

**News  
Release**

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**To: All Western PA Media**

**Homewood Church and Squirrel Hill Synagogue  
Join Together for a Passover Seder**

Congregants from Tree of Life Congregation in Squirrel Hill and Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Homewood will join together on the night of Wednesday, April 16, for a Passover Seder.

While Jews and African-Americans have come together for community Seders in a few other cities, this is believed to be the first such Seder in Pittsburgh history. The partnership between Tree of Life and Bethesda Presbyterian is an offshoot of the 2-year-old Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Redd Up Coalition, which will hold its fourth coordinated litter cleanup weekend on May 2-4.

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The Seder – a traditional Jewish service that is conducted around a dinner table during the first two nights of Passover – will explore the journey from slavery to freedom that African-Americans and Jews have each taken.

Seders, the centerpiece of the week-long holiday of Passover, involve a ritualized retelling of the story of the Israelite Exodus from Egypt. The story provides a bridge of connection to the African-American community and its much more recent history of slavery and liberation.

The customized service for the April 16 event will include a dramatic retelling of the Passover story by Jackie Jonas, a professional storyteller and African-American Jew.

The idea of organizing a Jewish/African-American Seder in Pittsburgh came from Hope Feldman, a Point Breeze resident and member of the Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Redd Up Coalition.

More than 100 people – including members of Tree of Life, Bethesda Presbyterian, and the Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Redd Up Coalition – are expected to take part in the Seder.

Due to space constraints, the event is not open to the public. However, members of the media are welcome to attend and cover the event.

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**What:** Jewish/African-American Passover Seder

**Who:** Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Tree of Life Congregation, and the Homewood/Squirrel Hill/Point Breeze Redd Up Coalition.

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16

**Where:** Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 7220 Bennett St., Homewood