

Shabbat shalom and Chag Sameach!

This week we celebrated Layl haseder, or in its new nickname, layl hasgar which means the “curfew night”. Because I’m writing it in advance I have no idea how I have found the experience of doing a virtual seder but it seems pretty cool. There is an initiative of one of the major Israeli TV channels to make the largest, most well-attended seder ever: everyone turns on their TVs and has the same seder, basically all of Israel celebrating together.

Every Passover we get together to tell the story of how we were freed from Egypt and became who we are. We remember where we came from and revisit the history that unites us all.

Layl haseder is not only about the good food, the family and reading the haggadahit’s about how we as Jews always overcome the difficulties that life gives us. Whether it is slavery, anti-Semitism or this “flu on steroids”. Like the Haggadah says, in every generation something is trying to destroy us. But it never does and never will.

We understand that there are things that are not in our control and although we can do a lot as humans, we can’t control everything. What we can control is how we take the situation and do the best we can from that.

Instead of focusing on the bad effects that the coronavirus has, we can look at how this unfortunate situation of the COVID-19 has led us to highlight in Passover something very important: the community, the people. Suddenly it’s not just us and our “small” community, it’s the entire world. We are there for each other, all over the world, people help each other without expecting anything in return. People taking responsibility for keeping others safe and healthy. It truly feels like we are all in this together.

Thank you, Chag Sameach, and Shabbat shalom!