

PASSOVER RESOURCES FOR 2020

Shalom. We hope that you find this guide helpful as you prepare. Despite the need for us to connect with loved ones and friends online and not in person, it is still possible to make this Passover one that is filled with connection to those we love, meaningful learning, inspiring prayer, joy, celebration and fun.

Chag Sameach to you and your family!
Rabbi Andrew Bloom and Hazzan Jeffrey Weber

In this guide, you will find information to help you prepare for Passover especially in this unusual year wherein we are experiencing a pandemic. In it, you will find:

- ***Urgent Warnings About Being Safe This Passover**
- ***Special Leniencies in Preparation and in Permitted Foods for This Passover Only**
- ***A Link to Use to Sell Your Chametz**
- ***Links to other online Seders**
- ***Guides to How to Run an Online Seder**
- ***Creative readings, Topics for Discussion, Customs, Activities for Adults and Children**
- ***Links to several PDF Versions of Haggadahs that each participant can print**

URGENT PASSOVER WARNINGS FOR 2020

DO NOT RISK YOUR LIFE OR ENDANGER THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

Judaism teaches that preservation of life takes precedence over every other commandment in the Torah. Following recommendations of the CDC and your local city, Rabbi Bloom and Hazzan Weber strongly urge you to take these precautions during this holiday season.

LIMIT THE SEDER TO YOUR IMMEDIATE NUCLEAR FAMILY. DO NOT INVITE OTHER FAMILY, FRIENDS OR ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LIVE IN YOUR HOME. DO NOT INVITE PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS.

This sounds antithetical to Jewish values, but today it is a holy obligation. We must assume every person could be carrying the virus and just not have symptoms. They could give you the virus, or you could give it to them. It feels like the right thing to do is to have parents and grandparents over, but you will be putting them at risk for serious illness or, God forbid, death. Instead, set a laptop on your table and connect to them via video call. If you do not know how, contact the office and we will guide you.

OBTAINING YOUR PASSOVER FOODS.

We urge you to buy foods in large stores where it is possible to maintain social distancing and there is good air circulation.

USE SUBSTITUTES WHEREVER NECESSARY RATHER THAN TAKING RISKS.

It is permissible to use a roasted beet as a symbol of the Passover sacrifice on the Seder plate in place of the shank bone. If you cannot find horseradish, romaine lettuce, endive, dandelion greens, chicory, and scallions also qualify. If you cannot get kosher meat without going into a small crowded store, make your Seder dairy or serve fish.

URGENT PASSOVER WARNINGS FOR 2020

Many rabbinic authorities, including the Rabbinical Assembly, are permitting a more lenient approach to what foods are permissible without being marked kosher for Passover. Rabbi Bloom concurs with these leniencies, which apply only to this year because of the extreme circumstance.

Lists of Leniencies (foods requiring less certification this year only)

Rabbinical Assembly:

<https://cutt.ly/RabbinicalAssemblyLeniencies2020>

Kosher Division of The London Bet Din:

<https://www.kosher.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020%20In%20Extremis%20List%20V2.pdf>

All Rabbinic authorities have ruled that Hand Sanitizer is Kosher For Passover This Year.

Kitniyot Permitted: The Conservative Movement Permits Ashkenazim to adopt the Sephardic custom and eat all kitniyot on Passover. **(beans, quinoa, and any grain that is not a form of the five forbidden grains, which are wheat, spelt, oats, rye, and barley).** This applies to ones you buy raw and prepare. If cooked or processed, it still needs to be marked Kosher for Passover. Some packaged items from Israel are marked “Kosher for Passover for Sephardim”, or ... “for those that eat Kitniyot”. Those are permissible. This ruling regarding kitniyot applies every year.

General Guides to Kosher for Passover Foods. When necessary this year the above lists, override these:

Rabbinical Assembly Passover Guide

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Pesah%20Guide%205780.pdf>

The O-U (Orthodox Union) Passover Guide

<https://oukosher.org/passover/passover-guide/>

PLACES TO BUY SEDER ESSENTIALS ONLINE

YOU CAN BUY A KOSHER FOR PASSOVER SHANKBONE, PARSLEY AND MORE ONLINE!

KOSHERWINE.COM

<https://www.kosherwine.com/>

YOU CAN BUY STREITZ MATZA & THEIR OTHER PASSOVER PRODUCTS DIRECTLY FROM THEIR WEBSITE!

<https://streitzmatzos.com/passover-products/>

BUY A WHOLE PARSLEY PLANT ONLINE!

<https://cutt.ly/parsley>

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER TIDBITS

Rabbi Bloom and Hazzan Weber will be posting daily tidbits for your Seder starting on Wednesday, April 1st.

BE A VIRTUAL HOST OR GUEST FOR SEDER

If you would like to be connected to a family to share in their Seder, or to be host to those who need a place by connecting them to your Seder over Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts or Skype, please contact others who might be by themselves at home.

SELL YOUR CHAMETZ

The Torah forbids us from owning chametz, seeing chametz and benefitting from chametz. In an ideal world, we would get rid of every type of chametz in or home, as well as our chametz dishes etc. But that would entail a huge financial loss. For this reason, the sages instituted the practice of selling our chametz. We put all of our chametz food and kitchen utensils etc. away where they are out of sight (also part of the prohibition). That can be done by closing cabinets and taping them shut, or by sealing them in a bag in the back of the freezer. Mark the cabinet door or bag with a note saying in some way Chametz or Forbidden etc. so you will remember not to touch it. Since the prohibition also includes seeing chametz, if your liquor is stored in a cabinet with glass, cover the glass so the liquor cannot be seen.

Rather than selling the chametz yourself, you can authorize Rabbi Bloom to sell it for you. Rabbi Bloom sells the collective chametz of all those who authorize him to the CAS Administrative Assistant. Immediately after sundown on the last night, it belongs to you again and you can eat it.

To authorize Rabbi Bloom to sell your chametz, click here:

<https://forms.gle/VNaQRS3pf2tEed2n6>

PLANNING & RUNNING AN ONLINE SEDER

Here are some links to helpful guides you can use to plan the perfect online Seder!

Music

Seder Melodies in a YouTube Playlist

<https://cutt.ly/Seder-Melodies>

Siddur Audio has recording of all the Passover Melodies for your Seder

<https://sidduraudio.com/passover-Seder/>

Guides to Running an Online Seder

Alma – How to Host a Virtual Seder

<https://www.heyalma.com/how-to-host-a-virtual-passover-Seder/>

Family and Youth Resources

Ten Untraditional Ways to Make Passover Fun for Kids

<https://cutt.ly/TenUntraditionalWays>

Five Ways to Keep Kids Engaged at Seder
<https://cutt.ly/FiveWaysToKeepKidsEngaged>

Study Material and Commentaries

Passover Resources from the Jewish Theological Seminary
<http://www.jtsa.edu/passover-resources>

Passover Learning and Resources from Hadar
<https://www.hadar.org/torah-collection/pesach>

Al Hatorah's extensive interactive Commentary on the Haggadah
<https://cutt.ly/AlHatorahCommentaryOnHaggadah>

Essays on Passover from the Shalom Hartman institute
https://hartman.org.il/Search_Advanced.asp?Str=pesach

Passover Webinars from the Rabbinical Assembly – Scroll to bottom
<https://cutt.ly/RabbinicalAssemblyPassoverWebinars>

Supplemental Readings

Five Seder Supplements from JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency jta.org)
Readings on refugees, LGBTQ, human trafficking, sexual assault on campus and racism
<https://cutt.ly/JewishinteractivePassoverResources>

Passover Haiku Collection
<https://cutt.ly/PassoverHaiku>

ONLINE HAGGADOT TO EMAIL AND PRINT SOME CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

Feast of Freedom Haggadah – Published by the Rabbinical Assembly, this well-known and popular Haggadah created for Conservative Judaism is available this year only as a PDF.
<https://cutt.ly/Feast-Of-Freedom-Haggadah>

A Different Night Haggadah – This extremely popular Haggadah was produced by the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. They have offered this special condensed version as a PDF for this year only.
<https://cutt.ly/A-Different-Night-Haggadah>

Sephardic Haggadah – Traditional Sephardic Haggadah text in Hebrew and English.
<https://cutt.ly/Sephardic-Haggadah>

The Jewbelong Haggadah – Published by Jewbelong.com, whose tagline is Jewbelong: for when you feel you don't. A very hip, funky, fun, modern take on the Haggadah that makes it very relevant for our times.

<https://cutt.ly/TheJewBelong-Haggadah>

VELVETEEN RABBI'S HAGGADAH – This Haggadah was created by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat who is the author of the popular Torah and spirituality blog, The Velveteen Rabbi (velveteenrabbi.blogs.com). A modern, reflective, spiritual Seder text.
<https://cutt.ly/VelveteenRabbisHaggadah>

Jewish Federations of North America Haggadah – Beautifully laid out, English and Hebrew. No commentary.
<https://cutt.ly/JewishFederationsHaggadah>

Jewish Educational Haggadah – This Haggadah contains full transliteration (phonetic pronunciation in English letters) of the Hebrew as well as commentary and discussion.
<https://cutt.ly/Jewish-Educational-Haggadah>

Haggadot.com – lots of very cool themes, including Children's, Family, Women's, GLBT, Minimalist, Illustrated, Famous Quotes and More. All beautifully illustrated and with Clips of readings and other additions you can use to customize.
<https://cutt.ly/HaggadotDotCom>

PJ LIBRARY HAGGADAH FOR KIDS – Beautifully illustrated and worded, perfect for families. You must fill out a form on this page to download.
<https://pjlibrary.org/haggadah>

Friends, please note that although we will not be celebrating Passover in our shul building, the sharing and celebration of Passover within the guidelines, suggestions, and resources above will help build community even without the temporary use of our communal building. We are reminded to “rejoice in your feast” (Deuteronomy 16:14) and it is our hope that we can rejoice in the festival of Passover even within the circumstances we find ourselves in today. Just as the Israelites went from slavery to freedom, may we soon experience our own Exodus from COVID-19 to health and normalcy.

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday.

Chag kasher V' Samech,
Rabbi Andrew Bloom
Hazzan Jeffrey Weber