

## Make Your Own Meaning: Creating a New Haggadah To Celebrate Our Own New Beginnings



Passover is a holiday filled with juicy metaphors - a roadmap for our own spiritual journey. It's a time of new beginnings, finding redemption, freeing ourselves, and telling our stories. Every year, we read the Passover story in our Haggadahs, passing the tale of how the Jewish people were liberated. To make this meaning unique and relevant to her own circumstances, Amy sifted through hundreds of texts, ranging from sacred prayer, to comedy, music, philosophy, poetry politics, and history from a variety of backgrounds, time periods and viewpoints to create a guidebook which that would create a complex, engaging dialogue rich with relevance, curiosity, meaning and discovery.

In this workshop, Amy will share how through creating our own personal Haggadahs, we cultivate our own personal meaning from on Passover, embodying our peoples' story, escaping Egypt ourselves and finding our own, spiritual meaning. Reclaim your place in the story of Passover and rediscover its themes of renewal, liberation, the quest for knowledge, and transforming adversity into gratitude. You'll explore texts that are meaningful on your own personal journey, be exposed to a variety of new, innovative sources, and have a hands-on, creative experience pulling together insights on Spring, the symbols of the Seder plate, the significance of the number four, the importance of questions, your own personal meaning of exile, and the importance of storytelling. You'll learn the craft of integrating music, humor, poetry and images into the arc of your Hagaddah and also learn the best techniques to incorporate meaningful dialogue and engagement within your Hagaddah text. Amy will describe her own personal connection to Passover, and how her Haggadah changed after a coma changed her world forever. Participants will leave with an outline of their own personal Haggadah to work on just in time for next year!

*For this workshop, I would be happy to send you a copy of my own personal Haggadah as an example of the one I will help participant create.*

**In the intro of my own Haggadah, to my participants:**

*Passover is a very special holiday for me, filled with juicy metaphors and a roadmap for our own spiritual journey. It is a time of new beginnings, finding redemption, freeing ourselves, and joy with our loved ones, and telling our stories.*

*This year, I invite you to pretend like you yourself are breaking free from whatever binds you, fleeing your own spiritual Egypt and finding refuge in the beautiful new beginnings - the season of our freedom, it is also a festival that speaks of spiritual redemption. Jews were freed from mental as well as physical slavery.*

*"This month shall be the head month for you. It shall be the first month of the year." (Exodus 12:2).*

*It's also, Nisan, the month of miracles. The Torah teaches us that there are two beginnings: Rosh Hashanah, the natural beginning of the world, for all creatures; and the miraculous month of Nisan, the beginning of the Jewish people.*

*In this journal, I hope you can reflect on the universal questions that Passover brings up to you.*

*What does true freedom mean to you?*

*What are you hungry for?*

*What do you seek liberation from?*

*What is your new beginning?*

*And so much more - I can't wait to share my Seder with you. I invite you to discover what your own personal connection to Pesach is...*

*Love, Amy*

My father and I also put together our own Haggadah over the years based on the themes that are most meaningful to us. We took excerpts from about 30 different Haggadahs we love, plus inspiration about Spring, our history, quotes about freedom, and more. It's very special to have after all these years.

And the Seder plate itself has so much meaning. The wonderful thing about tangible objects is you can draw whatever metaphor you want from them. That's what art is all about- creating anything from your view of the world.

Whoever we share this holiday with - whatever belief, background, etc. - there is always something they can take away from this.