

## Painting Your Personal Miriam's Cup

### Introduction

First introduced in the mid 1970's, a Miriam's Cup holding spring water now graces many Passover seder tables. The Miriam's Cup brings to the Pesah observance the midrash of the well of fresh water that accompanied the Israelites in the desert due to the merits of the prophetess Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron. With the death of Miriam, the waters disappeared.

Since the introduction of Miriam's cup various practices and blessings have arisen to be used with the cup, many of which can be found in various feminist *haggadot*. A short ritual appears in the 1992 Spring issue of Lillith Magazine.

Before you begin the project, offer a short study session on the origin and use of the Miriam's cup.

### Materials

- Glass wine goblet (available at any bar supply store or low cost retail store)
- Paint pens for painting on glass (available at any art supply or craft store)
- Clip art or small designs of Judaic or spring motifs (available from various sources)
- Hebrew lettering designs for the words ***Kos shel Miriam***
- Scotch tape
- Paper towels

**Time for Project:** 1 and 1/2 hours

### Directions

1. Duplicate the clip art designs and lettering for the participants. Let the participants choose the designs they wish to use.
2. Wipe the goblet clean, inside and out, with a damp paper towel. Dry the goblet well with paper towel.
3. Position the clip art and lettering inside the goblet so that the image is revealed on the outside.
4. Tape the clip art and lettering to the inside of the goblet.
5. Paint the image on the outside of the goblet using the pasted chosen. If you are using a stemmed goblet, feel free to decorate the stem and base of the goblet.
6. Set the goblet aside to give the painted surface an opportunity to dry. Most paint pens are quick drying.
7. Wrap the completed Miriam's cup in paper towels to carry home.

Note: The painted goblet must be hand washed. The heat of the dishwasher will affect the painted surface.