

How I Celebrate

UTS Multicultural Women's Network

2023





The UTS Multicultural Women's Network acknowledge the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands the UTS campus stand. We pay respect to Elders past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands and recognising their continuing connection to land, waters, country, and community. We acknowledge the historical oppression of land, language, and culture of First Nations People and commit to the decolonising journey we all share.



Multicultural
Women's Network

WHAT?

The Multicultural Women's Network aims to showcase significant cultural events through our e-booklets.

WHY?

To acknowledge the cultural diversity of UTS. Using an assets-based approach of amplifying how people celebrate, this project aims to empower people to feel proud of their cultural backgrounds, as well as to celebrate the cultural diversity of our UTS community.

WHO?

This is for UTS staff, students and anyone else you think would benefit from learning more about cultural events.



This month, we're spotlighting

Pesach (Passover)



Pesach is...

In 2023, Passover (*Pesach* in Hebrew) begins at nightfall on the 5th of April and ends on the 13th of April. The Jewish holiday is centred around the retelling of the Biblical story of when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

To read the Passover story, click [here](#)

Every family has its own Passover rituals, which may reflect family tradition or the denomination of Judaism (some are more orthodox, others less traditional).

Source: <https://time.com/5188494/passover-history-traditions/>

Pesach is...



The holiday is often celebrated for eight days ([seven in Israel](#)), and incorporates themes of springtime, a Jewish homeland, family, remembrance of Jewish history, social justice and freedom — including recognising those who are still being oppressed today. These aspects are discussed, if not symbolically represented, during the Passover [seder](#).



Source: <https://time.com/5188494/passover-history-traditions/>

Seder is...



The Hebrew word “ seder ” translates to “order.” It is called this because the meal is done in a certain order which takes Jewish people from slavery to freedom; referring to the exodus of Jews from Egypt during the Prophet Moses' time. Families hold a seder on the first and sometimes second night of Passover.

It is fundamentally a religious service set around a dinner table, where the order in which participants eat, pray, drink wine, sing, discuss current social justice issues and tell stories is prescribed by a central book called the Haggadah .

Source: <https://time.com/5188494/passover-history-traditions/>

The Haggadah is read during the seder that tells the story of Passover. The Hebrew word “Haggadah” means “telling”.

Haggadah is...



There is now a plethora of Haggadahs with added stories, songs, games, and pictures, to suit every political, spiritual, and religious point of view. You can now find liberal, mystical, feminist, ecological, children’s, and even atheist Haggadahs.

Sources: <https://time.com/5188494/passover-history-traditions/> and <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-passover-pesach-seder/>

Most important things about Pesach...

Recognising the
resilience
of Jewish people

Hope and
new beginnings

Matzah
(unleavened)
bread

Sharing stories
about Jewish
experiences of
overcoming adve
rsity

Making and
eating
matzah/matzo
balls

Celebrating
defiance and
freedom

Spending
time with
family

Hearing stories
about people's
ancestors

Connecting with
faith, ancestors
and other
Jewish people



Stories from our UTS community

Happiest times celebrating Pesach...

Jet Hodgson

Student and Tutor, Faculty of Engineering and
Information Technology

“

My cousins are more 'woke' than my parents and several years ago at a family Seder they were hosting...

As we were reading the Haggadah around the table, they invited everyone to use more gender-neutral language (e.g. having the four children instead of the four sons). Even though there were inevitably some slip-ups everyone was trying which made me feel really good as someone who at the time wasn't out but identified as non-binary...what people around me did ...made me feel welcome and safe without them even knowing.

”



"My family hosts a huge Seder every year for our family and friends. I look forward to it every year..."

Walking into the room, you are greeted with the rich aroma of traditional Jewish foods - [charoset](#), [kichel](#), and [matzah ball soup](#). The tastes and textures of these foods are comforting, and the experience is communal. In Judaism, it is always food that brings us together.

Tanna Klevansky
Student, Bachelor of Communication,
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
Former President of the
UTS Australasian Union of Jewish
Students (AUJS). Current Campaigns
Coordinator for AUJS.

Throughout the evening, we sing traditional Jewish songs and recite prayers. My favourites are [Ma Nishtana](#) and [Dayenu](#). However, the highlight of my night is when we get to the ten plagues. My mum always makes listing the plagues extremely fun. We stick small, round stickers onto each other for boils, throw styrofoam balls to symbolise hail, and turn the lights off and wave around glow sticks for darkness.

The Seder is a meaningful ritual not only for me, but for the entire Jewish community - one that connects us to our heritage and faith.

Happiest times celebrating Pesach...

Gracie Abadee

Student, Journalism and Social & Political Sciences, Faculty
of Arts and Social Sciences

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Passover was always one of the most important holidays growing up in my family. It was one of the main times in the year we would come together, to talk, to reflect and to eat together as relatives and friends.

Storytelling is what ties the holiday together. As with Judaism as a whole, Passover is made up of many symbolic traditions. From the food on your plate at the Seder, to scrambling to find the afikomen, a piece of matzah hidden for children to find (a cracker). The holiday will always hold a special place in my heart...as someone who didn't grow up in a very religious family, I found this holiday was an important time for everyone to come together and reflect upon our culture.

”



What role did you play?

"Each year before the Seder, I help my parents to prepare. We set up a very long table for at least twenty guests. There is lots of furniture to be moved and even more food to be cooked. I help my mum to make soup and set up the props for the ten plagues. During the Seder, I join my dad in leading the Haggadah reading and prayers. The Hebrew songs are my responsibility on the night, so everyone follows my tune." **Tanna Klevansky**

"Something this holiday teaches you is the importance of family and loved ones. My Jewish family loves to entertain guests, so it's lovely to have traditions tying us together. Rituals and traditions have allowed me to connect more with my culture. You start by finding the afikomen and eventually grow up to hide it for other children to find. I think in those moments you remember how special it can be to be part of a rich culture that has a long history of carrying out these traditions.." **Gracie Abadee**

"Passover is a very family oriented holiday. We remember sacrifice and struggle. Collective reflection is an important part of the holiday for many families. It helps to educate us about our culture and ensure future generations learn about why we commemorate holidays the way we do." **Gracie Abadee**

"We pass the Haggadah down the table and everybody must read a passage from it. A particularly fun section is the four sons - the wise son, the evil son, the simple son, and the son who doesn't know how to ask. We delegate different people to role-play and read their passages. This always results in some good laughs.." **Tanna Klevansky**

What role did others play?



To me, the most important parts of Passover are being with my family and keeping our ancient traditions alive. It's vital to retell the story of the Israelite's liberation from slavery in Egypt. This story of perseverance, faith, and hope has inspired countless generations of Jews to continue to fight for freedom and justice for all people. Passover serves as a reminder of our bitter history, and of the ongoing struggle of others who are still fighting to be freed from their oppression – Tanna Klevansky

Tanna Klevansky



Final Thoughts

Pesach is always a really hopeful time for me. It reminds me of the continuity of the Jewish people in the face of adversity and this hope is so needed with all the antisemitism we see in this world. I also just love hearing stories from different people at the Seder of their ancestors and how they made it through adversities.

Jet Hodgson



Final Thoughts

Check out the Jewish students society
at UTS!

The logo for AUJS UTS is centered on a light blue square. It features the letters 'AUJS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter 'J' is stylized with a circular symbol containing a six-pointed star (Magen David) inside it. Below 'AUJS', the letters 'UTS' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

AUJS
UTS



**Happy Pesach
(Passover)!**



JOIN US!

Supporting women at UTS to
reach their full potential



For more information,
email:
mwn@uts.edu.au

**This booklet
was created
by Dr. Elaine
Laforteza**

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