LAB/SHUL TOGETHER

Presents

SEDER TIPS, TRICKS, HACKS, & HELPS

PASSOVER 2020 / 5780

Compiled with love by members of Lab/Shul’s Green Team, Feast Team, and Ritual Team, including Liz Alpern, Stephen Silva, Nina Watkins, Amanda Lindner, Ella Sparrow, and Amy Handelsman

Designed by Caren Rosenblatt

www.labshul.org
ZOOM ZOOM MAGIC

Best practices for hosting a successful Zoom Seder from Lab/Shul’s very own Zoom Tech Magic Fairy, Marijke Silberman.

Muting/Unmuting
The most important feature on Zoom for participants and hosts. If you are a participant you can mute/unmute yourself whenever you wish. On your gray control panel you will see a little microphone icon that you can click to change your mute/unmute status.

PRO TIP: so let’s say you want to stay on mute but you are just ACHING to say one quick thing - if you are using Zoom on a laptop or PC you can hold your spacebar down to temporarily unmute yourself.

PRO TIP FOR HOSTS: Hosts! You have the power to mute/unmute anyone and everyone in the chat. If you want to have a moment of mass-singalong you can also mute/unmute everyone at the same time. If you look along your control panel and click “Manage Participants”, you will see on the right hand side of your screen a popup with a list of all the participants in your call. At the bottom of the list of participants you will see a button that says: “Mute All” and “Unmute All”.

Basic View Options for Zoom
• When you are in the Zoom call as the host or the participant, you have the option to either view whoever is speaking, or view everyone who is on the call.
• For mobile/tablet, you can do this by swiping your screen to the left which will bring up gallery view.
• For desktop/pc, you will see a grey box in the upper righthand corner of your screen which will say “speaker view/gallery view” so you can switch between the two.

Feeling Fancy?
• If you’re feeling fancy you can delve into the world of screen share.
• In the Zoom call, find your control panel and click “Share Screen”
From there, a window will pop up:

- At the top of the window, you should see 3 tabs: Basic, Advanced, Files.
- If you want to share your entire desktop you can do so from this window. However, everyone will see your whole desktop so it’s probably best not to. Click on “Advanced”.

From there you will be taken to a screen that looks like this:

From there, you can click to share a portion of your screen which lets you drag a box around your desktop and choose what you want people to be able to see.

If you are someone who is watching someone else’s screenshare - you can change how you view their screen. At the top of your screen you will see a green bar that says “you are viewing X’s screen.” Next to that green box it says “view options” - from there you can determine the size of the screen share and MOST importantly you can scroll down to “side by side” view which lets you view the screen share side by side with the window of whoever is speaking.
GREEN TEAM

Our current climate crisis is a plague that affects every person on earth. This year let’s walk the talk of liberation - from single-use plastics, fossil fuels, polluted waters, and mindless consumption - with these simple DIY hacks.

Prep
- Use DIY cleaning products: vinegar, water, castile soap (Dr. Bronner’s is a good one)
- The removal of chametz:
  - Donate your bread items—many food banks are struggling right now.
  - Reflect on chametz as metaphor for the accumulation of unnecessary waste, “the swollen sourness of our lives,” says Rabbi Arthur Waskow. It is anything that keeps us enslaved to our material trappings and prevents us from being spiritually free. De-clutter, both literally and figuratively, and donate.

Setting the table
- Use cloth napkins as an elegant way to save paper and be festive
- Vegan Seder plate swaps: beets for a shank bone; avocado pits for an egg

Cooking
- Make it a plant-based Seder. Animal agriculture is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all forms of transportation combined. The conditions animals face are often crowded and cruel; the demand for meat and the encroachment on natural spaces has increased diseases (like Covid-19) among both humans and animals.
- Make your own matzah. Simple ingredients (flour, salt, olive oil) protect you from store-bought-packaging.
Seder

- Our friends at Hazon have smart Passover resources and the RAC has a great Earth Justice Haggadah
- This is an opportunity to filter each part of the seder (in Hebrew, “order”) through the lens of sustainability and environmental consciousness. Here are some examples, but feel free to think up your own:

  **Kadesh**  The First Cup (and all other cups): Access to Clean Water
  **Urchatz**  The Importance of Hand-washing (especially in a pandemic)
  **Karpas**  Dipping Greens in Salt Water—the Earth cries out
  **Yachatz**  Breaking the Middle Matzah—restoring a broken world (Tikkun Olam)
  **Maggid**  Telling the Story—Concepts
    - Who is enslaved today? (refugees of war & famine driven by climate change, endless consumption)
    - Who are today’s Pharoahs? (exploiters of the land; polluters; corporations who justify climate change as the cost of doing business)
    - What are today’s plagues? (deforestation, water and air pollution, lead poisoning, habitat and species destruction, factory farms, loss of coral reefs, dangerous heat waves)

  **The Four Children**
  - The Wise Child knows climate change is real
  - The Wicked Child knows it’s real but remains unconcerned
  - The Simple Child denies the reality of climate change
  - The One Who Does Not Know to Ask needs more information

  **Dayenu**
  - When will we be satisfied with what we have? Where in our lives can we practice saying “I already have enough”?

  **Elijah’s Cup**
  - Redemption: What can you personally take on this next year to make a difference? (advocacy, education, engagement, joining the Green Team!)

Post

- Pack up your guests with leftover—less food waste and everybody is happy
- Compost your leftovers for your own or a community garden
FEAST TEAM

How is this dinner different from all other dinners? Hosting a Passover Seder is both a satisfying experience but can also be a challenging one. Here are some hospitality tips from the Feast Team to help you prepare for an intentional and intimate experience this Passover!

PREP

Passover prep, especially all the Spring cleaning, is my spiritual entry into the holiday. It’s hard to get started this year—cleaning has greater consequences, health and life hang in the balance, and many of us are not even in our usual spaces. So I will concentrate on clearing out all my personal emotional chametz, “gunk,” in search of light and order. Freedom and renewal? These concepts aren’t as important for me. But bringing order to my physical or spiritual spaces will calm my soul, enabling me to fully experience the joys and unique tastes of Passover.

— Barbara Kline,
Resident Lab/Shul Matriarch
TIP 1
According to Lab/Shul’s friend and collaborator Priya Parker, author of the book The Art of Gathering, the first and most important step is figuring out why you are gathering. “Because it’s Passover” isn’t a good enough reason! Answering this with more depth and specificity will help set the mood and guide all the creative decisions while planning your Seder. Which Haggadah to use, symbols on your Seder plate, and even the activities and discussions you have around the Seder table all can tie back to your ultimate goal. Once you have your why, create a creative name for your Seder to set that intention and share it with your guests!

TIP 2
Give guests a chance to make their own personal connections to the Exodus story by making sure there is a time during the Seder for people to go deep and reflect, as well as invite vulnerability with each other. Here’s a few ideas:

- Assign your guests prep homework so they’re already thinking about it on their own terms before they arrive. Maybe assign them each a different part from the Haggadah that they’ll be responsible to present on. Encourage creativity: a story from their lives, a skit, a sketch, a game, or anything else!
- Ask every guest to give a toast to match the idea and intention behind your particular Seder. For example, you can have guests give toasts on togetherness, getting through challenging times, what community means to them, etc.
- Show and tell! Ask guests to show off a personal object on their screens and talk about its meaning. For example, ask them to bring an item that represents freedom, or something that brings them hope or makes them smile.

TIP 3
Just because you aren’t sharing a meal together doesn’t mean you can’t share recipes. Everyone cooking the same thing in their respective homes is a great way to link your virtual tables together. Need some help? The Gefilteria has got you covered with some perfect Passover recipes.