



Rabbi Wechsler Lauded As Rabbi-of-the-Year

by Aaron Sheldon, Chair, Public Relations Committee

The entire Or Zarua community takes great joy at the announcement that The New York Board of Rabbis has named Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler the 1999 "Rabbi of the Year." The award will be presented at a ceremony and reception on November 22nd at 8:00 PM at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, 125 East 85th Street.

The purpose of the award, according to the Board, is to "raise the esteem of the pulpit rabbinate, boost the morale of rabbis by according them special recognition and *kavod*, and (encourage) congregants to (pay homage) to the invaluable contributions of the rabbinate to Jewish life." Why are we not surprised Rabbi Wechsler was recognized for these attributes?

The Maria and Joel Finkle Award Prize Committee, chaired by Rabbi Myron Feinster, selected Rabbi Wechsler for the award "as a rabbi who has created out of nothing a new synagogue that is thriving, and that is a great achievement, especially in this day and age, and especially in Manhattan. We selected him because he's a scholar and a fine teacher. We selected him because he's oriented to the community and he reaches out beyond his synagogue to the greater Jewish community. Rabbi Wechsler works well and amicably with colleagues of all groups and supports the ideals of The New York Board of Rabbis, most notably, harmony between different branches of Judaism, and he epitomizes what a rabbi should be."

Last year's recipient was Rabbi Mark Angel of Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. Previous recipients have included Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun; Rabbi Robert Levine, Congregation Rodeph Sholom; and beyond Manhattan, Rabbi David Feldman of Teaneck and Rabbi Mordechai Waxman of Great Neck.

In addition to being our spiritual leader, Rabbi Wechsler also is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, past chairman of the Medical Ethics Committee at UJA-Federation of NY, life trustee and past chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital Chaplaincy, and author of *What's So Bad About Guilt*, published by Simon and Schuster. He is a member of the dialogue held between leaders of the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox

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We're On The Way!

While we can't yet say that the "building" of Or Zarua's new home is underway, the demolition of our old home is nearly complete. Over the course of the past month, the contractor hired by the congregation for the construction project, Calleo Development Inc., took the necessary first steps (such as removing asbestos) to enable work to proceed. During the last two weeks, the building came down. It is an amazing sight, at the same time uplifting and depressing, to see the place where the building was – but is no more. The demolition will be followed by some excavation which will allow for one floor below ground and an entrance to the

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Youth Hesed News

by Howard Blas, OZYH Director

Another exciting OZYH (Or Zarua Youth Hesed) year is underway! We were pleased to welcome record numbers of members, bolstered by the support of the Hey and Zion class Hebrew School students, to our September 23rd sukkah decorating celebration at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Teachers and students found 1001 creative uses for pasta, yarn, markers, pipe cleaners, construction paper and poster board, as we enthusiastically decorated the Or Zarua-sponsored sukkah. As usual, onlookers peeked in and asked questions. OZYH members (who had just finished snack at the Or Zarua Hebrew School) had no difficulty eating an assortment of goodies and beverages during the sukkah decorating. When we finished decorating the sukkah, we participated in a learning session with Rabbi Stephen Roberts, Chaplain at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

We hope the enthusiasm and excitement of the day will carry over to hesed events scheduled throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information about an exciting Hannukah event at the DeWitt Nursing Home.

If you would like to learn more about Or Zarua Youth Hesed, or if you have suggestions for future hesed activities, please call Howard Blas at 230-1774.

Congregation Or Zarua

A Conservative Synagogue
Founded 1989

ק"ה אור זרוא



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

Newsletter Editor
Andrew Frackman

July and August, 1999

by Rachel Somerstein

Last summer I spent six weeks in Israel, on the Nesiya program. When I came home people asked, "What did you bring back?" and expected suitcases overflowing with Treasures from The Holy Land. I told them I brought back the following:

1. A business card from *Misadonet*, the Kurdish restaurant Elan and I ate at on Ben Yehuda Street. We sat in the open air and over grape leaves and squash soup, toasted "to strength" and then "to friendship". That night we got matching henna tattoos - me on my back, he on his stomach - that meant 'soul/spirit'. We showed them to everyone we knew.

2. "My giving tree," a painting I painted the night Adam, Sara, Inbar, Shana and I sat in an empty classroom at *Chivat HaNoar* and surrounded ourselves with paints, pencils, craypas, and big empty sheets of paper aching to be filled up. Adam danced and Sara, Inbar and I painted. Shana played the guitar. It was more than a studio space because we were there as a community, because there was warmth and respect and love flowing between paintbrush and page, person and person.

3. The blue green dress I wore the day of my final project. Everyone said "those are your colors; the colors of sea and sky, the colors of motherhood." During my final project I used those same colors - green and blue - to write "STRENGTH" on the palms of eight people sitting cross legged between paintings and drawings of tomatoes and the setting sun. I began my final project by writing S T R E, in green paint, on four people's palms. Then I read a piece that meant too much to me to title. I read it loud and clear. After, I wrote N G T H on four more people's palms, with blue paint. We sat in beautiful silence for a minute before anyone said a word.

4. A drawing of Negev rocks. I sat on a stone overlooking *Midbar Tzin*, and drew and drew because a photograph would not do it justice.

5. A picture of Liat, Nir and me, taken in a photo booth. We are sitting on top of one another. It was taken the free weekend I spent in Tel Aviv. That weekend we stayed at the beach - in the day and the night - and followed the moon with our eyes over water.

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November 6th Marks Resumption of Monthly Minhah/Seudah Shlishit/Havdalah Services

As of Saturday, November 6th, we will resume celebrating the first Shabbat of each secular month 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.

At 3:28 p.m., an hour before candlelighting time of the previous evening, we will gather in the Or Zarua Beit Midrash, 1384 Lexington Avenue (Apt. 1) for Minhah, then eat a light and delicious meal, study a text, and sing Shabbat nigunim to bring Shabbat to a close. We then complete the Shabbat with Maariv and Havdalah.

For those of you who have not experienced this aspect of Shabbat, we encourage you to join us. The dates and times throughout the year will be indicated in the newsletter calendars.

Hebrew School News

by Charlie Sherman, Education Director

The new year is off to a terrific start at the Or Zarua Hebrew School! We are proud to offer 12 classes for our students, who range in age from 5 to 16. And we are working diligently to offer a challenging and exciting course of study for the 1999-2000 school year. We have a group of wonderful educators who are committed to teaching our students to love learning about their Jewish heritage. They are: Deena Fox (Mechina), Loren Stein (Alef #1 and #2), Adeena Shames (Bet), Rebecca Hoffman (Gimmel #1 and High School Ethics), Liba Kornfeld (Gimmel #2), Todd Surden (Dalet), Karen Laveson (Hey #1), Tamar Zaken (Hey #2), Tzipora Sofare (High School Ritual Study), Galia Godard (High School Hebrew), Jenny Cohen (Assistant Teacher)

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Save the date:

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL HANUKKAH PARTY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 5th

Once again Rabbi Wechsler and Naomi Friedland-Wechsler will open their home to congregants for the annual Or Zarua Hanukkah party. Music, singing, candle lighting, *sufganiyot* and *latkes* will be on the program on Sunday, December 5th, from 4 to 6 pm.

Children are especially welcome. Invitations will be sent to the entire membership closer to the date.

Hanukkah Gifts May Be Found at the Or Zarua Office

If you're looking for books, we're offering four different ones, each in hardcover and each available for an \$18.00 contribution:

1) A limited number of autographed copies of *Strange and Unexpected Love: A Teenage Girl's Holocaust Memoirs*, written and donated by our member Fanya Gottesfeld Heller.

2) *Echoes from the Holocaust* by Mira Ryczke Kimmelman, mother of our member Benno Kimmelman.

3) A limited number of autographed copies of *The Lost Childhood: A Memoir*, written and donated by our member Yehuda Nir.

4) Rabbi Wechsler's book, *What's So Bad About Guilt*, (also available in paperback), which Rabbi Wechsler will be pleased to autograph or inscribe.

Also available, for a \$36 contribution, the mezuzah in the form of the late 19th century building which was our first home, created and given to members as part of our 10th Anniversary celebration last year.

Hanukkah Commences Friday Evening, December 3rd

Hanukkah commences on Friday evening, December 3, which is the 25th of Kislev. We set out below a few of the pertinent rules for lighting of the hanukkiah (menorah).

The candles are added one each night from right to left. One noted author explained the origin of this procedure as follows: "The schools of Shammai and Hillel, the two great sages of the talmudic age, had a debate on a point of law: What is the proper procedure for lighting the Hanukkah menorah? The school of Shammai argued that all eight lights should be kindled on the first night and thereafter reduced by one every night. The school of Hillel held that one light should be kindled on the first night and thereafter increased by one every night. The school of Shammai may have based its argument on the original connection between the festivals of Hanukkah and Sukkot. On Sukkot, the priests sacrificed thirteen bullocks on the first day, twelve on the second, and so on, decreasing the number by one each day. The school of Hillel based its argument on a single principle: we increase in matters of holiness, not decrease."

"The school of Hillel won (as it usually did)." F. Klagsbrun, *Jewish Days: A Book of Jewish Life and Culture Around the Year* (1996) (reprinted with permission of author).

The candles are kindled from left to right - the most recent candle therefore being lit first. Although hanukkiot come in a variety of shapes, technically all of the candles (other than the shamash) should be in a straight line and at the same height. The hanukkiah should be placed by a window or door so that it is visible from the outside. The candles should be lit in the home immediately upon appearance of the stars, that is after Maariv. However, if the hanukkiah is not kindled at that time, it may still be lit later as long as the members of the household are still awake. Of course,

on Shabbat the Hanukkah candles should be kindled before the Shabbat lights. (This year, both the first and last nights of Hanukkah fall on Shabbat.) The candles should be suitable so that they can burn for 30 minutes. The lighting of the Hanukkah lights is a positive obligation that falls on both men and women. A minor who has reached the age of nine should also light candles unless another does it for him or her.

On the first night of Hanukkah, we recite three barachot. The first is the blessing for the commandment to light the Hanukkah lights ("Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav, v'itzvanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah"). The second blessing is for God having done miracles in bygone days ("Baruch ata . . . she'asah nisim la'avotanu, bayamim hahem bazeman hazeh"). The third is the Shehechyanu. On the remaining nights only the first two barachot are said.

The traditional association of the lighting of the Hanukkah lights with the Hasmonean revolt against the Hellenic rule and desecration of the Second Temple is well known. It was on the 25th of Kislev that the victorious Hasmoneans entered the temple and found enough oil for the menorah that they lit to burn for one day. It burned for eight. Some say that the word "Hanukkah" is derived from the word "Hanu," meaning "they rested," and the letters "kaf-he," the numerical value of which is twenty-five. Rabbi Solomon Ganzfried, *Code of Jewish Law* (Kitzur Shulhan Arukh), translated by H. Goldin (Hebrew Publishing Company, 1991.) Rabbi Pinhas of Koretz added another perspective on this historical holiday and provided additional content to the mitzvah of lighting the lights. As recounted by Martin Buber: "Rabbi Pinhas said: 'Listen, and I shall tell you the meaning of the miracle of the light,

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Culinary Suggestions for Hanukkah...and all winter long!

At holiday time and throughout the winter, fellow congregant Susan Friedland loves to serve a meal of soup and salad with latkes. "Though brisket might be traditional" she comments, "a hearty soup leaves more room for latkes!" Susan knows whereof she speaks – she's the author of a new cookbook, *Shabbat Shalom: Recipes and Menus for the Sabbath*, and with her permission we reprint two recipes and her comments on them.

Potato Latkes (Makes about 40

3- to 4-inch pancakes; serves 8 to 10)

Some years (*ed. note*, 1999 being one of them), Hanukkah spans two Fridays, though you needn't restrict latkes to Hanukkah. The oil in which the latkes fry commemorates the oil that lit the Temple after its recapture by Judas Maccabaeus in 165. B. C.

Latkes are a commitment. You can't expect them to be crisp and delicious if you make them far in advance, so you must stand and fry while others enjoy the meal.

6 large Idaho potatoes, 9 to 10 ounces each

3 medium onions

4 eggs, lightly beaten

1/4 to 1/2 cup flour

2 tablespoons salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Peanut oil for frying

1. Peel the potatoes and onions. Chop them in pieces small enough to fit through the feed tube of the processor, if you are using one. Grate them with

the small-hole grater attachment; alternatively, you can pulse with the steel blade. But be careful not to overprocess you'll get a gluey mess. If you're grating the potatoes and onions by hand, leave them whole and grate on the largest holes of a box grater. Transfer the grated potatoes to a sieve set over a large bowl. Press down with a wooden spoon to release liquid back into the bowl. With your hands, squeeze the remaining moisture out of the potatoes and spread them out on paper towels.

2. Put the potatoes and onions in another large bowl. Pour off any liquid given off by the draining potatoes, reserving the heavy starch that remains in the bottom of the draining bowl. Transfer the starch to the potatoes and onions.

3. Add the eggs to the potatoes and onions, along with 1/4 cup of flour and the salt and pepper. Mix completely with your scrupulously clean hands or a wooden spoon.

4. Heat 1/4 inch of oil in a large heavy frying pan. When it's almost smoking, add the batter by tablespoonsful, pressing down to flatten them. I like small, flat, crisp latkes, but others prefer larger, thicker ones. Adjust the quantity of batter to your taste, pressing down or not. Don't crowd the pan. As each batch is done, transfer it to a paper towel-lined platter and serve. If you must, you can keep them warm for 30 minutes or so in a 200-degree oven without doing too much damage.

AHEAD OF TIME NOTE: you can make the batter an hour or two in advance of frying. Sprinkle the top with flour to keep the batter from turning altogether brown.

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Hebrew School News

(continued)

and Margot Norton and Shira Nadel (High School Helpers).

Some of our students are studying the original text of the Torah for the first time in their lives, others are exploring Jewish ethics and learning the history of our people, while our youngest children are getting their first taste of the Jewish tradition and Hebrew language. We are especially excited about our brand new music program. Led by Jeremy Davidson, our students are learning a host of new Jewish songs and gaining a strong sense of belonging to the greater Jewish community.

We are all looking forward to watching the students grow as they delve into their studies during the weeks and months ahead.

For more information about the Or Zarua Hebrew School, please contact Charlie Sherman, Education Director, at 1-917-834-0308.



The Solomon Schechter High School of New York

"ללמוד וללמד לשמור ולעשות... באהבה"
"To learn & to teach - to observe & to act...with love"

SCHEDULED TOURS - 1999/2000

Tuesday	Oct., 26th	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct., 27th	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Nov., 9th	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Dec., 8th	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	Jan., 19th	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Mar., 21st	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Mar., 22nd	8:30 a.m.
*Tuesday	May 9th	7:30 p.m.
*Wednesday	May 10th	8:30 a.m.

*7th Graders and Their Parents

To hear more about our school, please call (212) 877-7747 to make a tour reservation

COME SEE US IN ACTION!!!

1 West 91st Street
(corner of Central Park West)

1999

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

November

1999

92nd Street Y
1395 Lexington Avenue

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	4 6-8pm New Members Reception	5 4:28pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	6 9am Shaharit, Haye Sarah (92nd Street Y) Hebrew School Shabbat classes 3:28pm Minhah/Maariv/ Seudah Shlishit (Beit Midrash/office)
7	8	9 Rosh Hodesh Kislev	10 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	11	12 4:21pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	13 9am Shaharit, Toledot (92nd Street Y)
14	15	16	17 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	18	19 4:15pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	20 9am Shaharit, Vayetze (92nd Street Y)
21	22 8pm Rabbi Wechsler/ Rabbi of the Year Award/ K.J. 125 E. 85th St.)	23	24 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	25 Thanksgiving/school & office closed	26 Thanksgiving/school & office closed 4:11pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	27 9am Shaharit, Vayishlah (92nd Street Y)
28	29	30				

1999

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

December

1999

92nd Street Y
1395 Lexington Avenue

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	2	3 4:09pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) 4:09pm Light 1 st Hanukkah candle	4 9am Shaharit, Vayeshev (92nd Street Y) Shabbat Hanukkah Hebrew School Shabbat classes 3:09pm Minhah/Maariv/ Seudah Shlishit (Beit Midrash/office) Light 2 nd Hanukkah candle
5 4-6pm Congregational Hanukkah party (Wechsers) Light 3rd Hanukkah candle	6 Light 4th Hanukkah candle	7 Light 5th Hanukkah candle	8 Light 6th Hanukkah candle 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	9 Light 7th Hanukkah candle Rosh Hodesh Tevet	10 4:09pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila) Light 8th Hanukkah candle Rosh Hodesh Tevet	11 9am Shaharit, Miketz (92nd Street Y) Shabbat Hanukkah
12	13	14	15 8pm Talmud Class (1384 Lex)	16	17 4:10pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	18 9am Shaharit, Vayigash (92nd Street Y)
19 Winter Vacation/school closed thru Mon. 1/3	20	21	22	23	24 4:13pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	25 9am Shaharit, Vayehi (92nd Street Y)
26	27	28	29	30	31 4:19pm Candle Lighting & Minhah-Maariv (Shaaray Tefila)	

CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions listed were received on or before October 15, 1999

Capital Campaign contributions are not listed.

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Jay & Nancy Zises

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James & Patricia Fingerioth, in memory of Sarine Sassoon, mother of their valued friend, Andre Sassoon

Dore Hollander

Jack & Esther Oberman, in gratitude for his aliyah on Kol Nidre night

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Jill Shapiro, in honor of her parents, Herbert and Lorraine Shapiro

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Shelley Doctors, in honor of the birth of her grandson, John Richard Yoss

Stuart & Michelle Freedman, in honor of Michelle's new job

Mina Greenstein, in honor of her son's aufruff and October 9th marriage in Boston to Rebecca Rubel

Frederick & Martha Mendelsohn, in honor of the birth of their first grandchild, a girl.

Daniel & Suzan Rosen, in honor of the birth and naming of their daughter, Mirina Tzofia

Yaakov & Roberta Shechter in honor of their daughter Mikal Finkelstein receiving her M.D. from Einstein and of their granddaughter Naama's visit

Robert & Vera Silver, in honor of Kayla's 6th birthday and in memory of their daughter, Ruach, on her yahrzeit

Richard & Audrey Stadin, in honor of the naming of their grandniece, Madeline Paley

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 David & Judith Lewittes, in memory of her father Isaac Axenzow
 Martin & Rochelle Spergel

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 Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff, in memory of Ruth Cohen, mother of Susan Shapiro
 Ruth Drazen, in memory of her mother Jessie Saachs Yorkin
 Linda Eidelberg, yizkor donation for her parents, Benjamin and Rose Baseh, and her husband, Albert Eidelberg

Helen Ferszt, in memory of her mother, Frances Karp
 Sophie Gerard
 Kathryn Hastings, in honor of the birth and naming of Mirina Rosen, daughter of Daniel and Suzan Rosen
 Bernard & Frances Laterman in memory of his father, Sol Laterman, on his yahrzeit
 Alexander & Leona Leon, in honor of Rabbi Wechsler
 Murray & Patricia Liebowitz in memory of Ruth Cohen, mother of Susan Shapiro
 Richard Marker & Mirele Goldsmith
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Stanley Stahl
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Amy Butscher
 Yehuda Nir & Bonnie Maslin, in memory of Nelly Toll's son-in-law
 Howard Pressman, Yom Kippur yizkor in memory of his father, William Pressman
 Howard Pressman, Yom Kippur yizkor in memory of his mother, Florence Pressman
 Howard Pressman, Shemini Atzeret yizkor in memory of his father, William Pressman
 Howard Pressman, Shemini Atzeret yizkor in memory of his mother, Florence Pressman
 Laura Resnikoff, with thanks to Barry Collier and Joshua Tannenbaum
 Laura Resnikoff in memory of Adele Plovnick, mother of Phyllis Solomon
 Laura Resnikoff, in honor of the birth of Martha and Fred Mendelsohn's granddaughter
 Laura Resnikoff, in honor of the Greenstein family on the occasion of John's wedding
 Laura Resnikoff, in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Thelma and Sol Borodkin
 The Rock Okrent Family, in memory of Reba Shelden, mother of Aaron Shelden
 Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of Reba Shelden, mother of Aaron Shelden
 Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of Ruth Cohen, mother of Susan Shapiro
 Reed & Anne Schneider, in memory of Allene Doctoroff, mother of Dan Doctoroff
 Herbert & Lorraine Shapiro
 Aaron Shelden & Diane Okrent, Shemini Atzeret Yizkor in member of Aaron's parents, Reba and Victor Shelden, and Diane's father, Meyer Okrent
 Robert & Vera Silver, Yizkor
 Harold & Shirley Stein
 William & Muriel Tannenbaum, Simhat Torah
 William & Muriel Tannenbaum, in memory of Allene Doctoroff, mother of Daniel Doctoroff

Culinary Suggestions for Hanukkah...and all winter long! *(continued)*

Moroccan Chick Pea Soup (Serves 6 to 8)

Chickpeas are among the earliest cultivated plants — they were grown in the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. The pale yellow legume grows two to a pod. They are featured in both Ashkenazic and Sephardic cooking. This soup is a traditional Friday night dish in Morocco.

1 pound dried chickpeas

8 garlic cloves

1 large knuckle bone

1/4 teaspoon pulverized saffron

Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

1/4 cup minced fresh coriander or Italian parsley

1. Pick over and wash the chickpeas.
2. Cook them in water to cover by at least 3 inches for 20 minutes. Let cool in the cooking water.
3. While the chickpeas are cooking, peel and halve the garlic cloves.
4. When the chickpeas are cool, drain them in a colander and wash them under cold, running water.
5. Place the chickpeas in a Dutch oven with a tight-fitting lid. Add the garlic and knucklebone. Cover the chickpeas with 2 quarts of water, bring it to boiling, and for several minutes, skim the foam that rises. Add the saffron, salt, and pepper, reduce the heat, cover the pot, and cook for 1-1/2 hours, or until the chickpeas are tender.
6. Remove and discard the bone. With a wooden spoon, mash the chickpeas; alternatively, put the soup through a food mill.
7. Reheat the soup over gentle heat, turn it into a tureen, garnish with coriander or parsley, and serve.

From *Shabbat Shalom: Recipes and Menus for the Sabbath*. Published by Little, Brown, copyright c 1999 by Susan R. Friedland.

We're On The Way!

(continued)

building at street level. In November, the actual "building" should start with the pouring of the foundation for the new structure.

Oversight of the project is being handled by R. G. Roesch, the architectural firm that drew the plans for the project, and Steph Slater, the owner's representative whom the Board hired some months ago specifically for this purpose, as well as by the building committee of the Board. Any questions about the construction project can be directed to Alisa Doctoroff or Barry Alperin.

July and August, 1999

(continued)

6. The words "here we are closer to the sky." The first morning in the Negev, Efrat, our counselor, said to make sure we wore hats and drank lots of water. She meant that we were close to the equator. "Closer to the sky" is what it feels like to walk to the *kotel* Friday night and *Shabbos* morning; eat cucumber and tomato sandwiches; see the grapevines and graveyards of *Safed*; swim in the Mediterranean at the elbow curve of Israel at Old Yaffo.

I know that sometime - maybe next year or in college or when I'm 42 - I will go back to Israel and visit all my old friends and old haunts. And I will bring back all the same and more.

Editors note: Nesiya is a summer youth program which features the creative exploration of Israel through the arts and community service. The Somerstein family has been members of Or Zarua since 1993. Rachel, now 17, celebrated her bat mitzvah in Or Zarua on June 11, 1994.

Rabbi Wechsler Lauded

(continued)

movements that meets several times during the year, frequently at his home.

Rabbi Wechsler sees his role as rabbi in a very traditional sense: that the rabbi is first and foremost a teacher. He believes as well that even pastoral work has to come out of the classical Jewish sources. Therefore he established two principal teaching contexts at Or Zarua: the Shabbat morning study of Torah (as opposed to the topical sermon) and the weekly Talmud class. Outside of Or Zarua, he is a frequent lecturer at synagogues throughout the country, sometimes on Jewish theology, sometimes on medical ethics. At the Seminary, Rabbi Wechsler has taught the ways in which classical Jewish texts are the appropriate sources for pastoral counseling in key life and death situations—as opposed to the dominant approach which has the rabbi be psychologist. He takes special pride in having developed a cadre of students who are today rabbis in pulpits throughout the United States and Israel and who continue to develop these rabbinic methods.

The Finkle Award and an accompanying scroll or plaque will be given to Rabbi Wechsler at the November 22nd ceremony.

Clothing Drive

Frances Freedman continues to collect clothes for the needy. With cold weather on the way (if it hasn't already arrived by the time you read this), winter clothing is particularly welcome. Please call Frances at 988-6090 if you have any items to contribute.

Congratulations To

Marc and Joanne Ashley on the October 12th birth of their son, Benjamin Meir

Avram Jezer and Andrea Weintraub on their October 24th marriage

Belated congratulations to Ellen Kaplan on her May 23rd marriage to Murray Koppelman

Mark and Georgina Lowenthal on the engagement of his daughter, Janet, to Rob Francis. An April 9th wedding is planned.

Lidiya and David Yunatanov on the bar mitzvah of their son, Daniel

Condolences To

Arthur Aeder on the death of his brother, Milton Aeder

Daniel Doctoroff on the death of his mother, Allene Doctoroff

David Kogut on the death of his father, Leon Kogut

Andre Sassoon on the death of his mother, Sarine Sassoon

Barry Schneider on the death of his sister, Anita Sternberg

Susan Shapiro on the death of her mother, Ruth Cohen

Hanukkah Commences Friday Evening, December 3rd *(continued)*

at Hanukkah. The light which was hidden since the days of creation was then revealed. And every year, when the lights are lit for Hanukkah, the hidden light is revealed afresh. And it is the light of the Messiah." M. Buber, *Tales of the Hasidim*, p.124 (Schocken Books 1991).

We Welcome New Members

Jerome & Joan Badner

Ray Badner

Deborah Bein

Abram & Melissa Bohrer

Clifford Brandeis & Sharon Schneider

Jonathan Bromberg & Barbara Scott

Michael Buxbaum & Laurel Graeber

Robert Cohen & Sharon Kofman

Andrew & Nancy Danzig

Nancy Ehrlich

Valerie Feinberg

Avram Jezer & Andrea Weintraub

Lawrence Hass & Marydale DeBor

Murray & Elaine Koppelman

Bruce & Judith Krull

Laurence & Megan Lubkin

Erwin & Shari Mevorah

Jeffrey & Hilary Moses

Gilead & Cynthia Nachmani

Robert & Amy Pollack

Maurice Preter & Sabina Veit

Seymour & Annette Roth

Theodore Schweitzer

Richard Shalowitz & Fredi Schwebel

Ami Vanunu & Alecia Abernathy

OZY SERVICES

Two Or Zarua Youth (OZY) Services, the first for children ages 2 through 5 and the second for children ages 6 through 9 (no parents), are held every Shabbat morning, beginning promptly at 11 a.m. and ending at noon. At the conclusion of the Youth services, the children are escorted from their classrooms to join our congregants in the concluding hymns and Kiddush. Signs will be posted in the Y indicating where the OZY services will take place.

Watch for a new Service – for children from 8 to 12. This will be our newest part of Or Zarua: a Junior Congregation that will begin meeting once a month.

Congregation Or Zarua

1384 Lexington Avenue

New York, NY 10128

ק"ק אור זרוע

