

*“INJUSTICE, poverty, slavery, ignorance—these may be cured by reform and revolution. But men do not live only by fighting evils. They live by positive goals, individual and collective, a vast variety of them, seldom predictable, at times incompatible. It is from intense preoccupation with these ends...that the best moments come in the lives of individuals and people.”*

ISAIAH BERLIN,  
*Four Essays on Liberty*

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*Many Voices.  
Strong Communities.  
One People.*



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# *This Passover* *Celebrate Freedom*

IMAGINE THE MOMENT when the newly freed slaves made it across the dried out seabed. Behind them the Pharaoh's armies vanished into the waves. Before them lay a vast desert sky and the journey toward national dignity, social responsibility, and a safe homeland.

While freedom stories begin with liberation from past oppression, they lead us to think about the challenges of a collective future. In the last few months, Americans liberated a people thousands of miles away. At home we are facing the new task of balancing our security concerns with our basic freedoms. What freedoms can not be diminished? Should privacy, equal protection, and the freedom of religious and political expression change in a time of uncertainty? And should these freedoms be extended to all? In ways both political and personal, we are asking what we really mean by freedom.



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*T*HIS PASSOVER,  
as you join your  
friends and family  
around a Seder table, what will  
you say about freedom?

In creating the Haggadah, the rabbis added a salute to freedom with each cup of wine. Their idea was that as we recall the biblical phrases “brought us out,” “helped us,” “redeemed us,” and “took us out,” we are challenged to think about a different aspect of liberation with each cup.

*“Proclaim liberty throughout the land.”*  
-Leviticus 25:10



Just as the Rabbis connected four phrases of redemption to the four cups of wine, we suggest the following four questions be included to deepen the meaning of each of the four cups at your Seder:

*Remembering the time of liberation*

*first cup*

What stories of freedom have you witnessed in your lifetime?

*Telling the story of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam standing up to Pharaoh*

*second cup*

What freedoms would you stand up to defend if they were threatened in your own country?

*Blessing the abundant meal*

*third cup*

What responsibilities do the freedoms you enjoy carry?

*Declaring redemption as a universal human goal*

*fourth cup*

How might the freedoms that you enjoy be shared by people around the world in the coming years?