



WHAT'S COOKING AT YOUR HOUSE?

The Jewish holidays present an excellent opportunity for Gentile Christians to express genuine interest in their Jewish friends by requesting information about how they observe these special times in their particular homes, including family customs and traditions, foods, and activities. A simple comment like,

"I understand this week is Passover and I'm really interested to know how your family will be celebrating it,"

can open the door for extensive interaction and reveal a great deal about the individual's perspective on religious matters, since all of the major Jewish holidays are based either on Biblical commandment (Passover, Shavuot [Weeks], Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot [Tabernacles]) or Biblical history (Hanukkah and Purim). Don't be surprised to find yourself the recipient of an invitation to join a Jewish family for a Seder (Passover Meal) or Purim Party and, by all means, do attend!

Most calendars indicate the dates of the major Jewish holidays. If yours does not, drop us a line and we'll be happy to tell you the dates for the next year.

ON FAMILIAR TERMS

A glossary of terms commonly occurring in conversation with, or reading about, Jewish people, but not widely understood by non-Jews, presented on an installment basis.

CHASIDIM

(pronounced kah-sid-deëm)

Members of any of a number of Ultra-Orthodox sects of Judaism characterized by meticulous observance of Jewish law, distinctive dress and appearance, and resistance to modern customs. The Chasidim represent a very small portion of the total Jewish population.

GOYIM

(pronounced gòy-yim)

The Hebrew word commonly translated, "nations," throughout the Old Testament, but taken to refer to any group of non-Jewish people. It is, therefore, a synonym to "Gentiles." The singular (one Gentile) is "Goy."

KETUBBAH

(pronounced ki-toò-bah)

The marriage contract prepared as a legal document and handed to the bride during the wedding ceremony. Ketubbot (plural of ketubbah) are often lavishly decorated and exemplify the

beautiful art of calligraphy. They are prized possessions in many Jewish homes.

KIDDUSH

(pronounced kid-doòsh)

A prayer recited at the table on Sabbaths and festivals in a Jewish home, usually over a cup of wine, to consecrate the day. Special goblets reserved for this use (Kiddush cups) are artfully designed and contain the inscription, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8)

SHOFAR

(pronounced shòw-fahr)

The ram's horn which was blown as a trumpet to announce special times of convocation in ancient Israel. It is used in the synagogue in modern times particularly during the Ten Days of Awe, the period beginning with Rosh Hashanah and concluding with Yom Kippur.

JEWISH POPULATION CENTERS

Six of the top ten cities, in terms of the number of Jewish people living there, are in the United States.

Greater New York City	1,450,000
Los Angeles	490,000
Paris	350,000
Philadelphia	254,000
Greater Chicago	248,000
Boston	208,000
London	200,000
Moscow	200,000

Buenos Aires 200,000

Miami 189,000

(From *The Jerusalem Report*, May 4, 1995)

THE JEWISH HALL OF FAME

To anyone interested in the Jewish people—their history, culture, and religious perspective—certain names should be familiar. Following is the beginning of a "Who's Who" among prominent Jewish men and women which will be continued in subsequent issues of *Heart's Desire*.

David Ben-Gurion - The first prime minister of the State of Israel who served in that post until the early 1960's. Israel's main commercial airport, located near Tel Aviv, is named in his honor.

Theodor Herzl - A Jewish journalist from Vienna, Austria whose writing and influence provided the foundation and impetus of the modern Zionist Movement (The belief that Jews scattered throughout the world should have their own country, resulting in creation of the State of Israel in 1948).

Hillel - One of Judaism's best-known and most-beloved rabbinical leaders who lived 70 B.C. - A.D.10 and whose teaching and writing on Jewish law feature prominently in the Talmud.

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