

Doing Your Own Seder

A Guide by Rabbi Reni Dickman & Rabbi Josh Feigelson
Fiedler Hillel at Northwestern University

Before the seder:

__ Make a list of other supplies needed (*Italics indicates not necessarily necessary items*)

Ceremonial Items

- Matzah cover
- Haggadot
- *Songsheets*
- *Additional readings*
- *Games, toys*
- Candles & matches
- Kiddush cup
- Elijah's cup
- *Miriam's cup*
- *Orange*
- Ceremonial foods for everyone:
 - Matzah
 - Maror (horseradish or romaine lettuce)
 - Haroset
 - Salt water
 - Wine or grape juice
- Seder plate
 - Hard-boiled egg
 - Shank bone
 - Parsley
 - Horseradish
 - Lettuce
 - Haroset
- Prize for afikomen-finder

Food

- Food

Basics

- *Table*
- Chairs
- *Pillows*
- *Flowers*
- Plates
- Cups
- Cutlery
- Napkins
- *Placecards*
- *Nametags*
- Water pitcher
- Bowl
- Towels
- Trash bags

___ Brainstorm how to incorporate tzedekah into your holiday celebration as an individual and/or as a group (i.e. ask people to bring non-perishable items to the seder to be donated to a local shelter)

___ Invite people and keep track of RSVP's

___ Read through haggadah and decide which parts you want to do [If using 'A Different Night', take a look at the 'Bare bones seder' (listed on p. 3 under Appendix/"Shortcuts Through the Haggadah"): pp. 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 35-36, 46, 48, 52-54, 57-60, 62-63, 65, 68, 85.]

___ Delegate tasks to invited guests – things to bring and/or parts of haggadah to prepare

___ Relearn some old tunes for your favorite songs, and to ceremonial parts of the seder (available at <http://joshfeigelson.wordpress.com/torah/recorded-liturgy/>)

___ Check out some Jewish websites for additional readings and/or songs:

www.myjewishlearning.com

www.jcua.org (Jewish Council on Urban Affairs)

www.ajws.org (American Jewish World Service)

www.hillel.org (Hillel)

www.urj.org (Union of Reform Judaism—Rabbi Reni's alma mater)

www.uscj.org (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

www.ou.org (Orthodox Union)

www.yctorah.org (YCT Rabbinical School—RJ's alma mater)

Online Haggadot:

<http://judaism.about.com/od/passover/Passover.htm>

www.30minuteseder.com

www.internethaggadah.com

___ Clean apt. or dorm room

___ ** call family to wish them a happy holiday

Seder night:

1. Welcome
 - a. names/introductions (Hebrew names? **Name tags?**)
 - b. thank those who have helped prepare

2. Introduction

Some ideas: Ask everyone to share a favorite seder memory, favorite part of the seder, place where they remember feeling like a stranger, what they hope to experience that evening i.e. reconnect to Jewish self, become more sensitive to the needs of those who are not free, meet new friends, learn something new...

Put **notecards** with “Big Questions” on the table for people to discuss. Ask people to come with such a card to place on the table. Possible questions:

Are we free?
Where do you feel at home?
Who is a stranger?

3. Candle lighting – p.4
candlesticks, candles, matches
4. Review order of seder – p. 6

*** FILL FIRST CUP**

5. **Kadesh** (sanctification) Kiddush pp.7-8
wine glasses or cups for everyone

*** DRINK FIRST CUP**

6. **Urchatz** (1st handwashing – p.10)
pitcher of water, large bowl, towel
Each guest washes hands, no blessing said
7. **Karpas** – p.10 Everyone says blessing in middle of p.10
parsely dipped in salt water, other cut vegetables with dips –
this will make everyone happier until the meal comes!
8. **Yachatz** – breaking of the middle matza – p.10
plate with three covered pieces of matzah on it, napkin or
cloth to wrap afikomen. Larger half of middle matzah
becomes afikomen—go hide it!
9. **Magid** – Telling of the story

See suggestions (#4) on top of page 12

Ha lachma anya – “This is the bread of affliction.” p. 12

*** FILL SECOND CUP**

1st telling – Four questions – youngest person sings or all can sing together (p. 14)

Avadim Hayinnu - “We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt.” p. 16

Five rabbis of B’nei Brak p. 17

2nd telling - Four Children – pp.18-33 This is the longest section in this haggadah, probably because its editors are educators and so include a lot of material about how different “children” learn and what these different children have to teach us. You can go into depth here or not...

We were idol worshippers, now we worship God p.34

God as keeper of promises

3rd telling – *Arami Oved Avi* - “My father was a wandering Aramean.” p. 36

OR “An Aramean sought to destroy my father.”

Ten Plagues p.46

Dayeinu p. 48

4th telling - Symbols: Pesach, Matzah and Maror – explanations p. 52

In every generation...p. 54

Could be a nice time to talk about past seders, grandparents, parents...

10. Hallel—Psalms of praise (first part)

11. DRINK SECOND CUP – blessing p. 58

12. **Rachtza** – washing of hands (this time with blessing) p.59

13. **Motzi** – say blessing p. 59

14. **Matza** – eat from the top and ½ of middle matzah p. 59

15. **Maror** - say blessing p. 60 then eat bitter herb dipped in only a little charoset. Don't recline while eating maror.

16. **Korech** – Hillel sandwich p. 62
Bottom matzah + maror + charoset
Eat while reclining to the left
No blessing to say because you already said motzi

16. **Shulchan Orech** – The Meal!

17. **Tzafun** – find the afikomen, leader says blessing p. 63

*** FILL THIRD CUP**

18. **Barech** – blessing after the meal pp.64-67 (There are shorter versions, and this is a particular weakness of this haggadah.)

19. DRINK THIRD CUP – blessing p. 67

20. Sh'foch chamatcha – asking God to pour out wrath on our enemies, medieval prayer (taken out of many haggadot...) p. 68

21. Open the door for Elijah p. 69 (**Elijah's cup**)

*** POUR FOURTH CUP**

22. **Hallel** – more songs of praise
The Festival Hallel p. 70
The Great Hallel p. 71-72

23. DRINK FOURTH CUP – blessing before wine and after wine p. 73

24. Counting the Omer – beginning on the 2nd night of Passover (at the second seder), one counts the days between Passover and the holiday of Shavuot. We count 49 days (this period of time is called the *Omer*) and the 50th day is Shavuot. – p. 73

25. Songs – pp.74-75

26. **Nirtza** – conclusion p. 85
May our efforts to perform the seder be acceptable
Next year in Jerusalem!

ASK PEOPLE TO HELP YOU CLEAN UP.