

# Pesach Seder Additions

Contributed by [Hayley Worthman](#)

Source:

- **Orange:** Many families have begun adding an orange to their seder plate as a way of acknowledging the role of women in Jewish life. Professor Susannah Heschel explains that in the 1980s, feminists at Oberlin College placed a crust of bread on the Seder plate, saying, "There's as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the Seder plate." Heschel adapted this practice, placing an orange on her family's *seder* plate and asking each attendee to take a segment of the orange, make the blessing over fruit, and eat it as a gesture of solidarity with gay Jews and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community. They spit out the orange seeds, which were said to represent homophobia.
- **Potato:** In 1991, Israel launched Operation Solomon, a covert plan to bring Ethiopian Jews to the Holy Land. When these famished, downtrodden Jews arrived in Israel, many were so hungry and ill that they were unable to digest substantial food. Israeli doctors fed these new immigrants simple boiled potatoes and rice until their systems could take more food. To commemorate this at your *seder*, eat small red potatoes alongside the *karpas*. Announce to those present that this addition honors a wondrous exodus in our own time, from Ethiopia to Israel.
- **Fair Trade Chocolate or Cocoa Beans:** The fair trade movement promotes economic partnerships based on equality, justice and sustainable environmental practices. We have a role in the process by making consumer choices that promote economic fairness for those who produce our products around the globe. Fair Trade certified chocolate and cocoa beans are grown under standards that prohibit the use of forced labor. They can be included on the *seder* plate to remind us that although we escaped from slavery in Egypt, forced labor is still very much an issue today.