

FREEDOM SEDER + 50

LIVESTREAM NOTES with TIME CODES

Note: Times are from start of livestream video.

8:40 Rabbi Phyllis Berman's welcome, house of God, very first Freedom Seder in a mosque (10:20). Joanna Macy. Questions. Telling. Look around, turn to another. 2 minutes joy. 23:00 Ritual foods. Hallal charoset. Stretch ourselves to honor one another's way of being. Polite at beginning of relationship, get comfortable. Each eat charoset. Shawn Zevit plays (27:00). Bracha.

28:28 Debbi Almontaser. The movement that will change the world. Pain and sorrow. Post 9/11 Islamophobia. Let us never forget Holocaust, N. American, African American. Refuse to allow racism. No visas at Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria. Join in repealing Muslim ban. Refugee ban. Stand against hate. Charlottesville, NZ, Tree of Life Synagogue. Civically and politically engaged. Join the fight. I.D. organizations. Hate. Change landscape of America. Vote. Share our stories. Her book. They build walls, we build bridges.

39:30 Pause for Muslim call to prayer Arabic/English

42:40 Phyllis Berman introduces themes of racism, materialism, militarism, sexism. For People of Color, poisons are even more deadly. Introduces Jessica Way, POWER.

44:40 Jessica Way. Educational budgets are most inequitable funding formula in PA. Losing hundreds of millions, going to richer, whiter schools. Losing teachers, maintenance, infrastructure. Mats covered with mouse feces. Easy to become accustomed, turn our heads. Fight for schools.

47:27 Phyllis Berman introduces Shawn Zevit. Call and response. Charlottesville. MLK/antisemitism. Winnipeg. New Zealand. Tree of Life. None of us are free till all of us are free.

55:00 Phyllis Berman moment of silence, turn to another and share experience with racism.

1:01:35 Phyllis Berman grape juice. Shawn plays. Bracha in English.

1:05:50 Phyllis Berman introduces militarism. Rabbi Arthur Waskow.

1:06:35 Arthur Waskow thanks Phyllis Berman and Viv Hawkins. April 4th, MLK triplets, share DNA of subjugation. Beloved community. MLK murdered when took up struggle to end Vietnam, champion garbage workers, plan Poor People's Campaign. Moment

crystallized long history of top-down American violence, racism, materialistic greed.
True ROV quote...

1:10:37 Arthur Waskow Where are we now, 52 years later? 30 year program to produce many more nukes. \$1 trillion more. Not a single question in the 2016 election debates about this plan.... War against Yemen. Prince of Darkness committing murder with help of US ruling family. Suffering of Gaza, weapons made in America.

1:13:40 New triple alliance of white nationalists in DC, those in Riyadh who fear and hate shia Muslims, and Israeli government welcomes Kahanist racists. See as Macbeth's 3 witches to create war against Iran. 1:14:13

1:14:18 Despite closing bases, US nearly 800 bases in more than 70 countries. UK, France, Russia together about 30. What are they doing? Propping dictators. Turning our own local police into military bases. Tanks in Ferguson, massive gifts of weapons. Park police need bayonets, machine guns? 1:15:50

1:15:51 Gun violence, Death in 1s and 2s, schools, churches, synagogues 17s, 11s, 9s. Shooter, but actually if disinvest from neighborhood, leave Despair, Inc., drugs, businesses are gangs, negotiation with guns. 1:17:08

For-profit prisons. Seder. Ancient Pharaoh sent military, caught in sea of reeds. Reeds bend and rise up again, caught army. Nonviolent coexistence. Social roots of despair. Remove profit, invest in solar coops, public banks, etc.

1:20:35 Phyllis Berman introduces Chantay Love, E.M.I.R. Healing Center, Every Murder is Real. 81 murders in Philadelphia. Last year 331. You are part of the cure.

1:24:07 Phyllis Berman silence, take in words, horseradish. Cantor Jack Kessler plays niggun

1:27:05 Phyllis Berman Refill cups silently. Raise cups, commit to end materialism. Boray p'ri hagafen. Jack plays/sings Ayn k'eloheyenu.

1:31:31 Phyllis Berman introduces Rev. Liz Theoharis. MLK Poor People's Campaign 12/67 talking about the emergencies of his day. We seem to have another pharaoh who likes emergencies. Quote re: poor must organize...to lift the load of poverty.

1:33:15 I don't need to tell you that we are indeed living in a cruel and unjust society. When there are 140 million poor, 39 million are children, 20 million are elders, 62 million are workers less than living wage, 15 million people can't afford water and 4 million families have poison water. When 75% poor are women/children, 60% African Americans, 65% Latinx, 40% Asians are poor, 67

million poor white Americans, must say this is not right. This is not moral. Our people are not free. 1:34:56

Mothers: Callie Greer...Leslie Boyd...Danielle Morrow...

1:35:42 In Michigan, 100,000 families without water...kids taken away because can't afford water bills, but the Nestle Corp for just a couple dollars per year is able to bottle up same water and sell for billions. Teachers in Detroit public schools tell kids don't tell if don't have water, come early to school to use it but don't tell because report and removed from home. This in a world that's made of 2/3 water and thousands of kids taken from their home for not being able to afford it. We have a message for the pharaohs of the day: take away our poverty, not our children, our homelessness, low-paying crappy jobs, polluting of the air and the land and our water, not our children. 1:38:13

Lowndes County, AL, homeless, work full-time and can't afford to provide. We've heard the cry. We want to be free. 51 years ago, MLK organizing, now we're building Poor People's Campaign. Power of poor people fighting. Moms, poor white and poor Black come together & organize. Powerful force brewing. MLK emergency quote, nothing to lose. Take action together with freedom and power. Invite all. God hates poverty. May it be so.

1:42:09 Phyllis Berman introduces Rev Greg Holston, Executive Director POWER, Pastor Janes Memorial United Methodist Church, father of four. Racial climate justice.

1:43:05 Love children.

1:43:21. Youngest child a blessing. Graduated Yale, Bryan Stevenson Environmental Justice Initiative, NY law school graduate in 1 month and Philadelphia public defender. All faces of her success, haunted with face of pain. Grew up South Philadelphia 23rd and March St, block or two from church, refinery. Asthmatic. First 12 years gasping for air. Nights up, hospital, etc. Always small, so every muscle contracting with attack. Helpless. Then able to move out of area. 1 month after moving out, throw machine away, never have another attack in her life. Not initially made connection, but environmental racism, refinery, street covered with soot, wash porch, always there a layer of dust, stuff into her lungs. Intersection of climate and race. Happening all over community. Church unusual cancers victims of environmental racism. Years later I recognized same legacy of disease. Movement for climate change could no longer be white, all races to live together etc. We can do it if we work together. 1:47:30

1:47:52 Phyllis Berman minute of silence, take in pain of materialism, poverty, greed, environmental racism. Talk to someone new.

1:53:57 Phyllis Berman not to finish tonight, just beginning. Refill cups, commit to ending materialism. Imam Hassan leads blessing in Arabic.

1:56:27 Phyllis Berman introduces Ana Maria Archila; confronted Senator Flake during Kavanaugh hearing.

1:57:19 Ana Maria Powerful, thanks, first seder ever, won't be last but most memorable. Celebrating increased tradition, able to remake tradition to build world. Very moved to celebrate freedom.

Plague of sexism. All know exists. Live in man's world. Hierarchy, men better, but challenged from beginning. Pain of patriarchy and sexism and how enforced, and struggles and beauty of people who rise up. Women not equally share. Sexism enforced through violence. Women in Honduras: 40% who are killed show signs of torture beyond necessary to kill. Violence used to demonstrate who is powerful, send a lesson. Political voices silenced. 100 years of women (white) having right to vote: took 100 years! Pain of silencing, beauty of struggle.

Sexism enforced through bodies, defending rights. Pain of having to fight for what should be ours, beauty of winning and struggling to defend in this administration. Sexism enforced through economic exclusion, paid less, invisible but necessary labor. Organizing, winning victories. Domestic workers organizing and winning.

2:03:43 Ana Maria 1 out of 5 women will experience rape. Culture permits. Looking away during nomination of Kavanaugh. Women courageous sharing stories to educate country, powerful, show up for each other, walking past their pain, fear, and shame. Building mirror: culture is real, tremendous opportunity to change. People in power failed, women did not. When came out of fight, two lessons: courage is contagious, necessary, feel awed and invited, builds community and power, beautiful and transformative. All have the drive toward freedom. Told her story: she was 5, he 15. Learned girls not believed, boys forgiven. Don't want her children to learn that lesson. 2:07:00

Child born into wrong body. Courage, fear, gender non-conforming. All born with freedom in our hearts. Freedom is necessary like water, air. So moved. All can build together.

2:08:51 Phyllis Berman introduces Chris Bolden-Newsom, urban farmer, Sankofa farm.

2:10:28 Praises God, ancestors. Black men. Slavery= great disaster. Ships overload with African men, break them, use them. Sisters removed through family, bedeviled, monsterized, but just humans doing double duty. Black men discouraged from supporting families, forming networks of care. Alienated from relationship to land. Hide

pain muscles, swagger. No longer kiss parents, fight not love. Same-gender loving told not needed. Strong beautiful elders, father, partner. Invite brothers: your people need you. Put down your play pretties and come to them. Healing we all need. We must choose, never again permitting families to separated....

2:15 Phyllis Berman silence to fill 4th cup. Bracha in Spanish to end racism and sexism.

2:18 Rev Rhetta Morgan, invites to sing song affirming end of sexism. chorus: my body is arising/my mind is healing/my heart is mending/my soul is transcending.

2:22:55 Phyllis Berman 3rd and 4th questions/answers. Introduces Rev. William Barber.

2:23:43 Rev. William Barber Good to be here. Thank God for courage of Arthur Waskow in the midst of the post-traumatic stress syndrome of our leaders being killed to form freedom Seder. 1969/50 years. All battle: condition 30 years, can't sit.

2:25:40 Oh, freedom....before I'll be a slave to militarism, to racism, to sexism...What is the pathway to freedom, money against justice by oligarchic, shameless aristocracy. When politicians put hands on bibles and pledge to constitution, lying when they say it. When far too many leaders, political and religious, cower and capitulate in face of power rooted in racism, classicism, etc., etc. and downright demonic meanness. When president in 21st century spews open and racism haven't heard since 19th century or 1960s, politically enabled by supporting cast. When Islamophobic anti-Latino policies are passed, language could have been used by Hitler and clergy remain silent. Rhetoric/policies spurring violence. What is pathway to freedom.

2:30 Could reach back to a document written July 4th 1776, hold truths to be self-evident etc. "Whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish and to institute a new gov't." Could reach back to 1787 232 years ago, Constitution says "we the people." No room for "I alone can fix." In order to form a more perfect union, etc... Only liberty where justice is established. Could go to July 5th 1852 Frederick Douglass at July 4th celeb: "Feeling of nation must be quickened, roused, etc. Hypocrisy exposed. What to the slave...gross injustice and cruelty. Celebration is a sham. Hollow mockery. A bombast, fraud, deception, etc." 1963 Heschel echoed, letter to JFK. "Forfeit the right to think about worshipping..."

2:35 Gettysburg Address. "Shall a nation by the people, for the people..." Lucretia Mott: "I have no idea of submitting tamely to an injustice inflicted either on me or on the slave. Oppose. No advocate of passivity. Degradation of women poisons fountains of life at source." 1964 Fannie Lou Hamer, in jail when Medgar murdered...if FDP is not seated now, I question America."

2:36. 51 years ago 1968, MLK Riverside speech, named racism, materialism, poverty and militarism as evils. Next day 150 papers wrote against him. Civil rights

organizations left him. Church walked away. Everybody loves him now, but then he lost his invite to White House. Decided to move into the Poor People's Campaign. Said America is a sick nation, nothing would be more tragic than to stop at this point. Coretta brought him to militarism, right before Martin. Asked how feel about violence, Coretta Scott King said that is a kind of violence, but poverty can produce, viol against poor, starving child, etc. ghetto housing, etc., even an apathetic attitude that doesn't address these other forms of violence is violent.

2:38:45 Pentecostal, North American, white, Black DNA. Couldn't get settled on what to say tonight until prophets of ancient Israel. As though they had the way forward like Sankofa bird. Pathway to freedom 2700 years ago by Jeremiah. Oh that my hand was a fountain of tears. One of Trump's cousins leading nation down the way of injustice, prophet is given a pathway America needs to hear. Asked rabbi to help bring text to light.

2:40:52 Simcha Zevit leyns Jer 22:1-5.

2:43:42 William Barber wish had Arabic. **Reads in English: God's orders, go down to the royal palace...this is God's message, attend to matters of justice, set things right, rescue victims, don't take advantage of stranger, immigrants, orphans, widows, etc. Stop murdering. If obey, kings go in and out, but if not, this place will end up a heap of rubble. This is where we are.**

2:45:10 Pathway to real freedom given to ancient Israel needs to be given to America today. God gives orders: go publicly and tell the king. Pathway not voting, though I believe in voting, etc. Voting alone not help. As Heschel says, until you have prophetic imagination, will not have prophetic implementation. We must not only vote, register people for a movement that can change the entire narrative. Otherwise poison of system itself will contaminate everybody. Take directly to the seats of power. Look at this text, apply it to the 21st century. Don't send a letter, tweet, email, prayer. God's orders to us is to go down to the king's palace and interrupt what's going on with a message of freedom and justice. And if we don't want to do that, we don't really want freedom.2:47:05

Go down to the state house, white house. Poor People's Camapign. Challenge unjust policies that are killing people. Must be direct. Jeremiah, go down.

2:48 Jeremiah specific about message to deliver if nation desires to go down the right path. Tell him attend to the matters of justice. Set things right. Rescue victims, etc., etc., stop murdering. Narrative and language shift. Not left or right. Conversation changed to a moral critique. Matter of existence. God says I am overruling every ruler. Language rooted in what's good for least of these. Only pathway to freedom. Until there is a call for the agenda based on needs of those in the margins, [quotes Jeremiah again].

2:49:58 The mess we're in now is not just about Trump. If you think all we have to do is unelect and somehow all okay prior to 2016. Lists problems before: health care, voter suppression. Trump/Kings symptom. What comes out of nose when sneeze. Treat the problem, get on the inside for the body politic. Cohort of extremists. Not the first time. Not the worst thing. Not the first racist president. Slavery. Holocaust. Reagan. God said not just get another king but attend to matters of justice (rest of quote). Poor People's Campaign, thousands bodies on line, bus tours 28 states, led by impacted people. Poor People Moral Action Congress (PMAC) in June. Constitutional injustice poverty budget. Full congressional hearing on poverty, racism, etc. Inviting candidates to come to the PMAC and shut up, sit down, and listen.

2:53 Just after convention, poor people's march on Washington for a just democracy and economy, hope all come. Stage given to people who are suffering to declare pain, say what the answers are. The prophets are already among us. Massive civil disobedience, but at the people's house. Must deliver loud and clear: attend to matters of justice. What we are seeing is not new in America. About heart and soul of America. Can America even be America? Can we even be what we put on paper? This moment is whether or not we will be slaves to violence and oppression or free in service of justice, love, non-violence, and liberation. Need movement, not organization to take to the place of power a divine message and warning: attend to matters of justice, [rest of Jeremiah] etc. 26 states engage in racist voter suppression. Allowing policies that kill people. More die from poverty than illness. Falsely incarcerated. Also know sexual abuse, kill your spirit. Murder in name of democracy, in our name. Worst part Mordechai, hundreds of thousands disinterested in even believing in possibility. Trump didn't win, got in through the electoral college racist from beginning. White Southern strategy. 100 million stayed home because don't hear anyone talking about attending to justice.

2:57:10. Politicians can't deliver this message. The prophetic community must do it. 2:57:15

The worst of it all, just like in Jeremiah's moment, a lot of Helenias, paid court false prophets in garb of religion telling rulers you don't have to attend to justice, let's give tax cuts to the wealthy. You don't have to care about immigrants, lock up the borders. You don't have to get guns off the streets, worry about healthcare, you got healthcare. And they're saying to leaders in the name of false god, against gay, right to choose, tax cuts for wealthy, guns, etc., God is pleased.

2:58 Only prophets can stand up now and say to the people (quotes Jeremiah). And so for freedom's sake, for justice and truth sake of present, future, the sake of all those whose blood we stand in, etc., must deliver Jeremiah's message in 21st century and demand change. This truth has in it hope. Rest of verse: If the leaders listen, nation will be well; if not, abolished.

2:59:03 Says what Declaration of Independence says:
government...altered...abolished, not in line with great promises and possibilities.

2:59:30 Prophets always believe if I tell the message, a remnant will hear it. So it's time not to sit back and let things happen...when see demonic policies, wickedness in high places, I must believe there's a counterforce in the universe. I hear that force calling:

3:01:23 Barber, Mordechai, Arthur you got one more in you, Liz, Gregory, Maria, these are my orders.

Tell them living wages, guaranteed protections, not destroying society or environment, labor rights, etc., etc. is my orders. Tell them! Prisons, Jews, Palestinians, Netanyahu, those are my orders. Expanding voting rights, God's orders protecting women, LGBT community. Equal protection, my orders. Deliver to the courts, ballot box, pulpit, statehouse, white house, capital house.

3:02:25. Arthur, you invited me, and I went to fasting and praying. Lord spoke to me. I told no one else. You can't do this tonight and leave it there. Since we got Muslims, Christians, Jews, Ramadam is over June 4, asking you on June 5th let's put 1000 rabbis, imams, Xian pastors in full vestment walk down center street Washington DC deliver God's orders. [3:03:21] 1000 of us unified. I don't know what it will do, but I know what happens if we don't do it, leaders will claim they didn't know. 3:03:53

Pray grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour, free our hearts, save us, God, from weak resignation to the evils we deplore, let the search for our salvation be thy glory evermore, etc.

3:04:30 Jeremiah is gone but we are his sons and daughters and the same god of Jeremiah is calling us today. Go down to the king's palace and tell them what my orders are and then watch me go to work on the heart of this nation.3:05:07

3:05:29 Arthur Waskow What is this matzo? The voice of the Universe said don't wait around for the bread to rise, now is the time. That march was not to commemorate the past, it was to transform the future. Dr. MLK said the fierce urgency of now. That is what this matzo is in every generation.

3:06:10 Rabbi Jesus with his closest allies on seder night and raise matzo, not in commemoration of an ancient time, but to transform the future.

3:06:30 That is what we are here for tonight, what we have heard the call for. The joy of life, the pain of oppression, and the hope that is not an emotion but an action. The fierce urgency of now. 3:07:04

3:07:25 Page 8, **blessing of urgency, say it together [English motzi]. Eat that fierce urgency as a commitment as a commitment to act. 3:08:13**

Rhetta Morgan Go Down Moses till 3:11:44

Phyllis Berman hold up matzo: "Next year in a world of freedom." Thank you to 3:12:40.

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