

Passover Feature

In honor of Passover, which commemorates the anniversary of the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, the Las Vegas Israelite will publish a series of features. This year the Passover Festival is inaugurated at sundown on the evening of Friday, April 12, and ends on Saturday, April 20.

By Elaine Neren

Give A Check

Scouting around shopping for a Bar Mitzva gift at Arley's Department Store, I bumped into my friend Molly. She was in the same dilemma.

"I don't know what to get the boy next door," she sighed. It has to be something special. They're going all out -- cocktails, hor d'oeuvres, a gourmet dinner at the club with fresh lobster shipped in from Maine, plus having a string quartet and a twelve piece orchestra."

"Wow!" I gasped. "How about giving him a few shares of AT&T or U. S. Steel?"

"Quite your kidding. He owns plenty of stock. His dad's a broker." Molly shook her head. "This kid has everything."

"Then send him a card," I suggested. "To the boy who has everything, congratulations."

"How can we know what a thirteen-year-old boy really wants?" Molly asked.

"Especially when he's out of town." I went on to explain. "This gift is for my second cousin in L.A. I don't know how big he is...haven't seen him since the Briss."

Molly smiled. "Usually I end up giving shirts." "Me too. A couple of weeks ago I gave the Cutts boy a lovely imported one."

We wandered into the boys' sweater department explaining to the clerk we were looking for Bar Mitzva presents.

"How old is the boy?" inquired the clerk.

Befuddled with shopping, we paused to think for a second. We laughed at our momentary blankness and answered in unison, "Thirteen."

The salesman held up a turtle neck sweater. "This is our most popular number. What size are you looking for?"

I winced. "I don't know."

Molly shrugged. "That's not for Butchie..His neck is too short."

The clerk stiffened, eyed us coldly, and said in a starched voice, "We have a one day sale on imported shirts. They make lovely gifts."

A voice behind us said, "That's what everybody thinks!"

We looked back. A figure hidden behind a pile of shirts approached the counter. Stacking the heap of shirts down, she sighed, "Bar Mitzva gifts...all thirty of them!"

It was Ida Cutts! I pulled Molly away and escorted her down the aisle. "Why did you leave so abruptly?" she asked.

"That's Ida Cutts. Remember? I told you I gave the Cutts boy an imported shirt."

Molly laughed. "It used to be fountain pens. Now its shirts."

"Yeah and they multiply faster than a pair of rabbits." I lamented, "And I paid full price."

Our next stop was the Gift Shop. We fluttered through the counters eyeing wallets, money clips, key chains, cuff links, and jewelry boxes....cameras, shoe polishing kits, telephone radios, and clocks. But we were so frustrated, so exhausted nothing appealed to us.

We went down to the main floor stationery. We ogled briefcases, bookends, pencils and pens. The clerk eager to get rid of us, said, "Try the book department on the tenth floor. The elevator is past notions to the right."

Our feet were killing us. Molly and I agreed we had enough of shopping for one day.

We limped towards the exit. Molly scowled, "A whole afternoon wasted. I bet we could have found something in the Temple Gift Shop."

"Perhaps, but I think my Uncle Dave has the best idea. He always gives the same gift. They're never on sale."

"He probably gets them wholesale. What does he give?" Molly asked.

I grinned, "Checks."

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