

Wilderness Torah

Reconnect to Your Roots

PASSOVER IN THE DESERT 2012: ENVISION LIBERATION

Welcome Passover in the Desert Community...

We are so glad you'll be joining us this year for Passover in the Desert 2012! Please read below for information you will need to prepare yourself. The following pages have some important logistics, driving directions, a packing list to prepare yourself physically, and some thought provoking questions to prepare you spiritually for your journey to the desert.

*Please note there are some big differences this year, mostly related to food and water, so read on, even if you think you know all this already!

Festival Schedule: The Festival starts at 5PM on Wednesday, April 11th, and ends at 1pm on Sunday, April 15th. You can get an idea of schedule and offerings at our website www.wildernesstorah.org. We truly hope you'll attend the entire festival, as we create a sacred community together. If you are unable to come Wednesday night, please try to come by Thursday morning for the Opening Circle. Feel free to arrive earlier on Wednesday afternoon.

Getting There: We encourage everyone to make your pilgrimage to the desert in a carpool. When registration closes, we will post names and addresses (for those who have requested in their registration) on this online rideshare board so you can find driving partners.

https://docs.google.com/a/wildernesstorah.org/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Aj0_k7k7n2lbdE1XQzItVnYzMjl2WWZ0UVp2ckhuZEE&hl=en_US#gid=0

The 12 Tribes: Tribes are small groups of about 10 people who come together for specific aspects of the festival. Tribes have a check-in circle each day, and the tribe will also be your kitchen service team. It's a way for people to get to know each other, go deeper in our experiences within the comfort of a smaller group, and make communication more efficient. Your tribal experience will prepare you for a short but powerful time of introspection and solitude in the desert environment. Your *Rosh* (facilitator) will be in touch with you via email to welcome your group before the festival begins.

Co-Creation: This is a co-created, community celebration! If you're interested in making an offering of a teaching, healing art, prayer leadership, or anything else, please let us know. Some of you have volunteered to help a few days before the festival, thank you! You will be contacted with details.

Some Essential Things to Bring:

1. **Food for your Lunches** --Please bring your own simple foods for picnic lunches enclosed in an animal proof container, such as a cooler. Lunch food will not have access to cooling, so please bring things that don't need refrigeration. There will be a shady area for personal food storage. A list of recommended foods can be found below and on our website under Passover. There will be four lunches (Thursday-Sunday).
2. **Plates/Utensils** --Everyone must bring their own plate, bowl, mug, wine cup, cloth napkin, and utensils.
3. **Communal Décor** -- Please bring cushions, tapestries, rugs, low tables, and pretty hanging things to help make our communal spaces cozy and beautiful.
4. **Offerings for the *Mizbeach* (altar)** -- If you wish, bring objects that have special meaning to place on the *mizbeach*.
5. **Water** -- New this year, you DO NOT need to bring your own water, as we will have a water truck. However, you should bring two personal water bottles (approx. 1L each) to fill up.

For information about food, kosher and kosher for Passover observance, the location, facilities, and your role in the community, please check out our website at www.WildernessTorah.org.

PACKING LIST

Essential Items:

- Your own plate, bowl, mug, wine cup, napkin, and utensils
- Picnic Foods for lunches (see below)
- 2 1 liter water bottles to fill up
- Your lunch food (see ideas on our website)

Optional Items You Might Not Have Thought Of:

- Something to read
- A journal to write or draw in
- Camera
- A pillow
- A camping chair
- Yoga mat
- A solar shower (please bring your own water if you are bringing a solar shower)
- Sandals

Optional Ritual Items:

- Your siddur if you use one
- Objects that have special meaning for you to place on the main *mizbeach* (altar)
- Musical instruments/drums
- Stories, songs and poems for around the fire

Communal Items:

- Decorations for the Tent of Meeting and other spaces - tapestries, rugs, pillows, pretty things that hang, flags, etc.
- Food from your fruit tree or garden to share
- Anything else you'd like to offer the group

Personal and Camping Gear:

- Warm Jacket
- Fleece or Sweater (not cotton)

SUGGESTIONS FOR PICNIC LUNCHES:

Below are some suggested items you can bring for picnic lunches. Our snack table will always be open as well, with fresh fruit and maztah, nut butters and other snacks, and we will serve a hearty breakfast and dinner each day. Remember, most people eat way less in the desert heat, so *you probably need less than you think*. If you'd like to cook, feel free to bring a small stove, but we don't feel it's necessary.

All food served by Wilderness Torah is kosher and kosher for Passover.

While we invite you to be in the Passover spirit, the food you bring does not need to be kosher since it will not be stored in the kitchen, and you will use your personal dishes. There will be a shaded area for you to store your food. Please be sure that it is in an animal proof container such as a cooler. We have a separate dish washing area for the Wilderness Torah kitchen for those who would like to wash their dishes in a kosher kitchen.

- Thermal underwear (not cotton)
- Warm socks (not cotton)
- Hiking boots or shoes
- Comfortable shoes
- Short-sleeved shirts (at least one not cotton)
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Long pants
- Comfy, warm clothes to sleep in
- Comfy, loose clothes to lounge in
- Rain pants
- Rain jacket with hood
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Underwear
- Gloves (not cotton)
- Winter hat and scarf
- Bandana or kerchief
- Sleeping bag (rated 20 degrees or below)
- Sleeping pad (thermarest, ensulite, or other)
- Tent, ground cover, and rain fly
- Stakes and hammer to stake down your tent (trust us)
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm with SPF
- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc.
- Flashlight and/or headlamp and extra batteries
- Any medications you need
- Small daypack
- Plastic/paper bags to pack out your personal garbage
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Personal first aid kit (band-aids, pain reliever, Neosporin, aloe vera, stuff for blisters, etc)
- Bathing suit and towel for river hike

LUNCH IDEAS THAT REQUIRE NO REFRIGERATION:

- Cans of salmon (wild caught), tuna or dried salmon
- Cheese (most hard cheeses are fine for a few days)
- Dried meats/fish
- Fruit/veggies that don't go bad quickly like oranges, apples, bananas, carrots
- Nuts, seeds, and dried fruits
- Energy bars, fruit strips, and/or granola type bars
- Anything canned (don't forget a can opener)

DIRECTIONS FROM OAKLAND/BERKELEY

**Ridgecrest is a good place to buy last minute stuff*

Take **I-580 E** toward **Hayward** go approx. 60 mi

Merge onto **I-5 S** go 188 mi

Take exit **257** for **CA-58** toward **Bakersfield** go 0.3 mi

Turn **left** at **Blue Star Memorial Hwy/CA-58 E/Rosedale Hwy** go 8.4 mi

Turn **right** at **CA-43 S/CA-58 E/Enos Ln** go 1.0 mi

Turn **left** at **Blue Star Memorial Hwy/CA-58 E/Rosedale Hwy**

Continue to follow **Rosedale Hwy** go 12.1 mi

Rosedale Hwy turns slightly **left** and becomes **24th St** go 0.6 mi

Continue onto **23rd St/CA-178 E**, continue to follow **CA-178 E** go 85.4 mi

Turn **left** at **CA-14 N/CA-178 E/Midland Trail** go 2.8 mi

Slight **right** at **CA-178 E/W Inyokern Rd** go 12.2 mi

Turn **right** at **N China Lake Blvd** (signs for **State Route 178/Trona**) go 2 mi

Turn **left** at **CA-178 E/E Ridgecrest Blvd** go 16.7 mi

Continue onto **Trona Rd** go 9.6 mi

Continue onto **Trona Wildrose Rd** go 19.1 mi

Turn **right** at **Ballarat Rd** go 3.6 mi

From the ghost town of Ballarat (no services):

Turn Left at Indian Ranch Road. Drive 1.9 miles.

Turn Right on to Surprise Canyon Road at the white rock marked with a red S7 on it.

We will set up our camp .4 miles from Indian Ranch Road

DIRECTIONS FROM THE LOS ANGELES AREA

**Ridgecrest is a good place to buy last minute stuff*

Take **I-5 N** toward **Sacramento**

Take the **State Route 14 N** exit toward **Palmdale/Lancaster** 0.6 mi

Merge onto **CA-14 N** 69.0 mi

Turn **right** at **CA-14 N/Midland Trail** Continue to follow **CA-14 N** 44.4 mi

Slight **right** at **CA-178 E/W Inyokern Rd** 12.2 mi Turn **right** at **N China Lake**

Bld (signs for **State Route 178/Trona**)

2.0 mi Turn **left** at **CA-178 E/E Ridgecrest Blvd**

Continue to follow **CA-178 E** 16.7 mi

Continue onto **Trona Rd** 9.6 mi; Continue onto **Trona Wildrose Rd** 19.1 mi;

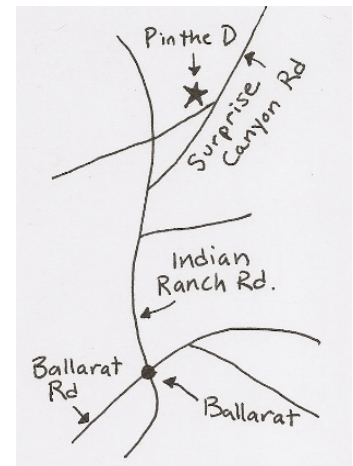
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Questions For Reflection: *Envision Personal and Communal Liberation*

Passover in the Desert is a journey in community, designed to help you connect more deeply with yourself, with the community, with the earth and with Spirit. During Tribe time you might be invited to share about some of these ideas. Prior to arriving in the desert, considering thinking about the following questions... write about these questions in your journal or simply talk about them with friends on your pilgrimage (i.e., car ride) to the desert.

Mitzrayim – The Narrow Places in Our Lives

- Are you faced with challenging situations in your life that are sources of fear, anxiety or discomfort?
- What are these, and how might you begin to address them?
- What might be stopping you from fully doing, feeling or being your full self?
- What would it take for you to be more free and joyful in your life? What could you let go of?
- How is your personal *mitzrayim* (narrow place), connected to the *mitzrayim* faced in the greater world?

Parting the Red Sea – A Way to Liberation

- Think of a moment when you have “tasted” freedom. What does this feel like? Look like?
- Take a moment to envision what personal liberation looks like or feels like in your mind's eye. What would your day-to-day look like, what would it feel like to walk through life?
- Now take a moment to envision the whole world's liberation. What would be different? What would it feel like to interact with a friend, a neighbor, a stranger?
- How might your own personal “liberation” facilitate or add to a more collective liberation?

Wandering the Desert – The Journey in Community

- What could help you nurture your connection to yourself in the desert?
- What could you ask for to be fully supported by the community? What would have you feel more connected to the community?
- What would be a good rhythm for your time in the desert?
- What gift(s), big or small, might you offer the community in the desert?