

PASSOVER ISSUE

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YOUNG ISRAEL OF PARKCHESTER
2137 ELLIS AVENUE
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THE MEANING OF PASSOVER

- an editorial

Editorial

This year the festival of Passover has a different significance for us as Jews than it ever has had before. It is the first Passover since the liberation of Israel. It seems as if the freedom we have been praying for from year to year has been answered; that the Visions we have had of resettling our displaced brethren have come to reality; that the age old hope of "l'shonah habaah byerusholyim has finally been realized.

And indeed all of these have come or are coming to pass. Any Jew who has the least bit of Yiddishkeit in his soul cannot but thrill to the gigantic accomplishments that have occurred during the past year. The DP Camps are rapidly being closed and their occupants going largely to Israel. One can only marvel at the stand taken by our modern Israelis against the mighty Goliath. Our brethren in Israel have high hopes and we too are optimistic about coming events. We feel optimistic, we know that the spirit of a people can overcome the greatest of odds.

While we do not propose to dampen our enthusiasm we cannot and must not forget the bitter struggle that has accompanied all of these achievements. Achieving freedom is not an easy task; nor does it come easy to reap the rewards of freedom. If we have helped in the act of liberation we must continue further to sustain it. Sitting back now will not do it.

The task for American Jews is cut out for them. We cannot relax in our efforts to make it possible for Israel to resettle the DP's for to do this would break faith with our ideals and hopes - the very things blood has been shed to achieve.

It seems to us that the Age old prayer l'shonah habaah byerusholyim should remain our rallying cry for all time. For as long as there is persecution of Jews our efforts to bring them to the promised land must not relax.

In rededicating ourselves this year to the continuing ideals of freedom let us make Passover meaningful by doing all we can for U.J.A., by supporting the Y.I. Eretz Israel Fund and by doing all we can to maintain unity in our ranks. "If we will it, it is no legend" said Theodore Herzl.

Let us hope that our will be strong enough to contribute to the unmaking of the legend and to the making of a living reality.

Holiday Service Schedule

Regular morning and evening services will be held during the Passover holiday at our headquarters 2137 Ellis Avenue.

Wednesday, April 13th	6:30 A.M. (Service for first born)
Wednesday, April 13th	6:00 P.M.
Thursday, April 14th	9:00 A.M.
Thursday, April 14th	6:15 P.M.
Friday, April 15th	9:00 A.M.
Friday, April 15th	6:00 P.M.
Saturday, April 16th	9:00 A.M.
Saturday, April 16th	6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 19th	6:15 P.M.
Wednesday, April 20th	9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, April 20th	6:15 P.M.
Thursday, April 21st	9:00 A.M.

Memorial (Yizkor) service at 10:45 A.M. --
Thursday, April 21st 6:15 P.M.

First Bazaar To Be Held May 14th to May 22nd

Preparations are under way for our mammoth bazaar to be held on our own grounds - the lot on Virginia Avenue purchased recently and where we hope to erect our own Young Israel Center.

Al Hein, Bazaar Chairman and his Committee are working feverishly to get details into shape. There is work for everyone and we will need the help of all our members and friends.

In the meantime the sale of raffles for a television set is going on. As a result of the efforts of a number of members raffle books have been mailed to most of the Jewish residents of Parkchester. We urge all of those who have books to sell them, turn in the money and take more books.

Workers Needed

Do you have a Car?

What nights can you devote to the Bazaar?

Can you "spin wheels"?

Can you "Bark"?

Let Kelly Winkler know about it. We need your services and help. Help Frank Nussbaum, chairman of our Building Committee with the raffle.

U.J.A.

The 1949 UJA goal for Parkchester and Unionport is \$60,000. An all out effort must be made by everyone if the goal is to be reached.

Samuel R. Feinberg, our former president is chairman of the UJA drive. In addition Kolman Winkler and William Posner are co-chairmen of the synagogue Committee.

Women's League

The Women's League is going all out for the Bazaar, announced Reba Posner, president "all our efforts from now on will be devoted to the sale of raffles and handling the planning of details in order to make the Bazaar a success".

The Women's League is handling the procurement of merchandise. All kinds of materials will be needed. All members are urged to help in this.

Helpful Passover Guide

In past years we have sent to our membership a list of "practical preparations for Passover". This year we should like to vary our procedure somewhat by indicating merely some hints and ideas which we hope you will find helpful.

Passover begins Wednesday, April 13th, at Sunset and ends on Thursday, April 21st after sundown.

The Torah commands that no "chametz" be found or seen in our possession during Passover. This means that each Jewish household must make a thorough housecleaning - going through the nooks and crannies - before the holiday.

In order to lend significance and holiness to this housecleaning a ceremony called "Bedikas Chametz" is performed on the evening before Passover (Tuesday evening). Bits of bread are placed on the window sill and in other corners of the house and the head of the house, goes thru the rooms, by candlelight, to gather the pieces together. Usually a feather is used to scrape the pieces onto a piece of wood or wooden spoon. A prayer is said (this is found at the beginning of the Haggadah) before the ceremony begins. After all the crumbs have been gathered together the spoon, feather, bread and candle are tied together with a piece of cloth. This is left until the following morning after the final chametz meal about 10: A.M. The little bundle of "chametz" is then burned and a prayer said (also found in the Haggadah). This signifies that all of the chametz has been cleaned out of the house.

Food

"Chametz" consists not only of bread and crackers but candy, Ice cream, whiskey, beans, peas, cereals, wheat, barley, rice, flour and the usual canned foods and many other products.

In view of the fact that the average Jew may not be aware of which foods are permissible for Passover, he should make it a rule to use no product which does not have a "Kosher for Passover label" with a rabbi's signature on it. This is particularly true of all bottled, boxed and canned foods. Fresh fruits and vegetables (outside of those in the legume family - beans, peas, etc.) need no labels.

In recent years candy and soda manufacturers have put out Passover products. If they have a rabbinical signature on them indicating their use for Passover, they may be used. In all cases though, they should be boxed, bottled and sealed. No "loose" candy is reliably permissible for Passover.

"Passover" or "Holiday" Cakes are particularly elusive. Many bakeshops have such signs. Unless, however, the cakes are boxed with rabbinical supervision or the "loose" cake is sold in a "cleansed" store under rabbinical supervision it may not be used.

Dishes

Dishes used all year round are "Chametzdig" and may not be used for Passover. Although it is possible to "Kasher" some utensils such as spoons, forks and knives, it is best to have special dishes and utensils, pots and pans for Passover. This is the best practice and will eliminate questions as to the usage of these articles. For those who wish to go through the "Kashering" procedure it would be best to consult our Rabbi.

"Selling" of Chametz

In view of the fact that possession of Chametz during Passover is forbidden even though it is hidden away, our Rabbis have arranged it so we could "sell" our Chametz to a non-Jew. The "Agent" for the sale is usually the rabbi of the synagogue. We urge all of you to do this. Rabbi Silver is at the Jewish Center daily, come in give him your name and address and appoint him your "Agent" for the sale of Your Chametz. This must be done before 10 A.M. on Wednesday, April 13.

"Fast of the First Born"

Because the Lord "Passed over" the houses of the Israelites when the first born of the Egyptians were slain, the Jewish first born males commemorate this by fasting on the day before Passover (Wednesday, April 13th).

The Alternative to fasting is attendance at a religious ceremony - "a siyum" - early Wednesday morning at the synagogue. We urge all first born men or those who have first born male children to attend the minyan early Wednesday at 6:30 A.M.

The last time for eating Chametz is Wednesday, April 13th, 10 A.M. After this time fruits and vegetables may be eaten altho no matzoth (until the Seder)

The Seder

The Seder is one of the most beautiful of religious ceremonies. It is a time when families get together and when all persons including the children, participate. To give the Seder significance, make it beautiful, decorate the table by lighting the candles, with flowers, matzoh covers, etc.

The "Seder Plate" should be outstanding. Instructions on preparing the plate are included in every Haggadah. There are five items on the Seder plate, each having symbolic significance: "Charoses" (a mixture of chopped nuts, apples and wine). This is symbolic of the mortar the Jews used in Egypt; "Maror" (horseradish) This is symbolic of the bitter time our forefathers had in Egypt; Zroa (a roasted shankbone) symbolizes the paschal lamb that was sacrificed in the temple during the Passover holidays; an egg. This has many significances, one being the symbol of eternal life another is the offering the Jews brought to the Temple; Parsley (green herb or lettuce) is symbolic of Passover as a Spring Festival.

Other significant parts of the Seder are the 4 cups of wine, the "3 matzot", the "Afikoman", "Elijah's Cup" and of course the reading of the Haggadah and service.

The Seder, as can be seen, is a blending of various elements. Each element has its meaning. It is not enough, though, to think of the Seder as the Commemoration of an event which occurred many years ago. Each Jew must interpret

the Seder for himself and for events of the day. He must think about it as if "he himself left Egypt." The blending of pain and happiness, of slavery and freedom is significant for all of us and the lesson the Seder teaches us should make all of us think of how we can liberate our own lives to become free human beings.

Some Personal Items

Congrats to the Abe Kirschenbaums on their silver anniversary --- and to the Irving Kirschenbaums on the birth of a fourth, and a girl at last --- the Barney Harris' announced the engagement of daughter Janet -- the Jack Ratners came forth with a son and heir, David Chaim - Mazel Tov!

Recently returned from Florida's vacationland are the Irv. Pollacks, the Manny Reisses and the Meyer Diamonds -- Abe Ort is still basking on the sunny climes, as are the Furspans.

Our annual affair March 19th was an outstanding success. Phil Stanley and his boys had the gang stepping between rounds of "Essen" and our genial caterer didn't let us die from unger!

We danced from Charleston and Fox Trot to Samba and Rhumba -- Charlie Siegel soloed and the Kumitees let their hair down -- Old timers who stood up included the Kirschenbaums, Sapersteins, Harris' and Rosenblums -- t'was good to see that old gang of ours -- How'd you like those Hors D'oeuvres?

Anniversary greetings are in order for the Al Heins, the Sol Spitzes and Gene Nussbaums -- May you have many more!!

April birthday boquets to Morty Nussbaum, Mrs. Tillie Gross, Mrs. Lillian Hauser, Mrs. Marion Ornitz, Michael Horowitz, Milton Levine, Judith Pollack, Myrna Pausack, Bill Posner, Janet Pollack -- Many happy returns.

On The Lighter Side

"Doctor," she said loudly, bouncing into the room, "I want you to say frankly what's wrong with me."

He surveyed her from head to foot. "Madam," he said at length, "I've just three things to tell you.

"First, your weight wants reducing by nearly fifty pounds.

"Second, your beauty would be improved if you used about one tenth as much rouge and lipstick.

"And third, I'm an artist, the doctor's office is on the next floor."

From the desk of JACOB SLOVE

A young wife, wishing to announce the birth of her first child to a friend in a distant city, telegraphed:

"Isaiah 9:6".

Which passage begins, "for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Her friend, not familiar with the Scriptures, said to her husband:

Sarah evidently has a boy who weighs nine pounds six ounces, but why on earth did they name him Isaiah?"