



Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residents Have Much to Celebrate This Passover**

**Tampa, Florida (April 6, 2009):** Passover is a holiday that commemorates the time in history when the Jewish people were freed from slavery in the land of Egypt. Each year during this holiday, families and friends gather to retell the story of Passover and renew its message of hope, redemption and faith. In most of the world, Passover lasts eight days. It begins at sundown on the 15th of Nisan, and ends on the 22nd of Nisan. In Israel, Passover lasts only seven days. All Jewish holidays begin the evening before the date specified on most calendars. This is because a Jewish "day" begins and ends at sunset, rather than at midnight. This year Passover begins sundown on Wednesday, April 08 and ends Thursday, April 16.

The Seder Plate is the central focus of the Passover table. It contains: *Charoset*: a mixture of chopped apples, nuts and sweet wine, to represent the mortar used to assemble the pyramids of the Pharaohs. *Karpas*: a green vegetable or herb (such as parsley) for spring. It is often dipped in salt water to symbolize tears. *Beitzah*: a roasted hard-boiled egg, representing the cycle of life and the temple sacrifice. *Zeroah*: a

roasted lamb or veal shankbone commemorating the ancient Passover sacrifice. *Mar'or*: a bitter herb (like horseradish) representing the bitterness of slavery. *Chazeret*: a second bitter herb, such as lettuce, occasionally fills the sixth place on the Seder plate. Three pieces of *Matzoh*: the unleavened bread, covered or wrapped in cloth to be used at certain points in the Seder. In addition to the Seder plate, four cups of wine or grape juice are consumed at set points in the Seder to represent God's promises.

Kate Bertisch, who is the youngest of 14 children, remembers the days when her family lived in a one room home in Poland. "We did everything in that room, slept, ate, played and so on. There was so much love in our family between my brothers and sisters, that's what I remember the most - love, love, love. Every Passover I remember my parents prepared all the traditional foods eaten for the festive Seder meal. The food was prepared without running water or electricity. If they could only see me now - the beautiful facility I live in and the great food we get to enjoy here at Weinberg"

For Rabbi Isidore Greengrass, author of the book *Judaism Is Indestructible*, he sees the holiday through a different lens. In his book he recounts his Passover story while in the Birkenau (Auschwitz) concentration camp. Chapter 23 "Passover" begins with *"In every generation we are obliged to consider ourselves as having personally participated in the Exodus from Egypt"*. He writes that Passover of 1943 is a holiday that he shall always remember. *The members of the block in the concentration camp decided to make a special Seder for Passover, the Holiday of Freedom. They kept track of time by asking people who came on new transports what date it was. They prepared several months ahead of time collecting all the ingredients and food required to prepare a Seder meal including raisin to extract the juice to make small amounts of wine. They*

*did all this knowing full well that they would face severe punishment and even death if they would be caught. The day of the holiday they all agreed not to eat any food prepared by other inmates despite the fact that all were severely underfed and hungry. Since they had no Haggadah, the story of Passover, each one recited his own interpretation of what the holiday meant for them. All night, no one slept, they discussed the history of the Jewish people, what they expected in the future and what would happen if some of them should come out of this alive. Many tears were shed that night and in the morning when the gong rang for them to present themselves for their respective work detail they expressed the wish to each other that they might live to come out of the concentration camp alive and celebrate Passover in freedom next year. Everything was just symbolic; nonetheless, the Seder gave them hope. (Excerpt from Judaism Is Indestructible - Rabbi Isidore Greengrass)*

Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences residents, including Kate Bertisch and Rabbi Isidore Greengrass, will be enjoying the traditional Passover Seder on Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Passover Seder will include, the reading of the *Haggadah*, all the ceremonial items that are traditionally served due to their symbolic meaning followed by a delicious kosher festive meal.

For more information about Weinberg Village Assisted Living Residences programs and services please call Barbara Gerson, Executive Director, at 813.969.1818 toll free at 866.595.3857 or visit us on the web at [www.weinbergvillage.com](http://www.weinbergvillage.com) . See why our years of experience, commitment and caring professionals make Weinberg Village the very best senior assisted living facility.

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dementia • Health & Wellness program • 24-Hour on-site professional staff • Nutritious  
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