

A PASSOVER PRAYER

Areyvut – Jewish Mutual Responsibility
(to be read following the singing of *Dayenu*)

All of Israel is responsible for one another.
- *Talmud, Shavuot 39a*

Our story this night tells of the transformative moment when we, a cohort of cousins, united as a people, forever linked in faith and infate. We walked as one between the birthing waters of the Sea to be reconstituted as *Am Yisrael*— the people of Israel.

So we sing *Dayenu* – had God only done that and no more, it would have been enough.

Together at Sinai we stood and received Torah, the gift of God's love. As women and men now free, we entered into a covenant of mutual obligation and inter-dependence, responsible to the Holy One and to each other.

Dayenu – had God only done that and no more, it would have been enough.

That covenant binds us still, transcending time and place, linking each Jew to every Jew.

Each one, dependent on all.

Kol Yisrael areyvim zeh bazeh.

We are responsible for each other. We are responsible to each other.

Seated here, as well as at seder tables around the world, are loved ones and friends, shoulder to shoulder with all who sing the same songs of salvation and praise, family all.

The Israeli Jew and the Iraqi Jew, the Argentinean Jew and the American Jew, the traditional Jew and the unconventional Jew,

The Russian grandparent and the Ethiopian child, those of substance and those on subsistence.

We sit as one at this Seder, differences dissolving in common history and hope and in deepened awareness of our mutual dependency.

We are so much stronger as a family than as individuals.

For our collective responsibility - at home, in Israel and around the world - is monumental and compelling.

All Israel is responsible, one to the other.

Kol Yisrael areyvim zeh bazeh.

And for this, there is no *Dayenu*. There can be no "enough."

For as much as we do, there is more to be done.

by Rabbi Donald B. Rossoff,
Chair, Rabbinic Cabinet of MetroWest NJ



The Jewish Federations®
OF NORTH AMERICA

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

JewishFederations.org

[f jfederations](#) [@jfederations](#)