

INTER-COMMUNITY SEDER

Haggadah

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

**DAVID R. KAHN COMMUNITY CAMPUS
12804 NORWOOD RD
RALEIGH, NC 27613**



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Welcome

Thank you for coming to our 2nd Annual Inter-Community Seder!

We are so excited to have groups from all over Wake County in attendance. Take some time to introduce yourselves to your table mates and explain what your organization does or your personal reasons for attending today.





Introduction: What is Passover?

Passover, the most widely celebrated holiday in Jewish tradition, commemorates the Israelites' freedom from slavery in Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The holiday is observed over 8 days in the early spring (or 7 days in some communities). At the beginning of the holiday, we celebrate around a family- or community- oriented meal called a Seder, during which we tell the story of the Jewish people's Exodus from Egypt while eating foods of symbolic significance. The text used at the Seder is called a Haggadah.

Many of you may know the Passover story from church or religious school, from movies like *The Ten Commandments* or *The Prince of Egypt*, or from other sources. The story begins at a time when Egyptians and Jews lived in harmony in ancient Egypt. Then a new Pharaoh arose in Egypt who enslaved the Jews, forced them to build cities and make bricks and mortar, and even ordered the death of newborn Jewish boys.

G-d heard the despair of the Jews and sent the prophet Moses to Egypt to ask the Pharaoh to let them go. Ten times the Pharaoh refused, and ten times a terrible plague struck Egypt. Before the last plague—death of the first born—Moses directed the Jews to put lamb's blood on their doorposts so that the plague would pass over their homes. After that last plague, Pharaoh let the Jews leave. Fearing the Pharaoh would change his mind, the Jews left as fast as possible. When preparing food for the journey, they didn't even give their bread time to rise. Through re-telling this story, the Passover holiday also highlights the universal values of faith, freedom, justice, resilience, and hope. Today, let us reflect on our shared stories and values as we work together and support each other in the task of building an inclusive, fair, and free community.

A Seder is a meal during which we go through a set of ritualized steps and eat symbolic foods to remember the story of the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. Today, we will use some of the steps and some of the symbolism of a traditional Seder to spark conversations about our shared community values, and how we create a community through storytelling.

At the center of the table is the Seder plate, which is filled with symbolic foods.

The Seder Plate

The bitter herbs (Maror), often represented by horseradish, symbolize the bitterness of slavery.



MAROR



Some communities have a tradition of including a second variety of bitter herbs (Chazaret). These are represented by romaine lettuce.

CHAZARET

The hard-boiled egg (Beitzah) symbolizes the cycle of life.



HARD BOILED EGG

The shank bone (Z'roah) symbolizes the special Passover offering made by Jews as part of a pilgrimage to Jerusalem during biblical times. In place of a shank bone, our Seder plates have a beet, the vegetarian alternative. The shank bone reminds Jews of the tenth plague in Egypt, when all firstborns were killed. During the plague, the Israelites marked their doors with lamb's blood, so that death would pass over their homes.



SHANK BONE





The green vegetable (Karpas) symbolizes the coming of spring, a time of new life and new hope after a harsh, dark winter.

KARPAS

The charoset, often a mixture of chopped apples, nuts, and wine, symbolizes sweetness of freedom. Its appearance reminds us of the mortar or mud Pharaoh forced the slaves to use to make bricks.



CHAROSET



Another symbol of Passover is the matzoh, an unleavened flatbread, that reminds us of the unleavened bread that the Jews prepared in their haste to leave Egypt. It symbolizes both the liberation from slavery and a spiritual redemption. Jews eat only unleavened bread for the duration of the Passover holiday as set out in the Bible: "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses." (Exodus 12:15)

MATZOH





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Kadesh: A Cup of Wine

During the traditional Seder, we drink four cups of wine. Before the first cup, we say a blessing:

“Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.”
 בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶז.

“Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has granted us life and sustenance and permitted us to reach this season.”
 בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

The four cups of wine represent four promises of freedom G-d made to the Israelites as G-d led us out from slavery in Egypt. [Note: We are using grape juice today to be inclusive of attendees who don't drink alcohol.]



Karpas: Green Vegetable

Karpas is from the Greek word “karpos,” which means “fruit of the soil.” We are using parsley as our green vegetable to honor the beginning of spring. Spring symbolizes new life after a harsh winter and new hope after a season of darkness. We dip the vegetable in salt water, a symbol of the tears shed by the Israelites during their enslavement in Egypt, to remind us of the suffering of all enslaved peoples.

We bless our green vegetable:

“Blessed are you, Lord our God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.”

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פָרִי
הָאֲדָמָה.

As you dip the parsley in salt water and take a bite, talk to your tablemates.

Questions: How do you celebrate spring in your tradition? What gives you hope?



Maggid: The Story of the Exodus

This is the time during the Seder when we share the story of the Exodus and ensure that everyone in attendance understands the story. In a traditional Seder, this step can last a LONG time—even until midnight!

We began our Seder today with a brief summary of the story, so let's use this time to allow everyone to ask questions about the story, its symbols, and themes.

Question: What questions do you have about the Passover story?

Ten Plagues

To get Pharaoh to free the slaves, God afflicted ten plagues on the Egyptians: Blood, Frogs, Lice, Wild Beasts, Cattle Disease, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, and the Death of the First Born.

At this point in the Seder, we name each of the ten plagues and spill a drop of wine out of the cup as we say each one. There are several explanations given for this practice; one is that as each plague is recited, we decrease our own joy, drop by drop, as we recall the enemy's pain.

Most of us who grew up observing Passover likely never imagined we would witness a plague in our own lifetimes – until it came in the form of a pandemic. The last three years have been difficult for many people. As we spill drops of wine, talk to your tablemates.

Question: What “plagues” do you see in our community today?

Leaving Egypt Rabban Gamliel said, “In each and every generation, a person is obligated to see himself as if he left Egypt, as it is stated: For the sake of this, did the Lord do [this] for me in my going out of Egypt.’ (Exodus 13:8)” We use the songs and rituals of the Passover Seder to re-enact the story of how the Israelites left Egypt. By participating in this collective narrative, we relive the story of how we became a people. The traditional song “Dayenu” is about counting all of the blessings that G-d gave to the Israelites. After listening to traditional songs, talk to your tablemates.

Question: What blessings do you have in your life?





Motzi Matzah, Maror, and Korech

At the Seder, we eat unleavened bread called matzah, bitter herbs called maror (horseradish), and then a sandwich called korech with matzah, bitter herbs, and charoset. (Known as the “Hillel Sandwich,” this might be the first sandwich in recorded history!)

We bless each of these special foods:

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the ground."

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us on the eating of matzah."

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מַצָּה.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us on the eating of bitter herbs."

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מָרוֹר.

This sandwich represents the mixture of feelings that the Israelites felt while leaving Egypt and starting their journey to a new country: the eagerness to leave, the sweetness of freedom, and the bitterness of all that they have lost.



Shulchan Orech and Tzafun

This is the point in a traditional seder when guests enjoy a festive meal, followed by a “dessert” of a bit of leftover matzah (the afikomen) Today, we are enjoying a tasting of some traditional Passover foods. Enjoy the foods while talking with your tablemates.

Question: What are your favorite memories of eating meals with your family or community?

Nirtzah: Event Closing

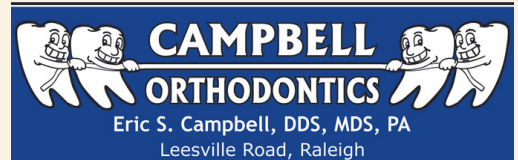
Our Community Seder is over for the year. A traditional Seder ends with the toast of “Next year in Jerusalem!” We say this every year because after the Jewish people were driven out from the Land of Israel during the rule of Roman Empire, we yearned for a time when we could return to our homeland in a more perfect world.



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