

From the Rabbi:

Good morning everyone and welcome to the latest TouchPoints. I hope that we are all, quickly and surely, adjusting to the new realities of life amid the COVID 19 crisis, or as one article linked below has called it, in the Passover context, the 11th Plague. I believe it is axiomatic at this point that hand washing, staying at home, and social distancing when outside for necessary errands are important and should be absolute behavioral practices. Medical professionals at the local and national levels agree that these the things that are “up to us” and that can make a difference in the scope of the virus’ spread.

To that end, with Pesach just under a week away, I need to join with local colleagues and rabbis around the country who strongly discourage, and even absolutely forbid, families from hosting out of town or in-town company of any kind for Pesach, including the sederim. In spite of the real difficulties we recognize for the elderly, the ill, and in general, people alone (and I am one of them!), we must agree to sacrifice our usual expectations for the quintessential “family and friends” holiday this year. We do this as a matter of pikuach nefesh and in the hope that this will enable us to observe many Pesach holidays in the future surrounded by the family and friends we love and hold so dear from all over.

I will be speaking about this tonight in my special Shabbat HaGadol...on Thursday zoom talk, [Seeing Ourselves Leaving Egypt](#), at 7 pm. I hope you will join me this important presentation.

TODAY’S INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION

[Some Good News](#) a video by SGN/John Krasinski

[Mossad obtains 10 million more protective masks for Israel](#), Yonah Jeremy Bob, The Jerusalem Post

[In times of senseless tragedy, God manifests through us](#), Shai Held, The Forward

[The 11th Plague](#), The Forward

[Being alone, choosing life: Jewish practice in a plague](#), Deborah Lipstadt, The Forward

VIRTUAL LEARNING- AND DAVENING!

We hope you will take advantage of all of our opportunities to learn – and now, to daven – with us at BMH-BJ.

To join Zoom classes click linked titles below.
Meeting ID 2853509174 or call in on phone:
720-707-2699

Friday 4/3

10:00 AM

[Essie's Parshah Class](#)

6:00 PM

This Friday, join the Cantor and me for a special [Kabbalat Shabbat](#) at 6 pm. Click above for details.

Saturday 4/4

8:30 PM

Once again, I will host a zoom [Havdala LIVE](#) at 8:30 PM this Saturday night. Click the link and join me for music and inspiration.

Sunday 4/5

11AM

Cantor Goldstein will offer his final Pesach class, [A Musical Tour of the Haggadah](#) on Sunday at 11 AM. Click above to join.

6:00 PM

Starting on Sunday, we will offer a virtual Zoom Mincha and Maariv service, each weeknight except for Shabbat or holidays. This service will incorporate the Yahrzeit Memorial Ceremony and a Torah Thought, as well. We will meet at 6 PM Sunday –Tuesday next week. Click here to join the [Zoom Minyan](#).

TODAY'S LAUGH

THE 2 MINUTE HAGADDAH



THE 2 MINUTE Hagaddah

A Passover service for the impatient.

By Michael Rubiner

Opening prayers:

Thanks, God, for creating wine. (Drink wine.)

Thanks for creating produce. (Eat parsley.)

Overview: Once we were slaves in Egypt. Now we're free. That's why we're doing this.

Four questions:

1. What's up with the matzoh?
2. What's the deal with horseradish?
3. What's with the dipping of the herbs?
4. What's this whole slouching at the table business?

Answers:

1. When we left Egypt, we were in a hurry. There was no time for making decent bread.

2. Life was bitter, like horseradish.

3. It's called symbolism.

4. Free people get to slouch.

A funny story: Once, these five rabbis talked all night, then it was morning. (*Heat soup now.*)

The four kinds of children and how to deal with them:

Wise child—explain Passover.

Simple child—explain Passover slowly.

Silent child—explain Passover loudly.

Wicked child—browbeat in front of the relatives.

Speaking of children: We hid some matzoh. Whoever finds it gets five bucks.

The story of Passover: It's a long time ago. We're slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh is a nightmare. We cry out for help. God brings plagues upon the Egyptians. We escape, bake some matzoh. God parts the Red Sea. We make it through; the Egyptians aren't so lucky. We wander 40 years in the desert, eat manna, get the Torah, wind up in Israel, get a new temple, enjoy several years without being persecuted again. (*Let brisket cool now.*)

The 10 Plagues: Blood, Frogs, Lice—you name it.

The singing of "Dayenu":

If God had gotten us out of Egypt and not punished our enemies, it would've been enough. If he'd punished our enemies and not parted the Red Sea, it would've been enough.

If he'd parted the Red Sea—(*Remove gefilte fish from refrigerator now.*)

Eat matzoh. Drink more wine. Slouch.

Thanks again, God, for everything.

SERVE MEAL.