

## HOLY WEEK

continued from page 1

hungry. Whenever I get that pang of hunger, I can remember that my Savior died on a cross for me."

For Cox, being in college has enriched her observances of Holy Week.

"I've done more than I used to because there is more available," she said. "At PALM, there is something to do almost every day during Holy Week. My home church did some special things, but mainly just Palm Sunday and Easter services."

This week also signifies the start of the Passover celebration for the Jewish faith. Passover is an ancient religious tradition that celebrates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. The celebration begins at sundown on Thursday and continues for seven days in Reform Judaism and eight days in the Orthodox and Conservative traditions.

"The first day of the celebration characterizes the Seder, which is a ritual meal that consists of the telling of the story of God's deliverance of the Israelites," Rabbi Sanford Marcus said.

During the Seder, those present take turns reading from a booklet, Haggadah. On the Seder plate there are certain symbols that remind the Jewish people about their faith and heritage. Among the items on the Seder are unleavened bread-Matzah, bitter herbs and a roasted shank bone of a lamb.

Marcus said the symbols remind Jews of the bitterness of slavery, the greatness of God and of the approaching spring season.

For Jewish people, celebration of the Seder traditionally takes place in the house. Since it isn't always feasible for students and other Jews to celebrate the Seder in their homes, local synagogues are also offering services.

Marcus said Jewish people are "charged" to open their homes to anyone during the celebration of the Seder. There are some in Columbia doing just that by opening their homes to Jewish students from USC during Passover. These homes allow the students to "link up with home hospitality for the holiday."

"Passover reminds us of sharing our bounty with others," Marcus said. "One way of doing that is to invite strangers in. Others bring gifts to people who are ill, or shut in."

For the Jewish people, the acts involved in celebrating Passover are tied to a song sung during Passover; "let all who are hungry come and eat." Passover is also a time of deep spiritual reflection for Jewish people.

"It reminds us that God delivered the Israelites and his continued goodness keeps us alive and sustains us," Marcus said.

## INTERNATIONAL continued from page 1

interested as part of the week's celebrations. During the dinner, the international students will prepare foods from their native countries to teach others about their culture.

"Food is a common theme (among all students), and it's an expression of the (international students') cultures. Food is something they take with them," Emmert said.

The 1996 International Festival on Thursday will mark the high point of the week's festivities. The International Festival will take place on Greene Street

and is being sponsored by the International Programs for Students office.

Arthur said over 40 different study abroad organizations will be present at the festival. Students attending the festival will also be able to sample foods and the culture from countries around the world.

Through the festival, the office hopes to showcase some of the diversity at USC.

"People often don't realize there is such diversity on campus," Arthur said. "This is an opportunity for the international students to educate and share their culture with others."

Arthur said International Week is one way American students can learn more about international students' cultures and countries.

American students can help international students in their transition to American life by befriending them.

"Americans can take a little more initiative," Arthur said. When first meeting one another, "international students don't know what to say; they expect the Americans to make introductions."

Many of the international students on campus are involved in a variety of

activities as they try to experience everything they can about the American culture. However, the international students also enjoy talking about their own culture and heritages.

"They love it when Americans are interested in their culture," Emmert said. "When you go to an international student's room, you go to talk, not to watch television."

Emmert said one can learn what the rest of the world has to offer by talking with international students.

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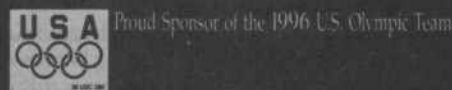


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