

LIBERATION



None of us are truly free until each and every individual is free. Passover celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from their bondage in ancient Egypt. We retell the story each year, leaning into the value of **achdoot**, solidarity, so that we never forget that we were once oppressed, that we gained our liberation, and that we must continue to fight injustice.

“THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT OCCURS IN EVERY HUMAN BEING, IN EVERY ERA, IN EVERY YEAR, AND IN EVERY DAY.”

- Rabbi Nachman of Breslov

“THE TRUTH IS, NO ONE OF US CAN BE FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS FREE.”

- Maya Angelou

Do you live in a place where some people work two and three jobs to feed their children, and others don't even have a single, poorly paid job? Do you live in a community where the rich are fabulously rich, and the poor humiliated and desperate? Do you live in a place where some people are more equal than others?

America is a golden land, absolutely, and for Jews, it has been an ark of refuge. But it has not yet fulfilled its promise... The seder marks the flight from the humiliation of slavery to the grandeur of freedom, but not everyone has come on this journey... Aren't we still commanded to bring everyone out of Egypt?

New American Haggadah

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does our obligation to remember our past oppression relate to our obligation to act against current injustices?
- What forms of bondage exist in our society? What are our roles in helping to tackle these injustices?
- How can we use our existing freedoms to serve others?

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

[Virtual Volunteering with Free Minds - 4/20 5:30-7:30pm ET](#)

Reading & Response directly to the moving poetic words of currently incarcerated poets. Together we will use poetry and storytelling to connect individuals on both sides of the prison walls, to promote hope and healing through literary art.





"ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY, COME EAT"

During the traditional Passover meal, we are instructed to open our doors and invite "all who are hungry" to come and eat. The choreography of this is unrealistic for a variety of reasons, but doesn't negate the invitation, aligned with our value of **hitchazkut**, strengthening each other, to grapple with our responsibility to address hunger in our own communities. In the United States, People of Color experience significantly higher rates of food insecurity than people who identify as white. (United States Hunger Atlas and Annual Survey Report 2021)

The practice of opening the door to proclaim from our thresholds that all who are in need are welcome dates back to Rav Huna, in third-century Babylonia. If we are serious about welcoming in those in dire straits, those fleeing persecution – then we cannot say that quietly, insulated, complacent – with the door closed! We must open our doors, and in so doing, open our hearts. With our door open, we proclaim from our thresholds: To all who are in need, all who are living a story of Exodus from persecution, to all such refugees from danger: "You are welcome. You are part of our story."

*Jewish Family Services of Delaware
Passover Haggadah Supplement*

Rates of food insecurity in 2021 were 21.7% in Black households and 17.2% in Hispanic households compared to the national average of 10.5%.
Hunger Free America

"Torah is not meant only to be read or studied. Engaging in the words tells us that we are to participate in the words, to be involved in the words; the words should lead us to action. Torah is a historical and legal document to be sure, but more than that, it is a guide to ethical and moral living. Reading or studying how to behave must lead to action. Torah teaches us to treat one another as we wish to be treated – now go and do it."

*- Rabbi Debbie Israel
Rabbi Emerita of Congregation Emeth*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Does access to resources and food alone solve these issues? What are the larger underlying systemic problems that need to be addressed?
- Although the Seder instructs us to "open our doors...to let all who are hungry come and eat." What is our responsibility to step outside of our homes and address food insecurity in our communities?
- How do we create a ritual of service that habituates us to "opening our doors?" How can we use Passover as a reference point to ensure this action is continued from one year to the next?

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

[Food Benefits Access Phone Bank - 4/24 2:00-4:00pm ET](#)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, countless families face unprecedented circumstances that have caused limited access to basic amenities like food and shelter. Phone bank with Repair the World and Hunger Free America to help connect families to critical food assistance!



"NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM"

"L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim – next year in Jerusalem" are the closing words of the Passover seder. We say this to speak our hopes into the Universe for ultimate freedom from persecution in the year to come. Guided by the value of **na'aseh v'nishma**, action and learning, we must make actionable commitments for the coming year. What is your version of "next year in Jerusalem?"

"Next Year in Jerusalem is the purest expression of the profound Jewish belief that the world will one day be a better place...when we reach it - and we will - we will live in a world in which the poor are fed, the sick healed; in which Jews are accepted as a free people and no one is persecuted or enslaved. We will continue to gather around the Passover table, to remind ourselves and each other of the work we must do."

New America Haggadah

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What commitment to sustained/ongoing service are you comfortable making for the next year?
- If our actions speak louder than words, what is the benefit of manifesting our "next year in ____" out loud?
- How do we hold ourselves accountable to the things we say and agree to tonight?

"Standing on the parted shores, we still believe what we were taught before we stood at Sinai's foot; that wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt; that there is a better place, a promised land; that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness. That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together."

- Michael Walzer, Professor emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

[Phone Bank to Mobilize Environmental Voters - 4/11 6:00-7:30pm ET](#)

Join Repair the World to phone bank with Environmental Voter Project, to identify inactive environmentalists and transform them into consistent voters to build the power of the environmental movement.

[Send Letters of Love to Isolated Elders - 4/26 6:30-7:30pm ET](#)

Join us to support the mental health of seniors across the country and fight chronic social isolation. Volunteers will write letters to spread connection and care to isolated elders.

