

OR ZARUA



Newsletter

OR ZARUA NEWSLETTER

Adar-Nisan, 5756

Vol. 7, No. 3

1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128 (212) 410-6041

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, Rabbi

**Wednesday, Feb. 28th -
Seventh Anniversary Party
and Lecture by Dr. Ismar
Schorsch**

At 8 p.m., Rabbi Schorsch, Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America will lecture on "The European Origins of Conservative Judaism" at the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street. This is an annual lecture in memory of Lucy Dawidowicz, a member of Or Zarua.

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*All the doings at Or
Zarua's Hebrew School*

Purim, Monday eve, March 4th Passover April 3rd through 11th

Party and Megillah reading at 5:45 p.m.

Get your costumes and noisemakers ready! Purim is almost here!

On Monday evening, March 4th, Purim will be ushered in by Or Zarua at the synagogue. The entire Megillat Esther will be read by our members. Following evening services and the Megillah reading, all are invited to partake in the eating of Hamantaschen. Beverages will also be served.

Purim commemorates the incidents referred to in the Scroll of Esther. The scroll describes an attempt by the wicked Haman to have the Jews of Persia destroyed. His plot, alas, was foiled by Mordecai and his cousin Esther. Although considered to be a minor holiday, Purim is nonetheless celebrated as a festive holiday of eating, drinking, and the sending of gifts, called Mishloah Manot, to less fortunate people in the community.

During the reading of the Megillah in synagogue, it is traditional to "blot out" the name of Haman by using noisemakers whenever his name is mentioned in the Scroll.

Congregational Second Seder on Thursday evening, April 4th

This year, *Pesah*, celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, all as recounted in the Torah in the Book of Exodus, begins on Wednesday evening, April 3rd. Or Zarua will hold daily and evening Yom Tov services beginning with the evening service, at 6 p.m. on April 3rd at the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street. On April 4th, prior to the congregational seder, we will join Congregation Kehilat Jeshurun for evening services at 125 East 85th Street.

On Wednesday morning, April 3rd, at 7:30 a.m., the eve of *Pesah*, Rabbi Wechsler will conduct a *siyum bechorim* for First Borns at the synagogue.

Passover is celebrated in the home with a Seder, at which, surrounding a festive meal featuring *Matzot* and *Maror* (bitter herbs), the story of the Passover is recalled.

Or Zarua members who can accommodate extra guests at their Seder and those who would like to partake of a Seder meal with a family should contact the Or Zarua office for information, or return the coupon in this issue.

On the second night of Passover, Or Zarua will host a Second Seder at the Ramaz Lower School, 125 East 85th Street, by reservation only. An invitation will be sent to the entire membership. Call the Or Zarua office for further information.

Congregation Or Zarua

A Conservative Synagogue
Founded 1989

קיץ חורף



Office: 1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128
Tel. (212) 410-6041
FAX (212) 410-2137
Synagogue: 127 East 82nd Street

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, *Rabbi*

Henry Wollman, *President*

Newsletter Editor and Publisher:

Stephen A. Agus

Available at the Or Zarua office

A limited number of autographed copies of *Strange and Unexpected Love: A Teenage Girl's Holocaust Memoirs*, written by our member Fanya Gottesfeld Heller. Mrs. Heller has graciously donated these books, which we are offering for \$18.

Rabbi Wechsler's book, *What's So Bad About Guilt*, available for an \$18 contribution.

Copies of the transliterated version of the *Siddur Sim Shalom*, available for use at the Shabbat morning service, may be purchased for \$10 each.

Every member has received a complimentary cassette tape of the songs and melodies of the Shabbat service at Or Zarua, narrated by Rabbi Wechsler and sung by members of our congregation. An ideal present for any occasion, copies of Shabbat at Or Zarua are available at \$10 per cassette. Please call Enid Menzies at the Or Zarua office, 212-410-6041, if you are interested in any or all of the above.

Adult Education News

Talmud Class, Wednesday evenings

Rabbi Wechsler continues teaching the regular weekly Talmud Class on Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The class meets in the Bet Hamidrash on the lower level of the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street. The subject is *Masekhet Berakhot* (מסכת ברכות) which discusses the prayers of the liturgy. The class is taught in English; no prior knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required, and the class may be joined at any time.

Book Discussion Group, Sunday evening, March 3rd

The Book Discussion Group will hold its next meeting on Sunday evening, March 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Glenn and Zella Goldfinger. The group will discuss a book by an Or Zarua member, Bonnie Maslin, entitled "The Angry Marriage". All are invited. Please call Rochelle Spergel, (212) 935-8975 for exact location, further information and to let us know that you are coming.

Torah, Haftarah and Megillah Readers' Group, Sunday mornings, March 10th and April 14th

This group, for experienced and inexperienced readers of all ages, meets for breakfast on the second Sunday of every month from 9:30-11 a.m. at the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street. For the inexperienced reader, there are no prerequisites except a reading knowledge of Hebrew, and a willingness to learn the nuts and bolts of cantillation. For the experienced reader, the group offers an opportunity to hone your skills and share your knowledge and experience with others. Please call Enid Menzies at the Or Zarua office (410-6041) to let us know you are coming. The group may be joined at any time.

Special Events

Or Zarua's Seventh Anniversary Party and Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture by Dr. Ismar Schorsch

Wednesday evening, February 28th at 8 p.m., Rabbi Schorsch, Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America will lecture on "The European Origins of Conservative Judaism" at the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street. This is an annual lecture in memory of Lucy Dawidowicz, a member of Or Zarua.

HOLD THE DATE May 3rd and May 4th - Shabbaton!

Scholar in residence Dr. Anne Lapidus Lemer will speak

Condolences to

Edward Abramson, on the death of his aunt, **Judith Abramson**

Dina Bromberg, on the death of her mother, **Evelyn Bromberg**

Francine Klagsbrun and **Robert Lifton**, on the death of their mother, **Anna Lifton**

Ted Koton, on the death of his brother, **Matthew Koton**

Schedule of Events and Candle Lighting Times

All Shabbat and festival morning services, except as may be noted below, are held promptly at 9:00 A.M. Friday and Yom Tov evening services are at candle lighting time, **until April, when they will begin at 6 p.m.** The last monthly Shabbat *minha*, *seudah shlishit*, *maariv* and *havdalah* service will be held on Saturday, March 2nd at 5:30 p.m.. All services are held at the synagogue building, 127 East 82nd Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, except for the April 4th Yom Tov evening service, when we will join Congregation Kehilat Jeshurun at 125 East 85th Street (followed by the congregational second seder).

February, 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת
18	19 - Presidents Day	20 - Rosh Hodesh Adar, First Day	21 - Rosh Hodesh Adar, Second Day. Talmud class, 8-9:30 p.m.	22 - The Davening class, 7:30 p.m.	23 - Light candles at 5:52 p.m.	24 - Parashat Terumah
25	26	27	28 - Seventh Anniversary Party - Lucy Dawidowicz Memorial Lecture by Chancellor Ismar Schorsch, 8 p.m.	29		

תרומה

March, 1996

					1 - Light candles at 5:30 p.m.	2 - Shabbat Zakhor - Parashat Tetzaveh. Shabbat <i>minha</i> service at 5:30 p.m.
3	4 - Fast of Esther. Megillat Esther read in evening. Services at 5:45 p.m.	5 - Purim	6 - Talmud class, 8-9:30 p.m.	7 - The Davening class, 7:30 p.m.	8 - Light candles at 5:38 p.m.	9 - Shabbat Parah - Parashat Ki Teesa. Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Leah Friedland-Wechsler
10 - Torah, Haftarah and Megillah readers' group meeting, 9:30-11 a.m.	11	12	13 - Talmud class, 8-9:30 p.m.	14	15 - Light candles at 5:45 p.m.	16 - Shabbat HaHodesh - Parashat Vayakhel - Pekudei
17 - The Israel Connection, 7:30 p.m., synagogue	18	19	20 - Talmud class, 8-9:30 p.m.	21 - Rosh Hodesh Nisan. The Davening class, 7:30 p.m.	22 - Light candles at 5:53 p.m.	23 - Parashat Vayikra. 8 p.m. - Evening of Psalm singing, at Yaakov and Roberta Shechter
24	25	26	27	28	29 - Light candles at 6:00 p.m.	30 - Shabbat Hagadol - Parashat Tzav
31						

תצוה

כי תשא

ויקהל - פקודי

ויקרא

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April, 1996

	1	2 - School closed for Pesah vacation	3 - Erev Pesah. Siyum Bekhorim 7:30 a.m. First Seder in evening. Light candles at 6:03 p.m.	4 - First day of Pesah, Or Zarua congregational seder in evening at Ramaz Lower School. Light candles at 7:05 p.m.	5 - Second Day of Pesah. Light Shabbat candles at 6:05 p.m. Evening service at 6 p.m.	6 - Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesah
7 - Fourth day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed	8 - Fifth day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed	9 - Sixth day of Pesah, Hol Hamoed. Light candles at 7:09 p.m.	10 - Seventh day of Pesah. Light candles at 8:11 p.m.	11 Eighth day of Pesah	12 - Light candles at 7:12 p.m. Evening service at 6 p.m.	13 - Shabbat Mevorchim, Parashat Shmini. Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Balk
14 - Torah Haftarah Megillah readers group. 9:30 - 11 a.m.	15 - Yom Hashoah service in evening. Dr. Yehuda Nir will speak	16 - Yom Hashoah	17 - Talmud class, 8-9:30 p.m.	18 - The Davening class, 7:30 p.m.	19 - First Day Rosh Hodesh Iyar. Light candles at 7:19 p.m. Evening service at 6 p.m.	20 Shabbat Rosh Hodesh, Second Day Rosh Hodesh Iyar, Parashat Tazria-Metzora. Bat Mitzvah of Margot Norton
21	22	23	24 - Yom Ha'atzmaut. Talmud class, 8-9:30 p.m.	25	26 - Light candles at 7:27 p.m. Evening service at 6 p.m.	27 - Parashat Aharai-Kedoshim. Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Nir
28	29	30				

שמיני

תזריע - מצורע

אחרי - קדושים

Contributions

(continued from page 11)

Susan Wexner
Vicki Wimpfheimer
Michael and Helen Wolff
Steven and Joyce Wolitzer

Prayer Book Fund

Sidney and Helen Squire, in memory of Mary Beame
Sidney and Helen Squire, in memory of Judith Begun
Sidney and Helen Squire, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of the birth of her great-grandson, Brian Edward
Michael and Abby Araten
Alice Canick, in gratitude for the support of Rabbi Wechsler and the congregation during her recovery this past year
Louis and Mona Rabineau
Jay and Nancy Zises

Gifts In Kind

Ted and Eva Lazarus and family
Mark and Lynn Somerstein

Designated Special Gift

Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin

General

Michael and Abby Araten, for honors privileged to receive at their son, David's, *Aufruf*
Abraham and Anna Ascher, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton

Laura Blaustein, in appreciation for the *aliyah* on *Sukkot*
Solomon and Thelma Borodkin, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
Franklin Z. Davidson, in honor of Pat Davidson
Beatrice Dulberg, *yahrzeit*
Themis Dimon, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Ruth Drazen, in memory of her mother, Jessie Yorkin
Ruth Drazen, in memory of her beloved husband, Jerome Drazen
Bea Dulberg, in memory of her father, Herman Isaacs, on his *yahrzeit*
Victor Friedman and Victoria Schonfeld, with many thanks for the warm welcome of their daughter Remi into the Congregation
Lynne Galler, in memory of her father, William Galler, and her brother, Marc Galler
Leonard and Constance Goodman, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Irving Hoffman, in memory of his beloved wife, Sheila Hoffman
Michael Jaffe, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Michael Jaffe, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
Steven Levin, in honor of David Glasser
Helen Lifton, in memory of her husband, Alexander Lifton
Helen Lifton, in memory of her mother, Gussie Oliner
Balsam, on her *yahrzeit*
Ronnie and Susan Masliansky, in memory of Ronnie's cousin, Steven Maslin

Harry and Lillian Newman, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Matt Neuman and Jan Cornell, in gratitude to Rabbi Wechsler
Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Matthew Koton, brother of Ted Koton
Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Jean Liebowitz
Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
Barbara Pakula, with thanks for the prayers said for the recovery of Henry Argas
Andrew and Vlaasta Odell, in memory of Freida Maslin's son, Steven Maslin
Adam and Beth Price, in gratitude for Rabbi Wechsler's support during their son Samuel's illness
Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to Susan Wexner and her family
Laura Resnikoff, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Laura Resnikoff, in memory of Max Savitsky, father of Sharon Morris
Laura Resnikoff, in honor of the Krulwich/Posner family on the occasion of the *Bar Mitzvah* of Amos Posner
James and Martha Sasmor, in memory of Helen Shield, mother of Roslyn Chelouche
James and Martha Sasmor, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
Steven Schacter, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin

Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of her mother, Sara Steiman Shapiro, on her *yahrzeit*
Sidney and Irene Silverman, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Donald and Ellen Simon, to honor the memories of their respective fathers, Milton R. Simon and Herman B. Perlman on their *yahrzeits*
J. Richard Skeen, with thanks to Rabbi Wechsler for help in his conversion
Matthew and Doreen Skolnick, with thanks for the honor of Matthew's *aliyah*
Jerome and Linda Spitzer, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Walter and Sara Squire
David and Nancy Sureck, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Paula Trachtman, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Myrna Weissman and Richard Gordon, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Ann Wimpfheimer, in honor of Vicki Wimpfheimer's birthday and Alan and Pat Davidson's anniversary
Kirk Zachary and Susan Smirnoff, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
Kirk Zachary and Susan Smirnoff, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
Eugene Zuriff

All listed contributions were received on or prior to February 15th

Join UJA Young Leadership on Sunday, March 3rd for Hands on Community Day of Service

Meet at 10 a.m. for brunch at 130 East 59th Street. Then choose a

hands-on project to join:

- *Paint an S.R.O. affiliated with the Educational Alliance
- *Bring a Purim party to the Jewish Home and Hospital
- *Make and deliver Mishloah Manot

packages to AIDS patients.

For other hands-on opportunities, call Rachel Schwartz at 836-1726.

Passover Guide

How to make your home Kosher for Passover

This guide was prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. It was accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984. The last paragraph of the introduction, as well as Part A under "Permitted Foods", have been amended to reflect more recent decisions of the Committee affecting the status of peanuts, peanut oil and certain cheeses.

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *hametz* (חמץ leaven) during *Pesah*. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the *hametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat hametz* (מכירת חמץ), is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. It 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* is not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *hametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well (*hametz she-avar alav ha-Pesah*).

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *hametz* during *Pesah*, and since many common foods contain some admixture of *hametz*, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for *Pesah*. During the eight days of *Pesah*, *hametz* cannot lose its identity in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of *hametz* renders the whole admixture *hametz* and its use on

Pesah is prohibited. However, during the rest of the year, *hametz* follows the normal rules of admixture, i.e., it loses its identity in an admixture of one part *hametz* and sixty parts of non-*hametz* (*batel be-shishim*). This affords us an opportunity to differentiate between foods purchased before and during *Pesah*.

What follows is a general guideline. However, Rabbi Wechsler should be consulted when any doubt arises.

Kosher *le-Pesah* labels that do not bear the name of a rabbi or one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting Rabbi Wechsler.

Prohibited foods include the following: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereals, coffees containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley oats, spelt, rye and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (*kitniyot* קטניות) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, corn, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible, as peanuts are not actually legumes. Some Ashkenazic authorities permit, while others forbid, the use of legumes in a form other than their natural state, for example, corn sweeteners, corn

oil, soy oil. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above. Consult Rabbi Wechsler for guidance in the use of these products.

Permitted foods: A. The following foods require no kosher *le-Pesah* (כשר לפסח) label if purchased prior to *Pesah*: unopened packages or containers of natural coffee without cereal additives (however, be aware that coffees produced by General Foods are not kosher for Passover unless marked KP); sugar, pure tea, salt (not iodized); pepper; natural spices; frozen fruit juices with no additives; frozen (uncooked) vegetables (for legumes, see above); milk; butter; cottage cheese; cream cheese; ripened cheeses such as cheddar (hard), muenster (semi-soft) and Camembert (soft); frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives); baking soda.

B. The following foods require no kosher *le-Pesah* label if purchased before or during *Pesah*: fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes, see above), eggs, fresh fish and fresh meat.

C. The following foods require a kosher *le-Pesah* label if purchased before or during *Pesah*: All baked products (*matzah*, cakes, *matzah* flour, farfel, *matzah* meal and any products containing *matzah*); canned or bottled fruit juices (these juices are often clarified with *kitniyot* which are not listed among the ingredients. However,

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Passover Guide

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if one knows there are no such agents, the juice may be purchased prior to *Pesah* without a kosher *le-Pesah* label); canned tuna (since tuna, even when packed in water has often been processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein - - however, if it is known that the tuna is packed exclusively in water without any additional ingredients or additives, it may be purchased without a kosher *le-Pesah* label); wine, vinegar; liquor, oils, dried fruits; candy; chocolate flavored milk; ice cream; yogurt; and soda.

D. The following processed foods (canned, bottled or frozen) require a kosher *le-Pesah* label if purchased during *Pesah*: milk, butter, juices, vegetables, fruit, milk products, spices, coffee, tea and fish, as well as all foods listed in category C.

Detergents: If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a kosher *le-Pesah* label.

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

Kashering of utensils: The process of *kashering* utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil (*ke-voleo kakh polet*). Therefore, utensils used in cooking

are *kashered* by boiling, those used in broiling are *kashered* by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are *kashered* by rinsing.

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

B. Metal (wholly made of metal) utensils used in fire (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should have water boiled in them which will overflow the rim.

C. Ovens and Ranges: Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self cleaning cycle. Continuous cleaning ovens must be *kashered* in the same manner as regular ovens.

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

D. Glassware: Authorities disagree as to the method for *kashering* cooking utensils. One

opinion requires soaking in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion requires only a thorough scrubbing before *Pesah*, or putting them through a dishwasher.

E. After not using the dishwashing machine for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run.

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

G. Tables, closets and counters: If used with *hametz*, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.

H. Kitchen Sink: A metal sink can be *kashered* by thorough cleaning and then pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

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

חג כשר ושמן

(To sell your *hametz*, use the coupon in this issue)

OZY Notes

Two youth services offered each Shabbat

A Youth Service for children ages 2 through 5 is held in the lower level of 127 East 82nd Street every *Shabbat* morning promptly at 11:00 a.m. ending at noon. At the conclusion of the Youth Service, the children are escorted to the main service to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and *Kiddush*. Older children are welcome to serve in leadership roles.

For older children ages 6 through 8, a service is held every *Shabbat* from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Ramah Summer Programs

Looking for an exciting summer for your 5-13 year olds? Ramah Day Camp, Nyack, New York, provides a unique program of sports, music, dance, etc. and a joyous Jewish experience. For further information, call (212) 678-8881.

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Chancellor Ismar Schorsch: Seminary Leader

Dr. Ismar Schorsch, our featured speaker at Or Zarua's Seventh Anniversary Party and Lecture on February 28th, is the sixth chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and its Rabbi Herman Abramowitz Professor of Jewish History.

Under his leadership, the Seminary's commitment to Israel remains a top priority. Rabbi Schorsch helped create the Seminary's newest school, the Beit Midrash in Jerusalem. He also serves as Honorary President of Mercaz, Conservative Judaism's Zionist action organization, and has co-led its last two delegations to the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem.

Dr. Schorsch is one of the foremost scholars in the field of modern Jewish history. His newest book, *From Text to Context: The Turn to History in Modern Judaism*, was recently published by University Press of New England.

Take part in Or Zarua Members' Pesah Meal Match

If you are able to make room at your table, or would like to be a guest for the first Pesah Seder, Wednesday, April 3rd, please fill out this form and return to Enid Menzies at the Or Zarua office, 1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128, or fax it, 410-2137.

Yes, I would like to be a (GUEST) (HOST) (circle one)

GUESTS: Are you planning to bring children? _____

How many, and what ages? _____

HOSTS: How many people may you host? _____

Do you have children? _____

How many and what ages? _____

Do you welcome children as guests? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Best time to call: _____

***This form must be returned so that it is received
no later than Friday, March 29th***

SONGS OF THE HEART: AN EVENING OF SINGING THE PSALMS

You are invited to an evening of singing, on Saturday, March 23, 1996, 8 p.m. at the home of Roberta and Yaakov Shechter, 165 East 72nd Street, Apartment 14G (212-570-9413). The program will include learning and singing Shirei D'vekut--songs of yearning and devotion based on the Psalms. For further information, and to RSVP, call 718-960-8726.

THE DAVENING CLASS: WINTER/SPRING SEMESTER

Following an inspiring first semester, the Davening Class will resume, focusing on the meaning of Jewish prayer, its method and practice. The texts for the class are: "Entering Jewish Prayer" by Rabbi Reuven Hammer, and Siddur Sim Shalom. The class is for all who seek meaning in our synagogue worship. All are invited to attend any of the meetings. There are no pre-requisites.

The class will meet at 7:30 pm at the Synagogue, on the following Thursdays: February 22; March 7 and 21; April 18; May 12, 16, and 30. For further information please call Professor Yaakov Shechter at 718-960-8726.

KEHILAT SINAI AND OR ZARUA SYNAGOGUE PARTNERSHIP

You are urged to attend a special meeting of the Or Zarua Israel Forum on Sunday, March 17, 1996, at 7:30 pm, at the Synagogue. The agenda includes:

1. Development of a synagogue partnership between Or Zarua and Kehilat Sinai in Tel Aviv
2. Recent reports and impressions from Israel, by Rabbi Wechsler and others
3. Showing of videotapes and photos.

For further details, call 718-960-8726.

CELEBRATE JERUSALEM'S 3000TH BIRTHDAY!

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Mazal Tov To .

מזל טוב



Sylvia Adelman, on becoming a great-grandmother -- a boy, **Brian Edward**.

David Araten, on his marriage to **Annette Dulgov**.

Ethan Budin and **Karen Koenig**, on their engagement and forthcoming marriage.

Barry and Bobbi Coller, on the engagement of their daughter, **Alyssa**, to **Adam Shapiro**. They will be married on November 16, 1996.

Ira and Betsy Dizengoff, on the birth of their daughter, **Sophie Ada**, on February 16th.

Allen and Valerie Hyman, on the birth of their granddaughter, **Lily Ella Hyman**, on December 8th in Washington, D.C.

Mark Lowenthal, on his engagement. Wedding date is May 26th.

Charles and Deborah Olstein, on the birth of their son, **Henry Isaac**, on February 12th.

Yaakov and Roberta Shechter, on the engagement of their daughter, **Batsheva**, to **Lior Tsadok**. They plan to marry in Israel in October.

Donald and Hinda Sussman, on the birth of their grandson, **Justin David Ellick** on February 5th in Westchester. Parents are **Adina** and **Ross Ellick**.

Jay Zises, on the marriage of his daughter, **Lara**, to **Benjamin Segal**.

Yehuda Nir to speak at Yom Hashoah service, April 15th at 8 p.m.

Dr. Yehuda Nir, a holocaust survivor and member of Or Zarua, will speak at Or Zaru's Yom hashoah service on April 15th at 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

Dr. Nir was born in 1930 in Lwow, Poland. In 1942, a year after his father was murdered by the Germans, Yehuda, his 18 year-old sister Lala, and their mother left Lwow with forged documents to support new Christian identities. Yehuda's experiences are recounted in the critically acclaimed book, *The Lost Childhood: A Memoir*, published by Harcourt Brace in 1989.

Dr. Nir, a psychiatrist, is on the executive board of The American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, and a member of the Human Rights Committee of the American Psychiatry Association.

Torah, Haftarah and Megillah Readers' Group News

The two sentence fragments dramatically illustrate the critical role of cantillation as an indicator of both the proper pronunciation and the phrasing of a verse, giving a clear guide to its meaning.

"And he called in the name (of) the Lord" appears in the Torah scroll exactly the same way in both cases. This is how the verses appear in the Chumash (in which the diacritical marks, or vowels, as well as the cantillation code are indicated):

וַיִּקְרָא בְשֵׁם ה':

וַיִּקְרָא בְשֵׁם ה':

The cantillation marks are called: *Mercha* (downward curve to the left, under the accented letter), *Tipcha* (downward curve to the right) and *Sof Pasuk* ("end of verse"), but we are only concerned with the first two.

In the first instance, appearing in *Bereshit*, the verse speaks of Abraham. In this case, the word "vayikra" ("and he called") is marked, under the last syllable, with a *Tipcha* cantillation mark, indicating a rest, separating it from the balance of the phrase "b'shem hashem" ("in the name of God"). This indicates the interpretation of the phrase: the subject "he" of the verse refers to Abraham as the one who called in the name of God.

In the second instance, in *Sh'mot*, the verse speaks of Moses. There, the term "vayikra" has a *Mercha* cantillation

mark, indicating that there is no rest (it "serves" the *Tipcha* which follows). The word which follows, "V'shem", is marked by a *Tipcha*, separating it from "Hashem". In this case, the subject "he" of the verse refers to God himself, who calls Moses in the name of God. *Rashi* cites to the previous chapter, Chapter 33, Verse 19, as an additional proof text for this interpretation.

In that verse, God says to Moses: "I will pass all of my goodness upon your face, and I will call in the name of God before you . . ."

Notice also how the cantillation marks force the varying pronunciation of the words "v'shem" and "b'shem". Where the letter *Bet* (*Vet*) is preceded by a word ending with the letter *Aleph* (or a number of other letters) and where the two words are connected as a part of the same phrase, the "Bet" becomes "Vet" (no "dagesh" or dot inside the letter). Where the preceding word, in this case "vayikra", has a "resting" cantillation mark, such as a *Tipcha*, between the two words, it divides the phrase, and forces the "Bet" to contain a "dagesh".

An astute listener of a properly read verse will hear the difference in the pronunciation and the cantillation, and may thus properly derive the correct meaning in each instance.

Do You Know the Difference?

The following two phrases from the Torah are written in the Torah scroll exactly alike, but they are interpreted differently by *Rashi* and other commentators. The first is from *Genesis, Chapter 12, Verse 8* (*Parashat Lekh Lekha*); the second is from *Exodus, Chapter 34, Verse 5* (*Parashat Ki Teesa*):

וַיִּקְרָא בְשֵׁם ה'

בְּרֵאשִׁית יב, ח

וַיִּקְרָא בְשֵׁם ה'

שְׁמוֹת לד, ח

To find out how these phrases are pronounced and sung, and why, as a result, they have been given quite different interpretations by the sages, please join the Torah, Haftarah and Megillah Readers' Group. These and other secrets of the Torah will be unlocked.

(Answer in next issue)

Quiz from last issue

Next Group meetings, March 11th and April 14th

The group may be joined at any time. It is a forum for both experienced and inexperienced readers to learn and discuss the *halakha* and traditions relating to cantillation and Hebrew grammar in the sacred texts of the Bible. Audio tapes and self-help texts for the learning of proper cantillation are made available to those who either wish to learn cantillation or add polish to their existing skills. Those in attendance at the first meeting all received Haftarah tapes, study texts and Torah exercise tapes.

The next two breakfast meetings of the Torah, Haftarah and Megillah readers' group will take place on **Sunday mornings March 11th, and April 14th, from 9:30 to 11 a.m.** The group will meet on the second Sunday of every month thereafter. All are invited, though a reading knowledge of Hebrew is required. Please call the Or Zarua office, 410-6041, to let us know if you are coming.

Youth Hesed news

Or Zarua Youth Hesed members are on the move! In December, OZYH members participated in the mitzvah of Bikur Holim, visiting children hospitalized in various pediatrics units at New York Hospital. On February 4th Jon Strauss and Susanna Goldfinger, participated in the monthly OZ congregational Shabbat Minha service by reading Torah.

On Monday, February 26th (5:30-7:30 p.m.), we will again visit with children at New York Hospital. OZYH members have enjoyed playing games, coloring, reading stories and just "hanging out" with these children, who range in age from 9 months to 14 years old.

Children of OZ members (Bar/Bat Mitzvah age and up) are invited to join us. Please meet in the lobby of the main entrance to New York Hospital PROMPTLY at 5:30 (follow the driveway at 68th Street and York Avenue to the main entrance). For more information, please contact Howard Blas at 472-5820.

On Monday, April 1st (6-8 p.m.), OZYH members will be joined by adult members of Or Zarua in performing an extraordinary important mitzvah. We will be helping hospital chaplain Rabbi Zahara Davidovitz-Farkas deliver invitations to every Jewish patient at New York Hospital informing them of the hospital seder. Please meet in the lobby promptly at 6 p.m.

Last Monthly Shabbat Afternoon Services on March 2nd

For this season, the last Shabbat *Minhah* services, followed by *seudah shlishit*, *Maariv* and *havdalah*, will be held on March 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

Friday evening services will continue to be held every week, beginning at candle lighting time, until April, when Shabbat and Yom Tov evening services will commence at 6 p.m.

School news



The Hebrew School year is well underway. In December, all five classes celebrated Hanukkah together with an exciting Family Hanukkah program. Suzan Rajna came and showed students how to create Tzedakah boxes from clay. Todah Rabba to Suzan for offering her services to our school! Students also made Hanukkah candles from beeswax and baked sufganiyot that afternoon. Many students also enjoyed participating in our Hanukkah contests. "Who can eat sufganiyot the fastest?" and "Who can spin the most dreidels at the same time?" The afternoon concluded with a skit from our Gimmel class, lighting the Hanukkiyah with Rabbi Wechsler, and singing Hanukkah songs.

Recently, our Alef classes received their first Hebrew books with much pride. Students have spent the past few months learning the letters of the Alef Bet, and are now ready to begin the process of reading. Alef students celebrated this occasion with an AlefBet pizza party at which time they were given their Hebrew books wrapped in Hebrew newspaper.

Our Hey class has just begun an exciting unit on Bar/Bat Mitzvah designed to explore the importance and meaning behind Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Students will have an opportunity to partake of many Jewish rituals and prepare themselves for this important occasion. The students look forward to this special curriculum.

For Tu B'Shevat, the Hebrew School students each participated in a Tu B'Shevat seder designed by their teachers, and each were given an opportunity to plant trees in Israel.

Passover Candy Sale

Passover Candy is available through the Hebrew School students. Contact a student or Michelle Schaerf at the office (410-6041) for more information. The sale runs through February 27th.

Hesed Committee: Volunteers needed

Adult volunteers are needed for weekly visits with residents at the Dewitt Nursing Home. Please leave your name at the Or Zarua office, 410-6041 for Mina Greenstein, or Rose Rowland.

Contributions

Hesed Fund

Barry and Bobbi Collier, in memory of Bobbi's father, H. Harold Gelfand, on his yahrzeit
 Ruth Drazen, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
 Ran and Laurel Eisenbruch, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Leah Friedland-Wechsler
 Ralph and Phyllis Lussskin, on the yahrzeit of Phyllis' father, Morris Brown
 Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin, with wishes for the speedy recovery of Deborah Forte Stone
 Jack and Esther Oberman, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
 Sam and Ruth Perelson
 Martin and Rochelle Spergel, in honor of Professor Andre Aciman
 William and Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin

Hesed Food Fund

David Araten, in honor of his engagement
 Bart and Georgia Farber
 Glenn and Zella Goldfinger, in honor of Alan and Pat Davidson
 David Kogut, in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of his parents, Leon and Lottie Kogut
 Paul Posner and Terry Ann Krulwich, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
 Joseph and Charlotte Schluger
 Barry and Judith Schneider, in memory of Sophie Stern
 Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro, in memory of Steven Maslin, brother of Bonnie Maslin
 Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro, in honor of their son, James, author of the new book, "Shakespeare and the Jews" published by Columbia University Press

Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent, in memory of Esther Hyfler, Helen Shield, Barbara Dean, Remi Jean Pointelet, Steven Maslin and Beverly Harvey
 Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
 Jerome and Linda Spitzer
 David and Elise Strauss
 William and Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of Anna Lifton, mother of Fran Klagsbrun and Robert Lifton
 Evan Zimroth, Henry, Lilly and Kate Wollman, in memory of Evan's mother, Janet Nurick, on her yahrzeit

Hevra Kadisha

Sidney and Helen Squire

Kiddush Fund

In honor of OZY and the Hebrew School teachers:

George Axelrod and Marion Thurm
 David and Robin Balik
 Dan and Ellen Birger
 Alexander and Susan Deutsch
 Ran and Laurel Eisenbruch
 Eric and Pamela Fuchs
 Michael Gentile and Ellyn Kessler
 Philip and Catherine Isaac
 Mark and Hannah Kinn
 Martin and Carol Koshakow
 Howard Levy and Susan Klim
 Douglas and Debra Lehman
 Steven and Margret Magid
 Larry and Rachel Norton
 Reed and Anne Schneider
 Robert and Vera Silver
 Steven and Joyce Wolitzer
 Jay and Nancy Zises

Other Kiddush Fund:

David Araten, in honor of his aufzug and marriage to Annette Dulgov
 Donald and Robin Bernstein on the yahrzeits of their fathers, Alan Bernstein and Herman Axelrod

Barry and Bobbi Collier, in honor of the engagement of their daughter Alyssa, to Adam Shapiro
 Rosalind Devon, on the occasion of her special birthday
 Victor Friedman and Victoria Schonfeld, in honor of the naming of their daughter, Romyana (Remi)
 Lynne Galler, in memory of her father, William Galler, on his yahrzeit
 Allen and Valerie Hyman, in honor of the naming of their granddaughter, Lily Ella Hyman
 David Kogut, in memory of his sister, Irene Kogut Laster, on her yahrzeit
 Mickey Krulwich, in memory of her mother, Sara Appleman Lewis, on her yahrzeit
 Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin, in honor of the wedding Yehuda missed
 Yehuda Nir and Bonnie Maslin, in honor of the wedding Yehuda made 22 years ago
 Paul Posner and Terry Krulwich, in honor of Dr. Sam Klagsbrun and Rabbi Wechsler
 Elaine Prince, with thanks to Or Zarua members for being so fabulous during her hospital stay
 Arthur Rosenblum (father), Evelyn Kenvin (step-mother) and Dr. Iris Gair (mother) in honor of the aufzug of Carol Rosenbloom, their daughter, and Ira Kay
 Laura Resnikoff, in memory of her mother, Joy Hellman Resnikoff, on her yahrzeit
 Joseph and Paulette Rose, in honor of the naming of their granddaughter, Samantha Morgan Rose
 David Tyler, Rachel Somerstein and Lynn Somerstein, in honor of Mark Somerstein's birthday

Kol Nidre Appeal

Anonymous (1)
 Arthur and Willi Aeder
 Garry and Carol Bale

Allan and Susan Blumstein
 Mark Brenner and Ellen Wetter-Brenner
 Sally Brooks
 Alice Canick
 Linda Charet
 Gerald Cohen and Elizabeth Brandwein
 Murray and Joyce Cohen
 Phyllis Cornell
 Alexander and Susan Deutsch
 Barbara Diamond
 Ira and Betsy Dizengoff
 Frances Freedman
 David and Danielle Frum
 Eric and Pamela Fuchs
 Henry and Karen Glanternik
 John Gliedman
 Richard Goldberg
 Glenn and Zella Goldfinger
 Harrison and Diana Goldin
 Leonard and Constance Goodman
 Leon and Susan Heller
 Seth and Linda Horowitz
 Mark and Hannah Kinn
 Martin and Carol Koshakow
 Maurice Lefkowitz
 Leslie Levison
 Howard Levy and Susan Klim
 Robert and Loretta Lifton
 Eric and Karen Mandel
 Joshua and Beth Nash
 Renato Negrin
 Charles and Deborah Olstein
 David and Ronnie Parker
 Samuel and Ruth Perelson
 Elizabeth Philipp
 Elaine Prince
 Dara Prisant-Murray, in memory of her husband, John Leo Murray, and wishing her mother a speedy recovery
 Seth and Rose Rowland
 Ira and Stephanie Rubin
 Bruce Saber and Lisa Sotto
 James and Martha Sasmor
 Philip Schatten and Cheryl Fishbein
 Corinne Schube
 Alice Shuchman
 Edward and Elyse Siegel
 Jennie Simon
 Mark and Lynn Somerstein
 Walter and Sara Squire
 Joshua Tannenbaum
 Philip and Abby Thomas
 Chaim Wachsberger and Liz Neumark
 Harlan J. Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler

(continued on page 4)

We welcome

***Congregation Or Zarua
welcomes the following
new members to its
growing congregational
family:***

**Donald & Robin Bernstein
Ethan Budin & Karen
Koenig
Juliet Diller
Walter Elghanayan**

Sell your Hametz

Clip and send to Or Zarua office, 1384 Lexington Avenue,
New York, NY 10128

Dear Rabbi Wechsler,

Please sell all *hametz* in my (our) possession before Pesah,
at the locations listed below, in accordance with Jewish law.
**Enclosed is my contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim
Fund.**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____

Office, summer home or other home addresses:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Congregation Or Zarua

1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128

ק"ק אור זרוע

