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So the subject is flying free, and the event is Delancey Street's annual seder, which was Wednesday night. Founder and seder mistress **Mimi Silbert** tells the Passover story about Jews freeing themselves from slavery as a metaphor for the residents of Delancey Street freeing themselves from lives of addiction or crime, daring to cross a difficult sea to arrive at freedom, unfamiliar and uncertain. One man in his mid-50s said he'd spent about 40 years of his life in prison before a reluctant judge took a chance on him and let him try the program, despite his age. Another, who was 7 when his mother packed up his things and sent him away, is finishing his third year in college. The choir's "Let My People Go" was poetic and stirring, but the college student's plainly described moment of revelation was all the more eloquent for its everyday reference to where he'd been: "I didn't have to live in a 6-by-9 for the rest of my life."

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