

# Passover Dishes Are Traditional

By ELLY

No Jewish menu, whether it's for a festive holiday: gathering or a simple family meal, is complete without soup. From a clear chicken soup to a thick barley and bean soup, it always has its place on the menu.

An ideal "meal opener" for one of the eight days of the Passover is spring vegetable soup with Mordlen.

It's light, yet sets the scene for the festive meal to come. And it adds variety to Passover meals, for the conscientious homemaker who wants to serve interesting meals, yet is restricted by Jewish dietary laws.

This simple, savory soup is a melange of fresh vegetables — potatoes, carrots, celery, scallions — in rich chicken broth. Crisply fried almond-flavored Mordlen are added at serving time.

Both the vegetable soup and the Mordlen are prepared with peanut oil, which enhances the flavor of the other foods without imparting a taste of its own. Lightest of the common cooking oils, peanut oil is the first choice of kosher cooks.

We asked Judy Poger, whose husband, Leonard, is editor of our Westland and Garden City Observers, for some favorite Passover recipes. Judy says she has been making the Wine Sponge Cake since she was a little girl. She always uses a Concord grape wine. The Matzo Cheese kugel is used as a potato substitute and is served with sour cream. With a tossed salad, kugel makes a nutritious luncheon dish.

## SPRING VEGETABLE SOUP

3 T. peanut oil  
1 1/2 c. diced potatoes  
1 c. diced carrots  
1 c. diced celery  
1/2 c. chopped scallions  
1/4 c. chopped parsley  
5/8 c. chicken broth  
1 t. sugar  
1/2 t. salt  
1/4 t. pepper  
Heat peanut oil in a large saucepan. Add potatoes, carrots, celery, scallions and parsley. Saute, stirring occasionally, for about five minutes. Add chicken broth, sugar, salt, and pepper. Cover, and simmer about 20 minutes, or until vegetables are tender. Makes six to eight servings.

## PASSOVER MONDLEN

1/2 c. blanched almonds  
1/4 c. matzo meal  
1 t. grated lemon peel  
1/2 t. salt  
1/4 t. ground cinnamon  
2 egg yolks  
2 egg whites, stiffly beaten  
Peanut oil  
Combine almonds, matzo meal, lemon peel, salt, cinnamon and egg yolks. Stir in a small amount of the egg whites; stir in remaining egg whites. Drop by teaspoonful into deep hot (375 degrees F.) peanut oil. Fry until golden brown on both sides, two to three minutes. Drain on paper towels. Serve with soup. Makes about three dozen.

## MATZO CHEESE KUGEL

6 matzos broken into large pieces  
5 eggs  
1 c. milk  
1 lb. cottage cheese  
1 t. salt  
1/4 c. sugar  
1 t. cinnamon  
3 T. melted butter  
Beat eggs with milk. Combine thoroughly with cottage cheese, salt, sugar, cinnamon and melted butter. Arrange half the matzo in greased 1 1/2-quart casserole. Pour half the cheese mixture over, then repeat with the rest of the matzo and cheese mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until set.

## WINE SPONGE CAKE

12 eggs, separated  
2 c. sugar  
1 1/2 t. cinnamon  
1/4 t. cloves  
1/3 c. wine  
1/2 c. matzo cake flour  
1 c. chopped blanched almonds  
Beat egg yolks with sugar until very light. Add spices, wine, nuts and cake flour. Beat in stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in tube pan at 325 degrees for one hour. Invert pan to cool thoroughly before removing from pan.



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