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**Shabbat Shabbang: A Thanksgiving Haggadah by Randy Cohen**  
**A Unique Thanksgiving Celebration at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan**  
***November 9 at 7 p.m.***

**New York, NY** (October 30, 2018) – At Passover, we tell the story of the Israelites and their exodus from Egypt. At Thanksgiving, we tell...nothing. On Friday, November 9 at 7 p.m., join the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan and journalist Randy Cohen for a unique way to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Cohen has devised a new twist on Thanksgiving – one in which we'll gather to tell the story of people from around the world coming to America in a style based on the Passover seder, but made accessible to all. The evening will include a staged reading and group conversation as part of the JCC's popular Shabbat Shabbang series. In addition to Cohen, readers will include Muslim activist Debbie Almontaser, biochemist Mande Holford, editor Tamara Glenny, writer Anna Holmes, the JCC's social justice organizer and former Manhattan borough president Ruth Messinger, lawyer Lawrence Oh, history and humanities professor Jack Tchen, and Blackfeet/Cherokee actor and activist Jake Hart.

The original author of the New York Times' "The Ethicist" column, Cohen currently hosts the radio show/podcast "Person Place Thing," which records episodes at the JCC and other sites around New York City; it will return on December 12 with a conversation with author Gary Shteyngart. Cohen's work has appeared in numerous publications, including The Atlantic, Harpers, and The New Yorker. He is also the author of numerous books and has written for several television series, earning a Primetime Emmy Award.

The Shabbat Shabbang program at the JCC begins in the lobby with Shabbat rituals (blessing the challah, wine, and candles) and appetizers. It continues with fascinating and entertaining program offerings, paired with a kosher dairy meal and seasonal wines, and finishes with delicious desserts and coffee. It is \$18 per person. Space is limited; pre-register at [jccmanhattan.org](http://jccmanhattan.org) or call 646.505.5708.

About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located at 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. The cornerstone of progressive programming in Manhattan, the JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering

programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at [jccmanhattan.org](http://jccmanhattan.org).

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