

**Memorial Book of Sokolka  
(Poland)**

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A Wedding in Sokolka

English summary provided by Dr. Dina Roginsky

The weddings are held at the house of Eliakim Rabinovits. The *Chupa* stands on the balcony, approaching the market and the Russian church. The band of David Yizhak plays for the guests. The band includes trumpets, drum and cymbals. They play *Sherele* and *waltz*. The guests dance to the music of the band, the *Badkhn* entertains the guests, the parents in law distribute colored candles to the guests to light up the path of the bride and groom to their *Chupa*. Children run after the Rabbi who takes out the *Chupa* poles, helping him to carry the poles and hold them. The groom marches ahead with the parents in law, and the band plays the *Sherele*. While the bride stands anxious and crying under the *Chupa*, the guests, who hold the candles, lead the bride to the *Chupa*. Rabbi Altar sings “*kol chatan vekol kala*” [a known song “voice of the bride, voice of the groom” D.R.] and blesses the couple. The bride circles the groom 7 times under the *Chupa* and is surrounded by her family and parents. The Rabbi makes a blessing over the wine, says “*harei at mekudeshet kedat moshe veisrael*” [you are blessed by the religion of Moses and Yisrael. D.R.], breaking the glass, offers blessings *Mazal tov*, *Mazal tov*, and the guests are heading towards the brides’ house. The bride and the groom march first and David Yizhak and his band play “*hatan kala mazal tov*” (bride, groom mazal tov. D.R.). The old mothers in law dance in front of the couple, the parents in law kiss. A new couple comes to the city!

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