



## **Passover Around the World** **By Tami Lehman-Wilzig**

*Passover Around the World* encourages us all to remember that we are part of a huge and colorful family, members of whom live in every area on the planet.

Take advantage of the many customs recounted in this book – some of which are likely new to your family – and try at least one: perhaps you’ll make it your own! Encourage your children to help choose a practice that your family can incorporate into a *seder* that you host or attend. Because food plays such an integral role in the *seder*, preparing a recipe from this book makes a splendid way to help make the *seder* – or any Passover meal – special. Choose recipes that permit your children the greatest opportunity to be involved in the process.

Have your family tie together in a concrete way the fact that Jews live in many different places. Taking a large world map, assist your children in pinpointing the various countries mentioned in this book. Using string or ribbon, “connect the dots” on all of these areas, including distant places in which you have family members or friends as well as the spot in which you live. Proudly display this map in your home as a reminder of the connectedness of Jews around the globe.

Consider the benefits to your children of making use of the knowledge and memories of elders in your family’s life. Encourage your children to contact older family members or acquaintances, asking them to recount in writing Passover traditions and practices from their childhood. These could then be collected in a booklet made and decorated by your children, to be shared at holiday get-togethers. What a marvelous and lasting way of linking the generations in a tangible way!



## Reading Guide

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In the section of *Passover Around the World* concerning Turkish traditions, we are reminded that it is the responsibility of parents to instruct their children about the story and lessons of Passover. For centuries Jews have accomplished this Passover teaching task through use of the written *haggadah* (literally, “telling”). Families everywhere add their own personal touches to make the script of the *haggadah* their own. We all know that to teach our children we must first engage them. Consider ways of making the lessons of the *haggadah* sparkle for your family, taking cues from this book and by your own creative thinking. Work with your children to craft props for the ten plagues, consider a new way to welcome Elijah to your home, or, using a familiar tune, create lyrics with your children to explain a section of the Passover story.

This book presents a perfect opportunity to consider with your children how we treat others, particularly those who are in some way unlike ourselves. The author’s note at the beginning of the book details several incidents that could have led to misunderstanding or distrust based on cultural practices. Help your children become loving, inclusive adults by giving them experiences with people different from themselves. Support in your children a welcoming, open heart by joining them in active practices: visit a lonely senior in a nursing home, invite a new neighbor to your home for a cup of tea, or join in a community activity to assist in raising funds for medical research. The weeks leading to Passover are an ideal time to incorporate these activities into your family life.

### **About The PJ Library®**

The PJ Library is an award-winning initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in partnership with your local Jewish Community. On a monthly basis, The PJ Library sends out high quality, age appropriate Jewish children’s books to participating families across the country. Through providing these books, The PJ Library’s goal is to help families explore the timeless core values of Judaism and to transmit these values to a new generation. To learn more about The PJ Library visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) or call your local community representative.