

# The traditional way to make a Seder

- 1 CANDLE** 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 (*sefer*). 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 (*posach*) 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.

## Clark County School District Implements Passover Menu

The Clark County School District has implemented a pilot program this year in an effort to provide a special lunch menu for Jewish students.

Dan McPartlin, Food Service director, said providing a special Passover menu was taken under consideration by his department in January after a special request from a Jewish parent. "The parent called and expressed her concerns that during Passover, Jewish children would not be able to choose items from the standard school district lunch menu. She asked if we could help in any way. From that conversation, we worked to develop a menu that would not only meet the health and nutritional requirements set by the federal government, but also would meet the Jewish religious requirements observed during Passover," McPartlin explained.

Copies of the April lunch menu, with the added choices for Passover printed on the reverse, have been distributed to all elementary students. According to McPartlin, parents only need to indicate they would like to have the special lunch reserved for their child, clip off that portion of the menu and return it to lunchroom personnel at the school. No additional cost is required.

## "World Series Of Mah-Jongg" To Be Held At The Raleigh Hotel

In a year that features the Olympics, political conventions and a Presidential election, the Raleigh Hotel in South Fallsburg, New York, will be the host site of the first ever "World Series of Mah-Jongg," during the weekend of July 8-10.

The tournament was the brainchild of Raleigh

Hotel co-owner, George Gilbert, who said the hotel will give \$1,000 to the designated charity of the winning quartet.

Mah-Jongg, a well-known parlor game of ancient Chinese origin was tremendously popular in urban, ethnic settings. "Traditionally played by women, 'The World Series,'" according to Mr. Gilbert, "will be open to men."

The "World Series of Mah-Jongg" will be limited to 20 teams. Priority registration will be given to those who enter as a quartet. The organi-

zers, however, will try to accommodate all interested players. "Each team," said Mr. Gilbert, "will be allowed to bring an alternate player, who can substitute and cut the coffee cake."

Each member of the winning team will also receive a free weekend for two at the Raleigh.

In order to register, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Raleigh Hotel, c/o World Series of Mah-Jongg, Thompsonville Road, South Fallsburg, New York, 12779. For further information, call Mr. Lewis Shron at (201) 342-7339. Deadline for applicants is June 15, 1988.

# Happy Passover

Best Wishes to our Jewish Neighbors



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The Staff and Administration of Desert Springs Hospital wish you and your family a happy, healthy and peaceful Passover.

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