Passover With Bob

An Interview with Bob Novig

beginners of Lincoln Square Synagogue are a community within a munity, a self-styled family, if you will. Like every family, LSS Beginners have their newcomers and their old timers, their right wingers and their left wingers, and everyone in between. To capture the flavor of the community, Bereishith went one-on-one with long-time LSS Beginners' member Roberto (Bob) Novig:

BEREISHITH: As a fine, upstanding member of the LSS Beginners Service, we thought that we'd get your impressions of the Passover holiday. Any favorite aspects about Passover?

BOB: Well, I know that Passover is not one of the four official "New Years" on the Jewish calendar, but for me, it's a new year -- it's my bachelor's New Year! You know, it forces me to spring clean my apartment. As for the Seder itself, I can say that my favorite parts are the beginning and the end, I can't wait till it starts, then I can't wait till its over.

BEREISHITH: Which of the four sons do you feel best describes you: wise, wicked, simple, or mute?

BOB: Well, perhaps you'd think I'd choose the wise one, but really, I relate to all of the above, having been described, at various times by other people, as one or all of the above. Thankfully, however, I can't relate to the fifth son, the one who never shows up at the Seder.

BEREISHITH: Do you have any strategies which help you get into the spirit of the Seder, to really feel as if you, yourself personally, were leaving Egyptian enslavement?

BOB: As I mentioned earlier, I see Passover as a new start, which is kind of like leaving the enslavement of the previous year. So I make it my m to finish off my Macallan's Single-Malt Scotch and then I set off to buy some nice, crisp schmura matzah. Starting anew -- Free at last!

BEREISHITH: What plague inspires the most awe in you?

BOB: The 10th and final plague, the Death of the First Born. You see, in life, some people just don't get the message. With this plague, the Jews were finally out of there (Egypt)!! So really, it just shows you, never give up!

BEREISHITH: In case people are looking to invite you to the Seder in the near future, are you for fresh horseradish or the jar brand?

BOB: Fresh -- really fresh! At Passover, as at all times, memories and experiences count, so the perfect horseradish can really affect the Passover experience. Sometimes you look at it and you think, no problem, it won't be so bad, and then *wham*, the right stuff that really knocks your socks off. Who wants that sappy mellow version.

BEREISHITH: What is the most creative *afikoman* hiding spot you have ever seen, and what was the most creative *afikoman* prize?

BOB: One time, the *afikoman* was hidden in a woman's pocketbook, and she left! Now that was a hiding spot. Of course, another favorite is to hide it in the chandelier.

As for the best prize? Well, for many, the *afikoman* prize is all about compromise, so I'd just say "The check is in the mail!"

BEREISHITH: How has being part of the Lincoln Square community enhanced your appreciation of Passover?

BOB: Honestly, through LSS I have learned the true importance of g schmura matza, it's the perfect food to make you feel the impoverishment of enslavement -- $15 a pound! Also, being part of the LSS community has given me the chance to participate in Rabbi Buchwald's Model Seder. All that entertainment really revs me up for the Seders.

BEREISHITH: Any favorite Passover dishes?

BOB: What, I have a choice? Well, at the Seder I'll eat most everything, except tzimmis. During the week though, you can really get creative for the perfect Passover meal: matzah lasagna, matzah brie, Mexican matzah omlette, or someone else's cooking.

BEREISHITH: Let's talk about the end of the Seder. You've recounted the exodus, you've sung praises to G-d, and now it's time to have some fun...what songs do you really get into?

BOB: I like all the songs...especially "Dayenu" and that one at the end, "Chad Gad'yah."

BEREISHITH: What is the best method you know for staying up, and in good spirits, for the whole Seder?

BOB: In all seriousness, I must say for the record that I like Passover and the best way to make Passover work for you is to be with the right group of people, family or friends. Also, it means a lot to be where the Seder is completed, 100%, just for the satisfaction of the experience. Year in and year out I love that feeling of accomplishment, of having done it all.

Passover, and the other holidays, are such great opportunities to grow and to live confidently with pride as Jews, as well as to strengthen our connection with the State of Israel.

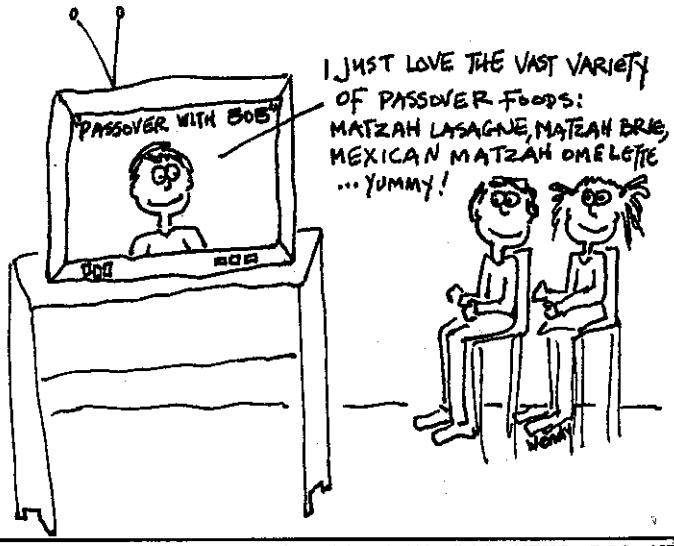
BEREISHITH: Bob, they say that the process of finding the right mate (in your case a wife) is more difficult than the splitting of the Red Sea. What is your opinion on that?

BOB: Tell me about it (chuckle chuckle)! It's like this: leaving Egypt was a "no-brainer," a push from behind and good-bye slavery, hello freedom. Those Jews didn't know that 40 years would have to pass until they got to the land of milk and honey. Well, I'm going the other way. I thought bachelorhood would be a wonderful life of freedom, but now, with 40 years of freedom, there's no milk and honey at the end!

How many more Shabbats do I have to face Rabbi Buchwald threatening to pick a mate for me or kick me out of the Beginners Service before he has to push me down the aisle in a wheelchair. Hey, the Red Sea doesn't need to part, I just need my soul-mate and a rowboat. Then I can be free of effiedate.com.

I just hope I didn't miss the boat!

Roberto "Bob" Novig is a Real Estate Broker in New York City. He has been an active and vibrant part of the Lincoln Square Beginners Service for 75 years.



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Yevette Borofsky and Eric Edidin
Shuli Gertel and Avi Bossewitch
Mazal Tov to parents Anne and Kenneth Bossewitch
Bayla Sheva (Betty) Jacobs and Baruch Brenner
Amy Lewis and Robert Schachter
Vivian Lerner Relkin and Seth Glass
Sara Tillinger and David Wolkenfeld
Mazal Tov to mother Dr. Jo Lang Wolkenfeld

MARRIAGES

Karen Blaustein and Baruch Burnham
Mazal Tov to father Dr. Stuart Blaustein and sister Rivka Cohen
Yeun-ah Choi and Joshua Shoshan
Adina Goldfarb and Baruch Fischlewitz
Jennifer Hammerstein and Meir Solomon
Janice Lieberman and Steven Gerber
Brielle Stark and Joel Adler
Mazal Tov to parents Helen and Robert Stark

BIRTHS

Tracy and Sander Gerber, on the birth of a girl, Chana Tova
Annie and Dr. Stephen Glassberg, on the birth of a girl, Ayelet
Rachel and Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot, on the birth of a boy, Ephraim Dov
Mazal Tov to grandmother Dr. Rosie Resnik Helfgot and uncle Reuven Helfgot
Sarah (Jacquelyn) and Avraham Kremyansky, on the birth of a boy, Shlomo Zalman (2/21/01)
Rachel and Michael Rimland, on the birth of a girl, Sarah Beth (7/11/01)
Abby and David Rothschild, on the birth of a boy, Ethan Pomerantz
Estie and Zev (Greg) Shlionsky, on the birth of a boy, Aharon
Helene (Novin) and Jeff Strumeyer, on the birth of a girl, Aliza Miriam
Edda and Dr. Edward Weissberg, on the birth of a girl, Renana Devorah

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Gabriel Garfinkel
Mazal Tov to grandmother Regina Ullendorf and Uncle David (and Allison) Ullendorf
Akiva Moshe Goodman
Mazal Tov to parents Sharon and Shmuel Goodman
Rivka Kreizel
Mazal Tov to parents Miriam and Yochanan Kreizel and to grandmother Ann Kreizel
Yael Rina Kruger
Mazal Tov to parents Elyse and Rabbi Reuven Kruger
Dina Rachel Spanbock
Mazal Tov to parents Carol and Jonathan Spanbock

CONDOLENCES

Miriam Cyrulnik, on the loss of her father, Leon Cyrulnik
Helen Ginns, on the loss of her father, H. Jay Ginns
Hadassah Gerber Greenbaum, on the loss of her father, Benjamin Gerber
Laurel Henschel, on the loss of her father, Leonard Henschel
Marty Reiss, on the loss of her father, Benton Resnick

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (SPEEDY RECOVERY)

Chaim ben Rivkah
Ruth Gutradt (Ruth bat Ella)
Caryn Heyman (Yocheved Chaya Golda bat Esther)

THANK YOU

Leonard Davidman, for leading the Beginners Service during Rabbi Buchwald's absence.
Judge Enid Langbert, for writing the Purim Schpiel, and special thanks to all the Purim Schpiellers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Robin and Stephen Apple, for being the guests of honor at the Westchester Day School dinner.
Arona Osrin and Steve Gittleson, Lisa (Castleman) and Paul Glazer, Jill and Jonathan Lamstein, Aline David Smolanoff, Helene (Novin) and Jeff Strumeyer, Sasha (Salama) and Craig Weing, for being honored at the Annual Dinner of Aish New York.
Rabia and Oliver Mitchell, for being honored at the Manhattan Jewish Experience dinner.
Vivian Relkin, for being honored with the Shem Tov Award by Yeshiva of Rockland County.
Beth and Joshua Schwartz, for being the guests of honor at the Congregation Ohav Sholom dinner.
Rona and Anrew Steinerman, for being honored at the National Jewish Outreach Program dinner.

SAVE THE DATE

Model Seder
Thurs, March 21 - 7 pm
$5 before March 20, $10 at the door

Beginners Shabbaton - $30
March 22 - 23

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons
Saturdays 12:30 pm – $15
May 4, June 1

Beginners Schmooze – Mondays 8:15 pm – Free
June 3

All Night Shavuot Learn--in
Thurs, May 16, 11:30 pm - 6:45 am

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wed March 27, 2002 - 14th of Nisan TA'ANIT BECHOROT
EREV PESACH
Morning Services ... 6:30 & 7:30 AM
Latest time to eat Chametz ... 9:20 AM
Latest time to burn Chametz ... 10:31 AM
REMEMBER TO MAKE AN ERUV TAVSHILIN
Candle Lighting ... 5:57 PM
Mincha ... 6:00 PM
Begin seder after ... 6:46 PM

Thu March 28, 2002 - 15th of Nisan PESACH
Morning Services ... 9:00 AM
Daf Yomi ... 5:05 PM
Mincha ... 5:50 PM
Yom Tov candles after ... 6:57 PM
Maariv ... 6:57 PM
Begin seder after ... 6:57 PM

Fri March 29, 2002 - 16th of Nisan PESACH
Morning Services ... 9:00 AM
Daf Yomi ... 5:05 PM
Mincha ... 5:50 PM
Shabbat candles before ... 5:59 PM
Mincha ... 6:05 PM

Sat March 30, 2002 - 17th of Nisan PESACH (CHOL HAMOED)
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Daf Yomi ... 4:35 PM
Mincha ... 5:05 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 6:59 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 6:05 PM

Sun March 31, 2002 - 18th of Nisan PESACH (CHOL HAMOED)
Morning Services ... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Mon April 1, 2002 - 19th of Nisan PESACH (CHOL HAMOED)
Morning Services ... 7:00, 7:30 & 8:30 AM

Tue April 2, 2002 - 20th of Nisan PESACH (CHOL HAMOED)
Morning Services ... 7:00, 7:30 & 8:30 AM
Candle Lighting ... 6:04 PM
Mincha ... 6:10 PM

Wed April 3, 2002 - 21st of Nisan PESACH
Daf Yomi ... 7:15 AM
Morning Services ... 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Talmud Class ... 5:15 PM
Mincha ... 6:00 PM
Yom Tov candles after ... 7:04 PM
Maariv ... 7:04 PM

Thu April 4, 2002 - 22nd of Nisan PESACH
Daf Yomi ... 7:15 AM
Morning Services ... 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Talmud Class ... 5:15 PM
Mincha ... 6:00 PM
Maariv ... 7:04 PM
Yom Tov ends ... 7:04 PM

Fri April 5, 2002 - 23rd of Nisan
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting ... 6:07 PM
Mincha ... 6:10 PM

Sat April 6, 2002 - 24th of Nisan *Shmini*
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ... 5:15 PM
Mincha ... 6:00 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 7:07 PM
REMEMBER to set your clocks forward
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 7:15 PM DST

Tue April 9, 2002 - 27th of Nisan YOM HASHOAH
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri April 12, 2002 - 30th of Nisan ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ... 6:07 PM
Candle Lighting ... 7:14 PM
Mincha ... 6:45 & 7:20 PM

Sat April 13, 2002 - 1st of Iyar *Tazria-Metzora* ROSH CHODESH
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 7:35, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ... 6:10 PM
Mincha ... 7:10 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 8:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 7:20 PM

Tue April 16, 2002 - 4th of Iyar YOM HAZIKARON
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Wed April 17, 2002 - 5th of Iyar YOM HAATZMA'UT
Morning Services ... 7:00 & 7:50 AM

Fri April 19, 2002 - 7th of Iyar
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ... 6:14 PM
Candle Lighting ... 7:21 PM
Mincha ... 6:45 & 7:25 PM

Sat April 20, 2002 - 8th of Iyar *A'chari Mot-Kedoshim*
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ... 6:15 PM
Mincha ... 7:15 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 8:21 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 7:30 PM

Fri April 26, 2002 - 14th of Iyar
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ... 6:22 PM
Candle Lighting ... 7:29 PM
Mincha ... 6:45 & 7:35 PM

Sat April 27, 2002 - 15th of Iyar *Emor*
Daf Yomi ... [illegible] AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ... 6:25 PM
Mincha ... 7:25 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 8:29 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 7:35 PM

Tue April 30, 2002 - 18th of Iyar LAG B'OMER
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri May 3, 2002 - 21st of Iyar
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ... 6:24 PM
Candle Lighting ... 7:36 PM
Mincha ... 6:45 & 7:40 PM

Sat May 4, 2002 - 22nd of Iyar *Behar-Bechukotai*
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ... 6:30 PM
Mincha ... 7:30 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 8:36 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 7:45 PM

Fri May 10, 2002 - 28th of Iyar YOM YERUSHALAYIM
Morning Services ... 7:00 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ... 6:31 PM
Candle Lighting ... 7:43 PM
Mincha ... 6:45 & 7:50 PM

Sat May 11, 2002 - 29th of Iyar *B'midbar*
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ... 6:40 PM
Mincha ... 7:40 PM
Shabbat Ends ... 8:43 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ... 7:50 PM

Sun May 12, 2002 - 1st of Sivan ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Thu May 16, 2002 - 5th of Sivan EREV SHAVUOT
Morning Services ... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
REMEMBER TO MAKE AN ERUV TAVSHILIN
Candle Lighting ... 7:49 PM
Mincha ... 7:55 PM
Maariv ... 8[illegible] PM

Fri May 17, 2002 - 6th of Sivan SHAVUOT
Morning Services ... 5:05 & 9:00 AM
Bible Class ... 6:45 PM
Daf Yomi ... 7:00 PM
Mincha ... 7:45 PM
Shabbat candles before ... 7:50 PM