

Celebrate Passover

Join The Jewish Community Center Chabad for an enchanting Passover Seder in the Beautiful New Ballroom At Our Center Enjoy a Hebrew/English Passover Experience with plenty of translation and an abundance of explanation with a full delicious four course meal, with all the trimmings



First Seder Night: Wednesday April 16 at 7:00 pm
Explore the Kabbalistic insights on the number four: Four cups of wine, Four Sons, Four questions and Four types of Freedom.
Second Seder Night: Thursday April 17 at 7:30 pm
Learn about the healing powers of the Matzah and how freedom and slavery are relevant concepts in the 21st Century.

Cover: \$40 per person, \$15 for children under 8 - each night
For more information and reservations please call The Jewish Community Center at 310-214-4999
Or visit our website at www.jccmb.com

INSIDE
Complete Holiday Guide
Seder Information
Kabbalistic Passover Insights



FREEDOM... LIBERTY... PASSOVER...

HOLIDAY DATES & TIMES
Times shown are for Los Angeles County

April 4 evening	Search for Char Metz after: 7:24 PM	April 9 evening	Light Shabbat candles at: 7:08 PM
April 5 morning	Eat Char Metz until: 10:38 AM	April 11 evening	Light Passover candles at: 7:11 PM
April 5 morning	Burn Char Metz until: 1:38 AM	April 12 evening	Light Passover candles after: 8:10 PM
April 5 evening	Light Passover candles at: 7:06 PM	April 13 evening	Passover ends at: 8:11 PM
April 6 evening	Light Passover candles after: 8:05 PM		

* If kindling after sunset, light only from a pre-existing flame. ** Do not light after times indicated.

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Your How To Passover Guide

BEFORE PASSOVER

It is forbidden to eat Chametz—all leavened foods that contain wheat, barley, oats, rye or split—on Passover. So collect products containing Chametz and isolate them in a designated

“Chametz Closet.” Then clear the house of any possible remaining Chametz: empty clothes pockets, vacuum cleaner bags, even the pet

you’ll use a separate set of dishes for Passover, the Chametz dishes get locked up too. Now stock up on Kosher-for-Passover items; for good leads on

Passover-for foods call Chabad or check out www.ok.org.

CHAMETZ FOR SALE

Because it is even prohibited to “own” Chametz during Passover, lock your “Chametz Closet” and arrange to have its contents sold to a non-Jew by filling out a “Mechirat Chametz” form. Sound complicated? It is, so ask your Rabbi to make the arrangements. Or log on to www.chabad.org to sell your Chametz online.

SEARCH FOR THE CHAMETZ

At nightfall begin the “formal search” of the house for Chametz (blessing 1). Traditionally, we use a candle to light the way, a spoon (as a shovel), feather (as a broom) and a paper bag to collect any Chametz found. After the search, place everything you found in a conspicuous place to be burned in the morning.

FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

When G-d slew the firstborn of Egypt, he spared the firstborn sons of Israel. Out of gratitude all firstborn sons fast on this day.

BURNING OF THE CHAMETZ

In the morning burn all the Chametz found during the previous night’s formal search.

PREPARE TO CELEBRATE

Stock up on Seder foods well before Passover begins. But wait. To build an appetite for the Seder abstain from eating any Seder plate foods

today, especially Matza. So if you’re a lover of bitter herbs and raw onions, stay out of the kitchen.

MAKING NOTHING INTO A BIG DEAL

After cleaning the house, and selling and burning the Chametz, the head of the household says the appropriate prayers (blessing 2), verbally disowning any Chametz that might have been over-

during Passover, lock your “Chametz Closet” and look at sunset candles are lit (blessings 3 and 4). At nightfall the Seder begins.

BRIGHTEN UP - 2ND SEDER NIGHT

Zikor memorial prayers are recited during Seder. Following the custom of the Bal Shem Tov, Passover concludes with a “Feast of Moshach”—a festive meal complete with Matza and, yes, four cups of wine. It begins before sunset and is designed to greet Moshach, offering us “a glimpse of the Messianic age.” Nightfall marks the official conclusion of Passover. Wait an hour to give the Rabbi enough time to buy back your 49 days between Passover and Shavot represent the 49 steps of mystical self-purification and preparation our people went through between



out of the kitchen.



we begin to count the Omer, which lasts for 49 days.

Temple the Omer was an offering of barley taken from the first grain of the new crop. We count seven weeks, from the bringing of the first Omer offering (Passover) until the day we received the Torah (the Festival of Shavot). The 49 days between Passover and Shavot represent the 49 steps of mystical self-purification and preparation our people went through between

LEAVING EGYPT (PASSOVER) AND RECEIVING THE TORAH (SHAVOT)

In between the first two and last two days of Passover, go ahead and function relatively normally. The only exception is, like your mother keeps telling you, you shouldn’t work too hard. But keep the wine flowing; it’s a custom to drink a glass of wine every day of Passover.

FOUR INTERMEDIATES ONLY

At sundown light candles (blessing 3). This day marks the Miracle of the Splitting of the Sea and our total liberation from Egypt. In commemoration, we stay up all night studying Torah.

THE FINALS - LAST DAY OF PASSOVER

After nightfall light candles from a pre-existing flame (blessing 3). This day, the final day of Passover, emphasizes an even higher level of freedom. It is dedicated to our imminent and Final Redemption.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

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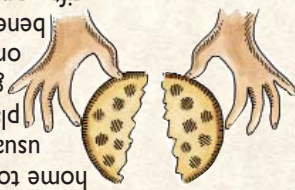
BLESSINGS

- 1 Bo-ruch A-toh Va-chah-me-ah De-Me-lech Ho-olom Me-lech Bi-r-hu-see Da-cha-zee-ay U'de-lo-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-no Le-had-lik Ner Shel Yom Tov
- 2 Kol Chah-mirah Va-chah-me-ah De-Me-lech Ho-olom Me-lech Bi-r-hu-see Da-cha-zee-ay U'de-lo-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-no Al Bi-ur Chametz.
- 3 Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom Me-lech Bi-r-hu-see Da-cha-zee-ay U'de-lo-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-no Le-had-lik Ner Shel Yom Tov
- 4 Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom Me-lech Bi-r-hu-see Da-cha-zee-ay U'de-lo-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-no Le-had-lik Ner Shel Shabbat
- 5 Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom Me-lech Bi-r-hu-see Da-cha-zee-ay U'de-lo-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-no Le-had-lik Ner Shel Shabbat
- 6 Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom Me-lech Bi-r-hu-see Da-cha-zee-ay U'de-lo-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-no Le-had-lik Ner Shel Yom Tov

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

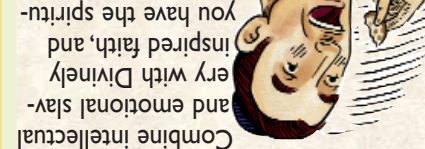
FROM THE KABBALAH

THE SEDER TABLE IS HOME TO A GROUP OF ITEMS NOT USUALLY FOUND IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. AT FIRST GLANCE THEY MAY APPEAR RATHER ORDINARY OR EVEN DOWNRIGHT TRIVIAL. BUT GIFT—PRECIOUS INSIGHTS WAITING TO BE MINED THAT TRANSFORM THESE ORDINARY FOODS INTO EXTRAORDINARY VESSELS FOR HOLINESS. TO ASSURE THE GIFTS ARE RECEIVED AS INTENDED, THE SEDER’S RELATIONS UNFOLD IN THE SAME ORDER AS THE EVENTS WHICH LED TO REDEMPTION. IN FACT, THE VERY WORD SEDER MEANS ORDER.



Kabbalah divides the plate into thirds, with each portion possessing a distinct Divine Light, or *Sefira*. The right third corresponds to Chesed (love, benevolence), the left *Gevurah* (self-discipline, fear of G-d), and the middle *Tiferet* (harmony, compassion). The plate contains six items and is upheld by three matzot, which according to Kabbalistic tradition are handmade, round and concave to form a vessel with which to receive the *Sefira*.

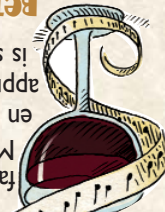
THE THREE MATZOT



Combine intellectual and emotional slavery with Divinely inspired faith, and you have the spirituality recipe for matzot. The mixture inspired our ancestors to follow G-d into the desert with such haste that there wasn’t time for the bread that would nourish them rise. At least one ounce is eaten during the Seder.

The three matzot represent the entire Jewish people—Cohen, Levi and Israel. They also symbolize our Patriarchs’ Divine attributes: Abraham, benevolence; Issac, self discipline; and Jacob, harmony.

ZEPRAH (SHANKBONE) The Pascal Lamb, sacrificed on the eve of the exodus as an expression of faith and self-sacrifice, is represented by the Zeraah. Mystical tradition replaces the shankbone with a chicken neck that is not eaten, as a reminder that although we approach freedom during the Seder, our ultimate freedom is soon to come with the final redemption.



BETZAH (EGG) In the days of the Holy Temple a “Festival Offering” was made on Passover. Unable to do this in our current exile, the hard-boiled egg is used as a symbol of our mourning. In some ways, the choice reflects the nature of our people; the hotter the water, the stronger our spirit becomes.

THE FOUR CUPS OF WINE

The Four Cups of wine are consumed during the Seder to celebrate the stages of our Exodus and Redemption.

First Cup—Physical removal from the Land of Egypt (“I will release you”); **Second Cup**—Liberation from intellectual and spiritual slavery (“I will save you”); **Third Cup**—Creation of a people forever immune to permanent slavery (“I will liberate you”); and, **Fourth Cup**—G-d’s acceptance as His chosen people and the granting of the Torah at Sinai, which fulfill the purpose of our exodus. (“I will take you onto me as a nation”).

It is said that the Prophet Elijah, who will herald the ultimate Redemption, visits every Seder table on Passover. We greet him by filling a fifth glass of wine toward the end of the Seder, “The Cup of Elijah,” and inviting him into our homes with open doors.

MAROR (BITTER HERBS) The bitterness of Egypt is brought to the table with Maror (horseradish). Through it, we realize that the purpose of hardship is only to make us stronger. One and a half ounces are eaten at two intervals during the Seder.

KARPAS (VEGETABLE) Egypt crushed our ancestors’ spirits with endless, senseless, back-breaking drudgery. A raw vegetable, usually an onion or potato, is dipped in saltwater and eaten so we may taste their anguish—and in it realize the potential to rise above our own.

CHAPSET (PASTE) As slaves we used mortar—symbolized by Charoset—to make bricks that formed structures which were erected only to be destroyed. The apple mixed with nuts to make Charoset symbolizes the sweetness of the Jewish women who, knowing Pharaoh would kill their infant if it were male, hid in the apple orchards when giving birth.

CHAZERET (REMAINE LETTUCE) The initial stages of exile were pleasant, yet soon the injustices of slavery became overwhelming. So too is the first taste of Chazeret (a herb, often romaine lettuce) mild, but soon its bitter root becomes dominant. Chazeret is eaten with the Maror, and in the Korech sandwich.



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