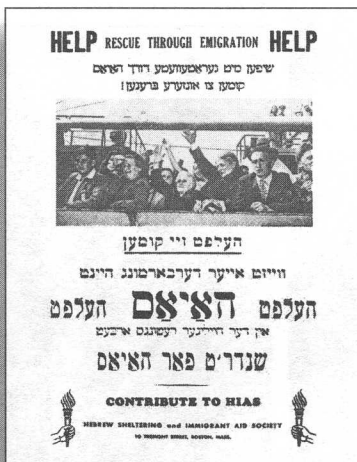


The Passover story continues to provide a model for responding to tyranny. Under the Communist regime of the former Soviet Union, hundreds of thousands of Jews lived in poverty and oppression. The Jewish communities of Israel and North America worked in partnership to free them and bring them to safety. This poster was used to help organize the New York Jewish community's participation in Solidarity Sunday in 1979.



A 1944 poster to raise funds for European Jews desperate to escape the Holocaust

PHARAOH: ARCH-TYRANT

The Pharaoh we read about in the Exodus story is a tyrant who is anchored to a specific time, place, and set of events. But the Pharaoh our ancestors pictured each year, century after century, as they read the Haggadah was more than one person. Pharaoh was for them symbolic of all the cruel and heartless tyrants who had enslaved others, represented themselves as gods, or forced their wills on those they ruled.

And that is why the story of Passover is more than just the story of the emancipation the Israelites won from Pharaoh. It is the story of the emancipation the peoples of the world have won from tyrants and oppressors throughout the ages and across the globe. The first emancipation was thus only a foreshadowing of all the emancipations that were to follow and that will yet follow in the days to come. The victory over the first Pharaoh reminds us that the time will come when all the Pharaohs of the world will be vanquished, when God alone will rule over humanity, and all peoples will live in peace.