



March 19 - 25, 2021
6 - 12 Nisan 5781

tbe-mail

SPECIAL THIS WEEK

TBE + Hagai & Ariel Bernstein Present:

A PASSOVER POP-UP

For Purchase: Delicious à la carte mains and sides
Free: Seder plate ingredients and Sephardic charoset kits

ORDERS DUE MARCH 23



Hagai and Ariel Bernstein, in partnership with Temple Beth El, will be hosting a Passover pop-up prepared in TBE's Kosher-for-Passover kitchen, offering a wide variety of items that can serve as the main attraction or supplement the menu you're already planning.

In addition to the delicious dinner items on offer for purchase, TBE will be sponsoring **ready-made Seder plate kits** as well as **Sephardic charoset making kits** free of cost! You do not need to purchase food items to order either of these kits, but you do need to order one using the form below so that we know how many to make.

Orders must be placed by Tuesday March 23.

Items will be available for pick-up on Friday 3/26 4pm - 5:30pm

For TBE Members: If you are unable to make it to TBE during that pick-up window, send an email to office@tbemaine.org and we will coordinate local delivery!

Passover Pop-Up Order Form

From Rabbi Braun





- Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Well, here we are again...only not. Since preparation involves looking back, like everyone else, I've been reflecting on this past year and trying to sort it out with others. "Don't you remember, we were

walking along when you got that alert on your phone.." "No, that was later, first we heard about New York and wondered if this was all a media hype..." "I was at work..." "I only brought enough stuff home for a few weeks..." "It won't happen here...." "Are you kidding, we can't even go out and exercise?"

As I was taking my first read through the Haggadah, I remembered the many ways we start the Passover story and how it sounded like my conversations reminiscing on the beginnings of our pandemic. As it reads in the *Feast of Freedom* Haggadah:

"We were slaves to Pharaoh in Mitzrayim, but Adonai our God brought us forth;" No, "In the beginning our ancestors worshipped idols, but then God brought us close so that we could serve the Holy One" No, "My father was a wandering Aramean and with just a few people he went down to Egypt and lived there..."

We love our stories - they help us to put things together, they help to create order out of the chaos of life, and they bring us closer to each other. Just telling and re-telling them is fun.

Well, it sure has been a year! I'm not even sure I know how to describe it. Last year, preparing for Pesach felt, well, I hardly remember. Shopping wasn't easy; Zoom was weird and complicated; the food was simpler and there was far less of it; I worried about how families were fairing; and we all tried to reach out to whomever we could. I tried to find new meaning in the Seder story that might illuminate what we were experiencing with the onset of this pandemic, as rabbis are wont to do. Relating COVID to the plagues seemed logical, but it wasn't a perfect fit. Most of my friends were okay. I had food, family, and a house. I mean, I was only asked not to get close to people and to wear a mask, it's not like I had to live through swarms of destructive insects or pick up my belongings and leave my home....

What stuck out to me during that period of time was the isolation. The relative silence of my workday was disconcerting, but not debilitating. At times I was lost in my home, wondering what I needed to do next, but at least at the beginning, a walk was a welcome reprieve. We began to have services on Zoom, which at first seemed antithetical to my religious practice, but turned into a lifeline for so many during this year. Yizkor - the memorial service read three times a year, including during Pesach - with the community was important... Community itself was important; but was it *community* on the screen of a computer? Suddenly, it wasn't safe to go out and sing to and see neighbors as we had done on a couple of Shabbatot... Just as we had to redefine community, so too, we had to redefine safety. Perhaps, like the Israelites setting off from "the devil they knew" - *Mitzrayim* - to a land they had not known, we too set off from our own familiar places and moved towards a place we had not known.

So here we are, one full year later. Still moving, but not quite in our "promised land." Yet as I look at the distance we have covered, from my perspective, we have much to be grateful for. Communities across the United States and around the world have worked to take care of each other. My niece in Brooklyn tells me that there is a community refrigerator on her street, where people both put in and take out groceries and prepared food when they are able to give or need some extra help. I think this year has made many of us at least a little more introspective regarding racial, gender, and societal biases. We, who weren't before, have worked so hard to become computer literate, and we know how to reach others even when we cannot be physically close. Even "synagogue" attendance is up! We have welcomed many new members to TBE. And I learned to make the perfect poached egg, something that has been on my list for a long time.

But despite all of these silver linings, I still feel anguished about the lives that were lost over this past year, and the families that could not be with their loved ones as they died. I still feel angered by our polarization and sadness at friendships that have been lost because of disagreements. We will begin our Seder with matzah - the bread of affliction - and with the degradation of our ancestors as they experienced slavery and idol worship and the need to hide in caves. We end (well, close to the end) with Elijah who will "turn the ears of the parents to the children and the hearts of the children to their parents." This year, just as last year, and all the years before, we will end the seder with hope for the future. Some years we read the Haggadah with a tinge of cynicism, expecting little of the future; and other years we embrace

the aspirations of our haggadah with energy. This year, I'm not 100% sure how I will respond to the stories in the haggadah, but what I do know is that I'm still engaged in the journey.

May your preparations be fulfilling, may you discover something new, may your Pesach be liberating, and may you remember the famous words of one of my colleagues, "Chametz is not dirt," so don't obsess.

Shabbat Shalom.

This Shabbat:

Friday, March 19

8:00am [Virtual Morning Minyan](#)

6:35pm Candle lighting time

Saturday, March 20

9:30am [Shabbat Morning Services](#)

7:44pm Havdalah

Parashat Vayikra

פרשת ויקרא

Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26

Triennial: Leviticus 3:1 - 4:26

Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21 - 44:23

JTS Torah Online

This Week @ TBE



SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

9:30am on [Zoom](#) Saturday 3/20

Join Rabbi Braun and the Shabbat morning crew as they daven the traditional Shabbat morning services.

We recently added Closed Captioning through [Rev](#). If you'd like to use them, click on the "CC" button in the control bar at the bottom of the video. Click [here](#) for a more detailed guide on how to turn the captions on.



VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on [Zoom](#) Sunday 3/21 through Friday 3/26

Join Tom Berman and the minyanaires for the only daily minyan in Maine! The service lasts about 30 minutes and is a great chance to start the day in reflection and community.

Upcoming TBE Programs:




Passover Morning Services

[Sunday, March 28 at 9:30am](#)
[Monday, March 29 at 9:30am](#)
[Saturday, April 3 at 9:30am](#)
[Sunday, April 4 at 9:30am](#) (including Yizkor)



Shabbat Bachutz

[April 3 at 10am](#)
[May 1 at 10am](#)



Kabbalat Shabbat

[April 9 at 5:30pm](#)
May 14 at 5:30pm

Miss our Passover email? Not to worry!

[Visit the Passover Email Here!](#)



The Giving Corner

Have you considered making a lasting contribution to our community through a planned gift? We would love to talk with you. Contact us by email at giving@tbemaine.org by phone at 207-774-2649 and speak with Kate Shalvoy, ext. 204.

[February Donations & Tributes](#)

Special Announcements

COVID-19 Vaccination Location Website

If you are eligible for a vaccination under current state guidance, but are having trouble find a vaccine location, please visit Maine's [Vaccination Sites](#) website to find a vaccination location near you and/or make an appointment.

Passover Community Programs

Check out our Community Programs and Events quick link at the bottom of this email for upcoming programs and events related to Passover. The button is located below TBE Kids and the relevant events are highlighted in green!

Additionally, the JCA just published their [Passover Hub](#). Click [here](#) to see a collection of playlists, recipes, crafts, and more!

Todah Rabah!

Thank you to Norm Wilson for leading Shacharit, Debbie Kanter for leading Pesukai D'Zimra, Tom Berman for leading the Torah service, Judy Gatchell for giving the d'var Torah, and Morton Gold for leading Musaf.

Upcoming Office Closures

The TBE office will be closed Friday, March 26 - Monday, March 29. Chag Pesach Sameach!

THIS WEEKEND!

JKids Radio Musical Passover Seder Experience

A FREE online event sponsored by PJ Library in Southern Maine, the JCA, Temple Beth El, and Congregations Bet Ha'am and Shaarey Tphiloh

Sunday, March 21 at 3pm

Advanced registration required by 3/21 at 12pm. Register [here](#).

Join us for a singalong Seder experience with the very top artists in Jewish kids music including Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Eliana Light, Shira Kline, Ellen Allard, Rick Recht, Joanie Leeds, and Elana Jagoda!

We'll sing traditional and contemporary songs, tell the Passover story, and explore the foods on the seder plate, the blessings, the questions, and the highlights of the Exodus - from slavery to freedom. Registered participants will receive downloadable resources for families to use at home. Geared towards families with children ages 0-10 years old.

Throughout the musical Seder there will be opportunities to use the crafts (which you can make in advance) from the [downloadable JKids Passover Home Activity Kit](#). To enrich your musical Seder experience, we recommend having the elements of your Seder plate as well as matzah and a kiddush cup available, or you can pretend! If you wish, you can also follow along in the [PJ Library Haggadah](#).

Rumpus Time @ TBE

It's winter in Maine, it's a pandemic, and your kids are itching to work out their wiggles. Meanwhile, you would love nothing more than to sit down with a cup of something warm and read, work, or just stare into space while your kids enjoy some good clean fun, running wild in a wide open space. Rumpus Time @ TBE is just what the doctor ordered!

Play equipment, a speaker for music, paper goods, and coffee/tea/water will be provided. BYO vegetarian snacks. One family or pod per 2 hour session. Please see the registration form for detailed COVID guidelines and precautions.

\$10 for 2 hours of rumpus time. Pre-registration 48 hours in advance is required:

<https://forms.gle/sK1ypkh74fRjHyQA8>



Upcoming Opportunities for Teens

The [**Be'chol Lashon Tzedek Teen Fellowship**](#) is for ethnically and racially diverse Jewish teens ages 12-18 who want to create community with those who have similar experiences. You will be matched with a mentor, also a Jew of Color, who will help you explore and expand your understanding of who you are, who you want to be, and how you want to change the world.

To learn more, sign up, or nominate someone, click [here](#).



The Rising Voices Fellowship is a national leadership development program of the Jewish Women's Archive for female-identified Jewish teens in grades 10–12 with a passion for writing and an interest in Judaism, feminism, and social justice. This ten-month program offers a unique curriculum exploring Jewish women's history and identity, and gives Fellows the tools and training to use their voices to make positive social change. [Applications](#) are due by **March 19**. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Quick Links

[Zoom Links](#)[Simcha List](#)[Community Programs & Events](#)[KBE School](#)[Amazon Smile](#)[Weekly Yahrzeit](#)

How to Reach Us

We are continuing to primarily work from home due to COVID-19. We will be checking our emails regularly and will check the voicemail daily.

By Phone

(207) 774-2649

Because we are working from home, we will often return your call from our personal numbers.

Please note that Zoe's cell phone area code is from out-of-state, so if you have left us a message and are getting a call from a 650 number, it's probably Zoe!

By Email

- Rabbi Braun - rabbi@tbemaine.org
- Kate Shalvoy - director@tbemaine.org
- Zoe Levine Sporer - office@tbemaine.org
- Sherri Quint - controller@tbemaine.org
- Abigail Halpern - education@tbemaine.org



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