



Temple Beth El
Reform Judaism, Santa Cruz Style
Jewish Community Center Aptos, California

Why is this Seder Different from All Other Seders?

Please scroll down to the bottom to see how to join in to our virtual seder

Some of us have heard this question asked a number of times lately. The obvious answer is that we won't be sitting around the table with our usual guests. We won't be gathered in the social hall with delicious Passover food, and some of us won't be going to grocery stores shopping for matzah. Some of us will even be alone. How, with all of these limitations, can we fulfill our deep desire to have a beautiful and meaningful Seder this year? It is our hope that this Seder we've prepared for you will help. We want you feel connected with your TBE community as you celebrate this important festival.

This Seder is designed to be used with or without a Hagaddah. Below the video, you will find an index the you can click on to bring you to the various parts of the seder, so that you can start and stop the video, and use it with any Hagaddah or use it to supplement any seder. In addition, we have incorporated our Hagaddah text into the video, so that you can participate without a printed version. Should you prefer to follow along with a printed version, however, you can download the text [here](#).

This Seder is just one of the many ways our congregation is working hard to provide our community with celebration of Jewish rituals, alleviate feelings of isolation, and engage in creative new ways of learning together. Our staff and lay-leaders have been sending cards and making calls to our seniors and others who are most vulnerable. Our Simcha Preschool staff has been posting Passover crafts and activities for families and hosting some online group gatherings. Our religious school has moved online, with Rabbi Shifra and professional Jewish education experts from all over the world

(including Israel) meeting with each Temple School class via Zoom. Students are also enrolled in a wonderful online self-paced Hebrew program, supported by our Temple School teachers, and Sarah Clarkson is organizing "Parent's Night In" meetings so that the parents of each Temple School class can hang out with each other virtually. Ironically, we have had more people "attending" services and classes

with the rabbis then ever before. Even though we have essentially been forced to learn these technologies quickly, much of what we are doing can now be incorporated when we finally return to normal, providing greater accessibility to those who are unable to attend future classes, services and events in person.

We are grateful to our beloved “techie” Andy Yanowitz for his skill and dedication to our community. He has given of his expertise and time to create this Seder recording.

We know that there is a sense of insecurity around financial issues and still, if you are able, we ask for your financial support by making a Passover donation to the TBE General Fund, so that we can retain our staff and continue providing support for our TBE members and offering all that TBE brings to the Santa Cruz Jewish Community. The Passover story reminds us of the movement from bondage in Egypt, which in Hebrew, Mitzrayim, means the narrow places, to freedom. May we all find our way forward through the parting of the stormy sea of this pandemic and emerge with a sense of gratitude and rebirth. We invite you to give what you can to help TBE pass through this current narrow place and draw upon our people’s resilience to emerge with strength and new ways to celebrate together.

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[Click here for a link to the seder](#)

[Click here for the text](#)