

The Good Earth

By Bea Freiheiter

I've heard of people dishing the dirt, and some who get down right dirty.
 There are those won't touch the stuff, because they are hoity-toity.
 Some work with dirt all day long,
 Making homes to keep people warm.
 As for me, the good earth is here for a reason,
 To enjoy what grows each and every season.
 It's beautiful to observe things have a life of their own,
 From seeds that were lovingly planted and sown.
 So thank you for the good green earth, It is a wonderful present.
 Like manna that fell from the sky, to reach us all from heaven.

VS.

Allergies

By Bea Freiheiter

Allergies are awful. They make you feel sick.
 Watery eyes, running nose, and congestion that is thick.
 Scratchy throat, raspy voice and a head that is dizzy,
 It affects your whole being, and puts you in a tizzy!
 Cheer up, in time this will pass,
 And you will be free from allergies at last.
 Go out, have fun, allergies be gone!
 Until the same time next year, when we sing this same old song!



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 24th - It's almost that time again, Western Day! Mark the date on your calendar, tell your family and friends, Lester will be having its 6th annual Western Day Barbeque. We will have great food, music, games and horses to ride - a day for the whole *mishpachah!*

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Did You Know?

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the world's largest matzah ball was unveiled in Tucson, Arizona, in 2010. Weighing in at 488 pounds, this giant matzah ball was made from more than 1,000 eggs and 125 pounds of matzah meal!

The Lester Chronicle

April 2012

The Exodus Effect

The impact of Judaism's transformative event is felt by the other monotheistic religions

*Written by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, originally published in **The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays***

The Exodus not only formed the people of Israel into a nation, it also shaped the Jewish people's image of God as the God of History. Over and over in Jewish liturgy, reference is made to the Exodus from Egypt and to "God who has brought us from the house of bondage".

Periodically, scholars survey historians' opinions as to what is the most influential event of all time. In recent decades, the Industrial Revolution has often appeared at the top of the list. For the politically oriented, not uncommonly the French Revolution wins; for Marxists, the Russian Revolution. Christians often point to the life and death of Jesus as the single most important event of history. For Muslims, Mohammed's revelations and his hegira [exile, 622 CE] have a similar transcendental authority.

Yet when Jews observe Passover, they are commemorating what is arguably the most important event of all time--the Exodus from Egypt. If for no other reason than the fact that the Exodus directly or indirectly generated many of the important events cited by other groups, this is the event of human history.

That it was a Jewish event is an eloquent tribute to the extraordinary role the Jewish people--so minute a fragment of the human race--have played in human history.

The Exodus transformed the Jewish people and their ethic. The Ten Commandments open with the words, "I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Having no other God means giving no absolute status to other forms of divinity or to any human value that demands absolute commitment. Neither money nor power, neither economic nor political system has the right to demand absolute loyalty. All human claims are relative in the presence of God. This is the key to democracy.

Exodus morality meant giving justice to the weak

and the poor. Honest weights and measures, interest-free loans to the poor, leaving part of the crops in the field for the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, treating the alien stranger as a native citizen--these are all applications of the Exodus principle to living in this world.

Thus, the Exodus, as articulated at Sinai, transformed the Jewish people and their religious ethical system. Inasmuch as Christianity and Islam adopted the Exodus at their core, almost half the world is profoundly shaped by the aftereffects of the Exodus event.

In modern times, the image of redemption has proven to be the most powerful of all. The rise of productivity and affluence has heightened expectations of the better life. Widely disseminated scientific ideas and conceptions of human freedom carry the same message: do not accept disadvantage or suffering as your fate; rather, let the world be transformed! These factors come together in a secular concept of redemption. By now, humans are so suffused with the vision of their own right to improvement that any revolutionary spark sets off huge conflagrations. In a way, humane socialism is a secularized version of the Exodus' final triumph. The liberator is dialectical materialism, and the slaves are the proletariat--but the model and the end goal are the same. Indeed, directly revived images of the Exodus play as powerful a role as Marxism does in the worldwide revolutionary expectations. In South America, the theology of liberation directly touches the hundreds of millions who strive to overcome their poverty.

Exodus is not some ancient event, however important, it is the ever-recurring redemption. It is the event from ancient times that is occurring tonight; it is the past and future redemption of humanity. The Exodus is the most influential historical event of all time because it did not happen once but recurs whenever people open up and enter into the event.





BIRTHDAYS

- Sondra Eider
- Elsie Shapiro
- Stella Deutsch
- Arline Frankel
- Isabel Meyer
- Dorothy Freedman
- Shirley Saland
- Bernie Zurkoff
- Marci Liebling
- Ruben Parks
- Herman Pineles
- Carol Berman
- Charlie Skupp

To all of our residents who are celebrating their birthdays this month we would like to wish you peace and blessings, this year and always from the staff at Lester.



Did You Know?

During the Civil War, despite the divide, Union and Confederate Jews bonded together during Passover, even inviting their adversaries to family Seders.

Administrator's Corner

April 2012

Spring is officially here and as I write this article, preparations for Pesach are in full swing. The kitchen is undergoing a very meticulous cleaning and the Passover dishes and supplies are being readied for unpacking in the soon-to-be kosher-for-Pesach kitchen.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Pesach schedule. As in previous years, the Lester dining team will be offering the Pesach seder both nights of Pesach. A regular dinner will be served at 5:00PM, however, those attending the seder should not attend the 5PM dinner. During the Pesach holiday the Administration office will be closed, therefore any urgent items requiring attention should be directed to the Concierge.

This past month we had a well-attended 'Planned Giving Seminar' focused on estate and tax planning as well as how charitable giving can help with your estate planning. Extra handouts from this presentation were placed in the Heller mail room for your reference. Any questions about the seminar can be directed to Harold Colton-Max, CEO of the JCHC. Harold can be reached by phone at (973) 530-3961.

We have a number of exciting programs planned in April. On the 16th we will be celebrating National Healthcare

Decision Day and will offer a panel of speakers who will discuss the importance of advance directives and end-of-life choices. On the 17th, we will have a special memorial service for Yom HaShoah. On the 22nd J-Serve will have volunteers visiting for a Karaoke Café and will have a special environmental program in celebration of Arbor Day. The J-Serve programs have always been a big hit in the past, so I encourage you to join in on the fun. On the 25th we will be observing Israel's Remembrance Day and on the 26th we will celebrate Israel's Independence Day. Please be sure to review the enclosed calendar for a full listing of all there is to do throughout the month. I hope you'll take advantage of these many program offerings and participate as you see fit.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, compliments and/or concerns. I can be reached at 973-929-2747. You should also feel free to stop by the Administration offices if you would like to meet with me.

See you around the halls,
Alex Gross
Administrator

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 20th - Lester Senior Housing will be having an Arts Festival, highlighting works by our residents in Arts! By the People classes. The event will include a fine arts, photography, and crafting exhibit as well as poetry readings, a theatrical performance, a debut of the resident choreographed dance, Hip Hop and more!

Mark your calendars, tell your friends and family, join in the celebration of the talent in our community.



New Resident Welcomes

Marilyn Diamond	Apt. 5-A
Muriel Zyto	Apt. 4-C
Pnina Brecher	Apt. 4-K
Geraldine Sivak	Apt. 315
Shirley Notkin	Apt. 317
Bernice Bornstein	Apt. 113

To all of Lester's new residents we would like to wish you a warm welcome, and *Bruchim Ha Ba'im*.

Lester Congregation

Life Cycle Kiddush

will be on Saturday, April 7th
&
Saturday, April 21st

Kiddushim will be immediately following Shabbat morning services

If you have not already filled out a Yartzeit information form, please contact Estelle Berger, Rae Benet, or Dr. Mervin Eisenberg (for Heller residents), or Bea Freiteiter, Teddy Halpern or Helen Heller (for Weston residents).

Thank you



A special Thank you to all of the Lester Congregation volunteers for the wonderful Mishloach Manot! They worked diligently to put together Purim goody bags for every resident of the Lester Senior Housing Community! We all appreciate your efforts to make our Purim a special and delicious one!



JCHC Tribute Cards are now available!

Send cards to family and friends and support the JCHC
Get Well cards /Mazel Tov cards
In Memoriam cards/Blank cards
Cards can be purchased at the Business office or call Marcia at (973) 530-3966



Grocery Shopping Services

Along with JCHC providing weekly shopping trips, let your fingers do the shopping! Below is a list of local options for home delivery of groceries.

Shoprite.com

Delivers to Whippany from the Parsippany Store
No group rates
Delivery fee: \$6.95
Shopping fee: \$10

Peapod.com

Shopping fee: under \$100 is \$9.95
Minimum order: \$60

