

The IGGy POST

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April 2002

Volume 6

Remembering Passover in a Modern Way

by Melissa Kerl, Social Action VP

As we remember slavery at our Seder tables, we cannot ignore the fact that slavery is not just a part of our history and religious imagination. It is a reality for perhaps 27 million people around the world. As part of the Jewish community, we have an obligation to remember our own slavery in Egypt by caring for the strangers among us.

The holiday of Passover commemorates the freeing of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. "In every generation, each person must see ourselves as if we personally went out of Egypt," says the Passover Haggadah. The Torah tells us 36 times to make sure that others do not suffer oppression.

Thousands of people around the world are in prison because of their political or religious beliefs. Many are held without charge or trial. The use of torture and the death penalty is widespread. In many countries, men, women and children have disappeared after being taken into official custody. Others have been killed without any pretense of legality. These human rights violations occur in countries of widely differing beliefs.

The Seder, with its emphasis on oppression and freedom, is a perfect

place to address current human rights concerns. We can understand the Passover story in a modern way by connecting what we know about what happened over three thousand years ago with today's world.

Here is a suggestion for incorporating human rights concerns into your Seder: There is a tradition to include an extra chair and place setting at the Seder table. This spot is set aside for those men and women and children who are not free and are therefore unable to share in celebration with their families and friends at this time of year. It our sincere hope that no seat shall have to remain unfilled at our Seder next year.

The three steps for immediate action are: educating yourself, speaking out, and donating. For more ideas or information on ways you can make a difference, visit <www.iabolish.com>.

"Whoever saves a single life saves the world entire entire." Talmud

Editors Note: I would personally like to thank Melissa Kerl for this thought provoking and informative article.....
Yasher Koach, Melissa!



CALLING ALL ICETYers

HOLD THE DATE

JUNE 8, 2002

7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

@ the Temple

"GRADUATION GYRATION"

ICETY's FIRST
SUBREGIONAL DANCE

ICETY Board of 2001-2002

President	Lesli Brass
Programming VP	Michelle Spalter
Social Action VP	Melissa Kerl
Religious/Cultural VP	Marie Handl
Membership VP	Sara Locketz
Treasurer	Eric Van Raalte
Secretary	Paul Gayron
Historian	Sammi Jass
10 th Grade Rep	Rachel Weitzman
9 th Grade Rep	Rachael Thall

GESHER Board of 2001-2002

President	Aimee Gruber
Programming VP	Jared Brass
Religious VP	Bethany Spielberg
Secretary	Emily Wiener
Treasurer	Josh Jacobson
Historian	Rachel Marks
6th Grade Reps	Lauren Spalter & Jason Thall
Youth Advisor	Rachael Wager- Lacross

ICETY: 9TH- 12TH GRADES
GESHER: 6TH - 8TH GRADES
GARIN: 3RD - 5TH GRADES

If you are interested in joining, please contact Rachael Wager-LaCross, or the Temple office.

LESTER'S LETTER

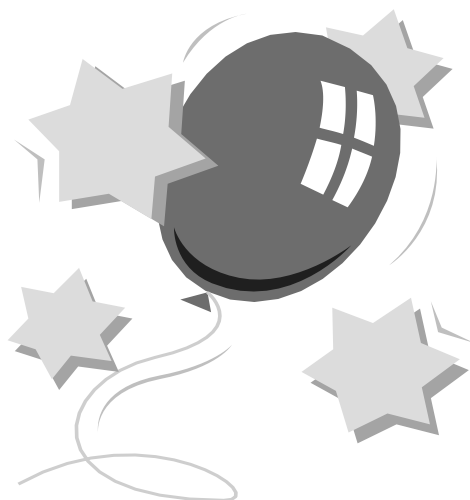
Shalom,

As you all know, this is your great and wonderful ICETY President Lesli "Lester" Brass, not to sound conceited. I will make this short and sweet...like me! :-)

We have had a really great past few months, with the Purim Play that I hope all of you saw. Our very fun and never forgettable Surprise Event at the Irvine Spectrum.

To add to that small but great list, we also have a few really cool events coming up...Cosmic Bowling on April 27th, Next Years ICETY Board Election on May 11th, and then our Graduation Gyration "Surfing" End of the Year Sub-regional Dance on June 8th! Then in the summer we will be having some really awesome events, so stay tuned to....ME!

B'Shalom my fellow TBT/AA'ers
Lesli "Lester" Brass



Tidbits From Rachael

by Rachael Wager-LaCross
Youth Director/Advisor

As the boards of ICETY and Gesher begin their last leg of their journey this year, they are planning the "bridging" events for the 5th graders into Gesher and the 8th graders into ICETY. If you are either a paid 5th or 8th grader of your respective youth group, please watch for details concerning your "bridging" events. Once you have been "bridged", you will be able to attend all future events. That means, for the rest of the year, you will hold dual membership in two youth groups. The only draw back is that the 8th graders will not be eligible for NFTY events, as their dues will not have been paid for this year.

Elections for ICETY will be on May 11, 2002, with a surprise event. Gesher's is still in the planning phase, so watch for details. However, if you are interested in running for a position next year, remember you must submit a "Letter of Intent" to me, there will be forms posted at the Youth Bulletin Board.

We have a new youth lounge. We will be sharing the "chapel" with ECLC. Our first event in our new home will be on April 12, 2002 after services. At that time ICETY will be hosting Joel Grishaver for a fun filled discussion. Joel is one of the most well known family educators in the United States. He comes to us as a Scholar-in-Residence again this year. This is the second Friday night of the month. Please join us for services and then an El Pollo Loco dinner downstairs (cost to you \$5), and then an inspiring time with

Joel. This is open to 8th Graders too. Make sure you don't miss it.



"Notes from the 9th Grade Rep"

Hey everyone!! The ICETY board is working very hard to plan some way cool events for all you ICETYites out there, so start marking your calendars NOW!!!!

Coming up on June 8th, (yes, I know that's ways off, but hey, you can't say we didn't warn you!) we have our first annual "Graduation Gyration" dance. The theme this year is surfing, so pull out your Hawaiian shirts and join the fun!! We will be having a professional DJ join us for this fun-filled evening, and other NFTY chapters will also be joining us! So mark your calendars now, June 8th, 7:30-10:30pm, and join in on the fun!!

Prior to the start of our very first annual "Graduation Gyration" dance, ICETY will be having dinner together, and we will also install the new board members for the year 2002-2003!

If you need or want any more information, give a ring-a-ling to Rachael "Bob" Thall, Michelle "Flaca" Spalter, or Lesli "Lester" Brass.

See you there!!!
Love and kosher bacon,
Rachael "Bob" Thall

P.S.: A note from Webster's:
Gyration: n. The act of gyrating; Circular or spiral motion.

**IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE
TO PAY YOUR DUES**

Join

**GARIN, or
GESHER or
ICETY**

AND DON'T MISS OUT

**A FULL LIST OF
ALL UPCOMING EVENTS**

APRIL

Flyers With Further Information Will Be Distributed At Temple and Thru School

GARIN:

April 14 Nickel, Nickel in Anaheim Hills
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
\$8 paid members, \$13 non-paid
members, RSVP Ben LaCross

June 9 Temple Annual Picnic

GESHER:

April 14 Nickel, Nickel in Anaheim Hills
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
\$8 paid members, \$13 non-paid
members, RSVP to Jared Brass

May 4 Lag B'Omer in the Park –
5th Grade Bridging
Right after Religious School.
RSVP to Jason Thall

June 9 Temple Annual Picnic

ICETY:

April 12 ICETY Hosts an Evening with
Joel Grishaver at the Temple
\$5 for dinner, Must RSVP to Lesli Brass,
Open to 8th Graders and Up

April 14 Nickel, Nickel - see above for
details

April 27 NFTY Regional Elections @
Leo Beck Temple in Los Angeles

April 27 Cosmic Bowling at Cal State
Fullerton, RSVP to Eric Van Raalte
This is a must RSVP Event, as space is
limited!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

May 11 ICETY Elections and Event

May 25 NFTY Spring Conclave in Santa
Barbara

June 8 ICETY Installations and Dinner

June 8 ICETY "Graduation Gyration"
sub-regional dance
7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Temple

June 9 Temple Annual Picnic

**WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING A
COUPLE OF EVENTS FOR THE
SUMMER, BESIDES
PLANNING "FIX-IT" DAYS IN THE
YOUTH LOUNGE. IF YOU HAVE ANY
IDEAS OR WOULD LIKE TO HELP,
PLEASE CONTACT RACHAEL
WAGER-LACROSS OR LESLI BRASS**

* Indicates tentative information posted
and to watch for further information.