



OR ZARUA newsletter

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Purim

Come drown out Haman's name and listen to the Megillah reading at Or Zarua's Purim service on Thursday, March 8. The service starts at 5:30PM at UJA (130 E 59th Street) and will be followed by our eagerly awaited Purim Spiel.

This year's offering, "East Side Story", is a musical featuring two rival gangs (the Shtarks and Chets). Based on Bonnie Maslin's script, Tibor Feldman and Arthur Rosenbloom direct a cast of congregants, including students of our Hebrew School, in an entertaining performance that more or less resembles the Book of Esther. Plan on a fun-filled evening that ends with a light supper.

First Seder Begins Saturday Night, April 7th

Beginning on the fifteenth day of the month of Nissan, the first day of Pesah falls on Saturday night and Sunday, April 7-8 this year. As a result, the first Seder is on Saturday evening and this leads to some unique holiday preparations.

The Siyyum Bekhorim is held on Thursday morning, April 5th. A first born (whether of the mother or the father) should fast on the day before Passover in commemoration of the deliverance from Egypt. It is custom for the first borns to gather with the daily minyan and, on that day, for the rabbi to publicly complete a tractate of the Talmud. Since the completion - siyyum - is followed by a festive celebration, a firstborn who is present may eat and, having eaten, need not fast that day. Since a fast for the firstborn cannot take place on Shabbat or on

Friday, the Siyyum will be held this year on Thursday morning, April 5th, 7:30 AM at the Or Zarua Bet Midrash (located on the second floor of our office at 1384 Lexington Avenue).

Bedikat Hametz (the search for leaven) occurs on Thursday evening, April 5th. Bedikat hametz is usually done on the night before Passover immediately after sunset. However, when Passover begins on Saturday night, the bedikat hametz is done on Thursday night, preceded by the blessing for bedikat hametz. This is followed by the nullification of all unseen hametz, as usual. Friday morning, by 11:52 AM, the hametz collection is burned. If one elects to not use any non-Passover foods on Shabbat and use egg matzah at the Shabbat meals (as explained below), then the burning of the hametz is accompanied by the final

Continued

First Seder *continued*

nullification of hametz. Or, if one elects to keep enough hametz for the Shabbat meals, then this final nullification is made on Shabbat after the last hametz meal has been eaten and the final cleanup has taken place. If you intend to use halah for Shabbat lunch, that meal must be eaten early since no hametz may be eaten on Saturday, April 7, after 10:50 AM.

Rabbi Wechsler strongly recommends the use of egg matzah on Shabbat, April 7th. All meals on that Shabbat should be Kosher for Pesach, even though it is not yet Passover. Egg matzah should be used for the Friday night meal and for the Saturday lunch meal. However, after lunch is finished, no matzah (egg or otherwise) may be eaten until matzah is eaten at the seder. At the seder itself, egg matzah may not be eaten. Rabbi Wechsler will speak about this issue and the implications of a Saturday evening start to Pesach on Saturday, March 31.

We are arranging a Pesach Meal Match for the First Seder (Saturday April 7th). This is a nice opportunity to open your home to other members by inviting them to join your Seder. Or Zarua will be sponsoring a communal seder on the second night. A full schedule of the services for Passover is contained later in this newsletter and in the calendar.

Also, the Passover Guidelines are included for your reference.

Pesach is the first of the three major festivals with both historical and agricultural significance (the other two are Shavu'ot and Sukkot). The primary observances of Pesach are related to the Exodus from Egypt after generations of slavery. This story is told in Exodus, Ch. 1-15. Many of the Pesach observances are instituted in Chs. 12-15. The name "Pesach" comes from the Hebrew root Peh-Samech-Chet meaning to pass through, to pass over, to exempt or to spare. It refers to the fact that G-d "passed over" the houses of the Jews when he was slaying the firstborn of Egypt. "Pesach" is also the name of the sacrificial offering (a lamb) that was made in the Temple on this holiday. The holiday is also referred to as Chag he-Aviv (the Spring Festival), Chag ha-Matzoth (the Festival of Matzahs), and Z'man Cherutenu (the Time of Our Freedom).

One of the interesting features of the Haggadah is the use of the number "Four", which appears in connection with several items: the four cups of wine, the four questions, the four sons, the four expressions of redemption. Some have suggested that the number four is tied to the four seasons and that

Pesach is the Holiday of Spring. Others have suggested that it is connected to the four "Imahot," the "Mothers" of the Jewish people: Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel and Leah, and the wives and mothers in Egypt and throughout Jewish History, who have kept the spirit of the Jewish people alive.

Consider the following statement from the Haggadah as you prepare for Passover: "In every generation, an individual Jew is obligated to view himself as having left Egypt, as it is written, And you shall tell your child on that day that this is on account of what the L-rd did for me when I came out of Egypt. It was not only our ancestors whom the Holy One Redeemed from slavery; we, too, were Redeemed with them, as it is written, 'He took us out from there so that He might take us to the Land which He had sworn to our ancestors.'

*Congregation Or Zarua
A Conservative Synagogue
Founded 1989*

אור זרוע



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Affiliated with the United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism

Due to on-going construction at the
synagogue, services are held elsewhere
as noted in this newsletter.

*Dr. Harian J. Wechsler, Rabbi
Alisa Robbins Doctoroff, President
Newsletter Editor
Jeanette Brizel*

Sell Your Hametz

Prior to Passover, it is customary to "sell" any hametz in the household to a non-Jew. This is normally arranged by the Rabbi to insure compliance with the requirements of halakha (Jewish Law).

Please fill out and send the coupon on page 8 to the Or Zarua office by Thursday, April 5, to insure that your hametz is sold before Passover. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

Guidelines for Passover

This guide was prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. It was accepted by the Committee on December 12, 1984 and was updated recently.

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

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 beshishim). This affords us the opportunity to differentiate between foods purchased before and during Pesah.

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

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

Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible.

Permitted Foods

A. The following foods require no kosher le-Pesah 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 (not herbal 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. These days, most of these products, are available before Pesah, with a kosher le-Pesah label. These should be preferred.

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 fruit 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 juice (these juices are often clarified with kitniyot which are not listed among the ingredients. However, 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); wine; vinegar; liquor; oils; dried fruits; 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.

Medicines

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

Continued

Hebrew School News Update

Or Zarua's students have grown in so many ways over the course of the first half of the school year. Here are some recent highlights:

In December, the entire school enjoyed a fun Hanukkah celebration where we ate sufganiot (jelly donuts) and livivot (latkes), listened to Tibor Feldman tell a wonderful story while his children enjoyed some nachas, sang with music teacher Jeremy Davidson, lit Hanukkah candles with Rabbi Wechsler, danced with specialists Danny and our very own Vav class teacher, Tamar Zaken. What a pleasure it was to see everyone enjoying themselves in the spirit of the holiday!

Earlier this month we celebrated Tu Bishvat. We tasted the fruits of Israel with our students, and many of our Hebrew School families took part in the special mitzvah of purchasing trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Planning is also underway for our

Hebrew School Purim carnival. This promises to be a special event for the students of our school!

We look forward to the continued learning in our ten classes. Some of the classes are now moving to more advanced Hebrew books. Others are continuing to progress through the books they started with in the beginning of the year. There is a significant improvement in the Hebrew reading of the students. This will only continue through their hard work and dedication. It is also satisfying to see the students progress in their ability to chant the T'fillot (prayers) and discuss their understanding of them. Finally, we look forward to seeing their continued age-appropriate Bible discussions. All of their learning, fun and spirit continue each day.

For more information about the Or Zarua Hebrew School, please contact Charlie Sherman, Educational Director at 917-834-0308.

Hesed Connection News Update

Last month the Dalet, Hey and Vav classes of the Hebrew School took part in another amazing Hesed Connection Program. Under the expertise of our musical director, Jeremy Davidson, the students performed a medley of different Hanukkah songs for the residents at Lincoln House, a NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) apartment complex on the Upper West Side. Outreach and social services for the elderly residents of Lincoln House are provided by DOROT, (the Hebrew word for generations), which is a non-profit agency serving seniors on Manhattan's Upper West and East Sides.

After our Musical performance, each of the classes performed play related to the holiday of Hanukkah. The seniors seemed to be very impressed by the theatrical talents of our students.

Our students were introduced to the residents and then had an opportunity to hear from the seniors themselves. Many of the adults in attendance were female and a very stimulating conversation took place regarding the issue of the role of women in society. Everyone present seemed to be quite moved by this experience and touched by the connection and understanding that was developing between the two "DOROT" (generations).

Special thanks to our staff, parent chaperones and the professional staff of Lincoln House. Yasher Koach to all the students who worked so incredibly hard on this program — you were truly terrific!!

Education Siddur Workshop Continues

In this successful workshop, members of OZ have the opportunity to explore, in depth, the 'davening', the Shabbat service and its prayer book, the Siddur, to really understand with "n-sha'mah-Jewish soul"—what we're doing in the synagogue, and how to do it.

Harry Trattner, president of a strategic planning and development firm, who is also an ordained Hazzan from the Jewish Theological Seminary, is the instructor.

The remainder of the class will be held on March 19, April 2, April 16, and April 30 in the Or Zarua Bet Midrash, 1384 Lexington Avenue from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Guidelines for Passover *continued*

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 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.

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 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.

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 drinking 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.

Glass Cookware: There is a difference of opinion as to whether it is to be kashered. One opinion is that it must be kashered. After a thorough cleansing, there should be water boiled in them which will overflow the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleansing is required.

Glass Bakeware, like metal bakeware, may not be kashered.

E. Dishwasher: After not using the 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.

Solomon Schechter High School of New York

To learn more about the Solomon Schechter High School of New York, located at 1 West 91st Street (corner of Central park West), please contact the school at (212) 877-7747 *225 to make a reservation for the March 13th 9am tour.

Save The Date

OR ZARUA's CONGREGATIONAL 2nd SEDER

Sunday, April 8, 2001

Details to follow. Watch your mail.

Schedule of Passover Services(5761/2001)

Saturday, April 7 Erev of Passover

Candlelighting 8:10 p.m.

Sunday, April 8 First Day of Passover

Shaharit at 92nd St. Y 9:00 a.m.

Minhah-Maariv at Kehilath Jeshurun 7:25 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:10 p.m.

Monday, April 9 Second Day of Passover

Shaharit at 92nd St. Y 9:00 a.m.

Candlelighting 7:19 p.m.

Friday, April 13 Seventh day of Passover

Minhah-Maariv at Shaaray Tefila 6:30 p.m.

Candlelighting 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 14 Seventh Day of Passover

Shaharit at 92nd St. Y 8:30 a.m.

Minhah-Maariv at Shaaray Tefila 7:00 p.m.

Candlelighting 8:16 p.m.

Sunday, April 15 8th Day of Passover

Shaharit at 92nd St. Y 9:00 a.m.

Festival ends 8:19 p.m.

Youth Services

Two Or Zarua Youth (OZY) Services, one for children ages infant through 6 (children 3 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult) and another one for children ages 7 through 13 (no parents) are held every Shabbat morning. The OZY service for children ages infant through 6 begins at 11AM and ends at Noon. The Junior Congregation service for children ages 7 through 13 begins at 10:30 AM and ends at Noon. At the conclusion of the OZY / Junior Congregation services, the children are escorted from their classrooms to join our congregants in the concluding services and Kiddush.

On weeks when there is a Hebrew school Shabbat Class, children who wish to attend the 7-13 year old Junior Congregation are invited to join the Hebrew School Shabbat Class. Please see the calendar for dates when Hebrew School Shabbat Class meets.

Ma'ot Hittim

"A Jew should drink four cups of wine at the seder," the Mishnah says, "even if they come from the public dole." Every Jew needs to experience the exodus from Egypt, even the poor Jew who cannot afford to prepare for Pesah himself.

Special funds are raised each year before Passover to make certain that poor Jews will be able to adequately celebrate the holiday. These funds, called ma'ot hittim (wheat money) are then distributed to the Joint Passover Appeal in New York and to the New York Board of Rabbis. These two communal organizations see to it that Jews who cannot make Passover for themselves are nonetheless able to fully celebrate the holiday. These funds also enable Or Zarua to invite Jews to our community Seder who could not otherwise afford to be at a Seder that night. Please give generously to this fund; many will benefit from your kindness. The Congregation will, in turn, distribute these funds to poor Jews and those who are in institutions in New York.

Or Zarua Book Club

At this writing, Book Club members look forward to the February 25, 2001 discussion of "The Faith of Biology and the Biology of Faith" by Robert Pollack, a member of Or Zarua.

The next book that will be discussed is Victor Klemperer's "I Will Bear Witness, Vol. II." This book, the diary of a Holocaust survivor living in Dresden, has received much favorable notice.

Please call the office for the date and location of the next meeting.

Education- Talmud Class

Rabbi Wechsler's Talmud class continues on Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30p.m. in the Or Zarua Bet Midrash, 1384 Lexington Avenue. The class is studying the sixth chapter of Masekhet Berakhot.

The Talmud class is free to members and nonmembers alike, and may be joined at any time. No knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required; nor is attendance at last year's class required.

Our Twelfth Birthday

At this writing, we're not sure whether you'll receive this newsletter before our Lucy Dawidowicz lecture/12th birthday party on February 26th at the Jewish Museum.

Dr. Neil Gillman, Aaron Rabinowitz and Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Jewish Philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary will speak on "Encountering God".

Before the program, there will be private tours of the "Charlotte Salomon: Life? Or Theatre?" exhibit.

After the program there will be a festive celebration.

RSVP's to the office, 212-410-6041, would be appreciated.

Hesed Happenings

Purim Spiel Food Drive: Purim is a joyous festival filled with costumes, treats and noisemakers. It is also a time for two important mitzvot: Mishloach Manot (gifts of food and drink) — when we share two food items with a friend or neighbor — and Matanot L'evyonim (gifts to the needy) — when we provide money to the poor in our community. The observance of both of these mitzvot is encouraged by inviting Or Zarua members to participate in the annual Purim Spiel Food Drive. Spiel attendees are asked to bring donations of at least two different types of non-perishable food items for distribution to our community's needy. We had a wonderful response to our first food drive last year, and hope to collect even more food this year.

Donated food will be distributed through the Yorkville Common Pantry, located on the Upper East Side and one of the city's largest providers of emergency food to the needy. Recommended items include dry milk, cereal, canned food of all kinds, pasta, peanut butter, rice and beans. There will also be Tzedaka boxes to enable congregants to give monetary contributions to those in need.

Concern for the needy is a year-round responsibility for Jews, but on Purim, particularly, it is a special mitzvah

to remember the poor. Any questions, please call Lesley Palmer at 772-9673.

Lenox Hill Bikur Cholim: Performing the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim, visiting the sick, can be both a rewarding and challenging experience. On January 16, eleven Or Zarua members took part in a Lenox Hill Bikur Cholim orientation program at Lenox Hill Hospital. The evening's discussion covered a wide range of subjects, including how to enter and leave a patient's room, what to do during visits, and the wonderful efforts of the Lenox Hill Bikur Cholim. Zella Goldfinger, the organization's Executive Director and an Or Zarua member, led the orientation. Bikur Cholim volunteers visit Jewish patients at the hospital on a schedule of their own choosing. If you are interested in joining the Or Zarua volunteers at Lenox Hill Hospital, please contact David Pine at 472-7506.

Join Us: The next Hesed Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 13 at Or Zarua's offices. We have some exciting ideas to discuss, so please join us. Call Lesley Palmer at 772-9673 or email her at lpalmer2@ix.net-com.com with any questions or suggestions.

Pesah Meal Match

Yes, I would like to be a **GUEST** _____ **Host** _____ (Check one)

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

Are there any food restraints? _____

HOSTS: How many people will you host? _____

Do you have any children? _____

How many and what ages? _____

Do you welcome children as guests? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Best time to call:** _____

Please mail this reply to the Or Zarua office by Monday, March 26th.

Congregation Or Zarua • 1384 Lexington Avenue • New York, NY 10128 • Fax: 212-410-2137

Sell Your Hametz

Please fill out and send the following coupon to the Or Zarua by mail or fax by office Thursday, April 5, to ensure that your hametz is sold before Passover. It is customary to enclose a contribution to Or Zarua's Ma'ot Hittim Fund with your authorization.

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler

Congregation Or Zarua • 1384 Lexington Avenue • New York, NY 10128

Fax: 212-410-2137

Dear Rabbi Wechsler,

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

Address: _____ **Apt No.** _____

City, State, Zip _____

Other Locations (Summer Home, Office):

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Mach.2001

Tel. Shaaray Tefila
250 East 79th Street (entrance on 2nd Ave)

92nd Street Y
1395 Lexington Avenue

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
4	5 8-9:30pm Siddur/Mahzor Workshop (1384 Lex)	6	7 Talmud Class 8-9:30pm (1384 Lex)	8 Fast of Esther 5:30pm Purim Megillah Reading & Spiel (UJA-Federation, 130 E. 59th St.)	9 7am Purim/Shaharit (1384 Lex) 5:38pm Candlelighting & Minhah Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	10 9am Shaharit, Tezaveh Hebrew School Shabbat class (92nd Street Y)
11	12	13	14 Talmud Class 8-9:30pm (1384 Lex)	15	16 5:46pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	17 9am Shaharit, Kee Tissa Shabbat Parah (92nd Street Y)
18	19 8-9:30pm Siddur/Mahzor Workshop (1384 Lex)	20	21 Talmud Class 8-9:30pm (1384 Lex)	22	23 5:53pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 7:30pm Congregational Shabbat Dinners	24 9am Shaharit, Vayakhel-Pekude Shabbat Hahodesh (92nd Street Y)
25 Rosh Hodesh Nisan	26	27	28 Talmud Class 8-9:30pm (1384 Lex)	29	30 6:01pm Candlelighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	31 9am Shaharit, Vayikra (92nd Street Y)

April 2001

Temple Shaaray Tefila
250 East 79th Street (entrance on 2nd Ave)

92nd Street Y
1395 Lexington Avenue

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 9am Passover 1 service (92nd Street Y) 7:25pm Minhah-Maariv (Kehilath Jeshurun) Congregational Second Seder Time to be announced 8:10pm Candlelighting	2 8-9:30pm Siddur/Mahzor Workshop (1384 Lex)	3	4 Talmud Class 8-9:30pm (1384 Lex)	5	6 6:30pm Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 7:08pm Candlelighting	7 9am Shaharit Shabbat Hagadol (92nd Street Y) 8:10pm Candlelighting First Seder
8 9am Passover 2 service (92nd Street Y) 7:19pm Candlelighting	9 9am Passover 2 service (92nd Street Y) 7:19pm Candlelighting	10 Hol Hamoed	11 Hol Hamoed Talmud Class 8-9:30pm (1384 Lex)	12 Hol Hamoed	13 Hol Hamoed 6:30pm Minhah- Maariv/Passover 7 evening service (Shaaray Tefila) 7:15pm Candlelighting	14 8:30am Passover 7 morning service (92nd Street Y) 7pm Passover 8 evening service (Shaaray Tefila) 8:16pm Candlelighting
15 9am Passover 8 morning service/Yizkor (92nd Street Y) 8:19pm Festival ends	16 8-9:30pm Siddur/Mahzor Workshop (1384 Lex)	17	18 8pm Yom HaShoah Maariv service (Shaaray Tefila)	19 Yom HaShoah	20 6:30pm Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 7:23pm Candlelighting	21 9am Shaharit, Shemini Hebrew School Shabbat class
22	23 Rosh Hodesh Iyar	24 Rosh Hodeh Iyar	25 7:30pm Yom Hazikaron Minhah service/special prayers for Yom Ha'Alzmaut (1384 Lex)	26 Yom Ha'Alzmaut (Israel Independence Day)	27 6:30pm Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 7:30pm Candlelighting	28 9am Shaharit, Tazria-Metzora (92nd Street Y)
29	30 8-9:30pm Siddur/Mahzor Workshop (1384 Lex)					

Join Another OZ Family for Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 23

Congregation Or Zarua members are invited to join fellow congregants for Shabbat dinner, Friday night, March 23, 2001. Hosts from OZ are looking forward to welcoming fellow members into their home. This should be a wonderful evening and an opportunity to join another family and meet some fellow members.

Services will be held starting at 5:53 pm at Temple Shaaray Tefila and dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. Please return the coupon below to the office by Tuesday, March 13th if you'd like to join a congregant for dinner.

Congregants, Take Part in Or Zarua's Pesah Meal Match

First Night, Saturday, April 7th

Along with sharing ancient and modern traditions with family and friends, first seder is a traditional time to welcome a new guest. No wonder it's been an Or Zarua tradition for members to extend invitations to fellow congregants who may enjoy joining a home seder.

We invite those members who wish to extend an invitation, and those who would like to be included in a home seder, to fill out the reply form on page 8 and return it to the Or Zarua office by mail at 1384 Lexington Avenue, NYC 10128 or by fax (212) 410-2137 by Monday, March 26th.

Shabbat Dinner Committee

Congregation Or Zarua • 1384 Lexington Avenue • New York, NY 10128

Fax: (212) 410-2137

I/We will be delighted to be the guest of a fellow congregant for Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 13, 2001.

Name/s: _____

Children 6 thru 12: _____

Children under 6: _____

Address: _____

Telephone(home) _____ (work) _____

The Or Zarua Community

NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Norry
David & Lisa Sreter
Milton & Alice Wolson

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Brett & Gwendolyn Cohen on the December 2nd birth of their son, Jacob Elias
Chak & Jacqueline Frank, on the February 11th marriage of their daughter, Vered, to Walter Lamerton
Larry & Leslie Rusoff on the December 17th birth of a daughter, Ariella Lys

Neil & Leona Schluger on the December 9th birth of their son, Joseph Eli Schluger
Barry & Judith Schneider on the January 20th birth of Barry's twin grandsons, Ethan and Brett Sandler. Proud parents are Jill Welton and Phil Sandler.
Barry & Judith Schneider on the birth of their niece, Isabelle Claire Russo
Yaakov and Roberta Shechter on the December 6, 2000 birth in New York City of a grandson, Noah Avraham Finkelstein, son of Mikal and Brad Finkelstein

CONDOLENCES TO

The family of Zita Bloom, on the death of our member
Mona Dreier on the death of her father, Norbert Preminger
Miriam Frankel, on the death of her brother-in-law, Rabbi Joseph Heskelman
Martha Sasmor, on the death of her husband, James
Linda Shulsky on the death of her father, Arthur Rosenfeld
Alan Yaillen on the death of his father, Earl Yaillen

Or Zarua Member Protagonist of Stirring New Opera

By Harry A. Trattner

During the week of January 22nd an unusual distinction was accorded in New York to fellow OZ member Dr. Yehuda Nir: three public professional performances of the first three scenes of an opera-in-progress, commissioned by American Opera Projects, based on his memoir, "The Lost Childhood."

Yehuda (Julek) wrote this haunting and gripping story of his life and experiences as a boy surviving the Shoah in Lvov with a deliberate simplicity and lightness of touch, underscored by subtle, understated irony. In the flow of a phrase, between each line, from chapter to chapter, one hears and feels the disbelief, the rumblings, the terror looming larger and larger until it will horrifically crash down. His memoir segues from one stage to the next almost unnoticed; it takes the reader along equally as imperceptibly, and inexorably.

The opera's librettist, the poet Mary Azrael's dialogue matches the book's narratives. Her words are to the point, gently poetic and foretelling. Her voice is the voice of the protagonists, and she conveys through them, with poignant simplicity and clearly defined characters, the story of a cosmopolitan Jewish family, with a family's usual and familiar dynamics, trying to live the lives to which they've been accustomed while struggling to cope with the Shoah closing in on them.

To me, the music, by the American composer Jan Hamer, seemed at first to be episodic, not quite matched to the direction of the libretto; it found its voice and flow midway through the first scene, beginning with ominous rumblings conveyed by staccato punctuations - like distant explosions - in the bass register of the (piano) score. It then swept on to the ending of the first scene, a narrative flash-forward to a time just after the War, in a powerful duet between the now-adult Julek, and Tristan, the son of Nazis (and the opera's "Doppelganger"), who, in response to Julek's refusal to forgive cries out, "But I was born after the War!!"

The second and third scenes deal with the false optimism of Julek's father, his subsequent murder, and the "conversion" of Julek, his sister, Lala and their mother, Mamusia, into fully-indoctrinated Polish Catholics in an attempt to avoid being identified as Jews. The third scene ended with a shattering aria sung by Mamusia, an expression of bewilderment, of horror, of rage against the uni-

verse, that she, descendant of a long line of Hassidic Rabbinic giants, must now hang a cross around her neck and convincingly pretend to be Polish Catholic. The outrage she feels almost overshadows what she knows will be the outcome if she fails.

At times Ms. Hamer humorously and surprisingly quotes in her score from other musical sources that have particular meaning to Yehuda (e.g., Wagner's "Lohengrin", or the "Mah Nishtanah" of the Passover Haggadah). The score has a bite reminiscent of the sardonic Kurt Weill in Berlin, a controlled late-Mahler anguish and a brasses and woodwinds Bohemian cragginess of Janacek, held together by a loving, sweeping lyricism. Humanity in the face of the unspeakable.

The "Doppelganger" theme may yet loom larger as the opera progresses. Can Julek forget? Can one, should one, ever forget, or forgive? In Heine's great poem, *Der Doppelganger*, the protagonist, haunted by the shadow following him and seeing there is no one there but himself, turns and roars in fury and anguish, "You, miserable shadow, what do you want of my life? Why do you haunt me? Will you never let me alone?" On the flyleaf of Yehuda's memoir there is a quote from Samuel Beckett: "I forgive no one."

"The Lost Childhood" may be the only opera in the history of music to be written about a contemporary, living subject. In the AOP's program notes for "The Lost Childhood" performances there was this quote from the composer, Ferruccio Busoni: "Opera, unlike any other form of theatre, can express the incredible, the unreal and the improbable." Yehuda Nir's story, incredible, unreal and improbable, and already translated into many languages (including Japanese), is one that must be told in the language of music. It is powerfully on its artistic way.

Each year the City Opera of New York, through its "Works In Progress" project, undertakes a series of performances of important new works currently being composed, and stages them for the benefit of representatives of opera companies from throughout the United States that are planning future repertoires. "The Lost Childhood" is one of those selected, and on May 10th (tentative) we will have a chance to see Act I performed, staged, and with full orchestra, by American Opera Projects in conjunction with the City Opera.

Contributions

11 contributions listed were received on or before February 2, 2001.

Capital Campaign and Bimah Fund contributions are not listed.

DESIGNATED SPECIAL PURPOSE GIFT FUND

Wendy Belzberg & Strauss Zelnick
Arthur Rosenbloom & Evelyn Kenvin

HESED FOOD FUND

Jerry & Patti Josepher, in memory of Jerry's father, Benjamin Josepher
Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of Zita Bloom
Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of Julius Wertheim
Bruce & Miriam Pomeranz
Barry & Judith Schneider
Charles Spielholz & Sharon Seiler
Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in honor of the birth of Arthur and Willi Aeder's granddaughter, Clara Aeder
William & Muriel Tannenbaum, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Jacob Doctoroff, son of Dan & Alisa Doctoroff
Linda Wertheim

HESED FUND

Arthur & Willi Aeder, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Victor Shelden, son of Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent
Barton & Georgia Farber
Mark & Hannah Kinn
Jacob & Esther Oberman, in memory of James Sasmor
Samuel & Ruth Perelson
Barry & Judith Schneider
Reed & Anne Schneider, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Jacob Doctoroff, son of Dan and Alisa Doctoroff
Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of James Sasmor, husband of Martha Sasmor
Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of Linda Shulsky's father, Arthur Rosenfeld
Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in honor of the birth of Clara Aeder, granddaughter of Arthur and Willi Aeder
William & Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of James Sasmor
Anonymous, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Victor Shelden, son of Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent

HEVRA KADISHA FUND

Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of Philip Kinn, father of Mark Kinn
Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of Mona

Dreier's father, Norbert Preminger
Marvin & Linda Shulsky, with thanks to the Hevra Kadisha
Sheldon & Arlene Simon, in memory of Arthur Rosenfeld, father of Linda Shulsky

KIDDUSH FUND

Arthur & Willi Aeder, in honor of the 11/28/00 birth in Chicago of a granddaughter, Clara Aeder, (their 11th grandchild). Clara's parents are Jeff Aeder and Jennifer Levin
Barry & Bobbi Collier, in memory of his father, Arthur Collier, on his yahrzeit
Betsy Dizengoff, in honor of her husband Ira's election as a partner in his law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss & Seld
Dan & Alisa Doctoroff, in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Jacob
Yitzchak & Jacqueline Frank, in memory of their respective fathers, Haim Meshuleh Frank and Louis Harold Berold
Mark & Hannah Kinn, in memory of his father, Philip Kinn
Mark & Hannah Kinn, in honor of their daughter Sarah's 11th birthday
Sam & Francine Klagsbrun, in honor of Johanna Kaplan's reading Haftarah
Sam & Francine Klagsbrun
Howard Levy & Susan Klim, in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Nathaniel Levy
Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in memory of Frederick's father, Norman Mendelsohn, on his yahrzeit
Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in memory of Frederick's mother, Etta Mendelsohn, on her yahrzeit
Maurice & Sabina Preter, in celebration of their 1st wedding anniversary
Gloria Shafer, in memory of her mother, Betty Rein
Yaakov & Roberta Shechter, in honor of the birth of their grandson, Noah Avraham Finkelstein
Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in memory of Linda's father, George Kirsten, on his yahrzeit
Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her father, Abraham Patt
Lynda Wertheim, in celebration of her third anniversary of good health
Eugene & Sherry Zuriff, in memory of his father, Jack Zuriff, on his yahrzeit

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

Julie Alperin
Joyce Apfeldorf
Marc & Joanne Ashley
Nancy Bach
Jerome & Joan Badner
Alan Bandler
Craig & Marsha Basson

Solomon & Thelma Borodkin
Matthew Bronfman & Lisa Belzberg
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Harlan Wechsler & Naomi Friedland-Wechsler
Barry & Anita Weinstein
Vicki Wimpfheimer
Anonymous (1)

LIBRARY BOOK FUND

The children and grandchildren of Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro in honor and celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary
Frances Freedman
Herbert & Judith Lukashok

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Ruth Drazen, in memory of her beloved husband, Jerome

Contributions Continued

PURIM SPIEL FUND

Arthur & Willi Aeder
Daniel & Lynn Beller
Dan & Alisa Doctoroff
Harrison & Diana Goldin
Samuel & Francine Klagsbrun
Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner
Mark & Georgina Lowenthan
Josh & Beth Goldberg Nash
Samuel & Ruth Perelson
Arthur Rosenbloom & Evelyn Kenvin
Albert & Claire Schussler
Seymour & Cathy Zises

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sylvia Adelman, in honor of Sam Perelson on his recovery
Bessie Botwinick & Elaine Wolfensohn, in memory of Benjamin Botwinick
Sander & Mechele Flaum
Yitzchak & Jacqueline Frank, in appreciation of Rabbi Wechsler's guidance
Martha Sasmor, in infinite appreciation of Rabbi Wechsler
Herbert Shapiro, in honor of his wife Lorraine on the occasion of their 50th anniversary
Marvin & Linda Shulsky, in appreciation of Rabbi Wechsler's help during the past year
Natalie Sobel, in memory of her father, Morris Sobel, on his yahrzeit
Jay & Nancy Zises, in memory of Ed Bronski

GENERAL FUND

Arthur & Willi Aeder, in honor of their new granddaughter, Clara Bess Aeder
Marvin Cohen, in memory of Walter Feldesman
Barry & Bobbi Collier, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Jacob Doctoroff, son of Dan and Alisa Doctoroff

Neal & Martha Cooper, with thanks for our High Holy Day services
Alan & Pat Davidson, in memory of her mother, Sylvia Baris
Alexander & Susan Deutsch, yizkor for Susan's father, Gabriel Schornstein
Dan & Alisa Doctoroff, in honor of the birth of Neil and Leona Schluger's son, Joseph Helen Ferszt, in memory of her aunt, Betty Bernstein, on her yahrzeit
Miriam Frankel, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Victor Shelden, son of Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent
Mark & Hannah Kinn, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Jacob Doctoroff, son of Dan and Alisa Doctoroff
Elyssa & Phyllis London, in memory of Avram Millstein, father of Uri Evan
Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Harvey Stone's father
Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Arthur Rosenfeld, father of Linda Shulsky
Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in memory of James Sasmor, husband of Martha Sasmor
Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Victor Shelden, son of Aaron Shelden and Diane Okrent
Elizabeth Philipp & Patrick Moriarty, in memory of Earl Yaillen, father of Alan Yaillen
David Pine & Stephanie Failla
Laura Resnikoff, in memory of Norbert Preminger, father of Mona Dreier
Laura Resnikoff, in memory of Arthur Rosenfeld, father of Linda Shulsky
Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in memory of James Sasmor, husband of Martha Sasmor
Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in memory of Arthur Rosenfeld, father of Linda Shulsky
Libby Saypol, in memory of her parents, Marian Gitlitz and Samuel Gitlitz, on their yahrzeits

Libby Saypol, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Jacob Doctoroff, son of Dan and Alisa Doctoroff
Reed & Anne Schneider, in honor of the birth of Leona and Neil Schluger's son, Joseph
Reed & Anne Schneider, in honor of the birth of Gwen and Brett Cohen's son, Jacob Elias
Reed & Anne Schneider, in thanks to Terry Krulwich for teaching Reed to chant Torah
Charlotte Schwartz, in memory of Ida Kaplan Schwartz
Marilyn Shapiro, in memory of her mother, Sarah Steiman Shapiro
Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, Sukkot Yiskor
Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, in honor of Diane's being called to the Torah as Hatan Bereshit on Simchat Torah
Robert & Vera Silver, in memory of Earl Yaillen, father of Alan Yaillen
Robert & Vera Silver, in memory of Arthur Rosenfeld, father of Linda Shulsky
Robert, Ellen Bromberg & Rebecca Skolnick, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
Charlie Spielholz, Sharon Seiler & Talia Spielholz, in honor of the bar mitzvah of Victor Shelden, son of Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent
Larry & Robin Statsky, in honor of Arthur Aeder's birthday
Bernard & Leah Tolpin, in memory of Norbert Preminger, father of Mona Dreier
Bernard & Leah Tolpin, in memory of Arthur Rosenfeld, father of Linda Shulsky
Harry Trattner and Amira Kohn-Trattner, to commemorate the yahrzeit of her father, Dr. Eliyahu Kohn
Miriam Wallerstein, in memory of her father, Abraham Patt
Faith, Jill & Todd Weinberg, in memory of Betty Charak, sister of Faith

Congregation Or Zarua

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קק אור זרוע

