

GREENING FESTIVAL
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for leisure time, the indifference to human ends, the alienation, are also our deep concern. Books and journals are filled with the sorry and messy picture of our cities, the dehumanizing aspects of our society and the dangers it faces. The time has come for us to confront our manifold enslavements. Otherwise, we miss the theme song of Passover.

The truth is civilized life will never be completely immune from the threats of individual and group slavery. We Jews know that only too well. In every age, there will be an attempt to develop a "youth culture" with peculiar cop-outs, but we are convinced that there will also be a youth deeply committed to the reform of society. There will be people who will know loneliness and emptiness. We will recognize their problems and try to give them meaning in life. In short, we have to understand man as he is. We need to reintroduce the theme of Passover for America and our world. What is it? It is that man is created in God's image. The mystery and joy and wonder in him come ultimately not from him alone but from a spirit beyond him. It is man's responsibility to develop a compassion for all people as an absolute essential in human politics.

Passover is a greening festival. It is a time of hope. It is a time to sing of freedom, a time to become more compassionate and loving. It is a time for each person to rid himself of the pollution of barbarism, inhumanity and slavery. Then "the redeemed will yet sing a new song."

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

As you know, last year thirty of us went on a two-week Purim Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I need not tell you about the wonderful time we had, the important people we met, and the interesting experiences we lived through. Ask any one of the thirty and you'll have difficulty in stopping them praise our trip.

I have received many phone calls asking if there would be another Purim trip this year. I would have very much liked to go this March especially since our Rabbinical Assembly Convention will be taking place in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, my calendar does not permit me to leave at that time. However, due to so many requests, if there be a demand, I would be happy to lead a tour in the summer.

Leading a congregational trip to Israel is no picnic! There are many details to arrange and a great deal of responsibility to bear. But because I feel it is a Mitzvah to be in Israel and to bring others there, I feel it is worth the effort. Therefore, I am requesting you to return to me the slip below as soon as possible so that I can know where we stand. This is not a commitment on your part but rather an expression of interest in the possibility of our forthcoming trip. If anything materializes, I shall let you know immediately.

It is too early to know the exact price for a two-week stay but it will be around \$800

per person, all inclusive deluxe accommodations (children - half price). Since it will be summer, I welcome teen-agers as well as entire families. This is an extraordinary opportunity for you all. Don't push it off. Visit Israel and see what it really means to be a Jew.

Sincerely,
Barry Dov Schwartz, Rabbi
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WHITNEY YOUNG TRIBUTE

NEW YORK--Paying tribute to Whitney M. Young, Jr., who died in Algeria on Thursday (March 11), a prominent Jewish leader has declared that Mr. Young "chose the way of persuasion, not confrontation; reason, not flamboyant rhetoric. He was interested in producing results for his people, not just publicity headlines."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the Inter-religious Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee, said: "All Americans, black and white have profound reason to mourn the tragic and untimely death of Whitney Young. The Jewish people have special reasons to feel a particular grief over his passing."

Whitney Young, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, "refused to allow the sweeping generalizations about anti-Semitism in the black community to be manipulated as a wedge to drive blacks and Jews apart...He deserved Judaism's highest tribute -- he was one of the righteous of the nations of the earth who has merited a place in the world to come."

The most meaningful tribute to Whitney Young, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, "will be for all of us, Jew and Christian, black and white, to rededicate ourselves to what he stood for -- a decent life without discrimination, with equality, for all people everywhere."

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Passover is Relevant

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

All you hear nowadays is that our traditions be made relevant.

Well, sir what could be more relevant than Passover?

Your most vigorous rebel couldn't be more iconoclastic than Moses was.

Up to the time of Moses it was taken for granted (or grunted) that it was all right for one man to enslave others, if he had the might and the means.

But Moses said "Oh Yeah!" to that proposition.

He broke the shackles of the Hebrew slaves. But, more than that, he broke the tabu placed on freedom before his day.

What we need today is not less of Moses, but more of him: more demands of modern Pharaohs to liberate those who are still unredeemed.

The unique Passover observance is in the home and around the table. It is the family gathering par excellence.

Is anyone going to contend that we don't need more family pow-wows? Is the link between parents and children something which we have outlived? Is the Seder irrelevant or passe? Hardly.

On Passover we eat unleavened bread and bitter herb? Why? to capture for a few moments at least the discomfiture of those who don't eat much more than that the year-round.

Is it out of order to tell people that they should empathize with the poor, the hungry and the disadvantaged? When will the battle against hunger and poverty make any real headway? Only when those with plenty can put themselves into the skins of those without enough to be comfortable.

Basic to the observance of Passover is Jewish dissatisfaction with strife and discord in human relationships. Like Lincoln, Moses was a man who yearned for peace and desired it all the more because he was compelled to be involved in conflict.

The observance of Passover must impel us to strive the harder to do what is in our power to reduce war in the world, and also in our private world. That is the ultimate relevance of this Festival of Freedom through Faith.



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