

Each year, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) releases a Passover Haggadah to be used in supplement with a regular Haggadah. It is updated to currently reflect the way the world is, with readings about refugees and other lack of freedom around the world. There are other similar organizations that release Haggadahs with updated content to reflect our world. **With this in mind, an ideal program would be to create a NFTY-MAR Haggadah,** with inspiration from our daily lives, more than just physical that one can be free or in bondage, and a social action twist. In groups of about 10-15 people, participants can help to reshape a traditional Haggadah into one that more accurately fits the state of our world, country, region, or singular personal experiences. The first thing that each group will do is examine the part of the Haggadah that they are assigned, so that they can properly “reimagine” it. We will use a traditional Haggadah as the model. A group leader will ask these questions after the participants look over each section:

1. Why is it included in the Seder?
2. How would the Seder be different if it were omitted?
3. What purpose did this section serve 200 years ago? 50 years ago? Today? Has this purpose changed at all?
4. During a traditional Seder, do you feel like this section speaks to you at all? Why?

After that section of the discussion is complete, the group will move to reimagining. The group leader will ask the following questions:

1. Is this section good the way it is?
2. How can it be updated to reflect the world we live in?
3. Do any of our personal experiences contradict what is written in a traditional Haggadah, and how can we change it so that the sentiment remains the same but the material is different?

After this discussion, each group will be given paper to write, draw or somehow else express the reimagined section of the Seder service. Finally, all the small groups will come together at the end of the program and share, going in order of a Seder. The idea is that every person in a group will have something to say or some input into the final product, which will create varied perspectives and a truly unique Haggadah.

This program would be implemented at Spring Kallah, since it often falls close to Passover. Spring Kallah also has a longer time frame, meaning a longer and more in-depth activity such as this one has the capability of taking place. After the event is finished, the pieces of paper will be scanned and uploaded to create a virtual booklet, perhaps to use at Seders the next year or to keep as a memory of the program. This way, even those who are not at the event are able to see the meaningful work that was done.