

From The Desk Of Rabbi Noah Gradofsky

Temple Israel of Long Beach
305 Riverside Boulevard
Long Beach, NY 11561
(516) 432-1410
Fax: (516) 432-8371
RabbiNoahG@Templeisraeloflb.org

MA'OT CHITTIM PASSOVER 5770/2010

Dear Temple Israel Family:

Passover is an expensive holiday. There's four cups of wine, matzah, and kosher for Passover food for eight days. Needless to say, this holiday can strain the budget of those who are less fortunate. Providing for such peoples' needs has always been a priority in Jewish law. In fact, the chapter of Mishnah which deals with the *seder* night, starts off by telling us that a poor person must enjoy some of the luxuries of the *seder*, and that the community's charitable funds should be used to make sure a poor person has four cups of wine. For this reason *ma'ot chittim* (literally "Flour Money") is one of the most important and longstanding customs of Passover.

Temple Israel maintains a charity/rabbi's discretionary account which has been used in the past to perform many wonderful *mitzvot*, including *ma'ot chittim*. With our resources, we have been able to support many great causes, including helping victims of natural disasters (Katrina, tsunami), and charitable organizations such as *Magen David Adom*. We also have been able to support some of the needy in the Long Beach community. **This year, a portion of our ma'ot chittim drive will go to Hazon Yeshaya, which** provides life-saving meals to thousands of Israel's neediest adults and children, 365 days a year.

At this time, I am asking for you to support this fund and to help demonstrate Temple Israel's dedication to charitable work. Please send your generous donation to Temple Israel, made payable to "Temple Israel Rabbi's Discretionary Fund."

PLEASE REMEMBER: YOUR CHARITY IS NEEDED MOST WHEN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IS THE WORST. PLEASE HELP AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

I wish you all a very happy Passover, and hope that we can count on your support in order to help others have the same.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Noah Gradofsky
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