

BRINGING SEDER to CHAOS







Freedom in Quarantine

PRE-SEDER ZOOM SEDER

This year many people will be unable to celebrate Passover with their family--particularly their older relatives. Nobody, it's safe to say, will be having a normal seder. But that doesn't mean it can't be cherished.

There is a unique opportunity now to have a pre-Passover intergenerational seder experience with your families through zoom. Passover is a holiday where family is central--and even when we're apart, we always find a way to stay together.

The Basics

-  **Who Knows Zoom?** Make sure you know the basics of zoom and appoint someone to lead the seder before the call. There's a unique opportunity now for a mute button, so people can actually hear each other. Zoom also allows you to raise your hand. So, in a way, this might even be less dysfunctional than your regular seder.
-  **Dress the Part:** Traditionally, the leader of the seder wears a kittel. Proper attire for zoom calls has been spotty--if you're wearing pants, you're already ahead of the game. For this zoom call, to reimagine the seder experience, it adds a special feeling if everyone is dressed the part in their special Yom Tov clothes.
-  **Don't Forget About the Actual Seder:** A pre-Pesach zoom call with family is not meant to replace the actual seder. You should save your matzah, your maror, and your four cups of wine for the actual seder. You can even skip much of the main text of the haggadah. Don't say every word together. Focus on the songs and creating memories. Also, if you're using a free zoom account, you really only have 40 minutes. So save your eating, wine stains, and matzah crumbs for later in the evening. Create a moment through the haggadah with family you wish were with you.
-  **Make It About Your Family:** Each family has unique traditions, favorite tunes and quirks. Additionally, each family has a unique story to tell. Spend some time on what is unique about your family. Have an older member recall a seder moment from many years or a story that he or she heard from a grandparent. Recall a funny moment from a previous seder. Sing the tunes that your family loves to sing.

Create Your Seder Moments

Kadesh: Instead of blessing the wine, have everyone go around and bless a different member of the family.

Urchatz: This should be instinctive by now, but everyone could wash their hands. Instead of singing Happy Birthday, sing the seder song: Kadesh Urchatz. Should qualify CDC guidelines.

Karpas: Find a fun dipping food!

Yachatz: Break a cracker or chocolate bar in half. Don't forget to hide the afikoman!

Maggid:

Mah Nishtana - Ask people to share what is going to be different this year for them.

Dayenu - After singing the song together go around and have everyone on the call share something they are grateful for.

Ve-higadata l'bincha: The main commandment of the seder is to share the story of redemption. What is a story you want to pass from one generation to the next?

Rachtzah: Did we mention the importance of handwashing?

Motzi: OK, so don't have matzah. Save that so you have a full stomach. But you can still all share what you love about matzah. It may even build your appetite.

Maror: Let's be honest, there is a lot to potentially be bitter about this year. What is something that you are currently upset about?

Korech: We traditionally wrap the maror in Matzah. What's the symbolism behind that? According to the Marbeh Lisaper on Pesach Haggadah, Maror 1:1 Even if some disagreement or bitterness burns in his heart, let him 'wrap up' (hikhrikh) pain with love. *What loving elements have occurred because of the events of this year? Even if they don't take away the bitterness, how can we right now surround it with love and sweetness?*

Shulchan Orech: Send out a "family recipe" in advance of the call that everyone can cook beforehand. Enjoy your special treats together.

Tzafun: Designate an object as the "Afikoman" and hide it somewhere in the background of your screen. Have the children on the call guess and play "hot or cold" until they find it. Turn it into a virtual scavenger hunt!

Barech: Sing the first paragraph of Bentching out loud together.

Hallel: Go around the table and have everyone finish the sentence, "God, I want to thank you for..."

Nirtzah: Sing all your favorite songs! Who knows one? During Chad Gadya, each person can be assigned a character (don't assign anyone to the role of God) and it can be acted out while everyone else sings along. You can even have everyone come in costume.

Join the Conversation

Leshana Ha'Baah: Next year may we merit to celebrate Passover together as a family in Jerusalem!

What ideas and programs are you planning for your pre-Seder seder?

Submit Your Answers

Email: sedertochoas@ncsy.org | Twitter/ FB: #sedertochoas

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