

A STORY TO TELL

THE AIPAC HAGGADAH SUPPLEMENT



AIPAC's Haggadah supplement is designed to invite discussion around your seder table about the necessity for each of us to participate in the political process in order to make a difference for America and for Israel. We hope the supplement's readings will inspire you to share the

story of your own involvement on behalf of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. We suggest that you utilize the Haggadah insert during your seder after the reading of The Four Sons. **Chag Sameach!**

IN EVERY GENERATION...

וְהִיא שְׁעֵמֶדָה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ. שְׁלֹא אֶחָד
בְּלִבָּד עָמַד עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתָנוּ; אֶלֶּא שְׁבָכֻל
דּוֹר וְדוֹר עוֹמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתָנוּ; וְהַקְדוֹשׁ
בְּרוּךְ הוּא מְצִילָנוּ מִיָּדָם.

AND THIS HAS BEEN

the case for our ancestors and for us.

For not only one enemy has risen against us to destroy us. But, rather, in every generation, enemies have risen against us to destroy us. But the Holy One, blessed be He, has saved us from their hands.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik wrote, "History, Judaism says, cannot move or progress without the individual. God waits for man if there is something to be done. He does nothing until man initiates action. God waits for man, for a single person, to accept responsibility and initiate the process of redemption."

The story of Passover is a dramatic example of this. While there is no question as to the divine authorship of the Israelites' deliverance, freedom had to wait for Moses – for just one person – to see a burning bush, hear a call to service and answer

"Hineini – here I am."

WHY AIPAC MATTERS: THE IMPERATIVE FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT

BY LARRY WEINBERG

I was a soldier in 1944 as an infantryman in the U.S. 100th infantry division. We were in combat in the Vosges Mountains, located between France and Germany. A fellow soldier came to me and said that they had found a Jewish man hiding in the woods and that the man wanted to know if any of the Americans were Jewish.

I ran to meet the man. He was gaunt and unshaven. As I got closer to him, I was overwhelmed with emotion, feeling as if I was somehow part of his liberation. I reached out to him when he asked in Yiddish, "Are you a Jew?" I responded enthusiastically, "Yes, I am a Jew!" The man came closer to me, spit in my face and said, "You came too late." He walked away and I never saw him again.

I came to realize that we American Jews did not do enough to prevent the Holocaust. When our people are in need or in danger, we must never be too late.

Larry Weinberg is a past president of AIPAC and a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Now it's your turn. Tell your story.

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FREEDOM FROM FEAR

BY REP. ERIC CANTOR

I stood by the bed of the young victim of terror during my visit to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. I was there to offer support—as a United States Congressman and as a fellow Jew.

Her doctors did not know if she would walk again. But she stands tall in my memory.

Refusing to be held hostage by fear, pain or anger, she said, “I am here. I am still alive.” Throughout my visits with Israelis, I am always stirred by the power of the individual and the undaunted spirit of a country.

Each of us is imbued with the freedom to make a difference, to be an inspiration even in the midst of life’s darkest moments.

Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA) has participated in congressional trips to Israel, sponsored by AIPAC’s educational foundation. Congressman Cantor also serves as Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare.



(Exodus 3:2-4)

וירא מלאך ה' אליו בלבת־אש מתוך הסנה וירא והנה הסנה בער באש והסנה איננו אכל: ויאמר משה אסרה־נא ואראה את־המראה הגדל הזה מדוע לא־יבער הסנה: וירא ה' כי־סר לראות ויקרא אליו אלקים מתוך הסנה ויאמר משה משה ויאמר הנני:

AND AN ANGEL OF GOD APPEARED TO HIM in blazing fire from the bush. And he saw that the bush burned in fire but was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside and see this great sight – why the bush is not burnt.” And God saw that he had turned aside to see and God called to him from within the bush saying, “Moshe, Moshe,” and he answered,

“Hineini.”

LEGACY AND LOBBYING

BY SARA KAVANA

I watch the congressman take notes as I speak. He asks *me* a question. He wants *my* opinion.

Each time I go to Capitol Hill, I am reminded of the influence one person can have. Who am I that a member of Congress should listen?

I am the granddaughter, niece and cousin of dear family who perished in the Holocaust. I am an immigrant to America who feels acutely the responsibilities that come with my new citizenship. I am a mother, seeking to keep our world safe from the kind of evil that took one generation and left another with a sacred mission.

I turn back to our conversation. I make another point, and I watch with pride as my congressman takes notes.

Sara Kavana has been an AIPAC member since 1989.

THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE

BY REP. TOM LANTOS

In 1944, I was a sixteen-year-old boy who was convinced, with good reason, that he would not survive the Second World War—none of my family did...But my wife Annette and I are here, our two daughters are alive and our seventeen grandchildren bring us untold joy because of a Christian – a man who did not know us. He was a Christian who lived in far away Sweden, in the ultimate lap of luxury, affluence and security.

The man who saved our lives...was a member of Sweden’s most distinguished family, the Wallenberg family, who had the whole world as his oyster. He could have been Sweden’s leading diplomat, banker, businessman and scholar. He had all the intellectual and other attributes to make it.

But as he looked south to Hitler-occupied Hungary, his conscience did not allow him to remain in that peaceful and secure little island of Sweden. He took a train and joined us in Hell.



Raoul Wallenberg saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from Nazi extermination, including Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA), the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress and the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

MY FAMILY’S EXODUS STORY

BY DANIEL FARAHİ

My Dad leads our seder as he has for...well, forever. His own Exodus experience so ingrained within our family history, there is an irony as he retells the Biblical story.

My grandparents sent my parents to the States from Iran before I was born. They arrived with modest means, and later, when my grandparents arrived here, together they built a thriving business and embraced every aspect of American Jewish life, including political involvement.

Mom and Dad helped support Israel financially and politically through multiple wars and wave after wave of terrorism. Congressmen and Senators became frequent guests in our home as my parents stood in our living room, encouraging friends and neighbors to get involved, to stand with Israel against the threat of Iran.

I hear Dad’s strong voice read from the Haggadah. “...more than one enemy has risen up to annihilate us...” – not a hint of the fatigue or wear of a man who has stood against his share of foes.

Daniel Farahi is an AIPAC campus activist at Northwestern University and son to John and Catherine Farahi, from Reno, Nevada.

