

*“In every generation each of us should see ourselves as though we are leaving Egypt.”*

*B'CHOL DOR VADOR CHAYAV ADAM  
LEEROT ET ATZMO K'EELU HU  
YATZA ME-MITZRAYIM.*

*(Pesachim 116b)*

# FIFTY YEARS AGO



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

**F**OUNDED IN 1974, Clal-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership is a think tank, leadership training institute, and resource center. Bringing Jewish insights to a wide American audience, Clal makes Jewish wisdom an accessible public resource. A leader in religious pluralism, Clal builds bridges across communities to encourage diversity and openness. Linking Jewish texts and tradition with innovative scholarship, Clal promotes Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life, reinvigorating communities and enhancing leadership development.

#### **Brings**

Jewish wisdom to the American spiritual landscape and makes it a resource for all.

#### **Builds**

bridges across communities to encourage pluralism and openness.

#### **Promotes**

inclusive Jewish communities in which all voices are heard.

#### **Nurtures**

volunteer, professional and rabbinic leadership to build dynamic communities and helps people to re-imagine Jewish life.

#### **Enhances**

Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life.

**this spring**, as Jews celebrated leaving Egypt, Americans were setting out on a new exodus.

**This year** we can celebrate both and build a better future by doing so.

**Clal-**

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*Many Voices. Strong Communities. One People.*



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

**The National Jewish Center  
for Learning and Leadership**

**N MAY 1961**, the first Freedom Riders left Washington D.C. for New Orleans, LA. And long before there were Freedom Riders, there were Freedom Walkers—our ancestors who left Egypt and celebrated the first Passover. We can walk in their steps and ride in their seats, if we dare to dream as big as they did.

**Passover is a time of hopes and dreams** and doughnuts associated with Hanukkah recall the oil which burned longer and brighter in the newly rededicated Temple menorah than anyone expected. When we eat those foods, we not only remember that story but also become vessels of the oil we recall. And even the strictest cardiologist would be okay with that—for eight days a year.

**Like the thousands** who boarded buses all over America in the 1960's, the ancient Israelites and those who joined them were animated by dreams—of better lives, greater freedom and the realization of their nation's full potential. Passover is our chance to join their journeys by adding our dreams to theirs.

**LIKE THE ISRAELITES'** and the Freedom Riders' vision, the dream must be so bold that some may call it crazy. That's what people called Theodore Herzl when he declared in 1897 that perhaps in five years, but certainly in 50, there would be a Jewish state. Insane! Yet he was right, almost to the day.

**THIS PASSOVER**, ask yourself and those gathered at your table to imagine the dreams of those leaving Egypt.

- **What dreams empowered them** to take those first steps into freedom?
- **What dreams filled the hearts** of the daring souls who rode buses through the south?
- **How do dreams provide courage** and motivate action against seemingly insurmountable odds?

**SHARE ONE DREAM** you have for the Jewish people, or for America. If it's likely to be accomplished any time soon, try dreaming bigger.

**Also share one concrete step** you can take to realize your dream. When you do, you will be walking with your ancestors and riding with American heroes.