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Online Passover Seder Links Jews Around The World

Online Synagogue Hosts Internet Seder and Invites Participants

OurJewishCommunity.org Rabbis use Technology to Reach Tens of Thousands

CINCINNATI (March 18, 2010) – This Passover, there will be a new way to celebrate the holiday. While many Jews will have friends and family in their homes for a Seder meal, www.OurJewishCommunity.org provides another option. You can be in front of your computer and share the Seder meal with people from around the world. The online Seder will take place on Tuesday, March 30 at 5 PM EDT and participants can sign up at <http://bit.ly/worldseder>.

Using webinar technology, OurJewishCommunity.org will host an online Seder with participants from around the world. The rabbis of OurJewishCommunity.org will lead parts of the Seder by reading from the Haggadah (Passover story). Online participants can sign up ahead of time to participate as readers. There will be graphics and illustrations on the screen.

The online Seder will use a Haggadah that was written by Congregation Beth Adam in Cincinnati, OH. The award-winning Haggadah creates a Passover ritual that is meaningful, relevant, and appropriate for all modern day Jews. It provides direction for beginners and comfort for seasoned participants as they celebrate Passover. Beth Adam's Haggadah can be purchased for \$8 at <http://bit.ly/OrderHaggadah>.

Last year, Rabbi Baum tweeted two Passover Seders on Twitter. "As I was heading out to a seder last year, I saw someone tweet 'is anyone tweeting the Seder?' So I made a quick decision that I would" said Baum. "Many people participated, some of whom did not have a Seder to attend locally." Baum points out that OurJewishCommunity.org reaches out to thousands of unaffiliated Jews and others who are looking for a meaningful connection to Judaism, but had not previously found one. She added "We seek to bring Judaism to people where they are."

OurJewishCommunity.org is the world's first progressive online synagogue. Since its launch in September of 2008, OurJewishCommunity.org has video-streamed holiday services. Hundreds of people tune in each week to watch the Shabbat (Sabbath) service, which is integrated into Facebook so that participants can chat with each other during services. Rabbi Robert B. Barr of OurJewishCommunity.org said "it is amazing to see the community that has been built through OurJewishCommunity.org. People see us as their rabbis, OurJewishCommunity.org as their synagogue, and the other online participants as their community."



Baum noted that “Passover is a holiday that is widely celebrated because it is observed in the home. Passover is the perfect opportunity for people to share resources and ideas online. Now, they can even interact with others celebrating Passover online using the tools of technology.”

In addition to the Seder Around the World, Baum will tweet a Seder on March 29th at the Twitter handle @RabbiBaum. The www.OurJewishCommunity.org web site features Passover information, activities, and a Facebook application that allows users to design a matzah ball character. Also on the site are six audio podcasts about Passover and four short videos including “Uncle Jay Explains Passover,” a “Passover Seder in 3 Minutes,” and a “Chocolate Passover Seder.”

To participate in the Seder Around The World, visit <http://bit.ly/worldseder>

To join the free community and get more information, visit www.OurJewishCommunity.org or [www.Facebook.com/OurJewishCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/OurJewishCommunity).

About OurJewishCommunity.org

OurJewishCommunity.org is the world’s first progressive online synagogue. Launched on September 1, 2008, OurJewishCommunity.org has reached more than 26,000 individuals in all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 130 countries. The online community features blogs, audio podcasts through iTunes, video podcasts through YouTube, streaming holiday and Sabbath services, discussion boards, holiday eCards, recipes, educational materials for all ages, and more. Rabbi Baum has more than 1,600 followers on Twitter (www.twitter.com/rabbibaum) and OurJewishCommunity.org has over 2,300 Facebook fans (www.facebook.com/ourjewishcommunity).

High-resolution images of both rabbis are available at <http://www.ourjewishcommunity.org/educational-materials/press-kit/>

Laura Baum, Rabbi, OurJewishCommunity.org



As the Founding Rabbi of OurJewishCommunity.org, Rabbi Laura Baum works to engage Jews through social media and other technology. “Baum’s Blog” is a central feature of OurJewishCommunity.org as are Rabbi Baum’s YouTube podcasts. An expert on social media and the changing needs of the Jewish community, Rabbi Baum has created a new model for engaging those seeking a new way to connect to Judaism.

Rabbi Baum was ordained by Hebrew Union College in 2008. She graduated from Yale University in 2001 Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and with distinction in the Psychology major. She is currently pursuing an M.B.A. at Xavier University.



Robert B. Barr, Rabbi, OurJewishCommunity.org



Rabbi Robert B. Barr, ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1981, is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Adam in Cincinnati, Ohio. Under his leadership for the last 29 years, Beth Adam has grown from 6 members to over 300. The congregation has a significant voice and is a resource for liberal Jews worldwide. Rabbi Barr first imagined the online congregation and has played a continuing role in its development, including his weekly podcasts (“Barr’s Banter”) which are available on iTunes.

Rabbi Barr is active in the leadership of many Jewish organizations and has twice served as president of the Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis. Recognized by his peers as a leader in the evolution of modern, liberal Judaism, his writings have been published in journals, books, and web sites around the world.