

27 March 2013

Dear Jewish War Veterans – Pfc. Frederick Hecht Post No. 425,

I hope you and all in your organization are well! Thank you so very much for your first class support you have provided throughout my deployment! This was especially true for the Passover Seder I led on 26 March 2013. Your generous and thoughtful care packages helped enable thirty-six individuals with representation from Department of Defense (Army, Air Force, and Navy), Department of State (U.S. Embassy Baghdad), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the British Embassy in Baghdad to enjoy a Passover Seder.

The Seder was incredibly successful and truly felt like a family event thanks to your efforts! Please enjoy these pictures and a few quotes from those who attended. These quotes would not have been possible without your dedication and support to the wonderful Americans pursuing peace and diplomacy around the world. Thank you for all you do and please know that you truly made a positive difference and helped build lasting memories for all those affected by your mitzvot!



HAPPY PASSOVER
Passover Seder

Who: All are welcome
(RSVP is a must to ensure enough place settings and food)

What: Celebrating the second night of Passover

When: Tuesday, 26 March 2013
(starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 8:00 p.m.)

Where: EMASAA, Babylon Conference Center

Why: Commemorate the Exodus from Egypt

Trivia Question: What was Jesus' last supper?
Answer: A Passover Meal

Passover Seder - Baghdad 2010

PLEASE be sure to RSVP by 2 p.m. on 19 March to LTC Ben Wallen at benjamin.wallen@iraq.centcom.mil

Respectfully,

Benjamin M. Wallen
Benjamin Wallen, PE, PMP
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Jewish Lay Leader, U.S. Mission – Iraq
Construction Program Manager, Office of
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"I am just amazed! I would have never guessed we could have this type of Seder here!"
- Carol, Department of State, U.S. Embassy - Baghdad



"It really was a fantastic night and a great Seder – one that I will never forget!"
- Michael, Ambassador's Office, British Embassy

Receiving Care Packages:



"Impressive job!" – Ken, Office of Security Cooperation – Iraq, Chaplain

Wonderful Items the Care Packages Contained:



"The chocolate covered almond sweets lasted less than one day in the Chancery...and there was more than one box!"



The Passover Seder made possible by your support:



Seder Plates made by KBR
Charoset made by Naz
Set Up & Service Support by Mark
Memories enabled by YOU!!!



"Manna"
(AKA: Gefilte Fish)



Homemade Kosher Matzah by Jeff – Chef to the Deputy Chief of Mission – Iraq



"It was awesome. I went to one other but it did not hold a candle to our event last night. Very educational and fun. Any time we give praise to the Lord is a wonderful time. I thought I had stepped into a 5 star restaurant when I came in!!" – Coley, Office of Security Cooperation – Iraq, Army



"The Seder supper was an outstanding show of teamwork with the Embassy folks and those who attended the event. For those of you who don't normally attend these sort of events, it doesn't have to be a religious experience, it's just a great experience." – Mr. Hewitt, Executive Director - Support , Office of Security Cooperation – Iraq



"Mazel Tov! A wonderful celebration of faith, family, and friends. Loved it! L'Chaim!" – Maj Gen Martin, Deputy Chief, Office of Security Cooperation – Iraq