

Matzah of Healing *Refuah*

The first and second nights of Passover fall on April 22 and April 23, 2024. At a traditional seder, three pieces of matzah are used to represent the three groups of Jews: *Cohanim* (high priests), *Levi'im* (those who assist the *Cohanim*) and *Yisraelim* (all the others). This year, we ask that you add a fourth matzah to represent a “matzah of healing” and read the paragraphs included below.

Hold up the fourth matzah as you read:

This is the matzah of healing.

As we begin our seder, we take pride in the growing achdut (unity) about the importance of Israel today. The expression “all of Israel is responsible for one another” is truer today than ever before. The war has brought Jews from around the world together in their support and love of Israel.

Tonight we add this fourth matzah to our table to represent the matzah of healing (refuah). This is the matzah that exemplifies our hopes for a healthy future for the Jewish nation. We recognize the need for all of us to end the silence too often felt in trying times such as these. We hope that with support from others, those that need it will have the opportunity and time to heal. Just as we have shared in the sadness and trauma of October 7, we look forward to a better future. We hope this matzah will bring us healing, strength, comfort and renewal.

May the seder tables of our people be filled with reunited families and may those who are not with us be remembered with love. We pray that all those wounded by the war will achieve a refuah shleimah (a complete recovery) through treatment, time, love and the observance of our ancient traditions.

Let our matzah of refuah bring healing, joy, hope, comfort and renewal to all those celebrating Pesach around the world. And may we continue to go from strength to strength.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Upon completion of the reading, add the matzah to the other three that you've set aside.

