

The Messenger

A SHALOM BAYIT PUBLICATION – April, 2012 – Nisan – Iyar, 5772

Web site – Congregationshalombayit.com

A Message from the Rabbi

The Purpose of Passover

Pesach activates us. It literally puts us to work. Think of all the things we have to do. We have to clean the house and change the dishes, order the matzah and wine, invite the family, make sure that the youngest knows the Four Questions, buy baby a new pair of shoes, and so on. The Seder itself makes participants of us all. Mother has to cook the meal, father has to lead the Seder, and everybody has to sing. Everybody must eat the matzah and all the other foods.

Aside from motivating and energizing us, the Passover observance teaches us an important lesson: All of us must participate in the great drama of liberation, all of us must share in creating a better society, all of us must move from inaction into action if we are to better the world. As one wit put it:

"You may be on the right track, but if you just sit there you'll be run over."

Finally, Pesach is a way of making vivid to our senses, ancient trials, and historic purpose. The Seder, with its symbolic foods, enables the Jew to relive and recreate his past. Israel Zangwill correctly said, "On Pesach the Jew eats history." He literally ingests the bread of affliction, and so the meaning of freedom becomes a part of the very marrow of his bones. Jews have always known what it means to suffer. The Seder simply presents the story of this suffering and of redemption in a way that makes us feel it with all our senses. We hear the crackling of the matzah, we taste the charoset, we smell the sharpness of the horseradish, we feel the Haggadah in our hand, and our eyes take in the entire scene of Jews actively recreating their tradition. Through this personal involvement, a Jew senses completely the meaning of Passover and the underlying message of freedom.

As Ludwig Frank once said;

"The Seder nights tie me with centuries before me."

CHAG SAMAYACH,

Rabbi Harv



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Ed Newman

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Saturday, April 7th 2012 @ 6:00 pm

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and

Join us for the 2nd night of Passover at - The Calimesa Country Club – 1300 S. 3rd St. Calimesa, CA 92320

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Along with the service, you will be served a full Passover style dinner and choose chicken or beef as your main entree.

Reservations are a must. Deadline is April 2nd, 2012

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Mail to: Carol Sherman

C/o 1320 W. Williams St

Banning, CA 92220

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Ways & Means

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Be sure to attend the sisterhood lunch on the Tuesday following the Shabat service. It is held in the Sun Lakes Atrium at 11:30 am. Call Iene Kaplan (951)845-0830 for details.

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E-mail: Martyhof@hotmail.com

Rabbi

Harvey Block - E-mail: Rabbiharv@dc.rr.com

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