



THE ELECTRONIC EDUCATOR-
A weekly update of information for you and your school!
A service of the NJ Region USCJ Dept. of Education
Michelle Rich, Director of Education and Youth Activities
Nita Polay Levin, Field Worker
Lisa Harris Glass, Executive Director

*WITH PURIM BEHIND US, IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS AND TURN OUR
FULL ATTENTION TO
PASSOVER!!!!*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, CONTACT NITA AT
LEVIN@USCJ.ORG OR CALL (732) 738 – 4301

MODEL SEDER IDEAS

Chocolate Seder

MATZAH BAKERY

Walk Thru Seder (with stations)

SETTING UP A PESACH FAIR

PROGRAMS

Passover songs, including parodies

Stories, plays and RIDDLES!

Educational Puzzles & games (BOARD GAMES AND BLACKBOARD GAMES, CARD GAMES, ETC.)

Puzzles & games for fun (in case your kids need a break from all the seriousness!)

Ideas for how to teach something

A CURRICULUM OF WHICH HAGADDAH PRAYERS & SONGS TO TEACH

Arts & Crafts projects

Recipes

Have an idea you need help fleshing out? We can help! No Dayenu here!!

Up-coming Winter/spring semester mini-courses

- 4. WHAT'S THE "BIG IDEA?" ART WITH A PURPOSE: (An artist, you don't have to be!)**
Instructor: Tassie Becker, veteran religious school teacher and experienced crafter
Wed., March 14, 7 – 8:30 PM, Regional USCJ office, Raritan Center, Edison

Utilizing current educational practices, such as The Big Idea and Enduring Understandings, this Mini-Course will show you how to work backwards to come up with art projects—what enduring idea would you like your students to leave the lesson with, that may last longer than the project itself? How can we create items that will not take too much of our precious few school hours? And what happens if I can't draw a straight

line to save my life? Tassie will take us beyond sukkah paper chains and challah covers with random, scattered scribbles, to high quality products that teach students something they did not know before and that parents will be proud to use. Participants will learn crafts of different Jewish cultures, kits that can be purchased, and materials that we and our students perhaps didn't know how to use previously.

This Mini-Course will NOT yield take-home projects, but you will be reinforced with directions and ideas aplenty.

(By the way, the best way to draw a straight line is with a ruler!)

WE STILL HAVE SOME SPACES AVAILABLE, BUT DON'T HESITATE!

Please call for correct directions!!!

5. HOW CHILDREN CONCEPTUALIZE GOD

**Instructor: Dr. Shoshana Silberman, Consultant, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Philadelphia
Sunday, March 18, 1 – 2:30 PM, Summit Jewish Center**

Dr. Silberman conducted a study of almost 900 Jewish children to learn what they think about God. By exploring the results of this research, participants will be better equipped to discuss issues of God and spirituality in their classrooms (geared toward teachers of grades 3 – 7)

6. TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT GOD

Instructor: Dr. Shoshana Silberman, Wed., March 21, 6:30 – 8 PM, Morristown Jewish Center

As always, all Mini-Courses are free of charge, a benefit of your membership in United Synagogue

*To register, email Michelle Rich at Rich@USCJ.org or phone (732) 738 - 4301.
[Nita Polay Levin]*

If you are interested in reserving a Mini-Course for your school for the fall (late August to early January), please contact Nita at Levin@USCJ.org, phone (732) 738 – 4301.



uscj.org/eNews

March 2007



mid-February and is likely to close in early March, so if you are interested please move quickly.

Sulam

[Sulam](#), the training program that helps new synagogue leaders climb the ladder of Jewish knowledge and practice, will be held twice in 2007. The first session, March 8 to March 11 in Newark, New Jersey, is sold out; we can accept last-minute reservations for the second session, set for March 15 to March 18 in Toronto, Ontario.

Pesach at the Ritz

Passover's a time to be at home with your family, but perhaps sometimes you and your family get the urge to have someone else change all the dishes. If that's your feeling this year, [join us](#) at the Ritz Carlton Grande Lake in Orlando, Florida, and relax in the sun this Pesach.

Solomon Schechter Awards

At our biennial convention, we honor winners of the [Solomon Schechter Awards for Synagogue Excellence](#). We urge our member synagogues to [apply](#) for the award. The application deadline is April 27.

Act Now, Study in Israel with [Hazak](#) This Summer!

Conservative Jews 55 and older are invited to an eight-region retreat in Pennsylvania from June 13 to June 20. [Click here](#) for more information and [here](#) for an application. Applications are due by May 18.

Join Us in Washington on Joint Advocacy Day

United Synagogue teams with our Conservative movement partner, the [Rabbinical Assembly](#), as we go to Washington DC for [Advocacy Day](#). On Advocacy Day – actually two days, June 19 and 20 – we will listen to speakers, learn more about how to advocate effectively, and meet with our representatives to test our newly upgraded skills.

Imun

[Imun](#), the week-long retreat where newly emerging lay leaders can hone their synagogue skills, including laying and writing and delivering a dvar Torah, will

In April, we mark Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 16), Yom HaZikaron (Israel Remembrance Day, April 23), and Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day, April 24); May 16 brings us Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day. [Click here](#) for resources for programming and information about those holidays, both in English and in Hebrew.

Help Save Darfur

The desperate situation in Darfur slips in and out of the news; the people stuck there do not have that luxury. For updates about the situation and to learn what we can do to help, we suggest you go to [section on Darfur](#) on the American Jewish World Service's website.

Tzohar Biloxi

In February, 18 people went to Biloxi, Mississippi, with our Tzohar Biloxi project. There, they worked to help repair some of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. To read about the trip, [click here](#).

Lois Wolf from Congregation Beth Israel in Owings Mills, Maryland, works as a participant in United Synagogue's Tzohar Biloxi.

To read earlier new ideas, [click here](#).

Koach Kallah

[Koach](#), our program for college students, held its [annual kallah](#) at the [University of Pennsylvania](#) from February 22 to February 25. One hundred and fifty three students from 54 campuses across North America joined representatives from the [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center's Conservative Yeshiva](#), the [Masorti](#) community in the Czech Republic, [Ramah camps](#), and our own [youth department](#); 10 rabbis from Philadelphia also came to teach.

Schechter Schools Name SREL Fellow

The [Solomon Schechter Day School Association](#) has named Moshe Schwartz, a fifth-year rabbinical student at the [Jewish](#)

meet at [Camp Ramah in the Berkshires](#) from [July 8 to July 16](#).

USY Invites Parents to Israel

Once again, [USY](#) offers parents the chance to see Israel the USY way. The [Parents Pilgrimage to Israel](#) offers parents a 13-day mid-July opportunity to experience Israel as their children do.

USY Trips Filling Fast

Spaces in [USY trips](#) fill quickly, but there is still some room left in some programs. To see what's available, and to register quickly, [click here](#).

Next Year in Israel

Registration has begun for 2007 at [Nativ](#), USY's college/leadership program in Israel. Participants spend the year between high school and college in Israel. Half of that time they work on a kibbutz or volunteer in a development town; the other half is spent living in Jerusalem, studying at the [Hebrew University](#) or the [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at the [Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#). Throughout the Nativ program, students engage in special religious and leadership training experiences.

Join Us in Orlando for Our International Convention!

United Synagogue's international biennial convention is planned for November 29 through December 3 at the [Rosen Shingle Creek Resort and Golf Club](#) in Orlando, Florida. [Click here](#) for more information. Please plan to be there with us!

Fuchsberg Center

Summer Programs at the Conservative Yeshiva

The [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at [United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) is now accepting applications for the 2007 summer program. In the mornings, the program includes four levels of an intensive ulpan and both beginning and advanced levels of Talmud study on both beginning and advanced levels. In the afternoons, there are classes in Mishnah, midrash, Tanach, halakha, and tefillah. The program, for adults of all ages and backgrounds, has two three-week sessions, July 1 to July 19 and July 22 to August 9. For more information about the

[Theological Seminary](#), as its [SREL](#) fellow. The program – formally the Schechter Residency in Educational Leadership – supports the professional development and field-based training of a rabbi who chooses to be an educator in a Schechter school as his or her career path. The school in which that newly fledged rabbi will teach receives \$25,000 per year for three years and allows the school to present him or her with a more attractive compensation package. Moshe Schwartz has worked as a rabbinical intern at the [Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island](#) for two years, and that is where he will conduct his residency. He is a lifelong passionate Conservative Jew who already has shown formidable skill in connecting synagogues, USY, Camp Ramah, and Schechter.

Early Childhood Joins the JEA

For the first time, 25 early childhood education directors from United Synagogue-affiliated institutions came from around the country to the [Jewish Educators Assembly](#) conference. At the conference, in Teaneck, New Jersey, the early childhood educators shared lessons and experiences with Conservative religious school and day school educators. At that conference, the JEA honored our own Temma Kingsley, a passionate early childhood educator who has pushed the field forward considerably in the Conservative movement, with the Keter Tov award. Kay Pomerantz, who retired from United Synagogue as assistant director of our education department, and Serene Victor, our consultant for synagogue education, were given honorary doctorates by the Jewish Theological Seminary as part of the conference. We are immensely proud of all three of them.

Poland's Chief Rabbi Speaks to METNY Meeting

In February, Rabbi Michael Schudrich spoke to leaders of our [Metropolitan New York](#) region. Here, Rabbi Schudrich stands between our METNY regional director, Bruce Greenfield, left, and our regional president, Irwin Scharf.

program, tuition, and scholarships, email yeshiva@uscj.org, call 972-2-622-3116, or go to the Yeshiva's website by [clicking here](#).

On-Line Learning at the Conservative Yeshiva

Last month, the [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at [United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) launched its first on-line course. Forty students from North America, Australia, Israel, and the Philippines are studying tehillim – psalms – with Rabbi GailDiamond. For more information, including notification about the next on-line learning opportunity, email yeshiva@uscj.org or go to the Yeshiva's website by [clicking here](#).

Study in Jerusalem this Fall!

The [Conservative Yeshiva](#) at [United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center](#) is now accepting applications for fall 2007. The Yeshiva offers Jews of all background the opportunity to study classic Jewish texts in a vibrant, open-minded egalitarian community. The curriculum focuses on teaching Tanach, Talmud, halakha, and Jewish philosophy, and includes the skills necessary for that study. Courses are taught at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, and the program includes a daily minyan, volunteer projects, and trips. Students between 18 and 30 years old are eligible for scholarships from the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Yeshiva is offering three full scholarships as well. For more information and an application, email yeshiva@uscj.org, call 972-2-622-3116, or go to the Yeshiva's website by [clicking here](#).



Around the USCJ

Convention Update

Our international biennial convention is less than a year away, and preparations are ramping up. This convention will be held over Shabbat, letting us experience the beauty and wonder and joy of that day together. To learn more about the convention, which will be held from November 29 to December 3, 2007, in Orlando, Florida, take a look at our [convention e-newsletter](#). As our plans develop, we'll keep you posted.

Nativ Offers New Option

[Nativ](#), [USY's](#) yearlong program in Israel, has added a track; now students can take the [Ulpan/Community Service option](#) in the fall. It joins the classic Nativ and full-year yeshiva options.

On the Agenda

Pesach is coming!

The first seder will be on the evening of April 2. Our education department offers a handbook for families with young children, from nursery-school age through fourth-graders. The book, Lyndall Miller's *A Family Activity Guide for Pesach*, published by the Commission on Jewish Education's Early Childhood Committee, is available as a master copy and can be copied. Congregations may add their own names and logos. \$25. Send orders, including a prepaid check made out to the United Synagogue Department of Education, to that department at Rapaport House, 155 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

With Just One Click

Take advantage of **free Internet hosting services** to affiliated synagogues, USY chapters and afternoon/day schools.



Get suggestions for **building a Jewish home library**. Great ideas for gift giving as well.



Movement News

Save the Date

Mark your calendars, update your PDAs, fill in your datebooks. United Synagogue's next biennial convention will be held from Thursday, Nov. 29 - Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, at the new [Rosen Shingle Creek Resort and Golf Club](#) in Orlando, Florida. We look forward to seeing you there. The convention will be chaired by Carole Korowitz and co-chaired by Rochelle Baltuch. For more information, go to our [e-newsletter](#).

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rapaport House
155 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010
212.533.7800, ext. 2601
info@uscj.org

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This is a scholarship opportunity that can't be beat: up to \$2000 to study at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. The deadline for application is April 1, so don't procrastinate on this.
---Serene Victor, USCJ National Consultant for Synagogue Education

LEGACY HERITAGE JEWISH COMMUNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

for SUMMER PROGRAM 2007
Session I: July 1 - July 19
Session II: July 22 - August 9

A Unique Opportunity to study at

the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem for

- * Community Educators and Youth Advisors
- * Jewish Community Center, Federation, and Hillel Personnel
- * Synagogue Administrators, Educators and Officers

The Conservative Yeshiva Summer Program includes:

- * Mornings devoted to intense classes in either:

Hebrew Ulpan (levels aleph through daled, more levels may be added) or

Talmud (Beginning and Advanced)

- * Afternoon sessions in Tanach, Midrash, Mishna, Halacha, and Tefilah
- * Courses built on the traditional model of chevruta, learning one-on-one with a partner, and shiur, a seminar-style class
- * A chance to be part of a unique, intergenerational learning community

The Legacy Heritage Jewish Communal Scholarships provide a special opportunity for leadership development!

- * Study in Jerusalem enables students to use Hebrew daily and gives context to the study of Jewish texts.
- * Study at the Conservative Yeshiva will enrich participants and

The deadline for communities to submit applications for the 2007 Awards is June 4, 2007. More information about the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Awards can be found online at <http://www.grinspoonsteinhardt.org>.

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PRESCHOOL CORNER

USCJ EC Staff Meeting Shiur – March 2007

“Any chametz or leaven that is in my possession which I have not seen, have not removed and do not know about, should be annulled and become ownerless, like the dust of the earth.”

-from the declaration one says after the search for Chametz

Questions for discussion:

1. Pesach is likely the most extensively prepared-for holiday on the Jewish calendar. After all the physical cleaning is done, we add a symbolic preparation too, with Bedikat Chametz, the search for chametz – leavened or not kosher-for Pesach-food. Have you ever done Bedikat Chametz in your own home? Share stories of previous years’ searches. If you have no personal stories, check out this description by Rabbi Paul J. Kipnes:
<http://www.jewishjournal.com/home/preview.php?id=6731>
2. Pesach can be a time to rid not only our homes but also our souls of chametz. In CLAL's National Jewish Resource Center, there is a ceremony for Spring-Cleaning the Soul for Passover. We each harbor hidden sins, petty pride, and stubborn self-importance. When we look inside ourselves and take time to recognize and name the ways we oppress and have been oppressed, then we are able to take steps to rid ourselves of this “spiritual chametz” and move closer to our fullest freedom. Take a few moments for each person to write down some personal chametz. Share if you choose. Then crumple the paper up and toss it out. For the biggest effect, toss the notes into an empty coffee can and burn them. You can find the full ceremony at <http://www.clal.org/rl42.html>
3. The Torah requires that chametz not be eaten, or seen, nor even present in your house during Pesach (Exodus 13:3, 7, 15). All yeast-based baked goods must be removed from our premises (Exodus 12:15). The rabbis then detailed the process of removing the chametz. The declaration we make once we’ve found all the hidden chametz was written in Aramaic, the vernacular of the Jewish people at the time. Today we are told to be sure to make the declaration in a language we can understand. We essentially say, “We looked, we tried, but if we didn’t find everything, we are not accountable.” Why would the rabbis have created such a ceremony? What is the significance of being able to say to God “We did our best,” and have that be absolutely good enough?
4. Young children love to play hide and go seek. Bedikat Chametz is hide and go seek in a Jewish context. How can we help children experience it as more than just a fun game of “search for the bread crumbs,” and appreciate some of the deeper implications of Bedikat Chametz?

Slightly different versions of the entire bedikat chametz ritual can be found at:

<http://www.njop.org/html/Passoverwritings.html#BC>

<http://www.milechai.com/text2/bedikat-chametz-kits.html>

http://judaism.about.com/library/3_howto/ht_searchchametz.htm

Maxine Segal Handelman

Consultant for Early Childhood Education, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

handelman@uscj.org

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NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR SOLOMON SCHECHTER AWARD APPLICATION.

*(DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE BUSY
WITH FINISHING BUDGETS AND PESACH!)*

DEADLINE – APRIL 27, 2007

The Solomon Schechter Awards Program

The Solomon Schechter Awards program is one of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's longest continuously running programs and is a fitting tribute to the memory of Solomon Schechter. Dr. Schechter's stress on meaningful synagogue activity is reflected in our mission as a movement, and in particular in the selection and presentation of these awards.

The Solomon Schechter Award rewards extraordinary characteristics and certain unusual and outstanding aspects or achievements that go beyond the expected norms. Award winners deserve recognition for the originality and quality of their programs, for their presentations and achievements. We congratulate them, as well as the many other synagogues that continually strive for excellence. The selection process is not an easy one, and we applaud the efforts of all who submitted entries to the program.

This publication, *In Pursuit of Excellence*, is an excellent and valuable source book of programs that can be replicated in other synagogues. Please be sure to share the information with your congregation's staff and lay leadership. Award-winners will be glad to share information with you during United Synagogue's 2007 biennial convention and at their exhibits, as well as by phone, fax, mail or e-mail after the convention in Orlando, Florida.

On behalf of the entire Schechter Awards committee, we extend a heartfelt mazal tov to all. To the committee, the judging panels, and the United Synagogue staff - we are awestruck by your commitment and dedication, and are eternally grateful for your assistance.

CTRL + Click on the link below for the Schechter Award Guidelines

http://www.uscj.org/images/2007_Schechter_Guidelines_web.PDF

CTRL + Click on the link below for the Schechter Award Application

http://www.uscj.org/images/2007_Schechter_application.PDF

Lisa Harris Glass

Executive Director

USCJ - New Jersey Region

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Thursday, March 8, 2007

Using the [BJE's ISRAEL MAP](#) (see it in action online)

<http://www.bjeny.org/677.asp?dept=Educational%20Resources>

Learn how to use our GIANT Map of Israel to add to your teaching and to their learning!

TIME: 9:30a.m -12 p.m.

WHERE: BJENY 520 Eighth Avenue 15th floor (b/w 36th and 37th streets)

COST: \$25.00

PRESENTER: Betty Ann Ross, BJENY Nassau/Queens

For more information or to register please contact Debbie Seiden at:

debbies@bjeny.org

(646) 472-5362

Cholov Yisroel breakfast will be served.

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

DATE: Wednesday, March 14, 2007

“Chumash Skills & Nach Skills - Same or Different?”

By: Ms. Debby Sondheim

“Teach to Reach - Connecting the Pieces”

By: Rabbi Moshe Zimberg

WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT:

BJE Manhattan

520 Eighth Ave. 15th Floor

(between 36th & 37th Streets)

New York, NY 10018

FEE:\$55.00

For more information or to register please contact Debbie Seiden at:

debbies@bjeny.org

(646)472-5362

Cholov Yisroel breakfast will be served.

Schedule of the Day

9:00a.m. -1:00p.m.

There will be two **CONSECUTIVE** sessions beginning promptly at 9:30 a.m. Our first session will be from 9:30 a.m.-11:15a.m. followed by a short break.

Our second session will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. There will be time for questions following the sessions.

Emily Witty

Director, Manhattan Educational Resource Center

Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York

Visit our resources at <http://www.bjeny.org/102.asp?dept=Educational%20Resources>

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TEACHING THE SHOAH: THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE FREE PROGRAM WITH STIPEND

The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust invites Jewish school educators of all grades and subjects to a special seminar as part of its *Shoah Teaching Alternatives in Jewish Education* (STAJE) initiative. The seminar, *Witness to History: Ruth Gruber, the Oswego Refugees and the Exodus 1947* will focus on the historic events documented by the photojournalist and Jewish activist, Ruth Gruber. [The program will take place at the Museum on Sunday, March 18, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. free of charge, however space is limited and pre-registration is required. To pre-register or for more information, please e-mail or call Dr. Paul Radensky at \[pradensky@mjhny.org\]\(mailto:pradensky@mjhny.org\) or call \(646\) 437-4310.](#)

Teachers will receive a \$75 stipend for attending the program. Receipt of the stipend will be dependent on participants attending the entire program. Parking or transportation will be

reimbursed up to \$17 per vehicle (or per person if using public transportation) upon presentation of original receipt. A light lunch will be available at 12:30 p.m. (dietary laws observed).

The Museum is located at 36 Battery Place in Lower Manhattan and is a convenient walk from the 1, 4/5, and W/R trains. Parking is available within a few blocks of the Museum. For more detailed directions please visit our website: www.mjhny.org

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The Gold family got so excited about the Pesach seder that they forgot to do some important mitzvot. Can you spot the mistakes? Underline them with a straight line. Put a squiggly line under actions they took that could lead to problems.

The Gold Family's Seder

The Gold family was preparing their house for the holiday of Pesach. The day before Pesach, they began packing up all of their hametz to be sold. As Mr. Gold packed his favorite foods—Drake's Cakes, pretzels, and chocolate chip cookies—he got an idea. He said to his wife, "I think we should keep a couple of Drake's Cakes around the house to remind us not to eat leavened products during Pesach." Mrs. Gold exclaimed, "You are brilliant! Why didn't we think of this years ago??"

An hour later, they finally finished packing up all of the hametz and unpacking the Pesach dishes. Ms. Gold said, "You know, we don't need to search for hametz—I'm sure the cleaning service did a great job. They better have—we paid them enough!" And with that, she began to coordinate what they family had to cook for the seder.

The next day, when the cooking was finished, they set the table. Jessica, one of the daughters, took out the seder plate and on it she put horseradish, salt water, parsley, a shank bone, gefilte fish and haroset. She then took 3 matzot from a box labeled *Kosher for Passover* that the family had opened 2 weeks ago when they were trying out a new recipe for the seder. Then she remembered that she had forgotten an egg, so she went to the refrigerator and took a raw egg to put on the seder plate.

Meanwhile, Josh, the son, said, "I've been thinking. Since Elijah is our special guest, we should have something that is special for him. Everyone at the seder is going to have wine—that's so ordinary. Why don't we leave Elijah cookies and milk?"

When daughter Valerie set up the candlesticks for the holiday, all she could find were birthday candles. She picked out 2 green ones and said, "these green candles will be perfect for this festival of spring!"

Mr. Gold realized that they only had 2 bottles of wine. "Oh, well," he said. "Everyone will just drink 2 cups of wine this time. Anyway, we don't want any drunks at our seder or driving home!"

When the guests arrive, it was already dark outside and everyone was hungry, so Ms. Gold said, "Let's skip the first part of the haggadah—we are so hungry that I don't think anyone can wait an hour and a $\frac{1}{2}$. God will understand!"

After the meal—which took a long time because there were so many good things to eat—the children hunted for the afikomen. When Valerie found it, they divided it up in small pieces and everyone ate them. Then, they served a delicious chocolate mousse for dessert. By now, it was getting late, so the guests thanked the Gold's and left because they had to go to sleep and get up early in the morning to go to school and work. They apologized for not being able to stay to sing *Had Gadya*.

Before they went to sleep that night, Mr. Gold said to his wife, "this was so much fun, let's plan for next year to have a seder on each of the nine days of Pesach!" But Ms. Gold was so exhausted she secretly was glad they only did this once a year.

Here are the mistakes in the story:

1. While leaving the Drake's Cakes out to remind them NOT to eat hametz was very creative, hometzdik foods (such as Drake's Cakes) should not be left out, but taken out of the house or hidden.
2. Cleaning the house is not the same as performing the ceremony of bedikat hametz, which each family is obligated to do.
3. Neither salt water nor gefilte fish belong on the seder plate. Salt water goes in a separate dish and gefilte fish can be served with the dinner.
4. Besides being labeled *Kosher for Passover*, in order for it to be proper for use, it must not be opened before Pesach starts.
5. The egg on the seder plate must be hard boiled.
6. We must set aside a cup of wine for Elijah. No substitutes are allowed.
7. If the meal is a meat meal, no milk can be served—not even to Elijah.
8. While using green candles is a creative way to add to our remembrance of this being the Festival of Spring, Shabbat size candles must be used.
9. Each person at the seder must drink 4 cups of wine or grape juice.
10. It is proper to read the first part of the Haggadah leading up to the meal, and not skip it. Also, after the meal, the rest of the Haggadah should be read.
11. No food is to be eaten after the afikomen; that should be the last taste on the palette.
12. The first 2 and last 2 days of Pesach are holy days and we should not go to school or work on them.
13. Traditionally, there are only 2 seders.
14. There are 8 days and nights of Pesach, not 9.

Actions that could lead to problems:

1. They waited until the day before Pesach to begin getting ready. They should have started earlier!
2. Taking only an hour to get the kitchen ready could omit something important.
3. Weeks prior to Passover, the family should have begun an evaluation of what they needed to buy; that way they wouldn't have been missing the proper candles to be used and would have had enough wine.
4. Spending too much time eating made the seder last too late.