

The Mitzvah of Matzah

Passover Reflections for 2023/5783

Rabbi Heschel writes, “To do a mitzvah is to outdo oneself, to go beyond one’s own needs and to illumine the world. But whence should come the fire to illumine the world? Time and again we discover how dim is the light within. There is not enough strength within our power to transcend ourselves... But there is an *ecstasy of deeds*, luminous moments in which we are raised by overpowering deeds above our own (weary) will; moments filled with outgoing joy and intense delight!”

Last year, as a community, we missed the mark. We fell far short of the needs of our community to have a place at a seder table. We were just beyond the worst of Covid, and that was enough for too many of us to not open our doors to the stranger, or even our Zoom rooms.

I can’t tell you how much light has been provided at my seder tables over the years by welcoming of the stranger. It is a reciprocal light from my guests to my seder and together we create the light! When we open our hearts and our homes, the unexpected shows up, Elijah slips through our doors.

Please help us make up for last year, with more than enough places at our tables. And for those who have small homes, or do not yet feel comfortable offering an in-person opportunity, consider preparing a zoom seder and invite a guest or two.

May this year be the year we break through the Mitzrayim of our reservations, and make some reservations at our seders! Welcome the stranger AND members of our community.

Harriet Cooke and Tikkun Olam committee

See the [Havurah Shalom Passover web page](#) for great resources from Tikkun Olam for our seders