



Venture into Passover



Keep Learning! Miriam's Cup and Ruth's Cup

Most seder tables include a goblet of wine called "Elijah's Cup." During the meal someone will open the door to welcome the prophet Elijah, whom it is said will signify a time when there will be peace in all the world. Some traditions also include these other two cups on the seder table.

Miriam's Cup

This cup is named for Moses' sister, Miriam. It is filled with water and serves as a symbol of Miriam's Well, which was the source of water for the Jews in the desert after they crossed the Red Sea. There are many legends about Miriam's Well. It is said to have been a magical source of water that followed the Jews for 40 years because of Miriam's goodness. The waters of this well were said to be healing and life-giving. Miriam's Cup is a symbol of all that sustains us through our own journeys.



Ruth's Cup



Ruth was a non-Jew who married an Israelite in her homeland of Moab (*Mo-ahb*.) After her husband's death, Ruth accompanied her mother-in-law, Naomi, when she returned to Israel. Because of Ruth's declaration to Naomi: "Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16), she is considered the first convert to Judaism. We open the door during the seder to signify our welcome of Ruth and all who follow in her footsteps—those who become part of our people, part of our diversity.