

## SAVE THE DATE

### The *NEW* Anti-Semitism on College Campus: *Mah-Nishtanah?* What is Different?

**Sunday, April 12th**

2 – 4:30 PM

JCC of Greater New Haven  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

#### **Keynote speaker: Ken Marcus**

Founder & President

Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law  
*Break the Hate: Responding to Anti-Semitism on Campus*

**2-3 PM Open to the entire community**

**3-4:30 PM High school students only**

Pizza, s'mores and a series of speed-stations to speak with current college students about their personal campus experiences and to learn strategies for responding to anti-Semitism. *The event is free, but space is limited.*

**RSVP to Hilary Goldberg, (203) 387-2424, ext. 325**  
**hgoldberg@jewishnewhaven.org.**

*Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.*



# מגיד

## **MAGGID: Tell the Story**

We hope this Haggadah supplement invites discussion around your Seder table about how the freedom of speech we enjoy as Americans empowers us to express our Jewish identity and our love for Israel. We suggest you integrate this Haggadah supplement into your Seder at the beginning of the *Maggid* section after the Four Questions.

והגדת לבנך ביום ההוא לאמר  
בעבור זה עשה ה' לי  
בצאתי ממצרים:  
- שמות יג:ה

And you shall tell to your child on that day,  
"It is because of what the Lord did for me when  
I went free from Egypt."

— Exodus 13:8

*V'higadeta l'vincha bayom ha-hu laymor.  
Ba-avur zeh ah-sa Hashem li  
b'tzayti mi-Mitzrayim.*



## The *NEW* Anti-Semitism on College Campus: *Mah-Nishtanah?* What is Different?

Relating the story of the Exodus is so fundamental to the essence of *Pesach*, or Passover. *Maggid*—the mitzvah or commandment to tell the Passover story as if we had experienced it ourselves—is at the heart of the Haggadah and the Seder. On Seder night, we use our gift of speech for the telling the Passover story. The very word *Pesach* is a contraction derived from the two Hebrew words *Peh Sach*, meaning, “the mouth speaks.” In contrast, the Hebrew name for Pharaoh, *Par-oh*, is a combination of *Peh Rah*, meaning “the bad mouth.” For just as speech has the power to build, it also has the power to destroy.<sup>1</sup>

### **There is a fine line between freedom of speech and hateful speech.**

In the last year, college campuses have crossed that line, as anti-Semitism on campus has increased dramatically. Jewish students report being exposed to anti-Israel rhetoric from their professors. Some have been physically attacked or verbally threatened for expressing their support of Israel. Bullying and attempts to intimidate Jewish students simply for being Jewish are on the rise, fueled by campus organizations dedicated to demonizing Jews and Israel.

### ***Mah-nishtanah?* What is different?**

Not long ago, all any college-bound Jewish student needed to worry about was buying textbooks and dorm-room accessories. Now the packing list must include knowledge of Israel's history and one's civil rights as an American student, advocacy skills, and awareness of the resources available to support oneself as a Jewish American confronting the new anti-Semitism on campus.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Maggid*, or telling the story, emphasizes the supreme value of speech to free people.**

As slaves our speech and emotions were suppressed. With the advent of freedom, the people of Israel had the opportunity to articulate their thoughts and express their feelings. On this night of *Pesach*, we relive this experience of acquiring speech. For this reason, the entire text is called *haggadah*, which means speaking out.<sup>3</sup>

### **On Seder night, we can empower our children with the freedom to speak out.**

As we gather to share historical, personal, and communal stories of the struggle for freedom in our own lives, it is so important to support our college students in using that freedom to speak out while on campus.

The Sunday after Passover, members of the community and high school students preparing for their college experience are invited to a special event. (See *Save the Date* on reverse.) A dynamic speaker with a wealth of legal knowledge and professional experience will share how together we can address the rise of the new anti-Semitism on college campuses.

Bring your questions.

1 Semler, Yitzchok. *The Commentators' Pesach Seder Haggadah*. Feldheim Publishers, March 1991.

2 Mindell, Cindy. “Standing up for Israel on Campus.” *Connecticut Jewish Ledger*, August 13, 2014.

3 Bornstein, Rabbi Shmuel. *Shem MISHmuel*. Targum Press, 1988.