

traditional way to make a Seder

Passover Feature

IN HONOR OF PASSOVER, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE ISRAELITES FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF FEATURES. THIS YEAR THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL IS INAUGURATED AT SUNDOWN ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, APRIL 9, AND ENDS AT SUNDOWN APRIL 17.

Torah Educators Expansion

By HENRY W. LEVY

NEW YORK--Following a three week tour of religious educational institutions and facilities in the United States and Canada, Moshe Krone of Jerusalem, member of the Jewish Agency Executive and head of its Department of Torah Education and Culture, expressed great satisfaction with the progress being made in Torah education in North America. Reporting to a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Torah Education Department, of which Dr. Emanuel Rackman, an American member of the Jewish Agency Executive, is chairman, Mr. Krone urged further intensification of the efforts of his department.

Mr. Krone reported that the 69 Israeli educator-consultants (shlichim) now affiliated with day schools in twenty communities of the United States and Canada have "made a tremendous impact on the schools and communities with which they are affiliated." He urged that this number be doubled and that more communities be reached, as part of the development of an intensive youth movement thoroughly committed to Jewish identification.

Dr. Rackman, following the reports of Mr. Krone and Zvi Assael, director of the Torah Education Department in the U.S., announced that the Department would increase its penetration into midwest, southwest and western communities through its shlichim, and noted the effectiveness of the teacher exchange and enrichment (hishtalmut) programs in raising the standards of Jewish education in America. He said that proposals made at the meeting would

- 1 CANDLE**s are lighted by the mother of the house to usher in the festival of Passover. The benediction which she pronounces over the candles gives a religious meaning to this simple act. An abundance of light symbolizes joy and festivity, and the soft candle-glow adds an aura of spirituality to the Seder table.
- 2 A CUP OF WINE** is placed at each table setting. The sanctification of the Holiday is pronounced over the first cup. Three additional cups are drunk during the course of the Seder, making a total of four, to symbolize the four expressions of the Lord's promise to redeem the children of Israel and deliver them from bondage.
- 3 THE HAGGADAH** (literally "the telling") contains the complete Seder ceremonies in their prescribed order (seder). The first part of the book, concerned mainly with the story of the Jews' deliverance from Egypt, is read before the meal. After dinner follows the second portion consisting of prayers of praise and thanks to the Almighty.
- 4 MATZOH** represents the "bread of affliction" eaten by the Jews in Egypt, and also the bread that had to be baked during their hasty flight when there was no time for leavening. Three matzot are placed in the Seder tray. Half the middle matzoh, saved for the *Afikomon* (dessert), is playfully "stolen" by a child and ransomed for a prize.
- 5 THE Z'ROAH**, a roasted shank bone, is placed on the Seder tray. It represents the ancient sacrifice of the Paschal lamb (*Pesach*) which had to be eaten roasted. *Pesach*, the Hebrew name for Passover, also refers to the Lord's passing over (*pasach*) the Jewish homes during the plague visited upon the Egyptian first-born.
- 6 THE BEITZAH**, a roasted egg placed left of the *Z'roah*, symbolizes the required offering brought on all festivals in the Temple. The egg, while not itself sacrificed, is used in the Seder as it is the Jewish symbol of mourning (in this case for the loss of the Temple where the sacrifices were brought).
- 7 THE MAROR** or "bitter herbs" (usually horseradish) is placed in the middle of the tray and symbolizes the Jews' bitter suffering under the Egyptian yoke. Directly below is the *Chazereth*, another piece of bitter herbs, commemorating the custom of eating *Maror* sandwiched between two pieces of *Matzoh*.
- 8 THE CHAROSET**, placed beneath the *Z'roah*, is a mixture of chopped apple, nuts, cinnamon, and wine designed to look like the mortar used by the Jews in building the palaces and pyramids of Egypt during centuries of forced labor. Before the *Maror* is eaten, it is dipped into the *Charoset*.
- 9 THE KARPAS**, a piece of parsley or lettuce placed to the left of the *Charoset*, symbolizes the meager diet of the Jews in Egyptian bondage. It is dipped into salt water in remembrance of the tears they shed in their misery. The *Karpas* also signifies Springtime, the season of Passover.
- 10 THE CUP OF ELIJAH**, filled with wine, is kept on the table throughout the Seder in the hope that the Prophet Elijah may appear as a messenger of the Almighty and announce the coming of the Messiah. Thus, in the midst of their memories of the past, the Jews look forward to the day of universal peace, love, and brotherhood.

be given consideration. They included the suggestions that:

a) the tour of duty of Israeli consultant-teachers in the U.S. be extended to 4-5 years instead of only two years.

b) the Department underwrite the comprehensive cataloging of Jewish educational resource material and make it available to schools in America.

c) the senior high school program of the Department be widened so that all Yeshiva High School students will be required to spend their senior year in an Israel Yeshiva.

d) additional Educator Workshops and demonstration sessions be sponsored in various regions of the U. S.

The Advisory Committee, composed of heads

of fifteen educational bodies and seminaries, endorsed the intensification program outlined by Mr. Krone. The Torah Education Department currently sponsors long and short range educational and tour-study programs in Israel for Americans. They are designed for teenagers, collegians and religious-community leaders. More than 1,000 students, rabbis, and educators went to Israel last year for hishtalmut--enrichment and supplementary study--under the Torah Department's program.

The Department also provides American Yeshivot and Hebrew Schools with experienced Israeli personnel, arranges seminars, publishes texts and resource material and provides lecturers for youngsters and adults. The office in New York is at 515 Park Avenue.

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