

Passover Guide 5786 / 2026

Will Israelis celebrate the Seder night at their tables or in their bomb shelters? It's impossible to predict. But one thing is certain: the will of Israelis to live, to persevere, to push through the difficulty and insist on life is the foundation of the Israeli spirit – the Jewish spirit.

In solidarity with the struggle of light against darkness, let us once again double-down on our Jewish identity. Let us gather around the Seder table with energy and enthusiasm, singing the songs that have been passed down from generation to generation. Let us gather in a way that will capture the wonder of our children and grandchildren, instilling in them unwavering Jewish pride. Let us tell the story of our people, the story of our exodus from bondage, the story of our special relationship with God, the story of our purpose and mission on this earth in such a way that it will motivate us to heal a broken world and hasten the day of peace for all.

I hope this Passover Guide offers resources and materials that will be useful to you in your preparations for and celebration of this wonderful festival.

Chag Sameach,
Rabbi Ari Isenberg

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Pluralism at The Kotel

Days before the war with Iran, members of the Knesset's current government brought the reading of a proposed new bill to the floor of the Knesset. The legislation would revoke the egalitarian prayer space at the Kotel and would criminalize any attempt to pray in an egalitarian way while at the Kotel. If this bill is passed, it risks alienating a significant bloc of world Jewry.

There are two ways to express your opposition to this proposed bill.

1. [Sign This Petition](#)
2. Contact Israel's Consul General of New York and express your opposition

After all, the entire people of Israel was redeemed from Egypt, not just one segment of our population.

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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 **Rabbi Isenberg** (rabbi@cbi-nj.org)

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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 discarded 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 **Susan Kashan** (skashan@cbi-nj.org) **by March 31st** 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 chametz on your behalf

If you prefer to do this in person, come by CBI on Friday, March 27th, between 7:30am - 9:30am or on Monday, March 30th, between 1pm - 3pm.

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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.

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 Tuesday evening, March 31st, consider participating in the symbolic search for chametz in your house. 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. You can purchase a cute kit for kids [here](#). I also love [this article](#) about making a DIY kit at home.

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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 [Pesach Guide 5786](#) here.

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Additional Resources

I'm enjoying these additional resources to help me prepare to lead the seder and clean my house:

[CBI Preschool's Haggadah for 3's & 4's, edited by Morah Aliza](#)

[Passover Seder for Young Children](#)

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

[The Weird and Whacky World of Kosher for Pesach](#)

[Passover with Kids: From Oy to Joy](#)

[7 Tips for Hosting Your First Seder](#)

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March Highlights

- March 20th/21st: A cappella Shabbat – Join us for melodious services with our guest acappella choir, Kaskeset. These services will be instrument-free and musically-enhanced.
- March 22nd: Matzah Baking Factory at CBI during Hebrew School hours (open to all)
- March 24th: CBI is co-sponsoring a Model Seder bringing faith leaders together from different backgrounds to explore and share about our spring festival
- March 27th: Rabbi Ari and Gila Isenberg are opening their home to all for a Friday evening happy hour and Kabbalat Shabbat. 5:30pm sushi & wine; 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat.

Join us for our first
Interfaith Community Seder
 Tuesday, March 24 • 6 p.m. • South Orange*

We will break matzah with neighbors from the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities who will take part in the seder as we recount the Exodus and honor the journey from adversity to freedom – the search for liberation a central theme across many religions.

This special interfaith program will highlight the power of collective strength and the Passover story's enduring message of resilience, perseverance and the unwavering belief in a better tomorrow.

*Seder dinner meal will be served.
 Kosher dietary laws observed.*

Program will start promptly.

Scan the QR code for details and to register

Questions?
 Contact Mara Gellman at mgellman@jfedgmw.org

*The location and street address for Federation events will be emailed to each guest in the day(s) prior to the event, using the email address provided at registration.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
 OHEB-SHALOM

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Service Times over Passover

Wednesday, April 1st	Minyan at 7:30am; Siyyum for Firstborns at 8:00am * Latest chametz 10:45am *Evening: First Seder, no minyan.	In person and On Zoom Zoom Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Thursday, April 2nd	Festival Services 9:30am *Evening: Second Seder, no minyan.	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID:861-1042-1793
Friday, April 3rd	Festival Services 9:30am Ma'ariv 8:00pm	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID:861-1042-1793 Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144

Shabbat, April 4th	Shabbat Services 9:30am ---	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Sunday, April 5th	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed 8am, 8pm	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Monday, April 6th	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed 7:30am, 8pm	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Tuesday, April 7th	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed 7:30am, 8pm	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Wednesday, April 8th	Festival Services 9:30am in person and online Ma'ariv online 8pm	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Thursday, April 9th	Festival Services 9:30am with Yizkor Ma'ariv 8pm **Eat chametz after 8:30pm	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144