

NOT YOUR MOTHER'S MAXWELL HOUSE SEDER

This year, the Shoreline Women's Seder will again be held at Temple Beth Tikvah in Madison, March 18, 2012. But a lot has changed. This is not your mother's Maxwell House Seder! It's not even the same Women's Seder we've done in the past.

Our fresh approach to the ancient story will include many new elements:

- A new Haggadah
- A new leader – TBT's Cantor in residence Nancy Ginsberg
- A new focus on incorporating our own poignant Passover stories into the Seder alongside the traditional stories and rituals (see registration form for details about how to share your story)
- A new round table seating arrangement to encourage our theme of "unify"
- A new way to honor our ancestors and special women in our lives (you will have the opportunity to display their name at the Seder)
- A new lower price (\$36 per person)
- A new time (3:00 pm registration, with the Seder starting promptly at 3:30 which also means ending earlier)

We hope the heart and soul and the warmth of our Seder will remain the same by:

- Creating a beautiful sacred space
- Highlighting women's roles in the Seder story
- Singing those great Debbie Friedman songs and dancing with our timbrels
- Oranges on the Seder plates!
- Sharing the festival of freedom with our mothers, daughters, friends, and Shoreline neighbors

Any woman is welcome to attend regardless of temple affiliation or membership. We particularly extend a warm welcome to the women of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek who graciously hosted us last year and the Women of Vision Society who help underwrite our expenses through a grant made possible from the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. We also hope to inspire those who have never attended a woman's Seder in the past.

Join our pre-Passover gathering. Celebrate freedom. Share your story.

Here are two of our stories to get things started:

“Bring something that represents ‘freedom’ to you.” I told the friends and family that would be attending my Seder.

As we moved around the table, first we heard words of a 1950’s folk song long forgotten. Next, Ruth held up a flier from Stop ‘n Shop and said that here in America, we have the freedom to choose from a vast array of options for everything we purchase. I showed my grandfather’s naturalization papers from 1911. But it was Emily that really showed us the meaning of ‘freedom’. “I’ve brought my husband,” she said. “As a black woman, it would have been unthinkable for me to marry a white man fifty years ago. Once we were slaves, but now, we are free.” (By Cynthia Braver)

One of the best memories I have from my childhood Seders was my cousins’ asking the 4 Questions in various languages. Of course the questions were asked in Hebrew and English. Then my cousin Lillian would ask in Yiddish. Then cousin Wynne would ask in French and Spanish. Sometimes other family members added other languages. One year we had a cousin who had spent time in China and she recited them in Mandarin! That same cousin was also on Jeopardy once, but that’s another story! Another year we hosted a Jewish family new to America from Russia and they asked the questions in Russian. Aside from the intrigue of foreign languages adding an international flair to our family Seders, I also felt connected with Jews in other countries. I wondered if they were reciting the 4 Questions in their languages and participating in the other Seder rituals just like we were. I felt connected to a larger community and simultaneously proud of my own family. This is just one of the reasons I love the holiday of Passover. (By Donna Fedus)

To register, please see the invitation inserted in your newsletter. Contact Cynthia Braver at cynthia@verballegacy.com or (203)315-8380 with additional questions. **The registration deadline is March 8.** The Shoreline Women's Seder is made possible, in part, with funding from the Women of Vision Society of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.