

The Significance of Passover

By Inbal Ozeri,
Community
Shlichah



Inbal Ozeri

Pesach is a great time to tell our children the story of leaving Egypt. The unique story of our journey as slaves in Egypt and the whole story of how we escaped including the fascinating 10 plagues as well as crossing the Sea of Reeds is definitely a captivating story that both young and old enjoy hearing every year. I know every year I look forward to the Seder and hearing the story again. For me it never gets old.

This year, Pesach starts on the

15th of Nissan, Friday, April 22 and lasts for seven days. Traditional Jews who live outside of Israel celebrate the holiday for eight days.

It is also the time when I come to appreciate bread and the amazing Shabbat challah. I always crave a Shabbat challah during Pesach, which of course is great if you are in Israel, since this year in Israel they will break Pesach on Friday evening April 29, just in time for Shabbat.

I am really looking forward to celebrating my first Passover here

in the USA. In fact, my family will be joining me here as well to celebrate and I guess we'll just have to wait until Saturday night to enjoy that first bite of challah. This will also be my family's first time in the USA and I'm really excited to celebrate with them in Charlotte as well as show them all the sights and sounds that I have grown to enjoy during my last eight months here. I also would love to introduce you to family members so if anyone is interested in meeting up, please email me or call me.

On a last note, I am really excited for this year's, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut ceremony and celebration, which are both just around the corner. Please save the date for our annual

community commemoration and celebration day Thursday, May 12 from 6-9 PM. For more information please contact me. More information and details will follow

in the May edition of *The Charlotte Jewish News*.

Wishing everyone a Chag Kasher and Sameach! ✪

"Hunger Seder" Shines Light on Hunger in Our Community

With spring in the air, the time is ripe to start thinking about Passover.

Every year Jews all over the world gather with friends and family to commemorate our people's liberation from slavery and oppression. While a significant aspect of this holiday is focused on food — delicious, unleavened food — Passover also provides an opportunity for reflection.

During our Seders, we are commanded to retell the Passover story so we will never forget that we were once slaves in the land of Egypt. Times have changed for many of us, but unfortunately there are many others who are "enslaved" in some form or other. Approximately 50 million Americans don't know when or how they will get their next meal, we can't claim complete victory over oppression just yet.

As Jews, we are commanded to help those in need, pursue justice, practice charity, show compassion, and share our resources. In this spirit, for the first time, The Jewish Community Relations Council of The Jewish Federation

of Greater Charlotte in collaboration with Jewish Family Services will be conducting our first annual interactive Hunger Seder on Sunday, April 17 at 4 PM at Temple Beth El. This participatory event will include symbolic holiday readings and reflections from the Haggadah, round table discussions, and a light meal of soup and salad.

Our goal is to begin a dialogue that will shine a light on hunger in the Charlotte community as well as to call upon the importance of a Jewish response to hunger in keeping with our Jewish values and by speaking out and acting. Per Andrew Bernstein, JCRC Chair, "The Hunger Seder allows our community to bring an awareness to such an important issue not only to our community, but the larger community in which we all live, and do it in such a way that we all understand the significance in all of us joining together to alleviate hunger." We hope to bring together not only our local Charlotte Jewish community members, but various hunger advocates and North Carolina state,



local, and community elected officials so together we may learn and begin to educate ourselves as well as discuss, advocate and address the ongoing problems of domestic hunger.

We encourage you to join us and participate in an engaging and thoughtful afternoon that brings to light the true meaning of the powerful words of the Haggadah "Let all who are hungry come and eat."

For more information please contact Tal Stein, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, at tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6751. RSVPs are required and are due by April 11 and can be made online at www.jewishcharlotte.org. ✪

Annual Spring Lecture with Jennifer Teege

(Continued from page 1)

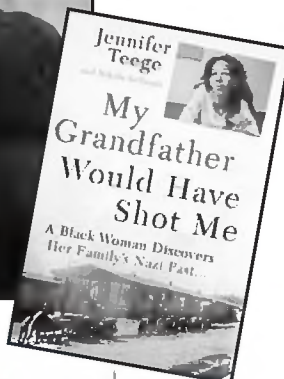
the truth leads her, step by step, to the possibility of her own liberation.

Jennifer will share her emotional pilgrimage with our community on April 7, and we invite you to live this journey with her. The evening will begin with a strolling dinner at 6:30 PM and the lecture at 7:30 PM. A dessert reception and book signing will follow the program.

Co-chaired by Mallory Miller and Sara Kulbersh, the Spring Lecture is the signature campaign and outreach event benefiting the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Women Division and the 2016 Annual Campaign. The Jewish Federation's mission is to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Support of the Spring Lecture makes our mission a reality.

Spring Lecture tickets are \$45 for the Dinner and Lecture, or \$25 for the Lecture Only. There is a minimum donation of \$50 to the 2016 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign to attend the event.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.jewishcharlotte.org or contact the Federation office 704-944-6757.



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SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, May 12
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Israel Memorial Day
6:00 pm Memorial Ceremony

YOM HA'ATZMAUT Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
Israel Independence Day
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