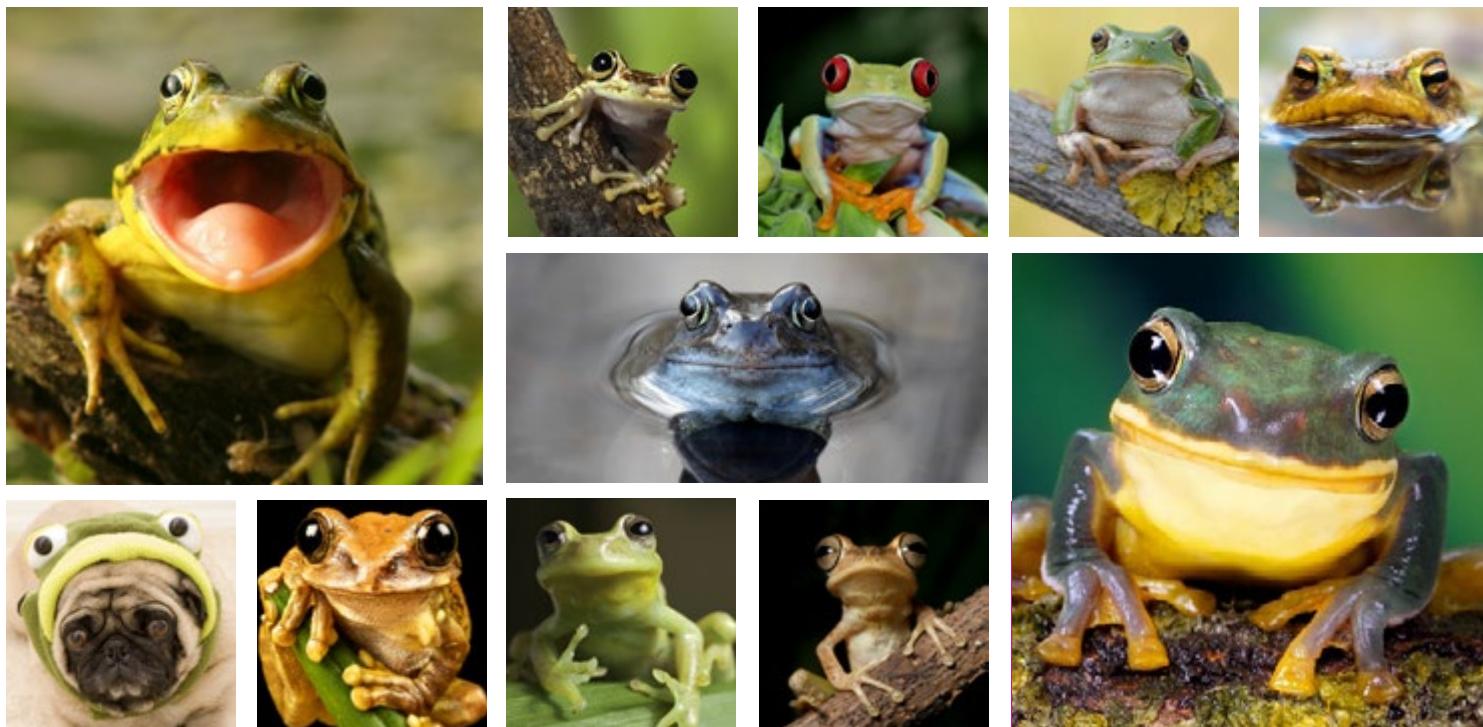


THIS PASSOVER, CELEBRATE DIVERSITY



...AND CORRECT A COMMON MISPERCEPTION ABOUT ONE OF OUR NEWEST PASSOVER TRADITIONS

It is widely believed that the tradition of including an orange on the seder plate began in response to a rabbi who had declared that “a woman belongs on the bimah like an orange belongs on the seder plate.”

In actuality, the tradition began with Susannah Heschel, a professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth and the daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

In the early 1980’s, Heschel read a story in a hagaddah written by Oberlin College students about a rabbi who was asked where lesbians fit into Judaism. In the story, the rabbi insisted, “There’s as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the seder plate!” In response, some students had begun placing bread on their seder plates.

Heschel could not support the idea of making a seder plate chametz by putting a crust of bread on it. She also felt strongly that the symbolism of doing so suggested that being a lesbian is transgressive—a violation of Judaism.

Instead, Heschel came up with the idea of putting an orange on the seder plate, “because it suggests the fruitfulness for all Jews when lesbians and gay men are contributing and active members of Jewish life.”

This Passover, take a moment to celebrate the diversity of our Jewish community, because diversity doesn’t just strengthen us—it also enables us to truly experience freedom in all its complexity and richness.



MOSAIC
Of Westchester

Enriching Our Jewish Community Through LGBTQ Inclusion