

# PASSOVER

## A GUIDE FOR COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Hillel**  
Q u e e n s

PASSOVER 2025  
SAT. 4/12 - SUN. 4/20

With good food, good drink, an epic story, and raucous conversation, no wonder Passover is the most celebrated Jewish holiday in the world.

**This year, Passover begins on the evening of April 12nd, and ends on April 20th.**

Here are some common Passover customs and rituals, including some helpful hints for those who want to support Jewish students and faculty during Passover this year:



## SUPPORTING STUDENTS & FACULTY DURING PASSOVER

### Be Aware of Passover Time

**It is Spring Break but just in case! Avoid scheduling important meetings, classes, or due dates on April 12, 13, 14, 19, or 20.** These are the most important days of Passover this year. Some students and faculty may not be able to teach or attend class on these days in order to observe the holiday according to their religious practices on these days.

### Notice Your Menu

It is customary to avoid eating “leavened” food during Passover. This includes bread, pasta, and other grains. **Some folks will only eat certified “kosher for Passover” items during Passover.** If you center your classes, meetings or activities around sharing food, consider offering whole, fresh fruit as an option.

### Ask Questions

A component of Passover is question-asking. If you’d like to learn more about Passover from Jewish students or faculty, ask from a place of openness and curiosity. **Our campus community is made up of Jewish students and faculty from different ethnic communities and from different communities of religious practice - what might be true for one person about how they celebrate Passover, may not be the same for another.**

**Every year, Jewish people tell and re-tell the miraculous story of the enslaved Israelites' exodus from Egypt during a festive meal called a Seder (Say-der).** In Hebrew, Seder means order. In other words, a Seder is a structured, home-based ritual that combines a series of choreographed rituals with education, food, singing and storytelling, all in a particular order of stage directions. Intentionally designed to engage people of all ages, Seders are held on the first and second night of Passover.



**Seders will be held the evenings of Monday 4/12 and Tuesday 4/13 this year!**

## SOME PASSOVER THEMES

### Sacred Eating

It wouldn't be a Jewish holiday without tons of great food! Jews all over the world celebrate Passover with special dishes unique to their family traditions. Some Passover foods hold special ritual significance, such as matza (maht-sah, a flat, cracker-like bread), charoset (kha-ro-set, a paste made from dried fruits, wine, and nuts), and bitter herbs like parsley.

### Cleansing

Spring-cleaning is an important theme of Passover. Many people ritually deep clean their homes, cars, and offices in preparation for the holiday. Additionally, many folks view Passover as an invitation to do “spiritual spring cleaning” designed to help us release what hasn't served us over the last year, and to make room for new blessings.

### Justice

Passover is an opportunity to reflect on our personal relationships to freedom, liberation, and systems of oppression. We pose questions such as, “In what ways do I - or others in my community - continue to seek full freedom and liberation?” Or, “What responsibilities come with the freedoms I enjoy?”

### Friends & Family

Friends and family: Like most Jewish holidays, Passover is typically celebrated together with the people closest to us. Together, we delight in conversation, singing, enjoying good food, and storytelling.