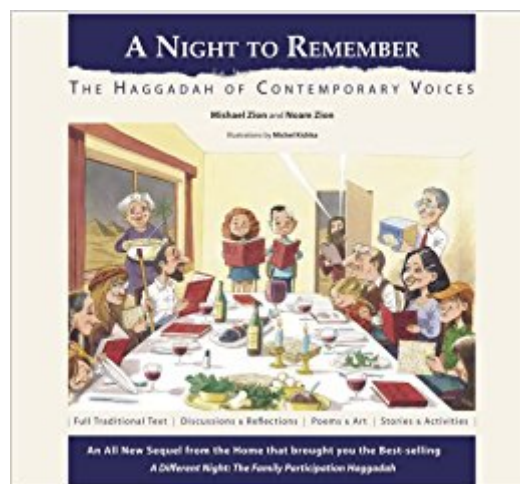




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# A Night To Remember: The Haggadah Of Contemporary Voices (Hebrew -English) (English And Hebrew Edition)



## Synopsis

A full traditional haggadah with a contemporary and Israeli accent. Commentaries from scholars and rabbis, mostly late 20th century, but also from novelists, poets, political leaders, and others. This book is for the family that wants to enhance their seder by bringing in ideas that will make the evening rich, thought-provoking, and fun for all. Many items for younger and older children are sprinkled throughout the book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Noam Zion and now his children are becoming a cottage industry for do-it-yourself Jewish holidays and rituals. Noam and his son Mishael Zion offer a Haggadah with so many sources, stories, quotes, illustrations, poetry, and commentary. This guarantees a night of lively exchanges and Jewish and contemporary meaning. *A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices* is yet another example of the Jewish Renaissance and ritual creativity. It shows the power of cultural dialogue between Israel and America. The beauty of this Haggadah is that you can use it as the family Haggadah, or as an incredibly rich resource to enhance the traditional or modern Haggadot of your choice. In any event, serious Seder leaders from all the denominations will sit down with *A Night to Remember* days before the Seder to pick and choose what to read and what to do this night, as different than last Seder. I warmly recommend this publication. Not only is it a welcome addition to any Jewish table and library, it is an invaluable tool for promoting Jewish meaning and spirit in an age where we need this multi-vocal, richly textured, inspiring Haggadah.

--Rabbi Naamah Kelman, Hebrew Union College Jerusalem Campus, Director of Year in Israel program and Educational Initiatives

*A Night to Remember* is a necessary, fresh, and wonderful

addition to the world of haggadot. Beautifully conceived and designed, it enlists contemporary voices in original ways to illuminate Judaism's oldest and most widely observed rituals. --Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author, *A Code of Jewish Ethics: You Shall be Holy*; and *Jewish Literacy*. Pesach is the holiday that most concretely represents and celebrates the essence of Jewish identity. The beautiful Exodus story, the elaborate rituals, the emphasis on family, community, and history -- all these combine on Seder night to provide a powerful, affirmative Jewish experience. Except, of course, when they don't. All too typically, the Seder -- in Israel and America both -- is more or less a Jewish Thanksgiving, a warm get-together with little spiritual or intellectual content. The Haggadah is recited quickly and by rote, with the smells of home cooking acting as an added incentive to speed-read the ancient text, or (forgive the pun) pass over it entirely. In my view, the publication of Zion family's new "A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices" will go a long way to remedy all that. Its contents are so rich, wide-ranging, and pluralistic -- songs and poems, games and quizzes, historical asides and rabbinic interpretations -- that any Jew who is curious about Jewish life cannot fail to be fascinated. Its practical commentary on the Seder service clarifies the evening's rituals. At the same time, passages that elaborate upon the spiritual or mystical significance of such familiar Jewish practices as lighting holiday candles or eating matzah will speak to young globe-trotting Jews who have found other traditions more intriguing than their own. I was especially impressed by the treatment of the Four Sons and Four Daughters, which uses both text and illustration to explore multiple interpretations of this famous parable. Overall, the editors have succeeded admirably in linking the biblical images and philosophical concerns of the Haggadah to modern culture and the exigencies of Jewish life. I've learned something new from every page of *A Night to Remember: The Haggadah of Contemporary Voices*. In fact, I plan to use it myself when leading this year's Seder. --Stuart Schoffman, Associate Editor, *Jerusalem Report*, Senior Fellow Shalom Hartman Institute

The authors are a father and son team who have shared 26 seders. Noam, an American Jew, and Mishaël, an Israeli, both study and teach at the Shalom Hartman Institute. This haggadah combines the experience of Mishaël's bestselling Israeli haggadah, *Halaila Hazeh* (2004) and Noam's classic *A Different Night* (1997) that have made seders more participatory for hundreds of thousands.

This is a great haggadah to read. To use at a Seder? Maybe not so much, unless you have children whose minds wander, and if you don't mind their skipping around the book and reading. We encountered the "A Night to Remember" haggadah at a community seder at a Jewish Community

Center. At home, we use the old yellow-and-reds; they are nostalgic, if nothing else, and we own about two dozen of them. During the community seder, I was fascinated by this haggadah, and afterwards bought a copy so I could read it properly. (We have dozens of different ones that we have purchased to read, vs. using at the seder.) This one is VERY contemporary and progressive. Lots of stories about social justice and tie-ins to recent events. The book is nicely done, with high production values, cute illustrations, and reading broken up into little boxes and bites. If you want to learn how to have a maror eating contest, this is the haggadah for you! It's also very strong on gender equality, including illustrations of women, as well as men, wearing kippot. This is a wonderful haggadah. I think it's too "busy" for a traditional seder, but it's a wonderful book to read as part of the run-up to the seder, or as a book to give young folks if you don't mind if they read quietly instead of participating. Note that the authors, Noam Zion and Mishael Zion, are at the Shalom Hartmann Institute in Jerusalem - a wonderful source of scholarship and inspiration. I've never met them, but have learned from many of their colleagues.

A friend recommended this haggadah to me and I eagerly ordered ten copies. My husband is inviting his pastor and the pastor's family to the seder. I began to look through the pages, and found myself thinking "uh-oh." If I just invited my own lefty friends it would be fine, but an illustration showing a woman demonstrating for abortion rights is unsettling. I certainly support abortion rights, but I don't know if I want to have an argument about it at the seder table. An illustration portraying the Jews' various enemies shows an awful lot of people carrying crosses. While I have no argument with the fact that many Christians persecuted Jews, I wonder if this illustration would lead to meaningful discussion, or just make Gentile guests uncomfortable. I guess what bothers me the most is an illustration at the end of the book that shows a red-headed dude with sunglasses (everyone has sunglasses, and s\*\*\*-eating grins) entering the gates of Jerusalem, riding a white donkey and flashing a peace sign. I think he is supposed to represent the Messiah. As a progressive Jew, I don't hold that the Messiah is an actual human being, but rather that it is up to us to usher in a Messianic age. The illustration invites comparisons to Jesus, which is fine by me, but it's a little out of my pay grade to argue with a pastor. There is a fine line between insult and appeasement; this haggadah is certainly going to be discussed, but it may not be employed!

I bought a copy of this Haggadah because I was asked to lead a Seder where the hosts only had enough copies of this version. Unfortunately, while familiar with the authors' other Haggadah, A Different Night, I had never seen this one before and it turns out that I am not a fan. I found it

confusing and hard to follow the traditional order. While the discussion sections are potentially nice, they are interspersed in a way that I find intrusive to the actual order of the Seder.

I try, each year, to find some new insight, comment, or voice to make our Seder not just a repetition of the traditional text. This year, this was my new source and it's a real winner. It has the entire traditional text plus explanations of things I didn't know - and I've read a lot - plus information on customs from other communities, and, of course as advertised, comments about every subject touched on in the Haggadah from many sources ranging from Mark Twain to Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik to fascinating modern voices you might not know but will appreciate. Filled with lighthearted illustrations that fit perfectly. You COULD use that at the seder, but I recommend spending the time to read it first and selecting some of its content for your seder. Should be a good source for several years.

Positively the best Haggadah I ever had (and I have quite a few). The supplementary material is charming, engaging, touching. I am going to use some of this material in my Seder this year. I strongly recommend this Haggadah to everyone!

This was a wonderful addition to my Passover celebrations this year. I co-led 2 seders (one for 9 people and one for 90) and found plenty of fresh, rich material to share with participants on both nights. I also highly recommend Noah Zion's "A Different Night" haggadah. If you don't own it, I would buy that one before this one. The contemporary perspectives in this one are great, but I think it's also valuable to incorporate traditional commentaries, and Zion does a great job of choosing good ones in the other haggadah.

This Hagaddah adds context, history and humor to the Seder. Michael and Noam Zion have done an absolutely outstanding job - and in a very crowded field, this stands out.

Some very interesting commentaries and writings. Added about 5 to our usual Seder this year, looking forward to adding others next year. Lots of good ideas.

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