

The traditional way to make a Seder

- 1 CANDLES** are lighted by the mother of the house to usher in the festival of Passover. The benediction which she pronounces over the candles gives a religious meaning to this simple act. An abundance of light symbolizes joy and festivity, and the soft candle-glow adds an aura of spirituality to the Seder table.
- 2 A CUP OF WINE** is placed at each table setting. The sanctification of the Holiday is pronounced over the first cup. Three additional cups are drunk during the course of the Seder, making a total of four, to symbolize the four expressions of the Lord's promise to redeem the children of Israel and deliver them from bondage.
- 3 THE HAGGADAH** (literally "the telling") contains the complete Seder ceremonies in their prescribed order (*sefer*). The first part of the book, concerned mainly with the story of the Jews' deliverance from Egypt, is read before the meal. After dinner follows the second portion consisting of prayers of praise and thanks to the Almighty.
- 4 MATZOH** represents the "bread of affliction" eaten by the Jews in Egypt, and also the bread that had to be baked during their hasty flight when there was no time for leavening. Three *matzot* are placed in the Seder tray. Half the middle *matzoh*, saved for the *Afikomon* (dessert), is playfully "stolen" by a child and ransomed for a prize.
- 5 THE Z'ROAH**, a roasted shank bone, is placed on the Seder tray. It represents the ancient sacrifice of the Paschal lamb (*Pesach*) which had to be eaten roasted. *Pesach*, the Hebrew name for Passover, also refers to the Lord's passing over (*posach*) the Jewish homes during the plague visited upon the Egyptian first-born.
- 6 THE BEITZAH**, a roasted egg placed left of the *Z'roah*, symbolizes the required offering brought on all festivals in the Temple. The egg, while not itself sacrificed, is used in the Seder as it is the Jewish symbol of mourning (in this case for the loss of the Temple where the sacrifices were brought).
- 7 THE MAROR** or "bitter herbs" (usually horseradish) is placed in the middle of the tray and symbolizes the Jews' bitter suffering under the Egyptian yoke. Directly below is the *Chazereth*, another piece of bitter herbs, commemorating the custom of eating *Maror* sandwiched between two pieces of *Matzoh*.
- 8 THE CHAROSET**, placed beneath the *Z'roah*, is a mixture of chopped apple, nuts, cinnamon, and wine designed to look like the mortar used by the Jews in building the palaces and pyramids of Egypt during centuries of forced labor. Before the *Maror* is eaten, it is dipped into the *Charoset*.
- 9 THE KARPAS**, a piece of parsley or lettuce placed to the left of the *Charoset*, symbolizes the meager diet of the Jews in Egyptian bondage. It is dipped into salt water in remembrance of the tears they shed in their misery. The *Karpas* also signifies Springtime, the season of Passover.
- 10 THE CUP OF ELIJAH**, filled with wine, is kept on the table throughout the Seder in the hope that the Prophet Elijah may appear as a messenger of the Almighty and announce the coming of the Messiah. Thus, in the midst of their memories of the past, the Jews look forward to the day of universal peace, love, and brotherhood.

For Aliyah Or Programs In Israel - Meet Gershon Stav



Gershon Stav with a group of Aliyah Activists in Los Angeles.

Gershon Stav was born in Libya in 1944 and made Aliyah with his family in 1949. He grew up in Jerusalem and studied mathematics and surveying in a high school for surveying. Later, Mr. Stav served in the army in the Nahal (Fighting Pioneer Youth) unit and in the Engineering Corps.

In 1969 he became the head of Betar, the Zionist Educational Youth Movement in Israel and organized units to construct many settlements in the Golan Heights, Judea and Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Then in 1972 he became the Executive Director of the World Betar Youth Movement working with new immigrants and developing programs for individuals and groups coming from all over the world to Israel.

In 1979 Mr. Stav founded the Jerusalem Heritage Center in the Old City which is until today one of the main resources of information for youth, soldiers, new immigrants and others desiring to learn about their Jewish roots in Jerusalem.

Today Mr. Stav is a shaliach for Aliyah and Betar stationed in Los Angeles, yet servicing also the areas of Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. He is married to Edit Stav and they have three children: Yariv, Moran and Roni.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Aliyah or programs to Israel, please feel free to call the Israel Aliyah Center in Los Angeles at (213) 655-7881 or Mimi Katz at the Jewish Federation in Las Vegas at (702) 732-0556.

Cranston Believes All Ethiopian Jews Are Now Out Of Sudan

NEW YORK (WNS) — Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) said he believes that all Ethiopian Jews previously stranded in the Sudan when Israel was forced to halt its rescue operation last January are now out of that country following the secret airlift of Ethiopian Jews, conducted by the United States, recently.

In a telephone interview from Washington, Cranston also disclosed details of his efforts last month which led to all 100 members of the Senate

signing a letter to President Reagan urging that the Administration seek permission from the Sudanese President Gafer al-Nimeiry, "for the immediate resumption of the airlift."

The letter noted Nimeiry's earlier comments in a New York Times interview in which he stated that the "Ethiopian Jews and all other refugees now living in the Sudanese camps were free to leave the country provided they did not go directly to Is-

rael."

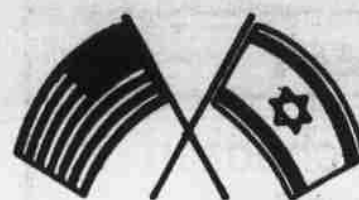
According to Cranston, the Administration's response to the letter was very positive. He received a telephone call from Reagan saying he shared the concern of the Senators on the deteriorating situation in the refugee camps, and later a telephone call from Vice President George Bush indicating his concern for the Ethiopian Jews.

Cranston said he was particularly seeking to draw the attention of Bush to the issue since Bush was scheduled to visit the Sudan in early March. "I figured that this was the time for a breakthrough," Cranston said.

It has been reported in several leading newspapers that Bush

successfully laid the groundwork for last week's airlift when he met with Nimeiry in Khartoum. The rescue mission is reported to have been conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency, along with the aid of the State Department and the U.S. Air Force.

Several hundred Jewish refugees were airlifted in a precise, three-hour operation that began in the early morning on an airstrip near the town of Gedaref, the Los Angeles Times correspondent, Charles Powers, reported.



The Season Of Our Freedom

By Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum

Friday, April 5th, the Jewish people begin the observance of Pesach, or Passover, the oldest and undoubtedly the most influential of the Jewish festivals. Known in Jewish tradition as Zman Cherutenu, the Season of our Freedom, Passover commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt.

The Exodus from Egypt was as much an act of liberation from intolerable spiritual bondage as it was redemption from physical slavery. In Egypt, the king was regarded as a god, a divine mediator, he was the source and master of the law, never its servant, and men and women were victims of his whims. The rejection of Egypt by Moses and the Israelites was thus a declaration of spiritual independence, and act of self-determination of a people seeking a life of human dignity and freedom to be themselves.

But Passover celebrates not only redemption as a past event, but through the Seder family ceremonials, it reenacts liberation as a present-day experience. That is why this Passover, the worsening plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and in Arab countries will be uppermost in the minds and hearts of Jewish families everywhere. When the words "Next Year in Jerusalem" are recited, Jews will be recommitting themselves to the renewed struggle for liberation and justice, until the Exodus of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews and that of all people who seek freedom and self-determination are realized everywhere.

Happy Passover

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