

Dear friends,

In the Jewish year's cycle of holidays, perhaps none offers more metaphorical depths and insightful, even transformative, reflections than the Passover haggadah's story of the Exodus. At CCAR we are developing a new haggadah to uniquely illumine these riches, and we are reaching out to poets, writers, and devoted readers of literature for material. Our new haggadah will join our family of dynamic prayer books, *Mishkan HaNefesh* and *Mishkan T'filah*, and will offer traditional Pesach readings on the right hand page—and *poetry and alternative readings* on the left. Continuing the series' models, we hope to create a synergistic tableau from the proximity of the traditional and contemporary, one that sparks engagement and enhances connection between history, liturgy, and the present self, as well as the aspirational future self. The poetry haggadah will be welcoming to those of different backgrounds and approaches to Jewish ritual, inclusive of different personal identities and experiences, cognizant of the important social justice connections to the Passover story, and spiritually inspiring.

We are looking to you for poems that will themselves become treasured within the customs of Passover. Reading these in combination with the haggadah's traditional texts, Seder participants can experience both familiar rootedness and expansive considerations. Poems need not address themes directly—as Emily Dickinson famously said, “Tell all the truth but tell it slant.” Have you written or read poems with nuanced perceptions or meditations around the symbols /steps/metaphors /themes of the holiday in a way that enlivens them, deepens them, argues with them, or brings them closer to our contemporary reality? Do send them. In the great tradition of ongoing reform, ritual reinvention, and creative retrieval, it is time to create liturgy warmed by the vitality of our poets' vocabularies, questions, and images, a new haggadah, and we look forward to doing that together with you.

Please send your offerings and ideas to Sasha Smith ssmith@ccarnet.org. We thank you in advance.

Jessica Greenbaum, Editor

Rabbi Hara Person, Publisher, CCAR Press