

THE HEBREW ACADEMY TIMES

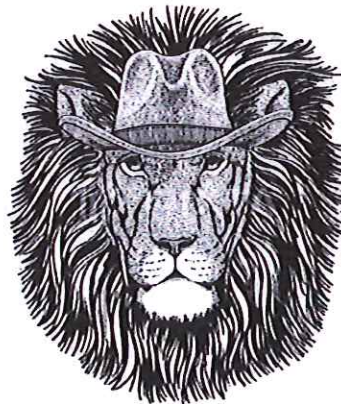
“The HAT”

March 2023 ~ 10th Issue

PESACH EDITION

***A Newspaper FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE of
Hebrew Academy of Tampa Bay***

We ROAR with LION PRIDE!!!



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UPCOMING DATES

APRIL				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Class Model Seder PARENTS INVITED	4 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	5 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	6 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	7 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL
10 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	11 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	12 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	13 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL	14 PESACH BREAK NO SCHOOL
17	18	19	20	21
24	25 IOWA TESTING Grades 3-7	26 IOWA TESTING Grades 3-7	27 IOWA TESTING Grades 3-7	28

MAY				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2 IOWA TESTING Grades 3-7	3 IOWA TESTING Grades 3-7	4 IOWA TESTING Grades 3-7	5
8	9 Lag B'Omer Field Day Israel Day	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25 Shavuot School Closed	26 Shavuot School Closed
29 Memorial Day School Closed	30	31		



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

***We are proud to announce that
The Hebrew Academy of Tampa Bay
is officially recognized as a
Nationally Accredited school
by the
Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch
and the
National Council for Private School Accreditation.***

***We wish to thank G-d,
our staff & faculty, parents, and students
for their support and participation in achieving this goal.
We look forward to many more accomplishments in the future!***



ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE

This Certifies That
HEBREW ACADEMY OF TAMPA BAY
has met all the Accreditation Requirements
of the
NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD
of
MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH
and the
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION
2023 -2028

and is therefore entitled to all the services and privileges
of regional, national and international professional recognition

Signed this 28th day of March 2023

*Rebbi Nochem Kaplan
Chairman of the Board*

*Davorah Railport, MA Ed
Chairman E/C commission*

Shabbos Hagadol¹

By Moshe Chaim Dubrowski

Shabbos Hagadol means "the Great Saturday."

Shabbos Hagadol is the Shabbos before Pesach. Why is it called Shabbos Hagadol? Because a great miracle happened on that day. The miracle was:

After 9 macos (plagues), Moshe came to Pharaoh and said, "if you do not free the Yidden from Egypt, then I will bring the death of the first born." Pharaoh said no. So Hashem told the Yidden to tie a sheep to their bed post, then kill the sheep and spread the

blood on the doorposts of their house. This sheep was also used for the Korban Pesach (the sacrifice for the holiday of Pesach). The Egyptian



God was a sheep. So when they see that their god is being killed, they would

¹ My Very Own Pesach Guide - Textbook & Workbook

probably kill the Yidden. But when the Egyptians tried to kill the Yidden, Hashem gave them a plague. At the same time, Moshe was preparing the death of the first born. So the Bechorim (first born) got upset and went to Pharaoh. They said to Pharaoh **“let the Yidden go or else we will die, due to the death of the first born!”** But Pharaoh said no. So the Bichorim and Pharaoh got into a big fight.

There are four important reasons that Shabbos Hagadol is thought of as the great Saturday:

1. The Egyptians did not kill the Yidden when the Yidden killed their god.
2. The Egyptians were fighting against each other.
3. On this day the (an important man of the community) , usually the Rabbi, gives a long speech.²
5. On this day Hashem gave the Yidden their first commandment as a nation. The commandment to bring a carbon called the carbon Pesach that was brought with the sheep.

² My Very Own Pesach Guide - Textbook & Workbook

Chometz or Matzah

By Arik Yarmush

There once was a man who was told "if you go to a Seder on Pesach night, you'll enjoy it; they have good food, delicious wine and more." So when the time came he went to the Rabbi's house for the Seder. First he saw everyone having a cup of wine and the Rabbi told him to drink a full cup of wine. Then he saw everyone washing. He was hoping, "now they'll take out the delicious food;" but instead everyone just took out onion slices and dipped



them in salt water. Then they ate the "burning" slices. Then he saw everyone taking flat bread and eating half and he too was instructed to eat half. Then for at least an hour, they recited this looong, loooong story in Hebrew. He didn't even understand it. Next, they took more of this teeth-breaking food called matzah, and he was told to eat that as well. After that, they all ate this very, very, very bitter food and he almost choked. Then there was even more teeth breaking and after that he left. He thought his friends must have been mistaken. When he went to his friend's house the next morning he explained to them what happened and asked why they had fooled him. They said if he had waited one more minute, the food would have come out (whomp whomp wowow). Well, what are all of these steps? Why do we do them and how does every person know to do them by heart?

Every single year on Pesach (Passover) we have a dinner called a Seder. This year the Seder is on the evening of Wed, Apr 5, and also on the evening of Thu, Apr 6, 2023. In Israel it's on Wednesday evening, April 5. We use a Haggadah to help guide us at the Seder on Pesach night. The Haggadah comes from the root word **Vehigaadato**, which comes from the Pasuk (verse) and means "and you should tell your sons on that day, (the night of Pesach) 'it is because of what the L-rd (Hashem) did for me and when I went free from Egypt. When we were freed from Egypt, Moshe told us to remember that, as it was the day G-d to us from the house of bondage and made us free people.'" Moshe then told us to remember it, so it will be passed from generation to generation. A lesson we learn is that everyday we should take ourselves beyond our limits and then, who knows the heights you can reach? If you have many guests at the Seder every person should have one. Your Haggadah should have Hebrew and an accurate English translation.

*The Haggadah guides us through a 15 step Seder,
which you'll learn more about in this issue of the HAT.*

Seder Night

On the evening of י"ד ניסן and ט"ו ניסן - Wed, Apr 5, and Thu, Apr 13, 2023 before sunset, girls light the holiday candles. The reason why we light candles is to honor Pesach. It also adds peace to the home. We wait until nightfall on the second night to light because we're not allowed to prepare for the second night.

Before we begin our Seder we need to set up our Kairah (Seder plate). On top is a plate or tray for the Seder Pieces, then underneath you put 3 matzahs. It's best to use Shmurah Matzah (hand-made round Matzah) for these

Matzah. The Seder Pieces include 6 ingredients. 1. On the top right hand corner, we put a Zeroah - Shankbone. This represents the Korban Pesach (Passover offering). 2. On the top left corner we put a Beitzah - Egg. This is for the Korban Chagigah (Festival Offering). We eat it at the 11th step, Shulchan Aruch, before the Meal. In the middle, we have Romaine Lettuce. We eat this at the 9th step, Maror. On the bottom right we have the Charosets, a dip of apple's pears, nuts and wine. We dip in Maror. On the bottom left we have a "Karpas"- any root vegetable like a potato or onion. We use this at the 3rd step, Karpas. On the bottom we have a Chazeres - Romaine Lettuce. We use this for the Hillel sandwich. After we set all of this we're ready for the Seder!!



Chametz

Now we're going to talk about something you **can't** eat on Pesach, it's a metaphor for bragging and boasting and it's all puffy up. Chametz!

So What is Chametz?

Chametz is water mixed in with one of the five grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, and Spelt). Left longer than 18 minutes before baking. We are forbidden to have this on Pesach.

Chametz isn't just this, Chametz also symbolizes the Yetzer Hara (Evil Inclination). While Matzah symbolizes our Yetzer Tov. Chametz and Matzah have the same ingredients but they act differently. Chametz looks better than Matzah, Chametz tastes better than Matza, and just like the Yetzer Tov, it tries to make bad things look good.

Matzah is flat and humble, while Chametz is puffy and full of ego.

Now we're going to talk about cleaning for Pesach (getting rid of Chametz in your house).. Here are some helpful ways to clean your house:

1.) Divide & Conquer

Send different people to clean different rooms. For example this sibling does his room and another kid does his room.

2.) Positioning

Some people start as far as away from the kitchen where Chametz lies the most and then work your way there. Also after you clean a room, label it, then no Chametz goes into the room until after Pesach.

3.) Kitchen

The Kitchen is the hardest to clean since that's where most of the Chametz lies. Some people have specific vessels for Pesach, while others "Kosher" it for Pesach, in order to Kasher it for Pesach contact your local Rabbi.

Bedikas Chametz - Searching for the Chametz

After cleaning and eliminating the Chametz, we check for it the night before Pesach. For the Bedikah (checking) we will need a feather, a wax candle and a wooden spoon, and a paper bag. The Blessing for searching is said and the search begins. All of these things plus the Chametz we find and the 10 pieces of Chametz will be burned tomorrow.

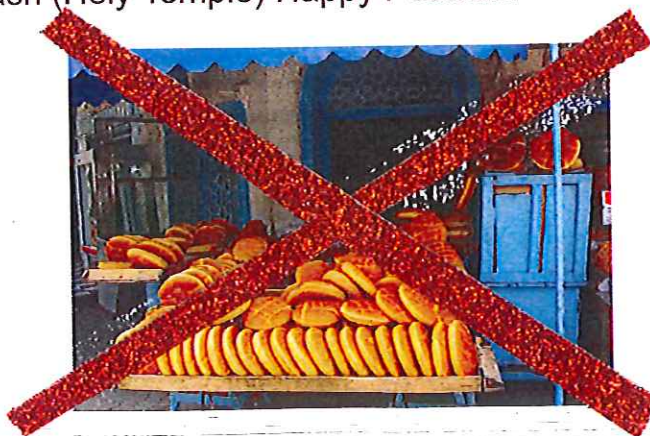
Biur Chametz - Burning The Chametz

You should have no more Chametz by the time the Korban Pesach was offered in the Bais Hamikdash. In order to know what time that is, contact your local Rabbi. When we burn it we also nullify the chametz. Make sure the chametz is burned before you nullify it.

Mechiras Chametz - Selling the Chametz

The Torah forbids owning Chametz so in addition to cleaning it, we sell the remaining Chametz. Please contact your local Rabbi for help in selling your Chametz. Once you've sold it make sure you can't see it so you won't accidentally eat it.

There is a big lesson we learn from Chametz. Chametz represents boating and haughty and Matzah represents humble. So if we all act what Matzah represents we will be eating the Korban Pesach (Pesach offering) and we will be having a Seder in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) with ultimate Beis Hamikdash (Holy Temple) Happy Pesach!!



Kadesh

By Chana Lipszyc



Riddle:

How does NASA organize their Passover
Seders in space?

Stay tuned to find out!

Begin by filling up a full cup of wine (or grape juice for children) and say a blessing. Some people fill someone else's cup; that way we are reminded of nobility, "whose cups are filled by someone else" (because kings have drinks poured for them).¹ I like to fill my own kiddush cup.

Now, sit down and lean to the left. Pesach is the only holiday in which we lean to the left side and everybody drinks, even children, and sometimes even babies. We drink the **WHOLE** cup. The reason why we lean to the left is because we are free people and we act like Kings on Pesach. If Moshe didn't free the Jewish people, we would still be slaves. And since we lean to the left, it shows that we are happy and free like Kings. The word Kadesh means to rise above the normal world, and also to make holy.

The reason Kadesh is the first step is because Pesach is the time when yidden followed Moshe out of Egypt to leave and rise above their condition. The first step of a journey is actually the first step you take *away* from where you are.²

I asked a few of my friends what their favorite step of the Seder was and why. Here is what they said:

Naomi: I love choruses in the steps of Maror & Korech.

Shneur Yarmush: Motzei Matzah & the 4 cups of wine and Shulchan Oreich.

MC: I love Hallel and Nirtzah.



Answer to the Riddle:
They **PLANET**!

¹ chabad.org

² My Very Own Pesach Guide: Textbook & Workbook

URCHATZ

By Maya Sasser

Knock knock!

Who's there?

Eliya

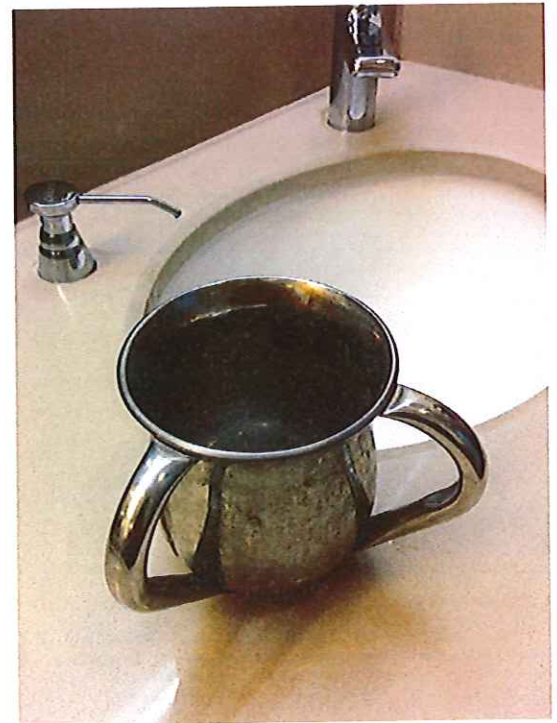
Eliya who?

Eliyahu Hanavi, Eliyahu Hatishbi, Eliyahu Hagiladi !!

For this edition of the hat, I'm writing about Urchatz, the second step of the Seder. In this step, we wash our hands for the seder. Did you know that when we wash our hands we pour water from the Negel Vasser (our special cup) on our right hand three times. Then we wash our left hands three times but we don't make the blessing.

During the time of the Beis Hamikdash who ever ate something dipped in water washed their hands the same way for bread but without saying the blessing. But why? Because the food that came into contact with water could become impure.

Our hands are used to show emotions. Hugging shows love or happiness; when you hit something that represents anger. In most Jewish homes there is a special cup called the negel vasser. We use it to wash our hands. we wash our hands for two reasons. We wash our hands for two reasons. One reason is to physically cleanse our hands. Another reason why we wash our hands is to cleanse our hands spirituality and clean our hands from when we have done something bad.



כרפס (Karpas)

By Moshe Chaim Dubrowski

What is the best cheese to eat on Pesach? Stay tuned to find the answer.

What do we do during Karpas? At Karpas we dip an onion in salt water. Some people have the custom of dipping potatoes (or spinach) into salt water. The reason we dip one of these things in salt water is to remind us of the salty tears that the Yidden cried in Mitzrayim.

In my home (and in my opinion), onions are a more appropriate choice for Karpas because the onion is bitter and brings tears to our eyes and the potato (or spinach) does not. So the onion is a better choice than the potato to remind us of our ancestors' tears.



We make sure that the size of the vegetable is smaller than an olive, so that we do not have to make an after bracha.

If you turn the word כרפס over, then you get the word פרך. The ס in Gematria (the Hebrew numbers) is 60. 60 refers to 600,000 Yidden who were working for Pharaoh in Mitzrayim. פרך means hard labor.¹

When we make the bracha on the vegetable, we make sure that we have in mind that the bracha is also for the maror (which you will hear about in Naomi's article).

Sometimes we need to feel the bitter tears that the Yidden of our past felt in order to free ourselves once again.

The answer to the riddle is... Mozzarella cheese. hahahaha.

¹ My Very Own Pesach Guide - Textbook & Workbook

Yachatz - Break the Middle

By Dovid Yarmush

The word Yachatz has two syllables. Coincidentally, Yachatz, you break the middle Matzah into **two** pieces.

What do we do during Yachatz at the Seder? Take hold of the middle of the three matzahs at your seder plate. You need to make sure the top Matzah remains whole. You're going to make a blessing on it later. Blessings are said on whole foods.

Break the
MIDDLE
Matzah into
two pieces
and leave the
smaller half
between the
two complete



matzahs. The piece that remains on the Seder plate is the “poor man’s bread”. That is the Matzah over which we tell the tale of our exodus from slavery. Poor people only eat a small part of their bread because they need to save the rest for tomorrow (in case there is none). Break the remaining (larger) piece into five pieces and wrap them in a cloth. According to Kabbalah, the world is created through five

contractions of light. In step 12 we Hide the package until the end of the Seder, when it will be eaten as the Afikomen or dessert.

In many houses, the children hide the Afikoman and the adults have to find it at the end of the meal. In other families, the adults hide it and the children find it. Either way, it keeps the kid's awake and in



suspense until the end of the meal. Many Sephardic Jews have the tradition of tying the Afikomen under the arms of the children, who carried it like that all night, just like when we left Egypt.

What it means

Why is there so much broken in this word? Why did the Hashem make a world where hearts break, lives shatter, beauty crumbles? A whole vessel can contain its measure, but a broken one can hold the Infinite. Matzah is called the poor man's bread.

Maggid Tell the Pesach Story

By Emel Howitt-Vallone

The whole reason we do Maggid and the four questions is so that the next generation can pass it on through generation and generation.



The word haggadah (which means “telling”) comes from the Seder in the Torah which says “and you shall tell your children.”

This is the first paragraph of the Maggid in the haggadah: “This is the bread of affliction that our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Whoever is hungry - let him come and eat! Whoever is needy - let him come and celebrate.

Passover now, we are here; next year may we be in the land of Israel! Now we are slaves; next year may we be free men!”

Now ask the four questions and pour the second cup of wine. Whoever is the youngest person in the house in the house will ask the four questions. The four questions are 4 questions that the youngest person has to memorize or if not you can read it out of the haggadah. The next paragraph will talk about how we were slaves to pharaoh and how Hashem took us out

of Egypt. Now it states a story and this is how the story goes: It happened that Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Eliazer Ben Azaryah, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Tarfun were recleaning (at the seder) bnei brak. They discussed the exodus all that night until their students came and said to them: 'Our teachers, it is [day break] time for the reading of the morning shema.' Rabbi eliezer ben azaryah said: I am like a seventy year old man, but I could not succeed in having the Exodus from Egypt menchons every night, until Ben Zoma expounded it: 'in order that you may remember the day you left Egypt all the days of your life' (Deuteronomy 16:3). The phrase 'the days of your life' would have indicated only the days; the addition. "We were slaves in Egypt and then g-d took us out with a mighty hand".



Rachtzah

We Wash Our Hands Again

by Emet Howitt-Vallone

Did you know that when we wash our hands, we still wash to eat bread because matzah is made of dough, so it's technically Hamotzi(The prayer for bread)? There are other reasons we wash twice.

When Hashem took us out of slavery in Egypt, he gave us more than freedom; he gave us the power to be able to free ourselves from the slavery of the Yetzer Hara(the evil spirit within us) who is constantly trying to make us do the wrong thing. We need the ability to fight it and do the right thing. We have the spiritual power to come closer to Hashem! Every time we get closer, we remember that we need to use our connection to Hashem and turn it into the act of a mitzvah. Throughout the Pesach Seder, and throughout our lives as well, there is a constant cycle that brings us closer to Hashem, and then back to the physical world.



When Moses, Aaron, and his sons came into the Tent of Meeting, they would wash (their hands and feet); and then again when they approached the Altar, as Hashem commanded Moses. (Pekudei 40:31). Our Seder table is our altar.

After telling the story (Maggid) of the Jews leaving Egypt, and focusing on how we can free our souls to unimaginable heights, we stop and focus on the mitzvah of washing our hands with the bracha. We prepare to make a bracha (blessing) on bread- not for any bread, but instead matzah. In conclusion we need to use our connection with hashem and use it for mitzvas to help build the bais hamikdash.

Motzi -

Blessing Over Bread

Dovid Yarmush

It is extremely important to have three matzahs at the Seder because they represent Cohen (priest), Levi (Leviti), and Yisrael (Israelite).

First we're going to talk about motzi. As I said in the title, it is the blessing over bread. Matzah is also extremely important in the Seder. In fact, it is the most important part of the Seder, and eating it completes the main mitzvah of Pesach (Passover). But



matzah is also bread even though it hasn't risen. On the Seder night, the Matzah fulfills the obligation of the two loaves that are at every Shabbas or holiday meal. The additional piece of Matzah on Pesach is for when we tell the story of going out of Egypt. We'll have two whole Matzahs that we will say the Hamotzi blessing, giving gratitude to Hashem. The blessing means "who brings bread from the Earth."

Grab all three matzahs-the top one, the middle broken one, and the bottom one. Pick them up a little, say the blessing: ... "who brings bread out of the earth," wait one second ... more instructions to follow in the next step.

Matzah

By Dovid Yarmush



Now we're going to talk about Matzah. We take the top Matzah together with the middle broken one, and make a special blessing over the Matzah. (THE blessing is אשר קדשנו... על אכילת מצה...) When we say the blessing, we should have in mind the Matzah we will be eating later, including the Matzah of Korech (read Tzvi's article) and the Afikomen (desert). We

eat a piece (about the size of an olive) from each Matzah. In Hebrew, we call this portion amount a kezayis. We eat the Matzah reclining to our left side (leaning on a pillow if that is possible) as a symbol of our freedom.

What we do

Carefully release the bottom matzah. Recite the blessing on the remaining whole matzah and the broken matzah, the blessing is: "...who has sanctified us with his Commandments, and commanded us concerning eating matzah." Break off a piece from each of the matzahs for yourself and for each of those sitting at your table. Pass them around.



In conclusion, I really like Matzah. Here's a fact I didn't mention - 30 days before Pesach we can't eat Matzah.

MAROR

BY NAOMI

MAROR IS NEITHER SALTY NOR SOUR, IT IS BITTER.

MAROR MEANS BITTER HERBS. SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT 80% OF THE JEWS IN EGYPT SAID, "THIS IS OUR LAND, HOW CAN WE LEAVE IT?" AND THEY STAYED AND DIED THERE. BUT FOR US, WE LEFT BECAUSE WHEN MOSES CAME, WE BELIEVED HIM.



IT WAS THE BITTERNESS THAT PRESERVED OUR FAITH. WE NEVER GOT USED TO EGYPT, WE NEVER CALLED IT HOME; AND WE NEVER FELT WE BELONGED.



THE MAROR REPRESENTS OUR SLAVERY IN EGYPT AND THE CHAROSET REPRESENTS THE MORTON WE USED TO BUILD THE PYRAMIDS WHEN WE GOT OUT OF EGYPT. WE GOT OUT OF EGYPT OVER 3,000 YEARS AGO.

THE CHAROSET IS SWEET SO IT BALANCES THE BITTERNESS OF THIS MAROR IT HAS TO BE BITTER TO REMIND US OF OUR SLAVERY AND FREEDOM.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF PESACH?

The Meal

BY: TZVI DUBROWSKI

"On matzah and bitter herbs you shall eat it" A great Rabbi from the times of the Mishna named Hillel, took this quote literally; which is why to this day, we Jews eat what's known as "The Hillel Sandwich" as part of our Pesach Seder.

Korech-The Hillel Sandwich

We break the bottom matzah into two pieces and take a piece (the size of an olive) of maror (bitter herbs) and put it in between the two half pieces of matzah. Then we mix the maror with horseradish and finally dip it into Charoses (a paste made of fruits and nuts and a bit of Wine) and say "this is what Hillel did when the Beis Hamikdash (temple) stood. He wrapped lamb, matzah, and bitter herbs together and ate them".

Then we lean to the left while we eat it.

Shulchan Orech-The Festive Meal

Now we eat a big meal with a lot of food, so far in the seder everything had significance and purpose; but for this part, we are just meant to enjoy the meal. There is a custom to start the meal with a hard boiled egg, which commemorates the festive offering. Then we dip it into salt water. A boiled egg is a sign of mourning.



And on every Yom Tov (festive holiday), we commemorate the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem.

Tzafun-Eat the Afikomen

Have you eaten a lot? Did you fill up on that delicious avocado? Had enough to drink? Good, because this is your last chance. The only thing that you will eat until the end is the afikomen (a dessert of matzah) and two cups of wine. Find the afikomen and lean to the left while eating it. There is a minhag (tradition) to hide the afikomen and whoever finds it gets a special prize.

My favorite part of these three steps is the meal, because I always get hungry and when it is the meal the food is so good and I finally get to eat! My favorite part of the whole Seder is Maggid, because it is very deep and interesting.

Super Steps

By Daniel Mendelson

*We open the door to our houses, and Hashem does the same;
but in a **spiritual** way!*

The ancient rabbis clued us in on a secret: whatever Hashem tells us to do, he does himself. Hashem told us to open the door on the night of Passover. So on this night he opens the gateway to every member of the Jewish people. On passover tonight is a time to chance to reach the highest point of spiritual levels.

Beirach - Grace After Meals

After we pour the third cup of wine, we read from the Haggadah. Then we say the blessings and chug the wine while leaning to the left. As we read the Haggadah out loud with joy, it comes right back to us with a greater force.



Hallel - Psalms of Praise

During Hallel you pour **ANOTHER** cup of wine (the fourth of seder). "I'm already drunk." Then you pour a fifth cup. "WHAT?! I'm so drunk I can hardly pour it" no, it's not for you, it is poured in honor of Eliyahu hanavy (Elijah the prophet).

"Thank goodness"

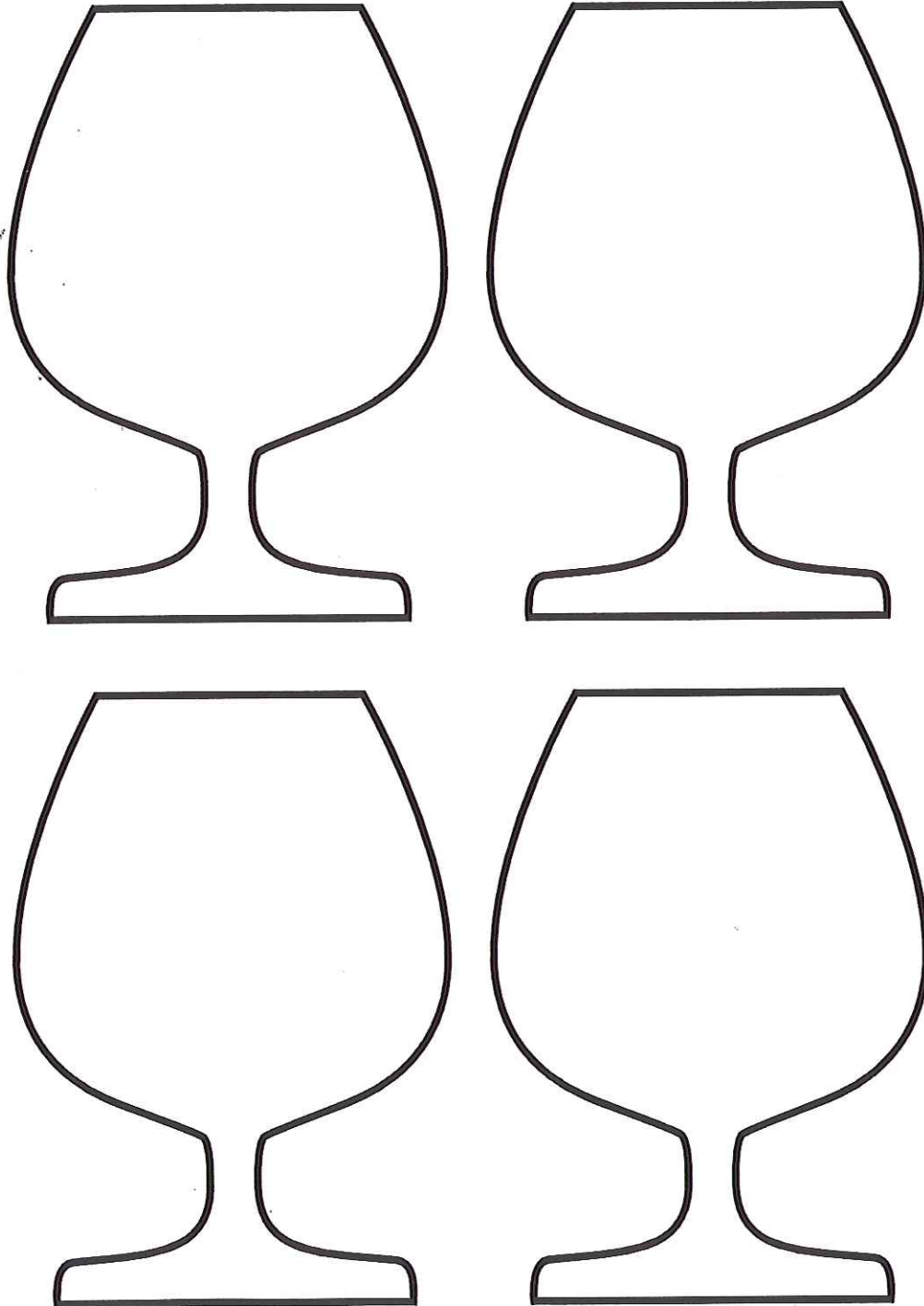
Nirtzah - Accepted

In Nirtzah we do nothing; Hashem does everything. We hope he accepts the Seder and that next year we will be in Jerusalem! I hope that you learned alot and have a great Passover.

THE FOUR CUPS OF FREEDOM

On Passover, the four cups of wine commemorate the four words of freedom in God's promise,
and we drink them to show how happy we are to be free.

Draw four things that make you feel happy and free!





לשנה הבאה בירושלים!
NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!