



OR ZARUA newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 5

Sivan-Tammuz-Av 5758 - June-July 1998

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Shavuot Begins Saturday Evening, May 30

Tikkun and Cheesecake Expected to Draw Crowds

Shavuot, which occurs on the sixth and seventh days of the Jewish month of Sivan, falls on Sunday, May 31 and Monday, June 1 this year. Shavuot celebrates the revelation on Mt. Sinai, the giving of the Torah to Israel.

Shavuot has three names in the Bible and two in Rabbinic Literature.

In the Bible: *Hag HaKatzir*, the "Festival of Reaping" (Shmot 23:16), referring to the reaping of the wheat that has just been harvested; *Hag Shavuot*, the "Festival of Weeks" (Shmot 34:22, Devarim 16:10), referring to the seven weeks (corresponding to the Omer-period) that have been counted since Pesah; *Yom HaBikurim*, the "Day of the First Fruits" (Bemidbar 28:26), referring to the new gift offering that was made at this time in the *Beit HaMikdash*; In Rabbinic literature: it is called *Atzeret* (which the Sages used although it does not appear in the Torah), linking Shavuot to Pesah by calling it the "conclusion" of the Pesah festival (the Omer-period being deemed a long Chol Hamoed) and Zman Matan Torateinu, the time of the giving of the Torah. See E. Kitov, *The Book of Our Heritage*, v. III, pp. 60-61.

Why is the celebration of the giving of the Torah linked to what appears to be a traditional harvest festival? To quote one noted author:

"The Mishnah describes a colorful procession in which farmers from small villages would gather in a large town to go together to Jerusalem. 'Arise, let us go up to Zion, to the House of our God,' the leader would announce as they set out on their pilgrimage. When they neared Jerusalem, flutists would greet them with music, and when they reached the Temple court, the priests would welcome them with hymns and

psalms.

How, then, did these festivities of fruits and grains turn into a celebration of the Torah?

Part of the genius of the talmudic sages was their ability to overlay old agricultural holidays with historical meaning. In the case of Shavuot, the rabbis calculated that the festival fell during the same three-month time period in which the Children of Israel had reached the wilderness of Sinai after leaving Egypt. They fixed the date for both events as the sixth of Sivan and made the Sinai experience the essence of the holiday." F. Klagsbrun, *Jewish Days: A book of Jewish Life and Culture Around the Year*, p. 157 (1996)(reprinted with permission of author).

Indeed, as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel remarks:

"One of the most important facts in the history of religion was the transformation of agricultural festivals into commemorations of historical events . . . [In contrast to other ancient peoples, who] celebrated what happened in the life of nature in the respective seasons . . . [t]o Israel the unique events of historic time were spiritually more significant than the repetitive processes in the cycle of nature While the deities of other peoples were associated with places or things, the God of Israel was the God of events: the Redeemer from slavery, the Revealer of the Torah, manifesting himself in the events of history rather than in things or places. Thus, the faith in the unembodied, in the unimaginable was born." R. Heschel, *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*, pp. 7-8 (Noonday ed. 1975).

(Continued on Page 3)

Congregation Or Zarua
A Conservative Synagogue
 Founded 1989

אור זרוע



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 Samuel C. Klagsbrun, *President*

Newsletter Editor
Andrew Frackman

From our Education Director **Or Zarua Hebrew School News**

Our Hebrew School year is quickly coming to a close. It has been a terrific one for both students and faculty. Our younger students have worked to build up their Hebrew and Tefillah skills, while our older students have had a chance to ponder and discuss substantive issues such as the Holocaust and Jewish role models in our lives.

Since the last newsletter, the Hebrew School participated in a beautiful Model Seder created by the classes themselves and our Alef students had a chance to visit the Matzah factory on the West Side. We celebrated Israel's 50th birthday with falafel and humus, picnicked for Lag Ba'Omer, and had many meaningful classroom discussions in commemoration of Yom Hashoah. To wrap up the year, we look forward to our Gimmel Class Siddur Ceremony. Our Gimmel students have devoted part of their studies this year to learning how to daven (pray) from the siddur. In honor of this

(Continued on Page 7)

OZ Youth Hesed News

April and May were very exciting months for Or Zarua Youth Hesed!

On April 8th, nearly a dozen old and new members visited Jewish patients at New York hospital, wished them a "Chag Kasher v'Sameach," and invited them and their families to the hospital seder. The next day, Erev Pesach, four members of our group joined Rabbi Stephen Roberts, Cantor Andy Bernard and nearly forty patients for the annual hospital seder. Patients of all ages consistently express their heartfelt appreciation when they see teenagers volunteering their time at the hospital.

On May 21st, Or Zarua Youth Hesed participated in "Operation Chicken Soup". The group met at Congregation Habonim on West 66th Street to join Jewish teens from all over the city in (literally!) cooking chicken soup for those in need. This highly successful program, sponsored by the Jewish Community Center on the Upper West Side, takes place once a month. Our group will discuss the possibility of returning several times next school year.

Please feel free to call Howard Blas (472-5820) or Helene Strauss (535-8398) for more information about OZYH. You are welcome to share ideas for next year as well. We are considering future programs with teens from other synagogues (like the Purim activity we had with members of the LIFE Program at Town and Village Synagogue), and we are making plans to volunteer with Dorot, a program serving the elderly. Please give us a call to learn more about becoming a volunteer at New York Hospital, or to learn of some of the great things your peers are doing this summer.

Masorti Helping New Olim

The Masorti Movement includes nearly fifty kehillot (synagogue centers), a kibbutz, a moshav, a national youth group, a summer camp, Israel's Rabbinical Assembly, a seminary, youth village and many specialized programs. The Masorti Movement's efforts gives special attention to Israel's new *olim* (immigrants) from Russia, Ethiopia, Latin America, and elsewhere.

In particular, Kehillat Hakerem has forty Argentinian families because of joint effort between the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Kehillah itself. Kehillat Hakerem is partners with JAFI to help absorb olim into Israel. Many other kehillot such as the ones in Natanya, Ashkelon, and Natzeret Elit have large numbers of Russian speaking members. Most kehillot have at least some olim from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. Many of these kehillot conduct adult education and basic Judaism classes in a variety of languages including Hebrew, Amharic, Russian, Farsi, and English.

Masorti kehillot enable children of new olim to attend day camps and Ramah/NOAM summer camp; provide prayer books, haggodot, etc. published in Russian, Spanish, English and Hebrew; enable congregational announcements in multiple languages. In addition, many of the participants in the Masorti Movement's Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program for Children with Special Needs are new children of new olim.

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Shavuot Begins May 30 (Continued)

This year, Or Zarua continues with the tradition we adopted last year of decorating the synagogue and bimah with greens, tree branches and flowers to celebrate Shavuot. There are different views as to the origins of this custom, one of which is that the greens represent the verdant mountain on which Moses received the Torah.

Yom Tov will commence with Minhah services on Saturday evening, May 30, at 8:15 p.m., followed by Maariv at 9:00 p.m. After services, we will celebrate with a *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* - a traditional study session devoted to the event of the giving of the Torah. Each year, Rabbi Wechsler chooses a portion of Nobel Prize winning author Shmuel Yosef Agnon's book *Atem Re'item (Present at Sinai)* - Agnon's study of Rabbinic literature about the event of revelation. (For those interested, it is available in English, published in 1994 by The Jewish Publication Society, translated by Michael Swirsky.) This study session is followed by an eating session devoted to the tastiest kosher cheese cake available in Manhattan this year - since it is also a tradition to eat dairy foods on Shavuot.

Shacharit services for the first day of Shavuot will commence at 9:00 a.m. The Torah reading for the first day is from *Yitro* and includes the Ten Commandments (Shmot 19-20). Hallel is recited. Prior to the Torah reading, the Piyut "*Akdamut*" is read. The *Akdamut* was composed by Rabbi Meir ben Isaac, who was chazzan of the city of Worms (and, according to tradition, a teacher of Rashi). The *Akdamut*, written in Aramaic, is a praise of God and the Torah. The melody is note-worthy in that it also forms the traditional melody for the kiddush on erev Yom Tov. The Haftarah is from Ezekiel.

Minhah for the first day and Maariv services for the second evening of Shavuot will start at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening.

Shacharit services for the second day of Shavuot will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning. The Torah reading is the same excerpt from *Re'eh* that is also read on the eighth day of Pesah and Shmini Atzeret. The Haftarah is from Habbakuk. The Book of Ruth is also read on the second day of Yom Tov. Yizkor Memorial prayers are recited after the reading of the Torah and Haftarah.

LOOKING FOR A GIFT? (or summer reading for yourself!)

Did you know that a limited number of signed copies of the following four books are available from the Or Zarua office at a cost of \$18 each? The books were donated for subsequent sale either by the author or by a friend of the author, so your purchase will benefit the synagogue's General Fund.

What's So Bad About Guilt, the widely-acclaimed book by our own Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler.

Strange and Unexpected Love: A Teenage Girl's Holocaust Memoirs, written and donated by our member Fanya Gottesfeld Heller.

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Hesed Food Fund Needs Contributions

Since August 1991, Congregation Or Zarua has fed Monday night dinner to 25 formerly homeless men living in a neighborhood shelter. This program is a part of Or Zarua's commitment to *Gemilut Hassadim* (doing of good deeds); Rabbi Wechsler has pointed out that feeding of the hungry of the community is a prime obligation of every Jew.

Won't you please help us continue this program by sending a contribution. As little as \$10 per month will insure its continuing success. Make your check payable to Congregation Or Zarua and specify that it is for the Hesed Food Fund.

OZY SERVICES

Two Youth Services, the first for children ages 2 through 5 and the second for children ages 6 through 9 (no parents), are held on the lower level of the synagogue every Shabbat morning, beginning promptly at 11 am and ending at noon. At the conclusion of the Youth Services, the children are escorted to the Sanctuary to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and Kiddush.

1998

June

1998

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
May 30 8:15 p.m. Minhah Service 9 p.m. Maariv/Tikkun Leyl Shavuot MAY 31 9 a.m. Shavuot-1st Day Service/Synagogue 6 p.m. Shavuot 2nd Evening Service	1 9 a.m. Shavuot-2nd Day Service/Synagogue	2	3 8 p.m. Final Talmud Class & Siyum-Celebration	4	5 8:04 p.m. Candle Lighting	6 9 a.m. Shahrarit, Naso 7:04 p.m. Minhah/Seudah Shlishit/Maariv
7	8	9	10	11	12 8:07 p.m. Candle Lighting	13 9 a.m. Shahrarit, Behaalotekha
14	15	16	17	18	19 8:10 p.m. Candle Lighting	20 9 a.m. Shahrarit, Shelah
21	22	23	24 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz	25 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz	26 8:11 p.m. Candle Lighting	27 9 a.m. Shahrarit, Korah
28	29	30				

1998

July

1998

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 8:11 p.m. Candle Lighting	4 9 a.m. Shaharit, Hukkat
5	6	7	8	9	10 8:09 p.m. Candle Lighting	11 9 a.m. Shaharit, Balak
12 Shive' Ah Asar B'Tammuz	13	14	15	16	17 8:05 p.m. Candle Lighting	18 9 a.m. Shaharit, Pinhas
19	20	21	22	23	24 7:59 p.m. Candle Lighting Rosh Hodesh Av	25 9 a.m. Shaharit, Matot-Mase
26	27	28	29	30	31 7:53 p.m. Candle Lighting	

Contributions

*All contributions listed were received on or before May 11, 1998.
Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.*

Book Fund

Jonathan & Deborah Bakin, in memory of his father, Rubin Bakin

Designated Special Gift

Gerald & Lois Dunn & Family, in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Morton & Evelyn Schwartz
Edward & Elyse Siegel
Robert & Vera Silver

Gift in Kind

Barton & Georgia Farber

Hebrew School Fund

Jay & Nancy Zises

Hesed Fund

Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff, in honor of Gaby Frackman's Bat Mitzvah
Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff, in honor of the birth of Neal Kozodoy's grandson, Abraham Michael Penso
Ruth Drazen, in memory of her beloved father, Maurice Yorkin
Samuel & Ruth Perelson
James & Elaine Wolfensohn

Hesed Food Fund

Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of Leonard David Simmons
Barry & Judith Schneider
Morton & Evelyn Schwartz
Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler
William & Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of Joyce Arnoff Cohen
William & Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of Albert Lippert
Lynda Faye Wertheim
Richard & Rosalie Zodikoff, in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Morton & Evelyn Schwartz

Hevra Kadisha Fund

Robert & Vera Silver
Miriam Wallerstein
Aileen Weinberg, in memory of Joyce Burden, mother of Patti Josepher

Kiddush Fund

George Axelrod & Marian Thurm in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Kate

Jonathan & Deborah Bakin, in honor of the birthday and visit of Deborah's mother, Rose Pinck
Solomon & Thelma Borodkin, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Daniel Alexander Severn; the birth of their granddaughter, Maayan Zemer (daughter of Wendy Borodkin and Ira Brandwein); and on the occasion of their granddaughter, Robin Joy Bouckris, receiving her master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University and being named a Presidential Management Intern

Michael Gentile & Ellyn Kessler, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Billy Gentile

Michael Jaffe, in honor of his aufruff and March 21st marriage to Bobbie Stein

Mark & Hannah Kinn, in memory of her parents, Frieda & Abraham Achtenberg

David Kogut, in memory of his sister, Irene Laster, on her yahrzeit

Terry Krulwich, in honor of Keith Pearlman's graduation from The Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Paul Posner & Terry Krulwich, in honor of the 10th anniversary of son Jeremy Posner's Bar Mitzvah

Paul Posner & Terry Krulwich, in memory of their fathers, Harry Posner and Lester Krulwich, on their yahrzeits

Robert Salpeter & Regina Weinreich, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Nina Salpeter

Yaakov & Roberta Shechter, in honor of the birth of their first granddaughter, Naama Shoshana Tzadok

Edward & Elyse Siegel, in honor of their 29th wedding anniversary

Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler, in memory of his father, Terry H. Spielholz

Klagsbrun-Weinstein Fund

Joshua & Beth Goldberg Nash

Kol Nidre Appeal

Mark Brenner & Ellen Wetter-Brenner
Leonard & Phyllis Rosen

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Edward & Harriet Abramson
Arthur & Willi Aeder
Joseph Allerhand & Randi Schatz
David & Annette Araten
Marc & Joanne Ashley
Jonathan & Deborah Bakin
Henry Berry & Susan Gotbetter
Solomon & Thelma Borodkin
Morton & Shiela Braunstein
Jeanette Brizel
Ethan & Karen Budin
Alice Canick
Paula Chalfin
Brett & Gwen Cohen
Barry & Bobbi Collier
Phyllis Cornell
Alexander & Susan Deutsch
Stanley & Ellen Deutsch
Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff
Martin & Mona Dreier
Florence Edelstein
Barton & Georgia Farber
Andrew Frackman & Emily Braun
Alice Geisler
David & Carla Glasser
The Gliklich Family
Richard Goldberg
Meredith Golden
Gurston & Marjorie Goldin
Glenn & Zella Goldfinger
Richard Gottlieb
Jesse & Isadora Hecht
Dore Hollander
Seth & Linda Horowitz
Judith Hozore
Alan & Caroline Ilberman
Mel Ilberman
Michael Jaffe & Bobbie Stein
Jerry & Patti Josepher
Simon & Janet Katz
Fred & Vivian Kenvin
Rafael Kleiman & Natalie Sobel
Herbert & Judith Lukashok

Ma'ot Hittim Fund *(Continued)*

Alexander & Sharon Mack
 Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn
 Alan & Yafa Nadel
 Joshua & Beth Goldberg Nash
 Harvey & Linda Newman
 Jacob & Esther Oberman
 Charles & Deborah Olstein
 Zion Ozeri & Ellen deJonge-Ozeri
 Samuel & Ruth Perelson
 Jeremy Posner
 Paul Posner & Terry Ann Krulwich
 Yael Ptachewich
 Julie Ratner
 Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to
 Bobbi and Barry Collier
 Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to the
 Goldfinger family
 Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to Jill
 Prosky and Jim Posner
 Daniel & Suzan Rosen
 Lawrence & Leslie Rusoff
 Carl & Michelle Schaerf
 Neil & Leona Schluger
 Albert & Claire Schussler
 Alan Schwartz & Linda Dershowitz
 Herbert & Lorraine Shapiro
 Marilyn Shapiro
 Yaakov & Roberta Shechter
 Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent
 Reba Shelden
 Marvin & Linda Shulsky
 Edward & Elyse Siegel
 Robert & Vera Silver
 Mark & Lynn Somerstein
 Roslyn Spector
 Martin & Rochelle Spergel
 Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler &
 Talia Spielholz
 Jerome & Linda Spitzer
 Heinrich & Marianne Steiner
 David & Elise Strauss
 William & Muriel Tannenbaum
 Bernard & Leah Tolpin
 Sabine Veit
 Harlan J. Wechsler & Naomi
 Friedland-Wechsler
 Alan Yaillen & Laurie Dien
 Kirk Zachary & Susan Smirnoff
 William & Baila Zeitz
 Evan Zimroth

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler, in
 memory of his father, Terry
 Spielholz
 Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler, in
 memory of Joyce Burden, mother of
 Patti Josepher

General Fund

Howard Blas, Yizkor-Pesach
 Solomon & Thelma Borodkin,
 Matanot Laevyonim
 Solomon & Thelma Borodkin, in
 honor of the births of Neal
 Kozodoy's grandson, Abraham
 Michael Penso, and of Yaakov &
 Roberta Shechter's granddaughter,
 Naama Shoshana Tzadok
 Alice Canick, in memory of Joyce
 Arnoff Cohen
 David & Michelle Cooperberg, in
 honor of Rabbi Wechsler
 Phyllis Cornell, in memory of her
 husband, Dr. Albert Cornell
 Ruth Drazen, in loving memory of
 Joyce Arnoff Cohen
 Uri & Dinah Evan, in memory of
 Joyce Arnoff Cohen
 Barry Feldman, in gratitude for the
 honor of holding the Torah on the
 seventh day of Pesach
 Bernard Feuerstein, in memory of his
 father, Emil Feuerstein, on his
 yahrzeit
 Roy & Carol Gross, in honor of a
 special anniversary of their friends,
 Morty & Evelyn Schwartz
 Lilly Kaufman, aliyah Pesach day #2
 Armand & Barbara Kleinberg, in
 honor of the Bat Mitzvahs of their
 grand-daughters, Sarah Beller and
 Gabrielle Frackman
 Bernard & Frances Laterman, in
 memory of his parents, Sarah and
 Sol Laterman
 Richard & Sandra Litner, in honor of
 the engagement of their daughter,
 Jill, to Benjamin Kaplan
 Dara Murray, in memory of her be-
 loved husband, John Leo Murray
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in
 honor of the 20th anniversary of
 Four Winds Hospital
 Daniel Okrent, in memory of his fa-
 ther, Meyer Okrent, on his second
 yahrzeit, and to wish a speedy re-
 covery of his wife Pauline Andrews
 and her mother, Genevieve
 Andrews
 Shirley Okrent, in memory of her
 husband, Meyer Okrent, on his
 yahrzeit
 Laura Resnikoff, with congratulations
 to Shelly and Marty Spergel upon
 their daughter's engagement
 Laura Resnikoff, in memory of

Joanne Feierman's father, Rabbi
 Nathan Kollin
 Laura Resnikoff, in memory of
 Mordecai Braunstein's mother,
 Helen Braunstein
 Nahma Sandrow & William, Isaac
 and Hannah Meyers, in memory of
 Sonia Kinn, mother of Mark Kinn
 Reed & Anne Schneider, with thanks
 to Arthur and Willi Aeder
 Morton & Evelyn Schwartz, in cel-
 ebration of their 40th wedding anni-
 versary
 Morton & Evelyn Schwartz, in honor
 of Evelyn's speaking at Or Zarua's
 Yom Hashoah service
 Morton & Evelyn Schwartz, to com-
 memorate the memory of Evelyn's
 family who perished during the Ho-
 locaust
 Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent,
 Yizkor-Pesach
 Reba Shelden, Yizkor-Pesach
 Harold & Shirley Stein, in honor of
 their daughter Bobbie's marriage to
 Michael Jaffe
 Bernard & Leah Tolpin, in honor of
 Arthur & Willi Aeder
 Bernard & Ruth Zises, in honor of
 the naming of their granddaughter,
 Lily Zises Cohen

Hebrew School News *(Continued)*

terrific milestone, we are proud to
 present them with their first official
 siddurim (prayerbooks)!

Plans for the school year 1998-99 are
 fully underway. We hope to offer a
 kindergarten class next year in
 addition to our Alef through High
 School classes. For further informa-
 tion, please contact Michelle Schaerf,
 Education Director, at 1 (917) 913-
 5120.

Best wishes for a restful and
 enjoyable summer.

Michelle Schaerf

LOOKING FOR A GIFT?

(Continued)

The Lost Childhood, a memoir of the
 Holocaust written and donated by our
 member Dr. Yehuda Nir.

Echoes from the Holocaust, written by
 Mira Ryckzke Kimmelman, mother of
 our member Benno Kimmelman.

Please call Enid Menzies at the Or
 Zarua office, 410-6041, if you are
 interested in any or all of the above.

Congratulations To

Solomon & Thelma Borodkin on the birth of their granddaughter, Maayen Zemer, daughter of Wendy Borodkin and Ira Brandwein
Benjamin Kaplan on his engagement to Jill Litner
Stephen & Elsa Solender on the birth of two grandchildren, twins Andrew and Morgan. Parents are Michael and Holly Solender.
Martin & Rochelle Spergel on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren, to Michael Blumenfeld.
Jay Zises and to Bernard & Ruth Zises on the birth of their granddaughter and great-granddaughter, respectively, Lily Zises Cohen, daughter of Samantha and Drew Cohen

Condolences To

Gurston and Harrison J. Goldin on the death of their father, Harry Goldin
Patti Josepher on the death of her mother, Joyce Burden
Mark Kinn on the death of his mother, Sonia Kinn
Jonathan Klein on the death of his father, Bernard Klein

Masorti Helping New Olim *(Continued)*

Masorti provides a series of holiday workshops for new olim and a job training program designed to train Ethiopian olim to work as para-professionals in hospitals, banks and schools.

For information or contributions contact The Masorti Foundation at 6525 Belcrest Road, Suite 602, Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003, by phone at (301)779-6400, by fax at (301)779-5008 or by e-mail at Masorti@erols.com

An Appeal for Vintage Dolls

The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale seeks antique and vintage dolls - late 19th century through the 1920's - to be beautifully displayed for residents, families and visitors. Dolls and vintage toys and decorative objects create an ambience of nurturing and help elicit memories. Each doll will enhance the Home's collection.

If you can help in their search, please contact the Curator at The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, 5901 Palisade Avenue, Riverdale, New York 10471, or call (718)549-8700 ext. 330.

Jubilee and Jubilation

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The State of Israel**

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and works by*

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*New York premiere by
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**ROTTENBERG
CHORALE AND
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Congregation Or Zarua

1384 Lexington Avenue
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