

## PASSOVER: THE ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL (OF ME) HOLIDAY

Enid W. Langbert

I was raised by assimilated parents. They didn't even go to synagogue on the High Holidays. But they were deeply connected to being Jewish. My mother was so proud of being the kind of Jewish mother that Portnoy complained about (in the book *Portnoy's Complaint*, by Philip Roth) that she kept calling me, as she was reading it, to tell me that the mother in the book had said this or that to her son and it was exactly the same thing that my mother had said to her son. Verbatim.

My father had no choice about his connection to Judaism. He and his sister were the only members of their family to escape the Nazis. He was a survivor during the decades of silence, before there even was the word "Holocaust." And he was silent.

My parents were American first and Jewish second, and their religion was the religion of refugees. They celebrated two holidays--Thanksgiving and Passover. Twice a year they gathered my mother's family together to celebrate an afflicted people's escape from oppression to a land of religious freedom.

But, as I grew older, the America that had been my parents' sanctuary, didn't look like a Promised Land to me. There was injustice and intolerance in America, just as there had been in the countries my family escaped. But it was racial, not religious. It discriminated against Native Americans and Asians and Negroes. Not me. And so, comfortable in what I believed was my non-ethnic skin, I moved to Harlem with my husband and baby and worked for equality.

In Harlem we had seders. Because Passover was the original Freedom March--the First People's Liberation Front. We lined up borrowed bridge tables across the living room and celebrated the triumph of liberty over intolerance and tyranny with our comrades: ministers and nuns, Negroes and Puerto Ricans; drug addicts, shoplifters and a murderer (alleged). (We worked with a rabbi, too, but of course he was always "otherwise engaged.") I watched as people listened, for the first time, to the words that were so familiar to me and proudly saw them smile and whisper, "Right on, brother, right on!" I remember a Negro friend, a former heroin addict, with a faded black yarmulka from my husband's bar mitzvah perched improbably on his oversized Afro, asking me what was in the stuffed derma. I found the idea of eating intestines repulsive, so I told him to ask me after he ate it. When I told him, he roared with laughter. "I was raised on chitlins," he said. "What do you think that's made of?" And I thought, maybe we really are more alike than we are different.

But, as I grew older, the Revolution that I thought was going to transform everything, didn't look like a Promised Land to me.

And so I took my children to live in a "community" in the country. I read Eastern mystical teachers, learned to bake bread, grew organic vegetables and made stained glass ornaments. I wanted to simplify my outer life and nurture my inner life. I wanted to experience Truth.

Of course, the transition from urban revolutionary to Acadian pilgrim wasn't exactly seamless, and I regularly burned myself on the oven and cut myself with the broken glass. Not to mention the poison ivy. But there were times, as I drove over the hill that led to my house and looked over a vista of rolling farmland and meadows, that my heart cracked open, and I wept for the blessing of my life.

Searching for a personal experience of G-d, we rejected tradition and ritual. Except for seders. Because our elderly Dutch Reformed teacher of mystical ideas regularly borrowed from the symbolism of the Bible: initiation onto the spiritual path - the parting of the sea of unknowing; the long and arduous spiritual quest - 40 years in the desert of unconsciousness to reach the Promised Land of Enlightenment.

We invited everyone to the seder. After all, we were students of the same teacher. These symbols vivified our shared

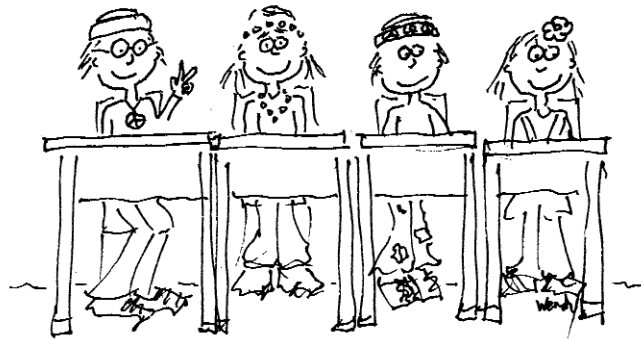
quest. But when the evening came, and we sat around the enormous wire spool I used as a dining room table, the room was filled with Jews. And only Jews. And although none of us had ever talked about it before, we weren't surprised. Because we realized that we had known it all along. We were Jews first, whether we wanted to be or not!

We sat in faded jeans on rickety chairs and passed around unmatched plates. None of the women wore make-up. Or jewelry. (No takers for a Golden Calf here). We had left behind homes and families, jobs and graduate school, our ambitions and our parents' expectations. We had risked everything for the glimpse of a greater reality. And now, as we passed around the gaudily colored haggadahs of our childhood, we understood that we had never left behind our tradition. We were on an Exodus.

As you can tell, I am describing a Passover that happened several decades ago. My Exodus has continued. It even led me to share Passover in the Promised Land with Rabbi Buchwald. And what could be more glorious than that? I guess I will just have to keep on traveling to find out.

*After Harlem and mysticism, Enid Langbert went to law school. She settled in the Upper West Side, where she met Rabbi Buchwald. Enid is blessed with a wonderful family, her husband, 3 children and 5 grandchildren, some of whom live in Asia and force her to be a world traveler.*

"PEACE AND LOVE COMMUNE"



"WE WERE JEWS FIRST, WHETHER WE WANTED TO BE OR NOT!"

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Fri March 30, 2012 - 7th of Nisan**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:02 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:05 PM

**Sat March 31, 2012 - 8th of Nisan Tzav SHABBAT HAGADOL**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Mincha & Shabbat HaGadol Drasha . . . . . 6:35 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 8:02 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:10 PM

**Fri April 6, 2012 - 14th of Nisan TA'ANIT BECHORIM**  
 Morning Services with Siyum . . . . . 6:45 & 7:30 AM  
 Latest time to eat *Chametz* . . . . . 10:09 AM  
 Latest time to burn *Chametz* . . . . . 11:22 AM  
 Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:09 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:15 PM  
 Begin Seder after . . . . . 7:58 PM

**Sat April 7, 2012 - 15th of Nisan 1st DAY PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Talmud Class . . . . . 6:40 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:00 PM  
 Light Candles & begin Seder after . . . . . 8:09 PM

**Sun April 8, 2012 - 16th of Nisan 2nd DAY PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Talmud Class . . . . . 6:40 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:15 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends . . . . . 8:10 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:20 PM

**Mon April 9, 2012 - 17th of Nisan CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Tue April 10, 2012 - 18th of Nisan CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Wed April 11, 2012 - 19th of Nisan CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Thu April 12, 2012 - 20th of Nisan CHOL HAMOED PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Eruv Tavshilin . . . . .  
 Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:16 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:20 PM

**Fri April 13, 2012 - 21st of Nisan 7th DAY PESACH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Talmud Class . . . . . 6:35 PM  
 Light candles after . . . . . 7:17 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:20 PM

**Sat April 14, 2012 - 22nd of Nisan 8th DAY PESACH - Yizkor**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 8:00 & 8:45 AM  
 Talmud Class . . . . . 6:20 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:05 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends . . . . . 8:17 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:25 PM

**Fri April 20, 2012 - 28th of Nisan**  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:17 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:24 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 6:45 & 7:30 PM

**Sat April 21, 2012 - 29th of Nisan Shmini**  
 Daf Yomi . . . . . 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . . . 5:45 PM  
 Talmud/Pirkei Avot . . . . . 6:00 PM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 6:15 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:15 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 8:24 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:30 PM

**Sun April 22, 2012 - 30th of Nisan ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 8:30 AM

**Mon April 23, 2012 - 1st of Iyar ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Thu April 26, 2012 - 4th of Iyar YOM HA'AZMA'UT**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:50 AM

**Fri April 27, 2012 - 5th of Iyar**  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:23 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:31 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 6:45 & 7:35 PM

**Sat April 28, 2012 - 6th of Iyar Tazria-Metzora**  
 Daf Yomi . . . . . 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . . . 5:50 PM  
 Talmud/Pirkei Avot . . . . . 6:05 PM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 6:20 PM

Mincha . . . . . 7:20 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 8:31 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:40 PM

**Fri May 4, 2012 - 12th of Iyar**  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:28 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:38 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 6:45 & 7:45 PM

**Sat May 5, 2012 - 13th of Iyar Acharei-Kedoshim**  
 Daf Yomi . . . . . 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . . . 6:00 PM  
 Talmud/Pirkei Avot . . . . . 6:15 PM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 6:30 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:30 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 8:38 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:45 PM

**Fri May 11, 2012 - 19th of Iyar**  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:33 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:45 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 6:45 & 7:50 PM

**Sat May 12, 2012 - 20th of Iyar Emor**  
 Daf Yomi . . . . . 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . . . 6:05 PM  
 Talmud/Pirkei Avot . . . . . 6:20 PM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 6:35 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:35 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 8:45 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:55 PM

**Fri May 18, 2012 - 26th of Iyar**  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:39 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:52 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 6:45 & 7:55 PM

**Sat May 19, 2012 - 27th of Iyar Behar-Bechukotai**  
 Daf Yomi . . . . . 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . . . 6:10 PM  
 Talmud/Pirkei Avot . . . . . 6:25 PM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 6:40 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:40 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 8:52 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 8:00 PM

**Tue May 22, 2012 - 1st of Sivan ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Fri May 25, 2012 - 4th of Sivan**  
 Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:44 PM  
 Regular Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:58 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 6:45 & 8:05 PM

**Sat May 26, 2012 - 5th of Sivan Bamidbar EREV SHAUVOT**  
 Daf Yomi . . . . . 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class . . . . . 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services . . . . . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot . . . . . 5:45 PM  
 Talmud/Pirkei Avot . . . . . 6:00 PM  
 Bible/Book of Ruth . . . . . 6:50 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 7:50 PM  
 Light Candles after . . . . . 8:58 PM  
 Torah Classes beginning . . . . . 11:30 PM

**Sun May 27, 2012 - 6th of Sivan 1st DAY SHAUVOT**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 5:05 & 9:00 AM  
 Talmud & Book of Ruth . . . . . 7:05 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 8:05 PM  
 Light Candles after . . . . . 8:59 PM

**Mon May 28, 2012 - 7th of Sivan 2nd DAY SHAUVOT Yizkor MEMORIAL DAY**  
 Morning Services . . . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Talmud & Book of Ruth . . . . . 7:05 PM  
 Mincha . . . . . 8:05 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends . . . . . 9:00 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 8:05 PM

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Beginners Shabbat Luncheons**  
**Sat., 12:30 PM - \$20**  
 May 5, June 2

**Beginners Shmooze - Free**  
**Mon., 8:15 PM**  
 May 7

**All Night Shavut Learn-a-thon**  
**Sat., May 26, 11:30 PM - 7:00 AM**

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

**ENGAGEMENTS**

Mordechai Levinson and Elisheva Kutler  
 Mazal Tov to parents  
 Malka and Michael Levinson  
 Adina Tropp and Kyle Maxell Lonn  
 Mazal Tov to parents Rochelle and Harry Tropp



**MARRIAGES**

Leah Raful and Seth Goldberg  
 Mazal Tov to parents Robin and Neil Goldberg  
 Vera and Paul Greenberg  
 Meira Reich and Yaakov Ribner  
 Mazal Tov to parents  
 Sema and Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich  
 Felicia Steingard and Yoram Zarai

**BIRTHS**

Lauren Stark and David Boim,  
 on the birth of a son, Max (Menachem Mordechai)  
 Amy and Seth Litzenblatt,  
 on the birth of a daughter, Bayla Rachel  
 Rebecca Dreisinger and Jose (Yosef) Melendrez,  
 on the birth of a son, Emanuel  
 Natasha (Rachel) Kim and Coby Zekry, on the birth of son

**BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

Esther Miriam Brodsky  
 Mazal Tov to parents Alene and Steve Brodsky

Lucy Dorothy Cheskin  
 Mazal Tov to parents Judith Goldkrand and Barry Cheskin  
 Noah Eli Dunn  
 Mazal Tov to parents Wendy and Brandon Dunn  
 Sophia Pauline Feder  
 Mazal Tov to parents Valerie and Daniel Feder  
 Joseph Raphael Ickovics  
 Mazal Tov to parents Karen and Alain Ickovics  
 Arava Rivka (Ravi) Schwartz  
 Mazal Tov to parents Beth and Joshua Schwartz  
 Nachshon Yitzchak Cohen  
 Mazal Tov to parents Rivka and Shia Cohen,  
 and grandparents Drs. Yaffa and Stuart Blaustein

**CONDOLENCES**

Norma Ehrlich, on the loss of her father, Max Birnbaum  
 Dr. Matthew Eichen, on the loss of his mother, Roslyn Eichen  
 Lynn Gold, on the loss of her sister, Ruth Herschman  
 William Greenbaum, on the loss of his father,  
 Robert Greenbaum  
 Paul Greenberg, on the loss of his father,  
 Alexander Greenberg  
 Howard Hoffen, on the loss of his father, Marvin Hoffen  
 Tineke Kevelson, on the loss of her mother,  
 Hilligje van den Berg Reijnders  
 Judith Deutsch Komblatt, on the loss of her mother,  
 Natasha Deutsch  
 Lori Paul Schecter, on the loss of her husband, Bob Schecter

Abigail Waxman, on the loss of her mother,  
 Antoinette Schechter (101 years)

**SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA**

Sarah Leah bat Sima  
 Yitzchak Chaim ben Neshi

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Susan Hecht and David Cohen for being honored at the annual dinner of the National Jewish Outreach Program  
 Lisa (Castleman) and Paul Glazer, for being honored at the annual dinner of Yeshiva Ketana of Manhattan

**TZETCHEM L'SHALOM:(TO LIVE OR STUDY IN ISRAEL)**

Channah Lloyd

**ROBERT (REUVEN) SCHECTER**

Lincoln Square Synagogue and the Beginners Service lost a very special friend with the passing of Reuven Schecter on January 15, 2012. An accountant by profession, Bob was a true gentleman. His handsome looks and radiant personality were matched by a very special *neschama* (soul). He will be missed by all. Condolences to his wife, Lori Paul, and his children, Rod and Lara.