

Havurah Happening

Quarterly Membership Meeting and the Program

THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

THE STORY OF THE HAGGADAH

When: March 6th at 6:30 pm (Check-in begins at 6:00)

Where: Morris/Nelson/Penn Rooms at Independence Center

No RSVP required.

The **Haggadah** (Hebrew: **הַגְּדָה**, "telling"; plural: **Haggadot**) is a Jewish text that sets forth the order of the Passover Seder. According to Jewish practice, reading the Haggadah at the Seder table is a fulfillment of the mitzvah to each Jew to tell their children the story from the Book of Exodus about God bringing the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.



Detail of the Exodus from Egypt in the Birds' Head Haggadah: bird-headed Jews bake matzos for the journey and leave Egypt with their possessions (left-hand page); a blank-faced Pharaoh and Egyptian soldiers pursue the Jewish nation (right-hand page).

The **Sarajevo Haggadah** is an [illuminated manuscript](#) that contains the [illustrated traditional text](#) of the [Passover Haggadah](#) which accompanies the [Passover Seder](#). It belongs to a group of Spanish-Provençal [Sephardic](#) Haggadahs, originating "somewhere in northern Spain", most likely city of [Barcelona](#), around 1350, and is one of the oldest of its kind in the world. The Sarajevo Haggadah has survived many close calls with destruction. Historians believe that it was taken out of the Iberian Peninsula by Jews who were expelled by the [Alhambra Decree](#) in 1492. Notes in the margins of the Haggadah indicate that it surfaced in Italy in the 16th century. It was sold to the National Museum in Sarajevo in 1894 by a man named Joseph Kohen.

Learn the history of the Haggadahs: the different stories related according to location, to the first and remaining illuminated editions and how they survived.