

# Infusing Modern Israel into Passover Education

Dr. Tal Grinfas-David

Ms. Rachel Raz

Day School Workshop March 2022

[www.israeled.org](http://www.israeled.org)

Center For Israel Education



# Mah Nishtanah? מה נשתנה? What has changed? Mah Ishtaneh? מה ישתנה? What will change?

- **What's the difference between the Israeli pioneer's Haggadah to the traditional one?**
- **What's the difference between the First Passover Seder in Israel and yours?**
- **What's the difference between the exodus from Egypt to exodus in modern day?**
- **How will this Passover be different in your community this year following our learning today?**



# How can we analyze images to learn history?

- **Step One:**  
Ask students to look deeply at the picture for a good long time. Have them observe shapes, colors, textures, the position of people and/or objects, etc.
- **Step Two:**  
Have students write down what they see without making any interpretation about what the picture is trying to say.
- **Step Three:**  
Ask students: What questions do you have about this picture that you would need to have answered before you can begin to interpret it? Ask as many questions as you have.
- **Step Four:**  
Have students discuss their questions with two other students in the class to try to find some answers.
- **Step Five:**  
Given the historical context and subject of the piece, ask students what they think the artist is trying to say (what does the piece mean), and who they think is the intended audience?
- **Step Six:**  
Discuss your interpretation with the class, and be prepared to support your view by referring to specific elements of the image and what you know about the history of the time.

■ <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/analyzing-images>

■ <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo>



# Discussion Questions

When you think of the Jewish people's freedom, what images come to mind?

---

How can you use images of freedom to teach your students about Passover?

---

Please use the chat and take two minutes.

# The holiday of freedom Pre-State

- Jewish Legion soldiers celebrate Passover in Jerusalem, 1919.  
Source: Central Zionist Archives, Yaakov Ben Dov, photographer.



# Why did the Zionist pioneers see themselves as living the story of Passover?



The cabin was too small to hold the first Seder (Givat Brenner, 1930)

# Historical context matters: What would you draw?



“One Kid’ in the Shadow of the Holocaust.” Although the main characters in the song set up a glorious farm in which everyone works and lives in harmony, everything is done under the terrifying shadow of the Angel of Death  
(Givat Brenner, 1942)  
*Illustrator: Arye Hatzor*





Members of the Labor Youth Movement march up Masada , 1942.

## Passover Haggadah, The Labor Youth Movement, 1943

Page 19 (translated)

Go and see the good qualities of where we find ourselves:  
If He had given us Rishon LeZion, Dayenu!  
If He had only given us the Labor Youth Movement,  
Dayenu!  
If He had given us the Labor Youth Movement without the  
headquarters, Dayenu!  
If He had given us the headquarters without many cadets,  
Dayenu!  
If He had given us many cadets, but not outstanding guides,  
Dayenu!  
If He had given us outstanding guides, but not Nir Amal,  
Dayenu!  
If he had given us activity in the headquarters, but not the  
co-op of Hagshamah, Dayenu and Dayenu!  
But it is not enough for us, we will never say it suffices,  
because we will always strive to grow, expand  
and increase our activity and interest, to make the  
vision of the Hagshamah members a reality!  
We will spread out to strengthen the settlements to the east,  
the return of Zion beyond the river of Yehudah. And so,  
we must thank and praise, bless and glorify, the activities,  
guides, and many cadets, and we will work our area so as to  
preserve the Labor Youth Movement of Rishon LeZion.

*\*Dayenu= it would be enough*

Page 22 (translated)

Four sons of our headquarters spoke to our members:  
One wise, one wicked, one naïve, and one who does not  
know how to ask.  
**THE WISE** is the Labor Council of Rishon LeZion. What  
do they say? What are the laws, statutes? What are the  
testimonies, the statutes, and judgments that our nation  
has been founded upon? You always demand from us  
and request of us, empty our pockets and burst into  
our rooms, and when we need your help it is not given.  
But despite this we are always ready to help you...!  
**THE WICKED** is the headquarters of the Labor Youth  
Movement. What does it say? What is this work to you?  
All that you give, all that you aid, it is not enough.  
Because we will always demand more for our  
headquarters.  
**THE NAÏVE**, what does he say? He is the group of parents  
who know so little of the activities we do. And even  
now, you will say to them: difficulties in our path,  
obstacles in our way, let us remove them together, even  
though they may not always understand or listen.  
**THE ONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO ASK**, says:  
These are the “burden-carrying” members who take  
things for granted, and question nothing. And you shall  
say to them: don't despair, for there will be rewards for  
your actions.



## First Seder – Reuven Rubin (1893–1974)

What do you see?  
What do you think?  
What do you wonder?

# Passover and the Quest for Independence



***It was in the middle of the night***, the eve of November 29, 1947 when the nations of the world resolved that a Jewish State will be established for Am Israel in Eretz Israel. And every man and woman, the young, the elderly and the toddlers rushed to the streets, chanting and dancing and the country was Joyous and there was no such happy holiday since the Jews have departed from Egypt.

All participants:

***Blessed is the one who keeps his promise to Israel***

The commander:

***To the lives of the pioneers of this land to its builders and its warriors!***

All participants:

# Historical context matters

- What are the similarities and differences between the haggadot from the kibbutzim through Independence and the original text?



**...These are the twelve plagues that the IDF brought upon our enemies in the War of Independence:** The Nachshon Operation, the Yiftach Operation, the Ben-Ami Operation, the Yoav Operation, the Hiram Operation, the Lott Operation, the Chametz Operation, the Danny Operation, the Dekel Operation, the Assaf Operation, the Chorev Operation and the Uvdah Operation

**Here are some of the abundant favors  
that the IDF hath upon us**

*If it had pushed the enemy away and not inflicted many punishments on him*

*– It would have been sufficient*

*If it inflicted many casualties on him and did not conquer his fortresses*

*– It would have been sufficient*

*If it had conquered its fortresses and not penetrated its borders*

*– It would have been sufficient*

# State Keeping to the Present – Operations of Freedom



- SS Exodus – 1947 (Yossi Harel, Ship Commander)

The video below from the [US Holocaust Museum and Memorial](#) shares some of the story of Exodus and its passengers.

<https://youtu.be/Gw482N1YHzk>

“We were informed that our name would be ‘Exodus,’ and we were mad. What sort of a name was that? We wanted something aggressive like ‘The Jewish Revolt.’ But these were our orders.”

# State Keeping to the Present – Operations of Freedom



*Photo: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin greets new immigrants from the former Soviet Union in 1994.*

- **Operation Exodus** – The effort to help Jews leave the Soviet Union either for Israel (the majority) or the United States was called **Operation Exodus** by the American Jewish community.
- One of the important symbols of this project was Natan Sharansky. Sharansky was a Soviet refusenik (someone who was not allowed to leave the country). He was imprisoned in Siberia for nine years after attempting to exit the country for Israel. Following his release in 1986, Sharansky immigrated to Israel and began work in politics, human activism, and writing. In 2009, he became the Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The short video below from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) describes Sharansky's journey from prison to Israel and the beginnings of the Operation Exodus movement in the United States.

<https://youtu.be/bko3F0GdrHo>



# State Keeping to the Present – Operations of Freedom



*Ethiopian immigrant children at an Absorption Center in Ashkelon, Israel in 1985.*

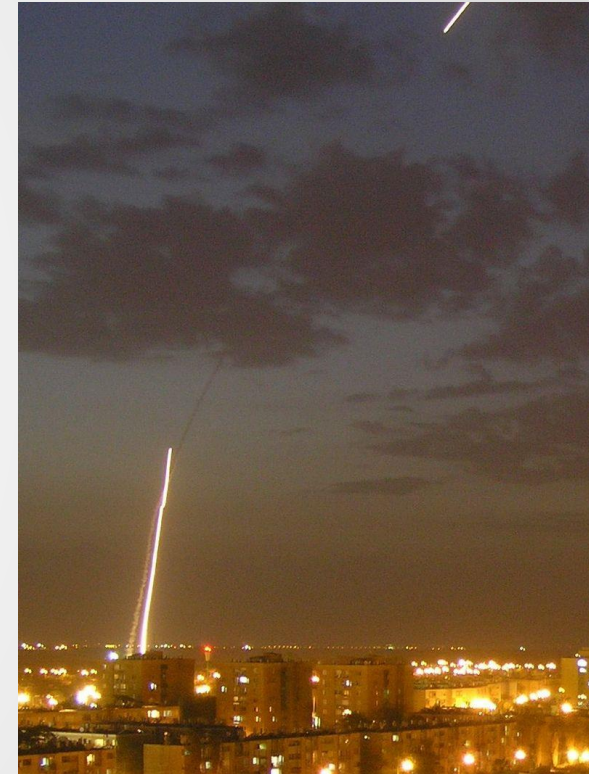
- **Operation Moses** – In 1984, the Israeli government launched Operation “Moses” in order to bring *Beta Israel* from the refugee camps to Israel. Between November 1984 and January 1985, approximately 8,000 *Beta Israel* were brought from Sudan to Israel. When news of the operation became public, the Sudanese government ordered it to stop, even though they had known it was happening. As a result families were separated with some being left behind.
- The video below from the World Zionist Organization describes how Israeli Mossad agents created a resort hotel to disguise the mission of bringing the Ethiopian Jews to Israel. A 2019 film called [The Red Sea Diving Resort](https://youtu.be/H587yp3rhKY), is a dramatic retelling of these events.  
<https://youtu.be/H587yp3rhKY>

# State Keeping to the Present – Operations of Freedom



November 14, 2012, 8-day campaign in the Hamas-governed Gaza Strip after 100 rockets are launched at Israeli cities.

- Pillar of Defense – עמוד ענן Literally translates to Pillar of Cloud or Smoke.
- בספר שמות (י"ג, כ"א) מתאר המקרא: "וה' הולך לפניהם יומם בעמוד ענן לנחותם הדרך, ולילה בעמוד אש להאיר להם, ללכת יומם ולילה. לא ימיש עמוד הענן יומם ועמוד האש לילה, לפני העם."
- Rav Rontzky, former IDF Chief Rabbi: IDF operations encourage and support the goals of the operation, just as HaShem lead the people in the desert, so too the IDF leads the people in defense, and separates between the 'oref' and the enemy."



Defensive system Iron Dome is launched during this operation



# Discussion Questions

What name would you suggest for an operation bringing Ukrainian Jews in peril to Israel?

---

Safety and freedom are hard won – what is your community doing to ensure that the State of Israel endures for future generations? What does it require Diaspora Jews to know, learn and do?

---

Please use the chat and take two minutes.

# Ukraine crisis: Operation Israeli Guarantee brings refugees to Israel

ערבה – אחריות, התחייבות

Arevah – a responsibility or commitment



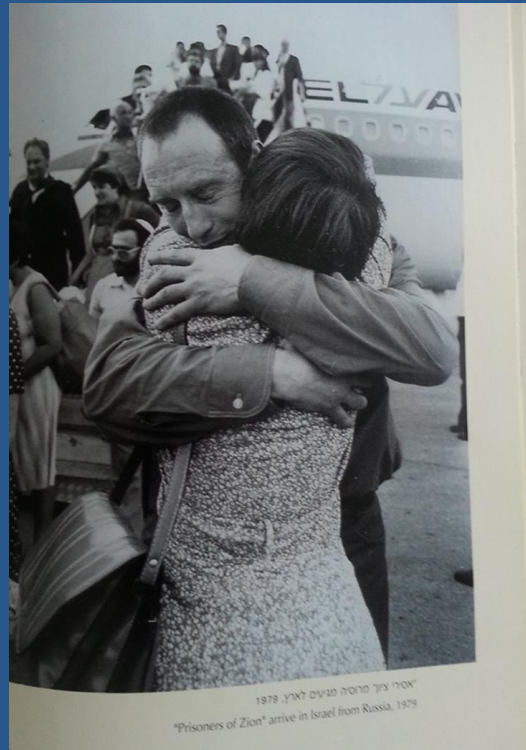
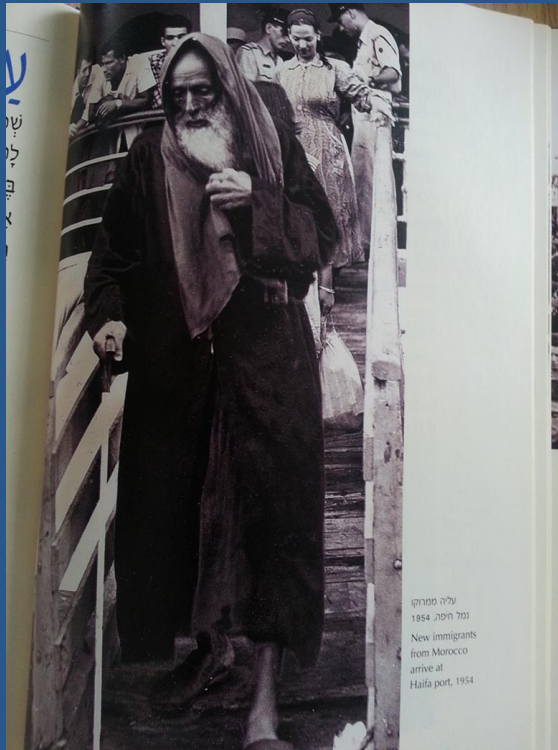
Ukrainian refugees are seen arriving in Israel as part of Operation Israeli Guarantee, on March 6, 2022.

(photo credit: Sraya Diamant/GPO)

# Breakout Groups

- Rachel – Diversity and Passover Resources for K–7<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Tal – Poetry and Social Critique of Freedom for 8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Grades

# Additional Resources



נקודות ציון בהתפתחות המדינה

POINTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE

הכרזת העצמאות  
מוסד חל-אביב 1948  
The Declaration of the State of Israel in Tel Aviv, 1948

מלחמת העצמאות  
1948-1949  
The War of Independence 1948-1949

עלה לארץ-ישראל מארופה  
נולד ח'סין, 1948  
Coming on Aliyah to Israel from Europe, and arriving at Haifa Port, 1948

סימני הסדר - נמגידי לסימן הסדר הממיינס בגדה, מיינס ארופים בהתפתחות המדינה  
The symbols of the Seder parallel events in the development of the State of Israel

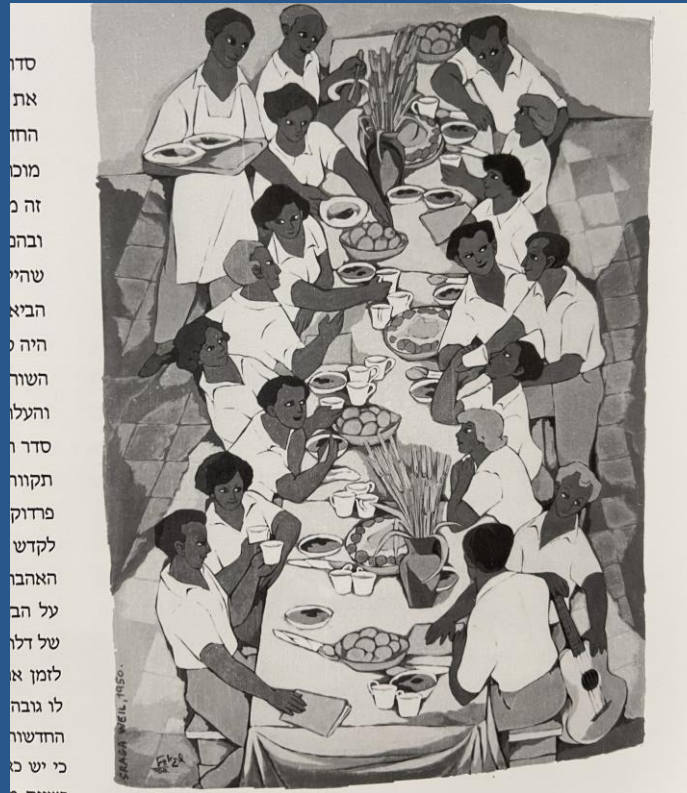
17



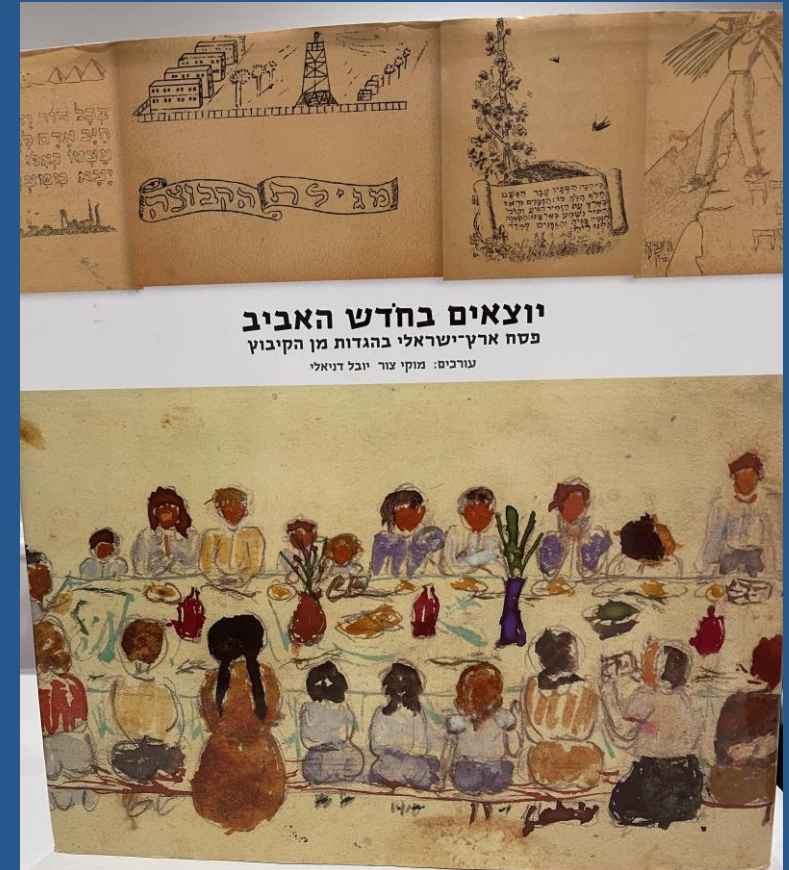
# Additional Resources



Guests at a crowded Seder (Gat, 1980s)  
Photograph: Zvi Nabor



סדר  
את  
החד  
מוס  
זה כ  
ובה  
שהי  
הביא  
היה  
השור  
והעל  
סדר  
תקוו  
פדוק  
לקדש  
האהב  
על הב  
של דל  
לזמן  
לו גובה  
החדש  
כי יש כ  
שינוי

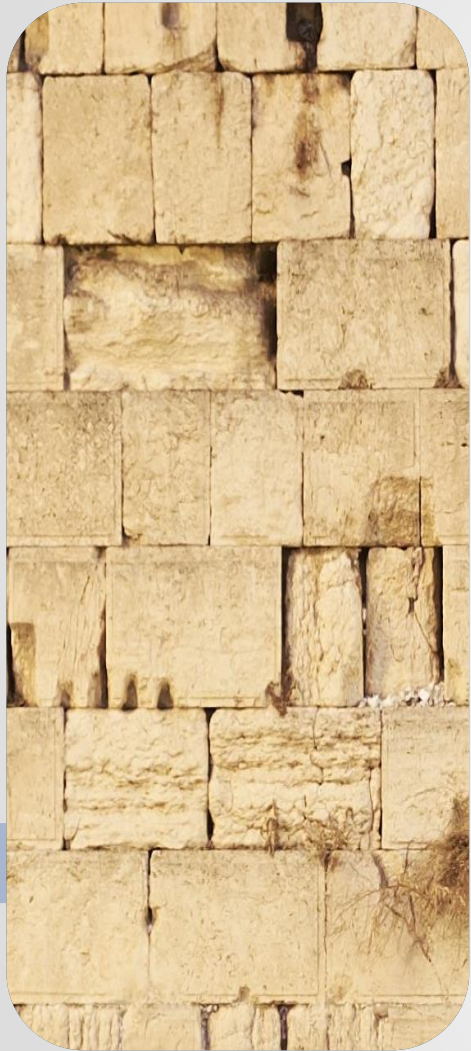


**יוצאים בחדש האביב**  
פסח ארץ-ישראלי בהגדות מן הקיבוץ  
עורכים: מוקי צור ויובל דניאלי

# To Next Year in Jerusalem!

לשנה הבאה בירושליים – LeShanah HaBa'ah B'Yerushalayim





---

## Contact Us



**LinkedIn**

[www.linkedin.com/company/center-for-israel-education](https://www.linkedin.com/company/center-for-israel-education)



**Twitter**

[@kenwstein](https://twitter.com/kenwstein)



**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/centerforisraeleducation](https://www.facebook.com/centerforisraeleducation)



**Instagram**

[www.instagram.com/israeledotorg/](https://www.instagram.com/israeleddotorg/)