

# Secondary Symbolic Seder Plate (2024/5784)

Since the early 1980s when [an orange was added](#),<sup>1</sup> a variety of other items have been placed on the Seder plate to represent one or another cause. [These have included](#)<sup>2</sup> (in alphabetical order):

- [artichoke](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [banana](#)<sup>4</sup>
- [chocolate \(and coffee\) beans](#)<sup>5</sup>
- [collard greens](#)<sup>6</sup>
- [cotton ball](#)<sup>7</sup>
- [cotton ball dipped in vinegar](#)<sup>8</sup>
- [dates](#)<sup>9</sup>
- [fig](#)<sup>10</sup>
- [garlic](#)<sup>11</sup>
- [olive \(or olive branch\)](#)<sup>12</sup>
- [padlock and key](#)<sup>13</sup>
- [pine cone](#)<sup>14</sup>
- [pineapple](#)<sup>15</sup>
- [pomegranate](#)<sup>16</sup>
- [rotten piece of lettuce](#)<sup>17</sup>
- [shoelace](#)<sup>18</sup>
- [strawberry](#)<sup>19</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover\\_Seder\\_Plate#Variants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover_Seder_Plate#Variants)

<sup>2</sup> [jta.org/2011/04/12/life-religion/from-oranges-to-artichokes-chocolate-and-olives-using-seder-plate-as-a-call-to-action](https://jta.org/2011/04/12/life-religion/from-oranges-to-artichokes-chocolate-and-olives-using-seder-plate-as-a-call-to-action)

<sup>3</sup> [interfaithfamily.com/holidays/passover\\_and\\_easter/Five\\_Interfaith\\_Passover\\_Readings\\_You\\_Can\\_Add\\_to\\_Your\\_Haggadah.shtml](https://interfaithfamily.com/holidays/passover_and_easter/Five_Interfaith_Passover_Readings_You_Can_Add_to_Your_Haggadah.shtml)

<sup>4</sup> [The Banana on the Seder Plate](#)

<sup>5</sup> [fairtradejudaica.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/HaggadahSupplement2012.pdf](https://fairtradejudaica.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/HaggadahSupplement2012.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> correspondence with Toni and Jon Michaels: cotton represents slavery and soaking it in vinegar is to ensure something we normally associate with softness and comfort stings our senses (bad smell/stings any micro-cuts on one's fingers). We initially considered rubbing alcohol but it dries too fast. Collard greens is, as you probably know, a traditional African American favorite—and so it's less directly tied to slavery per se and just something we associate with holidays hosted by members of Toni's family. from their article: <https://forward.com/opinion/541074/passover-black-jewish-family-rewrite-haggadah-progressive/>

<sup>7</sup> to raise our awareness of the enslavement of the Uyghur people. Many of the Uyghur slaves are forced to produce cotton China is the largest producer of cotton in the world, and Xinjiang, home to the Uyghurs, produces 75% of Chinese cotton and 20% of the world's cotton

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<sup>9</sup> 2024 jewbelong Passover Haggadah, page. 9:  
Blessing for Israel

Date palm trees are known for their resilience and ability to thrive in arid climates, and they stand for perseverance, abundance and growth. The same can be said for our brothers and sisters in Israel. Take a date before reading this next blessing:

May our family in Israel be free, and those who are still being held hostage, in body or spirit, feel the strength of our love. May the families and loved ones of the hostages feel our support. We pray that the soldiers who are fighting on behalf of all of us feel our love. These brave young men and women are defending Israel, the only safe haven for the Jewish people, and paying the price in time lost with family, financial hardship, permanent damage to their bodies and minds, and their lives. And we are here, in the safety of our homes, celebrating the freedom of the Jewish people. The irony is palpable.

May the sweetness of the dates help us connect even more greatly to their sacrifices while reminding us of the resilience of Israel and the Jewish people throughout history. As we celebrate the story of liberation, let us pray for a future of peace. Amen.

<sup>10</sup> Private correspondence with R. Paula Goldberg February 26, 2015: "In our community, at the women's seder (celebrated with an original haggadah written by Rabbi Shira Joseph and me), we include a fig on the seder plate. It has multi-level symbolism -- as a symbol of the spring, as a symbol of Torah (in midrash), and as a symbol of peace - everyone sitting under the "vine and fig tree" -- the "vine" is represented at the table - we included the fig."

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.haggadot.com/clip/garlic-on-the-seder-plate>

<sup>12</sup> [forward.com/articles/172963/put-olive-on-seder-plate-for-palestinians-and-all/](https://forward.com/articles/172963/put-olive-on-seder-plate-for-palestinians-and-all/)

<sup>13</sup> <http://jewishcurrents.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Haggadah-Supplement-final.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.haggadot.com/clip/passover-pine-cone-putting-prisons-seder-plate>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agFe0moqxc>

<sup>16</sup> <https://forward.com/opinion/485342/why-i-add-a-pomegranate-to-my-passover-seder/>

<sup>17</sup> [jta.org/2011/04/12/life-religion/from-oranges-to-artichokes-chocolate-and-olives-using-seder-plate-as-a-call-to-action](https://jta.org/2011/04/12/life-religion/from-oranges-to-artichokes-chocolate-and-olives-using-seder-plate-as-a-call-to-action)

<sup>18</sup> suggestion of Rabbi David Leipziger Teva as representing the experience of 92,607 migrants and refugees who in March of 2019 alone were detained after crossing the US Mexico border

<sup>19</sup> The developmentally disabled... strawberries have seeds on the outside. Most fruits have seeds on the inside. In addition, while we do not eat the seeds of most fruits, the entire strawberry (aside from the stem) is edible. Therefore, while the developmentally disabled are different than the general population they none the less possess special values that are not found elsewhere. (correspondence with R. Matt Friedman).

- [sunflower seeds](#)<sup>20</sup>
- [tomato](#)<sup>21</sup>

With all these additions, there's no room for the "original" items. Consider having a "secondary plate". This year we will place an empty plate on the table to spark conversation.

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover/8-modern-additions-seder-plate>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.haggadot.com/clip/sunflower-seeds-on-my-seder-plate>

<sup>21</sup> [thejewishweek.com/special\\_sections/special\\_holiday\\_issues/tomato\\_finds\\_its\\_place\\_seder\\_plate](https://thejewishweek.com/special_sections/special_holiday_issues/tomato_finds_its_place_seder_plate)