WHAT: Our regions’ Holocaust Survivors and their families are expected to attend JFCS’ Pre-Passover Seder. Guests will enjoy a Seder led by Adath Israel’s Rabbi Eric Yanoff, engage with JFCS volunteers of all ages, discuss the meaning of Passover, along with dancing and entertainment by the Ken Ulansey.

This year, we honor the stories of the Jews’ plight for freedom as a way of preserving the past for future generations. On Passover, the story of the Exodus of the Jews from slavery is retold at dinner tables around the world, and on April 3rd, we come together to hear firsthand from our aging Holocaust Survivors the stories of liberation from the Nazis.

WHEN: Sunday, April 3rd, 1:30-3:30pm/ Media welcome throughout event

WHERE: Adath Israel, 250 North Highland Ave., Merion Station, PA

* AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS: (will have Survivor bios on hand):
  • Holocaust Survivor who shares his stories with students ages 8 to 18 at local schools and universities
  • Holocaust Survivor who has written a book about her experiences
  • Holocaust Survivors who have share their stories through the generations of their families

* VISUALS: Children singing, Holocaust Survivors sharing stories, Rabbi conducting a Passover Seder and music/dancing.

DETAILS: JFCS’ Holocaust Support Program helps to ensure that those who lived under Nazi rule during World War II are cared for with compassion and respect. JFCS’ licensed social workers and multidisciplinary staff help to alleviate isolation and preserve a sense of community for our Holocaust Survivors while enhancing the quality of life with the following services:
  • Advocate for our older adults to access services and benefits to which they may be entitled from Germany or other governments
  • Provide in-home healthcare assistance by a nurse practitioner, support with medication management, and dental needs
  • Social opportunities and friendly visits
  • In-home support to include home care or chore services to assist with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, laundry, housekeeping, and shopping
  • Emergency financial aid based on eligibility

- MORE-
Social services for Nazi victims have been supported by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

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**About Jewish Family and Children’s Service (JFCS)**

With a rich tradition of 161 years, JFCS of Greater Philadelphia offers a diverse array of services to strengthen the lives of children, adults, seniors, and families with challenges that arise throughout the lifecycle. We are committed to serving our community, specifically the most vulnerable. JFCS' staff of caring and dedicated fully licensed clinical social workers is committed to providing quality services, compassionate support, and solutions that work. To learn more visit [www.jfcsphilly.org](http://www.jfcsphilly.org).

**The Story of Passover**

The holiday of Passover commemorates the Exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt and the birth of the Jewish people. The central meaning of Passover is liberation and is therefore referred to as the Season of Freedom. Passover also coincides with Spring and celebrates the renewal and rebirth we witness in the physical world around us.

This year Passover begins on the evening of April 22rd. Passover traditionally lasts for eight days with the first two days and last two days being full holidays on which no work is performed.

The story of the Exodus is retold in a ritual meal called a Seder held on the first and second nights. During the Seder, songs, prayers, questions, and readings take us on a journey from slavery to freedom. Special foods remind us of the central themes. Matzah, unleavened bread, reminds us of the poverty and affliction suffered by our ancestors. A bite of horseradish brings tears to the eyes and recalls the bitterness of slavery. A sprig of parsley awakens us to the freshness of spring. Throughout the eight days of Passover many observe special dietary restrictions and refrain from eating bread (or bread products).

Most of us know the story of the Israelites enslavement in Egypt, Moses’ courageous leadership, the Pharaoh’s reluctance to free the Jews, and the miraculous exodus. But it is not only a story from the past. We are told that we must retell the story of the liberation from Egypt in every generation, as if we ourselves had been slaves. Passover is a time to reflect on the places in the world and in our own lives where slavery still exists. To dedicate ourselves to freedom and liberation in the present and for all people.

The passage from slavery to freedom is one JFCS makes every day with its clients. Although less dramatic than the biblical version, JFCS witnesses the importance of each small step.