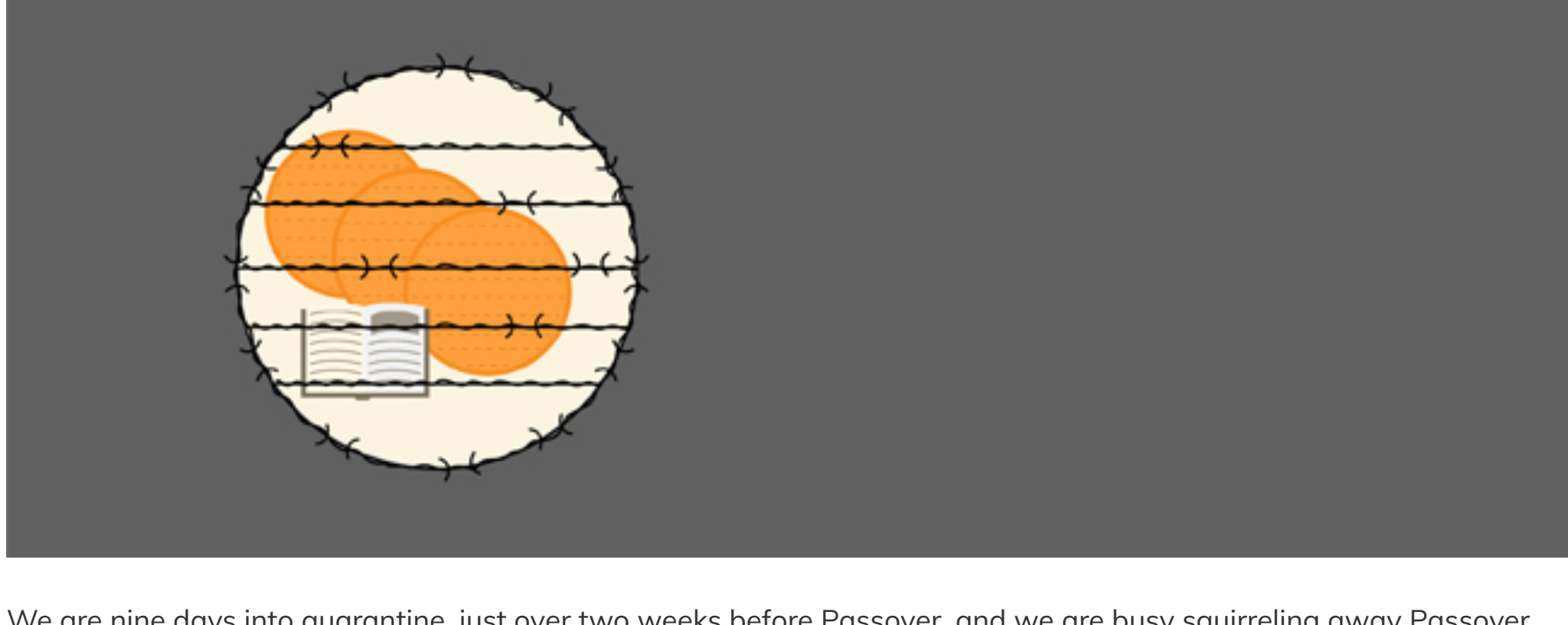


Jewish Practice > Jewish Holidays > Passover > Coronavirus Passover Resources

When I Begin to Worry About Passover in Quarantine...



We are nine days into quarantine, just over two weeks before **Passover**, and we are busy squirreling away **Passover** supplies in the basement. **Matzah**, paper goods, pots, pans, oil . . . a veritable Passover store has sprung up in the spare bedroom.

Yet, even with a houseful of goods, I cannot tell you that we are comfortable about this Passover. What emotional state will we be in by the time Passover eve arrives? Will the kids have the patience to sit through the **Seder**? Will the parents?

How can we celebrate our freedom when we are cooped up, prisoners in our own homes, held hostage by an invisible virus?

What kind of Passover will it be? Will it even be Passover?

And then I think of **Grandma** and **The Matzah**.

Like us, she is cooped up in her house. Thank G-d, she is surrounded by loving children and grandchildren (including some who live downstairs from her). Although they are not visiting her, they are dropping off food and other supplies outside her door to make sure she has everything she needs.

Grandma is a childhood survivor of Stalin and Hitler. Here is one anecdote that I have heard from her on many occasions: The Matzah.

That's right. I just ordered several pounds of matzah to carry our family through the eight-day holiday.

But in Grandma's childhood, a family was lucky if they got their hands on a single matzah, which they could carefully hide until Passover.

It happened one year, as Hitler's noose was tightening around Moscow, that Grandma's father came home with a treasure: a matzah, which he immediately tied up in a clean pillowcase and hung up in a safe place, where neither mice nor neighbors (they lived in a shared apartment) would touch it.

As the Nazis advanced even closer, the family picked up and evacuated to Siberia, taking The Matzah with them.

Papa's matzah was safe. But he didn't factor in his hungry children.

While he went off to work, Grandma and her two brothers sat at home, whiling away the time and trying to stave off the pangs of hunger.

Yes, they were hungry. A recurring fantasy they would enjoy was the pleasure of walking into an entire room filled with loaves of bread, which they could eat, one after another, until they could eat no more.

Now that The Matzah entered their lives, the fantasy took on another dimension. Instead of just talking about eating and feeling the saliva pool in their mouths, they could touch The Matzah through the fine linen pillowcase, running their fingers over its bumpy surface, imagining its crispy, grainy, burnt flavor.

Then Passover eve finally arrived, and it came time to open the pillowcase. But when that happened, The Matzah was gone. In its place, there was a pile of matzah crumbs, the result of unending "feeling" on the part of three hungry children, who were stuck at home all day in an apartment while their father worked hard to bring home food for them to eat.

Their **Seder** consisted of boiled potatoes and matzah crumbs. The dry crumbs satisfied not only their hunger for food, but for a holiday and a chance to live freely as Jews.

They had nothing. Not a home of their own, not an extra penny to purchase an apple, not even the freedom to worship as Jews. Yet, they celebrated Passover joyously with the little they had.

So as I prepare for Passover, I look back at Grandma's childhood, and I realize that I have so much to be grateful for.

Yes, my kids are home all day, but they are home because their family and their government are trying to protect them. And their dedicated teachers have provided them with enough online lessons to keep them productive and stimulated all day long.

Yes, we cannot go out and shop as we usually would, but our grocery stores are well stocked (except, of course, if you are looking for toilet paper or eggs), and online delivery services work relatively well.

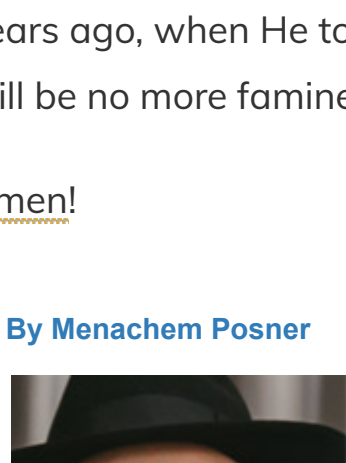
Yes, we fear what tomorrow may bring, but we live in a loving, kind world, where people are banding together to combat the common enemy, not each other.

But the world is not perfect. Grandma's mother died during those terrible years in Moscow, perhaps because she had no food, and perhaps because she needed medicine. The fact is she left this world in her twenties, during a time of hardship, and her three little orphans grew up without a mother to shield them from the harsh realities of totalitarianism and war. And the fact is that people are dying right now due to coronavirus.

And that is why we must lift our voices and pray to G-d that He complete the redemption process He began so many years ago, when He took us out of Egypt. May we merit the coming of **Moshiach**, who will usher in an era when there will be no more famine, no more suffering and no more illness.

Amen!

By **Menachem Posner**



Rabbi Menachem Posner serves as staff editor at Chabad.org, the world's largest Jewish informational website. He has been writing, researching, and editing for Chabad.org since 2006, when he received his rabbinic degree from Central Yeshiva Tomchei Temimim Lubavitch. He resides in Chicago, Ill., with his family.

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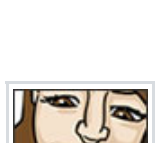
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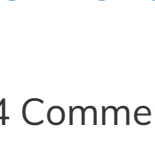


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Share your constructive comments or questions



Max Slater UK
A very heart warming article, a lovely gift to us all to share.

[Reply](#)

April 4, 2020



Eileen Sichel Washington, D.C.
Thank you, Rabbi Posner for this inspiring and beautifully written article.

[Reply](#)

April 3, 2020



Martin Glazer Los Angeles
Great article.

[Reply](#)

April 2, 2020



Anonymous
Does anyone think of single people living alone? You bet I'll be skipping this Passover instead of talking to myself, making dinner for one and being constantly reminded of family either far away or passed on. I don't feel sorry for those of you who have family to celebrate with. Most of the people I love most dearly are not alive.

[Reply](#)

April 2, 2020

Rishe Limbo

in response to Anonymous:
You are so right, it's lousy. Let's talk on the phone at least! Ask chabad.org for my info if you would like to be friends.

[Reply](#)

April 3, 2020

Cati Florida

in response to Anonymous:
In Response To Anonymous:
We're all in this together to stay alive.
It's temporary.
🇺🇸 Israel is on Lockdown.
As sad as it is or may seem,
We are really not all alone and by ourselves.....

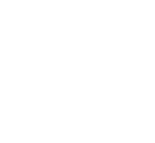
As my Wise Savta would always say and reassure me about: This is the harsh realities of life ~ is like a 🚧, but there's always Ohr / Light at the end of the tunnel (my Savta / Bubbe / Grandmother would say to me)....."Keep your head up, keep fighting, don't give up, there is always light at the end of the tunnel, and your struggles will only make you better and stronger in the end." ❤️

I chose to donate to help others, and this helps me feel better, even though I am home all alone with out my Kosher for Pesach Matzo, my Wine and my Seder food for Pesach. Baruch Hashem that we are still alive and have Hashem and each other.

By me wishing you "Mazel Tov", I am wishing you the chance to grow, to rise above your own situation, and to create a "Mazel Tov", a good situation, for yourself. 🍀🙏🥰

[Reply](#)

April 8, 2020



David Miami
Outstanding
We refuse to complain bc if we do we disgrace our history.

[Reply](#)

March 30, 2020



Chaya HENDERSON
Let us celebrate our liberation from back breaking and death inducing slavery. At the same time let this in the year of Covid-10 be as Seder that will be more poignant in that we will recall our deliverance from pestilence. While all around us in Egypt were dying from the pestilence from the hand of G-D we can hope for our continued deliverance from pestilences that afflict the world.

[Reply](#)

March 30, 2020

I will be eating my Matzah which we are taught is the bread of healing as well as the bread of faith knowing that my life is in the hands of the almighty. True health and true life for me is beyond the physical. Some may not hold onto life in the physical but we can all be assured that we will this Passover as we partake of the Matzah be holding onto our spiritual health and life into eternity.

[Reply](#)

I wish all that read this only goodness and long life. May we see the ultimate redemption and realize that we are blessed to see another Pesach.

[Reply](#)



S UK
Many blessings come from adversity. Now is a time when readers can enjoy the wonderful stories and articles, such as this one, online and not be concerned about travel or work. Undertaking a mitzvah by helping a neighbour in need, because we are not too busy.

[Reply](#)

March 30, 2020

Getting to know our lives ones better, rather than focus on routines. Sitting down a talking, rather than be busy, busy, busy.

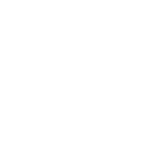
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Passover, yes it would be nice to celebrate with friends extended families or neighbours. Show Hashem, irrespective of adversity and maybe isolation, every effort to fulfil His will is more important to us than worldly matters. It is these times, when in the face of adversity we smile with grace, that will bring Moschiach speedily.

[Reply](#)

The Rebbe said, we are never truly alone. Remember every effort now in this world will be your grace in the world to come.

[Reply](#)



Anonymous NY
Nice to see Moshich in this article! I sometimes forget.

[Reply](#)

March 30, 2020



Chava
Amen!
Spot on.
Very special article, thank you.

[Reply](#)

March 28, 2020



Ed Netherlands
Question

[Reply](#)

March 27, 2020

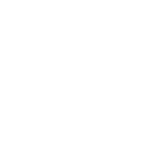
If people who traveling or have to stay at home now in the world. And they are not allowed to move and stuck in there house in places because of the Covid-19 virus crisis.

And the Tora tells us in this case in Numbers 9 till 11 free translated :

if you can not celebrate Pesach because you are touch a dead body or traveling. Then it's written, you can and may celebrate Pesach next second month of the year at same time and date.

Can those people who overcome such a moment. Having there Pesach a month later on 14 on the next month ? I'm just a reader of the Words of HaShem

[Reply](#)



Kati Tzfat
Beautiful! Thank You!

[Reply](#)

March 26, 2020



Rishe Deitsch Limbo
Thank you, Rabbi Posner! Heartwarming and inspirational!

[Reply](#)

March 24, 2020

PASSOVER

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