

Women of Reform Judaism Social Justice Passover Seder Supplements

Like Miriam, women have played a key role in fighting for justice and leading people towards freedom. Whether it is advocating for paid family leave, LGBTQ+ rights, racial justice, pay equity, or reproductive freedom, we must walk in Miriam's footsteps and continue to fight for the freedom and liberation of all people. For those looking to incorporate social justice themes this Passover, we invite you to supplement your seders with these readings contributed by the [American Conference of Cantors](#).

Freedom

Cantor Lisa Levine

Temple Beth Israel York PA

JSSA Chaplain

Riderwood Jewish Community

It takes courage	coping, growing
to face life's challenges	We rise
it takes understanding	to overcome our demons
to accept injustice	we accept
just as our ancestors	our inevitabilities
left their oppressors	We conquer
with faith as their weapon	each day with new purpose
so do we	We rejoice
harness our inner warrior	in our endeavors
to navigate tumultuous	And when we fail
waters	We learn
moments in our lives	our journey is our road
moments in our history	to freedom.
adapting, changing	

Litany for Freedom

Cantor Lisa Levine

What does it mean to be free?

How do we escape the narrow places our lives are forced into?

When we expand our ideas

we are free,

when we open our hearts to new truths

we are free,

when we share a new experience

we are free,

when we give to others

we are free,

when we experience gratitude for our blessings

we are free,

When we let go of past hurts and devastations

we are free,

When we strive to break harmful patterns and habits

we are free,

Freedom is just as much a state of mind as it is circumstance of body,

for all of those imprisoned:

we pray for freedom,

we pray for hope,

we pray for peace. Amen.

Holding the Hand of Miriam: A Handwashing Ritual

Cantor Barbara J. Ostfeld

(Hold hands around the seder table. Read the poem together and learn about women who advocated for justice hand in hand with Miriam.)

Look at one of your hands and think of Miriam. Life-saving Miriam, water-giving Miriam. Imagine the strength of her fingers. See Miriam's hand as it reaches forward through the centuries to clasp other hands.

Rebecca Gratz was born in 1781. As she fought on behalf of Philadelphia's poorest women, Miriam held her hand.



Ernestine Rose was born in 1810. She was a feminist and an abolitionist, gripping the hand of Miriam.

Emma Goldman was born in 1869. Hand in hand with Miriam, she promoted birth control and racial education.



Betty Friedan was born in 1921. In Miriam's hand, she advocated for legalized abortion and for paid maternity leave.





Gloria Steinem was born in 1934. Lifting up the Hand of Miriam, she reminds us we won't have freedom or democracy if we don't have control over our bodies.

On this Erev Pesach, our hands and the hands of these 5 women touch the Hand of Miriam.



Sisters' Dayenu

Cantor Michele Gray-Schaffer

If Eve were recalled as the bringer of
knowledge
And not just the rib of the man,
And the women of Exodus known as the
saviors of Moses,
Who furthered God's plan
DAYENU

If throughout our history, we had been
learned,
And we had been counted in minyans
If we had been leaders and sages and rabbis
And those with respected opinions
DAYENU

If now, more empowered, resilient and
strong,
With fresh new horizons so vast,
We could make peace with historical
wrongs
And let go of the painful past
DAYENU

If we could thank God that She made us all
women
And brought us together tonight
To the joy of this Seder, with our Sisters
beside us,
And to say now with all our might
DAYENU!

We wish you all a Happy Passover! Chag Sameach!