of Bergen Belsen actually baked matzah in preparation for the festival.

The Bluzhover Rebbe announced he would conduct a secret Seder in his barracks for those interested. Attending, never mind conducting, a Seder in Bergen Belsen was a crime punishable by death. Nonetheless, nearly three hundred Jews crowded into the Rebbe's barracks that Pesach night. When they reached the point in the Seder that spoke of their bondage in Egypt, there was a palpable air of pain and anguish that spread through the barracks. "Avadim Hayinu Le'Paroh be'Mitzrayim... Atah Be'nei Chorin..." 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and now we are free men...'

The Rebbe could hear the sobs and feel the pain in every Jew's heart, and knew he had to say something. How could a Jew recite these words in Bergen Belsen in 1942? He looked around the barracks, in the dim moonlight, seeing the gaunt, hollow faces, and hopeless eyes, and he began: "Why is this Seder different from all other Seders? We have no four cups of wine to bless, no tables laden with good food and fine china, no children to ask the four questions, and no vegetables to dip in commemoration of the exodus from Egypt so long ago. Our Matzah, burned, small, and barely recognizable as the same matzah we had before the war, reminds us more of where we are than of where we once were.

Only Maror, the bitter herbs, are in abundance this year. "But if even here, in the depths of our darkness and despair, we can nonetheless recall the exodus and celebrate Pesach, then we are truly free. Freedom, you see, isn't about where you are, it is about who you are."

Passover Art



The Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) Haggadah opens with "The Family at the Seder" (1935) Lodz, Poland.



Passover art by Avner Moriah, Passover Haggadah by Elizabeth Kohen



Rafael Abecassis - Passover II



Celebration Painting by Rae Chichilnitsky



Passover, hand-painted, Jewish Holiday, Pesach by Karin Foreman



Arthur Szyk - The Four Sons 1934

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Time for a Nosh

Chocolate Mousse Torte



Ingredients:

6 eggs, separated
 1 1/2 cups sugar, divided
 2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
 8 oz semi-sweet chocolate, melted & cooled
 1/2 cup ground almonds
 1/4 cup brandy or orange juice
 1 tablespoon matza cake meal

Meringue

3 egg whites
 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
 1 teaspoon potato starch
 1/4 cup water

I made this for my sister's birthday which usually falls during Passover. It was amazing.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9" springform pan and place a well-greased piece of wax paper on the bottom.

2. Beat egg whites until frothy. Slowly add 1/2 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time, until the whites hold a good peak but are not dry. Set aside.

3. Beat egg yolks in a large bowl until very thick and lemony in color, about 10-15 minutes. Add butter, 1 cup sugar, and melted chocolate. Beat 2 minutes. Fold in the beaten egg whites. Remove one cup of this mixture and refrigerate.

4. Fold ground nuts, flavoring, and cake meal into the remaining mixture. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 45 minutes, or until cake begins to pull away from the sides.

5. Remove from the oven and cool for 15 minutes on a rack. Remove sides of pan. Let torte cool completely before inverting onto serving platter. Remove wax paper and spread reserved cup of chocolate mixture evenly over the top. Refrigerate, covered, 6 - 8 hours or overnight.

6. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

7. Make the meringue. Combine 1 teaspoon potato starch with 1 tablespoon sugar and 1/4 cup of water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil to thicken. Let cool.

8. Beat egg whites in small bowl of mixer. When whites form soft peaks, add 1/4 cup sugar 1 teaspoon at a time. Add boiled sugar mixture and continue beating until it holds stiff peaks. Spread over top and sides of torte. Place in oven for 10 minutes to brown. Turn off oven and leave the torte in the oven for an extra 5 minutes. Refrigerate until serving time.





Note: For a dairy meal, you can use a whipped cream topping. Beat 1 pint of whipping cream and 2 tablespoons of sugar until stiff. Fold in the scraped inside of 1/2 vanilla bean, or 2 teaspoons of vanilla sugar.



April



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						TZAV
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		6:30 PM Executive Board Mtg 7:00 PM Board Mtg	SEDER 1 	SEDER 2 	7:00 PM Shabbat Service 	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				7 PM Learning with Rabbi	7:00 PM Shabbat Service 	SHEMINI
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1:00 PM Food Bank 		Yom HaShoah		7 PM Learning with Rabbi	7:00 PM Shabbat Service 	TAZRIA- METZORA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Dinner and a Show! DWTT 3:00		Yom HaZikaron	- Yom HaAtzma'ut	7 PM Learning with Rabbi	7:00 PM Shabbat Service 	ACHAREI- KEDOSHIM
30						
						