

# HAR HACARMEL

הר הרצל

TIFEREETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

April, 1948

Mount Carmel, Pa.

Nisan, 5708

## ABOUT PASSOVER

The holiday of Passover (Pesach) is the family holiday par excellence. It begins with the Seder, conducted the first and second evenings at the home, in which every member of the family takes part. Passover commemorates the freeing of the people of Israel from Egyptian slavery and its observances symbolize the outstanding facts of the exodus.

The salient characteristic of Passover is the Matzoh. It is a positive observance in that we are required to eat Matzoh at the Seder, and a negative one, because during the eight days of the festival we remove from our homes and from our diets all traces of bread or fermented grain. In this connection it is appropriate to mention here some of the important rules of Passover practice.

As already mentioned, no grain products must be kept that are not prepared in the proper way and under Rabbinic supervision. This rules out all bread, cakes etc., and baking flour, as well as condiments and candies that may contain even a trace of Chometz. Candies and chocolates can be obtained which are prepared and packed under competent and reliable supervision to insure that both their contents and the vessels in which they were prepared are absolutely free of Chometz. In this respect the table of ingredients is not sufficient. Only the seal of a known orthodox Rabbi offers reliable assurance that a product was prepared properly.

It is also important to remember that no peas, beans, rice, corn, or peanuts are used or kept on Passover. Dried fruits, spices and soft drinks, as well as all dairy products, may be used only if packed under proper supervision.

All pots, pans, and cutlery which is not especially reserved for Passover and which must be used during the holiday must be "kashered" before. In case of uncertainty as to what utensils may be kashered or the proper procedure, your Rabbi will be glad to advise you.

Chometz which cannot be disposed of

before Passover must be either destroyed or sold. If you have not yet arranged for the sale of your Chometz, please contact the Rabbi immediately, as Thursday is the deadline for selling.

The search for Chometz in the home (Bedikas Chometz) takes place Thursday night, April 22, and Chometz found then must be burned Friday morning.

Services will be held at the Synagogue on Friday night, April 23, at 6:30, Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9:00, and Saturday night at 6:30. Daily services Monday through Thursday at 7:45 a. m. Thursday evening, April 29, at 6:40, Friday and Saturday mornings at 9:00, and Friday evening at 6:40. Yizkor will be Saturday morning, May 1.

Do not eat Chometz on Friday, April 23, after 9:35 a. m., nor before 7:30 p. m. Saturday night, May 1.

All times given are STANDARD TIME.

### מוזל טוב

Our best wishes to Nancy and Paul, and to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lippman, on the occasion of their marriage. May you enjoy many happy years together.

## CALENDAR

Candle lighting time is given for preceding Friday nights:

April 22—Search for Chometz	
April 23—First Seder	
April 24—Passover .....	6:30
April 29—Eruv Tavshilin	
April 30—Seventh day of Passover	
May 1—Last Day of Passover (Yizkor) (DST)—	7:37
May 8—Acharey .....	7:44
May 9-10—Rosh Chodesh Iyar	
May 15—Kedoshim .....	7:51
May 22—Emor .....	7:57
May 27—Lag Beomer	
May 29—Behar .....	8:03

## FROM YOUR RABBI

With Pesach around the corner, and all the work that goes with it, certain thoughts come to mind thoughts that have been expressed over and over, thoughts that cannot be repeated too often. Matzo orders are in, Chometz is on the way out, and the question once more presents itself: What does it all mean to us? This is not a lesson in history, nor is it meant to be a sermon. It is the statement of a simple truth, but one that, unfortunately, we lose sight of too often.

Pesach is the holiday of Freedom. It marks the physical liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage and its sequel, the spiritual freedom that came to Israel on Mount Sinai. By a clever play on words, our sages once impressed upon us the fact that real freedom can be found only in the observance of Jewish law. This may sound like an intellectual tour de force, but an actual example can show its real validity.

Some time ago I had occasion to discuss the question of anti-Semitism before a Christian group. At the conclusion of my talk the following question was put to me: "Don't you think, Rabbi, that Jews create the impression of not being social when they refuse to share our food at our affairs?" Before I had a chance to answer, another member of the audience, also a Christian, gave the following reply: "I, for one, respect the religious convictions of a man and will offer him food that is acceptable to him, and I know that many of my friends feel the same way. I think highly of a man who is not afraid to follow his conscience, and if I were a Jew I would do likewise."

This certainly hits the nail on the head. The man who is not afraid to follow his conscience, the Jew who will not, for the sake of some questionable "good will" act contrary to the precepts of Judaism, is really the free man. He is free of the fear of "what will the goyim say," he has none of the pathetic compulsion to please everyone at the expense of his own pride. He is free to live as he chooses, to be Jew always and everywhere. He is truly free.

Pesach is the time when we remove what is old and sour and replace it with things new and clean. If we do that to our minds as well as to our homes, to our inner self as well as to our surroundings, then Pesach will be the true, meaningful holiday that it is meant to be.

Rabbi Arthur Oles.

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## THE REBBETZIN'S CORNER

Hadassah is not only a great philanthropic undertaking that has done a tremendous job in helping to build Eretz Israel, but it also has exerted a notable influence on American Jewry. The educational work carried on by Hadassah has been so effective that leading Jewish educators have pointed to this organization as an example of what can be done in this respect. Dr. William B. Furie, a leading figure in Jewish education, not long ago wrote an article in the Jewish Advocate, New England's outstanding Jewish weekly, praising Hadassah for its great achievement in the field of Jewish education.

The Region Educational Institute in Pottsville on March 23 was an outstanding example of the excellent job Hadassah is doing in this direction. The meeting was conducted on a high plane from beginning to end. The theme, Implementing the New Jewish State, was repeatedly emphasized by the chairman, Mrs. Shapiro, who stressed the fact that despite the reversal of U. S. policy in regard to Palestine the Jewish State will come into existence. Whether the world recognizes it or not, the achievements of the Jews in Palestine have made the Jewish State a living reality.

Among the papers read at the Institute and discussed afterwards was one on the question of Jewish defense. Mrs. Abeshaus of Pottsville acquainted the women with the work of Haganah and its fine achievements. The hope was expressed that the clash between the Irgun and Haganah will finally be resolved and the Yisnuv will present a united front in fighting the enemy. I spoke on the socio-economic development of Palestine, pointing out the unbelievable progress that has been made in agriculture, in industry, in culture, and in social organization. The rise of a new civilization where there had been only sand dunes and swamp land serves as an indication of Jewish courage

(Continued on page four)

## PINK OF BEAUTY

Dear Sadie:

Well, here is another letter full of news since the last time I heard from you.

The first thing I want to tell about is the Donor Dinner which was held last month. The affair was catered by our well known caterers, Mr. and Mrs. Boris Wishkin. The food was delicious, the decorations were beautiful, the speaker was excellent, and all the ladies looked glamorous. Incidentally, speaking of the ladies, I don't want to be accused of prejudice, but I must mention one of them. She is an authority on the "new look," being tall and stately and dark. Her favorite color being pink, she was heard to remark to yours truly: "All Grossman's, and I mean ALL, should wear pink."

Do you know, Sadie, I failed to mention in my last letter to you about Nellie's beautiful party. We women will travel anywhere as long as it is to a party. And what a party Nellie's was! Another few pounds gained.

Spring, beautiful Spring, is here and Sadie, you know how careless people are apt to become. We begin with sniffles and coughs and then medical and nursing care is required. Well, Sadie, if you hear of anyone needing the services of a nurse, tell them to call Mt. C. 1106. There will be available a nurse of vast experience in the use of penicillin, sulfa etc. Had three weeks day and night work, especially with New York patients.

A Tureen Supper will be served at the April meeting. Hostesses will be the members who hadn't served at Hadassah Fall and Winter meetings. At this meeting will also be presented a slate of officers for the year 1948-49. The nominating committee consists of Mrs. Morris Miller, Mrs. Jos. Levinson and Mrs. Abe Weinkle.

Sadie, how did you enjoy the Educational Institute held at Pottsville, March 23? Our president, Mrs. I. E. Smigelsky, attended, accompanied by several delegates. Mrs. Oles delivered a talk on "The Socio-Economic Development in Palestine."

Sadie, will you please do me a favor? Send some of your home-grown orchids as birthday greetings to:

Mrs. M. Grossman .....April 2  
Mrs. E. Spector .....April 6  
Mrs. Ben Roberts .....April 9  
Mrs. M. Marateck .....April 10  
Mrs. B. Reimer .....April 17

Mrs. H. Wolf .....April 24

Mrs. H. Shapiro .....April 25

Thanks a lot, Sadie, for this favor, and now I'll close with best wishes for a happy Pesach. Until next month,

Your Hadassah Reporter

## B. B. TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

Nomination and election of officers are important events in this month's B'nai B'rith activities, and from present indications it looks like an open race—anything can happen. The local lodge has many good members, and it will be interesting to see who may be chosen.

The annual Basketball Banquet for the Mount Carmel High School team will be held Tuesday, April 6, and from present indication it will be a 'bang-up' affair. W. Glenn Killinger, head football coach at West Chester Teachers College and a famous athletic figure, will be the main speaker. Toastmaster will be Mount Carmel's famous Ben Stone, and the meeting will be presided over by our B'nai B'rith president, Louis Cohen. Those in charge look for a 100 per cent attendance from the membership.

NOTE: As you read this, the banquet has already successfully been held. We will report on it in the next issue.

## SYNAGOGUE GETS REPAIRS

Repairs are the "order of day" in local Synagogue affairs, and the property is getting some much needed repairs. The windows have all been caulked to prevent seepage into the plaster, and some windows have been removed to have broken glass replaced. Bids are being asked to do the painting, and it is the hope of those in charge to have all in order for the holidays.

Synagogue activities are beginning to hum again as president Ufberg and B. A. Friedman (welcome home, B. A.) have their heads together. At the last meeting suggestions were made to have the 1948 dues collected and already many have forwarded their checks to bring them up to date. It is the hope that others will follow.

Good news—that Mr. Philip Lippman has been removed to an apartment in Miami Beach from the hospital and we shall see him home real soon. He is one man we really miss in our local circles.

The Gift of Gab:

## SPY SCARES MAKE

### SPIES SCARCE

The current spy scare has grievously affected this department. Public functions are held behind closed doors and our local spies are in Washington defending their honor. This means that reports to this corner have been held up by r—, forget it, by blue tape. And so most of what we can offer here is sound advice.

One: Let us know what happens.

Two: Keep us informed of goings-on.

Three: Pass the information, please.

With that off our chest, let's consider the few things we know about. For one thing, the Lippmans have decided to terminate their vacation, which is good news for them and for us. They have further reduced the number of their eligible maidens by one, and to one which fact merits our heartiest wishes. If this keeps up, they'll be left without any daughters to marry off, and that is as it should be.

We hear that Hadassah is giving delinquent hostesses their final chance at the next meeting. If every one of them does as well as we are led to expect the men will have to eat alone for a week.

Serves you right, they will say, after that B'nai B'rith banquet you didn't appreciate our cooking any more.

Speaking of the banquet, we all enjoyed that story about Louis' railroad trial, and it reminded us of the time when one of our citizens was riding on a train in the old country, and the Colonel sitting opposite him said: "Jew, close the window, it is cold outside." So the Jew closed the window and said: "Mr. Colonel, do you think that will make it warmer outside?"

That's all for now, folks. Be seeing you.  
GAB.

## THE REBBETZIN'S CORNER

(Continued from page two)

and initiative which will so greatly increase the absorptive capacity of Palestine as to permit the entrance of at least 3 million more. How many Jewish lives could be saved if we were only left in peace!

Mrs. Golpert (also a Rebbetzin, by the way) gave a brilliant talk on her view of the Arab question. Among the many valuable points brought out was her conviction that Arab opposition is purely instigated from the outside, that without

the vicious campaigns carried on by the Mufti and his fascist henchmen Jews and Arabs could live in peace and friendship. Mrs. Hesse of Bethlehem then spoke on the obligations of American Jewry toward Palestine, with specific emphasis on Hadassah's job there. She stressed the benefits to American Jewry of a strong and healthy Yishuv. Palestine, once built up, will be the cultural and religious center of the Jewish world, and Jews in America will be greatly influenced by the cultural and religious growth there. We need a center whence Jewish law and Jewish culture emanate, so that all Jews may draw inspiration and strength.

With a few words by Mrs. Levin, the regional president, and with the singing of Hatikvah, this most successful meeting was concluded. We all left with a feeling of optimism and the conviction that somehow things will work out, that, come what may, Eretz Israel will be ours.

Your Rebbetzin.

### Jewish Information:

#### CHAD GADIO

This little song at the end of the Seder, which tells, in the form of a nursery rhyme the chain of events that followed a father's purchase of a kid, has aroused almost as much comment and controversy from Christian as well as from Jewish sources, as some of the most important passages in our ritual. For example, a book about it was published in 1731 by one Philip Nicodemus Lebrecht, a baptized Jew, with the following imposing title: "Chad Gadio, A Kid, That Is, a Remarkable Riddle from the Jewish Easter Liturgy that Comprises within Itself the Vicissitudes and Fates of the Jewish People, insofar as They thereby Understand It from the Exodus from Egypt until the Advent of Their still Daily Expected Messiah."

Christian comment on the song can be found in print as early as 1699. In America, a booklet of non-Jewish authorship appeared in New York in 1835 under the title: "A Kid, a Kid, or the Jewish Origin of the Celebrated Legend, 'The House That Jack Built'."

Chad Gadio was first printed in a Prague Haggadah in 1590, accompanied by a German translation. The song apparently originated in Germany and soon became part of the accepted Ashkenasic ritual. The Sefardic ritual of the Seder does not include it.