

## Passover: Achieving Our Freedom

(Continued from page 25)

chairman interrupted him and said, "wrong. First you start with 3,000 years of education." In persecution there is slavery, but in education there is freedom.

The final side of the freedom triangle may be termed psychological. We live under the constant threat of a nuclear holocaust. We are paralyzed by an inability to handle social problems such as hunger, drugs and crime. Our own personal problems, such as hunger, drugs and crime. Our own personal problems, prejudices and hang-ups do not allow us to think clearly, much less find peace of mind.

Here, too, we must make every effort to free ourselves of our real fears and imaginary phobias. Admittedly, it is not easy, and there are no simple solutions, but we must not give up and we must not give in. Through negotiations, through thoughtful planning and experimentation, through therapy and proper guidance, we can make significant advances toward psychological freedom. If we are determined, it can be done.

This is exactly the point of Pesach. We became free Jews over a period of time, not in an instant. The Bible tells us there were moments of despair -- some of the wandering Hebrews even lost hope and gave up and wanted to return to slavery in Egypt -- but those who stuck with it, those who were determined, those who worked at it eventually became a free people.

Pesach teaches their legacy and in their ways can we find the promise and the joy of freedom. Even though the temptation to return to slavery is luring and beguiling, we must avoid the pitfall.

There is an episode that occurred shortly after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves. One day, a liberated slave met his former master in the

street.

The once-master asked, "Are you as well off as you were before you were free?" The former black slave admitted that his clothes were frayed, that the roof of his house leaked and that his meals were nothing like the food on the old plantation.

"Well," said the old master, "wouldn't you rather be a slave again?"

"No," was the firm reply. "There is a sort of looseness about this freedom that my family and I like."

Yes, to be free gives us a certain looseness -- the opportunity to choose, the chance to be ourselves, the pleasure of expanding our minds intellectually and our souls emotionally.

The pleasure of freedom is one of the great joys of being. That is why at the seder table we sing the song "Avadim hayinu atta bnai chorin" -- Once we were slaves, now we are free.

*(Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas serves Temple of Aaron Congregation, St. Paul, Minn., and is author of the trilogy "Heart of Wisdom.")*

1992 will mark the 500th anniversary of the welcoming of the Jews who fled the Inquisition, by Suleyman the Magnificent, Sultan of Turkey. In anticipation of this anniversary, Sephardic House, a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering Sephardic history and culture, has sponsored Jewish Heritage Tours to Turkey and the Greek Islands.

In 1988, Sephardic House is sponsoring the following tours:

13-day tours to Turkey,  
departing New York City July 10 and October 2;  
13-day air/sea cruise to Turkey and Greek Islands,  
departing New York City June 30

For further information and reservations, contact Mrs. Gladys S. Benbasat at Sephardic House Tours, 8 West 70th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023 (212) 873-0300.

# LETTERS

## "Orphan Train" Seeks Memorabilia

Dear Michael,

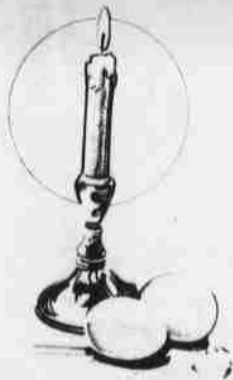
How did your readers come to Nevada? Was it by jet plane or air conditioned bus or car? Between 1854 and 1919 more than 150,000 orphaned, abandoned and homeless children were taken from institutions in New York City and transported to rural America. Along the way, at train stops, they were lined up on station platforms or in churches, schools or opera houses for observation by local residents who took some into their homes. Those not chosen were loaded back onto the train and headed to the next stop where the procedure was repeated until all were placed. 59 were left here in Nevada before Federal child welfare reform legislation halted the "Orphan Trains" forever.

Did you or someone you know come to Nevada on an Orphan Train? Do you have any information or pictures to share with The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America? OTHSA is a clearinghouse peopled by members and friends who volunteer their time in an effort to encourage communication between participants and descendants interested in that unique period in our history.

An OTHSA newsletter may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: OTHSA, Route 4, Box 565, Springdale, AR 72764. The local volunteer is Frankie Beth Williams who can be reached at 382-1984

Thank you,  
Frankie Beth Williams  
5166 Stampa Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nv 89102  
Phone 382-1984 or 876-3568

## Best Wishes

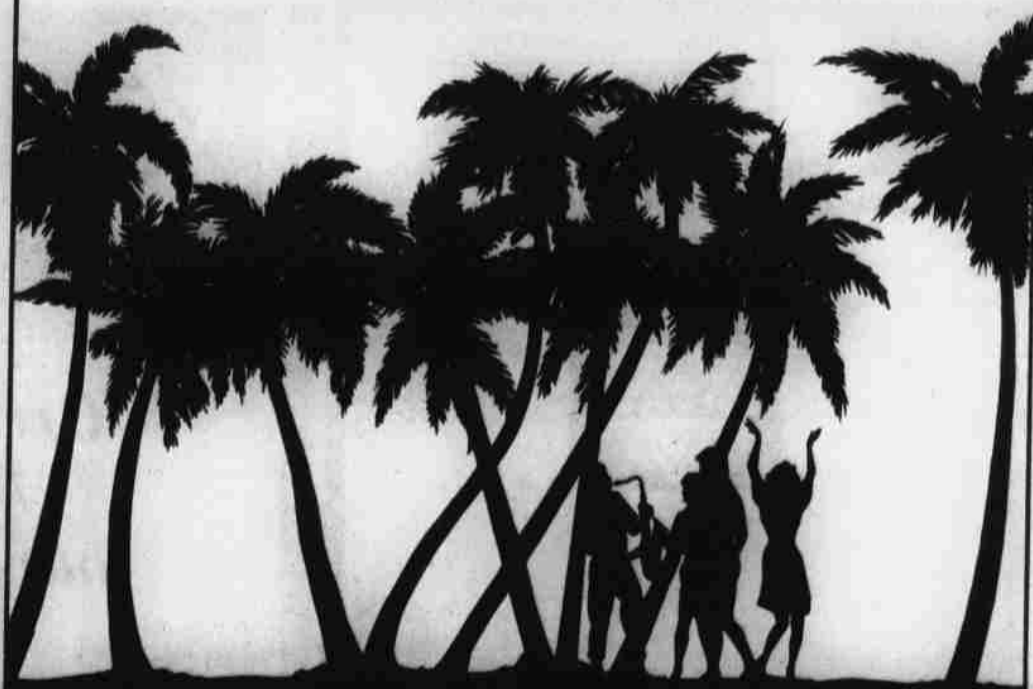


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# Happy Passover.



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