

קידוש: Elevate their Voices

We begin the seder by reciting Kiddush, the blessing over wine, marking the moment and the meal as a sacred occasion. In a symbolic nod to our freedom, many have a custom to pour wine or grape juice for the person next to them, but not for themselves. This year, when so many in Israel are not able to sit at seder tables because they are hostages, serving in the IDF, or displaced from their homes, this ritual of pouring a glass for others takes on even greater significance.

To begin your seder, we invite you to read the following piece, written by Avner Goren for the *Kibbutz Nir Oz 1996 Haggadah*, which was later republished in the *Be'eri Kibbutz Haggadah* in 1999. Avner, a child of Kibbutz Nir Oz founders, and his wife, Maya, were murdered in their home when Nir Oz was attacked on October 7. Their adult children, Gal, Asif, Bar, and Dekel, survived, and they are moved by the inclusion of their father's voice in this Haggadah supplement. In this poem, Avner asks the reader to raise a glass. As we read Avner's poem and raise our glasses to begin the seder, we hold in our hearts those who cannot be at seders this year and think about ways we can elevate their voices.

Lift Up a Glass!

Avner Goren (Translated by Ilana Kurshan)

*Look at the fruit salad:
Some fruits are sour, and some fruits, sweet
Some are more juicy, some, harder to eat
Some are more smooth, some, rougher-skinned treats.
Each fruit brings its own taste and colors and texture
And when all mixed together, they create something new
Far more than just each fruit alone.*

*So too with us. We're made up of all kinds:
Some work the land. Some look to heaven for signs.
Some of us are visionaries. Some, more practical types.
We come in all sizes, all shapes, and all stripes.
Some set out on new paths. Some settle rather than roam
And each brings their own language, customs, and
beliefs from home.*

*We are an ingathering, a kibbutz (gathering) of
peoples, a multicultural nation,
An immense, breathing, and living creation
Renewing itself with so much innovation.*

*We lift up a glass to all who returned to our land
To the ingathering of exiles,
To immigration, to integration,
both present and past,
We lift up a glass.*

Questions for Conversation

- In this piece, Avner Goren toasts the members of his kibbutz and, by extension, toasts the Jewish people. As you begin your seder, whom would you like to recognize through a toast?
- We included "Lift Up A Glass!" as a way to preserve one October 7 victim's voice and story. What voices and stories do you want to lift up tonight?



Illustration by Michel Kichka, "Kibbutz Be'eri, Darom Adom: Kibbutz Be'eri, the Red South." This illustration is a tribute to Kibbutz Be'eri from early settlement days to the red poppy flowers which blossom near the Israel-Gaza Border. Created in October 2023 as part of "Wrapping Memory," the Bezalel Academy's memorial tribute to communities attacked on October 7.