

NEW ENGLAND  
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE  
*Nineteenth Annual*  
**LABOR SEDER**  
~ HAGGADAH ~  
- April 2019 -

Poor People's Campaign  
A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION  
REVIVAL

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

Jewish Labor Committee

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

MOVEMENT

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

I AM A MAN

I AM A MAN

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

National Grid Puts Profits Before Public Safety

LOCKED OUT  
USW

I AM A MAN

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

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ON STRIKE  
RITZ CARLTON BOSTON

ON STRIKE  
RITZ-CARLTON BOSTON

1445

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

ONE JOB SHOULD BE ENOUGH

BOSTON'S LOCAL 26

BOSTON'S LOCAL 26

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JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

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JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE



Congratulations to the Marriott strikers  
on this much deserved recognition.  
Best wishes to all of tonight's honorees.

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# Jewish Labor Committee

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NEW ENGLAND JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

*Nineteenth Annual*  
**LABOR SEDER**

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The mission of the New England Jewish Labor Committee is to engage the Jewish community in support of issues affecting working people, and engage the labor community in issues that affect Jews and the Jewish community.

We are the New England Chapter of the Jewish Labor Committee, a non-profit charitable entity with a home office in New York City.

For membership or programmatic information, contact us at:

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**18 Tremont Street, Suite 320 • Boston, MA 02108**  
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# NEW ENGLAND JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

# PASSOVER HAGGADAH

– April 2019 –

***Thank You to Our Wonderful 2019 Host Committee***

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## 2019 HONOREES



**Brian Doherty**

**Secretary-Treasurer/General Agent**

**Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District**

*“Brian’s work has earned him the respect of leaders and community members throughout Boston. This award recognizes his strong commitment to making lives better for all in the trades, and standing up for working families.”*

—Mayor Martin J. Walsh



**Rabbi Jill Jacobs**

**Executive Director**

**T’ruah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights**

*“Rabbi Jill Jacobs has been a steady and powerful voice on nearly every social justice issue of the past two decades, from economic justice to Palestinian rights to police brutality. As the Executive Director of T’ruah, she is building a new model of rabbinic leadership. I, along with so many Jews of every generation, am inspired by her vision of a Jewish community that lives its values and of a world that is oriented towards justice.”*

— Judith Rosenbaum, Executive Director, Jewish Women’s Archive

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## Seder means Order

The word *Seder* means “order.” While order can be oppressive when it suppresses creativity and choice, order can also be a liberating source of stability.

In the first chapter of Genesis, the world is fashioned out of chaos, each stage of Creation providing the foundation for the next. First light bursts out from darkness; then the waters appear, followed by trees and plants; then animals, from small to large; and finally, human beings. The organizing principle of Creation is itself a promise of the goodness inherent in the world. Rather than eliminating chaos, the natural order contains it, channeling its creativity and vitality to support all life.

Likewise, democratic societies are built on order. The three branches of government, each playing a distinct role, create a delicately balanced structure. Were one branch to overpower the others, the resulting imbalance could return our society to chaos. From a Jewish perspective, this system underscores the belief that no human is above the law, and that the social contract protects humanity from our worst instincts. Order is the basis for justice.

The order of the Seder reflects the innate human desire to create order out of chaos. Each step in the Seder has its place. We begin with a welcome, then explain the purpose of the gathering, enjoy a sacred communal meal, and close with thanksgiving and hope for the future.

Yet we can infuse order with compassion and creativity. Within this fixed order, there is still room to tell stories, to discuss, and most important, to ask questions. Chaos is not eradicated but contained, its energy channeled into creative rituals and engagement. The Seder reminds us to seek justice, and to do it with love, and a little fun too!





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## Order of the Passover Seder

- **Kadesh** – Setting the tone of the Seder with a blessing over wine
- **Ur'chatz** – Washing the hands before we eat
- **Karpas** – Dipping the vegetable in salt water with a blessing
- **Yachatz** – Breaking the middle matzah, hiding half for later
- **Maggid** – Telling and discussing the story of Passover
- **Rachtzah** – Washing the hands again, with a blessing
- **Motzi Matzah** – Blessing over the meal, beginning with eating the matzah
- **Maror** – Blessing over and eating bitter herbs
- **Korech** – Eating a sandwich of matza, bitter herbs, and charoset
- **Shulchan Orech** – Enjoying the meal
- **Tzafun** – Finding and eating the afikoman (hidden matzah)
- **Barech** – Blessing of gratitude after the meal
- **Hallel** – Singing
- **Nirtzah** – Conclusion to the Seder



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## The Seder Plate

The entire story of the Haggadah is contained in the Seder plate. Each item symbolizes an aspect of the Exodus. Each table has a plate that contains all the elements for use during the Seder, though traditionally one does not take from the Seder plate itself.

**Maror**, a bitter herb, reminds us of the bitterness of enslavement

**Karpas**, a green vegetable, symbolizes springtime, hope and renewal

**Charoset**, a mixture of fruit, nuts, wine and spices, represents the mortar that our ancestors used to build Pharaoh's storage cities

**Zeroa**, a roasted bone, beet or "Paschal yam," evokes the offering of the paschal lamb eaten at the Temple in ancient times

**Beitza**, a boiled egg, symbolizes the circle of life and death

**Chazeret**, another bitter herb for the "sandwich" eaten during the course of the Seder following the custom established by Hillel the Elder, reminds us that our ancestors "ate matzah and bitter herbs together."

**Orange:** Recently, Jewish ritual has included new symbols on the seder plate, beginning with an orange. Its many sections, all sweet and juicy, remind us that all humans contain the sweetness of the divine image. The orange was introduced as a symbol of inclusion for gays and lesbians. It became known more widely as a symbol for including women. Today we include it as a way of acknowledging the role of people who feel marginalized within the Jewish community.



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## Kadesh

Each of the four cups of wine or grape juice that we drink reflects an essential aspect of the Seder. Each cup builds on the one before, and illuminates the surrounding teachings. Tonight we dedicate these four cups to the four principles that underlie sustainable activism:

The first step in activism is to open our eyes in **awareness**.

The second step is to choose a path and make a **commitment**.

The third step is to pause in **gratitude** for what we have and what we have accomplished.

The final step is to mobilize our awareness, commitment and gratitude, and to move forward with **hope**.



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## The First Cup of Wine – Awareness Honoring Brian Doherty

We dedicate this first cup to **awareness**. The first chapter of the Book of Exodus depicts women responding to the pain they witnessed in Egypt. First the midwives, Shifra and Puah, defied Pharaoh's brutal order to kill every male baby born to the Hebrew women. Then Yocheved, Moses's mother, courageously hid her infant child. Placing him in a basket in the Nile, she sent her daughter, Miriam, to follow the basket and ensure that the baby remain alive. Finally, Pharaoh's own daughter rescued that Hebrew baby and raised him in her father's palace. Each woman took a personal risk rather than submit to the cruel decree.

We learn from the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas that the experience of seeing the face of another person, whether friend or stranger, immediately creates a bond of responsibility. Tonight we seek to open our eyes to know the pain of the oppressed, to learn our role in that oppression, and discover what we can do to resist, transforming oppression into freedom.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן.**

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, borei p'ree hagafen.*

Blessed are You, Source of All Life, who creates the fruit of the vine.

## The Shehecheyanu

### Blessing of Gratitude for This Moment

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam,  
shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.*

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה</b>        | Blessed are You,                                       |
| <b>אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם</b>    | our God, Creator of time and space,                    |
| <b>שֶׁחָיָנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ</b>      | who has given us life, sustained us,                   |
| <b>וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.</b> | and enabled us to be present to celebrate this moment. |

(We drink the First Cup of Wine.)



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## Honoring Brian Doherty:

### *New England Jewish Labor Committee 2019 Clara Lemlich Shavelson\* Awardee*

Brian Doherty is the General Agent/Secretary Treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District (MetroBTC). His approach to this work draws on his interest in social and economic justice and the labor movement’s role in striving toward it, working with the building trades unions — shoulder to shoulder with the larger labor movement — in partnership with progressive community, social and political groups to promote worker justice, gender equity, racial equality and economic fairness, all advancing a more fair and just society.

Born to Irish immigrant parents, Brian is a lifelong resident of Dorchester — a diverse, working-class neighborhood in Boston, where he learned the importance of treating others fairly and with respect. He started his career in Laborers Local Union 223 in Boston in 1998, from where he built his commitment to fairness for all workers in a diverse, supportive environment.

From 2011-2014, Brian was the Coordinator of the Building Pathways Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which provides career pathways for low-income residents to family-sustaining careers in union construction, designed to increase opportunities for women and

(cont.)



Press Conference on 11/16/17 launching the “Build A Life MA Campaign” to recruit more women into good union building trades careers

*\*Clara Lemlich Shavelson (March 28, 1886 – July 12, 1982) was a leader of the Uprising of 20,000, the massive strike of shirtwaist workers in New York’s garment industry in 1909.*

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people of color to enter into the trades. It is part of a larger effort in the building trades to support initiatives focused on gender equity and racial equality. Brian was the Coordinator of the All Dorchester Sports League — a local nonprofit which provides academic, athletic, fitness and nutrition support to youth in and around Dorchester while working full-time in construction.

Brian says, “Workers of the World, Unite!”

*“Brian is so well-deserving of this award. He is one of the brightest and strategic labor leaders I have met in my 35 years in the labor movement. Brian is dedicated to not only improving the lives of union members and their families, but also to ensuring social justice and economic equity for all workers and the communities in which they live and work.”*

— **Mary Vogel, Executive Director, Building Pathways Boston**

*“Brian is a born leader who, through his tireless advocacy, reminds us that economic justice goes hand in hand with social and racial justice.”*

— **Steven Tolman, President, Massachusetts AFL-CIO**



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## Ur'chatz – Hand Washing

In a traditional Seder, we would now wash our hands to prepare for the rituals to come. As Louis Pasteur once said, “Chance favors the prepared mind.” As this is true in scientific inquiry, it is also true in activism. We press on with purpose and intention, prepared to take on the unknown challenges to come.

Consider what commitments you make toward justice in our world, and how you live out your commitment.

*“Imagine that you are washing away all cynicism and despair, and allow yourself to be filled with the hope that the world could be really transformed in accord with our highest vision.”*

— *Tikkun Haggadah Supplement* by Rabbi Michael Lerner



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## Karpas – Dipping the Greens in Salt Water

*“We do not eat the vegetable alone. We dip it into salt water, recalling the tears our ancestors shed during their long years in slavery. We mix bitterness with sweetness, slavery with freedom, past with future. We live with the contrasts because we know that no moment exists without a multitude of combinations — sorrow and joy, pain and comfort, despair and hope.”*

**— A Night of Questions Passover Haggadah**

The green karpas reminds us of the promise of spring. Even a sprig of parsley or a bite of celery can chase away winter’s chill. We dip the greens in salt water, knowing that salty tears may fall before spring arrives. Still we are determined not to give up.

(Take some greens, dip them in salt water, and recite the blessing together.)

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה.**

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melach ha-olam, borei p'ree ha'adamah.*

Blessed are You, Source of All Life, who creates the fruit of the earth.





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## Yachatz – Breaking the Middle Matzah

When we break bread together, we create bonds of friendship, respect and caring. At this point in the Seder, we break the middle matzah and hide part of it away to share later. We also remember that people who are hungry also hide some of their bread for later, because they can't be certain from where their next meal will come.

In an act of radical hospitality, we welcome to our Seder all who are in need of food, namely, any human being, regardless of their native land, religious tradition, language, social status, political stance or personal characteristics. We pledge to feed and nurture each other's bodies and protect one another's freedom.

We include a Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) version of the welcome as a message to the immigrants, many who come from Spanish-speaking countries, who have been detained, deported, and dehumanized, rather than welcomed.

הָא לַחֲמַא עֲנִיא דִּי אֶכְלוּ אַבְהַתָּנָא בְּאַרְעָא דְּמִצְרַיִם  
כָּל דְּכָפִין יֵיתִי וַיֵּיכֹל  
כָּל דְּצָרִיךְ יֵיתִי וַיִּפְסַח  
הַשְׁתָּא הָכָא לְשָׁנָה הַבְּאָה בְּאַרְעָא דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל  
הַשְׁתָּא עַבְדֵי לְשָׁנָה הַבְּאָה בְּנֵי חוֹרִין

*Ha lachma anya di achalu avhatana b'ara d'mitzrayim. Kol dichfin yeitei v'yeichol,  
kol ditzrich yeitei v'yifsach. Hashata hacha, l'shanah habaah b'ara d'Yisrael.  
Hashata avdei, l'shanah habaah b'nei chorin.*

This is the bread of poverty, which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need come and celebrate Passover.

Now we are here — next year in the land of Israel.

Now we are slaves. Next year we will be free.

“Esto es el pan de la afrisyon ke komieron mos padres en tierra de Ayifto. Todo el ke tiene ambre venga y koma. Todo el ke tiene de menester venga y pasuke.”

*(As translated into Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish language of the Sephardi Jews, originally refugees from Spain in 1492, and whose diaspora extended to the Balkans, Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa.)*

*“Why do I spend every day harvesting food for the rest of America and then have to wait in line at a food pantry on Thanksgiving for a plate of food?”*

— **Gerardo Reyes Chavez, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, from *The Other Side of the Sea, A Haggadah on Fighting Modern-Day Slavery; T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights***

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## The Four Questions

*“All faith begins with the act of questioning. From God’s first question to Adam and Eve in Eden, “Where are you?” — to Abraham’s challenge to God concerning Sodom and Gomorrah, to Sarah’s exasperating and agonizing question about whether she would ever bear children, to Moses questioning Pharaoh’s authority, the Jewish people have always been intoxicated with the art of questioning.*

*Perhaps we who were slaves are constantly in a state of remembering the degradation and seeking never to forget. It is the privilege of free people to ask questions; this is the birthplace of our compassion and our zeal for justice. Why else might a motley band of former slaves have taken it upon ourselves to demand that humanity live up to its sacred promise for equality and dignity for all God’s creation?”*

— Rabbi Michael Adam Latz, from *The Other Side of the Sea, A Haggadah on Fighting Modern-Day Slavery; T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights*

**On all other nights we eat leavened bread and matzah. Why on this night only matzah?**

Women: Our mothers, in their flight from bondage, did not have time to let their dough rise while fleeing Egypt. As they carried the dough through the desert, the sun baked it into flat, unleavened bread we call matzah. Matzah represents our rush to freedom. To commemorate this we eat only matzah, not bread, during Passover.

**On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. Why on this night do we make certain to eat bitter herbs?**

Workers: We were slaves. We eat bitter herbs to remind us how bitter our ancestors’ lives were made by their enslavement in Egypt.

**On all other nights we do not dip one food into another even once. Why on this night do we dip twice?**

Political leaders: We dip the parsley, the symbol of spring and renewal, in salt water to remember the tears of the Israelites during slavery. We then dip the bitter herbs in the charoset, the sweet apple and nut mixture, to remember the bitterness of slavery paired with the sweetness of hope.

**On all other nights we sit on straight chairs. Why on this night do we relax and recline on pillows?**

Labor leaders and Jewish leaders: We were slaves. Long ago, the wealthy Romans rested on couches during their feasts. Slaves were not allowed to rest, not even while they ate. Since our ancestors were freed from slavery, we recline to remind ourselves that we, like our ancestors, can overcome bondage. We also recline to remind ourselves that rest and rejuvenation are vital to continuing our struggles.





**Honoring Rabbi Jill Jacobs:**  
***New England Jewish Labor Committee***  
***2019 Rabbi Joshua Heschel Leadership Awardee***

We honor today a true champion of social justice, Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Executive Director of T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights since 2011.

Jill grew up in Framingham, Mass., and graduated from Columbia University in 1997. As a rabbinical student at the Conservative movement’s Jewish Theological Seminary, Jill volunteered for a local tenants’ rights organization. “I would go back and forth between JTS, where I was involved in esoteric texts, and Harlem, where I would talk to a woman being evicted,” she told the Forward in 2011. “I decided to look at whether Jewish text had anything to say about it, and found pages of Talmudic discussion about when you’re allowed to evict somebody. This was in 1998, when nobody there was talking about social justice and for me it felt like the first time both parts of my life came together...The Judaism I knew about was meaningful but not connected to the major issues of the moment. What I could do as a rabbi was to bring an authentic Jewish voice to the crucial issues of the moment and bring those issues into the Jewish community.”

In 2003, the same year she was ordained as a Conservative rabbi, with a master’s degree in Talmud, Jill also earned a master’s in urban affairs from Hunter College. Before joining T’ruah, she worked as outreach and education director of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, in Chicago, and as rabbi in residence at the Jewish Funds for Justice (which subsequently merged with other organizations to become Bend the Arc).

*(cont.)*



Jill at an action at a Publix Super Market in Florida in 2015, calling on Publix to join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ Fair Food Program



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A Mandel Institute Jerusalem Fellow (2009-10) and a Wexner Fellow (while in rabbinical school), Jill is the author of *Where Justice Dwells: A Hands-On Guide to Doing Social Justice in Your Jewish Community* and *There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition*, both published by Jewish Lights. She is also the author of a widely cited 2008 Rabbinical Assembly *teshuvah* on labor rights.

Under Jill's leadership, T'ruah has grown dramatically, representing more than 2,000 rabbis and cantors in North America. Described as a "major player on the left and a moral voice of the community," T'ruah brings a rabbinic moral voice to advancing and protecting human rights in North America, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. It mobilizes clergy and their communities to take action on a variety of issues, including protecting immigrants and refugees in both Israel and North America, working to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking, and pursuing a just and peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians. As a longtime partner of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), T'ruah has helped improve conditions for farm workers by pressuring major corporations to participate in CIW's groundbreaking Fair Food Program.

Before joining T'ruah, Jill's activism included doing interfaith outreach for a New Jersey campaign to organize janitors. As she told Jewish Boston in 2011, "I'd be sitting in a rabbi's office and the rabbi would jump up, leave the room, and come back with the janitor. While I was sitting in the room, the rabbi would start asking questions that had never been asked — how much do you make, is that enough, how are you doing, etc. I was shocked that the rabbi wouldn't know, but boards tend to be made up of business people who deal with budgets all day and are likely to say to rabbi: you deal with spiritual questions; we'll take care of the finances. But finances are a spiritual question!"

Simultaneously, there was a Jewish federation in the New York area where the janitors went on strike. I realized at the very, very least, our institutions need to pay a living wage to the people who are mopping our floors... When we think about Human Rights, we tend think about Geneva Convention issues like torture and war, but if you look at the UN Declaration on Human Rights, it includes the right to organize, the right to make a livelihood, the right to economic security. So I'm interested in changing the perception of human rights to include those issues that are officially part of the declaration but often not perceived as such."

Jill is frequently quoted in articles about Israel and social justice issues, and her op-eds have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Haaretz*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Forward* and most major American Jewish newspapers. In 2018, she was invited to the Carter Center, where she joined President Jimmy Carter and Imam Omar Suleiman for a panel discussion on faith and human rights.

Jill lives in New York with her husband, Rabbi Guy Austrian, and their two daughters.

*Rabbi Jill Jacobs is one of the leading Jewish moral voices today. Her leadership of T'ruah, her scholarship, her courage and her wisdom are a blessing to all of us.*

—Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek

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## Song: Avadim Hayinu

Avadim hayinu, hayinu  
Ata b'nei chorin, b'nei chorin  
We were once slaves, now we are free.

### Maggid

We now fill our cups in anticipation of hearing the story of slavery in Egypt. But we do not drink at this time, waiting until after we have heard the entire troubling story. We who are privileged to sit at this plentiful table dare not celebrate our joy over liberation as long as others are enslaved, oppressed, threatened, and killed by tyrants today. Shortly we will spill drops from the cup to represent the suffering caused by plagues ancient and contemporary.

In the Jewish tradition, Moses is the highest example of a leader. Many have been compared to him. A Hasidic tale urges us *not* to compare ourselves to Moses. In the tale, Rabbi Zusya tells his students that when he leaves this life and arrives in the World to Come, he will not be asked, “Why were you not Moses?” but rather, “Why were you not Zusya?” Trying to be Moses, or Gandhi, or Cesar Chavez, or Martin Luther King, can dampen our confidence and stifle our own creativity.

Yet we might ask: What did Moses do that I can learn from? When Moses had grown up, “he went out to his kinsfolk and *looked on their burdens*; and *he saw* an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen. He looked here and there and *seeing that no one was about*, he struck the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.”

The rabbinic commentators point out that Moses’ first experience as an activist was to see his fellow with his eyes and his heart, and suffer on his or her account. Not only that, but when he “looked here and there, seeing no one,” it means that he saw no one who was ready to champion the cause of justice.

The first step to standing up, whether to taskmasters or to Pharaoh or to bullies or to any injustice, is this simple act: look and see. You may not feel personally threatened. You may be perfectly comfortable. You may want to run away. But the minute you see someone else’s suffering, your heart can’t help but be moved.

Still, Moses could not free the oppressed Hebrews himself. The liberation could only happen when the Hebrews themselves cried out: “They were groaning under the bondage and cried out; and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to God. God heard their moaning, and God took notice of them.”

The Jewish tradition understands these verses to mean that until people speak about their suffering, until they come together to say “we won’t take it anymore,” nothing changes. The midwives were ready to be leaders, Yocheved and Miriam were ready, Pharaoh’s daughter was ready, and Moses himself was ready. But no one could take the Israelites out of Egypt until the people were ready. Each of us has a role to play in the task of liberation; when we lift our voices together, we can crash through all obstacles to justice.

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## Today's Ten Plagues

The plagues of Exodus brought terrible destruction to Egypt, threatening its social fabric and crippling its economy: Blood, Frogs, Lice, Wild Beasts, Cattle Disease, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, and Death of the Firstborn. Egypt could have avoided these plagues had Pharaoh listened to Moses. Even Pharaoh's own advisors urged him to stop oppressing the Hebrews and let them go. The plagues were the direct consequence of a stubborn leader who, believing he was a god, gave no thought to how his policies afflicted his own nation.

Today we consider the plagues that afflict our world and our nation, plagues that could be prevented if those in power truly paid attention to the needs of the peoples of the earth.

- Ignorance:** Undermining public school education and dismissing science
- Lies:** Calling journalists "enemies of the people"
- Divisiveness:** Sowing hatred between Americans and turning vulnerable populations into scapegoats
- Harming families:** Separating families at the border and taking away funds for child and family health
- Thievery:** Robbing from the poor and working class to give tax breaks to the wealthiest 1%
- Tyranny:** Corruption, disregarding democratic norms, and scoffing at the law
- Chaos:** Breeding confusion and fear as a means of preventing dissent
- War:** Colluding with dictators while shunning democratic allies
- Environmental ruin:** Denying the science of climate change and causing irreparable destruction by reversing environmental regulations
- Death:** ...of refugees, the homeless, the poor; from a drug overdose, for lack of medical care, in a hate crime; in solitary confinement, in a detention center, in extreme storms, heat, or cold; from domestic abuse, racial profiling, gun violence...

**Together: In every generation, each individual must feel as if he or she personally had come out of Egypt.**

*"When we see injustice in the world, both close to home and far away, we should recognize that our privilege doesn't just protect us from injustice; it comes with serious responsibility to alleviate it. Seeing ourselves 'as if we went out from Egypt' means that we should be part of the solution. Each of us must find a way to make a difference, to make the world better in our generation. That understanding is what we ingest with our symbolic foods at the Seder. When we see ourselves as if we, ourselves, went out from Egypt, we see ourselves as change-agents, as God's partners in repairing a broken world."*

— Rabbi Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus

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## Song: Dayenu

Dayenu is a song built on the recurring refrain, “it would have been enough.” Is it ever enough? No! But unless we stop and look back on how far we have come, the long road ahead will seem endlessly exhausting and sap our will. We cannot permit our oppressors to rob us of the joy of living! Precisely because it is never enough, we give thanks at this moment for all that life has to offer.

Ilu ho-tsi, ho-tsi-a-nu,  
ho-tsi-a-nu mi-Mitz-ra-yim,  
ho-tsi-a-nu mi-Mitz-ra-yim,  
da-ye-nu!

*(If you had only taken us out of Egypt,  
Dayenu!)*

CHORUS:

Dai, da-ye-nu,  
Dai, da-ye-nu,  
Dai, da-ye-nu,  
Da-ye-nu, da-ye-nu, da-ye-nu!  
Dai, da-ye-nu,  
Dai, da-ye-nu,  
Dai, da-ye-nu,  
Da-ye-nu, da-ye-nu!

Ilu na-tan, na-tan la-nu,  
na-tan la-nu et-ha-Sha-bat,  
na-tan la-nu et-ha-Sha-bat,  
da-ye-nu!

*(If you had only given us the Sabbath, day of  
rest, Dayenu!)*

(CHORUS)

Ilu na-tan, na-tan la-nu,  
na-tan la-nu et-ha-To-rah,  
na-tan la-nu et-ha-To-rah,  
da-ye-nu!

*(If you had only given us the Torah, our  
teaching, Dayenu!)*

(CHORUS)



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## The Second Cup of Wine – *Commitment* Recognizing Don Siegel

We dedicate this second cup to **commitment**. Having told the trials and tribulations of our liberation, and having spilled from this cup in memory of those who suffered in the process, we celebrate our freedom while acknowledging the price of freedom as well.

With awe at the power that can overcome oppression, and full of compassion for the pain that accompanies it, we fully commit ourselves to creating a just world for all humanity.

*“This is no time for neutrality. We Jews cannot remain aloof or indifferent.  
We, too, are either ministers of the sacred or slaves of evil.”*

— Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

*Abraham Joshua Heschel was an American rabbi, scholar and philosopher who was a leader of Jews in the Civil Rights Movement and whose commitment to social justice was integral to his practice of Judaism.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, borei p'ree hagafen.*

Blessed are You, Source of All Life, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(We drink the Second Cup of Wine.)





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## Recognizing Don Siegel

Don Siegel, outgoing Co-Chair of the New England Jewish Labor Committee (NE JLC), has dedicated decades of his life to the growth and well-being of the Jewish Labor Committee and to the dignity of all workers.

Don Siegel became an attorney at Segal Roitman in 1971 and has been a partner at the firm since 1978. Umbrella groups of labor organizations like the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and the Massachusetts Building Trades Council represent a major element of Don's practice. As their General Counsel he advises on policy issues and legal questions and works on legislative initiatives. As counsel for the Boston Building Trades Council he has negotiated several large project labor agreements. Several billion dollars of construction have been covered by these agreements. Don represents several employee benefit funds as well as non-ERISA labor management cooperation trusts. He has several local union clients in the private sector.

Long active in community and bar related groups, Don serves as a member of the National Board of the JLC, as well as serving for many years on the Board of its New England Chapter. He is a past president of several community organizations and a member of the American and Boston Bar Associations. Don is a recognized leader in his field and has written and lectured extensively on topics of concern to the labor bar and to labor leaders, speaking regularly to unions as well as professional audiences. He has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America for more than 20 years, and has been named a Massachusetts Super Lawyer numerous times, as well as having been featured on Boston's Best Lawyers. Don has also been recognized by the Archdiocese of Boston's Labor Guild, who presented him with a Cushing-

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Gavin Award as an outstanding union attorney; he also has received the Massachusetts AFL-CIO Merit Award. Don is a past President of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Harvard Radcliffe Hillel.

Don has been a formidable representative for labor in the boardroom, while also valuing the role of grassroots organizing and activism, and can often be seen on picket lines proudly showing his support for workers on strike. NE JLC has been extremely fortunate to have the leadership of someone with Don's expertise. Coupled with his deep personal commitment, and his relationship-building within the labor, Jewish, business, and political communities, Don has contributed greatly to JLC's credibility and impact. Don deeply understands the importance of the unique role that the Jewish Labor Committee plays in bringing together diverse communities to set things right in the world. He has played a central role in supporting the JLC to do just that.

*“Don Siegel represents the best of what it means to advocate for the vulnerable and fight for justice. Whether publicly or behind the scenes, Don brings his gentle, thoughtful presence to untie the knots of conflicts that no one else can unravel. His concern for workers is unflagging. His integrity is unquestioned. His humility is unbounded. Don is a model and inspiration for anyone who seeks to use the law to create a more just society.”*

— Rabbi Barbara Penzner

*“Thank you Don for everything you've done and will continue to do for the Jewish Labor Committee, for our Jewish community and for Boston. You've been a builder of bridges, a mentor to advocates and leaders, and an inspiration to us all.”*

— Jeremy Burton, Executive Director  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston



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## Song: Eish Tamid/Which Side Are You On?

*Eish tamid tukad al hamiz-be'ach*

*Lo tichbeh, lo tichbeh*

*Eish tamid tukad al hamiz-be'ach*

*Lo tichbeh, lo tichbeh*

Which side are you on?

Which side are you on my people?

Which side are you on?

Which side are you on my people?

*“A perpetual fire shall keep burning on the altar. It shall not go out.” — Leviticus 6:6*

***Eish Tamid* tune by Shefa Gold;**

***Which Side Are You On* by Florence Reece;**

**Mash-up by Ilana Lerman**



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## Rachtzah – Washing Hands Before Eating

Once again, we prepare for the food to come. We need to be reminded, out loud and often, of the intention we have set, the purpose that drives us.

## Motzi, Matzah – Bread of Poverty, Bread of Freedom

Matzah is a very plain food: a flat, bland, cracker baked by the sun on the backs of those seeking freedom. But matzah is also a complex and paradoxical symbol. Earlier in the Seder, we called it the “bread of poverty;” now we call it “the bread of freedom.” Matzah is imbued with the flavor of oppression as well as the taste of redemption. It reminds us that we, too, live through hard times and good times. We know sorrow and joy, often in the same moment. May this matzah help us to endure the hard times, knowing that suffering can sometimes contain the seeds of liberation.

*“We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.” — Ella Baker*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

*Baruch atah adonay eloheynu meleh ha'olam hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.*

Blessed are you, Source of All Life, who brings forth bread from the earth.

(We eat a bite of matzah.)

(Some people follow the practice of refraining from eating any matzah in the weeks leading up to Passover, so that the first taste of matzah comes in the context of the actual Passover celebration and story-telling. You are welcome to eat or not eat the matzah as you choose.)

*When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor both. Some say that has now been achieved. But I know that that is not the case. The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning.”*

— Nelson Mandela



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## Maror – Biting into Bitterness

In solidarity with those who are still enslaved — who fight every day for survival, who live in fear of deportation, who know the injustice of systemic racism — for all those who are not free, we eat the bitter herb.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל אֲכִילַת מָרוֹר.

*Baruch atah adonay eloheynu meleh ha'olam asher kiddeshanu  
bemitzvotav vetzivanu al achilat maror.*

Blessed are you, Source of All Life, who has made us holy  
with mitzvot and commanded us to eat maror.

(We eat a bite of horseradish with matzah.)

*“We Are Not Tractors.”*

**Banner, signed by members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), in response to a tomato grower who said, “The tractor doesn’t tell a farmer how to run a farm.”**

**— From *The Other Side of the Sea: A Haggadah on Fighting Modern-Day Slavery*,  
T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights**



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## Korech – Matzah, Bitter Herbs, and Charoset Together

Korech brings together the main elements of the Passover: the bread of freedom, the bitter herbs of slavery, and the sweetness of hope and persistence. Korech reminds us that no one is alone. We are bound together in our suffering and in solidarity we will break free.

*“If I am not for myself, who will be for me?  
But if I am for myself only, what am I?  
And if not now, when?”*

— Hillel

*“And if not with others, how?”*

— Adrienne Rich

## Shulchan Orech – The Meal (which will be served soon!)

In a traditional seder, the meal would be eaten now. At today’s Labor Seder we will eat the meal at the end, after the last few remaining sections of our NE JLC Labor Seder ritual.



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## Tzafun – The Hidden and the Revealed

At this point in the Seder, we reveal the hidden half of the middle matza, and share it with all assembled. Our work reveals that which is hidden: lifting up the voices of those who have not been heard, and bringing to light those who have become invisible. The lingering taste of this last piece of matza reminds us of the power we hold when we work together to transform slavery into freedom.

*“I don’t believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others.”*

— Coretta Scott King

## Barech – Taking Time to Give Thanks

Once we have eaten and are satisfied, we pause for a blessing of gratitude. Afterward, we open the door for Elijah, the Prophet, waiting with great anticipation his announcement that the time of the Messiah has arrived. That time could be now, if we would only do our part to redeem this broken world.



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## The Third Cup of Wine – *Gratitude* Honoring Local 26 and the National Grid United Steel Workers Unions

We dedicate this third cup to **gratitude**. This cup usually appears in the Haggadah after the meal, reminding us to give thanks for the food, and for all of those who grew, harvested, processed, packaged, prepared, and served it.

In order to move forward, we need to look back from time to time and rejoice in our blessings. We are grateful for the work of those unions, organizers, and workers, whose blood, sweat, and tears have transformed the lives of their coworkers and families, their workplace, and our community.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, borei p'ree hagafen.*

Blessed are You, Source of All Life, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(We drink the Third Cup of Wine.)





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## Like the Israelites, the Hotel Workers Stood up Against Oppression

### Story of the Unite Here, Local 26 Hotel Workers who Went on Strike against the Marriott Hotels

The first time Moses demanded that Pharaoh let the Israelites free from enslavement, Pharaoh responded by saying, *“Moses, you are trying to keep them from their work! If the Israelites have all this time to be protesting, they must not be working hard enough.”* He refused to let the Israelites go and, in fact he intensified the exploitation of the enslaved Israelites.

The Israelite slaves were generally expected to make bricks out of straw provided by their bosses and then use the bricks for construction. But in response to their initial protest, Pharaoh decreed that the Israelites must now gather their own straw, while still making the same amount of bricks. Of course, the Israelites were not able to produce as much as before, because it took time and energy to collect the straw. When Pharaoh saw the decreased production he called them lazy and punished them. But the Israelites continued to fight for their freedom. It was a long fight — it was not until the affliction of the Ten Plagues that Pharaoh conceded.

Over the last few years at the Marriott hotels, workers have been noticing that they are expected to do more work for the same pay. One example of this is the “Green Choice” program. The “Green Choice” program encourages hotel guests to opt out of having their rooms cleaned each night, stating that it is the more “eco-friendly” choice and offering incentives if they agree. But this is really a ploy for the company to pay less to its housekeeping staff.

When housekeepers go to clean the rooms that have opted for the “Green Choice”, the rooms are two or three times as dirty and take far longer to clean. However, instead of increasing the allotted time per room and expecting fewer rooms cleaned per shift, Marriott has set the expectation that housekeepers do more work in the same shift. This means that they could cut shifts for housekeepers, stating that they just don’t need to pay for as many shifts. For workers this has meant more erratic schedules, insufficient work hours, more rushed work, and having to use harsh chemicals to clean the dirtier rooms.

Esperanza Nieves, housekeeper at the Westin Copley in Boston, explains, “I have to use a lot of bleach. And the bleach is really bad above all else for me. Because now I have lung problems. And I think it is because of the dust and the chemicals.”

The “Green Choice” Program was one of the factors that led Marriott workers in Boston and nationwide to escalate their fight for fair working conditions by going on strike. Workers at seven Marriott hotels in Boston were on strike for 46 days beginning last October. They were out from morning until night, each day showing up with more strength and resolve than the last. They were not alone — they walked the picket lines in solidarity with Marriott workers in other locations across the US who also went out on strike, in San Francisco, Detroit, Seattle, San Jose, San Diego, Oakland, and Hawaii.

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The Jewish Labor Committee acted in solidarity with the Local 26 Marriott workers, by helping to mobilize Boston Jews not to cross picket lines and to show up and rally with the hotel workers.

After six long weeks of protesting the unfair conditions at Marriott, the company finally agreed to the workers' demands for a strong contract that includes sufficient contributions to the workers' health fund, better shift stability, fair pay increases, an increase in pensions, protections for pregnant workers, maternity/paternity leave, and protections against sexual assault. By bravely choosing to stand together, the collective power of the workers was enough to pressure Marriott to change.

From the story of the Israelites, we learn that one may not immediately escape oppressive conditions just by making a demand, but through persistence and standing strong, one can triumph.

Mei Leung, age 72, a housekeeper at Sheraton Boston for over 30 years, and a Marriott striker for 46 days remarked, "With our new contract, I have more money so I can finally afford to retire and pay our medical expenses. I will be retiring this June. Going on strike has given me the chance to finally relax. I look forward to spending more time with my husband, my children, and my grandchildren."



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## Staying Strong, Like the Israelites

### Story of the Gas Workers of United Steelworkers (USW) Locals 12003 and 12012 and Their Struggle for a Fair Contract with National Grid

Rather than accept being enslaved, the Israelites decided to take a risk to fight for their people's safety, and they won their freedom from slavery. But even after they left Egypt, the Israelites did not find themselves in safe or humane living conditions.

We know the story well — the Israelites wandered through the desert for 40 years, not knowing if they would ever reach a place where they could build a better life. They didn't know if they had done the right thing by choosing to fight for themselves or whether they had made a mistake that would only make things worse.

But the Israelites chose not to give up hope. They knew they were fighting not only for themselves but for their families and for generations to come. They knew that however long they had to wait would be worth it to win freedom and safety. And so they chose to stay strong in their effort to achieve security for their community. After 40 hard years, they finally made it to a place where they could be safe, like they had envisioned when they first decided to fight for their freedom.

When it came time for the USW Locals 12003 and 12012 gas workers' contract with National Grid to expire in June 2018, the workers knew that accepting National Grid's proposal for a new contract was not an option. The wages put forward by National Grid were not reasonable, and it would have shifted a lot of health care costs from the company to current and retired workers. In the meantime, National Grid had brought in \$4.8 billion after taxes last year. The contract also proposed reducing pension benefits and sick leave for newly hired workers. Even though some of these changes would affect recently hired people more than longtime workers, the workers decided to stick together to win secure benefits for all. During negotiations, workers tried explaining the importance of these basic protections to the company, but National Grid wouldn't budge in their proposal. As time was running out before the previous contract was set to expire, the gas workers chose to keep negotiating for a fair deal and asked that the company extend the previous contract until they could come to an agreement.

However, in an attempt to break the power and morale of the union during negotiations, National Grid refused to extend the contract and instead locked 1,250 workers out of their jobs. They were not allowed to come to work for six months. National Grid used every tactic they could to avoid responding to the demands of the workers. During the months of the lockout, not only were the wages of the workers withheld but National Grid took the unprecedented and cruel step of cutting their healthcare as well.

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**From a September 4th, 2018 WBUR story on the lock-out by Bruce Gellerman:**

*David Monahan has worked as a residential service technician for National Grid for nine years...He said, “Two weeks prior to this, I was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor in my bladder. So, I had health insurance when we were locked out — and then I didn’t have health insurance when we were locked out — so it changes everything.”*

*Monahan is the sole provider for his wife and 16-month-old daughter. They have another child on the way. “This is an open-ended thing,” he says. “This could be a year. Who knows how long this could go on?”*

Like the Israelites, the gas workers did not know how long they would have to wait until they would achieve the safety and justice that they had taken a risk for. They could have decided to give in, but instead they believed in their collective power and chose to do what it takes to outlast the bosses. They refused to make compromises when it came to safe and just working conditions. After six months, the power of the unflinchingly dedicated gas workers forced the hand of National Grid, who finally offered a fair and sufficient contract.

One of the workers, Chris Studley said, “In the beginning we knew we had a fight on our hands, as time went on it was clear that our fight had become everyone’s fight. We had support coming in from all over the country. It was staggering. That support was paramount in our ability to stay strong and keep fighting. We knew we were right! Never underestimate the power of solidarity.”

After the settlement President of USW Local 12012 Joe Kirylo, and President of USW Local 12003 John Buonopane, said, “We are very proud of our members who stood together over the past six months. National Grid’s decision to lock out 1250 of its most experienced employees last June caused significant hardship for so many residents, businesses and communities through Massachusetts.” — **From the State House News of January 7, 2019 by Katie Lannan.**



PHOTO BY CHRIS STUDLEY

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## Hallel, Nirtzah – Coming to the End, Looking to the Future

### The Fourth Cup of Wine – *Hope* Recognizing Marya Axner

*“The only recognizable feature of hope is action.”*

— Grace Paley

We dedicate this fourth cup to **hope**. After tonight’s Seder, we step forward into tomorrow, aware of the pain, committed to justice, grateful for our gifts, and with renewed hope for what we can and will accomplish in the coming year.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, borei p'ree hagafen.*

Blessed are You, Source of All Life, who creates the fruit of the vine.

(We drink the Fourth, and Final, Cup of Wine.)

*“Do not do this work by yourself. Step forward, get involved and then exercise your power to mobilize, to organize, to convince others. Be inclusive, build a community of activists...We need hope, the ingredient that keeps us going when we might otherwise quit. And don’t forget the fun. The end doesn’t justify the means; the means are the ends. If we want joy and friendship and laughter at the end of the struggle, then we must have them along the way.”*

— Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service Global Ambassador



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## Recognizing Marya Axner

Marya Axner is stepping down as Regional Director of the New England Jewish Labor Committee (NE JLC) as of June 2019, a position she has held since 2007. During that time, Marya has brought passion, energy, and humanity to all that she has done in support of JLC's mission as Executive Director, and before that as a Board member.

It is fitting that NE JLC honors Marya Axner at the Labor Seder, because she has been the driving force for JLC's community-building efforts for so long. So many who are in the room tonight — JLC members, clergy, community activists, workers, political leaders, and Jewish leaders, are here because of relationships built by Marya. NE JLC has been incredibly enriched by Marya's work.

Not only has Marya built the Labor Seder into a Boston Jewish community institution, but her relationship-building efforts have established alliances with partner organizations, strengthened NE JLC's activist community, and reinvigorated our Board.

The NE JLC engages the Jewish community in support of issues affecting workers and the labor movement, providing support for labor campaigns of hotel workers, janitors, faculty members, airport workers, teachers, and so many others; Marya has been at the forefront of NE JLC's efforts — whether in organizing others, or standing herself on the picket lines. NE JLC also works in the state legislature to pass legislation that supports workers, and Marya is well-known in the halls of the State House, where she has built warm relationships with elected officials, some of whom are with us in the room tonight. Marya has devoted uncounted hours to Domestic Workers and created a strong and lasting alliance with Matahari Workers' Center. Marya launched NE JLC's Campus Initiative, involving college students in labor activism and teaching them about Jewish labor history.

Marya's commitment to JLC is a reflection of the deep connections she forms with the people around her. Says Marya, "Jewish Labor Committee has become much more to me than a home and I hope that is true for many people. It is a place where people can fight for justice with our Jewish tradition as our foundation. We come from many walks of life. We are labor organizers, attorneys, phone company workers, construction workers, rabbis, librarians, college administrators. We find meaning in speaking out against injustice. I love these people."

Marya leaves an organization far stronger for her tenure, and ready to take on exciting new challenges in the coming years. And while Marya leaves very big shoes to fill, we are grateful to know that Marya plans to remain with us as an activist for years to come.

Marya's work with NE JLC is only one of many facets of her engagement with the Jewish community, with activism, and with social justice work. Before working at the Jewish Labor Committee, Marya worked in the Education Department of the Jewish Women's Archive where she wrote curricula about Jewish women's history. Prior to that she worked for the

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Somerville Public Schools, organizing and supporting parents to be vocal about their children's education. She has also worked for the non-profit Everyday Democracy, which encourages people to have small group discussions that lead to lasting change. She has also been an art teacher, an artist, a multicultural consultant, and a writer. As an adjunct art teacher at Portland Community College in Portland Oregon, Marya helped organize one of the first college adjunct bargaining units. Marya also leads workshops on anti-Semitism to help labor leaders and activists understand the connections between anti-Semitism and white supremacy. In all that she does, Marya engages in the long-term challenge of transforming our society into a cooperative one.



Marya lives in Somerville with her husband Mark Niedergang, who is on the Somerville City Council. Marya's daughter, Rae Axner, works at Groundwork Somerville as Youth Employment Program Manager; she lives nearby and is also an activist.

*Like Miriam, the sister of Moses, Marya leads with vision, creativity, courage, and grace. She touches everyone she meets with an open heart, bringing us together to overcome any obstacle: united, inspired, and ready to build the beautiful world that Marya envisions in sparkling color.*

— **Rabbi Barbara Penzner, Co-Chair, New England Jewish Labor Committee**

*Marya is the manifestation of her ancestors' dreams. She moves through this world grounded in her purpose of healing our history through fighting for our future in the best way possible — of just being her. An embodied leader understated in her power, she weaves faraway connections to walk hand in hand towards a vision of justice that we're all entitled to. When I learned that she was stepping down from her leadership role I was unbothered because I know what we all know — she is like a star that continues to burn at all hours and will always be there especially in the darkest times to light our way home.*

— **Monique Nguyen, Executive Director, Matahari Women Workers' Center**

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## New England Jewish Labor Committee Membership Campaign

Becoming a member is an important way to support the work of the New England JLC. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join now. A membership form can be found in the brochures on your table.

Please stand with us as a member of the New England JLC as we mobilize voices in the Jewish community to advocate for *fair pay, a safe working environment, and basic job security*. Your voice gives the JLC influence and your membership donation makes the JLC's work possible.

### **Why Become a Member?**

**Because it's a vote for justice in the workplace.** The JLC stands up for the hard-working men and women in our community who struggle daily to make a decent living for themselves and their families, and we need you at our side in this fight. Help us be a strong Jewish voice in our community for fairness and equity.

**Because your membership amplifies our voice.** When we meet with our elected officials or speak with employers, our influence increases in direct proportion to our numbers. Becoming a member is an important way to help us bring about change, whether in the State House or in local boardrooms, whether or not you have time to become more actively involved.

**Because JLC is an effective organization that uses its resources judiciously.** The New England JLC runs on a modest budget, and much of our vital work is carried out by dedicated volunteers. Your membership contribution goes a long way and will have a real impact.

And if you are already a New England JLC member, please take a brochure and talk with others about the importance of joining. Even if they don't have the time to get actively involved in the JLC's work, it is an important way people can support our efforts for workplace justice.





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*“Believe in life! Always human beings will live and progress to greater, broader, and fuller life.”*

— W.E.B. DuBois

*“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”*

— Elie Wiesel

### **Solidarity Forever\***

When the union’s inspiration through the workers blood shall run,  
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.  
Though our unity will be tested by the folks in Washington,  
We’ll keep the union strong.

Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever  
Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong!

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,  
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel could turn.  
Historic income inequality,  
It makes my anger burn,  
But the union makes us strong.

**Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever  
Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong!**



*\*“Solidarity Forever” was written in 1915 for the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) by one of its members, Ralph Chaplin. It is one of the most famous songs of the U.S. labor movement, having been adopted by various unions and working class struggles in this country and beyond. Chaplin began writing the song while at a coal miners’ strike in West Virginia. Music adapted by Lisa Gallatin.*

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# *Thank you all for coming to the New England Jewish Labor Committee's Labor Seder!*

## ***Looking Ahead, Reflecting Back***

The story of Passover is the central narrative of the Jewish people and has inspired Jews throughout history to stand up for oppressed people. With social justice as an intrinsic part of our beliefs, values, tradition and practice, we as Jews understand that the well-being of working people is critical to the wellbeing of the Jewish community, and to the larger society.

Since its creation, the JLC has stood up for groups who have come under attack and we are actively speaking out in response to the rise in hateful incidents and rhetoric against many vulnerable groups, including Jews, immigrants, refugees, people of color, women, the LGBTQ community, and the Muslim community. In these challenging times, our work is more important than ever.

As New England Jewish Labor Committee's key community event, the Labor Seder has become our time to highlight our current and upcoming work and reflect back on our efforts in the past year.

Some of the current worker struggles where JLC is standing in support of workers, through participation in protests, clergy delegations, press conferences, and community education:

- **The 30,000 Stop & Shop workers** — members of United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) local unions 328, 371, 1445, 1459, and 919 — who have overwhelmingly voted to strike while the parent company, Ahold Delhaize, is proposing to slash wages, benefits, and pensions, the same time it is experiencing strong profits and has authorized over \$ 1 billion in stock buybacks.
- **The UFCW 1445 members** who are in a struggle with **Macy's** over negotiating a contract with fair wages and benefits.
- **The Tufts Dining Hall Workers of UNITE HERE Local 26** in their current struggle to negotiate a fair first contract, fighting for basic protections such as fair scheduling, livable wages, affordable health care, and hiring long-time "temp" workers as permanent workers.
- **Airport workers** struggling to join a union (SEIU 32BJ) and combat wage theft, sexual harassment, low wages, and jobs with few or no benefits.
- **Domestic workers' rights organizations** as they fight for the enforcement of the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights (DWBR). We also educate employers of domestic workers regarding the DWBR.
- **The New England Regional Council of Carpenters and other building trades unions** as they fight wage theft in the non-union construction industry.

We have taken heart in worker successes of the past year and in providing support to their struggles:

- **The gas workers of United Steelworkers Local 12003 and 12012** who won a fair contract after being locked out of their jobs by National Grid for over six months and having their health care suspended. JLC successfully advocated for Cambridge and Somerville to pass resolutions to stop all non-emergency work with National Grid until the lock-out ended.
- **Brandeis graduate students, as members of SEIU, Local 509** in their fight to win a first union contract, including significant raises and payments for teaching supplies, access to professional development opportunities, and avenues for input on student learning.

*(cont.)*

- 
- **Harvard graduate students** as they formed the Harvard Graduate Student Union (HGSU-UAW). We continue to stand with them as they fight for a contract with fair pay, increased benefits, and a just system to protect workers from sexual harassment and discrimination.
  - **Unite Here Local 26 hotel workers**, who after a six-week long strike against Marriott Hotels, won a strong contract that includes sufficient contributions to the workers' health fund, better shift stability, fair pay increases, an increase in pensions, protections for pregnant workers, maternity/paternity leave, and protections against sexual assault. JLC organized Jewish people to commit to not crossing picket lines and to march with workers.

Legislative advocacy is also a significant part of JLC's work:

- In advance of the 2018 election, the Massachusetts legislature raised the minimum wage to \$15 per hour over five years and also passed the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act. Both of these victories were the direct result of community pressure generated via signature campaigns to put these issues on the ballot; NE JLC was an active participant in the Raise Up Massachusetts signature-gathering campaign. We are currently working on advocacy for a Fair Share Amendment to help raise badly needed revenue for public schools and transportation.
- In 2018 JLC mobilized support for the "Lift the Cap on Kids" campaign to end the rule denying welfare benefits to children conceived after a family began receiving Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children. While the State Legislature passed this bill, Governor Baker vetoed it, so we will continue working to pass this bill again in the current legislative session.
- This year we supported the SAFE Communities Act, to protect the civil rights, safety and well-being of all residents, by drawing a clear line between immigration enforcement and public safety. While this bill was not successful, we continue to work in coalition with others to establish protections for immigrants and others in Massachusetts.
- We stood with Massachusetts Nurses Association as they attempted to pass Ballot Measure #1 which would have established regulations that set a safe maximum limit on the number of patients assigned to a nurse at one time. We are committed to work on future efforts to address these issues.

New England JLC also spoke out on human rights issues locally and nationally, through actions such as endorsing Massachusetts Ballot Measure #3 which won and reaffirmed Transgender Rights in Massachusetts; standing against the U.S.'s unfair immigration policies by convening on Tisha B'Av at the ICE office in Burlington; leading workshops on anti-Semitism, one for Mass Interfaith Worker Justice and one through the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable; and leading — in conjunction with our national staff — a Labor Seder in Memphis as part of commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and the AFSCME Sanitation Workers strike.

New England JLC has also undertaken significant education efforts, in particular our campus initiative to engage Jewish college students on issues of labor rights, as well as our advocacy to local Jewish community institutions for the hiring of union workers on Jewish community building projects.

We are proud of what has been done in the past year by JLC's dedicated activists, but much more work remains. **You can help us make a difference.** Please talk to JLC staff, board members and volunteers about how you can get involved.

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## ***Jewish Labor Committee, A History of Standing Up and Speaking Out***

We are proud of the long history of the Jewish Labor Committee (JLC) in standing up and speaking up for Jews, for working people, and for victims of discrimination.

JLC was formed in 1934 by members of what were then called the “Hebrew needle trade unions” in response to the rise of the Nazi movement in Europe. Before and during the United States entry into World War II, the JLC established communication channels with underground anti-Nazi labor, socialist and Jewish groups in occupied Europe. JLC raised funds for weapons that were smuggled into the Warsaw Ghetto and organized an American coordinating committee of European trade union leaders operating in exile who worked to rescue well over a thousand Jewish and non-Jewish political and cultural leaders.

After the war the Jewish Labor Committee was actively involved in relief and rehabilitation work for the survivors. JLC staff worked with displaced persons in post-war DP camps, children’s homes, and other newly re-established Jewish institutions. Working with the Yiddish-language *Jewish Daily Forward* and the New York radio station WEVD, JLC was able to renew ties between family members disrupted by the war and help bring these scattered remnants back into the fold of the larger Jewish world.

As early as 1944 JLC started educational activities against racism in the workplace. JLC established nearly two dozen local committees to combat racism and intolerance across the United States and Canada. These local committees became the foundation for the AFL Civil Rights Department. JLC distributed tens of thousands of pieces of literature, showed filmstrips, and ran “rumor clinics” to combat racism. In time, JLC helped a number of the largest national unions establish their own civil rights departments.



JLC played a key role in national and state campaigns for civil rights legislation, in the historic civil rights marches of the 1950s and ‘60s, and in the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights. Our efforts during that era included a key role in the founding of the United Farm Workers, the passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act in California, and staffing and support of the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Sometime after World War II, it became clear to JLC that the Soviet regime was engaged in a concerted policy of discrimination against Jews in employment, education, culture, and religious expression, not affording them the rights of other recognized ethnic and religious groups in the multi-ethnic Soviet population. In the early 1960’s JLC was a founding member of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Two decades later JLC formed a special trade Union Council for Soviet Jewry, headed by Lane Kirkland, through which American trade unions “adopted” refuseniks, protested non-delivery of mail to Soviet Jews, and demanded full rights for Jews living in the USSR—including the right to leave the USSR.

As the United Nations was debating the creation of what would ultimately be called the State of Israel, JLC played a little-known behind-the-scenes role, working with socialist labor and trade unionist allies in a number of countries to secure their representatives support. After Israel was established in 1947, JLC lent support and sent aid to cooperatives in the young country, assisted a number of labor-related and

(cont.)

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cultural institutions, and provided support for the resettlement and absorption of some of the remnants of European Jewry.

In the past decades, the Jewish Labor Committee has mobilized to support labor campaigns for worker rights: janitors, construction workers, hotel workers, security workers, hospital workers, meat packers, airports workers, teachers, telephone company workers, farm workers, college faculty, graduate student faculty, fast food workers, social workers and others. We have encouraged the continued use of union made goods and union services. We educate the Jewish community about these issues and organize people to speak out in support of workers.

JLC stands as a determined Jewish voice in support of the disenfranchised, the weak, the defenseless or the oppressed. Our voice is needed more than ever with the current erosion of — and indeed attack on — worker rights, with immigrants in jeopardy, and with racism and antisemitism alarmingly on the rise. We hope you will join with us in our work and strengthen our voice.

*To everyone who helped make this Labor Seder possible — especially those contributors listed on the following pages — we deeply appreciate your support.*

*A special thanks to our Gold Sponsors: New England Regional Council of Carpenters and UNITE HERE! and our Silver Sponsor: Massachusetts Teachers Association.*

*Big thanks too, to Temple Israel for their congregation's welcome and the use of their facilities.*

## *HAPPY PASSOVER!*



# TEMPLE BETH ZION (TBZ), BROOKLINE

wishes a hearty *Mazel Tov* and *Yasher Koach* to



## MARYA AXNER

on the occasion of her retirement for her extraordinary work for the labor movement as Executive Director of the New England Jewish Labor Committee

*and to*

## RABBI JILL JACOBS

for her active pursuit of justice for all as  
Executive Director of T'ruah:  
The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights



*Thank you to two extraordinary women  
for your service to humanity.*



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TBZ Tikkun Olam Steering Committee

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Rabbi Claudia Kreiman, Rabbi

# ***BOSTON'S*** ***LOCAL 26***

UNITE HERE!



**We thank the  
New England Jewish  
Labor Committee  
for its long history  
of supporting  
workers**



Brian Lang  
President

Carlos Aramayo  
Financial Secretary  
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Best Wishes to the  
N.E. Jewish Labor Committee



from the  
Massachusetts UAW CAP Council

UAW Locals 422, 470, 1596, 1981,  
2232, 2320, 2322 & 2324

We are proud to support the  
New England Jewish Labor Committee  
as they honor

Rabbi Jill Jacobs

Thank you for all you do to help workers and  
unions in America and Israel.

צדק צדק תרדוף

Justice, justice you shall pursue. (Deuteronomy 16:20)

Rabbi David Lerner Rabbi Michael Fel



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We Care ♥ for Massachusetts

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# The Fifth Question

**Why are these plumbers different from all others?**



**Because they are union**

We are pleased to support  
The New England Jewish Labor Committee  
Labor Seder

Congratulations  
Brian Doherty and Rabbi Jill Jacobs



[plumbersandgasfitterslocal12.org](http://plumbersandgasfitterslocal12.org)



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*Building Pathways  
congratulates  
Brian Doherty  
for his unwavering  
commitment to ensuring  
social justice and economic  
equity for all workers and the  
communities in which they  
live and work.*

Thank you  
Don and  
Marya



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IS PROUD TO TAKE PART IN CELEBRATING

The New England Jewish Labor Committee's 19th Annual Labor Seder.  
Congratulations and thank you to Honorees Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
and Brian Doherty for their phenomenal and  
continuing efforts to realize a more just world.

We also proudly recognize Local 26 Marriott Hotel Workers and  
United Steel Workers, Locals 12003 and 12012 for their hard-fought wins  
and to Don Siegel and Marya Axner for their years of dedicated service to JLC!

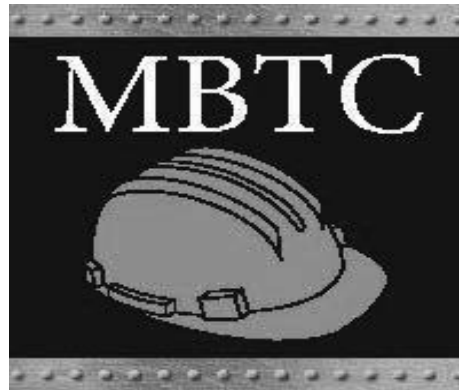


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COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES  
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**New England Jewish Labor Committee**  
on the occasion of the  
**19th Annual JLC New England Labor Seder**

We join you in honoring

**Rabbi Jill Jacobs**  
**Brian Doherty**

and recognizing

**Marya Axner**  
**Don Siegel**

**Local 26 Marriott Hotel Workers**  
**National Grid United Steel Workers, Locals 12003 and 12012**

We salute you all for your dedication to social justice and to creating workplaces  
that help all people build a life of meaning and purpose.

Thank you for all you do.

---

MAY YOU GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH





*In memory of my brother, Julius Topol*

*A Courageous Fighter  
for Civil and Labor Rights*

*He marched in Selma*

*- Sidney Topol -*

In this Season of Freedom, we thank the **Jewish Labor Committee**,  
**Jill Jacobs, Marya Axner & all the honorees**  
for their commitment to justice and workers' rights.



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**Congratulations to our Brother,  
Brian Doherty and to everyone  
at the Jewish Labor Committee  
for your great work!**



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Jewish Labor Committee**

**19th ANNUAL LABOR SEDER**

*Happy Passover*



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**Our Many Thanks  
 to Marya Axner  
 for all she has done**

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“All who are hungry, let them enter and eat.”

“All who are in need, let them come celebrate Passover with us.”



The BTU is proud to join with the Boston Jewish Labor Committee in its pursuit of freedom and justice. We would also like to congratulate the honorees and wish everyone Happy Passover!



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**Wishing the New England  
Jewish Labor Committee  
a joyous Passover**



from the staff of  
Community Labor United



Honoring Rabbi Jill,  
Don, and all the workers  
who labor for justice.

Thank you, Marya, for  
your tireless leadership.


*Rabbi Victor H. Reinstein*  
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**Thanks to New England Jewish Labor Committee  
For Many Years of Supporting Workers**

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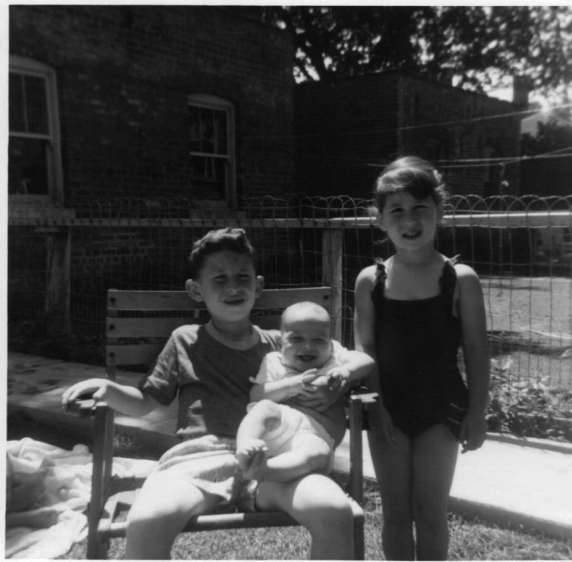
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**Mazal Tov to Rabbi Jill Jacobs and Marya Axner  
and all the honorees. Thank you for all you do!**

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**Happy Passover**  
Thanks to Marya for making  
the JLC the organization it is today.

With love,  
**Sybil Axner and Howard Axner**  
photo of Howard, Sybil & Marya Axner circa 1957



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“Stories of individuals, such as Abraham and Joseph, who pursue justice, as well as the narrative of Jewish slavery in Egypt, provide invaluable insights into fighting for justice and the danger of not doing so. However, the most important evidence of a community’s commitment to justice is not the actions of a few star individuals, nor is it the experience of oppression. Only upon gaining collective power does a community begin to demonstrate its approach to justice.”

— *Rabbi Jill Jacobs, There Shall be no Needy*

Tonight we recognize and honor those who have organized communities of justice and urged us to persevere no matter what the obstacles.

**Rabbi Jill Jacobs**, champion of human rights

**Brian Doherty**, builder of powerful communities

**Don Siegel**, advocate for justice

**Marya Axner**, organizer extraordinaire

And most of all, the courageous and persistent workers of

**UNITE/HERE Local 26** and the **National Grid workers of United Steel Workers Locals 12003 and 12012.**

May we all be inspired to follow their example and join in the fight.

*Rabbi Barbara Penzner*

Co-chair, New England Jewish Labor Committee  
Rabbi, Temple Hillel B’nai Torah, West Roxbury

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Rabbi Jill Jacobs, and Donald Siegel!*

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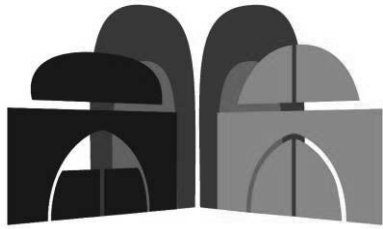
**Now Enrolling for our Sunday School  
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Contact Education Director Alexandra Corwin:  
[alexandra@circleboston.org](mailto:alexandra@circleboston.org)



*Thank you to the  
New England Jewish Labor  
Committee for hosting the  
19th Annual Labor Seder.*

*Congratulations to  
Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
Brian Doherty  
Don Siegel  
Marya Axner  
Local 26 Marriott  
Hotel Workers  
National Grid United  
Steel Workers Locals  
12003 & 12012  
and all of our friends in  
labor who fight for fairness and  
equality.*



**Synagogue Council  
of Massachusetts**

לא תעשק שכיר

Do not oppress your hired laborer...whether it is your family or a stranger in your community  
(Deuteronomy 24:14)

WILD Women join with our labor community to support the New England Jewish Labor Committee and all the ways you fight for workers to build a stronger labor movement.



SAVE THE DATE:

**“Using Our Voices/ Building Our Power!”  
June 21 - 23, 2019**

WILD's Summer Institute at  
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*Happy Passover  
and deepest thanks to the  
Jewish Labor Committee  
for the important social  
justice work you do.*

**Solidarity & Thanks,  
State Rep. Mike Connolly  
Cambridge/Somerville  
mike@mikeconnolly.org  
cell: 857.236.1901**

**Happy Passover**



Thank you Marya Axner!

We stand with the JLC in its pursuit of economic justice.

201 Central Street Somerville, MA  
617-625-0333 [www.templebnaibrith.org](http://www.templebnaibrith.org)



## Happy Passover!

*Chag Sameach! חג שמח*

The Field Services Organization, representing employees of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, proudly support the Jewish Labor Committee and all who fight for justice on the job every day.

*Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue*

צדק צדק תלדף

*“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress.”*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**FIELD SERVICES ORGANIZATION**

Philip Katz, President  
Jill Coleman, Vice President



*Joe*  
***Curtatone***  
**MAYOR**

**Chag Sameach!**

*Wishing you a peaceful and  
hopeful holiday at the  
New England Jewish Labor  
Committee's*

**19th Annual Labor  
Seder Haggadah**


[www.joecurtatone.com](http://www.joecurtatone.com)

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**Mazel Tov, Jewish Labor Committee!**

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**Congratulations to  
Rabbi Jacobs, Brian Doherty,  
Local 26 Hotel Workers &  
USW Locals 12003 and 12012  
and So Much Gratitude to  
Marya Axner and Don Siegel**

*Monica Halas*



We lift up and support the strength of our fellows and alumni in the labor movement; and we thank JLC for continuing to fight for workers rights.

In the words of Emma Lazarus,  
*“Until we are all free, we are none of us free.”*



# ELAINE CONSTRUCTION

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
NEW ENGLAND JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE  
*and the*  
19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LABOR SEDER

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THANK YOU  
**NEW ENGLAND JEWISH  
LABOR COMMITTEE**

AND

RABBI JILL JACOBS  
BRIAN DOHERTY  
DON SIEGEL  
MARYA AXNER

LOCAL 26 MARRIOTT HOTEL WORKERS  
NATIONAL GRID UNITED STEEL WORKERS, LOCALS 12003 AND 12012

for your commitment to Massachusetts workers!

**JOE KENNEDY**  
FOR CONGRESS

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY JOE KENNEDY FOR CONGRESS

Temple Hillel B'nai Torah  
stands proudly with  
workers and the  
New England JLC.



Thank you to the Co-Chairs,  
HBT past President Ashley Adams  
and our rabbi Barbara Penzner.

## *Mazel Tov to the JLC!*

### **Our 19th Labor Seder – what a lively time!**

At Kahal B'raira, we combine Jewish culture, identity, holidays, and life cycle events with secular humanism. **Please visit our warm and dynamic community.**



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**We honor the  
Jewish Labor  
Committee for  
its relentless  
commitment to  
economic justice.**



*Barbara and Steve Grossman*



**Good wishes during the  
Passover holiday and  
throughout the year!**

• • •

*In Solidarity,  
Patrick Michaels, Piano Teacher  
Somerville, MA 617-776-5604*



*Congratulates NEJLC for another year of  
continued commitment to building workers' power  
and resiliency in the face of great opposition.  
We are proud to be your partner!*

## **Mazel Tov!**

Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Brian Doherty,  
Marya Axner, Don Siegel  
Unite Here Local 26 Hotel Workers,  
Gasworkers of United Steelworkers 12003 & 12012

*Justice, Justice, you shall pursue...*  
Deuteronomy 16:20

**Wachsler CPA LLC**  
Irene Wachsler, CPA, MBA  
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ROOM 185, STATE HOUSE  
BOSTON, MA 02133-1020  
TEL: (617) 722-2960  
Louis.Kafka@MAhouse.gov

*To another year of working for justice  
and equality by the JLC.*

*Congratulations to  
Don, Marya and all the honorees.*



**Dahlia Rudavsky and Bob Jampol**

Congratulations  
to all of  
tonight's honorees  
Laboring together  
for all workers' rights  
to a fair wage  
and a safe and  
healthy workplace.

Michael Felsen and Tolle Graham



**TEMPLE ALIYAH**  
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*In Tribute To*

**The New England Jewish Labor Committee**  
and its esteemed honorees, including

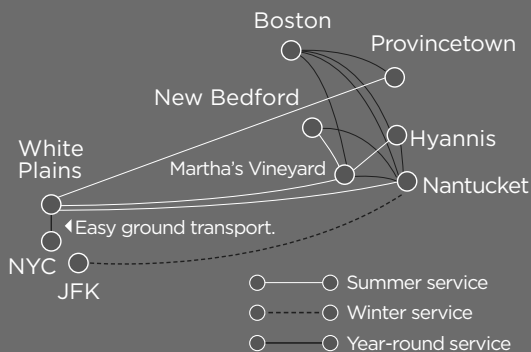
**Marya Axner  
Brian Doherty  
Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
Donald Siegel**

and the many local workers who have persevered  
during the past year in pursuit of  
workplace equity and economic justice

**Rabbi Carl M. Perkins  
David Farbman, President**

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and the Jewish community  
coming together to support workers.

**Matt McLaughlin**  
*Ward One Alderman  
Somerville*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
NEW ENGLAND  
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE**  
on the occasion of your  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Seder!**

*Greater Boston Legal Services Attorneys Union  
UAW Local 2320*

Salutes the honorees who, with the  
Jewish Labor Committee, strive for  
economic and social justice.

**Congratulations to NEJLC 2019 Honorees**

Embodying the essence of Rabbi Hillel's dictum:

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others,  
what am I? And if not now, when?*

\*\*\*\*\*

A very special acknowledgement for her decade of  
extraordinary leadership of NEJLC to

**Marya Axner**

We will miss everything you have brought and all the ways you  
transformed NEJLC into the dynamic, vibrant, fully engaged  
nexus of advocacy for social and economic justice it is today.

With gratitude  
Marian Strauss and Dore Penn

The Alliance for Business Leadership  
is proud to join the Jewish and Labor  
communities in the celebration of Passover.



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**Michael Cimmino**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Pasquale Vigliotta**  
*Vice President*

**Jonathan Cimino**  
*Executive Board*

**Joseph P. Mandarinini, Jr.**  
*Executive Board*

**Congratulations**

**Rabbi Jill Jacobs**

**Brian Doherty**

**Don Siegel**

**Marya Axner**

— 30TH ANNIVERSARY —  
Est. 1988

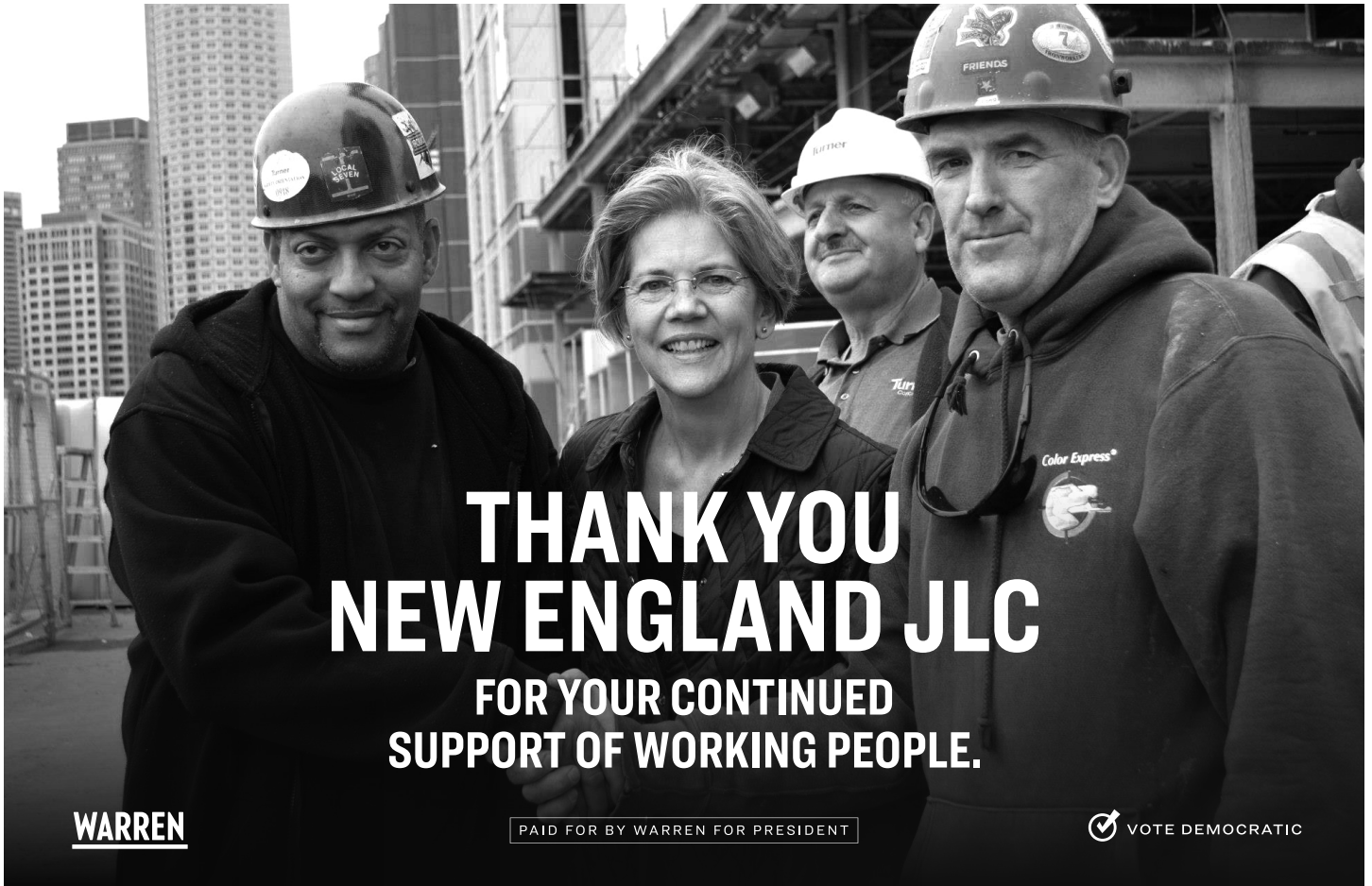
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FOR YOUR CONTINUED  
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| <b>Herman Brown</b>         | <i>Auditor</i>             |
| <b>Robert McEachern</b>     | <i>Sergeant at Arms</i>    |





Yashar koch'chem  
to  
Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Brian Doherty,  
Mayor Marty Walsh, the NE JLC,  
and all honorees  
for your tremendous work in our state  
and country in support of worker justice.



*Robert and Marion Ross*  
  
*In Honor of our Friends and Colleagues*  
*Marya Axner and Don Siegel,*  
  
*Look forward to a time when*  
*Hope and History Rhyme*

## ***MAZEL TOV to***

- Rabbi Jill Jacobs for her commitment to human rights and economic justice; and
- Brian Doherty for his work on behalf of building trades workers and his efforts to insure that women and people of color have access to these jobs; and
- United Steel Workers, Local 12003 and 12012 for their incredible resolve and courage in securing increased safety and other benefits from National Grid; and
- Local 26 UNITE/HERE for their willingness to strike and challenge the giant Marriott Hotels to insure that one job is all that hotel and restaurant workers need to work.

Kudos, with enormous gratitude, awe and inspiration to Marya Axner for her incredible leadership, devotion and compassion to the New England JLC and all that it does and stands for. We wish her the best as she embarks on a new journey.

Thanks to Don Siegel for his devotion to the JLC and to the many unions and workers he represented throughout his storied career as a labor lawyer.

To all of those honored and recognized, thank you, thank you.

*~ Joanne and Edward Goldstein*

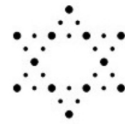


**CARPENTERS LOCAL 328**  
**PROUD TO SUPPORT THE JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE**  
**AND THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS FOR LABOR**

**FROM THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND STAFF**



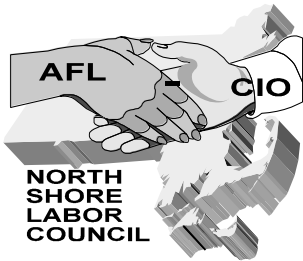
**RICHARD PEDI, BUSINESS MANAGER**  
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**BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES**



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Rabbis Andy Vogel & Shoshana Friedman,  
from Temple Sinai, Brookline MA,  
congratulate our inspiring colleague Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
and  
thank the Jewish Labor Committee  
for their strong commitment to justice!



*"Where No Worker &  
No Union Stands Alone."*

North Shore Labor Council  
112 Exchange St. Lynn, MA

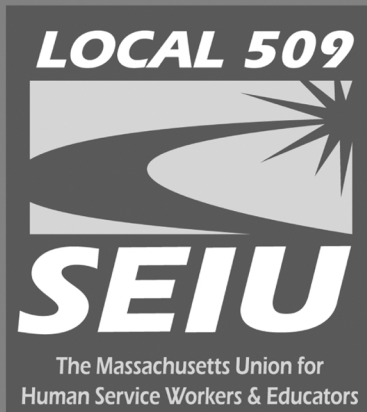
**Committed  
to  
Solidarity  
in these  
times**

**New England Jewish Labor Committee**  
**With great respect and admiration**

Rabbi Elaine Zecher  
Cantor Roy B. Einhorn  
Rabbi Matt Soffer  
Rabbi Suzie Jacobson  
Rabbi Jen Gubitz  
Rabbi Ronne Friedman  
Rabbi Bernhard H. Mehlman



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*is proud to partner with the*



New England Jewish Labor Committee

*in our fight for justice!*



# MetroBTC

Building & Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District

## Thank you

to Honorary Chair, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, for your leadership in  
advancing equity, inclusion and shared prosperity in the city of Boston.

## Congratulations to

Rabbi Jill Jacobs

as well as Don Siegel, Outgoing Chair of the New England Jewish Labor Committee

Marya Axner, Regional Director of the New England Jewish Labor Committee

Local 26 Marriott Hotel Workers,

National Grid United Steel Workers, Locals 12003 and 12012



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# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 4



SUPPORTS

## NEW ENGLAND JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LABOR SEDER

HONORING

**RABBI JILL JACOBS**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF T'RUAH

AS WELL AS

**BRIAN DOHERTY**, SECRETARY-TREASURER/GENERAL AGENT

OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

AND RECOGNIZING

**DON SIEGEL**, OUTGOING CHAIR OF THE NEW ENGLAND JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE

LOCAL 26 MARRIOTT HOTEL WORKERS, NATIONAL GRID UNITED STEEL WORKERS, LOCALS 12003 AND 12012

**WILLIAM D. McLAUGHLIN**, BUSINESS MANAGER

**MICHAEL J. BOWES**, PRESIDENT

**DAVID F. SHEA, JR.**, VICE PRESIDENT

**CHRISTOPHER T. FOGARTY**, RECORDING SECRETARY

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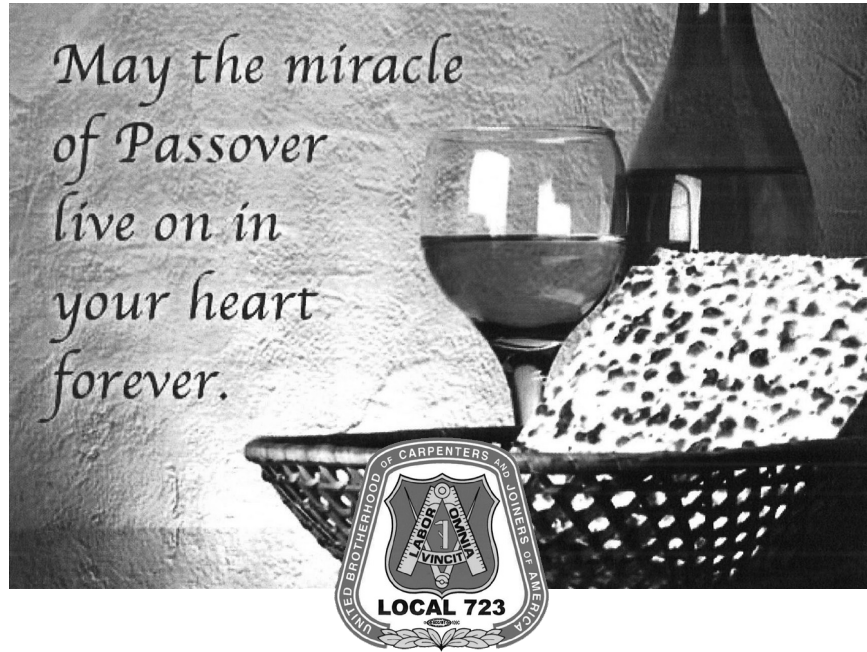
### ORGANIZER/LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

**CHRISTOPHER L. CAREY**

### TRAINING COORDINATOR

**JOHN J. GAFFNY, JR.**

# Carpenters Local 723 Wishes you a Happy Passover



*From our Officers and Members*

David R. Decter  
Julie Berger  
Barbara A. Levine 1952-2011  
Paul R. Levine 1921-2003

**Thank you for your  
continued leadership  
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**Somerville Ward 7 City Councilor  
Katjana Ballantyne**

*Congratulates the  
New England  
Jewish Labor Committee  
for 84 years of  
social justice advocacy!*

**BEU**

**United To Fund  
Our Future**

**BROOKLINE EDUCATORS UNION**

# *Happy Passover*

We congratulate the  
Jewish Labor Committee for their  
commitment to the dignity of workers  
and economic justice.

**Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards  
Senator Joe Boncore and Christine Boncore**

**Representative Adrian Madaro  
and Ariel Madaro Glantz**

**Representative Aaron Michlewitz  
and Maria Michlewitz**

**Representative Dan Ryan and Kara Ryan**

Building a Bright Future for Boston, the U.S. and Beyond

LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT,  
TEAMWORK AND SERVICE  
HELP BRIDGE THE WAY TO  
CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE

**The Officers and Members of IBEW Local 103 Pay Tribute**

Congratulations to the  
New England Jewish Labor Committee  
on your 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Seder

---

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Keith J. Stearns

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LOCAL UNION 103

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# Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers' District Council

of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO



*Congratulations to all the 2019 Honorees*

## OFFICERS:

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Thomas L. Andrews  
James Merloni, Jr.  
Louis Mandarinini, Jr.  
David Sargo  
David Araujo  
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**Peter Woolley, CFA, CLU, ChFC**  
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**Daniel Dynan, CFA, CAIA**  
Principal

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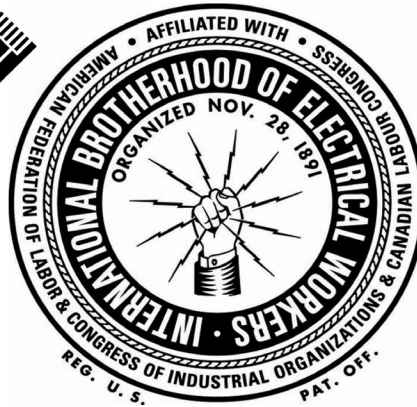
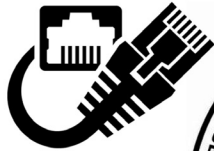
**LONDON**  
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# IBEW Local 2222

Telephone, Video & High-Tech Workers – Boston, MA

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**IBEW Local 2222 Is Proud to Support  
New England Jewish Labor Committee  
& We Wish You a Joyous Passover**



**Massachusetts  
Nurses  
Association**

The Massachusetts Nurses Association is proud to celebrate the  
**New England Jewish Labor Committee's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Seder.**

*We join you in honoring*

***Rabbi Jill Jacobs***

*Executive Director of T'ruah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights*

***and Brian Doherty***

*Secretary Treasurer/General Agent of the Metro Building Trades Council*

*We also recognize*

*Donald Siegel, outgoing Co-Chair of the NEJLC*

*Local 26 Hotel Workers*

*National Grid United Steel Workers – Local 12003 and 12012*

## ***Best wishes for a Happy Passover***

**Christine Barber**  
State Representative  
Somerville and Medford

**Fighters for Justice  
Inspirational Leaders  
Friends**

***Mazal Tov Marya and  
Rabbi Jill!***

Rabbi David Jaffe and  
Janette Hillis-Jaffe

***Happy Passover & thanks to  
the Jewish Labor Committee  
for standing up for workers!***



**Mark Niedergang**  
***Ward 5 City Councilor, Somerville***  
m.niedergang@comcast.net  
(617) 629-8033  
www.MarkNiedergang.com

# **Congratulations!**

We are proud to support the New England Jewish  
Labor Committee in celebration of the Labor Seder.

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Congratulations to  
*New England Jewish Labor Committee*  
*Best wishes for a Happy Passover*  
**Officers & Members of**



## **Pile Drivers Local Union No. 56**

**Pile Drivers, Bridge, Wharf, Dock Builders, Burners, Divers,  
Welders & Underpinners of Massachusetts**



*Wishing you a  
Happy Pesach!*

**Proud to  
support the  
New England  
Jewish Labor  
Committee**

**Barrie Wheeler**  
*Senior Associate*  
Cell: 617-549.6565  
bwheeler@HammondRE.com

**PROUD SUPPORTERS  
OF THE**

**NEW ENGLAND  
JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE**

**AND THE  
ANNUAL LABOR SEDER**

**19TH**



**Thank you to the New England Jewish Labor Committee  
for their 19th Annual Labor Seder and  
Congratulations to Brian Doherty  
of the Metro Building Trades Council**



**Building Trades Employers' Association and affiliated groups**

*“Building on a Strong Tradition of Service  
To its Members and the Construction Industry”*



**[www.btea.com](http://www.btea.com)**

The Massachusetts AFL-CIO proudly congratulates our Vice President, **Brian Doherty, Secretary Treasurer/General Agent of the Metro Building Trades Council** and our general counsel, **Donald Siegel of Segal Roitman, LLP.**

We also join the New England Jewish Labor Committee in honoring & recognizing **Rabbi Jill Jacobs, the UNITE HERE Local 26 Hotel Workers, the United Steel Workers of Locals 12003 and 12012 and Marya Axner.**



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**At the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, our mission is to build a labor movement dedicated to advancing a fair and just society that benefits all working people, the organized and the not yet organized.**

---

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**Executive Vice Presidents:**  
Jeffrey Bollen, Francis X. Callahan, Jr., Jay Colbert & Colleen Glynn



Proudly Supporting New England Jewish  
Labor Committee!

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Assistant Business Manager

Paul R. Campbell  
Business Agent

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Business Agent



William C. Young, Jr.  
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James M. O'Brien  
Business Agent

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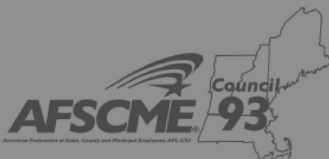


## Congratulations to this Year's Labor Seder Honorees!

From the 45,000 members of AFSCME Council 93-Thank you for all that you do to build bridges, connections, and solidarity between the Jewish and Labor Communities. Your work towards social justice strengthens us all.

*-Mark Bernard  
Executive Director*

**AFSCME Council 93**  
8 Beacon Street  
Boston | MA | 02108  
[www.afscme93.org](http://www.afscme93.org)  
[info@afscme93.org](mailto:info@afscme93.org)  
617-367-6000



**We Make Northern New England Happen!**



Thornton Law Firm LLP is proud to support the

# New England Jewish Labor Committee

We thank you for your great work

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**Jeffrey L. Hirsch  
of Hirsch Roberts Weinstein  
sends his best wishes  
for a meaningful and  
Happy Passover.**



***We congratulate the honorees  
and appreciate the work  
of the New England  
Jewish Labor Committee.***

**LIVE  
WORK  
CELEBRATE** **TOGETHER**

We're proud to support the New England Jewish Labor Committee.



MASSACHUSETTS

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THE LABOR  
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## Mazel Tov!

**Saluting and supporting our amazing friends  
at New England Jewish Labor Committee**

The Labor Guild | Archdiocese of Boston

66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184 [laborguild.com](http://laborguild.com)



Mazel tov and thank you Rabbi Jill, Brian, Don, Marriott and United Grid workers, and Marya for your inspirational leadership for the sake of justice and humanity.

With gratitude  
for the work of  
Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
and T'ruah



Michael Luckens  
& Sharon Schumack

*With Deep Appreciation to*

**Marya Axner**

Executive Director  
NEJLC

**Don Siegel**

Co-Chair  
NEJLC

*From Your Colleagues on the NEJLC Board*

For Your Many Years of Dedicated Leadership  
of New England Jewish Labor Committee,  
and

Your Unwavering Commitment to  
the Rights of Working People and the  
Well-Being of the Jewish Community.

Your leadership has brought us  
closer to the Promised Land.



*“As the leader, so the generation;  
as the generation, so the leader.”*

Talmud Yerushalmi, Arachim 17a



## **MAZAL TOV**

to Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
and to Brian Doherty on this  
well-deserved honor.

.....  
**DON**, JCRC President 1998-2000, thank  
you for all that you have done on  
behalf of Boston's Jewish Community.

**MARYA**, thank you for your visionary  
leadership at the helm of JLC.

Thank you all for your tireless work on  
behalf of justice.

.....



## **Congratulations to the New England Jewish Labor Committee on its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Seder**



**May Passover remind us of the joy and importance of togetherness!**

---

**Hal Tepfer, F.S.A., E.A.**  
Actuary, Professor, and a Big Fan of the JLC  
(617) 262-6240



Locals 12003 and 12012 USW  
congratulate our fellow honorees and thank the  
New England Jewish Labor Committee and  
the Greater Boston labor community for your support  
during our lockout by National Grid.



**CHAG SAMEACH!**  
**FROM SEIU/NAGE LOCAL 282**

*In Solidarity,*

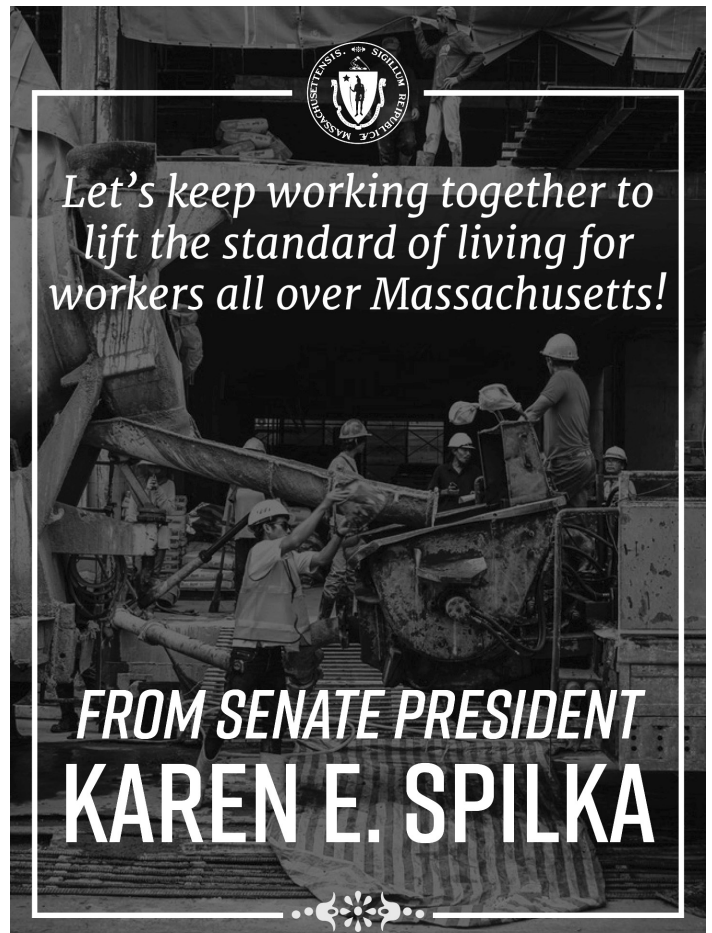
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Honored to Celebrate the

# 2019

## Annual Labor Seder

# 19th Annual Labor Seder

Honoring  
Rabbi  
Jill  
Jacobs

and  
Brian  
Doherty

**UFCW Local 1445**

a **VOICE** for New England workers and their families since **1938**

## Congratulations

to tonight's honorees  
from the airport workers  
of 32BJ SEIU!

*32BJSEIU members are honored to work with the New England Jewish Labor Committee. Thank you for your commitment to social justice and working people.*

*Now, please stand with airport workers at Logan Airport, who work hard to keep us clean and safe.*



**SIGN OUR PETITION TODAY!**  
**[bit.ly/MassportFSS](http://bit.ly/MassportFSS)**

*On behalf of the members of the*



**Congratulations to those honored  
at today's Labor Seder:**

**Rabbi Jill Jacobs,**  
*Executive Director of T'ruah:  
The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights*

**Brian Doherty,**  
*Secretary Treasurer/General Agent of the  
Metro Building and Construction Trades Council*

**Donald Siegel,**  
*Outgoing Co-Chair, New England JLC*

**Local 26 Hotel Workers**

**National Grid United Steel Workers  
Locals 12003 and 12012**



**Merrie Najimy, President**

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