

Congregation OR ZARUA

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 17:4

ADAR I / ADAR II / NISAN 5765

MARCH / APRIL 2005

OZ Tzedakah Helps Tsunami Victims

We were all shocked by the magnitude of the disaster and suffering caused by the tsunami that struck Asia on December 26. Many Congregants contributed generously to UJA-Federation, the American Jewish World Service, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, whose funds were directed to help the survivors.

The Or Zarua minyan's tzedakah was disbursed to help the people of

Mamallapuram in southern India. Our relationship with this village is very personal. We were in direct contact with someone who was on the beach of this village when the tsunami struck.

We were told that most of the 60 families in the village lost their fishing boats and equipment, which were their only means of livelihood. Our contact is helping families in this village rebuild their lives by purchasing fishing boats

and equipment for them, so that they may feed their children once again. About 20 new boats are needed, since three fisherman share each boat. Or Zarua's minyan tzedakah is being used to help achieve this goal.

We were told of the Indian families' reaction to our generosity: "Their faces changed from sadness and desperation to relief and hope, and their smiles returned to their faces."

ATTENDING MORNING MINYAN: A GIFT

By Marilyn Shapiro

When my father passed away on November 30, 2003, I made the commitment to say kaddish for him. During the week of Shiva, I realized that I would be learning a lot in the year ahead. I was not aware of just how much I was going to learn.

Attending OZ services has always provided me an opportunity to learn and exchange ideas. At the Shabbat morning services, Rabbi Wechsler always speaks about the Torah reading of the week and welcomes attendees to share their ideas as well. What I did not know was that morning and often Friday night services also include discussions about seasonal topics such as the holidays or about things of general interest such as the blue thread of the *tzitzis* to remind us of the mitzvot of God.

Since I began my regular attendance during the shortest days of the year, I became more aware of the cosmos. I had forgotten how beautiful the sunrises were. Now each morning I enjoy them on the way to services. Each evening on my way home, I become attuned to the phases of the moon. We are all a part of the continual flow of the seasons and each of their special holiday markers.

I have felt a need to give back what I received from the Or Zarua community, which proved to be a wonderful support group during a difficult time for me. Each one of us has special talents that we are able to give to our community. Having gone through my loss, I was saddened each time other members

joined us in saying kaddish because it meant that they, too, had lost a loved one. My own experience enabled me to share what I could to comfort those who joined our group.

Now that the year has passed, I realize that my thirst for more knowledge has increased. There is always something more to learn. I have found that attending services has better grounded me to deal with whatever happens during the day. What began as a commitment of respect has turned into a wonderful gift.



Aaron Shelden and Sheldon Adler accepted awards for Congregation Or Zarua's morning minyan and for its website redesign at The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Biennial Convention of the Metropolitan Region on November 21, 2004.

ק"ק אור זרוע
CONGREGATION

**OR
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Ilana Burgess

Let me tell you about two wonderful and heartwarming programs we had when we returned from winter vacation. The first was our experience with OZ's beautiful, creative, and touching "Precious Legacies" exhibition. We integrated the exhibition into our curriculum by inviting the presenters to come and tell their stories to the Hebrew School students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The presenters' response was amazing and very generous—even with their busy schedules, they spent time teaching about their family stories. It was great to see the interaction between the generations. My special thanks to Susan Kopelowitz; Barry Feldman; Herbert Lukashok; Diane Okrent; Bobbi Coller; Mona Dreier; Terry Ann Krulwich; Marilyn Shapiro; Cathy Zises and her father, Dr. Weiss; and Shelley Binder. The history that these students learned first-hand will stay in their memories for a very long time.



The second event involved all the students from kindergarten to sixth grade. During the winter break, everyone heard about the horrible tragedy in Asia. All of us became very familiar with the word tsunami. When we returned from vacation, the students asked their teachers how they could help the victims. We decided to collect money for two weeks and then send the donations to a Jewish organization.

The response was amazing. Some students baked cookies and sold them in their apartment buildings, some went from apartment to apartment asking for donations, and some emptied their piggy banks. In two weeks we collected almost \$500.

I am very grateful to be working with such a generous group of children, parents and teachers.

Diane Okrent (top right) and Mona Dreier (center) tell their family stories to Harris Feldman, Ortal Isaac (top), and Taire Rubin, Jeremy Klapper and Daniel Weiss (left and above).

OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Anne Schneider
CATERING	Diane Okrent Sara Stone
HESED	Lesley Palmer
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
ISRAEL	Bret Cohen Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
MEMBERSHIP	Debbie Breznay Pamela Gold
MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
NEWSLETTER	Paulette Schneider
PROGRAMMING	Pat Davidson
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
PURIM SPIEL	Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Tibor Feldman Barbara Sassoon
SCHOOL	Aliza Kaplan
SHABBAT USHERS	Phyllis Solomon Gerry Solomon
TORAH/HAFTARAH READING	Yaakov Shechter

If you would like to serve on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

Hebrew School Events

MARCH 2005

Saturday, March 5	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
Friday, March 11	Second and Third Grade Dinner <i>(following Kabbalat Shabbat)</i>
Friday, March 11	Shabbaton for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades
Friday, March 18	Kindergarten and First Grade Dinner <i>(following Kabbalat Shabbat)</i>
Monday, March 21	Spring Break <i>(no classes)</i>

APRIL 2005

Monday, April 4	Classes resume
Saturday, April 9	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 20	Model Seder, 4:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Model Seder, 4:45 p.m.
Monday, April 25	Pesah Vacation <i>(no classes)</i>

Celebrate Yom Yerushalayim 2005 in Jerusalem

Or Zarua is planning a ten-day Congregational trip to Israel in the spring. We plan to depart on Saturday evening, May 28 and to return on Tuesday morning, June 7. Under the leadership of Rabbi Wechsler, participants will have a chance to enjoy the beauty of Tel Dan in the north and the spirituality of a Shabbat in Jerusalem.

During the course of our visit we will study texts and explore archeological

excavations related to Jerusalem during the times of King David and the Second Temple era. On Yom Yerushalayim, we expect to tour sites that were significant in the battle for reunification of Jerusalem in 1967.

If you are interested in joining us on this special adventure, please save the dates and email Debbie Breznay at dbreznay@nyc.rr.com or call her at 212-772-0975.

Tzedakah Gets Results

Each morning, people attending the minyan give tzedakah, and from time to time Rabbi Wechsler distributes some of the funds to needy individuals. On his recent trip to Israel the Rabbi was happy to report that two tzedakah recipients were able to change their lives. One young man was able to have a kidney transplant, and now he is on his way to full health. The kidney donor, who was

able to go to Israel to give his kidney as a result of funds provided through our tzedakah, is recovering as well and is in good health. A second young man was able to have a coclear transplant, partially funded by our tzedakah. Now, for the first time since childhood, the man is able to hear. One of the results of his regained hearing is that he is now engaged to be married!

Morning Minyan You can now make a commitment to attend our morning minyan—even for just a single day! Go to http://www.orzarua.org/signup_Minyan.html.

OZY SERVICES

Each Shabbat, we have three different grade-level services:

Infant through Kindergarten
11:00 a.m. to noon

Alef Bet Corner
First through Third Grades
10:00 a.m. to noon

Junior Congregation
Fourth through Sixth Grades
10:00 a.m. to noon

Each month during the school year, we have a special Hebrew School Shabbat service, which all Hebrew School students in the third through sixth grades are encouraged to attend. Students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat Classes will take place on Saturday, March 5 and Saturday, April 9.

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WWW.ORZARUA.ORG

Our award-winning website is a great resource both for current and prospective members.

Use www.orzarua.org to:

- View our calendar and check service times
- Sign up for events
- Make donations on-line
- Learn about educational programs for adults and for children
- Keep informed about our Congregation

HESED COMMITTEE

Food, Books and Toys for Those in Need

ANNUAL PURIM FOOD DRIVE IN MARCH

Every year OZ members gather for the reading of the Megillah and an extraordinary Purim spiel production. But don't forget our other tradition at Purim time: the Annual Purim Food Drive for the hungry.

Please participate by observing the Purim mitzvot of *Matanot LaEvyonim* (gifts to the needy) and *Mishloah Manot* (giving of food and drink) by donating at least two different types of non-perishable food items to OZ's collection for our community's hungry. Leave your food donations in the boxes placed on the synagogue's first and sixth floors from March 7 through March 25. Food donations will also be collected at Purim services on March 24 at Florence Gould Hall.

Donated food will be distributed through the Yorkville Common Pantry, one of the city's largest providers of emergency food. Recommended items include dry milk, pasta, cereal, canned food of all kinds, peanut butter, rice and beans. Don't just clean out your cabinets—add these items to your shopping list! Involve your children by taking them shopping for the drive.

BOOK DRIVE BENEFITS ISRAELI SCHOOLS AND RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Last September OZ members donated seven boxes full of English language books for our second annual Books for Israel Drive for the High School for Environmental Studies, located in Midreshet Ben-Gurion in the Negev. We sent a mix of classic and popular literature, science resource books, back issues of National Geographic magazine, and other useful reading materials.

Some books that were not a good match for the school's specific needs were donated instead to the Ronald McDonald House, a wonderful residence (located at 405 E. 73rd Street) for children in treatment for serious illnesses at local hospitals. The House, which holds a regular used book sale, was very appreciative of our donation of eight boxes of books. Many thanks to Ran Eisenbruch for arranging the shipment of books to Israel; to Gerry Solomon, Richard Stadin and Ran Eisenbruch for delivering the books to Ronald McDonald House; and to our generous donors who covered the cost of the drive.

HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED HESED-STYLE

OZ members made the lives of some elderly Upper East Side residents a bit more *freilach* with friendly visits and holiday packages in September for Rosh Hashanah and in December for Hanukkah. Thank you to Aaron Shelden for arranging both events. In December, our second annual Hanukkah Toy Drive resulted in the donation of several boxes full of toys for children served by the Metropolitan Council for Jewish Poverty. Thank you to Susan Sussman for coordinating the toy drive.

HESED FUND

Your generous donations to the Hesed Fund sustain our weekly meal serving for the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and many other projects throughout the year in our community. Please continue to support the Hesed Fund! Contact Lesley Palmer, chair of the Hesed Committee, with project suggestions at Lesley@nyc.rr.com or 212-772-9673.

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity on Sunday, March 20

We need ten volunteers who are at least sixteen years old to work on a Habitat for Humanity affordable housing project site at 143 West 128th Street on Sunday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No construction experience is necessary—just come ready to work hard and get your hands dirty! We will assist with metal framing or sheetrock installation. Habitat has a full-time, knowledgeable construction staff on site to provide instruction. Habitat for Humanity-New York City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the provision of affordable housing for all New Yorkers. To sign up, contact Lesley Palmer at lesley@nyc.rr.com or 212-772-9673.

ORAL LAW CLASS

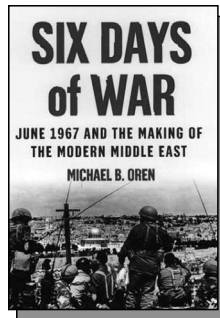
Three Sunday Mornings Between Pesah and Shavuot
May 15, May 22, and June 5

Marc Ashley will again be offering a course on the revelation and development of the Oral Law in Judaism. Classes will meet in the library at 10:30 a.m. on the following Sunday mornings: May 15, May 22, and June 5.

The discussions will deal with theological and historical issues that are pivotal in Jewish law and thought. All Congregants are welcome to participate—no prior knowledge is required. To register, please access the website or call ext. 39.

Or Zarua Book Discussions

Please join us on April 10 at 7:30 PM in the Or Zarua library for a discussion of Michael Oren's *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Oren, a Princeton-trained senior fellow at Jerusalem's Shalem Center, has served as director of Israel's Department of Inter-Religious Affairs and as an adviser to Israel's U.N. delegation. Using newly declassified archival sources and interviews with participants, Oren details the diplomatic activity that failed to stave off war and the six tense days of battle that followed in the Sinai, Golan, and Jerusalem. The most complete history of the Six Day War to date, the book corrects popular misconceptions, shows how what transpired then deeply affects what is



happening now in the Middle East, and comments on post-Zionist claims about Israeli intentions to preclude the formation of an Arab Palestinian state.

Mark Somerstein, who was studying in Jerusalem in 1967, will be our discussion leader. All Congregants and their guests are welcome. Light refreshments are served. Call Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 if you have questions or would like to be added to our e-mail roster for updates on future book discussions.

Our next book discussion on March 6 features an engaging guest speaker, Michael Terry, head of the Jewish Dorot Division of the New York Public Library. For further details about our exciting program March 6, please see the article on page 7.

MAKE LAUGHTER AND FRIENDS AT PURIM SPIEL

The OZ Players joyfully began rehearsals for Purim Spiel 2005 on Sunday, January 30 in the social hall from 4 to 7 p.m. Subsequent rehearsals will be held in the social hall every Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m., and every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m.

Minhah, the first Megillah reading and the spiel will take place on Thursday, March 24, 2005 at the beautiful 375-seat Florence Gould Hall at the French Institute Alliance Française, 59th Street between Park and Madison Avenues, followed by a sumptuous reception. We welcome the return of Al Warner, our pianist extraordinaire and musical director.

The OZ Players need singers, dancers, costumers, prop builders, Megillah schleppers and people who want to have the time of their lives providing fun—and a social message—to others.

For more information, contact Barbara Sassoon at barbdee@aol.com.

PESAH: WHEN TIME BEGINS

By Ron Meyers

Of all our many prescribed rituals of remembering, none is more central than remembering the Exodus from Egypt. While we focus entirely on the Exodus experience on Pesah, awareness of the Exodus looms before us throughout our ritual lives. In our weekly Shabbat kiddush, remembrance of the Exodus (*zecher litziat mitzrayim*) is coupled with its only peer in history, the remembrance of the Creation itself (*zikaron l'ma-asi'e bereishit*). The beginning of our history as a nation is placed on the same level as the beginning of all history.

We recall the creation at Rosh Hashanah, which is nominally the new year, but which in fact comes in the seventh month. It is with Pesah, in the

first month of Nisan, that the calendar actually begins—even if we have to adjust the calendar to make it so. Our lunar calendar takes an additional month periodically to stay in synch with the solar year, as it does this year with the addition of a second month of Adar in March-April. It is the observance of Pesah in conjunction with the vernal equinox that dictates these leap-year adjustments. By linking Pesah with the arrival of spring, we marshal the new beginnings in nature to evoke our people's new beginning in history. We often describe monumental experiences as moments when time stops. Pesah is even more than that: It is the moment when time begins.

ROOFTOP PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 24 • 7:15 p.m. Picnic • 8:15 p.m. Meeting

The 16th Annual Meeting of Congregation Or Zarua on Tuesday, May 24 will once again be preceded by our Annual Tar Beach Picnic. The meeting will include the President's Report, Budget Presentation and Business Meeting. Reservations for the picnic are essential. Please call 212-452-2310 x39.

JEWISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION: *Three OZ Members Play a Central Role*

The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and Their Salons opens at the Jewish Museum on March 7 and runs through July 10. Three OZ Congregants played a central role in the development of this exhibition: Emily Braun, co-curator; Eve Wolf, musical consultant; and Judy Siegel, interpretive consultant.

The show examines the extraordinary history of Jewish women's salons in Europe and America from the late 18th century to the 1940s. It highlights both the role of salons in the intellectual, political, and artistic history of Europe and the role of the women who ran them. Twelve salons will be featured. Works in each gallery will include portraits of the salonières and other paintings, letters composed by salon guests, political treatises, and literary works that derived from the salons. Included are the late 18th-century salons of Henriette Herz and Rahel Varnhagen in Berlin; the 19th-century salons of Fanny Mendelssohn and Amalie Beer in Berlin, Geneviève Straus in Paris, Berta Zuckerkandl in Vienna, Ada Levenson in London, and Margherita Sarfatti and Anna Kuliscioff in Milan; and the 20th-century salons of

Gertrude Stein in Paris, Florine Stettheimer in New York, and Salka Viertel in Los Angeles.

Emily Braun, professor of art history at Hunter College and at the CUNY Graduate Center, co-curated the exhibit with Emily Bilski, former Jewish Museum curator and now an independent scholar in Jerusalem. Dr. Braun previously spoke about the show, now five years in the making, to the Congregation at a Shabbat luncheon. The book-length catalogue, published by Yale University Press, includes contributions by Leon Botstein, Lucia Re and Barbara Hahn. Judy Siegel, former Jewish Museum head of education and now an independent consultant, served as advisor on the exhibition's didactic approach and on its audio program. She also contributed substantial research to the section on Salka Viertel and her 1930s Hollywood salon.

Pianist Eve Wolf, founder and co-artistic director of the Ensemble for the Romantic Century, served as musical consultant to the exhibition. The Fanny Mendelssohn salon will feature an audio installation in which various figures of

the salon will speak and converse. The script and its musical selections were prepared by Ms. Wolf.

The Ensemble for the Romantic Century will also perform a theatrical concert entitled *Fanny Mendelssohn: Out of Her Brother's Shadow* at the Jewish Museum on March 23 at 8 p.m. The combination of music and theater typical of the 19th-century salon is a hallmark of the ensemble, now in its fourth season. Scripts are written by ensemble members. The script for this concert, written by Ms. Wolf, portrays the complex relationship between Felix Mendelssohn and his sister Fanny Mendelssohn, a gifted composer and pianist in her own right. Music for the evening includes movements from both Felix's and Fanny's piano trios; piano, cello, and violin music by the two composers; and songs by Fanny. Musicians include Arash Amini, cello; Max Barros, piano; Vesselin Geliev, violin; April-Joy Gutierrez, soprano; and Eve Wolf, piano. Ariel Bock and Michael Milligan of Shakespeare and Company will portray the two Mendelssohns. Tickets for the March 23rd concert are available through the Jewish Museum.

First Or Zarua Shabbat Learner's Service

By Diane Okrent

On Saturday morning, January 22, 2005, Congregation Or Zarua held its first Shabbat Learner's Service, an outgrowth of our very successful High Holy Day Learner's Services. The Shabbat service was led by our members, Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg and Mark Somerstein.

Almost 50 people, mostly Shabbat regulars, gathered in our beautiful library for what became an engaging interactive study session. Participants ranged from the very learned to novice daveners. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to

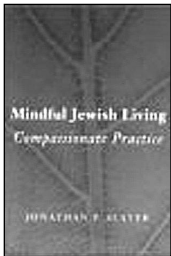
"take it slow" and study each part of the Shabbat liturgy. Questions were asked, answered, and discussed freely throughout the service.

Some of the discussions that morning dealt with the meaning of the preliminary blessings and why they are recited each day, the choreography of the *Barkhu*, and the history of codifying *tropes* for Torah reading.

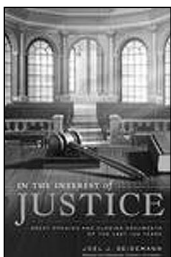
It was a wonderful, refreshing learning experience for all who participated.

New Books in the OZ Library

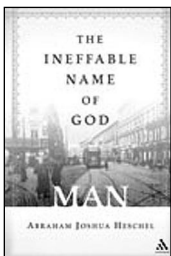
The OZ library is a welcoming place to spend some free time. It contains a good collection of books including histories, biographies, novels, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, and more. Here are some recent acquisitions:



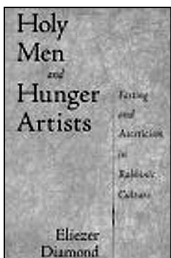
Mindful Jewish Living: Compassionate Practice
by Jonathan P. Slater



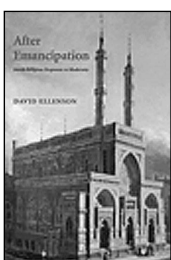
In the Interest of Justice: Great Opening and Closing Arguments of the Last 100 Years
by Joel J. Seidemann



The Ineffable Name of God: Man
by Abraham Joshua Heschel



Holy Men and Hunger Artists: Fasting and Asceticism in Rabbinic Culture
by Eliezer Diamond



After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity
by David Ellenson

JEWES IN AMERICA: *Conquistadors, Knickerbockers, Pilgrims, and the Hope of Israel*

Congregation Or Zarua continues to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the first Jewish settlers' arrival in America. On Sunday evening, March 6 at 7:30 p.m., we welcome Michael Terry, chief librarian of the New York Public Library's Dorot Jewish Division, who will offer a visual presentation describing the Library's recent exhibition, *Jewes in America: Conquistadors, Knickerbockers, Pilgrims, and the Hope of Israel*, which he curated. With a wide range of materials drawn primarily from the Library's collections, the exhibition told not only of the earliest arrival of Jews in New York but also of the history of interactions with Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and English colonial powers in the Western hemisphere that led Jews to reach America.

The exhibition takes its title from *Jewes in America, or, Probabilities That the Americans are of That Race*, a 1650 compendium of evidence that Native Americans were the lost tribes of Israel.

Mr. Terry was praised in *The New York Times* for doing what a consummate

collector does: gather unusual materials from disparate places and juxtapose them, revealing hidden resonances, creating connections and, finally, informing those less learned about what is being shown, with finely detailed, often playful commentary. As reported in the *Times*, Mr. Terry was able to gather documents showing that Jews, despite their minuscule numbers in America during the Colonial and Federal periods, occupied a sizeable place in the American mind during its formative years. According to Terry, the preoccupation during those eras with the identity and status of Jews may seem remote today, but it "raises issues of civil rights, multiculturalism, secularism, capitalism, and identification with Israel that are familiar and even integral to the liberal and conservative lines alike along which contemporary American identities bifurcate."

Please join us in the OZ library on Sunday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. for a fascinating look at the issues raised by this groundbreaking exhibition.

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Sunday, April 24

WE INVITE YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
TO SHARE THE SECOND SEDER WITH US.

Services will start at 7:35 p.m.

Our Congregational seder, led by Rabbi Wechsler,
will begin at 8:30 p.m., immediately after services.

Watch your mail for an invitation.

Guidelines for Passover

This guide was prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. It was accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984 and is updated annually by Rabbi Wechsler. Remember that the Kosher for Passover home is a unique and transcendent experience for adults as well as children. Pesah feels different to the extent that it is different, and special foods and practices are the source of these special experiences.

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (leaven) during Pesah. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat hametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the Rabbi, to handle the sale. It is valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted hametz. If ownership of the hametz was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this hametz is prohibited after the holiday as well (*hametz she-aver alav ha-Pesah*).

Because the Torah prohibits the eating of hametz during Pesah and many common foods contain some admixture of hametz, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for Pesah.

During the eight days of Pesah, hametz cannot lose its identity in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of hametz renders the whole admixture hametz and its use on Pesah is prohibited. However, during the rest of the year, hametz follows the normal rules of admixture, i.e., it loses its identity in an admixture of one part hametz and sixty parts non-hametz (*batel be-shishim*). This affords us the opportunity to differentiate between foods purchased before and during Pesah.

What follows is a general guideline. However, Rabbi Wechsler should be consulted when any doubt arises. Products containing Kosher le-Pesah labels that do not bear the name of a rabbi or one of

the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or labels which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting Rabbi Wechsler.

Prohibited foods include the following: leavened breads, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereals, coffees containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

According to Ashkenazic custom, the following foods (*kitniyot*) are added to the prohibited list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all *kitniyot*.

PERMITTED FOODS

The following foods require no Kosher le-Pesah label if purchased before or during Pesah: Fresh fruits, vegetables (for legumes, see above), and eggs.

The following foods require a Kosher le-Pesah label if purchased before or during Pesah: All baked products (*matzah*, cakes, *matzah* flour, *farfel*, *matzah* meal, and any products containing *matzah*); canned or bottled fruit juice (these juices are often clarified with *kitniyot* which are not listed among the ingredients); canned tuna (since tuna, even when packed in water, is often processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein); wine; vinegar; liquor; oils; dried fruits; ice cream; yogurt and soda.

The following processed foods (canned, bottled or frozen) require a Kosher le-Pesah label if purchased during Pesah: milk, butter, juices, vegetables, fruit, milk products, spices, coffee, tea, fish and meat.

In recent years, the number and variety of Kosher le-Pesah products has ballooned. They are available in local markets as well as in special Pesah stores that appear each year. Patronize these special Pesah stores, for they provide an

important service to the Jewish community.

DETERGENTS

If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a Kosher le-Pesah label.

MEDICINES

Since hametz binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: If the medicine is required for life-sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah. If it is not for life-sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit. Consult Rabbi Wechsler.

KASHERING OF UTENSILS

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to halakhah, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process through which it was absorbed in the utensil (*ke-voleo kakh polet*). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

Earthenware: China, pottery, etc. may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over a year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

Metal: Utensils made entirely of metal used in fire (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered for Pesah.

Ovens and Ranges: Every part that comes into contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, the oven and range should be made as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens

should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle.

Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

Microwave ovens, which do not cook food by means of heat, should be cleaned, and then a cup of water should be placed inside. Then the oven should be turned on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

Glassware: Glassware requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesah, or it may be cleaned in a dishwasher.

Glass Cookware: There is a difference of opinion as to whether glass cookware is to be kashered. One opinion is that it must be kashered. After a thorough cleaning, water should be boiled in the cookware so that it overflows the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleaning is required.

Glass Bakeware: Like metal bakeware, glass bakeware may not be kashered for Pesah.

Dishwashers: Clean out the food trap or filter, if there is one. After not using the dishwasher for a period of 24 hours, run a full cycle with detergent.

Electrical Appliances: If parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rule for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned.)

Tables, Closets and Counters: If used with hametz, surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.

Kitchen Sink: A metal sink can be kashered by thorough cleaning and then having boiling water poured over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. However, if dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

Hametz and Non-Passover Utensils: Non-Passover dishes, pots and hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated, locked up or covered, and marked in order to prevent accidental use.

Why is This Year Different from Other Years?

PESAH BEGINS ON SATURDAY NIGHT

The first seder night—always on the fifteenth of Nisan—will take place this year on April 23, which is a Saturday. Because the day of erev Pesah falls on Shabbat, the timing of some pre-holiday observances will need to be adjusted.

Siyyum Bekhorim, Thursday morning, April 21. A firstborn (whether of the mother or the father) should fast on the day before Passover to commemorate the sparing of the firstborn in Jewish households on the eve of our deliverance from Egypt. To override this fast, firstborns can follow the custom of joining the daily minyan on that day to hear the rabbi complete the reading of a tractate of the Talmud. The completion (siyyum) is followed by a festive celebration. A firstborn who is present at this event may eat and, having eaten, need not fast that day. A fast for the firstborn cannot take place on Shabbat or on Friday, so the Siyyum will be held this year on Thursday morning, April 21, beginning with Shaharit at 7:15 a.m.

Bedikat hametz, Thursday evening, April 21. The search for leaven (bedikat hametz) is usually done on the night before Passover immediately after sunset. When Passover begins on Saturday night, the bedikat hametz, preceded by a blessing, is done on Thursday night. This is followed by the nullification of all unseen hametz, as usual. Friday morning by 11 a.m., the collected hametz is burned.

Shabbat dinner and lunch. You can opt to declare your home Kosher le-Pesah from this point on by not including any non-Passover foods on Shabbat and using egg matzah at the Shabbat meals. In this case, you would accompany the burning of the hametz with the final nullification of hametz, as suggested above. Or you can opt to keep enough hametz for the Shabbat meals, and then make the final nullification on Shabbat after the last hametz meal has been eaten and the final cleanup has taken place. If you intend to use halah for Shabbat lunch, keep in mind that no hametz may be eaten on Saturday, April 23, after 10:38 a.m.

Rabbi Wechsler strongly recommends that you use egg matzah on Shabbat, April 23 and that all meals on that Shabbat be kosher le-Pesah, even though it is not yet Passover. You can serve egg matzah for the Friday night meal and for the Saturday lunch meal. However, after lunch is finished, no matzah (egg or otherwise) may be eaten until the specified time during the seder. Note that at the seder itself, egg matzah may not be eaten.

Seudah shlishit. On Saturday afternoon, for seudah shlishit, do not consume any matzah, including egg matzah. The seudah shlishit should consist of a light snack of fruit, fish, or eggs, and it must be completed by 5 p.m. After 6 p.m., avoid all food until the seder so that you will have a hearty appetite for the matzah that is part of the seder ritual.

Special kiddush served before Torah reading on Saturday morning, April 23.

TAKE PART IN OR ZARUA'S Pesah Meal Match

First Seder Night, Saturday, April 23

It is traditional to welcome new guests into our homes on the first seder night as we join with family and friends to share the other Pesah traditions, both ancient and modern. No wonder it's been an Or Zarua tradition for members to extend invitations to fellow Congregants who would not otherwise participate in a home seder.

If you wish to extend an invitation for the first seder, or if you would like to be included in a fellow Congregants home seder, please complete the form on page 13 and return it by mail or fax to the synagogue office by April 18.

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

“A Jew should drink four cups of wine at the seder,” the Mishnah says, “even if they come from the public dole.”

The hagaddah tells us that every Jew must experience the Exodus from Egypt. We raise special funds each year to assist less fortunate Jews who cannot afford to prepare for Passover. We forward the funds, called *ma'ot hittim* (wheat money), to two communal organizations—the Joint Passover Appeal in New York and the New York Board of Rabbis—for distribution to needy Jews. *Ma'ot hittim* funds also enable Or Zarua to host at our Congregational seder a number of Jews who would not otherwise be able to attend a seder that night.

Please give generously to the fund. Many will benefit from your kindness.

Sell Your Hametz

Before Passover, we are required to “sell” any hametz in the household to a non-Jew. The transaction is normally arranged by the Rabbi, to insure compliance with the requirements of halakhah.

Please complete the form on page 13 and send it to the Or Zarua office by Thursday, April 21, 2005. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's *Ma'ot Hittim* Fund with your authorization.

CREATING LIVELY PASSOVER SEDERS

Monday, April 18 • 7:30 p.m. • Or Zarua Library

If you want to make your Seder more interesting and lively, please join us for a lecture and discussion with David Arnow, Ph.D., author of *Creating Lively Passover Seders*. Dr. Arnow will offer suggestions for engaging themes, text study ideas, activities and readings of the Passover story. Please contact Ilana Burgess (ilana@orzarua.org or ext. 15) if you wish to attend.

SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES 5765/2005

Saturday, April 23

Erev Passover (First Seder)

Shaharit	9:00 a.m.
Candlelighting	8:28 p.m.

Sunday, April 24

First Day of Passover (Second Seder)

Shaharit	9:00 a.m.
Minhah-Ma'ariv	7:35 p.m.
Candlelighting	8:29 p.m.
Congregational Seder	8:30 p.m.

Monday, April 25

Second Day of Passover

Shaharit	9:00 a.m.
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Tuesday, April 26

Pesah Hol Hamoed

Morning Minyan	7:00 a.m.
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Wednesday, April 27

Pesah Hol Hamoed

Morning Minyan	7:00 a.m.
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Thursday, April 28

Pesah Hol Hamoed

Morning Minyan	7:00 a.m.
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Friday, April 29

Pesah Hol Hamoed

Morning Minyan	7:00 a.m.
Minhah-Ma'ariv	6:15 p.m.
Candlelighting	7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30

Seventh Day of Passover

Shaharit	8:45 a.m.
Minhah-Ma'ariv	7:40 p.m.
Candlelighting	8:35 p.m.

Sunday, May 1

Eighth Day of Passover / Yizkor

Shaharit	9:00 a.m.
Festival ends	8:36 p.m.

Pesah Meal Match

I would like to participate in a first-night seder as a:

(check one)

GUEST

Are you planning to bring children? _____ If yes, how many and what ages? _____

Are there any food restrictions? _____

HOST

How many people will you host? _____ How many children will be attending? _____

What are their ages? _____ Do you welcome children as guests? _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Best time to call _____

Please mail or fax completed form **by Monday, April 18, 2005**, to:
CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

Authorization for the Sale of Hametz

Dear Rabbi Wechsler: In accordance with Jewish law, please sell all hametz in my possession at the locations listed below. Enclosed is my contribution to Or Zarua's *Ma'ot Hittim* Fund.

Name _____ Apt. No. _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Other Locations (vacation home, office, etc):

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please complete and return this form **before Thursday, April 21, 2005**, to:
DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, RABBI
CONGREGATION OR ZARUA, 127 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10028, FAX: 212-452-2103

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV

Joyce Album, on Sam's Bar Mitzvah
 Abby Altman and Peter Ezzard, on
 Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah
 Barbara and Martin Bienenstock, on
 Ali's Bat Mitzvah
 Ilana Burgess, on the birth of her grand-
 son, Noah Ethan Burgess
 Bobbi and Barry Coller, on the birth of
 their grandson, Hudson Parker Shapiro
 Gail and Mordecai Kraushar, on Dana's
 Bat Mitzvah
 Mark Lowenthal, on the birth of his
 grandchild
 Yael and Richard Rosenfield, on Sam's
 Bar Mitzvah
 Ethel and Barry Weintraub, on Hannah's
 Bat Mitzvah

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:
 Judith Buchman-Ziv

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:
 Laura Resnikoff, on the death of her
 father, Israel Resnikoff
 May they and their loved ones be comforted
 among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received between
 December 1, 2004 and January 31, 2005.
 Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

KIDDUSH FUND

Bobbi and Barry Coller, in honor of the
 birth of their grandson; in memory of
 Bobbi's father, Dr. H. Harold Gelfand;
 and in memory of Barry's parents,
 Arthur and Ruth Coller, on their
 yahrzeits
 Robin Donath, in honor of her son,
 Alexander Shaheen, on his
 Bar Mitzvah
 Pamela and Mark Gold, in honor of
 Joshua's 6th birthday
 Lisa Lyons and Eric Schmutter, in honor

of Lisa's welcome into the community
 Martha and Fred Mendelsohn, in memory
 of Fred's parents, Etta and Norman
 Mendelsohn, on their yahrzeits
 Ron Meyers, in honor of the yahrzeit of
 his grandfather, Sam Dumbroff, and in
 honor of the 99th birthday of his
 grandmother, Belle Dumbroff
 Ruth and Sam Perelson, in memory of
 Sam's mother, Hannah Perelson, and
 in honor of Sam's 70th birthday
 Ellen and Alain Roizen, in memory of his
 mother, Esther, on her yahrzeit
 Jane and Warren Rosen, in honor of
 Raechel's Bat Mitzvah
 Elaine Schattner and Paul Glasserman,
 in honor of Mark Sommerstein's
 excellent teaching
 David and Rana Silver, in commemora-
 tion of David's father, Maurice, on his
 first yahrzeit
 Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her
 father, Abraham Patt

GENERAL FUND

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of Michael
 and Holly Solender
 Willi and Arthur Aeder, in honor of the
 births of Mark Lowenthal's grandchild
 and Bobbi and Barry Coller's grandson
 Lynn and Daniel Beller, in honor of the
 birth of Bobbi and Barry Coller's
 grandson

Robin Blumenthal, in memory of her
 father, David Blumenthal, on his
 yahrzeit
 Bobbi and Barry Coller, in memory of
 Israel Resnikoff
 Martha Cooper, in honor of attending
 Yom Kippur services with Rachel and
 Larry Norton
 Helen Ferszt, in honor of Betty
 Bernstein's yahrzeit
 Lynne Galler, in memory of the yahrzeits
 of her brother, Marc; her father,
 William; and her grandfather,
 Michael
 Carla and David Glasser, in honor of
 Janet and Simon Katz
 Beth and Jared Greisman, in memory of
 William Tannenbaum and Israel
 Resnikoff
 Ellen and Said Hawa, in memory of
 Said's father, Salim Hawa
 Isadora and Jesse Hecht, in honor of the
 birth of Ilana Burgess's grandson, Noah
 Ethan Burgess
 Beverly and John Jacoby
 Meredith and Michael Katz
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, in
 celebration of Jared Greisman and
 Beth Goldstein's marriage
 Judith and David Lewittes, in memory of
 Laura Resnikoff's father, Israel Resnikoff
 Lynn and Jeffrey Lowin, in honor of
 Dr. Samuel Klagsbrun



The Andy Statman Trio—Andy Statman (left) on mandolin and clarinet, Jim Whitney on bass and Larry Eagle on percussion—performed klezmer-inspired jazz improvisations for Or Zarua Congregants on December 11.

THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Yafa and Alan Nadel, in memory of
Laura Resnikoff's father, Israel
Resnikoff

Gail Propp, in honor of Larry Norton
Laura Resnikoff, with mazal tov to the
Coller family for Hudson Parker's bris,
thanks to Barry Feldman for an out-
standing presentation, and congratu-
lations to Mark Lowenthal on the birth
of his grandchild

Julie and Steven Rosefsky, in honor of
the marriage of Jill Weinberg and Lyle
Wilpon

Randi Schatz and Joseph Allerhand, in
honor of Bruce's Bar Mitzvah

Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of her
father, Jacob Simon, and mother-in-law,
Ida Kaplan-Schwartz, on their yahrzeits

Lorraine & Herbert Shapiro, in honor of
the birth of Bobbi and Barry Coller's
grandson, and in memory of Laura
Resnikoff's father, Israel Resnikoff

Ellen and Donald Simon, in memory of
Donald's father, Milton R. Simon,
and in memory of Ellen's father,
Herman B. Perlman

Vicky Stein, in memory of Fred
Aufhauser, on his yahrzeit

HESED FUND

Alan Mayer, in memory of his aunt,
Esther Mayer

Lesley and Jay Palmer, in honor of the
birth of Ilana Burgess's grandson

Ruth and Sam Perelson

Suzan and Daniel Rosen

Judy and Barry Schneider

Robin and Bruce Silverman, in apprecia-
tion for the good work that the Hesed
Committee performs

Elise Strauss, in honor of Hannah Leah's
marriage and Pat and Alan Davidson's
50th anniversary

Ethel and Barry Weintraub, in memory of
Ethel's mother, Anita Bass, on her
yahrzeit

Helene and Michael Wolff, in memory of
Laura Resnikoff's father, Israel Resnikoff

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of Sam
Perelson

Yafa and Alan Nadel, in memory of Laura
Resnikoff's father, Israel Resnikoff
Laura Resnikoff

Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her
father, Abraham Patt

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Barbara and Martin Bienenstock
Phyllis Brochstein

Marilyn and Marshall Butler

Gwen and Brett Cohen

Mechele and Saunder Flaum

Judith and Stephen Goodman

Stuart and Joan Gross

Aliza Kaplan

Maud and Neal Kozodoy

Marguerite Lederberg

Elise Strauss

Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and
Rabbi Harlan Wechsler

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of Sam
Perelson

Susan and Stanley Alt

Beth and Jared Greisman, with gratitude
for Rabbi Wechsler's wonderful assis-
tance with their wedding

Arlene and Arthur Lerner, in honor of
Caroline Pearl's and Scott Lerner's
wedding

The Mayer Foundation

Barbara and Richard Pearl, in honor of
the aufruf of their son-in-law, Scott
Lerner

Lorraine and Leo Pinsky

Ellen Bromberg Skolnick and Robert
Skolnick

Efry Spectre

Sharon and Marc Teitelbaum, in
gratitude for Rabbi Wechsler's support
and in memory of Sharon's mother,
Beatrice Goldstein

Alice and Thomas Tisch

Faith Weinberg, in honor of Rabbi

Wechsler officiating at the marriage
of her daughter, Jill Weinberg,
and Lyle Wilpon

LIBRARY FUND

Eileen and Stephen Cohen

Jacqueline and Yitzchak Frank

Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro

Sharon Seiler, Charles Spielholz and

Talia, in honor of Barry Feldman's
presentation during Shabbat Lunch
Audrey and Richard Stadin, for Me'ah
books

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND

Evelyn Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom

PURIM SPIEL FUND

Bobbi and Barry Coller

Vivian and Fred Kenvin

Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun

Ellen and Michael Schwartz

MINYAN FUND

Deborah and James Breznay, for the
Super Bowl Party and in memory of
Sheldon Adler's parents

Barry Feldman, in memory of Israel
Resnikoff

Gloria and Burton Schulman

Regina Stein

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Robin Blumenthal, in honor of the birth
of Ilana Burgess's grandson

Ilana Burgess, in appreciation to
Congregation Or Zarua for their
support on the birth of her grandson

Susan Altman and Ivan Kreitman, in
honor of Ilana Burgess's grandson,
Noah Ethan, and in honor of the
Bar Mitzvah of Alex Bromberg

Meredith and Michael Katz, in honor of
the birth of Ilana Burgess's grandson

Shabbat Ushers Needed. Please contact
Phyllis Solomon (pslegal@aol.com) or
Gerry Solomon (gsolomon2@aol.com).

Scenes from "Our Precious Legacies"



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