

We have a wonderful array of events scheduled this weekend with Rabbi Margalit, beginning on Thursday with an evening of telling our own stories of being Jewish in Maine, and continuing with Shabbat services during these last days of Pesach, and a special Yizkor memorial service on Saturday.

Please join us for any or all of these services and events! RSVP for Friday dinner. Call or email with questions or for more info.

Thursday, April 9, 7-9 p.m.: Exodus Down East: A Night of Jewish Storytelling

Passover is a time of telling our stories. On these last nights of the festival, we tell our stories of coming to Maine, of finding our Jewish connections in Maine, or of our experience of being Jewish in Maine. We'll have a few storytellers from our community lined up in advance, but there will also be time to tell your story. If you'd like to share it we'd like to hear it! Tell us how the waters of the Piscataqua parted and you walked to freedom! Tell us how you escaped the towering pyramids of New York and Boston and came to where life is the way life should be.

Friday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.: Shabbat Services, Dinner, and Romance and Mystery in the Song of Songs

We begin the evening by welcoming Shabbat at 6:30 p.m. with a Renewal Service. In this service we'll follow the same basic structure of our regular Friday-night service, but we'll open ourselves to more spiritual expression through chanting, singing, meditation, and movement. All are invited to participate.

Services will be followed by a Passover dinner. Reservations required (\$10/person, \$40/family, max). Over dinner we'll discuss Spring is in the Air: Romance and Mystery in the Song of Songs. On Passover it is customary to read the biblical book Song of Songs. This beautiful love poem has sparked the imagination and also caused puzzlement for centuries. What is it doing in the Bible? Who is the beloved? What does it all mean? We will discuss these questions and more, and perhaps sing some of the songs from this ancient and mysterious love poem.

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m.: Shabbat Services with Yizkor, Lunch, and Did the Exodus Happen?

Traditional Services with musical accompaniment begin at 10 a.m. Since it's the last day of Pesach, the traditional Yizkor Memorial Service will be said. All are welcome to memorialize loved ones during this service. Followed by a Passover luncheon and discussion of Did the Exodus Happen? We'll look into the historical and archaeological evidence for and against it, and we'll ask what difference it makes whether it did or not. What role has the Exodus played in our history and in world history? Let's talk about it.

After the lunch and discussion, around **2 p.m.: Inner Torah**. On Shabbat afternoon traditional Jews would gather in the synagogues, perhaps have a little schnapps, and share words of Torah. Especially at this time, after almost a full day of Shabbat, the deep, inner Torah of the mystics would be ready to come out. Join us as we look at some of the mystical/psychological and spiritual approaches to Passover and the Exodus.

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Liz Snider, Administrator
Adas Yoshuron Synagogue
P.O. Box 1250
Rockland, Maine 04841
207.594.4523
info@adasyoshuron.org
www.adasyoshuron.org