

Or Zarua

ADAR I/ADAR II/NISAN 5771

NEWSLETTER/VOLUME 23:4

MARCH/APRIL 2011

Do You Believe In Miracles? *Between Divine Providence and Intervention*

An Adult Education Course on Three Sundays Between Pesah and Shavuot by Marc Ashley

An appreciation of miracles lies at the heart of notions of religious belief and conceptions of truth and reason. Our understanding of how God may operate within history or beyond nature can shape our perception of what is possible in the natural world. Miracles in the ancient world may have been taken for granted. Yet in this age of cynicism and skepticism—when talk of miracles likely leads many people to think most readily of an Olympic hockey game featuring an unlikely and dramatic upset—can the miracles of the Bible speak to the modern Jew? What should we make of the Torah's prolific narratives of wondrous miracles that belie our everyday experience?

Please join congregant Marc Ashley in his annual adult education course held

between Pesah and Shavuot. This year's course, "Do You Believe In Miracles? *Between Divine Providence and Intervention*," will focus on Jewish conceptions of the miraculous in human experience.

Should Jews believe that miracles indeed occurred in the past and can yet occur today? Does God actually intervene in the affairs of human history? The course is open to all congregants and does not require prior knowledge of any kind. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. on May 1, 15 and 22 in the OZ library.

The "problem" of miracles has exercised the minds of great thinkers through time, particularly since Enlightenment thinking began to privilege reason in the quest for knowledge and truth. The modern philosopher David Hume declared that

"a wise man proportions his belief to the evidence," and our empirical observations seem to discredit the plausibility of miracles. For many modern thinkers, miracles have been deprived of their miraculous import, presumably to be stranded in the realm of crude religious aspiration and even delusion.

But perhaps irrelevance need not be the fate of miracles for modern Jews. Confronting the possibility of miracles in human experience can continue to inspire and engage our religious imagination even in the contemporary world.

Please join us for stimulating discussion of this pivotal aspect of Jewish thought. And push yourself to consider a question more challenging for Jews today than ever before—do you believe in miracles?

JOEY'S NIGUNIM

Joey Weisenberg in Concert


Sunday, April 3, 7:00 pm, \$10 Suggested Donation

Musician, author, and educator Joey Weisenberg and his band will introduce over a dozen new *nigunim* (wordless melodies) and liturgical selections soon to be released by Mechon Hadar on a new album called "Joey's Nigunim." These melodies incorporate the spirit and style of traditional Jewish singing—the result of Weisenberg's immersion in Eastern European *nigunim*, *zmirot*, *chazzanut*, and klezmer music—while leaving room for musical influences from the Brooklyn musical landscape, such as Balkan, blues, bluegrass, classical, flamenco, and soul music. Performed with an improvisational flair and a meditative approach, the music ranges from serene vocal harmonies to foot-stomping dance melodies, demonstrating the beauty that's possible when people come together with their ears open, ready to pour their hearts into song.

Joey will be performing at Congregation Or Zarua on Sunday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for a \$10 suggested donation.



ק"ק אור זרוע
Congregation



OrZarua
A CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
FOUNDED 1989

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New York, NY 10028
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www.orzarua.org

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If you are interested in serving on a synagogue committee, please contact the office for the committee chair's email address.

OZ Hebrew School: A View

by Ortal Isaac

When I walked into the sixth grade classroom on the seventh floor, my eyes were struck by something new: a large, beautiful mural that covered an entire wall depicting scenes from Jerusalem—such as the Kotel, windmill, and olive trees—that was painted by OZ students and teachers. Its beauty filled the entire room, and really showed what Or Zarua's Hebrew School is about: enjoying Jewish learning and making something beautiful, good, out of Judaism.

A few weeks ago, as part of a requirement for a course I am taking at JTS' Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor, I paid a visit to one of the classrooms in Or Zarua's Hebrew School. One requirement for this course, called "L'MAD," (from Hebrew for "learn" and "teach") was the observation of a Hebrew school classroom in action. L'MAD is a program that takes students in 10th through 12th grade and teaches them how to teach in a Hebrew school. L'MAD provides skills such as lesson-planning and classroom management, explores topics such as how to discuss faith with children, gives students the chance to observe classes in session and provides the opportunity to teach in a Hebrew school. At the end of the year, students in the class will come out of the course with a teaching certificate.

Students entered, forming a class of nine, dropping their backpacks by the door. Ilana Burgess, the director of the Hebrew School, who was once my teacher and principal, began the day's lesson on the Holocaust, which would prepare the sixth grade class for their participation in OZ's Holocaust Memorial this May. This was not a lecture on history, but rather an open, comfortable discussion between students and teacher; Ilana talked with the kids, not at them, giving them her own knowledge but also listening to theirs, and learning from them.

The maturity of the students was impressive, especially since they were dealing with such a difficult topic. Their knowledge of current events, which some

voiced during a part about anti-Semitism was also a great asset that Ilana wove it into the lesson. Soon the class next door made up of second and third graders came in to join the older students for Hebrew reading. Each older child was paired with a younger one that he or she was responsible to help. The conscientious behavior of the older children and eagerness of all the students to study and help each other was wonderful to see. The room suddenly filled with different syllables of the Hebrew language coming together from each student. This was the sound of learning—active, enjoyable Jewish learning, and it was incredible to hear.

Finally, the most moving part of the class was the close of the lesson. After having sung a song all in Hebrew, "The Shtetl is Burning," Ilana and the students talked about their personal links to the Holocaust. Students were eager to share their family history, the grandparents' or relatives' stories, and why they were important to them. Ilana ended by telling the class: "You are the generation that will carry these stories. It is so important that you remember them." The students understood this responsibility, and they realized the importance and gravity of what they were learning. Here is why our Hebrew schools are so important: they are places where children can learn about all these stories, traditions, and customs that are so vital to Judaism, and then carry them with them throughout their lives.

Or Zarua's synagogue was a wonderful place for kids to learn about their Judaism when I was a student there, and it remains so, staying strong as ever. I am so thankful for this Hebrew school, the school that gave me my first siddur and led me to continue my Jewish education at Prozdor. This in turn brought me back to the school again—but this time as a future teacher, who will hopefully be able to do the type of amazing work that is being done at our Hebrew school: the shaping of kids' Jewish identities.

Ortal Isaac is a junior at Lycée Français.

Purim Food Drive

Help the hungry in our community

Observe the Purim mitzvot of *Matanot LaEvyonim* (Gifts to the Needy) and *Mishloah Manot* (Giving of Food and Drink) by bringing at least three non-perishable food items for our community's hungry (or a check) to the Purim Spiel on March 20. Helping those in need is a year-round responsibility for Jews, but on Purim it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor.

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.

YCP needs our help as demand for food packages is great during this difficult economic time.

Financial donations are also welcome. Make checks out to Or Zarua marked for the Purim Food Drive. Checks can also be mailed to the OZ office.



Congregation Or Zarua's Purim celebration last year featured Bonnie Maslin's comedic romp, *The Vonce Who Stole Purim*, presented by the OZ Players with a cast of 34 accompanied by a three-piece band.

Purim Schedule

Sunday, March 20

Lycée Français

505 East 75th Street
(between York and East End Avenues)

8:45–9:30 a.m.

Shaharit

in the cafeteria

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Megillah reading

in the cafeteria

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Children's Spiel

in a classroom TBD

10:30–11:45 a.m.

Brunch

in the lobby area behind the auditorium

11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Children's Costume Parade

in the auditorium

12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m.

OZ Players present

KATZ: A PURR.....IM SPIEL

in the auditorium

PRE-PESAH SHABBATON

WITH RABBI EZRA AMICHAH

Friday, April 15

Congregational Dinner

immediately following services,
which begin at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

Kiddush Lunch

No charge, but RSVP requested

Please make reservations by
MONDAY, APRIL 11

Dinner is \$38 adults; \$15 children
aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge

RSVP: 212-452-2310, ext. 39
or www.orzarua.org

In this Issue

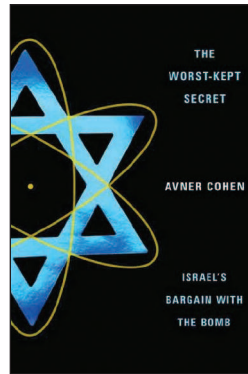
"Do You Believe in Miracles?" Class.....	1	Rabbi Wechsler on Sirius XM Radio.....	9
Joey's Nigunim Concert	1	22nd Annual Meeting.....	9
OZ Hebrew School: A View.....	2	Monthly Calendars	10
Purim Food Drive	3	Don't Think Morning Minyan for You?.....	12
Purim Schedule	3	JTS Party in the Garden	12
Pre-Pesah Shabbaton.....	3	Zayin Adar Brunch	13
Book Discussions.....	4	Torah Reading Class	13
Hesed Events and Programs	4	College Connection	13
Upcoming Events	4	Talmud Class.....	13
Holocaust Memorial Service	5	Or Zarua Cemetery	13
Jewish Renaissance and Baroque Music ..	5	Passover	
Yeshivat Hadar Shabbaton.....	5	Guidelines	14
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot.....	6	Fast of the Firstborn.....	14
Hebrew School Calendar	6	Congregational Second Seder	15
Ninth Annual Israeli Night.....	6	Omer Basics	15
Family and Youth Activities	7	Schedule of Services.....	16
HaZamir Gala Choral Concert	7	Meal Match/Hametz Forms	17
Salute to Israel Parade.....	7	Or Zarua Community.....	18
The Kosher Konnoisseur	8	March/April Checklist.....	20

Or Zarua Book Discussions

The Worst-Kept Secret: Israel's Bargain with the Bomb by Avner Cohen on Sunday, March 27

Please join us on Sunday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Or Zarua library for our next book discussion on *The Worst-Kept Secret: Israel's Bargain with the Bomb* by Avner Cohen.

Although Israel is widely assumed to possess nuclear arms, Israel does not acknowledge such capacity in public. It says that it will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East. This policy, called *amimut* in Hebrew, or opacity, arose as a bargain between Richard Nixon and Golda Meir. The bargain deemphasizes the salience of nuclear weapons, but in Cohen's view is incompatible with the norms and values of a liberal democracy. The strategy arguably relies on secrecy, violates the public right to know,



undermines the norm of public accountability and oversight, and is incompatible with emerging international nuclear norms.

Ethan Bronner in *The New York Times* wrote: "Unlike most critics of Israel's nuclear policy, Mr. Cohen supports its decision to build and maintain the bomb. But he says that refusing to acknowledge this arsenal or foster internal discussion about it is now counterproductive...Agree or not—and Mr. Cohen acknowledges that a vast majority

in Israel considers opacity a success—this exploration of the issues is thoughtful, measured and deep, and very much worthy of wide consideration."

Author of the critically acclaimed 1998 book *Israel and the Bomb*, Avner Cohen is a senior fellow at the Washington Office of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies. He has published on subjects as varied as nuclear proliferation and nuclear history, political theory, skepticism, and Israeli history.

If you would like more information on Or Zarua book discussions or have a book suggestion, please contact Reed Schneider at 212-860-8611 or Dina Linsk in the synagogue office at dlinsk@orzarua.org.

Hesed Events and Programs

"The world exists for the sake of kindness." —Rashi

- Or Zarua feeds formerly homeless men and women at NCS's East 81 Street Residence on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to commit to one Monday a month to serve pizza, soda, salad and good cheer.
- Visit and cheer up ill or homebound Or Zarua congregants.
- Jewish children come from across the U.S. and around the world to undergo serious medical treatment at New York City hospitals. Many reside with their families at Ronald McDonald House and often have no local support system of friends or relatives. The Chaplain at Ronald McDonald House alerts us when OZ may be of service to

families who may require kosher meals, synagogue services and other assistance.

- "Green Thumbs" are needed from spring through fall to help care for The Ronald McDonald House's 7th Floor Terrace Butterfly Garden.
- Donations needed for the Hesed Fund! Please consider making a donation to cover the \$180 cost per week of Monday evening dinners for the residents of the Neighborhood Coalition for the Homeless Shelter Residence.

To participate in any of these Hesed programs, please contact Richard Stadin at stadin1@aol.com or 212-879-0448.

Upcoming Events

March 11-12 and April 8-9

JONATHAN ANGRESS
Or Zarua's cantorial intern and JTS student will be leading Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services.

Sunday, April 3

JOEY'S NIGUNIM
Joey Weisenberg, Or Zarua's musician-in-residence, and his band will be performing in concert at 7 p.m. Details on page 1. \$10 suggested donation.

Sunday, April 10

JEWISH RENAISSANCE & BAROQUE MUSIC
Jonathan Angress, Or Zarua's cantorial intern, will be performing with The Shomrim Laboker Ensemble at 2 p.m. Details on page 5. \$10 suggested donation.

Monday, May 9

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY
Herb Keinon, author of *Lone Soldiers, Israel's Defenders from Around the World*, will be speaking on "An Update on Events in the Middle East." Israeli refreshments will be served.

PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS

Many opportunities to sponsor an Or Zarua program are described throughout the pages of this Newsletter. It is vital to actively support our community in this way in order to help ensure that we remain a vibrant congregation. Please consider honoring a family member or marking a simcha by sponsoring an event, either in whole or in part. If you are interested, please contact Andrew Frackman or Rabbi Wechsler.

Holocaust Memorial Service

Yom Hashoah ceremony to be held on Sunday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

We will commemorate Yom Hashoah v'haG'vurah on Sunday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. On this day the victims of the Holocaust are remembered. We also proudly salute the heroism shown by many during this horrible time and pass on the memory of the

Holocaust to the next generation. We cannot allow our people to forget the destruction of the many communities and lives in Europe.

For the last few years at Or Zarua, we remembered the Holocaust with a wonderfully artistic and touching ceremony led by our teens and adults. This year, support is

especially important because Israel is fighting to protect itself from forces that wish to see its destruction. Being together on this day will also show the world that 6,000,000 of our people did not die in vain.

Yom Hashoah is a community event and everyone is invited.

—ILANA BURGESS

JEWISH RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE MUSIC

Sunday, April 10, 2:00 pm, \$10 Suggested Donation

Jonathan Angress, Or Zarua's cantorial intern, and The Shomrim LaBoker Ensemble will perform a concert of Jewish liturgical music in the style of Renaissance and Baroque madrigals. Founded at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the goal of The Shomrim LaBoker Ensemble is to promote early Jewish music (predating 1800). While most American Jews today consider the compositions and melodies of the 19th century to be "traditional," there is no doubt that the Jewish liturgical music of the Renaissance and the Baroque predates any other polyphonic setting.

The Shomrim LaBoker Ensemble will be performing at Congregation Or Zarua on Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for a \$10 suggested donation.



YESHIVAT HADAR SHABBATON

Friday, March 4
Congregational Dinner
immediately following services,
which begin at 5:32 p.m.

Saturday, March 5
Congregational Lunch
immediately following Kiddush
Seudah Shlishit
immediately following afternoon
services. **No reservation required.**

Please make meal reservations by
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Each meal is \$38 adults; \$15 children
aged 5-12; children under 5, no charge

RSVP: 212-452-2310, ext. 39
or www.orzarua.org

THE LUCY S. DAWIDOWICZ LECTURE IS ONLINE

Visit www.orzarua.org

You may have missed Or Zarua's 22nd birthday celebration and the custom cake (pictured at right) on Wednesday, February 2, but that does not mean you have to miss The Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture by Lawrence H. Schiffman on "The Dead Sea Scrolls: Judaism, Christianity and the Western Tradition Reevaluated" because it is available online! Just go to www.orzarua.com and look under the Resources heading on the right of the Or Zarua home page for the lecture. You will also find many other features on the Or Zarua website, including the calendar of events. So take some time and visit the site!



ALIZA KAPLAN

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Tuesday night, June 7

- Minhah/Ma'ariv
- Or Zarua's annual Shavuot panel
- Dairy desserts

Look for more details in the next issue of the *Or Zarua Newsletter*.

HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 2011

- Mon 7** B'nai Jeshurun
- Sat 12** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 21** Winter Break (*no classes*)

April 2011

- Mon 4** Classes resume
- Sat 9** Shabbat Haya'el/Siddur Ceremony, youth-led service in sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.
- Sun 10** Kadima/USY Chocolate Seder, 4:00 p.m.
- Mon 11** B'nai Jeshurun
- Mon 18** Pesah (*no classes*)
- Wed 27** Classes resume

May 2011

- Sun 1** Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Memorial Day
- Sat 14** Junior Congregation, 10:30 a.m.
- Mon 16** B'nai Jeshurun
- Mon 25** Last day of school

KOSHER RESTAURANT REVIEWS HAVE RETURNED!

Please see page 9.

Ninth Annual Israeli Night

Hesed Committee volunteers at Ronald McDonald House



STEPHANIE FALLA



On Thursday, February 3, volunteers from Or Zarua hosted the Ninth Annual Israeli Night for young patients and their families staying at Ronald McDonald House, a residence for children who are undergoing medical treatment at local hospitals. Or Zarua's pick-up band played Hebrew, Yiddish and American songs, a sumptuous Israeli buffet was served (above, Lynda Wertheim and Sharon Morris prepare falafel and pita), and professional folk dancer Danny Pollack, top left, entertained and taught dances to the children. Everyone had a merry and festive time!

Family and Youth Activities

March 2011

Friday, March 4 • following services

SHABBAT DINNER WITH YESHIVAT HADAR
Details on page 5. Reservations required.

Saturday, March 5 • following services

SHABBAT LUNCH WITH YESHIVAT HADAR
Details on page 5. Reservations required.

Saturday, March 12 • 10:30 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION/TEEN-LED SERVICE
for 2nd grade and older. Service led by students, teachers and parents.

Sunday, March 20 • 5:00 p.m.

PURIM SPIEL AT LYCÉE FRANÇAIS
Details on page 3.

April 2011

Sunday, April 3 • 7:00 p.m.

JOEY'S NIGUNIM CONCERT
WITH JOEY WEISENBERG AND HIS BAND
Details on page 1. \$10 suggested donation.

Saturday, April 9

SHABBAT HAYELED/SIDDUR CEREMONY
Youth-led service in the main sanctuary.

Sunday, April 10 • 2:00 p.m.

JEWISH RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE
MUSIC WITH JONATHAN ANGRESS AND
THE SHOMRIM LABOKER ENSEMBLE
Details on page 5. \$10 suggested donation.

Sunday, April 10 • 4:00 p.m.

KADIMA/USY CHOCOLATE SEDER

Friday, April 15 • following services

PRE-PESAH DINNER
WITH RABBI EZRA AMICHAI
Details on page 3. Reservations required.

Saturday, April 16 • following services

PRE-PESAH KIDDUSH LUNCH
WITH RABBI EZRA AMICHAI
Details on page 3. All are invited.

May 2011

Sunday, May 1 • 7:30 p.m.

YOM HASHOAH
Holocaust Memorial Service

Monday, May 9

YOM HA'ATZMAUT WITH HERB KEINON
Israel Independence Day lecture

HAZAMIR GALA CHORAL CONCERT

Sunday, March 27, 6:00 p.m.

Rose Theater of Jazz at Lincoln Center
Broadway at 60th Street, New York

Two of Or Zarua's young congregants, Aliza Yailen and Ortal Isaac, are also members of HaZamir NYC, a chapter of HaZamir, the International Jewish High School Choir.

The choir will be performing a gala 18th anniversary concert in the Rose Theater of Jazz at Lincoln Center on Sunday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. For ticket prices and additional information, contact HaZamir at 212-870-3339 or hazamir@zamirchoralfoundation.org.

WELCOMING GUESTS

It is important for us as a community to greet guests and new members at our services to make them feel comfortable and welcome. Let's all make more of an effort in this regard. If you are seated next to someone whom you do not know, please reach out and introduce yourself. We should be sure to do the same at our kiddushim. Making this effort is consistent with our culture and will repay dividends.

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you have an idea or article that is appropriate for publication in the *OZ Newsletter*, please contact Charlie Spielholz at cssrs@earthlink.net. All copy for the May/June 2011 issue should be received by Thursday, March 31.

Salute to Israel Parade

Sunday, June 5, 2011



Participate with Congregation Or Zarua, like these enthusiastic members marching in the 2010 Salute to Israel Parade on a beautiful day last spring. Details to follow.

The Kosher Konnoisseur

by Louis Barash

Tevere
155 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
Tel: (212) 744-0210
www.teverenyc.com

Thirty years ago, the Lattanzi family from Rome invaded New York and Italian dining in this city, particularly kosher Italian dining, was changed forever. Actually, the invasion started as a minor incursion, not even kosher, and the full-fledged infiltration took time to develop.

In 1980, with little fanfare, the Lattanzi's small (eight tables) restaurant, Trastevere, opened on East 83rd Street. The early 80's was a time when restaurant excess prevailed in New York—"nouvelle cuisine" was the rage in Paris and everyone on this side of the Atlantic, no matter the cuisine, seemed to want to do something "new." While there were some triumphs, far too often new did not equate with good. Trastevere was a notable exception to the trend. Eschewing novelty and complexity, the short menu focused on simple versions of mostly classic Roman dishes, with excellent ingredients, perfectly prepared.

While not "new," many of these Roman dishes had never been served in New York—which at the time essentially knew only two kinds of Italian cuisine: red sauce Italian and some Americanized conception called Northern Italian (which, so far as I can tell, meant that there was no red sauce). With scratchy Caruso recordings playing in the background, Trastevere ("across the Tiber," the Roman neighborhood near the Jewish Ghetto from which the Lattanzis hailed) was the first, of now many, New York restaurants to faithfully concentrate on the unique cuisine of a particular region of Italy. Notable dishes included a marvelous minestrone, perfectly grilled vegetables served at room temperature, bucatini (a thick, hollow spaghetti then virtually unknown in the States) served amatriciana style, and the Lattanzi's signature dish, Veal Trastevere, a bone-in, breaded, flattened veal chop,

expertly and greaselessly fried, served with a tomato-based salad on top. While almost every pizzeria today serves a similar dish, or its poor cousin that substitutes chicken breast for the veal chop, it was the Lattanzis who introduced it to New York. The kitchen also turned out some extraordinary desserts, including the best napoleon in the city (putting shame to every French pastry chef); sublime profiteroles surrounded by a creamy, home-made vanilla gelato drizzled with a dark chocolate sauce and the most perfect tartufo ever.

This dining bliss lasted a little over six months, but word of mouth spread and Mimi Sheraton published a three-star review in *The New York Times*. In those days, diners followed the *Times* reviews like lemmings (Zagat was just getting started), and there was little hope that the hordes would not overrun so small and well-reviewed an establishment. Elizabeth Taylor was one of the many notables who could be found regularly dining there, prices rose and—poof!—in slightly more than half a year Trastevere had become a restaurant largely for the elite.

But this cloud did have a silver lining, as the Lattanzi's success spawned several offshoots. Trastevere 84, somewhat larger than the original, was opened a few blocks away, with an identical menu, to serve the crowds who couldn't be seated at Trastevere. Erminia, focusing on Roman grilled meats and seafood, opened on the opposite side of Second Avenue. In 1984, Restaurant Lattanzi opened in the Theatre District, specializing in the Jewish foods of Rome.

One summer in the late 1980s, the Lattanzis invited a highly regarded Italian Jewish chef to their New York restaurant to prepare authentic Jewish Roman cuisine for a few weeks. Restaurant Lattanzi was at best kosher-style, certainly not kosher, which apparently was not adequate for their guest chef. To their credit, the family made the restaurant kosher for this brief special event. I imagine the

Lattanzis were shocked by the consequences: the restaurant was completely booked, during the normally slow summer month, for every lunch and dinner. Afterwards, Restaurant Lattanzi reverted to its regular menu, but in apparent recognition of the potential of the kosher dining market, Trastevere 84 was transformed in 1990 into Tevere, probably the first, and still one of the few, strictly kosher Italian meat restaurants. (Later its dairy sibling, Va Bene, opened.)

The menu at Tevere borrows from the family's restaurants. Carciofi alla Giudia, the classic Roman dish of artichokes fried in olive oil, comes from and is as authentically delicious as those served at Restaurant Lattanzi and many fine restaurants in Rome; Erminia provides the inspiration for grilled meats—a thick, juicy veal chop, exceptional lamb chops, a well prepared rib steak and, for those who have a hard time choosing, two mixed grills. The original Trastevere (long closed now) contributed its minestrone soup, the signature veal dish, here called Vitello Tevere (misguidedly, also available is poor cousin Chicken Tevere, no bargain at \$10 less) and adaptations of its famed desserts.

Today, Tevere is much the same. Although the menu has hardly changed over the years, a number of the dishes remain somewhat unique in American kosher cuisine. The quality of the ingredients is still impeccable. The cooking is perhaps a little more inconsistent than it once was, but given that Tevere has been running up the same curtain every night (except Shabbat) for over twenty years, it stills turns out fine food on a reasonably regular basis. Of the starters, in addition to the excellent carciofi and the comforting minestrone soup rich with fresh vegetables, the boccette—a Roman meat broth—is satisfying in cold weather but rarely found outside of Rome, and the carpaccios of beef, tuna or salmon a somewhat lighter way to start what promises to be a big meal. The pastas, interestingly, have improved over the years. The homemade fettucine is delicate and

tasty served in a meat sauce or, as a special on a recent visit, in a savory veal and tomato ragu. Cannelloni is an enjoyable, if filling, choice.

Of the main courses, the Vitello Tevere remains uniquely good although not quite as greaseless as in the earlier days. The grilled meats are excellent, and the veal scallopini with artichokes and chicken in balsamic vinegar tasty and well conceived. In contrast to many kosher meat restaurants, the fish dishes are deftly prepared; on a recent visit a special of Branzino Oreganata was fresh and flavorful with bread crumbs and garlic, although if you would like your fish cooked medium rare, you need to ask

Portions are large, and you may end up bringing leftovers home, but, by all means, save room for dessert. The dessert list is long, most are good, but two, both based on dishes served at the original restaurant, deserve special mention. Tevere's adaptation of tartufo is a miracle in its own right. Flavorful with a crunchy (as opposed to chocolate-coated) exterior, I have never had a non-dairy "ice cream" dish as good. And while the absence of butter in the crust makes duplicating the original Trastevere napoleon an impossibility, undaunted by the strictures of kashruth, the Lattanzis serve up a unique take on the napoleon, with a crispy crust and spectacular custard that is undoubtedly the best pareve dessert I have ever tasted.

The wine list at Tevere is both high priced and littered with wines that don't particularly suit the food (the blame for that is at least equally shared by an Italian wine industry that is well behind its competition—be it France, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand or, obviously, Israel—in producing attractive kosher wines). One relatively reasonably priced option, the Borgo Reale Chianti (\$39) is a fine choice if the 2007 vintage (excellent in Tuscany) remains available, and the Herzog Napa Valley Cabernet (\$80) a fine, if pricey, complement to the grilled meats. The Nicolas Feuillatte Brut NV Champagne, while significantly marked up at \$90, is one of the better accompaniments to a broad selection of the menu. In the end, you (and your budget) may be

happiest with a bottle of Italian beer.

Tevere is expensive. Appetizers, including a relatively simple salad, are all about \$15 and pasta dishes about \$25; the main courses start at \$30 and range above \$45 for Vitello Tevere and the excellent lamb chops. Desserts range from \$10 to \$12. Even if you skip wine, a typical dinner, with beverage, coffee, tax and tip is going to set you back over \$80 per person, unless you are sharing courses.

The small, attractive dining room, which seats about 50, but would be more comfortable if it seated 40, is inevitably crowded, despite high prices and weak economy. Even with a reservation (which is essential), at times you may have to wait for a table, and the cramped vestibule is an unattractive place to wait. The patrons run a wide gamut: the place is packed nightly with large, frum families; twenty-something singles and a range of expense account types (non-kosher and non-Jewish executives know Tevere as one of the places to entertain their observant clients).

So make your reservations well in advance and bring your credit card. Given the prices, Tevere seems today not a place where one would be happy to dine every night. But if you've never been there before, or are celebrating a special occasion, Tevere is a treat that is not only a slice of New York restaurant history, but one of the more unique and enjoyable kosher restaurants anywhere.

Kosher Knibbles: Kosher diners should be aware of the wonderful work Or Zarua is doing with Ronald McDonald House. Among other things, Or Zarua assists observant families staying there with refrigerators and kosher food. A number of Kosher restaurants contribute food, and the Konnoisseur recently learned that Tevere is a generous contributor, providing not only food but meal coupons that permit the parents of severely ill children staying at Ronald McDonald House to dine at the restaurant and have a brief respite from their difficult situation. If you dine at a kosher restaurant, please let them know about this wonderful program and ask for their support. Richard Stadin spearheads this terrific effort; he can provide information and work with the restaurant to assist in completing this mitzvah.

RABBI WECHSLER TEACHES ON SIRIUS XM RADIO

Sundays at 3 a.m., 5 a.m.
7 a.m. and 11 a.m.



Rabbi Wechsler can now be heard on SIRIUS XM Stars Radio four times each Sunday. Subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can access the program, "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches," on Channel 102, and XM Radio subscribers can tune in to Channel 155. Non-subscribers to SIRIUS Radio can obtain a free, three-day trial at www.sirius.com.

22ND ANNUAL MEETING, PICNIC DINNER AND MUSIC

Wednesday, May 25

Congregation Or Zarua's 22nd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 25 will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a festive picnic on the roof of our synagogue and a performance by the Or Zarua Klezmer Band. The business meeting at 8:30 p.m. will include reports from Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler, President Andrew Frackman and Treasurer Alan Nadel, as well as the election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees.

Please make dinner reservations on www.orzarua.org or by calling the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, extension 39.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 • 25 Adar I 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st—J. Rubenstein Adv—D. Hoffman	2 • 26 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	3 • 27 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	4 • 28 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot Shabbat 5:32 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbaton Hadar Dinner	5 • 29 Shabbat Shekalim 9:00 am Shaharit Pekude Shabbaton Hadar Lunch Minhah/Seudah Shlishit/ Service/Havdalah
6 • 30 Rosh Hodesh Adar II 9:00 am Sunday Minyan Bat Mitzvah of Micaela Raviv 4:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	7 • 1 Adar II Rosh Hodesh Adar II 7:00 am Minyan	8 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st—J. Rubenstein Adv—D. Hoffman	9 • 3 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	10 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	11 • 5 7:15 am Minyan 10:00 am Tot Shabbat 5:39 pm Candlelighting, Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat Jonathan Angress, cantorial intern	12 • 6 9:00 am Shaharit Vayikra B'not Mitzvah of Alexandra and Kyla Shinder Jonathan Angress, cantorial intern 10:30 am Jr. Congregation
13 • 7 8:45 am Sunday Minyan Zayin Adar Brunch 10:15 am Crafts Club 4:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i>	14 • 8 7:15 am Minyan	15 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st—J. Rubenstein Adv—D. Hoffman	16 • 10 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	17 • 11 Fast of Esther 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal	18 • 12 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:47 pm Candlelighting	19 • 13 Shabbat Zakhor 9:00 am Shaharit Tzav Erev Purim 7:00 pm Minhah and Megillah reading
20 • 14 Purim <i>(at Lycée Français)</i> 8:45 am Shaharit 9:30 am Megillah Reading 12:15 pm Purim Spiel	21 • 15 Shushan Purim 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School</i> <i>Winter Break begins</i>	22 • 16 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st—J. Rubenstein Adv—D. Hoffman	23 • 17 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	24 • 18 7:15 am Minyan	25 • 19 7:15 am Minyan 6:00 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:54 pm Candlelighting	26 • 20 Shabbat Parah 9:00 am Shaharit Shemini
27 • 21 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 7:30 pm Book Discussion	28 • 22 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st—J. Rubenstein (no Advanced class)	30 • 24 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	31 • 25 7:15 am Minyan		



127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028 • 212-452-2310

April 2011 • Adar II/Nisan 5771

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 • 26 Adar II 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:02 pm Candlelighting	2 • 27 Shabbat Hahodesh 9:00 am Shaharit Tazria
3 • 28 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 7:00 pm "Joey's Nigunim" with Joey Weisenberg and his band	4 • 29 7:15 am Minyan <i>Hebrew School resumes</i>	5 • 1 Nisan Rosh Hodesh Nisan 7:00 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: 1st (optional Rabbi Session/Make Up Session)	6 • 2 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	7 • 3 7:15 am Minyan	8 • 4 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:09 pm Candlelighting Jonathan Angress, cantorial intern	9 • 5 Shabbat Hayaed 9:00 am Shaharit Metzora Jonathan Angress, cantorial intern 10:30 am Siddur Ceremony/Youth-led Services
10 • 6 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 10:15 am Crafts Club 2:00 pm Jewish Renaissance and Baroque Music Concert 4:00 pm Kadima/USY Chocolate Seder	11 • 7 7:15 am Minyan	12 • 8 7:15 am Minyan 7:00 pm Context: Wrap Up Session with both instructors	13 • 9 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class	14 • 10 7:15 am Minyan	15 • 11 7:15 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:16 pm Candlelighting Congregational Dinner with Rabbi Ezra Amichai	16 • 12 Shabbat Hagadol 9:00 am Shaharit Aharei Mot Bat Mitzvah of Talia Rosen Kiddush Lunch with Rabbi Ezra Amichai
17 • 13 8:45 am Sunday Minyan Evening: Bedikat Hametz	18 • 14 Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum 7:15 am Minyan Erev Pesah 7:20 pm Candlelighting First Seder <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	19 • 15 1st Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit 7:30 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:20 pm Or Zarua Congregational Seder 8:22 pm Candlelighting Second Seder <i>Office closed</i>	20 • 16 2nd Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit <i>Office closed</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	21 • 17 Hol Hamoed 3rd Day of Pesah 7:00 am Minyan	22 • 18 Hol Hamoed 4th Day of Pesah 7:00 am Minyan 6:15 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:24 pm Candlelighting	23 • 19 Shabbat Hol Hamoed 5th Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit
24 • 20 Hol Hamoed 6th Day of Pesah 8:45 am Sunday Minyan 7th Day of Pesah 6:15 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:26 pm Candlelighting	25 • 21 7th Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit Last Day of Pesah 7:30 pm Minhah/Ma'ariv 8:29 pm Candlelighting <i>Office closed</i> <i>Hebrew School closed</i>	26 • 22 Last Day of Pesah 9:00 am Shaharit Yizkor <i>Office closed</i>	27 • 23 7:15 am Minyan 8:00 pm Talmud Class <i>Hebrew School resumes</i>	28 • 24 7:15 am Minyan	29 • 25 8:45 am Minyan 6:30 pm Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:31 pm Candlelighting	30 • 26 9:00 am Shaharit Kedoshim

To All Who Think the Morning Minyan Is Not for Them

by Sheldon Adler

So you think the Or Zarua morning minyan is not for you? When the morning minyan was being organized in 2002, I felt the same way. I thought it was great that OZ was organizing a daily morning minyan and assumed that there would be members of our Congregation who would find the time to attend. But I felt that the minyan was not for me. I was too busy with an active legal practice and family and other commitments and was sure I could not sacrifice an hour of sleep to attend morning minyan.

But sometimes life throws you a curveball. In March 2002, my parents were unexpectedly killed in an automobile accident and I found myself saying Kaddish everyday just as OZ was launching the morning minyan. This was a difficult time for me as I was very close to my parents and their passing was sudden and unexpected. Like many other Jews, I found comfort in the mourning rituals of our faith such as the Shiva, the Shloshim and the Kaddish. What I discovered, however, was that these traditions, particularly the Kaddish, force the mourner to rejoin the larger Jewish community and allow that community to help the mourner with his loss. More specifically, I discovered how important the OZ community, and especially the morning minyan community, would be

in helping me recover from my loss.

During this difficult time, I found special comfort in our morning minyan and in the company of the minyan regulars. My minyan friends were there for me every day. We shared the Shaharit prayers and breakfast and conversation in the social hall afterwards. My morning minyan friends became my de facto support group and “second family.” Like many before me, the pain gradually eased and “normal” life more or less resumed, but I realized what a wonderful source of comfort the morning minyan community had been to me.

After my Kaddish period ended, I was determined to help ensure that the morning minyan thrived so that it could provide others with the same type of support that it had provided for me. I continued as a morning minyan regular and took on the responsibility of organizing the minyan “schedule” to help ensure that we have a minyan at OZ every morning. I have discovered that morning minyan is not a chore or burden but rather it is a great gift with many rewards that I never imagined. I started to lead the Shaharit services during my Kaddish period, something that I rarely did even in my teenage yeshiva years. I have had the opportunity to learn from Rabbi Wechsler’s daily teachings on the services and the holidays. I now have a much better grasp of the meaning of

many our morning prayers and I have gained a much better understanding of the strength and spirituality of our prayers. Of course, I continue to enjoy the company of my fellow morning minyan regulars and the discussions at breakfast after the services. Most importantly, when I think of my parents, which I still do frequently, I realize that I honor them everyday by participating in the minyan and helping to ensure that the minyan is strong. What a wonderful gift our morning minyan has given to me by letting me feel I am fulfilling the mitzvah of Kibud Av Ve’Am (honoring of ones’ father and mother) almost nine years after my parents’ passing.

And so if you tell me that you are too busy for the morning minyan or that it is simply “not for you,” I truly understand because I felt the same way nine years ago. But I was wrong—more wrong than I possibly could have imagined. The only way for you to see if you are wrong, too, is to join us one morning. You may find, as I did, that there are a lot more important things than an extra hour of sleep.

Editor’s Note: The Or Zarua morning minyan is held Monday to Friday at 7:15 am and 8:45 on Sunday. Breakfast is served following the services in the Social Hall. If you would like to volunteer to be a morning minyan “regular,” please contact Sheldon Adler at sadler@skadden.com.

JTS PARTY IN THE GARDEN

Thursday, May 5, 6-10 p.m.

Save the date for the JTS Party in the Garden. We will be joining other synagogues, including Park Avenue Synagogue and Sutton Place Synagogue, for this wonderful evening at JTS on Thursday, May 5 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Mailed invitation to follow.

Life Events

at Congregation Or Zarua

Members of our congregation are sometimes faced with painful, and, in some cases, tragic events in their lives. If you know of a member of the congregation who is coping with extended illness, hospitalization, or a death in their family, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310 so that Rabbi Wechsler can be informed. Press extension 14 for the executive director or extension 12 for the rabbi’s assistant, Dina Linsk.

CONGREGATION OR ZARUA OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

The Or Zarua office is closed Saturday and Sunday as well as on Jewish and federal holidays.

Judaism and Hospice Care

Hevra Kadisha Zayin Adar Brunch, Sunday, March 13

A prominent psychiatrist and geriatrician will be the featured speakers when this year's Zayin Adar brunch explores the religious, psychological and medical aspects of end-of-life care and treatment.

Psychiatrist Dr. Sam Klagsbrun, Executive Medical Director of Four Winds Hospital in Katonah, New York, and Dr. Jennifer Breznay of Brooklyn's Maimonides Hospital, will join Rabbi Wechsler in discussing Judaism and hospice care. This year's annual Or Zarua Zayin Adar brunch

takes place on Sunday, March 13, 2011 following the morning minyan.

Zayin Adar, the traditional *yahrzeit* of Moses, is observed annually as a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the Hevra Kadisha. All are invited as we look forward to another wonderful study session and discussion at this year's brunch.

Reservations should be made through the synagogue office (212-452-2310, ext 39). Suggested donations to the Hevra Kadisha Fund are \$36 per person.

—GERRY SOLOMON

TALMUD CLASS

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the OZ Library

This year we will be studying the first chapter of *Masechet Hullin* (Ordinary Things). The tractate is mostly devoted to the Laws of Kashrut. The first chapter covers shechting (kosher slaughtering).

Classes are taught by **RABBI WECHSLER**

No prior knowledge of Talmud, Hebrew or Aramaic is required.

Torah Reading Class

by Mark Somerstein

I am continuing a course in Torah reading on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., which began December 2. Meetings are in a classroom on the seventh floor of the synagogue. My aim is to expand the participation in the centerpiece of our Shabbat services (we are a participatory synagogue, after all), as well as any time the Torah is read.

I would like people to be able to read any piece of Torah confidently, using the trope system with understanding. I would like to increase the number of people who

enjoy the Torah reading, and appreciate its esthetic and nuances. This is something I love and have been doing for more than 50 years. I am happy to have others share the benefits of that experience in no more than ten sessions. I feel I will thus be honoring those who taught me, either directly or by example. This course has been advertised as for beginners, but all levels are welcome.

If you are interested, please contact Harvey Brenner at hbrenner@orzarua.org or 212-452-2310 ext 14.

OZ Cemetery

Gravesites for Members

The Or Zarua section of Beth El Cemetery is located in Washington Township (Bergen County), New Jersey, just ten miles away from the George Washington Bridge. Beth El Cemetery is



HARVEY BRENNER

A view of the Or Zarua cemetery section.

well-maintained and landscaped with trees and shrubs. The cemetery's design provides a serene and beautiful final resting place that reflects the values and aesthetics of Congregation Or Zarua. Gravesites within the Or Zarua section are available for sale solely to members of our Congregation. Burial is limited to persons of the Jewish faith. If you are interested in buying gravesites in the Or Zarua section, please contact the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext. 14.

OZ's College Connection

Purim Packages for Students

We are still collecting the school addresses of all congregants' children who are away at college in order to mail gift packages to the students on Purim. To help us stay in contact with these family members while they are away

from home, please send your child's name, school address, and email address by Wednesday, March 9 to Harvey Brenner at hbrenner@orzarua.org or mail the information to the synagogue office, attention "College."

TORAH READERS NEEDED If you are able to read Torah or Haftorah and would like to do so on a Shabbat, please call the synagogue office at 212-452-2310, ext 12.

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 the special experience.

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 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.

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 unanimately 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 poletu). 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

WHAT IS THE FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN?

Ta'anit bekhoring, 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, which this year falls on Monday, April 18.

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 ONLY THE MALE FIRSTBORN?

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 A FIRSTBORN AVOID FASTING?

The mitzvah of attending a siyum—a completion of the reading of a tractate of Talmud—overrides the mitzvah of observing this fast. Firstborns can opt to attend a siyum, 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 siyum for the morning before Pesah.

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. These metal objects 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, place a cup of water inside. Keep the oven 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, boil water 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 any food trap or filter and leave the dishwasher unused for 24 hours. Then, complete a full wash 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,

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.

CONGREGATIONAL SECOND SEDER

Tuesday, April 19, 8:20 p.m.
immediately following services,
which begin at 7:30 p.m.

We invite you, your family and your friends to share the Second Seder with us on Tuesday, April 19. Services will start at 7:30 p.m. Our Congregational seder, led by Rabbis Wechsler and Amichai, begins at 8:20 p.m., immediately following services.

Please make seder reservations by
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
at 212-452-2310, ext. 39 or
www.orzarua.org

OZ Members: \$75 adults; \$50 children aged 5-12. Non-members: \$125 adults; \$100 children aged 5-12. All children under 5, no charge.

Watch your mail for an invitation.

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 consisted 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 were counted, at the end of which Shavuot was celebrated and an offering was 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 time of 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 begins on the night of Saturday, May 21.

Pesah Meal Match

First Seder, Monday, April 18

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 for the first Seder on Monday, April 18.

We welcome hosts who celebrate in many different ways—making their own Hagaddah, following the traditional one, or offering children lots of opportunity to interact—as we know there will be interest

from our members. Congregants wishing to be guests, please let us know what Seder atmosphere is most attractive to you.

Please note: This matching is available only for members of Congregation Or Zarua.

If you would like to be a host or a guest, please complete the form on page 17 and send it to the synagogue office or register online at www.orzarua.org by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14.

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Assist needy Jews to prepare for Passover

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.

We hope that you will give generously to the fund as many will benefit from your kindness. Please make your check payable to Congregation Or Zarua and write Ma'ot Hittim Fund on the memo line.

Sell Your Hametz

Rabbi Wechsler will arrange the transaction

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.

Send the completed form on page 17 to the synagogue office no later than after morning services on Monday, April 18 or email it to dlink@orzarua.org. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

SCHEDULE OF PASSOVER SERVICES 5771/2011

Sunday, April 17

Bedikat Hametz at night

Monday, April 18

Fast of the Firstborn/Siyum

Shaharit 7:15 a.m.

Erev Pesah

Candlelighting 7:20 p.m.

First Seder

Tuesday, April 19

First Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:30 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:22 p.m.

Second Seder 8:20 p.m.

(Congregational)

Wednesday, April 20

Second Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 21

Hol Hamoed

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Friday, April 22

Hol Hamoed 2

Minyan 7:00 a.m.

Minhah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:24 p.m.

Saturday, April 23

Shabbat Hol Hamoed

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 24

Hol Hamoed 4

Minyan 8:45 a.m.

Seventh Day of Pesah

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

Candlelighting 7:26 p.m.

Monday, April 25

Seventh Day of Pesah

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Last Day of Pesah

Minhah/Ma'ariv 7:30 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:29 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26

Last Day of Pesah/Yizkor

Shaharit 9:00 a.m.

Festival ends 8:30 p.m.

Pesah Meal Match

I would like to participate in a first-night seder on Monday, April 18 as a: (check one)

GUEST I prefer a Traditional Seder Innovative Seder Interactive Seder

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

Are there any food restrictions? _____

HOST I offer a Traditional Seder Innovative Seder Interactive Seder

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 _____

This meal match is available only for members of Congregation Or Zarua.

Register at www.orzarua.org or mail or fax this completed form **by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2011**, 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 _____

Send this completed form no later than **after morning services on Monday, April 18** to dlink@orzarua.org or 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

Fund contributions received between December 1, 2010 and January 31, 2011

Mazal Tov

Emelynn Hasky and Paul Whitson in honor of the birth of their son, Eli Jacob Whitson Hasky
 Karen and Jonathan Kaplan, on the birth of their granddaughter, Raya Ruth
 Alexis Sturmwind (last year's rabbinic intern) and her husband Noam on the birth of their daughter, Avital Tamar

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to:

Glenn Goldfinger, on the death of his mother, Matilda Goldfinger
 Ruth Horowitz, on the death of her mother, Barbara Horowitz
 The family of Claire Schussler on her death
 Barbara Salmanson, on the death of her husband, Yitzchak Shavit
 Mark Somerstein, on the death of his mother, Hadasa Somerstein
May they and their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Chaim Dovid Concert

Willi and Arthur Aeder
 Joanne and Marc Ashley
 Lynne and Daniel Beller
 Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner
 Elaine Schattner and Paul Glasserman

Family and Friends Dinner

Anne and Reed Schneider

Gallery Fund

Caroline Golden Ilberman and Alan Ilberman

General Fund

Willi and Arthur Aeder
 Anonymous
 Anna and Abraham Ascher, in honor of Eliana Weinstein's Bat Mitzvah
 Joan and Jerome Badner, in memory of Jerome's father, Hyman Badner

Ethel Bass-Weintraub and Barry Weintraub, in memory of Anita Bass
 Burt Biderman
 Linda Chemtob, in honor of Rosalind Devon, on the occasion of her reading from the Haftorah
 Bobbi and Barry Coller, in honor of Arthur Aeder's birthday
 Laurie and Robert Cooper, in memory of Laurie's mother, Bertha
 Susan and Alexander Deutsch
 Rosalind Devon, in memory of Mark Somerstein's mother, Hadasa Somerstein
 David Fiedler
 Beth Fisher and Harvey Himel
 Laura Fisher, in memory of her sister, Andrea Fisher
 Mechele and Sander Flaum
 Erica and Arthur Goldberg, in memory of Jerry Kaufman
 Sharon and Scott Greenstein, in memory of Scott's father, Eugene Greenstein
 Dore Hollander, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
 Corinne and Robert Josephs, in honor of Rosalind Devon
 Clarita and Abraham Kaufman, in memory of Joseph Kushelevich
 Joy and Louis Kimmelman
 Frances and Bernard Laterman, in memory of Lawrence Iger
 Susan Marx and Philip Kivitz, in honor of Rosalind Devon's reading of the Haftorah
 Anne and Charles Mayer, in memory of Anne's mother, Clara Winston
 Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn, in memory of Frederick's father, Norman Mendelsohn, and his mother, Etta Mendelsohn
 Ellen and Alain Roizen
 Barbara Scott and Jonathan Bromberg, in memory of Barbara's father, Harold P. Scott

Alice Shuchman
 Charlotte Schwartz

Hanukkah Appeal

Joan and Stuart Gross
 Joy and Louis Kimmelman
 Ellen and Alain Roizen
 Alice Shuchman
 Rana Arons Silver and David Silver
 Miriam Wallerstein

Hebrew School Fund

Naomi and Rabbi Raphael Gold, in memory of Estelle Greenberg

Hesed Fund

Susan and Stanley Alt
 Shelley Binder, in memory of Riva Binder and Hadasa Somerstein
 Robin Blumenthal
 Caroline Fox and David Shechter, in honor of the Honorable Michael Katz's induction and Meredith Katz receiving her Ph.D.
 Zella and Glenn Goldfinger, in honor of Sara Stone for all she does for Or Zarua and for her tireless efforts for the Hanukkah Shabbaton
 Judith and Rabbi Robert Golub, in memory of Judith's mother, Chana Rubin
 Alan Ilberman, in memory of his mother, Shirley
 Janet and Simon Katz
 Allen Mayer, in memory of Esther Mayer, Eva Mayer and Clara Okrainetz
 Dara Murray, in memory of her father, George Prisant, and her husband, John Leo Murray
 Suzan and Daniel Rosen
 Judith and Barry Schneider, in memory of Ellen Schneider's yearzeit
 Audrey and Richard Stadin, in honor of Mark Gold's birthday and in memory of Mark Somerstein's mother, Hadasa Somerstein
 Elise Strauss

The Or Zarua Community

Fund contributions received between December 1, 2010 and January 31, 2011

Hevra Kadish

Dore Hollander
Gerry and Phyllis Solomon
Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of Sylvia Hollander

Kiddush Fund

Barry Alperin, in memory of his father
Debra Braverman, in honor of Emma's Bat Mitzvah
Bobbi and Barry Coller, in memory of Barry's mother, Ruth Coller, and Bobbi's father, Dr. H. Harold Gelfand
Julie Copeland, in memory of her father, Peter Copeland
Allyn Maultasch, in memory of her brother, Jonathan Maultasch
Laura Resnikoff, in memory of her father, Israel Resnikoff, on his yahrzeit
Richard and Audrey Stadin, in memory of Richard's father, Harry Stadin, and his mother, Ceil Stadin
Anita and Barry Weinstein, in honor of Eliana's Bat Mitzvah
Jennifer and Adam Wolfensohn, in honor of Micah's third birthday and to celebrate the arrival of his little brother, Elijah Jude

Kol Nidre Appeal

Robin Adelson and Jeffrey Shinder
Willi and Arthur Aeder
Roseanne Alberts
Anna and Abraham Ascher
Gwendolyn and Brett Cohen
Eileen and Stephen Cohen
Kendra Collins and Andrew Plevin
Alisa and Daniel Doctoroff
Mona Dreier
Audrey and Barry Feldman
Naomi Friedland-Wechsler and Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler
Lynne Galler and Yeheskel Dattner
Zella and Glenn Goldfinger

Sara and Paul Gottlieb
Irving Hoffman
Catherin and Philip Isaac
Jessica Korn Liebowitz and Ron Liebowitz
Susan Linder
Allyn Maultasch
Martha and Frederick Mendelsohn
Dara Murray
Karen Perlman and Lawrence Norflus
Linda Pomper
Thelma Rodbell
Ellen and Alain Roizen
Emilya and Brian Sahn
Carol and Lawrence Saper
Anne and Reed Schneider
Elise Strauss
Toby Wertheim

Kosher Food Pantry

Deborah and James Breznay
Janet and Simon Katz
Tamara Jasper
Allen Mayer, in memory of his mother, Lina Mayer
Laura Resnikoff

Program Contribution

Mimi and Barry Alperin
Daniel Goldin
Jonathan Goldin
Matthew Goldin
Janet and Simon Katz

Purim Spiel Fund

Mimi and Barry Alperin
Elaine Blum
Robin Blumenthal, in honor of Julia's tenth year of participation
Phyllis Brochstein
Bobbi and Barry Coller
Roz Goldberg and Alan Bandler
Diana and Harrison Goldin

Carol and Philip Goldsmith, in memory of Carol's father, Henry Cohen, and Philip's parents, Cora and Benjamin Goldsmith, and in honor of Roz Devon, on the wonderful occasion of her Haftorah reading
Vivian and Fred Kenvin
Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun
Terry Krulwich and Paul Posner
Susan March and Louis Barash
Beth and Joshua Nash
Carol Rosenbloom and Ira Kay
Barbara Sassoon, in memory of her father, Abraham E. Freedman, and her mother, Roz B. Freedman
Ellen and Michael Schwartz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of Daniel Adelman and Samuel Perelson
Susan and Stanley Alt
Laura Sebi and Ira Glauber, in honor of the baby naming of Jonathan and Karen Kaplan's new granddaughter, Raya Ruth Sarah and Stewart Kagan
Alice and Thomas Tisch

Yeshivat Hadar Shabbaton

Susan and Stanley Alt
Francine and Samuel Klagsbrun
Susan and Edward Kopelowitz
Ellen and Alan Roizen
Rosalie and Joseph Rothenberg, in memory of Joseph's mother, Ida Rothenberg
Rana Arons Silver and David Silver

Youth Department Fund

Ilana Burgess, in honor of the Honorable Michael Katz
Suzanne Spector and Robert Lawrence, in memory of Enid Scott Lefkowitz



CONGREGATION OR ZARUA

127 East 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028-0807

March/April Checklist

- Send the name and address of your college-aged children to OZ's College Connection by March 9 so that they may receive a Purim package (see page 11 for details).
- Attend the discussion on "Judaism and Hospice Care" at the Zayin Adar Brunch on Sunday, March 13.
- Learn with Marc Ashley: "Do You Believe in Miracles? Between Divine Providence and Intervention" meets on three Sundays, May 1, 15 and 22, at 10:00 a.m.
- Cantorial intern Jonathan Angress will be leading Shabbat services on March 11-12 and again on April 8-9.
- Come see the Purim Spiel on Sunday, March 20 at Lycée Français (see the full schedule on page 3.)
- Hear Joey Weisenberg and his band in concert on Sunday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.
- Jewish Renaissance and Baroque music will be performed by Jonathan Angress and The Shomrim Laboker Ensemble on Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m.
- Have your kids participate in the USY/Kadima Chocolate Seder on April 10 at 4:00 p.m.
- RSVP by Monday, April 11 for the Pre-Pesah Shabbaton dinner and kiddush lunch with Rabbi Ezra Amichai on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16.
- RSVP by Wednesday, April 13 for the Or Zarua Congregational Second Seder on Tuesday, April 19.
- Sign up for the Or Zarua Pesah Meal Match for the first Seder by Thursday, April 14 (see form on page 17).
- Contract to sell your hametz no later than after morning services on Monday, April 18 (see form on page 17).
- Make a donation to the Ma'ot Hittim Fund.
- Sign up for one of the many Hesed activities listed on page 4.
- Commemorate Yom Hashoah at the Holocaust Memorial Service on Sunday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- Mark your calendars for the JTS Garden Party on Thursday, May 5, the OZ's 22nd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, the Salute to Israel Parade on Sunday, June 5, and the Tikkun Leyl Shavuot panel on Tuesday night, June 7.
- Listen to "Rabbi Wechsler Teaches" on Sirius XM Radio (details on page 9).
- Join the book discussion on *The Worst-Kept Secret: Israel's Bargain with the Bomb* by Avner Cohen on Sunday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.
- OZ Crafts Club will meet on Sunday, March 13 and April 10 at 10:15 a.m.
- Sign up for the morning minyan.
- Join Or Zarua on Facebook.
- Study Talmud with Rabbi Wechsler on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
- Call the Or Zarua office (212-452-2310) if you have questions about or wish to sponsor any OZ program or event.