

PASSOVER IN THE DESERT: A PERSONAL JOURNEY IN COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. **Carpools** – Remember to use this Google spreadsheet to find or offer a ride. **Many folks still need rides! Can you offer?** <http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=t5YQbBJE36OO9gn030B0cZQ&output=html>.
2. **Water and Plates/Utensils** – You must bring your own water. We recommend 8-10 gallons for the entire festival. Each person must also bring their own plate, bowl, mug, wine cup, and utensils. We will not be bringing extras.
3. **Communal Décor** – Please plan to bring cushions, tapestries, rugs, low tables, and pretty hanging things to help make our communal spaces space cozy and beautiful.
4. **Arriving** – The festival officially begins Thursday at 5 pm, but feel free to arrive earlier in the day on Thursday to settle in and/or help with set-up (much appreciated!). When you get there, you can register, set up your tent, and then join us for a delicious meal that will be kept hot throughout the evening!
5. **Stories** – Part of our Exodus journey will include exploring our ancestral stories. To prepare for this, we invite you to think of your family stories, your lineage, and any aspects of your ancestry that you may want explore or share. We also invite you to consider bringing other stories to tell around the fire that resonate with the themes of liberation and ancestral stories!
6. **Offerings for the Mizbeach (altar)** – If you wish, bring objects that have special meaning for you to place on the main altar, and ancestral photos or objects for the altar honoring our ancestors.
7. **Lemons** – If you have lemons from your backyard tree, please bring them, and let us know how many so we don't over-buy.
8. **Tribes** – Tribes are small groups that come together for specific aspects of the festival, including a designated “Tribe Time” each day and one meal preparation. It's a way for people to get to know each other, go deeper in our experiences with the comfort of a smaller group, and make communication more efficient Your Tribe Leader will be in touch with you soon via email to welcome your group before the festival begins and tell you about our annual tribal charoset-fest.

For information about food, kosher and kosher for Passover observance, the location, facilities, and your role in the community, please check out our website at www.WildernessTorah.org.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Celebrating Our Liberation, Remembering our Ancestral Stories

Passover in the Desert is a journey in community, designed to help you connect more deeply with yourself, with the community, with the earth and with Spirit. During Tribe time, and in Sharing Circles, you will be invited to explore questions related to liberation and our ancestors. Prior to arriving in the desert, we invite you to think about the following questions... write about these questions in your journal or, simply talk about them with friends on your pilgrimage (i.e., car ride) to the desert.

Mitzrayim – The Narrow Places in Our Lives

- Are you faced with challenging situations in your life that are sources of fear, anxiety or discomfort?
- What are these, and how might you begin to address them?
- What might be stopping you from fully doing, feeling or being your full self?
- What would it take for you to be more free and joyful in your life? What could you let go of?

Parting the Red Sea – A Way to Liberation

- What support from our desert community could help you pass through your narrow places?
- What might this liberated place look and feel like for you?
- How might your own personal “liberation” facilitate or add to a more collective liberation?

Wandering the Desert – The Journey in Community

- What could help you nurture your connection to yourself in the desert?
- What could you ask for to be fully supported by the community? What would have you feel more connected to the community?
- What would be a good rhythm for your time in the desert?
- What gift(s), big or small, might you offer the community in the desert?

Remembering our Ancestors – Ancestral Stories

- What are some of your family stories? Where is your family from? What have they lived through?
- Does your own history tie into the collective Jewish story of slavery and liberation? If so, how?
- Are there any stories you might share as a way of honoring your ancestors?

PACKING LIST

Essential Items:

- Your own plate, bowl, mug, wine cup, and utensils
- 8-10 gallons of water, more if you plan to bring a solar shower

Optional Items You Might Not Have Thought Of:

- Something to read
- A journal to write or draw in
- Camera
- A pillow for sleeping
- A camping chair
- Your personal snacks (please store at your tent)
- Yoga Mat
- A solar shower
- Sandals

Optional Ritual Items:

- Your siddur if you use one
- Objects that have special meaning for you to place on the main *mizbeach* (altar)
- Ancestral pictures and objects for the *mizbeach* (altar) for ancestors
- Musical instruments/drums
- Your favorite Haggadah (for ideas for the Tribal Seder)
- Stories and poems for around the fire (especially related to ancestors)

Communal Items:

- Decorations for the Tent of Meeting and Ritual Space - tapestries, rugs, pillows, pretty things that hang, flags, etc. Our communal spaces will only be as beautiful as we make them!
- Food from your fruit tree or garden (let us know in advance if you can bring some)
- Anything else you'd like to offer the group

Personal and Camping Gear:

- Warm Jacket

- Fleece or Sweater (not cotton)
- Thermal underwear (not cotton)
- Warm socks (not cotton)
- Hiking boots or shoes
- Comfortable shoes
- Short-sleeved shirts (at least one not cotton)
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Long pants
- Comfy, warm clothes to sleep in
- Comfy, loose clothes to lounge in
- Rain pants
- Rain jacket with hood
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Underwear
- Gloves (not cotton)
- Winter hat and scarf
- Bandana or kerchief
- Sleeping bag (rated 20 degrees or below)
- Sleeping pad (thermarest, ensulite, or other)
- Tent, ground cover, and rain fly
- Stakes and hammer to stake down your tent (trust us)
- 2 1-liter water bottles (nalgene or similar)
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm with SPF
- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc.
- Flashlight and/or headlamp and extra batteries
- Any medications you need
- Small daypack
- Plastic/paper bags to pack out your personal garbage
- A roll of toilet paper
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Personal first aid kit (band-aids, pain reliever, Neosporin, aloe vera, stuff for blisters, etc)

DIRECTIONS FROM THE LOS ANGELES AREA

**Ridgecrest is a good place to buy last minute stuff*

Take **I-5 N** toward **Sacramento**

Take the **State Route 14 N** exit toward **Palmdale/Lancaster**
0.6 mi

Merge onto **CA-14 N** 69.0 mi

Turn **right** at **CA-14 N/Midland Trail** Continue to follow
CA-14 N 44.4 mi

Slight **right** at **CA-178 E/W Inyokern Rd** 12.2 mi

Turn **right** at **N China Lake Blvd** (signs for **State Route 178/Trona**) 2.0 mi

Turn **left** at **CA-178 E/E Ridgecrest Blvd** Continue to follow
CA-178 E 16.7 mi

Continue onto **Trona Rd** 9.6 mi

Continue onto **Trona Wildrose Rd** 19.1 mi

Turn **right** at **Ballarat Rd** 3.6 mi

From the ghost town of Ballarat (no services):

Turn **Left** at Indian Ranch Road. Drive 1.9 miles.

Turn **Right** on to Surprise Canyon Road at the white rock marked with a red S7 on it.

We will set up our camp .4 miles from Indian Ranch Road.

