

Nirtzah

Contributed by [Mirit Markowitz](#)

Source:

Nirtzah marks the conclusion of the seder. Our bellies are full, we have had several glasses of wine, we have told stories and sung songs, and now it is time for the evening to come to a close. At the end of the seder, we honor the tradition of declaring, "Next year in Jerusalem!"

Though it comes at the end of the seder, this moment also marks a beginning. We are beginning the next season with a renewed awareness of the libertad we enjoy and the obstacles we must still confront. We are looking forward to the time that we gather together again. Having retold stories of the Jewish people, recalled historic movements of liberation, and reflected on the struggles people still face for libertad, we are ready to embark on a year that we hope will bring positive change in the world and freedom to people everywhere. Tonight we started to do that together, en comunidad, by highlighting and validating Jews and families of all colors, customs, and backgrounds not often centered in collective Jewish traditions.

Gloria E. Anzaldúa wrote in *Borderlands*, a seminal Chicana Feminist book:

"Caminante, no hay puentes. Se hace puentes al andar.

Voyager, there are no bridges. One builds them as one walks."

Our seder is over, according to Jewish tradition and law. As we had the pleasure to gather for a seder this year, we hope to once again have the opportunity in the years to come. We pray that God brings health and healing *a todo la gente* (to all the people of the world,) especially those impacted by false walls, separation from their families, unfair immigration practices, and dangerous labor conditions. As we say...

לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

L'shana haba-ah biy'rushalayim

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!