

## PASSOVER RESOURCES 2020

### **Congregation Beth Shalom Shares Resources for Passover!**

From Haggadot to food preparation to Passover playlists, ideas for families and those celebrating solo, here is a list of [Passover resources](#) for this year's Pesach.

### **Order your Seder to go kit from Chabad of Capitol Hill and the Central District!**

[Chabad](#) wants you to be part of their family Seder! Please [complete the form here](#) and they will provide you (while supplies last) with a beautiful Seder Experience Kit (free of charge) to help with your Seder! And check out some of their [online resources](#).

### **Join Hillel for a First Night Virtual Seder!**

Please join Hillel for their first night Seder via Zoom on Wednesday night, April 8th. [Click here to RSVP](#).

Other resources that will help you craft your own Seders are [posted here](#).

### **Temple De Hirsch Sinai Invites Social Action and Other Great Opportunities!**

Check out their [online resources](#). You can learn how to host a virtual Seder, listen to their Passover playlist, and share your story and inspire resilience through [Moving Traditions](#). If you are looking to attend a virtual Passover Seder, or hoping to host one, please email Rabbi Kate Speizer at [kspeizer@tdhs.nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs.nw.org), and she will match you to a virtual Seder!



## **A Passover Reflection**

Professor Beatrice Lawrence

The Jewish world is reeling a bit by the ways COVID-19 is affecting Passover this year. So much of Jewish life is communal: you have to pray with at least ten people, holidays require coming together in celebration and mourning, and Jewish culture itself is about contact—emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and even physical in the forms of hugs and embraces. Living without contact is, therefore, already a challenge. But at Passover, we're required to invite as many people as we can into our homes—Jewish and non-Jewish alike—to reexperience one of the central myths of our tradition: the redemption from slavery into freedom. How can we mark this important time when we can't be together? How can we fulfill the requirement to teach children about the events of the Exodus, and to experience valences through symbolic foods?

The idea of joining a Passover seder via Zoom has already become a social media meme, and it is a funny concept. It will probably happen. And if it creates the opportunity for a chorus of voices to come together on this sacred occasion, it is a blessing. It isn't the same, though, as patting a child's head, eating matzoh ball soup from a family recipe, and arguing about whether or not gefilte fish should even be a thing. But there are elements of the story of the Exodus itself that can help us give meaning to this year's seders. The Israelites left Egypt in a hurry, amidst the horror of the death of the first-born sons, and rushed out into an unknown that wasn't made of comfy seats and plentiful food and laughter. It was full of trials and suffering, disease, battles, and loss. They stepped into freedom by surviving an arduous, painful path—one that they themselves didn't always trust. The word for Egypt in Hebrew is *Mitzrayim*, which actually means "narrow places." The path to freedom was through the narrow places. And the tradition develops that we all find ourselves there, from time to time. So here we are, all of us together.

We must remember that we are staying apart this year to preserve life. There is no greater value in Judaism than this. Almost any law can be broken to save a life. This means that every single, solitary, small seder that takes place is a sacred one: a celebration of the sanctity of life, even in the narrow places.

*Beatrice Lawrence, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Seattle University and a friend of the SU Jewish Student Union.*