

# Flexible Haggadah grows with family

*Author-illustrator Carol Levin writes how feedback from Jewish educators inspired her to infuse Hebrew text into the pages of Haggadah Regatta, a playful seder for families with little kids.*

**T**his Passover will be my fifth seder in Ann Arbor. I relocated to be close to my grandkids but soon discovered a resilient proactive community. The March storms spurred neighbors to help neighbors clear downed trees, provide shelter, and share

Edition” is printed. Her words stung, but then the pandemic happened, my Passover gigs with the little goat I named TooZooZEEM” at school libraries vanished, and other book projects filled the creative space, until ...

Hanukkah with my 1st and 3rd grade



charging generators. So, what’s that got to do with flexible Haggadahs and Passover? The prophet Elijah! Jews welcome the prophet into our homes for Seder to help fix our planet and make the world better. It will only happen if we all pitch in.

At my house, I’ll raise a glass to the educators who spoke up and helped make *Haggadah Regatta* better. Thanks to Terri Ginsburg, Shlomit Cohen, and an Oakland County Educational Director, there is a downloadable “Read-It-In-Hebrew Worksheet” tie-in to the Haggadah on my website. Some Jewish educators objected to the Haggadah’s transliteration. “I love the storytelling,” one said, “but we teach Hebrew here.” She invited me back to her school once the “Hebrew

grandkids suddenly so grown up. Their Beit Sefer class at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation had clearly made a difference. I vowed to extend the energy of the story’s “matzah raft” for a few more years for at least one Seder night. Adding Hebrew seemed the way to have my matzah (raft) and eat it, too.

The *Haggadah Regatta* tradition would grow along with kids. Along with more Hebrew, more questions, more stimulating discussion, more surprises, and more adults stomping on the matzah raft. Dayenu!

Schuler Books at Westgate has *Haggadah Regatta*.

For additional information about *Haggadah Regatta* visit [www.CarolLevin.us](http://www.CarolLevin.us). ■