

Passover Potpourri

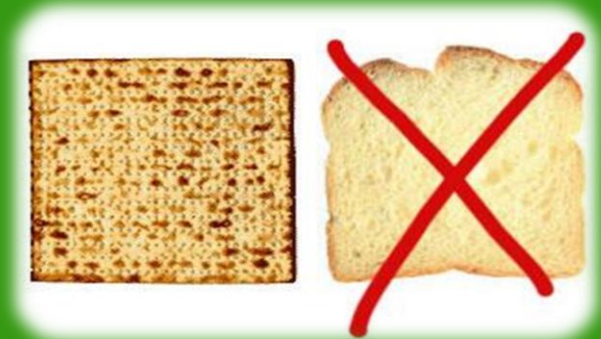
A Discussion of Passover Games, Activities and
Crafts Projects



Passover: April 18th-April 26th 2011

Mitzvot of Passover

- No eating or owning of anything that is leavened (chametz)
- Eating of Matzah
- Participating in a Seder
- Telling the Story of Passover



Storytelling: The Heart and Soul of Passover

- “And you *shall tell* your son (*ve hegadta l’vincha*) on that day on that day, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I went free from Egypt.’ Exodus 13:8
- “In every generation one is obligated to see himself as though he [too] came out from Egypt.” Mishna, Tractate Pesachim 10:5



Telling Must be Accompanied by the Asking of Questions

“And it shall be when your son will ask you at some future time, what is this? You shall say to him with a strong hand God took us out of Egypt from the house of bondage.” Exodus 13:14



Providing a Legacy of Memories

“The parents are the feeders of history. Parents should not determine their children's future, but they must open for them their past. The Haggadah of the night of Pesach transforms the parents into storytellers...The next generation cannot live in the future without a past. Judaism imposes a vital task on the parents: to tell the children their people's story. ..Parents provide their children with luggage. Whether the child will open up the suitcases and use their contents is beyond the reach of parents. Parents must aim at instilling memories that haunt the child an entire lifetime, their bequest is a weight of generations an awareness that one's biography began with Abraham and Sarah.”

(David Hartman as quoted in N.Zion and D.Dishon. Leader's Guide for A Different Night, 1997, p.69-70, 77)



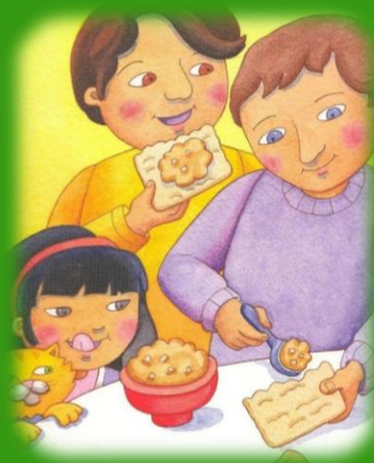
Goals of PJ Library Passover Programs

- To strengthen parents' story telling powers and abilities
- To review and explore traditional and contemporary customs, themes, and rituals of Passover
- To provide families with take-home materials which will enhance their Passover celebrations
- To help families find “partners” with whom they may enjoy celebrating a Seder



Methods of Empowering Parents

- Conduct separate Parent Learning/ Discussion Sessions
- Speak to children and parents simultaneously, embedding lessons and quick adult teaching points within one's presentation to children
- Provide parents with interesting and informative reading materials, ready-made props, activity suggestions, and song sheets to use at their home seder

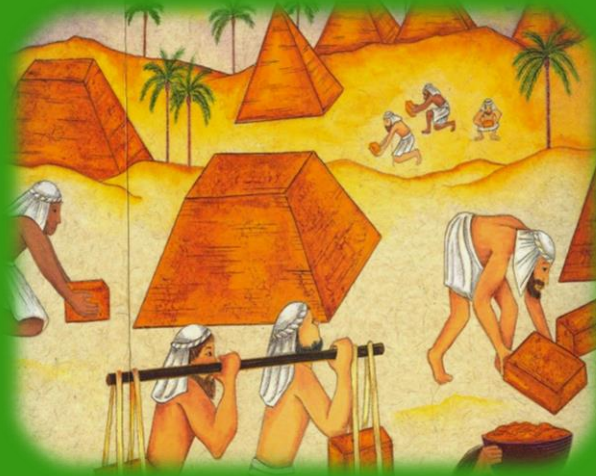


Points to Consider When Holding Parent Study Sessions

- Plan for parents who wish to remain with their children
- Create a warm, accepting environment
- Remember that adults (like children) learn best through doing, talking, and actively assimilating new information into their existing understanding of the world and Judaism
- Encourage participation, yet within a discussion, always allow parents the opportunity “to pass” and refrain from commenting

Possible Topics for Parent Study Sessions

- Review of the Passover Story, including a discussion of how to side-step some of the more difficult aspects of the story
- The role of questions within the Seder, including guidelines for formulating meaningful questions to ask young children



More Topics for Parent Study Session

- Innovative Passover customs and traditions
 - Miriam's cup
 - The use of Biblio-drama at the Seder
 - Adapting Customs from other cultures (i.e. scallions at the seder, dressing in travelling robes, carrying the seder plate around the table above the heads of Seder guests)
- The Ten Plagues
 - Games for kids to play
 - Exploring the plagues from an adult perspective

(Why these particular plagues; drawing parallels between the plagues of long ago and today.)



A Child Friendly Version of the Passover Story

- Long , long ago the Jewish people lived in a far-away land called Egypt ,where a mean king named Pharaoh forced the Jews to work as slaves.
- A **slave** is a person who must work very hard every day and every night with no time for eating , drinking , resting or playing.
- In Egypt, the Jewish slaves worked hard, making bricks from mud and stacking these bricks to build pyramids and palaces for Pharaoh. The Jewish people hated being slaves.



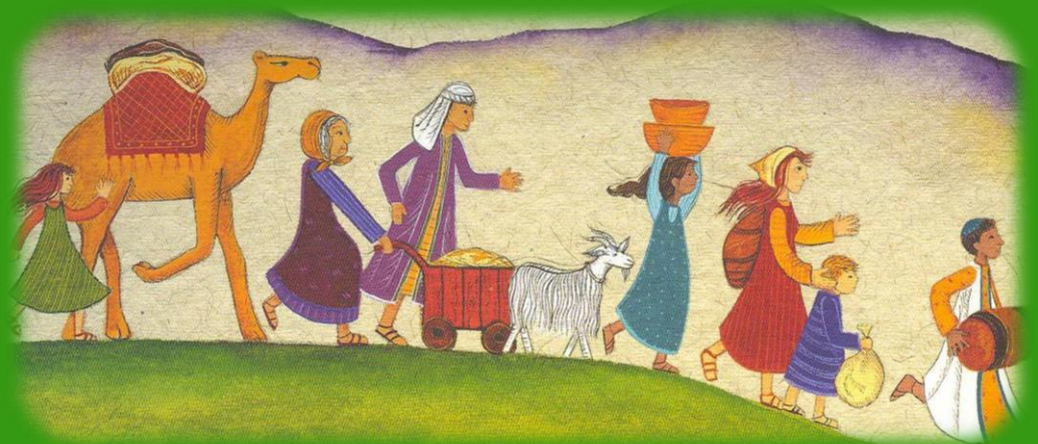
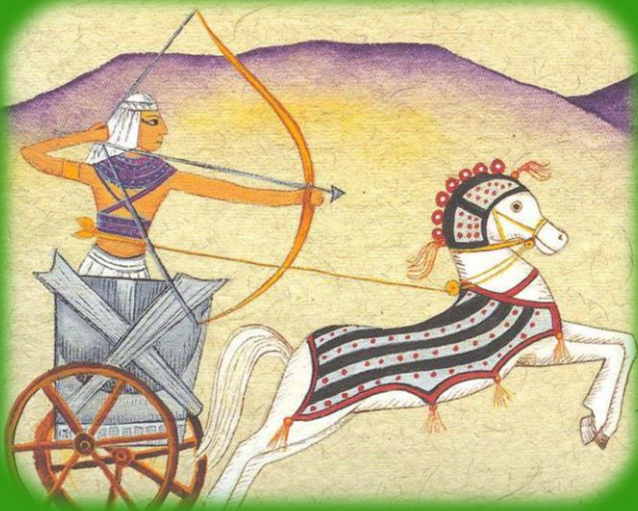
The Plagues

- The Jewish people prayed to God for help , and God sent a man named Moses to help free the Jewish people. Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Jewish people leave Egypt and go to Israel.
- Pharaoh refused to let the Jews go free, and G-d sent plagues-bad things- to Pharaoh and all of Egypt.
- As a result of these plagues, (frogs, boils, hail etc.) Pharaoh, at last, said that the Jews could leave Egypt and go to Israel.



Pharaoh Changes His Mind

- The Jews packed their clothes and food very quickly. They made dough, but they did not have time to bake the dough into bread. Instead, they carried the dough with them. The sun baked the dough into flat bread called Matzah. As the Jews were leaving Egypt, Pharaoh suddenly changed his mind. He decided that the Jews could not leave Egypt, because without the Jews, who would build his buildings? Pharaoh chased after the Jews.



Splitting of the Red Sea

- The Jews ran until they came to the Red Sea. G-d split open the sea so that the Jews could run through and escape from Egypt and Pharaoh. Once the Jewish people had reached the other side, G-d closed the sea, leaving Pharaoh on one side and the Jews on the other. At last, the Jewish people were free.



Introductory Activities: Passover Tasting Parties

- **Description of Activity**-Children will sample a variety of foods traditionally served at the seder. After sampling the foods, the children will vote on their favorites and complete several forms/questionnaires which will try to connect the “sampled foods” to their present day life



Dipping Vegetables in Salt Water

Materials Needed:

Pitcher of Water

Salt

Paper Bowls

Spoons

Variety of Vegetables (parsley, celery,
boiled potatoes, broccoli, etc.)

Questionnaire (see next slide) to complete after sampling the veggies.



Directions:

Pour water from a pitcher into a bowl

Add several spoonfuls of salt to the water in the bowl

Stir

Dip vegetables into the water

Remember to complete the questionnaire after you have tasted your vegetables

Sample Form to Complete After Dipping Vegetables in Salt Water

On Passover we dip vegetables in salt water. The vegetables remind us that spring has arrived-a time of growth and hope. The salt water serves as a reminder of the tears which were shed by the Jewish slaves as they worked for Pharaoh in Egypt



Of all the vegetables that I tasted, the one I liked the best was _____

A time when I felt very sad and cried was _____

If I had been a slave, one thing which would have made me cry would have been _____

One reason why I am happy that spring has come is _____

Sample Matzah- Muncher Questionnaire

- Of all the different kinds of Matzot (plural of matzah) that I tried, the kind I liked best was _____*



- Matzah is a type of bread which the Jews made very quickly as they were preparing to leave Egypt. Something which I am able to do very quickly is _____
- If I had been a slave in Egypt, one thing which I would have been sure to bring with me for my trip out of Egypt would have been _____

**Please note that according to most rabbinic authorities only the plain and shmurah variety of matzot are considered kosher for Passover and are allowed at the Passover seder. (The other matzot are designed for year-round , but not Passover, use)*

Sample Charoset Tasting Form

- Of all the types of charoset which I tasted, the kind I liked best was _____



- Charoset is meant to remind us of the mud which the Jewish slaves used as they built buildings and cities for Pharaoh.
- If I had worked as a slave in Egypt, I would have disliked _____

Charoset Recipes

Californian Charoset

(makes 2 cups of charoset)

2 apples, peeled and cut in eighths

2 pears, peeled and cut in eighths

1 c. almonds

1c. Dried cherries

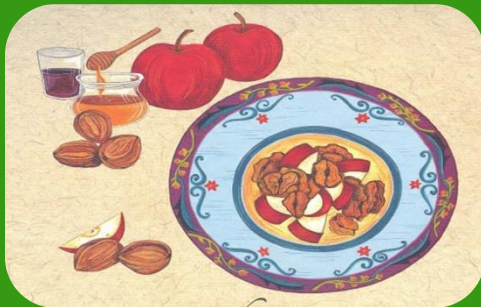
Lemon Juice to taste

1 teaspoon cinnamon

2-3 Tablespoons grape juice

Grind almonds and cherries in food processor.

Add remaining ingredients to processor and pulse until ingredients form a paste like consistency



Turkish Charoset

(makes 2 cups)

2 apples, peeled and cut into wedges

1 Tablespoon lemon juice

1 cup golden raisins

½ cup figs or figlets

¼ cup dried cherries

½ cup walnuts

½ cup almonds

1 Tablespoon brown sugar or honey

1 teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon ginger

2 Tablespoons grape juice

Grate almonds and walnuts in food processor; add remaining ingredients to processor and pulse until ingredients form a paste like consistency.

More Charoset Recipes

Date Charoset

(makes 1 cup)

½ pound pitted or chopped dates

1 cup golden raisins

½ cup wine

½ cup walnuts

1 teaspoon cinnamon

¼-1/2 cup sugar

Cook dates, raisins, and wine for 30-60 minutes in a saucepan on top of stove, until the wine has been absorbed and dates and raisins have grown plump and soft. Grate walnuts in food processor. Add cooked date and raisin mixture to processor. Add cinnamon and sugar. Grate again.



Ashkenazi Charoset

(makes 3 cups)

5 medium apples (either peeled or unpeeled)

2 cups walnuts

2-3 teaspoons cinnamon

2-3 tablespoons honey or sugar (optional)

½ to ¾ cup grape juice.

Grind nuts in processor (Turn processor on and off in 5 second pulses). Remove ground nuts and place in a bowl. Cut the apples in eighths. Process in about 3 batches –until they are ground in tiny pieces, but not pureed. Add apples to ground nuts. Add remaining ingredients.

A Moveable Tasting Crown: An Alternative Follow-Up to Passover Tasting Activities

Purpose

- Crowns serve as a physical reminder of some of the foods sampled earlier in the program
- Crowns will hopefully evoke additional conversations at home

Materials Needed for Matzah component of crown

Pieces of Matzah

Thin paper

Brown Crayons

Stapler (for attaching items to crown)

Directions: *Place paper on top of matzah.*

Color on paper.

Using a stapler connect paper matzah to crown



Additional Materials for Passover Crowns

How to make the Moveable Vegetable Portion of the Crown

Materials Needed:

Oak tag-(In preparation for the activity, cut out numerous bowl shapes, and celery stick shapes. Punch a small hole in the celery stick)

Glue and blue paint, mixed together

Salt shakers

Brass paper fasteners (to create a moveable celery stick which can be dipped into a bowl of salt water.)

Paint brushes or glue sticks

Directions:

Use paint/glue mixture to paint the top of the paper bowl

Sprinkle salt ton top of the glue/paint mixture

Color celery stalk

Attach stalk to crown using fastener

How to Make Apple/Charoset Portion of Crown

Materials Needed

Paper Apple Shapes

Red Dot Paint

Stapler

Directions:

Paint apple using dot paints

Using a Stapler , attach apple to crown



Helpful Hints for Making Charoset with Young Children

- Begin with a large bowl of pre-made charoset. Families will add their ingredients to existing charoset.
- Tasks which young children can assist in:
 - Chopping fruits (using plastic knives)
 - Grinding Nuts (place a handful of nuts in a plastic sandwich bag; ask children to pound on the bag with a hammer or a canned food item,)
 - Adding a pinch of spice
 - Adding a spoonful of liquid
 - Squeezing lemons or oranges



Before beginning to make charoset, use brown clay or playdough and wooden blocks to demonstrate how clay or mortar was used to bind bricks together.

Additional Introductory Activities: “Slave For A Day”

Goals of Slavery Activities:

- To help children better understand the concepts of slavery and freedom
- To enable children to feel as if they personally came out of Egypt
- To provide background information which will allow children to better understand both the Passover story and the PJ Library book which will be read at the program



Sample Introduction to Slavery Activities

Very soon we will be celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover. On Passover we remember that long, long ago, the Jewish people were forced to work as slaves for a mean king named Pharaoh. Do you know what a slave is? A slave is someone who must work very, very hard, often without being able to stop to rest, eat, play, or sleep. The Jewish slaves worked hard making and carrying heavy bricks and using these bricks to build castles, and pyramids (triangular shaped buildings) for Pharaoh. The Jewish people hated being slaves and they cried for help. Finally a Jewish man named Moses was able to convince Pharaoh to let the Jewish people go free and leave Egypt and travel to Israel. Later today, we'll learn a little more about the Passover story but right now, I wanted to give you a chance to see what it may have been like to be a slave. Please visit some of the stations that have been set up in our room. At one station, you will be able to dress up like a slave and carry and build with heavy bricks. At another station, you'll use clay and bricks to build pyramids, and at a third station, you'll have a chance to paint your own pyramids.

I've Been Working on The Pyramids

Materials Needed:

Scarves

Ties and/or head bands

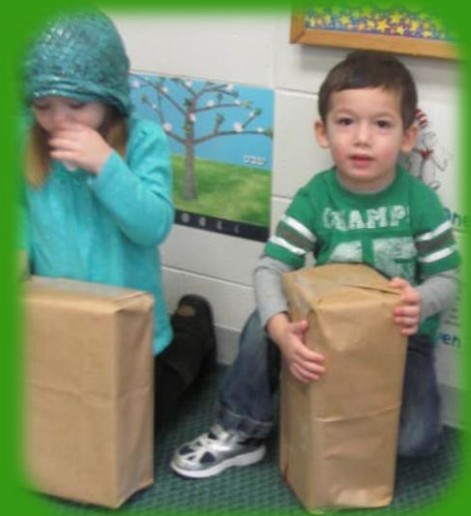
Shoe boxes

Weights or Bags of

Potatoes or Heavy Cans

Brown Butcher Block Paper

Packing Tape



Pyramid Building

Sugar Cube Pyramids

Materials Needed:

Clay (or brown play dough)

Wooden blocks or sugar cubes



Sponge Painting Pyramids

Materials Needed

Butcher block paper or poster board

Sponges (cut in small rectangular pieces)

Clothes pins

Bowls

Brown paint

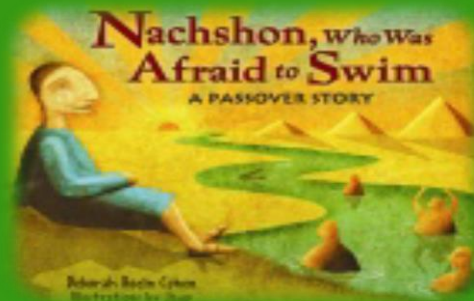


Introducing the Featured PJ Library Book

- Because the Passover/Exodus story plays such an important role in understanding the rituals of Passover, the reading of a specific PJ Library Book may play a as a more minor role in your program.
- Depending on ages and mood of audience, the book reading session will usually begin with a review of the Passover story
- Before reading the featured book, the group leader should try to connect the featured book to the introductory activities in which families have just participated

Forging a Connection Between PJ Library Books and Slavery Themes of Passover

- **Introduction to Nachshon Who Was Afraid to Swim**- By carrying heavy bricks (and making pyramids) we just had a chance to see what it was like to be a slave in Egypt . In the book which we are about to read, we're going to learn all about a boy named Nachshon and what it was like for him to live as a slave in Egypt. In addition to being a slave, Nachshon had one more difficulty which to face – He was afraid to swim. Let's read the book and find out how Nachshon was able to overcome his fear and become free.



Introduction to Kippi and the Missing Matzah By Louise Gikow

In this book Kippi is going to hold a seder for his friends on Sesame street.

At the Seder , Kippi will teach his friends all about the Passover story-He will describe how we were once slaves in Egypt and how we were finally able to leave Egypt and be free.

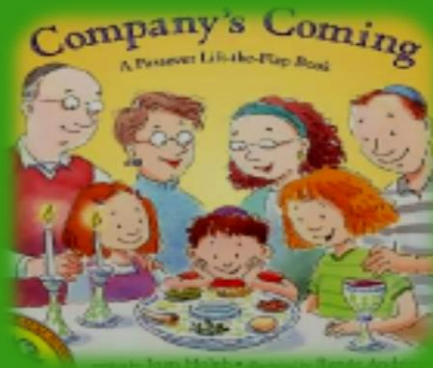
Before the Seder begins , Kippi discovers that their box of Matzah is missing.

Can they have a seder without Matzah ? Let's read our book and see if we can help Kippi and the Sesame Street gang find the missing Matzah.



Company's Coming

In Company's Coming by Joan Holub, we're going to join a family and their cute little cat as they sit down to eat their special Passover meal called a Seder. As we listen, we're going to learn that at the Seder we do many different things to help us remember what it was like to live as a slave in Egypt long ago.



Connecting Books To Tasting Activities

Introduction to Company's Coming and Kippi and the Missing Matzah- *We just had a chance to try some of the yummy foods which we traditionally eat on Passover. In our book, we're going to meet a family (or a group of Sesame Street Friends) who is(are) celebrating Passover by having a special meal called a Seder. Let's look and listen carefully and see if any of the foods in our book are similar to some of the foods which we just ate.*

Follow-up Craft Activities

- The following slides show just a small sampling of possible Passover craft activities.
- Each activity was selected for :
 - its simplicity
 - its ability to enhance the beauty of the Seder table and provoke discussion
 - its functional use

Afikoman Bags



More Afikoman Bags

Making of Afikoman bags can be followed by a game of search for the afikoman. Families may also be interested in sharing the way in which afikoman hunts are conducted in their homes.



Kiddish Cup/ Miriam's Cup



Matzah Box

- Begin with a piece of oak tag, or poster board 12 ½ inches by 12 ½ inches.
- Trace (or ask parents to trace) a 2 ½ inch margin around all sides. Crease edges and then unfold.
- Decorate both sides of board using dot paints
- Fold edges toward center
- Bring two ends together to form a triangle, and punch a hole in 2 " from corner.
- Tie with ribbon or pipe cleaner to secure the corners



Charoset/Salt Water Bowls

Materials Needed

clear plastic bowls

Modge podge

(or glue mixed with water)

Paint brushes

Tissue paper, cut or torn into
small pieces

Glitter (optional)



Charoet/Salt Water Bowls continued

Directions

- Spread modge podge on inside of bowl
- Cover with pieces of tissue paper
- Generously apply a coat of modge podge on top of tissue paper.
- Add glitter if desired.
- Allow to air dry.
- Use a clean , clear bowl inside
- modge podge decorated bowl



Matzah Covers

Materials Needed

- Cloth napkins
- Permanent marker
(for writing the word Matzah on napkin)
- Muffin trays
(useful for holding paints and Preventing spills)
- Food coloring diluted with water



Place Cards

Purpose of Making Place Cards- They emphasize the value of welcoming guests-hachnassat orchim (expressed in Passover Haggadah as *Ha Lachma Anya*-let all who are hungry come and eat)



Parent Friendly Passover Websites

- Kveller.com: a Jewish Twist on Parenting

<http://www.kveller.com/traditions/Holidays/Passover.shtml>

- My Jewish Learning.com

Within their Passover section, be sure to look at

[http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The Seder/Making the Seder Memorable.shtml](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The_Seder/Making_the_Seder_Memorable.shtml)

[http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The Seder/Making the Seder Memorable/Drama.shtml?HYJH](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The_Seder/Making_the_Seder_Memorable/Drama.shtml?HYJH)

[http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The Seder/Making the Seder Memorable/For Kids.shtml?HYJH](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The_Seder/Making_the_Seder_Memorable/For_Kids.shtml?HYJH)

Passover Websites for Parents continued

- Union for Reform Judaism

<http://urj.org/holidays/pesach/>

Some excellent places to search on the URJ Passover website include their section on songs

http://urj.org/kd/_temp/05819ADC-0365-29A1-6238A0EE22D2D5C1/HH_PassoverSongs_2008.pdf

And their seder for 4 and 5 year olds

http://urj.org/kd/_temp/D4545926-91C5-7124-018F4ADBC0DB7731/Pesach%20seder%20for%204s%20and%205s_20