CELEBRATING THE SEDER WITH ABBA

by Ephraim Buchwald

American Jews who have some traditional background usually speak of "conducting" a Seder. My friend, RL, once told me that most assimilated Jews who attend a Seder use a different expression: They "sweat it out!"

My father of blessed memory, never "conducted" a Seder, and certainly never "sweated it out". Abba (father) always "prah'vidt" (celebrated) a Seder, as he said in Yiddish. William Safire would probably say he exulted, jubilated or reveled in the Seder.

Abba was the type of Jew who feverishly anticipated Pessach's arrival, and began

preparations for his beloved festival long before the customary 30 days. Born in Poland, and arriving at these shores in 1919 at age 16, Abba vividly recalled (and made certain his "Yankee" wife and 3 children recalled) what it was like preparing Pessach in Biala luuolska. а shtetel of 7,000 and 6,500 Jews gentiles near Poland's northeastern border with Russia. The house was literally taken apart piece piece. mattresses were changed with great fanfare. shtetel Jews were so poor,

that it was usually only at Pessach time that the Hebrew greeting "Tischadesh" ("wear it in good health") was heard, for those lucky enough to have new clothes especially tailored for Pessach.

Abba's vivid memories of Europe never seemed to leave him for even a moment of the 72 years he subsequently dwelt in the USA. My big sister, 12 years my elder, and my little sister, 2 years my elder, and I, watched with eyes aglow, as Abba, unusually late in February or early March, started taking down the special corrugated boxes marked "Pessach" in Hebrew, filled with the dishes and vensils. By then, Abba had already prepared held special "Kosher for Passover sink" -- a new wooden fruit box obtained from the local market. He built it to fit perfectly in the bathtub, where he washed each Pessach plate,

glass, spoon, fork, knife and silver utensil with special care and devotion.

Abba loved his Pessach dishware with a passion. Each year he would, on numerous occasions, excitedly call in his wife and children into his Passover "kitchen" to kvell with him over the beautiful long stemmed exoticly colored glass which he had just polished to a high sparkle. (Being one of America's all time great bargain hunters, Abba had probably bought the glass for less than a nickel at Gimbel's or Macy's "double close-out basement remnant sale," long before the cellar

had become the fashionable boutique it is today.)

Mother prepared the Seder meal with great care, of course, according to Abba's tastes and abundant instructions. There was a palpable se'n se excitement when the Seder began, which is probably not uncommon in many homes. But Abba's enthusiasm was so contagious, that each member of our family approached the Seder in an emotional state approaching ecstacy. We truly felt the Divine Presence.

The Buchwald family did not "read" the Haggadah, we "chanted" the Haggadah text

with the special chanting melody Abba had learned in Biala. All of us were expected to master that chant, and Abba would often repeat a portion of the Haggadah if one of the designated missed readers the proper intonation while leading the chanting. Many songs were sung, often in harmony, amazingly Abba joyfully allowed his younger children to intrude on his Biala traditions by singing the Passover songs we had learned in the Soloveitchik Yeshiva choir. Everyone was expected to lead a portion of the Haggadah reading -- even poor mother, whom my father often described as having the "dearest" (most expensive) Hebrew, having taken countless Ulpan Hebrew classes with limited success. Inevitably, we would convulse with laughter to tears when mother really savaged a particular Hebrew word in her assigned reading.



Each year Abba would tell the same stories -- about the old widow who opened the door for Elijah the Prophet. The sudden light scared the bearded goat, who jumped into the old lady's hut, and made shambles of the table. The little old lady, who had already imbibed three cups of wine, begs the "guest": "Reb Elya (Elijah), eat, drink -- but please don't break the dishes!" Or the limerick about Pharoah losing his pants. It was more than fun, it was more than spiritual. It was fantasyland come true -- something Disney could never match.

When we received a "slinky" or a climbing-ladder-man as a reward for returning the Afikoman -- we children were ecstatic. (Much more excited by that gift, than the walkman or CD disc player kids receive today!)

We danced with great fervor at Leshana Haba'a Bi'rushalayim (Next Year in Jerusalem), and sang Adir Hu and Chad Gadyah until the wee hours of the morning. In his traditional steadfastness, Abba would announce each year that if he moved to Israel (which was his lifelong dream), he would insist on cele-

brating <u>two</u> Seders, because you can't fully appreciate the first one, being too exhausted from the preparations.

Last year, Abba celebrated his Pessach Seder for the first time without his beloved wife of 59 years. He refused to join me or my sisters in Israel, the hotel or at our homes. He wanted to be with his beloved Passover utensils. Sure enough, more than a month before Passover, he began his regular ritual of preparation — letting us know at each step how beautiful things looked. And so at age 88 1/2 years, he celebrated together with an elderly gentleman friend of his, whom he had invited over for the holiday, and regaled him with his customs, melodies, witticisms, Torah, and the delicious food he had cooked — the traditional Buchwald fare.

Pessach without Abba will never be the same -- despite the wonderful traditions which he bequeathed to us as our legacy. When Moshiach comes, I have a sneaky suspicion that it will be Abba who is called upon to lead the intercelestial Seder.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, March 19th	
Kindle Shabbat Candles	Ħ,
Athena and Rapparat Shappat	m.
Saturday, March 20th (VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI) Parshat Hachodesh	
Shabbat Morning Services8:45 a.	m.
Talmud and Bible Classes	щ.
Daily Mincha and Maariv6:00 p.	m.
-	
Tuesday, March 23rd Rosh Chodesh	
Morning Services7:00 & 7:40 a.	Д.
Friday, March 26th	
Kindle Shabbat Candles	m,
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat	m.
Saturday, March 27th (VAYIKRA)	
Shabbat Morning Services	m.
Talmud and Sible Classes	₽.
Mincha	≖.
parry minera and marry p.	ш.
Friday, April 2nd	
Kindle Shabbat Candles6:04 p.	ж.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat	ш.
Saturday, April 3rd (TZAV) Shabbat Hagadol	
Shabbat Morning Services.	m.
Mincha followed by Shabbat Hagadol Discourse5:10 p. Turn clock forward one hour	w.
Daily Mincha and Haariv	
D.S.	
Eundau Antil 1th	
Search for Chometz7:55 p.:	≖.
Monday, April 5th	
Morning Services	m.
The first born are invited to complete a Talmudic Tractate	
Monday, April 5th Morning Services	
The latest time to eat Chametz	m.
Phe latest time to burn Chametz	
Kindle Yom Toy Candles	.
followed by the first Seder8:00 p.	m.
Burndan Jamil Chb	
Puesday, April 6th Yom Tov Morning Services	n.
Oaf Youi6:25 p.:	ш.
4incha7:10 p.:	₽
Kindle Yom Tov Candles after	Ξ.
Wednesday, April 7th	
Wednesday, April 7th Yom Tov Morning Services	≖.
Hednesday, April 7th Yom Tov Morning Services	Д.
Wednesday, April 7th Yom Tov Morning Services	Д.
Medinesday, April 7th Yom Tov Morning Sarvices	д. В.
Mednesday, April 7th Com Tow Morning Services. 8:45 a. Daf Yomi 6:25 p. Mincha 7:10 p. Thursday-Friday April 8th - 9th Hol Hamped Morning Services. 7:00 £ 7:40 a.	д. В.
Medinesday, April 7th Yom Tov Morning Sarvices	д. В.
Mednesday, April 7th	д. В.
Mednesday, April 7th Com Tow Morning Services. 8:45 a. Daf Yomi 6:25 p. Mincha 7:10 p. Thursday-Friday April 8th - 9th Hol Hamped Morning Services. 7:00 £ 7:40 a.	д. п.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Saturday, April 10th (REEH) Shabbat Morning Services 8:00 6 8:45 p.m Taland and Bible Classes 6:25 p.m Mincha 7:10 p.m Daily Mincha and Masriv 7:25 p.m	1. 1.
Sunday, April 11th Chol Hameed Morning Services	ι.
Monday, April 12th Yum Tov Morning Services	Q.
Tuesday, April 13th Yom Tov Morning Sarvices including Yizkor8:00 & 5:45 a. Daf Yom	٥.
Friday, April 16th Kindle Shabbat Candles	h. •
Saturday, April 17th (SHEMINI) Shabbat Morning Services	m . m .
Sunday, April 18th Yom HaShoah	
Wednesday & Thursday, April 21st-22nd Rosh Chodesh Iyar Morning Service	п.
Friday, April 23rd Kindle Shabbat Candles	n. n.
Saturday, April 24th (METZORA) Shabbat Korning Services 9:45 a. Daf Yomi 5:55 p. Bible Class 6:25 p. Talmud Class 6:40 p. Mincha 7:25 p. Daily Mincha and Mapriv 7:35 p.	E. E.
Monday, April 26th Yom Haatzmaut Morning Services	Π,
Friday, April 30th Kindle Shabbat Candles	i. D.
Saturday, May lat (ACHARAI MOT/KEDOSHIM) Shabbat Morning Services. 6:45 a. Daf Yowi 6:00 p. Bible Class. 6:30 p. Talmud Class 6:45 p. Mincha 7:30 p. Daily Mincha Maariv 7:45 p.	E.

	٠.		
Wednesday, May 5th Pesach Shaini			
Friday, May 7th			
Kindle Shabbat Candles	7 :	40 p.1	ш.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat6:45	6 7:	45 p.:	м,
Saturday, May 8th (EMOR)			
Shabbat Morning Services	8:	45 a.	n.
Daf Yomi	6:	.05 p.1	₽.
Bible Class.	6:	:35 p.1	ш.
Talmid Class	6:	:50 p./	m.
Mincha	.,7:	:35 p.:	μ.
Daily Mincha and Maariv	7	:50 p.:	п.
Sunday, May 9th Lag B'Omer			
Friday, May 14th			
Kindle Shabbat Candles	7:	47 p.t	α.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat6:45	6 7:	50 p.:	œ.
•			
Saturday, May 15th (BEHAR-BECHUKKATAI)			
Shabbat Morning Services	8 :	45 8.1	ф,
Daf Yomi	61	15 p.1	м.
Bible Class	6:	45 p.i	ш.
Talmud Class	7:	. Q D , 1	ь.
Mincha	7:	45 p.1	м.
Daily Mincha and Maariv	8:	.00 p.1	ш.
Wednesday, May 19th Yom Yerushalayim			
Morning Services7	ā 7:	40 a.	ш.
_ , , _ , _ , _ , _ , _ , _ , _ , _ , _			
Friday, May 21st Rosh Chodesh Sivan Morning Services			_
Morning Services	4 /	40 a.i	ш.
Kindle Shabbat Candles	: ' ' '	54 P.I	ݜ.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat6:45	a 0:	оо р.	ш.
Saturday, May 22nd (BEMIDBAR)			
Shabbat Morning Services	٠.	45 2 1	m.
Daf Yomi,		20 0.1	m.
Bible Class		50 p.	
Talmud Class			
Mincha		50 5.1	m .
Daily Mincha and Maariv		05 0	
Tuesday May 25th Shavuot Eve Kindle Yom Tov Candles			
Kindle Yom Tov Candles	7:	57 p.1	Д.
Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov	8 :	00 p.	ш.
Midnight Bible class	.11:	30 p.:	₫.
Wednesday, May 26th Shavuot-1st day			
Haghkama Winyan	4 :	50 a.	Д.
Main Minyan	8:	45 a.	ш-
Daf Yomi & Bible class	7 :	:00 p.:	₽.
Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov	в:	00 P.	ш-
Kindle Yom Tov candles not before	8:	58 p.1	Π.
Thursday, May 27th Shavuot-2nd day Yom Tov Morning Services including Yizkor8:00			_
YOM TOV MORNING Services including Yizkor 8:00		45 A.1	,
Daf Yomi & Bible class	. 6.	[P.1	ш-
Mincha followed by Seudah Shlisheet)	
Neilat Hachag	•	٠.٠	Mr.
Friday, May 28th	١	/	
Kindle Shabbat candles			.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat6:45		05 0.1	<u>.</u> .
DANGER GIRL AGENCIES SHOWNESS	- 0.	p	



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Ellen Aschendorf and Robert Shasha
Nancy Cohen and Alan Miller
Feige Friedman and Uri Avnon
Natalie Gittelson and Mort Lachman
Eve Goldberg and Andy Berman
Dr. Alina Gouller and Dr. Fred Meyer
Caryn Halbrecht and Tommy Handler
Helene Irrmann and Ari Bousbib
Robin Kassman Murray and Dr. Mark Jacobson
Miriam Kaster and Alan Magill
Sheryl Katz and Ernest Elias
Donna Mandel and Aharon Perel



MAURICE ORKIN

Maurice (Moshe) was one of my earliest students Lincoln Square Synagogue, which goes back close to 20 Possessor of a years. quick wit and good mind, Maurice was a person who always marched to the beat of his own drummer. we first met, he was very estranged from his Judaism. began studying growing as a Jew, and never stopped! His untimely death leaves us all deeply bereaved.

EZB

MARRIAGES

Dr. Rachel Kalmanovitch and Tom Rose Lynn Krumholz and and Jerry Rothenberg Beth Richman and Joshua Schwartz Devorah Zombeck and Dr. Simcha Varon

BIRTHS

Yaffa and Nachum Cohen, on the birth of a boy, Gavriel
Ingrid and Dr. Zev Dorfman, on the birth of a girl, Yakira Leah
Pat and Zev Gilman, on the birth of a boy, Yoel Chaim
Shelley and Morton Goldberg, on the birth of a girl, Chana Leibe
Suzanne and David Gurwitz, on the birth of a boy, Avraham Natan
Batya and Eddie Jacobs, on the birth of a boy, Akivah
Mariam and Tod Jacobs, on the birth of a boy, Elyahu
Leslie and Bill Kolbrener, on the birth of a boy, Moshe Asher
Deborah Luchiani and David Benaim, on the birth of a girl, Rachel Delia
Jolie and Gabi Mansky, on the birth of a girl, Ayala Liel
Shoshana and Gidon Michel, on the birth of a boy, Moshe Chaim
Pam and Benjamin Sherr, on the birth of a girl, Elisheva
Sari and Greg Sholom, on the birth of a boy, Ezra Aryeh
Sharona and Steven Spivak, on the birth of a boy, Ariel Yehuda Leib
D'vorah and Rabbi Brian Thau, on the birth of a boy, Avraham Zvi

BAR MITZVAH

Aryeh Lev, son of Miriam and Mordecai Savir (Swire)

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM (To live and/or study in Israel)
Maura and Adam Ruskin

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (Speedy recovery)

Steven Klein Margot Zitter

CONDOLENCES

Aharon Hoffman, on the loss of his father, Arthur Hoffman To the family of Maurice Orkin Dan Sutton, on the loss of his father Margot Zitter, on the loss of her sister, Selma Eisenbach



CONGRATULATIONS

To Miriam Cyrulnik and the "Not Yet Ready for the Main Service" players for the fabulous Purim Schpiel 5753

Dvorah and Dr. Richard Roberts upon receiving the Jewish Learning Exchange Alumni Award

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30th **HOW ABOUT** TURNING FRIDAY NIGHT **INTO SHABBOS?**

If you're Jewish, we'd like you to celebrate at a very special Friday night dinner.

We're putting together a real Shabbos meal created especially for people who want to know more about Shabbos. Complete with all the rituals. The ones you remember from your parents and grandparents. The ones you remember from years gone by. And some you might have even forgotten about altogether.

There's going to be lots of singing. Maybe some dancing. A lot of questions. A lot of answers. And plenty of Shabbos spirit.

If you're curious about Shabbos, join your many curious neighbors who for the first time in years are going to usher in the Shabbos on April 30th in the same way their ancestors have ushered it in for centuries.

Come to "The Shabbos For People Who Want To Know More." Friday, April 30th, at 6:20 P.M. RSVP by Coupon only, no later than 5 P.M., Tuesday, April 27th. For those who live beyond walking distance of the Synagogue, please call for Shabbos hospitality.

Jan Malay May Lang I'd like to turn Friday night into Shabbos.

> ☐ I will be coming alone. Enclosed is check for \$15.00 ☐ I will be coming with _____ guest(s). Enclosed is \$15.00 per person. ☐ I will be coming with my family. A total of _____ will attend.

Enclosed is \$45.00 for the entire family.

Please make checks payable to and mail to Lincoln Square Synagogue List all names and addresses of guests and seating preferences on back.

Name ___ Address ____

Phone # (Home) _____ (Work)_____

National Jewish Outreach Program 485 Fifth Avenue—Suite 212

New York, NY 10017 (212) 986-7450

Lincoln Square Synagogue 200 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10023

© 1991 National Jewish Outreach Program, Inc.

(212) 874-6100

