

LET ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY EAT

Rabbi Elliot Skiddell
Congregation Beth Emeth

The festive meal of Passover, the *Seder*, opens with a stirring call to social and community responsibility. As we gaze at the table laden with special holiday foods we cry out, “Let all who are hungry come and eat!” This is more than just the proverbial dinner bell calling us to gather around the table and enjoy the bounty of freedom. These words are a reminder that we have a responsibility to share our good fortune and to make sure that hunger will not afflict anyone in our community. We remember a time in the history of the People of Israel when we suffered from hunger, from degradation and from slavery. We not only remember that we were strangers in a strange land, we are inspired by the memory of our affliction to act to feed the hungry and provide shelter to the homeless. Our society is experiencing a financial and social upheaval unparalleled in recent memory, but if we work together to get through these difficult days we will emerge stronger. The Israelites, even in the darkest days of deprivation and enslavement, never gave up hope for a better future. When the opportunity came to join together to create that future they seized the moment and made it happen. People of good will are working together now to shape a better future for all. Individuals are reaching out to neighbors and friends to lend a helping hand, cook a meal, share job leads or just to talk. Community organizations are marshaling resources to create job banks, provide counseling and provide assistance to those who are most impacted by the economic downturn. UJA Federation of New York, for example, is establishing “Connect to Care” resource centers in Long Island, as well as Westchester and New York City, to reach out to the community. To offer help or get more information you can call the UJA’s Resource Line at 800.UJA.FED7 (800.852.3337), resourceline@ujafedny.org. Passover is a time for family and friends to gather and be reminded that no single individual can solve all the problems facing our society, but that by joining together we can begin the task.

Congregation Beth Emeth invites you to purchase tickets for our Mini-Cooper Car Raffle. Only 500 tickets are being sold. Each ticket is only \$100. The drawing will be held Saturday evening May 2 during our Evening of Festivities. Winner need not be present to win. For more information call 374-9220, come by the synagogue office or go to our updated website: www.rcbe.org Have a question for Rabbi Skiddell or an issue you would like to have discussed? Please be in touch at rabbi@rcbe.org

Friday Evening Services at Congregation Beth Emeth, located at 36 Franklin Ave. in Hewlett, begin at 8:00 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM