

Dear Congregants,

For three years in a row, our Passover seders looked like mere shadows of what they had once been. Now, with vaccines, other therapeutics, and the gradual transformation of Covid-19 from epidemic to endemic, we look forward to enjoying this year's seders in a way that resembles the seders of several years ago. We will rekindle our families' customs and traditions, gathering with confidence and in health, with friends and in large numbers.



As we do, it behooves us to retain the sensation of isolation we all felt during the pandemic. After all, there are still those among us who may be alone for the seders. From the infirmed with limited mobility to the exhausted parents of newborns; the immuno-compromised to the recent widower. If we force ourselves to look to our left and right, what we discover is that not everyone in our midst will have the luxury of a table full of guests and loved ones for Passover.

This is the responsibility that comes with freedom. Embracing our joy, celebrating our blessings, while being ever-attune to those who are not feeling such joy.

As we recite "Next Year in Jerusalem", we must also think of our brothers and sisters in Israel. History proves that our fate in the Diaspora is invariably tied to what happens in that land. What can we do during this season of deliverance to help bring unity to the citizens of the State of Israel and the people of its land? How can we use our voices and influence to fortify the bonds of our commonality? Divisions sewed among our people only serve those who wish us harm. We must come together to preserve our liberal-democratic homeland. This affects each one of us.

May this Festival of Freedom grant us blessing, health, light, and hope.

Chag Sameach.

Rabbi Ari Isenberg

Matchmaker, Matchmaker...

Do you have room to welcome a guest at your seder?

Would you like to be a guest at someone's seder table?

Our Clergy team would love the opportunity to match you up, so don't delay:

Contact **Joi Noel** (jnoel@cbi-nj.org) or by phone ext. 120

Leading a seder? Key Tips

The Haggadah is not meant to be a script that is followed word for word but rather an anthology of resources that allows each leader to create a ritual of learning, telling, questioning, and reciting tailored to the ages, stages, personalities, and dispositions around the table. Here are some links that might be helpful in creating a basic outline for the evening:

[Kveller - How to Prepare a Seder \(hosting, food, and practical concerns\)](#)

[My Jewish Learning - How to Conduct a Seder \(order, ritual, figuring out the Jewish pieces\)](#)

[Congregation B'nai Jeshurun - For the Small or Solo Seder](#)



Selling Chametz

Since ownership of *chametz* is not allowed during the holiday, ideally any *chametz* in one's possession would be given away or destroyed before the holiday begins. Since this often represents a financial hardship and/or needless waste, the practice arose for people to store away their *chametz* before *Pesach* and arrange to sell it for the duration of the holiday.

To have your chametz sold, email rabbi@cbi-nj.org with the following information:

- The address of your primary residence
- Any secondary home where you may have chametz stored

We're happy to secure the sale on your behalf.

Charity for Passover Goods (*Ma'ot Chittim*)

It is customary to give *Ma'ot Chittim*, charity for the Passover needs of the poor. We urge anyone who is able to be generous this year to consider making a contribution. Donations will

be directed to the Metro area's Ma'ot Chittim Fund as well as to Leket Israel, and can be channeled through Rabbi Isenberg's Discretionary Fund:

Online donations can be made at <https://cbi-nj.org/online-tribute-form/>
Please select the option "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" and write "Ma'ot Chittim" in the description box.

You can also mail a check into CBI, and earmark it for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Ma'ot Chittim.

CHAG
SAMEACH

Poetry Corner

Bedikat chametz in the toddler house by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Velveteen Rabbi

What does it mean to remove chametz when my cupboard overflows with toddler-friendly goldfish and mini-muffins?

If there is any chametz I do not know about -- odds are good there are stale O's in the crevices of the car seat, but the rest of our leaven is in plain sight, soft whole-wheat awaiting jam's unfurling -- that I have not seen or removed,

I disown it. That part of the formula at least still works. An invisible line: between his english muffins, his toasted bread and my boxes of matzah, waiting.

Even if I don't light a candle, Ribbono shel Olam, help me to sweep the crumbs from even the ill-tended corners of my heart. The too-sour puffery of ego, the impulse in me that needs to be in charge, needs to be right, needs to be praised.

The part of me that forgets the daily importance of prayer and kindness.

I disown it.

I declare it to be nothing as ownerless as the dust of the earth.

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Chametz For Thought

Spirituality of Passover Cleaning, by Rabbi G. Milgram

There is a paradox in the search for chametz. It is intended to commemorate the haste with which the Israelites leave Egypt; because of this the dough didn't have time to rise and became flat bread, symbolized by matzah. Yet, it is the lack of haste and the increased attention to the detail of removing the chametz that is the focus of the practice.

Important Dates

(usual CBI passwords in effect; call our office if you are unsure of our login passwords)

Wednesday, April 5th, 7:30am	Minyan on Zoom with Siyyum for Firstborn * Latest chametz 10:50am *First Seder. No evening services	On Zoom Zoom Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Thursday, April 6th, 9:30am	Festival Services *Second Seder. No evening services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID:861-1042-1793
Friday, April 7th, 9:30am	Festival Services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Friday, April 7th, 6:00pm	Ma'ariv for Shabbat	On Zoom Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Saturday, April 8th, 9:30am	Shabbat Morning Services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID:861-1042-1793
Sunday, April 9th, 8:00 am & 8:00pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Monday, April 10th, 7:30am & 8:00pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Tuesday, April 11th, 7:30am & 8:00pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Wednesday, April 12th, 9:30am	Festival Services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Wednesday, April 12th, 8:00pm	Festival Ma'ariv	On Zoom Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Thursday, April 13th, 9:30am	Festival Services, with Yizkor	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793

Thursday, April 13th, 8:00pm **Chametz may be eaten after 9:00pm	Evening Minyan	On Zoom Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
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The Complete Rabbinical Assembly Passover Guide is Here:
<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/pesah-guide-5783-2.28.23.pdf>