

The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen

By Sharon Lebewohl, Rena Bulkin, Jack Lebewohl

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The Second Avenue Deli has been an internationally renowned Gotham landmark for nearly half a century. Over the years, its founder, Abe Lebewohl, provided the best Jewish fare in town, transforming his tiny ten-seat Village eatery into a New York institution.

The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook contains more than 160 of Abe Lebewohl's recipes, including all of the Deli's peerless renditions of traditional Jewish dishes: chicken soup with matzo balls, chopped liver, gefilte fish, kasha varnishkes, mushroom barley soup, noodle kugel, potato latkes, blintzes, and many more. These versatile dishes are perfect for any occasion--from holiday dinners to Sunday brunches with friends and family.

The late Abe Lebewohl was a great restaurateur in the showman tradition and a well-known and much-loved New York personality. His famous Deli attracted hundreds of celebrity patrons, many of whom have graciously contributed to this cookbook not only personal reminiscences but also recipes, running the gamut from Morley Safer's family brisket to Paul Reiser's formula for the perfect egg cream. A wonderful blend of New York and Jewish history and mouthwatering recipes, The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook provides a delicious taste of nostalgia.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
The food at *The 2nd Ave. Deli* is what your grandmother, mother, or a friend's family cooked. (Especially if you are not Jewish but loved being well fed.) From its recipes for Schmalz (the rendered chicken fat indispensable to real, old-fashioned Jewish dishes) and what is arguably the best chopped liver in the world, to Health Salad (a mayonnaise-less, sweet coleslaw), potato kugel (a dense, crisp-crusted pudding), six versions of chicken soup, a Honey Chiffon Cake served for Jewish New Year, and Mandelbrot, an almond-studded Jewish biscotti, this cookbook offers the best of the hefty, soul-satisfying Jewish cooking that is the ultimate comfort food.

Having survived World War II, and, at 19, hungry to succeed, Abe Lebewohl arrived in New York City in 1950, a Jewish immigrant from Russia. His first job was working in a deli on Coney Island. In 1954, he took over the tiny luncheonette near New York's bustling Lower East Side, which he renamed the 2nd Ave. Deli. From that day forward, he looked after his customers (and everyone else he felt needed it) with spontaneous generosity. The stories in this book from his daughter and other people who knew Abe bring to life the passion and love he served along with the best authentic Jewish home cooking--making it clear why he was called the Mayor of Second Avenue. The deli, a magnet for tourists and New York City locals, is now also a memorial to Abe Lebewohl, who was killed in 1996 during a robbery after the restaurant had closed for the night. His daughter wrote this cookbook as a memorial to him, as well as to share the family's recipes for elemental Jewish cooking. Its 166 recipes, black-and-white photographs, and inspiring text make this a joyful celebration by his family and friends. --*Dana Jacobi*

From Publishers Weekly
This is a cookbook that will bring a tear to readers' eyes, and not just because it will have them chopping four onions for Chopped Liver. In 1996, Abe Lebewohl, owner of New York's famed Second Avenue Deli, was murdered; now Sharon, Lebewohl's daughter and current deli steward, and food writer Bulkin present recipes from the New York establishment as well as touching and funny anecdotes from the many people who adored him. The famous and less-famous contribute recipes along with their stories: food critic Mimi Sheraton recalls hearing Lebewohl explain matzo ball soup to a Japanese journalist (a monologue that included an overview of the Old Testament) and offers her Favorite Matzo Balls. Alfred Portale, chef and owner at the swanky Gotham Bar and Grill, recalls Lebewohl's generous praise and provides a recipe for Whole Roast Red Snapper with Tomatoes, Lemon and Thyme. Lebewohl, who was such a friend to working people that he once provided free lunches to striking NBC workers for 21 weeks, would appreciate the profile of veteran waitress Diane Kassner, famous for her quips (Customer: How is the stuffed breast of veal served? Diane: On a plate). Recipes from the restaurant itself are traditional Eastern European Jewish fareAe.g., Kreplach and Gefilte Fish. There are also a smattering of such Middle Eastern dishes as Falafel and Tabbouleh and a few concessions to today's lighter eating habits (Turkey Meat Loaf and Broiled Fillet of Sole ? la Second Avenue). The latter recipes belie a talk Lebewohl once gave on the topic "Is Deli Dying in New York?" where he quipped: "What am I gonna tell you? My food will kill you." (Oct.)
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Review
"Restaurant cookbooks may make your mouth water, but rarely do they stir your soul, or put a smile on your face. The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook is an exception. Like the fabled eating establishment whose recipes it contains, it manages to do all three.The Second Avenue Deli experience is always about more than just

eating. Until now, you had to be in New York to have that experience. But with the publication of this grand book of recipes and stories, the lusty flavor--and the irrepressible spirit--of Abe Lebewohl's landmark restaurant become transportable. And what a lucky thing that is, for they are a treasure."
--Cara De Silva, author of *In Memory's Kitchen*

"'You'll eat. We'll talk later,' Abe Lebewohl said to me once, when I sat down amid the aromas of his Deli to interview him. I ate--holishkes; borscht the way Abe made it, with chunks of beef; and chicken livers. We talked, ate rugalach, and we were finished. I thought. As I was walking out Abe yelled after me, 'Don't forget, just because you write for a fancy-schmancy magazine, that cholent is Lower East Side cassoulet.' I didn't forget, Abe. Kisses."
--Fred Ferretti, contributing editor, *Gourmet*

"The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook is a wonderful collection of recipes and anecdotes that truly captures the essence of a wonderful restaurant and special man. Enjoy!"
--Drew Nieporent, president of Myriad Restaurant Group, owner of Nobu, Tribeca Grill, Heartbeat, Layla

"It would be hard to find anything as wholly delicious as the Second Avenue Deli, but this savory book comes close. Not only is it full of tempting, eminently doable recipes, but it recalls the warm spirit of the Deli itself, and of dear, generous Abe Lebewohl, who would consider this collection a fitting eulogy."
--Mimi Sheraton, noted food journalist and former food critic for *The New York Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sherrie Shannon:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what yours problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do that. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this kind of The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen to read.

Kermit Diaz:

This The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The main reason of this The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen can be one of the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed you actually with information that maybe will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed types. Beside that this The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day action. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

Kathy Graves:

This The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen is great book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who also always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great organize word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no book that offer you world with ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

Garry Brown:

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