

Editorials

Passover 5743

In truth, only three of the holidays in our Jewish calendar year still retain a real "hold" on our religious loyalties. They are Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Passover.

Purim — with its melodramatic story and its fun aspects — has become a favorite of the children. However, its theme of deliverance from tyranny is more dramatically marked by Passover.

Hanukkah, with no Biblical basis, is an heroic story of the fight for religious freedom; but its present power derives from the rise of modern Zionism and more particularly from its proximity to our neighbors' major winter holiday.

Sukkot, too, has become very much child-centered: Consecration of new students; however, it has little meaning for adults. Shavuot also has been "saved" by Confirmation.

But Passover speaks to the entire family. The family-centered Seder meal with its powerful symbolism — and its grand theme of human freedom — speaks to our hearts, to our sense of history, our solidarity as a people.

Similarly, the High Holy Days are

spiritually gripping though they have no historical relevance; every Jew with a scintilla of concern for the state of his spirit is aware of the shofar of Rosh Hashana and the Kol Nidre of Yom Kippur. And so the synagogue is filled at this Season of Awe and Repentance.

Thus — the Holy Days and Passover are pre-eminent both for the soul and body of the Jewish people.

The power of Passover comes from its crying relevance. The struggle for human freedom is far from won, but we have not the "luxury" of abandoning the struggle — whether here in our beloved land, or in Israel, or anywhere on earth.

Thus, we oppose the rise of Moral Majorities and the like, who would cast us all in their own mold. Thus, we urge our government to desist from supporting tyrannies wherever they are.

Passover is as relevant as tomorrow morning's newspaper.

May we wish you and your dear ones a Happy and Fulfilling Pesach!

SHALOM

— Rabbi Harold I. Krantzler

Passover - Time to Meet Goals

I know of no festival which is as timely and pertinent today as is Passover, because it focuses attention upon a curse which has afflicted man from time immemorial.

When the Bible speaks of the Plague of Darkness which was visited upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians for their inhumanity to the Israelites, it describes the darkness as being of such intensity that people were unable to see one another. 'And they did not see their brothers.'

The Bible is actually telling us that the darkness was inevitable because the people refused to see their brothers, to recognize and respect their fellow humans as brothers and sisters. Passover insists that nothing must interfere with this great religious and moral principle, the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

God created man to be free and not enslaved. He created us in His image, not as particles of dust to be stepped on by dictators and tyrants, but rather in the words of the Psalmist, "but little lower than the angels."

How especially meaningful is this concept in an ecumenical age when the great religions of the world are seeking to break down the walls that close off one from the other, to eliminate distrust, misunderstanding and hatred.

We live in an age of scientific discovery. The glories of ancient Rome and Greece are dwarfed by the epic greatness of our civilization. We are told that it will soon be possible to melt the snow and ice of the Arctic regions by means of atomic energy so that the earth beneath can be used to feed the entire world.

Our excursions into outer space promise countless blessings for the future of man. And yet, we sit on a volcano that may erupt any day and pour the lava of destruction upon all humanity.

We are able to conquer space and time

and control the forces of nature, but we have not yet learned to control ourselves. We have not learned to live as human beings, as children of God.

This is what religion has always taught. It's what the prophet meant when he thundered the words, "have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us? Why then do we deal treacherously one with the other."

This was the vision of Isaiah who prophesied, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruninghooks." This is the challenge of the Biblical word, "love thy neighbor as thyself."

When the world was big it did not matter if people were small, but now the world has shrunk and humankind must be big. We must rise to the heights of being created in God's image. We must select the principles of brotherhood, of understanding, of sympathy, of cooperation and above all, of faith. We must accept the idea that all men are equal before God, even though they differ in race, in color and in creed, and we must learn to reach across these differences and love and respect.

Let us engage in one huge mission of breaking down walls that divide and build bridges of understanding and goodwill. This is the goal of Passover.

Thankfully, there are good people in our community who envision the day when this community becomes united in purpose and goal. We will erect a campus for all Jews to engage in pursuit of holiness, to gather together for religious instruction and for community affairs. We will build bridges of understanding and goodwill and break down the walls that artificially separate us. The challenge is before us. We will meet it. May this be our goal.

AMEN

— Rabbi Richard Rocklin



Passover 1982

To Our Readers

To Our Readers:

We are sorry that the Random Thoughts column has been discontinued. Our faithful columnist, Muriel Levitt, and her husband, Hy, are moving to Florida. We have enjoyed her stories and her friendship these several years and she will certainly be missed. We wish them both many years more of good health and happiness now that they have retired to the "land of sunshine and orange trees."

We look forward to your letters and comments and urge you to continue to send them in. Unfortunately, some very interesting and stimulating letters have been written but they have not been fully signed, nor has there been an address and telephone number included. We must have this information in order to print your ideas. Please submit all articles typewritten and double-spaced. We reserve the right to edit.

Last month we came out with a new-look to the newspaper. We hope that you noticed the new masthead and the new type for the headlines. We feel that it is a great improvement and we would appreciate your comments. We are also experimenting with color and special issues periodically throughout the year. All this is being made possible through our generous advertisers.

We constantly complain about the increased prices on

food, utilities, clothing and cars. The cost of college tuitions is on the rise each semester. Rentals and mortgage payments are steadily increasing. Virtually nothing has escaped the double-digit inflation. This is also true of the newspaper. The cost of paper, ink, supplies and postage have skyrocketed this past year; in fact we anticipate an increase in printing costs.

In spite of all this we are continuing to mail *The Charlotte Jewish News* free to the community and have not raised our advertising rates since the beginning of the paper 3½ years ago. We feel that advertising in the "News" is a BARGAIN!! We are still not operating this paper in the "black" even though we have a volunteer staff; the sponsoring organizations: the Jewish Community Center, Charlotte Jewish Federation and the Hebrew Academy have been paying the deficits. To them and our advertisers we owe a hearty "thank you."

This Passover we have done a special issue which was made possible only by the generosity of the advertisers and many of our readers who have placed greetings to their friends and families. We hope that this will become an annual endeavor and that more people will help us next year. We would enjoy some "feedback" on this issue.

— The Editors

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Published monthly by:
Charlotte Jewish Federation
Marvin Bienstock, Director
Jewish Community Center
Harold Cohen, Director
Charlotte Hebrew Academy
Eleanor Weinglass, Director

Editors Ann Langman & Rita Mond
Staff Monroe Katz & Lissa Millman

Copy deadline the 5th of each month
P.O. Box 220188, Charlotte, N.C. 28222