Kos Miryam
Miryam’s Cup

Fill the kos Miryam with spring water.

This is the cup of Miryam, the cup of living waters, a reminder of the Exodus from Egypt.

Throughout their desert wanderings, the Israelites were refreshed by miraculous springs that bubbled out of deep crevices in the rocky landscape.

When Miryam died, the waters dried up. The people mourned the slave child who waited by a river, the woman who danced across a sea, the leader who sang a nation to freedom.

When the springs flowed once more, they named them Miryam’s Well.

When fear blocks our path, when our travels deplete us, we seek sources of healing and wells of hope.

May our questions and our stories nourish us as Miryam’s Well renewed our people’s spirits.

Pour water from the kos Miryam into every guest’s cup.
Sing this list now, and then, if you wish, repeat the list as you reach each new section in the seder.

Kadeish: SANCTIFY: blessing over the first cup of wine
Ur'chatz: WASH the hands
Karpas: Recite the blessing over a GREEN vegetable
Yachatz: BREAK the middle matzah
Magid: TELL the Exodus story
Rochtzhah: WASH the hands
Motzi/Matzah: Recite the blessings over MATZAH
Maror: Recite the blessing over BITTER HERBS
Koreich: Eat the Hillel sandwich
Shulchan Oreich: The MEAL is served
Tzafun: The AFIKOMAN is found and shared
Bareich: Recite the BLESSING after meals
Hallel: Recite poems and songs of PRAISE
Nirtzah: The seder is COMPLETE

Our seder is based upon oral tradition. These fourteen words or pairs of words serve as abbreviated chapter headings to remind us of the order of the seder.

At Passover my great-grandfather Yitzhak, a denizen of British Palestine who lived through the years of the European genocide and then witnessed the rebirth of Israel, read the “order” out loud with special solemnity... “Whosoever thinks he can change the order of the universe, let him come and hear the order that God has established from the very day our people fled Egypt.” I thought then, and I believe now: If people would just eat in order, bless in order, love in order, then maybe we would finally find killing one another out of order.

Ben Kamin