



Shavuot Begins June 8th

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Fifty days after Pesach, on the 6th of Sivan, is the festival of Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. This year, Shavuot begins on Thursday night, June 8th.

Shavuot is the culmination of the counting specified in the Bible: "Seven weeks shall you count... and you shall keep the Feast of Weeks..." (Deuteronomy 16:9-10). Some commentators have compared the holiday to a wedding, for it was on Shavuot that the covenant between God and the Jewish People was sealed at Mount Sinai.

Shavuot is unique due to the contrasting natures of the holiday: it is both a spiritual period, commemorating God's giving of the Torah to the Jewish nation and an agricultural festival, commemorating the offering of the people's first fruits in the Temple.

One of the religious experiences connected to farming was the offering of produce in the Holy Temple. In Temple times, Jews from all over the land of Israel trekked to Jerusalem on Shavuot to offer their first fruits of the new season, giving rise to the name Chag Habikkurim, Festival of the First Fruits. This pilgrimage was one of three that were required of all Jews who were able.

Shavuot customs focus on the harvest aspects of the festival through decorating with flowers, fruits and greenery, and reading the Book of Ruth. They also reflect the fact that this was the day on which the Jewish people embraced the Torah. On

Shavuot we read the Ten Commandments in synagogue and study Torah throughout the night, learning as much as possible.

While we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, each day we continue to receive the Torah.

Upcoming Events

Yom Hashoah Monday, May 1

On the night of Yom Hashoah, our congregant Joseph Bamberger will speak on: "Some Recollections of Hamburg, Patchogue and New York."

Yom HaAtzmaut Tuesday, May 9

The Service for Yom HaAtzmaut will feature a study session led by Prof. Anne Lerner, Prof. of Jewish Literature at the Seminary on "New Voices in Israeli Poetry." In addition, there will be Israeli singing led by Dr. Yaakov Shechter and Israeli food will be served.

Annual Meeting Thursday, May 18

7:30 pm - Light Supper
8:15 pm - Meeting

The annual meeting will include election of new officers and board members, an update on Rabbi Wechsler and an update on the construction.

Congregation Or Zarua
A Conservative Synagogue
Founded 1989

קק מדר זרוע



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

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

Dr. Harlan J. Wechsler, Rabbi
Alisa Robbins Doctoroff, President

Newsletter Editor
Jeanette Brizel

Or Zarua Hebrew School Update

By Charlie Sherman, Educational Director

Or Zarua Hebrew School has had a wonderful couple of months! The Purim celebration was especially enjoyable for all that attended. The teachers performed a wonderful spiel, written by Bet Class teacher, Adeena Shames, to the music of "The Backstreet Boys," and the carnival was a lot of fun. Special thanks to all of the teachers for putting together such excellent booths, games, art projects and other activities. Thanks also to all of the classes as well as the parent volunteers whose hard work helped to make the event so much fun.

We greatly enjoyed our Pesach celebration on Thursday, April 13th. Several families joined the classes and their teachers for special group workshops. The Mechina and Alef classes held a seder and made cups for Elijah; the Bet class completed a pillow with symbols of the Pesach story and studied the basics of the seder structure; the Gimmel and Dalet classes painted their own versions of the "four children" of Passover; and the Hey and Zayin classes held interactive learning

sessions and made Pesach pillow cases. We then joined together at school for some learning with Rabbi Wechsler followed by some spirited Passover singing led by our music teacher, Jeremy Davidson. Also, our Passover candy sale was a big success this year and many thanks are due to Betsy and Ira Dizengoff for so generously volunteering to help out with this sale.

It is so hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. We have had a very productive year in which the students learned a great deal while enjoying themselves tremendously. Our brand new music program and Junior Congregation services have been very successful. As we look forward to the end of the year and beyond, we are always striving to develop innovative, educational and fun programs for our students.

For more information on the OZ Hebrew School, please call Charlie Sherman, Educational Director, at 917.834.0308.



Star Schlep

Purim Spiel 2000, Star Schlep or The Search for a New Queen of the Galaxy, was an entertaining production attended by several hundred OZ members. The audience enjoyed the wonderful script, costumes, singing, staging, music and the cast's overall performance. Courtesy of the production, we were transported from the theater to another Galaxy for a wonderful evening. Thanks to all those who were responsible for the Spiel.



Or Zarua Youth Hesed Passover Package Delivery

For the second year in a row, members of Or Zarua Youth Hesed participated in Dorot's Passover Package Delivery. In addition, several Or Zarua families and individuals participated in this worthwhile act of hesed. Members met at Brandeis High School for a brief orientation and overview of the fine Dorot program. We then called the individuals to let them know we were on our way with their package of important Passover supplies, foods, etc. We walked to the homes of various older individuals and couples and delivered the items to them. As usual, all recipients are greatly appreciative. Some even invite our members into their homes for meaningful conversation.

To learn more about this and other Or Zarua Youth Hesed programs, please contact Howard Blas at 230-1774.

Hesed Update

An Evening in June: On Thursday June 1, Or Zarua will host an Israeli Evening at the Ronald McDonald House, a residence for children with cancer who are in treatment at local hospitals. A wonderful facility located at 405 E. 73rd Street, the House provides a warm environment for these kids and their families for as long as they need, at a subsidized rate. Volunteers frequently help out by providing meals and recreation for the families. As June 1 is Yom Yerushalayim, we will celebrate with a falafel dinner buffet, Israeli folk dancing and songs, organized by congregation members. Although space is limited at the event, the Hesed Committee needs volunteers to help! (Please see sign up form on page 4 to volunteer.)

Donation Drive Fills Boxes: The Hesed Committee is delighted to report the Purim Donation Drive resulted in the donation of fourteen boxes of nonperishable food items to the Yorkville Common Pantry, a nonprofit agency serving our community's needy. Our thanks to Flat Rate Moving for donating the boxes used to transport the food and to all the food donors!

Purim Spiel Video For Sale: We're also pleased to announce that copies of the 2000 Purim Spiel video are on sale for \$18 each, with proceeds to benefit the Hesed Fund which makes possible Or Zarua's outreach to the needy. See the wonderful production, Star Schlep 6001, in the privacy of your own home! (See order form on page 4 enclosed.)

Pass the Pasta: Or Zarua's weekly Monday night dinner at the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter's residence at 211 East 81st Street needs volunteers to help serve dinner. It's an easy and enjoyable hour — arrive at 5:30 p.m. when the food is delivered and serve it in the kitchen. You can stay and kibitz with the residents or leave for home by 6:30 p.m. Approximately 20 residents attend the meal, so only 2 or 3 volunteers are needed each week. Please contact Richard Stadin for information at 212-879-0448.

Project Otzma

Project Otzma is a ten-month program designed to provide Jewish adults between ages 20 and 25 an opportunity to live and volunteer in Israel in a variety of settings. Since its formation in 1986, hundreds of American young adults have participated in this program. For more information or to apply for the program, contact Project Otzma at 1-877-GO OTZMA or visit their website at www.projectotzma.org.

OZY SERVICES

Two Or Zarua Youth (OZY) Services, one for children ages 2 through 6 (children 3 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult) and another one for children ages 7 through 10 (no parents) are held every Shabbat morning, beginning promptly at 11 a.m. and ending at noon. At the conclusion of the OZY services, the children are escorted from their classrooms to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and Kiddush.

Signs are posted in the 92nd Street Y indicating the location of the OZY services.

The new monthly Junior Congregation services (for children ages 7 through 13) will resume this fall.

Extend your celebration of Shabbat with Or Zarua

On the first Shabbat of each secular month, an hour before candlelighting time of the previous evening, we celebrate Shabbat with minhah, followed by a seudah shlishit and Havdalah services to end Shabbat. The tradition of celebrating Shabbat with a seudah shlishit (or "third meal") is an old one.

We gather in the Or Zarua Bet Midrash, 1384 Lexington

Avenue, eat a light and delicious meal, study a text, and sing Shabbat niggunim to bring Shabbat to a close. We then complete the Shabbat with Havdalah.

For those of you who have not experienced this aspect of Shabbat, we encourage you to join us on May 6th and June 3rd. The times are indicated in the Or Zarua newsletter calendar.

Or Zarua's Israeli Evening at the Ronald McDonald House Volunteer Sign Up Form

Please fill out and send back to the Or Zarua office (1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128) so that it is received by May 17.

Please note that children under the age of 18 cannot volunteer. Space is limited, so volunteers will join us on a first come basis.

I would like to help by: (please check)

☐ Preparing kosher desserts

(e.g., mandelbrot, cookies, pastry, ideally dropped off at the House on June 1, although alternative arrangements can be made.)

☐ Assisting with the set up and decorations (3:00- 5:00 p.m.)

☐ Preparing and serving food (from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.)

☐ Cleaning up (approx. 7:30 p.m.+)

☐ Supporting the event through a donation to the Hesed Fund (please make check payable to Congregation Or Zarua, designated to the Hesed Fund)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Best time to call: _____ E-mail address: _____

Purim Spiel Video Order Form

Please fill out and send back to the Or Zarua office (1384 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128) with your check made payable to Congregation Or Zarua. All funds received will support the community outreach of Or Zarua's Hesed Community.

Yes, I would like to buy _____ copy(ies) of the 2000 Purim Spiel Video at \$18.00 each, and enclose \$ _____ in payment. The videos will be shipped in May.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

June·2000

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

92nd Street Y
1395 Lexington Avenue

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
4 10-11:30am Oral Law course (1384 Lex)	5	6	7 8pm Final Talmud class of season (1384 Lex)	8 8:05pm Candle Lighting 8:15pm Minhah-Maariv, followed by Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (Shaaray Tefila)	9 9am Shaharit/Shavuot 1 (92nd Street Y) 7pm Minhah-Maariv/Shavuot 2 (Shaaray Tefila) 8:06pm Candle Lighting	10 8:45am Shaharit/Shavuot 2/ Bat Mitzvah/ Juliana Lewis (92nd Street Y)
11	12	13	14	15	16 7pm Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 8:09pm Candle Lighting	17 9am Naso (92nd Street Y)
18	19	20	21	22	23 7pm Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 8:11pm Candle Lighting	24 9am Behaalotekha (92nd Street Y)
25	26	27	28	29 7:30pm OZBY study group (1384 Lex)	30 7pm Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 8:11pm Candle Lighting	

Contributions

All contributions listed were received on or before April 13, 2000. Capital Campaign and Bimah Fund contributions are not listed.

Designated Special Purpose Gift (Purim Spiel)

Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff
Bruce & Rosalyn Nussman
Arthur Rosenbloom & Evelyn Kenvin

Gift in Kind

Flat Rate Moving
Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin
Richard & Audrey Stadin

Hebrew School Fund

Bill, Anne and Rachel Benlisa, with thanks
to Philip Isaac for being Gabbai at
Rachel's bat mitzvah

Hesed Food Fund

Barry & Judith Schneider
Reed & Anne Schneider
Herbert & Lorraine Shapiro, in honor of
their daughter Jill Shapiro being selected
as one of the finalists in the Columbia
University Presidential Teaching Awards


Hesed Fund

Miriam Frankel
Samuel & Ruth Perelson
Maurice & Sabina Preter
Reed & Anne Schneider
Wolfensohn Family

Hevra Kadisha Fund

Glenn & Zella Goldfinger
Jerry & Patti Josepher
Simon & Janet Katz
Daniel & Suzan Rosen
Yaakov & Roberta Shechter
Jerome & Linda Spitzer

Kiddush Fund

 Haskel Fleishaker & Jennifer Mieres in
honor of the birth and naming of their
daughter, Zoe Mieres Fleishaker
David Hait & Eleanor Merczynski, in honor

of their son Andrew Hait-Merczynski
turning three
Mark & Hannah Kinn, in memory of her
father, Abraham Achtenberg, on his yahrzeit
Mark & Hannah Kinn, in honor of
their birthdays
Maurice & Sabina Preter, in honor of their
aufruf and marriage
Reed & Anne Schneider, in honor of
the birthdays of their daughters, Lauren
and Mariel
Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler & Talia
Spielholz, in memory of his father, Terry
Spielholz
Jerome & Linda Spitzer, in honor of the
birth and naming of their granddaughter,
Hannah Beth Spitzer
James & Elaine Wolfensohn, in honor of
the aufruf and March 26th marriage of
their daughter, Sara Rachel, to Carl
Joseph Mayer

Ma'ot Hittim Fund

Jonathan & Deborah Bakin
Robin Blumenthal
Clifford Brandeis & Sharon Schreiber
Edward & Cynthia Brodsky
Paula Chalfin
Brett & Gwendolyn Cohen
Barry & Bobbi Collier
Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff
Ran & Laurel Eisenbruch
Barton & Georgia Farber
Sander & Mechele Flaum
Andrew Frackman & Emily Braun
Yitzchak & Jacqueline Frank
David Hait & Eleanor Merczynski
Jesse & Isadora Hecht
Alice Geisler
David & Carla Glasser
Elizabeth Goldberg
Glenn & Zella Goldfinger
Mina Greenstein
Judith Hozore
Mel & Adele Ilberman
Michael Jaffe & Bobbie Stein

Terry Krulwich & Paul Posner
David & Judith Lewittes
Alan & Yafa Nadel
Zion Ozeri & Ellen DeJonge Ozeri
Territa Percelay
Robert & Amy Pollack
Maurice & Sabina Preter
Margery Price
Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to Evelyn
Kenvin and Arthur Rosenbloom for
their Shabbat hospitality
Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to Jill Prosky
and Jim Posner for their Pesach hospitality
Arthur Rosenbloom & Evelyn Kenvin
Barry & Judith Schneider
Reed & Anne Schneider
Herbert & Lorraine Shapiro
Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent
Marvin & Linda Shulsky
Sheldon & Arlene Simon
Charles Spielholz, Sharon Seiler &
Talia Spielholz
Bernard & Leah Tolpin
Lynda Wertheim
James & Elaine Wolfensohn

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Andrew & Nancy Danzig, in honor of the
birth of their son, Theodore Samuel
Maurice & Sabina Preter, in honor of
their wedding
Reed & Anne Schneider
Herbert & Lorraine Shapiro, in honor of
their son Michael being granted tenure in
the School of Journalism at Columbia
University
David & Sara Stone, in honor of Rabbi
Wechsler's birthday

General Fund

Arthur & Willi Aeder, in honor of Alan
and Pat Davidson's newest grandson,
Zachary Aaron Chazen
Board Members and Past Presidents of
ESNA (East Sixties Neighborhood
Association) in memory of Judy

Schneider's father, Benjamin Elgart
Phyllis Cornell, in memory of her
husband, Dr. Albert Cornell
Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff, in honor of
Fran Klagsbrun and Larry Norton, for
honors/recognition received from the
Rabbinical Assembly
Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff, in memory of
Sidia Grunfeld, mother of Yehuda Nir
Ran & Laurel Eisenbruch, in memory of
Jack Tannenbaum, William
Tannenbaum's brother
Ran & Laurel Eisenbruch, in memory of
Sidia Grunfeld, Yehuda Nir's mother
Bruce Greenfield
Janice Harper, in memory of Yehuda Nir's
mother, Sidia Grunfeld, and in honor of
his 70th birthday
The Reed Schneider family, with thanks
to the Doctoroff family
Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, in
memory of Yehuda Nir's mother,
Sidia Grunfeld
Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, in
memory of William Tannenbaum's
brother, Jack Tannenbaum
Chris Smith & Linda Yarden, in honor of
the arrival of their daughter,
Callie Jordan Smith
Mark Snyder, in memory of Judith
Snyder's father, Benjamin Elgart
Bernard & Leah Tolpin, in gratitude to
Bobbi and Barry Coller for their
Shabbat hospitality
Harry & Amira Trattner, in memory of
Yehuda Nir's mother, Sidia Grunfeld

The Or Zarua Community

Condolences

Sharon Seiler on a double loss: the death of
her grandfather, Philip Silverstein, on March
17th, followed by that of her grandmother,
Pauline Seiler, on April 10th

Congratulations To

Alan and Pat Davidson on the April 3rd birth
in Buffalo of their third grandson (and
fourth grandchild), Zachary Aaron Chazen.
He's the third child (and first son) of
Barbara (Davidson) and Mark Chazen.
Andrew & Susan Plevin on the April 5th birth
of their twin boys, Michael Ross and
Benjamin Ethan.
Jerome & Linda Spitzer on the dedication of
the Linda and Jerome Spitzer Residence,
which was established to provide housing
for needy elderly on the upper West Side.

Members Honored by Rabbinical Assembly

Francine L. Klagsbrun and Dr. Larry Norton
received the Rabbinical Assembly's
Centennial Award. They were among four
people from across the country who were
cited for their many contributions to the
general community and to the Jewish
community in particular.

Education Program

"The Oral Law in Jewish Thought: Where History and Theology Converge"

The class will continue to meet on
Sunday mornings between Passover
and Shavuot - May 7, May 21, and
June 4 from 10-11:30 a.m. - at the bet
midrash in the synagogue office. It
will be led by our congregant Marc
Ashley. No prior knowledge of
Hebrew or Aramaic will be required;
all primary texts will be studied in
English translation. All congregants
are welcome and encouraged to join.
Please contact the synagogue office
(410-6041) to register for the course.

Bagels & coffee will be provided.

Congregation Or Zarua

Office: 1384 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10128

ק"ק אור זרוע

