



our house

beiteinu view

Passover 2019

The Good Question

I heard a story about Isidor I. Rabi, the 1944 Nobel Prize winner in physics. Doctor Rabi was once asked, "Why did you become a scientist, rather than a doctor or lawyer, like the other kids in your neighborhood?" My mother made me a scientist. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after a day at school: 'So, did you learn anything today?' Not my mother. She always asked me a different question. Izzy, she would say, 'Did you ask any good questions today?' "That difference made me a scientist".

He understood something very important- that becoming a successful professional was driven by his ability to ask good questions. A person in any area of life needs to cultivate the habit of asking good questions. Doctors understand the need to ask questions and listen carefully to the answers before prescribing a successful treatment. Therapists know the value of asking good questions for successful counseling. Employers utilize the power of effective questions in successfully determining which applicant to hire.

Dr. Rabi's answer reflects the value Jewish tradition places on challenging and raising questions. In the Yeshiva, the home of traditional Talmudic learning, the highest complement a teacher can give a student is, "you asked a good question." The most important educational goal has never been indoctrination. It is teaching a child to be curious, to wonder, reflect and inquire. The child who feels confident enough to ask, becomes a partner in the learning process. To ask is to grow. The heroes of our faith asked questions of God. From our earliest ancestors we received examples of asking the hard questions.

The patriarch Abraham asked, "shall the judge of all the earth not do justice?" He had the ability to question God's decision to sweep away the innocent along with the guilty of Sodom and Gomorrah. Moses follows the Abrahamic example by asking God why he was chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. The prophet Jeremiah said, "you are always righteous, oh Lord, when I bring a case before You, yet I would speak with you about your justice: why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?"

Questioning is at the heart Jewish of spirituality.

Asking a question is a profound expression of faith in the meaningfulness of human life. We Jews ask, *not because we doubt, but because we believe*. In biblical Hebrew there is no word that means "obey". Instead the Torah uses the word **shema**, meaning, "to hear, listen, reflect on, internalize and respond." God expects not blind obedience, but an understanding response.

Many of us remember with fondness, sitting as a young child around the Passover table asking the four questions. With our parents and grandparents watching us with pride, our first real participation with the family in a Jewish tradition was through those four questions. Even though we were reading from a script provided by our tradition, we learned early on that questions were good.

The question was asked: "Why does the youngest child ask the same four questions year after year?" One answer suggested that as we grow and change, our questions take on new meanings and the answers to them differ. Because we grow and change, we understand that there is no one right answer. As we grow and change, a new person among us may be asking the questions for the first time.



naaseh v'nishmah



beiteinu SYNAGOGUE

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Over the years, I have heard stories from Jewish adults describing their frustration over having their questions not taken seriously. They felt judged or were humiliated by teachers who may have felt threatened by being asked philosophical questions about god, heaven, hell or anything else. Jewish learning on all levels depends on asking questions and respectfully challenging other's positions. To be part of the people of the book, is to take pride in learning and questioning.

When our people were given the Torah at Mount Sinai, they responded with the words: "**naaseh v'nishmah**" (Exodus 24:7). These words could be understood as: "*we will do and then we will understand*". In other words, the Jews agreed to live according to the instruction from God, even as they were in the process of questioning and learning to understand the ways of God. A Rabbi once said: "*we are all closer to God when we are asking questions then when we think we have all the answers*".

This Passover season I encourage each one of you reading this message to submit a question related to some aspect of the holiday. I promise that I will respond with meaningful answers to your inquiry. What an appropriate way to celebrate the holiday that is built around the question: WHY is this night different from all other nights?"

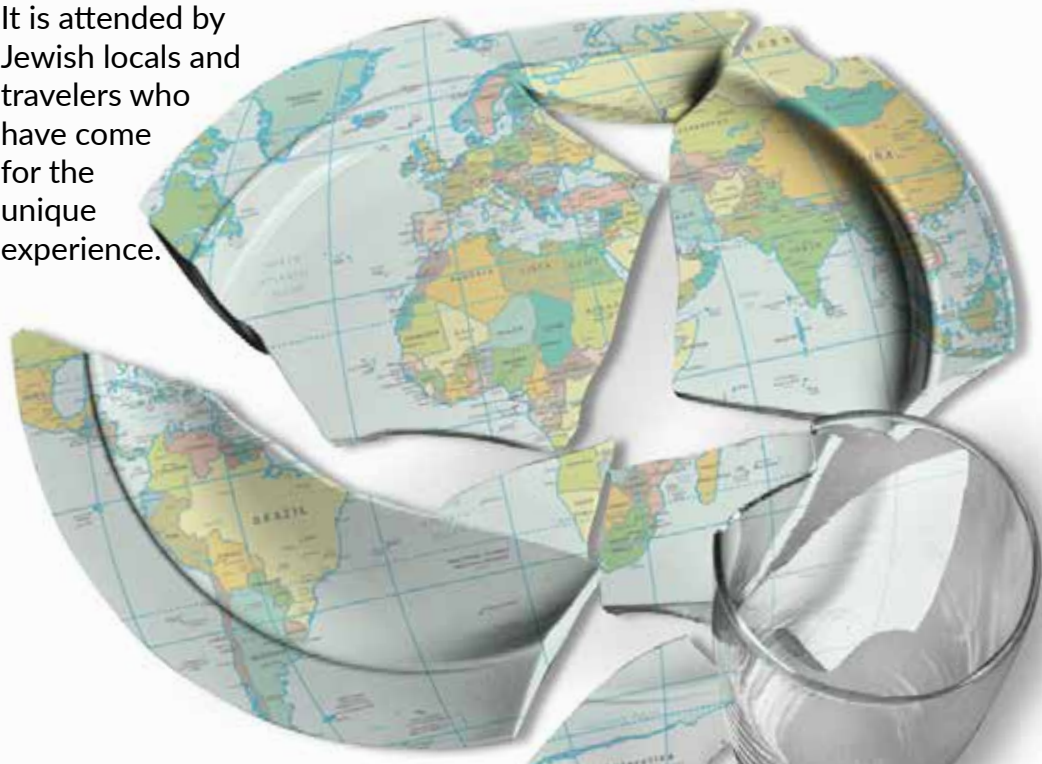
Passover Traditions Around The World

Some Ethiopian Jews smash their dishes and cookware and make new ones to signify their hope for renewal and redemption.

In a small Polish town some Jewish people mark Passover by re-enacting the crossing of the Red Sea. They pour water on the floor, lift their coats and walk across giving thanks with a glass of wine as they go.

Nepal hosts the world's largest celebration of Passover in Kathmandu, called "Seder on top of the world."

It is attended by
Jewish locals and
travelers who
have come
for the
unique
experience.



Member Spotlight

It's All in The Family Meet the Levins

Let me introduce you to the Levin family, starting with Stephanie and Michael. The Levin's have been blessed with two sons; Andrew and Noah. The Levin family strives to inspire Jewish learning, good healthy food choices and to support their community life.

Raised in Richboro, Bucks County, PA with one older brother, Stephanie enjoyed an involved high school career as a flag twirler in the school band as well as being active in USY. Her parents were founding members of Ohev Shalom Synagogue. She remembers fondly the family feasts with mom baking for all the Jewish holidays. Stephanie's mother was an elementary school teacher and her dad an accountant. What else could she choose to be but a teacher of mathematics?! Her first job was at Cherry Hill High School West. It was while she was working there that she met her husband Michael. Stephanie attended a New Year's Eve party with her brother when she first saw Michael. The rest is history or as we like to say now, "herstory."

Michael lived in Narberth, PA, and went to Friends Central High School. His mother was a teacher, his dad was a physician, and his father's father was a pharmacist. It seems destiny for Michael to graduate from PCOM and be a Nephrologist.

Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?

Together, Michael and Stephanie have been blessed with two great boys, Andrew and Noah. Andrew is 11 year s old and in fifth grade. He is an avid Eagles fan. He says his favorite thing in his bedroom is the poster he received 2 years ago from the movie "CARS" (*signed by the creator*). In school his favorite subject is math, which he proudly admits to being good at. His younger brother, Noah, age 8, is in second grade. He likes to work on puzzles and play Minecraft, Roblox and Fortnite. He decorates his room with pictures that he has drawn. It was Noah who told me that the family plans to travel to Iceland in the spring and the Galapagos Islands this summer.

Is there a Doctor in the House?

In his youth, Michael enjoyed sailing and swimming. Nowadays, he is enamored with hiking. He is often found on the trails with his children, having fun and appreciating nature together. One of the greatest rewards is for his family to spend time together. Stephanie is very active in volunteering. She helped run the holiday gift shop at the children's school and quickly realized the importance of the children seeing the joy of gift-giving. Stephanie divides her time between being PTO president in Noah's school, tending to her own garden and also volunteering in a garden that supports Weaver's Way. She loves the hours she spends under the sun. It is with these fresh ingredients that she makes her meals from scratch. Stephanie proudly reports that they eat as a family almost every night.

Both parents are very serious about having a Jewish home. They set out to find a synagogue that would meet their family's needs however they, but had difficulty finding one that resonated with them. They wanted their children to enjoy being Jewish and feel comfortable with their Rabbi. *G_d works in mysterious ways*. During their search for a Jewish community, they attended the wedding of their good friends, Pam and Zach Cooper. They were fortunate to meet Rabbi Cove and learn about Beiteinu. It was a perfect fit. Beiteinu and Rabbi Cove offered the warm, accepting and opening Jewish community that they were in search of. Stephanie and Michael want their children to have a strong Jewish identity. And then there was the Jewish geography factor. They soon realized that Michael's father had taught Rabbi's wife, Staci in Medical school. It was 'Besheret' (kismet) or meant to be. Stephanie was also instrumental in developing the Beiteinu Student Hebrew Education classes that takes place in Lafayette Hill. She organizes and often hosts the classes at her home.

This is the Levin family. Be sure to say, "Hello!" when you see them in shule.



Beiteinu's Community PASSOVER SEDER

The Passover Seder, or "order," is one of the most widely observed and engaging of all Jewish ritual events. Join us for an inspirational Passover Seder and experience the deeper meaning of Passover in a warm and open environment, **complete with a traditional Seder dinner, insights, singing, four cups of wine, and Matzah galore!** Whether this is your first one or one of many Seders, Beiteinu's community Seder will surely offer a stimulating and satisfying experience for all. Join Rabbi Cove and the Beiteinu Family in a warm and welcoming community Seder. Beiteinu's Seder is the place to go.

You Supply the interest, (family and friends invited), we'll supply the rest.

Dinner will include:

Chopped liver and Matzah
Gefilte fish
Horseradish
Charoset
Grilled Chicken (Fish Option available please let us know in the comment section on registration)
Veggies
Kids (age 12 and under)
Passover Chicken Fingers & Fries with Ketchup
Cookies and Macaroons

Whitpain Farm Manor House in Blue Bell: will supply exact address after registration complete

For more information contact

Carol Cohen at carolco328@gmail.com or

Anne Pass at ahp728@verizon.net

Adult \$38.00 Each

Child, \$20.00 Each

[Click here](#) to register online

Seder = Order

Our Passover meal is called a Seder, which means "order" in Hebrew, because we go through 14 specific steps as we retell the story of our ancestors' liberation from slavery in Egypt.

1. Kiddush (the blessing over the wine)
2. Ritual hand-washing in preparation for the Seder
3. Dipping a green vegetable in salt water
4. Breaking the middle of matzah
5. Telling the story of Passover
6. Ritual hand-washing in preparation for the meal
7. The blessing over the meal and matzo
8. Dipping the bitter herb in sweet
9. Eating a sandwich of matzo and bitter herb
10. Eating the meal
11. Finding and eating the Afikomen
12. Saying grace after the meal and inviting Elijah the Prophet
13. Singing songs that praise God
14. Ending the Seder and thinking about the future

KADEISH
URCHATZ
KARPAS
MATZAH YACHTZ
MAGGID
RACHTZA
MOTZI MATZAH
CHAROSET MAROR
KOREICH
SCHULAN OREICH
TZAFOON
BAREICH
HALLEL
NIRTZAH

Avadim Hayinu

"we were slaves"



עֲבָדִים הָייְנוּ לַפַּרְעֹה בְּמִצְרַיִם, וַיּוֹצִיאֵנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִשָּׁם בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזְרוֹעַ נְטוּיָה

Avadim hayinu l'pharoh b'mitzrayim. Vayotzieinu Adonai Eloheinu misham,
b'yad chazakah uvizroa netuyah

We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and Adonai, our God, brought us out from there with
a strong hand and an outstretched arm

Jews are a people of memory and action. On Passover, we use stories and rituals to remember and retell the narrative of our collective liberation. We share the ancient Exodus story, year after year, so that it resonates through the generations as a narrative of deliverance from slavery to freedom.

In Hebrew, Egypt is called Mitzrayim, which means "a narrow place." Every year, the Haggadah asks us not only to share the story of the Exodus, but challenges us to actively engage in the process of combating oppression. We are encouraged to connect the biblical story of Exodus to communal and individual struggles for liberation, and are reminded that the fight for freedom is ongoing.

Let's discuss the process of Exodus, moving from "a narrow place" to a place of freedom. Every day, people fight for freedom on interpersonal, systemic, global and local levels. What are modern struggles for liberation? Discuss the following questions either in pairs or as a group to inspire thought, conversation and action:

Why do you think the text starts with "We were slaves" instead of "Our ancestors were slaves?" How does this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. "no one is free until we are all free," connect to Avadim Hayinu? How are we free today? How are we still struggling? Share something that you are doing or can commit to doing to help move yourself or others from "a narrow place" to a place of shared freedom.

What Is Matzah?

My Jewish Learning <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/matzah/> 1/2 What Is Matzah?

by Lesli Koppelman Ross

Unleavened bread was one of the foods the Jews in Egypt were commanded to eat along with the paschal lamb (Exodus 12:8). In commemoration of that first Seder meal, and the haste in which the Israelites left Egypt — giving them no time to allow their bread to rise — we eat matzah at the Seder (and instead of bread throughout the holiday).

Symbolism of the Number Three

It is customary to have three pieces stacked on the table. Two are traditional for Sabbath and festivals, as a reminder of the double portion of manna (food from heaven) the Israelites gathered before every day of rest in the desert (Exodus 16:11-22). We need the third on Passover to break at the beginning of the [Seder] service. The number three is also said to have symbolic significance. Among other things, the number represents the three measures of the fine meal from which Sarah baked cakes for her husband Abraham's three angelic visitors (Genesis 18:6), the three categories of Jews — Kohen, Levi, and Yisrael — that make up the Jewish people, or the three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, by whose merit we were redeemed from Egypt and whose covenant with God we were redeemed to fulfill.

In recent years, it has become popular to add an additional sheet of matzah, representing hope for Jews still enslaved by oppression around the world.

Meaning of the Matzah

Matzah is one of those wonderful transcendent ritual items in Judaism, a symbol embodying a duality to teach a moral lesson. At the beginning of the Seder, we break one of the sheets of matzah and call it the bread (lechem) of affliction (oni). It is the meager sustenance of slaves, the meanest fare of the poor, the quickly produced food of those who make a hurried, under-cover-of-dark getaway. Yet later, it represents freedom, the bread we ate when we were liberated from Egyptian bondage.

In both situations, as slaves in Egypt and once we were free, we ate the same at wafers. What was different was our own attitude when we ate: cowering, accepting our subservience, then claiming our rightful dignity as human beings equal before God. Just as we transform mentally and physically, the symbol of our status is transformed.

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(Family includes dependent children)

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Family: \$817

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FULL MEMBERSHIP

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Over 35 years of Age Full membership allows you to share in all the high holiday festivities as well as joining us for Shabbat service, minyan, and all other activities and events.

HIGH HOLIDAYS

\$250/ per person

Children 18 and under \$25

High Holidays Only Unable to commit to membership at this time but still want to come for the high holidays.....no problem. Enjoy all High Holiday events including New Year's Under The Stars, Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur Day and Yizkor Service.

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4 Services \$72/pp

All Services \$218/pp

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EREV ROSH HASANAH

\$36

New Year's Under the Stars Enjoy a concert, courtesy of Adam Weitz and A-Sharp productions. Dance, eat a catered dinner and take part in a service culminating in the blowing of the Shofar at sundown, under the stars.

Tickets may be purchased online at: **beiteinu.org**

Or by check mailed to: Beiteinu, P.O. Box 231, Haverford, PA 19004

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