

Passover Across Time and Place

Despite being confined to home, life still feels hectic. With 4 of us in the house, we are managing bandwidth and phone time around remote work and remote school and trying to stay connected to family and friends. My daughter who is in 6th grade is having the most trouble. She is less digitally connected than her older brother and feels the isolation keenly.

She was helping me prepare for Shabbat, and I took the opportunity to talk to her about connectedness. If you think about it, as we light the Shabbat candles, there are Jewish people all over the world who are lighting candles too! It is like doing a giant wave at a ball game. It starts at sunset at the International Date Line and then waves around the world! And everyone says the prayers in the same language. That's pretty incredible and super nice to think about.

Passover lends itself to this same kind of thinking. We talk at the Seder about how WE were in slavery, and now WE are free, not our ancestors, but ourselves. We personalize the struggles of Jews in the past to feel the connection across time. This year, we will also be working to feel those connections, not just across time, but across distances as well since we won't be able to be together.

We will end our Seders by wishing, "Next year in Jerusalem!" and probably most of us will add on, "next year together." And this wish will come true. By next year, our lives will be back to some sort of normal. We will be free to gather together again. In the meantime, gather virtually, and feel the connections across time and place in your heart.

Sending you a virtual wave this Passover.
Leah Shuldiner.