

Temple Beth El - Passover Israel Supplement

Why Does This Year Still Feel So Different?

We had prayed that this year, Passover wouldn't feel so different. But unfortunately, as the conflict in Israel continues to rage on and rhetoric and disagreement stateside continues to intensify, a Passover of normalcy does not seem within our reach this year. Although October 7th occurred nearly a year and a half ago, the events of that day and the gut-wrenching aftermath are still on the forefronts of our hearts and minds.

As we come together to recount our journey to freedom, we also pray for the safe return of those held hostage and mourn for all those suffering in the conflict. Amid these divisions, many of us may worry that the conversations around our tables this year will continue to be fraught or even impossible. But now, more than ever, it is essential to engage in asking questions and to listen attentively to one another.

Shalom Bayit - For Gatherings Where a Difficult Israel Conversation Would Threaten Peace in the House:

When in the Book of Genesis God announces to the aged Abraham and Sarah that they will have a child, God hears Sarah laugh in disbelief: "Now that I am withered, and with my husband, so old?!" But careful to protect Abraham's feelings, God reports to Abraham only that Sarah referred to herself – not to her husband – as too old. God omits the full truth for the sake of Peace in the House/Shalom Bayit. Today, some of us for the sake of a joyful gathering with loved ones, may choose to give ourselves permission to omit - as God does in the story-- to not express every divisive truth. Value being kind to one another, listening to one another, and giving space for people to "agree to disagree."

Resources and Supplements: The readings included in these supplements can be woven throughout your seder so that our awareness—and our prayers—hold the hostages and innocent Palestinians in our hearts. While these resources were compiled last year, they remain relevant.

- [7 Ways to Address October 7th At Your Seder](#) (Kveller)
- [Central Conference of American Rabbis - Seder Supplement](#) (CCAR)
- [In Every Generation - A Seder Supplement](#) (Shalom Hartman Institute)
- [Seder Interrupted - A Post October 7th Seder Supplement](#) (Academy for Jewish Religion)
- [This Broken Matzah: Passover 2024 Supplement](#) (Bayit: Building Jewish)