

5784 • CBI PASSOVER GUIDE • 2024



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI ISRAEL

# Passover Guide 5784

## A Vacant Chair at The Seder Table

Dear Congregants,

This is no ordinary Pesach. We will gather around the Seder table with broken hearts, open wounds, and carrying the heaviest of burdens. It will seem paradoxical: singing songs about our freedom while members of our global Jewish family remain hostages of Hamas, enslaved and abused in ways we dare not even imagine. What will it take to bring about their freedom so they can join their loved ones at the Pesach Seder table? We will read the stories in the Haggadah that speak of God's might, all while our heroes of today - the members of the IDF - miss out on their own *sedarim* in order to stand guard for our people, for Israel's citizens.

Now, six months after the deadliest day for world Jewry since the Holocaust, we know that there are thousands of empty seats at Seder tables in Israel and around the world. Let us pay tribute to them and demonstrate our interconnectedness by leaving a vacant seat at your Seder table this year. Prepare an extra place setting and dedicate it - either to one of Israel's victims of terror, hostages, or an IDF soldier away from their family. After all, we are all one and history has proven that our fate in the Diaspora is invariably tied to what happens in Israel. We have seen this reality firsthand, having endured a tsunami of Jew-hatred in recent months. This has given us cause to question our place in the world, our future, and what so many of us had assumed was full-fledged acceptance within society.

Perhaps this is why it is vital to double-down on our Jewish identity. We must gather around the Seder table like never before. We must sing our songs, passed down from generation to generation, in a way that will capture the wonder of our children, instilling in them Jewish pride. We must tell the story of our past and of our present, reinforcing that - like any other people on earth - we have the right to self-determination in our ancestral homeland, and our cause is just and moral. All we have ever wanted was true, lasting peace with anyone and everyone. After all, the prayer we recite the most in the course of a day is the "Oseh Shalom" / God, bring peace upon us.

This Pesach, we refuse to internalize that which some would like us to believe and feel. We are not solely culpable, we are not guilty of the world's most horrific crimes, and we are not the impediment to peace. We are human. We make mistakes, we falter, we reflect, we own up to our transgressions. But our pursuits are just and our story as a people connected to a land, with a language, a culture, a theology, a set of practices and texts, ethics, and ideals is as old as time. That is what we will celebrate around the Seder table this year. That is our responsibility to transmit to future generations.

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 **Lurie Silverman** ([lsilverman@cbi-nj.org](mailto:lsilverman@cbi-nj.org)) or by phone ext. 120

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### **Selling Chametz**

Since ownership of *chametz* is not permitted 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 legally sell it for the duration of the holiday. To have your chametz sold, email **Lurie Silverman** ([lsilverman@cbi-nj.org](mailto:lsilverman@cbi-nj.org)) **by April 18th** with the following information:

- The address of your primary residence (and secondary, if applicable)
- An acknowledgement that you grant Rabbi Ari Isenberg permission to serve as the agent to secure the sale of your chametz on your behalf

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

It is customary to give *Ma'ot Chittim*, charity for the Passover needs of those who cannot afford Passover food and added expenses. 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*.

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### **Bedikat Chametz**

On Sunday evening, April 21st, consider participating in the symbolic search for Chametz. With compliments of the Rabbinical Assembly, [here's a printable version](#) of the blessings to recite. It's also a great way to engage the youngest in our community. Consider a [DIY kit](#) or purchase one [here](#). Enjoy this unique ritual by candlelight.

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### To Clean or Not-to-Clean? To Eat or Not-to-Eat?

Wondering about a specific type of cheese or grain? Unsure how to clean your microwave? For every kashrut question under the sun, check out the Rabbinical Assembly's updated and complete [Passover Guide here](#).

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### 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](#)

[Dayenu: Can One Sing Dayenu While There are Still Hostages in Gaza?](#)

[Passover Seder for Young Children](#)

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## Important Dates

Monday, April 22nd, 7:30am	Minyan on Zoom * Latest chametz 10:45am *First Seder. No evening services	<b>On Zoom</b> Zoom Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Monday, April 22nd	Siyyum options for Firstborns:  Northern Hills Synagogue, Cincinnati 8:30am  Anshe Emet Chicago 8:30am	<b>Zoom:</b> 608 957 4857 Code: 5784  <i>Meeting ID: 779 493 1817</i> <i>Passcode: 037510</i>
Tuesday, April 23rd, 9:30am	Festival Services in the a.m.	<b>In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live</b>

	*Second Seder. No evening services	Meeting ID:861-1042-1793
Wednesday, April 24th, 9:30am --- 8:00pm	Festival Services in the a.m. ---- Ma'ariv on Zoom	<b>In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live</b> Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 – Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Thursday, April 25th, 7:30am & 8:00pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	<b>On Zoom</b> Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Friday, April 26th, 7:30am & 8:00pm	Morning Minyan in person & Zoom  Kabbalat Shabbat 8pm on Zoom	<b>On Zoom</b> Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Saturday, April 27th, 9:30am	Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30am	<b>In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live</b> Meeting ID:861-1042-1793
Sunday, April 28th, 8:00am & 8:00pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed & Yontif	<b>On Zoom</b> Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Monday, April 29th, 9:30am  8:00pm Ma'ariv	Festival Services  Ma'ariv	<b>On Zoom</b> Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Tuesday, April 30th, 9:30am  8:00pm Ma'ariv  **Chametz may be eaten after 8:45pm	Festival Services with Yizkor	<b>On Zoom</b> Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144

### Upcoming Programs

**Poetry for Our Days - Israeli Poets Respond to October 7th**  
Tuesdays, April 2, 9, and 16 | 7:00 – 8:00 pm



The calamity of October 7 has left Israel and the Jewish world in shock and despair. As more details of the horror unfold, Israelis are finding themselves less able to talk about it. The expression heard most often these days is “ein milim – there are no words.” And yet, there are Israelis who are finding the words to express pain and anger, despair and abandonment. In our sessions we will read and discuss poetry written by Israelis during these very days in response to October 7. The poems are often raw and painful, while at the same time full of love and even hope. Study with master educator Rachel Korazim, a scholar of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, who specializes in Holocaust education, poetry, and curriculum development in Israel. Rachel will join us over Zoom from her home in Israel.

Register here for Zoom link:

<https://portal.bethelnj.org/form/Poetry%20for%20Our%20Days>

This is a joint program among Congregation Beth El, TSTI, Oheb Shalom Congregation, and Congregation B’nai Israel.

The speaker will be donating her fee from the sponsoring congregations to an organization in Israel supporting the hostage families.

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**An Evening with Torah Scribe Julie Seltzer  
Monday, June 3rd, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm at CBI**

What’s The Point? Crowns, Dots, and Other Scribal Intrigues:

If you look inside a Torah scroll, you may notice certain oddities: a word with a series of dots above, as if droplets of ink have spilled; a giant or miniature letter in the middle of an otherwise unremarkable word; backwards letters. We will learn some interpretations of these unusual scribal traditions together.