



## **Around the Shabbat Table**

**Pesach 5764  
April 2004**



### **Shalom!**

As we approach Passover, there is a lovely poem that appears on the website of Ritualwell, an organization that provides modern ceremonies for Jewish living:

## **How Does the Journey to Freedom Continue?**

*By Tamara Cohen*

How does the journey to freedom continue?

Risking together what we never imagined possible on our own, we keep walking. The sea rises to our nostrils. Then, with a breath, the waters part.

Following fire and cloud, we stumble through endless desert. At night we build fragile shelters that sway in the wind. The water is too bitter to drink. Even manna sometimes tastes like sand.

Some cry out for Egypt, longing to return to the known.

How does our journey to freedom continue?

We re-awaken deep yearnings: for history and song, for learning and connection.

We glimpse new possibilities: for our lives and our communities, for our families and our world.

Some begin to plot change immediately. Others sit in the silence and absorb.

For ours is a holy journey. We falter, but will not turn back. Embracing the challenge of tradition, we clear new paths to the future. Ours is a holy journey, a journey towards new song.

For hundreds of years, seders have concluded with the words: "Next year in Jerusalem."

Jerusalem. A name that means city of peace, integrity, wholeness.

Jerusalem. A city of walls, ancient and new. Walls of apricot Jerusalem stone. Walls of misunderstanding, hatred, and violence between religious and secular, Jew and Arab, woman and man.

Jerusalem, what is our hope for your rebuilding?

A year of equality and inclusiveness.

A year of wholeness for our people.

A year of peace for all the peoples who sing to you, Jerusalem.

L'SHANAH HABA'AH

לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

*L'shanah haba'a bi'y'rushalayim.* Next year in Jerusalem

At your own seder this year, you might want to share this poem and discuss the following:

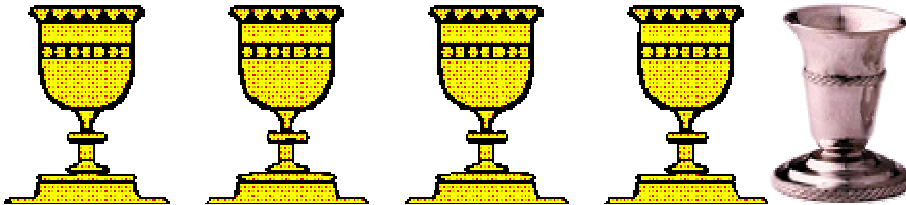
1. What have been the journeys on our lives? As individuals? As a family?
2. What are the "waters," the obstacles that have challenged us along our travels?
3. Do we sense the guidance of forces (like the fire and clouds of the Exodus) that help to guide us?

4. What does "Next year in Jerusalem" mean to us?

To hear a song based on the idea of our journeys and Pesach, go to:  
<http://www.ritualwell.org/file?docID=710&fileType=file:journeysong.mp3>

May you and your loved ones be blessed with a Happy and Enjoyable  
Passover, and may you find peace in all your journeys!

**Chag Sameach!**



Please join together in learning with other families by sharing your family's discussions and ideas by posting them on our web site. Simply respond with your thoughts and ideas to [RavADS@bjeny.org](mailto:RavADS@bjeny.org)

If there is any way we can be of service, please contact Rabbi Arnold D. Samlan, project coordinator, at the BJE Nassau Queens Center, 516-876-6535, or see our web site: [www.bjeny.org](http://www.bjeny.org)

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