

# OR ZARUA

Congregation

NEWSLETTER / VOLUME 18:4

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MARCH / APRIL 2006

## OZ Completes Purchase of Cemetery Section

### SELECTION OF SPECIFIC SITES TO BE OFFERED

Or Zarua has just filled a major gap in its communal services. After years of planning, we have finally closed on the purchase of a section at Beth El Cemetery in Washington Township, New Jersey, a very short ride over the George Washington Bridge. Beth El, a well-maintained and attractive facility, is one of the highest quality cemeteries in close proximity to Manhattan. We have worked for years toward this

acquisition so that OZ members may purchase one or more gravesites within a congregational cemetery section. OZ's section, purchased in January from The Workmen's Circle, has space for over 200 graves.

An advantage of purchasing an entire section is that we can design the layout ourselves—a task that we will turn to immediately. Gravesites will be offered for purchase as soon as the

plans are finalized. Congregants will be able to complete their transactions when the layout of the section is completed and we are in a position to offer a selection of specific grave locations. A discount will be available to Congregants who purchase sites during the next three months. If you are interested in purchasing one or more sites, please call Barbara Bolshon at 212-452-2310, extension 14.

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## Shabbat Across America

The National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) has reached thousands of "unaffiliated or alienated" Jews through its Shabbat Across America project, which turns ten years old this year. Or Zarua is proud to participate in the celebration for the first time. On Friday night, March 3, we will join hundreds of congregations across the United States and Canada in welcoming Jews from the community to a traditional Friday night service and dinner.

You are our best advertisement for the event, so please help us make OZ's first community outreach program a success. Talk it up. Be creative. Take a stab at inviting anyone you know who might be even vaguely receptive. Recruit at least one person to attend services and then enjoy a delicious Shabbat dinner with joyful singing. We welcome people who have never set foot in a synagogue and lapsed yeshiva students alike. Learn



about the prayers, the rituals, and the meaning of Shabbat.

Act now. Space at dinner is limited. Please call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39 to check on the availability of seats. To reserve a place, you must download a Shabbat Across America registration form from the OZ website and return it to the office. The program begins promptly at 5:30 p.m.

ק"ק אור זרוע  
CONGREGATION

**OR  
ZARUA**

A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE  
FOUNDED 1989

127 EAST 82ND STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10028  
phone: 212-452-2310 fax: 212-452-2103  
www.orzarua.org

DR. HARLAN J. WECHSLER, *Rabbi*  
MICHAEL W. SCHWARTZ, *President*  
BARBARA J. BOLSHON, *Executive Director*  
ILANA BURGESS, *Youth Education Director*  
PAULETTE SCHNEIDER, *Newsletter Editor*

# YOUTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By *Bea Niv, Parent*

We parents joined with OZ's 21 kindergarten and first-grade children for the "My Jewish Identity" Family Program, a celebration of our connection to Judaism and the Jewish people. This one-hour program was designed to get the children and their families thinking about why we go to Hebrew school, our Hebrew names, and how are we connected to our families and to each other. It was a great start to a lifelong journey of Jewish learning.

The program was simple. First, the children gathered in the social hall and found index cards showing their Hebrew names. This provided an opportunity for some to learn their Hebrew names for the first time and for all to examine their names written in Hebrew. Then we made our way to the sanctuary, where the children had to match their names to signs attached to the seats—again, drawing attention to the Hebrew letters. We took

a close look at the word "Jewish" and the word "identity." Ilana then shared the story of her own name. Finally, Ilana presented each child with a mezuzah and a certificate with the child's Hebrew name and its origin.

The most meaningful part of the hour, of course, was what the children themselves had to share. Each child had a turn at the microphone to say his or her Hebrew name and to tell of its origin. Some names were passed down from loved ones, some were simply the parents' preferences, some were variations of the English names, and some were chosen for their Hebrew meanings. It was exciting to see the group coalesce as we realized that, while we are all strangers, we all have some very powerful things in common—our Jewish identity, our Or Zarua community, and our way of being in the world.

We ended with songs and a farewell until next time.

## OZ Committee Chairs

AESTHETICS	Aaron Shelden
BOOK DISCUSSION	Reed Schneider
BUILDING	Alan Ilberman
CATERING	Diane Okrent Sara Stone
CEMETERY	Andrew Frackman Morty Schwartz
DEVELOPMENT	Mimi Alperin
EVENTS/ADULT ED	Diane Okrent
HESED	Lesley Palmer
HEVRA KADISHA	Vera Silver Gerry Solomon
ISRAEL	Brett Cohen Aliza Kaplan
LIBRARY	Barry Feldman
MEMBERSHIP	Anne Schneider
MINYAN	Sheldon Adler
NEWSLETTER	Paulette Schneider
PLANNED GIVING	Jim Breznay
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Aaron Shelden
PURIM SPIEL	Arthur Rosenbloom Bonnie Maslin Tibor Feldman Barbara Sassoon
SCHOOL	Aliza Kaplan
SHABBAT USHERS	Phyllis Solomon Gerry Solomon
TORAH/HAFSTARAH	Yaakov Shechter
WEBMASTER	Jay Palmer

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 2006

<b>Monday 6</b>	Teen Volunteer Program at BJ
<b>Friday 10</b>	Grade 6 through High School Friday Night Dinner
<b>Monday 13</b>	Purim Spiel ( <i>no Hebrew High School</i> )
<b>Tuesday 14</b>	Purim celebration
<b>Wednesday 15</b>	Purim celebration
<b>Thursday 16</b>	"Creating Lively Passover Seders" with David Arnow
<b>Saturday 18</b>	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday 20</b>	Spring Vacation ( <i>no classes</i> )

### APRIL 2006

<b>Monday 3</b>	School resumes
<b>Saturday 8</b>	Hebrew School Shabbat Class, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday 10</b>	Pesah celebration
<b>Tuesday 11</b>	Pesah celebration
<b>Wednesday 12</b>	Pesah vacation ( <i>no classes</i> )
<b>Monday 24</b>	School resumes—Community Holocaust Service
<b>Tuesday 25</b>	Yom Hashoah
<b>Wednesday 26</b>	Yom Hashoah
<b>Friday-Sunday 28-30</b>	Shabbaton

## BETWEEN HERESY AND PLURALISM: WHAT CAN A JEW BELIEVE?

Four Sunday Mornings Between Pesah and Shavuot  
April 23, April 30, May 7, and May 21

Marc Ashley will again be offering a course exploring pivotal issues in classical Jewish thought on four Sunday mornings between Pesah and Shavuot. In "Between Heresy and Pluralism: What Can a Jew Believe?" we will discuss how Jewish thinkers have defined the range of permissible beliefs regarding the revelation and origin of the Torah. We will focus on how modern Jewish denominations approach notions of truth, heresy, and pluralism in today's diverse world. Classes will meet in the synagogue library on April 23, April 30, May 7, and May 21 at 10 a.m. All Congregants are welcome and no prior knowledge is required. Please join us for stimulating discussions of these crucial issues in Jewish thought. To register, please call the synagogue at 212-452-2310, extension 39 or register online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org).



Israeli kids in Beersheva display the letters and gifts sent to them by OZ Hebrew School students.

## 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 Class, which all Hebrew School students in the third through sixth grades are expected to attend. Students from other schools are welcome as well.

The next Hebrew School Shabbat Classes will take place on Saturday, March 18 and Saturday, April 8.

## PASSOVER: Next Year in Jerusalem

By Ron Meyers

So much of Jewish history is the story of wandering, exile, and diaspora, with our slavery in Egypt standing as the most fundamental exile story of all.

But even while Egypt is the extreme symbol of our exile, it is also an essential locus of growth for the Jewish nation. It is there that Jacob's family is reunited after the horrible fractures between Joseph and his brothers. And it is there, outside the land of our origin and destiny, that the 70-member family of Jacob grows into the multitudinous people of Israel.

Accordingly, at Passover, when we retell the story of the emergence of the Jewish nation, we are not telling a homecoming story. We are telling the story of our departure from one strange land into another. In this way, we remind ourselves that the *location* of Jewish nationhood is secondary to the *content* of Jewish nationhood. It is the unity that we forge in Egypt, and the law that we receive in the desert, and the faith that we perfect through 40 years of wandering, that make us who we need to be.

The promised land that we strive for is not only a place but a destination of social and spiritual attainment. It is that aspiration that we express as we recite at the seder each year, Next Year in Jerusalem.

SOURCES: Family of Jacob: Genesis 45, 46; Nation of Israel: Exodus 12:37; commandments regarding Passover: Exodus 13.

DATES: Eight days, beginning on the evening of April 12 (14 Nisan)

### SHABBAT USHERS NEEDED

Please contact Phyllis Solomon  
([pslegal@aol.com](mailto:pslegal@aol.com)) or Gerry Solomon  
([gsolomon2@aol.com](mailto:gsolomon2@aol.com)).

# ZAYIN ADAR DINNER, MARCH 7

## Annual Hevra Kadisha Celebration

The entire Or Zarua community is invited to join our Hevra Kadisha on March 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the annual Zayin Adar Dinner celebrating the dedication of this vital group to our community. Zayin Adar (the 7th of Adar), the *yahrzeit* of Moses, is the traditional date for *hevra kadisha* groups to join with the communities they serve for fellowship and recognition of the invaluable assistance they provide at times—arranging for *shomrim* to accompany the deceased and read psalms until the funeral, performing *taharat* (preparation of the deceased for burial), arranging for meals of condolence and supplies for the home during *shiva*, and assisting with supporting *minyanim*. Please see the OZ website for more information about our Hevra Kadisha's holy tasks.

This year's dinner will be held at Or Zarua. Rabbi Wechsler will teach the 23rd Psalm.

## CELEBRATE YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Tuesday, May 2 • 7:30 p.m.

Join us in Hebrew song, dance, dining, and conversation at OZ on Tuesday evening, May 2, 2006 after services, which start at 7:30 p.m. We begin on Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day, and have a special *Minhah* service in which we remember the fallen soldiers. As Yom Ha'atzmaut begins, we daven *Ma'ariv* and commence our celebration of Israel Independence Day. Enjoy a tempting buffet of Israeli treats such as *falafel*, *hummus*, Israeli salads, fruit drinks, and desserts. And bring your dancing shoes for traditional and new Israeli folk dances!

## OH, NO! I JUST BROKE A PLATE...

Your broken dishes, pottery, or clay flowerpots can serve a purpose to the OZ community. They can become *sherblakh*—shards of pottery customarily used to cover the eyes and mouth of a *met* or *metah* (deceased man or woman) in preparation for burial.

There are several interpretations of this custom. One is an acknowledgement that we are but dust. Another is that the shards on the eyes will prevent the deceased from seeing any ill that those still living might perform, while the shard on the mouth will prevent the deceased in the next world from speaking ill of anyone.

We have placed a container in the OZ office, where you can drop off the results of those occasional mishaps that do happen.

# New Books in the OZ Library

The OZ library is a welcoming place to spend some free time. Our wide selection of books includes histories, biographies, novels, encyclopedias, biblical commentaries, and more. Here are some recent acquisitions:



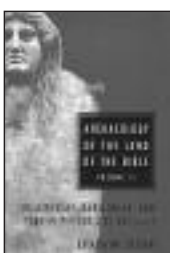
*The Archeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*  
by Jodi Magness



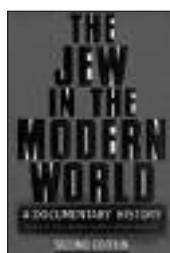
*What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It?*  
by William G. Dever



*The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Eastern Europe*  
by Lucy S. Dawidowicz



*Archeology and the Land of the Bible, Volume II: The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE)*  
by Ephraim Stern



*The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*  
by Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz

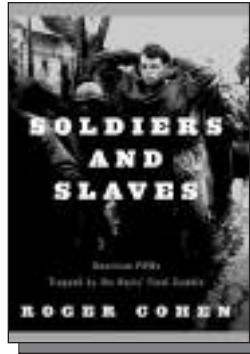


*The Book of Legends/ Sefer Ha-Aggadah: Legends from the Talmud and Midrash*  
Edited by Hayim Nahman Bialik and Yehoshua Hana Ravnitzky



# Or Zarua Book Discussion

Please join us on Sunday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Or Zarua's library to discuss *Soldiers and Slaves: American POWs Trapped by the Nazis' Final Gamble* by award-winning *New York Times* correspondent Roger Cohen. *Soldiers and Slaves* is the gripping story of a long-hidden episode during which Americans in uniform encountered the Holocaust as victims, not liberators or rescuers. Of the thousands of Americans captured and held as POWs in the winter of 1945, the Germans sent 350 soldiers in cattle cars to Germany because they were Jewish or were thought to look Jewish. These men were selected to be worked to death by digging tunnels into



the side of a mountain to house a synthetic fuel plant for the German war effort. Also working in the same tunnels under similarly horrendous conditions were European Jews from concentration camps. After only three months, more than 70 of the Americans died before their release when Germany surrendered. This story was also the subject of a PBS documentary broadcast in 2005. Congregant Alvin Lukashok, a World War II veteran, will lead the discussion and share with us his recollections of fighting the German army in the Battle of the Bulge. For further information, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or arlm1199@aol.com.

## RENOWNED SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE Dr. Avivah Zornberg AT SHABBATON, MAY 5 AND 6



Avivah Zornberg

Avivah Zornberg, one of today's leading Torah scholars and lecturers, will discuss **Through the Looking Glass: Women in the Exodus Narrative** at dinner

following Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday, May 5 and **Prayer Denied: Moses' Spiritual Autobiography?** at lunch after morning services on Saturday, May 6.

Dr. Zornberg is educated in secular and Judaic studies. She earned her BA and PhD in English literature from Cambridge University, took Advanced Jewish Studies at Gateshead Seminary with her father, who was Head of the Rabbinical Court of Glasgow, and studied at the Jerusalem College for Women. By weaving literary, psychological, and philosophical elements into her reading and teaching of the biblical and midrashic narratives, she has developed a unique

approach to Torah study.

She authored *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*, which won the 1995 National Jewish Book Award, and *The Particulars of Rapture: Reflections on Exodus*. Dr. Zornberg teaches Torah at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem, lectures widely in the U.S., Great Britain, and Canada, and holds a Visiting Lectureship at the London School of Jewish Studies of London University. She has appeared with Bill Moyers on the PBS series, *Genesis: A Living Conversation*.

Reservations are required for Friday evening dinner and Saturday lunch at a cost of \$25 per meal for adults and \$15 for children ages 5 through 11—no charge for children under 5. Please reserve online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org), by calling 212-452-2310, extension 39, or by mailing a check to: Congregation Or Zarua, 127 East 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028. Checks must be received by May 2, 2006. For more information, please call 212-452-2310, extension 10.

### LEARN THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Rabbinic Intern Jeff Cymet will teach three Wednesdays at noon

**MARCH 8, MARCH 15  
AND MARCH 22**

Midtown locations to be announced.  
Register online at [www.orzarua.org](http://www.orzarua.org).

### OR ZARUA HOLIDAY MISSION TO ISRAEL

**December 20-31, 2006**

We are planning a Congregational trip to Israel for this December's school vacation. Designed to meet the needs of families traveling with children, the trip will also be appropriate for couples and singles. We will spend Shabbat Hanukkah in Jerusalem and then travel south, studying history, archeology, geography and even ichthyology. If you might be interested in traveling with us, contact Debbie Breznay at [dbreznay@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dbreznay@nyc.rr.com). Please let her know how many adults and how many children would be included in your party.

Please use the OZ website to reserve your place for Congregational meals and events:  
<http://www.orzarua.org/registration.shtml>

# Me'ah: A Joyous Journey in Jewish Learning

By Phyllis Brochstein

The Me'ah program explores the historical, cultural, and political aspects of four eras—biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern—over a two-year period. Last October, all 26 participants in OZ's first Me'ah class reconvened in the library, eager to resume the second of our two years of Jewish learning.

Led by Dr. Diane Sharon, Assistant Professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), we began our studies last year with the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible), examining various themes and concepts within a historical context. Our discussions focused on core texts: Creation, the Binding of Isaac, Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, the Exodus, and the Revelation at Sinai.

We gained new insights and perspectives on Bible stories familiar from childhood. We examined the significance of "separation"—light from darkness, day from night—and the notion of sacred time; the troubling issues raised by Abraham's apparent willingness to sacrifice Isaac; sibling rivalry and the problematic nature of "chosenness"; the meaning of the plagues; and the conditional nature of God's covenant with Israel as expressed in the Decalogue.

After ten sessions on Tanakh, we proceeded to the Rabbinic era. We were especially fortunate to have as our instructor Rabbi David Hoffman, Director of the Eisenfeld-Diker Beit Midrash at JTS and doctoral candidate in its Department of Talmud and Rabbinics. During the next ten Tuesday evenings, we explored the rise in prominence of the "rabbis" following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE.

The end of Temple worship transformed Jewish life and gave impetus to a burgeoning emphasis on study, comment, and debate in Jewish religious practice. The ideas and core values of the rabbinic tradition are reflected in its literary output, the most important texts of which are the Mishnah and Talmud. Selected readings, including the stoning of the rebellious son and Rabbi Joshua's famous exclamation—"It [the law] is not in heaven!"—provoked lively discussion of rabbinic teachings concerning the supremacy of human reason in reinterpreting text in light of community standards and moral sensibilities.

After our summer break, we resumed our places around the library table to begin the study of medieval Jewish life. We were privileged to have a wonderful instructor, Professor Deena Aranoff, a

PhD candidate in Jewish history at Columbia University, guide us through this long and complex period in history as we explored our evolution into the rabbinic religious civilization we know today.

We examined the dramatic expansion of Jewish culture—in philosophy, mysticism, and commentaries—from Sa'adya's *Book of Beliefs and Opinions* to Maimonides' *Guide to the Perplexed*, the commentaries of Rashi and Rashbam, and the mystical texts of Moses de Leon. Cultural developments took on new meaning for us when placed in historical context, as much medieval biblical exegesis was influenced by Jewish encounters with Christianity. Similarly, we gained new insight into recent and present-day events and attitudes through our discussions of doctrinal differences between Judaism on the one hand and Christianity and Islam on the other, and of political, economic, and cultural relations between medieval Jews and non-Jews.

Having just completed our sessions on the Middle Ages, we are about to enter the modern period, the last phase of our Me'ah curriculum. Our group has been a joy. Learning with and from one another will be a continuing journey in Jewish learning for us all.

## FEW FIRSTBORNS FAVOR FAST BEFORE FEAST

### WHAT IS THE FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN?

Ta'anit bechorim, the Fast of the Firstborn, is a custom observed on the day before Pesah to commemorate our gratitude for surviving the pre-Exodus tenth plague, which smote all firstborn Egyptians but spared all firstborn Hebrews. It is a dawn-to-dusk fast.

### WHO IS CONSIDERED A FIRSTBORN?

A firstborn is a male child who is the first child born either to his mother or to his father. Even if he is the first male born to either parent, having an older sister precludes his firstborn

status—he is not the first child. Why the male firstborn? Because in the ancient world male firstborns were subject to Temple service. It was this hierarchy that was the target of the tenth plague.

### HOW CAN THEY AVOID FASTING?

The mitzvah of attending a siyyum—a completion of the reading of a tractate of Talmud—overrides the mitzvah of observing this fast. Firstborns can opt to attend a siyyum, which is followed by a festive meal. The meal is part of the deal, so the fast is legitimately broken. Synagogues facilitate this choice for firstborns by scheduling a siyyum for the morning before Pesah.

# HESED COMMITTEE EVENTS

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN NEW YORK?

Did you know that 32,000 New Yorkers, including 12,500 children, sleep in shelters each night? Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population in New York City. If you've ever passed a homeless person on the street and wondered what you could do besides walking on by, please join us on Monday, March 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to hear Anne Teicher, Executive Director of Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter (NCS), speak about homelessness in New York City and what NCS and other agencies are doing in response. This event was organized to celebrate Or Zarua's partnership with NCS and our long-term Monday night pizza meal serving for NCS clients. It will be an opportunity to find out what you can do—through OZ or on your own—to help the homeless. Of course, pizza will be served!



Noah Eisenbruch (top right and above center) training NCS clients to use computers.

## DONATE YOUR PC TO NCS

Or Zarua volunteers have been serving Monday night dinner for many years to the residents of NCS' building on East 81st Street. More recently, our

Congregants have been delivering holiday food and donating computers to NCS clients. Kudos to Richard Stadin and Noah Eisenbruch for arranging the installation of donated PCs and training for NCS residents. If you have a desktop or laptop computer to donate, or if you are a student interested in earning community service credit by working with Noah to prepare computers for installation, please contact Richard at [stadin1@aol.com](mailto:stadin1@aol.com) or 212-879-0448.



## HESED-STYLE HOLIDAYS

Imagine two of our community's major gourmet food markets, Eli's and The Vinegar Factory, after closing time on the nights before Thanksgiving and Christmas—the aisles empty and the cash registers quiet. Then, envision 40 OZ volunteers of all ages pulling up in front of the stores in their cars and SUVs, gaining entry, moving swiftly from elegant baked goods to sushi to prepared foods to fancy meats, and filling 180 large aluminum trays for donation. Thanks to a partnership between Richard Stadin and Eli Zabar, hundreds of holiday meals were delivered by OZ's Holiday SUV Caravan to NCS' facilities on the Upper East Side and to the Ronald McDonald House,

benefiting many people in need and brightening their holiday celebrations. And our volunteers had a wonderful time emptying the store shelves and making the deliveries!

OZ members also made Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah a bit more freilakh for some Upper East Side elderly residents by paying them friendly visits and bringing them holiday food packages. Thank you to Aaron Shelden for coordinating these events with DOROT.

## OZ'S THIRD ANNUAL HANUKKAH TOY DRIVE

yielded several boxfuls of toys to be donated to children served by the Metropolitan Council for Jewish Poverty. Our appreciation goes to OZ's building staff for continually emptying the collection boxes and preparing the toys for pick up!

## GET INVOLVED!

The next meeting of the Hessed Committee will be on April 4 at 5:45 p.m. in the OZ library. Your generous donations to the Hessed Fund sustain our weekly NCS meal serving and many other community projects. Please continue to support the Hessed Fund. Contact Lesley Palmer, Chair of the Hessed Committee, with project suggestions or questions at [Lesley@nyc.rr.com](mailto:Lesley@nyc.rr.com) or through the synagogue office.



Or Zarua Congregants delivered DOROT packages for Hanukkah.

# March Calendar



# April Calendar

# Guidelines for Passover

The guidelines below were prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. They were accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984 and are 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 sale—mekhirat hametz—is accomplished by our appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the transfer. The transaction is a 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 even after the holiday (hametz she-aver alav ha-Pesah).

The Torah also prohibits the eating of hametz during Pesah. We often need guidance when shopping and preparing for the holiday because many common foods contain some admixture of hametz.

During the eight days of Pesah, hametz does not lose its identity, even in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of hametz renders the whole admixture hametz, and its use on Pesah is prohibited.

Following are some general guidelines. Consult Rabbi Wechsler when there is any doubt about the status of a product. Examine the Kosher le-Pesah label: If it does not bear the name of a rabbi, does not contain one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or is not integral to the package, check with the rabbi.

## FOODS

● **Prohibited foods:** leavened bread, cake, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffee containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.



Baking matzah for the Passover holiday.

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

● **Permitted foods that DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** fresh fruit, fresh vegetables (for legumes, see above), and eggs.

● **Permitted foods that DO require a Kosher le-Pesah label:** all baked products (matzah, cake, matzah flour, matzah farfel, matzah meal, and any

other products containing matzah), canned or bottled fruit juice (often clarified with kitniyot, which are not listed among the ingredients), canned tuna (often processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein, even when packed in water), wine, vinegar, liquor, oil, dried fruit, ice cream, yogurt, and soda.

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

## NON-FOOD ITEMS

● **Detergent.** If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents DO NOT require a Kosher le-Pesah label.

● **Medicine.** Because many pills are made with hametz binders, follow this guideline: 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 the use of the medicine. Consult Rabbi Wechsler.

## KASHERING

● **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 into 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 that has not been used for over a year may be used for Pesah if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

● **Metal.** Utensils made entirely of metal and used in fire (such as a spit or broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then heated to the highest possible temperature. Utensils used for cooking or eating (such as silverware or pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned, and then 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, cleaned, and then heated to the highest possible temperature for a half hour. For ovens with no self-cleaning feature, use the broil setting; for self-cleaning ovens, use the self-cleaning feature to achieve the highest temperature. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

● **Microwave ovens.** These do not cook food by means of heat. After the interior is cleaned, a cup of water must be placed inside. The oven should be kept on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

● **Glassware.** Drinking glasses and stemware require only a thorough cleaning, by hand or in a dishwasher, before Pesah.

● **Glass cookware.** There is a difference of opinion as to whether glass cookware should 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.** Any food trap or filter must be cleaned, and the dishwasher must remain unused for 24 hours. Then, a full wash cycle with detergent must be completed.

● **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, then the appliance cannot be kashered. However, all exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned in either case.

● **Tables, closets, and countertops.** If they have come into contact with hametz, surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned and covered before use.

● **Kitchen sinks.** Metal sinks must be thoroughly cleaned and then doused with boiling water. Porcelain sinks must

be thoroughly cleaned and outfitted with a sink rack. Items may be soaked in a basin placed inside a porcelain sink.

● **Hametz and non-Passover items.** In order to prevent accidental use, all non-Passover kitchen items and hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated from Passover items, marked, covered, and placed in a locked area.

*An ever-increasing variety of Kosher le-Pesah products is available in local markets as well as in the specially dedicated Pesah stores that appear each year. Patronize these special Pesah stores, for they provide an important service to the Jewish community.*

## OMER BASICS

**WHAT'S AN OMER?** An omer is a unit of measure for cut sheaves of a grain crop. The 49-day period between the second day of Pesah and the day before Shavuot is referred to as the period of sefirat ha'omer—the counting of the omer.

**WHY DO WE COUNT IT?** The Torah tells us in Parashat Emor (Leviticus 23:15-16) that an omer of barley was brought to the Temple on the second day of Pesah as a “wave offering.” This omer of barley was made up of newly harvested grain, and new barley could not be eaten until the omer offering was brought. Starting on the second day of Pesah, 49 days are counted, at the end of which Shavuot is celebrated and an offering is brought to the Temple from the early summer's wheat harvest. The counting, sefirat ha'omer, is done at nightfall each day during the seven weeks. The counting of the omer connects the Exodus from Egypt with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. In eagerness, we count the days of waiting for the revelation.

**HOW DO WE OBSERVE IT?** For a period of time during the counting of the omer it is traditional to observe certain semi-mourning customs, such as postponing weddings and foregoing haircuts. This tradition may have an agricultural origin in that the period leading up to the summer harvest is a time of concern for the continuing safety of the crop. But also during this period of the year in the second century CE, some 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students perished—they were most likely killed by the Romans.

**WHAT IS LAG B'OMER?** Lag B'omer is the 33rd day of the counting—“lag” is an acronym made up of lamed (30) and gimel (3). The massive fatalities of Rabbi Akiva's students halted on that day, and the customs of semi-mourning are suspended. Lag B'omer is observed as the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, the person said to have authored the mystical book, *The Zohar*. This year Lag B'omer falls on the night of May 15, and we shall spend that evening studying *The Zohar* in Rabbi Shimon's memory.

# TAKE PART IN OR ZARUA'S Pesah Meal Match

*First Seder Night, Wednesday, April 12*

Let us increase our joy in this z'man heiruteinu—the season of our liberation—by hosting other congregants or by joining a host family on the first seder night, Wednesday, April 12.

If you would like to be a host or a guest, please complete the form on page 13 and send it to the synagogue office or register online at [www.orzarua.org/register\\_PesahMealMatch5766.shtml](http://www.orzarua.org/register_PesahMealMatch5766.shtml).

## Ma'ot Hittim Fund

The Hagaddah tells us that every Jew must experience the Exodus from Egypt, and the Mishnah tells us that a Jew should drink four cups of wine at the seder, even if they come from the public dole.

We therefore 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 ensure compliance with the requirements of halakhah.

Please complete the form on page 13 and send it to the synagogue office by Monday, April 10, 2006. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

*David Arnow, Back by Popular Demand*

### CREATING LIVELY PASSOVER SEDERS

Thursday, March 16 • 7:30 p.m. • Or Zarua Library

After last year's rave reviews, we are pleased to announce that David Arnow will join us on Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. for another wonderful lecture and discussion about how to make seders more interesting for your children and guests. Mr. Arnow will show us how to enliven the seders with questions and transform the evening into a true celebration. If you plan to attend, please register online or call 212-452-2310, extension 39.

## SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES 5766/2006

### Wednesday, April 12

*Erev Passover (First Seder)*

Shaharit, Siyyum Bekhorim 7:15 a.m.

Candlelighting 7:12 p.m.

### Thursday, April 13

*First Day of Passover (Second Seder)*

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Minhah-Ma'ariv 7:20 p.m.

Congregational Seder 8:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:17 p.m.

### Friday, April 14

*Second Day of Passover*

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Candlelighting 7:14 p.m.

Minhah-Kabbalat Shabbat 7:15 p.m.

### Saturday, April 15

*Shabbat Hol Hamoed*

Shaharit 8:45 a.m.

### Sunday, April 16

*Pesah Hol Hamoed*

Morning Minyan 8:45 a.m.

### Monday, April 17

*Pesah Hol Hamoed*

Morning Minyan 7:00 a.m.

### Tuesday, April 18

*Pesah Hol Hamoed*

Morning Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Minhah-Ma'ariv 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:20 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 19

*Seventh Day of Passover*

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Candlelighting 8:23 p.m.

### Thursday, April 20

*Eighth Day of Passover / Yizkor*

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Festival ends 8:25 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 Thursday, April 6, 2006**, 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 Monday, April 10, 2006**, 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

Debbie and Jim Breznay, on the birth of their grandson, Max Philip Klein  
 Bobbi and Barry Collier, on the birth of their granddaughter, Natalie Fable Kruglyak  
 Zella and Glenn Goldfinger, on the birth of their granddaughter, Navona Tekoa  
 Nina and Max Karpel, on the birth of their son, Abraham Meir  
 Meredith and Michael Katz, on the birth of their son  
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner, on the birth of their grandson, Harry Leon Posner  
 Diane Lipman, on her marriage to Glenn Bellovin  
 Joan and Henry Michelman, on the birth of their granddaughter, Livia  
 Rabbi Paulette Posner and Jeremy Posner, on the birth of their son, Harry Leon Posner  
 Laura Siegel and Stephen Stern, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Samantha  
 Lidiya and David Yunatanov, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Mordechai

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:  
 Jennifer and David Leinwand

## CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to:  
 Barbara Bluestone Heller, on the death of her mother, Gladys Goodman Bluestone  
 Ted Lazarus, on the death of his father, Lester Lazarus  
 Lorraine Shapiro, on the death of her brother, Herbert Ackerman  
 Edward Siegel, on the death of his brother, Gerald Siegel

May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received between December 1, 2005 and January 31, 2006.  
 Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

## GENERAL FUND

Willi and Arthur Aeder, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

Renee and Richard Barash  
 Elaine Blum, in honor of Martha and Fred Mendelsohn  
 Phyllis Brochstein, in memory of her father, Samuel Brochstein, on his yahrzeit  
 Karen and Robert Cantor, in honor of the baby naming of Sophie Abelow  
 Ruth Drazen  
 Audrey and Barry Feldman, in honor of the birth of Debbie and Jim Breznay's grandson  
 Frieda and Oscar Gelbtuch, in honor of Mark Somerstein's birthday  
 Elizabeth Goldberg  
 Beth and Jared Greisman, in honor of Paulette and Jeremy Posner on the birth of their son, and of Nina and Max Karpel on the birth of their son  
 Alisa Kieffer  
 Geraldine and Franklin Levey  
 Bonnie Maslin and Yehuda Nir, in memory of Charles Weiss's wife  
 Libby Saypol, in memory of her parents, Marian and Samuel Gitlitz  
 Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of Ida Kaplan Schwartz, and in memory of her father, Jacob Simon  
 Lillian Silver, in honor of Bonnie Maslin, for her hospitality to our family for Kayla Silver's Bat Mitzvah  
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro, in honor of the birth of Harry Leon Posner, grandson of Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner  
 Vicky Stein, in memory of her father, Fred Aufhauser, on his yahrzeit  
 Carol and Barry Wechsler, in honor of Ezra Friedland-Wechsler's ordination and in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

## HESED FUND

Debbie and Jim Breznay, on the birth of their grandson, Max  
 Lesley and Jay Palmer, in honor of Nina and Max Karpel, on the birth of their son, Abraham Meir  
 Ruth and Samuel Perelson  
 Sabina Preter  
 Laura Resnikoff, in memory of her father, Israel Resnikoff, on his yahrzeit  
 Judith and Barry Schneider  
 Joanna and Ronald Slevin  
 Linda and Jerome Spitzer, in memory of Linda's father, George Kirsten, on his yahrzeit

Miriam Wallerstein, in honor of the birth of the granddaughter of Bobbi and Barry Collier, and in honor of the birth of the grandson of Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner

## HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Sara and David Stone, in memory of Bonnie Maslin's mother  
 Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her father, Abraham Patt, on his yahrzeit

## KIDDUSH FUND

Susan Cantor and Ross Abelow, in honor of the baby naming of their daughter, Sophie  
 Robin Blumenthal, in honor of Julia's Bat Mitzvah  
 Bobbi and Barry Collier, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Natalie Fable Kruglyak  
 Ellen and Said Hawa, in memory of Said's father, Salim Hawa, on his yahrzeit  
 Sarah Klagsbrun and Eric Weinstein, in honor of Or Zarua's anniversary  
 Martha and Fred Mendelsohn, in memory of Fred's father, Norman, on his yahrzeit  
 Ron Meyers, in memory of his grandfather, Sam Dumbroff, on his yahrzeit and the 100th birthday of his grandmother, Belle Dumbroff  
 Barbara and Ira Nadler, in honor of Gayle's reading Haftarah; in memory of Barbara's mother, on her yahrzeit; and in memory of Barbara's uncle, Harry Blumberg, on his yahrzeit  
 Ellen and Alain Roizen, in memory of Alain's mother, Edith Roizen, on her yahrzeit  
 Elaine Schattner and Paul Glasserman, in honor of Ethan's Bar Mitzvah  
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, in honor of Richard's birthday  
 Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler, in honor of the birth of their grandson

## KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Dina Bromberg and Barrett Sinowitz  
 Alice Canick  
 Gwendolyn and Brett Cohen  
 Laurie Dien and Alan Yailen  
 Mona Dreier  
 Barry Feldman  
 Lynne Galler and Hezzy Dattner, in honor of Hezzy's Haftarah reading on Rosh Hashanah  
 Karen and Henry Glanternik  
 Joan and Stuart Gross

# THE OR ZARUA COMMUNITY

Richard Goldberg  
 Ninette and Alvin Lukashok  
 David Meitus  
 Judith Nadler  
 Ellen and Ira Roxland  
 Vicki and Brian Warner  
 Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler  
 and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler  
 Elaine and James Wolfensohn

## LIBRARY FUND

Cecilia and Allen Mayer, in memory Esther Mayer and Eva Mayer  
 Lorraine and Herbert Shapiro, in honor of their anniversary

## MINYAN FUND

Frances Freedman  
 Karen and Henry Glanternik  
 Deborah and Steven Katz, in honor of Yashua ben Moshe Shmuel  
 Cecilia and Allen Mayer, in memory of Clara Okrainetz

## PURIM SPIEL FUND

Laurie Dien and Alan Yaillen, in memory of Frieda Maslin  
 Vivian and Fred Kenvin  
 Francine and Sam Klagsbrun  
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner  
 Beth Goldberg Nash and Joshua Nash

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alice Canick, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler  
 Bobbi and Barry Coller, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler  
 Frances Freedman  
 Michelle and Carl Schaerf, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler  
 Judith and Barry Schneider, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler, and in honor of Lillian Elgart, on her birthday  
 Joanna and Ronald Slevin, in honor of the birth of Eden Yiftach Dror, grandson of Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler  
 Alice and Tom Tisch

## CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

**Thursday, April 13**

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

**Services will start at 7:20 p.m.**

**Our Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi Wechsler and his son, Rabbi Ezra Friedland-Weschler, will begin at 8:15 p.m., immediately after services.**

*Watch your mail for an invitation.*

## Celebrate Purim with Congregation Or Zarua

**Monday, March 13 • Kaye Playhouse**

*Hunter College, East 68th Street (Park and Lexington Avenues)*

<b>Minhah</b>	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Megillah Reading</b>	<b>6:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Purim Spiel</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>

*Food and fun following the Spiel*

**OZ Players Present**

## THE KING AND CHAI

**Adults and children, come in costume!**

*Please call 212-452-2310, extension 39 and provide the names of your guests.*

# OZ'S HOLIDAY SUV CARAVAN



*Holiday meals provided courtesy of Eli's, The Vinegar Factory, and Lorenzo and Maria's Kitchen were packed and delivered by Or Zarua volunteers to brighten the holidays of people in need at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and the Ronald McDonald House. See page 7.*

**CONGREGATION OR ZARUA**

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New York, NY 10028

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