

# Passover: Oldest lib movement

By AVIGAIL ZACHARIASH  
Passover is mankind's oldest liberation movement.

Jewish people everywhere are now preparing to celebrate the springtime holiday which marks the exodus of the Jewish people from bondage in ancient Egypt to freedom in the promised land.

This year the holiday will start on Saturday evening, April 2 and be observed through Sunday, April 10. The first two nights of Passover are known as "Seder nights."

"Seder" means order and the ritual followed on Seder nights is found in the "Haggadah," a booklet which recounts the story of Passover.

Included in the Seder are customary ceremonies like the asking of the four questions by the youngest male present and partaking of the festive meal.

No leaven is eaten during the eight days of Passover and the traditional round matzah or unleavened bread replaces bread. Other substitutes are used for foods which may have a dough content.

Leavened foods are known as "chometz" and include pastries, beer, sautés and cereals. Prior to the holiday, the Jewish home is cleared of such items. There are detailed laws for the removal of chometz from the home and these are strictly observed.

THE CUSTOMS serve as a strong reminder of the story of Passover. In the Hebrew year of 2488, the Jewish nation was set free from bondage under the Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. Fearing the Israelites as a greatly increasing population in his land might one day overthrow the Pharaoh's throne, the Egyptian ruler had enslaved the Jewish men.



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Realizing that this did not stop the Jewish women from giving birth, Pharaoh had every Jewish boy born drowned in the Nile.

Spared from this awful law was Moses, who was put in a basket of tar and pitch and set to float on the water. His sister Miriam watched. The Egyptian princess, preparing for her bath, found the baby and brought him to the palace. Pharaoh tolerated the upbringing of the abandoned child in his palace.

When Moses grew up, he found himself concerned with his people saw the enslavement of his brothers. He witnessed a brutal scene wherein an innocent Jewish slave, Moses, attacked the Egyptian and killed him, then hurried him in the sand. Moses fled to the city of Midian.

There he became a shepherd. One day, he noticed a burning bush which wonderously was not consumed. Here Moses encountered the presence of God and he communicated with him.

God told Moses to set the Jewish nation free of bondage that he would give him power to perform miracles and plagues to achieve this.

Moses returned to Egypt and demanded an audience with the Pharaoh.

The Egyptian promptly turned down a request to free the Jewish people.

A SERIES of plagues and miracles ensued. All water meant for Egyptian use was turned into blood, yet it remained pure for use of the Jews. Pharaoh pleaded for relief and promised Moses freedom for his people, but he failed to keep the promise when the plague was lifted.

Other plagues included frogs, lice, wild beasts and pestilence, boils, hail locusts, darkness and finally, the plague of the death of the first born. Repeatedly Pharaoh promised freedom and recanted.

## U-D students score in UN conference

Three Farmington residents were among 10 University of Detroit students of the University of Detroit to be ranked among the top five delegations at a recent Model United Nations conference.

Seniors Mark Dossman, Mark Dreyer and Jeffery Slaggett were honored for their part in the representation of New Zealand at the conference sponsored by Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Dreyer and Troy student Mark Nagel were rated the Best Delegation in a simulation of a "Law of the Sea" conference.

The 1,875 students from 150 schools were judged on the basis of how well they represented the position of the countries for which they spoke. Public speaking, caucusing, and teamwork were factors in the final evaluation.

U-D has sent representatives to the conference for the last five years, but this year marked the first occasion of ranking in the top five.

On the night of the slaying of the first born Egyptians, each Jewish family held a feast which included the eating of the paschal lamb. The blood of the lamb was spread on the doorpost and every home with this symbol was "passed-over," by the angel of death.

Pharaoh ran frantically in search of Moses and grant the Jewish nation leave from Egypt and hurried them out of his land.

So rushed were the Israelites, they had no time to prepare much food for their journey. The cakes of unleavened bread that they had baked in haste, are now known as matzahs. The Egyptians once again forgot their terror of the God of Israel and pursued the former slaves with vengeance. The Israelites raced to the sea. Instructed by God, Moses held his staff above the water and miraculously the sea parted, and the Jewish nation crossed.

When the Egyptians followed, the waters rushed down on them drowning the pursuers.

The festive observance of the last days of Passover recalls the splitting of the sea.



Farmington Hills resident Morton Hack was recently elected president of the Prescription Footwear Association at a recent annual meeting. Hack is a past president of the Greater Detroit Shoe Retailers Association and of the Michigan Shoe Association. He is the president of the Hack Shoe Co., a family-owned business operating in the Detroit area for more than 60 years, currently with five stores in the metropolitan area.

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