



**Jewish Democratic
Council of America**

JEWISH DEMS PASSOVER SEDER COMPANION

Brought to you by the Jewish Democratic Council of America, the only national organization combining Jewish values advocacy with a Democratic political agenda.

In the year since we last celebrated Passover, we've seen how Democratic leadership can change the direction of our country, help to end a pandemic and deliver relief and opportunity for Americans.

President Biden and Democrats are leading our economy out of the pandemic, overseeing the creation of nearly eight million jobs. The unemployment rate continues to drop below pre-pandemic levels, historic investments are being made in our future economic success, and Democrats are leading with moral clarity aligned with our values.

President Biden's American Rescue Plan provided \$1.9 trillion in COVID-19 relief. His Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invested \$1.2 trillion in America's crumbling infrastructure. The Democratic Senate confirmed the appointment of the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Progress is being made, and there's more to come.

Democrats are delivering - but our work is far from over.

In Ukraine, we're witnessing the largest land war and refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. 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, so that we may appreciate our freedom and ensure it for others. This year, our *Jewish Dems Passover Companion* includes reflections on Ukraine and the loss of thousands of innocent lives.

We encourage you to use this companion alongside your Haggadah as a way to spark conversations about how President Biden and Democrats are delivering for Americans, and what we can do to support the Ukrainian people and others in need in their fight for security and freedom. We also hope you'll take action with JDCA by visiting [jewishdems.org](https://www.jewishdems.org) to advocate for values and help us elect candidates who share our values today.

JDCA wishes you Chag Pesach Sameach - a happy Passover.

Ha Lachma Anya!

הָא לַחְמַא עֲנִיא

Let all who are hungry come and eat!

A note from Rabbi Joel Simonds, JDCA Next Generation Leadership Council

Each year, we begin our Seder with these beautiful words. As we gaze upon the table, set with Passover delicacies, surrounded by family and friends, we take a moment to give thanks for our abundance and to recognize those who are less fortunate than us. Just as we break a glass at the end of a wedding ceremony to remind us that at the height of our joy we should also remember that there is brokenness in the world, we must never forget our collective responsibility to care for those in need.

To tell the story of the Exodus is to tell the story as if we were coming out of Egypt ourselves. How, too, can we not see the faces of our parents, grandparents, and relatives reflected in the images of Ukrainians fleeing their homes to safety? As Jewish Americans, their stories are *our* stories, and we must do everything in our power to welcome Ukrainian refugees as they resettle and help the Ukrainian people now and in the days to come.

Let us enter this Passover with prayers for peace, safety, and security for all. May we build a society that protects the vulnerable and work toward a time when “nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.”

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

If Democrats just passed the American Rescue Plan...

DAYENU!

If President Biden just signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law...

DAYENU!

If the Senate just Confirmed Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson...

DAYENU!

The Four Questions

1. Matzah: 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. Vladimir Putin's unconscionable assault on Ukraine has forced over 4 million people to flee their homes. Many have had to act quickly and take bold action to survive.

How would you react if you were forced to flee your home tomorrow? What would you take with you, and what bold actions would you take to survive? How can we support the Ukrainian people facing this tragic reality?

2. Bitter Herbs: As we remember the bitter conditions of the slaves in Egypt, we also recognize the bitter conditions around the globe, including in our own country. War, systemic racism, police brutality, right-wing extremism, and economic inequities plague us. It is our responsibility to stand against these injustices and fight for freedom.

What are the steps Jews can take to stand with marginalized groups and individuals 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 and election subversion efforts proposed and, in some cases passed, by Republicans are restricting democracy. The events of January 6 showed us that being free does not mean we are free from threats to our democracy, and we all have a responsibility to protect and defend our democracy and freedom, including the right to vote.

What can you do to help protect the freedom of all Americans to vote?

4. Reclining: We know that in tight races the Jewish vote can make a 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 by electing President Biden, but of course, our work is not done. In just seven months, our country will face another pivotal election, and the future of our democracy is on the ballot.

Tonight, let us recline - let's "lean left!" - to celebrate the fruits of our labor and commit to taking action to protect our democracy and the Democratic House and Senate majorities in November.

Four cups of wine

The four cups of wine represent the four ways by which we experienced deliverance when we were led out of Egypt. **How have we been delivered when we advocate for our Jewish and Democratic values?**



Democrats understood that America returning to normal required combatting the pandemic and getting Americans vaccinated. Thanks to President Biden's leadership, over 77% of Americans have received at least one dose of the vaccine.



President Biden's leadership has led to unprecedented investments in American families and our nation's infrastructure. The benefits of the American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan will be felt for generations to come.



Last May, President Biden and House Democrats acted quickly to ensure \$1 billion for Israel to replenish Iron Dome. But for 6 months, Sen. Rand Paul blocked it and GOP leadership refused to stop him. Thanks to Democrats' leadership, the funds were recently approved.



President Biden promised that we would nominate the first black woman to the Supreme Court. Promises made, promises kept. The confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was a historic victory for all Americans, and Justice Jackson represents our values.

The Four Children: Four Approaches to Political Activism

The Wise Child: Spreading truth and facts.

We are living in a world where right-wing propaganda and dangerous conspiracy theories are denying basic facts. Putin's propaganda has even found its way to Fox News' airwaves. We need to restore a shared understanding of the truth and push back against misinformation. We must replace ignorance with education, and that starts with educating and imparting our values to our children.

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

Many in the Republican Party have embraced extremism and made excluding voters from the electoral process their official policy. We should strive to create a country where citizens feel included, where their voices are heard and votes are counted. Our democracy works best when every American has access to the ballot.

The Simple Child: Educating and empowering citizens to seek help.

As politically active citizens, it is imperative that we spread the facts. People must know how President Biden and Democrats are delivering for Americans with legislation like the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and – all too often, including in the case of voting rights – Republicans are obstructing progress.

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

In order to create change and repair the world, we must know how to ask hard questions. Discuss social, racial, and economic justice in America, and do your part to ensure a more just and equitable society, including by advocating with Jewish Dems.



Reflecting on ‘Narrow Places’

On Passover, we look back at our bondage and we look forward to our liberation. *Mitzrayim*, the Hebrew word for Egypt, also means ‘narrow places’ — the idea that we came from the narrow places of our enslavement. Reflecting on this idea:

We asked members of the JDCA community to reflect on this idea and asked, What are the narrow places in which we are currently residing, and how, as Jewish Democrats, can we help each other emerge?

“We must cherish our freedom and fight to maintain democracy, both at home and abroad. Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissman Klein z”l, who spent six years in concentration camps, taught us to never take our freedom for granted. This Passover we are called upon to act to preserve democracy and freedom around the world.”

“Pesach is a time for strength and affirmation. JDCA’s work guiding us to build a more perfect union and to provide a platform for our values has created a roadmap out of ‘narrow spaces’ and gives us the chance to support our democratic institutions.”

“Today’s journey across the wilderness includes rejecting the idolatry of conspiracy theories and the golden calf of insurrectionism. Just as the Israelites had to receive the Torah to live free in a promised land, our fate remains tied to strong democratic institutions, pluralism, and ethical justice.”

“We cannot allow ourselves to stay in a narrow, dark place heading into the midterms. To bend the moral arc toward justice, as Jewish Democrats, we will use the power of organized outrage, effective storytelling, and amplifying Democrats’ successes. I hope you’ll join me in getting involved with JDCA to support candidates who share our values of dignity and democracy.”

“I find myself living in a ‘narrow space’ as a Jewish American living in an area with a very small Jewish population. Working with JDCA, I have been led out of the ‘narrow space’ and into a powerful community. As Jewish Democrats, we espouse our strong values that better our democracy and our country. The work ahead of us to deliver us from the ‘narrow spaces’ of a slim congressional majority will be partnered with our goal to continually grow our bonds in the Jewish community.”

Shaping the Future

Each year, we complete the Passover Seder by reflecting upon where we will be next year at this time. Next year, we will be a few months removed from the 2022 midterm elections. That means **now** is the time to shape our future and make sure that, next year at this time, we can celebrate holding the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate.

What actions will we take in the coming days and months to ensure that our country is more equitable, just, and safe for all people?

How will you take action to help Democrats win in November?

Together, we can shape what “next year” looks like. We hope you will do so by joining JDCA, and taking our voices and values to Congress next month for our Week of Action, May 11-12. [Join us by signing up here.](#)

Thank you for welcoming us into your homes and as part of your Seder. We encourage you to visit www.jewishdems.org to learn more about all of our policy priorities and how you can join us as we work towards a better future for us all.

Chag Pesach Sameach!