



Pesach Message from Dr. Schatz, Assistant Director

The holiday of Pesach is all about memory and tradition. We are reminded in the Haggadah that “In every generation everyone is expected to feel as though he himself came out of Egypt.” Our People have been telling this story of slavery and redemption for literally thousands of years – this is an old tradition and one that has sustained us as a Jewish People through the generations and across many lands. Many of us ourselves remember Seders of our childhoods, replete with family stories and songs, and filled with loved ones who may no longer be with us, yet live in our memories. And our obligation as parents and teachers is to assure that our children grow up with their own memories of the traditions. Over the last number of years, those when we had Model Sedarim in person like this year, as well as those alternate years when we did not have a Seder in school, we have been teaching various Seder melodies, blessings and songs to build a repertoire for our children of Seder traditions. Your child has learned the *Mah Nishtanah*, the Four Questions, of course, but as they grow up within the school they learn more and more so that they can continue to contribute to your family traditions.

At my family’s seder, we lovingly use my great-grandfather’s kiddush cup, my great-grandmother’s egg-shaped salt-water bowl, and many other items that had belonged to my parents and grandparents. We also use the frog-decorated matzah cover that my daughter made, and the afikomen bag that my son made when they were small. We sing the songs that we learned as children, from our parents and teachers, and we tell the story that has been told for generations.

This is what I believe Pesach is about – the story of the Jewish People, the traditions of our families, and the new traditions that we build and pass on ourselves to our own children thus keeping the chain going. Whether we celebrate the Seder at home, with family or friends locally, or as we travel to be with our loved ones at a distance, we bring the familiar with us as we encourage questions and new ideas, new takes on the old. In that spirit, I want to wish each of our Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School families a warm *Hag Kasher ve-sameach*, a very happy, sweet Pesach!