

President's Message April 2004

For those of you who were fortunate enough to attend Aaron Goldner's Bar Mitzvah this past week, you got to hear one of the best sermons I have ever heard from Rabbi Lewis.

It concerned a boastful man who was trying his best to impress King Solomon. The king gave him an impossible task to fulfill, to find a ring that would make a happy man sad and a sad man happy. The man at the last minute was able to find a ring that a local artisan made for him that said, "This too shall pass." Solomon was astonished because he believed that the man had found a correct answer and rewarded him highly. The message I get from this story is very similar to advice that my father gave to me many years ago, which was to remain on an even keel (even though I never saw my dad on a sailboat).

We all have times of trouble in our lives and we hopefully have times of joy as well. Try to remember that when things are not going well, "this too shall pass," and that your troubles won't be there forever. And when things are going well, these feelings are also fleeting.

My hopes for all of you this month are that when you are sad, look to your friends and your community to help share your burden. And when things are going well for you, be there for the people who need you.

Wishing you a happy Passover.

Shalom
Howie Hirsch