



NOT ONLY THEM BUT US

בְּכַל־דֹּר וְדֹר חַיֵּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלוֹ הוּא יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם, שְׁנֵאֲמַר: וְהִגִּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר, בְּעֶבְרָה זֹה עָשָׂה ה' לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרַיִם. לֹא אֶת־אֲבוֹתֵינוּ בְּלֶבֶד בָּאֵל הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא, אֲלֵא אִף אֹתֵנוּ בָּאֵל עִמָּהֶם, שְׁנֵאֲמַר: וְאֹתֵנוּ הוֹצִיא מִשָּׁם לְמַעַן הֵבִיא אֹתֵנוּ, לְתֵת לָנוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ.



In each and every generation, a person is obligated to see oneself as if one left Egypt, as it is stated (Exodus 13:8); "For the sake of this, did the Lord do this for me in my going out of Egypt." Not only our ancestors did the Holy One, blessed be God, redeem, but rather also us together with them did God redeem, as it is stated (Deuteronomy 6:23); And God took us out from there, in order to bring us in, to give us the land which God swore unto our ancestors.

The Passover story reminds us that we were once wanderers. We were once without a place to call home, our future uncertain. Like millions of refugees and displaced people in the world today, we fled violence and persecution with the hope of a better future. Like immigrant families who uproot their lives in order to begin anew, we left everything we had behind for the promise of more. And so on Passover, as we recount the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, we must also recount the similar experiences of immigrants and refugees today. Closing our eyes to the suffering of refugees and immigrants is akin to closing our eyes to our own history and our collective memory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your (biological or chosen) family's immigration story or experience with immigration, migration, forced migration?
2. Are there immigration or redemption stories in your family that are not told? Why?
3. What is a physical, emotional, or spiritual journey you have taken (or are still on) since last Passover? What have been some challenges of that journey? What have been some rewards?

It is with eyes wide open to our historical connections and obligation, as well to the current immigration crisis plaguing the United States, that we, members of the Chicago Jewish Justice Circle (CJJC), urge you to take action this Passover.

In September 2017, President Trump eliminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. In March 2018, Congress failed to pass a legislative solution for those currently in DACA status. Forty thousand people in Illinois alone trusted the government to protect their lives only to have the rug ripped out from underneath them. We must continue to push our federal legislators to prioritize a permanent legislative solution for DACA that does not criminalize and harm immigrant communities.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION WITH CJJC MEMBERS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS THIS PASSOVER:

Any time during the week of Passover

While no one is able to newly apply for DACA, individuals who currently have DACA are able to renew their status for the time being. DACA renewals are expensive: the applications alone cost \$495. Donate to a DACA renewal fund in Illinois today:

- Protection For All Movement DACA Renewal Emergency Funding
- The Resurrection Project's DACA Fund at dacafund.org

Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31

Share this insert at your Seder tables!

Sunday, April 1

Workmen's Circle Chicago Matzapalooza, 3:30-5:00 pm, and Labor Justice Potluck Seder, 5:30-7:30 pm, at SketchPad (4700 N. Ravenswood Ave.).

Tuesday, April 3

JCUA Passover-themed Immigration Phone Bank, 5:00-7:30 pm at SketchPad.

Tuesday, April 3

Seder Leftovers Brown Bag Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Suzanne Griffel (no bread please!), 12:00-1:00 pm at SketchPad.

Wednesday, April 4

Highlight the connections: Hillel Lunch and Learn, 12:00-1:00 pm at UIC (924 S Morgan St.), RSVP to rabbimegan@gmail.com

Thursday, April 5

Support KAM Isaiah Israel's work with the Hyde Park Refugee Project by volunteering your time or providing support in other ways to a recently resettled Congolese family in Hyde Park. Reach out to Cantor David Berger (dberger@kamii.org) for more information.

Friday, April 6

Lift up the connections between today's US immigration crisis and our Passover history in your Shabbat services and communities. Offer a prayer, hold a moment of silence, speak of the connections in a d'var Torah - the Passover story is alive today, and we must tell the stories.

The Chicago Jewish Justice Circle is a collective of Jewish individuals and organizations who see justice as core to our work and lives as Jews. We gather bi-monthly to connect, share our work, and find ways to support one another in our efforts to engage our communities in deep impactful social justice work.

Contact us at ChicagoJJC@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook @ChicagoJJC

