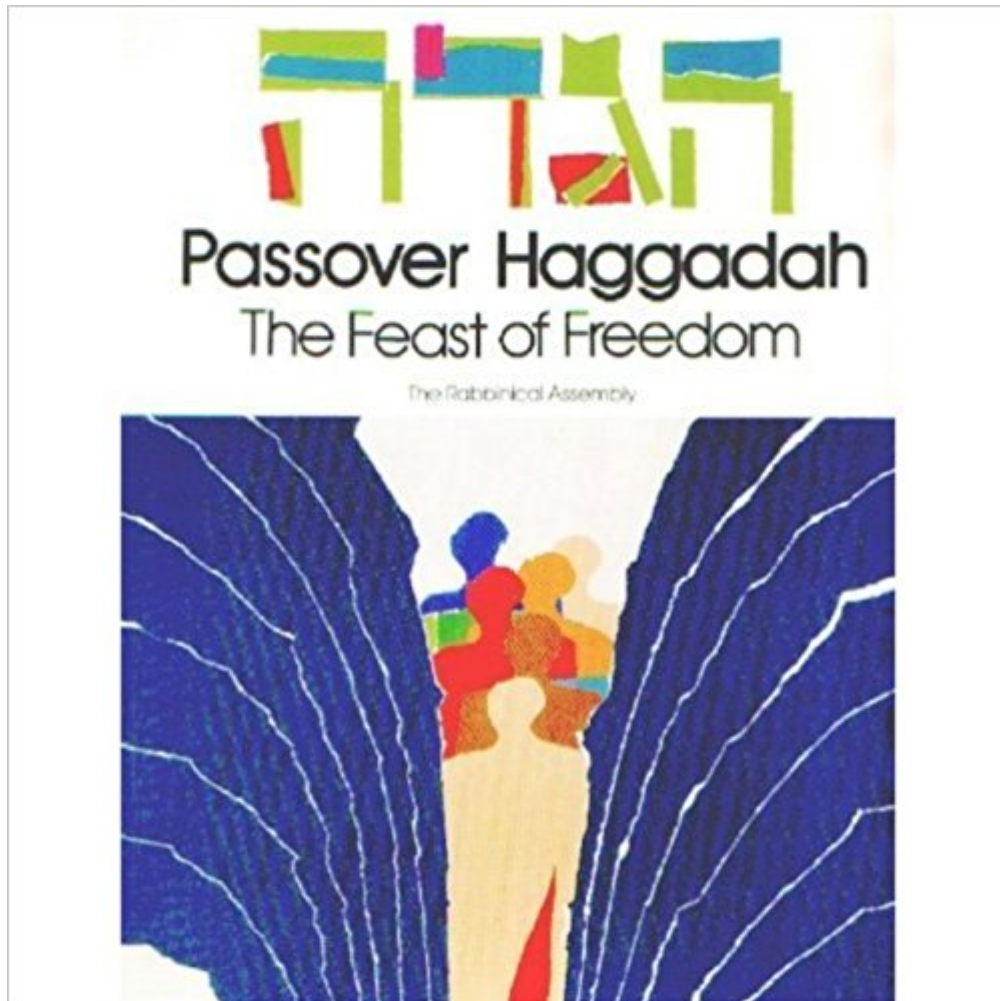


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Passover Haggadah: The Feast Of Freedom



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

We've been using this Haggadah every year almost since it came out. We have over a dozen of them. It is full of wonderful commentary in the margins -- so much that one can't manage to get through the whole thing in one or even two or even a dozen sittings. So each year, we learn something new. We get to one of the commentaries we haven't seen before and share it with each other, or we remind each other of something we did read in previous years and had forgotten. The art is beautiful as well. I have a whole collection of hagadot, and I page through them each year before Pesach looking for interesting commentaries. But this is the one we use regularly and the one we get most of our discussion ideas from.

Yes, This is the standard Haggadah of the CONSERVATIVE movement in America. It is paperbacked, sturdy, and has a colorful cover with the Hebrews crossing the Sea of blue waves. It reads RIGHT to LEFT. 144 Pages. Opens with a page for Erev Pesah, the Search for Hametz, and a page on the deeper meaning of Hametz in our "puffed up" subverted lives. The seder readings follow in Hebrew text with facing English translations. The MARGINS of the Hebrew pages and English pages are filled with running commentaries and quick tidbits that can be read by the leaders and those assembled at the table. There are many nuggets in here. For example, the commentary on the response to the "wicked child" teaches that the words atually mean "set his teeth on edge." Of course, the commentary advises that one shouldn't physically hit, but just use a witty retort. Or a comment on how the heck Miriam and her sister slaves had timbrels. There are no Transliterations. The Four Sons are rendered as Four CHILDREN. Contains both a Full Grace after Meals and a

Short Version of Grace. Contains a section on the Holocaust and the slavery of the last century. Contains Hallel and Counting of the Omer. Closes with Ki Lo Na'eh, Adir Hu, Ehad Mi Yadeia, Had Gadya.

My preferred haggadah, which also happens to be the haggadah of the Conservative movement. It is the basic traditional Ashkenazi Haggadah that most American Jews have used, with some small changes and improvements. It has a clear translation, and each page provides a detailed commentary along the margins, just like a Talmud has. It contains clear instructions and explanations to take you step by step through all of the Seder. It also features some fairly impressive artwork in full color by Israeli artist Dan Reisinger.

This is an official (not "the" official) haggadah of Conservative Judaism. Why the distinction? There never has been any one, authoritative version of the haggadah for any movement. For those who are into Jewish books, it's interesting to note that the original version of this haggadah was edited by Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, author of the famed "The Jewish Catalog". After publishing this work for all members of the Rabbinical Assembly for discussion, Rachel Anne Rabinowicz came on board next as editor of the project. She brought the work to its final form. This haggadah follows the traditional Hebrew text, with an accurate, modern English translation. Along the way, as with haggadahs in the past, some sections were dropped (especially the ones felt to be obscure) and replaced with other rabbinic texts, as well modern writings. The editors took care to link the Exodus to events in our own day, including the Holocaust, the persecution of Jews in foreign nations, and the establishment of the State of Israel. Through a judicious choice of texts, the role of women and men in Jewish history, and the seder itself, is made clear. The center of every page has a Hebrew text and English translation. A terrific feature is that this is surrounded by an English commentary, elaborating and elucidating the text, without disrupting the flow of the service. Clear instructions and explanations take the reader through all of the Seder.

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