

- 29, 9 a.m.-noon, Tri-Lakes Senior Center located on Lewis-Palmer High School campus. Learn about senior nutrition, Silver Key SOS programs and services, fire preparedness, and more. Snacks provided. See the registration form in this month's Senior Beat, last page. Info: Sue Walker, 464-6873, admin@TriLakes-Seniors.org.
- **Bill Anderson Concert at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts**, Fri., **Sep. 29**, 7 p.m., doors open 6:15 p.m., 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake. Tickets & Info: 481-0475, www.trilakesarts.org.
  - **Creek Week Community Clean-Up**, Sat., **Sep. 30**, 9 a.m., Third Street Trailhead (behind JJ Tracks). All are welcome; get your team or some friends together to form a Creek Crew. Register at www.fountaincreekweek.com, choose Public Events, then site #404. Info: Madeline VanDenHoek, 884-8013, mvandenhoek@tomsgov.com.
  - **Bethesda Gardens Community Open House**, Sat., **Sep. 30**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 55 Beacon Lite Rd., Monument. Explore the new, amenity-rich community for seniors. See ad on page 15. Info: 866-958-8771, bethesdagardensmonument.com.
  - **Rocky Mountain Music Alliance Concert**, Sat., **Sep. 30**, 7 p.m., Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church, 20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument. The Prometheus Piano Trio performs a Mozart program in this first concert of the season. Pastry chef Guy Mendel will prepare a special reception. Cost: \$10 online, \$12 at the door, students with ID free. See ad on page 10. Info: Coleen Abeyta, 630-8165, coleen.abeyta@gmail.com, www.rmmaonline.org.
  - **Kiwanis 2017 Anne Shimek Memorial Empty Bowls Dinner & Silent Auction**, Wed., **Oct 4**, 5-7:30 p.m., Lewis-Palmer High School, 1300 Higby Rd, Monument. This popular event is a major fundraiser for Tri-Lakes Cares. Please bring a non-perishable food item for Tri-Lakes Cares Food Pantry. Ticket purchase includes dinner of soup, bread, drink, dessert, and a handmade bowl donated by local artists. Auction will feature last bowls by co-founder and potter, Anne Shimek. Cost: \$20, at door \$25, one child under 12 free with each adult ticket purchased. Buy tickets at the door, online, or at local businesses. See ad on page 12. Info: Dave Wittman, 925-683-8291, EmptyBowlsMHK@gmail.com, www.monumenthillkiwanis.org.
  - **South Africa's Kuyasa Kids Choir Concert**, Wed., **Oct. 4**, 7 p.m. Black Forest Community Church, 6845 Shoup Rd. The Kuyasa Kids are Horizon International's acclaimed ambassador choir from a Xhosa tribal township, Kayamandi. This concert is part of the Creating Hope Tour, which aims to raise awareness of the plight of African children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. There is no charge for attending, but a free-will offering will be accepted. Volunteers are needed to provide housing and meals during the two days the choir spends in Black Forest. Info: Kay Stricklan, 495-3873, kay@stricklan.net.
  - **MVEA Member Appreciation Day**, Thu., **Oct. 5**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 1655 5th St., Limon. Celebrate National Co-op month with a free lunch and LED starter pack. See ad on page 20. Info: 800-388-9881.
  - **Haunted Mines & Colorado Fear Fest** (at new location), **Oct. 5-31**, now located in the southwest parking lot of the Chapel Hills Mall, near the AMC movie theaters. Don't miss this terrifying adventure. All proceeds go to WMMI and local charities. Tickets & Info: 487-1666, info@hauntedmines.org, www.hauntedmines.org.
  - **Palmer Lake Art Group's 44th Annual Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair**, Fri.-Sat., **Oct. 6-7**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent. Free admission. Shop all original fine arts and hand-crafted items. Proceeds fund art scholarships for D-38 high

- school seniors. See ad on page 6. Info: www.palmerlakeartgroup.com, plaginfo@palmerlakeartgroup.com.
- **Rocky Mountain Storytelling Festival**, Sat., **Oct. 7**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Lone Tree Library, 10055 Library Way, Lone Tree, CO. RSVP & Info: 303-660-5849, info@rm-story.org, www.rmstory.org.
  - **Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival**, Sat.,-Sun., **Oct. 7-8**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 225 North Gate Blvd. (I-25 Exit 156 A). Celebrate fall with a pumpkin patch, hay rides, farmers' market, children's crafts, gold and gem panning, the Gold Canyon Gunfighters, and more. Cost: \$5, ages 4 and up, members free. Info: 488-0880, info@wmmi.org, www.wmmi.org.
  - **Palmer Lake .5K Run**, Sun., **Oct. 8**, 10-11:30 a.m., at Welcome to Palmer Lake sign, north end of town. A fun race that everyone can finish! A fundraiser for Awake Palmer Lake. Register at www.eventbrite.com.
  - **MVEA Member Appreciation Day**, Thu., **Oct. 12**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 11140 E. Woodmen Rd., Falcon. Celebrate National Co-op month with a free lunch and LED starter pack. See ad on page 20. Info: 800-388-9881.
  - **Black Forest Arts and Craft Guild 53rd Annual Fall Show and Sale**, Thu.-Sun., **Nov. 2-5**, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Thu.-Sat., 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Sun., Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. Shop unique, hand-crafted items. Info: dellaclark.bfacg@gmail.com,

*Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.*

### Letters to Our Community

*Our Community News* welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that OCN contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of six letters within any twelve month period. To submit a letter, please:

- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
- Include a suggested headline or title.
- Limit letters to no more than 300 words.
- Include your full name, home address, day and evening phone numbers, and email address, if you have one.
- Email your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail it to P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742.
- Send your letter at least 10 days before the "first Saturday of the month" when the paper is published.
- If you are not at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor, provide a written statement from a parent or legal guardian that you have permission to submit the letter.

If, after two business days from the date of your submission, you have not received an acknowledgement of your letter, please contact Lisa Hatfield, Managing Editor, at (719) 339-7831 or editor@ocn.me. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy.

### Content

Articles in *Our Community News* focus on the deliberations of Tri-Lakes area governmental bodies such as the Monument Board of Trustees, Palmer Lake Town Council, and many of the local water, sanitation, fire, and school district boards.

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the "story" is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the "truth" is, OCN's role is to report in detail on public meetings of local governmental entities. We report what was talked about and what was decided. By reading OCN, you can find out what you might have learned if you had attended those public meetings. In this context, "truth" is that the articles accurately represent what transpired at the meetings.

The content of ads in OCN is the responsibility of the advertisers who place those ads. While OCN does not knowingly run false ads, we do not research the accuracy of ad content. Readers are encouraged to do their own research prior to committing to use the products or services offered in OCN ads.

Contact Lisa Hatfield, Managing Editor, at editor@ocn.me or (719) 339-7831 with any questions.



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## The Rabbi's Corner Passing the Plate

By Oswald Garagorry

The act of passing the plate to collect tithes and offerings during a church service is a very common practice in American Christianity. Yet, have you asked yourself or inquired of your Minister if it was a Biblical practice? And if so, where in the entire Bible is such instruction found?

If this practice is not found in the Bible, why do we affirm that our beliefs and practices are founded upon Biblical instructions, when they are not?

I found a very interesting article in the well-reputed magazine *Christianity Today*. In the March 2009 issue, Mr. Mark Rogers provided a well-written article entitled, "The Story Behind Passing the Plate." Mr. Rogers stated, "As instrumentalists, play or a soloist sings, as ushers file slowly down the aisles, congregants give money as an act of worship and to support the ministry of the church. If the people don't, the pastor goes unpaid, the building never gets built and the Missionaries stay home."

"When Christians go to Church, most expect the collection of an offering as much as they expect, preaching, singing, and prayer. Unlike preaching, singing, and prayer however, the weekly offering did not become a fixture in American worship service until the 19<sup>th</sup> century." *www.christianitytoday.com-christianhistory2009march.*

I found two very important facts in this reference: that it is a "fixture in American worship service" and that it started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Mr. Rogers is correct in providing this information; but these facts can't be stretched as instruction to Brothers and Sisters that the passing of the plate is a "fixture" found in Biblical instruction because he stated that the practice began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Why do you think that such a non-biblical practice is so well-embraced by most religious bodies? I am not asking this without including ourselves, because in the 12 years of our existence, we at Aliyah Congregation did pass the plate and took two offerings. The first offering was taken for the encouragement of a 12 year old boy whose parents were going through a divorce and he was very sad. The other offering where we passed the plate was to help a family that was going through a very difficult financial time. In both cases, the recipients got 100% of the offering taken for them. Those were the only occasions that we indulged in this a non-biblical practice.

So now in your mind it is very possible that the question has arisen: What is the biblical practice?

It is what the Jewish Community has been practicing for thousands of years. And on one occasion in the New Testament this practice is described by the Messiah himself. It is found in *Luke 20:45-21:4*. In this text, He warned the people about religious leaders and their show of false righteousness, and He also tells of a common practice in the Jewish Community how tithes and offerings were given. In the text, His observation of this practice is stated as He describes the existence of "offering boxes" into which people placed their offerings and tithes. He describes rich people putting offerings into the box and a poor widow putting in two small coins. He then makes the comment "this poor widow has put in more than all the others." He goes on to say that the others gave out of their wealth, but this poor widow gave out of her poverty. He clarified it further by telling us that she gave all that she had to live on. In light of all of this, what is the lesson for us? First of all, God watches every coin we put into the Puska (offering box). Second from God's perspective, it is not the amount that impresses him but the attitude of the heart of the giver. Third, passing of the plate is not instructed anywhere in the Bible.

In conclusion, let me ask you: Why continue the non-biblical practice of passing the plate, when the Messiah explained the use of the Puska (Offering Box) as an acceptable way to give your tithes and offerings?

Shalom to you.

*Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation that meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall.*  
www.aliyahcongregation.com • (719) 330-2382  
*Visitors are welcome!*



### Support Our Community. Shop Tri-Lakes!

### Look for our next issue Saturday, October 7

**Ad space reservations due: Fri., Sep. 15**  
**Finished ad artwork due: Fri., Sep. 22**  
**Calendar items due: Fri., Sep. 29**  
**Letters to the editor due: Fri., Sep. 29**

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