

**Passover Message**  
**By Gerald Kraft**  
**President, B'nai B'rith**  
**International - 1986**

The celebration of Passover, the holiday marking the escape from slavery to freedom of the Jewish people some 4,000 years ago, is a celebration of life and liberty, an expression of hope and a new beginning.

The story of Passover -- man's first successful rebellion against tyranny -- has inspired its readers through the ages. Time has not diminished its relevance. What the ancient Jews achieved then, oppressed peoples still seek. The realization that there can be no real life without freedom is manifested today in dozens of protests and uprisings around the globe.

Jews are usually prominent in support for the cause of the oppressed of all faiths, because we have known the bitter taste of freedom denied. We know it today as hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are denied permission to emigrate, denied the opportunity to learn Hebrew or study their culture, denied the rights and privileges of full Soviet citizenship.

Unhappily, bigots and tyrants still flourish. Indeed, each pressing day brings news of violence against peoples whose culture, or color, or religion sets them apart. Racial and religious hatreds divert our attention and sap our strength at a time when our energy and resources should be pitted against mankind's common enemies: famine, disease, ignorance and poverty.

The Passover story is the glorious tale of our people's liberation. But it is also a reminder that many still seek freedom in the contemporary world. Let those of us who are free to re-dedicate ourselves to helping others, still bound in servitude, win their freedom. And let Passover remind us that our own precious freedom, achieved through blood and sacrifice, must be guarded vigilantly, for it is a beacon to the world.

**Passover Message 5746**  
**Dr. Alfred Gottschalk,**  
**President, Hebrew Union**  
**College - Jewish**  
**Institute Of Religion**

This Passover, the Jewish world has witnessed the fulfillment of the age-old dream, "Next Year in Jerusalem" for Anatoly Shcharansky. His release from prison adds greater significance to the Festival of Freedom commemorating our ancestors' liberation from Egyptian bondage. However, we realize that for many Jews in foreign lands, freedom is still only a remote dream. It is not yet a reality.

Was Shcharansky's long-awaited redemption a harbinger that other dissidents and refusniks will be let go in the future? We hope so. Or was it a carefully contrived political maneuver as part of a spy exchange designed to placate government officials and pacify Jewish outrage over his seemingly endless imprisonment?

Whatever the underlying reasons that motivated Chairman Gorbachev, we are thankful for his initiative. Nevertheless, we must continue relentlessly to struggle for the uncontested rights denied Soviet Jewry to live as Jews freely and openly and, if they so choose, to leave Russia for the country of their choice. The fight against religious coercion and racial discrimination is a constant war to wage, notwithstanding the battle we have won with Shcharansky. The Pesach holiday reminds us that no one is truly free until all Jews everywhere are free.

Let us renew our dedication to the ideal expressed in the Haggadah, that "Justice and Right are better than conquest and dominion." May we see the day soon when those other Jews denied freedom will say together with us in free lands, "Yesterday we were enslaved, today we are free people!"

**B'nai B'rith Women**  
**National Biennial Convention**  
**In Las Vegas**



Members of B'nai B'rith Women flock around Susan Weidman Schneider, at left, author of "Jewish and Female," after her presentation on women taking their rightful place in the Jewish community. The workshop was part of B'nai B'rith Women's Biennial Convention in Las Vegas, recently.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Moshe Pearlman, a well-known author, founder and first director of the Israel Government Press Office, an early director of Israel Radio, and the first Israel Defense Force official spokesman, died April 5 at the age of 75. He was buried in Jerusalem.

NEW YORK (WNS) — The Australian Press Council has censored a Croatian weekly newspaper, Hrvolski Tjednik, for publishing an article that contains "wild and unsubstantiated" anti-Semitic statements. The Press Council, according to information made available here by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, acted on a complaint filed against the weekly by B'nai B'rith District 21 of Australia and New Zealand.

**Happy**  
**Passover**



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