

JFNA Jewish Learning: Passover Edition

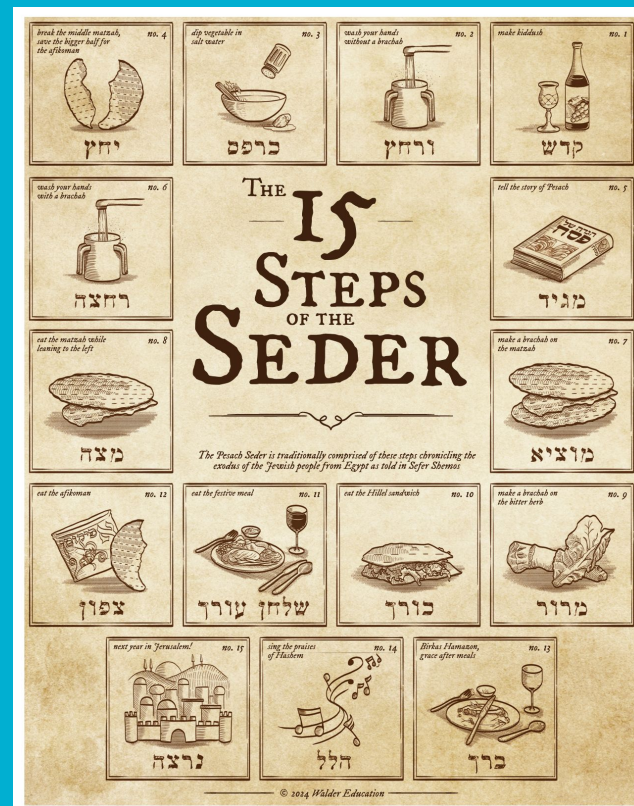
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Get On The Same Page

Some favorite haggadahs

- [A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices](#), from Mishael and Noam Zion
- [The Passover Haggadah Graphic Novel](#), from Jordan Gorfinkel and Erez Zadok
- [A Night of Questions](#), from Joy Levitt and Michael Strassfeld
- [Asufa Haggadah](#)
- Or, [make your own!](#)

Poster + Tabs to be able to use multiple ones



Haggadah Supplements & Other Resources

- [This Broken Matzah](#), from Bayit: Building Jewish
- [The 2024 Passover Guide](#), from the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies
- [In Every Generation](#), from the Hartman Institute
- [Honoring the Hostages](#), Jewish Federation of Los Angeles
- [Quotes and Questions to Spark Conversation](#), from Rabbi Brent Spodek
- [Exodus and Revolution](#), by Michael Walzer

Heavy Karpas – Easy Win!

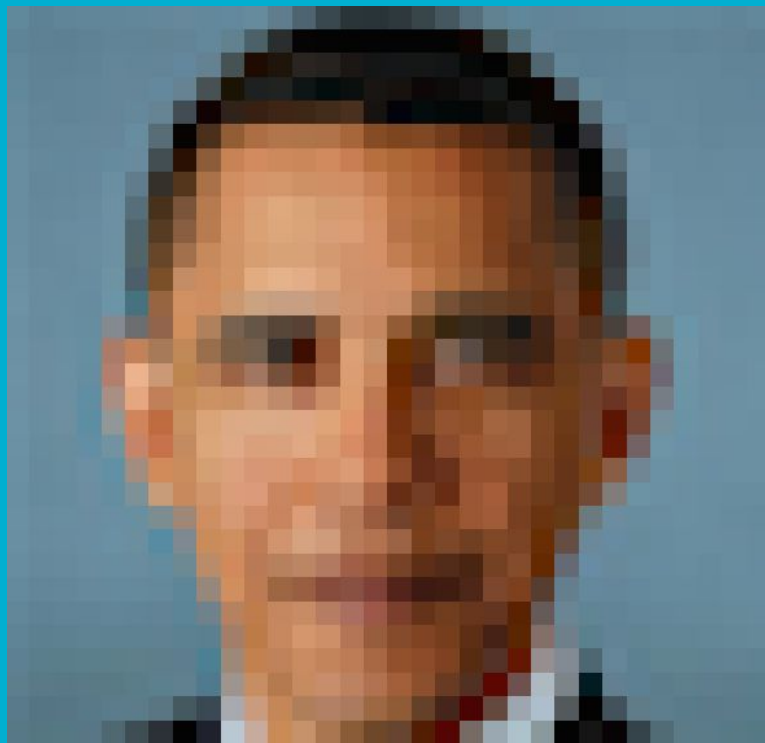
We dip a vegetable into salt water to remind us of the joy of the coming of spring mingled with the tears of the slaves. Traditionally parsley is used, but you can get creative.

Try some other greens like asparagus, broccoli, green pepper, green scallion, celery, green beans, cilantro, dill, kale, spinach, lettuce, cucumber, zucchini...

And after everyone's dipped in salt water, bring on other dips, offer a few varieties.



A Soft Focus Can Help



Expand the Seder Plate

- a cup of water as a nod to the importance of women, particularly Miryam Haneviah (Miriam the Prophetess)
- an orange to honor the contribution of LGBTQ+folks
- a staple to honor the incredible ways the Jewish people have come together since October 7
- a nail on your Seder plate to represent the work yet to be done to build a just world
- an olive to your Seder plate as an aspirational symbol of the peace that eludes the children of Isaac and the children of Ishmael



Four Cups



Our Sages taught that we drink four cups of juice / wine during the Passover seder based on an interpretation of Exodus 6:6-7, which uses four different expressions for the deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt: “I will bring you out / וְהוֹצֵאתִי... I will deliver you / וְהִצַּלְתִּי... I will redeem you / וְגָאַלְתִּי... and I will take you to Me for a people / וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם לִי לְעָם.” Here are kavanot (intentions) for each cup, rooted in what’s unfolding in Israel and Gaza now.

Cup 1: וְהוֹצֵאתִי / I Will Bring You Out

May it be Your will, Divine One, to free the hostages safely and speedily from Gaza, to enable a just lasting ceasefire, and to inspire all to work for a peaceful tomorrow.

Cup 2: וְהִצַּלְתִּי / I Will Deliver You

May it be Your will, Saviour of all, to deliver the hostages safely into the arms of their loved ones, and to enable all Israelis and Palestinians displaced by the war to return home in safety.

Four Cups



Cup 3: וְגַאֲלֶתִּי / I Will Redeem You

May it be Your will, Creator of all beings, to free us from the hatred in our midst, surrounding us, even within us. In releasing hatreds, may we experience redemption.

Cup 4: וְלָקַחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם לִי לְעָם / I Will Take You To Me For A People

May it be Your will, Holy Redeemer, to renew our covenant with You and to help us connect in covenant with all peoples, as we renew our faith in You and in each other.

R. Dara Lithwick

Seder is about Structure

Questions elicit answers in their likeness...It's hard to transcend a combative question. But it's hard to resist a generous question.

We all have it in us to formulate questions that invite honesty, dignity, and revelation. There is something redemptive and life-giving about asking a better question.

Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*

acknowledge pain you can't fix



Lift Up a Glass!

Avner Goren (Translated by Ilana Kurshan)

Look at the fruit salad:

*Some fruits are sour, and some fruits, sweet
Some are more juicy, some, harder to eat
Some are more smooth, some, rougher-skinned treats.
Each fruit brings its own taste and colors and texture
And when all mixed together, they create something new
Far more than just each fruit alone.*

So too with us. We're made up of all kinds:

*Some work the land. Some look to heaven for signs.
Some of us are visionaries. Some, more practical types.
We come in all sizes, all shapes, and all stripes.
Some set out on new paths. Some settle rather than roam
And each brings their own language, customs, and
beliefs from home.*

*We are an ingathering, a kibbutz (gathering) of
peoples, a multicultural nation,
An immense, breathing, and living creation
Renewing itself with so much innovation.*

*We lift up a glass to all who returned to our land
To the ingathering of exiles,
To immigration, to integration,
both present and past,
We lift up a glass.*

Illustration by Michel Kichka, "Kibbutz Be'eri, Darom Adom: Kibbutz Be'eri, the Red South." This illustration is a tribute to Kibbutz Be'eri from early settlement days to the red poppy flowers which blossom near the Israel-Gaza Border. Created in October 2023 as part of "Wrapping Memory," the Bezalel Academy's memorial tribute to communities attacked on October 7.

Questions for Conversation

- In this piece, Avner Goren toasts the members of his kibbutz and, by extension, toasts the Jewish people. As you begin your seder, whom would you like to recognize through a toast?
- We included "Lift Up A Glass!" as a way to preserve one October 7 victim's voice and story. What voices and stories do you want to lift up tonight?



Questions are more important than answers



The Art of Questioning:

The Four Sons

Rabbi Jon Leener



“To be a Jewish child is to learn how to question,” explains Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. “Against cultures that see unquestioning obedience as the ideal behaviour of a child, Jewish tradition, in the Haggadah, regards the ‘child who has not learned to ask’ as the lowest, not the highest, stage of development” he concludes. The rabbis were insistent that our first memories be of questioning and debating instead of dogma and compliance.

Live the questions, not the answers



Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek is a Faculty Associate Fellow for Pardes North America. Brent has also been the Rabbi at Beacon Hebrew Alliance since 2010.

V'he She'amda

Rabbi Brent Spodek



One of the many blessings of overcoming a challenge is the memory that stays with us.

We recall the struggle we endured, and also the sense of triumph that comes from overcoming adversity. In the future, when we inevitably face new challenges, we can tell ourselves “We can handle this. We’ve done it before and we can do it again.”

The Passover Seder is an exercise in telling stories about the past so as to shape the present and the future. After all, each and every one of us is called to see ourselves *as if* we ourselves were liberated from slavery in Egypt, though, of course, we who are alive now weren’t actually alive back then.

We invite that story to shape our self-understanding and in so doing, we create a lens, an optic, through which we see all future events. It’s no accident that the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto began their Uprising on the first night of Passover — as we were liberated *then*, we prayed, so too shall we be liberated *now*.

Within the stories and songs that make up the Seder, there is one little section known as *V’He Sh’Amdah*, which references not only the oppression that we faced in Egypt, but also all the antisemitism that followed. “In every generation,” we sing, “they always stand to destroy us, but the Holy One of Blessing rescues us from their hands.”

Tools for a Lively Seder

- Heavy Karpas
- Soft Focus Can Help Honor Everyone
- Seder is About Structure
- Acknowledge Pain You Can't Fix
- Questions Are More Important Than Answers