

USER'S GUIDE

For Ritual Leaders and Participants - Some Notes on this Tashlich Ritual

Before you perform this act of Casting Off, we want to share a few thoughts that we hope will help in this ritual journey.

We acknowledge and invite participatory authorship of this ritual. This ritual guide was created in community, and intends to both highlight ongoing injustice, and subvert top-down ritual paradigms in our communities. All of us assembled here should feel authorized and invited to speak your truth as you are moved to do so, to lift up or object to a particular aspect of what we will do here today. We invite critical interventions in pursuit of collective liberation, as we love in critical times; and ritual practice need not, indeed *must* not, replicate or reinforce that which we gather and summon our ancestral practices, visioned anew, to resist.

Tashlich can be a way to come together across the spectrum of Jewishness- e.g. people who identify as secular/ cultural, as well as people who find connection with prayer and/or religious observance, can participate in Tashlich together (this is especially the case when the ritual leaders refrain from assuming that everyone will want to participate by saying prayers/ blessings, and include alternatives).

Some people may have experienced activist rituals that felt performative/ more for the optics. To avoid this, try to create a space where collective and individual reflection can happen in a meaningful way.

We draw from the powerful Tashlich Ritual Guides that members of the JVP community have created and many of us have gratefully used to create this present one. In particular, we thank and acknowledge Wendy Elisheva Somerson and the JVP Seattle Chapter for their years of reclaiming and leading [Jewish Anti-Zionist ritual*](#), and Dori Midnight and Jo Kent Katz's [Tashlich L'Tzedek](#). We also garnered words and inspiration from [Philadelphia Jews for a Just Peace](#), by Hannah Schwartzchild, thank you Elliott batTzedek for sharing it!

*ALL links are listed below in RESOURCES

Land acknowledgement

This practice is meaningful when we are in relationship and it is not performative. If you don't know where to begin, use www.native-land.ca to learn more about the Indigenous tribes who steward or stewarded the land you are on. Contact local councils and see what Native Peoples are doing where you live. Use Resource Generation's [Land Reparations & Indigenous Solidarity Toolkit](#). Start a conversation.

Consider contributing to local land tax or indigenous-led organizations where possible.

Context for this Tashlich Ritual

The ritual included here is designed to lay the groundwork for a campaign that will kick off in October. Part of the ritual “casting off” of Tashlich includes us individually and collectively atoning for our ignorance of our community’s complicity in anti-Palestinian violence—to lay the foundation for a commitment to collective action in the coming year.

- As Jews for Palestinian freedom, we must take seriously our modest but important role. Part of this responsibility includes organizing our community to take on the Jewish Zionist institutions; politicians; and donors that provide not just the *material* support for Israeli apartheid and the oppression of the Palestinian people—but also provide *moral cover* for such violence and colonialism.
- There are many ways in which we must collectively work to end this material and moral support. One of these ways is working to end the flow of private U.S. money to right-wing, Israeli settler organizations which promote apartheid, racial segregation, Jewish supremacy, violence against Palestinians, and the expansion of illegal, Jewish-only settlements through theft of Palestinian homes and land. Millions of dollars are funneled each year from the US to such right-wing organizations.
- The Florida-based Falic Family are amongst the biggest private US funders of Israeli apartheid and Palestinians dispossession—and they fund right-wing,

segregationist organizations and politicians with money from consumers like us.

- [Here](#) is where you can find out about the Falic Family and the boycott of Falic-owned products and stores that JVP will be launching nationally – **We Don't Buy It!: Stop Funding Israeli Settler Violence**– building off of the organizing of JVP South Florida and the South Florida Coalition for Palestine.
- [Here](#) is a short summary where you can learn why we will not just *personally* refuse to buy Falic family-owned [Psâgot wine](#), but why some of us will commit to organize to de-shelve Psâgot wines in our communities!
- Attend [JVP Strategic Plan Launch on Sept 27th](#) 8:00-9:30 pm ET or contact Dani Noble, dani@jvp.org for ways to be involved in the WE DON'T BUY IT Campaign

COLLECT YOUR USED WINE BOTTLES!!!

MAKE COPIES AND PRINT OUT ATTACHED “Psâgot WINE” LABEL ON ADHESIVE PAPER OR ON REGULAR PAPER AND USE TAPE TO PREPARE YOUR BOTTLE FOR CASTING OFF! BRING THE BOTTLES TO THE RITUAL

Is Boycotting Psâgot Wine Kosher?

On this question, Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb provided Torah that unquestionably states: “The great principle of torah which determines whether or not something is kosher is whether or not it causes preventable harm. We are instructed not to profit or benefit from anything, when produced or consumed, that causes preventable harm to human beings, animals, or the environment. When harm does occur, the rabbinic sages have applied the principle of boycott, or refraining from use until the harm is repaired or the activity ceases. An example of boycott can be found in the Mishneh. "One may not sell the oppressors or masters of privilege bears or lions to be used at gladiatorial events, *nor anything else which may result in injury to the public*. One may not build with them a basilica, a prison house, a stadium or a podium. But one may build with them

pedestals in bath houses. You may desist when reaching the vaulted area where the idol is placed. "(Avodah Zarah, mishnah 1:7)

How much more so, when the production of a consumer product is embedded in land theft, human rights abuses, promotion of hatred toward other human beings. Definitely not kosher.

Customizing the Ritual

- If there are other BDS campaigns active in your area and/or other Palestinian solidarity initiatives that you'd like to connect the ritual with, please do- it's a great opportunity to connect ritual with organizing.
- Utilize this guide as a framework to build from; making it your own and gathering input from community members in advance
- Consider other resources to enrich and deepen the experience of your ritual:
Songs -easily taught and led
Poems -read aloud, communally, from a variety of Jewish tendencies, and representing BIJOCSM voices; be sure to credit artists and compensate when possible
 - Aurora Levins Morales <http://www.auroralevinsmorales.com>
 - Irene Kipfisz

Additional Considerations

- Consider access needs as you plan. Find a location that people with varied mobility can access (including, but not limited to, people who use canes, wheelchairs, scooters, etc). Let people know on your promotional materials what the slope and distance to the site will be, as well as options for getting there, the bathroom situation, etc.
- Ask people to share additional access needs and review these with enough lead-time to accommodate. Think about whether to design the ritual to be a child-friendly event and/or whether to have some simultaneous activities for kids.
- Covid is surging in many parts of the country and collective rituals are a way to practice community care. Ask people to wear masks when they're close

together in the crowd, and have extra masks on hand. Include this in the materials as well.

- For the tossing in, if possible, plan to use rocks/ pebbles/ other organic materials found on-site. Bread and other items can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Please don't feed the ducks!
- You might also want to gather or bring wildflowers/ beautiful things to toss in- as reminders of what we'd like to hold onto/ keep, in addition to what we want to let go of (the pebbles).
- Asking people to bring a journal and a pen (or having paper/ pens on hand) can also help with the individual reflection- in case people have thoughts they'd like to remember/ jot down.

RESOURCES

Honoring Indigenous Peoples

- [Native Land Digital](#)

www.native-land.ca

- [Teshuvah & Reparations](#)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WYfKtbxolYk9jAnyOcD02qansupi-zPq/view?mc_cid=614e86fccd&mc_eid=7c4b4ab767

- [Land Reparations & Indigenous Solidarity Toolkit by Resource Generation](#)

<https://resourcegeneration.org/land-reparations-indigenous-solidarity-action-guide/>

Tashlich Guides

- [JVP Tashlich-L'Tzedek 2014/5775](#) JVP Seattle Chapter

<https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/JVP-TASHLICH-L%E2%80%99TZEDEK-20145775.pdf>

- [JVP Tashlich L'Tzedek 5778](#) Kohenet Dori Midnight and Kohenet Jo Kent Katz

<https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/JVP-TASHLICH-L%E2%80%99TZEDEK-20145775.pdf>

- [Tashlich Tzedek](#) Philadelphia Jews for a Just Peace

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mhqRI4cns_rViP-tvEPajoZZi6j-69wB/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112659592667915524156&rtpof=true&sd=true

We Don't Buy It Campaign

- Who is the Falic Family?

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ccClbVDne2RTOTkuJJSZ6Vvz5R-GyedURFhREiNbp5A/edit?usp=sharing>

- Psâgot Wines Background

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tgiZb8Aq1yOt2XrWtC_quYFdA0a8pDMxIOF2_OYoLv0/edit?usp=sharing

Songs

- **Healing Song** by Kestrel Feiner-Homer

https://soundcloud.com/user-478813445/healing-song-by-kestrel-feiner-homer?in=elandia-vital/sets/kaddish-call&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

- **Mimainei** by Avra Shapiro

https://soundcloud.com/avrashapiro/mimaynay-22?in=avrashapiro/sets/latest-tracks&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Please share with us your experience performing the Tashlich Ritual for Casting Off of Complicity to Funding Israeli Settlements. Was the User's Guide helpful?

Contact: melissa@jvp.org

We would love to publish on JVP social media any photos you would like to share of your actual ritual. Be sure to take them VERTICALLY (or they can't be used) and send them directly to social@jvp.org before 9/27/2023

Collectively created by JVP Power-in-Ritual Team: Aaron Ellis, Dani Noble, Deborah Rosenstein, R'Lynn Gottlieb, Marcy Newman, Melissa Nussbaum, Miranda Cohen, Rae Abileah, rosza daniel lang/levitsky,

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Graphic Design: Miranda Cohen

Psagot Winery is majority-owned by the Falic Family, who are among the biggest private US funders of Israeli settler colonialism and Palestinian dispossession. They are also key donors to overtly supremacist and racist, far-right politicians—both in Israel and in the US. We call for a boycott of Falic-owned products and stores until they stop funding such right-wing orgs and Israeli settler violence. Following the Palestinian call to boycott illegal Israeli settlement products, we also call for a boycott of wines from the Falic family owned Psagot Winery, which is built on and sourced from stolen Palestinian land.



~~PSAGOT~~

NON-ETHICAL WINE

We cast off our complicity with Israeli apartheid state violence in Palestine, and injustice within our local communities.

- For allowing violence against Palestinians to be committed in our name.
- For the ways in which we, and our ancestors, have benefited from the occupation of stolen land.
- For not deepening our understanding of the diverse experiences of Palestinian peoples, including past and present resistance and organizing that we have much to learn from.

NOT ETHICALLY KOSHER. PRODUCED AND SOURCED ON STOLEN LAND

- For knowingly buying Israeli products produced on stolen Palestinian land.
- For ignoring Palestinian civil society's call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israeli oppression.
- For allowing our money to fund the building of settlements, walls, increased policing and militarization, mass incarceration, and the exploitative privatization of natural resources here and in Palestine.
- For not speaking out against anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia.
- For complicity with the stealing of Palestinian land and the destruction of Palestinian homes, schools, places of worship and healing.
- For losing sight of the power of collective organizing and its ability to foster justice in Palestine.

**We take responsibility,
we will work to make it known,
we will work to make it end.**