



What a year it's been. In the time since we last celebrated Passover, we've experienced a year-long global pandemic; a civil rights and social justice revolution the likes of which haven't been seen in generations; attacks against our democratic institutions, including widespread voter suppression and a deadly insurrection against the U.S. Capitol and the peaceful transition of power; and history-making elections that flipped the Senate blue by way of Georgia and the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

Indeed, the soul of our nation is beginning to heal.

***But the work is far from over.***

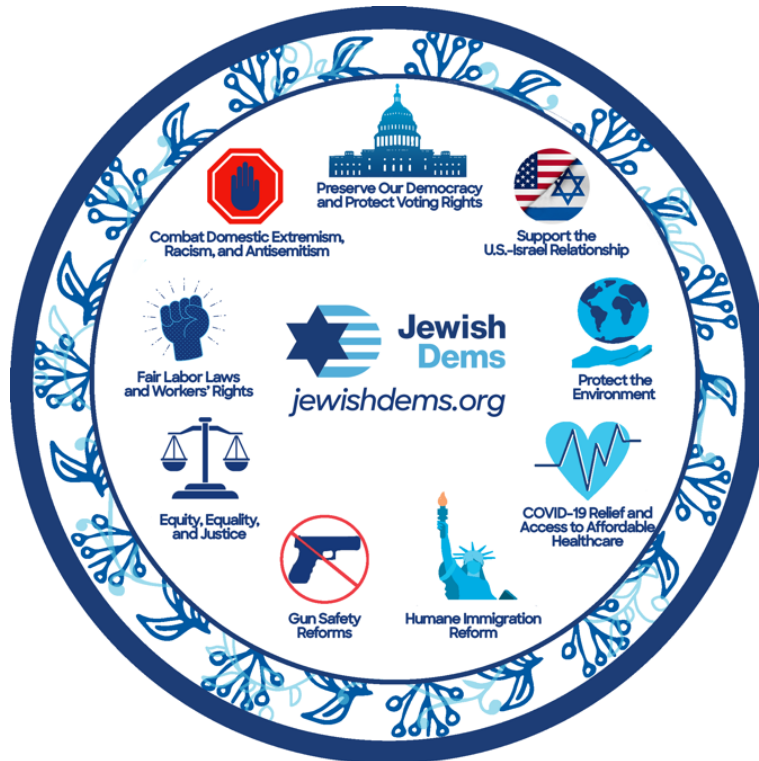
According to our tradition, Passover is when Jews around the world tell the story of the Exodus, "as if we ourselves were slaves in Egypt." We do this by gathering with friends and loved ones — using symbols and rituals, readings and songs — so that we may recognize the "Egypt(s)" around us and do something about it.

As we come together for another year of virtual seders, we encourage you to use the *Jewish Dems Passover Companion* alongside your Haggadah as a way to spark conversations around some of the most pressing issues of our time— we've included nine of our issue priorities on the seder plate below. Then, we hope you'll take action with JDCA by visiting [jewishdems.org](http://jewishdems.org).

From everyone here at JDCA, we wish you a happy, healthy, and action-oriented Passover.

Chag Sameach!

The Jewish Democratic Council of America



## Reflecting on the year of the pandemic

On Passover we look back at our bondage and we look forward towards our liberation. Egypt in Hebrew is "*Mitzrayim*," translated as "Narrow Places." **As we reflect on this past year, what were the "narrow places" we faced as individuals and as a society?**

We stand on the shoulders of others – we must remember all of those who we have lost this year. As we reflect, we honor the memories of two civil rights heroes: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Representative John Lewis. In the Torah, Moses passed away right before the Jews made it into Israel, but he had been responsible for leading the Jewish people out of their oppression from Egypt. Representative John Lewis and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent their lives fighting for civil rights, and passed away as our country is turning towards a reckoning. **Who in your life are you carrying the torch for? What does it mean for the next generation to take the baton?**

This year we sing *Dayenu* to mark our thanks for all we have experienced, fought for, and accomplished.

If we had just taken back the House in 2018...

***DAYENU!***

If we had just won back the Senate...

***DAYENU!***

If we had just won back the White House...

***DAYENU!***

# The Four Questions

**1. Matzah:** The Israelites didn't have time to let the bread rise as they fled from the Egyptians. Survival is about taking bold action. The Israelites had to act quickly and had no time for their bread to rise as they fled from the Egyptians. As Joe Biden faces this public health virus, he too is taking fast and bold action by passing the American Rescue Plan, the largest piece of anti-poverty legislation in a generation.

**What are challenges that you have faced in your personal life that required stepping up and acting fast? What are some of today's challenges that need to be addressed by bold action?**

**2. Bitter herbs:** As we remember the bitter conditions of the slaves in Egypt, we must also recognize the bitter difficulties minorities too often face in America. With Asian hate on the rise and the continued suffering of the Black community from systemic racism and police brutality, it is our responsibility to stand against these injustices. To take action with JDCA, visit [jewishdems.org/action](http://jewishdems.org/action).

**How can Jews stand with other minorities in the face of oppression?**

**3. The freedom to dip twice:** Dipping twice is an expression of our freedom from bondage. The wave of voting restrictions put forward by the GOP is testing freedom and democracy in this country. The events of January 6th showed us that being free means we have a responsibility to protect the institutions that maintain freedom for all.

**What steps can we take to protect the freedom of others, like the right to vote? What does it mean to be free? Does freedom come with responsibility?**

**4. Reclining, a luxurious act:** We know that in tight races, the Jewish vote can make the difference. Since 2018 the Jewish Democratic Council of America has helped Democrats flip the House, Senate and White House. It took every volunteer, and every vote, to restore the soul of our nation. **Tonight, let us recline and celebrate the fruits of our labor.**

# Four cups of wine

The four cups of wine represent four ways we experienced deliverance when God led us out of Egypt. **What are ways in which we have been delivered when we advocate for our Jewish and Democratic values?**



The creation of the COVID-19 vaccines, in less than a year, was a miracle of science and ingenuity. Doctors and scientists are delivering us to safety.



President Biden's leadership has led to unprecedented scientific and business collaboration and is delivering us to life without this horrible pandemic.



The American Rescue Plan will cut child poverty by nearly 50% and will help American families struggling the most to navigate the pandemic.



Democrats are fighting to deliver democratic reforms and to fight Republican attempts to suppress our right to vote and our access to the ballot box.

# The Four Children: The Four Approaches to Political Activism

## **The Wise Child: Spreading truth and facts to the ignorant.**

We are living in a world where right wing propaganda and dangerous conspiracy theories are attacking basic truths and facts. We need to restore shared understanding of the truth and push back against misinformation. We must replace ignorance with education.

## **The Wicked Child: Pushing back against the politics of exclusion.**

The Republican Party has made official policy out of excluding voters from the electoral process. We should strive to create a country where citizens feel included, and that can only happen with racial justice and combating systemic racism. Our democracy works best when every American has access to the ballot.

Dr. Fauci has explained what divisiveness in our country has done to our pandemic response. *"We are fighting a war with our hands tied behind our back."* Exclusionary politics has made this pandemic worse. Just as the wicked child says this is 'your' service and not 'ours,' many people in this country have felt the pandemic is not their problem.

## **The Simple Child: Educate and empower citizens to seek help.**

As politically active citizens, it is imperative that we spread the facts about the important legislation Democrats are passing. Americans must know what benefits they get from legislation like the American Rescue Plan and the For the People Act. It is our job to educate those seeking information.

## **The Child Who Doesn't Know How to Ask: Asking hard questions.**

In order to create change and to repair the world, we must know how to ask the hard questions. Having conversations about racism, privilege, and inequality in America are vital to creating a more just and equitable society.