What is Passover?
Passover ("Pesach" in Hebrew) is a widely celebrated, much beloved Jewish holiday observed in early spring. It commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage and their emergence as a free nation under the leadership of Moshe (Moses), Judaism’s most important teacher and prophet. Passover is observed for 7 days in Israel and most Reform congregations, and for 8 days outside of Israel and in Orthodox and most Conservative shuls. Passover is also marked by important rituals. During Passover, Jews are prohibited from consuming chametz - any food made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, or spelt combined with water and allowed to rise or ferment. Prior to Passover, observant Jews scour their homes from top to bottom to remove all trace of chametz. Jews traditionally eat matzah, which is unleavened bread, as part of Passover observances.

How do you determine the date Passover is celebrated on?
A spring festival, Passover begins on the 15th day of Nisan, a month on the Jewish calendar, which typically falls in the month of March or April in the Gregorian calendar. To calculate when 15 Nisan falls during the Gregorian calendar year, you can visit https://www.hebcal.com/converter/. Jewish days begin at nightfall. This year, Passover begins on the evening of Monday, April 11. CSH follows Israel so Passover for us ends on the evening of Monday, April 17.

What is a “Seder”?
At the heart of every Passover experience is the Seder, a ritual meal that focuses as much on storytelling as it does on the food itself, as families come together to re-enact the journey out of Egypt, using food as symbols as the family tells the story of Passover together.

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**Passover Services 2017 Schedule**

**Monday, April 10**
**Fast of the First Born**
7:15 am at Temple Sinai
Siyum led by Rabbi Michael
No Evening Minyan: First Seder

**Tuesday, April 11**
**First Day of Passover**
9:00 am at Shirat Hayam
(with Temple Sinai)
No Evening Minyan: Second Seder

**Wednesday, April 12**
**Second Day of Passover**
9:30 am at Temple Sinai
7:00 pm at Shirat Hayam

**Thursday, April 13**
**Third Day of Passover**
7:15 am at Shirat Hayam
7:00 pm at Shirat Hayam

**Friday, April 14**
**Fourth Day of Passover**
7:15 am at Shirat Hayam
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

**Saturday, April 15**
**Fifth Day of Passover**
Shabbat Synaplex (No CJE)

**Sunday, April 16**
**Sixth Day of Passover**
9:00 am at Temple Sinai
6:00 pm* at Shirat Hayam

**Monday, April 17**
**Seventh Day of Passover**
**Final Day of Passover**
7:00 am* Passover service with Yizkor at Shirat Hayam
7:00 pm at Temple Sinai

**Tuesday, April 18**
**Eighth Day of Passover**
9:30 am at Temple Sinai (with CSH)
7:00 pm at Shirat Hayam

*Indicates separate service at CSH
Sale of Hametz and Ma’ot Hittim – Passover 5777/2017

This year Passover begins on Monday evening, April 10th. One of the Passover rituals is to remove hametz (leaven) from our homes in accordance with the verse, “No leaven shall be found in your houses for seven days” (Exodus 12:19). Products considered hametz include: leavened bread, spaghetti, crackers, cereal, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. Ideally these products should be discarded prior to the start of Passover. Nonetheless, Judaism also recognizes that one should not incur undue financial loss in observance of the mitzvot. Therefore, if after thoroughly cleaning for Passover you still have hametz products to store during the holiday, you may perform the ritual of “selling your hametz.” To sell your hametz through Rabbi Michael, fill out the form with your signature and:

1. Drop off or send it to: Rabbi Michael Ragozin, Congregation Shirat Hayam, 55 Atlantic Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907
2. Fax it to Rabbi Michael: (781) 599-1860
3. or Photograph with your phone and email it to: RabbiRagozin@ShiratHayam.org

***SALE OF HAMETZ DEADLINE***
Monday, April 10, 8:00 AM sharp — There can be no extensions.

Ma’ot Hittim – a tzedekah mitzvah

Before Passover, it is customary to give Ma’ot Hittim, charity for the Passover needs of the poor. For your convenience, you can send in donations at the time that you authorize Rabbi Michael to sell your Hametz. Rabbi Michael is collecting money for JF&CS Family Table. Checks should be made payable to JF&CS with “Family Table: NS Passover” in the memo.

Sale of Hametz Form / Passover 2017

I hereby authorize Rabbi Michael Ragozin to act as my agent to sell in my name and on my behalf all hametz owned and possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly, wherever it may be – at home, place of business, or elsewhere; and any such products that I may yet acquire between now and 11:40 AM on Monday, April 10, 2017, except for hametz I designate to be consumed by my family on or before April 10, 2017; and all kinds of live animals that have been eating hametz or mixtures thereof, and to lease all places wherein the hametz owned by me may be found, especially located in the premise as listed below – all in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish law.

ADDRESS

LOCATION OF HAMETZ (E.G. Leftmost kitchen cupboard or other)

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE DATE

Passover continued from cover page

remembering the burden of slavery and the awe in witnessing the miracles God performed in freeing the Jewish people from servitude. On Aish.com, Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider writes movingly about the role the seder plays in the transmission of Jewish culture and identity by parents to children:

“The central mitzvah of the Seder is to tell the story of leaving Egypt. Our Sages term the telling of the story, in Hebrew, sippur yetziat Mitzrayim, “the story of the Exodus from Egypt.” Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik teaches that the term sippur, story, is related to the word sofer, “scribe,” or sefer, which means a “scroll” or a “book.”

What this meaning suggests is that a sofer, a scribe, who writes a sefer, a scroll, produces something that is permanent, something that will last for generations.

On Seder night, parents are also involved in the act of “writing an everlasting scroll.” The child is the sefer, the scroll upon which the parent etches the beauty of this sacred night in the child’s mind.

On Passover night we are to be sofrim, scribes, writing indelibly on the hearts and on the minds of our children the story that will be passed down to all succeeding generations.

According to the Midrash (Yalkut Shimoni, Vezot Habracha, Remez 962), when Moses died, a voice from Heaven called out, “Moses has died, the great scribe of Israel.” Why was this term used to describe Moses? Was this his greatest attribute – that he wrote Torah scrolls?

Rabbi Soloveitchik explains that “a great scribe” does not just mean that he was a scribe of Torah scrolls. Rather, Moses wrote upon the hearts of his people. He etched the wisdom of the Torah into the very soul of the nation. And he did so in a way that each generation would pass it on to the next.

This is also our goal on the night of the Seder: to impart the Torah on the very souls of our children.

Want to know more?
The Rabbinical Assembly’s 5777 Pesach Guide is available at http://tinyurl.com/nykddfq.

This guide contains all you need to know about keeping kosher during Passover. Rabbi Michael also welcomes your questions at rabbiragozin@shirathayam.org.

What happened to the CSH Second Night Seder?

As you may have heard, we are taking a year off from the Second Night Seder this year. In the last couple of years this program has been a net loss for us, and we have had to continue to raise the price. We are taking this break to analyze our format and logistics and completely revamp it. We look forward to breaking the matzah with our CSH community again during Passover 2018 at our wonderfully reimagined Second Night Seder. In the meantime, we wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach (Happy Passover)!
# April Calendar

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### Weekly Schedule
- **Vayikra**
  - Shabbat Synaplex with Bar Mitzvah
- **Tzav**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
- **Shabbat Hagadol**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
- **Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - Shabbat Synaplex
- **Yom Hashoah**
  - Shabbat Synaplex with Bat Mitzvah
- **Chol HaMoed**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
- **Easter**
  - Shabbat Synaplex

### JOINT SCHEDULE
- **Weekly Minyan, Passover and Shabbat Services**
  - Please note service exceptions

### PASSOVER WEEKEND
- **First Seder**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:00 am at CSH with TS
  - No evening minyan (2nd seder)
- **Second Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:30 am at Temple Sinai
  - 7:00 pm at CSH
- **Third Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 7:15 am
  - 7:00 pm CSH Minyan
  - 7:30 am CSH Minyan
- **Fourth Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 7:15 am CSH Minyan
  - 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
- **Fifth Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - No CJE (school vacation)
- **Sixth Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:00 am at Temple Sinai
  - 6:00 pm* at CSH
- **Seventh Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:00 am Final Day of Passover at CSH
  - YIZKOR Service
  - 7:00 pm at Temple Sinai
- **Eighth Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:30 am at Temple Sinai
  - 7:00 pm at CSH
  - 7:30 am CSH Minyan
  - 7:00 pm CSH Minyan

### Other Services
- **9:30 am at Temple Sinai**
  - Fast of the First Born
  - Siyum lead by Rabbi Michael
  - No evening minyan
- **First Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:00 am at Temple Sinai with TS
  - 7:00 pm at Temple Sinai
  - 7:15 am at Temple Sinai
- **Second Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:30 am at Temple Sinai
  - 7:00 pm at CSH
  - 7:30 am CSH Minyan
- **Third Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 7:15 am CSH Minyan
  - 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
- **Fourth Day of Passover**
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  - Shabbat Synaplex
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  - YIZKOR Service
  - 7:00 pm at Temple Sinai
- **Eighth Day of Passover**
  - Shabbat Synaplex
  - 9:30 am at Temple Sinai
  - 7:00 pm at CSH
  - 7:30 am CSH Minyan
  - 7:00 pm CSH Minyan
The Origin of the Orange on the Seder Plate

In the early 1980s, the Hillel Foundation invited me to speak on a panel at Oberlin College. While on campus, I came across a Haggadah that had been written by some Oberlin students to express feminist concerns. One ritual they devised was placing a crust of bread on the Seder plate, as a sign of solidarity with Jewish lesbians (“there’s as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the Seder plate”).

At the next Passover, I placed an orange on our family’s Seder plate. During the first part of the Seder, I asked everyone to take a segment of the orange, make the blessing over fruit, and eat it as a gesture of solidarity with Jewish lesbians and gay men, and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community (I mentioned widows in particular).

Bread on the Seder plate brings an end to Pesach - it renders everything chometz. And its symbolism suggests that being lesbian is being transgressive, violating Judaism. I felt that an orange was suggestive of something else: the fruitfulness for all Jews when lesbians and gay men are contributing and active members of Jewish life. In addition, each orange segment had a few seeds that had to be spit out — a gesture of spitting out, repudiating the homophobia that poisons too many Jews.

— Susannah Heschel, April, 2001, Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies Dartmouth College

CJE students are polishing their singing of the 4 Questions, learning about the 15 steps of the Seder, talking matzah and wondering why Pharaoh had such a hard heart. On Shabbat Hagadol, April 8, we’ll be reviewing and celebrating together at our Chocolate Seder. Then we have Pesach Break and Spring Break with no classes from April 11 through April 22.

On April 22, 6th grade students are invited to help lead the morning service with Rabbi Michael and Cantor Elana. They have been practicing leading prayers and learning the tunes for the Torah service in preparation.

On Tuesday, April 25, there will be a special Town Hall meeting focusing on the vision for our religious school and the next steps for our Center for Jewish Education. It will be held from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. The students whose parents take part in the Town Hall will be offered a light supper and supervision in the Chapel.

There are some great Passover Resources available that I want to share with you:

- All kinds of information, recipes, suggestions for making your seder new and different can be found here: http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/passover-pesach/
- I have gathered some fun Passover videos at my site on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdBwQodgv6LdFLvlSbfEW385ulvCpDhno
- You will find everything from kid-friendly versions of the holiday story to a riff on “Thriller”.

For LGBTQ+ families or their allies, Keshet has several different haggadot you could download: http://www.keshetonline.org/resource/a-gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender-questioning-ally-haggadah/

Behrman House, the publisher of many of our textbooks, offers a nice article on a variety of different seder experiences and haggadot with descriptions of their intended participants. You can find their article and links to their haggadot here: http://www.behrmanhouse.com/news/choose-a-haggadah-that-works-for-you

If you belong to an interfaith family and are considering your own Seder experience, InterfaithFamily has you covered: http://www.interfaithfamily.com/holidays/passover_and_easter/Guide_To_Passover_For_Interfaith_Families.shtml

If you want to make your own free Haggadah, check out www.haggadot.com. They also have many themed haggadot available for sharing – LGBTQ+, Social Justice, Israel, Immigration, etc.

A feminist Passover site, Miriam’s Cup, can be found here: http://www.miriamscup.com/

Last, but not least, is the REAL account of why some people put an orange on the seder plate. Please help the true history get out there. (Hint: It’s not about “a woman belongs on the bimah like an orange belongs on the seder plate!”)

The article below is taken from the website Miriam’s Cup: http://www.miriamscup.com/
Congregants loved receiving their Mishloach Manot bags!

We are so grateful to the generosity of our congregants who participated in this community-building project that brought smiles to the faces of recipients. Kol hakavod to Mishloach Manot Chair Jessica Heller for her leadership. We’d also like to offer a special shout-out to Sarah Ragozin for her artistic direction in creating the bags, and to our CJE kids and parents for their help.

Thank you so much to the following congregants whose contributions made this project possible. Due to their generosity a bag was prepared for every congregant this year.

Howie & Izzi Abrams  
Richard & Ellen Alexander  
Edward & Frances Bobroff  
Michael Bourne & Karen Ponchner  
Jeffry & Harriet Brand  
Rebecca Brochstein & Laura Shulman Brochstein  
Brian & Michele Cohen  
Kenneth & Lois Cohen  
Mike & Susan Cohen  
Harold & Marilyn Epstein  
Alan & Valerie Gilbert  
Larry & Susan Goldberg  
Andrew Goloboy & Amy Mitman  
Joel & Lisa Green  
Aviv Hod & Emily Wiese  
Thomas & Catherine Jefferies  
Ron & Pat Kafker  
Scott & Melissa Kaplowitch  
Bowen & Nancy Kerins  
Jonathan & Lori Kreevoy  
Tom Levenberg & Amanda Clayman  
Diane Levin & Stephen Hicks  
Jason Mahler & Sara Ewing  
Marc & Amy Meltzer  
Jonathan & Megan Meyers  
Johannah Morgen & Terri Morgen  
Jeffrey Oringer & Linda Kleeman  
Michael & Sarah Ragozin  
Jerry Rosen  
Raphael & Elana Rozenfeld  
Richard and Esther Salinsky  
Arthur & Cheryl Schwartz  
George & Janna Schwartz  
Hal Schwartz & Melissa Upton  
Ann Segal  
Joseph & Ariana Selby  
Alexandra Shube  
Alan & Barbara Sidman  
Jason & Renee Sidman  
Joseph & Lynette Simons  
Jason & Rachel Stark  
Barri Stein & Wayne Goldberg  
David & Michele Tamaren  
Sheila Taymore  
Dan & Kate Urman  
Thomas & Ilene Vogel  
Susan Weiss  
Dan & Judith White  
Andrew & Irina Wulf

DONATION OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for iPads for use by CJE students to review Hebrew and other lessons. If you have one in good working order that you wish to donate, please contact Janis Knight for a donation letter.

Todah Rabbah (Many Thanks)!
Kids of all ages having Purim fun at ‘That 70s Purim Spiel and Megillah Reading’!
An evening of art, socializing, and fun at the CSH Women’s Paint Night, under the tutelage of artist-in-residence Sarah Ragozin.
Women’s Seder
Connecting and Celebrating Together as Women*

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 6:30 pm

Dairy Potluck Family Style Meal
$10 per person

Please bring a dairy, potluck dish to share (enough for 8 people) — If your last starts with:
A-F, please bring dessert
G-Q, please bring an entrée
R-Z, please bring a salad

*Please bring a photo or an object from a woman in your life who has nurtured you

55 Atlantic Ave, Swampscott
To RSVP or for questions please email CSH@ShiratHayam.org or call Sherri at 781.599.8005, x27.