

# HAGGADAH FOR PEYSAKH

Boston Workmen's Circle  
Arbeter Ring  
2016



# Haggadah for Peysakh

1.

Welcome to our Passover seder.

Together we celebrate the festival of liberation of the Jewish people, who are linked throughout history with all peoples in the passion for justice and human liberty.

As we retell this ancient story, let us remind ourselves of those people around the world who are living this story today, struggling for basic human rights. Let us celebrate our freedom and strengthen ourselves to join the fight against injustice wherever it exists. For as long as one person is oppressed, none of us are free.

For it is said: Every person, in every generation, must regard his or her self as having been personally freed from bondage in Mitzrayim, the Hebrew name of ancient Egypt and a metaphor for a time of enslavement.

2.

In Hebrew, “Mitzrayim” means “the narrow place” — the place that squeezes the life out of a human soul and body. During our seder together, let us reflect on some of the “tight places” we find ourselves in today as Jews, as Americans, and as human beings. We must make wide the place in our hearts and our politics for those who most need justice.

But the metaphor also includes the symbol of birth, of coming out of a narrow place emotionally and physically. Today we celebrate our traditions, our history, our work and our vision of a more just and equitable world.

3.

[SONG]

## **Vine and Fig Tree/Lo Yisa Goy**

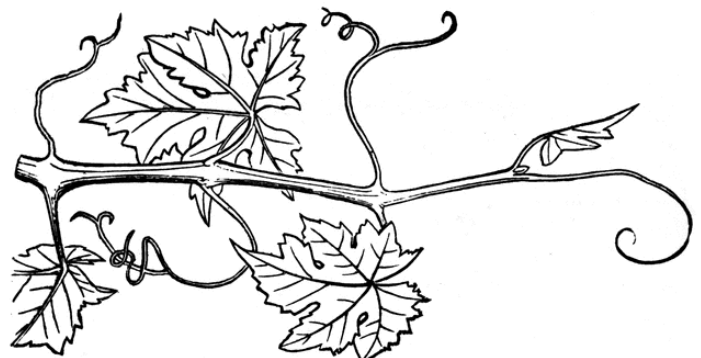
And everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree  
Shall live in peace and unafraid.

And everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree  
Shall live in peace and unafraid.

And into ploughshares beat their swords  
Nations shall learn war no more.  
And into ploughshares beat their swords  
Nations shall learn war no more.

Lo yisa goy el goy cherev  
Lo yilmadu od milchama

Lo yisa goy el goy cherev  
Lo yilmadu od milchama



4.

The word “seder” means “order,” and “Haggadah” means “the telling.” Our Haggadah has retained much of the traditional order but has adapted much of the content. Ever since Rabbi Akiba used the Passover seder to plan a revolutionary struggle against the Romans, Jews have used the seder to begin work on “Tikkun” (healing and transformation).

For it is said: “Whoever enlarges upon the telling of the exodus from Mitzrayim, those persons are praiseworthy.”

5.

Please join us as we light the Passover candles:

These candles symbolize an end of winter, a beginning of spring, and also a long history of struggle against oppression. We must join with all oppressed peoples, honoring both our differences and our need to work together for our future and the future of our children.

6.

[ALL]

As we say in Hebrew:

Boruch ato adonoy, eloheynu melekh olom, asher kidshanu b'mitsvotav, vetsivanu,  
l'hadlik ner, shel yom tov.

As we say in Yiddish:

Likhtik iz di shayn fun der velt  
Likhtik iz di shayn fun mentshlekhkayt  
Likhtik iz di shayn fun sholem  
Likhtik iz di shayn fun peysakh

Which means in English:

Radiant is the light in the world  
Radiant is the light in humanity  
Radiant is the light of peace  
Radiant is the light of Pesach

[LIGHT THE CANDLES]

7.

Today we retell an ancient story, the story of the exodus from Mitzrayim and our liberation from slavery. Each year we remember, not just the story of our own oppression and deliverance in ancient times, but also more contemporary struggles for justice and social equality. We feel the plight of refugees who have been traumatized by the savagery of current wars and terrorism. As written in the Torah, “Do not oppress or mistreat the foreigner, for once you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

We must speak out against the fear and hate born of ignorance. Green shoots of social justice activism are bursting into life, with a rallying cry to actively build a world where all lives are valued, protected, and free.

8.

[POUR FIRST CUP OF WINE]

[ALL]

As we say in Hebrew:

Borukh ato adonoy, eloheynu melek olom, borey pri hagofen.

As we say in Yiddish:

Mit dem ershtn glezl vayn, trinken mir lekoved der mutikayt un lebikayt fun pleytim vos viln nor lebn besholem.

Which means in English:

Let us dedicate the first cup of wine to the courage and vitality of refugees seeking a safe haven.

[DRINK WINE]



9.

KARPAS

Pesach is a springtime holiday. The karpas (or parsley) reminds us of springtime and hope. We dip the karpas in salt water because tears taste salty. We remember the tears of our people who cried in Mitzrayim when we were slaves. We are mindful of the tears of other peoples who are not free. And may we never be so comfortable that we become complacent and forget the pain of others. May we always be able to feel the connection between our own struggle for freedom so long ago and today's struggles against oppression, wherever they occur.

[POUR SALT WATER INTO BOWL, EAT KARPAS DIPPED IN SALT WATER]

10.

[SONG]

**Ale Brider (All Brothers)**

Un mir zaynen ale brider,	And we are all brothers.
Oy, oy, ale brider,	
Un mir zingen freylekhe lider,	And we sing happy songs.
Oy, oy, oy.	

Un mir zaynen ale shvester,	And we are all sisters,
Oy, oy ale shvester,	
Vi Sore, Rivke, Rut un Ester,	Like Sarah, Rebecca, Ruth, and Esther.
Oy, oy, oy.	

Day, day, day, day....

Un mir zaynen ale freylekh	And we are all gay,
Oy, oy, ale freylekh	
Vi Yoynosn un Dovid hameylekh	Like Jonathan and King David.
Oy, oy, oy.	

Un mir zaynen ale pleytim	And we are all refugees,
Oy, oy, ale pleytim,	
Tseraysn lomir ale keytn.	Let's break all chains.
Oy, oy, oy.	

Day, day, day, day....

11.

**MATZAH**

Matzah is known as the "bread of affliction." One reason we break the middle matzah in a traditional seder is to show that the poor need to set aside some of their food for the next meal. Dividing the Matzah also reminds us that our nation is divided by fear and ignorance, racism and economic inequality, Islamaphobia and xenophobia.

Until these divided parts are made whole, our seder cannot truly be ended, and our nation cannot be whole.

Today we have already hidden the afikomen, the matzah that the children search for at the end of our seder. The seder cannot end until the afikomen is found, which reminds us that our children have a right to be heard.

12.

As we say in Ladino:

Esto es el pande la afrisyon ke komieron mos padres en tierra de Ayifto. Todo el ke tiene ambre venga y koma. Todo el ke tiene de menester venga y pasuke.

Which means:

This is the bread representing our affliction that our people ate in the land of Ayifto (Mitzrayim). May whoever is hungry come and eat. May anyone who is in distress come and celebrate with us.

As the Yiddish writer, I.L. Peretz, said, “Az ir vet take zogn, ‘Zol yeder vos iz hungerik araynkumen un esn,’ zol keyner nisht darfn araynkumen.” If you really call out 'Let all who are hungry come and eat,' may there be no one in the world who needs to come in!”

13.

The bread of affliction is not a thing of the past.

We are members of the shule 5th grade class. In January we led a march from the Workmen’s Circle Center to the Dunkin’ Donuts in Cleveland Circle in support of workers seeking livable wages, benefits, and workplace rights. The students, along with parents and local community members, shouted chants such as: “Hold the bagels, hold the crullers, Dunkin, pay us 15 dollars!” before delivering to management over one hundred petition signatures they collected.

14.

#### THE FOUR QUESTIONS/DI FIR KASHES

Jewish cultures all over the world have celebrated Pesach and asked the traditional Four Questions in their own native languages. There are several hundred versions from French to Korean to ancient Judeo-Arabic.

In English: Why is this night different from all other nights?

In Ladino: Kunto fue demudada la noche la esta mas ke todas las noches?

What other languages are spoken in our community?

#### [RESPONSES FROM THE COMMUNITY]

15.

We invite the children to sing the traditional Four Questions. We ask and then answer these questions together tonight.

As we say in Hebrew:

Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz u'matzah.  
Halailah hazeh kulo matzah.

Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin she'ar yirakot.  
Halailah hazeh maror.

Sheb'chol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am echat,  
Halailah hazeh sh'teh f'amim.



Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin bein yochvin u'vin m'subin.  
Halailah hazeh kulano m'subin.

16.

Which means in Yiddish:

Ma nishtana halayle haze mikol haleloys

Farvos iz di dozike nakht fun peysakh andersh fun ale nekht fun a gants yor

Shebekhol haleloys

Ale nekht esn mir say khomets say matse

Ober halayle haze in der dozike nakht fun pesakh esn mir nor matse

Shebekhol haleloys

Ale nekht esn mir kolerley grinsn

Ober halayle haze in der dozike nakht fun pesakh moror

Bloyz bitere kraytekher

Shebekhol haleloys

Ale nekht tunken mir ayn afile eyn mol oykh nisht

Ober halayle haze in der dozike nakht fun pesakh tunken mir ayn tsvey mol

Shebekhol haleloys

Ale nekht kenen mir esn say zitsndik glaykh say ongelent

Ober halayle haze in der dozike nakht fun pesakh esn mir ale ongelent

Ma nishtana halayle haze mikol haleloys

Farvos iz di dozike nakht fun peysakh andersh fun ale nekht fun a gants yor

17.

I would like to answer the first traditional question:

### **WHY DO WE EAT MATZAH?**

When Pharaoh let our ancestors go from Mitzrayim, they were forced to leave quickly.

There was no time to let dough rise and bake it into bread for the journey. So they snatched up their dough and fled Pharaoh's army. The hot sun beating down on the dough as they carried it along with them baked it into a flat, unleavened bread which they called matzah. That is why we eat matzah on Pesach.

I would like to answer the second question.

### **WHY DO WE EAT MOROR (HORSERADISH)?**

Because our ancestors were slaves in Mitzrayim and their lives were made bitter. That is why we eat moror (or horseradish) on Pesach.

18.

I would like to answer the third question.

## WHY DO WE DIP HERBS TWICE?

We dip the parsley because it reminds us of the green that comes to life again in the springtime, and the salt water reminds us of the tears of the Jewish people before they became free. We dip the moror, the bitter herbs, in the sweet charoyses as a sign of hope; our ancestors were able to live with the bitterness of slavery because it was sweetened by the hope of freedom.

Now I would like to answer the last question.

## WHY DO WE RECLINE?

In ancient days, slaves were forced to eat quickly because their masters did not permit them to waste a single moment when they could be working. And so, the slaves ate either standing up or squatting on the ground. At our Passover seder, we mark our freedom by eating sitting or reclining.

19.

Four questions, are there only four questions? There are countless questions. In the spirit of this night, we ask some of the other questions that burn in our hearts.

Why does oppression exist in the world?

Why is there always funding for weapons and not for schools?

Why are we unable to protect all of our children, from Roxbury to El Salvador, Syria, Afghanistan, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza?

Why do we learn war, generation after generation, and how can we teach peace instead?

20.

The symbols and the story of Passover reflect the struggles against injustice, both old and new.

This is the story of Pesach. Let us turn to our ancient tradition.

During a famine, Jews came to Mitzrayim. Their children multiplied and prospered.

They held important positions and played an important role in the political, cultural, and economic life of the country. The old Pharaoh died, and there arose a new Pharaoh, who said: "Look! The Jewish people are too mighty for us." So Pharaoh put the Jews into labor gangs and set taskmasters over them with heavy loads. He made them slaves and treated them harshly.

21.

In spite of the many cruel decrees of Pharaoh, the Jewish people continued to live and grow strong. Hard work could not destroy them. Pharaoh now hit on a new and more terrible plan. He commanded the Jewish midwives to kill every boy born to a Jewish family. The heroic midwives defied this decree. They continued to help the women give birth and their babies grew healthy and strong.

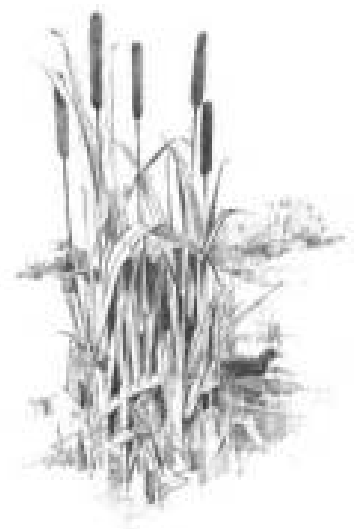
Shortly thereafter, two defiant midwives, Shifra and Pu-ah helped a son to be born into the house of Levi, to Yocheved and her husband Amram. Yocheved, frightened by Pharaoh's law, hid her son in a basket and placed it on the River Nile.





22.

Pharaoh's daughter rescued the baby; the baby's sister Miriam, who was hiding in the bulrush plants, offered to find a woman to nurse him. She ran to get Yocheved, the baby's mother. So Moses, Moishe, which means, "drawn from the water," was raised by his own mother, his sister, and the Pharaoh's daughter.



He grew up as a prince, but aware that he was a Jew. One day he tried to stop a taskmaster from beating a slave. Moses hit the taskmaster and accidentally killed him. He was forced to flee the palace. The story goes that one day he saw a bush that was on fire and yet alive and green. Moses saw this as a sign that he must rescue the Jewish people from slavery. Moses saw his people's suffering in Mitzrayim and wanted to set them free. Some say that Moses was the first community organizer, helping Jews see their treatment as unjust and leading them in a fight against oppression and an escape to freedom, building a sense of unity and peoplehood.

23.

The story says that ten plagues ravished Mitzrayim, and then Pharaoh finally agreed to let the Israelites leave. Soon after, however, Pharaoh had a change of heart and mobilized his soldiers to recapture the Jewish slaves, who were now on the shores of the Red Sea. The Jews looked back and saw Pharaoh's army approaching. The only way out was to jump into the sea before them. According to the book of Exodus, the sea parted, creating a path.

Legend has it that the waters did not divide until one man, Nachshon, walked into the sea. As he walked in, the water rose above his ankles, above his knees, above his waist, above his shoulders, above his mouth and nose - and he kept walking. In doing so he acted as a free person ready to take the ultimate risk for his freedom, and only then did the waters of the Red Sea part for the Jews to walk through. When they reached the other side, the waters flowed back together, catching the army of Mitzrayim and drowning them.

24.

When the Jewish people had crossed the Red Sea, they looked back at Pharaoh's army and realized that they who were drowning had suffered as well. The Israelites' joy at escaping slavery was not complete because of the suffering of the others. A full cup of wine is a symbol of joy. We acknowledge the suffering of the people of Mitzrayim by dipping our finger into our cup and removing a drop of wine, one for each of the ten plagues:

[ALL DIP AND RECITE]

Dahm-Blood, Tz'fardaya- frogs, Kinim-lice, Arov-beasts, Dever- cattle disease, Sh'chin- boils, Barad-hail, Arbeh-locusts, Choshech-darkness, Makat B'chorot- plague on the firstborn.

25.

Today the world is far from being free. Each drop of wine is hope and prayer that people will throw out the modern plagues that threaten us all.

Let us dip and recite again:

[ALL]

War, Police Brutality, Racism, Sexism, Xenophobia, Genocide, Religious Discrimination, Greed, Climate Change, Heteronormativity

We invite you all to consider the many plagues that confront us in our lives. During the meal, reflect on and write or draw your plagues on the Post-its on your table and then put them on the easel near the dessert table for all to see.

26.

Even in times of difficulty, the seder reminds us there is still much to do. We have a vision, we take it to heart, and we work hard to make it happen. What miracles and accomplishments would be sufficient in today's world for us to be truly satisfied, to create a besere velt, a better world?

[ALL SAY: DAYENU: Which means: It would have been enough! at the end of each line]

When all the workers of the world have enough jobs and money, enjoy safe, healthy, and secure working conditions, and can take pride in their work . . . Dayenu!

When the air, water, fellow creatures and beautiful earth are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of all, and given priority over development for the sake of profit . . . Dayenu!

When people of all ages, sexes, sexual orientation, races, religions, cultures, and nations respect and appreciate one another . . . Dayenu!

When all children grow up in freedom, without hunger, and with the love and support needed to realize their full potential . . . Dayenu!

27.

When food, shelter, and health care are accepted as human rights and are available to all . . . Dayenu!

When no elderly person in our society has to fear hunger, cold, or loneliness . . . Dayenu!

When we open our hearts, no less our homes, to every refugee around the world until there are no more refugees...Dayenu

When we don't have to chant, "Black Lives Matter" because every day our society shows that they do . . . Dayenu!

If today each person could say, "this year I worked as hard as I could toward my goals for improving this world, so that one day all people can experience the joy and freedom I feel sitting with my family and friends at the seder table" . . . Dayenu, Dayenu!

28.

[SONG]

**Dayenu**

Eeloo hotzee hotzee anoo  
 Hotzee anoo mimitzraim  
 Hotzee anoo mimitzraim  
 DAYENU

*If God had only taken us out of Mitzrayim*

*That alone would have been enough.*

Eeloo natan natan lanu  
 Natan lanu et ha Shabat  
 Natan lanu et ha Shabat  
 DAYENU

*If God had only given us the Sabbath,*

*That alone would have been enough.*

Volt kayn seyder nit gevezn  
 Kayn hagode nit gevezn  
 Ober kneydlekh yo gevezn  
 DAYEYNU

*If there were no seder*

*If there were no Haggadah*

*But if there were matzo balls!*

*That alone would have been enough.*

29.

What does this mean, “It would have been enough?” Surely no one of these things would indeed have been enough for us. Dayenu means to celebrate each step toward freedom as if it were enough, then to start out on the next step. It means that if we reject each step because it is not the whole liberation, we will never be able to achieve the whole liberation. It means to sing each verse as if it were the whole thing — and then sing the next verse.

30.

On each table is a seder plate that holds a set of symbolic foods.

[HOLD UP THE SYMBOL AS IT IS DISCUSSED]

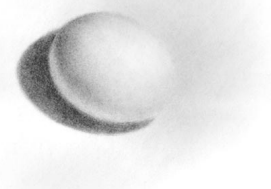
**MATZAH**

This is matzah, the bread of liberation, of rebellion, that our foremothers baked and ate in a time when they had to be organizing more and cooking less.

**EGGS**

The eggs are a symbol of springtime, fertility, and the giving of life. We are reminded of Pharaoh's threat to kill newborn Jewish babies, and of the courageous midwives who refused to carry out his orders. The egg also tells us, “The longer things are in hot water, the tougher they become.”

We dip the eggs in salt water to taste the tears which accompany birth and death in times of slavery and freedom.



31.

**PASCHAL LAMB**

Tradition directs us to hold up a roasted lamb bone (z'roa), to recall the Passover story of the doorposts of Jewish homes in Mitzrayim marked with the blood of the sacrificed animals so that the angel of death would “pass over” and not take the first-born Jewish children. Today we are using a beet to represent the blood, and a model of a lamb bone, made by shule students, to represent the lamb, so that no animals are in fact sacrificed for our seder plates, but the ancient symbol of that first Passover is retained.

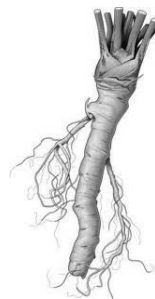
In this way we affirm our ancient traditions, as well as the importance of caring for all species of animals, and ethical and ecological concerns about the eating of meat.

**MOROR**

The bitter herbs symbolize the bitterness of slavery.

**SALT WATER**

This represents the tears of our ancestors in slavery.



32.

**CHAROYSES**

CharoySES is a mixture of apples, nuts, wine, and spices, or in some Jewish cultures, dates, figs, apricots, and prunes, or oranges, peanuts, and bananas, that are made into a paste. It symbolizes the mortar that our ancestors used to build pyramids. The sweet taste of the CharoySES also reminds us that even in the bitterest times of slavery, our people have always remembered the sweet taste of freedom.

**KARPAS**

The parsley and the salt water remind us that both the tender greens of the earth and the salt of the sea are joined together to sustain life.

33.

**ORANGE**

One of the gifts of our tradition is that we are able to interpret and expand the customs that have been handed down to us. One new custom is the addition of an orange on the seder plate. Scholar Susannah Heschel put an orange at her own seder plate as a gesture of solidarity with Jewish lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transpeople, and all others who are marginalized within the Jewish community. And there are those who add: We left Mitzrayim as slaves and were reborn as a free people. So we bring to the seder plate a fruit that carries, within itself, the seeds of its own rebirth.

34.

**OLIVE**

We add the olive to our seder plate to bring to mind the olive branch, which has long been a symbol of peace, and to remember the olive tree which evokes an ancient past, shared by generations, tied to the ritual of harvest and to the traditions of preparing and sharing food with family and friends. We also celebrate the olive branch as a sign of hope and an enduring future dating back to the time of Noah, the receding flood waters, and the beginning of a new life.

35.

[POUR SECOND CUP OF WINE]

[ALL]

As we say in Hebrew:

Borukh ato adonoy eloheynu melek olom, borey pri hagofen.

As we say in Yiddish:

Mit dem tsveytn glezl vayn, yublen mir di breyte aliansn fun kehiles vos arbetn tsuzamen tsu oysvortslen islamofoby.

Which means in English:

With the second cup of wine, we celebrate the broad coalitions of community organizations working together to eradicate Islamaphobia.

[DRINK THE WINE]

We eat the sweet charoyeses and bitter moror together to remember the sweetness of freedom and the bitterness of slavery.

[EAT PIECE OF MATZAH WITH CHAROYSES AND MOROR (HORSERADISH)]

In time of freedom we must not forget the bitterness of slavery.



36.

There is another continuing plague: the ongoing violence and suffering in Israel/Palestine.

We affirm that Israeli security can only be built alongside Palestinian security. Because we have experienced oppression and bondage, we vow to fight for justice and freedom and to support the peacemakers on all sides of this heartbreaking conflict.

37.

Rami Khouri:

The enormity of the devastation that both people have suffered is the experience of Siamese twins, organically bound to one another at birth and therefore destined to live or die together. There cannot be salvation and peace for one, but destruction and chaos for the other. One twin cannot snatch life for itself at the cost of the other twin's death. This is the ultimate reality that defines the fate of Jews and Palestinians.

38.

### What Was Ours

Written by Riva Lencer at age 14

It was mine  
It was always mine  
God said it was ours  
Its time we take back what's ours  
With tanks

With government guns

With an army

Through laws and restrictions

With checkpoints  
To save our people  
By bulldozing a house

To get revenge  
I answer to their threats  
All I want is what's ours  
And I'll do whatever I can

To get it  
Even if that means taking lives,  
Some day

Victory

Will be ours  
Until then  
I will shoot every Palestinian

To get—  
God,  
What have I done?

It was mine  
It was always mine  
God said it was ours  
Its time we take back what's ours

With rocks

With a spare gun

With 14 year old boys

Through my life to save our  
people  
With checkpoints  
To persecute our people

By exploding a bus  
To get revenge  
I answer to their threats  
All I want is what's ours

And I'll do whatever I can  
To get it  
Even if that means taking lives

One day

Victory  
Will be ours  
Until then

I will blow up every Israeli  
To get—  
God,  
What have I done?

39.

The biblical patriarch Abraham is traditionally considered the father of both Judaism and Islam—Judaism through Abraham’s son Isaac, and Islam through Abraham’s son Ishmael. Our roots are the same. As we seek peace in the Middle East, let us remember that Jews and Muslims are cousins.

We sympathize with the plight of Syrian and other refugees, and actively support their resettlement here in the United States and in Europe. We join with our Muslim sisters and brothers, here and abroad, in their struggle for freedom, justice, and dignity.

40.

[SONG]

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

سلام  
שלום  
PEACE

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41.

### **Passover, 1943, The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising**

The first night of Passover, April 19, 1943, is a historic date in modern Jewish history, the date of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The Nazis had planned to liquidate the Ghetto as a birthday present for Hitler — a Judenrein Warsaw — a Warsaw empty of Jews.

But the Jews knew of their plans and were prepared. Unable to take the ghetto by military force, the desperate Germans destroyed the ghetto, brick by brick. With the Warsaw Ghetto in flames, the fighters turned to guerilla activity and lived in the underground bunkers, fought from the sewers and struggled on amid the charred rubble of the Ghetto.

42.

On May 16 the Germans announced that the fighting was over and that “the Jewish quarter of Warsaw no longer exists.” But there were still hundreds of Jews in the subterranean bunkers of the Ghetto, which was now a heap of ruins. It took Hitler longer to subdue the Jews of Warsaw than to conquer all of Czechoslovakia and Poland.

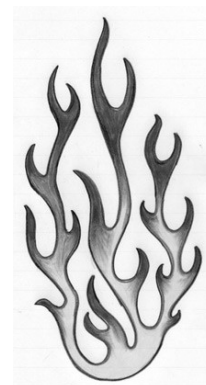
One of the amazing ironies of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising is that it began on the first night of Passover — the celebration of the liberation from bondage, the celebration of spring, rebirth, the gathering of the Jewish people to face down tyranny and assert their right to liberty. It is fitting that at our seder we remember and pay homage to those who gave their lives for our honor and freedom.

43.

Because we have so few names of the Jewish women in our history, tonight we will also honor the memory of our unknown brave sisters, those who fought so courageously against the Nazi horrors. We remember Hannah Senesh and Haviva Reik, who parachuted behind enemy lines in Hungary and Slovakia to organize resistance and rescue Jews. We remember Vladka Meed, Chaika and Frumka Plotnitski, who served as couriers and smuggled arms for the ghetto fighters. These are but a few of the names we know. Their willingness to sacrifice their lives for their people shines through the words of Hannah Senesh, written shortly before her execution:

[ALL]

Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame,  
 Blessed is the flame that burns in the secret fastness of the heart,  
 Blessed is the heart with the strength to stop beating for honor's sake,  
 Blessed is the match consumed in kindling flame.



44.

There is much we can learn from those involved in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Irena Klepfisz, a child survivor whose father fought and died in the uprising, wrote: I have concluded that one way to pay tribute to those we loved who struggled, resisted and died is to hold on to their vision and their fierce outrage at the destruction of the ordinary life of their people. It is this outrage we need to keep alive in our daily life and apply it to all situations, whether they involve Jews or non-Jews: the hysteria of a mother grieving for the teenager who has been shot; humiliation of a people whose culture is alien and deemed inferior; a people living under military rule. Because of our experience, we recognize these evils as obstacles to peace. At those moments of recognition, we feel the outrage that inspired the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto and allow it to guide us in present struggles.

45.

[POUR THIRD CUP OF WINE]

[ALL]

As we say in Hebrew:

Borukh ato adonoy eloheynu melekh olom, borey pri hagofen.

As we say in Yiddish:

Mit dem dritn glezl vayn, gedenken mir undzer tife bindung tsu zayn tuers, nit tsukukers, opbaytn shrek un umvisn mit mitgefil un farshtand far pleytim arum der velt.

Which means in English:

We drink the third cup of wine to remember our own deep commitment to be upstanders, not bystanders, to replace fear and ignorance with compassion and understanding of the refugee crisis. .

We invite you all to reflect on your personal actions dedicated to building a more just society and fighting the evils of racism over this past year. During the meal, please write one of your actions on the-Post-it on your table and then put it on the second easel near the dessert table for all to see.

[DRINK THE WINE]



46.

[SONG]

**The New Underground Railroad** (Gerry Tenney)

When the slaves ran north in the Civil War,  
 There was a midnight knock on a midnight door,  
 And a young farm family hid a runaway slave,  
 And kept her from an early grave.

And they called it the Underground Railroad,  
 Running from their master's cold cruel hand,  
 And they called it the Underground Railroad,  
 On up to Canaan's land.

When the Nazis came in the Second World War,  
 There was a midnight knock on a midnight door,  
 And an old Polish woman on the Aryan side,  
 Took a young Jewish boy in the cellar to hide.

It was another Underground Railroad,  
 Run from the Gestapo through the sewer walls,  
 It was another Underground Railroad,  
 Keep moving, no time to fall.

And now war rages in El Salvador,  
 You hear a midnight knock on a midnight door,  
 And a church door opens in the middle of the night,  
 Half a family walks in, faces filled with fright.

On the new Underground Railroad,  
 Running from the death squads, running from fear,  
 On the new Underground Railroad,  
 Will they be welcome up here?  
 Will they be welcome up here?  
 Will they be welcome up here?

47.

**MIRIAM'S CUP**

Rabbinic legend teaches that a magical well inspired by Miriam accompanied the Israelites on their journey from Mitzrayim. As a midwife and a powerful Jewish woman, Miriam represents birth, possibility, challenge, and moving through uncharted waters. She also was known for her tambourine and her singing. Let us fill her cup with water and honor the strength and joy of women throughout our history.

[CHILDREN GATHER BEHIND LEADER WITH TAMBOURINE]



48.

**ELIJAH'S CUP**

Elijah the Prophet, Eliyohu Hanovi, traditionally wanders the world in the garb of a poor person to see how the world treats the downtrodden, to see whether the world has achieved justice and is ready for the coming of the Messiah.

Elijah comes to every seder as a loving guest. We welcome his spirit to our seder. Elijah is the symbolic hope of peace, freedom, and happiness that will come to our people and to all the people of the world. Let us each pour some wine into Elijah's cup to show that we will act together. And let us open the door for Elijah, to show that we will always welcome strangers, immigrants, refugees, and new ideas that strengthen and enrich our lives.

Tonight we also leave a place at our table and in our hearts for those who are oppressed. Let them all come sit with us as equals.

[POUR THE WINE]

[SHAKE THE TAMBORINE AS THE CHILDREN AT THE TABLE GO TO THE DOOR AND SYMBOLICALLY OPEN THE DOOR FOR ELIJAH]

49.

[SONG]

**Eliyohu Hanovi***Elijah the Prophet*

Eliyohu hanovi, Eliyohu haTishbi  
Eliyohu, Eliyohu, Eliyohu haGilodi.

Ale vartn yung un alt,  
Breng derleyzung, kum-zhe bald  
Mit moshiakh ben Dovid.  
Mit moshiakh ben Dovid.

*Everyone is waiting, young and old.  
To feel the joy of the coming of the Messiah,  
Son of David.*

Miriam ha-n'vi'ah,  
Oz v'zimrah b'yadah.  
Miriam tirkod itanu l'hagdil zimrat olam.  
Miriam tirkod itanu l'taken et ha-olam.

*Miriam the prophet, strength and song in her hand  
Miriam dance with us in order to increase the song of  
the world.  
Miriam dance with us in order to repair the world.*

Bimheirah v'yameinu hi t'vi'einu  
El mei ha-y'shuah  
El mei ha-y'shuah.

*Soon she will lead us in making a better world.*

Eliyohu hanovi, Eliyohu haTishbi  
Eliyohu, Eliyohu, Eliyohu haGilodi.

50.

March 13, 2016

Dear Friends,

I'm feeling very Jewish these days, and it's not only because of the approach of Passover.

The Jew in me is watching how the far right has moved into the Republican mainstream—and how Donald Trump is riding the wave of an angry populist movement that evokes the ghost of fascism in Italy and Germany.

The Jew in me is watching how the European Union has bungled its humanitarian responsibility towards desperate Syrian and Iraqi refugees, while our own country simply looks away and tries to appear innocent from the mess we've made, in a crisis that evokes the closed borders and trapped Jews of 1938.

The Jew in me is watching how Islamic radicals consider my tribe to be fair game, worldwide – while millions of Muslims who have no love for ISIS or Al Qaeda are being tarred with the brush of distrust.

The Jew in me is watching how Israel under Netanyahu is suppressing dissent, cultivating a siege mentality, scapegoating the peace movement, and provoking an international recoil.

Yet it's not just anxiety in me that stirs my Jewish identity. It's also my determination to resist these evils.

The Jew in me is more warrior than worrier --- and my arsenal includes an ancient ethical tradition, a capacity to learn from history, a belief in the power of creativity to awaken the heart, and a determination to view all people as members of the human family.

May you have a sweet and meaningful Peysakh!

Lawrence Bush, Editor, Jewish Currents

51.

[POUR FOURTH CUP OF WINE]

[ALL]

As we say in Hebrew:

Borukh ato adonoy eloheynu melek olom, borey pri hagofen.

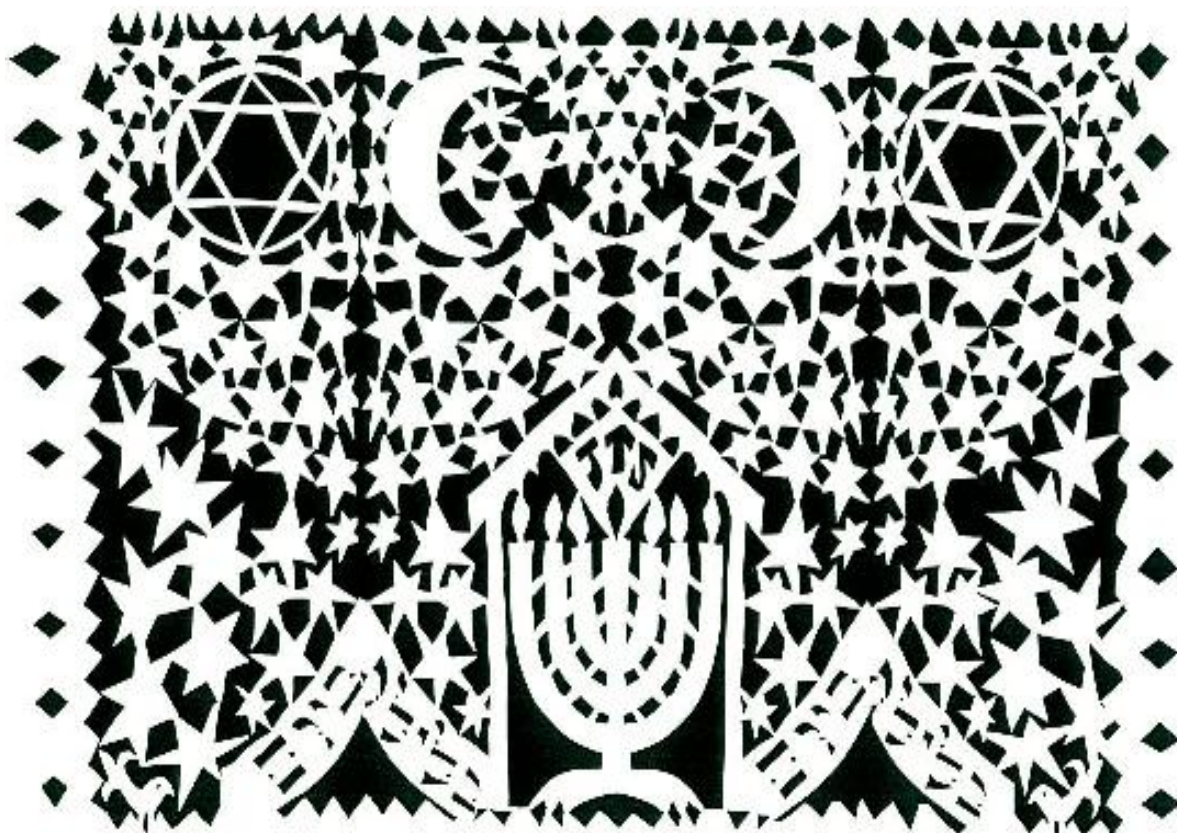
As we say in Yiddish:

Mit dem fertn glezl vayn, rufn mir oyf aktsye tsu efenen di grenetsn un bagrisn ale vos zukhn a mokem-miklet.

Which means in English:

With the fourth cup of wine, we send out a call for action to open our borders and welcome all who seek refuge.

[DRINK THE WINE]



52.

The seder obligates each of us to view ourselves as if we individually were liberated from slavery. We are reminded that liberation is never to be taken for granted; it requires constant re-dedication and action.

The seder often ends with the words:

LASHANAH HABA'AH B'YERUSHALAYIM  
NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM

Let us reflect on the meaning of these words for secular Jews who yearn for peace with hard-earned justice. We wish for next year in a Jerusalem that is shared among peoples and religious communities whose histories are twisted together like an ancient vine. Today we say, next year in this Jerusalem.

Wherever we live we find oppression and injustice, but there really is a better place, a promised land, that we as individuals and as a community can see and feel in our heads and our hearts. The way to get from here to there is by joining together, working, marching, and sometimes stumbling, through the wilderness, watching this time not for signs and wonders, but for an opportunity to act. May the spirit of this festival of freedom remain with us throughout the coming year. May its teachings inspire us to work toward our vision of “a besere velt,” a better world.

53.

Let us raise our voices in tribute to the life and work of Pete Seeger, an icon, inspiration, and musical conscience for all of us. Please stand and join hands:

[SONG]

**We Shall Overcome**

Words by Pete Seeger and Lucille Simmons, music adapted from African American Spirituals

We shall overcome,  
We shall overcome.  
We shall overcome some day.

Oh, deep in my heart,  
I do believe,  
We shall overcome some day.

We'll walk hand in hand...

We shall all be free...

We are not afraid... TODAY!

We shall overcome...

54.

The children are now invited to search for the Afikomen as we prepare for our seder meal. When you find one, bring the matzah here and see if you can figure out the surprise!



We thank Mae Rockland Tupa for her papercuts

Passages taken from:

Haggadah of the Sholem Aleichem Club of Philadelphia

BCCAS Haggadah

The Shalom Seders

Dorchester Freedom Seder

A Family Haggadah

The Women's Seder Sourcebook

Boston Globe

The Prophet Elijah in the Development of Judaism, by Aharon Wiener

"The Holocaust That Binds Us" 1984 by Rami G. Khouri

Winchevsky Centre's Annual Third Seder

Courage to Refuse Haggadah

A number of unpublished Haggadot compiled by the Boston Area New Jewish Agenda

Personal reflections and suggestions from The Workmen's Circle community

Passage from the Qur'an

Love and Justice in Times of War Haggadah

Sephardic Passover Agada

Immigrant Justice/Racial Justice Haggadah

The Left Over Haggadah: A Remix

Jewish Currents Haggadah supplement 2015

## **INFORMATION ON CALLS FOR ACTION**

Go beyond talk! Make this year a time of engagement and political and social action.

<http://fightfor15.org>

Lobby for State Bill S.1022 which would allow towns and cities to set their own minimum wage. If it passed, cities with higher costs of living could decide on their own minimum wage – the bill is titled "A Bill authorizing municipal increases in minimum wages."

<http://www.rcusa.org/>

Refugee Council USA provides advocacy on issues affecting the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, victims of trafficking, and victims of torture in the United States and across the world.

<http://www.truah.org/>

T'ruah calls upon Jews to assert Jewish values by raising our voices and taking concrete steps to protect and expand human rights in North America, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Please use this page to make comments and suggestions on this Haggadah and/or to volunteer to help with Passover or other rituals. If you fill out this page, please tear it out of the Haggadah and leave it on the front table or mail it to Linda Gritz, Ritual Committee Chair, Boston Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St., Brookline, MA 02445-2124.

Thank you very much for attending our seder and for your interest in the Haggadah. 2016

This Haggadah was created by Boston Workmen's Circle Ritual Committee and is updated each year. We welcome your comments on this Haggadah and suggestions for next year's Haggadah.

[illegible]

The Ritual Committee creates and updates Boston Workmen's Circle rituals, currently including Rosh Hashonah, Yom Kippur, Tu B'Shevat, and Passover. If you are interested in participating in this work, please sign up below. We always welcome new members!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS: