

Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemons, publicity

It is almost the Hebrew month of Nissan and we will soon be celebrating Pesach. It seems like only yesterday that we toiled to get our houses ready for the 2010 holiday. How could it already be 2011? How fast the time flies. The older you get, the faster it seems to go.

The Exodus from Egypt began our journey towards peoplehood. We weren't a Jewish people until we received the Ten Commandments and Torah at Mt. Sinai. It was at Sinai that we officially became the "Chosen People" when we agreed to accept the 613 commandments in the

Torah that God commanded of us. It was at that point that we learned about what it meant to be Jewish. What is meant to be kosher. How we were supposed to observe the Sabbath. How we were supposed to take of each other and how to treat the stranger among us. It was at Sinai that we Jews received the

message that we were to deliver to the world - to do good and to be righteous. This message is the premise of our Torah's teachings.

Our journey towards peoplehood wasn't an easy one. There were many trials and tribulations along the way. There was much bickering and much sinning. It took 40 years of wandering in the wilderness and the passage of an entire generation to become a righteous people worthy of entrance into the Promised Land. And we have been struggling for that righteousness and fighting for that land ever since.

As we left Egypt, our future was unimaginable. We had no way of knowing what lay ahead of us. We had no way of knowing what we would encounter or whether we would survive. But the time was at hand and we had no choice but to place our faith in Moses and forge forward into the unknown.

Many of us today live our lives just like that. We have no idea what the future will bring. We just know that we must have faith in a bright tomorrow. And we forge forward towards a better life. A better opportunity. A better future. That has become increasingly difficult to do in these days of economic difficulties. The future is unpredictable, albeit gloomy and scary. Yet, we forge forward, trying to make each day a day of significance and a day of hope. We place our faith in a God who at



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times seems to ignore our cries and our suffering. But the human spirit has the innate ability and unbelievable fortitude to soar higher and higher even in the most dire of circumstances. We rise to the occasion. We reach for the stars. We believe in the power of hard work and embrace a belief in something that is so much greater that we could ever be. We send out our message of goodness and righteousness to the world.

Over 700 Jewish families in the Charlotte area have added to their righteousness by becoming members of the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery. You are invited to join the ranks of these righteous Jews who support the holy work of the Cemetery Association. For more information about \$2,000 worth of membership benefits, graves, pre-paid funeral costs, endowments, and/or including the cemetery in your estate planning, contact Cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or 704-944-6854 or director@hebrew-cemetery.org.

Visit the cemetery website at www.hebrewcemetery.org.



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