

Passover: redemption, hope

AT SUNDOWN tomorrow (Friday, April 5) the Jewish people throughout the world begin the observance of Passover, the oldest and perhaps the most beloved of Jewish festivals. This is a festival of freedom, which celebrates the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from the cruel bondage of Pharaoh, more than 3,000 years ago. We gather in our homes to recount the story of the affliction of our ancestors at the hands of Pharaoh and of how the Almighty led them forth with a "strong hand." This ancient story of slavery and Exodus finds a responsive chord in the experiences of many peoples at diverse times.

OUR THOUGHTS turn to many nations who live under the domination of dictatorship and repression. The number of democracies in the world is small. Much of humanity suffers under the lash of modern taskmasters no less harsh than those of the Bible.

The secret of Passover is its power to inspire hope, for this holiday celebrates redemption not only as a past event, but as a challenge to the future. May all who dwell in the darkness of oppression find



moral perspectives
Rabbi Irwin Groner

redemptive faith and courage.

One can suggest that even in this land of liberty, there are many kinds of slaves today. Some are forced to live in the constant fear of unwarranted hate and prejudice, and must endure tolerance. They are slaves. Men can be crushed by poverty and inequality.

WHEN THE fear of need drives them to dishonesty and violence, they are slaves. When the work men and women do does not provide for them adequate shelter, nourishing food for themselves and their children, and opportunity for a better life, they are slaves.

One of the most stirring parts of the Passover Service is the declaration that begins the Seder meal: "This is the bread of

affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt" where we invite all who are hungry to eat with us at the Seder meal.

To prevent this declaration from becoming an empty ritual, we are required to act affirmatively by taking personal responsibility for our fellow human beings. Jews and Christians are entering a time of religious celebration in their different calendars.

BUT LET us join in reaffirming our shared moral obligation for aiding the needy and the deprived. Hunger has become a reality for millions in our country, for many thousands in our city. The Bible teaches us that we are responsible for "the stranger that sojourneth in thy land."

There are many who are in need and are treated as if they were strangers in our own land. We must work to insure that our community is responsive to the hungry and the homeless, and that we as individuals fulfill our own personal obligations.

Passover calls upon us to put an end to all slavery. We can help make the dream of freedom real for those who are not yet redeemed.

Mother's visits prove vexing

Dear Jo:

My problem is my 68-year-old mother. Maybe you can help me.

I am married and have three children. I live a busy, happy life 11 months of the year. The twelfth month, is the month my mother visits.

I don't know really how to describe her. She was and still is a beautiful-looking woman who is used to being the center of attention. If she thinks she's being ignored she becomes demanding, depressed and miserable. She has an extremely strong personality and always has to be "right."

I have never been able to win with her. During her month's visit she does very little to help out with the household chores; she criticizes everything we do and seldom pays anyone a compliment.

Her last visit was so stressful that I ended up in tears almost every day. My husband says he will not tolerate another one of her visits. He has threatened to move to a hotel rather than put up with her and the changes that comes over me when she is around.



gerontology
A. Jolayne Farrell

I don't know what to do. I have a great deal of loyalty to my mother. I am her only child — but what about my family? Is this an impossible situation? I'd like to know what you think... maybe there are many women like me who have trying mothers...

Mrs. C.C.

Dear Mrs. D:

Mother-daughter relationships are very complicated and complex, and although you may feel yours is an impossible situation, it probably isn't.

Persons who have extremely strong personalities can change. Although you cannot directly change her behavior, you most certainly can change your own.

First of all, a month's vacation is far too long so, do not invite her for such a lengthy period of time.

Unfortunately, communication between you two is poor. In order to change the situation, you are going to have to become very candid with her. Rather than dealing with your frustration with tears, look at the problem on hand. If she's demanding, question her.

If she's depressed, find out why. You may learn a great deal about what is really upsetting her. Perhaps you could even find some humor in the whole situation. In your letter you mentioned your mother's beauty but not her physical or mental health. Is she well?

As a guest in your home, which by the way is also your husband's and children's home, your mother should be a little kinder to her hosts.

It is really unfair of you to put your family through a whole month of this type of stress. If you're unhappy — they are too. You do have to consider them first. Since you seem to be putting up with her month-long visits and not managing all that well, I really can't blame your husband for threatening to move to a hotel so he won't be with you during her visit.

I hope I'm not being too hard on you, but it's your home and you should be calling the shots.

Network sets meeting at OCC

"From Apology to Power" will be the topic of the Women's Network Luncheon at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes campus from noon to 1:30 on Wednesday, April 17.

Counselor Ruth Grass will be the speaker. Highland Lakes is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake. Tickets are \$6. Luncheon reservations must be made by April 14 by calling the campus at 369-3041.

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Blood pressure, diabetes classes set

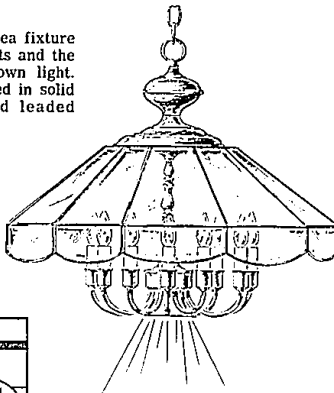
The Oakland County Health Division is offering five blood pressure classes 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and six diabetes classes for adults 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays during the rest of April.

The classes will be in different buildings. Enrollment is limited. To pre-register for either course or for further information call the Health Division offices at 858-1280 or 424-7101.

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