

IN EVERY GENERATION: ACCOMPANYING OUR NEIGHBORS



HA LACHMA ANYA - THIS IS THE BREAD OF OUR AFFLICTION

This Passover, as we retell the story of our ancient persecution and redemption, the story of our wandering ancestors, we must listen to the stories of those wandering, those fighting against modern day Pharohs, today.

In the beginning of Maggid, the retelling of our own story, we say *ha lachma anya* - this is the bread of our affliction, let all who are hungry come and eat. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks comments, “what hospitality is it to offer the hungry the taste of suffering? In fact, though, this is a profound insight into the nature of slavery and freedom. Matza represents two things: it is the food of slaves, and also the bread eaten by the Israelites as they left Egypt in liberty. What transforms the bread of oppression into the bread of freedom is the willingness to share it with others...That is why we begin the seder by inviting others to join us. Bread shared is no longer the bread of oppression. Reaching out to others, we bring freedom into the world.”

As we lift up this matza, we remember that at different times in our history, as Jews, as immigrants, as Americans, as humans, we have vacillated between affliction and redemption. And so, we stand together with our immigrant neighbors to gain strength and work together toward all of our dignity and freedom.

Our country’s current immigration policies threaten and target so many of our neighbors. This year, more than 1000 immigrants will be detained in Boston’s South Bay Detention Center.

Hundreds of leaders and many congregations in our Jewish community have taken action this past year to support our neighbors, by:

1. Supporting families who have sought refuge in a local Sanctuary congregation in order to resist detention and deportation
2. Accompanying immigrant detainees at immigration court and offering other forms of support to try to get them out

Through these experiences, we have come face to face with our neighbors who have been demonized and targeted on a mass scale by Immigration Enforcement, and we will continue to share our bread, our resources, to make the message clear, that all of us deserve agency, dignity and freedom.

SHARE: A story of your experience accompanying or standing in solidarity with immigrants in our community this year OR the story of your family’s immigration to this country.



DIMINISHING OUR JOY: AN ADDITIONAL 10 DROPS OF WINE

One story: Tonight, Jose sits in the South Bay Detention Center in Boston threatened with deportation to Guatemala where he once fled seeking safety. Jose has lived here for 10 years, is married to an American citizen, and has two young children who rely on him. He doesn't know when he will leave detention or where he will go.

Tonight, we acknowledge that while we sit at our seder tables free, many of our neighbors are locked away in detention. We strive for a world where our freedom does not come at the expense of others, where the gratitude we express compels us to fight harder for dignity and freedom for all.

Let us now remove another 10 drops of wine from our glasses and consider the blessings and privileges not all are free to experience tonight.

1. Getting to sleep in our own home
2. Eating the food we want
3. Being with our family
4. Being with our friends and community
5. Not worrying about ICE coming for us
6. Feeling at ease so we can learn in school
7. Being free to earn a livable income
8. Accessing health insurance and health care
9. Being treated with dignity and respect
10. Being able to move freely in our own country

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

Donate to the Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Defense & Bond Fund

The Fund is a partnership formed between the Jewish Community Relations Council, Episcopal City Mission and other local faith-based organizations. Your donations will help people get out of ICE detention so they can care for their families and assist in their own defense.

Please contact Rachie Lewis to learn more at rlewis@jrcrboston.org

Volunteer to Accompany Immigrants Facing Detention and Deportation

Join the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN), an interfaith network of 300+ volunteers who have volunteered to accompany immigrants in detention to immigration court, to support family members of detainees as they confront the inevitable challenges, to write support letters for our neighbors etc.

Sign up at: bit.ly/joinbostoncluster

Recruit Attorneys for Pro-Bono Representation

60% of people detained by ICE at the South Bay Detention Center in Boston have NO legal representation and without legal representation their chance of being released is near zero. To expand limited immigration legal resources, non-immigration attorneys can volunteer to be trained and coached by immigration lawyers to assist immigrants desperately seeking to get out of detention and return to their families.

Please contact Rachie Lewis to learn more at rlewis@jrcrboston.org



**NEXT YEAR, MAY MORE OF OUR NEIGHBORS TASTE FREEDOM,
AND MAY WE BE STRENGTHENED AND MORE CONNECTED IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE!**