



JEWES AND JUDAISM
BY BARUCH LEVINGER
 RELIGIOUS EDITOR

Pesach Passover

15 Nisan - 22 Nisan. Song of Songs is read on the intermediate Shabbat; Hallel on first two days; Half Hallel on the other days; prayer of Tal said on second day (first day in Israel); Yizkor on last day.

As with all of the major festivals, Pesach has both agricultural and historical origins. Agriculturally there are two distinct roots, as

indicated by the two names for the holiday: Hag ha-Pesach -- Festival of of the Pascal Sacrifice, and Hag ha-Matzot -- Festival of Matzah. With regard to the first, it seems that early spring is the time when cows begin to calve. The pascal sacrifice was an offering of firstfruits, as it were, by the cattle-ranchers. The Festival of Marzah was a parallel offering of firstfruits by the farmers -- the grain offering.

Although redemption is the primary theme of the holiday, a secondary theme, paradoxically, is creation. Pesach is a New Year festival -- the new year that is signified by spring: rebirth and revival. According to the traditional counting of the months, Nisan is the first month of the Jewish calendar. Thematically this is borne out as well, this being the beginning of the agriculture cycle and also the period during which the people Israel (as a people) was created. A careful examination of the motifs of the exodus and creation stories will show striking paral-

els -- which lead to a comparison of the two primal events. This is certainly recognized by the tradition; for example, in Friday night -- the paradigmatic moment of creation -- the Kiddush refers both to the completion of creation and to the exodus from Egypt. (Try also playing with the ideas of movement from chaos to order, from potential to actual, from the womb to the open world, etc.)

Historically Pesach commemorates the exodus from Egypt and the release from slavery. The pascal sacrifice thus refers to the meal which God commanded the Israelites to eat the evening before, while the matzah refers to the type of bread which the Jews had to eat in their hasty flight from Egypt.

There is a powerful midrashic-Hasidi understanding of Pesach which has become almost normative. We are told each one of us is to regard himself as if he personally had gone out of Egypt.

CARTER SUGGESTED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

WASH. (WNS) -- Israeli Premier Menachem Begin proposed March 26 that President Carter receive the 1979 Nobel Prize and was seconded immediately by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Begin made the proposal at the dinner following the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. When the Israeli Premier, in his toast said he would nominate "Jimmy Carter as the candidate" he was interrupted by loud applause from the some 1500 guests at the dinner. "I did not say a candidate for what," Begin declared, and continued "as a candidate to receive the Nobel Prize in 1979." He then added "and please,

no sharing of the award."

Begin and Sadat shared the Peace Prize in 1978. When Begin finished speaking, Sadat, who had made his toast earlier, returned to the microphone and noted Begin and himself "seldom come in conformity" but "I am in full conformity" with the nomination of Carter as "the man of peace for 1979."

Carter responded that if the next nine months of negotiations are "completely harmonious" and meet "all the requirements" of the Camp David agreements "I might consider accepting their nomination. Otherwise, they have made their toasts in vain."

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APRIL SCHEDULE AT NER TAMID

APRIL 7, 10:00 A.M. BAR MITZVAH of Michael D. Reininger.

APRIL 7, 5:00 P.M. Caesar's Palace BAR MITZVAH of Michael Dantzig, son of Dr. and Mrs. Leon Dantzig. We extend our best wishes to Michael and the Dantzig family on the joyous occasion of their SIMHAH.

APRIL 11, Wednesday, 'EREV PESA, First Seder. We urge all members to conduct a home-SEDER and to invite friends to the SEDER-table. We have ample HAG-GADOT, and they are available upon request.

APRIL 12, Thursday, First Day of PESA, 10:00 A.M. First Day of PESA. In the evening, Second SEDER (Traditional).

APRIL 20, Friday, 'EREV SHABBAT, 8:00 P.M., BAR MITZVAH of Ian Goldstein.

APRIL 27, Friday, 'EREV SHABBAT, 8:00 P.M., BAR MITZVAH of Eddy Stofsky.

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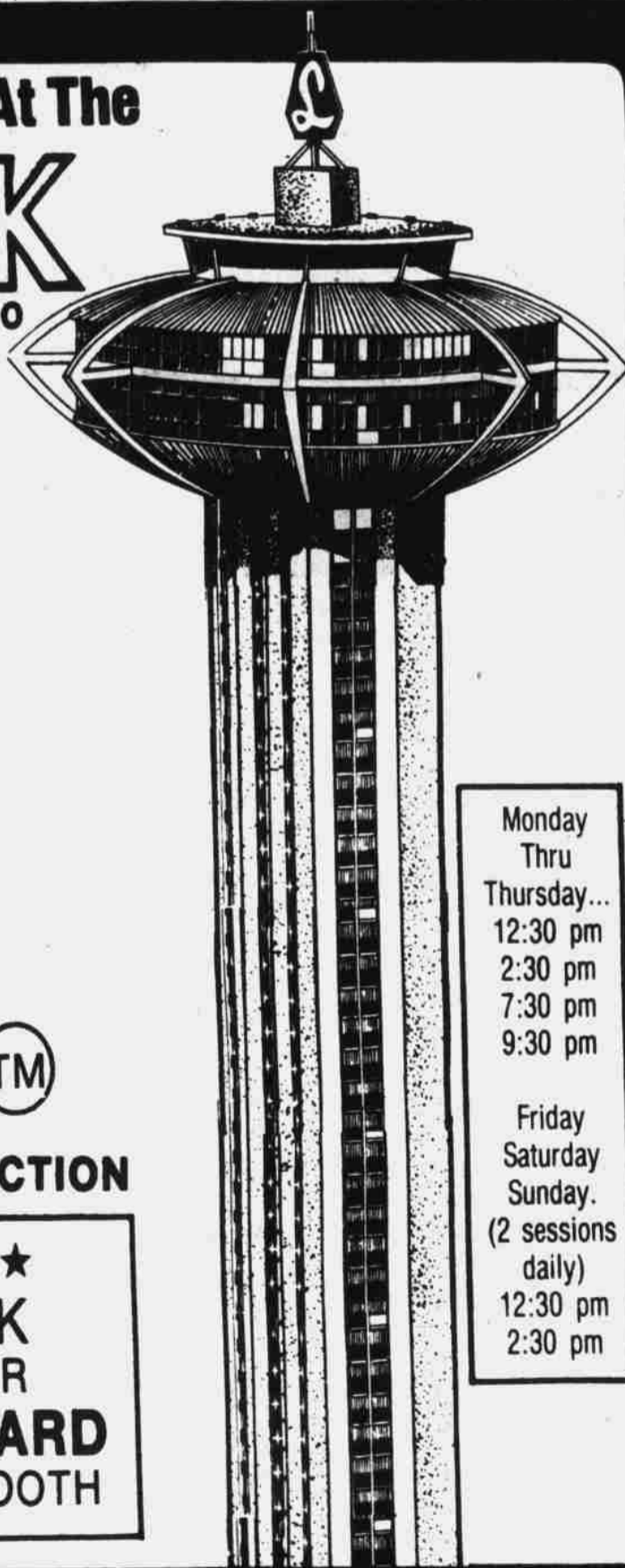
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Monday
 Thru
 Thursday...
 12:30 pm
 2:30 pm
 7:30 pm
 9:30 pm

Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday.
 (2 sessions
 daily)
 12:30 pm
 2:30 pm