Welcome!

Rabbis and scholars over the centuries have offered many interpretations to the stories and passages contained in the Haggadah. This Leader’s Guide for Sharing the Journey: The Haggadah for the Contemporary Family focuses on practical suggestions for an inclusive family seder. It also includes explanations of seder traditions and suggests a few additional rituals that, when included in the service, can add meaning and increased understanding of our Passover celebration.

PAGE 15/16: WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PASSOVER?

An introduction for those attending their first Passover seder and a reminder of why we come together to celebrate Passover each year.

To help create a more inclusive experience, the seder leader may explain that everyone at the seder table has a responsibility to:

- Help create a joyful seder experience;
- Help each other better understand the story of the Exodus;
- Help each other to draw upon the story of our deliverance from Egypt for discovery (and rediscovery each year) of the spiritual foundation of Judaism; and
- Help each other to renew and strengthen our commitment to the pursuit of freedom, tolerance and justice. (See also The Four Children, p. 32)

Reciting together, “Blessed are you who come” in Hebrew (B’ruchah haba’ah and Baruch haba) is an opportunity for all family members and guests to exchange traditional words of welcome and to introduce a few words of Hebrew to those attending their first seder.

PAGE 16/17: HINEI MAH TOY: A SONG OF HARMONY

A short, joyous song in Hebrew at the beginning of the seder that celebrates living together in harmony. After the verses of Hinei Mah Toy are sung responsively, they may be repeated several times in unison and may also be sung in a round.